

January 31-February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

January 24-25, 2026 Collection

Envelopes	\$	2,959.00
Loose	\$	276.00
Subtotal	\$	3,235.00
School Fund	\$	220.00
Catholic Times	\$	64.00
Subtotal	\$	284.00
Grand Total	\$	3,519.00

Online December PushPay Giving	\$	5,181.80
ACH December Contributions	\$	2,296.00

St. Thomas Church December Tithe

December Tithe Income – \$64,160.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$6,416.00

*Pray for us,
 St. Blaise and St. Ansgar.*

This Week in Our Parish

**Monday, February 2, Presentation of the Lord;
 World Day for Consecrated Life**

6:30 pm Angels meeting

Tuesday, February 3, St. Blaise & St. Ansgar

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, February 4, Weekday

8:30 am Class Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Paul Hardiek)

9:00 am Rosary

5:30 pm Youth Choir

6:00 pm School Board

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

Thursday, February 5, St. Agatha

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

First Friday, February 6, St. Paul Miki

Home Visits

8:30 am All-School Mass-St. Thomas (Int. Matilda Hemrich) followed by Adoration until noon

First Saturday, February 7, Weekday

7:30 Adoration & Confessions 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. Walter & Leatha Urfer)

**Sunday, February 8, Fifth Sunday in Ord. Time;
 World Marriage Day**

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

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:30 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Nyle Nix)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

11:15 am OCIA

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Mal 3:1-4	Heb 2:14-18	Lk 2:22-40
Tues.: 2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3		Mk 5:21-43
Weds.: 2 Sm 24:2,9-17		Mk 6:1-6
Th.: 1Kgs 2:1-4,10-12		Mk 6:7-13
Fri.: Sir 47:2-11		Mk 6:14-29
Sat.: 1Kgs 3:4-13		Mk 6:30-34
Sun.: Is 58:7-10	1 Cor 2:1-5	Mt 5:13-16

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 2026 Schedule.

February 1, 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.

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule
Saturday, February 7 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Lori Rauch
EM: Mark Bolander, Ramon Kocher, Wander Kocher
Alice Addis
Servers: 1) Carissa Barthelme, 2) Jack Schumacher
Gift Bearers: Randy & Linda Hemrich
Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, February 8 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Sara Bergbower
EM: Mark/Janet Vahling, Becky Shamhart, Theresa Volk
Servers: Jace Bergbower, Audrey Earnest, Jillian Volk
Gift Bearers: Nathan Earnest Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

Sunday, February 8 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Pat Mammoser
EM: Dee Bower, Sara Mette, Jason/Nick Bierman
Servers: Will Mette, Brantley Ochs, Patrick Bower
Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Jennelle Hinterscher
Greeters/Ushers: Mike Gier

St. Thomas CYO Meeting Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Feb. 4 – St. Blaise/St. Ansgar (Blessing of the Throats)
February 11 – World Day of the Sick – visit Villas
and Newton Care Center with Ukelele Group
February 18 – Ash Wednesday – Attend Mass
February 25 – Planning Living Stations of the Cross

A Note of Thanks

It is that time of year...tax season. Not necessarily a time of year that we look forward to; however, our friends at **Weber and Company** do so much to make this time of year much easier for so many of us. Thank you to **Weber and Company** for all that you do for our parish not only during tax season but throughout the entire year: filing taxes and reports, 1099's, and always being available to offer support and answer questions. We appreciate all that you do for us more than you know!

Happy Birthday, Adeline Miller! Adeline will celebrate her 104th birthday on January 27th. All birthday wishes can be sent to the Newton Care Center, 300 S. Scott Ave., Room #49, Newton, IL 62448.

The Newton Family Life Center will be holding their annual online auction to be launched on March 8th at their annual breakfast – St. Thomas Parish Center. If your family or business would like to make a donation, please call or text Renee Gier at 217-821-0872. Submit items soon. Thank you in advance for your support!

First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas
February 6, 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.

Save the Date

Family Life Center Breakfast
Sunday, March 8th, serving 8-12

St. Thomas Parish Center
Sausage, eggs and pancakes plus bake sale!

St. Thomas Contribution Statements

The 2025 contribution statements for St. Thomas parishioners are available upon request. Thanks to all of our parishioners for your generosity in 2025!



St. Thomas School 7th Annual TRIVIA NIGHT & Live Auction

February 14, 2026 @ 6:30 pm
St. Thomas Parish Center

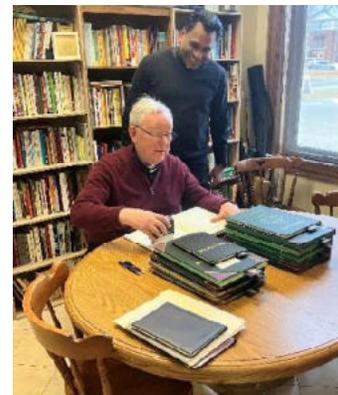
Cash Prizes ~ Silent Auction ~ 50/50
Heads/Tails ~ Food ~ Wine Pull Saturday

Doors open at 5:00 pm ~ Space is Limited!
Cost to play: \$200/ team of 8 adults over 21
(Must be on a team to be present)

Pulled Pork & Chips available for a free-will donation
Beverages available for purchase & Snack foods will be provided free of charge ~ Bring your own snacks
Due to the nature of our fundraiser, no outside drinks or coolers are permitted.

Questions: Contact Jill Bierman or Lori Smith at
St. Thomas School 618-783-3517

Fr. John Titus, the Dean of the Mattoon Deanery,



stopped by our parish for the annual review of our Sacramental registers. These are very important registers for recording the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Marriage and Death. A special thanks to our Dean for helping us maintain these records that are such

an important resource and part of our parish history.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick: Lorraine Yager, Doug Page, 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, Carol Schafer, Jim/Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

R.I.P. Matilda Hemrich

Soul Food

By Fr. Tomy

The Road Less Traveled: Poverty of Spirit

Today's Gospel presents one of Jesus' most radical teachings: the Beatitudes. They are not mere moral advice; they are a map for discipleship and a blueprint for a different way of living.

Jesus begins with a statement that turns the world upside down: "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*" Being "poor in spirit" is not about bank accounts; it is about humility, truth, and a total dependence on God.

Two Roads, One Choice

Jesus invites us to choose between two paths:

- **The World's Way:** This road is wide and loud, marked by pride, power, and self-promotion. History remembers many who sought greatness through control, but their legacies are often stained with destruction and emptiness.
- **Jesus' Way:** This road is quiet and narrow. It is the path of the humble, the merciful, and the truthful—walked by saints like Francis of Assisi and Oscar Romero. True history is shaped by those who dare to walk against the tide.

What Does It Mean to Be Poor in Spirit?

The prophet Zephaniah tells us to seek righteousness and humility. This involves two essential marks:

1. **Choosing Righteousness over Self-Defense:** Saint Paul reminds us that Christ became our righteousness by giving Himself up for us. Even when mocked and crucified, He chose love over revenge. To be poor in spirit means saying, "*I would rather lose an argument than lose my soul.*"
2. **A Radical Commitment to Truth:** Zephaniah notes that the poor in spirit "speak no lies." In a world of organized lies, Jesus—who is the Truth—calls us to honesty. A lie might bring a temporary advantage, but it places us outside the Kingdom. There is a beautiful freedom in the truth.

Three Practical Ways to Live This Today:

1. **Make one daily decision to choose humility.** Decide each morning: "*Today, I will not defend my ego.*" Concretely, this means choosing not to have the last word, not to prove yourself, or not to react immediately when corrected or misunderstood. This one small decision, lived daily, is a powerful way to become poor in spirit.
2. **Make truth a non-negotiable value.** Decide today: "*I will not lie—no matter the cost.*" Speak the truth with love and accept inconvenience for the sake of integrity.
3. **Choose mercy over self-protection.** When hurt, resist the urge to retaliate. Protect the dignity of others—even when it costs your pride. This is how Christ became our righteousness.

The road of the poor in spirit is the road less traveled. It may involve misunderstanding or sacrifice, but it is the only path where we discover our deepest strength and God's abundant blessings.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.



Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

Join St. Thomas and St. Mary parishioners as we prepare for Marian Consecration and renewal. With great joy, we invite those interested to make a **Consecration to Jesus through Mary** using the 33

Days to Morning Glory, culminating on the **Feast of the Annunciation**—the day Mary gave her complete "yes" to God. This simple yet profound journey helps us entrust our lives to Mary, so that she may lead us more fully, lovingly, and faithfully to her Son, Jesus. Many will be preparing to celebrate the one-year anniversary of their Consecration. The 33 Days to Morning Glory Do-It-Yourself Retreat will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th for those who want to renew their consecration and for those interested in Consecrating for the first time. The Retreat will conclude with Consecration and Renewal on March 25th, the feast day of the Annunciation of the Lord, at the 8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas. More details will be available in the near future. Please call 618-783-8741 by February 9th to learn more about how to get started.

January 31-February 1, 2026
4th Sunday in Ord. Time



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

Website: www.stmariechurch.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, February 2nd, Presentation of the Lord

Tuesday, February 3rd, Saint Blaise

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30a.m. – Mass (Int: Fr Meehling+)

Wednesday, February 4th, Weekday

6:30 p.m. – PSR

Thursday, February 5th, Saint Agatha

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 a.m. Mass (Int: Donnie Kraus+)

Home Visits with Fr Tomy

Friday, February 6th, St Paul Miki & Companions

Saturday, February 7th, Weekday

7:30 a.m. – 8:15am – Adoration & Reconciliation

8:30 am – Mass (For the Parish+)

Sunday, February 8th, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Deceased of Keller & Reis

Families+)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of January 25, 2026

Envelopes/Online giving	\$	1,000.00
Loose		0.00
Sub Total	\$	1,000.00
Total	\$	1,000.00

PreCana – 2026 – St Mary's Church will host the 2026 PreCana session on March 14, 2026. Registration has begun for all couples who will be getting married. Registration forms can be found on the church website – stmariechurch.org. Please fill out and return to the office by March 5, 2026.

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – February 8, 2026

Ushers: Alex Kaufmann, Ethan Matson, Rodger Shamhart

Servers: Max Ochs/Clay Frohning/Elanor Roberts

Lectors: Mike Hartrich/Ron Zwilling

Gift Bearers: Tony & Martha Strutner

E Ms Bridget Matson, Norman Boehl, Janet Hartrich

Rest in peace – Please keep the family of Donnie Kraus in your prayers.

Needed – The Brunch committee is looking for some replacement electric skillets. If you have one in the cabinet that is in good condition and would like to donate it for the brunch, please contact the office, or Amber Frohning. We are looking to replace 4 or 5 of the ones we have.

Mowing – We are accepting bids for the mowing of St Mary's church grounds. Griffith Lawn Service will no longer be mowing the church grounds, and we need of a replacement. If interested, please contact Maynard Kaufmann or the parish office.

Bend Community Club
Valentine Breakfast

Sunday, February 8, 2026 8am – 12pm

St Valentine Hall in the Bend

Serving Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits & Gravy
 Fruit Salad, Breakfast Breads/Sweets, and Drink

Carry outs available

Area Events

February 8 – Bend Community Brkfst 8am – noon

March 1–St Mary's Annual Brunch 8am - Noon

March 8 – Family Life Center Breakfast – St

Thomas Parish Center – serving 8am - Noon

March 14 – **PreCana Session** – St Mary's Parish Center – 8:30 am -