

# 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22<sup>nd</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto:stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com)  
Website: [www.stthomasnewton.net](http://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](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com)  
Website: [www.stthomassaints.com](http://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:

**Ramon Kocher  
Construction**



## 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](mailto:stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com)  
Website: [www.stmariechurch.org](http://www.stmariechurch.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

	<b>St. Thomas</b>	<b>St. Mary</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>7:30 &amp; 9:00 a.m.</b>	
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	
Thursday		8:30 a.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Holy Days</b>	<b>As scheduled in the bulletin.</b>	
<b>PENANCE/RECONCILIATION</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>3:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Or as scheduled by request.</b>		



## Dear Parishioners:

Notes from  
Fr. Dean



The Fourth Sunday of Advent recalls the visitation of Mary to her kinswoman Elizabeth. Mary set out in haste. I suspect we may be in haste to fulfill all the festivities of Christmas. May we not

forget that God became incarnate and dwelt among us so that we might be raised up from our humanity to share in the Lord's divinity. The Fourth Week of Advent is very short as we begin the Season of Christmas with the Masses at 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm in each of our parishes.

**Merry Christmas!! Welcome to All** - who come to worship with us this weekend and at the Christmas Masses: visitors, returning to the parish as well as our regular participants, and especially college students home for the semester break. May Christ whose birth we celebrate, find a dwelling place in each of our hearts.



**SEATING:** Please be mindful that the early Masses of Christmas Eve are generally overflowing with people for which extra seats are set up to accommodate everyone. Please note that people will be seated in vacant spaces within the 15 minutes of Mass starting. WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN and there should be no reserved spaces except as needed for liturgical ministers.

**COME EARLY &** enjoy the **CHRISTMAS CAROLS** preceding the Masses. The Chanting of the Proclamation of Christmas will be done at the scheduled time of each Mass.

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Prelude Music will begin 45 minutes prior:

**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**

### 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

## WELCOME INTO FULL-COMMUNION

of the  
**Catholic Church**  
the following men  
who were **Confirmed**  
and received  
**Holy Communion.**



**Rezin Jeffrey (George) Shamhart**

**Brandon (Michael) Francis**

**Lucas (Robert Bellarmine) Zuber**

Their Confirmation patronal names are noted in parentheses. These three men from St. Thomas Parish professed their faith in "all that the Catholic Church believes, teaches and professes to be revealed by Christ," were Confirmed and received Holy Communion at St. Thomas Church, Newton, on December 16 at the 7:30 a.m. Mass. We welcome them into the fullness of our Catholic faith.

Our Catechumen (Jeremy Wagner, Travis Farley and Joshua Few, Abby Fitzmaurice, Matt Wilson, Grady Michl, and Elijah Michl) continue their journey of faith leading to the Rite of Election, March 6, 2019, and Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil, April 20, 2019.



### **Recently Baptized into Christ's Death and Resurrection:**

**Layla Matalyn Burgener**, child of Matt & Stacy (Marshall) Burgener. She was baptized December 16 at St. Thomas Church. Lain Burgener and Dana Marshall are her Godparents.



### **Pre-Jordan Baptismal Class.**

Your child's baptism is a time for celebration and joy. And, naturally, you want the best for your child. We want to help you plan and prepare for the baptism in the best possible way. **The next class will be held Sunday,**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. at St. Thomas Church.**

**NOTE:** The preparation is required prior to baptism of infant/child unless already attended one within past 3 years. Plan to attend before your child is born so that there is no delay in scheduling the baptism. The session is for both parishes and available to anyone.

### **NOTICE:**

**NO ONE APPLIED** for the part-time position of Office Manager of St. Mary's Church, Ste. Marie, IL. The position is still needed. Some parishioners have suggested more hours for the job, including duties of Sacristan, and Pastoral Associate. The Pastoral Council can make recommended new job description and hours for which the position will be reopened for applicants.

# St. Thomas Parish News

## Disciples' Stewardship

Collection December 14<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Envelopes (180)	\$8,241.00
Loose	\$482.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,723.00</b>
Ret. Rel. (5)	\$180.00
Immaculate Conception (6)	\$170.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$9,073.00</b>

## "Step Forward in Faith Together" Campaign

Total Paid 3rd Internal Campaign (Oct. 1, 2014)	\$1,149,472.36
Grand Total Pledges Collected	\$3,387,532.66
<b>Balance to be Paid</b>	<b>\$126,520.52</b>
Includes \$23,924.75 profit from Harvest Picnic----->	

## Ministries for Next Weekend's Masses

### Lectors:

5:30 p.m. Madonna Schackmann	Randy Woodard
7:30 a.m. Rita Kocher	Gary Johnson
9:00 a.m. Brian Bierman	David & Gina May

### Gift Bearers:

5:30 p.m. Madonna Schackmann	Randy Woodard
7:30 a.m. Rita Kocher	Gary Johnson
9:00 a.m. Brian Bierman	David & Gina May

### 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.	TBA
9:00 a.m.	TBA

### Servers:

5:30 p.m.	Seth Ochs Wade Ochs
7:30 a.m.	Nicholas Shamhart Jacob Weber
9:00 a.m.	Gabby Meinhardt Emma Rauch

### Ushers:

5:30 p.m.	Vic Klingler
7:30 a.m.	Zach Weber & Sons
9:00 a.m.	Jim Robins

## This Week in our Parish & School

+ behind name in Mass intention is for deceased.

### *Monday, Dec. 24, Vigil Nativity of the Lord*

5:30 p.m. Mass (*Int.:* Leatha Urfer; Deceased  
Members of the Leo Kerner Family+)  
11:00 p.m. Mass (*Int.:* Mae Blank+)

### *Tuesday, Dec. 25, Nativity of the Lord*

9:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.:* Brad Ghast & Harold  
Bolander+)

### *Wednesday, Dec. 26, St. Stephen*

8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.* Our Parish Family+)

### *Thursday, Dec. 27, St. John*

### *Friday, Dec. 28, The Holy Innocents*

8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.:* For All Our Parents and  
Families)  
6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

### *Saturday, Dec. 29, 5<sup>th</sup> Day w/in Octave of Christmas*

2:00 p.m. Ochs/Cartwright Wedding  
5:30 p.m. Mass (*Int.:* Deceased of Henry & Coletta  
Kocher Family+)

### *Sunday, Dec. 30, The Holy Family*

7:30 a.m. Mass – (*Int.:* Lucille & Lorraine Dallmier+)  
9:00 a.m. Mass – (*Int.:* Barbara Rubsam+)  
10:15 a.m. Communion Service (Newton Care Center)  
10:30 a.m. Communion Service (Villa of Holly Brook)



### St. Thomas Parish

Christmas Tree. Once again, our parish tree is going to be decorated with ornaments that list special items that will be donated to Heritage Health Care in

Hutsonville. This facility houses and provides care for Veterans. A donation box will also be available for monetary donations that will assist in purchasing the facility a new TV. Any surplus donations will be shared with the Family Life Center in Effingham.

Everyone is welcome to take a pink or purple ornament off the tree that lists an item of need. Boxes are available under the tree where donated items can then be collected. Be sure to replace the ornament that you take off the tree with one of the white, silver or gold ornaments that will be available in a basket. Watch our tree change colors as we join together to lend a helping hand.

## St. Thomas Parish & School News

### School Dates to Remember:

**January 3rd:** School Resumes

**January 21st:** No School - MLK Jr. Day

**January 23rd:** Booster Club Meeting @ 6:30 pm

**February 2nd:** Trivia Night @ 6:30 pm

**February 24th:** Soup Supper

The Family of Eufala Bigard would like to thank all who prayed for mom, visited her, and supported her in any way. We would also like to thank all those who sent cards, brought food, called and especially those who brought food and served the funeral dinner. A special thank you to Fr. Dean for all the visits, prayers, and humor you shared with mom. To Meyer Funeral Home, thank you for your expertise in preparing our momma and the friendship you shared with her through the years. Mom loved her family, her great friends, and her time as a teacher. May God Bless you all with the same zest for life that she did.

The St. Thomas School Christmas Program was very well done and so much fun to watch! Who can forget the Reindeer Hokey-Pokey, the super cool Christmas Tree with special effects, the band's performance of the African Bell Carol, and the reciting of Scripture from Gospel of Luke?! A fantastic job was done by all. Thanks to Ms. Tia Cowger (band) and Ms. Paige Layman (music) for their hard work in putting together such a wonderful and fun-filled program!

Rest in Peace. Our mother, Kathleen McCullough daughter of Duffy and Anna McCullough, passed on October 24, 2018. The family invites friends to the interment of Kathleen at noon on December 22, 2018 in Mt Calvary Cemetery. A funeral Mass was held in Lincoln, IL at Holy Family, on the 21st, at 1:30 p.m.

Blessings,  
Molly Davidson

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 who you want to get together to play! Contact the school or parish offices for more details.

The Villas of Holly Brook Ministry Schedule is already available in the Gathering Space for the month of January. Please consider signing up to take Communion to Holly Brook residents! Thanks so much to those already participating and visiting residents at the Newton Care Center as well!

St. Thomas School would like to thank those that collect Box Tops for education. Box Tops can be given to any student to turn in or they can be dropped off in the box available in the gathering space. The students also want to let everyone know that they can begin collecting those soda tabs if they would like to participate! Just drop the soda tabs off at the church office and Fr. Dean and Linda will make sure that the school receives them. Thanks for your support of our school and students! More information to follow!

### St. Thomas Christmas Mass Ministries

#### Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 p.m.

**Musicians:** Youth Choir

**Lectors:** Jill Bierman; Jamie Shamhart

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Brenda Phillips, Kim Ochs, Madeline Hemrich, Denisse Ochs, Julie Higgs, Marilyn Schafer

**Ushers:** Ben Bierman, Brad Ochs, Randy Hemrich, Charles Sroka, Vic Klingler

**Servers:** Gus Bierman, Dylan Gier, Alex Gier, Grant Ochs

**Gift Bearers:** Ron & Patti Ochs

#### Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 p.m.

**Musicians:** Five For One Guitar Group

**Lectors:** Nikki Bierman; Sarah Hemrich

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Paul Bierman, Anna Hemrich, Connie Hemrich, Lori TeVault, Jenny Bierman, Jason Bierman

**Ushers:** KC Color Guard

**Servers:** Katie Bierman, Weston Bierman, Wyatt Ochs, Mallory Ochs

**Gift Bearers:** Annie Ochs & Oliver Ochs

#### Christmas, December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.

**Musicians:** Tammy Page & Ellen Einhorn

**Lectors:** Becky Shamhart

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Dee Bower, Linda Mertens, Marge Horton, Pete Pasero, Theresa Volk, Kenzie Hutchison

**Ushers:** KC Color Guard

**Servers:** Need 2 volunteers

**Gift Bearers:** Henry Volk & Aaron Volk

Solemnity of Mary Ministries. Please call the parish office at 783-8741 to volunteer to be a lector, Eucharistic Minister, usher, gift bearer, or server for one of the Holy Day Masses for the Solemnity of Mary. The Masses are scheduled as follows at St. Thomas:

- Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.



## St. Mary's Parish News

### This Week in our Parish

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord**  
4:00 p.m. – Mass (Int.: For the Parish)

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, The Nativity of the Lord**  
8:00 a.m. – Mass (Int.: For the Parish)

**Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, St Stephen**  
NO PSR Classes

**Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, St John**  
8:00 a.m.- Rosary  
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Deceased of the Dan & Rosa Ochs Family+)

**Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, The Holy Innocents**

**Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> day of the Octave of Christmas**  
3:15 – 3:30 p.m. – Reconciliation  
4:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: Herman & Emma Copper+)

**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, The Holy Family**

### Stewardship as Measurement of Our Discipleship

Collection for weekend of December 15-16 ,2018

Envelopes (31)	\$ 975.00
Loose:	\$ 241.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,216.00</b>
Religious Retired (2)	\$ 125.00
Capitol Improvement (1)	\$ 75.00
Haiti (6)	\$ 86.00
Christmas Décor (5)	\$ 170.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,672.00</b>

### Ministries for Next Week

**December 22nd, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.**

**Ushers:** David Ochs, Randy Reis, Marvin Zwilling

**Servers:** Emma Kocher, Brianna Zwilling

**Lector:** Kay Helregel

**Gift Bearers:** Bob & Carolyn Barthleme

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Bridget Kaufmann, Elaine Zwilling, Maria Zumbahlen

## MINISTRIES FOR CHRISTMAS

### Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00 p.m.

**Ushers:** Maynard Kaufmann Ben Ochs  
Jacob Kaufmann Elmer Ochs  
Tim Keller Norbert Ochs

**Servers:** Ethan Griffith Alex Kaufmann

**Lectors:** Claire Griffith Becca Ochs

**Gift Bearers:** Tony & Janet Hartrich

### Eucharistic Ministers:

Veronica Griffith Maria Zumbahlen  
Ben Ochs Jeannie Johnson  
Lisa Ochs Richard Ochs

### Christmas Day Mass: 8:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Matt Ochs, Marvin Zwilling, Nicholas Zwilling

**Servers:** Kelby Ochs, Brianna Zwilling

**Lector:** Lora Ochs

**Gift Bearers:** Ron & Carolyn Kirts

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Elaine Zwilling, Ron Kirts



**PRAYERS:** We continue to pray for Eufala Bigard, who passed away recently. Please remember also her family, that they find comfort knowing she is resting in the arms of our Lord and Savior!

**Judy Wagner Address:** Helia Healthcare  
410 E Mack Ave, Room 4  
Olney, Il 62450

**JANUARY MINISTRIES:** The list of January ministers can be found at the entrances of the church. If you cannot fulfill your appointed time, please find a substitute. Thanks for sharing of your time during the Mass.

**THANK YOU:** A SPECIAL thanks to Sue Kocher, Dan Schlasky, Maynard & Elfrieda Kaufmann for getting the Christmas décor down and ready to enhance our environment for the season!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Thanks to all who donated to enrich the environment of our church during this Christmas season. A list of the those we remembered is inserted in the bulletin. Please keep them and their families in your prayers!

## ST. THOMAS AND ST. MARY PARISHES

**ST. MARY'S PRE-CANA:** The next Pre-Cana class is March 16, 2019 at St Mary of the Assumption Church. We have a limited number of couples, so an early registration is recommended. For more information please contact the St Mary's Parish office.

### This Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday:	Is 62:1-5	Acts 13:16-17 Mt 1:1-25
Tuesday:	Is 9:1-6	Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
Wednesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	Mt 10:17-22
Thursday:	Jn 1:1-4	Jn 20:1a,2-8
Friday:	Jn 1:5-2:2	Mt 2:13-18
Saturday:	Jn 2:3-11	Lk 2:22-35
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6,12-14	Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52

### Those we remembered in our prayers:



The Parish Book of Requests,  
Residents in Health Care Facilities,  
Coletta Ochs, Judy Wagner, Beth  
Lawler and Family, Marilyn (Dhom)  
Zumbahlen, Theresa Leohr,

**The Annual Right to Life Breakfast** is January 13th at the Teutopolis Grade School Auditorium from 7 am to 12:30 pm. Menu: Whole Hog Sausage, Eggs, Rolls & Homemade Breads, Drinks...Free Will Offering

Thanks for supporting our youth from the area parishes that are attending this year. Those attending from St. Thomas Parish are: Will Ochs, Eli Weber, Kaitlyn Ochs, Elizabeth Volk, Madeline Hemrich, and Alexis Bell. Those attending from St. Mary's are Miranda Ochs and Jenna Ochs.

**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 6<sup>th</sup>.** The preparation is required prior to baptism of infant/child unless already attended one within past 3 years.

### Courses for all Catholics - University of Dayton

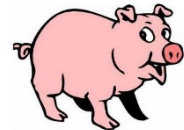
**Online Learning** - The course calendar can be found at: [https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/#cycle\\_1\\_2019\\_English](https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/#cycle_1_2019_English) For more information, visit our website at [dio.org/catechesis/vlcff.html](http://dio.org/catechesis/vlcff.html) or the VLCFF web site at [vlcff.udayton.edu](http://vlcff.udayton.edu).

## AREA & DIOCESAN NEWS

### Newton Knights of Columbus **4<sup>th</sup> DEGREE ASSEMBLY #1554** **ANNUAL RAFFLE**

- **1st Prize - Smokin Brothers Grill**  
The Smokin Brothers "20" Little Brother BBQ Grill is ready to travel, take it anywhere easily on the go camping and tailgate. It is the perfect size for any family that wants to start mastering backyard cooking techniques. It allows you to smoke, bake, grill and sear with the heavy duty porcelain grids. The Smokin Brothers Digital dial control features a cool down cycle when finished grilling. Weight 100 lbs. with 370 sq. inches cooking surface. Retail: \$799.00

- **2nd Prize - 1/2 Hog**



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

\$5 per Ticket or 5 Tickets for \$20

**Drawing Held:**  
**Tuesday, January 22, 2019**  
**Merchant Stag Night**  
**Knights of Columbus Hall**

**Need NOT Be Present to Win**

**Grill Donated and Meat Processed**  
**Courtesy of Hartrich Meats**  
**Ste. Marie, IL ♦ 618-455-3172**  
Additional Door Prizes on Drawing Night!

**EUCHRE TOURNAMENT:** The public is invited to the Holy Cross Parish Center on Sunday, January 13, 2019. The CYM will have Sandwiches, desserts, popcorn, Soda/Water and more available for donation after 10:00 Mass until card playing begins at 12:30 p.m. \$3.00 per player admission. Cash prizes award for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place. You may bring your favorite adult beverages. Come Eat & Socialize. Then stay and play cards. Sponsored by: Family Life of Holy Cross.

**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. Please call 217-925-5788 to register.