

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 18-19, 2026



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

July 11-12, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	\$	7,461.00
Loose	\$	569.00
Subtotal	\$	8,030.00
Annual School Fund	\$	1,250.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	25.00
Subtotal	\$	1,275.00
Grand Total	\$	9,305.00

St. Thomas Pre-baptismal Class 2026 Schedule.

October 4 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed.

Classes will be held in the choir area. Contact the 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

This Week in Our Parish

St. Thomas Parish Center closed June 29-July 27

Monday, July 20, St. Apollinaris

Tues., July 21, St. Lawrence of Brindisi

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, July 22, St. Mary Magdalene

8:30 am Mass (Int. Betty Marshall)

9:00 am Rosary

Thursday, July 23, St. Bridget

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, July 24, St. Sharbel Makhluf

7:30 am - 8:15 am Adoration

8:30 am Mass (Int. Marilyn Fritchley)

Saturday, July 25; St. James

8:00 – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Vernon Hildebrand)

Sun., July 26, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Julie Schackmann)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:35 am Rosary

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

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Mi 6:1-4,6-8	Mt 12:38-42
Tues.: Mi 7:14-15,18-20	Mt 12:46-50
Weds.: Sg 3:1-4b	Jn 20:1-2,11-18
Th.: Jer 2:1-3,7-8,12-13	Mt 13:10-17
Fri.: Jer 3:14-17	Mt 13:18-23
Sat.: 2 Cor 4:7-15	Mt 20:20-28
Sun.: 1 Kgs 3:5,7-12	Rom 8:28-30
	Mt 13:44-52

Cross Catholic Outreach

Last weekend we were blessed to have a visiting priest from Cross Catholic Outreach. More than ever, poor families in developing countries depend on Catholic missions for assistance with food, water, shelter, medical care and spiritual nourishment. It's not too late to support Cross Catholic Outreach and the Church missions that live out the Corporal Works of Mercy, such as feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. To participate, please go to CrossCatholic.org/outreach or pick up a brochure available at your parish.

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule
Saturday, July 25 @ 4:30 pm

Lector:

EM: Matt/Amanda Baltzell, Ramon Kocher,
Alice Addis

Servers: Lillian Green, Bryar French

Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family

Musicians: Tammy Page & Elise Wright

Greeters/Ushers: Chris Rauch

Sunday, July 26 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Amy Hartrich

EM: Theresa Volk, Gerald/Denisse Ochs,
Nikki Earnest

Servers: Will & Emma Hartrich, Audrey Earnest

Gift Bearers: Steve Volk Family

Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lyndsey Spiker

Greeters/Ushers: Mark Vahling

Sunday, July 26 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Renee Gier

EM: Dylan & Lauren Gier, John Bower, Kristine Probst

Servers: Blake & Levi Gier, Pete Weber

Gift Bearers: Brad Ochs Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffer & Debbie Matson

Greeters/Ushers: Mike Geier

The St. Thomas G.I.F.T. (Giving in Faith Together) Collection is underway! This important annual collection will help cover the cost of Altar & Ministry supplies including hosts, wine and candles. Thank you to those who have already contributed. It is not too late to support G.I.F.T. this summer!

Sound System: Cost of Project

Sound System donations collected: \$14,504.36

Paid from Building Fund: \$46,309.64

Total Cost of Project: \$60,814.00

The Sound System is working well, and we are happy to know that parishioners are using the assisted listening app for hearing aids! A couple additional options and adjusted labor costs affected the cost of the project, and we appreciate Elite Enterprises for their cooperation with us on the final cost of the project.

Thank you so much to all who contributed to help cover the cost of this project. Any parishioners still interested in contributing to help offset the cost to the parish can drop donations off at the parish office or in the collection basket.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick: Jon Webb, Leah Semple Finley, Rita (Kuhl) Kocher, Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Janet Beavers, Steven Bierman, Emma Probst, Dale Harris, Jim Beauchamp, Belinda Kubicki, Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests. **R.I.P:** Norbert Ochs

St. Thomas Annual Harvest Picnic – October 11th

Grand Prize is a side x side or \$15,000 cash

Second Prize \$1,000; **Third** \$500

Raffle Tickets available soon

**St. Thomas Explores the Possibility of
Stained Glass windows**

An anonymous donor recently established a fund with the intent to provide for stained glass windows for St. Thomas Parish. A small committee was also delegated to initiate the process.

A representative from Art Glass, Ltd out of Missouri met with Fr. Pawel and the committee recently here at St. Thomas. The Art Glass Ltd. company has been in existence for over 50 years. A sample of their work can be viewed locally. The updated windows at Sacred Heart Parish in Effingham were created and installed by Art Glass, Ltd.

As this process is still in the beginning stages, we will keep the parish informed along the way if decisions are made to continue with final plans.

First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas
August 7, 2026

Please join St. Thomas for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon. A sign-up sheet is available.

Remaining Fridays of the month Adoration is 7:30 am – 8:15 am.

Thank YOU!! Fr. Evans Kulei is visiting our parishes for the Mission Co-op Appeal on **Aug. 22-23**. We are thankful for the parishioners who have graciously volunteered to provide transportation for Fr. Evans!

Holy Family School of Faith
Daily Rosary Meditations

(Find on the AMEN app or at www.schooloffaith.com)
Want to start praying, but don't know where to start? Join in for Scripture, meditation, and the Rosary. The Rosary is the most powerful weapon against evil and an easy way to encounter Jesus in prayer. The Daily Rosary Meditations podcast delivers teachings from the entire deposit of the Catholic faith and provides an ideal way to learn meditation and form practical resolutions. The Rosary transcripts equip us to share our faith by supplying topics for good conversation and content to help others learn the faith and how to pray. Thank you for answering the call of Mary to pray the Rosary daily.



About Archbishop Fulton Sheen

**A voice that brought faith to
millions.**

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895–1979) was one of the most influential Catholic voices of the 20th century. A theologian, philosopher, and pioneer of broadcast media, his Emmy-winning program reached millions each week. Over five decades, he authored dozens of books, delivered thousands of talks, and became a guiding voice for people across the world.

“The truth is the truth even if nobody believes it. A lie is a lie even if everybody believes it.”
— Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Born in El Paso, Illinois in 1895. Bishop of Rochester. National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Host of *Life Is Worth Living*, which reached an estimated 30 million viewers in the 1950s. Author of more than 70 books. His cause for canonization was opened by the Diocese of Peoria, and in 2019 his remains were transferred from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York back to his home diocese, where he rests at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria. Declared Venerable by Pope Francis in 2012.

Save the Date to celebrate our Illinois native!!

Get your seat on the bus for the Beatification Mass of Archbishop Fulton Sheen on **Thursday, Sept. 24th**, at The Dome in St. Louis. Seats must be reserved at the Dome, so call now! Cost is \$70 which includes the ticket and bus. **Deadline July 31.**

8:00am-Leave Effingham Event Center
(KC hall-WEST side)

10:00am- arrive at the Dome, for Confession,
Eucharistic adoration, visit (food)vendors,
booths, pre-Mass speakers and music!

1:00 pm- be seated in preparation for Mass

2:00pm - Mass w/ Pro-Prefect Cardinal Luis Antonio
Tagle (on behalf of Pope Leo XIV) and many
other priests

5:00pm -supper (at TBD)

7:30pm- arrive in Effingham

TEXT Diann Ruholl, 217-663-2056, or email
dcruholl@hotmail.com

Invited! Annual St. Joseph Stringtown Picnic

July 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Smorgasbord lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Food Stand with cold beverages, and much more. Beer & Wine Garden, local musicians, Cash Bingo, Raffles, and many more stands and games are going to be available.

On FORMED

Saint Maria Goretti: Fourteen Flowers of Pardon

This is the true story of a young virgin's ultimate act of love. On her deathbed, eleven-year-old Maria Goretti forgave Alessandro Serenelli, the man who mortally stabbed her because she resisted his attempted rape. Alessandro was sentenced to thirty years in prison for murdering Maria, and after eight years in jail, he had no remorse. But he eventually converted after Maria miraculously appeared to him in a dream.

Shot on location in Italy, this moving account takes you on a historic and poignant journey through the life, martyrdom, and canonization of the Roman Catholic Church's youngest saint, Maria Goretti. Maria's life and martyrdom in Italy's Pontine swamps at the beginning of this century comes to life through historic photographs, interviews with her mother, and never seen before film footage of the canonization ceremony.

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 it with children.

Practicing Catholic Podcast: We Read Pope Leo's Encyclical, Here's What We Think

Artificial intelligence promises greater efficiency, easier access to information, and solutions to many everyday problems. But what happens when efficiency becomes the standard by which we measure human worth?

Taylor Kemp and Dr. Scott Hefelfinger examine the Church's response to AI and the technocratic mindset behind it. They explore how technology shapes our habits, weakens our capacity for patient thought, and can tempt us to treat people as problems to be optimized rather than persons made for relationship and communion.

How can Catholics evaluate new technologies without rejecting their benefits or embracing them uncritically? This conversation invites us to pause, examine our use of AI, and ask whether our tools are truly helping us become more human.



**St. Thomas School Presents
Our 14th Annual DUCK RACE 2026
Sunday, August 16th
11:00 a.m.**

at the Newton Aquatic Center

Free swimming following until noon for those who
have a duck in the race.

Ducks can be purchased for \$5.00 at:
St. Thomas School or Church & Peoples State Bank
Ducks will be sold after each St. Thomas Mass!!

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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)

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, July 20th, St Apolinaris

Tuesday, July 21st, St Lawrence of Brindisi

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: John Lybarger+)

Wednesday, July 22nd, St Mary Magdalene

6:30p.m. – Finance Council Meeting

Thursday, July 23rd, St Bridget

8:00 p.m. – Rosary

8:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Teresa Dunphy+)

Friday, July 24th, St Sharbel Makhlouf

Saturday, July 25th, Saint James

Sunday, July 26th, Seventeenth Sunday in Ord Time

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: George & Hilda Dallmier

Margie Townsend & Paul Goebel+)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures

Collection for the week of July 12, 2026

Envelopes/online collection \$ 580.00

Loose 357.00

Total \$ 937.00

Rest in peace

Norbert Ochs, prayers for Jane and the family. May God grant him eternal rest.

**Celebrating The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

St Mary's will celebrate the feast day of our parish, on **August 15th, after a Saturday Mass at 5:30 pm**. Please join us for fellowship and a meal following the Mass in the parish center. All are welcome!

Let us join together to celebrate our feast day!!

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – July 26, 2026

Ushers: Jacob Kaufmann, Ethan Matson,
Nicholas Zwilling

Servers: Daniel Uebinger, Max Ochs, Clay Frohning

Lectors: Brianna Zwilling, Lora Ochs

Gift Bearers: Paul & Kate Kaufmann

E Ms: Elaine Zwilling, Amy Frohning, Bridget Matson

Picnic Update

Join us for the 189th Annual St Mary's Church Picnic on Sunday, September 6th! Enjoy delicious food, games, raffles, live music by SOCO, Homewood Grill ice cream, and fun for the whole family!

Our Church Picnic is around the corner, and it's time to start thinking about our Basket Stand! The Basket Stand is made possible entirely through donated baskets and items. We invite individuals, families, friends, or organizations to donate a gift basket or other item. Don't want to put one together on your own? Join forces with family or friends to create a basket together. Thank you for helping make our Basket Stand a success! Please contact Becca Ochs with any questions.

Don't forget about saving those glasses for the dime toss, they can be dropped off at the parish office/ or call Kayla Kocher- 618-804-9318 for pick up.

Area Events

July 19 – Stringtown Picnic – 11am – 6pm –
Stringtown Parish Center – Raffle, games, band, smorgasboard 1am -2pm

July 26 – The Bend Ice Cream Social - 3pm – 5 pm- St Valentine Hall

August 15th – Feast day of St Mary of the Assumption Church – Meal and fellowship to after mass.