

December 23-24, 2023



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/Text: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller

Office Manager: Linda M. Hemrich

**Annulment Advocate: Debbie Matson
Linda Mertens**

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- 9:00 & 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

Pre-baptismal 2024 Class Schedule.

February 4, June 2, and October 6 at 8:45 am or by
appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir
area at St. Thomas Church. Contact the parish office at
618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

December 16-17, 2023 Collection

Envelopes	\$ 5,965.00
Loose	\$ 70.00
Subtotal	\$ 6,035.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 230.00
Retired Religious	\$ 155.00
School Fund	\$ 790.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,175.00
Grand Total	\$ 7,210.00

St. Thomas Church November Tithe

November Tithe Income – \$35,280.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$3,528.00

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, Dec. 25, *The Nativity of the Lord*

8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas (For the Parish)

Tuesday, Dec. 26, *St. Stephen*

Office Closed

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, Dec. 27, *St. John*

8:30 am Mass (Bob Harmon)

9:00 am Rosary Group

5:30 pm No Youth Choir; will resume Jan. 17th

6:30 pm No PSR at St. Mary's/ No CYO

Thursday, Dec. 28, *The Holy Innocents*

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

Friday, Dec. 29, *5th Day w/in Octave of Christmas*

8:30 am Mass (Martha Pickens)

Saturday, Dec. 30, *6th Day w/in Octave of Christmas*

8:00 – 9:00 am Confessions

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Mass - (Int: For the Parish)

Sunday, Dec. 31, *The Holy Family of*

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Eunice Schackmann)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Therese Bruemmer)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

Monday, January 1st, *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy*

Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace

8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

9:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Merry Christmas!

This Week at St. Thomas School

Christmas Break

Mon., December 25, 2023 – Wed., January 3rd, 2024

***Students return January 4th, 2024.**

2023 Christmas Mass Schedule

Late Advent Weekday, Saturday, December 23,

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas

6:00 pm Mass at St. Mary

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 24

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

No 10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas

7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary's

Midnight Mass @ St. Thomas

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

8:30 am Mass @ St. Thomas

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:

Monday, December 25 @ 8:30 am

Lectors: Kelly Iffert

EM: Marissa Bower, Dee Bower, Jan Schackmann, Theresa Volk

Servers: Aaron Volk

Gift Bearers: Charlie Schackmann Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus/Doug Iffert

Saturday, December 30 @ 4:30 pm

Lectors: Luke Zuber

EM: Glenda Spiker, Alice Addis, Wanda Kocher, Ramon Kocher

Servers: Allie & Brooks Hermann

Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family

Musicians: Tammy Page & Debbie Matson

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 31 @ 7:00 am

Lectors: Jill Bierman

EM: Brenda Phillips, Gery Ochs, Eliza Bierman

Servers: Tyler Spiker & Caleb Kistner

Gift Bearers: Ben Bierman Family

Musicians:

Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, December 31 @ 10:00 am

Lectors: Elley Bennett

EM: Helen/Leo Weber, Dennis Weber, Marge Horton

Servers: Curtis Weber & Beau Bennett

Gift Bearers: Garrett Finn Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Margaret Bierman

Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus



Thank you, Dee! On behalf of our parish community, I want to extend our sincerest appreciation for the delightful culinary magic that was prepared for our priests for penance

service last week. Dee, your delicious soup for the priests was nothing short of extraordinary.

Your hot and delicious soup had the priests' singing hymns of joy, and I'm pretty sure the angels up there upgraded your status to "Official Soup Angel". There were no leftovers.

Thanks for turning our penance service into a delicious experience, where the only thing we're repenting for is not having your soup every day. You've made this Christmas season extra special, and I can't express how grateful I am for your culinary magic.

May your Christmas be as warm and comforting as a bowl of your soup, and may your ladle be always ready to cook more. Many Thanks, Fr. Paul

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL INFORMATIONAL/PRE-REGISTRATION MEETING

St. Thomas School in Newton will be holding a kindergarten and new student informational pre-registration night on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024. The evening will begin with a parent meeting at 5:30 in the school cafeteria. Information will be provided about not only our kindergarten program, but also the school and general information as well. Prospective kindergarten students are welcomed, as the teachers will take them to the classroom to explore and play. The teachers and Mrs. Bierman, the principal, will answer any questions you may have. A tour of the building will conclude the night. There is a pre-registration form on the school website, www.stthomassaints.com that can be filled out and brought that evening, or you can contact the school for a copy. Forms will also be available that evening. Whether your intention is to send your child(ren) to St. Thomas or you are just curious and have questions, please feel free to attend this informational meeting. No commitment is expected. This is for all families interested in the school. Please be aware that class size has reached its maximum at some of our grade levels. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bierman at 618-783-3517 or by email at jillbierman@stthomassaints.com.

The St. Thomas Parish Advent Giving Tree



Supporting Vocations

Thank you to all who have purchased items to support **The Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, IL**. Your response this year has been absolutely wonderful, and we are excited to share your generosity with Taylor, all the Sisters and Postulates. We hope to deliver your donations the week after Christmas and attend a Mass to even further show our support for the commitment that these women have made to their faith. We are blessed to be a part of their journey!

We welcome our newest member! Congratulations, **Jaleena Hemrich!**



Jaleena was received fully into the Catholic Church this past Sunday morning at St. Thomas after participating in the OCIA program. Please keep her in your prayers as well as all others who are considering entering fully into the Catholic Church.



**Attention St. Thomas Ushers:
Starting January 1st 2024,**

St. Thomas will resume passing the collection basket in the pews during the offertory. We will again need 4 ushers as we have in the past. If you are listed as the usher for the month, please find 3 other ushers to assist you. The finance and pastoral councils agreed that this is an important part of our Liturgy and something that they would like for our parish to begin doing again. This part of our Mass is also a great example of stewardship because it is an expression of our gratitude to God for the blessings He has given us to return a portion of them back. Thanks for helping us make this transition!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and invite you to join our Church families by calling the parish offices of St. Thomas the Apostle, Newton, and St. Mary of the Assumption, Sainte Marie.



Please pray for the Sick:

Sam Nelson, Jackie Scott, Alex Koebele, Larry Kremer, Marlene Harris, Vinnie Zuber, Ray Kautz, Harold Deimel, Connie Griffith, Brian Baker, Whitney Benefiel, Betty Ochs, Doug Frichtl, Gary Griffith, Mary Bergbower, Mack McCrillis, Delorse Johnson, Mike Lustig, Cleve Bradley, Rhonda Wilson, Dick Worland, Suzi Ochs, Randy Hatten, Rodney Hatten, Geneva Barber; and those in healthcare facilities & in our Book of Requests.

Rest in peace: Therese Bruemmer & Carol Dooley

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Is 52:7-10	Heb 1:1-16
	Jn 1:1-18	
Tues.:	Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59	Mt 10:17-22
Weds.:	1 Jn 1:1-4	Jn 20:1a,2-8
Th.:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2	Mt 2:13-18
Fri.:	1 Jn 2:3-11	Lk 2:22-35
Sat.:	1 Jn 2:12-17	Lk 2:36-40
Sun.:	Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3	Heb 11:8,11-12,17-29
	Lk 2:22-40	



A Message from Fr. Pawel

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I trust this message finds you in the continued warmth and joy of the Christmas season. As we reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I am moved to express my deepest appreciation for the overwhelming outpouring of love, kindness, and generosity you have showered upon me. Your beautiful Christmas cards, adorned with heartfelt messages, have been a source of inspiration and encouragement. The thoughtful words penned within each card have been a reminder of profound sense of community and fellowship we share. Your expressions of love have not only touched my heart but have also illuminated the true spirit of Christmas. Sincerely I am grateful for every gift received from you.

As your pastor, I am truly blessed to serve such a loving and compassionate community. Your kindness has not only enriched my holiday season but has strengthened the bonds that unite us in faith and love. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God every time I remember you." May the spirit of Christmas continue to reside in our hearts throughout the coming year, and may the love we share as a parish family be a beacon of hope and inspiration to all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous New Year filled with the abundance of God's grace.

With thanks and prayers,
Father Paul

A Special Request from Fr. Paul

Dear Parishioners,

I hope this message finds you well. As some of you may know, I am going on a ski trip this winter season. And I'll need your support to ensure a smooth transition. I am kindly seeking volunteers who can drive me to the airport and pick me up on my return. All expenses will be covered. I am calling all chauffeurs with a sense of humor and a lead foot on the gas pedal (within legal limits, of course). If you've ever dreamed of being part of a pastor-pickup convoy with a soundtrack that rivals a blockbuster movie, now's your chance!

If you are available and willing to help please leave your information in the parish office or contact me directly for more details. I'll be departing from St. Louis airport on Sunday, Jan.7 and I'll be coming back Jan. 16.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment.

Blessings,
Father Paul



Dec. 23-24, 2023
Fourth 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

Linda Mertens

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tues-Wed.-Thurs.

Masses: 8:30 am Sunday

First Saturday of the Month

7:30 am – 8:15 am Eucharistic Adoration
 & Reconciliation

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Reconciliation: As Scheduled by request and
 Available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturdays

This Week in our Parish

Monday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday, December 26th, St Stephen

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Donald Ochs+)

Wednesday, December 27th, St John

NO PSR

Thursday, December 28th, The Holy Innocents

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: George & Hilda Dallmier+)

**Friday, December 29th, Fifth day within the Octave
 of the Nativity of the Lord.**

**Saturday, December 30th, Sixth day within the
 Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.**

**Sunday, December 31st, The Holy Family of Jesus,
 Mary and Joseph**

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

**Monday, January 1st, The Octave Day of the
 Nativity of the Lord**

9:30 a.m. Mass (Int: Clarence Keller+)

PSR – As winter begins, please remember that if the
 weather is bad and there is no school, PSR will also be
 cancelled.

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure
Collection for the week of December 17, 2023

Envelopes	\$ 3003.00
Loose	106.00
Sub Total	\$ 3109.00
Immaculate Conception	30.00
Retirement for Religious	50.00
Haiti	205.00
Total	\$ 3394.00

St Mary's Church November Tithe

November Tithe Income – \$11,147.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$ 1,115.00

Christmas Mass Times

St Mary of the Assumption

Christmas Eve Mass - December 24th – 7 pm

Ministers for 6:00 p.m. – December 23, 2023

Ushers – Need Volunteers

Servers – Need Volunteers

Lector – Ron Zwilling

Gift Bearers – Ron & Nancy Zwilling

Eucharistic Ministers – Need Volunteers

Ministers for 7:00 p.m. – December 24, 2023

Ushers: Paul, Jacob & Alex Kaufmann

Servers: Wade Schackmann, Max Ochs,
 Brianne Zwilling

Lectors: Claire Griffith/Becca Ochs

Gift Bearers: Scott & Jessica Schackmann

Eucharistic Ministers: Elaine Zwilling, Rose
 Gangloff,
 Janet Hartrich

Minsters for 8:30 a.m. – December 31, 2023

Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Ethan Matson,
 Jacob Kaufmann

Servers: Daniel Uebinger/Henry Zumbahlen

Lectors: Mike Hartrich/Nancy Ochs

Gift Bearers: Dan & Beth Hartrich Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Ochs, Janet Hartrich,
 Amy Frohning

Blood Drive – Thanks to all who came out on
 Monday, December 18th and participated in the blood
 drive. Thanks to Hartrich Meats for providing snacks.

