

Ascension of the Lord

May 16-17, 2026



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

404 W. Jourdan, Tel: 618-783-8741

Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-8742

E-mail: parishoffice@stthomasnewton.net

Website: www.stthomasnewton.net

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(Email: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Tomy Philip

(Email: frtomysac@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

Website: www.stthomassaints.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING

May 9-10, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	\$	5,821.00
Loose	\$	327.00
Subtotal	\$	6,148.00
Annual School Fund	\$	230.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	435.00
Holy Land	\$	206.00
Subtotal	\$	871.00
Grand Total	\$	7,019.00
Sound System Collection to date	\$	11,894.36

Mark your calendars for June 28, 2026.

St. Thomas will celebrate the feast day of their Patron Saint, St. Thomas the Apostle.
More details to follow.

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, May 18, St. John I

6:00 pm Sports Awards Night

Tues., May 19, Easter Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

6:00 pm OCIA last session and celebration

Wednesday, May 20, St. Bernardine of Siena

8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. Elmer & Ethel Scott)

9:00 am Rosary

Thursday, May 21, St. Christopher Magallanes

St. Thomas School Survivor Day

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, May 22, St. Rita of Cascia

St. Thomas last Day of School/Park Day

7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration

8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Earl & Marie Meinhart)

Saturday, May 23, Easter Weekday

Holy Land Arts here this weekend!

8:00 am – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Ed Yager)

5:30 pm Farewell gathering for Fr. Tomy

immediately following Mass

Sunday, May 24, Pentecost Sunday

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

(Int: Melvin Kistner & Inis Kistner Probst)

8:45 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:35 am Rosary

10:30 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Acts 19:1-8 Jn 16:29-33

Tues.: Acts 20:17-27 Jn 17:1-11a

Weds.: Acts 20:28-38 Jn 17:11b-19

Th.: Acts 22:30;23:6-11 Jn 17:20-26

Fri.: Acts 25:13b-21 Jn 21:15-19

Pentecost: Readings for the Day

Sat.: Acts 2:1-11 1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13 Jn 20:19-23

Sun.: Acts 2:1-11 1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13 Jn 20:19-23

St. Thomas Pre-baptismal Class 2026 Schedule.

June 7, and October 4 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area. Contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, May 23 @ 4:00 pm

Lector: Beth Ochs

EM: Wade Ochs, Denisse Ochs, Mark Bolander

Servers: Emmalin Finley, Megan Farley

Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family

Musicians: Tammy Page & Elise Wright

Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, May 24 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Carol Bough

EM: Sheryl/Allison Brummer, Eliza Muska,
Gery Ochs

Servers: Elizabeth Brummer, Caleb/Emily Kistner

Gift Bearers: Brian Brummer Family

Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lyndsey Spiker

Greeters/Ushers: Randy Hemrich/Nick Hemrich

Sunday, May 24 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Mike Geier

EM: Dee Bower, Sara Mette, Julie/Kylie Higgs

Servers: Will Mette, Luke Bower, Brantley Ochs

Gift Bearers: Justin Probst Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Debbie Matson

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

CONGRATULATIONS!



A special congratulations to **Debbie Matson** for receiving the St. Thomas Exceptional Service Award and to **Renee Gier** for receiving the St. Thomas Distinguished Graduate Award. Both very well-deserved honors! Thank you both for your commitment to St. Thomas and for being such good stewards of your faith!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick: Rita (Kuhl) Kocher, Sheila Dhom Thomas, Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Janet Beavers, Steven Bierman, Emma Probst, Dale Harris, Jim Beauchamp, Naomi Shedlebower, Belinda Kubicki, Carol Schafer, Jim/Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

St. Thomas Parish celebrates Mother's Day



Fr. Tomy recognized all of the mom's, grandma's, godmothers and all of the women who care for others with a nurturing and caring heart. Thank you, Moms!



Thank you, Mrs. Brittany Schreifels!

St. Thomas Parish wants to wish Mrs. Schreifels the very best in her new math teaching position at St. Anthony High School. Thank you for all the years (and hours) you have given St. Thomas School preparing students for their futures. Because of you, their futures are brighter! Just remember, Brittany...once a Saint, always a Saint!

Welcome, Fr. Dominic Rankin! Fr. Dominic will be celebrating Masses with us May 28 – June 9 as we prepare for Fr. Pawel's return. Please note that weekday Masses during that time will be at 7:30 am. More details to follow.

Happy Birthday, Fr. Pawel! Fr. Pawel celebrates his birthday this Saturday, May 16th. Please join our parishes in keeping Fr. Pawel in our prayers as he celebrates his birthday and continues his preparations for his journey back to Newton and Ste. Marie.

Mark your calendars!

Thursday, June 4, 2026

12:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

Newton Knights of Columbus Hall

Sponsored by St. Thomas Church Angels Group

Holy Land Arts

Visiting the weekend of May 23-24, 2026

Visit www.theholylands.org today for more information.

Soul Food by Fr. Tomy
We are sent forth as joyful missionary disciples.

My dear brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. Before returning to the Father, Jesus gives His disciples one final mission: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” These are not simply farewell words; they are a mission entrusted to every Christian. The Ascension is not Jesus leaving the world behind. It is Jesus entrusting the world to us.

First, the Ascension reminds us that Jesus opens heaven for us. Jesus came down to earth so that one day we could rise with Him to the Father. In His Ascension, He carries our humanity into God’s presence. This world is not our final home. Many people today live only for success, comfort, money, or popularity. But Jesus reminds us that we are made for something greater. A Christian life must be purpose-filled. The Ascension gives us hope that no suffering is wasted, no cross is meaningless, and no faithful life goes unnoticed by God.

Second, Jesus assures us that He remains with us. Before ascending, He promises: “I am with you always.” Though no longer physically visible, He is spiritually closer than ever. He walks with us in our struggles, family worries, hidden tears, and daily responsibilities. Jesus intercedes for us before the Father. Therefore, we should never think, “I am alone,” or “My prayers are useless.” Christ remains our strength and companion every day.

Third, the Ascension sends us out as missionary disciples. Jesus says, “Go,” not “sit,” “watch,” or “wait.” The angels asked the disciples, “Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” In other words: do not remain spectators; become witnesses. Pope Francis reminds us that every Christian is called to be a missionary disciple — someone who knows Jesus, loves Jesus, and brings Jesus to others. Christianity is not just attending Mass once a week. It is carrying Christ into the world every day through the way we speak, forgive, help, encourage, and love. Many people may never read the Bible, but they read our lives every day.

Three practical and feel-good suggestions to become missionary disciples this week:

1) Start one faith conversation this week. Gently bring God into one conversation. Simply say:

- “I’ll pray for you,”
- “God has been good to me,”
- “Come to Mass with me,”
- or share something beautiful God has done in your life.

2) Bring prayer into one ordinary moment. Before starting your car, before a meal, before work, or before sleeping— pause for 15 seconds and invite Jesus into that moment. Missionary disciples carry Jesus into ordinary life.

3) Bring someone with you toward Jesus. This week, intentionally bring one person closer to God:

- invite someone to Mass,
- pray together as a family,
- encourage someone to return to church,
- share a meaningful Gospel verse,
- or ask someone, “How can I pray for you?”

The Ascension is not the end of Jesus’ work. It is the beginning of our mission. Jesus says to us today: “Go out. Live with purpose. Be my witness. And remember — I am with you always.” Amen.



OCIA: New Sessions Starting Soon!

If you have been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith. Our parish will soon begin a set of sessions to share the truth of our Catholic faith and the fellowship of our church family. Contact our Parish Office at 618-783-8741. We are waiting for YOU.

Congratulations, Graduates!

St. Thomas School & 8th Grade Graduates

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Natascha Alblinger | Nathan Beals |
| Blake Bierman | Olivia Bower |
| Maison Buerster | Hayden Evans |
| Bryar French | Levi Gier |
| John Hartrich | Will Hartrich |
| Sutton Helm | Jennelle Hinterscher |
| Adam Kocher | Tinley Lingafelter |
| Bailey Meinhart | Avery Ochs (St. Mary) |
| Eli Ochs | Jerrick Pitcher |
| Carter Ross | Dean Simpson |
| Lyndsey Spiker | Alaina Urfer |
| Kamyle Zumbahlen | |

NCHS Graduates

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Dominic Baltzell | Carson Barthelme |
| Shay Bennett | Kody Bergbower |
| Hydi Bierman | Katie Bierman |
| Lucy Bierman | Allison Brummer |
| Alex Gier | Kylie Higgs |
| Makenzie Holder | Megan Miller |
| Wade Ochs | Wyatt Ochs |
| Joslynn Pitcher | Morgan Schafer |
| Reed Tharp | Adam Weber |
| Peyton Willenborg | |
| Brianna Zwilling (St. Mary) | |

May 16-17, 2026
Ascension of the Lord



St. Mary of the Assumption

112 W. Embarras Street,
 P.O. Box 68 Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459
 Tel: 618-455-3155

E-mail: stmaryschurch@stemariechurch.org

Website: www.stemariechurch.org

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(email/text: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Tomy Philip

(Email: frtomysac@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

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

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Reconciliation: As Scheduled by request

Victim Assistance Contact Information:

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation
 Call 217-321-1155

This Week in our Parish

Monday, May 18th, St John I

Tuesday, May 19th, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Catherine Kocher+)

Wednesday, May 20th, St Bernadine of Siena

Thursday, May 21st, St Christopher Magallanes

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Thomas Kaufmann Family+)

Friday, May 22nd, Saint Rita of Cascia

Saturday, May 23rd, Easter Weekday

Sunday, May 24th, The Ascension of the Lord

8:45 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

MASS – Note the mass time for Sunday, May 24th will be **8:45 a.m.**

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of May 10, 2026

Envelopes/Easter Collection	\$	2,200.00
Loose		<u>163.00</u>
Sub Total	\$	1,379.00
Catholic Charities		40.00
Catholic Communication		<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$	2,423.00

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – May 24, 2026

Ushers: Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner,
 Marvin Zwilling

Servers: Daniel Uebinger/Logan Uebinger/
 Henry Zumbahlen

Lectors: Nicholas Zwilling/ Lora Ochs

Gift Bearers: Jeff & Lisa Ochs

Eucharistic Ministers: Bridget Matson, Rose
 Gangloff, Amy Frohning



Thankful – for all the wonderful mothers on Mother's Day! Our parish is blessed to have so many mothers that joined us this day!



PSR – learning about the story of the shepherd and his lost sheep, thanks to Rodger & Julie Shamhart for bringing in sheep for the children.

Volunteers needed – to help with the clean-up of the parish grounds and landscaping around the church, parish center & rectory. Would be a great family project for the youth of the parish. If you can help, please contact – Norma Ochs – 618-554-2536.

Lost and Found: We have several items in a basket in the foyer of the church, check it out and see if you have left something