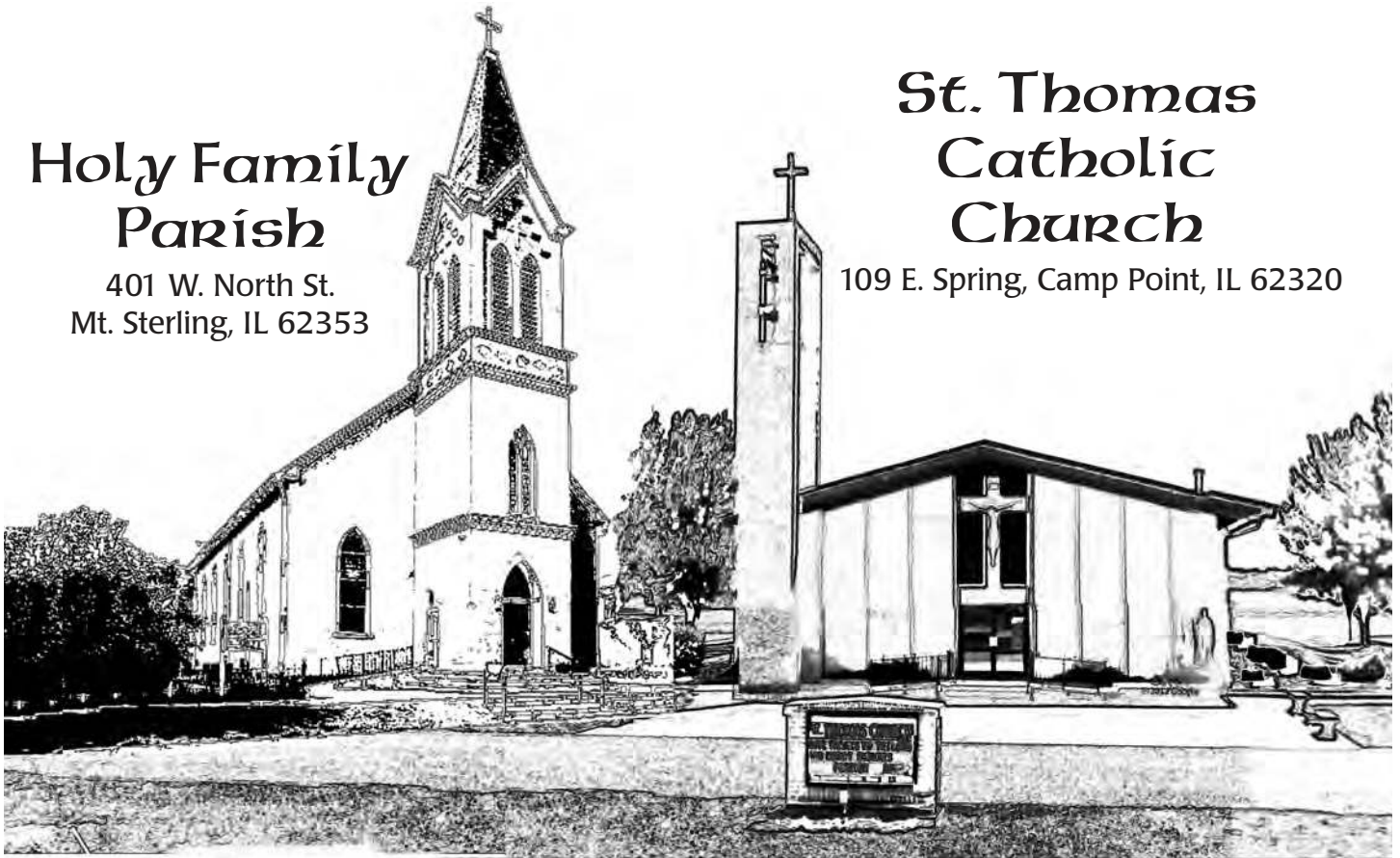


Holy Family Parish

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) 773-3233

Emergency only (217) 242-9669

E-Mail: akuhn@dio.org

Deacon Michael P. Ellerman

Ashley Guthrie, Bookkeeper

Tammy McKeown, Parish & School Secretary

Cheryl Dillard, Liturgical Music Coordinator

Ann O'Sullivan, C.R.E.

School: St. Mary (217) 773-2825

Website: www.smseagle.org

Principal: Melissa Obert

Mass Schedule

Daily: 7:00 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday - 8:30 a.m. Friday

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

Holy days: Will be Announced

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 4:30-5:00 p.m. - Anytime by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

First weekend of month

Phone (217) 593-6685, (217) 773-3233

E-mail: stthomascp@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Pat Sharow

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: Will be Announced

First Friday Adoration of the Eucharist 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

First Friday Mass 6:00 p.m. with

Reconciliation prior 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

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 6:00 p.m.

Website: www.stthomascp.org

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, May 16 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 14:5-18; John 14:21-26

Communion Service

Tuesday, May 17 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a

Deceased Members of the
Leslie & Ruth Harper Family
(By the Geisler Family)

Wednesday, May 18 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 15:1-6; John 15:1-8

Marvin Schrieber
(By the Family)

Thursday, May 19 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 15:7-21; John 15:9-11

Russell & Georgia Volk
(By Cheryl Dillard)

Friday, May 20 – 8:30 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 15:22-31; John 15:12-17

Mike Metzger
(By Scotty & Carol Blentlinger)

Saturday, May 21 – 5:30 p.m.

Acts of the Apostles 16:1-10; John 15:18-21

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Sunday, May 22 – 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14,
22-23; John 14:23-29

Laura Volk
(By the Boylen Family)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Barb Kuhn
(By Jean Evans)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 7-8, 2022

Holy Family: \$3,599.20

Sister Parish: \$197.00

School Support: \$562.00

Holy Land/Good Friday: \$25.00

Seminary: \$20.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 8, 2022

St. Thomas: \$2,384.75

Parish Improvement: \$5.00

Home Missions: \$20.00

Communications Media: \$20.00

St. Thomas weekly budgeted amount: \$2,635

UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ **Legion of Mary** meets on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the convent. New members are welcome to attend.

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 and Marie Hendren † Jolene Lawson † Sharon Johnson † Gavin McDaniel † Boyd Tenhouse † Donna Reische † Janice Leverton † Margo Pool † Gary Shields † Carroll Hedden † Abby Schuhardt † Jack Cannon † Betty (Koch) Atteberry † Jim Steinkamp † 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 † Mary
 Klingele Ahmed † Sheila Roberts
 † MacKenzie Wilmoth † Kay Downey
 † Marilyn Clark † Jim Heaton † Vera Marie
 Rolf † Nancy Salrin † Christine Colgan
 Moore † Maddy Perry † Dwayne Koch † Lori
 Bradshaw † Dennis Houston † Denver
 Reische † Amy Ormond Lucky † Louise
 Hendricks † Penny Ebbing † Susie Parker
 Campbell † Debra Parker Baker † Jeanette
 Shields † Connie Johnson † Tom Langan
 † Oakley Ham † Norma Hufnagel
 † Cameron Francis † Norma Herbster
 † Fritzi Harper † Steve Bunch † Rick Flatt

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Ladies Prayer Group – St. Thomas would like to invite ladies of our parishes, and any of their friends, to join us for a weekly prayer group on Wednesdays. Our time is spent praying for the concerns and intentions that are brought to us. Then we spend some time in discussion on topics of interest, often using videos to start the discussion. We will let you know the start date and time. Just let us know if you are interested and we'll get in touch with you with the details. Please call Pat at 593-7059 or 740-2140. Take care and God bless.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

May 22, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Denise Taylor
Lector:	Laura Evans
Gift Bearers:	J. Herkert Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Kim Groneold
Ushers:	John Brady, Darren Hildebrand

From the Pastor's Desk

As we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter, we are reminded that a Christ-like love is the hallmark of the true Christian. Still, we have to know what that actually means and then set out, each and every day, to model that love of Christ. None of us do it perfectly...we call that sin. But that is no excuse for us to continue our efforts to love perfectly as Christ loves. Sadly, there are folks who either do not know what Christ's love really is or try to define it themselves.

It seems like almost everyone, believers and non-believers alike, is familiar with what has been termed the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. In other words, treat others as you would expect to be treated. We can agree that it is very reasonable and practical, and makes good sense. Yet, it can be so very interesting at times to hear people spout off the Golden Rule so freely while seemingly ignorant of the lack of love Christ calls us to.

Jesus Himself seems to "endorse" the Golden Rule, and for many it's enough to stop there. But our passages from Sacred Scripture today remind us that Jesus is not one simply for minimums or convenient half-measures. That's tough for a lot of people who want to give the least and get the most. Jesus calls us to a higher standard or way of thinking, one that is not just in keeping with human expectations, reason, and demands, but one that aligns with God's ways.

In today's Gospel passage from John, Jesus gives us a new commandment, one that will take commitment, perseverance, and self-giving on our part even when it might not seem practical or even sensible. Again, that is tough for a lot of people, something many would rather not get involved in.

We are told today that we are to love as Christ loves. It is significant that Jesus

calls it a commandment, not an option but a mandate for every Christian: “As I have loved, so you also should love one another.” Measure for measure, our behavior in all aspects of our life must strive to be Christ-like, not merely reasonable or convenient but modeled on Christ. That is quite a demand!

So how can we describe this Christ-like love? We can begin with selfless, unconditional, and self-giving love. We need only to look upon the Cross to see that love poured out for each one of us in the outstretched arms of the crucified Christ. All through the Gospels, we see this love exemplified in Jesus’ words and actions in the way He encounters sinners, heals and liberates the sick, faithfully preaches the Word, and is faithful to the Father in all things.

Based simply on reason, it might seem like the life and mission of Jesus ended in failure and death. Sadly, folks who do not know Christ and who are consumed by the world and worldly ways, often times take this approach. But God’s ways are so different from ours...again, as I’ve said before, thank goodness for that! Christ’s love is so much richer and fuller than mere human love (and thank goodness for that!). And it is this love that we are called to imitate in all its fullness, its faithfulness and, even at times, its impracticality.

Jesus sets a new command for His disciples, for each one of us. But He also give us the means to fulfill it, through His example and in the sending of the Holy Spirit to help us. We are not set up for failure, for the very credibility of the Christian message depends on our witness and how we live out that commandment of love.

Today, as we ponder the Lord’s command, we might ask ourselves whether love is at the heart of our lives. The love we speak about here is the love of Christ, not one we invent. Don’t kid yourself when you answer the question.

Keeping in mind that we can do all things with God’s help, let us commit to

love of God and love of neighbor, to serving others lovingly, speaking lovingly, and forgiving abundantly. That is a tall order for each of us, indeed. But a Christ-like love is the hallmark of the true Christian. May God give us the grace to live out that love each day in the most humble and sincere way.

And now just a few notes:

- “GRADUATE MASS” - As the school year begins to wind down and come to a close, I wish to congratulate all graduates. At St. Thomas I will be offering a special blessing to graduates who are gathered with us for Mass this Sunday, May 15. At Holy Family, I will offer a special blessing for graduates next Saturday evening (May 21) at the Vigil Mass.

- SUMMER BREAK - Another reminder that “summer break” doesn’t mean a vacation from learning, and certainly not a vacation from our faith and our participation in the life of the Church. At all times, Christ and our commitment to Christ must be the center of our lives.

- MAY - We also remain mindful that May is the month of our Blessed Mother. We honor Mary always and in a very special way during the month of May.

- MOWING - It seems like some folks missed the call for help with mowing at Holy Family, and so I include it here once again. If you can help with mowing at Holy Family from time to time, please let Tammy know so she can add you to the schedule. I appreciate everyone’s help. Thank you!

- SYNODAL CHURCH - Recently there has been a lot of discussion concerning a Synodal Church. What does that even mean? There is certainly a lot of misunderstanding and misinterpretation. In recent listening sessions with the Bishop, folks made some of the following valuable points:

The primary task of a “listening Church” is to listen to the Holy Spirit. Instead of asking, “How is Christ relevant to me?” perhaps we should begin by

asking, "How am I relevant to Christ?" The purpose of Synodality is not to take a survey of popular opinion, but to listen for the authentic voice of Christ.

We need to trust that God will provide for all things for whatever He wants us to be doing. We always need to consider whether we are doing what God wants us to be doing.

There are always two competing spirits - one is the Holy Spirit; one is the spirit of the world. We need to know how to pray and teach others how to pray, and be able to listen to the Spirit of God and ignore the spirit of the world.

We need to love people enough to say "no" to them. If Christ is central, everything else will find its place. We invite folks to walk with us towards Christ and His Church which is the fullness of Truth. We cannot be the "Church of nice," but instead we have to show people Christ and His Truth.

We need to be confident that the Apostolic Faith is being safeguarded by the successors of the Apostles. At times, there seems to be a real lack of confidence among Catholics about our Faith and how God strengthens us to live our Faith.

As we profess the Creed, I challenge each of us to really reflect on each word of that Creed. The Creed is our Profession of Faith. Do we really understand what we profess in the Creed?

The Catholic Church is THE Church that Christ established. It is not just one equal option among many! That very concept is false but held by many. The Catholic Church has the fullness of Truth. It is safeguarded by the Holy Spirit. Through the Church and the Sacraments of the Church that Christ Himself instituted, we have the means of Salvation. This is of primary importance. We have no authority to change what Christ has established...His Truth or His means of Salvation.

For some, especially those attached to the world, it may sound harsh, but the Church is not some nice social club that we are part of. It is not meant to make us "feel good." It is the means by which the Lord brings us Salvation. Let us give praise and thanks to God for that and strive to live in the Church as the Lord calls us to. That is what fills us with genuine joy and the peace of Christ and gives us the hope of Eternal Salvation.

- LIFE - If one were to have any doubt about the presence of evil in the world, we only need to look at some of the things that are happening to have certainty of not only its real existence, but how it seeks to destroy the Salvation of souls. This should not cause fear, but it should remind us of the reality of evil, Satan, and his evil works and empty promises. That which is true, good, and beautiful comes from God and God alone. Satan, in his trickery, will try to fool us into believing that something evil is actually good. Each of us must always be on guard against that for the devil himself will also seek to destroy us. The devil has no power over Christ though sadly, folks can be lured by his ugly deceit.

One of the greatest attacks of evil is that against life and that which brings life into the world and nurtures it. The devil will twist what is good and true in such a way to make evil sound like a good thing...if he were to make it sound as horrific as it is, no one would fall for his ploys. Make no doubt about it, anything that attacks life itself, marriage, and family life are of the devil. These things remain under fierce attack by the devil because they show the Truth and beauty of God. Unfortunately, there are folks who cooperate with the lies of the evil one.

It is not acceptable for us to just recognize this reality. We've got to say enough is enough, and know and be prepared for even greater attacks from the devil when we do so.

The USCCB recently called for fasting and praying of the Holy Rosary for the evils of the world brought about by Satan. While the most recent call by the Bishops was specifically for this past Friday, May 13, the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, I would encourage each of us to take up more intently the call for prayer and fasting each day of our life.

I share with you here some of the highlights from the USCCB regarding the call to prayer and fasting: "In the midst of current tensions, we invite Catholics around the country to join us in fasting and praying the Rosary on Friday, May 13, the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. Let us offer our prayers and fasting for these intentions:

For our nation, for the integrity of our judicial system, and that all branches of government be dedicated to seeking the common good and protecting the dignity and rights of the human person, from conception to natural death.

For the overturning of Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey in the Supreme Court's final decision in Dobbs v. Jackson.

For the conversion of the hearts and minds of those who advocate for abortion.

For a new commitment to building an America where children are welcomed, cherished, and cared for; where mothers and fathers are encouraged and strengthened; and where marriage and the family are recognized and supported as the true foundations of a healthy and flourishing society.

For Our Blessed Mother's intercession and guidance as the Church continues to walk with mothers and families in need, and continues to promote alternatives to abortion and seeks to create a culture of life.

As Catholics, let us witness to the beautiful gift of life with civility and love, and with our peaceful prayers and our compassionate service to all those in need. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us."

This call is not for the faint of heart and frankly, I warn you that denouncing evil and living in the Light of Christ is not easy; it requires strength and perseverance and at times will bring you ridicule and attack. Again, this is not meant to scare you but to prepare you more fully for the spiritual battle. Trust in God and His promises. Ask Him to deepen your trust in Him each day as you hand yourself completely over to Him. He will protect you and guide in all things.

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

- Fr. Aaron

**Bulletin Short for
Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 15, 2022**

Loving One Another. The gospel today is short and sweet. Glorify God - Jesus does it first and implies we should, too. Love one another - a direct command to each one of us. These are disciple activities. These are essentials for our way of life.

- How will my words and actions glorify God today?
- Whom will I love - even someone who makes it hard for me to do so?
- How will this glorifying God and loving others change me for the better?





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THE ST. MARY SCHOOL
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