

December 20-21, 2025
Fourth 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: 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

December 13-14, 2025 Collection

Envelopes	\$	7,460.00
Loose	\$	340.00
Subtotal	\$	7,800.00
School Fund	\$	55.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	155.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	265.00
Retired Religious	\$	86.00
Subtotal	\$	561.00
Grand Total	\$	8,361.00

Online August PushPay Giving \$ 4,148.33

ACH August Contributions \$ 2,296.00

St. Thomas Church October Tithe

October Tithe Income – \$81,900.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$8,190.00

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

Tues., December 23, St. John of Kanty

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, December 24, Vigil of Christmas

5:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

7:00 pm Mass at St. Mary

11:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

Thursday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

Friday, December 26, St. Stephen

Office Closed

No Adoration or Mass

Saturday, December 27, St. John

Fr. Dean celebrating Mass with us this weekend

No Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Sarah Semple)

Sunday, December 28, The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

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

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:30 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

(Int. Joe & Eunice Schackmann)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

11:15 am OCIA

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56

Tues.: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Lk 1:57-66

Weds.: Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

(Readings for Mass During the Day)

Th.: Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

(Readings for Mass During the Day)

Fri.: Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22

Sat.: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a,2-8

Sun.: Sir 3:2-6,12-14 Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-15,19-23

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

Father Pawel's Address: For those who would like to send greetings for Christmas or just a note:

Fr Pawel Luczak, Sikorskiego, 53rd Street,
 05-250 Radzymin, Poland

St. Thomas CYO

Meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

Dec. 24- Jan. 6 – No CYO – Enjoy Christmas Break

St. Thomas Parish Christmas Ministry Schedule

Wednesday, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 @ 5:00 pm

Lector: Luke Zuber

EM: Kim Zuber, Sheryl/Allison Brummer, Gery Ochs

Servers: 1) Elizabeth Brummer, 2) Will Hartrich,
3) 4)

Gift Bearers: Gerald & Denisse Ochs

Musicians: Vicki Mullen, Debbie Matson, Youth Choir

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 @ 11:00 pm

Lector: Marissa Bower

EM: Jason/Nick Bierman, Lori Rauch, Becky Shamhart

Servers: 1) Kyle Bierman 2) Blake Bierman
3) 4)

Gift Bearers: Paul Bierman Family

Musicians: Five for the One

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

Thursday, December 25 @ 8:30 am

Lector:

EM: Dee Bower, Charlie/Jan Schackmann,
Annie Ochs

Servers:

Gift Bearers: Randy Hemrich Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler, Debbie Matson, Mallory
Einhorn, Shelby Wagner

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 27 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Lynn Wilson

EM: Kaitlyn Ochs, Glenda Spiker, Wanda Kocher,
Linda Hemrich

Servers: 1) Megan Farley, 2) Eli Ochs, 3)

Gift Bearers: Gerald & Denisse Ochs

Musicians: Tammy Page & Elise Wright

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 28 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Nikki Bierman

EM: Paul/Katie Bierman, Allison Weber, Brenda Phillips

Servers: Kyle/Blake Bierman, Avery Shamhart

Gift Bearers: Craig Shamhart Family

Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lyndsey Spiker

Greeters/Ushers: Chris Bierman

Sunday, December 28 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Kevin Parker

EM: Becky Parker, Julie/Kylie Higgs, Dennis Weber

Servers: Pete Weber, Lane Zumbahlen, Maura Weber

Gift Bearers:

Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Debbie Matson

Greeters/Ushers: Mike Geier

Save the Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026

"Kick Back and Relax" this year at the St. Thomas

Annual Wine Tasting Event

Hosted by the St. Thomas Angels

St. Thomas Advent Giving Tree

The response so far has been amazing. We have collected \$2,695.00 in monetary donations and over \$600.00 in gas cards. Amazing!!

A Special Note of Thanks

Thanks to the St. Thomas CYO for cleaning church this past Wednesday evening. They did a great job dusting, mopping, vacuuming and washing windows! A shout out to the boys who voluntarily put away the tables and chairs and took out the trash after our Christmas celebration. You know who you are! Keep up the good work, CYO!

St. Thomas Worship Committee and Music Ministry. What a talented and creative group of parishioners!! Thank you all for always creating an environment that adds so much to our worship space. We know this Advent and Christmas season will be no different!

St. Thomas Finance Council. Thank you to our finance council members for all that they do throughout the year. We are blessed to have so many caring parishioners who are willing to give their time to maintain and oversee the finances of our parish. Their input is invaluable! Members include Fr. Pawel, Fr. Tomy, Theresa Volk, Mark Hartrich, Mark Bolander, Chris Rauch, Karen Bolander, Jill Bierman and Linda Hemrich

St. Thomas Pastoral Council. This has been another busy year for our parish, and we have the Pastoral Council to thank for all of the hard work and time that goes into a busy year for our parish. Highlights this year were most definitely the Candlelit Rosary Procession and Annual Harvest Picnic. Thank you to the following members: Fr. Pawel, Fr. Tomy, Tracey Bower, Mike Geier, Stephanie Kuhl, Dennis Weber, Dean Swinger, Brian Bierman, Craig Hartrich, Nikki Bierman, Kim Zuber, Lori TeVault

St Thomas School Board. Thanks to the following members for all that they do throughout the school year to advise and support all things school (and church): Jill Bierman, Fr. Pawel, Fr. Tomy, Nikki Bierman, Marissa Bower, Jeffrey Finley, Jordan Roberts, Sharon Schackmann, Laura Weber, Leah Bolander, Karli Burley, Matt Creadore. We appreciate you!

St. Thomas Booster Club. This group does so much throughout the year and oftentimes goes unnoticed. Please know that all that you do does NOT go unnoticed and you are appreciated!



Congratulations Garrett Einhorn and Mallory Bolander! Garrett and Mallory were recently united in marriage at St. Thomas on December 13, 2025! May God continue to work in your lives as you take these next steps along your journey!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick: 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, Matilda Hemrich, Carol Schafer, Jim/Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests. **Rest in Peace:** Anna Marie Miller



St. Thomas Carolers spread Christmas cheer this past Thursday evening! What a great way to share the joy that Christmas brings!

FORMED this Christmas

Sleigh Ride: Christmas in the Last Frontier

Sleigh Ride documents two Dominican friars' harrowing mission to celebrate Christmas Mass for three small villages in remote Alaska that have no assigned priest. The friars will drive over 28 hours and 548 miles through high winds and snow packed roads bringing Christmas to the ends of the earth.

The Story of Christmas |

Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

"The Story of Christmas" is an epic musical dramatization of why God became Man. Hear the beauty of Gabriel's Messages, The Canticle of Zechariah, Elizabeth's Greeting, Mary's Magnificat, and the music of the Heavenly Host. This new offering from the Benjamin Cello team is sure to inspire your families with the true meaning of Christmas.

And much, much more...

Lord, as we come together this Christmas, we ask for your blessing upon our family. Unite our hearts in love, understanding, and peace... Let the joy of this season fill our home, and may we continue to grow in love and support for one another.

Christmas Greetings from Fr. Pawel

As we celebrate the joyful mystery of our Savior's birth, may the peace of the newborn Jesus Christ fill your hearts, the blessing of our Mother, the Virgin Mary, protect your homes, and the strength of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family, guide you in the year to come. I wish each of you a grace-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026.

This Christmas is especially meaningful to me, as it is the first time since 2019 that I have the opportunity to celebrate with my family in Poland — something I haven't been able to do for the last six years. Can you imagine being away from your family and friends during the Christmas season? I believe it would be very difficult for many of us. Yet our faith and trust in Jesus Christ remind us that within the Catholic Church we belong to a greater, divine family. No one should feel abandoned or alone, especially when far away from home. Wherever we may be in the world, our Catholic family celebrates Christmas in the same spirit and with the same faith. This truth helped me realize that whether celebrating Christmas with my family in Poland or in Newton and Ste. Marie the theological message carries the same spiritual depth.

Christmas reveals to us that God enters our world with humble love—a love that brings light to darkness, hope to weary hearts, and comfort to all who seek Him. From my personal experience I want Christ to be born in my heart no matter where I might be. I want Him to bring salvation, peace, and strength to my life. As we gather around the manger, may we rediscover that Christ is Emmanuel—God-with-us—walking beside us in every moment of life no matter where our life might be or what point of life we might be. Just to let you know that I carry all my parishioners in my heart and in my prayers.

May this holy season inspire us to share His love generously, especially with those in need, and to strengthen our parish community in compassion, unity, and peace.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas, and every grace in the New Year. - P.L.

2025-2026 New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31

6:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1

8:30 am Mass @ St. Mary

10:00 am Mass @ St. Thomas

Please sign up for St. Thomas Ministries online at MSP or contact the parish office. Thanks!!

December 20-21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent



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, December 22nd, Late Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 23rd, St John of Kanty

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30a.m. – Mass (Int: Donald Ochs+)

Wednesday, December 24th, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish)

Thursday, December 25th, The Nativity of the Lord

Friday, December 26th, St Stephen

Saturday, December 27th, St John

Sunday, December 28th, The Holy Family of Jesus

Mary and Joseph

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Ephrem & Lelia Rennier+)

PSR Teacher – We are needing a Kindergarten PSR teacher for the remainder of the session. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marie Wagner, or call the parish office. Thank you to Taylor Zwilling for filling in for the last semester.

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of December 14, 2025

Envelopes/Online giving	\$ 885.00
Loose	135.00
Sub Total	\$ 1,020.00
Immaculate Conception	60.00
Retirement for Religious	150.00
Assistance Fund – 2 nd Collection	534.00
Haiti	10.00
Total	\$ 1,774.00

Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas Mass – December 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

New Years Day – January 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Volunteers still needed for New Years Day Ministers.

Please let the office know as soon as possible

Parish Holiday Office Hours

December 22 & 23– 8am – 3pm

December 29 & 30 – 8am – 3pm

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – December 28, 2025

Ushers – Marvin Zwilling, John Uebinger, Paul Kaufmann

Servers: Ellie Ochs, Daniel Uebinger, Gavin Semple

Lectors: Nicholas Zwilling/ Ashtyn Ochs

Gift Bearers: Dan Hartrich Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Norman Boehl, Maynard Kaufmann, Amy Frohning

Ministers for 7:00 p.m. – December 24, 2025

Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Nicholas Zwilling, Paul Kaufmann

Servers: Wade Schackmann/Clay Frohning/Max Ochs

Lectors: Claire Lindmann/Becca Ochs

Gift Bearers: Anita Griffith Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Rose Gangloff, Lora Semple, Elaine Zwilling

Advent Prayer – 4th week of Advent

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus!

St. Mary Pastoral Council

Thank you to Julie Shamhart and Bridget Matson for volunteering to become the newest members of the pastoral council, your stewardship is greatly appreciated. They will be joining current members – Rose Gangloff, Sarah Boehl, Angie Kocher, Tim Keller, Nancy Zwilling, Jeff Ochs, David Ochs, and Janet Hartrich.