



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Oct. 17-18, 2026

Laity Sunday

World Mission Sunday

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

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

Newton, Illinois 62448

E-mail: parishoffice@stthomasnewton.net

Website: www.stthomasnewton.net

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(Email: 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

Website: www.stthomassaints.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING

October 3-4, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	\$	5,692.00
Loose	\$	437.00
Subtotal	\$	6,129.00
Annual School Fund	\$	635.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	190.00
Black/Indian Mission	\$	25.00
Subtotal	\$	850.00
Grand Total	\$	6,979.00

Pray for Pope Leo!

With the news of Pope Leo's diagnosis of lung cancer, the Pope is asking for prayers. "As you know, I have been unable to be among you during these days," Pope Leo said. "Entrusting each of you to the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth, I ask you please to pray for me, as I pray for you."

This Week in Our Parish

Mon., October 19, Sts. John Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues

Tuesday, October 20, St. Paul of the Cross

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, October 21, St. Callistus

8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Mary Ann Donsbach)

9:00 am Rosary

5:30 pm Youth Choir

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

Thursday, October 22, St. John Paul II

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, October 23, St. John of Capistrano

7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration

8:30 am All – School Mass (Int. Matilda Hemrich)

Saturday, October 24; St. Anthony Mary Claret

8:00 – 9:00 Reconciliation

3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

Sun., October 25, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Alfonsina Schmidt)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:35 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

(Int. Harold & Bernice Bolander)

OCIA immediately following Mass

50+ Anniversary Brunch following Mass

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Eph 2:1-10	Lk 12:13-21
Tues.:	Eph 2:12-22	Lk 12:35-38
Weds.:	Eph 3:2-12	Lk 12:39-48
Th.:	Eph 3:14-21	Lk 12:49-53
Fri.:	Eph 4:1-6	Lk 12:54-59
Sat.:	Eph 4:7-16	Lk 13:1-9
Sun.:	Ex 22:20-26 1Thes 1:5c-10	Mt 22:34-40

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 2026 Schedule.

February 7, June 6, and October 3 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area. Contact 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, October 24 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Lynn Wilson
EM: Kimberly, Kaitlyn, Alayna Ochs, Mark Bolander
Servers: Megan Finley, Eli Ochs, Bryar French
Gift Bearers: Matt Baltzell Family
Musicians: Tammy Page & Leah Weber
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, October 25 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Nikki Bierman
EM: Paul, Katie, Nathan Bierman, Tyler Spiker
Servers: Kyle/Blake Bierman, Avery Shamhart
Gift Bearers: Craig Shamhart Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lyndsey Spiker
Greeters/Ushers: Doug Long

Sunday, October 25 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Tracey Bower
EM: Matt Bower, Ginger Robins, Kristine Probst, Julie Higgs
Servers: Luke Bower, Maura Weber, Ella Probst
Gift Bearers: Justin Probst Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Debbie Matson
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs



St. Thomas Harvest Picnic Another Great Success

The picnic committee and CYO would like to thank everyone for their support again this year. Thank you for always showing

up in a **BIG** way whether selling/purchasing raffle tickets, donating baskets for the anticipated basket raffle, enjoying the dinner, bringing desserts or donating prizes for the CYO games. Once all of the expenses have been turned in, we will share the net profit made from this fundraiser that benefits our building fund.

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

Josh Bierman	\$500.00
Katelyn Bierman	\$1,000.00
Eileen Smithenry	\$15,000.00
Olivia Rice	Snowflake Quilt
Amanda Richey	Cross Quilt

A special thank you to Dee Bower and Karen Long for taking care of the quilts for us this year. Our thank you's continue to Ochs St. Smoked Meats for preparing a delicious meal, the Jasper Columbian Home and parishioners for cooking the chicken, the Jasper County Fairgrounds for letting us borrow their stage and picnic tables, to SOCO for the fun entertainment and to all of the volunteers that make this fundraiser possible each year! **THANK YOU!!**



40 Days of Prayer Campaign for Life

Join people of faith across our nation to pray, fast, and serve to protect all life.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 Adoration at

St. Thomas. Adoration will begin immediately following the 8:30am Mass and will close with Benediction at 5:30pm. A sign-up sheet is available in



the church gathering space.

Then join us for our Candlelight Rosary Procession beginning at 6:00pm.

St. Thomas CYO - #saintsintraining

Meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Oct. 21 –All Saints Day Review and Celebration

Oct. 28 –Celebrating Our Lady of the Rosary – Rosary Procession

Nov. 4 – Biblical Snacks – Food for the Saints

50+ Anniversary Mass & Brunch will be on **Sunday, October 25!** Seats for mass will be reserved in front of the middle 2 sections. Fr. Pawel will give a special Blessing to all couples during the Mass. The Brunch will follow in the Parish Center. Invitations will be mailed soon. Reservations are recommended. RSVP Glenda Spiker via text: 618-554-3663 or email at spikerfarms@gmail.com.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick

Gordon & Denise McClure, Deacon Larry Miller, Harold Einhorn, Gery Ochs, Charles Schafer, Nancy(Alan) Ochs, Jon Webb, Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Janet Beavers, Emma Probst, Belinda Kubicki, Norma Kocher, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

Rest in Peace: Mary Ann Donsbach

October is Respect Life Month! Everyone is welcome to attend the Deanery **Prayer Vigil for Life** to Pray for the Protection of All Life at the EIU Newman Center in Charleston on **Tuesday, October 20th**. Praying the rosary will begin at **4:30 pm**. Fr Michael Berndt will be the celebrant for the **5:00 pm** Mass. A business meeting will follow in the gathering space with refreshments being served while current pro-life issues and events are discussed.

St. Thomas CYO Interviews the Saints

Dee Bower: St. Anne

Marissa Bower: St. Gianna Beretta Molla

Tim Bower: St. Timothy

Pam Francis: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Julie French: St. Catherine of Sienna

Rose Gangloff: St. Margaret of Cortona

(w/the help of Jenny Fritchley ☺)

Mike Geier: St. Benedict

Fr. Pawel Luczak: St. John Vianney

Debbie Matson: St. Photini

Diann Ruholl: St. Hildegard of Bingen

Suzy Thornton: St. Mary Magdalene

Tony/Allison Weber: Sts. Mary and Joseph



Some of Our Favorite Questions and Answers:



When asked “How do you balance work and prayer?” **St. John Vianney** replied, “That work, and prayer fulfill each other. They do not compete. However, prayer is a priority and comes before everything. Prayer fuels everything.”

He was also asked “What advice would you give a young person considering a religious vocation?” He replied, “Don’t begin by asking yourself if you are talented enough. Ask if God is calling you. Listen to Him, because God’s calls can be different.”



When **St. Hildegard of Bingen** was asked “Did you enjoy English?” she replied that she never spoke it. She spoke middle high German and Medieval Latin. She constructed her own language made up of 23 letters and 1000 words known as Lingua Ignota.



Sts. Joseph and Mary were asked “Was Jesus an easy child to raise?” Mary replied, “Yes, in the beginning, but it became harder later. Having to let him go and let him do his thing...what God willed.” Joseph replied, “Definitely not! He was lost for three days and knew everything.”

They were also asked, “Did you always know how special Jesus was?” They replied, “Yes! Angels!!”

And they were asked, “If you had to do it all over again, would you?” Mary and Joseph replied, “Yes, absolutely! If it be God’s Will.”

More questions and answers to follow next week!

Mark Your Calendars
Wednesday, October 28th @ 6:00 pm



Our Lady of the Rosary Candlelight Procession and Devotion starting in the St. Thomas Church and concluding at St. Thomas Church

Everyone welcome!

Be sure to bring a candle/light and any special Marian items to carry with you during the procession as we honor Mary. A table will be available in church for you to place Marian items to be blessed.

More information to follow

Note: Adoration will be available at St. Thomas for the 40 Day Prayer Campaign for Life starting after the 8:30am Mass and ending with Benediction at 5:30pm.

SonRise Men’s Breakfast, this Friday

Men, this session will help you appreciate the women entrusted to your care and recognize the countless ways they nurture life, understand others, and advocate for those they love. Join with other men seeking strength and purpose this Friday morning. **Hot Breakfast is ready at 6:15 AM**, St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham. Prayer, program and discussion from 6:30 AM to 7:30 AM. All men are welcome. Learn more at thatmanisyoudo.com, or the parish office.

Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC). If you are interested in participating, please contact our parish offices immediately. **Campers will be headed to Memphis, TN the week of June 13-18.** Reserve your spot ASAP!

CHWC campers include: Audrey Beals, Nate Beals, Alani Bergbower, Jace Bergbower, Alivia Bierman, Blake Bierman, Margaret Bierman, Nathan Bierman, Maddie Brummer, Jase Cochran, Abby Davis, Audrey Earnest, Ava Earnest, Brooke Farley, Brady Francis, Brenly Francis, Lauren Gier, Levi Gier, Will Hartrich, Kinsley Kerner, Nora Kistner, Avery Ochs, Eli Ochs, Lexi Ochs, Lena Patterson, Hannah Phillips, Claire Probst, Claire Schackmann, Addison Shamhart, Avery Shamhart, Lyndsey Spiker, Josie Vogt, Logan Vogt, Jack Weber

Adults: Karen Bierman, Jeff Phillips, Kevin Vogt
If you are interested in being an adult chaperone, please let us know. We could use the help of 3 more adults!

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Oct. 17-18, 2026

St. Mary of the Assumption

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

E-mail: stmaryschurch@stmariechurch.org

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

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

Masses: 8:30 am Sunday

First Saturday of the Month

7:30-8:15 am Eucharistic Adoration/Reconciliation

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Reconciliation: As Scheduled by request

This Week in our Parish

Monday, October 19th, St John De Brebeuf

Tuesday, October 20th, St Paul of the Cross

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Don & Betty Ochs+)

6:30 pm Finance Council

Wednesday, October 21st, Weekday

6:30 p.m. – PSR/Rosary

Thursday, October 22nd, St John Paul II

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: John O'Malley+)

Friday, October 23rd, St John of Capistrano

Saturday, October 24th, St Anthony Mary Claret

Sunday, October 25th, 30th Sunday in Ord Time

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Eugene & Eufala Bigard+)

11:15 am – Eucharistic Minister/Lector Training

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures

Collection for the weeks of October 11, 2026

Envelopes/Online \$ 775.00

Loose 375.00

Total \$ 1,150.00

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – October 25, 2026

Ushers: Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner, Alex Kaufmann

Servers: Charlee Hartrich/Alivia Hartrich/Kennadi Ochs

Lectors: Brianna Zwilling/ Rose Gangloff

Gift Bearers: Roger & Sherrie Hemrich

E Ms: Amy Frohning, Tony Hartrich, Bridget Matson

40 Days of Prayer Campaign for Life

We will be joining people of faith across our nation to pray, fast and serve to end abortion and physician assisted suicide during the "Prayer Campaign for Life", 40 days focused on building a pro-life culture. This will take place from Sept 23 to Nov 7. Please consider participating in parts of this pro-life campaign

Part 1 - Adoration and prayer on **October 30th**, beginning at **9:15am with closing at 10:00 am. St Mary's Church**

Part 2 – Commit to fast for an end to abortion and physician assisted suicide.

Part 3 – Choose an hour or more to volunteer at the Silk Purse Store.

Youth Group Leader – St Mary's Youth Group is looking for someone who would be willing to step into the leadership position to continue pouring into the youth of our church. This role is a meaningful opportunity to build relationships, encourage our young people in their faith, and help create a welcoming and fun environment for them to grow together.

If you feel like this is something God may be calling you to do, or to learn more about what the role involves, please reach out to Sarah Boehl at 618-562-8745. We would love to see this group continue with a great leader at the helm!

Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Rich and Joyce Ochs, who will be married 65 years, on October 17th.

They are the parents of 3 children:
(the late) Alan (Pam), Elaine (Mel Stock), Jeff (Lisa), and 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to –
329 N 1800th St, West Liberty, IL 62475

Area Events

October 18 – 2026 St Joseph Smorgasbord and Bazaar
St Joseph School gymnasium – 11:00am – 1:30pm

October 18 – Teutopolis Council #2874 ID Breakfast
Serving 7am – Noon. Teutopolis Banquet Hall

October 28, - Rosary Candlelight Procession – St Thomas Church – 6:00 pm