

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



April 4-5, 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

March 28-29, 2026 Collection

Envelopes	\$	8,149.00
Loose	\$	246.00
Subtotal	\$	8,395.00
Catholic Charities	\$	400.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	130.00
Subtotal	\$	530.00
Grand Total	\$	8,925.00

St. Thomas Church February Tithe

February Tithe Income – \$34,440.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$3,444.00

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, April 6, Monday w/in the Octave of Easter

No School/Office Closed

6:30 pm Angels Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, Tuesday w/in the Octave of Easter

8:00 am No Rosary

8:30 am No Mass at St. Mary

Weds., April 8, Wednesday w/in the Octave of Easter

8:30 am No Mass

9:00 am Rosary

5:30 pm Youth Choir End of Year Pizza Party

6:15 pm PSR at St. Mary

6:30 pm CYO at St. Thomas

Thurs., April 9, Thursday w/in the Octave of Easter

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Mass at St. Mary (Fr. Dean)

Friday, April 10, Friday w/in the Octave of Easter

7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration

8:30 am All-School Mass-St. T. (Int. Barb Rauch)

Saturday, April 11, Saturday w/in Octave of Easter

8:00 am – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas

(Int.: Ralph, Rosalie, Dennis and Danny Miller)

Sunday, April 12, Divine Mercy Sunday

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

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:35 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Philip Kuhl)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Acts 2:14,22-33

Mt 28:8-15

Tues.: Acts 2:36-41

Jn 20:11-18

Weds.: Acts 3:1-10

Lk 24:13-35

Th.: Acts 3:11-26

Lk 24:35-48

Fri.: Acts 4:1-12

Jn 21:1-14

Sat.: Acts 4:13-21

Mk 16:9-15

Sun.: Acts 2:42-47

1Pt 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31

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, April 11 @ 7:00 pm**

Lector: Lori Rauch
EM: Brad/Kimberly Ochs, Ramon Kocher, Alice Addis
Servers: Megan Farley, Carissa Barthelme, Eli Ochs
Gift Bearers: Grant Ochs
Musicians: Tammy Page, Mallory Einhorn
Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

Sunday, April 12 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Amy Hartrich
EM: Nikki Earnest, Gerald/Denisse Ochs, Gery Ochs
Servers: Audrey Earnest, Will & Emma Hartrich
Gift Bearers: Chris Bierman Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, April 12 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Brian Bierman
EM: Kylie Higgs, Helen Weber, Ginger Robins, Kristine Probst
Servers: Ella Probst, Jack Weber, Lane Zumbahlen
Gift Bearers: Jim Robins
Musicians: Vicki Mullen, Margaret Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

St. Thomas CYO Living Stations



Thank you to our youth for their inspiring presentation and for all those who came out to support them!

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:

Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

April 8th – Hmm...What shall we do?

April 15th – Clean Church/Service Night

April 22nd – Lector and Eucharistic Minister Training
(All are welcome!)

April 29th – Last CYO - Celebration

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick: Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Eretria Cummins, Wesley Atkins, 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.

Chrism Mass



This past Tuesday evening, during the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, the sacred oils used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick were blessed. Priests also renewed their promises to the Church. The sacred oils blessed

during the Chrism Mass include Chrism (used for Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and consecrating the altar in a new church), the Oil of Catechumens (used in Baptism), and the Oil of the Sick (used for the Anointing of the Sick). Several parishioners from our parishes were able to experience the beauty of this Mass and celebrate it with so many of the priests and religious that have a connection to St. Thomas and St. Mary. What a blessing to see so many familiar faces! Special thanks to OCIA for presenting the oils to Fr. Tomy at the Holy Thursday Mass at St. Thomas.



Divine Mercy Sunday - April 12

St Joseph/ Stringtown @ 2:00 p.m.
Divine Mercy Message & Devotion followed by reciting Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will be available. Reception to follow in parish center. All are welcome.



Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

Return to Galilee: Hope Begins Again

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is truly risen!

Today we celebrate the heart of our faith: the tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive. The Resurrection is not merely an event from the past; it is the living source of our hope today.

In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb early in the morning, carrying sorrow in their hearts. For them, everything seemed over. The Lord whom they loved had been crucified and laid in the tomb. They went expecting death, but instead they encountered life. The stone had been rolled away, and the angel announced the joyful news: “He is not here, for He has been raised.” These words echo through every age and speak directly to our hearts today.

So often, we too carry heavy stones in our lives, the stone of grief, fear, disappointment, sin, or uncertainty about the future. At times, these burdens seem too heavy to move. Yet Easter reminds us that no stone is too heavy for God. Before the women even reached the tomb, the stone had already been rolled away. This is the power of the Resurrection: God does for us that we cannot do for ourselves. No darkness is too deep, no wound beyond healing, and no grave final in the presence of the Risen Lord.

One beautiful detail in today’s Gospel is Jesus’ instruction to the women: “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Why Galilee? Galilee was the place where everything began for disciples. It was there, by the shore, that Jesus first called them. It was the place of their first encounter, the place where they first experienced His love and heard His invitation: “Follow me.”

After the pain of Good Friday and the confusion of the tomb, Jesus calls them back to Galilee—to the place of first love, first calling, and first hope. Each one of us also has our own “Galilee.” It may be the memory of childhood prayer, our First Communion, a retreat, a moment of grace in suffering, or a time when we deeply felt the Lord’s presence. Easter invites us to return there in our hearts.

When we remember our first encounter with Jesus, despair begins to lose its power and hope rises again. Memory becomes healing, and remembrance becomes resurrection. The same Lord who called the disciples

then calls us now. He enters our fears, our wounds, and our struggles, and speaks once again to our hearts: “Do not be afraid.”

As St. Augustine beautifully reminds us, “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” May this Easter renew our hearts, restore our hope, and lead us back to our own Galilee, where we first met the Lord and where He continues to call us into new life. Alleluia! Amen.



OCIA: New Sessions Starting Soon!

If you have been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith. Come meet some of our faithful Catholics who love the Lord and would consider it a privilege to get to know you. Our parish will soon begin a set of sessions to share the truth of our Catholic faith and the fellowship of our church family. Contact our Parish Office at 618-783-8741. We are waiting for YOU.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Job Posting: Middle School Math Teacher Starting: 2026-2027 School Year

Please feel free to email or call Mrs. Bierman (618) 783-3517, if you have any questions.
Deadline to apply: April 24th, 2026

We need your help. We are looking for a volunteer to assist with distributing Holy Communion and praying the Rosary on Friday mornings at the Villas of Holly Brook. Your help is necessary in order for our parishes to be able to continue to provide this ministry for the residents who greatly appreciate our visits. Thanks!

St. Thomas Gigantic Garage Sale

April 16th & 17th 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

April 18th 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Specials announced during the sale!!

Acceptable donations: Gently used clothing (seasonal), house wares, home decor items, shoes, toys, books, bedding & curtains, purses, belts, backpacks and furniture with prior approval.

Cannot accept: Undergarments, girls/ladies swimwear, motor oils, lawn & garden chemicals, paint, spray paint, lawn/garden tools, outdated electronics, printers, monitors, keyboards or reference book sets

Drop donations off Monday, April 13th, & Tuesday April 14th, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. *All proceeds go to the St Thomas School's Technology/Improvement Fund*

April 4-5, 2026
Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection 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@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 6th, Monday in the Octave of Easter

Tuesday, April 7th, Tuesday in the Octave of Easter
NO Mass

Wednesday, April 8th, Wednesday- Octave of Easter

6:30 p.m. - PSR

Thursday, April 9th, Thursday Octave of Easter

5:00 p.m. – Rosary

5:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Darrell Ochs+)

Friday, April 10th, Friday in the Octave of Easter

Saturday, April 11th, Saturday - Octave of Easter

Sunday, April 12th, Divine Mercy Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Donna Boehl+)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of March 29, 2026

Envelopes/Online giving	\$	905.00
Loose		277.00
Total	\$	1,141.00

Parish Office Hours for Week of April 6th – 9th.
 Monday, April 6th – 8am – 3pm. Closed rest of the week.

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – April 12, 2026

Ushers: Ethan Griffith, Roger Hemrich, Phil Ochs

Servers: Kennadi Ochs/Charlee Hartrich/Kinsey Barber

Lectors: Lora Ochs/ Rose Gangloff

Gift Bearers: Ron & Nancy Zwilling

E Ms Elfrieda Kaufmann, Norman Boehl, Janet Hartrich

Many Thanks

To Fr. Tomy and Fr. Dean for the beautiful Holy Week services, to the Worship committee for all their work preparing the church for Holy Week. To the musicians for the beautiful praise in music & song, to all the ministers who volunteered to help in any way. To all those who came to worship our risen Lord and Savior. Thank you for sharing your time and talent.

An Easter Prayer

*Christ the Lord is risen
 And, as all the world rejoices,
 Singing of His glory
 With such joyful hearts and voices,
 May you find that Easter brings you
 Peace and faith and hope anew,
 And may those blessing fill your heart
 With joy the whole year through.*

Amen

HAPPY EASTER

PSR – beginning April 8th, we will begin meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center.

Happy Birthday – Evelyn Kocher will be celebrating her 90th birthday on April 9th, an open house is being held at the American Legion in Sainte Marie on April 12th from 2-4pm. Cards may be sent to: Evelyn Kocher, 7423 N 2100th St, Willow Hill, IL 62480

Area Events

April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday – St Joseph/Stringtown – 2:00 p.m. – Divine Mercy Message & Devotion followed by reciting Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will be available. Reception to follow in parish center. All are welcome.