

**December 27-28, 2025**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**



**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**

**December 20-21, 2025 Collection**

Envelopes	\$	7,460.00
Loose	\$	340.00

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,800.00</b>
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School Fund	\$	55.00
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Centennial Campaign	\$	155.00
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Immaculate Conception	\$	265.00
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Retired Religious	\$	86.00
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<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>561.00</b>
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,361.00</b>
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<b>Online August PushPay Giving</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,148.33</b>
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<b>ACH August Contributions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,296.00</b>
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**St. Thomas Church October Tithe**

October Tithe Income – \$81,900.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$8,190.00

**This Week in Our Parish**

***Monday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket***

***Tues., Dec. 30, Sixth Day w/in the Octave of Christmas***

**8:00 am** Rosary

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

***Wednesday, December 31, St. Sylvester,***

***Vigil of Solemnity***

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Anna Marie Miller)

**6:00 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

***Thursday, Jan. 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***

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

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

***First Friday, January 2, Sts Basil the Great &***

***Gregory Nazianzen***

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Thomas with Adoration

following Mass until Noon (Int. Andy & Esther

Kerner and Jeff Kerner)

***First Saturday, Jan. 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus***

**7:30 am** Adoration and Reconciliation at St. Mary

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

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm** Reconciliation

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

***Sunday, January 4, The Epiphany of the Lord***

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

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

**9:30 am** Rosary

**10:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. LeRoy Schackmann)

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

**11:15 am** OCIA

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

**Mon.:** 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35

**Tues.:** 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40

**Weds.:** 1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18

**Th.:** Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

**Fri.:** 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28

**Sat.:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34

**Sun.:** Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

**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

**Father Pawel's Address:** For those who would like to send greetings for Christmas or just a note:

Fr Pawel Luczak, Sikorskiego, 53<sup>rd</sup> Street,  
05-250 Radzymin, Poland

**St. Thomas CYO**

**Meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm**

**Dec. 24- Jan. 6 – No CYO – Enjoy Christmas Break**

### **St. Thomas Parish Christmas Ministry Schedule**

#### **Wednesday, Vigil: Solemnity, Dec. 31 @ 6:00 pm**

Lector:

EM: Becky Shamhart, Linda Hemrich

Servers: 1) Elizabeth Brummer, 2) Will Hartrich,

Gift Bearers:

Musicians: Vicki Mullen, Debbie Matson, Tammy Page

Greeters/Ushers:

#### **Thursday, January 1 @ 10:00 am**

Lector:

EM:

Servers:

Gift Bearers:

Musicians: Julie French & Mike Dasenbrock

Greeters/Ushers:

### **St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule**

#### **Saturday, January 3 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Carol Bough

EM: Mark Bolander, Wade Ochs, Matt Baltzell,  
Alice Addis

Servers: Emily Beals, Bryar French, Lilian Green

Gift Bearers: Ronnie & Patti Ochs

Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs

Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

#### **Sunday, January 4 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Sarah Hemrich

EM: Theresa Volk, Pam Francis, Jamie Shamhart,  
Lori TeVault

Servers: Audrey Earnest, Brady Francis, Kinsley Kerner

Gift Bearers: Nathan Earnest Family

Musicians: Five for the One

Greeters/Ushers: Mark Vahling

#### **Sunday, January 4 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: Tracey Bower

EM: Matt Bower, Marissa Bower, Jason/Jenny Bierman

Servers: Patrick Bower, Luke Bower, Ella Probst

Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Anne Kuhl

Greeters/Ushers: Justin Probst

### **Save the Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026**

*"Kick Back and Relax"* this year at the St. Thomas  
Annual Wine Tasting Event  
*Hosted by the St. Thomas Angels*

### **St. Thomas Advent Giving Tree**

The response so far has been amazing. We have collected \$2,695.00 in monetary donations and over \$600.00 in gas cards. Amazing!!

### **A Special Note of Thanks**

**Thanks to all those who take care of our building & grounds.** Always behind the scenes making sure everything goes smoothly, whether it is tracking down a mystery smell, diagnosing a sound system, updating the lighting, fixing automatic doors that get stuck once-in-awhile, maintaining the baptismal font and everything in between! We could not maintain our church without you. A shout out to Ramon Kocher, Mark Hartrich and Tom Brown for always being there when we need you!

### **Welcome Jamie May to our Parish School Family!**

Jamie is extremely excited to be joining the Kindergarten classroom after Christmas Break! She wanted to take a moment to introduce herself to those who may not know her.

She is originally from Dieterich and grew up in a farming family. She graduated from SIU Edwardsville in 2011 with her bachelor's degree and completed her student teaching at Edwardsville High School and Glen Carbon Elementary. She has over 10 years of experience in Education, Training, & Development and is grateful for the opportunity to serve in a Catholic school setting.

She has been married for nine years to her husband, Will, and has three wonderful children. They are parishioners of St. Thomas Parish and enjoy growing together in faith and community.

### **First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas**

**January 2, 2026**

You are invited to join St. Thomas for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon. 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.

### **Year End Giving Resources & Reminders**

#### **Year-End Gifts Due by December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Stocks: Consider donating stock** as a way to continue supporting St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church & School. Visit our secure stock giving site at [bit.ly/ParishStock](http://bit.ly/ParishStock).

**QCDs: Give to St. Thomas from your IRA-** Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), also known as IRA Charitable Rollovers. Visit [bit.ly/ParishQCD](http://bit.ly/ParishQCD) to learn more about this giving option

**Bequests: Have you documented your final wishes?** Our new estate planning tool at [www.freewill.com/dioceseofspringfield](http://www.freewill.com/dioceseofspringfield) can help you write your legal will for free. For specific questions consult a financial or tax advisor or lawyer.

## St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



**Please pray for the Sick:** Eretria Vera Lou Cummins, Wesley Atkins, Janet Beavers, Steven Bierman, Chase Zumbahlen, Emma Rose Probst, Dale Harris, Jim Beauchamp, Naomi Shedlebower, Belinda Kubicki, Carson French, Matilda Hemrich, Carol Schafer, Jim/Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

## Let's Get FORMED This Year

### Triumph of the Heart | Trailer

This is a special premium content. Viewer discretion is advised as there are intense themes surrounding death and the events of World War II in this film. This title is only available to rent in the United States of America and Canada. In the harrowing confines of Auschwitz's starvation cell, Catholic priest St. Maximilian Kolbe volunteers to die in place of another prisoner, joining nine others condemned by the Nazis. As despair and fear grip the group, the pressures of starvation, internal ideological division, mount. But throughout, Kolbe's appeal to their shared humanity and Polish identity forges a brotherhood that culminates in a poignant act of sacrifice that echoes beyond the cell, illuminating hope in one of history's darkest moments.

### How to Receive Communion Well

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Fr. Daniel Moloney, visiting professor of Theology at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, to discuss how to receive Communion well. Dr. Akers and Fr. Moloney walk through some sure guidelines for receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist fruitfully.

### What is the Mass?

Why should I want to go to Mass with my whole heart? What actually happens? Fr. John Riley and Chris Stefanick discuss the roots of Mass and its profound implications for us today.

*And much, much more...*

"And you, Mary, the Virgin of expectation and fulfilment, who hold the secret of Christmas, make us able to recognize in the Child whom you hold in your arms the heralded Saviour, who brings hope and peace to all. With you we worship him and trustingly say: we need You, Redeemer of man, You who know the hopes and fears of our hearts. Come and stay with us, Lord! May the joy of your Nativity reach to the farthest ends of the universe!"

Pope John Paul II, Christmas 2003

## Christmas Greetings from Fr. Pawel

As we celebrate the joyful mystery of our Savior's birth, may the peace of the newborn Jesus Christ fill your hearts, the blessing of our Mother, the Virgin Mary, protect your homes, and the strength of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family, guide you in the year to come. I wish each of you a grace-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026.

This Christmas is especially meaningful to me, as it is the first time since 2019 that I have the opportunity to celebrate with my family in Poland — something I haven't been able to do for the last six years. Can you imagine being away from your family and friends during the Christmas season? I believe it would be very difficult for many of us. Yet our faith and trust in Jesus Christ remind us that within the Catholic Church we belong to a greater, divine family. No one should feel abandoned or alone, especially when far away from home. Wherever we may be in the world, our Catholic family celebrates Christmas in the same spirit and with the same faith. This truth helped me realize that whether celebrating Christmas with my family in Poland or in Newton and Ste. Marie the theological message carries the same spiritual depth.

Christmas reveals to us that God enters our world with humble love—a love that brings light to darkness, hope to weary hearts, and comfort to all who seek Him. From my personal experience I want Christ to be born in my heart no matter where I might be. I want Him to bring salvation, peace, and strength to my life. As we gather around the manger, may we rediscover that Christ is Emmanuel—God-with-us—walking beside us in every moment of life no matter where our life might be or what point of life we might be. Just to let you know that I carry all my parishioners in my heart and in my prayers.

May this holy season inspire us to share His love generously, especially with those in need, and to strengthen our parish community in compassion, unity, and peace.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas, and every grace in the New Year. - P.L.

## 2025-2026 New Year's Mass Schedule

**New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31**

**6:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas**

**New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1**

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

**10:00 am Mass @ St. Thomas**

***Please sign up for St. Thomas Ministries online at MSP or contact the parish office. Thanks!!***





**December 27-28, 2025**  
**The Holy Family of**  
**Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**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, December 29<sup>th</sup>, St Thomas Becket**  
**Tues., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Day w/in the Octave Christmas**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30a.m. – Mass (Int: Mary Harris+)

**Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, St Sylvester I**

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Years Day**

8:30 a.m. Mass (Int: Clarence Keller+)

**Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sts Basil the Great & Gregory**

**Saturday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

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

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish)

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

**Parish Office Hours**

**December 29 & 30 – 8am – 3pm**



**PSR**

During Advent the children collected money to help with the Assistance Fund – they collected a total of \$257.00, how awesome

that is!! Thank you so much!

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures**  
**Collection for the week of December 21, 2025**

Envelopes/Online giving	\$ 2,155.00
Loose	680.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,835.00</b>
Immaculate Conception	190.00
Retirement for Religious	40.00
Assistance Fund – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	257.00
Haiti	120.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3442.00</b>

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – January 1, 2026**

**Ushers** – Ben Ochs, George Semple, Owen Ochs

**Servers**: Need Volunteers

**Lectors**: Rose Gangloff

**Gift Bearers**: Ron & Nancy Zwilling

**Eucharistic Ministers**: Maynard Kaufmann,  
 Elfrieda Kaufmann, Janet Hartrich

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – January 4, 2026**

**Ushers**: Ben Ochs, George Semple, Owen Ochs

**Servers**: Kinsey Barber/Wade Schackmann  
 Charlee Hartrich

**Lectors**: Mike Hartrich/Lora Ochs

**Gift Bearers**: Bob & Carolyn Barthelme

**E Ms** Rose Gangloff, Tony & Janet Hartrich

**PSR Teacher** – We are needing a Kindergarten PSR teacher for the remainder of the session. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marie Wagner, or call the parish office. Thank you to Taylor Zwilling for filling in for the last semester.

**New Years Prayer** – Dear Lord, as the new year begins, we look to you for our hope, joy, and peace. Give us the courage to do all that you ask of us. Please also make us brave to not do what is not from you. Show us how to walk in grace and embrace your love for us even more, In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Thank You**

**To all those who have help with the Christmas mass celebrations**, the youth choir and musicians, the ushers, servers, lectors, gift bearers, and eucharistic ministers who all volunteered their time and talents to make the mass beautiful!

**To the worship committee**, for all their time spent in making the environment so beautiful for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

**To Maynard & Elfrieda Kaufmann** for keeping the church clean and prepared for mass, it is great to have two people with such servant's hearts!!

**To Fr Tomy** for bring us a beautiful homily and wonderful mass, you are greatly appreciated!!