

Fourth Sunday of Easter



April 25-26, 2026

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

April 18-19, 2026 Collection

Envelopes	\$	9,383.72
Loose	\$	439.00
Subtotal	\$	9,822.72
Annual School Fund	\$	625.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	190.00
Seminarians	\$	55.00
Good Friday	\$	100.00
Other	\$	15.00
Subtotal	\$	985.00
Grand Total	\$	10,807.72
Marh Online giving	\$	4,786.19
ACH donations	\$	2,196.00
Sound System Collection to date	\$	10,124.36

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, April 27, Easter Weekday

Tuesday, April 28, St. Peter Chanel;

St. Louis Grignon de Montfort

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, April 29, St. Catherine of Sienna

8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Rosemary Bergbower)

9:00 am Rosary

6:15 pm PSR at St. Mary

6:30 pm Last CYO – Walking to Homewood Grill

Thursday, April 30, St. Pius V

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

First Friday, May 1, St. Joseph the Worker

8:30 am All-School Mass-St. T. – May Crowning

(Int. Don & Marlene Ochs)

Adoration until Noon following May Crowning

First Saturday, May 2, St. Athanasius

7:30 am Adoration/Confession at St. Mary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas

(Int.: Hope Therese Probst)

Sunday, May 3, 5th Sunday of Easter

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

(Int: Melvin Kistner & Inis Kistner Probst)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:35 am Rosary

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

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Acts 11:1-18	Jn 10:11-18
Tues.: Acts 11:19-26	Jn 10:22-30
Weds.: Acts 12:24-13:5a	Jn 12:44-50
Th.: Acts 13:13-25	Jn 13:16-20
Fri.: Acts 13:26-33	Jn 14:1-6
Sat.: Acts 13:44-52	Jn 14:7-14
Sun.: Acts 6:1-7	1Pt 2:4-9
	Jn 14:1-12

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.



Mark your calendars for June 28, 2026.

St. Thomas will celebrate the feast day of their Patron Saint, St. Thomas the Apostle. More details to follow.

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, May 2 @ 4:00 pm

Lector: Aubrey Bergbower
EM: Matt/Amanda Baltzell, Wade Ochs,
Mark Bolander
Servers: Lillian Green, Emmalin Finley, Emily Beals
Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family
Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, May 3 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Sarah Hemrich
EM: Linda Hemrich, Theresa Volk, Jill Bierman,
Brenda Phillips
Servers: Blake Bierman, Kyle Bierman, Brady Francis
Gift Bearers: Steve Volk Family
Musicians: Five for the One
Greeters/Ushers: Randy Hemrich/Nick Hemrich

Sunday, May 3 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Brian Bierman
EM: Helen, Leo, Adam Weber, Dennis Weber
Servers: Jack Weber, Pete Weber, Will Mette
Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family
Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Anne Kuhl
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

The Family of Mark Schuch wants to thank all those who sent their condolences at the time of his passing. Thanks to Fr. Tomy and Meyer Funeral Home for the beautiful funeral Mass. Also, thanks to the Five for One musicians and servers. The family is grateful for his McClane Motor's family and everyone's support.

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:

Meeting on Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm

April 29th – Last CYO – Walking to Homewood Grill

Lori and Linda would like to congratulate our seniors and all of our high school youth on another wonderful, faith-filled year! There are so many highlights from this past year that we hope our CYO youth will carry with them into the summer as well as into their bright futures. Seniors, we will miss you! Praying that all of you have a safe and blessed summer!

FORMED Subscription

Please consider making a donation to help cover the cost of this faith formation resource. This resource provides our parishioners with videos, movies, audio books, podcasts and shows and has proven to be a valuable resource for our parishioners, school and CYO. Thanks for your support that will allow us to continue to offer this resource for our parishes.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick: Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Janet Beavers, Steven Bierman, Chase Zumbahlen, Emma Probst, Dale Harris, Jim Beauchamp, Naomi Shedlebower, Belinda Kubicki, Carol Schafer, Jim/Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

Catholic Heart Work Camp

Kansas City, KS July 5-11, 2026

Participants: Jackson Baltzell, Audrey Beals, Alani Bergbower, Adria Bierman, Alivia Bierman, Blake Bierman, Griffin Bierman, Lucy Bierman, Nathan Bierman, Abby Davis(Oblong), Ava Earnest, Dylan Earnest, Brooke Farley, Brenly Francis, Lauren Gier, Levi Gier, Will Hartrich, Allie Hermann, Kylie Higgs, Nora Kistner(Wendelin), Alayna Ochs, Ashtyn Ochs(Ste. Marie), Avery Ochs(Ste. Marie), Eli Ochs, Lexi Ochs, Oliver Ochs, Hannah Phillips, Claire Probst (Island Grove), Kendall Probst(Island Grove), Addison Shamhart, Tyler Spiker, Josie Vogt

Chaperones: Jill Bierman, Jason Bierman, Nikki Bierman, Jeff Phillips, Craig Hartrich

These campers will be hosting a **bake sale the weekend of May 2nd-3rd** to raise funds to help cover the cost of this trip. Please show your support by picking up your favorite baked goods for a good cause! You can also show your support by making a donation to help cover the cost of the trip. Donations can be dropped off at the parish offices any time. Thanks to the Angels group for their generous donation! Your support allows these youth to have a faith filled experience of a lifetime that they will never forget! Thank you!

Prayer for Vocations

Father, you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.

Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call.

We ask this in Jesus' name
Amen.

Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

Called by Name, Carried by Love

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to reflect on one of the most beautiful and comforting images of Jesus: the Good Shepherd. Among all the titles he could have chosen, Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd." This is not merely a poetic image; it reveals the very heart of who he is.

A shepherd is never distant from the flock. He walks with them, knows them, protects them, feeds them, and stands between them and danger. This is exactly what Jesus has done for us. He did not save us from a distance. He entered into our human life, shared our pain, carried our burdens, and finally laid down his life for us on the Cross.

The beauty of Good Shepherd Sunday in the Easter season is that the risen Christ before us is the same Shepherd who passed through suffering, death, and resurrection for each one of us. He did it personally—for our wounds, our fears, our struggles, and even the silent tears no one else sees.

The Good Shepherd knows each of his sheep by name. He does not see us as a crowd but as persons. He knows our story, our worries, our weaknesses, and our hopes. Yet, in the midst of all this, he lovingly reminds us: "You are mine."

In a world where people are often reduced to numbers and faces in a crowd, Jesus knows us intimately and loves us unconditionally. He does not love us because we are perfect; he loves us because we belong to him.

The Gospel also reminds us that his sheep hear his voice. Amid the many voices of fear, anger, selfishness, and confusion in our world, the voice of Jesus is different. His voice brings peace, forgiveness, courage, and hope. He speaks to us in prayer, through Scripture, in the Eucharist, through the Church, and sometimes even through our suffering.

This Sunday also reminds us that Jesus entrusts his flock to human shepherds—priests, bishops, parents, teachers, and all who care for others. True shepherding is never about power or self-interest; it is about love, sacrifice, service, and protection.

Jesus tells us, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." He does not want us merely to survive but to truly live—with peace in our hearts, healing in our relationships, and hope in our darkness. Even when we feel lost, guilty, or far from God, the Good Shepherd never gives up on us. He goes in search of the lost sheep and gently calls us back—to prayer, to confession, to Mass, and to faith. He is not waiting to condemn us, but to carry us home.

Three Practical Suggestions

- 1. Listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd** every day. Spend a few minutes each day in silence with the Lord. Read a passage from the Gospel. Ask yourself: What is Jesus saying to me today? The sheep know the Shepherd's voice only because they stay close to him.
- 2. Pray for priests and for vocations** today in a special way, let us pray for all priests, bishops, deacons, and religious. Pray that they may be holy, compassionate, and faithful shepherds. And let us pray for young men and women whom God may be calling to the priesthood and consecrated life.
- 3. Become shepherds** to one another. Look around you this week. Who needs your care? Who needs encouragement? Be the voice of the Shepherd for them.

The St. Thomas School calendar for the end of the year is set, so May 13th will be our All-School graduation mass, **May 14th** will be the 8th grade trip, **May 15/16** is State Track meet, **May 17th** is graduation at 11:00 in church. **May 18th** will be Sports Awards night for all who have participated or are participating in athletics, Kindergarten graduation is **May 20th** at 2:15 and the last day to earn AR points for 2nd-7th. **May 21** is Survivor Day (All 8th graders will return for this) and **May 22** is Park Day and the last day of school.

Pizza Man Building Update:

The air conditioning unit on the roof of Pizza Man will be for sale. It has not been appraised yet, but please let the school or parish office know if you might be interested.

St. Thomas is seeking bids for the demolition of the Pizza Man building. Bids will be accepted until May 1st.

SCRIP gift cards make great graduation gifts!

Don't forget about the St. Thomas School's SCRIP program. You can order gift cards for stores you shop at regularly, benefiting our school and earning fair share for school families! Thanks for your support!

Deanery Date Night

St. Mary Catholic Church, Neoga

Sunday, April 26, 2026

To sign up, call 217-844-3371
or email office@snltriparishes.org

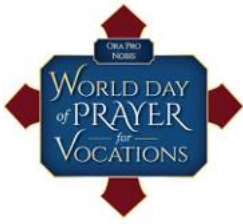
\$30 per couple

5:30 p.m. - Reflection by Fr. Hyland
6:00 p.m. - Bowling and Dinner
at Thunder Lanes

Childcare will be provided



Scan for more info



April 25-26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter

St. Mary of the Assumption

112 W. Embarras Street,
P.O. Box 68 Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459
Tel: 618-455-3155

E-mail: stmaryschurch@stemariechurch.org

Website: www.stemariechurch.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, April 27th, Easter Weekday

Tuesday, April 28th, St Peter Chanel

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Thomas Kaufmann Family+)

Wednesday, April 29th, St Catherine of Sienna

6:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Youth of our Parish)

6:30 p.m. – PSR – Last Class

Thursday, April 30th, St Pius V

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Ken Helregel+)

Home Visits with Fr Tomy

First Friday, May 1st, St Joseph the worker

First Saturday, May 2nd, St Athanasius

7:30 am Adoration/Confession

8:30 am Mass

Sunday, May 3rd, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Leonard & Coletta Ochs+)

First Sunday of the Month – Beginning with the month of May the Family Life Committee will be having their monthly raffle and will also be serving donuts after mass. All are welcome!!

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of April 19, 2026**

Envelopes/Easter Collection	\$	610.00
Loose		164.00
SubTotal	\$	774.00
Haiti		105.00
Home Mission		5.00
Total	\$	884.00

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – May 3, 2026

Ushers: Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner,
Marvin Zwilling

Servers: Wade Schackmann/Reed Kistner/
Halle Schackmann

Lectors: Ashtyn Ochs/ Mike Hartrich

Gift Bearers: Dan Hartrich Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Frohning, Lisa Ochs,
Elfrieda Kaufmann

PSR

The last class of this year will be held on **April 29th**, and will begin with mass in the church at **6:30p.m.** All are welcome to come and celebrate mass with the youth of our parish!

Prayer for the youth of our Parish

Holy Spirit of Love, we pray to you for the youth of our parish. Fill their hearts with the certainty that you have chosen them to love, to praise, and to serve!

Enable them to savor your friendship.

Fill them with your joy and consolation.

Help them to overcome moments of difficulty and to rise up again with trust after they have fallen.

Give them courage to face the challenges of our time and the joy of living in friendship with our

Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

Note from Fr Pawel

Dear Parishioners,

Hello from Spain. I am trying to learn Spanish despite my resistance. Even from afar, you are in my prayers and in my heart. I am counting days for my return and I wish everyone many blessings for this Easter time!

May the Risen Lord bless you all! Fr Pawel

Area Events

May 4th – Honoring St Mother Theodore Guerin – An inspiring presentation of the Life, Legacy and Grit of Indiana's own Saint - Christ the King Church Hall, Greenup, IL – 6:30pm