

**December 17-18, 2022**  
**Fourth 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)  
 Emergency Number: 217-494-6326

**Pastor:** Fr. R. Dean Probst (email: [dprobst@dio.org](mailto:dprobst@dio.org))  
**Parochial Vicar** Fr. Pawel Luczak  
 Email: [revpl.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

**Deacon emeritus:** Rev. Mr. Larry Miller  
**Office Manager:** Linda M. Hemrich  
**PSR Coordinator:** Pete Pasero

**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

**Eucharistic Adoration** 7:30-8:00 am  
 w/Morning Prayer 7:30 am and Benediction 7:55 am  
**Reconciliation:** 8:00 - 9:00 am and 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)

**St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure**

Dec. 10-11, 2022 Collection

Envelopes	\$	6,111.00
Loose	\$	38.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,149.00</b>
Immac Conception	\$	1,401.00
Ret. Religious	\$	736.00
Building Fund	\$	620.00
School Fund	\$	460.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,217.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,366.00</b>

**St. Thomas Church October Tithe**

October Tithe Income – \$33,573.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$3,357.00

**This Week in Our Parish**

**Monday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday**

**5:30 pm** Mass (Julie Schackmann+)

**Tuesday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday**

**6:00 pm** OCIA Instructions for Adults

**Wednesday, December 21, St. Peter Canislus**

**7:30 am** MP w Adoration - Benediction at 7:55 am

**8:30 am** All-School Mass (Harold Kocher+)

**9:00 am** Rosary Group

**12:00 Noon** Tribunal Court in Springfield.

**4:00 pm** OCIA for Youth (Church Conference Room)

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir

**6:30 pm** PSR at St. Mary's

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

**Thursday, Dec. 22, Late Advent Weekday**

**2:00 pm** Parish School Staff Christmas Party

**Friday, December 23, Advent Weekday**

**7:30 am** MP w Adoration - Benediction at 7:55 am

**8:30am** Mass (Gerald & Rosella Hemrich+)

**Saturday, December 24, Vigil Nativity of the Lord**

**4:30 pm** Mass @ St. Thomas (For the Parish)

**11:00 pm** Mass @ St. Thomas (For the Parish)

**Sunday, December 25, Nativity of the Lord**

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

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

**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:**

**Saturday, December 24 @ 4:30 pm**

Lectors: Brian Bierman; Luke Zuber

E.M.: Dee Bower, Marissa Bower, Kristine Probst,  
 Denisse Ochs

Servers: Dylan Earnest, Ava Earnest

Gift Bearers: Knights of Columbus

Musicians: Vicki Mullen/Debbie Matson/Youth Choir

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

**Sunday, December 24 @ 11:00 p.m.**

Lectors: Nikki Bierman; Amy Hartrich

EM: Jason Bierman, Paul Bierman, Becky Shamhart,  
 Lori TeVault

Servers: Adria, Alivia, and Nathan Bierman

Gift Bearers: Knights of Columbus

Musicians: Five For the One

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

**Sunday, December 25 @ 8:30 am**

**Do we need this Mass?**

*Hopefully some guests will arrive and assist us.*

Lectors: **None**

EM: Alice Addis

Servers: **None**

Gift Bearers: Knights of Columbus

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Debbie Matson

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

Call the parish office 618-783-8741 to sign up.

**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. 21.*



**St. Thomas CYO –December Activities**

**Weds., Dec. 21 @ 6:30 pm** – Decorate/Clean church with Christmas celebration (will run a little late)

**Weds., Dec. 28** – NO CYO

Thanks to all of our CYO youth for your participation!! Remember...it's “Hammertime!”☺

**Wait till next year Cub fans. NOTE: Speaker System** is being scheduled for mid-January 2023 with expectant delivery amps and dsp equipment at yearend.

The next **pre-baptismal class** will be held this **Sunday, January 8 at 8:45 am** at St. Thomas Church. To register, please call the St. Thomas or St. Mary's parish office. **Baptisms are scheduled during Mass** so that the child/person can be welcomed into the Church, the family of God.

**Remember: SCRIP Cards make holiday shopping easy!** Don't forget about the school's **SCRIP card program** for your holiday purchases. SCRIP cards will be available after Masses this weekend – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Thomas School Dates to Remember**

**Dec. 19** – 6:00 pm Boys B-ball, @ Red Hill

**Dec. 20** – 6:00 pm Boys B-ball, here

**Dec. 22** – Early Dismissal

**Dec. 23** – No School – See you Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>!

**St. Thomas School 4th Annual**

**Trivia Night & Live Auction**

**Cash Prizes ~ Silent Auction ~ 50/50 ~ Heads/Tails ~ Food ~ Wine Pull**

**Saturday, February 11, 2023 @ 6:30 pm**

~ **Doors open at 5:00 pm** ~ Space is Limited!

Cost to play: \$160/ team of 8 adults over 21 (Must be on a team to play)

**Pulled Pork & Chips available for a free-will donation. Beverages available for purchase.**

**Questions: Contact Jill Bierman or Lori Smith at St. Thomas School 618-783-3517**

**St. Thomas Annual Wine Tasting** hosted by the Angels Group will held on **Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023** at the Newton Knights of Columbus Hall.

**St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes**

**WELCOME...**

**to the parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle, Newton, and St. Mary of the Assumption, Sainte Marie.** If you would like to become a member of either parish, please call the particular parish office.

**Please pray for the Sick**, especially, Dick Worland



RoseAnn Kerner, Doug Frichtl, Randy Hatten, Lynn Schafer, Vicky Yager, Bob Helregel, Rodney Hatten, Matilda Hemrich, George Roth, Gary Griffith, Mary Bergbower, Karen Shamhart, Geneva

Barber, Seth Weber; and those in healthcare facilities & in our Book of Requests.

**Rest in Peace: Sam Zuber.** The funeral Mass will be Tuesday morning at 11:00 am.

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

**Monday: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Lk 1:5-25**

**Tues.: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38**

**Weds.: Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45**

**Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56**

**Friday: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Lk 1:57-66**

**Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5**

**Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Mt 1:18-25**

**Late Night: Is 9:1-6 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14**

**Christmas Day: Is 62:11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Luke 2:15-20**

**NOTE from Fr. Dean: Where has he been?**

**I am grateful to Fr. Pawel for guiding the parishes** this past week as I vacationed at my house with a severe cold which even my sisters did not want to get near me! I was to have a melanoma taken off my back on Monday but the cold, chills and congestion on Monday morning, although no fever, postponed the procedure to Friday (God-willing). I went to the Express Care and got the dapper poked up my nostrils, not one, but three times to make sure I was negative for Covid, Influenza and RSV. Negative, Negative, Negative. But Thursday morning at 1:50 am as I write this note with same cold symptoms, I will take Fr. Pawel's advice and rest for the weekend. I am now on an antibiotic which seemingly makes my nose run faster than my feet. Cough continues.

I had Fathers Sunder Ery, Michal Rosa, and “Zach” Patibandla Zechariah scheduled for Penance Service at St. Thomas, along with Fr. Pawel. I had Fr. Braden Maher and Fr. Michael Berndt, Fr. Augustine Koosman and Fr. Pawel available Thursday evening.

After hours of rest, soup and isolation, the symptoms remain so I drove here with N95 mask on, got mail, typed this and sprayed the office with Lysol. Hoping the symptoms are gone by Friday for weekend!

*May our hearts and homes be filled with the love of the Holy Family, we pray.*

"The first thing that a person finds in life and the last to which he holds out his hand, and the most precious that he possesses, even if he does not realize it, is family life." -- Blessed Adolph Kolping, franciscanmedia.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

For the past 143 years, the Catholic Children's Home (CCH) has served as a beacon of hope for thousands of children in need of safe harbor and a place to call Home.

The CCH continues this mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic material needs of all the children sent for residential care or special education services. This includes an innovative program designed to serve the needs of children with immense challenges of autism.

The children served by the CCH have been chronically abused, designated "unmanageable" by their schools or simply have no home. They are some of the most vulnerable in our society. Our Lord says, "What you have done for the least of my people, you have done for me." (*Matthew 25:38*) The CCH will continue to serve the special needs of these children in the name of Jesus Christ.

The holiday season is a particularly difficult time for these youths as many of them are without a family. Those who have a family are often lacking the special care they need. Please keep these children in your prayers throughout this holy season of Advent and Christmas.

In the spirit of Christ's incredible love for all children, I ask that you continue to support the work of the Catholic Children's Home and generously contribute to the special Christmas collection. "Let all that you do be done in love." (*1 Corinthians 16:14*)

May God fill your hearts with love, grace and a spirit of giving during these blessed days of Advent and Christmas.

With every best wish and gratitude, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

NOTE: Envelopes are available in your monthly packet or you can use a regular envelope marked Children's Home

**October 17-26, 2023** Trip to Holy Land with Fr. Dean is being prepared by NAWAS Catholic Agency. Dorothy of Oz stated: "There is no place like home!" The Holy Land is our home as Christians. Visit the sites of Jesus birth, preaching and healing, suffering, death and resurrection. Brochures will be available in the near future. Anticipated cost: \$4200.

**Fr. Michael Rosa**, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Effingham is leading a pilgrimage tour of Poland, his homeland before being ordained a priest for our Diocese. Brochures are available in the foyer. The trip May 21-June 2 is at a cost of \$4,100.

**March for Life, Washington, D.C.–Jan. 18-22, 2023**

*Those attending from St. Thomas include:*

**Adults:** Paul Bierman, Jenny Fritchley, Linda Hemrich, Beth Ochs

**Youth:** Katie Bierman, Allison Brummer, Cameron Davis, Caroline Frohning, Will Fritchley, Alex Gier, Laney Hemrich, Lexi Ochs, Mallory Ochs, Wade Ochs, Wyatt Ochs, Emma Rauch, Adam Weber

**Catholic Heart Workcamp 2023 is planned for July 9-14, in Huntingburg, Indiana.**

*Those signed up include:*

**Adults:** Jason Bierman, Ted Weber, Jill Bierman & Rose Gangloff

**Youth:** Jackson Baltzell, Lucy Bierman, Nick Bierman, Alex Gier, Kylie Higgs, Alayna Ochs, Ashtyn Ochs, Kelby Ochs, Mallory Ochs, Wade Ochs, Wyatt Ochs, Adam Weber, Elias Weber

**If you are interested in participating, please turn in your applications ASAP.**

**World Marriage Day – Save the Date!**



On **Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 2:30 pm.**, Auxiliary Bishop Mark S. Rivotuso will celebrate a Mass for World

Marriage Day at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO. A reception will follow in Boland Hall. All married couples are invited to attend and celebrate the gift of marriage. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It emphasizes the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy of daily married life. World Marriage Day started in Baton Rouge, LA in 1981 and was later adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter who now is sponsoring this event on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**December 17-18, 2022**  
**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](mailto:stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com)

**Website:** [www.stmariechurch.org](http://www.stmariechurch.org)

Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326

**Pastor:** Fr. R. Dean Probst (email: [dprobst@dio.org](mailto:dprobst@dio.org))

**Parochial Vicar** Fr. Pawel (Paul) Luczak  
(email: [revpl.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto: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**

and 8:30 am Tuesday and Thursday

**Rosary:** 8:00 am Tuesday and Thursday

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, December 17 @ 8:00 am  
and as requested with a priest.

Also available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturdays

**This Week in our Parish**

**Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, Late Advent Weekday**  
**BLOOD DRIVE 2-6 PM**

Visitation – Sam Zuber 5-7 pm

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass: (Int: Ephraim & Lelia Rennier+)

11:00 a.m. – Funeral Mass -Sam Zuber

**Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, St Peter Canisius**

**6:30 pm – PSR**

**Parish Decorating Church for Christmas**

**Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Late Advent Weekday**

8:30 a.m. – Mass: (Int: John & Theresa Ochs+)

**Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Late Advent Weekday**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve**

4:30 pm – Mass (For the Parish)

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day**

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

**Flowers:** If you would like to have your loved one listed in the bulletin, donations must be in parish office by December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Christmas Décor:** We will be decorating on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> in the evening, anyone is welcome to come help.

**Congratulations to newly weds:**

**Mr. & Mrs. Ethan & Bridget (Kaufmann) Matson**  
Joined in marriage Saturday, December 10, 2023 in St. Mary's Church. The wedding Mass was presided by Fr. Dean Probst. Parents of the bride and groom are Keith & Stacie Matson and Paul & Kate Kaufmann. Sorry picture not available.

**Ministers for 4:30 pm December 24, 2022**

**Ushers:** Tim Keller, Phil Ochs, 1 volunteer

**Servers:** Chase Kistner

**Lectors:** Claire Griffith/Beth Hartrich

**Gift Bearers:** Phil & Becca Ochs family

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Tony & Janet Hartrich,  
Lisa Ochs

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – December 25, 2022**

**Ushers:** Matt Ochs, Kelby Ochs, Roger Hemrich

**Servers:** Brianna Zwilling

**Lectors:** Lora Ochs/ Rose Gangloff

**Gift Bearers:** Maynard & Elfrieda Kaufmann

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Elaine Zwilling, Elfrieda &  
Maynard Kaufmann

**St Mary's Pictorial Directory Update:**

Photo session dates are:

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - 10am – 6pm**

**Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> - 1pm – 9pm.**

The second session for pictures is:

**Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - 10 am – 6pm**

**Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> - 1pm – 6pm.**

Appointments will be scheduled every 15 minutes.

**If you would be interested in helping, please call the parish office.**

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure**  
**Collection for the week of December 5, 2022**

Envelopes	\$ 1440.00
Loose	168.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 1608.00</b>
Immaculate Conception	345.00
Retired Religious	110.00
Capitol Improvement	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2083.00</b>

**Many Thanks:** Evelyn Kocher would like to thank Family Life for the Christmas gift, it was very thoughtful and much appreciated. God Bless and Have a Blessed Christmas.

**Blood Drive –** St Mary's Parish is hosting a blood drive on Monday, December 19, 2022 from 2-6pm. This will be held in the parish center. Refreshments will be available. ALL ARE WELCOME!  
*Oblong High School Jazz Choir performs at 4pm*  
*Visitor from the North Pole is scheduled.*