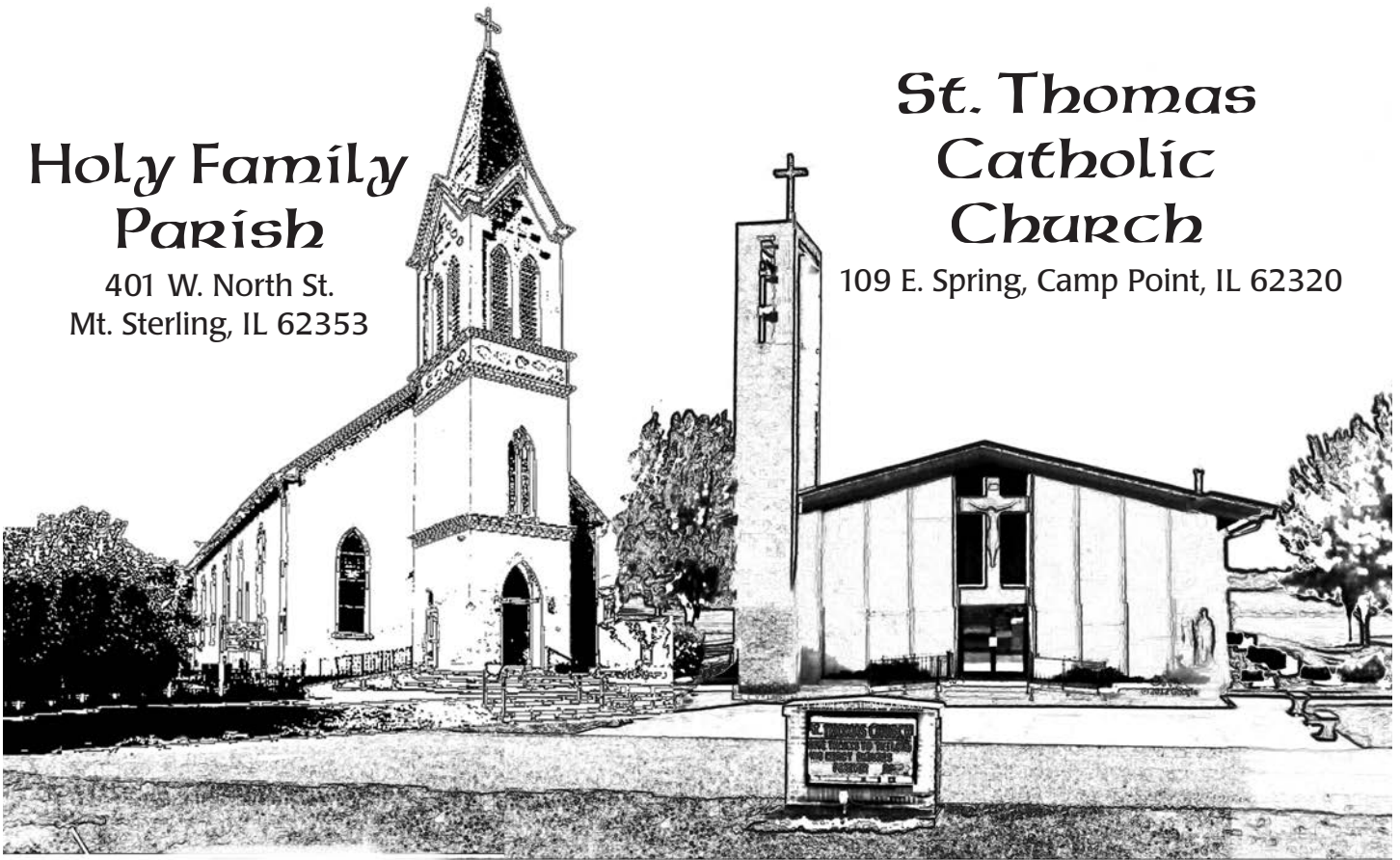


Holy Family Parish

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 11 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 12 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28

Cathy Owen

(By John and Rosemary Holler)

Wednesday, January 13 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39

Paul, Frances and Larry Schenk
and Ruth James

(By the Schenk Families)

Thursday, January 14 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45

Francis and Mary Ray

(By Jim and Rosanne Ray)

Friday, January 15 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12

Raymond and Margaret Ebbing
(By Mark and Penny Ebbing)

Friday, January 15 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Friday, January 15 – 9:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Saturday, January 16 – 5:30 p.m.

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17

Parishioners of Holy Family

Sunday, January 17 – 8:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20;

John 1:35-42

Beth Clark

(By Tom and Nancy Schneider)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

John Duesterhaus

(By Jim and Nora Clausius)

St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 1, 2 and 3, 2021

Holy Family: \$5,094.00

Christmas: \$70.00

School Support: \$669.00

Sister Parish: \$10.00

Church in Latin America: \$15.00

Catholic Times: \$75.00

First Offering: \$190.00

New Year's: \$388.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 3, 2021

St. Thomas: \$2,440.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$220.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ Mt. Sterling K of C Council #1281

Pancake, Sausage and Egg Breakfast:

Saturday, January 23, 6:30 a.m. to 11:30
a.m. at K of C Hall. Carry-outs available.

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 † Jim Wort † Tom Parker †

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Edna Louise Busen who passed away on January 4, 2021. May God keep you in His care!

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

January 17, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jonah Coggeshell
Lector: Bobbi Mock
Ushers: Maurice Schmidt, Butch Likes, Jacob Schmidt

January 17, 2021 - 11:30 a.m.

Lector: Tod Perry
Ushers: Butch Obert, John Brady

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the Gospel, we hear that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized in the Jordan by John. As Jesus came forth from the water, we're told that the heavens were torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descended upon Jesus. Then a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased." This seems simple enough but it a powerful message as Jesus is revealed as the Son of God.

John's humility in all of this is shown forth at the start of today's Gospel passage when he says "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of His sandals. I have baptized you with water; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John, of course, knew that he was not the Messiah but John also knew that he was called to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. John baptized the people in water so that Jesus could fully baptize them with fire and the Holy Spirit. John's recognition of Christ and his humble service to God's Will is a great example for us as we live out our Christian lives.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we also reflect on the Sacrament of Baptism and our own Baptism. Baptism cleanses and prepares us for life in Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we are forgiven of all of our sins (original sin and any actual sin for those who are baptized as adults). I might note here just briefly that while Baptism removes the stain of sin from us, it does not prevent us from falling into sin again. Our free will remains fully intact. Thus, we can choose to turn away from God after Baptism. We call that sin. Fortunately for us, the Lord Himself has also given to us the Sacrament of Reconciliation that brings us back into

a state of grace and back into full communion with the Church through the forgiveness of sins. What a beautiful and necessary gift the Sacrament of Reconciliation is, made available to us through the first of the Sacraments, the Sacrament of Baptism.

In Baptism, we are brought into the family of God and we are given sanctifying grace to live and grow in holiness. Indeed, we are called to a life of holiness through Baptism, that universal call for each of us, and we are marked forever as Christ's own. While Baptism does not guarantee that a person will go to heaven (if only it would be that easy, right), it does mark the person for Christ in a way that cannot be erased.

In Baptism, we are grafted (or attached) to Christ. We receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into us, making us disposed to receive additional graces and blessings throughout our lives. These graces, of course, assist us in our journey of holiness and to our final goal, union with God for all eternity. Again, Baptism cleanses and prepares us for life in Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. What a beautiful gift.

Our Baptism is the first step in our lives as People of God. We are cleansed and marked so that we can be filled with the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit and be used for God's glory. It is the beginning of our journey with and to Christ. Baptism is the foundation of the other Sacraments that the Lord has given to us and that we receive. It is by this Sacrament that we come to participate in the full life of the Church. We long to be filled with the Holy Spirit and it is only in Baptism that we receive the grace that makes this journey possible.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we also bring to a conclusion the Christmas Season. Ordinary Time for this Liturgical Year begins on Monday, January 11 and continues through Tuesday, February 16,

the day before Ash Wednesday which, of course, marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Ordinary Time resumes on Monday, May 24, the day following Pentecost and the end of the Easter Season.

Concerning Ordinary Time, the following is from the Universal Norms: "Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the Mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the Mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time."

And concerning Ordinary Time, the following is taken from the St. Andrew Bible Missal: The Christian's contemplative vision sees all reality as gift or grace and our thankful response we call worship or eucharist. "We cannot speak of Ordinary Time without speaking of Sunday. The every seven-day celebration of the Lord's Day is the basic structure upon which the Church Year is built. The great liturgical seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter are more expansive celebrations of particular aspects of the one paschal mystery which we celebrate every Lord's Day. These special seasons focus our attention upon critical dimensions of one mystery, a mystery so overwhelming that we are compelled to separate out its various elements for particular attention. These seasons in no way minimize the critical importance of the Sunday celebration throughout the rest of the year. Ordinary Time is not very ordinary at all. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian community which comes together, remembering that on the first day of the week the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion. Sunday as a day of play and worship is a sacrament of redeemed time. How we live Sunday proclaims to the

world what we believe about redeemed time now and forever.

What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday, like all sacraments, is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the Kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living.”

And finally, on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, St. Gregory of Nazianzus wrote: “Today, let us do honor to Christ’s baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom His every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the Great Light, bathed in the glory of Him who is the Light of Heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling Light of the Trinity, as now you have received – though not in its fullness – a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the One God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever.”

As we move out of the Christmas Season and into Ordinary Time, I pray that you may always reflect on the goodness of God in your life and how the Lord is calling you to the fullness of Life. May your day today and every day be holy.

And now just a few notes:

–I have some excellent and exciting news to share with all of you. Our Principal of St. Mary’s School, Mrs. Melissa Obert, has informed me that our school enrollment after the Christmas break is now at 101 students. This is incredible news for the school and the parishes. It has been many years since enrollment in the school has seen triple digits. I could

not be more happy. Some classes are completely full with a waiting list. I am so grateful for the great blessing of St. Mary School to our parishes and to the wider community. Please join me in giving praise and thanks to God for His many blessings on our school.

With that exciting news, you may have already seen that I am inviting folks to help us celebrate our 100th student enrolled at St. Mary School by joining me in contributing \$100 to the school. I have already made my celebratory contribution and invite you to join me. I want to encourage you to invite others to do the same. This truly is a cause for celebration, and I hope you will join me. If you are able to make a contribution and would like to join us, you may send your contribution in to the school, drop it in the collection basket, or bring it directly to the school or rectory. Please clearly mark any contributions as “100th Student Contribution.” Contributions may be mailed to St. Mary School, 408 W. Washington, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353.

Perhaps you know of a business who would like to join in this celebration. If so, please invite them to contribute as well. If you know of a business or individual who would like to act as a matching sponsor, please have them contact me directly at the rectory (217)-773-3233.

Thank you for your continued and generous support. It is vitally necessary, and I sincerely appreciate it. Please share this great news and opportunity with others.

–Maurice Schmidt is working on the lawn care schedule for St. Thomas. He is contacting folks who have helped in the past. If you are interested in helping with the lawn care at St. Thomas, please call Maurice at (217) 257-0668 for more information or to get set up on the schedule. Maurice is looking to have the schedule completed soon, since lawn care season will be upon us before we know it, so please give him a call today to get your

name on the list. I want to thank all those at St. Thomas who have undertaken this project. The grounds at St. Thomas always look very nice and this is a very valuable service to the parish.

-Again, thank you to all who helped decorate the churches for Christmas. I thought the churches were beautiful. Christmas decorations will be coming down after the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. If you would like to take a poinsettia, please feel free to do so...but PLEASE, do not take them until the decorations begin to come down...not before the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday at Holy Family and the 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas.

-Thank you also once again for the many Christmas greetings, cards, and gifts that I received. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is much appreciated. As I've said before, what great blessings St. Thomas Parish, Holy Family Parish, and St. Mary School are to me.

-Another reminder that the Mt. Sterling Knights of Columbus Pancake and Sausage Day will be Saturday, January 23 beginning at 6:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. This year will be drive-through only. Please plan to join us and help support the Mt. Sterling Knights of Columbus Council which supports us and the community in many ways throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, for one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my continued daily prayers for each one of you. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

Bulletin Short for
The Baptism of the Lord, Feast -
10 January 2021

God Shows No Partiality. Saint Peter speaks the truth. God is impartial. For everyone who acts uprightly is acceptable. Everyone. Politics may be partisan at times, but Christians can never be. Indeed, Baptism makes us all alike - with differing gifts and charisms - but all in the image of Christ whose name we bear. God says to us as well: "I am well pleased."

- Because of Baptism, how will I cherish even those not like me?
- What will I do today to bear the image of Christ?
- To whom will I say, because of this -----, I am well pleased?

**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.

**HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS
FLOWER DONATIONS**

Susie Woodward - *in memory of Jan and Matt Hall*

Jim and Rosanne Ray - *in memory of Francis and Mary Ray, William and Ruth Ormond and Joan O'Connor*

Jim and Doris Duvendack - *in memory of M/M Ralph Bollin and M/M Richard Duvendack*

John and Eileen King - *in memory of the King/Cisson Families*

Doug and Dawn Dunn - *in memory of Doug and Margie Dunn, Matt and Mary Volk and Alfred and Mary Wegs*

Barb Lehne - *in memory of William and Helen Koch and Richard and Margie Salrin*

Mary Kassing - *in memory of Vic, Allen and Joyce Kassing*

Norma Hufnagel - *in memory of the Lehne and Hufnagel Families*

Kenny and Mary Koch - *in memory of Norma Koch*

Becky Long - *in memory of Jim and Wanda Busen, Butch, Charlotte and Ron*

Mike and Carol Boylen - *Dick, Laura and Mike Volk*

Kent and Leigh Ann Boylen - *in memory of Larry and Janet Harshman*

POT OF GOLD

December Pot of Gold winners!

\$250.00 - Kate Hill
\$125.00 - Andrew Ibach
\$75.00 - Marilyn Mating
\$50.00 - Charlie Koch
\$50.00 - Loren Ralston

THANK YOU

If you remembered us with prayers, cards, or gifts during the Christmas season, we thank you. May God bless you in 2021 and always!

Father Aaron and Deacon Mike

REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel - even if it is in the past - individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE."



Did you know you can order magazines any time throughout the year and Friends of St. Mary's will receive 40% profit? You can order online at www.gaschoolstore.com, click "shop now" and enter the school code which is

3823606. St. Mary School will be shown and you can select your magazine to purchase.



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UPLIFTING THINGS TO DO TODAY

- * Smile at a stranger
- * Drop a coin where a child can find it
- * Learn something new and teach it to someone
- * Tell someone you love them
- * Hug someone
- * Forgive someone who has wronged you
- * Try saying "I'm sorry" when you ought to
- * Tell a child how great they are
- * Sing a song about Jesus to yourself
- * Keep a promise
- * Call someone just to say hello
- * Try listening more than talking
- * Stand up for what you believe in
- * Thank God for His beautiful Creation
- * Encourage someone who is feeling down
- * Cherish today as if it were your last one
- * Tell someone about Jesus

- Author Unknown

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