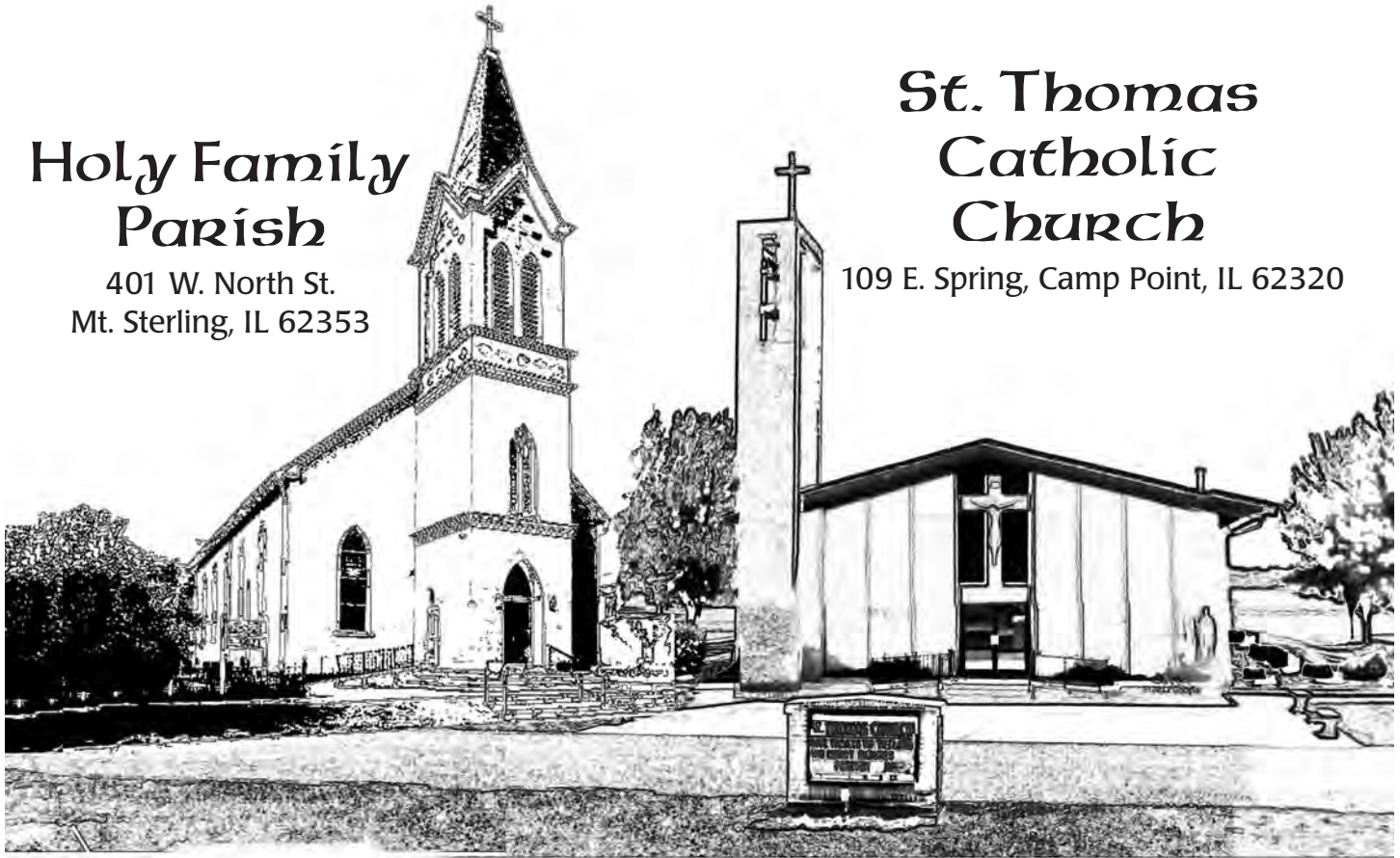


# Holy Family Parish

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, February 21 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29

Communion Service

### Tuesday, February 22 – 7:00 a.m.

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle  
1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Beth Clark  
(By Dan Salrin)

### Wednesday, February 23 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr  
James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40

Paul, Frances & Larry Schenk  
and Ruth James  
(By Bob & Judy Schenk & Family)

### Thursday, February 24 – 7:00 a.m.

James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50

Howard Buckley  
(By Mike Bullard)

### Friday, February 25 – 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12

Fr. Thomas Henseler  
(By Legion of Mary)

### Saturday, February 26 – 5:30 p.m.

James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16

A Special Intention  
(By Patty Kunkel)

### Sunday, February 27 – 8:00 a.m.

Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Bob & Jane Langan  
(By Jim & Kim Gronewold)

First Offering: \$5.00

ACSA: \$110.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 13, 2022

St. Thomas: \$1,847.00

Parish Improvement: \$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.
- ❖ **Red Cross Blood Drive:** The need for blood by patients being treated for accidents, routine surgeries, cancer, heart disease, and hemophilia is ongoing and must be met every day. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the Legion Hall on **Wednesday, February 23, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **SMS Annual Lenten Fish Fry** will be held on Friday, March 4, 2022, at the K of C Hall from 5-7 p.m. See page 6 of this bulletin for further details.
- ❖ **SMS Virtual Trivia Night** will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022. See Holy Family Church bulletin board for information and registration form.

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 12-13, 2022

Holy Family: \$4,219.50

Sister Parish: \$280.00

School Support: \$197.00

Catholic Times: \$30.00

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 † Carrie Haskins † Heather Poppy † Stanley Harms † Pat Boylen † Sheila Thompson † J. J. Gronewold † John Norkus † Jim Wort † Marilyn Wort † Carolyn Kassing † Cal Noelke † Maryann Yeakel † Kimberly McKinny † Bryce Shank † Elaine Parkin and family † Derry Schnelle † Mary Klingele Ahmed † Sheila Roberts † Kelsie Broom † MacKenzie Wilmoth † Kay Downey † Marilyn Clark † Jim Heaton † Vera Marie Rolf † Nancy Salrin † Christine Colgan Moore † Maddy Perry † Greg Flynn † Joe Ray † Dwayne Koch † Lori Bradshaw † Dennis Houston † Denver Reische † Amy Ormond Lucky † Louise Hendricks † Penny Ebbing

## ST. THOMAS

**St. Thomas Fish Fry** - Time to plan ahead. Lent will be here shortly...along with delicious fish dinners! Please join St. Thomas for a Fish Fry on Friday, March 11. A full meal will be served featuring genuine catfish! This will be a drive-thru dinner. Serving will be from 4:30-7:00, or until we run out. There will be more details in the coming weeks. Thank you.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

*February 27, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.*

**Sacristan:** Gary Mast  
**Lector:** Sheila Roberts  
**Gift Bearers:** D. Wagner Family  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Elizabeth Likes  
**Ushers:** Butch Likes, Mike Likes

## From the Pastor's Desk

As we celebrate the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, we are reminded that we are being transformed into the image of Christ.

As Christians, we worship a God who loves us so much that He became human for our sake and went the extra mile of love, dying an excruciating and humiliating death on a cross. St. Paul reassures us in the second reading for today that, as we are human and in the likeness of Adam, complete with sin, so we will also take on the likeness of Jesus, the Heavenly One.

That's a reassuring thought when we read the Gospel for today in which Jesus describes what He expects from those who follow Him. We are called to see with God's eyes, to see our enemies as brothers or sisters and to love them. We are to return good to those who mistreat us. And believe me, this is hard, very hard

sometimes. I think we all know that. But it is what the Lord is calling us to as we are formed more fully into His image. As I've said many times before, the Christian life and all its demands are not easy, but it is one we take up and live because of the Lord's promise of Eternal Life and a share in the glory of Heaven. There is nothing better and nothing we should be seeking and desiring more. In the end there is either Heaven or hell, Eternal glory or eternal torment.

In the first reading, we get a glimpse of God's ability to transform people. David, even though he knows that Saul plans to kill him, spares Saul when he has the chance to do harm instead. His reverence for God's anointing of Saul is what stays his hand. David chooses the higher ground that, centuries later, would be taught by his descendant and Lord, Jesus Christ. This is an incredible story for us to take note of.

Unfortunately, each one of us often fall short of the standards Jesus set for us. This however is not a cause for despair and frustration, for the Lord continues to call us and form us and give us all that we need to live the holiness of life that He created us for.

While we often fall short of those standards set forth by Jesus, we also at other times might come close, as David did in the first reading. We might ask ourselves...Could we take time out of a busy day to listen to a friend who needs to talk, or give up a free day to volunteer at a place of need? Do we call on reserves of patience to listen quietly when an angry friend or colleague complains to us? These are but a couple of examples as we examine our own life. Because we are human, we might not live out these expectations consistently, but if we stay close to Jesus in prayer, we can certainly trust that He is transforming us, step by step, into His image.

The Season of Lent is quickly approaching. Frankly, it will be here before we know it. It is almost hard to believe. More on that

in next week's bulletin. However, as Lent does approach, may we take advantage of this special season to spend more time with Jesus and more time serving others, allowing the Lord to transform us. May God give us this grace.

And now just a few notes:

#### LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

- Monday, February 21 - Optional memorial of St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. St. Peter Damian was a persistent and tireless defender of the Gregorian reform. A monk and later Cardinal Bishop of Ostia, he was a promoter of religious life. He died in 1072. St. Peter Damian, Pray for us!

- Tuesday, February 22 - Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle. This Feast, attested as early as the mid-fourth century, may have its roots as a Christian substitute for the pagan commemoration of dead relatives and friends, celebrated in Rome between February 13-22. At this commemoration, a chair (cathedra) was left empty for particular deceased persons. Since the actual date of Peter's death was unknown, it came to be commemorated on February 22, eventually celebrating his taking pastoral responsibility of the Church of Rome. This feast is significant to us in a number of ways, especially as we profess our belief in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

- Wednesday, February 23 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr. Polycarp was a disciple of St. John and Bishop of Smyrna. The Martyrdom of Polycarp records his being burned at the stake. He was martyred around the year 155 at the age of eighty-six and is one of the first martyrs to be venerated. St. Polycarp, Pray for us!

- PRESIDENTS' DAY - Our country celebrates Presidents' Day on Monday, February 21. There is no school. While this is a secular celebration, we are reminded of our need to pray for our government and its leaders. It is suggested that, on this

day especially, we make use of a prayer written by Archbishop John Carroll, the first Bishop in the United States. This prayer was written in 1791. While lengthy, it is a beautiful prayer and perhaps one needed now more than ever. I encourage each of you to pray this prayer on Presidents' Day and throughout the year. I am including the prayer here:

“We pray, O almighty and eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Your mercy, that Your Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Your Name. We pray Thee, who alone are good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, the pope, the vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, all other bishops, prelates and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise among us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Your people into the ways of salvation.

We pray, O God of might, wisdom and justice, through Whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to Your people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality.

Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Your powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Your unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Your most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to you, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of your servants departed, who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech You, a place of refreshment, light and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.”

- FISH FRY - The St. Mary School Fish Fry is scheduled for Friday evening, March 4, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. Mark your calendar as you will not want to miss out on this delicious meal while at the same time supporting St. Mary School. March 4 is the first Friday of Lent this year. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

- THANK YOU - As I'm sure most everyone knows by now, my mother died on Saturday, February 5. Her funeral Mass and

committal (burial) was Friday, February 11. Words cannot express how deeply saddened I am at this loss. Many of you have experienced and know that loss very well yourselves. It is hard to believe sometimes that mom is no longer here with us. As I said at the Masses last weekend, and as I say at many funerals for mothers, the loss of a mother is like no other.

I sincerely appreciate your support and patience in this time of grief. There are times when I can do nothing but weep, wondering how my life will ever go on. Yet I am reminded, through our faith, that life has changed, not ended...for my mother, for my family and me, and for those who knew my mother. It is only through our faith and trust in God's love and mercy that we can endure the loss of a loved one, always keeping in mind the glory of the Resurrection. Many of you have so graciously and perhaps unknowingly reminded me of this through your great kindness.

My mother was diagnosed in May with pancreatic cancer and in just under nine months, her life here on earth ended. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to be with her during those months. What a blessing! You all know that I needed to be away from the parishes at times, sometimes on very short notice. I so much appreciate your understanding.

Words also cannot adequately express my deep and sincere gratitude for each of you and for your prayers and support. It was so humbling to see many of you at my mother's funeral Mass and at the visitation the evening before. It certainly helps to bring comfort in this time of sorrow. Thank you also for the many cards and words of kindness and support. As I complete this column in a little bit of haste, hopefully I can reflect more on this with you.

- SYMPATHIES - Finally, I do want to also express my sympathies to one of our Pre-K aides at St. Mary School, Danielle

Hannig. Danielle's mother, Rhoda Herald, died on Thursday, January 13. Her funeral services were on Wednesday, January 19. Danielle joined St. Mary School Staff at the beginning of this school year, and we are very happy to have her with us. Please pray for her mother and for Danielle and her family in this time of sorrow.

We are so very blessed with St. Mary School. I want to mention that Mrs. Melissa Obert, our Principal, dismissed school early on January 19 so that the staff and any students could attend the funeral services for Mrs. Herald and offer their support to Danielle and her family. Likewise, Mrs. Obert cancelled school on Friday, February 11, for my own mother's funeral. I cannot express how meaningful this is and what a great blessing it is for us to be able to do this for one another.

- SPIRITUAL REFLECTION - From St. John Henry Newman: "Each of us must come to the evening of life. Each of us must enter on eternity. Each of us must come to that quiet, awful time, when we will appear before the Lord of the vineyard, and answer for the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad. That, my dear brethren, you will have to undergo. ... It will be the dread moment of expectation when your fate for eternity is in the balance, and when you are about to be sent forth as the companion of either saints or devils, without possibility of change. There can be no change; there can be no reversal. As that judgment decides it, so it will be forever and ever. Such is the particular judgment. ... when we find ourselves by ourselves, one by one, in His presence, and have brought before us most vividly all the thoughts, words, and deeds of this past life. Who will be able to bear the sight of himself? And yet we shall be obliged steadily to confront ourselves and to see ourselves. In this life we shrink from knowing our real selves. We do not like to know how sinful we are. We love those who prophesy smooth things to us, and we are angry with those who tell us of our faults.



But on that day, not one fault only, but all the secret, as well as evident, defects of our character will be clearly brought out. We shall see what we feared to see here, and much more. And then, when the full sight of ourselves comes to us, who will not wish that he had known more of himself here, rather than leaving it for the inevitable day to reveal it all to him!"

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

- Fr. Aaron

**Bulletin Short for  
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 20, 2022**

**Believing and Doing Five Things.** Jesus, today, continues His preaching from last week. He tells us five things we must do as His followers. Love even those who do not love us. Be merciful as God is merciful. Stop judging other's actions and motives. Forgive in order to be forgiven. Give, give, give. What a list! It makes for a busy week for each of us. And that is the pattern for every week that follows.

- How can my prayer and action be: "Lord, bless those I love and even those I do not love"?
- How will I be merciful? What gifts will I give?
- Whom must I forgive?



**HOLY FAMILY FALL COLLECTION**

The Holy Family Fall Collection will be wrapping up shortly. If you have contributed, Thank You Very Much! If you have not contributed and still wish to, please either drop your contribution in the collection offering or mail it to P.O. Box 252, Mt. Sterling, Illinois 62353.

**REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF  
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel, even if it is in the past, individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217-321-1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-25-ABUSE.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**St. Mary School Annual Lenten Fish Fry** will be held on Friday, March 4, 2022, at the K of C Hall from 5-7 p.m. **Drive Thru Only.** Menu: Buffalo/pollock, potato salad, baked beans, bread, onions, and desert.

**St. Mary School Virtual Trivia Night** will be held on Saturday, March 19. Pre-game: 6:30 p.m. Game: 7:00 p.m. All proceeds to benefit St. Mary School. To register: go to [www.smseagle.org](http://www.smseagle.org), by phone at 217-773-2825, or email [karla.metz@bcsb.com](mailto:karla.metz@bcsb.com).



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