

**March 28-March 29, 2026**  
**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**



*A lot can happen in seven days*

**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 21-22, 2026 Collection

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

**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, March 30, Monday of Holy Week**

**6:00 pm** Mass of Thanksgiving for Night of Reconciliation at St. Mary

**Tuesday, March 31, Tuesday of Holy Week**

**8:00 am** Rosary

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary

**6:30 pm** Chrism Mass at the Cathedral – Springfield

**Wednesday, April 1, Wednesday of Holy Week**

**Home Visits**

**8:30 am** All-School Mass (Int. Rosemary Bergbower)

**9:00 am** Rosary

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir

**6:15 pm** PSR at St. Mary

**6:30 pm** CYO at St. Thomas

**Thursday, April 2, Holy Thursday**

**6:30 pm** Mass at St. Mary/Adoration following

**6:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas/Adoration following

**Friday, April 3, Good Friday**

**3:00 pm** at St. Mary w/Stations at 2:15 pm

**6:30 pm** at St. Thomas with Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:45 pm

**Saturday, April 4, Holy Saturday**

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

**Sunday, April 5, Resurrection of the Lord**

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

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary's

**10:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

**10:30 am** Communion Service at Villas

**This Week's Scripture Readings:**

**Mon.:** Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11

**Tues.:** Is 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Weds.:** Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25

**Th.:** Ex 12:1-8,11-14 1Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15

**Fri.:** Is 52:13-53:12 Heb 4:14-16,5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42

**Sat.:** Holy Saturday Readings

**Sun.:** Easter Sunday Readings

**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, Easter Vigil, April 4 @ 7:00 pm**

Lector:  
EM: Paul/Katie Bierman  
Servers: Blake Bierman  
Gift Bearers: OCIA  
Musicians: Five for the One  
Greeters/Ushers:

**Sunday, Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Sarah Hemrich  
EM: Jill/Gus Bierman, Becky Shamhart  
Servers:  
Gift Bearers:  
Musicians: Patsy Leffler, Lily & Lucy Bierman,  
Katie Shamhart

Greeters/Ushers: Knights of Columbus

**Sunday, Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 10:00 am**

Lector:  
EM: Linda Hemrich  
Servers:  
Gift Bearers:  
Musicians: Vicki Mullen, Debbie Matson, Youth Choir  
Greeters/Ushers:

**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

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations, **Mia Rae Mammoser**, daughter of Scott & Maura (Cummins) Mammoser, who was baptized this past Sunday, March 22, in St. Thomas Church.

**Godparents:** Brock Mammoser & Dana Mammoser

**Easter Décor**

Our beautiful Easter decorations are made possible through your gifts to the Easter Décor Fund. If you'd like to make a donation in the name of a loved one, please place your gift in the collection basket in a plain envelope marked "Easter Décor." Please include a note with names of those to be remembered. A prayer list will be published. Please have your gift turned in by March 30<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

**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 for prayerfully considering how you can help!

**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.



**Consecration to Jesus Through Mary. Please keep those who have recently consecrated and re-consecrated their hearts to Jesus through Mary in your prayers as they continue to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus through Mary:**

Faye Brown, Pam Francis, Renee Gier, Linda Mertens, Theresa Volk, Rose Gangloff, Elaine Grimes, Linda Hemrich, Janette Kocher, Debbie Matson, Anne Ochs, Becky Parker, Kevin Parker, Sue Sparks.

*St. Louis de Montfort, pray for us; St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us; St. Mother Teresa, pray for us; Pope St. John Paul II, pray for us.*

**Palm Sunday; Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday with Procession:**

**St. T.: Sat., 4:30 pm, & Sun. 7:00 am & 10:30 am**  
**St. Mary: Sun., 8:45 am**

**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/ Starting with Stations of the Cross at 5:45 pm

**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

**Please contact the St. Thomas Parish Office or use Ministry Scheduler Pro to sign up for lay ministries.**

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

## Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

### “From Hosanna to Crucify: A Call to Purify Our Words”

Today we begin Holy Week with great joy. We carried palms, we sang “Hosanna,” and we welcomed Jesus into our lives just as the people of Jerusalem did. It was beautiful. And on Wednesday, many of you had a deep and grace-filled experience in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Your hearts were renewed. You tasted God’s mercy.

But the Gospel places before us a hard truth. How striking the change in their voices: today they acclaim Him as “King of Israel,” and within a few days they will cry out, “We have no king but Caesar.” What a stark contrast—between the green branches and the Cross, between the flowers and the thorns. A moment ago, they spread their cloaks before Him in honor; so soon after, they strip Him of His garments and cast lots for them. The same crowd that shouted “Hosanna” on Palm Sunday cried out “Crucify Him” on Good Friday. The same lips that praised Jesus condemned Him just a few days later.

That is not just their story—it can be ours. We too bless God... and then wound others with our words. We appreciate people... and then speak ill of them behind their backs. We fall into gossip. As Pope Francis has said very strongly: gossip is not something small, a kind of mortal sin—it destroys. It is like killing. When we gossip, we kill a person’s reputation, their dignity, their good name. And once words are spoken, they cannot be taken back.

There is a powerful story from the life of St. Philip Neri. A woman once came to him, deeply sorry for her habit of gossiping. He gave her a strange penance: “Take a chicken, pluck its feathers one by one as you walk, and then come back.” She did it. When she returned, the chicken was bare. Then he told her, “Now go back and collect every feather.” She said, “That’s impossible! The wind has carried them away.” Philip Neri replied, “So it is with your words. Once spoken, they cannot be gathered back.”

My dear friends, how true this is. Today we hold palms in our hands. We sing “Hosanna.” But let us ask: do we also, by our words, crucify our brothers and sisters? The Letter of James the Apostle tells us: “With the tongue we bless the Lord... and with it we curse those made in God’s image. This should not be so.” This Holy Week, the Lord invites us to something very concrete—not just to pray more, but to speak differently.

#### Let me offer you three simple decisions:

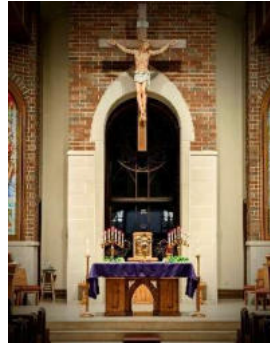
**First**, before you speak about someone, pause and ask: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? If not, do not say it.

**Second**, when you feel the urge to gossip, do what Pope Francis humorously advises: bite your tongue. Offer that struggle to Jesus as a sacrifice.

**Third**, make it a habit to speak good about others. If you cannot praise, remain silent. Let your words heal, not wound.

During this Mass, as we place our palms before the Lord, let us also place our tongues—our words—into His hands. Let us ask Him: “Lord, take away from me the habit of gossip. Purify my speech. Let my words bless, not curse.” So that this week, we will not move from “Hosanna” to “Crucify,” but from “Hosanna” to faithful love at the foot of the Cross. Amen.

## St. Thomas and St. Mary parishes joined together for a night of Reconciliation!



How do you describe an evening like this in just a couple of paragraphs? It is difficult to put into words what 330 faithfuls experienced Wednesday night. It was an evening where fear was replaced with trust and mercy was overflowing. Burdens and crosses were made light in the presence of our Lord exposed on the Altar as we examined our consciences in preparation for reconciliation. St. Thomas and St. Mary parishioners along with neighbors from the surrounding areas gathered together to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fourteen priests heard confessions and shared in this historic event.



It was an evening...

...that brought people together who walked side by side as neighbors.

...that brought priests together in fellowship.

...shared by Catholics whether confessing for the first time or 100<sup>th</sup> time.

...prayerfully led by both Pastoral Councils.

It was an evening that brought people young and old together for a journey. A journey that brought his children back to the home of our merciful Father. The joy our Father must have felt as He welcomed back so many to this Sacrament.

If you were not able to attend this night of reconciliation but would still like to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, there is still time. Fr. Tomy is available Saturday morning and by appointment. Don’t miss out on an opportunity to feel God’s love and have the burden of sin lifted from your heart.



Please join our St. Thomas CYO as they present the Living Stations of the Cross.  
**Palm Sunday evening, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

**March 28-March 29, 2026**  
**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**



**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](mailto:stmaryschurch@stmariechurch.org)

Website: [www.stmariechurch.org](http://www.stmariechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. Paul Luczak

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

**Parochial Administrator:** Fr. Tomy Philip

(Email: [frtomysac@gmail.com](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup>, Monday of Holy Week**

**6:00 pm Mass of Thanksgiving for Night of**

**Reconciliation**

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday of Holy Week**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30a.m. – Mass (Int: Elizabeth “Betty” Ochs+)

**Home visits with Fr Tomy**

**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday of Holy Week**

6:15 p.m. - PSR

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Holy Thursday**

6:30 p.m. – Mass: Int (Vocations)

**9:00 p.m. – Prayer – ending adoration**

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Friday of the Passion of the Lord**

**2:15 p.m. – Stations of the Cross**

3:00 p.m. – Mass Int: (For the Parish)

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, Holy Saturday**

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday**

**8:45 a.m. – Mass (Int: Romonna Hunzinger Ochs+)**

**PSR – Classes will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup> with stations at 6:15pm.**

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures  
 Collection for the week of March 22, 2026**

Envelopes/Online giving	\$	940.00
Loose		<u>201.00</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,141.00</b>
Catholic Relief		85.00
Haiti		<u>45.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,270.00</b>

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – April 5, 2026**

**Ushers:** Ethan Griffith, Roger Hemrich, Phil Ochs

**Servers:** Max Ochs/Wade Schackmann/Reed Kistner

**Lectors:** Brianna Zwilling/ Ashtyn Ochs

**Gift Bearers:** Bob & Carolyn Barthelme

**E Ms** Bridget Matson, Amy Frohning, Lisa Ochs

**Ministers for Holy Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.**

**Ushers:** Bob Barthelme, Jacob Kaufmann, Jake Semple

**Servers:** Charlie Hartrich/Reed Kistner/  
 Wade Schackmann

**Lectors:** Ashtyn Ochs/ Rose Gangloff

**Gift Bearers:** Roger & Sherrie Hemrich

**E Ms:** Norman Boehl, Tony Hartrich, Lisa Ochs

**Ministers for Good Friday, April, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Ushers:** Roger Shamhart, George Semple, Ben Ochs

**Servers:** Ellie Ochs/ Max Ochs/ Kinsey Barber

**Lectors:** Mike Hartrich/ Ron Zwilling

**Eucharistic Minister:** Rose Gangloff

**Good Friday services will begin with the Stations of the Cross at 2:15p.m.**

**Easter Flower Memorial** – Please have donation in by March 31, so they can be published in the Easter weekend bulletin.

**Living Stations** – due to unforeseen circumstances, the living stations will not be held at St Mary's this year, but we look forward to preparing for them next year. They are being held at St Thomas in Newton and at Holy Cross in Wendelin. Thank you for your understanding!

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

**Area Events**

**March 29 – Living Stations – St Thomas Church – CYO – 6:30pm**