

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, April 19 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; John 6:22-29

Communion Service

Tuesday, April 20 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35

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

Wednesday, April 21 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40

Bob Volk
(By Maureen Norvell)

Thursday, April 22 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40; John 6:44-51

Robert Koch
(By Tom and Marcy Koch)

Friday, April 23 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 9:1-20; John 6:52-59

John Costello
(By Eddie Costello)

Friday, April 23 – 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Friday, April 23 – 9:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Saturday, April 24 – 5:30 p.m.

Acts of the Apostles 9:31-42; John 6:60-69

Phyllis Robichaud
(By Bill and Ann O'Sullivan)

Sunday, April 25 – 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

Parishioners of Holy Family

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

All the Miscarried and Stillborn Babies
of St. Thomas

(By Brad and Amanda Genenbacher)

St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 10-11, 2021

Holy Family: \$5,308.95
School Support: \$780.00

Sister Parish: \$225.00

Good Friday: \$45.00

Easter: \$210.00

Seminary: \$30.00

Operation Rice Bowl: \$25.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 11, 2021

St. Thomas: \$2,875.00

Easter: \$445.00

For the Poor: \$5.00

Good Friday: \$35.00

Seminarians: \$110.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **School Board Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ **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, April 28, 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 † 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 † Marilyn Wort † Cal Noelke † Joe Ray †
 Arika Pipkin † Maryann Yeakel † Kimberly
 McKinny † Marilyn Kerr † Bryce Shank †
 Elaine Parkin & family †

ST. THOMAS

We will celebrate our St. Thomas parishioners who are graduating (8th grade, high school or college) at Mass on May 16 (time TBA).

If this is you—please reach out to Laura Evans either on Facebook or email (levans@adams.net) so we can include you in the bulletin! Also, if you would like to be a reader during Mass, please let her know as well!

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

April 25, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Denise Taylor
Lector: Karen Jansen
Ushers: Denny Campbell, Jerry Herkert

April 25, 2021 - 11:30 a.m.

Lector: Tod Perry
Ushers: Lucas Likes, Malachi Perry

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Easter. The Lord is Risen, Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia! Indeed the Living Christ is present and active in our lives, Alleluia!

In the opening prayer for the Mass this Sunday we pray “May Your people exult forever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.” While the Opening Prayer calls us together and prepares us for the Liturgy that is about to unfold, this Opening Prayer is also a great reminder of the joy of the Easter Season that we are now in and the hope that has been given to us in Christ’s Resurrection.

Our readings for today remind us that the Risen Christ forgives our sins and advocates for us before the Father. Christ takes away our fears and doubts and frees us to go and share the Gospel message.

Fear is one of the most common of all emotions that humans experience. We all fall into its grasp from time to time. It can be very real and even cause us to freeze up, become paralyzed, and not act as we should. We need to always be away of that fear that can easily enter into our lives and keep us from Christ if we allow it.

The disciples certainly experienced this in the Gospel today when Christ appeared in their midst as they were listening to the two disciples recount what had taken place on the way. The Risen Christ came, offering them reassurance and peace. It is one thing to hear a story about Christ’s post-resurrection appearance, it is another to see it with your own eyes. Imagine for just a moment what that experience must

have been like...you may think you're a tough guy and try to suggest that this experience wouldn't have moved you but come on...that just isn't true if you really want to be honest, tough guy or not.

St. Luke in the Gospel does not hold back in describing the disciple's fear - even their inability or unwillingness to believe. They see Jesus but they immediately think it might be a ghost or a hallucination. But Jesus will not allow that fear to have the last word...for His disciples in the Gospel or for each one of us if we turn to Him with great trust.

Reassuring the disciples of His real, actual presence, Jesus proves it by the most common of all actions, He invites them to look at His hands and feet, and to touch Him so they will sense the reality of flesh and bones, which a ghost does not have. And then eats in front of them - something else a ghost would not do.

Yet more than just making the disciples feel better and dispersing their fear, Jesus' presence has a triple purpose: to prove His resurrection, to help them understand the fulfilled Scriptures, and to prepare them for their mission before the world. So often we simply want to just make someone feel better but that runs risk of distorting the Truth or depriving someone of the fullness of Truth. The greatest love we can share with others is the fullness of Truth...not some wishy-washy version of the Truth but the fullness of Truth found only in Christ.

Jesus calls the disciples witnesses, disciples who give all to proclaim the Risen Christ. In Greek, this would be translated "martyr" and indeed reflecting on that translation, we might come to a better and deeper understanding of what we're called to. A martyr, of course, is understood to be one who gives their very life in earthly death in witness to the faith. The Lord calls us to hand ourselves completely over to Him in witness to the faith. Perhaps we're not called to an earthly death in this witness but we are called to die to self each and every day so

that the witness to the Risen Christ may shine forth in and through us.

In a very real sense then, we are called to be martyrs, witnesses to the Risen Christ. The question we always have to ask ourselves is: "Am I handing myself completely over to the Lord...am I dying to self so that I might witness fully to the Lord?" And in asking that question, we also have to consider what those things are in my life...those desires, those passions, those obstacles, those idols, those fears...that keep me from handing myself over completely to Christ, that keep me from being a witness to the Risen Christ.

We recognize that Peter becomes one of the great examples of transformation. In our first reading, we see a very different Peter from the Good Friday man who denied Jesus three times. Filled with the Truth of the Resurrection and the power of the Spirit, he is the very opposite of fearful. Now he has the courage to stand before those who condemned Jesus - to proclaim Him as the fulfillment of the prophetic promises and to call all to repentance.

St. John in the Second Reading matches this powerful message with a reminder to his community of the immensity of Jesus' forgiveness.

So what about us? It is easy in our broken humanity to allow fear and doubt to control us. Yet fear and doubt must never have the last word. Christ always finds a way to reassure us of the Truth and reality of the Resurrection and its offer of life.

As believers, we find that reassurance in the Sacramental and Liturgical life of the Church where the Scriptures are proclaimed and the Spirit is at work. What a great gift the Lord has given us. In that Sacramental and Liturgical life of the Church, we encounter Christ. In the Sacramental and Liturgical Life of the Church, Jesus takes away our fears and doubts and frees us to go out and share

the Good News. How on earth could we ever want to distance ourselves from that great gift God has given to us, that Sacramental and Liturgical life of the Church?! How could we ever think it was a good idea to make other things in our life more important than the Sacramental and Liturgical life of the Church?! How is it possible that we can make excuses to not fully participate in the Sacramental and Liturgical Life of the Church?! It is in the Church and in the Sacramental and Liturgical life of the Church where we find the fullness of Truth and the fullness of life, Christ Himself.

Jesus has conquered sin and death and the reign of fear is over. Courage and peace are hallmarks of the believer and are gifts necessary to face the challenges of this world. May we seek that courage and peace, found only in Christ, in every moment of every day.

And now just a few notes:

--WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - As I've mentioned several times now, it is with great rejoicing that we welcomed a number of folks into the Church at the Easter Vigil either through all three Sacraments of Initiation, through Baptism only or through Profession of Faith and full initiation into the Church. I am hoping to have a reception sometime in the future for these folks for us all to gather together and get to know one another more. At the Easter Vigil we welcomed into the Church: Jason Garthaus and his three children Brook, Layna, and Dylan; Sarah Gallaher and her daughters Karley and Kinley; Deana Metz and her daughters Kayla and Ashlyn; Kendra Stammerjohn; Chris and Bailey Holtsclaw. In future bulletins, I am hoping to share a little bit of information on these folks. Let us give praise and thanks to God for His working in their lives. Please keep these folks in your prayers and help us to welcome them into the parish.

-CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Confirmation and First Holy Communion for both parishes is

coming up...Saturday, May 1 for Holy Family and Sunday, May 2 for St. Thomas. Please keep those who will be receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion in your prayers.

-NEW ASSIGNMENTS - Last weekend, new assignments for priests of our Diocese were announced at those parishes affected by assignment changes. The new assignments will be published in the Catholic Times. Please keep all the priests who have been called to new assignments in your prayers and the people of the parishes. Change in assignments is not unusual and is good for the life of the Church. Still, assignment changes can be difficult for those involved so again, please keep the priests and the people in your prayers as well as our Bishop and our Diocese.

-REMINDER - Please help us to keep our churches neat, clean, and beautiful. Take some time to straighten the books in the pews before you leave and to attend to any other housekeeping items that you may notice.

-DOORS - If you are visiting Holy Family Church, as you leave the church, please make sure the door is securely latched as you leave. Sometimes you have to push on the door to make sure it latches. Thank you for your attention to this.

-SERVERS - I know there has been some interest expressed in serving which is great. I will be setting up some training for this in each parish. If you are interested in serving, please let me know. I'd really like to have a big list of servers for each parish. What a great privilege it is to serve for Mass!

-USHERS - I am still looking for ushers that we can begin scheduling at Holy Family. Please let me know if you are interested. If I reach out to you for ushering, please consider saying yes to helping us usher at Mass from time to time.

-PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN - If you have not previously participated in a Protecting God's Children training, there are opportunities to do so in-person once again but you can also still do it online. Those in the parishes that are volunteering in any way need to complete this training. The online option is a great option and opportunity. Please let me know if you need to complete this and I will get you the information on how to complete it online. Background check renewals may also be needed for some folks. If you receive a renewal form from us, please complete and sign it and return it to us as soon as possible. This is only a background check renewal. The Protecting God's Children training is one-time only and does not need to be repeated. Background checks are renewed periodically. If you do the online training, we will need you to complete a hard copy Background Check form as this is not available online.

-DAILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - I want to encourage you to join folks around the Diocese at 4:40 each day in praying one Hail Mary for our Diocese to have 40 seminarians. This was begun some time ago and I hope that you will join us in this.

-ANNIVERSARIES - April 17 marks the death Anniversary of Bishop Joseph A. McNicholas in 1983. Bishop McNicholas was the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield and served as Bishop for almost eight years until his death.

April 17 also marks what would have been my father's 84th birthday. Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

April 20 marks the Anniversary of the Appointment of our Diocesan Bishop, Thomas John Paprocki in 2010. Again, please continue to keep Bishop Paprocki in your prayers.

Many of you may remember Fr. Roy Bauer. April 21 marks the death anniversary of Fr. Bauer in 2017. Please keep Fr. Bauer and all the faithfully departed in your prayers.

-WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - Next Sunday, April 25, is designated World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In a very special way that day, we offer prayers for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life and I invite you to include prayers for Vocations in a special way in your own personal prayers.

A very Happy and Blessed Easter to each one of you. Thank you for your prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. You remain in my prayers each day. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

Bulletin Short for
Third Sunday of Easter - 18 April 2021

Have You Anything to Eat? We long to be fed at the table of the Lord. We hunger to eat and drink his Blood and Body. If we can go to the church this day - what a joy! If we can't, we can still follow the gospel injunction: Look and touch. We can look for Jesus everywhere - because that is where he is. We can still touch Jesus in the persons who are near - because that is also where he is.

- How will I look for and see Jesus every day?
- How will I touch Jesus, either really or virtually, in touching another?
- How will I do these mercy works: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty?

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! *Laura will be on maternity leave starting March 8, so any early registration that could occur would be much appreciated!*

IT ALL WORKS FOR GOOD!

Welcome back singers! Our Missal and Music Issue are in the pew. Please sing the hymns with us. The numbers are on the board.

If you aren't comfortable singing, **read** the words to yourself as they are sung. The hymns are chosen to enhance the liturgy of each Mass.

Thanks!

Your Church Musicians

HOLY FAMILY EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Barb Lehne - *in memory of Frank and Kathryn Elbus*

Rita Joan Zurita - *in memory of Marie and Raymond Koch Family, Ella and Charles Redmond Family, Anna and Albert Koch Family and Dr. Victor M. Zurita Family*

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

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

Jane Veith - *in memory of Lawrence and Mary Veith Family, Joseph and Rose Klingele Family and Frank and Edith Veith Family*

Scotty and Carol Blentlinger - *in memory of Henry and Corrine Volk Family and Kyle Moroney*

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

Cheryl Dillard - *in memory of Bob and Sylva Dixon, Julie Link and Terry Dillard*

Glen and Amy Koch - *in memory of Robert and Betty Koch*

Barry and Karen Wear - *in memory of Jody Wear Duffy*

Ken and Mary Koch

Anonymous



Are you passionate about teaching students and want to work for a school that values you as a professional? If so, St. Mary School has a position for you!

St. Mary School is looking for a 2nd Grade teacher and an additional full-time Preschool teacher. SMS supports a culture of critical thinking, problem-solving, and character development. The ability to exhibit a variety of teaching methodologies is preferred as well. Candidates must have a valid teaching certificate.

The responsibilities of a teacher at SMS include: positive rapport with students; preparation of materials for class; complete midterm and quarterly report cards; participate in parent-teacher conferences, administer assessments, participate in faculty and profession meetings, and develop lesson plans.

Why should you apply? St. Mary School has small class sizes, comparable compensation and benefits to the public school, 40-minute consecutive prep time each day, teacher collaboration, mentor teachers, positive and supportive atmosphere, and a family environment! If you are interested, please send your resume to Melissa Obert, 408 W. Washington, Mt. Sterling, IL, 62353 or email at mobert@smseagle.org.

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