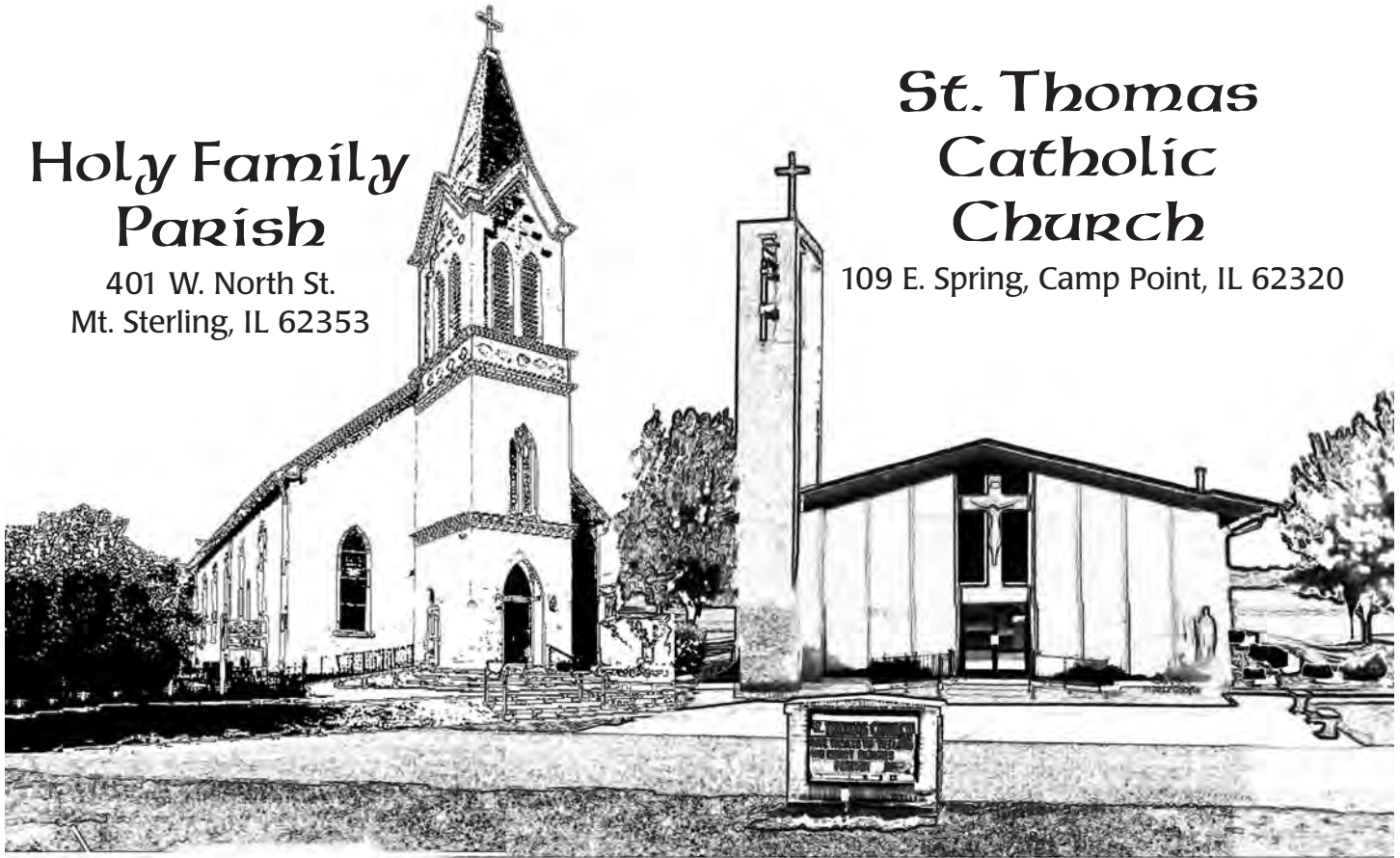


# Holy Family Parish

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, January 3 – 7:00 a.m.

1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Communion Service

### Tuesday, January 4 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44

Ed Veith  
(By the Family)

### Wednesday, January 5 – 7:00 a.m.

St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

John Yeakel  
(By Ken & Mary Koch)

### Thursday, January 6 – 7:00 a.m.

St. André Bessette, Religious

1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22

Herbert, Anna, Raymond  
& Margaret Ebbing  
(By Jeff & Barb Kozak)

### Friday, January 7 – 8:30 a.m. **(School Mass)**

St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest

1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

Robert & Betty Koch  
(By Mike, Alan, Glen, Diane & Families)

### FIRST FRIDAY – ST. THOMAS – 6:00 p.m.

Don & Evelyn Tooley  
(By Pat Sharow)

### Saturday, January 8 – 5:30 p.m.

1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

### Sunday, January 9 – 8:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7;  
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Special Intention  
(By Paul Mueller)

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Ross Matthew Evans  
(By Matt & Laura Evans Family)

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

### December 24-25, 2021

Holy Family: \$3,350.25

### December 26, 2021

Holy Family: \$3,497.00

Sister Parish: \$20.00

School Support: \$390.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$50.00

Children's Home: \$721.00

First Offering: \$15.00

New Year's Day: \$25.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

### December 25, 2021

St. Thomas: \$912.00

Christmas Offering: \$1,165.00

Children's Home: \$270.00

### December 26, 2021

St. Thomas: \$1,770.25

Children's Home: \$10.00

Holiday: \$50.00

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **Legion of Mary** meets on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the convent. New members are welcome to attend.
- ❖ **Holy Family Bosco Kids** meets Wednesday from 6:15-7:30 and RCIA meets on Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 in the school cafeteria. Please contact Ann O'Sullivan for more information or questions about either of these programs, [osullivan2031@gmail.com](mailto:osullivan2031@gmail.com) or 217-257-2516.
- ❖ **Knights of Columbus meeting** will be held at the KC Hall on Tuesday January 4, at 7:00 p.m.

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  
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 and Marie  
Hendren † Jolene Lawson † Sharon Johnson  
† Gavin McDaniel † Boyd Tenhouse † Donna  
Reische † Janice Leverton † Jack and Margo  
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 † Sheila Thompson † J. J. Gronewold  
† Jack Johnson † John Norkus † Jim Wort  
† Marilyn Wort † Carolyn Kassing † Cal  
Noelke † Maryann Yeakel † Kimberly McKinny  
† Bryce Shank † Elaine Parkin and family  
† Barb Kuhn † Derry Schnelle † Mary Klingele  
Ahmed † Becky Hill † Sheila Roberts † Kelsie  
Broom † MacKenzie Wilmoth † Kay Downey  
† Marilyn Clark † Jim Heaton † Vera Marie  
Rolf † Nancy Salrin † Christine Colgan  
Moore † Randy McAvoy † Maddy Perry  
† Greg Flynn † Joe Ray

## Holy Family Bosco Kids and RCIA Updates

Merry Christmas to all of our Bosco Kids and RCIA families. Thank you for all the work/fun we had making the gift bags for the homebound and residents of Heritage Health. I wish you could have seen their smiley faces and eyes as we shared our gifts of love with them.

Classes will resume on January 5, 2022.

## From the Pastor's Desk

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord today, we hear the familiar story of the Magi who help to make known God's presence in the world in a particular way. They are the first visible and tangible recipients of the mystery of which Saint Paul speaks about, a mystery now revealed...by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

We are often so struck by this familiar story of expectation, wonder, joy, and faithful homage that we may forget something essential to the importance of the story...the Magi were not Jewish. They were Gentiles! They were not children of Abraham, people of the Covenant, or Israelites. They were "foreigners," most likely Persian, whose religious affiliation and actual occupation have not yet been settled by biblical scholarship.

Yet, the Magi knew about Jesus. They knew about the coming of the Messiah. And they had the fearlessness to approach the Roman-appointed king of Judea, Herod, then the current "king of the Jews," and ask him: Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage.

Asking such a question, essentially implying Herod's successor and perhaps even deposer, could have been inferred as

a threat, if not outright treason. But that did not deter the Magi in their quest. Their journey in faith and their strength in following God's prompts and witnessing to His faithfulness is a model for our own discipleship with one exception...God is already made manifest to us. We do not have to seek Him out; He seeks us out.

And when we respond to His call, there are things we can count on, as if they were a star in the sky, to help us make our way to Him...His Word, His Sacraments, His Grace, and the gifts He has given us that we might in turn offer back to Him.

We are not alone in this endeavor. As the Magi were a community of support for each other, we too are a community of support and belief. We come to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist because we have heard about the coming of the Messiah and we wish to offer our gifts to Him; gifts that will be returned to us in the gift of Christ's Body and Blood, making His presence just as substantially real to us as He was to the Magi.

What a powerful, mysterious gift that transcends time! May this and every encounter with Christ strengthen us and direct us to go and witness to the faithfulness of God's promises and His enduring presence within and among us.

And now just a few notes:

#### LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

- Monday, January 3 - Optional memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Through the particular efforts of St. Bernadine of Siena, devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus was promoted through the inscription of the monogram of the Holy Name, HIS (an abbreviation of the Greek name for Jesus) and the addition of the name of Jesus to the Hail Mary.

- Tuesday, January 4 - In the United States, obligatory Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious. Elizabeth Ann Seton was raised Episcopalian. She was a wife and mother of five children. She was the

foundress of the first congregation for women religious in the United States of America in 1812, the Sisters of Charity, who were devoted primarily to the education of the poor and to teaching in parochial schools. She died in 1891. Canonized in 1975, she was the first native-born citizen of the United States to be canonized. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pray for us!

- Wednesday, January 5 - In the United States, obligatory Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop. St. John Neumann was a missionary from Bohemia and named Bishop of Philadelphia. He was known for his holiness and learning and was a great promoter of parochial schools. He authored two German Catechisms. He died in 1860. Canonized in 1977, he was the first American bishop to be canonized. St. John Neumann, Pray for us!

- Thursday, January 6 - In the United States, optional memorial of St. Andre Bessette, religious. St. Andre Bessette was orphaned at the age of twelve. He spent four years in the United States as a mill worker. He is known as a healer and the "Miracle Man of Montreal" where he founded the Oratory of St. Joseph to whom he was dedicated and fostered devotion to. He died on January 6, 1937, and over one million people paid their respects at his death. He is the patron of caregivers. St. Andre Bessette, Pray for us!

- NEW YEAR - As we enter into the new calendar year of 2022, I want to wish each of you a Happy and Blessed New Year. May this be a year of holiness and spiritual growth for all of us.

- CHRISTMAS - Again, a very Merry Christmas to each of you. We remain in the joyous Season of Christmas and will remain in this season until next week when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Though Christmas Day has come and gone for this year, don't forget to continue in the Season of Christmas.

- THANK YOU - Once again, I would like to thank all of you for the cards, gifts,

and greetings this Christmas Season. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity is greatly appreciated, and I am so very happy to be both a priest and your Pastor.

Thank you also to everyone who has helped make the Christmas Season so beautiful in our parishes...from the decorating to the music to the joyful participation. All of this and more helps to make our celebrations and the Season all the better.

Thank you also to those of you who made contributions toward the Christmas flowers and decorations. For those contributions made in memory of someone, please know of my continued prayers, and I ask you to offer a prayer for these folks as well.

- CLASSES RESUME - St. Mary School resumes this week (Tuesday, January 4) as well as RCIA and PSR at both parishes (on Wednesday, January 5). As I've said many times before, our learning never ceases and that includes learning about our faith.

- FIRST FRIDAY - Friday, January 7, is First Friday. We will have our First Friday Devotion at St. Thomas. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be at Noon and Adoration will go until 5:45 p.m. Benediction will be at 5:45 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. Confessions will be available from 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. As always, I encourage everyone to take some time to spend in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. It is such a powerful and peaceful experience.

- DECORATING AT ST. THOMAS - For a number of years, Amanda Genenbacher has been overseeing the decorating of St. Thomas Church. I thank her for all of her work to help make the church beautiful. Amanda is looking to step away from overseeing the decorating and so I am looking for someone to take on this role. This does not involve doing everything yourself but rather overseeing and directing the decorating for different Liturgical Seasons. Amanda is willing to work with someone to help you get started, and I also offer guidance in terms of proper Liturgical

colors, decorations, etc. If you are interested in taking on this important role, please let me know, or if I reach out to you, I ask you to prayerfully consider. Thank you for your consideration.

- SEMINARIANS - Last Tuesday evening, I gathered with the seminarians of our Diocese with many of the other priests of our Diocese for prayer, dinner, and conversation. I ask you to continue to keep our seminarians in your prayers and to pray for good and holy vocations. I ask you also to do all you can to promote good and holy vocations to the priesthood, religious life, married life, and single life. Please also continue to join folks across the Diocese to pray one Hail Mary at 4:40 p.m. each day that our Diocese may have 40 seminarians.

We have received some cards with our seminarians' name and picture that we will be distributing sometime soon. Be on the lookout for these and consider taking one of these cards and praying for that particular seminarian and also communicating with him. More details to follow.

- DEER CLASSIC - On the last day of school before Christmas break, the Brown County Deer Classic Committee presented Mrs. Obert and I a check for \$170,000, the proceeds from this year's Deer Classic. This is wonderful news, and I am so very grateful for everyone's hard work on this. I am also very grateful for the great support that we have for our wonderful Catholic Grade School. It is a wonderful blessing and a great gift that we have in our parish.

- FALL COLLECTION - Just a reminder to Holy Family Parishioners, if you have not yet turned in your contribution for the Fall Collection, please do so as soon as possible. If you did not receive a letter and prayer card regarding this year's Fall Collection, please let me know so that I can make sure you get one.

- UPDATE - I have had several ladies from Holy Family who reached out to me after I asked for folks who crochet or knit. They have already been busy working.

They are now making white baby afghans to be used as the white garment for Baptisms. The first of those was used on December 19. Since I have several of those on hand now, the ladies are going to move into making prayer blankets which I will use when visiting the sick. I want to thank those ladies who are doing this. I think it is a most wonderful thing.

I do not have anyone yet from St. Thomas to work on prayer blankets (we already have someone who makes the white Baptismal garment). If you crochet or knit and would be interested, please let me know.

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

- Fr. Aaron

**Bulletin Short for  
The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity  
Sunday, January 2, 2022**

**Gifts.** The Magi, these foreign interpreters of dreams, do the following: follow a star, travel a great distance, trust the words of others, bring and give gifts. In some countries, Epiphany and not Christmas is gift-giving day. This twelfth-day (when on the traditional 6th of January) brings to completion the manifestation of Christ - first to the Jews and today to everyone. No one is foreign to God's good grace.

- How will I search diligently for Jesus?
- Because God is merciful to me, what mercy work can I do for another?
- What gifts will I give to others in need?

**MAGAZINES**

Did you know you can order magazines anytime throughout the year and Friends

of St. Mary's will receive 40% profit? You can order online at [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com), click "shop now" and enter the school code which is 3823606. St. Mary School will be shown, and you can select your magazine to purchase.

**MT. STERLING CATHOLIC CEMETERY**

The Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery will be closing their books for 2021 shortly. If you wish to make a contribution, please drop in the collection or mail to: Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery, P.O. Box 252, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353.

**ST. MARY SCHOOL RAGS & BAGS SALE**

St. Mary School is having their annual dish cloths and garbage bags sale. A box of 100 garbage bags (30-gallon size) is \$22. Rags are 6 for \$12. If interested, please contact any SMS school student or call the school office at 773-2825.

**ROUTT CATHLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Wednesday, January 26 - there will be a Routt Preview Night in the Martha Routt Room at Routt Catholic High School. Anyone who is remotely interested in learning what a future at RCHS might look like for their family should plan to attend. There is no obligation to attend Routt by coming to the meeting; we simply want to share more about what's so special when it comes to the Routt experience. The presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will last no more than one hour.

Friday, February 18 - The RCHS Placement Exam will be held at 8:30 a.m. at Routt Catholic High School. The cost of the test is \$15. Lunch will be provided, free of charge, to all test-takers. Even if a student is unsure where they will attend high school, this test is great for any incoming freshman students to take to get a baseline before his/her high school academic career begins.

## 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.

## A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, please give me -

A few friends who understand me and yet remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value, without which the world would feel the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

And the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to know them when they come.

- W.R. Hunt

## UPLIFTING THINGS TO DO TODAY

- \* Smile at a stranger
- \* Drop a coin where a child can find it
- \* Learn something new and teach it to someone
- \* Tell someone you love them
- \* Hug someone
- \* Forgive someone who has wronged you
- \* Try saying "I'm sorry" when you ought to
- \* Tell a child how great they are

- \* Sing a song about Jesus to yourself
  - \* Keep a promise
  - \* Call someone just to say hello
  - \* Try listening more than talking
  - \* Stand up for what you believe in
  - \* Thank God for His beautiful Creation
  - \* Encourage someone who is feeling down
  - \* Cherish today as if it were your last one
  - \* Tell someone about Jesus
- Author Unknown

EVERY DAY AT 4:40 WE INVITE  
YOU TO PRAY WITH US  
A HAIL MARY FOR OUR DIOCESE  
TO HAVE 40 SEMINARIANS.

4:40  
for40  
SEMINARIANS



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