

Holy Family Parish

401 W. North St.
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353



St. Thomas Catholic Church

109 E. Spring, Camp Point, IL 62320

Rectory: (217) 773-3233

E-mail: holy.family@smseagle.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor – (217) 242-9669

Deacon Michael P. Ellerman

Ashley Guthrie, Bookkeeper

Tammy McKeown, Parish & School Secretary

Cheryl Dillard, Liturgical Music Coordinator

Ann O'Sullivan, PSR

D.R.E: Laura Evans – (217) 316-1734

School: St. Mary (217) 773-2825

Website: www.smseagle.org

Principal: Melissa Obert

Mass Schedule

Daily: 7:00 a.m. (Tues.-Thurs.)

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

Holy days: 8:30 a.m. (during school year), 5:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration

First weekend of month

Phone (217) 593-6685, (217) 773-3233

E-mail: stthomascp@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Pat Sharow – (217) 209-4765

Arts & Environment: Amanda Genenbacher – (217) 257-3184

Liturgical Music Coordinator: Anita Witt – (217) 440-9060

Renting of Hall: Cathy Holtschlag – 217-430-7493

Community for Christ Assistance Center Board Member:

Dorothy Obert – (217) 593-6520

Ministry Schedule: Bobbi Mock – (217) 430-2859

CHWC Director: Karen Janssen – (217) 242-5283

D.R.E: Laura Evans – (217) 316-1734

Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day: 7:30 p.m.

First Friday Adoration of the Eucharist 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

First Friday Mass 6:00 p.m. also Reconciliation after Mass

Ladies Bible Study Wednesday 9:30 a.m.

PSR classes Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Men & Women's Society Meeting 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – 2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Website: www.stthomascp.org

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, January 4 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 5 – 7:00 a.m.

St. John Neumann, Bishop
1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44

Linda Busen

Wednesday, January 6 – 7:00 a.m.

1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

Marilyn Hammer

Thursday, January 7 – 7:00 a.m.

1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a

John Bullard
(By the Family)

Friday, January 8 – 7:00 a.m.

1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

Russell Koch
(By Jim and Rosanne Ray)

Friday, January 8 – 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Friday, January 8 – 9:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Saturday, January 9 – 5:30 p.m.

1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

John Franklin
(By Class of 1953)

Sunday, January 10 – 8:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 55:1-11; 1 John 5:1-9; Mark 1:7-11

Parishioners of Holy Family

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Ross Matthew Evans
(By the Evans Family)

St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 25, 26, 27, 2020

Holy Family: \$6,100.00
Christmas: \$5,300.00

School Support: \$230.00

Sister Parish: \$70.00

Catholic Children's Home: \$831.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 20, 2020

St. Thomas: \$2,824.00

Immaculate Conception: \$5.00

December 25-27, 2020

St. Thomas: \$2,504.00

Christmas: \$1,710.00

Children's Home: \$430.00

St. Thomas weekly budgeted amount: \$3,000

UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ **Knights of Columbus meeting** will be held at the KC Hall on Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. A light meal will be served at 6:30 prior to the meeting.

❖ **Bosco Kids** - Classes will resume on January 6, 2021.

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or tmckeown@smseagle.org with any information you wish to have placed in the bulletin. I will need any information by Monday at 2:00 p.m. for insertion into the next weekend's bulletin.

OFFICE HOURS

School Office hours will be Monday-Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Our phone number is (217) 773-2825.

The rectory phone number is: (217) 773-3233.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following in your prayers:

All Caregivers † The shut-ins of our parish and community † Matthew Bishop † For the

safety of all of our military † For a Special
 Intention † Gay Gunn † Don & Marie Hendren
 † Jolene Lawson † Sharon Johnson † Gavin
 McDaniel † Boyd Tenhouse † Donna Reische †
 Janice Leverton † Jack Pool † Gary Shields †
 Carroll Hedden † Bonnie Meats † Abby
 Schuhardt † Corine Kirby † Sheila Roberts †
 Jack Cannon † Kim Koch † Betty (Koch)
 Atteberry † Carolyn Kassing † Jim Steinkamp
 † Pat Parker † Jenny Fox † Carrie Haskins †
 Heather Poppy † Stanley Harms † Pat Boylen
 † Michelle Baucom-Keller † Myles Keller †
 Maisy Keller † Faye Greenwell † Carol
 Eickelschulte † Kimberly Kestner & Baby †
 Sheila Thompson † Suzanne Forsythe †
 Shirley McLaughlin † Cathy Baucom †
 J. J. Gronewold † Jack Johnson † Rhonda
 Koch † Raymond Metzger † John Norkus †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

January 10, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jim Clausius
Lector: Sheila Roberts
Ushers: Maurice Schmidt, Butch Likes,
 Jacob Schmidt

January 10, 2021 - 11:30 a.m.

Lector: Matt Schmidt
Ushers: Butch Obert, John Brady

From the Pastor's Desk

First off, again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each one of you. Having celebrated Christmas Day, we remain in the Season of Christmas and today the Church celebrates the Epiphany of the Lord.

The word epiphany itself simply means a manifestation or a showing. The Solemnity we celebrate today is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles who are represented by the Magi. It's a reminder to us that the Son of God has come for all people.

The Epiphany is a major event in the story of Jesus' life, in salvation history as a whole, and in our own Christian lives. The Magi, though not from the Israelite people, knew something profound had happened in the world even though they were not expecting such a thing. We hear in the Gospel that they were "overjoyed at seeing the star" and upon finding the Christ Child, "they prostrated themselves and did Him homage," offering Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, that which was foretold in the First Reading for today from the prophet Isaiah.

It would probably be good for us to reflect on the joy in our own lives at the coming of Jesus, the homage we give to Him, and the gifts we offer to Him. Do we recognize and experience this joy? Is that joy evident in our lives and to others? And what about our homage that we ourselves give to the Lord? Homage is more than just privately knowing about Jesus. The very word itself indicates a public recognition and honor. Homage to the Lord calls us to that public recognition and honor of the Lord as we too "proclaim the praises of the Lord." At the same time, we offer our very selves to the Lord.

St. Paul in our Second Reading today further reminds us that indeed the Son of God has come for all people as he writes, "the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus." St. Paul is describing each one of us. Indeed, the Light of Christ calls and invites every person and every person is welcome to follow the Light of Christ to where Christ may be found. That, of course, is always a choice, a choice that every person has to make, you and me included. For those of

us baptized into this Light, we are called to bring gifts, just as the Magi brought gifts. The gifts we bring are our very selves and our faith in honor of Christ's kingship, priesthood, and sacrifice. And not only that, we go out into the world that still needs Light and use the gifts we've been given to direct others to that Light.

As we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, we are reminded that the glory of the Lord shines upon us. It is a beautiful and wonderful celebration. May we be filled with joy ever more and may we always give the Lord homage as we give the gift of our very selves fully to Him.

And now just a few notes:

-It's a little hard for most of us to believe that we've now entered into 2021. I do hope your New year is off to a good start and I pray that it will be a holy year for all of us. I encourage you to reflect each day on the goodness of God in your own life, in the lives of others, and in the world as a whole and to give praise and thanks to God for all things.

-I would like to thank all of those who helped to decorate our churches for Christmas. I know there is a lot of work that goes into this. I think our churches are quite beautiful as we celebrate this Christmas Season. Thank you also to those who contributed toward the poinsettias and other decorations. Many of those contributions were made in memory of a loved one. Please be assured of my continued prayers. I recognize, too, all the work many of you do throughout the year for our parishes and school so thank you for that.

-Thank you also for all of the cards and gifts and greetings that have been shared with me this Christmas Season. Being the Pastor at St. Thomas and Holy Family is a great gift and blessing for me. I am looking so forward to getting to know each of you even better.

-St. Mary School resumes on Monday, January 4. I know I've said it before, but I say it again, what a great blessing St. Mary School is for our parishes and for the community. I am so pleased to be part of it, and I cannot stress enough the great value of Catholic Education and the gift and blessing that it is. St. Mary School is an integral part of our parish and in carrying out the mission of the Universal Church. Many thanks to our principal and all of our teachers and staff who work so hard to make St. Mary School so great. And many thanks to all of our supporters of St. Mary School. On Monday, January 4, the Church also celebrates the Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Patron Saint of Catholic Schools. What a beautiful day to begin our second half of the school year. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us!

-PSR resumes on Wednesday, January 6 in both parishes. Many thanks to our dedicated coordinators, teachers, and staff for PSR. Each of these people play an important role in helping to teach the faith and form our young people. I ask the parents of our PSR children to make sure your children are attending the PSR classes every week, to make prayer and faith a priority at home, and to attend Mass with your children at least every Sunday. This is an important responsibility for you, and I trust that you will take that responsibility seriously. Our PSR classes are but one element of faith formation.

-Just before Christmas, the Brown County Deer Classic Committee presented a check to Mrs. Obert and me for St. Mary School. I would like to thank the Deer Classic Committee for all of their hard work to make this event a success this year and for all of you who helped support the Deer Classic in any way.

-In last week's bulletin, I mentioned Bishop Paprocki's procedures and guidelines for those who are attending Mass but are unable to receive Holy Communion. This may be for a number of

reasons (such as having not yet received First Holy Communion, not being in a state of grace, not being a practicing Catholic). You may have already noticed the change that I have implemented as directed by the Bishop, that being when someone approaches in the line for Holy Communion who cannot receive, I bow slightly and say "Receive the Lord in your heart." Bishop Paprocki in his directive for this says that those who are unable to receive Holy Communion should not present themselves in the Communion line/procession. For those that do, they should present themselves with their arms folded across their chest. There should be an act of reverence toward the Body of Christ (bow of the head) and the priest or the one distributing Holy Communion, while also making a slight bow of the head, says "Receive the Lord in your heart." There is no blessing, no other words, no touching of the forehead, no extending of an arm or hand. I will be moving forward with this as the Bishop has directed. I will be speaking more about this as time goes on and putting more in future bulletins about this to help you understand it more fully.

-I wanted to share a few things from the Knights of Columbus:

First, the next monthly meeting for the Mt. Sterling Knights of Columbus will be Tuesday evening, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. I want to encourage all members to attend and participate. I know we are all very busy with many things. Unfortunately, we often times do not have a lot of members present at our meetings. Please come and join us if you are able.

Be sure you have your calendar marked for the Knights of Columbus Pancake and Sausage Day, Saturday, January 23. It will be drive-thru only this year, beginning at 6:30 a.m. Please plan now to come by and support the local council of the Knights of Columbus who so generously supports us

throughout the year. Be on the look-out for more details

The annual Illinois Knights of Columbus Vocation Raffle was extended into January. Tickets may still be purchased but they are due into the state office this week. I would encourage you to take some chances on this raffle. There are 20 cash prizes total, and the top cash prize is \$10,000. This raffle helps support vocations in Illinois as well as our local council. I have a few raffle booklets available or you may contact Jim Rischar. Again, these are due back in the next few days, so get yours today.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please let us know. The Knights of Columbus is a great Catholic organization and I encourage all Catholic men, 18 years old and older to consider joining. Fr. Michael J. McGivney, the Founder of the Knights of Columbus, is being examined for Sainthood and was Beatified this past Fall. We look forward to his Canonization.

As we enter into this new calendar year together, I want to thank you all for your continued prayers and support of me, one another, the parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please know of my continued prayers for each one of you. As I conclude, I leave you with a prayer for the New Year.

-Fr. Aaron

PRAYER FOR A BLESSING ON THE NEW YEAR

O sacred and adorable Trinity, hear our prayers on behalf of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our Bishop, Thomas John, all Bishops, our clergy, and for all that are in authority over us. Bless, we beseech Thee, during the coming year, the whole Catholic Church. Convert heretics and unbelievers. Soften the hearts of sinners so that they may return to Thy friendship. Give prosperity to our country and peace

among the nations of the world. Pour down Thy blessings upon our friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and upon our enemies, if we have any. Assist the poor and the sick. Have pity on the souls of those whom this past year has taken from us and be merciful to those who during the coming year will be summoned before Thy judgment seat. May all our actions be preceded by Thy inspirations and carried on by Thy assistance so that all our prayers and works, having been begun in Thee, may likewise be ended through Thee. Amen.

**Bulletin Short for
The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity
- 03 January 2021**

Copartners in the Promise. The readings and this solemnity are filled with competing images and persons. Darkness and light. Christians of Jewish heritage and Gentiles. Chosen people and coheirs, copartners. Herod and the Magi. Epiphany teaches us this: all are members of the same body, all are coheirs of God's goodness, all are copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus.

- Like the Magi, how will I give homage to Christ today?
- Whom do I look down upon that I must see as a copartner with me?
- What treasure will I give away, will I offer to another?

BOSCO KIDS

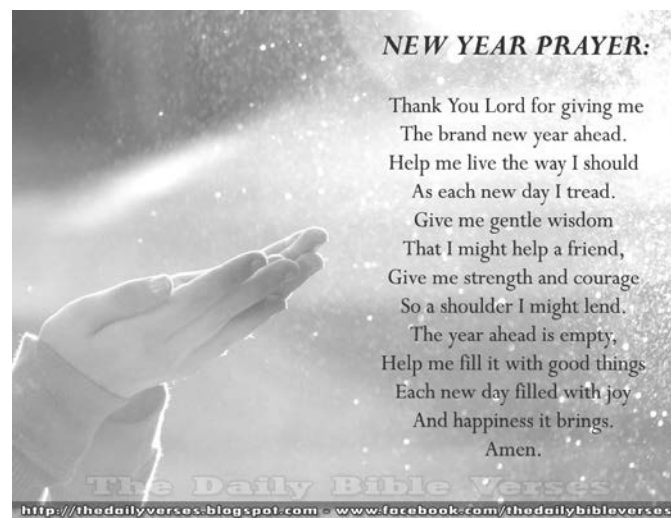
Happy New Year to all the Bosco Kids Families. I pray you have a blessed 2021. Thank you all for the gifts you made for the nursing home residents and the shut-ins of our parish - their smiles and gratitude were priceless.

Classes resume this week, Wednesday, January 6, from 6:16-7:30. Don't forget to bring your colored Right to Life pictures

with you. The Confirmation Enrollment Mass will be at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, 1/9 for the 3rd graders being confirmed in the spring.

MT. STERLING CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery will be closing their books for 2020 shortly. If you wish to make a contribution, please drop in the collection or mail to: Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery, P.O. Box 252, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353.



A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

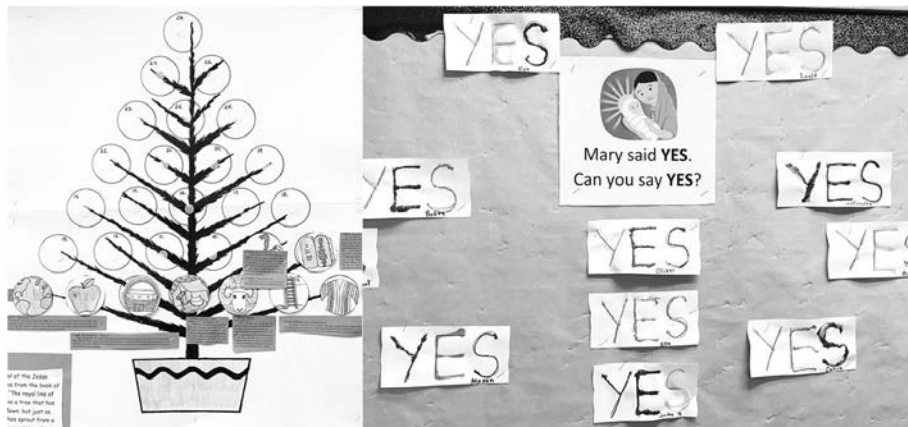
Dear Lord, please give me -
 A few friends who understand me and yet remain my friends;
 A work to do which has real value, without which the world would feel the poorer;
 A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
 An understanding heart;
 A sense of humor;
 Time for quiet, silent meditation;
 A feeling of the presence of God;
 And the patience to wait for the coming of these things,
 with the wisdom to know them when they come.

-- W.R. Hunt

St. Mary School Advent Preparations



Mrs. Weronko's Kindergarten class prepared for Advent by completing a good deed each day. It was so fun to see what good deed each new day brings!



A Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each day of Advent, Ms. Saxer read a short Bible story to the 1st graders about someone on Jesus's family tree and hung an ornament symbolizing the story on their Jesse Tree.

Mrs. Jenni Obert taught the PreK students that Mary said, "YES!"

Will you say "YES" with them?

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