

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15th- 16th, 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.

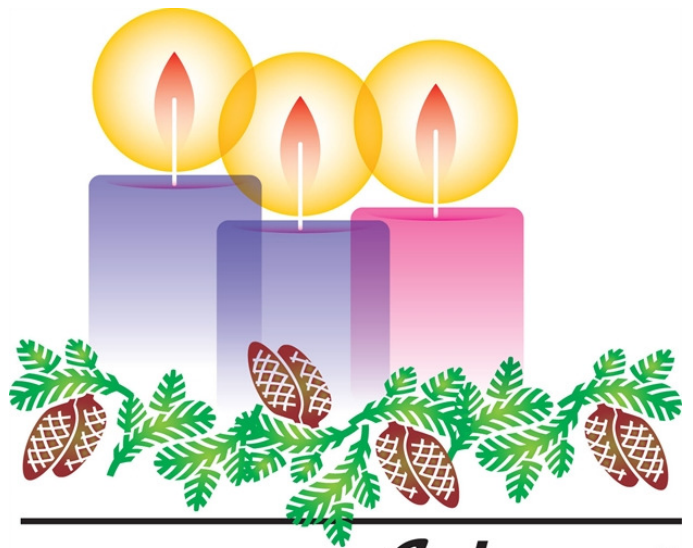
Baptism: Infants/Toddlers: During Weekend Mass with Fr. Dean Probst. The Pre-Baptismal Instruction is required of parents. Baptism is the first sacrament and entrance to the church's other sacraments.

Baptism: Adults: At Easter Vigil following the Catechumenate.

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

Bulletin Sponsor:

1704 Newton Knights of Columbus
3rd Degree



THIRD 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:



WHAT OUGHT WE TO DO? is the question posed to John the Baptist in the Gospel. John the Baptist speaks of making a change of heart, a conversion in our lives by turning away from selfishness to generosity and sharing. God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son, Jesus, whose birth into our world we will soon celebrate. May God give us the grace to examine our lives and seek the mercy that allows us to celebrate this feast of God's love at Christmas. May we find ways to extend the mercy and love of God to others, especially those in most need of it.

The Giving Tree in the vestibule of St. Thomas Church is certainly an opportunity to fulfill the Gospel words of St. John the Baptist and share the love of God with others.

RECONCILIATION/SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

There is still opportunity to open your heart to the mercy of God by receiving the Sacrament of Penance in the Rite of Reconciliation. Six priests will be available to administer God's grace of mercy at St. Anthony Church in Effingham, this Tuesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. and 6:00 pm December 20 at Sacred Heart, Effingham.

NOTE: On December 22, the Sacrament of Penance will be available also in the Reconciliation Room of the Church: **8-10 a.m. Saturday, St. Thomas Church**
2 - 3 p.m. Saturday, St. Mary's Church
The Sacrament is also generally available as noted on the bulletin cover (excepting Tribunal Tuesdays).

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

We need servers for the 9:30 am Mass at St. Thomas.

NOTICE:

Application for a part-time job of 18 hour/week, 9-3 pm Tues.-Thurs. is available at the St. Mary's office. Requirements: A Catholic practicing the faith as job requires basic knowledge of Catholic Church doctrine and devotion; confidentiality; good communication skills, and working knowledge of computer programs of Quickbooks and Microsoft Office.

IN MEMORIAM:

Dennis Massie, the father of Linda (Randy) Hemrich, office manager of St. Thomas Church. May God give him eternal happiness and consolation to his family.



WELCOME James (Isidore) Lurkins and Cory (Cornelius) Miller INTO FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

These two men from St. Clare Parish in Altamont have been coming to St. Thomas/St. Mary's RCIA sessions and professed their faith believing "all that the Catholic Church believes, teaches and professes to be revealed by Christ" and were Confirmed and received Holy Communion at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Ste. Marie with permission of their pastor. James is the son-in-law of Tony and Janet Hartrich of St. Mary's Parish. Becca Ochs, sister-in-law was his sponsor.

This Sunday three men (Brandon Francis, Luke Zuber, and Jeffrey Shamhart), will be doing the same at the 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas Church. We welcome them into the fullness of our Church.

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.



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 6th 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.

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

Thanks for their past ministry to our parishes!

St. Thomas Parish News

Disciples' Stewardship

Collection December 7th- 8th, 2018

Envelopes (157)	\$5,582.00
Loose	\$524.00
Subtotal	\$6,106.00
Ret. Rel. (33)	\$1,049.00
Immaculate Conception (69)	\$1,269.00
School Fund (8)	\$362.00
Subtotal	\$2,680.00
Grand Total	\$8,786.00

"Step Forward in Faith Together" Campaign

Total Paid 3rd Internal Campaign (Oct. 1, 2014)	\$1,149,472.36
Grand Total Pledges Collected	\$3,387,382.66
Balance to be Paid	
Includes \$23,924.75 profit from Harvest Picnic----->	\$126,520.52

Ministries for Next Weekend's Masses

Lectors:

5:30 p.m. Mike Hartrich
7:30 a.m. Mark Vahling
9:00 a.m. Ellen Einhorn

Gift Bearers:

Gene Schackmann
Brian Brummer
Charlie Schackammn

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. Tammy Page/Ellen Einhorn
7:30 a.m. Vicki Mullen/Lucy Bierman
9:00 a.m. Vicki Mullen/Emma Rauch

Servers:

5:30 p.m. Austin Moore
Jacob Ochs
7:30 a.m. Kye Bergbower
Gus Bierman
9:00 a.m. Avery Mulvey
Laura Kuhl

Ushers:

Vic Klingler

Zach Weber & Sons

Jim Robins

This Week in our Parish & School

+ behind name in Mass intention is for deceased.

Monday, Dec. 17, Late Advent Weekday

6:00 p.m. Boys Basketball @ St. Peter
6:30 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary mtg at KC Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 18, Late Advent Weekday

3:00 p.m. Tribunal - Springfield
5:00 p.m. Rosary (Rite of Reconciliation unavailable)
5:30 p.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, Dec. 19, Late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.* Our Parish Family+)
5:30 p.m. Youth Choir practice
6:30 p.m. PSR – Caroling/CYO
7:00 p.m. Christmas Program

Thursday, Dec. 20, Late Advent Weekday

Pre-K Christmas Program
Stang Arts
6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Penance Service (Effingham)

Friday, Dec. 21, St. Peter Canisius

End of 2nd Qtr
Early Dismissal at 2:10 p.m.
8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.* For All Our Children and Grandchildren)

10:30 a.m. Villas of Holly Brook Mass
7:00 p.m. Bingo – Lightning \$3,400.00

Saturday, Dec. 22, Late Advent Weekday

5:30 p.m. Mass (*Int.*: Glen & Alberta Smithenry+)
8 – 10 a.m. Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

Sunday, Dec. 23, 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Mass–(*Int.*: Paul Brummer+)
9:00 a.m. Mass –(*Int.*: Frank & Marilyn 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:

December 19th: Christmas Program @ 7:00 pm

December 21st: Early Dismissal @ 2:10/End of 2nd Qtr./Beginning of Break

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 St. Thomas School Christmas Program will be held on **Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center. All students will be sharing their talents with us as they begin to celebrate Christmas. Our students have been working hard and their efforts always have us singing and clapping along in our seats. If you weren't ready for the Christmas holiday when you arrived, you will definitely be filled with the Christmas spirit by the time you leave.

A Special Thank You! Thank you, **Ramon Kocher**, for your hard work on the **new Credence Table** that is now on the altar. It is beautiful, and Fr. Dean truly appreciates the extra space that it provides for sacred vessels. Thank you for all that you do and for continuing to share your talents with us!!

St. Thomas PSR/CYO. The PSR/CYO youth in our parish are preparing for the holidays by being of service to our parish and community. The **PSR youth** have been shopping for **Toys for Kids** and are **caroling** in the upcoming weeks while visiting our local health care facilities. If you see a **CYO youth** be sure to give them a pat on the back for all of their **help decorating** our church for the Christmas season. The Worship Committee really appreciated the extra man power and muscle!! They also assisted the Jasper County Ministerial Association with the **Food Box Project!** How fortunate we are to have so many parish youth actively participating in their parish and community!!

The January/February St. Thomas Lay Ministry Schedules are available. Please stop by the display case in the main entrance of church to pick up your schedule. Thanks so much to all of our parishioners that participate in a ministry and for your stewardship!

The Guitar Group has great news! Their Five For One CD's are available again in the gathering space. They are asking for a \$10.00 donation when picking up a CD. Your donations will benefit the St. Thomas music ministry and...what a great stocking stuffer idea 😊

2018 Annual Catholic Services Appeal

2018 Goal = \$47,581.00

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

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.

SCRIP Cards + Holiday Shopping = Merry

Christmas. Holiday shopping couldn't be easier... Simply stop by the school office or the SCRIP table at the weekend Masses to purchase SCRIP Cards from your favorite retailers and local businesses. ***Last day to order before Christmas is Dec. 17th.*** A "Shout Out" 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." A list to use during prayer will be included in the Christmas bulletin. Please submit names to the Parish Office by noon on Dec. 19.

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!



Christmas Mass Ministries... Just a reminder to sign-up in the gathering space on the provided sign-up sheets if you would like to participate in one of the upcoming Christmas Masses. Thanks to all of the lay ministers that have volunteered so far. We need servers for the Mass at 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day.

St. Mary's Parish News

This Week in our Parish

Monday, December 17th Late Advent Weekday

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

Tuesday, December 18th, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Communion Service

Wednesday, December 19th, Late Advent Weekday

6:30 p.m. – PSR Classes

Thursday, December 20th, Late Advent Weekday

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

Friday, December 21st, St Peter Canisius

Saturday, December 22nd, Late Advent Weekday

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Reconciliation
4:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: Lawrence & Dot Huber+)
5:00 p.m.- Decorate for Christmas

Sunday, December 23rd, 4th Sunday of Advent

Stewardship as Measurement of Our Discipleship

Collection for weekend of December 7-8 ,2018

Envelopes (38)	\$	1,360.00
Loose:	\$	212.00
Sub Total	\$	1,572.00
Immaculate Conception (12)	\$	250.00
Religious Retired (6)	\$	95.00
Thanksgiving (1)	\$	20.00
Capitol Improvement (2)	\$	60.00
Haiti (2)	\$	20.00
Christmas Décor (9)	\$	195.00
Grand Total	\$	2,212.00

Ministries for Next Week

December 15th, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: David Ochs, Randy Reis, Marvin Zwilling

Servers: Ashtyn Ochs, Kelby Ochs

Lectors: Ethan Zwilling

Gift Bearers: Tony & Martha Strutner

Eucharistic Ministers: Ben Ochs, Paul Kaufmann, Sharon Boehl

DECORATE: We will be changing the décor in the church after the 4:00 p.m. mass on Saturday, December 22. Anyone who would like to stay and help are more than welcome.

CHOIR PRACTICE: We will be having practice on December 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!

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL: Please help to enrich our Christmas environment by making a donation in memory of a loved one. You may make a donation in an envelope marked “Flowers” or use the envelope in your collection box. The liturgy committee will purchase the poinsettias. Please specify for whom the memorial is for on the envelope. The list of memorials will be published at a later date. The deadline for contributing to the fund is December 19th.

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

FROM THE FAMILY OF MARY HOECHERL:

Thank you to all the ladies who donated food for our Aunt Mary's funeral dinner, and to those who served the meal. The meal was wonderful, and we greatly appreciate all you did to help us deal with a difficult day.



ST MARY'S YOUTH GROUP:

We would like to thank anyone that supported our fundraiser this fall. We were able to donate over \$500 and shop for 20 children for the Toys for Kids of

Jasper County!!! On December 1st, we caroled for some parishioners at Villas of Holly Brook and Carle RMH in Olney. We also enjoyed pizza, a gift exchange, and played games. You may have seen us at the 4:00 Mass where many of us had an active role in various ministries. We are so thankful to have supportive parents and a parish family than encourages our faith and helps us work together to share God's love. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas!!

ST. THOMAS AND ST. MARY PARISHES

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday:	Gn 49:2,8-10	Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a	Lk 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Sg 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45
Saturday:	1Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a	Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

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,



Resources For Advent

*Visit <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever> for a free e-mail program, reflections, advent prayers and much more.

*Visit www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/ for an interactive Advent calendar, information about Advent wreaths and so many other additional resources.

Third Sunday of Advent – 16 December 2018

God comes. What shall we do? God, indeed, is coming. Near at hand. At the door. Be busy! Be lovingly-kind, like God. Do mercy work. Being merciful does not require extraordinary behavior. It simply means, be human. That is, be holy. Prove that God is here by wrestling with conversion to Christ in ongoing ways – be genuine, be just, be fair. The gospel offers some suggestions: clean out the closet, share from the pantry, do not take what others need. Do mercy. Be mercy.

- Read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* of 2018 on the call to holiness in today's world. Here is a link: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/post_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html
- How will I be holy, be the "saint next door"?
- What mercy work will I do to share with those in need?

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

AREA & DIOCESAN NEWS

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!

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.

Courses for all Catholics - University of Dayton Online Learning

- Sign up for the online courses through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), a program of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton. Registration for 2019 Cycle 1 is now open and closes January 16. The courses run January 20 through February 23, 2019 at a cost of \$50 per course/\$40 per seminar. The course calendar can be found at: https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/#cycle_1_2019_English For more information, visit our website at dio.org/catechesis/vlcff.html or the VLCFF web site at vlcff.udayton.edu

New Year, New Name, New Mission

- January 6, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Location: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception -What's Your Mission from God? Come with your spouse for an afternoon of learning, prayer, and discussion about how to determine the unique mission God has given your family. No cost to attend, but space is limited so please RSVP. <https://www.dio.org/familylife/events.html>