

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1st - 2nd, 2018

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

404 W. Jourdan, Tel: 618-783-8741
Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-8742
E-mail: stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com
Website: www.stthomasnewton.net
Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326

St. Thomas School Office:

306 W. Jourdan, PO Box 26 Tel: 618-783-3517
Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-2224
E-Mail: jillbierman@stthomassaints.com
Website: www.stthomassaints.com

St. Thomas Parish / School Staff:

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller
Office Manager: Linda M. Hemrich
School Principal: Jill Bierman
School Secretary: Dawn Meinhart
PSR Coordinator: Pete Pasero
RCIA Coordinator: Jan Schackmann

Scheduling/Celebration of Sacraments

Anointing of Sick: Administered upon request due to serious illness or injury, or prior to hospital visit. Anointing of the Sick also takes place during the Masses held in October and February.

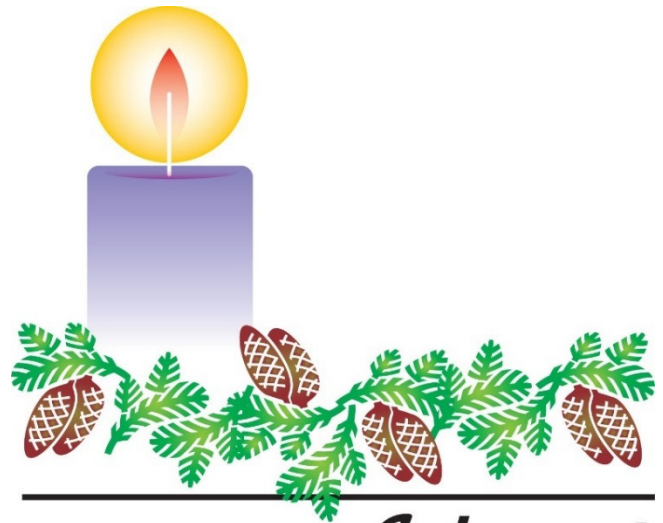
Baptism: Infants/Toddlers: During Weekend Mass with Fr. Dean Probst. The Pre-Baptismal Instruction is required of parents. Baptism is the first sacrament and entrance to the church's other sacraments.

Baptism: Adults: At Easter Vigil following the Catechumenate.

Marriage: Scheduled only after initial meeting with the Pastor to assure conformity with Church.

Bulletin Sponsor:

In Memory of
Barry & Erin (Sparks) Bergbower



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

112 W. Embarras, PO Box 68 Tel: 618-455-3155
Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459 Fax: 618-455-3665
E-mail: stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com
Website: www.stemariechurch.org
Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller
Office Manager: Judy Wagner*
*(We continue to pray for her full recovery)
Substitute: Denisse Ochs
PSR Coordinator: Marie Wagner
Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm Tues., Wed., Thurs.

MASS SCHEDULE

	St. Thomas	St. Mary
Saturday:	5:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Sunday:	7:30 & 9:00 a.m.	
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	
Thursday		8:30 a.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m.	
Holy Days	As scheduled in the bulletin.	

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Saturday	8:00 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Tuesdays	5:00 p.m.	7:30 a.m.
Or as scheduled by request.		

Dear Parishioners:



Happy New Year!

No, I am not a month early in Greetings! The Church begins a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. We move into the Season of Advent, preparing and waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ in all his glory. The Gospel of Luke takes center stage as we begin the 3rd or “C” cycle of readings for Sundays and Year I of the 2-year cycle of weekday readings.



Jeremiah prophesizes “The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.” May we respond: “To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul!”

We begin the New Liturgical Year with the Advent Wreath of four candles representing the four corners of the earth and the four weeks of the Advent Season. The first half of the Advent Season is our longing for the return of our Savior, but as a deceased priest friend would often say, “Come, Lord Jesus, but just not yet!” The third candle generally rose/pink colored marks our joy that we are in the second half of Advent and prepare especially for the celebration of Christ’s first coming, the event of Christmas. Some wreaths have a fifth candle, a white candle in the center of the wreath to mark the birth of Christ and his coming again in glory.

THE FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of MARY on Saturday, December 8 is a Holy Day for us to attend Mass in addition to the Sunday obligation. Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is the patron of our United States of America and the patron of our Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The Mass Schedule for the Holy Day is:

Friday: 5:30 pm Vigil at St. Thomas

7:00 pm Vigil at St. Mary’s

And **Saturday: 8:00 am** at St. Thomas

ADVENT is a Season of Repentance as we prepare our hearts for the glory of the indwelling of Christ. A **Penance Service** will be held at **St. Thomas Church at 1:45 p.m. Thursday, December 13.** Several priests will be present to administer the Sacrament. A **Penance Service at St. Mary’s is at 6:30 p.m. December 13.**

NOTICE:

Denisse Ochs has given me notice of her decision to terminate her temporary position as office manager with the hiring of someone else. Applications for the 18 hour/week part-time job 9-3 pm Tues.-Thurs. will be available at the St. Mary’s office. Applications due by December 15. Expected start date is January 3.

Advent - A Sense of the Season



December is the time for expressing the hope and strengthening the dreams that will carry us through the next year. Advent is the way we as church express our hopes. Prophetic visions, prayers and songs calling for the Lord to come do help us to hope profoundly. Advent allows us to do what most others do in

December—but to see in the coming Lord the answer to our dreams. In our Catholic tradition, keeping Advent means singing the songs of expectation, of our hopes and longing, before we enter into the full-throated praise of Christmas carols.

Here are a few lines from our tradition on what Advent is about. “Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ’s first coming is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and the heart to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.” (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, #39)

Thomas Merton, in his book *Seasons of Celebration*, reviewed the ways Saint Bernard of Clairvaux approached these comings of Christ. The first advent was Christ’s birth. The other will be at the end of time. Faith in these two stimulates recognition of a third, the advent of Christ in our church now, today. Viewed from this perspective, the Advent liturgy, with its scriptures, prayers and songs, is neither a romantic return to the Old Testament while we wait for the baby at Bethlehem, nor is it an exercise in expressing hope for an ever-receding end of time. The Advent liturgy is neither nostalgic nor illusory. When we take the tradition and enter it fully, we become Advent, the people in and through whom Christ comes.

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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve: **4:00 pm St. Mary’s**
5:30 pm St. Thomas

Late Night: **11:00 pm St. Thomas**

CHRISTMAS DAY: **8:00 am St. Mary’s**
9:30 am St. Thomas

St. Thomas Parish News

Disciples' Stewardship

Collection November 24th-25th, 2018

Envelopes (174)	\$5,670.50
Loose	\$712.00
Subtotal	\$6,382.50
Justice & Hope (2)	\$40.00
Thanksgiving (11)	\$696.00
Subtotal	\$736.00
Grand Total	\$7,118.50

"Step Forward in Faith Together" Campaign

Total Paid 3rd Internal Campaign (Oct. 1, 2014)	\$1,145,569.36
Grand Total Pledges Collected	\$3,384,379.66
Balance to be Paid	\$159,486.29



Ministries for Next Weekend's Masses

Lectors:

5:30 p.m. Marilyn Schafer
7:30 a.m. D. Kerner/T. Weber
9:00 a.m. Pat Mammoser/Mitch

Gift Bearers:

Ron Ochs Family
 Nick Hemrich Family
 Mike Schackmann

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:30 p.m. Mark Bolander, Denisse Ochs, Kaitlyn Ochs, Kimberly Ochs, Glenda Spiker, Wanda Kocher
7:30 a.m. Jill Bierman, Eliza Bierman, Linda Hemrich, Maddi Hemrich, Sarah Hemrich, Connie Hemrich
9:00 a.m. Mackenzie Miller, Amanda Baltzell, Amy Tarr, Marge Horton, Kaleb Wright, Becky Parker

Musicians/Cantors:

5:30 p.m. TBA
7:30 a.m. Youth Choir
9:00 a.m. TBA

Servers:

5:30 p.m. Drew Buerster
 Blake Zumbahlen
7:30 a.m. Katie Shamhart
 Jessica Spiker
9:00 a.m. Wade Tarr
 Evan Baltzell

Ushers:

Vic Klingler
 Zach Weber & Sons
 Jim Robins

This Week in our Parish & School

+ behind name in Mass intention is for deceased.

Monday, Dec. 3, St. Francis Xavier

6:30 p.m. "Angels" Christmas Celebration

Tuesday, Dec. 4, St. John Damascene

4:00 p.m. RCIA - Youth

5:00 p.m. Rosary & Reconciliation

5:30 p.m. Mass (*Int.*: Ralph & Mary Cunningham+)

Wednesday, Dec. 5, Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.* Keith French+)

5:30 p.m. Youth Choir practice

6:30 p.m. RCIA

6:30 p.m. PSR/CYO

Thursday, Dec. 6, St. Nicholas

6:15 p.m. Boys Basketball @ Altamont Lutheran

Friday, Dec. 7, St. Ambrose

7:30 a.m. Reconciliation

8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.*: Georgiana Schackmann+)

5:30 p.m. Vigil Holy Day Mass

7:00 p.m. Bingo – Lightning \$3,350.00

Saturday, Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 a.m. Breakfast w/Santa

8:00 a.m. Holy Day Mass

5:30 p.m. Mass (*Int.*: Carolyn Kerner & Don Barber+)

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Mass–(*Int.*: Lucille & Lorraine Dallmier+)

9:00 a.m. Mass –(*Int.*: Julie Schackmann & Joe Schackmann+)

2:00 p.m. NCHS Chorus Christmas Concert

10:15 a.m. Communion Service (Newton Care Center)

10:30 a.m. Communion Service (Villa of Holly Brook)



Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

Santa Claus will once again be making his annual stop at the Newton Knights of Columbus Hall on **December 9, 2018** from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Santa will begin checking his list

soon. The Knights hope that all of you are caught being good, so that Santa will see all of your names on the Nice List! Thanks to everyone for their support of the Knights of Columbus throughout the year!

2018 Annual Catholic Services Appeal

2018 Goal = \$47,581.00

Pledged: \$12,050.00 Paid: \$10,240.00

St. Thomas Parish & School News



Best Wishes for the Future.

Congratulations *Derek and Makenzie (Kistner) Hutchison!* They were united in Marriage at St. Thomas

Church on November 24, 2018. We wish them a happy married life in faith and may God continue the good work begun in them!

The Family of Georgiana Schackmann would like to express their sincere thanks to Fr. Dean for the beautiful funeral mass along with the help of Deacon Larry Miller. Thanks goes out to Lee Volk, Vickie Keller, Cathy Lewis, Julie French, and Mike Dasenbrock for the beautiful music they provided. Also, thanks to Jason Meyer with Meyer Funeral Home and the Rex Vault crew. A special thank you to the ladies of the church who brought food in and to those who helped serve the delicious meal. Thanks to Brandon Scott who prepared the meat. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for allowing us to have the luncheon at the hall. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the St. Thomas School sports program memorial and money for masses for Georgiana. Thanks to Buds and Blossoms and everyone that reached out to all of us during this difficult time. Words cannot begin to express the gratitude we have for all of you. Thanks again.

December "Angels" Meeting. Betty Earnest has invited the Angels of St. Thomas to gather at her house on Monday, Dec. 3rd, for our annual Christmas party. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. as usual. To help with parking, we will meet at 6:15 at St. Thomas to carpool to her house. Thanks to those who have volunteered to bring refreshments and to Betty for being our host. Any questions, call Sue or Kay.

The St. Thomas School will have their classroom Christmas wreaths on display next weekend in the church gathering space. Parishioners can purchase tickets for the Wreath raffle and place them in the bucket next to the wreath they would like to win. Tickets are \$1 or 6/\$5. The drawing will be held at the school Christmas Concert on December 19th. You need not be present to win. Thanks for your stewardship and supporting our students as all proceeds will benefit St. Thomas' Angels in our Midst!

St. Thomas School Breakfast. A BIG thank you to all that came out to enjoy the breakfast. The estimated profit is \$2,500.00. Thanks to all those that helped organize the fundraiser for our school. Many thanks to everyone that helped out in any way!

St. Thomas School **TRIVIA NIGHT** AND LIVE AUCTION

When?

Saturday, February 2, 2019.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Trivia begins at 7:30 p.m.

What?

FUN trivia questions!
Silent auction and games including dead or alive, heads and tails, and MORE!

Where?

St. Thomas Parish Center
306 W. Jourdan St.
Newton, IL

Who Can Come?

Everyone over the age of 21! Cost for a team of 8 is \$140.00 before 1/22/19 (\$160 after)

Pulled pork + chips available for free will donation.
Drinks + other concessions available for purchase.

Call Dawn Meinhart at 618-783-3517 to sign up your team!

Register Early and save!

PosterMyWall.com

Our School Board and a few others are working on hosting a **Trivia Night** on February 2nd. This is fun trivia that everyone can contribute to. A table is made up of 8 people 21 years and older, so be thinking of which friends and/or coworkers you want to get together to play! It should be a lot of fun! See the flyer in the bulletin for details.

SCRIP Cards + Holiday Shopping = Merry

Christmas. Holiday shopping couldn't be easier...just purchase SCRIP Cards from your favorite retailers and local businesses. **Last day to order before Christmas is Dec. 17th.** Stop by the school office or the SCRIP table at the weekend Masses to select SCRIP cards from popular and local retailers. A big thank you to our local participating businesses!

St. Thomas Advent/Christmas Décor. If you would like to contribute to our annual decor fund in memory of a deceased loved one, please put your name(s) & contribution in an envelope marked "décor." We will publish a list to use as a prayer sheet during this Season of Joy. Please have all names submitted to the Parish Office by noon on Dec. 19.

St. Mary's Parish News

This Week in our Parish

Monday, December 3rd St. Francis Xavier

7:00 p.m. – Country Music Dance (parish hall)
6:00 p.m. – Choir Practic

Tuesday, December 4th, St John Damascene

8:00 a.m. - Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Dick Helregel+)

Wednesday, December 5th, Weekday

6:30 p.m. – PSR Classes

Thursday, December 6th, St Nicholas

8:00 a.m.- Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: John & Theresa Ochs+)

Friday, December 7th, St Ambrose

7:00 p.m.- (Int: Jim & Dorothy Hahn+)

Saturday, December 8th, The Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. – Reconciliation
4:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: Chris Kistner+)

Sunday, December 9th, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Stewardship as Measurement of Our Discipleship

Collection for weekend of November 22-25,2018

Envelopes (31)	\$ 758.00
Loose:	\$ 313.52
Sub Total	\$ 1071.52

Haiti (1)	\$ 50.00
Justice & Hope (1)	\$ 10.00
Thanksgiving- Envelope	\$ 390.00
Loose	\$ 156.00

Grand Total \$ 1,677.52

Ministries for Next Week December 7th, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: David Ochs, Randy Reis, Marvin Zwilling

Servers: Nicholas Zwilling, Kayla Kocher

Lectors: Miranda Ochs

Gift Bearers: Kevin & Teresa Ochs

Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Keller, Richard Ochs,
Veronica Griffith



CHOIR PRACTICE: We will be having practice on December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 6 p.m. to prepare for the Christmas Eve Mass. Anyone who would like

to join us to help celebrate Christmas is welcome to attend the practices. Hope to see you there!

REPORTS: The end of the year financial report and also the Picnic Report are both available on the tables at the entrances to church. Thank you for your patience during the process of preparing these reports.

MINISTRIES LIST: The sign-up sheets for the Ministers for the Christmas Masses can be found on the entrance tables in church. Please take the time to share your talents for these masses.

MONDAY NIGHT DANCE: The last Monday night dance for this year will be on December 17th. We will start up again, sometime in March.

THANK YOU: Words cannot express Thank You enough for all the kindness shown to us by the community. Thanks to everyone for all the cards, phone calls, food and all the other acts of kindness. Thanks to Fr. Dean and all those who took part in the Mass, especially the choir and servers. To the American Legion for all you did for our family in our time of need, and in honoring John. A special thanks to the ladies who prepared the lunch and brought food. Each of you have been a blessing to our family!

- Thanks to everyone – Diann Lybarger & Family

ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL:

Update for ACSA – If you have not given or pledged to this campaign, please consider helping by making a contribution. If you have made a pledge or contributed Thank You.

GOAL - \$11,759.00

Pledged – \$ 4,014.00 – 20 families

Total Paid - \$ 3,714.00

OCTOBER COUNT 2018: The count for the four weeks in October average 170 people per mass. Comparing to last year to an average of 149 people per mass, we have an increase in attendance.



WELCOME TO THE PARISH:

We welcome through the waters of baptism two new members, **Greta Grace Hartrich**, daughter of Phil & Becca Ochs, Godparents Dave Faller and Grace Hartrich. Also **Sophia Rose Hartrich**, daughter of Dan & Beth Hartrich, Godparents Neil and Katie Brumleve.

ST. THOMAS AND ST. MARY PARISHES

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday:	Is 2:1-5	Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10	Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a	Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6	Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24	Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-15,20	Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9	Phil 1:4-6,8-11 Lk 3:1-6

Those we remembered in our prayers:

The Parish Book of Requests, Residents in Health Care Facilities, Judy Wagner, Julie Nosbisch, Dean Bond, Josh Ochs, Fred Bergbower, Ron Woods, Eldon Galloway, Beth Lawler and Family, Marilyn (Dhom) Zumbahlen

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule.

5:30 p.m. Friday, December 7th, at St. Thomas

7:00 p.m. Friday, December 7th, at St. Mary

8:00 a.m. Saturday, December 8th, at St. Thomas

Please contact the St. Thomas or St. Mary offices to sign-up to be a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Gift Bearer, Server or usher. Thanks!

The Pre-Baptismal class at St. Thomas will now be held every other month on the first Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. (following the 9:00 a.m. Mass). **The next class will be held Sunday, January 6th.**

AREA & DIOCESAN NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: The 14th Annual Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary's Wine Tasting event will be held on Friday, December 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Come join the fun and social time with us!

ADVENT EVENSONG: Sunday, December 9th at Holy Cross Church- Wendelin- 4:00 p.m. A candlelight service with Scripture, Organ, English Carols & Austrian Christmas music – sung in German, presented by the "Wendelin Kloepfen Singers" All are Welcome.

Jasper County Holly Jolly Christmas. Be sure to visit the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page for all the Holly Jolly area happenings throughout December. Find them listed under Holly Jolly Jasper County Christmas. The Chamber would also like to thank everyone for shopping local this holiday season!

JASPER COUNTY MINISTERIAL

ASSOCIATION: We are once again asking for financial assistance, help with food items and also physical assistance at various time. We are asking for help through the donation of non-perishable food items and monetary donations. Food donation will be accepted through Friday, December 14,2018.

Dates to Remember: **Friday, December 14th at 9a.m.** to collect food and start putting boxes together, also at 5p.m. on that day to fill the boxes. **Saturday, Dec 15th at 8:30 a.m.** for distribution of boxes (help is needed to load the boxes and we need help to stay until everything is cleaned up!!!) This is a wonderful family project for Christmas! All activities take place at the Jasper County Fairgrounds Floral Hall. Monetary donations can be mailed to Jasper County Ministerial Association, PO Box 213, Newton, Il 62448.

2019 March for Life - Details for the 2019 Diocesan March for Life pilgrimage are now available. The trip will be from Wednesday, January 16 through Sunday, January 20, departing from various locations throughout the diocese. For more information, please contact the pilgrimage coordinator, Kyle Holtgrave at Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (217) 698-8500, ext. 154. St. Anthony High School will take a group of 40-45 people from Thursday, January 17, to Saturday, January 19. Any person interested in joining should email kmiller@stanthony.com Cost \$125.

A Protecting God's Children Workshop will be held at St. Isidore Parish, St. Aloysius Hall on Monday, February 4th at 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to attend a workshop close to home if you still need to full this requirement. Just a reminder that this workshop is for all volunteers and lay ministers that work directly with our youth. Please call 217-925-5788 to register.

Holly Jolly

Remembrance Luminaries

December 14th & 15th we will light the courthouse lawn during Holly Jolly with remembrance luminaries. Each one will be dedicated to an individual (or pet) who is no longer here to celebrate with us this coming holiday season. Each luminary will be \$15 and available at the Chamber office or call 618-783-3399. They can be purchased at the Chamber office, Joe's, Medicine Shoppe, and both Peoples State Bank locations!

Name of Remembered: _____

Name of Contact: _____

Contact Phone: _____