

December 30-31, 2023

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: stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com
Website: www.stthomasnewton.net

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(Email/Text: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller

Office Manager: Linda M. Hemrich

Annulment Advocate: Debbie Matson

Linda Mertens

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

Pre-baptismal 2024 Class Schedule.

February 4, June 2, and October 6 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area at St. Thomas Church. Contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

December 23-24, 2023 Collection

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ | 8,779.00 |
| Loose | \$ | 60.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ | 8,839.00 |
| Christmas | \$ | 10,370.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ | 110.00 |
| Catholic Children's Home | \$ | 580.00 |
| Other | \$ | 30.00 |
| School Fund | \$ | 225.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ | 11,315.00 |
| Grand Total | \$ | 20,154.00 |

St. Thomas Church November Tithe

November Tithe Income – \$35,280.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$3,528.00

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, Jan. 1, The Solemnity of Mary;

New Year's Day

Office Closed

8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (For the Parish)

Tuesday, Jan. 2, Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, Jan. 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:30 am Mass (Int: Paul Brummer)

9:00 am Rosary Group

5:30 pm No Youth Choir; will resume Jan. 17th

6:30 pm No PSR at St. Mary's

6:30 pm CYO (Cleaning Church/Silk Purse)

Thursday, Jan. 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Fr. Pawel visiting the homebound

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

Friday, Jan. 5, St. John Neumann; First Friday

8:30 am Mass (John O'Malley)

(Adoration Following Mass until Noon)

Saturday, Jan. 6, St. Andre Bessette

First Saturday at St. Mary's

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Mass - (Int: Wayne Stark)

Sunday, Jan. 7, Epiphany of the Lord

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

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

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

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

Happy New Year!

This Week at St. Thomas School

Tues., Jan. 2 – 6:15 pm Boys Basketball, here,

vs New Hebron with 5/6 grades at 5:15

Thurs., Jan. 4 - Students return

Fri., Jan. 5 – Grade Cards go home

Sat., Jan. 6 – 10:00 am Boys Basketball, here, vs Pana

St. Mary of the Assumption Pre-Cana session will be held at the St Mary's Parish Center on March 9th, 2024. For more information contact the St. Mary's parish office at 618-455-3155

O Holy Family, bless and protect all the families of the world; safeguard their unity, fidelity, integrity and dignity. Enable them to live according to God's law that they may fulfill their sublime vocation. May their lives be a reflection of yours and may they enjoy your presence forever in heaven. Amen.

**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:
Monday, January 1 @ 8:00 am**

Lectors: **Need Volunteer**

EM: Dee Bower

Servers: **Need Volunteers**

Gift Bearers: **Need Volunteers**

Musicians: **Need Volunteers**

Greeters/Ushers: **Need Volunteers**

Saturday, January 6 @ 4:30 pm

Lectors: Beth Ochs

EM: Gerald/Denisse Ochs, Mark Bolander,
Glenda Spiker

Servers: Allie & Brooks Hermann

Gift Bearers: Ronnie & Patti Ochs

Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs

Greeters/Ushers: Chris Rauch

Sunday, January 7 @ 7:00 am

Lectors: Tony Weber

EM: Pam Francis, Linda Hemrich, Amy Hartrich,
Jamie Shamhart

Servers: Brady Francis & Kinsley Kerner

Gift Bearers: Seth Woods Family

Musicians: Five For the One

Greeters/Ushers: Mark Vahling

Sunday, January 7 @ 10:00 am

Lectors: Sue Sparks

EM: Dee Bower, Marissa Bower, Tony Sparks,
Jason Bierman

Servers: Avery Geier & Abbie Ginder

Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Anne Kuhl

Greeters/Ushers: Jim Robins

**Many blessings and heavenly greetings for our
parish families from Fr. Paul**

As 2023 comes to a close, let us begin this new chapter in AD 2024 with hearts full of faith, hope and love. May the blessings of our Lord be upon us and our loved ones guiding every step and illuminating the path that is ahead of us.

In this coming year, may the Sacraments be a source of profound grace drawing us closer to God. May the worthy celebration of the Eucharist nourish our souls and may the Sacrament of Reconciliation bring healing and renewal to our spirit. May the Word of God be a lamp on our path while daily scripture reading deepens our understanding of Gods wisdom and love inspiring us to live out the Gospel in every aspect of life.

May we all continue to grow in unity and fellowship so that we can be a sign of Christ in this world and a testimony for others. In times of challenge, may the Holy Spirit be our guide. May His gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord be present in our lives empowering us to live as Disciples of Christ.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, intercede for us and our parish communities throughout the New Year. I wish all of you a blessed New Year filled with the peace that surpasses all understanding and the joy that comes from a deep relationship with our Lord.

Happy New Year!

**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL
INFORMATIONAL/PRE-REGISTRATION
MEETING**

St. Thomas School in Newton will be holding a kindergarten and new student informational pre-registration night on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024. The evening will begin with a parent meeting at 5:30 in the school cafeteria. Information will be provided about not only our kindergarten program, but also the school and general information as well. Prospective kindergarten students are welcomed. The teachers and Mrs. Bierman, the principal, will answer any questions you may have. A tour of the building will conclude the night. There is a pre-registration form on the school website, www.stthomassaints.com that can be filled out and brought that evening, or you can contact the school for a copy. Forms will also be available that evening. No commitment is expected.

This is for all families interested in the school. Please be aware that class size has reached its maximum at some of our grade levels. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bierman at 618-783-3517 or by email at jillbierman@stthomassaints.com.



USHERS

**Attention St. Thomas Ushers:
Starting January 1st 2024,**

St. Thomas will resume passing the collection basket in the pews during the offertory. We will again need 4

ushers as we have in the past. If you are listed as the usher for the month, please find 3 other ushers to assist you. The finance and pastoral councils agreed that this is an important part of our Liturgy and something that they would like for our parish to begin doing again. This part of our Mass is also a great example of stewardship because it is an expression of our gratitude to God for the blessings He has given us to return a portion of them back. Thanks for helping us make this transition!

Oiling the Pews. The January Cleaning Crew will be oiling pews on **Monday, January 8 at 6:30 pm.** Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come and help! Thanks for helping us take care of and maintain our church!!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and invite you to join our Church families by calling the parish offices of St. Thomas the Apostle, Newton, and St. Mary of the Assumption, Sainte Marie.



Please pray for the Sick:

Sam Nelson, Alex Koebele, Larry Kremer, Marlene Harris, Vinnie Zuber, Ray Kautz, Harold Deimel, Connie Griffith, Brian Baker, Whitney Benefiel, Betty Ochs, Doug Frichtl, Gary Griffith, Mary Bergbower, Mack McCrillis, Delorse Johnson, Mike Lustig, Cleve Bradley, Rhonda Wilson, Dick Worland, Suzi Ochs, Randy Hatten, Rodney Hatten, Geneva Barber; and those in healthcare facilities & in our Book of Requests.

This Week's Scripture Readings:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Mon.: | Nm 6:22-27 Lk 2:16-21 | Gal 4:4-7 |
| Tues.: | 1 Jn 2:22-28 | Jn 1:19-28 |
| Weds.: | 1 Jn 2:29-3:61 | Jn 1:29-34 |
| Th.: | 1 Jn 3:7-10 | Jn 1:35-42 |
| Fri.: | 1 Jn 4:11-21 | Jn 1:43-51 |
| Sat.: | 1 Jn 5:5-13 | Mk 1:7-11 |
| Sun.: | Is 60:1-6 Mt 2:1-12 | Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 |

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

JANUARY 21

2024

7AM - 12:00PM



Please Join Us!

Whole Hog Sausage & Egg Breakfast

Sunday, January 21
from 7am-12:00pm

Teutopolis Banquet Hall
210 S. Pearl Street

- Free-Will Donation
- Dine In or Carry Out
- 50/50 Drawing
- Raffle Baskets for All Ages

To volunteer (or if you have questions),
please call or text Susan at 217.663.2084



Effingham Area Right to Life

Donations of cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, and muffins would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

A Message from Fr. Pawel

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I trust this message finds you in the continued warmth and joy of the Christmas season. As we reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I am moved to express my deepest appreciation for the overwhelming outpouring of love, kindness, and generosity you have showered upon me. Your beautiful Christmas cards, adorned with heartfelt messages, have been a source of inspiration and encouragement. The thoughtful words penned within each card have been a reminder of profound sense of community and fellowship we share. Your expressions of love have not only touched my heart but have also illuminated the true spirit of Christmas. Sincerely I am grateful for every gift received from you.

As your pastor, I am truly blessed to serve such a loving and compassionate community. Your kindness has not only enriched my holiday season but has strengthened the bonds that unite us in faith and love. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God every time I remember you." May the spirit of Christmas continue to reside in our hearts throughout the coming year, and may the love we share as a parish family be a beacon of hope and inspiration to all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous New Year filled with the abundance of God's grace.

With thanks and prayers,
Father Paul

Lord, show me ways I can serve.

"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." -- Philippians 2: 3-4

Prayer Service For Illinois Legislative Session

Our lawmakers need our prayers! Join us on **Tuesday, January 16th** as we pray for laws that uphold Catholic Values. This is the first day of the 2024 legislative session in Springfield. We will be praying at St. Anthony of Padua Church from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments immediately after.

A top concern this year is the push to legalize assisted suicide. This sweeping legislation would make doctor prescribed suicide available to patients in a wide variety of situations, in direct opposition to the 5th commandment.

January 16, 2024 | 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Of Padua Church



Dec. 30-31, 2023
**The Holy Family of Jesus,
 Mary and Joseph**

St. Mary of the Assumption Church

112 W. Embarras Street, P.O. Box 68
 Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459 Tel: 618-455-3155
 E-mail: stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com

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

Linda Mertens

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 and
 Available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturday**

This Week in our Parish

**Monday, January 1st, The Octave Day of the Nativity
 Of the Lord Solemnity of the Mary**

9:30 a.m. Mass: (Int: Clarence Keller+)

Tuesday, January 2nd, Sts Basil the Great & Gregory

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Dick & John Helregel+)

Wednesday, January 3rd, Christmas Weekday

NO PSR

Thursday, January 4th, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

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

Friday, January 5th, St John Newman

Saturday, January 6th, Saint Andre Bessette

7:15 – 8:15 a.m. – Adoration & Reconciliation

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

Sunday, January 7th, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 a.m. – Mass: (Int: Judy Wagner+)

Pre-Cana session will be held at St Mary's Parish Center on March 9th, 2024. For more information contact the parish office.

PSR – As winter begins, please remember that if the weather is bad and there is no school, PSR will also be cancelled. **NOTE: No PSR on Weds., Jan. 3rd.**

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure
 Collection for the week of December 23-25, 2023**

Envelopes \$ 2935.00

Loose 294.00

Sub Total \$ 3229.00

Christmas Offering 1240.00

Immaculate Conception 20.00

Children's Home 295.00

Haiti 40.00

Total \$ 4824.00

St Mary's Church November Tithe

November Tithe Income – \$11,147.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$ 1,115.00

Ministers for 9:30 a.m – January 1st, 2024

Ushers: Need Volunteers

Servers: Need Volunteers

Lector: Need Volunteer

Gift Bearers: Need Volunteer

Eucharistic Ministers: Need Volunteers

If you are at mass and can help, please do so.

Minsters for 8:30 a.m. – January 7th, 2024

Ushers: Owen Ochs, Lance Zumbahlen, Phil Ochs

Servers: Avery Ochs/ Wade Schackmann

Lectors: Claire Griffith/Beth Hartrich

Gift Bearers: Ben & Nancy Ochs

Eucharistic Ministers: Rose Gangloff, Janet Hartrich,
 Tony Hartrich

Masses – We are scheduling masses for this coming year. If you have special dates that you want, please call in an book that date. We can schedule masses for Sunday masses.

First grade PSR would like to say Thank You to all those who helped with their project to provide needed items to the Silk Purse in Newton. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

Thank You to all who participated in the Christmas Masses including the high school PSR and worship committee for their help in making the church beautiful for the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Also, a thank you to those who volunteered for the ministries and to the youth choir for the beautiful music. Thanks to those who donated in memory of loved ones for the beautiful flowers. Last but certainly not least, thanks to Fr Pawel for the beautiful Mass and to all who had a part in the celebration. Thank you for sharing your time and talent!