

December 21 – December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(Email: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller

Office Manager: Linda M. Hemrich

Annulment Advocate: Debbie Matson

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

Masses: 4:30 pm Saturday; 7 & 10.00 am Sunday

8:30 am Wednesday and Friday

Reconciliation: 8:00 am- 9:00am (Except for First Saturday at St. Mary) & 3:30-4 pm Saturdays and upon request at reasonable time.

St. Thomas School Office:

St. Thomas School Principal: Jill Bierman

School Secretary: Lori Smith

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING

December 14-15, 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$	6,181.00
Loose	\$	176.00
Subtotal	\$	6,357.00
School Fund	\$	200.00
Building Fund	\$	95.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	245.00
Retired Religious	\$	75.00
Subtotal	\$	615.00
Grand Total	\$	6,972.00
December ACH giving	\$	2,246.00

St. Thomas Church November Tithe

November Tithe Income – \$47,435.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$4,744.00

St. Thomas Online Giving: Easily tithe with online donations and no longer worry about envelopes. We hope this is convenient for you! Just visit the church's website and click on the Online Giving link provided under Online Stewardship. Thank you!!

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, December 23, St. John of Kanty

Tuesday, December 24, Vigil: Nativity of the Lord

5:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Youth Choir @ 4:30pm)
 (Int. For the Parish)

7:00 pm Mass at St. Mary

11:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Guitar Group @ 10:15 pm)
 (Int. For the Parish)

Wednesday, December 25, Nativity of the Lord

8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

Thursday, December 26, St. Stephen

No Mass

Friday, December 27, St. John

No Mass

Saturday, December 28, The Holy Innocents

8:00 am – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Marilyn Fritchley)

Sunday, December 29, The Holy Family of Jesus Mary, and Joseph

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (For the Parish)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Joe/Eunice Schackmann)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

11:00 am OCIA at St. Thomas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Lk 1:57-66

Tues.: Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Mt 1:1-25

Weds.: Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Th.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22

Fri.: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a,2-8

Sat.: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18

Sun.: 1 Sm 1:20-22,24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2,21-24; Lk 2:41-52

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION

Regularly: 8:00-9:00 am Saturdays at St. Thomas
 (Except for First Saturday at St. Mary's)

3:30-4:00 pm Saturdays at St. Thomas

OR by appointment

St. Thomas Pre-baptismal Class 2025 Schedule.

February 2, June 1, and October 5 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area. Contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.



**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedules
Christmas and Weekend:**

Tuesday, December 24 @ 5:00 pm

Special Music starting at 4:30 pm – Youth Choir

Lector: Luke Zuber

EM: Denisse Ochs, Amy Hartrich, Kim Zuber

Servers: Will Hartrich

Gift Bearers:

Musicians: Vicki Mullen, Debbie Matson, Youth Choir

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, December 24 @ 11:00 pm

Special Music starting at 10:15 pm – Guitar Group

Lector: Tracey Bower

EM: Linda Hemrich, Sarah Hemrich, Lori Rauch,
Nick Bierman

Servers: Alivia Bierman, Blake Bierman

Gift Bearers: Ben Bierman Family

Musicians: Five for the One

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, December 25 @ 8:30 am

Lector:

EM: Dee Bower

Servers:

Gift Bearers: Tim Bower Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler, Debbie Matson,
Mallory Bolander

Greeters/Ushers: Bob Bower

Saturday, December 28 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Luke Zuber

EM: Kim Zuber, Denisse Ochs, Wade Ochs

Servers: Lexi Ochs & Carter Barthelme

Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family

Musicians: Tammy Page & Kaitlyn Ochs

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 29 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Jill Bierman

EM: Gus/Eliza Bierman & Mark/Janet Vahling

Servers: Tyler Spiker & Caleb Kistner

Gift Bearers: Doug & Jan Long

Musicians:

Greeters/Ushers: Pete Pasero

Sunday, December 29 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Marissa Bower

EM: John Bower, Dennis Weber, Ryan Probst,
Jason Bierman

Servers: Dominic Ochs & Claire Schackmann

Gift Bearers: Jim & Ginger Robins

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Anna Bierman

Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

***Please sign up for Christmas Masses online at MSP
or contact the parish office. Thanks!!***

The St. Thomas Parish Advent Giving Tree

When you pick up an ornament this year, you will be supporting **The Jasper County Home Front** and **The Jasper County Cancer Support Group**.

Items purchased for these *local organizations* can be dropped off next to the tree. Thanks for participating and supporting our military and those fighting cancer.

If you choose to purchase a journal, inspirational book or Tylenol, you can use the link below to purchase these items requested by the Cancer Support Group. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/19ZV42O04RWZO?ref=wl_share. As always, thanks so much for supporting those who benefit from your generosity!

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:

Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

December 25-January 1 No CYO Christmas Break

**First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas
January 3, 2025**

You are invited to join St. Thomas for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon. We have placed a sign-up sheet in the gathering space. This will ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone during Eucharistic Adoration.

The remaining Fridays of the month Adoration will be held from 7:30 am – 8:15 am.

PushPay Software Tools You Can Use:

We would like to ask for your help in personalizing the App experience for our St. Thomas parishioners. Please email Sacrament photos, group/organization photos, event photos and/or Mass photos to stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com.

This App will also be an incredible resource as you will have access to Bible readings, FORMED, and groups and organizations in our parish.

The App will be a great way to get and stay connected to all things St. Thomas Church!

St. Thomas Angels Spread Their Wings and



Christmas Cheer!

Thank you “Angels” for distributing cookies to all of our shut-ins this past week! This is a wonderful way to

reach out to those parishioners that are not be able to join us at Mass but have done so much for our parish! Thanks to the “Angels” for all that they do throughout the year!!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.



Please pray for the Sick:

John Probst, Donna Boehl, Annie Beverlin, Vickie Kocher, Susanne Schackmann, Carol Schafer, Jim & Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Jessica Andruch, Whitney Benefiel, Mary Bergbower, Delorse Johnson, Susie Ochs, Ted Ochs, Geneva Barber; and those in healthcare facilities & in our Book of Requests.

Trending on FORMED:

O Holy Night-Christmas w/the Annie Moses Band.

Experience the beauty of the Christmas season with the Annie Moses Band as the acclaimed classical crossover ensemble performs stunning arrangements of holiday favorites.

Christmas Special | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

This beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers will be filled with hope as they recall God's promise fulfilled through our Savior's arrival.

O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming and animated presentation of the birth of God's Son! O Holy Night is a wonderful way to remind everyone of Who we celebrate during the Christmas season!

Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Bl. Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

2024 Christmas/New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas (Youth Choir @ 4:30)

7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary's

11:00 pm @ St. Thomas (Guitar Group @ 10:15 pm)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

8:30 am Mass @ St. Thomas

New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31

6:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas

New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1

8:30 am Mass @ St. Mary

10:00 am Mass @ St. Thomas

Please sign up for St. Thomas Ministries online at MSP or contact the parish office. Thanks!!

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the joyful celebration of our Savior's birth, I want to take a moment to share my heartfelt Christmas blessings with each of you. This season reminds us of the incredible love that God has for us, a love so deep that He sent His only Son into the world to bring light and hope to all.

May this Christmas fill your hearts with the peace and joy that come from knowing Christ is with us, now and always. I pray that the gift of His presence brings healing, peace, and a deeper sense of His grace in your lives. May you feel the goodness of His love in every moment, and may your homes be filled with the true spirit of Christmas—love, compassion, and kindness.

As we celebrate Nativity of the Lord, let us remember the humble birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and the hope that He offers to all. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your lives and guide you into a new year filled with blessings, and spiritual growth.

May this Christmas be a time for each of us to have a spiritual experience of God's love.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Paul

25 Not Impossible Christmas Trivia Questions

– *Dive Deep* presents 25 not impossible Catholic Trivia questions about Christmas! Go to [youtube.com/diospringfield](https://www.youtube.com/diospringfield) or search “Dive Deep” on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. *Dive Deep* is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Send Christmas Joy to Those Who Need It Most

– Catholic Charities has been working very hard all year to serve those in need in our local communities. It is time for the annual Christmas Appeal fundraiser that helps fund the many life-enhancing programs throughout the 28-county Diocese. Please consider making a donation so you can help make a difference. Go to cc.dio.org to donate now. Select Christmas Appeal under the program options. You can designate the area of your choice. Thank you!

“And you, Mary, the Virgin of expectation and fulfilment, who hold the secret of Christmas, make us able to recognize in the Child whom you hold in your arms the heralded Saviour, who brings hope and peace to all. With you we worship him and trustingly say: we need You, Redeemer of man, You who know the hopes and fears of our hearts. Come and stay with us, Lord! May the joy of your Nativity reach to the farthest ends of the universe!”

Pope John Paul II, Christmas 2003

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 21 – December 22, 2024**



St. Mary of the Assumption Church

112 W. Embarras Street, P.O. Box 68
Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459 Tel: 618-455-3155
E-mail: stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com
Website: www.stmariechurch.org

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(email/text: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller

Office Manager: Denisse Ochs

PSR Coordinator: Marie Wagner

Tribunal Annulment Advocate: Debbie Matson

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tues-Wed.-Thurs.

Masses: 8:30 am Sunday

First Saturday of the Month

7:30am–8:15am Eucharistic Adoration/Reconciliation

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Reconciliation: As Scheduled by request and
Available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturday

This Week in our Parish

Monday, December 23rd, Late Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 24th, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish)

Wednesday, December 25th, The Nativity of the Lord

NO PSR

Thursday, December 26th, St Stephen

No Mass

Friday, December 27th, St John The Apostle

Saturday, December 28th, The Holy Innocents

**Sunday, December 29th, The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: George & Hilda Dallmier
Margie Townsend+)

Parish Office Hours

Thursday, December 26th – 8am – 3pm

Friday, December 27th – 8am – 3pm

Office Closed December 30th – January 3

If you need anything, please contact St Thomas Church

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of December 15, 2024**

Envelopes	\$ 1,220.00
Loose	301.00
Sub Total	\$ 1,521.00

Immaculate Conception	182.00
Haiti	61.00
Christmas Offering	100.00
Retired Religious	130.00
Total	\$ 1,994.00

St Mary's Church Tithe

October Tithe Income \$9,315.00

10% Monthly Tithe to Diocese - \$932.00

Ministers for 7:00 p.m. – December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

Ushers: George Semple, Phil Ochs, Marvin Zwilling

Servers: Max Ochs, Wade Schackmann, Need 1

Lectors: Claire Griffith/ Becca Ochs

Gift Bearers: Dan Hartrich Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Lora Semple, Elaine Zwilling,
Rose Gangloff

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – December 29, 2024

Ushers: John Uebinger, Ethan Griffith, Kelby Ochs

Servers: Charlee Hartrich/Max Ochs

Lectors: Ethan Zwilling/Ron Zwilling

Gift Bearer: Bruce Boehl Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Frohning,
Jeanne Johnson, Tony Hartrich

Thank You - To all who donated to the Décor Fund in memory of your loved ones, to make the church a place of beauty for the season. To those who volunteered to be ministers for the Christmas Eve mass, it is greatly appreciated. To all who participated in the decorating of the church to make our worship environment so beautiful. Your stewardship is much appreciated! Merry Christmas!!

Events.

12/24/24 – Christmas Eve Mass Times –

7:00 p.m. – St Mary's Church

5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. – St Thomas Church

12/25/24 – Christmas Day Mass –

8:30 a.m. – St Thomas Church

12/31/2024 – 6:00 p.m. Mass – St Thomas Church

**1/1/2024 — 8:30 a.m. Solemnity of Mary Mass –
St Mary's**

1/1/2025 – 10:00 a.m. – Mass – St Thomas Church