

December 9-10, 2023
Second 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: stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com
 Website: www.stthomasnewton.net

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(Email/Text: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller

Office Manager: Linda M. Hemrich

Annulment Advocate: Debbie Matson

Linda Mertens

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: 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

Pre-baptismal 2024 Class Schedule.

February 4, June 2, and October 6 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area at St. Thomas Church. Contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

December 2-3, 2023 Collection

Envelopes	\$	8,480.00
Loose	\$	72.00
Subtotal	\$	8,552.00
School Fund	\$	1,430.00
Building Fund	\$	525.00
Subtotal	\$	1,955.00
Grand Total	\$	10,507.00

St. Thomas Church October Tithe

October Tithe Income – \$62,136.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$6,214.00

Thanks for your generosity and stewardship!

This Week in Our Parish

Mon., Dec. 11, St. Damasus I

Tuesday, Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, Dec. 13, St. Lucy

8:30 am Class Mass (Julie Schackmann)

9:00 am Rosary Group

2:00 pm Newton Care Center Mass

5:30 pm Youth Choir

5:30 pm OCIA

6:30 pm PSR at St. Mary's/No CYO

7:00 pm St. Thomas School Christmas Concert
 CYO Nativity Scene raffle drawing

Thursday, Dec. 14, St. John of the Cross

8:00 am – Rosary at St. Mary's

8:30 am – Mass at St. Mary's

1:45 pm School/Parish Reconciliation Service until finished

5:30 pm Joint Parish Reconciliation Service at St. Mary's

Friday, Dec. 15, Advent Weekday

8:30 am All-School Mass (Jessica Spiker)

Saturday, Dec. 16, Advent Weekday

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Mass - (Int: Kimberly English)

Sunday, Dec. 17, Third Sunday of Advent

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

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Jessica Spiker)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule:

Saturday, December 16 @ 4:30 pm

Lectors: Nichole Mulvey

EM: Kim/Kaitlyn Ochs, Linda Hemrich

Servers: Alayna & Eli Ochs

Gift Bearers: Jason Meyer Family

Musicians: Five For the One

Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, December 17 @ 7:00 am

Lectors: Karen Winn

EM: Sheryl Brummer, Theresa Volk, Lori TeVault,
 Becky Shamhart

Servers: Madilyn Brummer & Aaron Volk

Gift Bearers: Doug & Jan Long

Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Lyndsey Spiker

Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, December 17 @ 10:00 am

Lectors: Aleah Higgs

EM: Julie Higgs, Brad & Annie Ochs

Servers: Oliver Ochs & Avery Geier

Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family

Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Jeff Finley

Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus

St. Thomas CYO celebrates Advent while preparing and waiting for Christmas!



CYO getting ready to enter the Bethlehem Walk



CYO participates in the Bethlehem Walk and visits the King of Persia along their journey to follow that star



CYO prepares for Sunday Mass with scripture activity.

St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule

CYO members please bring in an item on Silk Purse's Wish List to be donated to them this Christmas Season!

- **Fri, December 8, 5:00 pm** –Meet at Scott Avenue Church Multi-purpose room for Ministerial Alliance's Food Box Project
- **Weds., Dec. 13th** – NO CYO/Christmas Concert
- **Weds, Dec. 20th** – Cleaning/Decorating Church w/Christmas Celebration
- **Weds, Dec. 27th** – No CYO – Enjoy your Christmas Break!

CYO and Mission Trip Fundraiser

CYO is raffling off one of the Ag. Mechanics class's Nativity Scenes. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the St. Thomas Christmas Program on **Dec. 13th**. Tickets available up until time of drawing - \$5/ticket. Thank for supporting our youth!!

St. Thomas Advent/Christmas Décor. If you would like to contribute in memory of a deceased loved one, please put your name(s) & contribution in an envelope marked "décor." We will publish a prayer sheet that can be used during this Christmas Season. *Please have all names submitted to the Parish Office by Dec. 20.*

This Week at St. Thomas School

- Mon:** 6:15 pm Boys Basketball, here, vs Sacred Heart
- Weds:** 8:30 am 3-5 Class Mass
7:00 pm Christmas Concert w/CYO nativity raffle drawing
- Thurs:** 1:45 pm School/Parish Reconciliation Service
6:00 pm Boys Basketball, here, vs Oblong
7:00 pm Frozen, Jr. Musical
- Fri:** 8:30 am All-School Mass
10:00 am/2:00 pm Pre-K Christmas Programs
7:00 pm Frozen, Jr. Musical
- Sat:** 12:00 pm Frozen, Jr. Musical

The St. Thomas Parish Advent Giving Tree



Supporting Vocations

When you pick up an ornament this year, you will be supporting **The Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, IL.** Taylor Smith, a former St. Thomas student, is currently attending this convent.

Be sure to stop by the tree, take a look at the ornaments and see how you can help. Items purchased for the Sisters and Postulants can be dropped off in the box located next to the tree. Thanks for being a part of this effort that will support Taylor, her fellow Sisters and all those considering the vocation of Sisterhood.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR MINISTRIES at St. Thomas for:

Christmas Vigil: Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Vigil and Midnight

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25

8:30 am

Sign up through Ministry Scheduler Pro or call the parish office 618-783-8741. Thanks for volunteering.

A special thank you to the St. Thomas 7th Grade Class for helping change out the missals for the new church year. Your help was greatly appreciated, and it made quick work of a big task! Thank YOU!!

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:

Alex Koebele, Larry Kremer, Marlene Harris, Vinnie Zuber, Ray Kautz, Harold Deimel, Connie Griffith, Brian Baker, Whitney Benefiel, Betty Ochs, Doug Frichtl, Gary Griffith, Mary Bergbower, Mack McCrillis, Delorse Johnson, Mike Lustig, Cleve Bradley, Rhonda Wilson, Dick Worland, Suzi Ochs, Randy Hatten, Rodney Hatten, Geneva Barber; and those in healthcare facilities & in our Book of Requests.

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Is 35:1-10	Lk 5:17-26
Tues.:	Zec 2:14-17	Lk 1:26-38
Weds.:	Is 40:25-31	Mt 11:28-30
Th.:	Is 41:13-20	Mt 11:11-15
Fri.:	Is 48:17-19	Mt 11:16-19
Sat.:	Sir 48:1-4,9-11	Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun.:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11	1Thes 5:16-24
	Jn 1:6-8, 19-28	

Joint Parish Advent Reconciliation Services Thursday, December 14th

1:45 pm until finished- St. Thomas School and Parishioners welcome. Please let all students and staff go first.

5:30 pm Joint service for St. Mary's & St. Thomas parishes at St. Mary's. Anyone welcome.

2023 Christmas Mass Schedule

Late Advent Weekday, Saturday, December 23,

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas

6:00 pm Mass at St. Mary

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 24

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

No 10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas

7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary's

Midnight Mass @ St. Thomas

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

8:30 am Mass @ St. Thomas

Have you checked out FORMED for Advent? Don't miss this **free resource** of valuable Catholic Christian materials for **movies, books, and other educational programs, etc.** To gain access:

Go to <http://signup.formed.org/>

Enter 62448 (St. Thomas' parish zip code)

Enter your name and your email address.

A group of carolers will be out spreading Christmas cheer on December 14th. If you or someone you know, is in need of a little holiday cheer, and you/they live within city limits, please contact Mallory Bolander (618-554-2255). We will try and make a trip to their home. Merry Christmas!

The Silk Purse relies on donations and volunteers to help support the Family Life Center. Many opportunities are available for volunteers.

If you are interested in helping, but cannot volunteer at this time, please consider donating. The following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Kitchen size garbage bags
- Snack size Ziploc bags
- Quart Ziploc bags
- Gallon Ziploc bags
- 2 gallon Ziploc bags
- Tape dispenser rolls
- Bathroom cleaners
- Box tape

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St. Thomas School 5th Annual Trivia Night & Live Auction

**Cash Prizes ~ Silent Auction ~ 50/50 ~ Heads/Tails
~ Food ~ Wine Pull**

Saturday, February 24, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

St. Thomas Parish Center, Newton ~

Doors open at 5:00 pm ~ Space is Limited!

Cost to play: \$160/ team of 8 adults over 21

(Must be on a team to be present)

Pulled Pork/Chips available for a free-will donation. Beverages available for purchase.

Questions: St. Thomas School; 618-783-3517

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Discovering the Mass in the Bible, by Brant Pitre.

Please **join us** as we learn about the Eucharist. Classes are held in the St. Anthony Parish Center. This will be a 10 week course beginning on Thursday, January 11th. You may attend either the 9:15 am or 6:30 pm session. To sign up and order study materials, please call the Parish Office at 217-347-7129.



Dec. 9-10, 2023
Second Sunday
of Advent

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

Website: www.stmariechurch.org

Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak

(email/text: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller

Office Manager: Denisse Ochs

PSR Coordinator: Marie Wagner

Tribunal Annulment Advocate: Debbie Matson

Linda Mertens

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 Saturdays

This Week in our Parish

Monday, December 11th, St Damasus I

Tuesday, December 12th, Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Mary Harris+)

Wednesday, December 13th, St Lucy

6:30 p.m. - PSR

Thursday, December 14th, St John of the Cross

8:00 a.m. - Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Clarence Keller+)

5:30 p.m. – Penance Service

Friday, December 15th, Advent Week

Saturday, December 16th, Advent Weekday

Sunday, December 17th, Third Sunday of Advent

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

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure
Collection for the week of December 3, 2023

Envelopes	\$ 1400.00
Loose	100.00
Sub Total	\$ 1500.00
Thanksgiving	50.00
Total	\$ 1550.00

St Mary's Church October Tithe
October Tithe Income – \$35,100.00
10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$ 3,501.00

Christmas Mass Times
St Mary of the Assumption

Saturday, December 23rd, 6 pm

Sunday, December 24th – 8:30 am

Christmas Eve Mass - December 24th – 7 pm

Minsters for 8:30 a.m. – December 17, 2023

Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Ethan Matson,
 Jacob Kaufmann

Servers: Blake Frohning/Ellie Ochs

Lectors: Rose Gangloff/Lora Ochs

Gift Bearers: Bruce & Jenna Boehl Family

Eucharistic Ministers: Bridget Matson,
 Jeanne Johnson, Elfrieda Kaufmann

Can you Help? For an Advent service project, the PSR 1st grade class is collecting supplies for the Silk Purse in Newton. There will be a tree in the back of church with tags on it. Please take a tag or 2, purchase the item listed and return to Basket by Sunday, December 24th.
 Thanks so much for helping!

Christmas Sign up for Ministeries

Christmas Vigil: Sunday, December 24th

7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

There are sign-up sheets located in the back of Church, you can also call the parish office or e-mail the church.

Thanks for volunteering!!

St Mary's Christmas Décor If you would like to donate to the décor fund, in memory of deceased loved one, please put you names & contribution in the décor fund envelop, or a regular envelop marked Décor Fund. Those names will be listed on a prayer sheet for the Christmas season. **Please have the names submitted to the parish office by December 20th.**