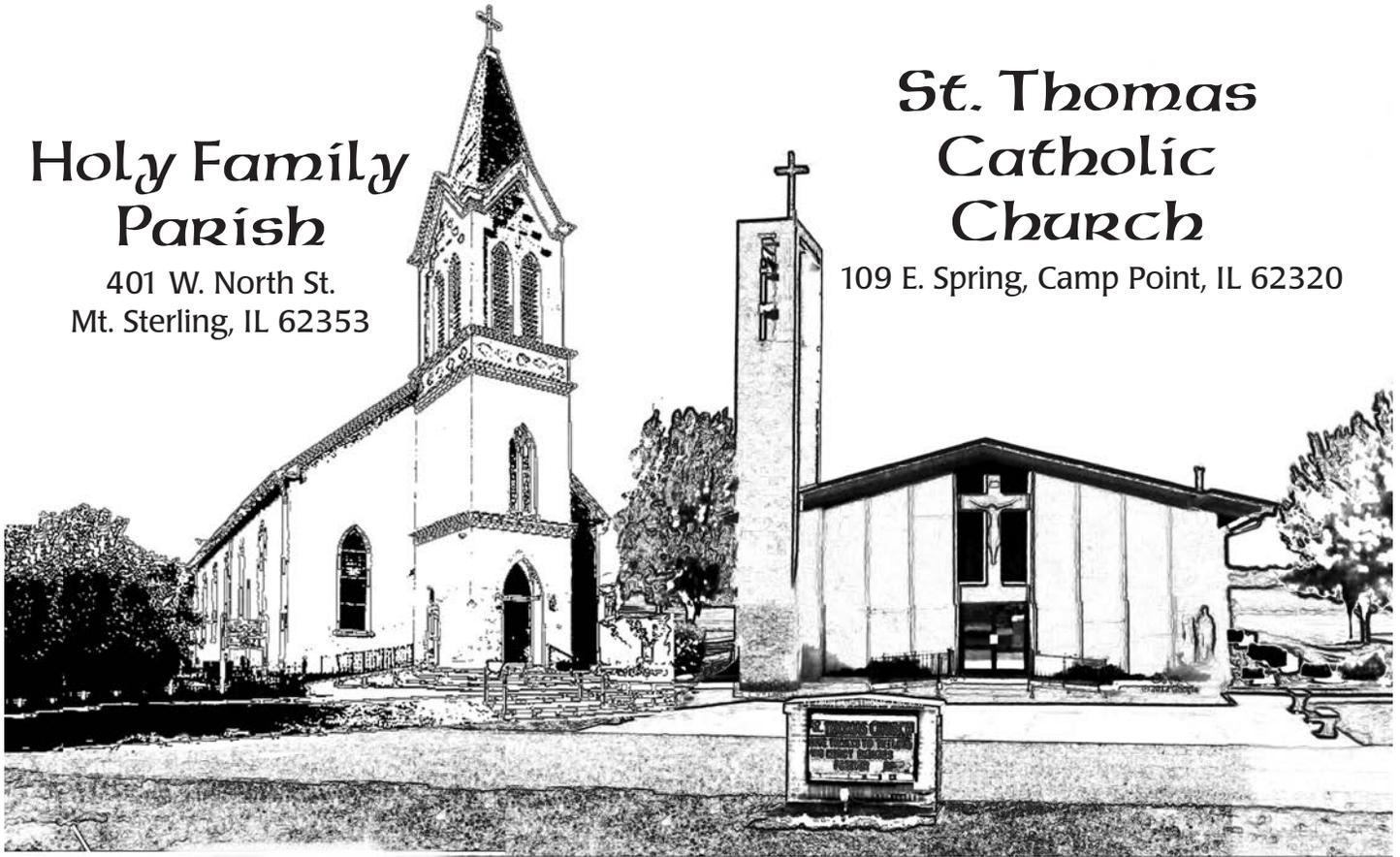


Holy Family Parish

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, February 1 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20

Communion Service

Tuesday, February 2 – 7:00 a.m.

The Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Robert Koch
(By Margie Salrin)

Wednesday, February 3 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, St. Ansgar, Bishop
Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6

Paul, Frances and Larry Schenk and
Ruth James
(By the Schenk Families)

Thursday, February 4 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13

Roberta Young
(By John and Lana Nuessen, Barb Lehne
and Cheryl Dillard)

Friday, February 5 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29

James G. and Norma M. Wort
(By the Children)

Friday, February 5 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Friday, February 5 – 9:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

FIRST FRIDAY – ST. THOMAS – 6:00 p.m.

Kathy Mowen

Saturday, February 6 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34

John Moorman
(By Tammy)

Sunday, February 7 – 8:00 a.m.

Job:1-4, 6-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

Robert and Betty Koch
(By Mike, Alan, Glen, Diane and Families)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Buzz and Shirley McLaughlin
(By Butch and Carol Likes)

St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family and
St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 23-24, 2021

Holy Family: \$3,097.00
School Support: \$140.00
Sister Parish: \$20.00
Catholic Times: \$60.00
New Year's: \$20.00
1st Offering: \$15.00
Latin America: \$245.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 24, 2021

St. Thomas: \$2,433.00
Catholic Times: \$15.00
Latin America: \$140.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **Knights of Columbus meeting** will be held at the KC Hall on Tuesday February 2 at 7:00 p.m. A light meal will be served at 6:30 prior to the meeting.
- ❖ **Nocturnal Adoration:** Saturday, February 6 beginning at 10:00 p.m. and concluding on February 7 at 7:45 a.m.

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 † 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 † John Norkus † Jim Wort † Tom Parker † Cal Noelke †

ST. THOMAS

Card Shower – February 6 is Pauline Seal's birthday. Let's shower her with birthday wishes. Pauline's address is:

Pauline Seals
Good Samaritan Home
2130 Harrison, Room 332
Quincy, IL 62301

Save the Date – St. Thomas will hold a drive-thru Fish Fry on February 26. See future bulletins for more information.



ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

February 7, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jonah Coggeshell

Lector: Karen Jansen

Ushers: Brent Obert, Tony Obert

February 7, 2021 - 11:30 a.m.

Lector: Matt Schmidt

Ushers: Lucas Likes, Justin Obert

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. As we take a look at the passages from Sacred Scripture that the Church gives us today, perhaps it is the response to the Psalm that brings it all together, "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

I'm sure this response is familiar to most of us, yet I wonder how often we really stop to consider how it is speaking directly to us. All too often, folks hear the voice of God but maintain a hardness of heart. This happens for a variety of reasons. It could be that a person really and truly doesn't recognize the voice of God but more often it is a self-centered and prideful way of living. To open ourselves completely to the Lord and to avoid or eliminate that hardness of heart requires great humility and self-giving, two things that the world likes to suggest is not only unnecessary but hinders our happiness and freedom. Yet true happiness and true freedom come only in and through Christ and it is Christ who calls us to humility and complete self-giving.

In our First Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses speaks to the people about God's prophet. The Biblical understanding of a prophet isn't that of a fortune teller but is understood to be one who delivers God's message and advocates for adherence to God's Will. Moses

delivers an important and powerful message from God (to the people and to us) at the end of the First Reading: “Whoever will not listen to My words which he speaks in My name, I myself will make him answer. But if a prophet presumes to speak in My name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.” Indeed, this is quite a stern warning from God Himself concerning our need to both listen to those who truly and authentically proclaim the Word of God but to also be on guard against any false prophets and idols. At the same time, it is a reminder for us of our need to proclaim and live the Word of God authentically so as not to lead others from the Truth.

All-too-often, folks would never admit to doing this but take upon themselves to define the Truth. This is not an authentic way of living or proclaiming the Gospel message. The Truth of the Gospel message is not our individual interpretation and selection of desired verses from Scripture but rather is revealed to us in the fullness of Christ, the fullness of God’s Word. There is far too much belief, even among some Catholics, that one can individually define Truth based on how they want to read Scripture. That simply isn’t true. The fullness of Truth is found in the Church, through the totality of Sacred Scripture and Tradition, given to Her by the Lord Himself. It is safeguarded by the Holy Spirit and those entrusted to its care. Indeed, the Church continues to act both publicly and authoritatively in the name of Christ. She exists to proclaim the Gospel message, the fullness of Truth. In the name of Jesus, She calls down God’s protection against evil. We cannot individually think that we are going to define Truth nor do we even have a need to. The fullness of Truth is given to us in and through Christ. To suggest otherwise is to draw folks from the Truth. What we need to remain mindful of is: “If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.” That includes

the fullness of Truth that is sometimes hard to hear.

Our Second Reading today taken from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians finds Paul telling the people, “I should like you to be free of anxieties.” He speaks about one becoming divided, anxious about things of the Lord and things of the world. Certainly we know that division leads to destruction. There is no division in Christ, only wholeness. Christ is always the same. Our lives are filled with opportunities to be divided. We need to be ever on guard against that division. “If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.” St. Paul says to the Corinthians and to each one of us, “I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.” Indeed, we reflect on the words of St. Paul so that we too may know how to act rightly, conforming our will to God’s Will, and that we may do so completely and without distraction.

Finally, we hear in today’s Gospel from St. Mark that the people were astonished at Jesus’s teaching, for He taught them as one having authority. Not only that, they were amazed that Jesus could command even unclean spirits and that they would obey. This is certainly a reminder to us of God’s active presence in our life. It is also a reminder of Jesus’ authority, Jesus who is the fullness of Truth. Perhaps what each of us could reflect on is that active presence in our own lives and if we recognize and accept completely the authority of Christ.

How many times do folks go through a day, a week, a month, even a year or longer without ever recognizing the beauty and power of God’s active presence surrounding them in all things! How often are folks not only reluctant but unwilling to accept the authority of Christ! Many recognize the accomplishments of others or even themselves but fail to see that

those accomplishments are done only through God. Many are quick to accept the authority of “experts” concerning especially those things that pass away but reject either partially or even completely the authority of Christ and His Truth for Eternal Life. That is, sadly, turned upside down and quite frankly, none of us are immune to it. To think we are is to simply deceive ourselves.

We are constantly being bombarded with messages and with voices...from advertising, politicians, friends, enemies, those who hate, those who seek peace, those who call us to satisfy our own interests, those who seek the common good, so on and so forth. May we always listen to the Word of God, to those who announce and proclaim the Word of God. This takes prayer and it takes reflection to know and recognize the authentic Word of God. But of course, God gives us His grace to make this possible. In the midst of all the noise, may we always be attentive to the voice of God and may we always be in awe of the work of God in our lives. If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. How will you hear God’s voice today and every day?

And now just a few notes:

-Thank you to all of those who have made a contribution toward your Catholic Times subscription. There should have been an envelope included in the envelopes you receive for this contribution. If you did not receive the envelope, you can simply place the contribution in the collection basket or mail it in to the Parish Office. Please clearly mark those contributions as Catholic Times Subscription. Every household should be receiving the Catholic Times. If you are not, please let us know so that we can look into it and make sure your address is correct.

-If you are not receiving contribution envelopes in the mail every other month or so and would like to receive them, please let us know. Thank you to those of you

who regularly use your contribution envelopes to support the parishes and school.

-Sunday, January 31 marks the start of National Catholic Schools Week. I had my dates mixed up for this year and so, we have celebrated St. Mary School itself last week and we continue to celebrate Catholic Schools Week this week. Again, what a great blessing we have in Catholic Education and especially in St. Mary School. Thank you to all who support St. Mary School in any way and to all of our teachers and staff.

-On Tuesday, February 2, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Additionally, that day is observed as World Day for Consecrated Life. Its purpose is to “help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by the means of the practice of the evangelical councils as well as to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord.” I ask you to please keep all those living a consecrated life in your prayers.

-On Wednesday, February 3, the Church celebrates the memorial of St. Blaise. It is customary in some places to have a blessing of throats on this day. This year, we have been asked to do a general blessing rather than individual blessings. The general blessing is always an option. While I prefer to offer the individual blessing, this year I will be offering the general blessing at the Mass on that day.

-A reminder that there is a Knights of Columbus meeting on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. I encourage all members to try to attend. Thank you to all who helped with and supported the recent Pancake and Sausage Breakfast hosted by the Knights.

-Friday, February 5 is First Friday. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be from Noon until 5:45 at St. Thomas. Benediction will be at 5:45 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. Confessions will be available from 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. If you are able, please plan to join us for some time in Adoration and for Mass.

-Saturday, February 6 is First Saturday. Nocturnal Adoration will be at Holy Family beginning at 10:00 p.m. and going until Benediction at 7:45 a.m. on Sunday morning, just before the start of the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Again, if you are able to join us at any time, I certainly encourage you to do so.

-It's hard to believe that January is almost over. In a couple of weeks, we will be starting the season of Lent, beginning, of course, on Ash Wednesday, February 17. I will have more details concerning Lent in future bulletins. In the meantime, mark your calendar for the St. Mary School Fish Fry on Friday, February 19, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. Also, St. Thomas is planning to host a Fish Fry on Friday evening, February 26. More details will follow on both.

-Please continue to pray for the protection of all human life in all stages. Life itself is one of the greatest gifts that God bestows on every person. As you pray for the dignity and sanctity of all human life in all stages, I ask you to also reflect on how you can contribute to creating a culture of life in our world that is plagued by a culture of death.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support of me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my continued daily prayers for each of you.

-Fr. Aaron

Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

**Bulletin Short for
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time -
31 January 2021**

Teaching with Authority. Jesus begins his ministry with us this liturgical year doing two things. He is teaching with authority - like no other. And his teaching spills into action for the benefit of another - mercy at work.

- How is Jesus astonishing me by what he teaches?
- How am I listening for his words, his call, his teaching?
- How is my listening spilling out into mercy thoughts, mercy action, mercy works?

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.

HOLY FAMILY PARISHIONERS

Please be sure to securely close all church doors when you leave. If the door is not latched securely, the wind catches the door and swings it open.

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS SCHOOLS FACT SHEET

2020-2021

9,858
STUDENTS
IN THE
DIOCESE:
ELEMENTARY/PreK: **7,722**
HIGH SCHOOL: **2,136**

The
DIOCESE:
28 COUNTIES
in **15,139**
SQUARE MILES

STUDENT-TEACHER
RATIO 12:1 IN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
10:1 IN HIGH SCHOOLS

EXTENDED DAY:
91.9% OF OUR ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS OFFER AN **EXTENDED**
CARE PROGRAM.

36 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
3 INDEPENDENT PRESCHOOLS
7 HIGH SCHOOLS



DIVERSITY:
9.5% OF OUR
STUDENT POPULATION
COME FROM A **DIVERSE**
BACKGROUND

LOCATIONS:
16 ARE URBAN
1 IS INNER CITY
10 ARE SUBURBAN
16 ARE RURAL

FAITH:
19.5%
OF THE **STUDENTS** ARE
FROM OTHER **FAITH**
BACKGROUNDS.

**GIFT TO THE
NATION:**
BASED ON THE MEDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL
PER PUPIL COST OF **\$14,492**, THE
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN OUR
DIOCESE PROVIDE MORE THAN
\$142,862,136** A YEAR
IN **SAVINGS** TO THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS.

CERTIFICATION:
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
**RECOGNIZES ALL OUR
SCHOOLS** IN THE
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS AS DOES THE
DIOCESAN EDUCATIONAL
REVIEW PROCESS.

TEACHING STAFF:
LAY MEN AND WOMEN REPRESENT
99% OF THE TEACHING STAFF IN THE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. IN THE
HIGH SCHOOLS, **98%** OF TEACHING
STAFF ARE
LAY MEN AND WOMEN.
IN ADDITION TO THEM,
WE ARE ALSO **GRATEFUL**
FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE
OF THE
**SISTERS, BROTHERS, AND
PRIESTS** IN OUR SCHOOLS.

**PRESCHOOL/
KINDERGARTEN:**
97% OF OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
OFFER A **PRESCHOOL** Program
And/or **KINDERGARTEN**.

**CELEBRATING
167**
YEARS OF
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
EDUCATION
IN THE **DIOCESE OF
SPRINGFIELD**
IN ILLINOIS

**AVERAGE
ACT
SCORE** IS HIGHER THAN
THE STATE
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of each month
Jim Rischar • 217-430-1133

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