

December 14 – December 15, 2024

Third 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 7-8, 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$	6,942.00
Loose	\$	318.00
Subtotal	\$	7,260.00
School Fund	\$	585.00
Building Fund	\$	435.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	726.00
Retired Religious	\$	542.00
Subtotal	\$	2,288.00
Grand Total	\$	9,548.00
November Pushpay online giving	\$	3,142.55

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 16, Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 17, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, December 18, Late Advent Weekday

8:30 am **8:30 am Class Mass** (Int. Paul Brummer)

9:00 am Rosary Group

5:30 pm Youth Choir

6:30 pm PSR at St. Mary/CYO Decorating Church

followed by Christmas Celebration...might run a little late...

Thursday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Friday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday

7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration

8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. Will Probst)

Saturday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius

8:00 am – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Roscoe Miller)

Sunday, December 22, Fourth 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 (Doug Frichtl)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

11:00 am OCIA at St. Thomas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a

Mt 21:23-27

Tues.: Gn 49:8-10

Mt 1:1-17

Weds.: Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

Th.: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a

Lk 1:5-25

Fri.: Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

Sat.: Sg 2:8-14

Lk 1:39-45

Sun.: Mi 5:1-4a;

Heb 10:5-10;

Lk 1:39-45

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 Schedule:
Saturday, December 21 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Nichole Mulvey
EM: L.Hemrich, Lori Rauch, Alice Addis, Glenda Spiker
Servers: Emmalin Finley & Halle Wagner
Gift Bearers: Gerald & Denisse Ochs
Musicians: Five For the One
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 22 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Jamie Shamhart
EM: Pam Francis, Brenda Phillips, Gery Ochs,
Lori TeVault

Servers: Bailey Meinhart & Brady Francis
Gift Bearers: Becky Shamhart Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lyndsey Spiker
Greeters/Ushers: Pete Pasero

Sunday, December 22 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Renee Gier
EM: Dylan Gier, Helen, Leo, Adam Weber
Servers: Lauren Gier & Avery Geier
Gift Bearers: Mike Gier Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Debbi Matson
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

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

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/19ZV42004RWZO?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

Dec. 18th – Clean/Decorate Church and Christmas Celebration – Might run a little late☺

December 25-January 1 No CYO Christmas Break



Gary and Mary Blank would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and anniversary wishes for their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They also want to thank their family and friends for making their anniversary so special! They feel very blessed!

**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!!

Supporting the Jasper County Ministerial Alliance.

A special thank you to all those who helped pack food boxes last Friday evening. A thank you also goes out to those who made donations including St. Thomas School students and families who raised over \$1,100.00 for the food boxes. What a difference we can make when we all work together for the benefit of others!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.



Please pray for the Sick:

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:

Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns

Fr. John Burns will help you reclaim the sacred sense of longing and joyful hope at the heart of Advent, focusing on vigilance, preparation, nearness, and Emmanuel—that you can relate to your own life.

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.

Rediscover the Meaning of Advent with *Rooted*

In just 7 minutes a day, you can experience peace and spiritual growth. 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. This movie is NR.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

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

2024 Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

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

7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary's

11:00 pm @ St. Thomas (Gu)

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!!

Support the Eastern Illinois University Newman Center in your end-of-year giving. Your gift supports students encountering Christ and becoming disciples! Donations can be sent to: Newman Catholic Center, 500 Roosevelt Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920.

A group of carolers will be Christmas caroling on December 19th. If you or someone you know would like to be visited by the carolers, please contact Mallory Bolander at 618-554-2255. If possible, please limit to residents inside city limits. High school aged and older are welcome to sing, please let Mallory know!

Confirmation and First Holy Communion Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Springfield, IL December 7, 2024



Thanks to the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Fr. Pawel, Mrs. Tami Hetzer, Mrs. Jill Bierman, parents, sponsors, families, and Diocesan Staff for sharing in this very special day for our youth.

Year End Giving Resources & Reminders Year-End Gifts Due by December 31st

Stocks:

Consider donating stock as a way to continue supporting St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church & School. Visit our secure stock giving site at bit.ly/ParishStock. For specific questions consult a financial or tax advisor.

QCDs:

Give to St. Thomas from your IRA- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), also known as IRA Charitable Rollovers, are the savviest way for those age 70½ or older to use their IRAs to maximize their charitable impact. And, if you are subject to a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), an IRA gift can help you meet your RMD without increasing your taxable income. Visit bit.ly/ParishQCD to learn more. For specific questions consult a financial or tax advisor.

Bequests:

Have you documented your final wishes? Creating your estate plan is an act of care. Our new planning tool at www.freewill.com/diocesefspringfield can help. For specific questions consult a tax advisor or lawyer.

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14 – December 15, 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.stemariechurch.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 16th, Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 17th, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Ephraim & Vi Kapper +)

Wednesday, December 18th, Late Advent Weekday

6:00 p.m. – PSR

6:00 p.m. – PSR Reconciliation

Thursday, December 19th, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Mary Harris+)

Friday, December 20th, Late Advent Weekday

Saturday, December 21st, St Peter Canisius

Sunday, December 22nd, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Angela Geltz+)

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.

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of December 8, 2024

Envelopes	\$ 2,378.00
Loose	188.00
Sub Total	\$ 2,566.00
Immaculate Conception	80.00
Capitol Improvement	20.00
Total	\$ 2,666.00

St Mary's Church Tithe

October Tithe Income \$9,315.00

10% Monthly Tithe to Diocese - \$932.00

St. Mary PSR - Reconciliation for the PSR program will be held on Wednesday, **December 18th beginning at 6:00 p.m.** All students should meet in the church at **6:00 p.m.**

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – December 15, 2024

Ushers: John Uebinger, Ethan Griffith, Kelby Ochs

Servers: Reed Kistner/Blake Frohning

Lectors: Mike Hartrich/ Brianna Zwilling

Gift Bearer: Ben & Nancy Ochs

Eucharistic Ministers: Ben Ochs, Lisa Ochs, Lora Semple

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

Christmas Eve

Ushers: George Semple, Phil Ochs, Marvin Zwilling

Servers: Max Ochs, Wade Schackmann, 1 volunteer

Lectors: Claire Griffith/ Becca Ochs

Gift Bearers: Need Volunteers

Eucharistic Ministers: Lora Semple, Elaine Zwilling, Need 1 volunteer

If you can volunteer for Server, Gift Bearers or Eucharistic Minister, please let me know by Wednesday, December 18th.

Worship Committee – will be decorating the church for Christmas on **December 22nd** after mass that morning. All help is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Parish Events

12/18/2024 – PSR Reconciliation – 6:00 p.m.– All PSR students meet in the church at 6:00 p.m.

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