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St. Thomas the Apostle

715 Harris Road * Sheffield Lake * Ohio *
44054-1409
(440) 949-7744

December 20, 2020 4th Sunday of Advent

Masses: Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 AM
Monday through Saturday: 9:00 AM

NEW SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Starting January 1, 2021 we will have one Mass on Sunday at 10:00 AM. The rest of our Mass schedule for the weekend and weekdays will remain the same.

Confession: Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 PM or by appointment

The Rosary: Prayed daily before 9 AM Mass. This includes weekends.

Baptism: Sunday: 12:30 PM
Parent Pre-Baptismal Class required
One Sponsor must be an active Catholic with a Sponsor Letter from the Church they attend.

Marriage: At least one member must be a parishioner
Contact the Office at least six months before the tentative date is set

Home Communion: Notify the Parish Office

Funeral: Arrangements with the Parish Office must be made before publication. Hall rental and Funeral Luncheons available. Call Dave 440-670-0204 for food list and pricing.

Membership: Call the Office when you arrive. If you are moving, or turn 18 years of age contact us

Sick Calls: Communion for shut-ins and hospital visitation notify the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday-9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Friday-9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Information/insert for the bulletin must be in the Parish Office by Wednesday at 3:00 PM to make the weekend.

St. Thomas Mission Statement: We are a Catholic Community guided by the Holy Spirit. Inspired by our liturgy and communal prayer, we reflect Jesus as servants, teachers and leaders building the kingdom of God.

Holy Days of Obligation have been suspended until further notice.

Diocese of Cleveland

Website:.....www.dioceseofcleveland.org
Phone.....800-869-6525
Address.....1404 E. 9th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Parish Staff

Father Stephen L. Shields..... Pastor
Mrs. Heather Centifanti.....Office Manager
Mr. Michael Chutes.....Custodian

Communications

Office Address.....521 Harris Road, Sheffield Lake
Parish Office..... 440-949-7744
Office Fax..... 440-949-8611
Emailstthomas62@centurytel.net
Parish Website.....saintthomaschurch.net
Facebook..<https://m.facebook.com/thomas.church.39142>
Twitter.....Stthomas715
PSR-Kim & David Gray.....440-714-4007
Confirmation-John & Kathy Mack.....440-242-8683
RCIA.....440-949-7744
CYO-Jim O'Connor.....440-949-2631
Grismer Hall/Gym.....440-949-8491
Funeral Luncheon-Dave Johnston.....440-670-0204
Music/Choir-Roger Brooks.....440-346-3022

Parish Cluster Contacts

St. Anthony...www.stanthonylorain.parishesonline.com
1305 East Erie Ave. Lorain 44052 (440) 288-0106
St. Teresa.....office@stteresaparish.com
1878 Abbe Rd. Sheffield Village 44054 (440) 934-4227

Our Honored Former Pastors

+Fr. Raymond J. Grismer 1960-1962
+Fr. Urban A. Reichlin 1962-1968
+Fr. Claude J. Gaebelein 1968-1981
+Fr. John J. McCaffrey 1981-1998

St. Thomas the Apostle Church is fully accessible
No Steps, No Stairs, No Ramps

Mass Schedule

WEEKLY: Rejoice & Give Thanks

Sunday December 20, 2020
4th Sunday in Advent
 9:00 AM L&D Ladies Guild
 11:00 AM Dorothy & Michael Pundzak

Monday December 21, 2020
Winter begins
 9:00 AM Joseph Andulics

Tuesday December 22, 2020
 9:00 AM Faithful Departed

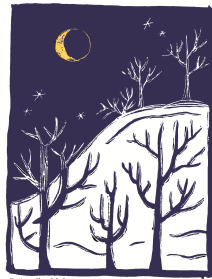
Wednesday December 23, 2020
St. John of Kanty
 9:00 AM Betty Savinsky

Thursday December 24, 2020
Christmas Vigil
 9:00 AM St. Thomas Parishioners
 4:00 PM Otto & Ellie Marcucci
 7:00 PM L & D Holley Family

Friday December 25, 2020
Nativity of the Lord
 10:00 AM Suk Yong & Luke Chang family

Saturday December 26, 2020
St. Stephen
 9:00 AM St. Thomas Parishioners
 4:00 PM Wiemels/Nedrich family

Sunday December 27, 2020
Holy Family Mary, Jesus & Joseph
 9:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. William F. Lasby
 11:00 AM St. Thomas Parishioners
 Lectionary Year: "B"



WEEKLY COLLECTION Goal \$5,000.00
 Early Bulletin \$
 Please increase your Offering so that we can meet our goal.
Online Giving www.CatholicCommunity.org/Offertory.
 Please continue to support St. Thomas by mailing in your weekly envelopes.
 Thank you for your generous and continued support.
 Remember St. Thomas in your Will.

NEW SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE
Starting 1 January 2021 we will have one Mass on Sunday at 10:00 AM. The rest of our Mass schedule for the weekend and weekdays will remain the same.

Christmas Holiday Mass Schedule
 Thursday, December 24, 2020 (Eve) 4PM & 7 PM
 Friday, December 25, 2020 (Christmas Day) 10 AM
 Friday, January 1, 2021 (New Years Day) 10 AM

ST. THOMAS CHURCH EVENTS
Holy Water If you would like Holy Water blessed bring some in your provided container and Fr. Steve will bless it after any Mass.
Virtus Training <http://www.virtus.org> click training tab.
Blessing Blanket Ministry will meet every Monday from 1-5 PM in Room #2 in Grismer Hall after the holidays. If you wish to drop off material or completed blankets call Justine (440) 830-9990. Thanks for all the support.

St. Thomas Christmas Decorating We need help to decorate the Church for Christmas. We will gather after the 11 AM Mass on Sunday December 20th.
Flower Memorials Flower Memorial money is due by Sunday, December 20th. Each memorial is \$5.00. Print memorials on the envelope and drop off into collection baskets or to the Parish Office.

Feast of Faith When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in 2008, tens of thousands gathered in Yankee Stadium to celebrate the Eucharist with him. What made them different was they began to sing together, to listen together, to pray together, they ceased to be a crowd, and became a liturgical assembly. It was not where they were but what they did that set them apart. The Gospels speak of many instances when Jesus prayed alone to his Father. Jesus also put a special value on communal prayer. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," "there am I in the midst of them." Jesus gave a mission to his followers, sending them forth to do everything he did: to heal, to teach, to proclaim the kingdom. Jesus wants us to meet God in and through each other. So the Christian community continues to gather, Sunday after Sunday. When we come to Mass, we respond to Jesus' invitation, and express our trust in his promise that whenever we come together, he comes, too.

PRE-BAPTISM CLASS-2021 No December Class

January 19-7:30 PM St. Mary (440) 934-4212
 February 18-7:30 PM Holy Spirit (440) 933-9777
 All new, expecting parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptismal Class before scheduling a baptism at the Parish they attend. One of the two Godparents must be an active Catholic with a Sponsor Certificate from their church.

St. Thomas needs Lectors, Readers, Eucharist Ministers & Servers. No Experience needed. "Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit working in you."

St. Thomas has a new Facebook address:
<https://m.facebook.com/thomas.church.39142>

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 26-4:00 PM
 C-MB Riley L-S Riley
 EM-A & J Balmert, S Duffy

Sunday, December 27-9:00 AM
 C-J Houlihan L-
 EM-K Jaanosik, P Blazina, H Schremp

Sunday, December 27-11:00 AM
 C-L Prokay L-AM Woltman
 EM-J Kelly, D Gray, D Munro



Cup servers removed until further notice. Fill in for Eucharist Ministers if needed at the Mass you attend.

St. Thomas Church is Kid Friendly

THANK YOU

...to all those who gave to our We Give Catholic "Raising the Roof" giving us a total of \$21,810.00

The Eternal God King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome. Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told. Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God"

"Where does God dwell?" is on the minds of many as we adjust to the pandemic. David wanted to build a dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant, but God said, "No, that's not what I had in mind!" God is present in the Word, and in Luke's Gospel passage today, Jesus is residing in the womb of Mary. We know that Jesus is present in the assembly gathered, as well as within the Eucharistic species. No matter how one experiences the presence of Jesus, these days are challenging. In many places, only limited numbers continue to be allowed in church, while others are only able to worship via live stream. None of the pat answers to where God dwells really fit. We need to try and answer this with new eyes and ears and heart.

Treasures from Our Tradition We are experiencing the darkest, longest nights of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year's Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve's fall, and the date of the Crucifixion. The message is don't let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast!

PARISH CLUSTER EVENTS

St. Teresa: Eucharist Adoration is every Wednesday from 9 AM-1 PM in the Church.

St. Anthony: Rosarys for the Unborn are said the first Saturday of each month from 10 AM-3:30 PM.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

We do not dare believe or trust the truth that God lives in us, out of choice and preference. Whether you understand or not, God loves you, is present to you, lives and dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and light. Advance into the solitude of your heart, then you will truly understand the depths of God's spirit and your inmost self, so that you and God are in One Spirit.

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Diocese of Cleveland Mass Starts on Nov. 22, the TV Mass will be at 10 AM on WUAB Channel 43, the CW43. This provides viewers the weekly celebration of the Mass at a convenient time. WUAB Channel 43 is an over-the-air station that is accessible even without cable TV. Those with cable TV need to check their local cable listings to locate WUAB. The weekly TV Mass is produced by the Diocese of Cleveland and originates from the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland. This Mass has been a staple of religious programming on Northeast Ohio airwaves for decades, cultivating a dedicated and faithful following. We hope that viewers will continue to tune in at this convenient time.

Protecting God's Children "Protecting God's Children" protects children from sexual abuse. Inform authorities of inappropriate behavior. Call 216-334-2999 responseservices@dioceseofcleveland.org "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."



Pro-Life Doctor's List Pro-life doctors, who don't practice abortion or support its use. Call 440-322-0076. www.loraincountyrighttolife.org under Resources/Issues tab. Abortion destroys God's plan for the life of that child.

St. Thomas is still providing food for the Homeless Shelter. Call Penny (440) 949-7548 to make a financial donation, donate food or help prepare or deliver meals. We supply & deliver meals year round.

Our Cathedral's YouTube Channel features the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary, in addition to various tracks of the Cathedral Choir. Consider visiting and subscribing to Cleveland Cathedral YouTube channel

Catholic Radio Stations

- 1220 AM-WHKW Radio The Word
- 1260 AM-The Rock
- 1060 AM-Living Bread
- 1330 AM-WINT



<http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/catholicradio>

'Table Talk' 1260AMtherock.com for times and dates.

EWTN-www.ewtnnews.com TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.