

January 10-11, 2026 Baptism of the Lord



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

January 3-4, 2026 Collection

Envelopes	\$	7,206.00
Loose	\$	568.00
Subtotal	\$	7,774.00
School Fund	\$	1,495.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	900.00
Christmas	\$	1,162.00
Children's Home	\$	90.00
First Offering	\$	551.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	1,881.00
Catholic Times	\$	84.00
Subtotal	\$	6,163.00
Grand Total	\$	13,937.00

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, January 12, Weekday

Tuesday, January 13, St. Hilary

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, January 14, Weekday

8:30 am Class Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Ronnie Ochs)

9:00 am Rosary

5:30 pm Youth Choir

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

Thursday, January 15, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, January 16, Weekday

7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration

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

(Int. Living & Deceased of Linda Mertens Family)

Saturday, January 17, St. Anthony

8:00 – 9:00 am Reconciliation at St. Thomas

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Jim Miller)

Sunday, January 18, Second Sunday in Ord. Time

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

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:30 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Larry Hardiek)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

11:15 am OCIA

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: 1 Sm 1:1-8	Mk 1:14-20
Tues.: 1 Sm 1:9-20	Mk 1:21-28
Weds.: 1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20	Mk 1:29-39
Th.: 1 Sm 4:1-11	Mk 1:40-45
Fri.: 1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a	Mk 2:1-12
Sat.: 1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19;10:1	Mk 2:13-17
Sun.: Is 49:3,5-6	1 Cor 1:1-3
	Jn 1:29-34

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.

February 1, 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, January 17 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Aubrey Bergbower

EM: Matt/Amanda Baltzell, Lori Rauch,
Mark Bolander

Servers: Kyle Meinhart, Bryar French, Megan Farley

Gift Bearers: Brad Ochs Family

Musicians: Five for the One

Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

Sunday, January 18 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Tony Weber

EM: Gery Ochs, Eliza Muska, Sheryl/Allison Brummer

Servers: Will Hartrich, Avery Shamhart, Jillian Volk

Gift Bearers: Craig Hartrich Family

Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Kinsley Kerner

Greeters/Ushers: Mark Vahling

Sunday, January 18 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Kevin Parker

EM: Brad/Mallory Ochs, Becky Parker, Sara Mette

Servers: Dominic Ochs, Will Mette, Logan Vogt

Gift Bearers: Brad Ochs Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Jeff Finley

Greeters/Ushers: Justin Probst

We have an opportunity to attend the March for Life in Washington DC for a shorter time than usual but will still be a worthwhile experience to stand up for LIFE. Please let Diann know if you are interested. Mr. Fearday has invited us to join the St. Anthony students to help fill the bus. We would like to know as soon as possible, but Bales is holding a bus until we fill it. Help with funding is available so don't let the price say NO for you. Thanks for all you do for the pro-life movement.

Diann C Ruholl, Secretary
Effingham Area Right to Life
217-663-2056

The Effingham Area Right to Life is hosting its 50th ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST on Sunday, January 18th from 7am-Noon. The event will be held at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall (210 Pearl St, Teutopolis, IL). Free-will donations accepted, and you'll enjoy whole hog sausage, eggs, pancakes, homemade breads, and drinks. There will be numerous basket raffles, quilt raffle, and a 50/50 drawing. EARTL is accepting donations of cinnamon rolls, breads, and muffins. These can be dropped off on Saturday, Jan. 17, from Noon-4pm at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall. To volunteer for a shift, please text Susan Vogt at (217) 663-2084. For more information about the breakfast follow "Effingham Area Right to Life" on Facebook.

Welcome Back, St. Thomas CYO
Meeting Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm

January 14 – Baking cinnamon rolls, brownies, cookies for Right to Life Breakfast and taking down Christmas decorations in church

January 21 – Prayer for Life Intentional Rosary

January 28 – Night of Service

February 4 – St. Blaise & St. Ansgar

February 11 – World Day of the Sick – visit Villas and Newton Care Center

February 18 – Ash Wednesday – Attend Mass

February 25 – Planning Living Stations of the Cross



A "Note" of Thanks

Our parish is so blessed to have so many talented and available musicians. Thank you to Patsy Leffler, Debbie Matson, Vicki Mullen, Five for the One, Nichole Mulvey, Jeff Finley and Tammy Page for your years of dedication to our music ministry. Thank you to all of our cantors who willingly and voluntarily participate in our music ministry as well.

Thanks to all of you for not only participating and leading us in praise during the weekend Masses but also for leading us in praise during Holy Day Masses, funerals, weddings and other special liturgical events. So much time goes into preparation, and we appreciate all that you do to make sure that everything flows and goes smoothly. You're the BEST!

Save the Date

Family Life Center Breakfast

Sunday, March 8th, serving 8-12

St. Thomas Parish Center
Sausage, eggs and pancakes
plus bake sale!

St. Thomas Contribution Statements. The 2025 contribution statements for St. Thomas parishioners are available upon request. Thanks to all of our parishioners for your generosity in 2025!

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 Sheddlebower, 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: Ronnie Ochs

Soul Food

By Fr. Tomy



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, a beautiful moment that brings the Christmas season to its fulfillment. Jesus, the Beloved Son of the Father, enters the waters of the Jordan not because He needs repentance, but to stand in deep solidarity with us and to bless the waters of our human life. As He comes up from the water, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father's voice proclaims, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

This feast is not only about Jesus; it also turns our attention to our own baptism. Pope Francis often asked a simple but powerful question: "Do you remember the date of your baptism?" For a long time, I did not remember mine either but discovering that I was baptized on 31st May 1974 became a moment of deep gratitude. Pope Francis reminds us that the day of our baptism is even more important than our birthday, because on that day we were reborn into Christ.

Through baptism, we were integrated into the Body of the Church, the holy People of God. The faith we received did not begin with us; it has been handed down from Mary and Joseph, the Apostles, the martyrs, and the saints. The Fathers of the Church beautifully describe this as "the passing of the flame of faith from hand to hand," reminding us that we carry a living flame meant to be shared.

In baptism, we are also consecrated by the Holy Spirit. To be Christian means to be anointed in the same Spirit who anointed Jesus. Parents and families are called to help children grow immersed in the Holy Spirit, who teaches us how to live, forgive, love, and persevere. A simple daily prayer can transform our lives: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love."

How to Live Our Baptism Daily

1. Live from your baptismal identity

Every baptized person needs to begin the day remembering who he or she is. Before anything else, make the sign of the cross slowly and consciously. Say in your heart: "I am baptized. I belong to Christ." This awareness changes everything—how we speak, how we treat others, how we face difficulties, and how we make choices. Baptism is not a past ritual; it is our present identity. We no longer live as people without direction, but as sons and daughters who know they are loved.

2. Keep the memory of your baptism alive

What we remember, we value. Know the date of your baptism. Write it down. Celebrate it. Light a candle. Say a prayer of thanksgiving. Tell the story to your children and grandchildren. Use simple signs: bless yourself with holy water when you leave home and when you return. These gestures gently remind us that our whole life flows from that first immersion into Christ. When the memory of baptism is alive, faith does not fade—it grows.

3. Let your baptism flow outward as mission

Baptism never ends with us. The flame we received is meant to be passed on. Every baptized person is sent—into the family, the workplace, the parish, and society. Live your baptism through mercy, forgiveness, kindness, and quiet prayer for others. And above all, walk daily with the Holy Spirit. Invoke Him often—especially in the family. "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love."

Christianity is not something we do occasionally; it is someone we are every day.

Newman Breakfast – February 1st

The annual Newman Breakfast will be held **Sunday, February 1st from 7 am until noon at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall**. The menu will include all you can eat scrambled and fried eggs, whole hog sausage, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, French toast sticks, cinnamon rolls, coffee, juice, and milk. Baked goods will be available for purchase, and chances will be available for raffle items.

Over 80 Newman Centers throughout the state of Illinois offer College students a chance to gather and practice their faith. Proceeds from the breakfast go to the Newman fund.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to help offset the cost of the breakfast, please make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus- Newman Breakfast". Please mail your donation to Brian and Gail Hardiek, 414 Wooden Shoe RD, Teutopolis, IL 62467.

Anyone who donates \$100 or more will receive two complimentary tickets to the breakfast. These tickets will be waiting for you the morning of the breakfast at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall.

Donations of raffle items, crafts, and baked goods would be greatly appreciated. Items can be brought to the Teutopolis Banquet Hall after 6 am the day of the breakfast, or call Kathy Hartke at 217-821-7076 to make arrangements.

If you would like to help work this event, please call or text Brian Hardiek at 217-857-3915.

Your donations of time and money make this fundraiser successful. Thank you for your generosity in support of this worthwhile cause.



January 10-11, 2026 Baptism of the Lord

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

Website: www.stmariechurch.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, January 12th, Weekday

Tuesday, January 13th, St Hilary

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30a.m. – Mass (Int: Sam, Linda & Chris Zuber+)

Wednesday, January 14th, Weekday

6:30 p.m. - PSR

Thursday, January 15th, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 a.m. Mass (Int: Dick Worland+)

Friday, January 16th, Weekday

Saturday, January 17th, St Anthony

Sunday, January 18th, 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Harold & Clara Kocher+)

Parish Office Hours – Next Week

Monday, January 12th – 8am – 3pm

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures

Collection for the week of January 1-4, 2026

Envelopes/Online giving	\$	3,625.00
Loose		292.00
Sub Total	\$	3,917.00
Solemnity of Mary		320.00
Christmas Collection		130.00
Other Special Collections		236.00
Total	\$	4,603.00

PreCana – 2026 – St Mary's Church will be hosting the 2026 PreCana session on March 14, 2026.

Registration has begun for all couples who will be getting married. Registration forms can be found on the church website – stmariechurch.org. Please fill out and return to the office by March 5, 2026.

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – January 18, 2026

Ushers: Ben Ochs, George Semple, Owen Ochs

Servers: Henry Zumbahlen, Ellie Ochs, Max Ochs

Lectors: Brianna Zwilling, Rose Gangloff

Gift Bearers: Kevin & Teresa Ochs

Eucharistic Ministers Lisa Ochs, Elaine Zwilling, Lora Semple

SAVE THE DATE



Family Life Bingo

January 30, 2026

6 – 8 pm at the St Mary's Parish Center

Selling - Pulled Pork Sandwiches & Drinks

Free Popcorn

All are Welcome!!

Welcome, Joselyn Kocher who has graciously volunteered to teach the Kindergarten PSR Class for the rest of this year. Thank you to Taylor Zwilling who helped teach last semester. We appreciate you both!!

Christmas Flower Memorial List – Please add to your prayers

Donated by

Randy & Mary Sue Reis

In Memory Of

Vincent & Louise Keller

Julius & Gladys Reis

Robert E Keller

Ron Kirts

Clem & Clara Kapper

Bernard & Marie Ochs

All our Loved Ones

Carolyn Kirts

Norbert & Jane Ochs

Evelyn Kocher

Blood Drive Results - The St Mary's parish blood drive held on Monday, December 15th resulted in 23 donors. We would like to thank Hartrich Meats, Prairie Farms and Lora Semple for their donations. The next blood drive is Monday, February 16th from 2:00pm. – 6:00 pm in the parish center.