

November 30 – December 1, 2024

First 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

November 23-24, 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$	4,335.00
Loose	\$	814.00
Subtotal	\$	5,149.00
School Fund	\$	467.00
Building Fund	\$	80.00
Other	\$	145.00
Subtotal	\$	692.00
Grand Total	\$	5,841.00

St. Thomas Church September Tithe

September Tithe Income – \$55,519.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$5,552.00

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 2, Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 3, St. Francis Xavier

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, December 4, St. John Damascene

8:30 am **8:30 am Class Mass** (Int. Keith French)

9:00 am Rosary Group

5:30 pm Youth Choir

6:00 pm School Board

6:30 pm PSR at St. Mary/CYO at St. Thomas

Thursday, December 5, Advent Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Friday, December 6, St. Nicholas; First Friday

8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. M/M Glen Smithenry)

Adoration until Noon; Home Visits

5:00 pm CYO meeting at Scott Avenue Church for Food Basket Project

Saturday, December 7, St. Ambrose;

First Saturday at St. Mary's-No Mass/Adoration

11:00 am Confirmation/First Holy Communion at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral - Springfield

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Charles E. Dhom)

Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

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 (Edward Dhom)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

11:00 am OCIA at St. Thomas

Monday, December 9, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:30 am All-School Mass (For the Parish)

12:10 pm Mass (For the Parish)

6:00 pm Mass at St. Mary

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11

Tues.: Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24

Weds.: Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37

Th.: Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21,24-27

Fri.: Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31

Sat.: Is 30:19-21,23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

Sun.: Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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. Call 618-783-8741 to register.

**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:
Saturday, December 7 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Beth Ochs
EM: Mark Bolander, Matt/Amanda Baltzell, Alice Addis
Servers: Allie & Brooks Hermann
Gift Bearers: Ron & Patti Ochs
Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 8 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Carol Bough
EM: Amy Hartrich, Becky Shamhart, Sarah Hemrich,
Janet Vahling

Servers: Jace Bergbower & Will Hartrich
Gift Bearers: Chris Bierman Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Pete Pasero

Sunday, December 8 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Kristine Probst
EM: Brad/Annie Ochs, Tony Sparks, Ginger Robins
Servers: Lincoln Probst & Haley Ochs
Gift Bearers: Tim Bower Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Jennelle Hinterscher
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:

Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

Dec. 4th – St. John Damascene; Precepts of the Church
Dec. 6th – Night of Service - 5:00 pm meet at Scott Avenue for Ministerial Alliance's Food Box Project
Dec. 11th – NO CYO School Christmas Concert
Dec. 18th – Clean Church and Christmas Celebration
December 25-January 1 No CYO Christmas Break

**First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas
December 6, 2024**

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 are excited about all of the many things this software has to offer! Many of you have already used the online giving link and accessed the lay ministry serving schedule. In addition, the App is in the final stages of being published for your use. Thanks to Tracey Bower for her helpful input!!

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. With your permission we would like to include these photos on our App as we enhance the way it connects with our parishioners.

This App will also be an incredible resource as you will have access to Bible readings, FORMED, and groups and organizations in our parish. If you are interested in being involved in a ministry/group/special event please contact the parish office at 618-783-8741. For example, we would love to see a Men's Ministry started in our parish that would also provide mentors for the young men attending CYO. Interested? We hope so!!

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

Happy Anniversary, Gary and Mary Blank as they celebrate 50 years!! They will be married for 50 years on November 28th and will be celebrating with an Open House on **November 30th** at the Newton KC Hall from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Family and friends welcome! They look forward to celebrating with you!!

A Season of Thanks and Generosity. The St. Thomas Finance Council is grateful to the John Frohning Estate for the generous gift that was made to the St. Thomas School. This gift is a testament to John's appreciation for the school and his support of its future. St. Thomas Parish is also grateful for John's insight and including our School in his will. May we all prayerfully consider how we can contribute to our parish and school now and in the future.

St. Thomas Advent/Christmas Décor. If you would like to contribute in memory of a deceased loved one, please put your name(s) & contribution in an envelope marked "décor." We will publish a prayer sheet that can be used during this Christmas Season. ***Please have all names submitted to the Parish Office by Dec. 19.***

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!

The Angels Group will meet on **Mon., Dec. 2nd**, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center for our Christmas party. Wine will be provided. Bring finger foods if you would like. We appreciate all you do for our parish and community throughout the year. We look forward to celebrating all your hard work! See you there, Angels!!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.

Please pray for the Sick:



Vicki Wenhe, Donna Boehl, Linda Mertens, Annie Beverlin, Charles Sroka, Vickie Kocher, Marlene Harris, 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.
Rest in Peace: Fred Kessler

Trending on FORMED:

Rediscover the Meaning of Advent with *Rooted*

In just 7 minutes a day, you can experience peace and spiritual growth with *Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree*. Dive into Scripture, reflect on Christ's ancestors, and prepare your heart for Christmas. Don't miss this chance to bring the true spirit of Advent into your life!

Mary of Nazareth

Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. It was filmed in Europe with outstanding cinematography, a strong cast, and a majestic music score.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. It may contain violence indicative of the life and times of the saint or character portrayed. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it before watching with children.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

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

SCRIP for the holidays. If you are thinking gift cards for the holidays why not make it a SCRIP card! *The last order before Christmas will be Monday, December 9th and will be received December 13th. There are no guarantees SCRIP cards will be received in time if ordered on Monday, December 16th.* SCRIP Cards are available to popular and local retailers and are used just like a gift card...only the school gets a percentage back. It's a win, win! Contact the school office to purchase your cards. Happy shopping!

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (Luke 21:28)

Confirmation/First Holy Communion

Saturday, December 7th at 11:00am

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Springfield

Fr. Pawel is inviting students to be recognized at the Masses that weekend. This is not mandatory. Fr. Pawel is simply asking that you attend one of the Masses that weekend, and he will be glad to recognize the Confirmandi/First Communicants.

Please also make sure that your child has had the opportunity to make his/her First Reconciliation.

Please keep the following candidates in your prayers as they prepare for these Sacraments:

Tate Benson, Bryant Beverlin, James Bierman, Kody Bierman, Lydia Bolander, Kayson Borgic, James Bower, Garrett Brummer, Peyton Finley, Adalynn Frichtl, Jace Frichtl, Clay Frohning, Nora Geier, Alivia Hartrich, Duke Herdes, Blake Hermann, Hazel Ochs, Jolene Ochs, Lily Ochs, Gunner Scott, Gavin Semple, Ashlyn Urfer, Lane Vogt, Leah Weber

SonRise Friday Men's Breakfast –Friday, December 6 continues to journey through the Holy Land with the Joyful Mysteries. Gather at St. Anthony Parish Center **after 6:10 AM, VIDEO program at 6:30AM.** More info: contact Dan Woods danwoodsfache@gmail.com.

Joint Parish Advent Reconciliation Services

Thursday, December 12th

St. Thomas

1:45 pm – finished: St. Thomas School & Parishioners welcome. Please let all students/staff go first.

3:00-5:00 pm – All are welcome

St. Mary

6:30 pm – All are welcome

2024 Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas

7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary's

11:00 pm @ St. Thomas

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

8:30 am Mass @ St. Thomas

Retreat for married couples offered – Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317. Next ones all at St. Peter's, MO: **12/6/2024 – 12/8/2024; 1/31/2025 – 2/2/2025; 4/4/2025 – 4/6/2025**

November 30-December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent



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 2, Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 3rd, St Francis Xavier

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Dick & John Helregel+)

Wednesday, December 4th, St John Damascene

6:30 p.m. - PSR

Thursday, December 5th, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Donald Ochs+)

Home Visits with Fr Pawel

Friday, December 6th, St Nicholas

Saturday, December 7th, St Ambrose

No First Saturday Mass/Adoration

Confirmation/First Communion at Springfield

Sunday, December 8th, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Chris Kistner+)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of November 24, 2024

Envelopes \$ 1,013.00

Loose 196.00

Sub Total \$ 1,209.00

Justice & Hope 100.00

Haiti 20.00

Total \$ 1,329.00

St Mary's Church Tithe

October Tithe Income \$9,315.00

10% Monthly Tithe to Diocese - \$932.00

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

Ushers: John Uebinger, Ethan Griffith, Kelby Ochs

Servers: Avery Ochs/Chase Kistner

Lectors: Nicholas Zwilling/Lora Ochs

Gift Bearer: Tony & Martha Strutner

Eucharistic Ministers: Jeanne Johnson, Bridget Matson, Elfrieda Kaufmann

Christmas Décor Fund – If you wish to make a donation to the décor fund in memory of a loved one, please submit the donations by **December 20th**. Thank you for your contribution.

Confirmation/First Holy Communion
Saturday December 7th

Please keep these four youth in your prayers this week as they prepare to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Fr Pawel is inviting each of them to be recognized at mass on Sunday, December 8th. It is not mandatory, but he will be glad to recognize them. Also, make sure your child has made their First Reconciliation, these are available 8-9 am at St Thomas on Saturday morning., or by appointment.

Alivia Hartrich

Clay Frohning

Gavin Semple

Jolene Ochs

Events.

12/8/2024 – Bend Country Christmas

12/9/2024- Immaculate Conception Mass – 6:00 pm

12/12/24 – Reconciliation for Christmas

6:30 p.m. St Mary's

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – St Thomas

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