

**February 14-15, 2026**  
**Sixth 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**

**February 7-8, 2026 Collection**

Envelopes	\$	6,779.00
Loose	\$	942.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,721.00</b>
School Fund	\$	1,705.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	205.00
Latin America	\$	120.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	10.00
Catholic Times	\$	66.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,106.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,827.00</b>

**St. Thomas Church December Tithe**

December Tithe Income – \$64,160.00

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

**This Week in Our Parish**

**Monday, February 16, Weekday; President's Day**

**Tuesday, February 17, Seven Holy Founders of the**

**8:00 am** Rosary **Servite Order**

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

**Wednesday, February 18, Ash Wednesday**

**8:30 am** All-Sch Mass-St. Thomas (For the Parish)

**9:00 am** Rosary

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir

**5:30 pm** Mass at St. Mary

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

**Thursday, February 19, Thurs. after Ash Wednesday**

**8:00 a.m.** - Rosary

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

**Friday, February 20, Fri. after Ash Wednesday**

**7:30-8:00 am** Adoration

**8:10 am** Stations of the Cross

**8:30 am** Class Mass-St. T. (Int. Verna Ochs)

**4:30 pm** KC Hall Fish Fry (CYO)

**Saturday, February 21, St. Peter Damian**

**Catholic Charities presents annual campaign**

**8:00 am - 9:00 am** Reconciliation

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm** Reconciliation

**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Liv/Dec of Miller Fam)

**Sunday, February 22, First Sunday of Lent**

**Catholic Charities presents annual campaign**

**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Virginia Ochs)

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

**9:30 am** Rosary

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

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

**11:15 am** OCIA

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

<b>Mon.:</b> Jas 1:1-11	Mk 8:11-13	
<b>Tues.:</b> Jas 1:12-18	Mk 8:14-21	
<b>Weds.:</b> Jl 2:12-18	2 Cor 5:20-6:2	Mt 6:1-6,16-18
<b>Th.:</b> Dt 30:15-20	Lk 9:22-25	
<b>Fri.:</b> Is 58:1-9a	Mt 9:14-15	
<b>Sat.:</b> Is 58:9b-14	Lk 5:27-32	
<b>Sun.:</b> Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7	Rom 5:12-19	Mt 4:1-11

**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.**

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 21 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Luke Zuber  
EM: Brad/Kim/Kaitlyn Ochs, Mark Bolander  
Servers: 1) Carissa Barthelme, 2) Eli Ochs  
Gift Bearers: Matt Baltzell Family  
Musicians: Five for the One  
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

**Sunday, February 22 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Nikki Bierman  
EM: Katie Bierman, Allison Weber, Brenda Phillips,  
Gery Ochs  
Servers: Micah Finley, Kyle/Blake Bierman  
Gift Bearers: Paul Bierman Family  
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lyndsey Spiker  
Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

**Sunday, February 22 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: Tracey Bower  
EM: Dennis Weber, Helen, Leo, Adam Weber  
Servers: Luke Bower, Maura Weber, Pete Weber  
Gift Bearers: Matt Bower Family  
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Debbie Matson  
Greeters/Ushers: Mike Gier

**St. Thomas CYO Meeting Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**  
**February 18** – Ash Wednesday – Attend Mass  
**February 20<sup>th</sup>** – Working the KC Hall Fish Fry  
**February 25** – Planning Living Stations of the Cross



**A Note of Thanks**

Thanks to the St. Thomas CYO for visiting the Newton Care Center and Villas of Holly Brook and helping at Master's Hands this past

Wednesday evening. They enjoyed being of service and interacting with the residents as they recognized World Day of the Sick. A special thanks to Lori TeVault, Linda Tharp, Linda Hemrich and the "Uke Group" for assisting CYO last week. Keep up the good work!!

**The St. Thomas Angels Group** would like to thank everyone who helped make the Annual Wine Tasting Event a success. A special thanks to:

*Brummer's Cabinets and Customs*  
*Donnewald Distributing*  
*J & J Gaming*  
*Knights of Columbus*  
*Schmid Auction*  
*Wad-It-Up Transportation*  
*Wood-Iron-Stone Design*

THANKS TO ALL WHO WORKED AND CAME OUT FOR THE FUN!!

**BAPTISMS:**

Congratulations, **Henry Flood**, son of Tom and Haley (Ochs), who was baptized on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at St. Thomas Church. **Godparents are** Trevor & Jessica Ochs

Congratulations, **Jensen Ochs**, son of Lyle and Michaela (Smithenry) Ochs, who was baptized on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at St. Thomas Church. **Godparents are** Melivn Ochs & Beth Kocher

**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, March 4th, 2026**.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact Mrs. Bierman at 618-783-3517 or by email at [jillbierman@stthomassaints.com](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com).

**The family of Matilda Hemrich** would like to thank Father Tomy Philip for the wonderful mass and vigil service celebrating Matilda's life. The music was beautiful. Thank you, Five for the One, for sharing your amazing talents. Thank you to the ladies of the parish for providing the delicious desserts served at the funeral dinner. We appreciate the donations that were made, the love you have shown and the support that you have provided as we grieve the loss of our mother.

**St. Thomas School is now accepting nominations for the Distinguished Graduate Award.** This award is a chance to recognize and honor a St. Thomas School graduate for all they have given back to the community, school, and/or parish.

**St. Thomas School is also accepting nominations for the Exceptional Service Award.** Nominees for this award are those individuals who have tirelessly given of their time, talent and/or treasure to better St. Thomas School and/or St. Thomas Parish. The nominee does not have to be a graduate of St. Thomas school or a member of St. Thomas parish, but an unceasing advocate for our school and/or parish.



**Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule**  
**February 18, 2026**

**8:30 am** All-School Mass at  
St. Thomas, Newton

**5:30 pm** at St. Mary, Ste. Marie

**7:00 pm** at St. Thomas, Newton

St. Thomas lay ministers are encouraged to sign up for the available ministries by contacting the parish office or by using Ministry Scheduler Pro. Thanks!

# 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.

## A Message from Fr. Pawel

This is a very special weekend for everyone. I hope our students didn't have any trouble passing their tests or exams on Friday the 13th, if they had any, and that everyone felt lucky. This is also the last weekend before Lent.

We are approaching a very special time in our liturgical calendar. Lent is a time of preparation for the Easter celebration. It is a time when we shape our hearts and spirits through spiritual exercises—fasting, praying, and almsgiving. While we may think of it as simply making our lives harder or more uncomfortable, in reality, it is about giving up comforting things to be closer to Jesus Christ.

Looking at it from a divine perspective, it is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, to align our hearts with His will, and to embrace the transformation that comes through sacrifice. Jesus left the bliss of heaven to be with us (*"Lord Jesus Christ, although He was rich, became poor for your sake, so that you might become rich through His poverty"*), to experience the same things that we experience—thirst, hunger, and suffering. That's the price He paid to be as close as possible to us. Not only that, but ultimately, He paid the price for our redemption. As Scripture says: *"The blood of bulls and goats is incapable of taking away sins"*.

His suffering, death, and resurrection brought us salvation, because through these events He redeemed our sins and gave us a new life. Thanks to Him the gates of heaven are open. So, there is no Lenten resolution that could ever compare to His sacrifice. Every one of our sacrifices and resolutions is just a small step in comparison to His immense offering.

But before we begin Lent, brace yourself and enjoy the last days before Ash Wednesday—eat your favorite snack or food, drink what you like, and treat yourself to something nice, because this Wednesday, everything will change. In this time of struggle, remember that Jesus needs you just as much as you need Him, all the time.

## Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

3 Missions to Complete this Week.

### 1. Reconcile before you worship.

Before next Sunday's Mass, ask yourself: Is there someone I am avoiding? Is there someone I have hurt — or who has hurt me? Take one small step this week. Send a message. Make a phone call. Say, "I'm sorry." Or at least begin praying sincerely for that person. Your offering at the altar becomes powerful when your heart is free from resentment.

### 2. Practice a "no insult" discipline for one week.

No sarcastic put-downs. No demeaning comments. No humiliating jokes — even at home. When anger rises, pause before speaking. Count to five. Breathe. Pray: "Lord, guard my tongue." You will discover how often words can wound. And how powerful restraint can be.

### 3. Walk the second mile deliberately.

Every day this week, do one act that is not required. Help someone who cannot repay you. Be kind to someone you disagree with. Serve someone who makes you uncomfortable. As Pope Francis says, the more we serve — especially those who cannot give back — the more we become aware of God's presence. When we serve, we see Christ in others. And others begin to see Christ in us.



## Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

Join St. Thomas and St. Mary parishioners for the 33 Days to Morning Glory Do-It-Yourself Retreat which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Those interested will meet immediately following the Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Thomas to begin and continue the journey together.* The Retreat will conclude with Consecration and Renewal on March 25<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of the Annunciation of the Lord, at the 8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas.

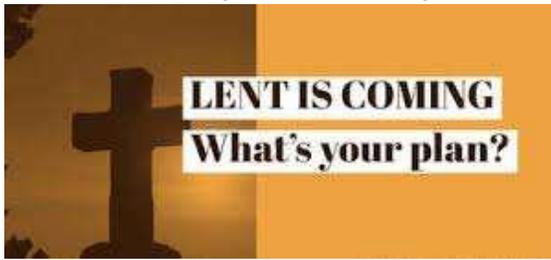
## LENTEN REGULATIONS:

**1. ABSTINENCE** – Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**2. FAST** – Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

**3. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.**

February 14-15, 2026  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary 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](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, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**Blood Drive 2pm – 6pm**

**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30a.m. – Mass (Int: Herman, Ethel & Kathleen  
Zwilling+)

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday**

**NO PSR – Students must attend mass.**

**5:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Deceased of the Parish+)**

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Lenten Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 a.m. Mass (Int: Angela Geltz+)

**Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, Lenten Weekday**

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, St Peter Damian**

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, First Sunday of Lent**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Jeff Kirts+)

**American Red Cross Blood Drive** – will be held at  
St Mary's Parish Center on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>,  
from 2pm – 6pm. Please come and give the gift of life!

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures  
Collection for the week of February 8, 2026**

Envelopes/Online giving	\$	1,435.00
Loose		168.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,603.00</b>
Catholic Times		16.00
Latin America		20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,633.00</b>

**PreCana – 2026** – St Mary's Church will be hosting the  
2026 PreCana session on March 14, 2026. Registration  
forms can be found on the church website –  
[stmariechurch.org](http://stmariechurch.org). Please fill out and return to the  
office by March 5, 2026.

**Ministers for 5:30 p.m. – February 18, 2026  
Ash Wednesday**

**Ushers:** Alex Kaufmann, Ethan Matson, Rodger  
Shamhart

**Servers:** Alivia Hartrich/Reed Kistner/Gavin Semple

**Lectors:** Rose Gangloff/ Brianna Zwilling

**Gift Bearers:** Kevin & Teresa Ochs

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Elfrieda Kaufmann,  
Maynard Kaufmann, Elaine Zwilling

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – February 22, 2026**

**Ushers:** Alex Kaufmann, Ethan Matson, Rodger  
Shamhart

**Servers:** Daniel/Logan Uebinger, Gavin Semple

**Lectors:** Nicholas Zwilling/Becca Ochs

**Gift Bearers:** Ron & Nancy Zwilling

**E Ms** Lora Semple, Rose Gangloff, Bridget Matson

**St Mary's Brunch  
Sunday, March 1, 2026**

**8am – Noon**

It is getting close to Brunch time, donations  
are needed for ham, coffee, fruit, and baked goods.  
Bakers, get those recipes ready to bake the delicious  
sweets that are needed for the Brunch.

To donate you can contact the parish office, or any of  
the following committee members –  
Amber Frohning – 618-783-1033; Maria Zumbahlen –  
618-554-2093; Jessica Schackmann – 618-562-0321;  
Gina Bahl – 217-821-0241

**Workers List are available in the back of church,  
they have also been e-mailed.**

**PSR** – Beginning Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> classes  
will begin at 6:15pm in the church with Stations of the  
cross.

**A reminder, if there is no school, PSR classes are  
also canceled.**