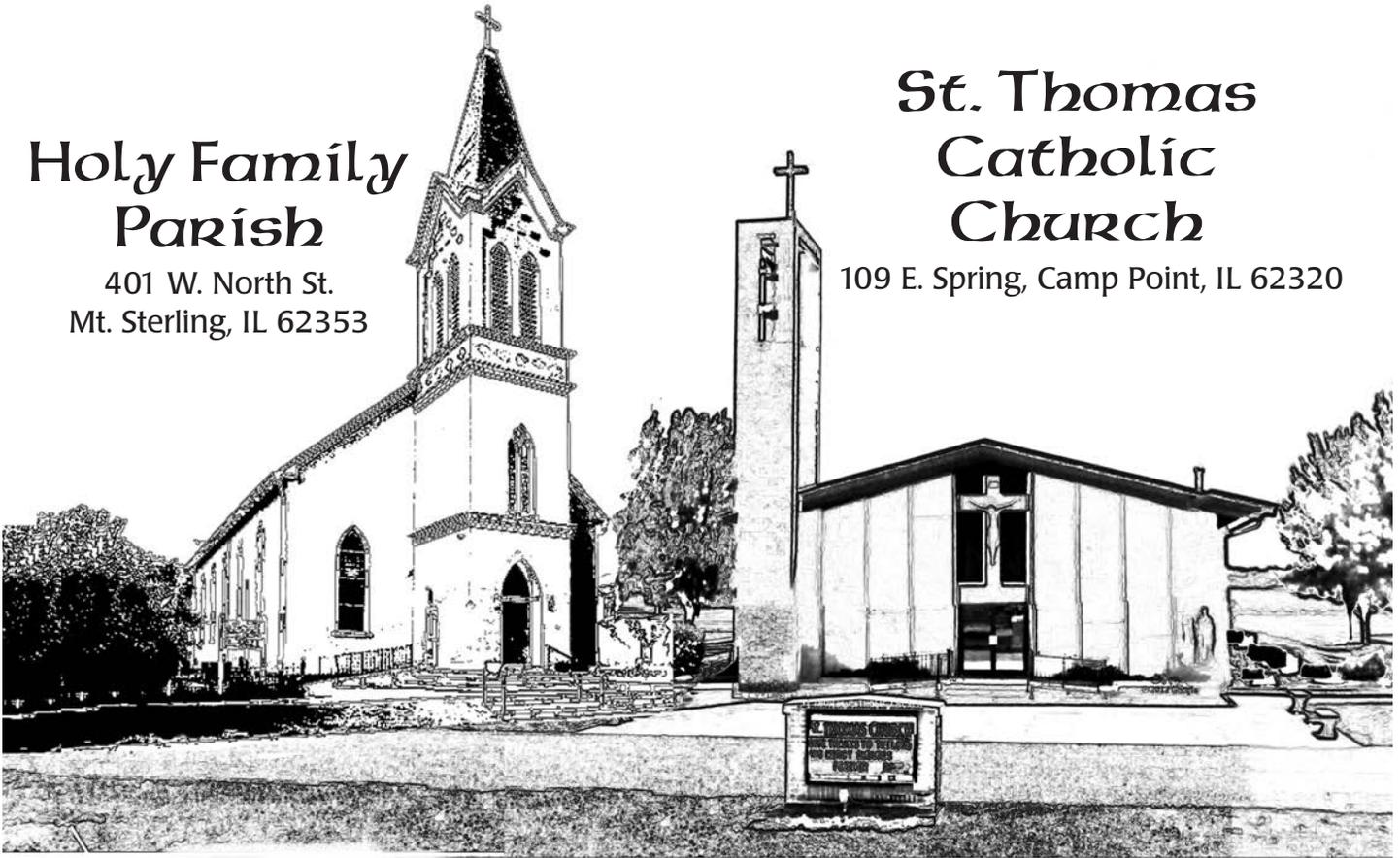


Holy Family Parish

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 18 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 19 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28

Tom Wagner
(By Mary Kassing)

Wednesday, January 20 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6

Bob Rucker
(By Mary Koch)

Thursday, January 21 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Hebrews 7:25-8:6; Mark 3:7-12

Dorothy Tracy
(By John and Lana Nuessen)

Friday, January 22 – 7:00 a.m.

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of
Unborn Children
Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19

Fr. Robert O'Connor
(By the Geisler Family)

Friday, January 22 – 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Friday, January 22 – 9:30 a.m. (School Mass)

ST. THOMAS – Friday, January 22 – 6:00 p.m.

For the Legal Protection of Unborn
Children

Saturday, January 23 – 5:30 p.m.

Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Mark 3:20-21

Glenn Stephenson and Brent Kindhart
(By Donna Stephenson)

Sunday, January 24 – 8:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas

St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Jerry Gunn
(By Phil and Joyce Walsh)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 9-10, 2021

Holy Family: \$4,217.00
School Support: \$625.00
Sister Parish: \$67.00
Catholic Times: \$330.00
First Offering: \$125.00
New Year's: \$20.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 10, 2021

St. Thomas: \$3,192.00
Catholic Times: \$245.00

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 10:30
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 † Cal Noelke †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

January 24, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Gary Mast

Lector: Karen Jansen

Ushers: Maurice Schmidt, Butch Likes,
 Jacob Schmidt

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

Lector: Denise Taylor

Ushers: Butch Obert, John Brady

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. You might wonder what happened to the First Sunday in Ordinary Time as you don't recall us celebrating it. This past week, we have celebrated the first week in Ordinary Time. The Sunday that began that first

week in Ordinary Time was marked by the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

In today's readings, we are reminded that in every generation, God calls people to hear His voice and announce it to the world. In the First Reading we hear God calling Samuel. Eli helps Samuel to recognize that it is indeed God who is calling him. In the end, we hear that "Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect." That's a powerful reminder for us as we live out our Christian lives.

In our Second Reading, St. Paul is dealing with issues of public immorality. St. Paul reminds the Church in Corinth, and each one of us, that "the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord." He goes on to remind us that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and it is these very bodies that God will transform and raise up on the last day. And so, we should be treating them with the dignity they deserve. This also is a powerful reminder to each one of us living out our Christian lives here on earth. Immorality seems to be running rampant and for some, it seems to be a very normal way of life. It is not! The Lord Himself makes that very clear. St. Paul and Sacred Scripture as a whole makes that very clear. I encourage each one of us to take adequate time to seriously reflect on these words from St. Paul and how they are speaking to our lives, what they are calling us to, and what our own lives are reflecting. Certainly, God is calling us through the words of St. Paul. They remain as relevant for each one of us today as they were many centuries ago.

In the Gospel, we hear John saying of Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God." Jesus invites those who ask where He is staying to "Come, and you will see." And although we don't know what transpired during their time together, we do know that it was certainly enough to lead Andrew to go and tell his brother, Simon, that "we have found the Messiah." Just as Samuel was

led to know God's voice by Eli's direction, so too Andrew and the other disciples are led to Jesus by John's words.

As God called Samuel and as Jesus called His disciples, so too we have been called. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, made for the Lord. As we live out our Christian lives and celebrate the Sacraments which the Lord Himself has given us to help us grow in holiness, we pray that we may become more like Him and that we can spread the message of Christ to all people.

It is our Responsorial Psalm for today that helps pull all this together... "Here am I Lord; I come to do Your Will." This response to God's active presence in our lives should be present every day of our life. We are called to reflect on, know, understand, and follow God's Will...not our will but God's Will. We don't try to fit our will into God's Will but rather, we hand ourselves completely over to the Lord each and every day...not a little bit of us but our entire selves. It is in this way that we come to grow in that holiness that we are called to. And so, may each of us know and follow God's Will in our lives each and every day so that we may grow in holiness and have that fullness of Life found only in Christ so as to share in that which we hope for, Eternal Life with the Father in Heaven.

And now just a few notes:

-The Mt. Sterling Knights of Columbus Pancake and Sausage Day is Saturday, January 23 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. Serving will begin at 6:30 a.m. and run through 10:30 a.m. Please plan to join us.

-January 1 was a reminder of the very real possibility of winter weather impeding travel in our area. I will certainly do all that I can in order to celebrate Mass at the church where it is scheduled. However, we have to be aware that it could become impossible for me to travel to and make it to one of the churches. In such an event, I will try to make that known as widely as

possible and as soon as possible including through e-mail, Facebook, and even TV and radio. I will also record an announcement on the office/rectory telephone number as soon as possible regarding any cancellations. So, if you are in doubt about the celebration of Mass or another event, please try phoning the office number for any recorded information.

-Every January, there is an envelope for your Catholic Times Subscription. I kindly ask that you place your contribution in the collection basket at church or mail it into the office. The Catholic Times, the official publication of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, is to be delivered to every Catholic household in the Diocese. If you are not receiving a copy every other week, please let me know so that I can make sure your name and correct mailing address is on file with the Catholic Times. The parish pays for every household subscription and so your contribution toward these subscriptions is greatly appreciated. Contributions toward the Catholic Times are not included in the Season of Stewardship (formerly known as Annual Catholic Services Appeal or ACSA) assessment contribution. However, monies not received for subscriptions must be paid from the parish operating fund. Thank you for your help in covering these subscriptions. The Catholic Times is an excellent publication that has many good and useful articles. I encourage you to read each issue when it arrives in your mail.

-Calls to the St. Thomas office phone had previously been forwarded to a cell phone which Pat typically carried with her. The cell phone is no longer operational, and I have decided to not purchase a new one, in part, to help save some expense to the parish. So, the cell phone number that was once used for St. Thomas is no longer active. Calls to the St. Thomas office phone number will mostly be forwarded automatically to the rectory in Mt. Sterling. Please do not try to use the old cell phone number. It is no longer in service. Please

call the St. Thomas office phone number for parish needs, inquiries, etc. If no one is available, leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. If the call is for Pat, she will return calls when she is in the office. As always, if there is an emergency, do not hesitate at all to call me on my cell phone. I kindly ask, however, that my cell phone number be used for emergencies only. To speak to me for other reason, please call the rectory or office number.

-Friday, January 22 is the sad anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of 1973, Roe vs. Wade, ultimately making it legal to murder unborn children. As such, the Church proclaims a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on this day. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #373 states that all dioceses of the United States shall observe a "day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through the acts of abortion."

As such, I will be offering time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at each parish on Friday, January 22 and additional Masses. At Holy Family we will celebrate our usual 7:00 a.m. Mass and 8:30 a.m. School Mass. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 5:30 a.m. until the start of the 7:00 a.m. Mass and from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

At St. Thomas, I will celebrate Mass at 6:00 p.m. with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 4:30 p.m. until Benediction just before Mass begins.

This Day of Prayer that we are called to is very important, and I encourage you to take part in Mass and Adoration if at all possible. I also ask you to offer sacrifice this day in particular for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Please continue to also pray each day for the protection of all human life in all stages. Life is indeed the greatest gift that God has given to each one of us.

-Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 24. We are so blessed to have St. Mary School and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week. I can personally attest to the great value of Catholic Education and am grateful for all of our Catholic Schools.

Concerning St. Mary School, you may remember from last week's bulletin that I announced that our school enrollment is now in the triple digits. I am quite happy about that. In enrolling our 100th student (we actually have 101), I am inviting folks to share in this accomplishment by contributing \$100 for our 100th student enrolled. If you haven't already done so and would like to contribute, kindly drop your contribution in the collection basket, mail it in to the office, or bring it by sometime and drop it off. Please clearly mark any contribution as "100th Student Contribution." Thank you for those who have already made a contribution. I am also still looking for possible matching donors. If you, or someone you know, or a business you are aware of would like to be a matching sponsor, please contact me as soon as possible.

-Very soon, you will notice that I will be using the Entrance and Communion Antiphons at all the Masses. They will either be spoken or chanted. The Antiphons given to us by the Church are important pieces of our Liturgical celebration. Those of you who attend St. Thomas on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. should already be familiar with the Entrance Antiphon.

-I can't help but make a note about prayer. Prayer is not a production. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not a production. The word Amen that concludes our prayers is an expression of faith in God and could be defined to mean "so be it." Our Eucharistic Prayer concludes with the Great Amen. The word Amen has nothing to do with gender... NOTHING. Sadly, some have made a production out of prayer...or at least they

attempt to call it prayer. Ending prayer with a word that attacks the deep meaning of the word Amen is nothing but a farce and quite frankly an attack and an insult. And me saying this is not evidence of “being soiled in selfishness, perverted by prejudice, or inveigled (deceived) by ideology.” Sadly, the Truth given to us by Christ Himself remains under attack from all directions. May the grace of God cause us to persevere in knowing and speaking the Truth, the Truth of Christ!

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

-Fr. Aaron

**Bulletin Short for
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time –
17 January 2021**

Listening, Discerning and Watching, Coming, Seeing, Finding. These words ending in -ing (technically “gerunds”) in the first and gospel readings indicate some continuing action. They point out good Christian behaviors as we start this winter time between the seasons of Christmas and Lent. Like Samuel, we want to be always listening for God’s voice, even while needing the help of another for discerning it. Like the Baptist, we want to be watching for Jesus moving among us, looking for his activity in surprising ways in our midst and, perhaps, the surprising people around us.

- How am I coming closer to Jesus day by day, week by week?
- How am I seeing Jesus active in our world?
- How am I finding myself following Jesus without question?

TAX REPORTING

If any parishioner would like to receive a statement of contributions for calendar year 2020, please contact the school office at (217) 773-2825 (for Holy Family) and (217) 593-6685 (for St. Thomas).

A contribution statement will not be provided unless a request is received. As always, we suggest you refer to your own personal contribution records if at all possible.

**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.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE

9 Days for Life (January 21-29, 2020) is a novena for the protection of human life. Participants can receive novena prayers each day by downloading the free 9 Days for Life app, or by subscribing to daily emails or text messages at: <https://pro-life-activities.lpages.co/9-days-for-life-2020/>. Each day there is an intention accompanied by a short reflection and suggested action to help build a culture of life.

*Let us not love
in word or talk
But in deed
and in truth*

100th STUDENT CELEBRATION



We are officially in the triple digits for student enrollment at St. Mary School. We had 2 new students enroll after Christmas, so we have a total of 101 students. Fr. Aaron is inviting you to celebrate our 100th student by donating \$100 to the school! If you would like to make a "100th Student Contribution", you can send it the school, put it in the offertory, or go to smseagle.org to donate! Fr. Aaron was the first to donate \$100, won't you join him?

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