

# Pentecost Sunday

## May 23-24, 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 16-17, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	\$	6,370.50
Loose	\$	560.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,930.50</b>
Annual School Fund	\$	1,545.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	160.00
Other	\$	329.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,034.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,964.50</b>

### 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 25, Blessed Virgin Mary,  
 Mother of the Church, Memorial Day**

**Office Closed**

**8:00 am** Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery

**9:30 am** Mass at Mt. Calvary Cemetery

**Tues., May 26, St. Philip Neri**

**8:00 am** Rosary

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

**Wednesday, May 27, St. Augustine of Canterbury**

**8:30 am** Mass (Int. Special Intention)

**9:00 am** Rosary

**Thursday, May 28, Weekday**

**5:00 pm** Rosary

**5:30 pm** Mass at St. Mary

**Friday, May 29, St. Paul VI**

**7:30 am – 8:15 am** Adoration

**8:30 am** Mass (Int. Art & Anna Westendorf)

**Saturday, May 30, Easter Weekday**

**Welcome, Fr. Dominic Rankin!**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am** Reconciliation

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm** Reconciliation

**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Delorse Johnson)

**Sunday, May 31, Most Holy Trinity**

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

**8:45 am** Mass at St. Mary's

**9:35 am** Rosary

**10:30 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Douglas Frichtl)

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

### This Week's Scripture Readings:

<b>Mon.:</b> Acts 1:12-14	Jn 19:25-34
<b>Tues.:</b> 1Pt 1:10-16	Mk 10:28-31
<b>Weds.:</b> 1Pt 1:18-25	Mk 10:32-45
<b>Th.:</b> 1Pt 2:2-5,9-12	Mk 10:46-52
<b>Fri.:</b> 1Pt 4:7-13	Mk 11:11-26
<b>Sat.:</b> Jude 17, 20b-25	Mk 11:27-33
<b>Sun.:</b> Ex 34:4b-6,8-9	2 Cor 13:11-13 Jn 3:16-18

### 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 30 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Luke Zuber

EM: Wanda Kocher, Ramon Kocher, Alice Addis,  
Glenda Spiker

Servers: Hank & Gauge Weber, Emily Beals

Gift Bearers: Matt Baltzell Family

Musicians: Debbie Matson & Mallory Einhorn

Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

**Sunday, May 31 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Tony Weber

EM: Allison Weber, Pam Francis, Linda Hemrich

Servers: Brady Francis

Gift Bearers: Brian Brummer Family

Musicians: Brian Shamhart Family

Greeters/Ushers: Randy Hemrich/Nick Hemrich

**Sunday, May 31 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: John Bower

EM: Marissa Bower, Annie/Mallory Ochs, Ryan Probst

Servers: Dominic Ochs, Patrick Bower, Maura Weber

Gift Bearers: Tim Bower Family

Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Ella Probst

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

**OCIA Celebrates Their Faith!** Last week, all those who recently entered into the Catholic faith joined together to celebrate all that they have learned and experienced together over the past several months. It was a joy filled evening, and a room filled with excitement for the next steps our newly received Catholics will take on their faith journey. We congratulate all of them once again! Let us all offer our prayers for them that they will always be as excited about their faith as they were this past Tuesday evening.

### Sound System Update:

The work on updating and improving the sound system will begin in the first week of June. If all goes as planned, the sound system will be completed within that week.



### Thank you, St. Thomas School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys and Mrs. Bierman!

They were honored to have the privilege of flagging our veterans' graves in the Mt. Calvary cemetery.

St. Thomas School continues to search for a **junior high Math teacher**. If you know of a retired teacher or someone looking for a change, please have them contact Mrs. Bierman; 618-783-3517. Thank you!

## 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.



### Happy Birthday, Fr. Tomy!

Fr. Tomy celebrates his birthday this Sunday, May 24! We are excited to celebrate this day with him and all that he has shared with us during his time at St. Thomas and St. Mary. Our parishes are very fortunate to have had this time to get to know Fr. Tomy and all that we have gotten to experience since his arrival. Please join the St. Thomas Pastoral Council as they wish Fr. Tomy farewell and celebrate his birthday this Saturday evening in the parish center after the 4:30 pm Mass.

### Memorial Day Masses

Fr. Tomy will be holding Masses at Mt. Calvary and St. Mary's cemeteries on Memorial Day, May 25th.

**8:00 am** St. Mary's Cemetery

**9:30 am** Mt. Calvary Cemetery

Please bring lawn chairs.

*In case of rain, Masses will be held in the churches.*

## On FORMED

### Saint Rita of Cascia: The True Story

A compelling docu-drama that tells the whole story of the amazing life of St. Rita of Cascia, the very popular saint who lived in Italy in the 14th century. Famous as the patroness of hopeless situations, St. Rita dealt with many very difficult and tragic events in her life. Through it all she developed a profound faith in God that was the source of her great strength, and why she is such a popular saint for all those dealing with difficult events in their own lives.

Her story combines high drama, great love, deep betrayal, profound forgiveness, and strong faith. She finds peace and new hope through the generosity of a nearby convent of sisters, and with their help she develops a deep union with Christ that greatly inspires all who are near her.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. It may contain violence indicative of the life and times of the saint or character portrayed. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it before watching with children.

## Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

### Not by Our Strength, But by His Spirit

Today we celebrate one of the greatest feasts of our faith: Pentecost — the birthday of the Church. Christmas gave us Jesus in the flesh. Easter gave us the risen Lord. Pentecost gave us the power to live and continue the mission of Jesus.

In today's Gospel, the disciples are sitting behind locked doors—afraid, confused, and uncertain about the future. Jesus appears among them and says, "Peace be with you," and then He breathes on them: "Receive the Holy Spirit." Notice this carefully: Jesus did not first give them a plan or strategy; He first gave them His Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, the Church is merely an organization; with the Holy Spirit, it becomes a living body.

Pentecost was already a Jewish feast celebrated fifty days after Passover. Around that time, Moses had received the Law on Mount Sinai. But fifty days after the new Passover—the Resurrection of Jesus—the disciples receive a new law, not written on stone tablets but written in human hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Saint Paul describes this law beautifully: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The old law said, "You shall do this." The Holy Spirit says, "I will help you live this." That changes everything.

The Acts of the Apostles tells us that people from many nations and languages understood the preaching of the Apostles. At the Tower of Babel humanity was divided; at Pentecost humanity was united. The Holy Spirit restores what sin had broken. Families divided by hurt, marriages wounded by silence, communities broken by anger, hearts burdened by fear and guilt—only the Spirit can bring true unity.

Many of us live with an attitude of: "I must do everything." Faith slowly becomes a burden. But Christian life is not about doing everything alone; it is about allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us. Instead of saying, "Lord, watch me do this," we begin saying: "Holy Spirit, do this with me."

On Pentecost, after Peter preached, three thousand people were converted. A few days earlier Peter had denied Jesus out of fear. What changed him? The Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, I may preach three thousand times and not even one person may be converted. But when the Spirit works, hearts change, families change, and miracles happen.

### Three suggestions for this week:

1. Begin and end every day with the Holy Spirit. Before getting out of bed, pray: "*Come Holy Spirit, guide my thoughts, words, and actions today.*" Before sleeping say: "*Holy Spirit, thank you for walking with me today.*"
2. Before every action, whisper: "*Holy Spirit, help me.*" Before cooking, driving, making a decision, meeting someone, or even cutting vegetables, say quietly: "*Holy Spirit, help me.*" You will slowly discover that you are not living alone.
3. Become a person of unity, not division. If there is a broken relationship, a hurt feeling, or someone you avoid, take one small step toward reconciliation. The Spirit of Pentecost unites what is divided.



**OCIA: New Sessions Starting Soon!** 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.

### The BABY BOTTLE PROJECT is here!!

Please be sure to stop in the gathering spaces of our parish churches to pick up a Baby Bottle. Please be generous and fill with your spare change and then return on Father's Day. All proceeds benefit the Family Life Center in Newton. Thanks!

**Mass Schedule...A little bit of a change in plans...** Fr. Dominic will be celebrating Masses with us the weekend of May 30-31. Fr. Dean will be covering weekday Masses as we prepare and anticipate Fr. Pawel's return on June 4. ***Please note that the Mass time at St. Mary's on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, will be at 5:30 pm.*** The remaining weekday Mass schedule will remain as regularly scheduled. Thanks everyone!

**St. Thomas Annual Harvest Picnic – October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
More details are coming soon!

### 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 this weekend, May 23-24, 2026

May 23-24, 2026  
Pentecost Sunday



**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](mailto:stmaryschurch@stmariechurch.org)

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

**Pastor:** Fr. Paul Luczak

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

**Parochial Administrator:** Fr. Tomy Philip

(Email: [frtomysac@gmail.com](mailto: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

**This Week in our Parish**

**Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, The Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00 a.m. -Mass -St Mary's Cemetery

Int: (all deceased Veterans+)

**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, St Phillip Neri**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Bob “Hoyle+)

**Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, St Augustine of Canterbury**

**Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

5:00 p.m. - Rosary

5:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Joe Zuber+)

**Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, St Paul VI**

**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, The Most Holy Trinity**

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

**Memorial Day Mass** – Will be held at St Mary's cemetery on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00a.m. Bring lawn chairs.

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures  
Collection for the week of May 24, 2026**

Envelopes/Easter Collection	\$ 985.00
Loose	272.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,257.00</b>
Haiti	107.00
Catholic Communication	40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,404.00</b>

**Thank You – Fr Tomy**

Thank you for your dedicated service and spiritual leadership to our community. Your wisdom, kindness and faithful ministry have been a great blessing to our parish family. We wish you abundant graces and blessings in your next chapter. Please know of our prayers for you!

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR TOMY!*

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – May 31, 2026**

**Ushers:** Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner,  
Marvin Zwilling

**Servers:** Gavin Semple, Jackson Zumbahlen,  
Clay Frohning

**Lectors:** Brianna Zwilling/Claire Lindemann

**Gift Bearers:** Bruce Boehl Family

**E Ms:** Lisa Ochs, Janet Hartrich, Tony Hartrich

**Graduation Breakfast** – The Family Life Committee will be hosting a breakfast on May 31, 2026 after 8:30 am mass. All graduates - grade school, high school, college, trade schools and their families are welcome, please RSVP to Lora Semple – 618-783-9256 by May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission Trip Youth** will be hosting a bake sale next Sunday, May 31st, to raise funds to help cover the cost of this trip. Please show your support by picking up your favorite baked goods for a good cause! You can also show your support by making a donation to help cover the cost of the trip. Donations can be dropped off at the parish offices or put in the collection. Thanks to the Family Life Committee for their donation! Your support will help our youth to have a faith-filled experience of a lifetime that they will never forget! Thank you!

***Memorial Day Prayer***

On this Memorial Day, we pray for all members of the military, especially those who died in service to others. May we honor them by loving and caring for all those they have left behind. Give them strength and strengthen our commitment to caring for those who mourn their loss. Amen.