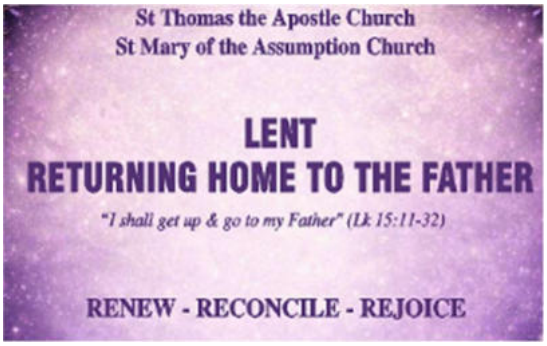
February 28-March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent



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

February 21-22, 2026 Collection

Envelopes	$	6,568.00
Loose	$	548.00
Subtotal	**$**	**7,116.00**
School Fund	$	25.00
Centennial Campaign	$	5.00
Ash Wednesday	$	1,339.00
Catholic Times	$	67.00
Subtotal	**$**	**1,436.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**8,552.00**

St. Thomas Church January Tithe

January Tithe Income – $58,640.00
10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - $5,864.00

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, March 2, Lenten Weekday

Tuesday, March 3, St. Katharine Drexel
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, March 4, St. Casimir
8:30 am Class Mass-St. T. (Int.: Poor Souls)
9:00 am Rosary
5:30 pm Youth Choir
5:30 pm School Pre-Registration Night
6:15 pm PSR @ St. Mary;
6:30 pm CYO @ St. Thomas
7:00 pm School Board

Thursday, March 5, Lenten Weekday
8:00 a.m. - Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
6:00 pm 1st Reconciliation Parent meeting

First Friday, March 6, Lenten Weekday
World Day of Prayer
8:10 am Stat. of the Cross
8:30 am All-School Mass-St. T. (Int. Ronnie Ochs)
(Adoration after Mass until Noon)
4:30 pm KC Hall Fish Fry

First Saturday, March 7, Sts Perpetua & Felicity
7:30 am Adoration/Reconciliation at St. Mary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm *Reconciliation*
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas
(Int.: Delorse Johnson & Betty Marshall)

Sunday, March 8, Third Sunday of Lent
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. Rapheal & Rosemary Bergbower & Creighton McDonald)
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas
11:15 am OCIA

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Dn 9:4b-10		Lk 6:36-38
Tues.:	Is 1:10,16-20		Mt 23:1-12
Weds.:	Jer 18:18-20		Mt 20:17-28
Th.:	Jer 17:5-10		Lk 16:19-31
Fri.:	Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a		Mt 21:33-43,45-46
Sat.:	Mi 7:14-15,18-20		Lk 15:1-3,11-32
Sun.:	Ex 17:3-7	Rom 5:1-2,5-8	Jn 4:5-42

Returning Home to the Father
A Night of Reconciliation
St Thomas the Apostle Church – Newton
March 25, 2026 5:30pm – 8pm

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, March 7 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Lori TeVault
EM: Wade Ochs, Mark Bolander, Alice Addis, Ramon Kocher
Servers: Carissa Barthelme, Megan Farley, Emily Beals
Gift Bearers: Gerald & Denisse Ochs
Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs
Greeters/Ushers: Chris Rauch

Sunday, March 8 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Jill Bierman
EM: Allison Brummer, Allison Weber, Gery Ochs, Katie Bierman
Servers: Jace Bergbower, Elizabeth Brummer, Blake Bierman
Gift Bearers: Brian Brummer Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Doug Long

Sunday, March 1 @ 10:00 am

Lector:
EM: Dylan Gier, Helen/Adam Weber, Ginger Robins
Servers: 1) Jack Weber, 2) Blake Gier
Gift Bearers: Justin Probst Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Ella Probst
Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus

A Note of Thanks

Thank you, ***Jamie Shamhart*** and ***Sheryl Brummer*** for leading our pre-baptismal classes and preparing parents and Godparents for the very important Sacrament of Baptism. Thanks for taking the time to talk with our new parents about the importance of this Sacrament and what it means for our faith. Our parish is blessed to have so many volunteers who make their faith a priority and share that faith with others!

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.

Holy Week Schedule: April 2- April 5

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Last Supper
6:30 pm at St. Mary Adoration following
6:30 pm at St. Thomas Adoration following
Good Friday: The Passion of our Lord
3:00 pm at St. Mary & 6:30 pm at St. Thomas
Holy Saturday: Vigil of Easter
7:00 pm at St. Thomas
Easter Sunday:
7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's
10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

The 2026 OCIA Class

Pictured with their God Parents/Sponsors

- Hank Thomas Matherly
- Elizabeth Renee Houser
- Grace Louise Boostrom
- Wendy Lynn Meinhart
- Karli Brooke Burley
- Chad Michael Miller
- Mary Suzanne Thornton
- Julie Laine Pitcher
- Jess Alan Burley

Catechists: Annie Ochs, Kevin Parker, Debbie Matson and Father Tomy

Over 700 people attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral representing 46 parishes in our Diocese. The Bishop Paprocki received 187 Catechumens that will be baptized during the Easter Season. The bishop read several letters from different parishes, and we were privileged to have one from the St. Thomas Parish read. This is a testament to the good work done by the teachers at St. Thomas School as well as by our catechists. What a day!

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you

Please pray for the Sick: Lorraine Yager, Doug Page, 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, Carol Schafer, Jim/Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

Meeting on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in the St. Thomas parish center meeting room.

An Opportunity to visit the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. Kristen Probst, a St. Thomas parishioner, has made plans to visit the convent in Alton, IL. Sister Karolyn has extended this invitation to learn more about the life of a Sister to our parishioners and their daughters. This visit is scheduled for ***Monday, March 23rd***, from 10am -12pm. Contact Kristen at slifer.kristen@gmail.com to learn more. We will be sure that Kristen sends our best regards to Sister Mary Grace (Taylor Smith).

Newton Family Life Center Breakfast & Bake Sale
Sunday, March 8th Serving 8am-12pm
St. Thomas Parish Center
Sausage, pancakes & eggs
Free Will Donation PLUS Online Auction Launch!
Parishioners are invited to bring baked goods for the bake sale. Items can be dropped off on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning at the parish center.

Springfield March for Life
Thursday March 19; $20 each
Leave Effingham Event Center 7:30am on charter bus,
3 pm depart for Effingham; 5pm arrive at Event Center
To learn more call Diann Ruholl 217-663-2056
or email at dcruholl@hotmail.com

LENTEN REGULATIONS:

1. ABSTINENCE – Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

2. FAST – Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

3. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

Returning Home to the Father
Renewal through Scripture

On this Second Sunday of Lent, we are given two powerful moments: the call of Abraham in Genesis and the Transfiguration of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. Both are moments of renewal. Both invite us to return home to the Father.

God says to Abraham, "Go forth… to a land that I will show you." And Scripture simply tells us: "Abram went as the Lord directed him." Abraham could respond so generously because his heart was attuned to God. He recognized God's voice. His heart was filled with God's thoughts.

If our hearts are filled only with noise and distraction, how will we hear God? But when we fill our hearts with His Word, we begin to think as He thinks and act as He wills. Renewal begins in listening.

In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John. Moses and Elijah appear beside Him. Moses represents the Law; Elijah represents the Prophets. Their presence shows that Jesus fulfills the entire Old Testament. Everything in Scripture leads to Him.

Then the Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son… listen to Him." These words remind us of Jesus' Baptism, when the Father also declared Him His beloved Son. But on the mountain, one command is added: "Listen to Him."

The Father reveals who Jesus is and tells us what to do. When we listen to Jesus, especially through Scripture, we become more aware of our own baptismal dignity. In Baptism, we too were made beloved sons and daughters of God. We may not hear Jesus through dramatic miracles, but we do hear Him clearly in His Word.

This is why our Bible-in-a-Year Lenten Project is so important. Since Jesus fulfills both the Old and New Testaments, we need to read both. Through this daily reading, we encounter a living Person. We listen to Him. We grow in knowledge and love of Christ as individuals, families, and as a parish.

Peter wanted to remain on the mountain. But Jesus led them down into daily life. To live faithfully in the plains of ordinary life, we need the steady light of God's Word.

Here are three practical invitations:

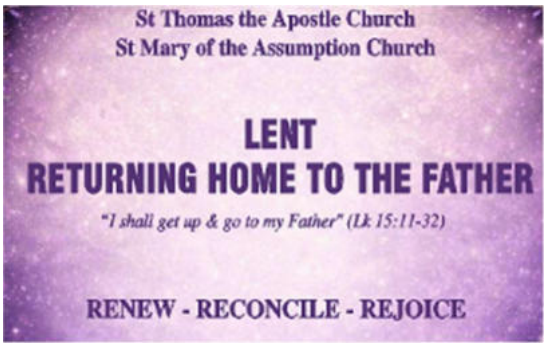
1. Make the Bible a daily appointment with Jesus. Do not read it casually. Before you begin, say a simple prayer: "Lord, speak to me." Read slowly. Even if it is just the assigned portion in our Bible-in-a-Year plan. Consistency matters more than speed. Protect that time.

2. Bring the Word into your family life. At least once a week, gather as a family and read a short passage together. Let each person share one word or sentence that touched them. Children learn to recognize God's voice when they hear it at home. Renewal of the parish begins with renewal of families.

3. Connect the Word to the Eucharist. What you read during the week, bring to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The same Jesus who speaks in Scripture is present in the Eucharist. Let the Word you read prepare your heart for Sunday Mass. Let the Eucharist strengthen you to live what you have read.

If we listen to Him, we will be renewed. And renewed hearts become a blessing to others.

February 28-March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent



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, March 2nd, Lenten Weekday

Tuesday, March 3rd, St Katharine Drexel
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30a.m. – Mass (Int: Don & Patricia Love+)

Wednesday, March 4th, St Casimir
6:15 pm – PSR – Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 5th, Lenten Weekday
8:00 a.m. - Rosary
8:30 a.m. Mass (Int: Sam & Linda Zuber+)

Friday, March 6th, Lenten Weekday

Saturday, March 7th, Saints Perpetua & Felicity

Sunday, March 8th, Third Sunday of Lent
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Deceased of Thomas Kaufmann Family+)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of February 18-22, 2026

Envelopes/Online giving	$	1,020.00
Loose		527.00
Sub Total	**$**	**1,547.00**
Church in Central Europe		160.00
Haiti		30.00
Total	**$**	**1,737.00**

PreCana – 2026 – St Mary's Church will be hosting the 2026 PreCana session on March 14, 2026. Registration forms can be found on the church website – stemariechurch.org. Please fill out and return to the office by March 5, 2026.

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – March 8, 2026
Ushers: Bob Barthelme, Jacob Kaufmann, Jake Semple
Servers: Charlee Hartrich/Kennadi Ochs/Alivia Hartrich
Lectors: Brianna Zwilling/Claire Lindemann
Gift Bearers: Anita Griffith Family
Eucharistic Ministers Amy Frohning, Bridget Matson, Elfrieda Kaufmann
If you cannot fulfill the ministry assigned, please find a replacement.

St Mary's Brunch
Sunday, March 1, 2026
8am – 11:30am

Come to the Parish Center for Brunch this morning!!
Serving Sausage links, ham, scrambled eggs, Biscuits & Gravy, Breads & fruit, Juice, milk & coffee
Amber Frohning – 618-783-1033
Maria Zumbahlen – 618-554-2093
Jessica Schackmann – 618-562-0321
Gina Bahl – 217-821-0241

Returning Home to the Father
A Night of Reconciliation
St Thomas the Apostle Church – Newton
March 25, 2026
5:30pm – 8pm

Area Events

March 1 – St Mary's Annual Brunch 8am – 11:30am
March 8 – Family Life Center Breakfast – St Thomas Parish Center – serving 8am - Noon
March 14 – PreCana Session – St Mary's Parish Center – 8:30 am
March 25 – A Night of Reconciliation – St Thomas the Apostle Church – 5:30 pm – 8 pm