

**February 1-2, 2025**  
**The Presentation of the Lord**



**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**

January 25-26, 2025 Collection

Envelopes	\$	5,788.00
Loose	\$	314.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,102.00</b>
School Fund	\$	330.00
Catholic Times	\$	47.00
Building Fund	\$	100.00
Church in Latin America	\$	190.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>667.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,769.00</b>
<b>December Online giving</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,055.80</b>
<b>December ACH</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 3, St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; 100<sup>th</sup> Day**

**6:30 pm** Angels Meeting in parish center mtg room

**Tues., February 4, Weekday**

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

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

**Wednesday, February 5, St. Agatha**

**8:30 am Class Mass** (Int. Mary Simonson)

**9:00 am** Rosary Group

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir

**6:00 pm** School Board

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

**Thursday, February 6, St. Paul Miki**

**8:00 am** Rosary

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

**Friday, February 7, Weekday; First Friday**

**Fr. Pawel – Home Visits**

**8:30 am All-School Mass** (Int. Dick Worland)

Adoration following Mass until Noon

**Saturday, February 8, St. Jerome Emiliani;**

**St. Josephine Bakhita**

**8:00 am -9:00 am Reconciliation**

**9:00 am Church Cleaning**

**9:00 am Marian Consecration reflection/prayer**

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation**

**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Al Rohr)

**Sunday, February 9, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Word Marriage Day**

**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas

(Int. Gerald & Rosella Hemrich)

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

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

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

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

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

**Mon.:** Heb 11:32-40 Mk 5:1-20

**Tues.:** Heb 12:1-4 Mk 5:21-43

**Weds.:** Heb 12:4-7,11-15 Mk 6:1-6

**Th.:** Heb 12:18-19,21-24 Mk 6:7-13

**Fri.:** Heb 13:1-8 Mk 6:14-29

**Sat.:** Heb 13:15-17,20-21 Mk 6:30-34

**Sun.:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 1Cor 15:1-11 Lk 5:1-11

**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.**

Feb. 2, June 1, and October 5 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, February 8 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector:  
EM: Wade Ochs, Mark Bolander, Glenda Spiker,  
Linda Hemrich

Servers:  
Gift Bearers: Gerald & Denisse Ochs  
Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Bolander  
Greeters/Ushers: Chris Rauch/Randy Hemrich

**Sunday, February 9 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Carol Bough  
EM: Gery Ochs, Eliza Muska, Sarah Hemrich,  
Becky Shamhart

Servers: Kinsley Kerner & Avery Shamhart  
Gift Bearers: Craig Shamhart Family  
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman  
Greeters/Ushers: Chris Bierman

**Sunday, February 9 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: Brian Bierman  
EM: Helen/Leo/Adam Weber, Matt Bower  
Servers: Jack Weber  
Gift Bearers: Karen Bierman Family  
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Anna Bierman  
Greeters/Ushers: Bob Bower

**St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:**

*Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm*

**Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** – Hey, Father! with special guest Fr. Jayke  
**Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
**Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** – Taking a look at the Bible  
**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  
**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



**Best Wishes for the Future.**

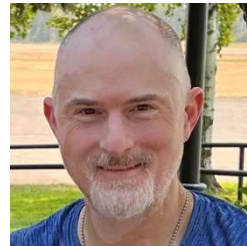
Congratulations **Blake Muska and Eliza Bierman!** They were united in Marriage at St. Thomas Church on January 25, 2025. We wish them a happy married life in faith!

**New Offertory Envelopes.** Please notice the new offertory envelopes. St. Thomas has switched envelope companies not only to save money, but the new envelope provider works closely with our new software making address updates and other changes very easy! Nothing else has changed other than the new look!

**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. It is a sacrificial offering of love to commit to a specific time during Adoration, so 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.



**Welcome, Deacon Scott Sparks**

Please join us in welcoming Deacon Scott Sparks to our parishes the weekend of **February 8-9**. He is the son of Tony and Sue Sparks.

Deacon Scott was ordained a permanent deacon on June 8, 2024 at Incarnate Word Parish of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO. Our parishes look forward to celebrating Mass with you.

Please be sure to contact Fr. Paul if you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a Deacon. Being a Deacon is a faith-filled way to assist our Bishop and Priests, proclaim the Gospel, and assist at the Altar. Fr. Paul would be glad to help you learn more about this opportunity!

**St. Thomas School will be holding a kindergarten and new student informational pre-registration night on Wednesday, February 12th, 2025.** The evening will begin with a parent meeting at 5:30 in the school cafeteria. Whether your intention is to send your child(ren) to St. Thomas or you just have questions, please feel free to attend. No commitment is expected. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bierman at 618-783-3517 or by email at [jillbierman@stthomassaints.com](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com).

**St. Thomas Church Cleaning Crew** is reporting for duty on **Saturday, February 8, at 9:00 am**. Please consider helping even if you are not scheduled to volunteer this month. All help is greatly appreciated! Thanks to all who take care of our church!!

**The St. Thomas School Trivia Night.** If parishioners are interested in helping, please continue saving bottles of wine and thinking about what you can do to contribute to the live or silent auction. Don't forget to get your team registration forms turned in!!

*St. Louis de Montfort, pray for us.*

# St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.



## Please pray for the Sick:

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: Mary Simonson & Dick Worland**

## **Discernment Retreat for Single Women**

ages 18-45 are invited to a weekend of personal and communal reflection with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, **February 21-23, 2025**, in St. Louis, MO. This retreat is an opportunity to learn – through conversation, contemplation, prayer and spiritual guidance – how to recognize God’s invitation for your life. Learn more and register by February 7 at [ssnd.org/events/retreat225/](https://ssnd.org/events/retreat225/) or contact S. Lois Martens, SSND at 618-783-7171. The retreat is provided free of charge.

Young adults ages 18+ are invited to pray online together with the SSND North American Vocation Team every month through June 2025. The next online evening prayer will be **Tuesday, January 28** at 8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT. Learn more and register at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/x3t6b2n>

## **Trending on FORMED:**

**33 Days to Morning Glory.** This program offers individuals an easy way to enter into a peaceful interior reflection on their relationship with Christ in the context of Marian devotion. We begin with the Immaculate Heart because Mary leads us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. By learning to entrust ourselves to Mary, we can discover a transforming trust in Jesus himself. Order here: <https://catholic.market/programs/hearts-afire/33-days-to-morning-glory/>

## **Paul the Apostle | The Bible Collection.**

The church's greatest enemy became Christ's most prolific messenger. Beautifully shot in the Moroccan desert, Paul the Apostle is a sweeping saga of the man who brought the Gospel to the Western world. From the Emmy award-winning director Roger Young (Joseph and Jesus) comes the spectacular story of Paul the Apostle. This augmented adaptation, largely based on the biblical account, profiles Christ's most prolific messenger. Paul the Apostle is a sweeping saga of the man who brought the Gospel to the Western world. *Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.*



**Consecration to Jesus Through Mary.** Join St. Thomas, St. Mary and area parishioners as we prepare for Marian Consecration. **Thirteen friends in faith** gathered last Saturday to begin their preparation for the Marian Consecration. If you are interested in joining them on this spiritual journey, join in **this Saturday morning for the First Saturday at St. Mary.** The next meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. The reflection and prayer on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> will be held in the St. Thomas’s parish center meeting room. Call 618-783-8741 to learn more. Informational flyers are available at each parish.

**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.

## **Mark Your Calendars - All are welcome!**

April 25, 2025 - St. Thomas Church - 7:00 pm  
Ultreya Mass celebrating the DeColores Community  
Confessions 6:30 pm  
Reception in parish center following Mass

**The Newton Family Life Center will be holding their annual online auction** to be launched on March 15<sup>th</sup> at their annual breakfast – St. Thomas Parish Center. If your family or business would be willing to donate an item (or cash to go towards an item), please call or text Renee Gier at 217-821-0872. Please submit items by mid-February. Thank you in advance for your generosity toward this important community resource!

## **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.

**Interested...Communion Service and Rosary at Villas of Holly Brook.** Please contact the offices of St. Thomas (618)783-8741 or St. Mary (618)455-3155 if you would be interested in distributing Holy Communion and praying the Rosary with the residents of the Villas in Newton on Fridays at 10:30 am or on Sunday mornings. Please help us continue this ministry!



**February 1-2, 2025**  
**The Presentation of the Lord**



**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 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saint Blaise**

**Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Dick & John Helregel+)

**Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Saint Agatha**

**6:30 p.m. – PSR**

**Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, St Paul Miki**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Fr Alrede Cody+)

**Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, St Jerome Emiliani**

11:00 a.m. – Memorial Mass – Dick Worland

**Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary  
 Time**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Joe Zuber+)

**Celebration** – On February 22, 2025 the Family Life Committee would like to celebrate all couples of St Mary's Parish who have been married **40 years or more**. We invite those who will celebrate a **40+ year** anniversary in 2025 to enjoy a meal and fellowship at the parish center. Please RSVP to the parish office 618-455-3155 or Martha Kirts at 618-562-6278.

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures  
 Collection for the week of January 26, 2025**

Envelopes \$1,900.00

Loose 163.00

**Sub Total \$ 2,063.00**

Latin America 205.00

Children's Home 100.00

**Total \$ 2,368.00**

**St Mary's Church Tithe**

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

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

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – February 9, 2025**

**Ushers:** Geoge Semple, Maynard Kaufmann,  
 Nicholas Zwilling

**Servers:** Chase Kistner/Blake Frohning/Clay Frohning

**Lectors:** Rose Gangloff/Mike Hartrich

**Gift Bearers:** Ron & Nancy Zwilling

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Janet Hartrich,  
 Bridget Matson, Elfrieda Kaufmann

**St Mary's Brunch**

Sunday March 2, 2025

8am – Noon

Plans are under way for the annual brunch, donations are needed for 1 hog, ham, biscuit mix, coffee, fruit and baked goods, or money to purchase the above items.

Thank you to Lance & Maria Zumbahlen for the donation of 1 hog, Hartrich Meats for the processing, Paul & Amber Frohning for donating the ice. Maynard, Elfrieda, Paul & Kate Kaufmann for donating the juice & milk. 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

**Thank You** – To all who helped make the Bingo last Friday evening such a success! It was a great night of fun and fellowship with all those in attendance.

**Events**

**2/2/2025 – Newman Brkfast/T-Town Kc 7am - Noon**

**2/9/2025 – Valentine Breakfast – St Valentine Hall  
 in the Bend – 8am – Noon**

**2/22/2025 – 40 + year Wedding Anniversary  
 Celebration/ St Mary Parish Center 6:00 p.m.**

**2/27/2025 – History of the founding of Ste Marie &  
 the Dark Bend-Ste Marie American Legion – 2pm**

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

**3/8/2025 – PreCana Session – St Mary's Parish  
 Center – Registration due by February 20,2025**