

January 4-5, 2025
The Epiphany of the Lord



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: 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

December 28-29, 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$	6,230.00
Loose	\$	293.00
Subtotal	\$	6,523.00
School Fund	\$	425.00
Building Fund	\$	220.00
Christmas	\$	750.00
Cath Children's home	\$	35.00
Subtotal	\$	1,430.00
Grand Total	\$	7,953.00

St. Thomas Church November Tithe

November Tithe Income – \$47,435.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$4,744.00

St. Thomas Online Giving: Easily tithe with online donations and no longer worry about envelopes. We hope this is convenient for you! Just visit the church's website and click on the Online Giving link provided under Online Stewardship. Thank you!!

This Week in Our Parish

Fr. Pawel is out of the office Jan. 8th-17th

Fr. Dean will be here to cover Masses

Mon., January 6, St. Andre Bessette

Students and Teachers return

6:30 pm Angels Meeting in parish center mtg room

Tues., January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort

8:00 am Rosary at St. Mary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, January 8, Christmas Weekday

Last day for Advent Giving Tree donations

8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Dorothy Woods)

9:00 am Rosary Group

5:30 pm Youth Choir

6:00 pm School Board

6:30 pm PSR at St. Mary/CYO at St. Thomas

Thursday, January 9, Christmas Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Friday, January 10, Christmas Weekday

8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. Petronilla Volk)

Saturday, January 11, Christmas Weekday

8:00 am – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

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

Sunday, January 12, Baptism of the Lord

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (M/M Glen Smithenry)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Petronilla Volk)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

11:00 am OCIA at St. Thomas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6	Mt 4:12-17,23-25
Tues.: 1 Jn 4:7-10	Mk 6:34-44
Weds.: 1 Jn 4:11-18	Mk 6:45-52
Th.: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4	Lk 4:14-22
Fri.: 1 Jn 5:5-13	Lk 5:12-16
Sat.: 1 Jn 5:14-21	Jn 3:22-30
Sun.: Is 40:1-5,9-11	Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7
	Lk 3:15-16,21-22

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

St. Thomas Pre-baptismal Class 2025 Schedule.

February 2, June 1, and October 5 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, January 11 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Nichole Mulvey
EM: Matt/Amanda Baltzell, Gerald/Denisse Ochs
Servers: Jackson Baltzell & Emmalin Finley
Gift Bearers: Matt Baltzell Family
Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Bolander
Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

Sunday, January 12 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Caroline Frohning
EM: Jill/Gus Bierman, Sheryl/Allison Brummer
Servers: Bailey Meinhart & Kinsley Kerner
Gift Bearers: Seth Woods Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, January 12 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Tracey Bower
EM: Matt Bower, Helen, Leo, Adam Weber
Servers: Carlee Finn
Gift Bearers: Tim Bower Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Jennelle Hinterscher
Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus



**The St. Thomas Parish
Advent Giving Tree**

Thank you for supporting **The Jasper County Home Front** and **The Jasper County Cancer Support Group**. Please have all donations dropped off by **Wednesday, January 8th**. We would like to present our donations to these local organizations by the end of the week! Your generosity at this time of year is greatly appreciated and helps so many!!

Advent/Christmas Décor. Thanks to all those who graciously donated to the St. Thomas Advent/Christmas décor fund. Please include

Gloria Ochs **George & Mary Hippler**
Larry Hippler **Richard & Donna Hippler**
Dean Bond **Bradley & Joe Bergbower**
Clara & Clem Kapper **John Bergbower**
Clara & Cornelius Bergbower

to your prayer list this Christmas season. Please continue to pray for all those listed and their families, that the Lord born at Bethlehem will fill the families who survive with faith and hope and continue to bless the Deceased with eternal life in the joy of Heaven.

Day of Prayer and Mass for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children – St. Francis Church in Teutopolis will host a pro-life Mass at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 22. The U.S. Bishops ask that January 22 be a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. A pro-life Rosary will begin at 6:30 PM prior to Mass. Mark your calendars!

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:

Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

We are excited to have everyone back to start off the New Year! A shout out to all of the CYO youth for their many acts of service in 2024!

Jan. 8th – St. Raymond Penafort; Gifts: Holy Spirit

Jan. 15th – St. Hilary; Symbols for the Church

Jan. 22nd – Prayer for Life Intentional Rosary

Jan. 29th – Night of Service – Meeting at Silk Purse & Master's Hands

Feb. 5th – Hey, Father! with special guest Fr. Jayke

**First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas
January 3, 2025**

Start the New Year by joining St. Thomas Church this Friday for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon. Please note that St. Thomas School is not in session so the students and staff will not be coming over for Adoration, so Fr. Pawel invites all of you to make this sacrificial offering of love to commit to a specific time during Adoration. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering space. This will ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone during Eucharistic Adoration.

This is an opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection in the presence of our Lord. What a gift it truly is to be in His presence and to be mindful of all of the many ways that He is always with us.

The remaining Fridays of the month Adoration will be held from 7:30 am – 8:15 am.

St. Thomas Parish Christmas Masses

A special ***thank you*** to all who participated in our Christmas Masses!! Thanks to Fr. Pawel for leading us during the Christmas season and throughout the year!! Thanks to all of the lay ministers who helped ...we could not do all that we do without you! Thanks to our musicians for sharing your talents with us! We are so blessed to have as many musicians as we do that cover all of our Masses!! Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, dressed in their regalia, for their involvement. Thanks to the CYO for their help in getting church ready by cleaning and assisting our Worship Committee. Thanks to the Worship Committee for creating a Christmas environment in our church that always makes everyone feel at home and welcome! Thanks for your example of Stewardship!

St. Thomas School is thankful for the generosity of so many. As we look back over 2024, we are reminded that our school is a wonderful place because of those who give of their time, talent and treasure to help us. May God bless you all with peace and love in the new year. **Go Saints!** - Mrs. Jill Bierman, Principal

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.



Please pray for the Sick:

Brenda Zuber, Charles Sroka, John Probst, Donna Boehl, Vickie Kocher, Susanne Schackmann, Carol Schafer, Jim & Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Jessica Andruch, Whitney Benefiel, Mary Bergbower, Delorse Johnson, Ted & Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities & Book of Requests.

Trending on FORMED: Bible Study

Daily Bread: Discover the Eucharist in Scripture

explores the biblical roots of the Eucharist and how the earliest Christians understood it as the fulfillment of many Old Testament promises. Based on Dr. Brant Pitre's book Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, these daily Lenten reflection videos will radically transform your love for the Blessed Sacrament. Sign up to receive these daily during Lent at <https://daily.formed.org/lent> Get a closer look at the artwork

Bread: https://leaders.formed.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DailyBread_ArtCredits.pdf

The Bible Project: A collection of content from the Bible Project, which aims to help people see the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus.

The Word Conference: Join more than 70 of the most impactful and gifted presenters of Scripture who will show how to confidently and quickly approach the Bible for answers, hope, and peace in our day-to-day challenges and struggles as Catholics.

A Bible Study on the Annunciation

Dr. Ben Akers, associate professor of theology at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, leads us through a brief reflection on the scene of the Annunciation in Luke 1:26-38. He engages the scripture verses line by line highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by the angel Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's "yes" to the Lord in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



Men and women! FREE Video Series – Strengthen and grow in your faith for your families with five short videos produced by the *Knights of Columbus* called the “**Mission of The Family.**” The videos can be found on the *Knights of Columbus* website for free! Here is the link and QR Code to find the videos: kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html The videos are less than 14 minutes.

A New Year's Message from Fr. Pawel

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this New Year, my prayer for you is that God blesses you with abundant grace, good health, and peace. May His light shine brightly in your life, guiding your steps and fill your hearts with His love. Let us embrace the New Year and each day with faith and love that God is giving us. Together, let us continue to build our community on the foundation of Christ - living word who dwells among us.

Happy New Year to you all!

Fr Paul

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples. For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317. Next ones: **St. Peters, MO** 1/31/2025–2/2/2025 & 4/4/2025 – 4/6/2025

Sacred Heart School is hiring a grade school principal, to start in the 2025-26 school year. Grounded in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Catholic School strives for excellence in education.

Applicants should:

- Possess at least a Master's degree and have 3-5 years of relevant experience.
- Be a practicing Catholic with good moral character, enthusiastically living out the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Have a deep knowledge of various instructional methods and strategies.
- Be knowledgeable, professional, hard-working, and student-centered.

Position includes benefits & pension package.

Qualified candidates should submit a letter of interest, copy of transcript, & resume to:

Sacred Heart Church, Attn: Billi Jansen, 405 S. Henrietta St., Effingham, IL 62401 or email: b.jansen@sheff.org.

Looking for a good way to enhance your Lenten Season?

2025 Catholic Women's Prayer Breakfast

Guest Speaker: BISHOP THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI

Saturday, March 22, 2025

at St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland

1411 Main Street | Highland, IL 62249

8:00 AM - noon (Adoration - 7am, Rosary - 7:30am, Mass - 8am)

Mass | Catered Breakfast | Speaker



Most Rev. Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Diocese of Springfield

Please send Registration form and \$30 fee to:
Laurie Scott
1411 Main Street
Highland, IL 62249
or, drop off at St. Paul.
Make checks payable to St. Paul Church

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ Parish _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Location _____
 Email _____
 Enclosed is my check to reserve my seat for the breakfast and speaker (\$30) (one form per registrant)
 Additional donation for Seminarians \$ _____
 Total enclosed \$ _____ made payable to "St. Paul Church".

Pre-Registration is Required for breakfast meal *

Download form or Register online at www.stpaulhighland.org Scan QR Code to access online form.

For more information, email: womensbreakfast2025@gmail.com or text Rose Wascher at 847-274-3916

Space is limited!

Register before March 1, 2025, to reserve your spot and meal ticket.

January 4-5, 2025
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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.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

7:30am–8:15am 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 6th, St Andre Bessette

Tuesday, January 7th, St Raymond of Penafort

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Mary Harris+)

Wednesday, January 8th, Christmas Weekday

6:30 p.m. – PSR

7:15 p.m. – Youth Group

Thursday, January 9th, Christmas Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Eugene & Maxine Hartrich+)

Friday, January 10th, Christmas Weekday

Saturday, January 11th, Christmas Weekday

Sunday, January 12th, Baptism of the Lord

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

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of December 25 - 20, 2024
Will be reported in next bulletin

St Mary's Church Tithe
November Tithe Income \$9,923.00
10% Monthly Tithe to Diocese - \$992.00

Events

1/24/2025 – Family Life Bingo – 6pm – 8pm

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – January 12, 2024

Ushers: Paul Kaurmann, Marvin Zwilling,
Roger Hemrich

Servers: Blake Frohning/Henry Zumbahlen

Lectors: Brianna Zwilling/ Beth Hartrich

Gift Bearer: Kevin & Teresa Ochs

Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Ochs, Lora
Semple, Jeanne Johnson



The PSR program helped the Family Life Group pack gift bags for the homebound of our parish. They made ornaments to give the homebound and, also one for themselves to take home. Thanks to both groups for thinking of our homebound, making their Christmas a little brighter!

Psalms 100:4 “ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give

thanks to him and praise his name.” As we start the new year, this Bible verse about new beginnings reminds us of the importance of giving thanks to God and praising Christ in all circumstances. Gratitude and worship are powerful ways to align our hearts with God's will as we step into a fresh season. We can look toward the new year with joy in our hearts, renewed faith, and excited anticipation of God's plans for our lives. It all starts with praising him for all we have, for who He is, and for the new opportunities He places before us to grow spiritually and deepen our relationship with him.