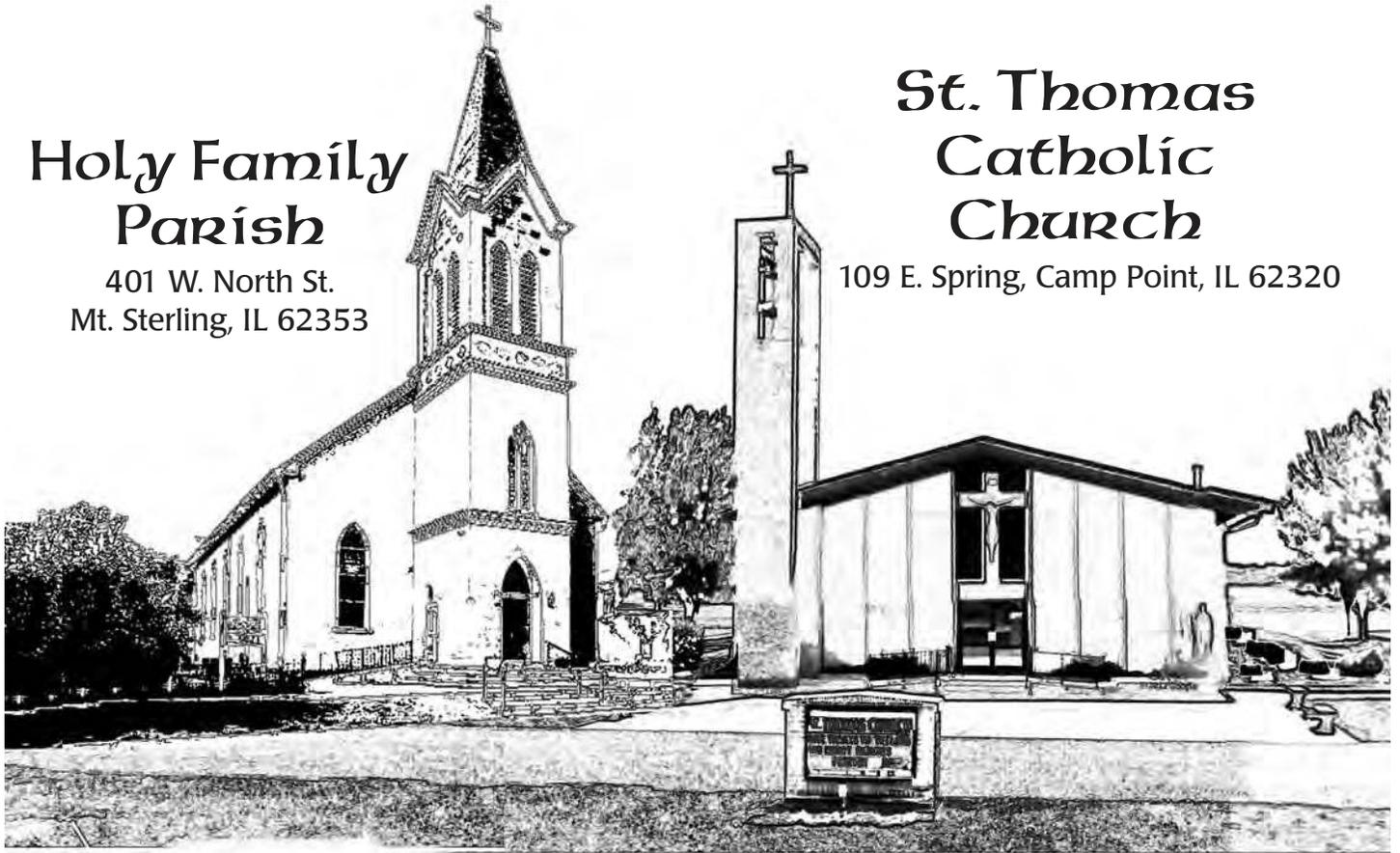


Holy Family Parish

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, September 27 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50

Communion Service

Tuesday, September 28 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Wenceslaus, Martyr, St. Lawrence Ruiz and
Companions, Martyrs
Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56

Pat Burkey

Wednesday, September 29 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; John 1:47-51

Millie Geisler

(By Nocturnal Adoration Society)

Thursday, September 30 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church
Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12

Mike Metzger

(By Legion of Mary)

Friday, October 1 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church
Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16

Angie Heaton

(By Kay & Michelle Downey)

Saturday, October 2 – 5:30 p.m.

The Holy Guardian Angels
Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Kim Koch

(By Barb Lehne)

Sunday, October 3 – 8:00 a.m.

Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrew 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Allen & Mary Stout

(By Jim & Marilyn Stout)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

September 18-19, 2021

Holy Family: \$4,123.00

Sister Parish: \$5.00

School Support: \$150.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

September 19, 2021

St. Thomas: \$2,440.00

Sister Parish: \$20.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 7:30 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 † Betty (Koch) Atteberry † Jim Steinkamp † Jenny Fox † Carrie Haskins † Heather Poppy † Stanley Harms † Pat Boylen † Michelle Baucom-Keller † Myles Keller † Maisy Keller † Kimberly Kestner & Baby † Sheila Thompson

† J. J. Gronewold † Jack Johnson † John Norkus † Jim Wort † Marilyn Wort † Carolyn Kassing † Cal Noelke † Maryann Yeakel † Kimberly McKinny † Marilyn Kerr † Bryce Shank † Elaine Parkin & family † Dawn Stoecker † Barb Kuhn † Derry Schnelle † Mary Klingele Ahmed † Becky Hill † Sheila Roberts † Kelsie Broom † MacKenzie Wilmoth † Karen Saxer † Kay Downey † Marilyn Clark † Jim Heaton † Vera Marie Rolf † Josh Meservey † Maddux Sweeting

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Parish School of Religion (PSR) will start with curriculum lessons in the classroom on September 15. We meet from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Registration forms and calendars can be obtained from Laura Evans! You can contact her at levans@adams.net or by calling her at 217-316-1734.

There are copies of raffle tickets at the back of church for the upcoming Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women being held in Jacksonville September 29. They are for Pot of Gold 50/50 Raffle and Quilt Raffle Tickets. Instructions are on the tickets. Need not be present to win.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

October 3, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Dawn Peters
Lector: Laura Evans
Gift Bearers: Matt Evans Family
Ushers: Andrew Llewelyn, Justin Obert

Bosco Kids and RCIA Updates

Bosco Kids and RCIA meet on Wednesday, 9/29/21 from 6:15-7:30 in SMS cafeteria. Fr. Aaron will be joining us for classes. Please

contact Ann O'Sullivan for more information or questions about either of these programs, aosullivan2031@gmail.com or 217-257-2516.

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The second part of the Gospel reading should be a nice reminder of why we are NOT Fundamentalists. The passage is often quoted in passing but perhaps without a deeper understanding. How many times have we said or heard "If you're hand's the problem, cut it off?" Certainly, that statement has a deeper meaning when we say it even if we don't realize it. There is no way that we would ever come to believe that self-mutilation would be a path to Christ or that He would ever suggest that it is. Now, I'll return to that second part of the Gospel but let's take a closer look at the other readings and the first part of the Gospel.

In that first reading from the Book of Numbers, we find Joshua, the son of Nun and also a trusted aide of Moses from early on, concerned and upset about these two men who are prophesying but who Joshua thought were not part of the chosen group. He says to Moses, "Moses, my lord, stop them." And Moses responds "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow His Spirit on them all."

And if we move to the first part of today's Gospel, it's kind of the same thing. John goes to Jesus and tells Him that he and the other Apostles "saw someone driving out demons in" Jesus' Name and that they tried to prevent the man from doing this because he did not follow them. In other words, he wasn't one of them, one of the twelve. Hmm, sounds like Joshua in the first reading, doesn't it? And what does Jesus say? "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us." John and the

Apostles, like Joshua in the first reading, are concerned and upset, maybe even scandalized a bit. But could it be that they are really jealous of this other man's good works, just as we heard Moses say to Joshua? Likely so, even if they don't realize it or want to admit it. But John gives a telling remark when he says that the man does not follow us. That simple statement likely suggests some kind of notion of being privileged and also lends itself to jealousy of another.

And we do it too. We say things like "Who does she think she is, anyway?" or "What's he trying to prove?" We do, think about it. We hear that or say things like that. We can begin to set up a me versus him or us versus them mentality. But certainly, this is NOT what the Lord is calling us to. The Lord calls us to be one, one with Him. Instead of being jealous of the good works of others, let us be grateful and let us hear the words of Moses, "Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets." And those words of Jesus, "There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me."

And if we find ourselves caught up in any of this jealousy of others, what might we do to begin to overcome it? Well, first it would be helpful to recognize that God uses instruments to carry out His work and to bring others to Him. And what a great and wonderful responsibility it is that we, each one of us, is an instrument for God to carry out His work and bring others to Him. How often do we think of that? And, we have to be careful here, that we don't fall into the thinking of Joshua and John, that we are somehow superior to another; that somehow God is using me in such a way that makes my work so much better or more important than someone else's.

Once we recognize this, then we can reflect on our own gifts that God has given us and how He is calling us to use those gifts. And those gifts we've been given are very different from one another. We may

have similar gifts as someone else, but each of our gifts are unique, to be used in a very special way to carry out God's work. And that's important to remember so that we don't fall into comparing ourselves to others...I wish I could be like him or if I could just do that, whatever it might be.

And then, very important, is moving to recognize that your very self is a gift from God, not just to you but to all of us. You are a gift to me and to the person who sits next to you and to the person who sits across the Church from you and the person you encounter in the grocery store or in your business setting. And that, I dare say, is something that is difficult for us to accept and something perhaps we rarely reflect on. But your gifts and, indeed, your very self, are given to each one of us as well, given to everyone you encounter along the way. And when we are able to stop and reflect on that and begin to fully give that gift of self to others, then we open ourselves to receiving the gift of others and their gifts. And how beautiful that is. In that, there is no room for jealousy.

It is important, also, to recognize a small but significant piece of what Jesus said, "Whoever is not against us is for us." That is important. Yes, important for recognizing the good works of others, but also important in recognizing that we will encounter those who are against us. Jesus' words themselves reveal that. And we need to be aware of that. But we need not become distressed over that or give up on our mission. Rather, we need to persevere. And we don't cast out those who are against us either. St. Paul is a perfect example for us. He was one of the most vicious persecutors of the early Church, and yet through his conversion, became one of the greatest promoters and defenders of the faith.

Finally, you might be thinking to yourself, gee, Father, I thought you were going to get back to the second part of the Gospel, and indeed, I am. St. James warns us of our desire and greed for material

wealth and possessions. You have stored up treasures for the last days, he says, but warns his readers to “weep and wail over your impending miseries.” St. James is referring to the material treasures that people go after and store up. But we need to store up treasures for our own sanctification, our own growth in holiness.

And if there is anything preventing us from living a holy life, we need to recognize that and begin to work to rid ourselves of that. And that is what Jesus is referring to in the second part of the Gospel. He is calling us to recognize and remove any of those things in our life that are temptations for us, that could cause us to sin. And this can be a very difficult and painful process; a process of purification of our hearts because it may be something that is very dear to us or that we’ve attached ourselves to strongly, that is preventing us from seeing God; or worse yet, pushing us away from God.

What may be helpful for us is to look for the sin in our life that is responsible for all or most of our failing. Reflecting on the virtues and vices can help us to do just that. Practicing virtue helps protect us against temptation to sin. That is what Jesus is calling us to in that second part of the Gospel. If it is lust that we struggle with, how can we grow in chastity? If it is gluttony that we struggle with, how might we grow in temperance? If it is greed, how might we grow in charity? If sloth, how might we grow in diligence? If wrath, how might we grow in patience? If envy, how might we grow in kindness? If pride, how might we grow in humility? This is difficult for each one of us, but we need to, each and every day, be mindful of practicing virtue so that we might be protected from temptation. And when we fail, we recognize that, and we seek forgiveness from God and then we continue to practice virtue. Like any habit, virtue becomes one when it is practiced regularly.

And we must not forget Jesus’ warning to us: Whoa to any one of us who causes

another to sin. And we need to be ever mindful of that as well. Certainly, the practice of virtue can help with that as well. AND we need to be mindful, as we go about each and every day, of how our words and deeds affect others. Are they drawing others closer to Christ or pushing them away?

It is not an easy task, for sure. But we do trust in God’s love and mercy for each one of us, confident that He is with us in all that we do. And so, as we continue to live out our Christian lives and seek to grow in holiness, let us examine our own lives to recognize our self as a gift to others and how we can grow in our practice of virtue; so as to be protected from the temptations of sin so that our life can be a reflection of Christ’s love to others.

Thank you all for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my daily prayers for you as well. May you have a most blessed week.

- Fr. Aaron

Bulletin Short for
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 26, 2021

The More the Merrier. Who cares if other Christians are also doing the good things that Catholics do? Or other believers? Or even non-believers? The kingdom of heaven is not an exclusive club. By God’s design, everyone belongs. Jesus says: “Whoever is not against us is for us.”

- What good can I affirm that someone else is doing this week?
- How can I foster others to do good work?
- How can I help others to care for “little ones”?

Attention St. Thomas and Holy Family Women Parishioners

I attended a meeting for the Quincy Women's Deanery back in May of this year and came away with this prayer opportunity.

I would like to start this prayer opportunity at our parishes. We will be praying for our pastor, Fr. Aaron. The group is called The Seven Sisters Apostolate. It is a group of 7 women and substitutes who commit to praying for our priest one hour each week. The Holy Hour is ideally prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in front of the Tabernacle. You will be committed to a particular day of the week but not to a particular place or hour. We will need substitutes in case one of the core group is unable to offer the prayers on their particular day. I would like to start this group beginning 10-1-21. More information can also be found at sevensistersapostolate.org.

I have had 3 ladies commit so far for The Seven Sisters Apostolate. I need 8-9. Please prayerfully consider this worthwhile apostolate. Contact me if you have any questions. Claudia Coggeshall rcogg@adams.net or 217-593-7285.

2021 Life Chain

Sunday, October 3, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

South Side of Broadway between 14th & 18th Streets, Quincy, IL

Right to Life supporters will again join with pro-lifers in over 1400 other U.S. cities in a nationwide observance of the sanctity of life at the 2021 Life Chain. Life Chain is a peaceful and respectful public witness by pro-life Americans standing for one hour praying silently for our nation and for an end to abortion. (Those not able to stand for one hour may bring lawn chairs.) Please join the pro-life community in making a visual statement of pro-life solidarity. YOUR participation is crucial.

HIGH VISIBILITY - A great opportunity to impact thousands of passers-by with the pro-life message. Please stand two arm-lengths apart.

Pick up your sign at the SW corner of 16th and Broadway between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m.

The National Life Chain signs are provided for each participant by the Right to Life of Adams County.

October Rosary Rally

Every year in October, the Rosary Rally is held throughout the United States. This year a Rosary Rally will be held in Quincy at the corner of 24th & Madison on Saturday, October 16. The rally will start at Noon and lasts about one hour. It is the site of a beautiful Rosary garden. Please bring a lawn chair. The coordinator for the Rosary Rally has 100 Fatima rosaries blessed with water from Lourdes and will be giving them out to those attending. If you have any questions, please call Rosa at 217-779-9702. Please join us in this beautiful hour of prayer with our Blessed Mother.

Assumptions Catholic Store in Quincy, October 9

Assumptions (Catholic Store) will be selling a selection of Catholic Bibles and books, Baptismal and Confirmation gifts, and sacramental items on Saturday, October 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Parish Hall, 715 Chestnut, Quincy. They will also have some items for Advent since they may not be able to have an Advent/Christmas sale. Entrance from the parking lot on north side. Handicap Accessible. Cash or Check Only. No credit or debit cards accepted. Call the store before October 2 at 309-833-1979 for special requests of in-stock items during business hours (Tuesday through Saturday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy

St. Mary School admits students of any race, color, sex, or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and school administered programs. Our schools do reserve all their rights as religious entities in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church, the protections of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and the Illinois Religious Freedom Restoration Act 775 ILCS35/.

Meet St. Mary School Elementary School Teachers



Mrs. Heldt

Mrs. Kessler

Ms. Saxer

Mrs. Hannah Heldt teaches 3rd/4th grade at SMS. She currently has seven 4th grade students and eleven 3rd grade students. She teaches 4th grade language arts, 3rd grade math, science, social studies, and religion. She is married to Matt Heldt and had 2 children who attended St. Mary School in the past. Mrs. Heldt completed her 4th year at SMS this past spring. Thank you Mrs. Heldt for forming loving relationships with our students!!

Mrs. Dawn Kessler teaches 2nd grade at SMS. She currently has ten 2nd grade students. She teaches language arts, math, science, social studies, and religion. She is married to John Kessler and has a son who attends St. Mary School. This is Mrs. Kessler's first year at SMS; however, she has 22 years of teaching experience. Welcome to St. Mary School Mrs. Kessler!!

Ms. Rachel Saxer teaches 1st grade at SMS. She currently has twelve 1st grade students. She teaches language arts, math, social studies, religion, and 3rd grade language arts. Ms. Saxer has taught at St. Mary School for 21 years. Thank you Ms. Saxer for your continued dedication to our students!!

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