



Fifth Sunday of Lent March 28th-March 29th, 2020

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst (email: dprobst@dio.org)

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller

Office Managers: Linda M. Hemrich (St. Thomas)

Denisse Ochs (St. Mary's)

St. Thomas School Principal: Jill Bierman

School Secretary: Lori Smith

PSR Coordinators: Marie Wagner (St. Mary's)

Pete Pasero (St. Thomas)

RCIA Coordinator: Jan Schackmann

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

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E-mail: stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com

Website: www.stthomasnewton.net

Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. M-F

St. Thomas School Office:

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St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

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Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Bulletin Sponsor:

In the Memory of Maynard Kocher

WELCOME

to the parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle, Newton,
and St. Mary of the Assumption, Sainte Marie.
If you would like to become a member of either parish,
please call the particular parish office.

THE USUAL MASS SCHEDULE IS SUSPENDED

	St. Thomas	St. Mary
Saturday:	5:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Sunday:	7:30 & 9:00 a.m.	
Tuesday *	5:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	
Thursday		8:30 a.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m.	
Holy Days	As scheduled in the bulletin.	

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Saturday	8:00 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Tuesdays *	5:00 p.m.	

*prior to Mass when it is scheduled or by request.

Stewardship of Time:



Please pray for Carrie Weiss, Brad Lustig,
Adam Goedde, Donna Keller, Eunice
Schackmann, Jessica Spiker, Michelle Iffert, Mike
Mulvey, James Leahy, Randy Hatten, Clara
Miller, Patty McCreery, John Millsap, Shane Howard,
Renee Ochs, David E. Ochs, Karen Shamhart, Michael
Lustig, John W. Bergbower, Theresa Hartrich, Judy
Wagner, Laura Songer, Residents in Health Care Facilities,
and the requests written in our Parishes' Book of Intentions.

Please note: Pre-baptism instructions will be held in
pews by the choir. The next session will be 10:15 a.m.
Sunday, May 3rd, 2020 at St. Thomas Church.

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday:	Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62	Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9	Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95	Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:	Gn 17:3-9	Jn 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13	Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28	Jn 11:45-56
Sunday:	Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11	Mt 26:14-27:66

Preparation for Sacraments of Baptism (pre-Jordan
session required) **and Marriage** (6-month preparation)
scheduled through parish offices with priest or deacon.

For **Anointing of the Sick** before surgery or in severe
illness call priest **217-494-6326** or in the danger of
death for the last rites with apostolic pardon call priest.

ST. THOMAS AND ST. MARY PARISHES

PLEASE NOTE SUSPENSION of ALL ACTIVITY

This Week in our Parishes & School

+ behind name in Mass intention is for deceased

All public activities are suspended as decreed by our Bishop in union with the Governor's executive order and the World Health Organization recommendations. Therefore, **Public Masses are suspended and celebration of other sacraments are limited to privacy**, that is scheduled baptisms, weddings, funerals will be for only the immediate family and required witnesses until further notice.

Private Masses are to be offered by the priest, that is "sine populo" that is without congregation. Such Mass usually has a minister (server/lector). If you want to be the server/lector, call me (217-494-6326) as I offer the mass each day privately for the scheduled intention.

Mon., March 30th, Lenten Weekday

(Int: Deceased Priests of the Diocese)

Tues., March 31st, Lenten Weekday

(Int: Roy & Evelyn Bergbower+)

Weds., April 1st, Lenten Weekday

(Int: LeRoy Schackmann)

Thurs., April 2nd, St. Francis of Paola

(Int: Linda Zuber+)

Fri., April 3rd, Lenten Weekday

Mass (Int.: Arlene Volk+)

Sat., April 4th, St. Isidore

Mass (Int: Marilyn Fritchley, Roscoe Miller & Ephraim & Vi Kapper+)

8 – 9 a.m. Reconciliation (St. Thomas Church)

3 - 4 p.m. Reconciliation (St. Mary's Church)

Mass (Barb Rauch)

Sun., April 5th, Palm Sunday: Passion of the Lord

Mass (For the Parish)

Communion Service (Newton Care Center) suspended

Communion Service (Villa of Holly Brook) suspended

LENTEN JOURNEY: PRAYER



St. Thomas Church will be opened at
**5:30 am – 9 pm Monday-Friday and
7:30 am – 9 pm on Saturday and Sunday**

St. Mary's Church will be open:

Tuesday - Thursday 7 am – 3 pm;

Noon-4 pm on Saturday;

8 am -4 pm Sunday.

Stop by on your way to work/return home or anytime as a family to spend a few moments with Jesus, present in the Tabernacle.

Dear parishioners and guests,

I am grateful for your generous prayers and support during this challenging time. While I miss seeing you at Mass, I am encouraged to hear how families are praying together, watching the Mass online or TV, and serving the community. While this time brings stress and anxiety, let us place our burdens and struggles before the Lord knowing he will guide and comfort us.

The mission and ministry of our parish continues even when we are not together. Your generous stewardship brings life and supports this parish. In order to provide for the ongoing vitality of the parish, we are counting on your continued good stewardship. During this time, we hope you will continue to support the parish through your prayer, service, and generous contributions as possible. I know that we are affected by business/employment restrictions and loss of income for many of you. I think of Katie Price's image of "taking from the collection" through the support of the Church and its ministry. To support the work of the Church, your contributions are essential. Many of us use the contribution via envelopes during the offertory at Mass which presently is not available for large groups of people. Therefore, we have created an *online offertory tool*.

In partnership with the Diocesan Curia, we are launching an online giving platform which enable parishioners to donate to the parish via the Parish donation page:

<https://parishgiving.dio.org/sthomastheapostlenewton>.

(Note: St. Mary's link is being developed.)

This link enables you to make your Sunday offertory contribution online. Your information remains private and secure. The online contribution provides you the flexibility to designate a one-time gift or recurring gift. It provides you comfort knowing your donation will be supporting the ongoing mission and vitality of our parish community.

I encourage you to sign-up today at

<https://parishgiving.dio.org/sthomastheapostlenewton>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Linda Hemrich or myself. We are here for you, will continue to pray for you, and are gracious for your support! God bless you,

Fr. Dean

NOTE: Contributions to your support of our parishes is needed despite no Masses for collection. Please send in your contribution or make it online.

Online Giving Available!

Visit:

<https://parishgiving.dio.org/sthomastheapostlenewton>

to make your online contribution.

Please note:

Collections for the weekend of March 22nd-23rd will be reported in next weekend's bulletin as more information is available.

St. Thomas March Cleaning Crew rescheduled to clean church on April 4th at 8:00 a.m. Those



reporting for duty include: Jan & Charlie Schackmann, Joe & Janet Sievers, Richard Barni, Karen Speers, Brad & Kimberly Ochs, Amanda & Matt Baltzell, Lori Zumbahlen, Marlene Harris, and Teresa Ochs. *Due*

to the current circumstances we are asking that ONLY adults participate at this time. Thanks to the many that help take care of and maintain our church.

Distinguished Graduate Award 2020

St. Thomas School is now accepting nominations for the Distinguished Graduate Award. This award is a chance to recognize and honor a St. Thomas graduate for all they have given back to the community, school and/or parish. Nominees for this award must:

- Be graduate of St. Thomas School of 10 or more years
- Have made contributions to society that reflect the values instilled in them while attending St. Thomas School

Those wishing to nominate someone for this award should include the following information about their nominee: 1) Name, 2) Address/Phone Number, 3) Educational background and Occupation, 4) Accomplishments, 5) Other information that makes them worthy of this award.

Nominations will be accepted through April 3rd in the school office.

Exceptional Service Award 2019

St. Thomas School is accepting nominations for this Award. Nominees for this award are those individuals who have tirelessly given of their time, talent and/or treasure to better St. Thomas School and/or St. Thomas Parish. The nominee does not have to be a graduate of St. Thomas school or a member of St. Thomas parish, but an unceasing advocate for our school and/or parish. Nominations should include the following:

- Name, address and phone number of nominee
- List or narrative of the services he/she provides for St. Thomas School and/or St. Thomas Church
- Any additional information you would like to include

Nominations will be accepted through April 3rd in the school or church office or by mail.

Remember in Prayer:

Donna Bergbower, mother of Fr. Dan Bergbower died on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 2020. A private burial service will be held next week with a Memorial Mass to be scheduled at a later date. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

E-mail Updates/Changes. Contact our parish offices if you would like to receive the bulletin, calendars, ministry schedules & other information electronically. We will be glad to add your e-mail to the list!

St. Thomas Parish Center Codes. Please note that the codes for the parish center have been changed as this is done periodically. Please contact the parish office for the code if you need to get into the parish center for any reason. Thanks for your cooperation!

LENTEN REGULATIONS:

1. **ABSTINENCE** – Everyone 14 years and over is bound to **abstain from meat** on the Fridays of Lent.
2. **FAST** – Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to **fast on Good Friday. Only one full meatless meal is permitted on this day.**
3. **TO DISREGARD** completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

Spiritual Media Resources

Consider these links, websites, and ideas for the latest updates and opportunities to continue our faith formation and participation during this time of social distancing.

- <https://www.dio.org>
- <https://www.dio.org/masslivestreams>
- <https://www.dio.org/communications/diocesan-videos.html>
- <http://www.dio.org/videos/hey-father.html>
- www.facebook.com/Sacred-Sounds-Sacred-Spaces-1958084004476459/
- Connect with small groups or start your own by checking out a Zoom webinar at <http://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2020/03/04/best-practices-for-hosting-a-digital-event/?zcid=1231>
- ENDOW – Join Small Women Group Communities at http://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GOTgNjejR7-DtjsvGQuZkw
- Books available for check out in the St. Thomas Parish meeting room. Thanks Deacon Larry for adding his collection of books!
- Check in on a neighbor or someone that could benefit from hearing a friendly voice by reaching out with a phone call!

ANNOUNCEMENT: With Fr. Chuck Edwards completing his sabbatical and accepting a new assignment, Fr. Albert Allen has been appointed pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Effingham, and St. Mary of the Annunciation, Shumway, effective April 15, 2020. With such appointment, Fr. Dean Probst will conclude his appointment as the temporary administrator of those two parishes.

PALM SUNDAY: Next Sunday begins the Holiest Week for us as Christians. Christ enters into Jerusalem to acclamations of making Him “king.” It turns into the Passion of our Lord. I hope to be able to stream live the Mass and then provide for drive thru only pickup of palms beginning at 5:00 pm Saturday at St. Mary’s with families A-M coming 5-5:30 pm and N-Z 6-7 pm and then 9:00 am Sunday at St. Thomas with families A-G 9-9:30 am; H-P 9:30-10 am & Q-Z 10-10:30 am.

I am trying to provide for the protection of people while enabling the celebration of our faith.

EASTER TRIDUUM: Please check the bulletin and/or emails or St. Thomas’ and St. Mary’s facebook pages for information as it becomes available for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. While April 7 was the target date for resuming activity, the quarantine could be extended. Accordingly, the times of service and church opening for private reflection will be determined for each day.

If not able to celebrate public Mass/liturgy on those days, I plan to provide Holy Communion to our parishioners who request it.

For the Sacrament of Penance, Fr. Dean will be available:

8 - 9:00 am Tuesday & Thursdays at St. Mary’s
9 - 10:00 am Wednesday & Fridays at St. Thomas
Also 8:00 am – 9:00 am Saturday St Thomas
3:00 pm – 3:30 Saturday at St. Mary’s
Note: There are no regular scheduled Masses.

Prayers for and Thank you to those who are continuing to do their jobs and provide us with hope: healthcare workers, law enforcement, truck drivers, post office employees, daycare providers, farmers, school staff, and all support staff and employees. A special thanks to the school district for all the meals that they have provided for our students that are home from school. We also acknowledge the charities & organizations that are providing assistance to those in need: The Jasper County Sheriff’s Office, The Jasper County Ministerial Alliance, Catholic Charities and many others too numerous to mention.

Again, Thank you!!

LITURGICAL AND FAITH LIFE CHANGES DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS in the DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

Bishop Paprocki has asked us to increase, rather than decrease our prayer and fasting, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters locally, nationally, and worldwide. Below is a summary of changes and guidelines for changes in our shared faith life. These changes remain in effect until further notice.

Masses and the Obligation to attend are suspended for the people. Priests are to offer Mass “sine populo” (without People). All public Masses and liturgical celebrations are replaced by private Masses. Our Bishop asks you to enter into a Eucharistic fast, that is, (Spiritual communion) until further notice.

NOTE: For Catholics who hunger for the Bread of Life, and ask to receive Holy Communion, I will not deny them. Private reception of Holy Communion is requested by contacting Fr. Dean at 217-494-6326.

Private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle is available during the following hours:

- 5:30 am – 9:00 pm at St. Thomas Church
- 8:00 am – 3:00 pm at St. Mary’s Church

Private individual prayers include rosary, stations of the cross, Scripture reading, meditation, etc. There is to be no public gathering scheduled.

REMINDER: Anointing of the Sick is reserved primarily for those in danger of death. Please call the parish office For Anointing of the Sick, Viaticum, the Last Rites, or Holy Communion, call or text 217-494-6326. Please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP.

Funerals: Private funerals will continue to be offered, limited to the immediate family only, in keeping with the government restrictions regarding crowd size, with the option to schedule a public Memorial Mass at a future date. **No visitations to be held in our Church at the present times regarding these government regulations.**

CONFIRMATIONS /FIRST COMMUNION

MASSSES are cancelled and a New Schedule is to be established when the “all clear is given for public gatherings.” **Note:** We will have to reschedule for our future third graders.

Weddings: Regrettably, government guidelines and mandates impact most weddings. A wedding within the next month will need to be a private wedding mass, with only immediate family and two official witnesses.