



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph December 26-27, 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.stemariechurch.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: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2	Mt 2:13-18
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11	Lk 2:22-35
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:2-17	Lk 2:36-40
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21	Jn 1:1-18
Friday: Nm 6:22-27	Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28	Jn 1:19-28
Sunday: Is 60:1-6	Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12



Please pray for the Sick, especially Jane Beavers, 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 undegoing 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

NOTE: Fr. Dean will be on retreat this week:

*No Masses scheduled Monday through Thursday:
New Year's Eve at 4:30 pm*

Monday, Dec. 28: The Holy Innocents

Tuesday, Dec. 29: 5th Day w/in Octave of the Nativity

Wednesday, Dec. 30: 6th Day w/in Octave of the Nativity
3:00 pm Rosary

Thurs., Dec. 31: 7th Day w/in Octave of the Nativity
Office closed today.

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int: For the Parish)

Friday, Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's (Int: For the Parish)

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Maurice Nix Fam.)

Saturday, Jan. 2: Sts Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

3:30 – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass (For the Parish)

Sunday, Jan. 3: Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

10:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

Disciples' Stewardship of Time

St. Thomas Lay Minister Schedule Jan. 2nd – 3rd

Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Lectors: Sue Dickerson; Karen Buerster

E.M.: Gerald Ochs & Brad Ochs

Server: Landon Blake

Musicians: N. Mulvey/K. Ochs/E. Wright

Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, 7:00 a.m.

Lectors: Sara Bergbower; Nikki Bierman

E.M.: Brenda Phillips & Pam Kerner

Server: Alani Bergbower

Musicians: Five For One

Greeters/Ushers: Doug Long

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Lectors: Kelly Iffert; Ginger Robins

E.M.: Nikki Earnest & Jenny Bierman

Server: Nick Bierman

Musician: Patsy Leffler/Anne Kuhl

Greeters/Ushers: Chris Rauch



Baptism: Kyle Zachary Gier, son of Mike & Renee (Weber) Gier, was baptized Tuesday afternoon, December 22, 2020 in St. Thomas Church. The Sponsors were Zachary Weber and Joan Weber.

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

Dec. 19th-20th Collection

Envelopes	\$6,532.00
Loose	\$68.00
Subtotal	\$6,600.00
Retired Religious	\$100.00
School Fund	\$190.00
Immaculate Conception	\$125.00
<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>\$105.00</u>
Subtotal	\$520.00
Grand Total	\$7,120.00

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 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

A Special Thank You! Danny Miller would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers while he was in the hospital and recovering from Covid. Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated and your kindness will not be forgotten.

St. Thomas CYO. Mark Your Calendars!

- **Weds., Dec. 30th** – No CYO
- **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

The Jasper County HCE thanks St. Thomas Parish for our donation of \$250.00 to their Toys for Kids program. In the spirit of the season and as a result of the excellent response to Jasper County HCE's letter, over 80 Jasper County families received gifts providing 200 kids with a brighter holiday. What a great example of keeping with the true meaning of Christmas.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parish Info:

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 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.

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.

Local March for Life will be in Indianapolis, IN on Friday, Jan 22, at 11AM starting at 200 W

Washington Street. Any individual that might be interested in attending, please let Diann know thru email or text. Teens must have a parent with them. Cost will be determined by numbers of attendees. Deadline for sign-ups **January 14.** **Diann Ruholl,** 217-663-2056 or dcruholl@hotmail.com.

Notice: Fr. Dean will be make his annual retreat for 2020 this week. No masses scheduled this week except for the **Holy Day** of Solemnity of Mary as the Mother of God, New Year's Eve/Day Masses.

These Masses are scheduled:

Thursday, 4:30 pm at St. Thomas Church

Friday, at 8:30 am at St. Mary's

and Friday at 10:00 am at St. Thomas Church.

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: 148

5:30 pm at St. Thomas: 215 (65 in parish center)

11:00 pm at St. Thomas: 187 (27 in parish center)

8:00 am at St. Mary's: 73 (80 spaces avail church)

9:30 am at St. Thomas: 131 (19 spaces avail church)

Merry Christmas!



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

Happy New Year!

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

Fr. Dean will be on retreat this week Monday-Thurs. as prescribed by canon law.

Monday, December 28th, The Holy Innocents

Tuesday, December 29th, St Thomas Becket

Thursday, December 31st, The 7th day of the Christmas Octave, New Years Eve

Office closed today
4:30 pm New Year's Eve Mass at St. Thomas

Friday, January 1st, The Octave Day of the Nativity of The Lord, New Years Day

8:30 a.m. - (Int: Clarence Keller+) at St. Mary's
10:00 a.m. – Mass at St. Thomas, Newton

Saturday, January 2nd, Saints Basil the Great & Gregor Nazianzen

Sunday, January 3rd, Epiphany of the Lord
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

JANUARY MINISTERS LIST: Have been e-mailed and are also available at the entrances of the church.

THANKS TO ALL: To anyone who helped in any way to prepare our environment to celebrate the birth of our Lord. To those who helped with the mass, and to all who came to worship with us on this wonderful Christmas Day!! Thank you!!

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.

BLOOD DRIVE: St Mary's church is hosting a blood drive on Sunday, December 27th, from 7:30 am – 11:30 am. Circle One please bring refreshments for the blood drive.

St. Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

Collection for the week of December 20, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 1350.00
Loose	220.00
Sub Total	\$ 1570.00
Christmas Offering	165.00
Other Special Collections	180.00
Haiti	155.00
Grand Total	2070.00

Ministers for 8:30 am , January 3, 2021

Ushers: Nicholas Zwilling, Richard Ochs

Server: Brianna Zwilling

Lector: Ethan Zwilling, Ron Zwilling

Eucharistic Minister: Janet Hartrich

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

Right to Life Drive-Thru Breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2021, from 7:00am until 12:30pm at the Teutopolis Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall. Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Effingham Area Right to Life!

The Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]

A Great Light. Isaiah declares (in 9:1): "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." We have surely walked in darkness during this pandemic year. Some of us, perhaps all of us may still be there. We have been confined to home. We have jobs and homes in peril. We grieve the sickness and death of family, friends, and unknown-to-us citizens of this country and of the world. Yet we take hope this Christmas. For we are not alone. We are not left in darkness. Today, the Lord Jesus Christ is with us. In truth, he never abandons us. He will be with us today and tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow. And all the tomorrows.

■ How do I know that Jesus is with me, is with us?