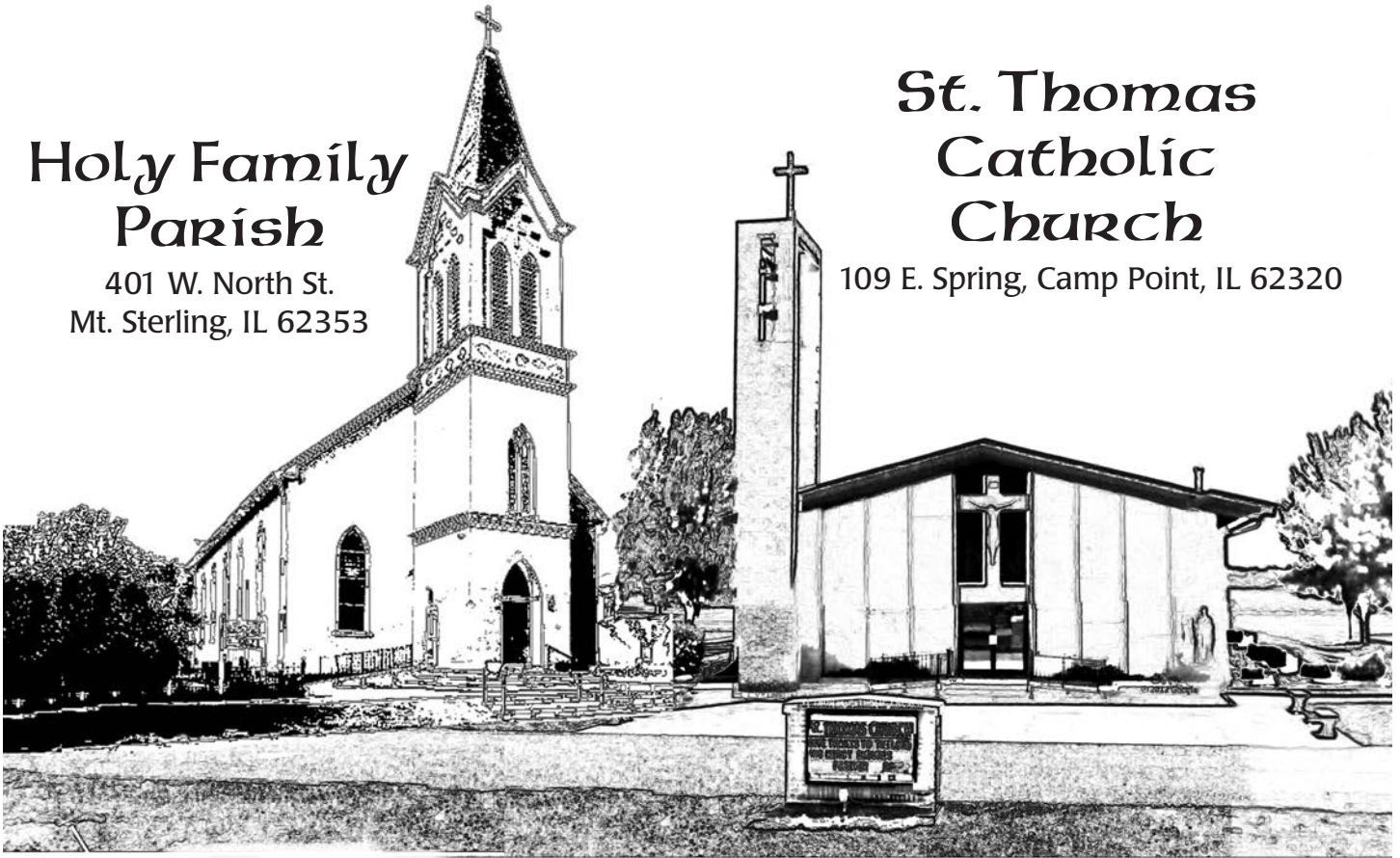


# Holy Family Parish

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stthomascp.org)

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Monday, March 15 – 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

Communion Service

### Tuesday, March 16 – 7:00 a.m.

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16

Dorothy Tracy  
(By Marion and Jane Martin)

### Wednesday, March 17 – 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

Emily, Gertrude and Rudolph Geisler  
(By the Geisler Family)

### Wednesday, March 17 – 5:30 p.m. (At Holy Family with Stations of the Cross to follow)

Russell Volk  
(By Mark and Mary Hill)

### Thursday, March 18 – 7:00 a.m.

Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

The World and Conversion of Souls  
(By Eddie Costello)

### Thursday, March 18 – 5:30 p.m. (At St. Thomas)

Laurine and Delmer Freese  
(By Dave and Theresa Holtman)

### Friday, March 19 – 8:30 a.m.

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Beth Clark  
(By Martha Fluckey)

### Friday, March 19 – 7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas

### Saturday, March 20 – 5:30 p.m.

Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

Kyle Moroney  
(By Scotty and Carol Blentlinger and Family)

### Sunday, March 21 – 8:00 a.m.

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

Bob and Sylva Dixon and Julie Link  
(By Cheryl Dillard)

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Jerry Gunn  
(By the Gunn Family)

### St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas  
and Holy Family

### Sunday, March 21 – 1:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Deacon Mike is celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 17! Please wish him a Happy Birthday!

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 6-7, 2021

Holy Family: \$4,325.00  
School Support: \$992.00  
Sister Parish: \$35.00  
Catholic Times: \$15.00  
Catholic Relief Services: \$225.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 7, 2021

St. Thomas: \$2,591.00  
Sister Parish: \$260.00  
Catholic Relief Services: \$50.00  
Operation Rice Bowl: \$247.00

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Holy Family Choir Practice will be held on Tuesday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 23 – both at 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ K of C Fish Fry will be held on March 26, 2021 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. See pg. 5 of this bulletin for further details.
- ❖ Barn-2-Barn Classic will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2021 with registration at 11:00 a.m. at the K of C Hall.

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or [tmckeown@smseagle.org](mailto: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 † 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 † J. J. Gronewold † Jack Johnson † Rhonda Koch † John Norkus † Jim Wort † Cal Noelke † Joe Ray † Arika Pipkin † John Yeakel † Maryann Yeakle †

*Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Mary Kleinlein who passed away on*

*March 1, 2021.*

*May God keep you in His care!*

## 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 Youth Group** will be holding drive thru Fish Fries every Friday in March (March 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 Work Camp trip in June.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

### March 21, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

**Sacristan:** Gary Mast

**Lector:** Karen Jansen

**Ushers:** Jerel Mock, Alex Mock

### March 21, 2021 - 11:30 a.m.

**Lector:** Denise Taylor

**Ushers:** John Brady, Darren Hildebrand

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Lent also known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare, meaning rejoice, is taken from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon for this Sunday. It sets the tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter Mystery as does the permitted use of rose colored vestments. Lent is indeed a solemn time for us as we reflect on our own interior life and those areas that need purifying and sanctifying, yet we are reminded this Sunday of the joy that we will experience in the celebration of Easter.

This weekend we also celebrate the Second Scrutinies for those who will be receiving all three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. I spoke more about the Scrutinies in last week's bulletin. Just before the Second Scrutinies this week, the Elect

will be presented with a copy of the Creed and will follow along with us and listen carefully as we profess our faith. We look forward to when they will join in professing the Creed, our faith, with us for the first time at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to keep the Elect and all those coming into the Church in your prayers.

As was the case last week, this week we have the option of using the readings from Year A or Year B. At the Mass with the Second Scrutinies we use the readings from Year A. For the other Masses, we use the readings from Year B. Again, I spoke more about that in last week's bulletin. As I reflect on the Scriptures for today, I will be using the readings for Year B.

If we take a look back over the whole of history including our very own lives, humans have a tendency to choose what is the easier path but not necessarily the better path. The easier path can often lead away from God and into the darkness of sin. But Christ's way is the way of light and we are called to be His disciples...to let go of preferences and actions that keep us in the dark and to joyfully and eagerly take the path which leads to truth and goodness. We see this reflected in the readings for today. Christ is the light of the world who saves us from the darkness of sin and death. There is nothing and no one else who can lay claim to that.

In the First Reading from the Book of Chronicles we hear of the people's sinfulness and infidelity to God time and again. Still, it says, early and often God sent messengers to the people because of the compassion He had for them. But the people mocked God's messengers, despised God's warnings, and scoffed at God's prophets. But this path led to destruction and death. The people rejected God's message because to accept His message would mean to change, to grow, to face their own wickedness. But the people preferred the easier path and chose their ways over God's ways...they chose death over life. And we can't just look at those people with pity because they reflect our very selves. Even though we know and have experienced God's love and mercy and compassion and even

though we know that Christ is the light that leads to Eternal Life, we too can reject God's message. We too can despise and mock and scoff and refuse to change, to grow, and to face our own wickedness. We sometimes too prefer the easier path and choose our ways over God's ways. We sometimes too choose death over life for our very selves. You might say no way, not me but Lent is a great time to bring all of that to the surface of our life, to bring it to the light.

St. Paul in the Second Reading reminds us that God is rich in mercy because He loves us. This is true and we should be eternally grateful for that. But it doesn't give us the pass to go about and do whatever we want and to choose our ways over God's ways. It doesn't give us a license to try and define Truth or change Truth. It doesn't allow for anything and everything under the disguise of equality, inclusion, or whatever else someone wants to call it. Foregoing the Truth so that we or someone else might "feel good" or "feel better" is not a good thing. It deprives one of the fullness of life and complete freedom and even puts one in danger of not taking part in Christ's healing and salvation.

As we move to the Gospel for today, we hear Jesus saying that the light came into the world but people preferred darkness to light because their works were evil. The people preferred their way...the easier way. And again, don't try to let yourself or anyone else off the hook so easy. The Lord's words are for each and every one of us.

Evil thrives in darkness but light exposes those deeds. In darkness, everything is unclear and it's hard to navigate. Without God's help, we flounder around in darkness. And so, God sent His only Son into the world, to be the Light of the world...not to condemn the world, by no means, but rather, to save the world. How could we not give praise and glory to God for this alone and strive to live the life of holiness we are called to! Only Light can lead us to Truth and only Light can show us the path to follow and only Light can dispel darkness. That Light is Christ.

None of us are unfamiliar with temptation and the allure of sin. We

struggle with it every single day. In addition, we seem to be surrounded with darkness at times. But Christ, who is the Light of the world, saves us from the darkness of sin and death and freedom comes from knowing that the Light is stronger than any darkness. Indeed, the saving power of God brings love and mercy, healing and salvation to the world. As we continue our Lenten Season and strive for that purification and sanctification in our own life that we are called to, let us remain mindful of that Light. And again, may we also choose the path that, although it may not be the easiest, leads to truth and goodness.

And now a few notes:

-As we enter into the Fourth Week of Lent, I want to again encourage you to ask yourself each day how your Lent is going. Be honest with yourself. If it's going well, great, thank God for a good Lent thus far and ask Him to help you be sustained in your Lenten disciplines and grow in your spiritual life. If it seems you have let your Lenten disciplines fall short, then renew yourself this very day. Ask God for His help and be open to it.

-MASS SIGN-UP - As I mentioned last weekend at all the Masses, we are eliminating the sign-ups for Masses (at least for now). I will continue to evaluate this and make changes as necessary. Along the same lines, I am eliminating the live stream of the Masses.

-BULLETINS - I would like to thank those businesses who advertise on the back of our bulletins. Their support helps to pay for our bulletins each week and I encourage you to support these businesses and to thank them for their advertising. Sadly, it seems that our advertisers are being targeted by unsolicited attempts to have them purchase online advertising that can appear to be connected to the parish and our websites. These solicitations are not coming from the parishes, have not been initiated from the parishes, and are not connected to our bulletin publisher. Sunday Missal Service/P.A.M. Printers in Quincy proudly prints our bulletins locally and I am very happy to be able to work with them. If you

ever have questions about such solicitations, please contact me or Sunday Missal Service.

-SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH - On Friday, March 19, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a significant celebration in the Church, elevated to a Solemnity, the highest celebration in the Church. As you know, we normally have our School Masses on Friday mornings at Holy Family. There is no school on Friday, March 19. The only Mass that day will be at 8:30 a.m. and to celebrate the Solemnity, I will be having a "St. Joseph Table" in the school cafeteria immediately following Mass. The St. Joseph Table is a tradition that dates to the Middle Ages and I want to invite all of you to join me for Mass that day and then come over to the school cafeteria to enjoy the fruits of the St. Joseph Table (Rolls, fruit, coffee, etc.). I do hope that you will try to join me. I will provide more information about the St. Joseph Table that day and I think you will enjoy it.

-ANNIVERSARIES - March 13 marked the anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis in 2013. March 19 is the Anniversary of the Installation of Pope Francis in 2013 as Supreme Pastor of the Universal Church. Additionally, March 19 also marks the Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination in 2003 of Bishop Thomas John Paprocki (note, this is not when Bishop Paprocki was named Bishop of Springfield but rather the date he was Ordained a Bishop). Please keep Pope Francis and Bishop Paprocki in your prayers.

-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, 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family. Thursday evenings, 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, 4:45-5:15 p.m. at Holy Family and Thursday evenings, 4:45-5:15 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, 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas. Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., alternating parishes (Sunday, March 14 will be at Holy Family, Sunday, March 21 will be at St. Thomas).

-40 DAYS FOR LIFE - St. Thomas has the 40 Days for Life Calendar in the Back of Church. Please sign-up for one or more days to pray for life during Lent.

-RICE BOWLS - Are in the back of each church. Please consider taking one and using it as part of the Lenten Season and your own Lenten practices.

-FISH FRIES - Mt. Sterling Council Knights of Columbus Fish Fry will be Friday, March 26 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. Serving will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m., dine in or carry-out. Also, a reminder that Fish Fries will be held each Friday evening during March at St. Thomas for Catholic Heart Work Camp. These are drive through only and are served from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

-BARN-2-BARN CLASSIC - 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](http://www.bcdeerclassic.com)) or by contacting Aaron Akins by e-mail ([aakins@dotfoods.com](mailto: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. The Barn-2-Barn Classic helps to support St. Mary School.

-TRIDUUM AND EASTER SCHEDULE - Holy Thursday: 5:00 p.m. at St. Thomas; 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family (both parishes will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass). Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas, 11:00 a.m., at Holy Family at 3:00 p.m. Services at 5:00 p.m. at St. Thomas and 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil beginning at 8:00 p.m. at Holy Family. Easter Sunday: 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Masses at Holy Family; 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses at St. Thomas.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for me and one another. I pray in this Season of Lent for our growth in holiness that we may live as God has called us to live. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

**Bulletin Short for  
Fourth Sunday of Lent - 14 March 2021**

**This Is the Verdict.** The Gospel declares the Light of Christ came into the world. The choice is either to prefer darkness or live by the truth revealed by that Light. The Letter to the Ephesians declares that we are saved not by our own works (though good works we still need do), but by God's gift and grace.

- What darkness will I move out of so I may stand in the Light?
- What good works will I continue doing to acknowledge God's gift and grace to me and to all?
- How can I live this truth: we are saved as a people by God's grace?

**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](mailto:levans8783@gmail.com). This is for **BOTH** Holy Family and St. Thomas Parishioners! *Laura will be on maternity leave starting March F, so any early registration that could occur would be much appreciated!*

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY**

Knights of Columbus Council #1281 will host a Fish Fry on Friday, March 26, 2021 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The menu consists of fish, potato salad, baked beans, and dessert. Adults: \$10; children 6-10: \$5 and 6 and under: free. Carryouts will be available.

**BARN-2-BARN CLASSIC**

The Barn-2-Barn Classic will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2021. It is a 4-person putt-putt contest with a twist! Tour area farms and compete in custom-designed challenges. Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the K of C Hall. The event will end with a meal at Ridge View Winery. For registration or information contact [contact@bcdeerclassic.com](mailto:contact@bcdeerclassic.com). Proceeds benefit St. Mary School.

**HOLY FAMILY CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**Choir practice will be held on Tuesday March 16 and Tuesday, March 23 both at 6:00 p.m.**

**POT OF GOLD**

February Pot of Gold winners are:

- \$250.00 - Mary Koch
- \$125.00 - Cheryl Dillard
- \$75.00 - Kathleen L. Green

\$50.00 - Adam D'Angelo

\$50.00 - Cindy McClelland

This is the last drawing this year for Pot of Gold. St. Mary School is not selling Pot of Gold tickets as a fund raiser this year. Thank you to all who have purchased tickets in the past!

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Holy Family Women's Guild is accepting donations for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones. Donations may be placed in the collection (checks should be made payable to Holy Family Women's Guild). Please include a note with the name of your loved ones.

**HOLY WEEK/EASTER MASS SCHEDULE**

Holy Thursday: **5:00 p.m. at St. Thomas**  
**7:00 p.m. at Holy Family**

Good Friday: **Stations of the Cross:**

**11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas**  
**3:00 p.m. at Holy Family**

**Good Friday Services:**

**5:00 p.m. at St. Thomas**  
**7:00 p.m. at Holy Family**

Easter Vigil: **8:00 p.m. at Holy Family**

Easter Sunday: **6:30 a.m. at Holy Family**  
**8:00 a.m. at Holy Family**  
**10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas**  
**11:30 a.m. at St. Thomas**



**Holy Week**



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