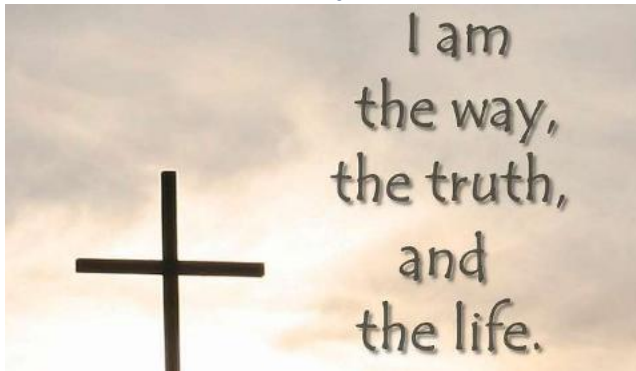


Fifth Sunday of Easter



May 2-3, 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

April 25-26, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	\$	7,207.00
Loose	\$	491.00
Subtotal	\$	7,698.00
Annual School Fund	\$	235.00
Centennial Campaign	\$	120.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$	50.00
Subtotal	\$	405.00
Grand Total	\$	8,103.00
March Online giving	\$	4,786.19
ACH donations	\$	2,196.00
Sound System Collection to date	\$	10,124.36

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, May 4, Easter Weekday

Tuesday, May 5, Easter Weekday

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

6:00 pm St. Thomas Finance Council

Wednesday, May 6, Easter Weekday

8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Rapheal & Rosemary

Bergbower, Creighton McDonald)

9:00 am Rosary

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

resume in the Fall

Thursday, May 7, Easter Weekday;

National Day of Prayer

8:00 am Rosary

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, May 8, Easter Weekday

8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. Delbert Schmidt)

Saturday, May 9, Easter Weekday

8:00 am – 9:00 am Reconciliation

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int.: All Moms)

Sunday, May 10, 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: All Moms)

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

9:35 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. All Moms)

10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Acts 14:5-18 Jn 14:21-26

Tues.: Acts 14:19-28 Jn 14:27-31a

Weds.: Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8

Th.: Acts 15:7-21 Jn 15:9-11

Fri.: Acts 15:22-31 Jn 15:12-17

Sat.: Acts 16:1-10 Jn 15:18-21

Sun.: Acts 8:5-8,14-17 1Pt 3:15-18 Jn 14:15-21

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.

An Anonymous Donation

A special thank you to the donor who made the purchase of the new parish/school lawn mower possible. We greatly appreciate your generosity and assisting the parish with this expense. Thank you for your example of stewardship!

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

Saturday, May 2 @ 4:00 pm

Lector: Nichole Mulvey
EM: Brad/Kim/Kaitlyn Ochs, Ramon Kocher
Servers: Gauge Weber, Eli Ochs, Bryar French
Gift Bearers: Grant Ochs
Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Einhorn
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, May 3 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Sarah Bergbower
EM: Brooke Woods, Gerald/Denisse Ochs,
Lori TeVault
Servers: Micah Finley, Jace Bergbower, Jillian Volk
Gift Bearers: Seth Woods Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Randy Hemrich/Nick Hemrich

Sunday, May 3 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Kevin Parker
EM: Becky Parker, Jason/Jenny/Nick Bierman
Servers: Logan Vogt, Claire Schackmann,
Brantley Ochs
Gift Bearers: Jim & Ginger Robins
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Jennelle Hinterscher
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Lay Ministry Training

Fr. Tomy is excited to announce that the lay ministry training was a success, and we have many youth in the process of becoming Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. Congratulations to the following for responding to the call to fulfill these ministries:

Eucharistic Ministers: Wyatt Ochs, Maddie Brummer, Adria Bierman, Brenly Francis, Alani Bergbower, Alayna Ochs, Lauren Gier, Nathan Bierman, Oliver Ochs, Tyler Spiker

Lector: Aaron Ochs

A couple of resources: Fr. Tomy provided a copy of Eucharistic Minister and Lector guidelines that are now available in the gathering space if you would like a copy. Please also refer to the link below about what we wear to Mass matters.

<https://dio.org/catholic-times/what-you-wear-matters/>

A special thank you to all of our lay ministers!

FORMED Subscription

Please consider making a donation to help cover the cost of this faith formation resource. This resource is full of valuable materials for our parishioners, school and CYO. Thanks for your support that will allow us to continue to offer this resource for our parishes.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you



Please pray for the Sick: Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, 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.

PROM 2026



Wow! At least 75 high school youth attended this year's prom Mass. What a wonderful testament to their faith and great way to start off such a memorable event! Continued prayers for all of our youth as graduation and summer approaches.

Catholic Heart Work Camp Kansas City, KS July 5-11, 2026

Campers will be hosting a **bake sale this weekend, May 2nd-3rd** to raise funds to help cover the cost of this trip. Please show your support by picking up your favorite baked goods for a good cause! You can also show your support by making a donation to help cover the cost of the trip. Donations can be dropped off at the parish offices any time. Thanks to the Angels group for their generous donation! Your support allows these youth to have a faith filled experience of a lifetime that they will never forget! Thank you!

Holy Land Arts Visiting the weekend of May 23-24, 2026

In the Holy Land, centuries-old Christian communities are struggling as tourism declines, leaving skilled Catholic artisans and their families facing severe economic hardship. Every piece you purchase is more than a beautiful work of art; it is a lifeline. Your purchase provides vital income to Catholic families in Bethlehem and the surrounding region, helping to preserve a living Christian presence in the very birthplace of Jesus Christ. Together, we can safeguard sacred sites like the Church of the Nativity for generations to come. Support faith, apostolic heritage, and hope. Visit www.theholylands.org today for more information.

Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

"From Troubled Hearts to Trusting Hearts: Finding Peace in Christ, the Way"

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Life is not always easy. One of the greatest challenges we face in our journey with Christ comes from the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1)

It is a beautiful command—but also a difficult one. When bills pile up, when family struggles weigh heavily, when work pressures never seem to ease, this command can feel almost impossible. We may ask: *Lord, how can my heart not be troubled?*

Jesus is not asking us to deny reality. He is not saying, "Pretend everything is fine." Instead, he invites us to shift our focus—not from reality, but from fear to faith; not from our problems to his presence. A troubled heart often cries out: "Lord, I see no way out." "I feel trapped in anxiety and fear." "I am overwhelmed." We have all experienced this.

And it is precisely in those moments that the Word of God reminds us: "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on you, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3)

Here is the key: peace does not come from a problem-free life. Peace comes from a God-centered mind. Jesus does not say, "I will show you a way." He says, "I am the Way." Christian life is not about controlling everything—it is about walking with a person: Jesus.

If we focus only on our problems, our thoughts begin to spiral. Anxiety grows like a snowball rolling downhill. But faith can grow in the same way. A small act of trust leads to another. A small prayer leads to deeper peace. The world today often feels uncertain and fragile. Many carry restless and fearful hearts. We realize we do not control everything. Life itself is a gift—fragile and finite.

But this is where faith becomes real. God has not promised a life without storms. But he has promised: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." That is our anchor.

Let us live more consciously and gratefully. Let us show compassion, patience, and solidarity. And above all, let us place our hope in the Lord.

Three Practical Suggestions

1. "Name it, then place it" (A daily surrender habit). At the end of each day, take one minute and

name what troubled your heart today—just one thing. Then consciously *place it in God's hands* with a simple prayer: "Lord, I give this to you." This trains the heart not to carry everything overnight.

2. "Interrupt anxiety with presence" (A 10-second reset). Whenever you feel anxious during the day, pause for 10 seconds and say slowly: "Jesus, you are here." Not long prayers—just awareness. This shifts your focus from the problem to the presence of Christ.

3. "Be peace for someone else" (Weekly practice). Each week, intentionally reach out to one person who may be troubled—a call, a message, a visit. When you become a source of peace for someone else, your own heart begins to heal and trust more deeply.

A Sincere Thank You

St. Thomas Parishioners, thanks so much for all the prayers, cards, and expressions of caring. Our last report for Lorraine at oncology was clear, so his treatment worked! We are very thankful and feel greatly blessed. *Sincerely, Kathy & Lorraine Yager*

Fr. Pawel E-Mail Phishing Scam

It has been brought to our attention that someone is pretending to be Fr. Pawel via email. A fake account (officechurch2794@gmail.com) has been messaging parishioners asking them to purchase gift cards for cancer patients, promising that Fr. Pawel will reimburse them later. Luckily, several people caught this and reported it. This is a classic **Phishing Scam**. These scams work by using:

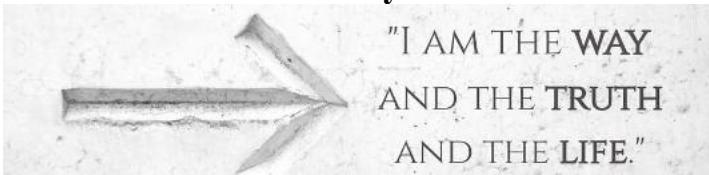
- **Urgency:** Making you feel like you must act right now.
- **Emotions:** Using a good cause (like helping cancer patients) to lower your guard.
- **Real Details:** Including things like Fr. Pawel's return date to make the email seem real.

We want to applaud those who stopped to ask if this was legitimate. While buying the gift cards is only the first step, the scammer's ultimate goal is to get you to send them the **card numbers and PINs**. Once those are shared, the money is gone instantly and cannot be recovered.

What you should do:

1. **Check the sender:** Always verify that an email is coming from Fr. Pawel's actual, known email address before responding.
2. **Report & Delete:** If you received a message from officechurch2794@gmail.com, please click the "Report Spam" button in your email and then delete it.
3. **Verify First:** If you are ever unsure, please call the church office directly to verify the request before you buy anything or share information.

May 2-3, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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, May 4th, Easter Weekday
Tuesday, May 5th, Easter Weekday
 8:00 a.m. – Rosary
 8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Marion Bahl+)
Wednesday, May 6th, Easter Weekday
Thursday, May 7th, National Day of Prayer
 8:00 a.m. – Rosary
 8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Dutch & Lee Hentgen+)
Friday, May 8th, Easter Weekday
Saturday, May 9th, Easter Weekday
Sunday, May 10th, 6th Sun. of Easter;
Happy Mothers Day!
 8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: All Mothers)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of April 26, 2026

Envelopes/Easter Collection	\$	515.00
Loose		357.00
SubTotal	\$	872.00
Haiti		20.00
Home Mission		40.00
Total	\$	932.00

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – May 10, 2026
Ushers: Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner,
 Marvin Zwilling
Servers: Kinsey Barber/Kennadi Ochs/Gavin Semple
Lectors: Rose Gangloff/Nancy Ochs
Gift Bearers: Anita Griffith Family
E Ms: Norman Boehl, Janet Hartrich, Tony Hartrich

PSR
 The last class for this year was held on April 29th, we would like to thank all the teachers for sharing of their time, leading our youth in their faith journey – Taylor Zwilling, Joselyn Kocher, Amber Frohning, Julie Shamhart, Kayla Semple, Debra Ochs, Lora Semple, Marie Wagner, Becca Ochs, Sarah Boehl
 We will once again begin registration in July; an e-mail will be sent out to remind you to register.
 Thank you to Marie Wagner for being the PSR Coordinator.

First Sunday of the Month – In May, the Family Life Committee will have their monthly raffle and will serve donuts after Mass. All are welcome!!

Thank You – Evelyn Kocher would like to thank all who remembered her 90th birthday with cards (around 90) and still arriving, gifts, a mass, and the wonderful celebration party. I'm so grateful for the life I've had. God is good. Blessings to all of you. I love my parish family of 90 years.

Sainte Marie American Legion
Mother's Day Breakfast
 Sunday, May 20, 2026 7am – 11am
 Serving – Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy
 Scrambled Eggs & Toast
 Coffee, Mike & Orange Juice

Volunteers needed - to help with the clean-up of the parish grounds and landscaping around the church, parish center & rectory. Would be a great project for some of the youth of the parish. If you can help please contact - Norma Ochs - 618-554-2536

Lost and Found: We have several items in a basket in the foyer of the church, check it out and see if you have left something.

Area Events
May 4th – Honoring St Mother Theodore Guerin – Christ the King Church Hall, Greenup, IL – 6:30pm
May 10 – Ste Marie American Legion – Mother's Day Breakfast – 7am – 11am