

December 16-17, 2023
Third 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
 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 9-10, 2023 Collection

Envelopes	\$	9,425.00
Loose	\$	105.00
Subtotal	\$	9,530.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	830.00
Retired Religious	\$	507.00
School Fund	\$	532.00
Building Fund	\$	525.00
Subtotal	\$	2,394.00
Grand Total	\$	11,924.00

St. Thomas Church October Tithe

October Tithe Income – \$62,136.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$6,214.00

Thanks for your generosity and stewardship!

This Week in Our Parish

Mon., Dec. 18, Late Advent Weekday

Tuesday, Dec. 19, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, Dec. 20, Late Advent Weekday

8:30 am Class Mass (Frank Hartke)

9:00 am Rosary Group

4:00-7:00 pm Eunice Schackmann Visitation

5:30 pm Youth Choir meeting in parish center

6:30 pm PSR at St. Mary's/CYO mtg in parish center

Thursday, Dec. 21, St. Peter Canisius

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

11:00 am – Eunice Schackmann Funeral

(Visitation 9:30 -10:30 am)

Friday, Dec. 22, Late Advent Weekday

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

Saturday, Dec. 23, St. John of Kanty

8:00 – 9:00 am Confessions

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Mass - (Int: Brad Ghost)

6:00 pm Mass at St. Mary's

Sunday, Dec. 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent;

Vigil of Christmas

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (For the Parish)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

10:00 am NO Mass at St. Thomas

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

4:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas (For the Parish)

7:00 pm Mass at St. Mary's

Midnight Mass at St. Thomas (For the Parish)

Monday, Dec. 25, The Nativity of the Lord

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

Rejoice!

This Week at St. Thomas School

Mon: 6:00 pm Boys Basketball, here, vs Red Hill
 Pajama Day(Christmas or other)

Tues: 6:00 pm Boys Basketball, here, vs Disc. Chris.
 Wear Red and Green

Weds: 8:30 am 6-8 Class Mass
 Wear Christmas hats/headbands

Thurs: 5:15 pm Boys Basketball, here, vs Clay City
 Wear Christmas shirts or ugly sweaters

Fri: 8:30 am All-School Mass
 End of 2nd Qtr/Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm
 Wear Christmas socks
 6:00 pm-8:00pm 6th-8th Christmas dance

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

**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:
Saturday, December 23 @ 4:30 pm**

Lectors: David Sydor

EM: Gerald/Denisse Ochs, Mark Bolander,
Amanda Baltzell

Servers: Halle Wagner & Brooke Farley

Gift Bearers: Ronnie & Patti Ochs

Musicians: Tammy Page & Kaitlyn Ochs

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 24 @ 7:00 am

Lectors: Caroline Frohning

EM: Mark/Janet Vahling, Linda Hemrich, Pam Francis

Servers: Kinsley Kerner & Brady Francis

Gift Bearers: Craig Hartrich Family

Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman

Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, December 24 @ 4:00 pm

Lectors: Amy Hartrich

EM: Kim Zuber, Kimberly Ochs, Paul Bierman,
Sheryl Brummer

Servers: Will Hartrich, Eli Ochs, Nathan & Blake
Bierman

Gift Bearers: Brian Brummer Family

Musicians: Youth Choir

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

Sunday, December 24 @ Midnight

Lectors: Lori TeVault

EM: Emma Rauch

Servers:

Gift Bearers: Randy Hemrich Family

Musicians: Five For the One

Greeters/Ushers:

Monday, December 25 @ 8:30 am

Lectors: Kelly Iffert

EM: Marissa Bower, Dee Bower

Servers:

Gift Bearers:

Musicians: Patsy Leffler

Greeters/Ushers: Doug Iffert

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule

**CYO members please bring in an item on
Silk Purse's Wish List to be donated to them
this Christmas Season!**

- **Weds, Dec. 20th** – Christmas Celebration in parish center
- **Weds, Dec. 27th** – No CYO – Enjoy your Christmas Break!
- **Weds., Jan. 3rd** – Cleaning church & Silk Purse coming for picture and picking up items

**Thank you Allie Hermann, Madison Keller and Reed
Tharp** for helping pack food boxes this past Friday
night!! We see you☺

BAPTISM: Congratulations, Caleb Wayne Weber, infant son of Dennis & Laura (Thoele) Weber whose Godparents are Neil Thoele and Annie Ochs. Caleb was baptized last Sunday morning, December 10th at the 10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas Church. May God continue the good work begun in him!

We welcome our newest member! Congratulations, Jordan Hartigan! Jordan was received fully into the Catholic Church this past Sunday morning at St. Elizabeth's Church in Robinson after participating in St. Thomas's OCIA program. Please keep him in your prayers as well as Jaleena Hemrich and all others who are considering entering fully into the Catholic Church.

CYO Nativity Scene Raffle Winner

Congratulations, Patrick Finley!! Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and for supporting CYO. CYO raised \$815.00 that will go towards their Mission trip and group activities. We couldn't be more proud of this high school group!

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. 20.***

The St. Thomas Parish Advent Giving Tree



Supporting Vocations

When you pick up an ornament this year, you will be supporting **The Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, IL.** Taylor Smith, a former St. Thomas student, is currently attending this convent.

Items purchased for the Sisters and Postulants can be dropped off in the box located next to the tree. Thanks for being a part of this effort that will support Taylor, her fellow Sisters and all those considering the vocation of Sisterhood.

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR MINISTRIES at
St. Thomas for:**

Christmas Vigil: Sunday, December 24
4:00 pm Vigil and Midnight

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25
8:30 am

Sign up through Ministry Scheduler Pro or call the parish office 618-783-8741. Thanks for volunteering.

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: Eunice Schackmann, Connie Sue Tarr

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25
Tues.:	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a	Lk 1:5-25
Weds.:	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Th.:	Sg 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45
Fri.:	1Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
Sat.:	Mal 3:1-4,23-24	Lk 1:57-66
Sun.:	2Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16	Rom 16:25-27
	Lk 1:26-38	

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

Have you checked out FORMED for Advent? 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 Special Thank You to the St. Thomas Angels Group for spreading Christmas cheer by sharing their delicious homemade cookies with our shut-ins. Thank you for always being that bright spot in someone's day!!

A Busy Year! As we look back at 2023, St. Thomas Parish has been very busy as well as blessed. This is the perfect time to thank our Pastoral Council and Finance Council members for all of their time and hard work.

Pastoral Council Members: Fr. Pawel, Mark Bolander, Tracey Bower, Kayla Finley, Jeff Higgs, Teresa Ochs, Lori TeVault, Kevin Vogt, Dennis Weber

Finance Council Members: Fr. Pawel, Jill Bierman, Karen Buerster, Mark Hartrich, Linda Hemrich, Chris Rauch, Theresa Volk;

Recently retired: Charlie Schackmann

Thank you for your valuable counsel throughout 2023 and as we enter 2024!

The Silk Purse relies on donations and volunteers to help support the Family Life Center.

The following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Kitchen size garbage bags
- Snack size Ziploc bags
- Quart Ziploc bags
- Gallon Ziploc bags
- 2 gallon Ziploc bags
- Tape dispenser rolls
- Bathroom cleaners
- Box tape

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St. Thomas School 5th Annual Trivia Night & Live Auction

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

Saturday, February 24, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

St. Thomas Parish Center, Newton ~

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 be present)

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

Questions: St. Thomas School; 618-783-3517

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Discovering the Mass in the Bible, by Brant Pitre.

Please **join us** as we learn about the Eucharist. Classes are held in the St. Anthony Parish Center. This will be a 10 week course beginning on Thursday, January 11th. You may attend either the 9:15 am or 6:30 pm session. To sign up and order study materials, please call the Parish Office at 217-347-7129.



Dec. 16-17, 2023
Third 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 18th, Late Advent Weekday
2p.m. – 6p.m. Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 19th, Late Advent Weekday
 8:00 a.m. – Rosary
 8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: John & Teresa Ochs+)

Wednesday, December 20th, Late Advent Weekday
6:30 p.m. - PSR

Thursday, December 21st, St Peter Canisius
 8:00 a.m. - Rosary
 8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Leonard Beavers &
 Elmer & Josephine Ginder+)

Friday, December 22nd, Late Advent Weekday

Saturday, December 23rd, St John of Kanty
6:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish)

Sunday, December 24th, Fourth Sunday of Advent
 8:30 a.m. – Mass: (Int: Ron Kirts+)
 December 24th – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

7:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: Our Beloved Deceased)

Monday, December 25th, - NO MASS

Christmas Mass Times

St Mary of the Assumption

Saturday, December 23rd, 6 pm

Sunday, December 24th – 8:30 am

Christmas Eve Mass - December 24th – 7 pm

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure
Collection for the week of December 10, 2023

Envelopes \$ 2,546.71

Loose 87.00

Sub Total \$ 2,633.71

Immaculate Conception 245.00

Retirement for Religious 165.00

Christmas Offering 210.00

Thanksgiving 10.00

Total \$ 3,263.71

St Mary's Church October Tithe

October Tithe Income – \$35,100.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$ 3,501.00

Ministers – We are still in need of ministers for

December 23rd, - 6 p.m. mass

December 24th, - 7 p.m. mass – Christmas Eve Vigil

**Please sign up for the masses in Church, e-mail the
office or call 618-455-3155**

Minsters for 8:30 a.m. – December 24, 2023

Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Ethan Matson,
Jacob Kaufmann

Servers: Chase Kistner/Reed Kistner

Lectors: Ron Zwilling/ Ethan Zwilling

Gift Bearers: Tony & Martha Strutner

Eucharistic Ministers: Ben Ochs, Lora Semple,
Elaine Zwilling

PSR –Please remember that if the weather is bad and
there is no school, PSR will also be cancelled.

Blood Drive – St Mary's Church will be hosting a blood
drive for the American Red Cross on Monday, Dec. 18th
in the parish center. Please give the gift of Life.

Family Life: PSR would like to thank the Family Life
committee for the fun activities and treats for Christmas,
it was greatly appreciated.

Giving Tree – First graders in PSR added some tags to
the tree in the back of church to help the Silk purse in
Newton. Thanks to all those who have already donated.
Our basket was full and some items were moved to a
box. Please have all donations in by the morning of
Sunday, Dec. 24th, when everything will be removed.

St Mary's Christmas Décor If you would like to
donate to the décor fund, in memory of deceased loved
one, please put you names & contribution in the décor
fund envelop, or a regular envelop marked Décor Fund.
Those names will be listed on a prayer sheet for the
Christmas season. **Please have the names submitted
to the parish office by December 20th.**