

**February 17-18, 2024  
First Sunday of Lent**



Fr. Pawel with the students as we begin our preparations for Lent

**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](mailto:stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com)  
 Website: [www.stthomasnewton.net](http://www.stthomasnewton.net)

**Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak**

(Email: [revpl.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com)

Website: [www.stthomassaints.com](http://www.stthomassaints.com)

**Pre-baptismal 2024 Class Schedule.**

June 2, and Oct. 6 at 8:45am or by appointment if needed. Classes are in the choir area at St. Thomas. Call 618-783-8741 to register/schedule an appointment.

**St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure**

February 10-11, 2024 Collection

Envelopes	\$	6,867.00
Loose	\$	759.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,626.00</b>
School Fund	\$	470.00
Other	\$	66.00
Building Fund	\$	105.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>641.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,267.00</b>

**St. Thomas Church December Tithe**

December Tithe Income – \$48,938.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$4,894.00

**This Week in Our Parish**

**Mon., Feb. 19, Lenten Weekday/President's Day**

**Tuesday, Feb. 20, Lenten Weekday**

**8:00 am** – Rosary at St. Mary's

**8:30 am** – Mass at St. Mary's

**Wednesday, Feb. 21, St. Peter Damian**

**8:30 am** All-School Mass (Ray Kautz)

**9:00 am** Rosary Group

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir Practice

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

**Thursday, Feb. 22, Chair of St. Peter the Apostle**

**8:00 am** – Rosary at St. Mary's

**8:30 am** – Mass at St. Mary's

**Friday, Feb. 23, St. Polycarp**

**8:30 am** Class Mass (Lee Klingler)

**2:30 pm** Stations of the Cross

**4:30 pm** KC Hall Fish Fry – St. Thomas CYO

**Saturday, Feb. 24, Lenten Weekday**

**8:00 am- 9:00 am** Confessions

**9:00 am** Cleaning Church

**3:30 pm - 4:00 pm** Confessions

**4:30 pm** Mass - (Int: For the Parish)

St. Thomas School Trivia Night

**Sunday, Feb. 25, Second Sunday of Lent**

**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas

(Leo & Mary Jean Brummer)

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

**10:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Estelle Kennedy)

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

**This Week at St. Thomas School**

Mon, Feb. 19 – **No School**

Tues, Feb. 20 – **4:30 pm** Volleyball at Robinson;  
"C" game after

Weds, Feb. 21 – **8:30 am** Class Mass

Thurs, Feb. 22 - **4:30 pm** Volleyball, here, vs Ttown

Fri, Feb. 23 - **8:30 am** All-School Mass

**2:30 pm** Stations of the Cross

Sat., Feb. 24 - Trivia Night

**St. Mary of the Assumption Pre-Cana - March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** For more information contact 618-455-3155.

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

**Mon.:** Lv 19:1-2,11-18

**Mt 25:31-46**

**Tues.:** Is 55:10-11

**Mt 6:7-15**

**Weds.:** Jon 3:1-10

**Lk 11:29-32**

**Th.:** 1 Pt 5:1-4

**Mt 16:13-19**

**Fri.:** Ez 18:21-28

**Mt 5:20-26**

**Sat.:** Dt 26:16-19

**Mt 5:43-48**

**Sun.:** Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18

**Rom 8:31b-34**

**Mk 9:2-10**

### St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:

#### Saturday, February 24 @ 4:30 pm

Lectors: Luke Zuber  
EM: Glenda Spiker, Wanda Kocher, Ramon Kocher  
Servers: Allie & Brooks Hermann  
Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family  
Musicians: Tammy Page & Kaitlyn Ochs  
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

#### Sunday, February 25 @ 7:00 am

Lectors: Kelly Iffert  
EM: Sarah Hemrich, Gery Ochs  
Servers: Jace Bergbower & Caleb Kistner  
Gift Bearers: Seth Woods Family  
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Brenly Francis  
Greeters/Ushers: Doug Long

#### Sunday, February 25 @ 10:00 am

Lectors: Tracey Bower  
EM: Helen/Leo Weber, Dennis Weber, Matt Bower  
Servers: Curtis & Jack Weber  
Gift Bearers: Garrett Finn Family  
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Debbie Matson  
Greeters/Ushers: Bob Bower

**The Family of Doug Frichtl** would like to thank everyone for their cards, messages, donations, and prayers for our loss. Thank you especially to Fr. Pawel, Fr. Dean, Debbie Matson, Tammy Page, and Jason & Lisa Meyer, who made the funeral mass so special. Thank you to the St. Thomas Angels & all who prepared and shared their delicious desserts for the meal for our family. It all means so very much to all of us.

#### St. Thomas CYO: Upcoming Activity Schedule

**Friday, Feb. 23**, 4:15 pm Working KC's Fish Fry  
**February 28**, 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
**March 13**, 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross Rosary  
**Sun, Mar. 24, Palm Sunday**, 6:30 pm Living Stations  
**March 27**, Living Stations at St. Mary's  
All are welcome to join CYO throughout Lent for the various spiritual Ways of the Cross.

#### The Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George



truly appreciated all of the donations that St. Thomas parishioners collected throughout Advent. In fact, one of the Sisters immediately claimed one of the fans! A special thank you to Lori Smith and her family for delivering all of our items to Taylor and her faith community! A thank you card from the Sisters is available on the bulletin board in the parish office.

**The St. Thomas Angels Annual Wine Tasting** was once again a big success. We would like to thank the following for their contributions to this success: Julie Buhnerkempe and Donnewald Distributors for donating tasting wines and beers and having the purchase of wines and beers available, Greg Parrot the auctioneer, Danny Frichtl for making and donating the beautiful charcuterie boards, Doug Weddell for use of his sound system, K of C Hall for letting us use their facilities, Alliance Tractor for giving us a good deal on the chainsaw and donating accessories, Phil Ferguson for use of the big log of wood, all those who attended, and Judy McClure and all the Angels who helped in any way with the beautiful decorations, donating great food and various other items, working the event, and planning to make this event such a success.

The net profit of \$4,314.06 will be used for numerous outreach efforts. Our funds are used to help those in our parish and community that need a helping hand. We facilitate funeral luncheons, send cards, deliver baskets to new parishioners, give crosses to newly married couples, send flowers to shut-ins for Mother's Day and snack baskets to shut-ins for Father's Day, provide dinner for the teacher's for Open House evening, support our parishes' mission trips, provide cookies for Right to Life fundraisers and various parish functions and SO MUCH MORE!! We always welcome new members. Come and check us out some time!! God bless you all for your gifts of time, talent and treasure!

### *Ignite a Legacy of Stewardship Centennial Campaign*

The St. Thomas Finance and Pastoral Councils recently had a joint meeting and reviewed the results of the Centennial Campaign Survey. **Results of the campaign survey showed that out of 243 participants School Improvements/Expansion and Parish Center Improvements were top priorities.** Please stop by the gathering space to pick up a complete copy of the survey results. Visit:

<https://dio.org/centennial/#:~:text=The%20Centennial%20Campaign%20recognizes%20and,every%20parish%20in%20the%20diocese> by copying this link in your browser to learn more about this Diocesan wide campaign.

#### **Attn. St. Thomas Funeral Dinner Volunteers.**

Please pick up your funeral dinner dishes as soon as possible as the counter space in the parish center is prime realty with Trivia Night only a week away. Thanks so much for assisting with the funeral dinners and picking up your dishes in a timely manner!

## 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:**

Glenn Frichtl, Norman Kocher, Fonda Fear, Terry Rickman, Naomi Shedlebower, Sam Nelson, Larry Kremer, Marlene Harris, Brian Baker, Whitney Benefiel, Gary Griffith, Mary Bergbower, Mack McCrillis, Delorse Johnson, Mike Lustig, Cleve Bradley, Rhonda Wilson, Dick Worland, Suzi Ochs, Rodney Hatten, Geneva Barber; and those in healthcare facilities & in our Book of Requests.  
**Rest in Peace:** Ray Kautz

**Volunteers needed to help with Rosary and Communion Services at the Villas of Holly Brook.** Both St. Thomas and St. Mary's parishioners are invited to help with this very important ministry. Contact St. Thomas or St. Mary's parish offices to learn more about how you can help serve the elderly of our parishes.

### **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday March 9th, 2024**

#### **Annual Newton Family Life Center Breakfast/Bake Sale**

Sausage cooked by JC Pork Producers  
Pancakes and Scrambled Eggs!  
Serving: 7:30am-10:30am

Location: St. Thomas Parish Center: Newton, IL  
Please contact Brian Bierman (217-821-1217) to work  
**Bake sale sign up sheet will be in the back of church**

**The Newton Family Life Center will be holding their annual online auction** to be launched on March 9th. If your family or business would be willing to donate an item (or cash to go towards an item), please call or text Renee Gier at 217-821-0872. Items need to be submitted by mid-February please. Thank you in advance for your generosity toward this important community resource!

### **LENTEN REGULATIONS :**

**Abstinence:** All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain from meat all the Fridays of Lent.

**Fasting:** All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful. However, health and/or medical needs dispense a person.

**A Message from Fr. Paul.** As the season of Lent just started, Catholics around the world walk in a spiritual pilgrimage marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Among Lenten resolutions, other rituals and traditions that characterize this sacred time, there is one important thing that we all need to approach - it is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Just like Catholic Times mentions in one of its articles: *"One of Jesus' key ministries was the forgiveness of sins."* The Sacrament of Reconciliation invites us to confront our sins and mistakes that we all commit every single day, whether serious matters or trivial actions that bring spiritual consequence. Every thoughtless word spoken in anger, every selfish deed committed in haste, every act of injustice - these are the simple examples of a bigger spectrum that we need to acknowledge and seek forgiveness from our sins.

Our Lenten journey as Catholics is the recognition of the seriousness of sin and tragedy that it brings. We are living in a culture that marginalizes or trivializes or even ignores the concept of sin. However, just because it is ignored or trivialized doesn't mean that it is not real or serious. Gossip and slander - negative information about others may seem to us harmless, but it can damage reputations, relationships and trust. Lies - the small lies or half-truths can undermine trust and lead to dishonesty between individuals. These are just small examples from daily life.

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are called to reflect on our actions and to acknowledge the ways in which we have fallen away from God's Commandments; and to express genuine remorse for our transgressions. In doing so, we open ourselves to the transformative power of God's forgiveness, allowing His healing grace to fix our brokenness and restore us. Our reconciliation and penance should be a sign of radical change in our lives and reach all areas that include, spiritual life, emotions, attitude, and our mentality. That approach should bring about an evolution in our lives and bring real change of heart. Let us never forget that *"a broken and contrite heart God will not despise"* Psalm 51.

**St. Thomas Distinguished Graduate Award and Exceptional Service Award nominations are currently being accepted for 2024.** These awards are a chance to recognize and honor a St. Thomas School graduate and an individual for all they have given back to the community, school, and/or parish. Those wishing to nominate someone for these awards should include the following information about their nominee:

- Name, Address and phone number of nominee
- List or narrative of the services they provide for St. Thomas School and/or Church
- Any additional information that you would like to include

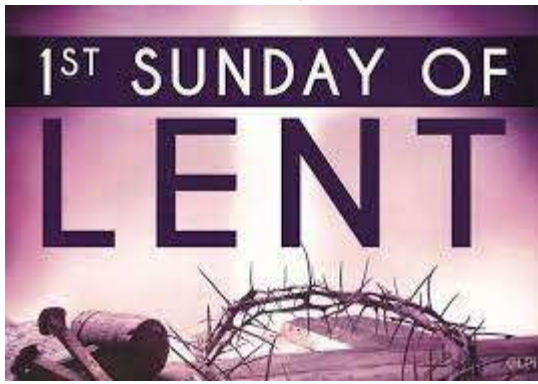
Nominations will be accepted through April 5th in the school or church office, or mail to: St. Thomas School, 306 W. Jourdan St., Newton, IL 62448

### **St. Thomas Soup Supper Quilt Raffle Winner. Congratulations, Shirley Woodard!!**

*Thanks again to Dee Bower for donating the quilt and  
Karen Long for the quilting!*

February 17-18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent



**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](mailto:stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com)

Website: [www.stmariechurch.org](http://www.stmariechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. Paul Luczak

(email/text: [revpl.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto: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**

7:30 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, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Lenten Weekday**

**Blood Drive – 2pm – 6pm**

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

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Herman & Emma Copper+)

**Adoration 11:00 am- all welcome – Deanery Meeting**

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

6:15 p.m. – Stations of the Cross/PSR

**Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, The Chair of St Peter**

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Coletta Ochs+)

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lenten Weekday**

**Rehearsal – Fitzmaurice/Kistner**

**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, St Polycarp**

**Fitzmaurice/Kistner Wedding**

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday of Lent**

8:30 a.m. – Mass: (Int: Marcella Strutner+)

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure Collection for the week of February 11, 2024**

Collection will be reported in next week's bulletin

**St Mary's Church Tithe**

**December Tithe Income – \$16293.00**

**10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$ 1629.00**

**Deanery Meeting** – Fr Pawel will be hosting the deanery meeting for the priests on February 20<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's. It will begin with adoration at 11:00 am. All are welcome to attend adoration.

**Family Life** – Is holding a Bowling Night at Parklanes in Newton on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. All are welcome! We will pay for 1 game of bowling per person.

**Minsters for 8:30 a.m. – February 18, 2024**

**Ushers:** Paul/Alex Kaufmann, Ethan Griffith

**Servers:** Henry Zumbahlen/Daniel Uebinger

**Lectors:** Ashtyn Ochs/Nancy Ochs

**Gift Bearers:** Dan & Beth Hartrich Family

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Lora Semple, Amy Frohning, Ben Ochs

**PSR** –Lent has begun, the religion classes will resume on February 21<sup>st</sup>. During lent we will begin at 6:15p.m. with Stations of the Cross in the church. Parents are encouraged to pray the stations with the students.

**Save The Date**

**February 19 – American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**March 3 – Annual St Mary's Brunch**

**March 8 – Family Life Bowling Night – 5-8pm**

**March 9 – PreCana Session at St Mary's**

**St Mary's Brunch**

**Sunday, March 3, 2024 8 a.m. – Noon**

Menu: Sausage Links & Ham

Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits & Sausage Gravy

Breads & Fruit -Juice, Milk & Coffee

**Donations are needed for 1 hog, ham, milk, orange juice, coffee, fruit and baked goods. Be sure to check the workers list. Thanks to Lance & Maria Zumbahlen for donating a hog.**

**Quilts needed:** Would your family have a quilt or quilt top to donate to keep the tradition of a Quilt Raffle in the future at St Mary's Pre-Labor Day Picnic? If so you can call the office at St Mary's at 618-455-3155.

**Blood Drive** – St Mary's Church will be hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in the parish center from 2p.m. – 6p.m. Please come our and give the gift of life.