



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19-20, 2020

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst (email: dprobst@dio.org)
Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller
Office Managers: Linda M. Hemrich (St. Thomas)
Denisse Ochs (St. Mary's)
St. Thomas School Principal: Jill Bierman
School Secretary: Lori Smith
PSR Coordinators: Marie Wagner (St. Mary's)
Pete Pasero (St. Thomas)

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

Office Hours: 7:30 -11:30 am & 1:00- 4:00 p.m. M-F

Masses: 4:30 pm Saturday; 7 & 10 am Sunday
5:30 pm Wednesday and 8:30 am Friday

Reconciliation: 8-9 am and 3:30-4 pm Saturdays
4:30 pm -5:00 pm Wednesdays

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. 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.stmariechurch.org

Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Masses: 8:30 am Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday

Reconciliation: 7:30-8 am Tuesday & Thursday

WELCOME

to the parishes of **St. Thomas the Apostle**, Newton,
and St. Mary of the Assumption, Sainte Marie.
If you would like to become a member of either parish,
please call the particular parish office.

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:14,23-24 Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Nativity of the Lord Readings
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Lk Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Gn 15: 1-6; 21:1-3 Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19
Lk 2:22-40



Please pray for the Sick, especially James
Kocher, Wanda Sydor, Andrew Skates, Jacob
Briggerman, Jeff Ward, Mary Jo Walden, Rita
Schafer, Geneva Barber, George Roth, Cletus

Westendorf, and George Dallmier, those undergoing
surgery, for police officers and military personnel, for
our government, and all those listed in our Parishes'
Book of Requests.

If special need for prayers for someone this week,
please call the parish office. Names of those listed for
past months have been listed in the Book of Requests.

Scheduling a Baptism at St. Thomas or St. Mary's

Parents are to return from baptismal preparation
class (or obtain from parish office and fill out) the
**Baptismal information sheet, and the Godparent-
Sponsor affidavit forms** to the parish office **before
scheduling a date** for the baptism of infant. Then
call Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 to schedule the date of
baptism.

**The next pre-baptismal class will be held on Jan. 3rd
at 9:00 am.** Please contact the St. Thomas parish
office at 783-8741 to register. Additional classes will
be held on the first Sunday of every other month
including March, May, July, September, and
November.

For **Anointing of the Sick** before surgery or in severe
illness, or in danger of death for the **last rites and
apostolic pardon**, call Fr. Dean Probst **217-494-6326.**

ST. THOMAS PARISH

This Week in our Parish

Note: + behind name in Mass intention is for deceased

Monday, Dec. 21: St. Peter Canisius

Tuesday, Dec. 22: Late Advent Weekday

8:30 am St. Thomas All School Mass

Last Day of School - Have a safe Christmas Break!

Wednesday, Dec. 23: St. John of Kanty

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's Church

Office closing at Noon

3:00 pm Rosary

4:00-5:00 pm Sacrament of Penance

5:30 pm Mass (Int: Dec. Mem. of Leo Kerner Fam.)

6:30 CYO Meeting – Decorating/Cleaning Church

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Mass at St. Mary's (Int: For the Parish)

5:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int: For the Parish)

11:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int: For the Parish)

Friday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day

8:00 am Mass at St. Mary's (Int: For the Parish)

9:30 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: For the Parish)

Saturday, Dec. 26: St. Stephen

3:30 – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass (For the Parish)

Sunday, Dec. 27: Holy Family

of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

10:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

Disciples' Stewardship of Time

St. Thomas Lay Minister Schedule Dec. 26th-27th

Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Lectors: Emma Rauch; Nichole Mulvey

E.M.: Kaitlyn Ochs & Madison Phillips

Server: Alex Ochs

Musicians: Tammy Page/Ellen Einhorn

Greeters/Ushers: Steve Rubsam

Sunday, 7:00 a.m.

Lectors: Laney Hemrich; Madeline Hemrich

E.M.: Theresa Volk & Janet Vahling

Server: Allison Brummer

Musicians: Vicki Mullen/Lucy Bierman

Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Lectors: Logan Weber; Kevin Parker

E.M.: Gery Ochs & Tony Sparks

Server: Gabby Meinhardt

Musician: Vicki Mullen/Debbie Matson

Greeters/Ushers: Mike Gier

Rest In Peace

Prayers for Repose of Souls:

*Bernice Bolander, Leola Ginder and
James Leffler, Jay Leffler's brother*

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

Dec. 12th-13th Collection

Envelopes	\$7,350.00
Loose	\$20.00
Subtotal	\$7,370.00
School Fund	\$105.00
Special Collections	\$1,390.00
Building Fund	\$40.00
Subtotal	\$1,535.00
Grand Total	\$8,905.00

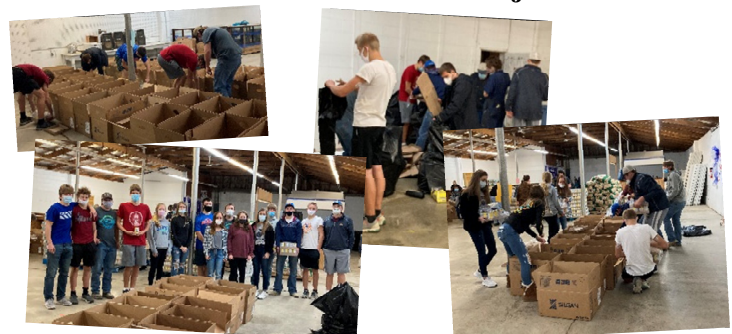
St. Thomas Advent/Christmas Décor. If you would like to contribute to our annual decor fund in memory of a deceased loved one, please put your name(s) & contribution in an envelope marked "décor." We will publish a list of names to use as a prayer sheet during this Christmas Season. *Please have all names submitted to the Parish Office by noon on Dec. 21.* This year donations will be used to purchase two new artificial Christmas trees.

St. Thomas 2020 Contribution Statements will be available at the beginning of the new year by request only. Please contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 if you would like to receive a copy. Thank you so much for your generosity in 2020!!

St. Thomas CYO. Mark Your Calendars!

- **Sat., Dec. 19th** – 9:00 am Assist with Christmas décor in church
- **Weds., Dec. 23rd** – 6:30 pm Assist with finishing up decorating/cleaning church for Christmas
- **Weds., Dec. 30th** – No CYO – Happy New Year!
- **Weds., Jan. 6th** – 6:30 pm CYO in parish ctr.
- **Sat., Jan. 9th** – 8:00 am Right to Life Breakfast preparation (cracking eggs and slicing sweet breads) at Teutopolis Grade School

CYO participates in Jasper County Ministerial Alliance Food Box Project



St. Thomas Christmas Mass Ministry Schedules:

Christmas Eve @ 5:30 pm – Youth Choir

Ushers: Ben/Gus Bierman/Gerald Ochs/Danny Kerner

Lectors: Jill Bierman; Lori TeVault

E.M.'s: Julie Higgs & Denisse Ochs

Parish Center: Linda & Madeline Hemrich

Servers: Drew Earnest & Allie Hermann

Christmas Eve @ 11:00 pm – Five For One

Ushers: Paul Bierman/Doug Long/Larry Zuber/

Barney Ochs

Lectors: Nikki Bierman; Amy Hartrich

E.M.'s: Jason Bierman & Jenny Bierman

Parish Center: Becky Shamhart & Katlin Lidy

Servers: Nick Bierman & Katie Bierman

Christmas Day @ 9:30 am – Adult Choir

Ushers: Brian Brummer/Jim & Ginger Robins/

Bob Bower

Lectors: Sue Dickerson; Sue Sparks

E.M.'s: Theresa Volk & Dee Bower

Parish Center: Tony Sparks & Matt Bower

Servers: Alex Gier & Lauren Gier

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parish Info:

RECONCILIATION: The Sacrament of Penance will be available this week

St. Mary's: Tuesday: 7:30 am – 8 am

St. Thomas: Wednesday: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Saturday: 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

HOLY COMMUNION VISITS:

If you would like Holy Communion brought to you at home this week, please call the parish office to leave your name or contact Fr. Dean at 217-494-6326 to quickly set up day and time.

Addresses for Christmas Cards:

Fr. Allen Kemme
800 Stevenson Drive,
Springfield, IL 62703

Fr. Joe Molloy
2400 S. Franklin
Decatur, IL 62521

Fr. Robert Spriggs
50 Starfish Drive #104
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Sr. Phyllis Shenk, O.P.
300 Missouri Avenue
Carterville, Illinois 62918

Sr. Ancilla Caulfield, OP
Sacred Heart Motherhouse
1237 W. Monroe Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Jayke White
110 Jamie Lynn Drive
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Paul Lesupati
1725 S. Walnut
Springfield, IL 62704

CORRECTION TAKE 2!!!

Catholic Heart Workcamp. Mark Your Calendars!

The Catholic Heart Workcamp will be held:

June 12-19, 2021 in Cumberland, Maryland

As stated last weekend at Masses, the week is as originally planned but going further distance.

We have reserved 20 spaces!

Catholic Children's Home Collection.

Today, the Catholic Children's Home continues its mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic needs of all the children sent for residential care or special education services, including the newest program designed to serve the needs of children faced with the tremendous challenges of Autism.

In the spirit of Christ's special affection for all children, Bishop Paprocki asks that you continue to support the work of the Catholic Children's Home and generously contribute to the special collection held at Christmas. May God touch your hearts with his grace and mercy during these Advent and Christmas days.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

**The Masses will be live-streamed on facebook at:
St. Mary of the Assumption – Ste. Marie
or St. Thomas Church**

Christmas Eve Vigil:

4:00 pm @ St. Mary's (Vigil Mass Lectionary/Missal)

5:30 pm @ St. Thomas (Vigil Mass Lectionary/Missal)

First Mass of Christmas:

11:00 pm @ St. Thomas (Mass of Night)

Christmas Day

8:00 am @ St. Mary's (Mass of Day)

9:30 am @ St. Thomas (Mass of Day)

PLEASE NOTE:

5 Masses have been scheduled for Christmas:

Sign-up is now available through December 24. At present only **150 max.** is permitted in our churches. The overflow crowd at any Mass will gather in the parish centers and have Mass livestreamed and then Holy Communion distributed to them.

There is **no guarantee of being in the Church except by being one of the first 150 people present for the Mass.** It is possible that 300 people may want to attend a particular Mass, thus the overflow into the parish center. **No saving of spaces in the Church.**

Please note that Signup at the end of the week is:

4:00 pm at St. Mary's: 131 (19 available church)

5:30 pm at St. Thomas: 187 (37 in parish center)

11:00 pm at St. Thomas: 174 (24 in parish center)

8:00 am at St. Mary's: 62 (80 spaces avail church)

9:30 am at St. Thomas: 93 (57 spaces avail church)

SCHEDULE for New Year's Eve/Day

4:30 p.m. December 31 at St. Thomas

8:30 a.m. January 1 at St. Mary's

10:00 a.m. January 1 at St. Thomas

St. Mary's Parish News

Sacraments:

Masses: 8:30 a.m. – Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday

Reconciliation: 7:30 am – Tuesday and Thursday

Or as scheduled or by request

Available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturdays

4:30 – 5:00 pm Wednesdays

This Week in our Parish

Monday, December 21st, St Peter Canisius

Tuesday, December 22nd, Advent Weekday

No Mass due to St. Thomas School Mass

Wednesday, December 23rd, St John of Kanty

8:00 a.m. Rosary

8:30 a.m.- Mass: (Int: Elmer & Josephine Ginder
Leonard Beavers+)

Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. – Mass:(Int: For the Parish)

5:30 p.m. – Mass at St. Thomas

11:00 p.m. – Mass at St. Thomas

Friday, December 25th, Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. - (Int: For the Parish)

9:30 a.m. – Mass at St. Thomas

Saturday, December 26th, St Stephen

**Sunday, December 27th, The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: You should be receiving your January & February envelopes in the next couple of weeks, if you do not receive them by the end of the year, please call the office and let Denise know.

DECORATE CHURCH: After mass on Sunday, December 20th, we will begin decorating the church for Christmas, anyone is welcome to stay and help with putting up the décor.

Merry Christmas!

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

Collection for the week of December 13, 2020

Envelopes \$ 2035.00

Loose 140.00

Sub Total \$ 2175 .00

Other Special Collections 165.00

Immaculate Conception 95.00

Grand Total \$ 2435.00

Ministers for 4:00 p.m. – December 24, 2020

Ushers: Norbert Ochs, Jacob & Alex Kaufmann

Servers: Ethan Griffith, Ashtyn Ochs

Lectors: Claire Griffith, Becca Ochs

Eucharistic Ministers: Tony Hartrich

If needed: Janet Hartrich, Paul Kaufmann

Ministers for 8:00 a.m.- December 25, 2020

Ushers: Maynard Kaufmann, George Semple

Servers: Kelby Ochs, need 1 volunteer

Lectors: Ron Zwilling, Lora Ochs

Eucharistic Minister: Lora Semple

Ministers for 8:30 am December 27, 2020

Ushers: Randy Reis, Bob Barthelme, George Semple

Server: Ethan Griffith

Lector: Becca Ochs/Claire Griffith

Eucharistic Minister: Elfrieda Kaufmann

Pastoral Council:

1-year term: David Ochs, Lora Ochs, Lora Semple

2-years: Tim Keller, Angie Kocher, Maria Zumbahlen

3-years: Nancy Zwilling, Jeff Ochs, Sarah Boehl

Fr. Dean Probst, Maynard Kaufmann, Richard Ochs

SPECIAL THANK YOU: Melvina Bahl would like to thank everyone for the many cards and calls she received for her 90th birthday! A special thanks to her family for making it such a special day!!

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20 December 2020

How Can This Be? Words of a visiting angel: Do not be afraid; God has this plan; you are full of grace. Mary speaks aloud what we all are thinking: "How can this be?" God makes it possible because God makes us holy!

- What should I stop fearing?
- What is God's plan for me just for this day?
- What will I do this week as God's holy person that benefits someone else?