

# St. Thomas & St. Mary's Parishes

**Holy Masses This Week: Dec. 11- Dec. 17, 2017**

**Weekday AM Masses are at 8:30 AM unless scheduled elsewhere.**

*Tuesday, Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:30 a.m. (St. Mary) No Mass

5:30 p.m. (St. Thomas) No Mass

*Wednesday, Dec. 13, St. Lucy*

8:30 a.m. (St. Thomas) Communion Service

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

8:30 a.m. (St. Mary) Georgiann Kocher

*Friday, Dec. 15, Advent Weekday*

8:30 a.m. (St. Thomas) Doc & Clara Donsbach

*Saturday, Dec. 16, Advent Weekday*

4:00 p.m. (St. Mary) John Ochs

5:30 p.m. (St. Thomas) Jim Miller

*Sunday, Dec. 17, Third Sunday of Advent*

7:30 a.m. (St. Thomas) Mildred & Delbert Drewes

8:00 a.m. (St. Mary) For Our Parish

9:00 a.m. (St. Thomas) Lorraine Dallmier & Joyce Miller

## This Week in Our Parish Families

### St. Thomas the Apostle

**Tues.:** 5:00 p.m. Rosary, Fr. Dean Tribunal, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Diocesan Meeting in Springfield

**Weds.:** 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Diocesan Priests' meeting in Springfield, 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice, 6:30 p.m. PSR/ CYO

**Thurs.:** 1:45 p.m. Student Reconciliation, 6:30 p.m. Joint Parish Reconciliation Service at St. Mary's

**Fri.:** 10:30 a.m. Villas Mass, 7:00 p.m. Bingo - Lightning \$2,400.00

**Sat.:** 4:45 p.m. Reconciliation or by appointment

### St. Mary of the Assumption

**Mon.:** 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. Country Music Dance

**Tues.:** No Rosary before Mass, Fr. Dean Tribunal, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Diocesan Meeting in Springfield

**Weds.:** 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Diocesan Priests' meeting in Springfield, 6:30 p.m. PSR (K-10)

**Thurs.:** 8:00 a.m. Rosary before Mass, 6:30 p.m. Joint Parish Reconciliation Service at St. Mary's

**Sat.:** 3:30 p.m. Reconciliation or by appointment

**Sun.:** 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Blood Drive

### St. Thomas School

**Mon.:** 6:15 p.m. Boys Basketball

**Weds.:** Class Mass (5th grade)

**Thurs.:** 1:45 p.m. Student Reconciliation, 3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Stang Arts, 6:15 p.m. Boys basketball

**Fri.:** All-School Mass (4th Grade), 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dance

## +++++ What Does Advent Say??

John The Baptist says, "Prepare the way!" Advent is a time to prepare - a time to get ready. How will you get ready for Christmas? Can you learn a new song to share? Can you make up a Christmas game to play? How can your family share with the poor?

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### Readings in Preparation for the weekend:

Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm: Luke 1:4-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

## LECTORS

4:00 Kay Helregel

5:30 John Miller

7:30 Jill Bierman

8:00 Ron Zwilling

9:00 Shirley Schuetter

## Gift Bearers

4:00 Kevin & Teresa Ochs

5:30 Brad & Kim Ochs Family

7:30 Claude Wilson Family

8:00 Aaron & Tiffany Ochs

9:00 Roger & Amy Lemke



4:00 Nancy Zwilling, Richard Ochs, Ron Kirts

5:30 Mark Bolander, Glenda Spiker, Mary Ann Donsbach, Gery Ochs, Kimberly Ochs

7:30 Peter Pasero, Caroline Matson, Anna Hemrich, Sarah Hemrich, Dena Rauch

8:00 Lora Semple, Amy Frohning, Sharon Boehl

9:00 Ginger Robins, Becky Parker, Charlie & Jan Schackmann, Mary Jane Bierman

4:00 George Kirts, Bruce Ochs, Elmer Ochs

5:30 John Menke

7:30 Doug Long

8:00 Tony Strutner, Jake Semple, Roger Hemrich

9:00 Chris Rauch

## SERVERS

4:00 Alex Kaufmann & Bailey Kocher

5:30 Kaitlyn Ochs & Grant Ochs

7:30 Madalyn Rauch & Lily Bierman

8:00 Kayla Kocher & Owen Ochs

9:00 Sam Volk & Frank Cucinella

### Our Weekly Offerings

*Collection totals for the weekend of Dec. 2-3, 2017*

Envelopes (160).....\$6,354.00

Loose.....\$277.00

**Subtotal.....\$6,631.00**

School Fund(6).....\$100.00

Justice/Hope(1).....\$10.00

Thanksgiving.....\$105.00

**Subtotal Other.....\$215.00**

**Grand Total ... ..\$6,846.00**

Env.'s(49).....\$1,467.00

Loose .....\$261.00

**Subtotal.....\$1,728.00**

No Other Collections

**Subtotal .....\$680.00**

**Grand Total .....\$3,358.00**

This week's bulletin is sponsored by:

## Louis Ochs Chevrolet & Buick



### Those we remembered in our prayers:

Parish Book of Requests, Residents in Health Care Facilities, Marilyn Rubsam, Ashley Keller, Marianna Scott, Brenda Kocher, Lora Short, Eufala Bigard, Paul Hardiek, Dorothy Woods, Michael Habing, Isabelle Clark

### "Step Forward in Faith Together"

Total Paid 3rd Internal Campaign (Oct. 1, 2014) \$925,800.32

Grand Total Pledges Collected \$3,164,010.62

Balance to be Paid \*\*375,053.29

**\*\*Includes payment of \$25,106.57 from the 2017 Annual Harvest Parish Picnic.**

## *Celebrating Stewardship*

The Newton Ladies Auxiliary would like to wish everyone and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Due to the holidays and the hustle and bustle of the season, the Ladies will not meet in December but will be back in action in January.

The New St. Thomas Lay Ministry Schedules will be available next weekend. Please contact the parish office with any changes that you would like to make. This will help us keep the schedules updated and current. Thanks so much to all of our parishioners that participate in a ministry. Your involvement is very much appreciated and thank you for your wonderful display of stewardship!

Monthly Cleaning List Sign-Up. Many thanks to those who signed up last weekend to help clean the church. We still need more volunteers to expand our monthly cleaning lists. If you can help, call or text Ruth Kerner at 618-554-5632. We plan to keep the current list as is and add to it unless you let Ruth know that you want to make a change. Thanks so much for being good stewards for St. Thomas Parish!

The Jasper County Ministerial Association is asking for assistance during the holidays with their Christmas Food Box project. They would appreciate financial assistance, help with food items and volunteers to help pack and distribute food boxes. Please send monetary donations to P.O. Box 213, Newton, IL 62448 by December 12th. Our parish will be collecting food items to assist them with this very beneficial project for our community. Food items will be collected through Dec. 15th and baskets will be put together that evening at 5:00 p.m. Food baskets will be distributed on Saturday the 16th. If you would like to learn more about how to get involved, contact our parish office at 783-8741. Thanks!

The Guitar Group has great news! Their much anticipated Christmas CD is here and is available after each Mass this weekend. They are asking for a \$10.00 donation when picking up a CD. Your donations will benefit the St. Thomas music ministry.

## The School's Corner

### The St. Thomas School will have their classroom

Christmas wreaths on display in the church gathering space. Parishioners can purchase tickets for the Wreath raffle and place them in the bucket next to the wreath they would like to win. Tickets are \$1 or 6/\$5. The drawing will be held at the school Christmas Concert on December 20<sup>th</sup>. You need not be present to win. Thanks for your stewardship and helping those in need as all proceeds will go towards purchasing items for the residents at our local health care facilities.

### SCRIP Cards + Holiday Shopping = Merry Christmas.

Holiday shopping couldn't be easier...just purchase SCRIP Cards from your favorite retailers and local businesses. Stop by the school office or the SCRIP table at the weekend Masses to select SCRIP cards from popular and local retailers. A big thank you to our local participating businesses!

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Rest in Peace. As a parish family let us continue to pray for the repose of the souls of **Keith French & Teresa Ochs**. May they be in the loving arms of our Savior!

Congratulations to Claire Vogt, the daughter of Kevin & Lindsey(Shamhart), for her recent baptism at St. Thomas. As a parish family and as stewards of our faith, let us join together in welcoming her to the Catholic Faith.

Celebrating Christmas With Our Schools. **Newton Elementary** and the **Jasper County Junior High Band** are hosting a Christmas house walk the weekend of December 8 through the 10th, contact the Chamber of Commerce or Jeffrey Finley for more information. The **Newton Community High School Chorus** is hosting their annual Christmas concert on December 10 at 2 PM at the St. Thomas church. *(P.S. The high school chorus came over to practice this past week and the sneak preview was AWESOME!! You don't want to miss it!)*

St. Thomas Advent/Christmas Décor. If you would like to contribute to our annual decor fund in memory of a deceased loved one, please put your name(s) & contribution in an envelope marked "décor." We will publish a list to use as a prayer sheet during this Season of Joy. Please have all names submitted to the Parish Office by noon on Dec. 20, 2017.

First Reconciliation. Congratulations to the St. Thomas Parish 2nd Graders for recently making their First Reconciliation. As a parish family, may we be good examples to be followed as these youngsters prepare for their First Communion. Let us keep the following students in our prayers:

Carter Barthelme	Audrey Beals	Cheyenne Bedwell
Beau Bennett	Alani Bergbower	Blaine Bergbower
Brooke Bergbower	Adria Bierman	Anna Bierman
Nathan Bierman	Jenna Brewer	Madilyn Brummer
Malorie Buerster	Avery Geier	Lauren Gier
Cooper Haycraft	Lane Holder	Evan Holder
Grayson Lingafelter	Dana Michels	Maleah Miller
Aydan Oakley	Oliver Ochs	Kassie Pitcher
Stella Schackmann	Tyler Spiker	Aaron Volk
Curtis Weber		

### St. Thomas Christmas Schedule:

Sunday, December 24th - 4:00 p.m. - Youth Choir  
11:00 p.m. - Five for the One

Monday, December 25th - 9:00 a.m.



**"Prepare the way of the Lord"** is the cry of John the Baptist as we prepare for the feast of Christmas and await the second coming of Christ in glory. During the Advent Season, preparation for us might mean the receiving of the Sacrament of Penance, the Rite of Reconciliation. The Second grade students at St. Thomas Catholic School and in our Parish School of Religion received the merciful love of God given in this Sacrament this past week. There are two more opportunities in our parishes this week to participate in this Sacrament of God's Love. This Thursday afternoon at 1:45 pm there will be a Penance Service for St. Thomas

School students and anyone else who wishes to attend. Thursday evening at 6:30 pm a Penance Service will be held for both parishes at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Ste. Marie. Everyone is welcome to come and be reconciled with God and the Church.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception reminds us that Mary was "Full of Grace" from the moment of her conception. St. Paul tells us to "be holy and blameless in God's sight". May we be made "full of grace" by receiving the merciful love of God in the forgiven of our sins. I recall a second grade student who received the Sacrament for the first time telling her parents to receive it, "Don't you want a clean heart for Jesus at Christmas?"

NOTE: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by request at any reasonable time.

THIS WEEK I will be in Springfield Tuesday for our monthly Diocesan Tribunal Court. That night there is a meeting regarding the implementation of the recent Diocesan Synodal declarations. Wednesday all of the priests of Diocese are expected to attend a day-long meeting regarding the same. Please notify me 217-494-6326 if any family member is in one of the hospitals in Springfield so that I may visit them.

Since there will be NO Mass Wednesday morning, Deacon Larry Miller will provide a Liturgy of the Word Service with Communion for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and anyone who wishes to attend. Holy Communion will be consecrated at the Mass on Sunday to provide for the Wednesday service.

The recent joint Pastoral Council meeting has recommended that we begin the process of moving to the restoration of the Order of Initiation for everyone. The future for our Diocese will have Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion as the order for the reception of the Sacraments as is done in the RCIA for Adults and Children of 7 years of age. Thus our 8<sup>th</sup> graders this year will be prepared also to receive Confirmation next May 2, 2018. The following year we will have 6-8 graders and then 4-6 grader as we seek to implement the change over the next several years. More on this next week.

The Christmas schedule is: 4 pm Christmas Eve and 9 am Christmas Day at both our parishes. There will be an 11:00 pm Late night Christmas Eve Mass at St. Thomas Church, Newton. NOTE: The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 23/24 Mass schedule is the same as other Sundays.

God bless you during this Advent Season and Remember to be "Full of Grace!, Be Reconciled"

Love, Fr. Dean

## **St. Mary's News**

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE @ ST. MARY'S:**

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm (for Frank & Mary Geltz)

Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am (for Vincent & Louise Keller)

Please look at the sign-up paper in the back of church to see if you can help out with one of the ministries for the 2 Christmas Masses.

**A JOINT PENANCE SERVICE** for St. Mary's and St. Thomas will be on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** for anyone who would like to sing in the choir for Christmas Eve Mass @ 4pm is welcome to come and sing. The choir will be practicing for Christmas on the following Mondays: December 11<sup>th</sup> & December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**PSR CLASSES** will meet on **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm in the parish center.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** will meet on **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm** (due to the joint Penance Service scheduled on Thursday) in the sacristy of church. Topic will be preparing our church for Christmas. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AFTER THE 8:00 AM MASS** we will meet to put the finishing touches on the Christmas decorations in church. All help would be appreciated.

**THE FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE** would like to congratulate our latest raffle winners, Norma Beavers and Spencer Lurkins. A thank you to Lisa Ochs for donating this month's raffle prizes and to all those who continue to support our monthly raffles.

## **St. Mary's News**

**OUR NEXT BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. MARY'S** will be on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 to 11:30 in the parish center. All presenting donors will have their name put in a drawing for a certificate for meat (donated by Hartrich Meats). Circle 5 is asked for donations of finger foods.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** If anyone wishes to give Fr. Spriggs a card for Christmas, there will be a basket at the back of church until Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**THE JASPER COUNTY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION** are asking for donations of all non-perishable food items. Boxes are located at the entrances of church. The boxes will be in church until Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BEND COUNTRY CHRISTMAS** will be held on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm at the St. Valentine Hall. Santa will be there and the Oblong High School Jazz Choir will perform at 4:30pm. There will be refreshments, including soup, finger foods and a hot chocolate bar, door prizes and a bake walk. Join us "just around the river bend"! Thanks for your support of our community events throughout the years.

**An "ADVENT EVENSONG"** will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm at Holy Cross church in Wendelin with a candlelight service including Scripture, Organ, English Carols & Austrian Christmas music sung in German, by the Wendelin Kloeppen Singers. All are welcome. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Center.

**A PRECANA IS SCHEDULED** at St. Mary's on Saturday, March 17, 2018. Check out our website, [www.stemariechurch.org](http://www.stemariechurch.org) for registration forms.