

**February 22-23, 2025**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary**



**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**

Feb. 15-16, 2025 Collection

Envelopes	\$	4,993.00
Loose	\$	677.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,670.00</b>
School Fund	\$	670.00
Catholic Times	\$	16.00
Building Fund	\$	355.00
Church in Latin America	\$	10.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,051.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,721.00</b>
<b>January 2025 PushPay Online</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,020.00</b>
<b>January 2025 ACH Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,246.00</b>

**St. Thomas Church December Tithe**

December Tithe Income – \$60,411.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$6,041.00

**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**

**Mon., February 24, Weekday**

**Tues., February 25, Weekday**

**8:00 am** Rosary at St. Mary

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

**Wednesday, February 26, Weekday**

**8:30 am Class Mass**

(Int. Leo & Mary Jean Brummer)

**9:00 am** Rosary Group

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir

**6:00 pm** Booster Club

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

**Thursday, February 27, St. Gregory of Narek**

**8:00 am** Rosary

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

**Friday, February 28, Weekday**

**7:30 am – 8:15 am** Adoration

**8:30 am** All-School Mass (Int. Zola Klingler)

**Sat., March 1, Weekday; First Saturday**

**7:30 am** Adoration/Confessions at St. Mary

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary with Marian Consecration

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm** Reconciliation

**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Marilyn Fritchley)

**Sunday, March 2, 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St. Mary's Brunch**

**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Virginia Ochs)

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

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

(Weber and Sempel baptisms after Mass)

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

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

**5:00 pm** Finance Council Meeting

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

**Mon.:** Sir 1:1-10

Mk 9:14-29

**Tues.:** Sir 2:1-11

Mk 9:30-37

**Weds.:** Sir 4:11-19

Mk 9:38-40

**Th.:** Sir 5:1-8

Mk 9:41-50

**Fri.:** Sir 6:5-17

Mk 10:1-12

**Sat.:** Sir 17:1-15

Mk 10:13-16

**Sun.:** Sir 27:4-7 1Cor 15:54-58

Lk 6:39-45

**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.**

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 1 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Lori TeVault

EM: Wade Ochs, Kim Zuber, Mark Bolander,  
Ramon Kocher

Servers: Bailey Meinhart & Kyle Meinhart

Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family

Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs

Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

**Sunday, March 2 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Sara Bergbower

EM: Jill/Gus Bierman, Linda Hemrich, Amy Hartrich

Servers: Hannah Phillips & Kinsley Kerner

Gift Bearers: Doug & Jan Long

Musicians: Five For the One

Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

**Sunday, March 2 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: John Bower

EM: Marissa Bower, Charlie/Jan Schackmann,  
Ginger Robins

Servers: Adria Bierman & Jennelle Hinterscher

Gift Bearers: Garrett Finn Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Anne Kuhl

Greeters/Ushers: Mike Gier

**St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:**

*Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm*

**Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>** – Continue discussion on Bible reading plans

**Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>** – Attend Ash Wednesday Mass

**Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Planning Stations of the Cross

**Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>** – Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm

**Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>** – Planning Stations of the Cross

**Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>** – KC's Fish Fry

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Stations of the Cross Rosary at 7:00 pm

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Dress Rehearsal for Living Stations

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm Living Stations**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Attend Living Stations at St. Mary

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Clean Church/Service Night

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** – End of year celebration

**The Angels would like to thank** all those who made our **Wine Tasting Event** a big success: To all those who brought food and/or helped that evening, and those that spent countless hours in preparation. A big thank you to Judy and Randy McClure for their selfless giving, to Greg Parrot - auctioneer, to Danny Frichtl for the wooden crates, to the KC Hall, to Donnewald Distributing, to Rex Vault for the Cardinal tickets, to J & J Venture for the hockey tickets and pickleball set, to Frost Buddy for the many can coolers and tumblers, to Ginger Robins for being our MC, to those who donated wine, and to many others who helped fill our wooden crates. Our total profit was slightly over \$5,000. You are all ANGELS for helping our mission to help others!!

**St. Thomas School Distinguished Graduate Award**

St. Thomas School is now accepting nominations for the ***Distinguished Graduate Award***. This award is a chance to recognize and honor a St. Thomas School graduate for all they have given back to the school community, and/or parish. Nominees for this award must:

Be a graduate of St. Thomas School 10 + years

Have made contributions to society that reflect the values instilled in them while attending

St. Thomas School

**Past honorees** include: Martha Hildebrand, Terry Lidy, Anna McCullough, Father Dan Bergbower, Patsy Leffler, Laurel Kerans, Millie Jansen, Frank Rubsam, Wanda Kocher, Larry Miller, Mark Bolander, Mike Yager, Robert Worcester, Paul Brummer, John Miller, Mary McDonald, Debbie Matson, Phil Benefiel, Peggy Mammoser, Joanie Weber, Shelah Bergbower, Dottie Benefiel, Vicki Mullen, RoseAnn Kerner, Gene Schackmann, Tony Zuber, Tammy Page, Dan Schackmann, Kim Zuber, Sue Sparks

**St. Thomas School Exceptional Service Award**

St. Thomas School is accepting nominations for the ***Exceptional Service Award***. Nominees for this award are those individuals who have tirelessly given of their time, talent and/or treasure to better St. Thomas School and/or St. Thomas Parish. The nominee does not have to be a graduate of St. Thomas school or a member of St. Thomas parish, but an unceasing advocate for our school and/or parish.

**Previous honorees** include: Jewell Bauman, Judy McClure, Mark Hartrich, Sara Frichtl, Charlie Schackmann, Alice Addis, Jack Shedelbower, Dee Bower, Harold Bolander, Verna Bergbower, Lee and Sue Volk, Norma Beavers, Ramon Kocher, Marilyn Rubsam, Wayne Savageau, Rita Kocher, Gary and Joyce Johnson, Denisse Ochs, Sue Dickerson, Pete Pasero, Sarah Hemrich, RoseAnn Kerner, Ruth Kerner, and Tom Brown, Luke Zuber and Linda Mertens  
For more info: call the school office at 783-3517.

**First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas**

**March 7, 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.

*Pope St. John Paul II,  
pray for us.*

# St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.



## Please pray for the Sick:

Carson French, Matilda Hemrich, Annie Beverlin, 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.

**Rest in Peace:** Cathy Dasenbrock

## **Available on FORMED:**

**Foretold:** Sign up to receive these videos <https://daily.formed.org/lent>.

Our world is full of noise. When was the last time you heard something good on the news? Because of the constant intake of “bad news,” many people no longer believe in the Providence of God, nor trust that he has a plan for us.

Maybe this is you. Perhaps you think God doesn't have a plan for you and your family. What was promised in the biblical story came to pass through Jesus, his apostles, and the Church. Ultimately, this biblical history is your history. Just as the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled, you can trust that Jesus will care for you and your story.

**How to Lent:** Sign up to receive these prior to Lent at <https://daily.formed.org/lent>.

Sometimes, it feels like Lent is just about giving up chocolate. But deep down, we all desire to do something more for Lent—we just don't know how to do it.

How to Lent is a new series from the Augustine Institute that aims to equip Catholics with the tools to understand and practice the pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Heed the call of St. John the Baptist by preparing for the Lord, using How to Lent to transform your spiritual life this Lenten season.

**Zack and Yalla:** Enter into the exciting world of Zack and Yalla! Join Zack and his playful sheep, Yalla, as they embark on an incredible journey in Formed's newest kids show! This show promises to captivate young hearts. Don't miss the joyous adventures that await in this charming new series on Formed!

*Our parish has a FORMED subscription.*

*Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.*

**Attention 2025 Catholic female high school graduates! Apply for SDCCW \$2,000 scholarship now!** – Contact your parish office to learn more about how to apply and for paperwork.



**Consecration to Jesus Through Mary.** St. Thomas, St. Mary and area parishioners continue to prepare for Marian Consecration. This has been such an amazing journey and a blessing with

this group of companions. These companions will meet **this Saturday morning**, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 8:00am in the parish center meeting room. This will be day 27 of their 33 day retreat. The 33 Days to Morning Glory Do-It-Yourself retreat will conclude with Marian Consecration at St. Mary's on the First Saturday of March at the 8:30am Mass. Anyone interested in learning more about Consecration to Jesus through Mary, please contact the St. Thomas parish office at 618-783-8741. Thanks to Fr. Pawel for his support and encouragement!!

## **Lent begins ASH WEDNESDAY March 5**

Please bring your old palms to the churches to be burned to ashes to mark our repentance by Monday March 3. Distribution of Ashes is done in liturgical services which are scheduled as follows:

**8:30 am All-School Mass at St. Thomas Church**

**5:30 pm Mass at St. Mary's Church**

**7:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas Church**

**Note:** Call the parish offices if you would like Fr. Paul to visit w/distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday.

## **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!)

***Be sure to sign up for St. Thomas lay ministries on the Ministry Scheduler App or contact the parish office!***

**Join us for the annual Illinois March for Life** in Springfield on **March 25, 2025**. A bus is rented for your convenience to leave Effingham Events Center (KC hall) at 7:30am and return at 4:30pm. This includes Holy Mass with Bishop Paprocki, the Rally at the Capitol at 12noon and the March at 1pm. Bring a sack lunch. Open to Jr Hi thru Adults. Pray, kneel, sit, and **STAND UP AND MARCH FOR LIFE**. Cost \$20. Deadline for registration is March 1. For information contact Diann Ruholl at 217-663-2056.

## **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **Newton Family Life Center Breakfast/Bake Sale**

Sausage, Pancakes and Scrambled Eggs!

Serving: 7:30am-10:30am

Location: St. Thomas Parish Center

Please contact Brian Bierman (217-821-1217) if you would like to help cover the cost of hog processing or volunteer to help with bussing tables, etc. Thanks!



**February 22-23, 2025  
Seventh Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

**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, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Melvarose Ochs+)

**Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**6:30 p.m. - PSR**

**Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, St Gregory of Narek**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Oscar & Marcella Strutner+)

**Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Weekday**

**7:15 a.m – 8:15 a.m. – Adoration & Rconciliation**

**8:30 a.m. – Mass (For the deceased of the Parish+)**

**Sunday, March 2, 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Elmer & Josephine Ginder+)

**Annual Brunch – 8am – NOON**

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures**

**Collection for the week of February 16, 2025**

Envelopes \$ 732.00

Loose 159.00

Sub Total \$ 901.00

Haiti 120.00

**Total \$ 1,021.00**

**St Mary's Church Tithe**

**December Tithe Income \$6,646.00**

**10% Tithe to Springfield - \$664.00**

**Parish Office** – The office hours for next week will be  
Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – 8am – 3pm

Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> – 8am – 3pm

Friday – February 28<sup>th</sup> - 8am – Noon

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – March 2, 2025**

**Ushers:** Bob Barthelme, Alex Kaufmann, Owen Ochs

**Servers:** Wade Schackmann/ Reed Kistner

**Lectors:** Lora Ochs/ Nicholas Zwilling

**Gift Bearers:** Jeff & Lisa Ochs Family

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Bridget Matson, Lora Semple,  
Rose Gangloff

**Ministers for – March 5, 2025 – 5:30 pm**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Ushers** – Bob Barthelme, Alex Kaufmann, Owen Ochs

**Servers** – Avery Ochs/ Ellie Ochs

**Lectors** – Rose Gangloff/Becca Ochs

**Gift Bearers** – Kevin & Teresa Ochs

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

**St Mary's Brunch**

**Sunday March 2, 2025; 8am – Noon**

The Annual brunch is fast approaching! Worker's list are available in church and have been e-mailed.

Donations are needed for biscuit mix, coffee, fruit and baked goods, or money to purchase the above items.

**The parish center will be open on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to bring in baked goods and fruit.**

To donate you can contact the parish office or any of the following committee members –

Bridget Matson - 618-783-1547,

Kate Kaufmann - 618-843-2358

Maria Zumbahlen - 618-554-2093

Amber Frohning - 618-783-1033

**Rest in Peace** – Alan Ochs, son of Richard & Joyce Ochs, passed away on February 13, 2025. A Celebration of Life service was held on February 18, 2025 in Mahomet, IL. Please keep his family in your prayers for comfort and peace.

**Greetings from Haiti** – Fr Gabriel Michael, priest at St Louis Parish in Quartin, Moran, Haiti, sends his sincere appreciation to the parish family of St Mary's for your continued support and prayers for their parish.

**Events**

**3/2/2025** – St Mary's Annual Brunch 8am – Noon

**3/5/2025** – Ash Wednesday Services – 5:30 p.m.

**3/8/2025** – PreCana Session – St Mary's Parish Center – 8:30 a.m. – 3pm - Registration due by February 20, 2025