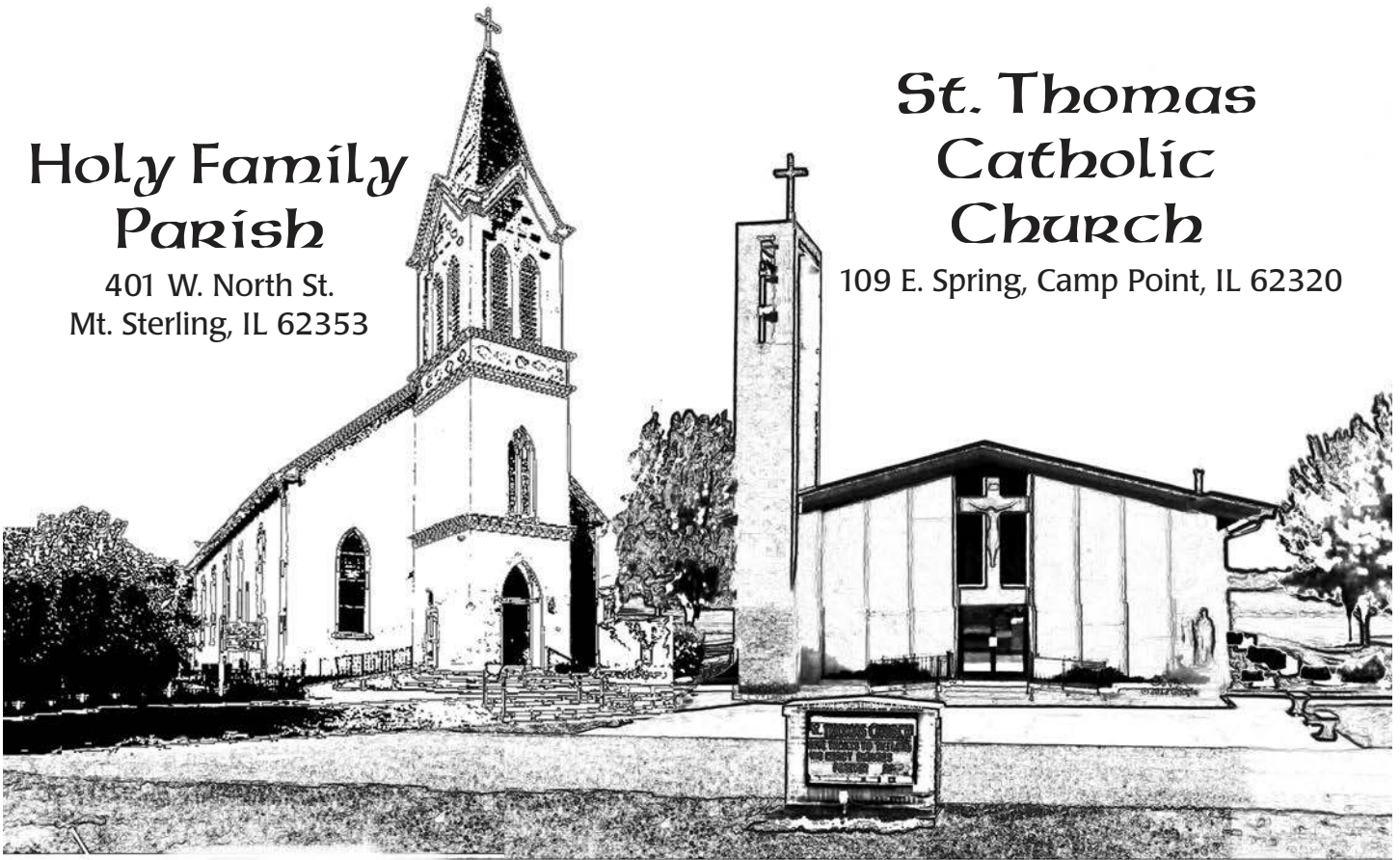


Holy Family Parish

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, May 10 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
Acts of the Apostles 16:11-16; John 15:26-16:4a

Communion Service

Tuesday, May 11 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 16:22-34; John 16:5-11

Kathleen Salrin Root
(By Mary Kassing)

Wednesday, May 12 – 7:00 a.m.

Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
Acts of the Apostles 17:15,22-18:1; John 16:12-15

John & Mary Louise Moorman
(By Tammy)

Thursday, May 13 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 18:1-8; John 16:16-20

Verna Veith
(By the Family)

Friday, May 14 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Matthias, Apostle
Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

Marilyn Mating
(By Tom & Nancy Schneider)

Friday, May 14 – 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Friday, May 14 – 9:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Saturday, May 15 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Isidore
Acts of the Apostles 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28

Tom Kuhn

Saturday, May 15 – 5:30 p.m.

William Koch
(By Barb Lehne)

Sunday, May 16 – 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 John 4:11-16;
John 17:11b-19

Living & Deceased Members of the
Nocturnal Adoration Society

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Alvera Hilgenbrinck
(By Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn)

St. Thomas – 11:30 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas
and Holy Family

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 1-2, 2021

Holy Family: \$3,157.52

School Support: \$877.50

Sister Parish: \$15.00

Assumption: \$40.00

Catholic Communications: \$15.00

Retired Diocesan Priests: \$25.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 2, 2021

St. Thomas: \$2,335.00

Parish Improvement: \$320.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **Nocturnal Adoration:** The annual Nocturnal Adoration Society breakfast and meeting will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the K of C Hall.

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 †
 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 the 11:30 a.m. Mass on May 16th.

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!

Mother's Day May 9th is the kickoff for Care Net Pregnancy Services Annual Baby Bottle Blitz. Care Net is a crisis pregnancy center that offers free services to women, men, and their families who are facing unplanned pregnancy. Baby bottles will be placed in the back of St. Thomas Church on Mother's Day. Please pick up a baby bottle and place your loose change in it and return the bottle Father's Day June 20th.

There is currently legislation in the Illinois house to repeal the Parental Notification Act, that requires a parent or legal guardian to be notified when a minor under age 18 seeks an abortion. There was an article in the Catholic Times April 4, 2021 explaining the attempt to

repeal this law and where it will lead. Please contact your state lawmaker, who for most of us would be Jill Tracy, and ask her to vote "No" to legislation that would repeal Illinois' Parental Notification Law.

St. Thomas Vacation Bible School - Planning is underway for VBS to be held August 2 -6. I am in a unique situation of needing multiple teachers and helpers this year. Please prayerfully consider helping either in a classroom, the kitchen or decorating. All help is needed, all ages. Our young children look forward to this week all year long and it's so rewarding, seeing the smiles on their faces. Please consider joining us. Please call or text, Kailyn Mast at 217-617-0282.

St. Thomas will be having their Ministry Sign Up starting May 16th after both Masses in the back of church. Please review the lists to make sure we have your phone number and email address correct. Cross out your name if you are no longer interested in the ministry your name is under. Add your name, phone number and email address under ministries you would like to sign up for. If you have questions, contact Claudia 217-593-7285.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

May 16, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Gary Mast

Lector: Graduates

Ushers: Butch Likes, Mike Likes

May 16, 2021 - 11:30 a.m.

Lector: Graduates

Ushers: Matt Schmidt, Andrew Llewellyn

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Sixth Sunday of Easter. As we do so, there is certainly a lot of talk about love in our readings today and as you've heard me say before, the word is so often times misunderstood and misused.

In the Second Reading from the First Letter of John, he writes that God is love. This seemingly simple line is neither a

description of an attribute of God nor an assertion that God is just a name for capturing how we feel about things.

Rather, this line in the Letter of John is a foundational doctrine that describes who and how God is. God is "being." He is active. In the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, God is a communion of persons united in perfect love.

The Holy Trinity, while a Mystery of our Faith, is the perfect example of giving and receiving love. Through that active, continuous outpouring of love, God created all things...the angels, the universe, each one of us.

John in that Second Reading instructs us by saying, "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us." You see, the Lord initiated a loving relationship with us by creating us and calling us into relationship. Of course, we sinned and damaged that relationship, but our loving God sent prophets and leaders to bring us back. Finally, the Father sent the Son to die for us and show us the perfect love of self-sacrifice.

God loved us and sent His Son as expiation for our sins. God loves us and pours out abundant love for us, so that we will love in return. If we understand who God is and what He has done for us, and what He does for us, the most natural and reasonable response is to love God completely.

This is exemplified in our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles where Luke tells us that while Peter was speaking to Cornelius, "the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the Word." These were not Jewish people but rather, Gentiles, not bound to the Mosaic law and not waiting for a Messiah. Yet they responded to the love poured out for them in the preaching of Peter, and they glorified God.

To love God completely is to keep His commandments. We hear that throughout Sacred Scripture in some way or another. Hopefully we all know that. Indeed, Jesus

says in today's Gospel from John, "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love."

The first commandment, of course, is to love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength. I wonder how often we really stop to consider what God's commands are telling us and calling us to. This is a tall but certainly not an impossible command and one that requires humility and surrender in order to follow it.

We have to be willing to follow the teachings of our Savior and live as His disciples to really demonstrate our love for Him. This is a self-sacrificial love, one where we lay down our lives for one another, either metaphorically or literally. This is how we love one another.

The Lord expects us to love in a way that sacrifices and suffers for the other. Parents make sacrifices because they love their children. Friends walk with friends through trials and sufferings. Jesus gave us the great example of love in His Crucifixion. So, too, are we called to love one another even when it is painful and inconvenient.

Indeed God is love, and His love calls us to the Cross. In the fullness of Truth given to us in the Catholic Church by Christ Himself, may we always have that humility and surrender to authentically love as God has called us to love.

And now just a few notes:

-MOTHER'S DAY - A very Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers. Mothers, of course, have such an important role in our families and in our world. What a great gift a woman has in motherhood and what a great gift our mothers are to us. To all mothers, may you know the blessings of God in your life each and every day. At each of the Masses this weekend, I am happy to offer a blessing to our mothers.

-THE MONTH OF MARY - While we honor Mary, the Virgin mother of God, in a

very special way at all times, in May we give special honor to Her. I encourage you to find ways this month to Honor the Blessed Virgin Mary all the more both individually, with others, and with your family. Have you set up a May Altar in your home? This is a great tradition...choose a prominent place in your home and surround a statue of Mary with flowers, rosaries, candles, etc. and offer prayers to Her for Her intercession. Pray the Holy Rosary each day, especially with your family. Engage in some Marian spiritual reading, again, on your own, with a small group, or with your family. Sing some Marian hymns around the dinner table. These are just a few suggestions. There are many ways to honor our Blessed Mother.

In the month of May, I will be asking our musicians at both parishes to include Marian hymns in the Liturgy. Marian hymns are always a beautiful addition to a Liturgy.

Another long tradition has been May Crowning. St. Thomas PSR and St. Mary School had a May Crowning this past week. It is so good to have our young people involved in devotion to our Blessed Mother.

-PSR - Our formal PSR at both parishes wrapped up for the school year this past week. As I've mentioned before, our learning does not come to an end with the start of the summer break. I fully expect parents and our families to continue to remain actively involved in the parishes and in our continual growth in the faith and in holiness. Thank you to all those who have helped in our PSR.

-ASCENSION - For us "old-timers," and that includes me, we are accustomed to referring to the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven as Ascension Thursday, a Holy Day of Obligation. That, of course, would be this Thursday. For some time now, the celebration of the Ascension has been transferred to the following Sunday in most Dioceses in the United States including the Diocese of Springfield. And

so, on Thursday, May 13, we will celebrate Our Lady of Fatima and the celebration of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated next Sunday, May 16.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION
BREAKFAST - The Nocturnal Adorers of Holy Family Parish will be gathering Sunday, May 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling for breakfast.

-VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Please see the note in the bulletin concerning Vacation Bible School at St. Thomas. We are in need of helpers. Please consider how you can help with this and contact Kailyn as soon as possible.

-FUNERAL SERVICES - Graveside funeral services for Faye Greenwell will be on Saturday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Hersman Cemetery. There is no visitation but friends are invited to the graveside service.

-ST. ISIDORE - Saturday, May 15 is the memorial of St. Isidore the Farmer, the Patron of Saint of farmers. St. Isidore is significant to many of us at both Holy Family and St. Thomas. Because of funeral services I have that same day, I am only able to offer the 7:00 a.m. Mass that morning at Holy Family Parish. I encourage you to consider joining us as we celebrate St. Isidore's memorial and seek his intercession for our farmers.

St. Isidore and his wife both are known for the holiness of their lives lived out in the simplicity of their lives. St. Isidore's life is a model of simple Christian charity and faith...simple yet powerful. His faith always remained the center of his life, praying as he worked and sharing what little he had with the poor.

I will offer the Mass that morning for my father, Tom Kuhn, a life-long farmer and also a life-long Catholic whose faith always was at the center of his life and who instilled that in his family for which I am so grateful. My father, among many things, taught us the value of not just work and labor but good and honest work and labor. He taught us how to both

appreciate and care for God's gifts and creation. He also showed the value of living out simplicity of life and how that simplicity helps us to grow in love and holiness all the more. My father also was always a great supporter of Catholic Education and I am so grateful for that gift that I received and it is but one reason why I love St. Mary School so very much. Having gotten to know many of you, I know that you can understand and appreciate what I am saying.

St. Isidore is also the name I took as my Confirmation name (I also considered St. Joseph...either way, it was a win for me as both are great and meaningful saints.)

As we celebrate the memorial of St. Isidore, we remain mindful of his simple but faith filled life, his holiness of life, and the greatness of all of God's creation. Again, we ask for his intercession for all of our farmers as we place our complete trust in God.

-GRADUATION - As graduation season gets under way, I will be recognizing the graduates from each parish at one of the weekend Masses at each parish next weekend. I encourage any graduates from the parishes to join us. If you are graduating this year (grade school, high school, or college) and have not gotten information about the Masses, please let us know. Congratulations to our graduates. I'd ask you to keep them all in your prayers.

-BABY BOTTLES - This weekend (Mother's Day weekend) we are handing out baby bottles to collect funds for pregnancy centers. These will be returned the weekend of Father's Day. I encourage all of you to participate in this and I ask you to continue to pray and offer sacrifice for the dignity, sanctity, and protection of all human life in all stages as we recognize the great gift of life that God gives to each and every person.

-CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Last weekend I celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at both parishes. What a

wonderful celebration. Congratulations to all of our young people. In total, there were ten kids. I ask you to continue to keep them all in your prayers.

This serves as a good opportunity to mention the following. Many of you have probably already heard that beginning July 1, the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion for our Diocese will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. While I know it is a change and will require some adjustment for us, it really will be a great opportunity for our kids, our families, our parishes as a whole, and our own spiritual life.

There is a lot of information already on the Diocesan website concerning this. There was also information in the latest edition of the Catholic Times. I will be sharing more information as time goes on. I ask you to make sure all the information you are receiving is from an accurate source (I don't consider social media opinions to be accurate and reliable sources of information). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me. As we make preparations for this, please know that change is difficult...I know that. Often times it makes us uneasy. But, as I mentioned at the Masses last weekend, just relax, it will be a good thing. God is in the midst of all of this.

I will be working on what this will look like for our parishes. As soon as we have a date confirmed, we will get that out to you and I will get you other details and information as well.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

**Bulletin Short for
Sixth Sunday of Easter - 09 May 2021**

Love, Love, Love. "Love" or "loved" is spoken seventeen times in the Bible

readings today. Not a mushy Hallmark movie kind of love. But the love God has for us. The love we have for God and Christ. The love, therefore, we must have for everyone else. Strong, bold, lasting.

- How do I know I am loved? Let me count the persons and ways?
- How will I love those who are near?
- How will I love everyone else?

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Thank you to all participating in the Baby Bottle Boomerang this year for the Pregnancy Resource Center. Baby bottles will be distributed on Mother's Day and collected on Father's Day. Contact Mary Koch, 217-506-2033, for other arrangements. Donations to the Center may be made in memory of a loved one. (Just fill out information on the form in the bottle.) Every gift is much appreciated and brings hope and help to families in our community.

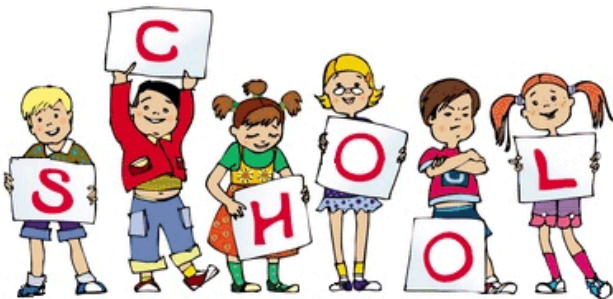
IT ALL WORKS FOR GOOD!

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



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 & 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

Does anyone have gently used towels and/or washcloths they would be willing to donate to the K of C Hall? If so, please contact Beth Boylen at 217-242-1237.



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