



U N T O U S
A C H I L D
I S B O R N .

ISAIAH 9:6



Merry Christmas!

Welcome to each of you and a very Blessed Christmas to you and your families and your loved ones. One of the best Christmas songs of all is Bing Crosby's, "I'll Be Home for Christmas". That song brings so many wonderful memories of "home" and all the best that means for each of us. But, God willing, that word "home" also brings to mind our Church Home, our Catholic Faith and all that it means to us. With each passing year, it becomes clearer and clearer how much we need a living faith in Jesus Christ to handle the difficulties of this world. We ask that each of you consider St. Thomas the Apostle your home, and join us for Mass every single week. If there is anything we can help you with, please call us at 815-455-5400 to talk to one of the priests or staff members.

God bless you, and welcome "home"! Not just at Christmas, but always!

Family Mass

Join us on the first Sunday of the month (Oct. - May) at Noon Mass for our Family Mass.



How has your relationship with Jesus been lately?

God loves you so much that He will not stop searching for you, reaching out to you, and seeking you, so He can bring you into a warm, and loving relationship with Him. Whether or not you have been in that relationship for a long time or are just beginning to feel Him draw you closer...Now is the time to come on our Light of the World Retreat.



Set aside the weekend of
March 13-16, 2026
Come and experience the
St. Thomas the Apostle
Light of the World Retreat

Call Pat Haviland at 815-455-5400 or email him at phaviland@stthomascl.church for more information or to register.

Welcome!

Would you like to become a member of our Parish community? If you are uncertain if you are already registered or would like to register, you may call the Parish Center at 815-455-5400, visit our website and click "About" and then "Parish Registration" or scan this QR code.



Upcoming Knights of Columbus Events

Polish Dinner - January 31, 2026: an evening of fine Polish cuisine!

Blood Drive - January 10, 2026:
7:30am - 12:30pm in the Community Room. Use the QR code to reserve a spot to donate!



You are invited
to put your
faith in action

kofc.org/joinus



Knights of
Columbus®

Celebrate the Joy of Christmas with Us!

Are your children in need of Baptism, First Communion or any other Sacraments? We'd love to speak with you about helping your children receive any Sacraments they may have missed. We are here to support you in your faith journey. **If you are not sure what to do about your Sacramental needs, please call or email our office and speak with Mary Beth Jordan, Director of Religious Education & Faith Formation: mbjordan@stthomascl.church; 815-455-5400, ext. 407.**

We are always pleased to share ideas, options, and insights to bring everyone closer in their walk of faith. This Christmas, **let us support you and your children as you step more fully into the life of the Church!**

Wishing you and your family a blessed and joyful Christmas! ~ The Office of Religious Education & Faith Formation

2026

Make 2026 the year to get involved at St. Thomas the Apostle! We invite you to join us for any or all of the events in our Parish designed to deepen your faith, to provide something meaningful for all the family and to have fun together as a Parish Family!

Join a Bible Study, the Book Club or come to the Light of World Retreat! Check out That Man is You or the Men's Group. If you are in Junior High or High School, try our Youth Ministry Events.

Join one of our Lay Ministries! Become a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass or to the homebound, an Usher or Altar Server!

Come and enjoy the many events that are hosted here - the Knights Breakfast, the Knights Dinners, the Parish Picnic, Parish talks or the monthly Women's Evening of Recollection.

Trusting *Christ*
When the Road is Unclear

TRUSTING CHRIST
MY LORD AND MY GOD
WHEN THE ROAD IS UNCLEAR

February 23-26, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Parish Lenten Mission
with Father Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

Oak Street Church,
451 W. Terra Cotta Ave.
No cost, all are welcome.

ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Epiphany Blessing

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the Church. This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

Update Your Information

We would kindly like to ask for your help! Perhaps you registered with the parish 20 years ago and some things have changed, maybe you have gotten rid of your landline, or gotten a new email address, maybe you just moved across town. Maybe you have moved out of your parents home and are on your own. If any of these things or others could be you, we would appreciate you updating your information with us. Use the QR code or go to the Parish Website, under "About" to update your information. Or call the Parish Office. Thank you so much!



St. Thomas Parish is actively engaged in the **Great Catholic Parishes (GCP) "Good to Great" process**, setting focused goals to strengthen our parish life and deepen discipleship. Many recent improvements—like our renewed parish picnic—are fruits of this effort, and several initiatives are now underway. These include our upcoming Parish Mission, *"My Lord and My God: Trusting Christ When the Road Ahead Is Unclear"* (Feb. 23–26, 6:30–8 p.m.), enhanced communication through Flocknote and social media, and the launch of a new Welcome Ministry for parishioners joining our community. A Ministry Wall is also being planned for the narthex to help parishioners easily discover ways to get involved, in partnership with all ministry leaders. In addition, we are developing meaningful and intentional follow-up with our small communities and supporting their continued growth. Our purpose includes ensuring that every parishioner has a place to belong, to be nourished, and grow in faith.



Join the Fun! Share a pic of your coloring and tag our Facebook page to enter a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate!

<https://www.facebook.com/stscl>



St. Thomas Catholic Church

Catholic Mom's Group



supporting each other in faith and motherhood

Second Tuesday of the Month | 7:30-9 pm | Community Room

Beginning January 2026




RSVP HERE



OPEN HOUSE



COME EXPERIENCE *the* DIFFERENCE

- ✓ PreK - 8th Grade
- Contact Colleen Nieckula
- ✓ Catholic Education
- cnieckula@stthomascl.org

Sunday January 25th 1:30pm - 3:30pm