

March 8-9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent



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

March 1-2, 2025 Collection

Envelopes	\$	7,775.00
Loose	\$	746.00
Subtotal	\$	8,521.00
School Fund	\$	670.00
Building Fund	\$	715.00
Special Collections	\$	120.00
Subtotal	\$	1,505.00
Grand Total	\$	10,026.00

St. Thomas Church January Tithe

January Tithe Income – \$34,260.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$3,426.00

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, March 10, Lenten Weekday

Tuesday, March 11, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, March 12, Lenten Weekday

8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Don Meinhart Family)

9:00 am Rosary Group

11:00 am Funeral Mass for Myrt McReynolds

5:30 pm Youth Choir

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

6:30 pm Lay Ministry Training

Thursday, March 13, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Friday, March 14, Lenten Weekday

7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration

8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. Philip Kuhl Family)

2:30 pm Stations of the Cross

4:30 pm KC's Fish Fry for Holy Cross Church

Sat., March 15, Lenten Weekday

Newton Family Life Center Breakfast

8:00 am -9:00 am Reconciliation

9:00 am I Thirst: Lent Book Discussion – meeting in St. Thomas church

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

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

Sunday, March 16, Second Sunday of Lent

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

(Int. Menke & Leahy Families)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Dave Worman)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Lv 19:1-2,11-18

Mt 25:31-46

Tues.: Is 55:10-11

Mt 6:7-15

Weds.: Jon 3:1-10

Lk 11:29-32

Th.: Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25

Mt 7:7-12

Fri.: Ez 18:21-28

Mt 5:20-26

Sat.: Dt 26:16-19

Mt 5:43-48

Sun.: Gn 15:5-12,17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

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.

June 1 and October 5 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area. Contact 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, March 15 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Beth Ochs

EM: Gerald/Denisse Ochs, Kimberly/Kaitlyn Ochs

Servers: Emmalin Finley & Eli Ochs

Gift Bearers: Brad Ochs Family

Musicians: Five for the One

Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, March 16 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Jamie Shamhart

EM: Sheryl/Allison Brummer, Becky Shamhart,
Gery Ochs

Servers: Blake Bierman & Kyle Bierman

Gift Bearers: Craig Shamhart Family

Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Kinsley Kerner

Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

Sunday, March 16 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Kristine Probst

EM: Ryan Probst, Helen/Leo/Adam Weber

Servers: Levi Gier & Will Mette

Gift Bearers: Tim Bower Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Jeff Finely

Greeters/Ushers: Mike Gier

BAPTISMS: Congratulations, Millie Ochs, infant daughter of Trevor & Jessica(Cartwright) Ochs, Godparents Tom Flood & Andrea Hughes; **Breck Weber**, infant son of Eric & Anna(Lomas), Godparents Tony & Allison Weber; **Maggie Semple**, infant daughter of Mark & Kelcey(Correll) Semple, Godparents Jacob Semple and Melissa Semple who were all recently baptized at St. Thomas Church. May God continue the good work begun in them.

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:

Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

Mar. 12th – Planning Stations of the Cross/
Lay ministry training

Mar. 19th – 6:00 pm Movie night with Fr. Pawel

Mar. 26th – Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm

Mar. 28th – Working KC's Fish Fry

April 2nd – Stations of the Cross Rosary at 7:00 pm

April 9th – Dress Rehearsal for Living Stations

Sunday, April 13th @ 6:30 pm Living Stations

April 16th – Attend Living Stations at St. Mary

April 23rd – Clean Church/Service Night

April 30th – End of year celebration

First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas

April 4, 2025

You are invited to join St. Thomas for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon.

The remaining Fridays of the month Adoration will be held from 7:30 am – 8:15 am.

Rite of Elect. Congratulations to the following Catechumens and Candidates who will be celebrating the Rite of Elect at Springfield on March 9th:

Catechumens: Colin Creadore, Lea Creadore, Matthew Creadore, Aaron Helm, Simon Helm, Sutton Helm, Bryar Marlow

Candidates: Katie Helm, Katelyn Larson, Will May

As a parish family, let us pray for them as they continue to prepare to enter fully into the Catholic faith. Be sure to welcome them and be a source of support along their journey.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.



Please pray for the Sick:

Belinda Kuvicki, Carson French, Matilda Hemrich, Brenda Zuber, Charles Sroka, John Probst, Donna Boehl, Vickie Kocher, Carol Schafer, Jim and Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Jessica Andruch, Whitney Benefiel, Mary Bergbower, Delorse Johnson, Ted and Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

Just a reminder that with Easter and mowing seasons quickly approaching, **Christmas decorations will be removed at New and Old St. Peter Cemeteries.** Please also note that all ground decorations need to be removed including anything that can get in the mower's path. Thank you for your cooperation!



Consecration to Jesus Through Mary. Please keep the following in your prayers as they continue to grow deeper in their relationship to Jesus through Mary:

Rose Gangloff, Elaine Grimes, Linda Hemrich, Janette Kocher, Debbie Matson, Anne Ochs, Catherine Ochs, Kay Ochs, Kevin Parker, Becky Parker, Tony Sparks, Sue Sparks, Marie Wagner, Veronica Yu

A special thank you to Fr. Pawel for his support and guidance along our journey!

"I Thirst" Lent Book Discussion. Join us as we walk with Saint Mother Teresa throughout the season of Lent with I Thirst: 40 Days with Mother Teresa accompanied by a seven-part book discussion between Dr. Ben Akers and Fr. Daniel Moloney. Throughout lent, they will dive into Mother Teresa's spirituality, her teaching on prayer, the life of faith, and much more. Interested? All are invited to join us on Saturday mornings throughout Lent starting on March 8 and meeting in St. Thomas Church – 9:00 am. Books will be available for a minimal fee. Contact 618-783-8741 to learn more.

A Message from Fr. Pawel

On Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent, a time of reflection, penance, and renewal. This a sacred time that offers us an opportunity to grow closer to God through spiritual practices such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day journey, a time that recalls Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert and His call to repentance. The ashes placed on our foreheads are a reminder of our mortality and the need for ongoing conversion and reconciliation with God.

Fasting - Fasting is one of the ways to practice during Lent, and it invites us to discipline our bodies and focus our hearts. The Church encourages fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, with a limit of one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal the size of a full meal and remaining abstain from meat on those days. Fasting is not just about abstaining from food but also about simplifying our lives, turning away from distractions, and creating space for God.

Praying-Prayer is another part of our Lenten journey. During Lent, we are encouraged to deepen our relationship with God through daily prayer, reflection, and spiritual reading. Whether it's, praying the Rosary, attending daily mass or taking time for silence and contemplation. Let us use this season to strengthen our spiritual life and grow in our love for Him.

Almsgiving-Almsgiving, or acts of charity, are important part of Lent. It calls us to reach out to those in need and share our resources with the poor and needy. It can be done through donations, volunteer work, or other charitable acts. Almsgiving reflects our commitment to love and serve our neighbors, just as Christ has loved and served us.

Lent is not only a time for personal sacrifice; it is a time to transform our lives through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, drawing closer to God and to one another. As we begin this holy season, let us pray for the grace to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, so that we may experience the joy of Easter with renewed hearts and spirits.

Let this Lent be a time of true conversion, where we seek to live more fully as disciples of Christ, reflecting His love and mercy in all that we do.

Have you checked out FORMED for Lent? Don't miss this **free resource** of valuable Catholic Christian materials for **movies, books, and other educational programs, etc.** To gain access:

Go to <http://signup.formed.org/>

Enter 62448 (St. Thomas' parish zip code)

Enter your name and your email address.

A Kind Reminder from Fr. Pawel

I would like to kindly remind all parishioners that chewing gum is not permitted during Mass, especially when approaching to receive the Most Holy Eucharist. This practice is not in keeping with the reverent and respectful manner we strive to maintain during the sacred celebration of the Mass.

Please be advised that if you are seen chewing gum, the priest or Eucharistic minister will not give Holy Communion. It is to ensure the dignity and sanctity of the Sacrament is upheld.

Let us all remember to approach the altar with the utmost reverence and respect for the Body and Blood of Christ. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Let us all keep Eucharist as holy food that nurtures our soul.

Lent Reconciliation Services Scheduled for April 3

1:45 pm Student Reconciliation

3:00 pm St. Thomas Parish (All are welcome!)

6:30 pm St. Mary Parish (All are welcome!)

LENTEN REGULATIONS :

Abstinence: All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain from meat all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting: All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful. However, health and/or medical needs dispense a person.

Lay Minister Training for anyone interested in becoming a Lector and/or Eucharistic Minister. Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm** in St. Thomas Church. Please prayerfully consider how you can participate as a lay minister at Mass. Thank YOU!!

Lenten Series for Men – SonRise Breakfast

In this session of TMIY, Father John Burns helps us see the reality of true human freedom by getting to the roots of our sins and reorienting our direction towards heaven. All Men are encouraged to join us on the journey to orient our whole lives toward Christ. This **FRIDAY** at the St. Anthony Parish Center for **hot Breakfast; ready after 6:10 AM, VIDEO program at 6:30AM**, and concluding at 7:30. More info: contact the parish office.

St. Thomas Welcomes Dana Ruholl! This weekend she will share information with us about the Annual Catholic Charities Appeal at the 7:00 am and 10:00 am Masses.

**March 8-9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent**



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, March 10th, Lenten Weekday

Tuesday, March 11th, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Steve Ochs+)

Wednesday, March 12th, Lenten Weekday

6:30 p.m. – PSR

Thursday, March 13th, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Orville Schmidt+)

Friday, March 14th, Lenten Weekday

Saturday, March 15th, Lenten Weekday

Sunday, March 16th, Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of March 2, 2025**

Envelopes \$ 2,364.00

Loose 95.00

Sub Total \$ 2,459.00

Church of Eastern/Central Europe 10.00

Total \$ 2,469.00

St Mary's Church Tithe

January Tithe Income \$30,454.00

10% Tithe to Springfield - \$3,054.00

PSR - Beginning Wednesday, March 12th thru April 16th the PSR students will begin with **The Stations of the Cross** in church at 6:15pm. All families, parishioners and those who would like to attend are welcome. Living Stations will be presented by the youth of the parish on April 16th. Why not make this a part of your Lenten journey.?

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – March 16, 2025

Ushers: Bob Barthelme, Alex Kaufmann, Owen Ochs

Servers: Daniel Uebinger/Gavin Semple

Lectors: Nancy Ochs/ Claire Griffith

Gift Bearers: Roger & Sherrie Hemrich

E M's: Elaine Zwilling, Ben Ochs, Jeanne Johnson

Thank You – St Mary's hosted a blood drive on Monday, February 17th. We collected 26 productive units. Thank you to all the donors and to Hartrich Meats, Prairie Farms, Lora Semple, Kay Helregel and Nancy Zwilling. Next St Mary's blood drive is Monday, April 21st from 2- 6 pm.

Annual Brunch 2025

Thank you to all those involved in making the Brunch a success. We served 346 Adults & 32 Kids. Special thanks to Hartrich's, Lance & Maria Zumbahlen, Paul & Amber Frohning, Maynard, Elfrieda, Paul & Kate Kaufmann, Taylor & Ethan Zwilling, Mike & Sherry Hall, Dan Hartrich, Phil Ochs, Jeff Ochs, and anyone who contributed in anyway including working or donating funds to cover expenses. Thank you all so much for your generous donations. A Big Thank you from the parish to our committee: Bridget Matson, Kate Kaufman, Maria Zumbahlen and Amber Frohning you time and talent are greatly appreciated.

Family Life – Meal Prep afternoon – St Mary's Family Life committee will sponsor a freezer meal prep afternoon on March 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the parish center. As a group, we will prepare 3 meals for each participant to take home. The meals will include lasagna, tater tot casserole, and honey garlic chicken. RSVP to Martha Kirts (618) 562-6278 (text or call) to reserve a spot. Spots are limited. The cost per person will be \$45 which will cover the cost of the supplies and ingredients. Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and take 3 main dishes home.

Events

3/12/2025 – 4/16/2025 – Stations of the Cross at 6:15pm in the church.

3/15/2025 – Newton FLC Breakfast -7:30– 10:30 a.m.

3/15/2025 – St Mary's Family Life Committee Meal Prep Afternoon – 1:00 p.m.