

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9-10, 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 2-3, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	\$	8,553.00
Loose	\$	368.00
Subtotal	\$	8,921.00

Annual School Fund	\$	2,025.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	1,135.00
Holy Land	\$	20.00
Subtotal	\$	3,180.00

Grand Total	\$	12,101.00
March Online giving	\$	4,786.19
ACH donations	\$	2,196.00
Sound System Collection to date	\$	11,894.36

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, May 11, Easter Weekday

Tues., May 12, St. Pancras; Sts. Nereus & Achilleus

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima

8:30 am All-School Mass w/8th Grade Graduates

(Int. Carl Kocher)

9:00 am Rosary

6:00 pm St. Thomas School Spring Concert

Thursday, May 14, St. Matthias

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, May 15, St. Isidore

7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration

8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Earl & Marie Meinhart)

Saturday, May 16, Easter Weekday

8:00 am – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

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

Sunday, May 17, Ascension of the Lord

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

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:35 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Jessica Spiker) w/

Commissioning of new Eucharistic Ministers

11:00 am St. Thomas 8th Grade Graduation

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Acts 16:11-15	Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tues.: Acts 16:22-34	Jn 16:5-11
Weds.: Acts 17:15,22-18:1	Jn 16:12-15
Th.: Acts 1:15-17,20-26	Jn 15:9-17
Fri.: Acts 18:9-18	Jn 16:20-23
Sat.: Acts 18:23-28	Jn 16:23b-28
Sun.: Acts 1:1-11	Eph 1:17-23
	Mt 28:16-20

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.



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.

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, May 16 @ 4:00 pm

Lector: Lynn Wilson

EM: Lori Rauch, Alice Addis, Wanda Kocher

Servers: Jack Schumacher, Carissa Barthelme,
Kyle Meinhart

Gift Bearers: Chris Rauch Family

Musicians: Five for the One

Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, May 17 @ 7:00 am

Lector:

EM: Nikki Earnest, Mark/Janet Vahling,
Becky Shamhart

Servers: Avery Shamhart, Audrey Earnest

Gift Bearers: Craig Shamhart Family

Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Katie Shamhart

Greeters/Ushers: Randy Hemrich/Nick Hemrich

Sunday, May 17 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Pat Mammoser

EM: Kristine Probst, Renee/Dylan Gier,
Charlie Schackmann

Servers: Ella Probst, Blake Gier

Gift Bearers: Matt Bower Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Jeff Finley

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Lay Ministry Training

Fr. Tomy is excited to announce *that the following new Eucharistic Ministers have been approved by the Diocese and are invited to be commissioned at the 10:00 am Mass on May 17th. Please plan to attend!*

Eucharistic Ministers: Wyatt Ochs, Maddie Brummer, Adria Bierman, Brenly Francis, Alani Bergbower, Alayna Ochs, Lauren Gier, Nathan Bierman, Oliver Ochs, Tyler Spiker

Lector: Aaron Ochs

A couple of resources: Fr. Tomy provided a copy of Eucharistic Minister and Lector guidelines that are now available in the gathering space. Please also refer to the link below about what we wear to Mass matters.

<https://dio.org/catholic-times/what-you-wear-matters/>

A special thank you to all of our lay ministers!



Thank you, St. Thomas Angels for spending this past Wednesday morning arranging and delivering flowers to homebound ladies of our parish. What a beautiful gesture and expression of our faith! Thank you to the Angels group for all the smiles that are a result of their good work!

FORMED Subscription

Please consider making a donation to help cover the cost of this faith formation resource. This resource is full of valuable materials for our parishioners, school and CYO. Thanks for your support that will allow us to continue to offer this resource for our parishes.

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.

Catholic Heart Work Camp

Kansas City, KS

July 5-11, 2026

A World of Thanks! The Campers raised almost \$2,000 from your support of their bake sale last weekend. These greatly appreciated funds will help cover the cost of this trip. You can also show your support by making a donation. Donations can be dropped off at the parish offices any time. Thanks to all those who have already donated! Your support allows these youth to have a faith filled experience of a lifetime that they will never forget! Thank you!

The **spring Garage Sale** was another great success, raising over \$8,000! Thanks to Tracey Bower and the entire committee as well as all who donated and worked! Tracey would like to thank everyone for their hard work and help that made it a success. Thanks Nick and Shae Zumbahlen for the trailer!

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 the weekend of May 23-24, 2026

Every piece you purchase is more than a beautiful work of art; it is a lifeline. Your purchase provides vital income to Catholic families in Bethlehem and the surrounding region, helping to preserve a living Christian presence in the very birthplace of Jesus Christ. Support faith, apostolic heritage, and hope. Visit www.theholylands.org today for more information.

Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

“From a Mother’s Embrace to the Spirit’s Presence: Love That Stays.”

My dear brothers and sisters,

St. Mother Teresa once said, *“The greatest poverty in the world today is the poverty of not being loved.”* In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives us a powerful promise: *“I will not leave you orphans.”* One of the deepest fears in life is to feel alone, abandoned, or forgotten.

On this Mother’s Day, this promise becomes very meaningful. Who first makes sure we are never alone? It is our mother. A mother does not just give life—she gives love, presence, protection, and sacrifice. She understands us even without words. Her love says: *“You are not alone.”* And Jesus says: *“That is how I am with you.”*

Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete—comforter, advocate, and helper. He says, *“He dwells with you and will be in you.”* The Holy Spirit is not a visitor but a constant companion. Like a loving mother, He never abandons us, even when we fall. He is patient, faithful, and always near.

The Holy Spirit is also our defender. We often hear accusing voices—from others, from the world, and from within: *“You are not good enough... you have failed...”* But the Spirit reminds us of the most important truth: *“You are a beloved child of God.”* Even when He corrects us, He does it gently, with tenderness and hope, helping us begin again.

Today, we thank all mothers. We also remember those who are not biological mothers but live with a mother’s heart—teachers, caregivers, and women who love and sacrifice. As Pope Francis reminds us, a mother’s love is a remedy for loneliness. We thank our mothers, pray for those who have died, and entrust all mothers to Mary.

Jesus reminds us: *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* Love is not just words—it is action. A mother shows love through sacrifice, patience, and forgiveness. We are called to love in the same way.

Let me give you three simple and meaningful ways to live this message:

1) Be Someone’s “Paraclete”.

Stand by someone who is struggling. Defend them, encourage them, support them—especially when they feel judged or alone. Be that quiet strength in someone’s life.

2) Let the Holy Spirit Speak Louder Than Your Inner Voice.

During the day, when you feel discouraged, judged, or burdened, pause for a moment. Instead of listening to negative thoughts, gently say: “Holy Spirit, remind me who I am.” Then recall one truth from the Gospel: “I am a beloved child of God.”

Do this especially in moments of stress, failure, or confusion. Let the Spirit’s voice become stronger than the voices that pull you down.

3) Honor Love with Words, Not Just Gifts.

Today, many will give flowers, cards, or gifts—and that is beautiful. But go one step deeper. Children, take a moment and tell your mother one specific sacrifice she made for you that you will never forget. Say it clearly. Let her hear it. Husbands, honor your wife—not just as your spouse, but as the one who made you a father. Speak your gratitude. Affirm her. Because love becomes powerful... when it is spoken.

And if your mother is no longer with you, remember her in prayer and thank God for her.

My dear friends, Jesus keeps His promise: you are not alone—you are deeply loved. Let us receive that love, share it, and become it for others. Amen.



OCIA: New Sessions Starting Soon!

If you have been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith. Come meet some of our faithful Catholics who love the Lord and would consider it a privilege to get to know you. 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.



St. Isidore, pray for us!

May 9-10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter



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)

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Tomy Philip

(Email: 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 11th, Easter Weekday

Tuesday, May 12th, St Nereus & St Pancras

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: LaVere & Esther Keeney+)

Wednesday, May 13th, Our Lady of Fatima

Thursday, May 14th, St Matthias

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Mildred Schmidt+)

Friday, May 15th, St Isidore

Saturday, May 16th, Easter Weekday

Sunday, May 17th, The Ascension of the Lord

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

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures

Collection for the week of May 3, 2026

Envelopes/Easter Collection \$ 1,270.00

Loose 159.00

Total \$ 1,379.00

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – May 17, 2026

Ushers: Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner,
Marvin Zwilling

Servers: Max Ochs/Ellie Ochs/ Elanor Roberts

Lectors: Ethan Zwilling/Becca Ochs

Gift Bearers: Roger & Sherrie Hemrich

Eucharistic Ministers: Lora Semple, Ben Ochs,
Elaine Zwilling

Mother's Day Blessing

*Almighty God, we ask you to bless each
mother today. Fill their hearts with
laughter and joy.*

*Surround them with love from
family and friends.*

*Grant them health, peace, and
fulfillment as they pursue their
calling. Let them know their value
and worth in your eyes and ours.*

Amen.

First Sunday of the Month – Beginning with the month of May the Family Life Committee will be having their monthly raffle and will also be serving donuts after mass. All are welcome!!

Volunteers needed – to help with the clean-up of the parish grounds and landscaping around the church, parish center & rectory. Would be a great family project for the youth of the parish. If you can help, please contact – Norma Ochs – 618-554-2536.

Sainte Marie American Legion

Mother Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 10, 2026 7am – 11am

Serving – Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy

Scrambled Eggs & Toast

Coffee, Mike & Orange Juice

Victim Assistance Contact Information:

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation

Call 217-321-1155

Lost and Found: We have several items in a basket in the foyer of the church, check it out and see if you have left something.

Area Events

May 10 – Ste Marie American Legion – Mother's Day Breakfast – 7am – 11am