

**December 7 – December 8, 2024**  
**Second 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](mailto:stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com)

Website: [www.stthomasnewton.net](http://www.stthomasnewton.net)

**Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak**

(Email: [revpl.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com)

Website: [www.stthomassaints.com](http://www.stthomassaints.com)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING**

November 30-December 1, 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$	8,191.00
Loose	\$	340.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,531.00</b>
School Fund	\$	1,905.00
Building Fund	\$	320.00
Thanksgiving	\$	1,065.00
Other	\$	75.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,365.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,896.00</b>
<b>November Pushpay online giving</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,142.55</b>

**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 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

**Tuesday, December 10, Our Lady of Loreto**

**8:00 am** Rosary

**No Mass** at St. Mary's

**Wednesday, December 11, St. Damasus I**

**8:30 am** 8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Kenny Koebele)

**9:00 am** Rosary Group

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir

**6:30 pm** PSR at St. Mary/CYO "Open Church" Night

**7:00 pm** St. Thomas School Christmas Concert

**Thursday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**8:00 am** Rosary

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary's

**1:45 pm** School Reconciliation

**3-5:00 pm** Reconciliation Service at St. Thomas

**6:30 pm** Reconciliation Service at St. Mary's

**Friday, December 13, St. Lucy**

**7:30 am – 8:15 am** Adoration

**8:30 am** All-School Mass (Int. Jessica Spiker)

**Saturday, December 14, St. John of the Cross**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am** Reconciliation

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm** Reconciliation

**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas

(Int. Liv/Dec of Rita Schafer Family)

**Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent**

**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Charles Leahy)

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary's

**10:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (For the Parish)

**10:30 am** Communion Service at Villas

**11:00 am** OCIA at St. Thomas

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

**Mon.:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38

**Tues.:** Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14

**Weds.:** Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30

**Th.:** Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:39-47

**Fri.:** Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19

**Sat.:** Sir 48:1-4,9-11 Mt 17:9a,10-13

**Sun.:** Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**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 14 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Lynn Wilson  
EM: Kimberly/Kaitlyn Ochs, Wanda Kocher,  
Ramon Kocher  
Servers: Alayna & Eli Ochs  
Gift Bearers: Matt Baltzell Family  
Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Bolander  
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

**Sunday, December 15 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Katie Shamhart  
EM: Jamie Shamhart, Theresa Volk, Jill/Eliza Bierman  
Servers: Addison & Avery Shamhart  
Gift Bearers: Steve Volk Family  
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Kinsley Kerner  
Greeters/Ushers: Pete Pasero

**Sunday, December 15**

Lector: Kylie Higgs  
EM: Julie Higgs, Nikki Earnest, Jan Schackmann,  
Sara Mette  
Servers: Dylan & Audrey Earnest  
Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family  
Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Jeff Finley  
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

**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](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. 6<sup>th</sup>** – Night of Service - 5:00 pm meet at Scott Avenue for Ministerial Alliance’s Food Box Project

**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** – “Open Church” Night

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Clean Church and Christmas Celebration

**December 25-January 1** No CYO Christmas Break

**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.

**Year End Giving Resources & Reminders  
Year-End Gifts Due by December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Stocks:**

**Consider donating stock** as a way to continue supporting St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church & School. Stock giving allows you to save your cash, avoid capital gains, and maximize your impact. You may also receive a tax deduction for the full value of the gift. Visit our secure stock giving site at [bit.ly/ParishStock](http://bit.ly/ParishStock) which makes stock giving easy and secure by providing the correct transfer form, helping you fill out the necessary fields, and providing clear instructions for submitting the form to your brokerage. For specific questions about how stock giving may impact your personal situation, 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](http://bit.ly/ParishQCD) to learn more about this giving option and to initiate a QCD gift to St. Elizabeth. For specific questions about how IRA giving may impact your personal situation, consult a financial or tax advisor.

**Bequests:**

**Have you documented your final wishes?** Creating your estate plan is an act of care that can help you protect your loved ones, communicate healthcare and financial decisions about the future, and establish a legacy that honors your Catholic faith.

Our new estate planning tool at [www.freewill.com/diocesefspringfield](http://www.freewill.com/diocesefspringfield) can help you write your legal will for free and makes it easy to make a sustaining gift to your parish home, ensuring the ministry of St. Mary continues for generations to come. For specific questions about how estate planning may impact your personal situation, consult a tax advisor or lawyer.

### 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](mailto: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 & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.

### Please pray for the Sick:



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.

### Trending on FORMED:

#### Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns

In Adore, popular author and speaker Fr. John Burns will help you reclaim the sacred sense of longing and joyful hope at the heart of Advent, focusing on a new theme each week—vigilance, preparation, nearness, and Emmanuel—that you can relate to your own life.

#### Christmas Special | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Based on the award-winning Bible! Join Minno kids Margot, Lexi, Miguel, and Logan on a heartwarming journey through the Christmas story. This beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers both young and old 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 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.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind.

*Our parish has a FORMED subscription.*

*Visit [signup.formed.org](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> and will be received December 13<sup>th</sup>. There are no guarantees SCRIP cards will be received in time if ordered on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.* 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!

### Congratulations!

#### Confirmation/First Holy Communion

*Please keep the following in your prayers as they continue to grow in their faith and in the life of their parish:*

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 – Called to Joy!

This coming Friday, December 13 concludes a journey through the Holy Land with the Joyful Mysteries. (This will be the final gathering of 2024.)

MEN, come as we are all called to Joy and Retreat to Pray and Find God in the Silence.

All Men are welcomed. Gather at the St. Anthony Parish Center for delicious hot **Breakfast ready after 6:10 AM, VIDEO program at 6:30AM**, and concluding at 7:30. More info: contact the parish office

### Joint Parish Advent Reconciliation Services

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

#### 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**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us*

**December 7-December 8, 2024**

**Second 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](mailto:stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com)

Website: [www.stmariechurch.org](http://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 9<sup>th</sup>, Immaculate Conception of  
The Blessed Virgin Mary**

**6:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish)**

**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Advent Weekday**

**No Mass**

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Saint Damasus I**

**6:30 p.m. – PSR**

**6:30 p.m. – PSR Reconciliation**

**Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**8:00 a.m. – Rosary**

**8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Mary Harris+)**

**6:00 p.m. – Reconciliation**

**Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Saint Lucy**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Saint John of the Cross**

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Sam, Linda & Chris Zuber+)**

**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 20<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your contribution.

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures  
Collection for the week of December 1, 2024**

Envelopes	\$ 705.00
Loose	<u>197.00</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 902.00</b>
Justice & Hope	20.00
Capitol Improvement	<u>45.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 967.00</b>

**St Mary's Church Tithe**

**October Tithe Income \$9,315.00**

**10% Monthly Tithe to Diocese - \$932.00**

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

**Ministers for 6:00 p.m. –December 9, 2024**

**Ushers** – Need 3 volunteers

**Servers** – Avery Ochs, need 1 volunteer

**Lector**- Rose Gangloff

**Gift Bearers** – need volunteers

**Eucharistic Ministers** – Lisa Ochs, Elfrieda & Maynard Kaufmann

**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

**Confirmation/First Holy Communion  
Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Congratulations to the four youth who received the sacraments of Confirmation & First Holy Communion this weekend.

**Alivia Hartrich, Gavin Semple, Clay Frohning & Jolene Ochs**

**Events.**

**12/8/2024** – Bend Country Christmas – 3pm – 5pm

**12/9/2024**- Immaculate Conception Mass–6:00 p.m.

**12/11/2024** – PSR Reconciliation – 6:30 p.m.– All are welcome after the PSR students are finished.

**12/12/24** – Advent Reconciliation 6:30 pm 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