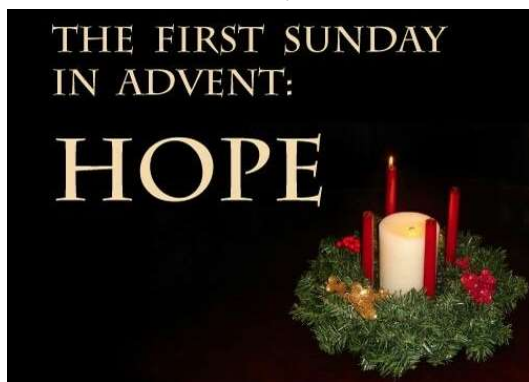


December 2-3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



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 - 9:00 am and 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

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

November 25-26, 2023 Collection

Envelopes	\$ 4,567.00
Loose	\$ 939.00
Subtotal	\$ 5,506.00

Justice and Hope	\$ 100.00
School Fund	\$ 200.00
Building Fund	\$ 35.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,140.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,475.00

Grand Total \$ 6,981.00

Online Giving \$ 2,375.00

St. Thomas Church October Tithe

October Tithe Income – \$62,136.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$6,214.00

Thank you for your generosity and stewardship!

This Week in Our Parish

Mon., Dec. 4, St. John Damascene

6:30 pm Angels meeting in parish center mtg room

Tuesday, Dec. 5, Advent Weekday

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, Dec. 6, St. Nicholas

8:30 am Class Mass (Barry/Erin(Sparks) Bergbower)

9:00 am Rosary Group

5:30 pm Youth Choir

5:30 pm OCIA

6:00 pm School Board

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

Thursday, Dec. 7, St. Ambrose

5:30 pm Holy Day Vigil Mass

Friday, Dec. 8, Imm. Con. of the Bl. Virgin Mary

8:30 am All-School Mass (Marcella Strutner)

12:10 pm Mass (For the Parish)

5:00 pm CYO packing food boxes(JCMA)

5:30 pm Mass

Saturday, Dec. 9, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Youth Choir singing on the Square

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Mass - (Int: Glen & Alberta Smithenry)

Sunday, Dec. 10, Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Keith Long)

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Charles E. Dhom)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:

Saturday, December 9 @ 4:30 pm

Lectors: Beth Ochs

EM: Matt/Amanda Baltzell, W. Kocher, Glenda Spiker

Servers: Jaxon Baltzell & Carter Barthelme

Gift Bearers: Gerald & Denisse Ochs Family

Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Bolander

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 10 @ 7:00 am

Lectors: Nikki Bierman

EM: Paul Bierman, Jill, Eliza, Lily Bierman

Servers: Nathan & Blake Bierman

Gift Bearers: Seth Woods Family

Musicians: Jeff Finley & Katie Shamhart

Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, December 10 @ 10:00 am

Lectors: Sadie Iffert

EM: Charlie/Jan Schackmann, Nikki Earnest,

Renee Gier

Servers: Dylan & Ava Earnest

Gift Bearers: Mike Gier Family

Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Anna Bierman

Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule

CYO members please bring in an item on Silk Purse's Wish List to be donated to them this Christmas Season!

- **Sat, December 2**, Meeting at Jenny's at 3:45 pm, Mt. Gilead Church, Bethlehem Walk
- **Fri, December 8**, 5:00 pm – **Please notice the change in location.** Meet at Scott Avenue Church Multi-purpose room for Ministerial Alliance's Food Box Project
- **Weds., Dec. 13th** – NO CYO/Christmas Concert
- **Weds, Dec. 20th** – Cleaning/Decorating Church w/Christmas Celebration
- **Weds., Dec. 27th** NO CYO-Merry Christmas!
Meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

CYO and Mission Trip Fundraiser

CYO is raffling off one of the Ag. Mechanics class's Nativity Scenes to raise money for the mission trip and group activities. You can purchase a \$5 ticket from any CYO member or at the church or school. These metal nativities, once light is applied, make a beautiful shadow presentation. **The drawing will be held at our St. Thomas Christmas Program on Dec. 13th.** Tickets will be on sale after each Mass this weekend and then available up until the time of the drawing!

BAPTISMS:

Congratulations, Adlee Hobson, Knox Hobson and River Hobson, children of Graham and Charity (Bergbower) Hobson, who were recently baptized this past Saturday evening. Godparents of Adlee are Mark & Brigit Blank and the Godparents of Knox and River are Randy & Brenda Bergbower.

May God continue the good work begun in them!

The Angels Group will meet on **Mon., Dec. 4th, at 6:30 p.m.** in the parish center for our Christmas party. Wine will be provided. Bring finger foods if you would like. We appreciate all you do for our parish and community throughout the year. We look forward to celebrating all your hard work! See you there, Angels!!

This Week at St. Thomas School

Tues: 6:00 pm Boys basketball at St. John's, Mattoon

Weds: 8:30 am K-2 Class Mass
6:00 pm School Board

Thurs: 6:00 pm Boys Basketball, here, vs Alt.Luth.
3rd/4th Grades to movie

Fri: 8:30 am All-School Mass
No Pre-K

Sat: 1:00 pm Elks Hoop Shoot

Diocesan Centennial Campaign. Members of St. Thomas Councils and School met this past week to complete the Parish Vitality Study. This Study is the first step in helping our parish determine the best way to proceed with this campaign. Much is yet to be learned and discussed, and we will have more information to share with our parishes in the coming months.

The St. Thomas Parish Advent Giving Tree



Supporting Vocations

Will soon be on display in the gathering space and just waiting for all of its ornaments to disappear! When you pick up an ornament this year, you will be supporting **The Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, IL.** Taylor Smith, a former St. Thomas Graduate, is currently attending this convent.

Be sure to stop by the tree, take a look at the ornaments and see how you can help. Items purchased for the Sisters and Postulants can be dropped off in the box located next to the tree. Thanks for being a part of this effort that will support Taylor, her fellow Sisters and all those considering the vocation of Sisterhood.

St. Thomas Advent/Christmas Décor. If you would like to contribute in memory of a deceased loved one, please put your name(s) & contribution in an envelope marked "décor." We will publish a prayer sheet that can be used during this Christmas Season. ***Please have all names submitted to the Parish Office by Dec. 20.***

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR MINISTRIES at St. Thomas for:

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary **Friday, December 8**

8:30 am, 12:10 pm & 5:30 pm Masses

Christmas Vigil: Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Vigil and Midnight

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25

8:30 am

Sign up through Ministry Scheduler Pro or call the parish office 618-783-8741. Thanks for volunteering.

St. Thomas Pre-baptismal Class 2024 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. Contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment. Thanks to Jamie Shamhart and Sheryl Brummer for coordinating these classes for our new parents and families!

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:

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.:	Is 2:1-5	Mt 8:5-11
Tues.:	Is 11:1-10	Lk 10:21-24
Weds.:	Is 25:6-10a	Mt 15:29-37
Th.:	Is 26:1-6	Mt 7:21,24-27
Fri.:	Gn 3:9-15,20 Eph 1:3-6,11-12	Lk 1:26-38
Sat.:	Is 30:19-21,23-26	Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
Sun.:	Is 40:1-5,9-11 2Pt 3:8-14	Mt 1:1-8

Joint Parish Advent Reconciliation Services Thursday, December 14th

1:45 pm until finished- St. Thomas School and Parishioners welcome. Please let all students and staff go first.

5:30 pm Joint service for St. Mary's & St. Thomas parishes at St. Mary's. Anyone welcome.

2023 Christmas Mass Schedule

Please keep in mind that there is the potential for an additional Mass on Christmas Day if Fr. Pawel can find a Priest to help him cover the Christmas Schedule.

Late Advent Weekday, Saturday, December 23,

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas

6:00 pm Mass at St. Mary

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

No 10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas

7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary's

Midnight Mass @ St. Thomas

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

8:30 am Mass @ St. Thomas

Have you checked out FORMED? Don't miss this free resource of valuable Catholic Christian materials for movies, books, and other educational programs, etc.

To gain access to the content:

Go to <http://signup.formed.org/>

Enter 62448 (St. Thomas' parish zip code)

Enter your name and your email address.

Thank you Fr. John Fischer for visiting our parishes last weekend. He came to us from **Cross Catholic Outreach** and shared some touching stories about the amazing work Catholic missions are accomplishing worldwide. Please consider making a gift to this very beneficial charity. Brochures are available in the gathering space. To learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach, please go to: CrossCatholic.org/outreach OR text BLESSINGS to 474747.

Also, a big THANK you to Tony and Sue Sparks for providing transportation for Fr. John to and from the airport as well as to St. Mary's!

The Silk Purse relies on donations and volunteers to help support the Family Life Center. Many opportunities are available for volunteers. Help is needed in various areas and departments that include cleaning, organizing, pricing, etc. Accommodations can be made for volunteers that have special needs.

If you are interested in helping, but cannot volunteer at this time, please consider donating. The following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Kitchen size garbage bags
- Snack size Ziploc bags
- Quart Ziploc bags
- Gallon Ziploc bags
- 2 gallon Ziploc bags
- Tape dispenser rolls
- Bathroom cleaners
- Box tape

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St. Thomas School 5th Annual Trivia Night & Live Auction

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

Saturday, February 24, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

St. Thomas Parish Center, Newton ~

Doors open at 5:00 pm ~ Space is Limited!

Cost to play: \$160/ 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.

Questions: St. Thomas School; 618-783-3517

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December 2-3, 2023

**First Sunday
of Advent**

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

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 Saturdays

This Week in our Parish

Monday, December 4th, St John Damascene

Tuesday, December 5th, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Coletta Ochs+)

Wednesday, December 6th, St Nicholas

6:30 p.m. - PSR

Thursday, December 7th, St Ambrose

5:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Chris Kistner+)

Friday, December 8th, The Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 9th, St Juan Diego

Sunday, December 10th, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. – Mass: (Int: Sam Zuber+)

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

**December 7th – 5:30 pm – St Mary of the
Assumption**

**December 8th – All masses at St Thomas Church
8:30 am. - 12:10 pm - 5:30 pm**

Christmas Mass Times

St Mary of the Assumption -

Saturday, December 23rd, 6 pm

Sunday, December 24th – 8:30 am

Christmas Eve Mass - December 24th – 7 pm

Christmas Day Mass – December 25th - TBA

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure
Collection for the week of November 26, 2023**

Envelopes	\$ 3820.00
Loose	68.00
Sub Total	\$ 3888.00
Thanksgiving	335.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope	85.00
Haiti	40.00
Total	\$ 4348.00

St Mary's Church October Tithe

October Tithe Income – \$35100.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$ 3501.00

Ministers for 5:30 p.m. – December 7, 2023

Servers: Max Ochs/Avery Ochs

Lectors: Beth Hartrich/Becca Ochs

Gift Bearers: Dan & Beth Hartrich Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Ochs, Need 2 volunteers

Minsters for 8:30 a.m. – December 10, 2023

Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Ethan Matson,
Jacob Kaufmann

Servers: Brianne Zwilling/ Max Ochs

Lectors: Nicholas Zwilling/Beth Hartrich

Gift Bearers: Marvin & Elaine Zwilling family

Eucharistic Ministers: Norman Boehl, Tony Hartrich,
Maynard Kaufmann

Can you Help? For an Advent service project, the PSR 1st grade class is collecting supplies for the Silk Purse in Newton. There will be a tree in the back of church with tags on it. Please take a tag or 2, purchase the item listed and return to Basket by Sunday, December 24th. Thanks so much for helping!

The family of Jeff Kirts would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who have supported us during the unexpected hospitalization and passing of our husband and dad. Thank you for the cards, visits, food and most importantly prayers during this incredibly difficult time. The ladies of the parish ensured the funeral dinner went smoothly and prepared amazing desserts despite that it was a busy holiday weekend. Thank you to Maynard & Elfrieda Kaufmann for making sure the church and parish hall were set up. Finally, Thank you to Fr Pawel for the beautiful funeral service. Your kindness will forever be remembered. - *Martha, Alli and Landon Kirts*

Bend Country Christmas – Sunday, December 10th
from 3-5pm at St Valentine Hall. Soup and finger foods available. Santa will be there and the Oblong High School Jazz Choir will perform at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome!