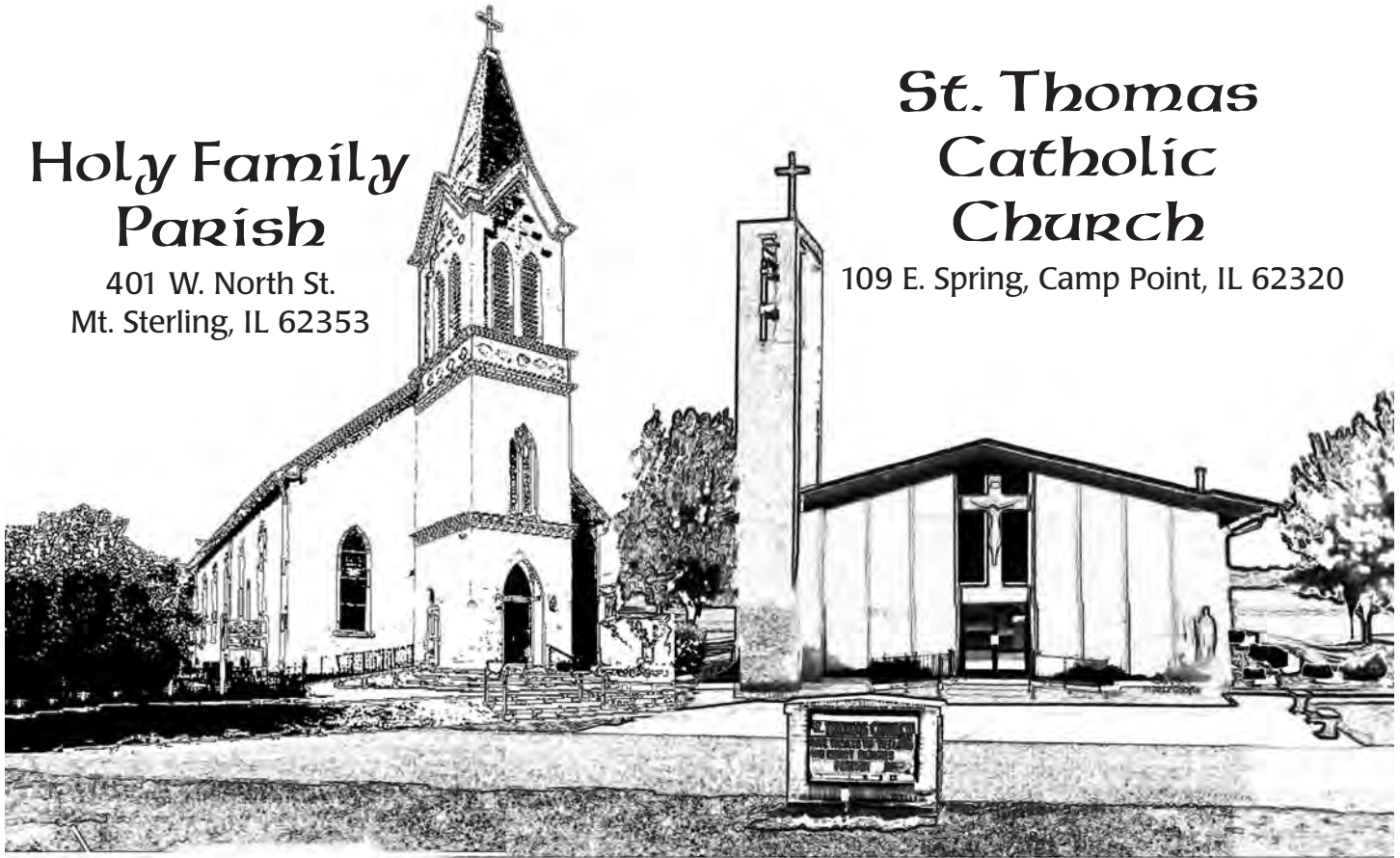


Holy Family Parish

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, December 6 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Nicholas, Bishop
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 7 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

Elinor Davis
(By Legion of Mary)

Tuesday, December 7 – 5:30 p.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Floyd Blentlinger
(By Barb Lehne)

Tuesday, December 7 – 7:00 p.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

Don Sharow
(By Pat Sharow)

Wednesday, December 8 – 7:00 a.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Jerry Gunn
(By the Gunn Family)

Wednesday, December 8 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Fr. Thomas Henseler
(By Ken & Mary Koch)

Wednesday, December 8 – 5:30 p.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Jack Logsdon
(By Mary Kassing)

Wednesday, December 8 – 7:00 p.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

Danny Seals

Thursday, December 9 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-16

Russell Volk
(By Maureen Volk Norvel)

Friday, December 10 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19

Marvin Schrieber
(By Tom & Nancy Schneider)

Saturday, December 11 – 5:30 p.m.

Sirach 48:1-6, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Matt & Mary Volk and Jennifer Volk
(By Dawn Dunn)

Sunday, December 12 – 8:00 a.m.

Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Mary Louise Moorman
(By Tammy)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas
And Holy Family

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 27-28, 2021

Holy Family: \$3,265.00

Sister Parish: \$40.00

Justice and Hope: \$40.00

School Support: \$25.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 28, 2021

St. Thomas: \$2,372.00

Justice and Hope: \$10.00

Flowers: \$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 or 217-257-2516.

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 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 † 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 † Bryce Shank † Elaine Parkin & family † 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 † Nancy Salrin † Christine Colgan Moore † Joe Ray † Randy McAvoy † Maddy Perry

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Christmas Party - You are invited! Our St. Thomas Christmas Party will be right after the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, December 12. A full meal will be provided, thanks to the Men's and Women's Society. You do not have to bring anything...this is not a carry-in. All that you have to bring is yourself! There will be some entertainment and surprises. Come join us celebrate the joys of Christmas and sharing as a parish family. There are sign-up sheets at the back of church or call the Parish Office.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

December 12, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jim Clausius
Lector: Sheila Roberts
Eucharistic Minister: Tod Perry
Ushers: Maurice Schmidt & Jacob Schmidt

Holy Family Bosco Kids and RCIA Updates

Bosco Kids and RCIA will meet on Wednesday 12/8 for our Christmas Party at 6:30-7:30 in the school cafeteria. We will attend Mass at 5:30 for the Holy Day - Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Holy Family Choir Practice

Attention Choir!

Christmas choir practice will be:

Tuesday, December 7: After 5:30 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 14: 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent, and we are reminded that the Lord will purify us, perfect us, and prepare us for Himself.

There is a saying, "all roads lead to Rome" that you may be familiar with. It is interesting how these phrases come about and remain used in our daily lives. To understand this one, it is useful to know that the ancient Roman Empire prided itself on its complex system of roads connecting every part of the empire with the capital. These stone-paved roads stretched throughout Europe, Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East. They were built by slaves and paid for by taxes from conquered lands.

These roads were feats of engineering, passing over hills and mountains, under aqueducts, taking many twists and turns to avoid nature's obstacles. They were anything but straight.

John the Baptist would have traveled Roman roads many times in his life, as did those who came out into the desert to hear him preach. It was there, where the roads end in the desert, that John tells his disciples to build a new road so to speak, one for God's Son. John the Baptist proclaims, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." John was not telling folks to pick up shovels and pickaxes. Rather, he prayed that they might pave a way for the love of the Lord to enter their hearts and touch their souls.

John is the last prophet before Jesus, as well as Jesus' first disciple. For those willing to undertake this ambitious task of making a straight path for the Lord, John tells them they will be met along the way by God in the flesh. He comes alongside us to assist us in our "road-making," making winding roads both straight and smooth, by forgiving us our sins and removing obstacles from our path. "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low," he says.

The Lord will purify us, perfect us, and prepare us for Himself. This "road work" began in us on the day of our Baptism and it continues until we meet the Lord at our death, as Paul told the Philippians in today's Second Reading, "I am confident of this, that the One

who began a good work in you will continue to complete it." To help things along, St. Paul encourages us to increase in knowledge, love, and perception, discerning what is of value.

This Advent season, what is of greatest value is not the large number of gifts soon to appear under the tree. Rather, it is the gift of God's only Son who hung on the tree of the Cross for us and for our salvation.

During this busy season, we do so much to prepare for the coming of Christmas. Let us make sure we spend at least as much effort this Advent season preparing for the coming of Christ, both His birth in Bethlehem and His return in glory as our King.

In the Holy Eucharistic, we partake of the promise found in the words of Isaiah, and John: and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. May we too, then, prepare the way of the Lord as we go and proclaim the Good News we have heard and received.

And now just a few notes:

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

- Monday, December 6 - Optional memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop. St. Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra in Asia and known to be a model pastor with great charity. He has been popularized as "Santa Clause," but his noted charity is so very important for all of us. He is the patron of many things including children, bankers, pawnbrokers, sailors, perfumers, brides, unmarried women, travelers, fishermen, dock workers, brewers, poets, and prisoners, as well as Russia, Greece, Sicily, Lorraine, and Apulia in Italy where his relics are enshrined in Bari. Perhaps so many things fall under his patronage because of the holy life of charity that he lived that touched so many people. I would encourage you to read more about all the saints, of course, but especially the stories and traditions surrounding St. Nicholas. I'd also encourage families to consider the tradition of leaving a shoe out for St. Nicholas as you reflect on his charity. St. Nicholas died in the Fourth Century. St. Nicholas, Pray for us!

- Tuesday, December 7 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. St. Ambrose was born in Trier to noble parents and was classically educated. While a catechumen, he was chosen by popular acclaim as Bishop of Milan and consecrated on

December 7, 374. He was known to be a compelling preacher and a great defender of Orthodoxy, especially against Arianism (a heresy that denied the Divinity of Christ). He is also known for his composition of Liturgical hymns and for baptizing St. Augustine. He was declared one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church by Pope Boniface VIII in 1298. He died on Holy Saturday in 397. St. Ambrose, Pray for us!

- Wednesday, December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. A reminder that a Solemnity is the highest celebration in the Church. This day is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for the faithful. THIS IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. A Day of Obligation requires the faithful to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for that day (participation in a Vigil Mass the evening before in anticipation of the Solemnity fulfills the obligation). To ignore this obligation is seriously sinful. Masses will be offered at both parishes for this Solemnity. Those times are below and elsewhere in the bulletin.

This Solemnity originated in the seventh century as the feast of the "Conception of Mary by St. Anne." In 1708, Pope Clement XI established this Solemnity for the entire Church. Again, the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States of America as well as Spain, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, Pray for us!

- Thursday, December 9 - Optional memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin. In 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego four times at Tepayac near Mexico City. Known for his holiness, it is said that Juan Diego devoted himself to the pilgrims who came to see the miraculous image of Mary imprinted on his cloak. St. Juan Diego was more recently canonized, July 31, 2002, by Pope John Paul II. St. Juan Diego, Pray for us!

I note that the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is normally celebrated on December 12. Since December 12 falls on a Sunday this year, the Third Sunday of Advent takes precedence. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the image of the Blessed Mother lift on the cloak of St. Juan Diego. Again, I encourage you to read more about Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego.

- Friday, December 10 - Optional memorial of Our Lady of Loreto. This optional memorial was just recently added to the Roman Calendar by Pope Francis in 2019 and recalls the Mystery of the Incarnation. Since the Middle Ages, veneration for the Holy House of Loreto has powerfully illustrated the evangelical virtues of the Holy Family. The Litany of Loreto, a Marian Litany, has its first known origins at the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto in Italy where its usage was recorded as early as 1558. Our Lady of Loreto is the Patron Saint of aviation. Our Lady of Loreto, Pray for us!

- Saturday, December 11 - Optional memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope. St. Damasus is known to have preserved the Papal archives and to have been devoted to the relics and resting places of the martyrs. He combatted the anti-pope, Ursinus, as well as the Arian and Donatist heresies. Damasus was the first pope to speak of Rome as the "Apostolic See," and he is known to have encouraged St. Jerome to produce a translation of the Latin Bible, later to form the main part of the Vulgate. He died in 384. St. Damasus I, Pray for us!

- SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACUALTE CONCEPTION - As I noted above, Wednesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. THIS IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. A Day of Obligation requires the faithful to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for that day (participation in a Vigil Mass the evening before in anticipation of the Solemnity fulfills the obligation). To ignore this obligation is seriously sinful. Masses will be offered at both parishes for this Solemnity. The Mass schedule for this Solemnity for both parishes is as follows:

At Holy Family: Tuesday, December 7, Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, December 8, Masses at 8:30 a.m. (with the school) and 5:30 p.m.

At St. Thomas: Tuesday, December 7, Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, December 8, Masses at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Please make special note of the 7:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, December 8. It will be celebrated at St. Thomas.

- CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS - If you would like to make a contribution toward the flowers for Christmas, that would be great. St. Thomas parishioners should have an envelope

for this in the regular set of envelopes. For Holy Family, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers." The envelopes can be placed in the collection basket or mailed into the office. These contributions are often made in memory of someone, so please include the name(s) with your contributions. I will keep these folks in my prayers in a special way and encourage all of our parishioners to do the same.

- DECORATING - The folks who decorate the churches for the various Liturgical seasons do an excellent job. At Holy Family, we are looking to bring in some new and young people to help with the decorating, working with our experienced members, to always make sure the church is beautiful. If you can help out, especially with the upcoming Christmas decorating, please let me know. Thank you for seriously considering helping with this.

- CHOIRS - I've not actually spoken to the music folks about this, but I know there are talented singers in both parishes, and I encourage you to participate in the choir. The music for our Liturgical celebrations is so very important.

Also, if you are interested in playing for Mass, especially the organ at Holy Family or the keyboard at St. Thomas, please let me know. Perhaps you are interested in learning to play. Either way, please talk to me about how you can share your talents.

- ST. THOMAS SANCTUARY - If you have been to Mass at St. Thomas this Advent, you will have noticed that the St. Joseph and Blessed Mother statues have been returned to their original spot on the back wall of the Sanctuary. I was able to find the original shelves for them and the brackets that held the shelves were still in place. These statues are very heavy, so I ask that no one mess with them. Thank you to Lucas Likes and his dad, Greg, for helping to move these.

The beautiful candle sticks that have been at St. Thomas are also now back in the Sanctuary. Six matching candlesticks adorn the Altar of Sacrifice, and two matching candlesticks adorn the Altar of Repose. All eight candlesticks match. Again, these are not new to St. Thomas but have been in the church.

These changes have added even greater beauty to the Sanctuary and helps us to recall the sacredness of this place.

- END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS - Often times, folks wish to make a year-end contribution to the parish. If you would like to make such a contribution, I ask you to make those as soon as possible so that we can get them recorded in this calendar year.

Often times, folks are also required to take a withdrawal from a retirement account each year. In many cases, if the withdrawal goes directly to a charitable organization, there are significant tax advantages. If this applies to you, I encourage you to speak to a tax expert soon and consider a contribution to the parishes or to St. Mary School.

- ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS PARTY - St. Thomas Men's and Women's group parish Christmas party for all St. Thomas parishioners is next Sunday, December 12, in the Parish Hall following the 10 a.m. Mass. If you have already signed up, thank you. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible in the back of church or by calling the Parish Office. I do hope that you all will be able to join us.

- FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Just a reminder that the financial statements for St. Thomas have been made available and are currently in the back of the church. I will leave them there for a few weeks before removing them. Please feel free to take one and review it. There is a rather comprehensive letter attached to the statements, but if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

I am still working on the Holy Family financial statements and hope to have those ready sometime soon. Thank you for your continued patience.

- CHRISTMAS CARDS - As of the time of my writing this, there are still beautiful religious Christmas cards available in the back of both churches. If you would like to use these, help yourself. If you would like to make a contribution toward them, there are envelopes for that in both churches and you can place those in the collection basket.

- RETURNING HOME - A reminder that if you know of folks away from the church, I would like to send them a personal invitation to return and join us especially for our Christmas Liturgies. Please get the information to me as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already helped with this.

- FALL COLLECTION - Holy Family Parishioners, the annual Fall Collection is under way. Remember to return your contribution as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

- UPCOMING LITURGIES - Below is the anticipated schedule of some upcoming special liturgies for both parishes:

AT HOLY FAMILY:

- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 7, at 5:30 p.m.; Masses on Wednesday, December 8, at 8:30 a.m. (with the school children) and 5:30 p.m.

- Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24 - 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

- Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25 - Midnight and 7:00 a.m.

- Sunday, December 26 - 8:00 a.m. (no Vigil Masses on Saturday evening, December 25)

AT ST. THOMAS:

- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m.; Masses on Wednesday, December 8, at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

- Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24 - 6:00 p.m.

- Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25 - 9:00 a.m.

- Sunday, December 26 - 10:00 a.m. (no Vigil Masses on Saturday evening, December 25)

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

- Fr. Aaron

**Bulletin Short for
Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021**

Preparing the Way. In announcing the first coming of the Messiah, John the Baptist urges all people to be right with one another and the world. In awaiting the coming, prophet Baruch tells us how to dress for that day - clad in justice and peace and mercy. In praying for us, as we await the Second Coming of Jesus Christ,

Saint Paul confidently urges us to do good work, to love more and more, and to be filled with what is right.

- In these troubled times, how can I make things right with _____?
- What good work of justice and peace can I do this week?
- What mercy work is Jesus urging me to do?

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Holy Family Women's Guild is accepting donations for Christmas poinsettias 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.

QUINCY DEANERY MEETING

The Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women will have their first meeting on Friday, December 10, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m. at St. Francis Solanus Church, 1721 College Ave., Quincy, IL, across from Quincy University. Registration will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m. in Solanus Hall, which is attached to the church (please enter through the north parking lot entrance), followed by the Holy Rosary and 9:30 a.m. Mass, induction of officers, and meeting to follow in Solanus Hall. The Ladies of St. Francis will be providing a nice luncheon. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Claudia Coggeshall at St. Thomas Church.

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