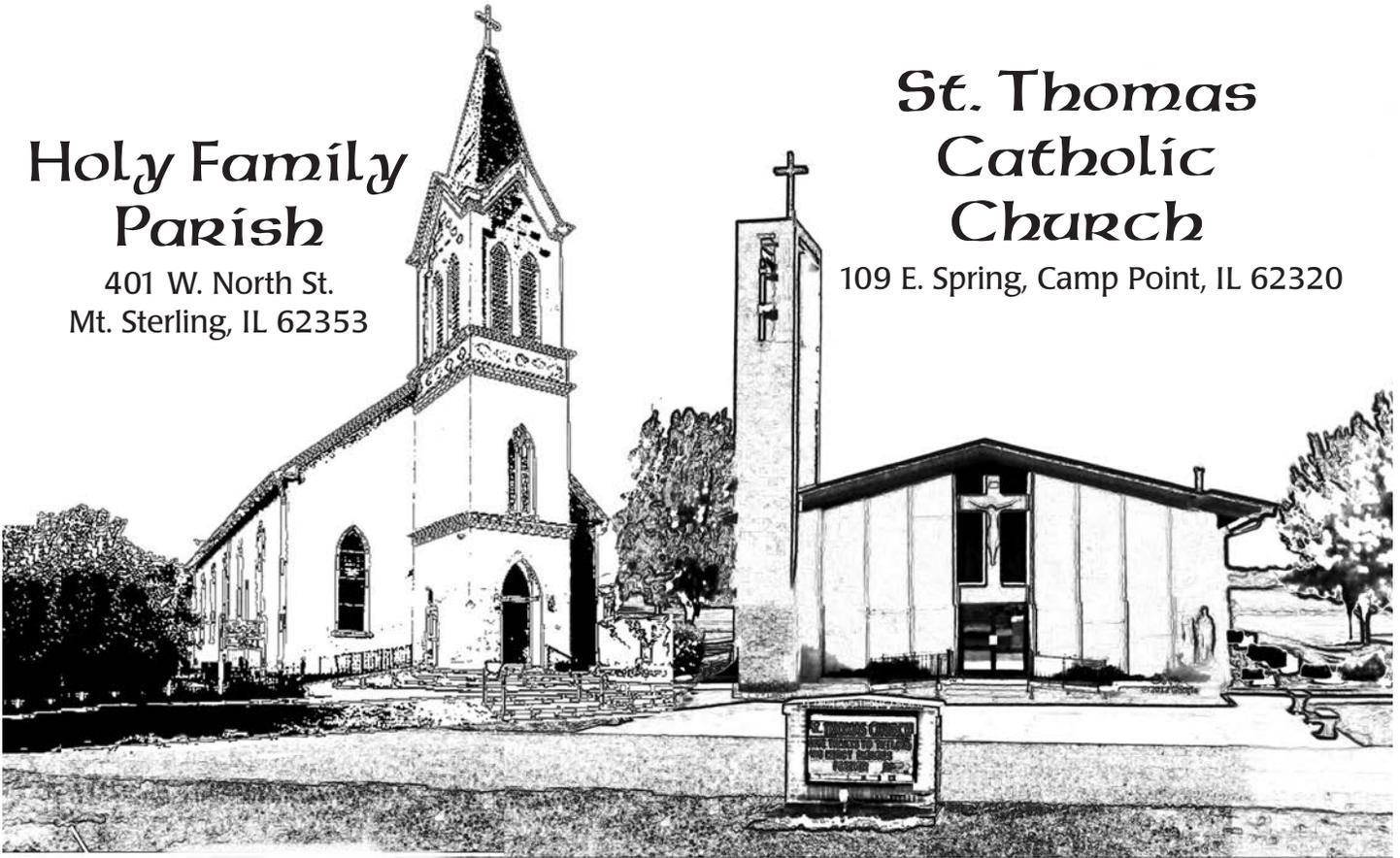


Holy Family Parish

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 22 – 7:00 a.m.

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Communion Service

Tuesday, February 23 – 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Sr. Sara Koch
(By Legion of Mary)

Wednesday, February 24 – 7:00 a.m.

Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Glen, Jim and Bill Logsdon and
Judy Logsdon Schenk
(By Bob and Judy Schenk)

Wednesday, February 24 – 5:30 p.m.

(At Holy Family with Stations of the
Cross to follow)

Deceased Members of the John Rolf Family
(By Marilyn Veith)

Thursday, February 25 – 7:00 a.m.

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12

Angie Heaton
(By Tom and Nancy Schneider)

Thursday, February 25 – 5:30 p.m.

(At St. Thomas)

Ron and Judy Bull
(By Jenni Obert)

Friday, February 26 – 7:00 a.m.

Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

Millie Geisler
(By Holy Family Women's Guild)

Friday, February 26 – 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Friday, February 26 – 9:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Saturday, February 27 – 5:30 p.m.

Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

Marilyn Mating
(By Martha Fluckey)

Sunday, February 28 – 8:00 a.m.

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34;
Mark 9:2-10

Parishioners of Holy Family

Sunday, February 28 – 1:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at Holy Family

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Francis Norkus
(By Pat Sharow)

St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 13-14, 2021

Due to printing schedules these numbers
will be updated next week.

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 14, 2021

St. Thomas: \$3,042.00
Parish Improvement: \$800.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **Red Cross Blood Drive:** One donated pint of blood can benefit up to three people who are in need. The blood that is donated here at the drive in Mt Sterling will have a great chance of staying local. **The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the Legion Hall on Wednesday, February 24, 12:00 – 6:00 p.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 † Joe Ray †

ST. THOMAS

Stations of the Cross will be held Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas during Lent. Claudia would appreciate assistance with the Stations.

St. Thomas once again has a calendar in back of church for volunteers to sign up to pray one day during Lent for an end to abortion for the 40 Days for Life Campaign. 40DaysforLife.com.

Please consider dedicating one day of your time for the unborn.

St. Thomas Fish Fry – February 26 –

Mark your calendars! St. Thomas Parish is hosting a **drive thru** Fish Fry, February 26, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Menu is catfish, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, bread and dessert. All included for \$10.00 per meal. Enjoy a great carry-out meal, all the while supporting St. Thomas Parish!

St. Thomas Youth Group will be holding drive thru fish fries every Friday in March (March 5, 12, 19, 26) at St. Thomas Hall in Camp Point. Serving will be 5:00-7:00 p.m. Meal includes Walleye, Fried Potatoes, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Applesauce and Dessert. Price is \$10/meal. You may also call in your order ahead of time for pickup, 217-242-5283. All proceeds will go to this year's Catholic Heart Workcamp trip in June.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

February 28, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Denise Taylor

Lector: Bobbi Mock

Ushers: Brent Obert, Tony Obert

February 28, 2021 – 11:30 a.m.

Lector: McKenzie Wilkey

Ushers: Lucas Likes, Justin Obert

From the Pastor's Desk

With Ash Wednesday this past week, we entered into the Liturgical Season of Lent. Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent.

I sometimes hear from people that Christianity, and in particular, Catholicism, is just a set of old fashioned rules telling you what you can't do. Sadly, these folks either don't understand the teachings of the Church and the joy and peace found in growing closer to Christ or, they are simply looking to make excuses for their non-Christian behavior. Likely, it is a combination of both.

Similarly, Lent is sometimes seen as a drudgery for Christians...I gotta give up this or do that, I can't have meat on Fridays, I can't eat snacks during the day a couple of days, etc., etc. And while the Liturgical Season of

Lent and our Liturgical celebrations during Lent do take on a more somber tone, we certainly shouldn't see Lent as a drudgery but rather as an opportune time for our own deeper conversion of heart and growing closer to Christ.

Our readings today give us a lot to reflect on. Jesus provides for us the perfect example of overcoming temptation and evil. Being fully man, Jesus is faced with the same temptations we are. Being fully God, Jesus remains all powerful, even in and through temptation, even in and through death. And while our Gospel from Mark today provides a less detailed account of the temptations than do Matthew and Luke, we know of Jesus' victory over evil and temptation because we heard that Jesus goes out and proclaims the Gospel of God.

And we hear in our second reading that "Christ suffered for sins so that He might lead you to God." You see, Christ doesn't come to impose rules and restrictions on us. Quite the opposite. Christ comes to give us true freedom and to lead us to God. And it is Christ who established the Church and is Head of the Church and graciously gives all things to the Church so that all might be led to God.

And what is it that Jesus in particular helps to teach today? Jesus helps us to say YES to the good and to God and NO to evil and temptation, to say YES to God's will and NO to our own self-centeredness.

Temptation is all around us, and it can be hard to resist, and we need to keep that in mind. Temptation makes evil attractive, it makes selfishness seem right and if we're not constantly on guard against it, we run the risk of falling into Satan's trap of deceit, presenting us with evil actions as if they are good ones and then inducing us to do evil. In his deceit, Satan goes on to suggest a multitude of excuses to justify our sinful behavior. And then, after he has completely swindled us, after we've fallen into his trap, he fills us with anxiety, sadness, and depression.

But God, who is Truth itself, fills us with peace and when we grow to say YES to God and NO to evil, we grow ever closer to God and that peace of God fills us and drives out all anxiousness, and sadness, and depression.

And so, our focus needs to be on God, not on ourselves. When we say NO to God, it

becomes much easier to say YES to temptation and thus becomes easier to sin. Because, when we say NO to one thing, in essence, we're saying YES to something else. But we can reject temptation and remain close to God. And many times, we do say YES to God but then sometimes we fail to recognize that our YES isn't so much about what we do but more about accepting what God offers, more about conforming our will to God's Will. And when we come to accept and receive in this way, it is then that we will turn away from evil and turn toward God.

And it is the DAILY practice of faith that makes our growth in holiness possible, that makes our saying YES to God more prevalent and authentic. And Lent is a perfect time for us to build and strengthen the habit of saying YES to God and the good and NO to temptation and evil. Through prayer, we focus on God, through charity and almsgiving, we focus on the needs of others, and through fasting, we turn ourselves away from selfish wants and desires. In this way, we can then act like Jesus, we can say NO to temptation and instead seek the Will of God.

And when we're faced with fighting temptation, as we certainly will be, we might remember these things: BEFORE we're even confronted with temptation, let us pray, be watchful, and avoid occasions of sin. IN THE MIDDLE of being tempted, let us offer direct or indirect resistance to that temptation. And finally, AFTER we've been tempted, let us ask ourselves if we defeated the temptation. If so, give thanks to God for this defeat for a defeated temptation is progress in holiness. And if we've failed, seek forgiveness and learn from the experience. Also, recall that Jesus, in the Gospel, did not face the temptations of Satan alone. We read that "Angels ministered to Him." So too, we need not, nor should we even try, to face the temptations of Satan alone. We have Christ and His Church and all the Angels and Saints including our Blessed Mother whom we can call upon to help give us the necessary strength to overcome our daily temptations.

Finally, let us also be mindful of what we hear in the Psalm for today, "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant. The Lord shows sinners the way, guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble His way." May we allow the Lord

to show, to guide, and to teach us so that we might be drawn closer to Him to live in love and truth and be protected from temptation and delivered from all evil.

And now just a few notes:

-LENTEN REGULATIONS - 1. ABSTINENCE - Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. 2. FAST - Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed. 3. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

-ADDITIONAL MASSES DURING LENT - Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family. Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas.

-ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES - I will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation before each of the additional evening Masses during Lent...Wednesday evenings, 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. at Holy Family and Thursday evenings from 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. at St. Thomas. I will also offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sundays during Lent before the start of the Stations of the Cross. I will try to be in the Reconciliation Room by 12:45 p.m. until 1:15 p.m.

-STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Wednesday evenings after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Family. Friday evenings at St. Thomas at 7:00 p.m. Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., alternating parishes (Sunday, February 21 will be at St. Thomas, Sunday, February 28 will be at Holy Family).

-FISH FRY - St. Thomas Parish Hall, Friday, February 26, 4:30-7:00 p.m., drive thru only. Plan now to come by for your meals...I am looking forward to seeing you there.

-THANK YOU - Your support of St. Mary School Fish Fry this past Friday evening is greatly appreciated.

-BARN-2-BARN CLASSIC - The Barn-2-Barn Classic is set for Saturday, March 27.

Registration will be from 11:00 a.m.-Noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. You may register online at the Brown County Deer Classic website (www.bcdeerclassic.com) or by contacting Aaron Akins by e-mail (aakins@dotfoods.com) or by phone (217-322-7099). Cost is only \$120 for a 4-person team which includes 9 holes of golf plus an evening meal sponsored by B&N Trucking served at Ridgeview Winery. Don't miss out on the fun. Get registered now. If you have been a regular of the Barn-2-Barn Classic, we look forward to having you join us again. Invite others to join us as well. If you've never participated, plan now to join us. The Barn-2-Barn Classic helps to support St. Mary School.

-SPIRITUAL ADOPTION - Since the legalization of abortion in the United States, sadly there have been more than 61 million babies murdered in the U.S. through abortion. The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen encouraged the Spiritual Adoption of an unborn child to help bring an end to this tragedy. I'd like to encourage this as well. A Spiritual Adoption is done by praying the following prayer daily for a period of nine months so that one particular, but unknown, child's life be spared abortion and allowed to live:

"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."

Archbishop Sheen suggested choosing a name for the baby you are "adopting" and inserting the name into the prayer. While this child will remain unknown to you, God knows who the child is and your prayers will make a difference for the baby and for both of the parents. At the end of the nine months, you might consider making a donation to a local pregnancy center to celebrate the God's gift of life and the birth of the child.

This may seem so simple and so insignificant but it's a very serious matter. And the smallest of actions are oftentimes the greatest expressions of love. As we work each day to uphold the dignity and sanctity of all human life in all stages and work to protect that life, consider engaging in this Spiritual Adoption of an unborn child in danger of abortion.

-YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH - I continue some information regarding the Year of St. Joseph

with writings once again from Fr. Wade Menezes:

It is worth noting that Pope Francis has promoted devotion to St. Joseph throughout his pontificate. He began his Petrine ministry on March 19, 2013, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and dedicated the homily at his inauguration Mass to St. Joseph. In that homily, he said: "In the Gospels, St. Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love."

On May 1, 2013, the Pope authorized a Decree instructing that St. Joseph's name be inserted into Eucharistic Prayers II, III, and IV.

During an Apostolic Visit to the Philippines in 2015, the Pope explained why he kept an image of the Saint on his desk. He said: "I would also like to tell you something very personal. I have great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. He is the Patron of the Universal Church! So, when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: 'Pray for this problem!'"

At his general audience on March 18, 2020, Pope Francis urged Catholics to turn to St. Joseph in times of adversity. He said, "In life, at work, and within the family, through joys and sorrows, St. Joseph always sought and loved the Lord. He is deserving of the way Sacred Scripture describes him as a 'just' and 'wise' man. Always invoke him, especially in difficult times and entrust your life to this great Saint." St. Joseph, Pray for us!

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support of me, one another, the 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 and Lenten Season.

-Fr. Aaron

FROM THE DRE

Parish Wide Couples Study

Do you rarely get a date night with your spouse? We have taken care of that for you! Make plans for date night every Saturday after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday at Holy Family. Plan to head to the K of C Hall afterwards for a meal and a study where, together with your spouse, you will discover why marriage matters, the truth about the commitment in love, God's plan for true spiritual and physical intimacy, skills for communicating, and resolving conflict, the importance of forgiveness and healing, ways to thrive in marriage, and so much more! We are hoping to provide childcare if it is needed! Join us April 24, May 15 and 22, June 12, July 24, and August 14. Contact Laura Evans to sign up at 217-316-1734 or levans8783@gmail.com. This is for **BOTH** Holy Family and St. Thomas Parishioners!

The DRE Recommends on FORMED:

The Sacrament of Penance: Speaking on reconciliation, Fr. William Casey reminds us that confession, the forgotten Sacrament, is the ordinary means for forgiveness of mortal sin after baptism and a veritable treasury of graces and spiritual strength for us in our daily struggles against temptation and sin. Discover how this Sacrament can transform your life if you allow it with this audio talk!

Lukas Storyteller: Saint Joseph (Kids) When things get off to a rough start as Anna, Agnes, Peter and Paul train for a baseball match, Noah shares the story of St. Joseph helping them to imitate his example and learn the virtue of obedience. Check out this 12-minute video!

FORMED Now! How and Why to Pray the Rosary: Check out this 30-minute video with Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss the beauty of praying the Rosary. Maybe this is something you want to add to your prayer life during Lent!

What's Your Catholic IQ?:

The Jewish leader who offered his own tomb for the burial of Jesus was

- a) Pontius Pilate
- b) Caiaphas
- c) Herod Antipas
- d) Joseph of Arimathea

Find the answer somewhere in the bulletin!

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 is accepting bids on the mowing and grounds keeping of the cemetery for the 2021 mowing season. Please call (217) 617-3956 for bidding information.

Answer to the Catholic IQ quiz:

d) Joseph of Arimathea. It took great courage for Joseph of Arimathea to come forward and offer his own tomb for the burial of Jesus, who had been executed as a common criminal.

POT OF GOLD

January Pot of Gold winners!

\$250.00 – Heather McClelland
\$125.00 – Jeff Summers
\$75.00 – Mary Kay Bolser
\$50.00 – Norma Hufnagel
\$50.00 – Kourtney Kassing

AT THE NURSING HOME

Joe Ray is presently at St. Vincent's Home. Please take a minute to send him a "thinking of you" card. His address is:

Joe Ray
St. Vincent's Home
1440 N. 10th
Quincy, IL 62301

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.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.

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