

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

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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, January 2 - 7:00 a.m.

Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church
1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 3 - 7:00 a.m.

The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 John 2;29-3.6; John 1:29-34

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

Wednesday, January 4 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42

James G. & Norma M. Wort (By the Children)

Thursday, January 5 - 7:00 a.m.

St. John Neumann, Bishop 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51

> Beth Clark (By the Family)

<u>Friday, January 6– 8:30 a.m.</u> (School Mass)

St. Andre Bessette, Religious 1 john 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11

John Bullard (By the Family)

FIRST FRIDAY - ST. THOMAS - 6:00 p.m.

Dean & Michele Vansickle (By Jim & Marilyn Stout)

Saturday, January 7 - 5:30 p.m.

St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11

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

Sunday, January 8 - 8:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Parishioners of St. Thomas & Holy Family

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Don Sharow (By Pat Sharow)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 24-25, 2022

Holy Family: \$6,528.20 School Support: \$20.00 Sister Parish: \$27.00 Immaculate Conception: \$70.00 Christmas Offering: \$1,835.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 25, 2022

St. Thomas: \$1,370.00 Christmas: \$1,766.00 Christmas Flowers: \$20.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Legion of Mary meets each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the convent. All are invited to pray the rosary with us and learn more about the Legion. "With Mary's help we guide, console and enlighten others."
- Knights of Columbus meeting will be held at the KC Hall on Tuesday January 3 at noon. A light meal will be provided.
- Nocturnal Adoration: Saturday, January 7 beginning at 10:00 p.m. and concluding on January 8 at 7:45 a.m.

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 - 8:00 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 † Janice Leverton † Margo Pool † Gary Shields † Abby Schuhardt † Jim Steinkamp † Heather Poppy † Stanley Harms † Sheila Thompson † J. J. Gronewold † John Norkus † Jim Wort † Marilyn Wort † Carolyn Kassing † Cal Noelke † Kimberly McKinny † Bryce Shank † Elaine Parkin & family † Sheila Roberts † Kay Downey † Marilyn Clark † Jim Heaton † Vera Marie Rolf † Nancy Salrin † Christine Colgan Moore † Maddy Perry † Dwayne Koch † Lori Bradshaw † Susie Parker Campbell † Debra Parker Baker † Jeanette Shields † Connie Johnson † Tom Langan † Oakley Ham † Cameron Francis † Norma Herbster † Fritzi Harper † Rick Flatt † Elizabeth "Libby" Tichy † Mark Carlock † Jeff Kozak † Carol Likes † Rob Dresden † Jennie Neisen † Roger Busen † Sandy Smith † Janice Hendricks † Kendall Atteberry † Mark Ebbing † Joan Weilbacher † Roger Lanz † Aaron Koch † Eleanor Logsdon † Lane Wiese

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Carroll Hedden who passed away on December 20, 2022. May God keep you in His care! Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ST. THOMAS

St Thomas Youth Group: There will be no formal youth group in December. The Mast family is looking for another couple or

couples to join us with the youth group. And to help with planning events. Please contact Kailyn 217-617-0282, Gail 217-617-1731, or Gary 217-617-1730.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

January 8, 2023 - 8:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jonah Coggeshall
Greeters: Matt & Laura Evans
Lector: Kim Gronewold

Gift Bearers: Greg &

Elizabeth Likes

Eucharistic Minister: Pat Sharow

Ushers:

Collection Counters: Robin Coggeshall

John Brady,

Denny Campbell

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. What a powerful title that is for our Blessed Mother. The following is, in part, from EWTN (ewtn.com) and "Saints of the Roman Calendar" by Enzo Lodi, published by Alba House, (c) 1992.

In his 1974 Encyclical, Marialis Cultus, Pope Paul VI states: "This celebration, assigned to January 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the 'holy Mother...through whom we were found worthy...to receive the Author of life.' It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewed adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace. For this reason...we have instituted the World Day of Peace, an observance that is gaining increasing support and is already bringing forth fruits of peace in the hearts of many" (no. 5).

The Opening Prayer of the Mass is addressed to God, who has given to mankind the blessings of salvation through the fruitful

virginity of Mary" and it asks that we may "experience the intercession of her through whom we have received the Author of life." The faith of the Church is already expressed in the Apostles' Creed with the assertion that Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. The Council of Ephesus (431) used this statement to defend Mary's title as "Theotokos," not in the sense that the nature of the Word and His divinity had their origin in the Virgin Mary, but that the Word, the second Person of the Trinity, was born of her according to the flesh. What was born of her was the humanity to which the Word is united hypostatically.

The mystery of Mary's maternity is expressed in one of the options for the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass: "Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever." This implies God's choice of her who is "full of grace" (Lk 1:28) as well as her voluntary consent: "Let it be done to me as you say" (Lk 1:38). The word "conceive" applies not only to the body but also to the spirit, as was stated by the Second Vatican Council: "The Virgin Mary, who at the message of the angel received the word of God in her heart and in her body...is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and of the Redeemer. Rightly, therefore, the Fathers see Mary not merely as passively engaged by God, but as freely cooperating in the work of man's salvation through faith and obedience" (Lumen Gentium, nos. 53 and 56).

The theme of motherhood should be associated with that of "fruitful virginity," which is preferable today because it is one of the proofs of the divinity of Christ and because it is an example of the way in which God uses lowly and weak means for our salvation.

The Prayer over the Gifts reminds us that in this Christmas season we celebrate the fact that God begins all good things and brings them to fulfillment. Hence this Solemnity fits in very well with the beginning of the new year. On this Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, we ask that "just as we glory in the beginnings of (God's) grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion."

The Preface of the Mass states the reason for this solemn feast: " By the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, she conceived your Only Begotten Son, and without losing her virginity, brought forth into the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord." Mary represents, as it were, the maternal aspect of God, not only because her Son is also the Son of the Father, but because the Holv Spirit, through whose power she conceived, took up His dwelling in the Word made flesh. This mysterious relationship between Mary and the Holy Spirit, who made her virginity fruitful, manifests another maternal aspect of the Father, namely, His merciful love. The maternity of Mary is not therefore something purely functional: she is an authentic icon of the mystery of the Trinity. As the Father from all eternity generates the Son in the love of the Holy Spirit, so Mary, in the flesh, generated the same eternal Word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The antiphon for the Canticle of Zechariah beautifully summarizes the dogma of the Incarnation, Marvelous is the mystery proclaimed today. Human nature is made new as God becomes man; He remains what He was and becomes what He was not. Yet each nature stays distinct and for ever undivided."

The significance of this feast is found especially in the Prayer after Communion: "We rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of Your Son and the Mother of the Church."

And from Catholicculture.org: "Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, our Lady's greatest title. This Solemnity is the Octave Day of Christmas. In the modern Roman Calendar only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave.

'Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the

Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom.' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 721)

A plenary indulgence may be gained by reciting or singing the hymn 'Veni Creator Spiritus' on the first day of the year. This hymn is traditionally sung for beginnings of things, calling on the Holy Spirit before endeavoring something new.

Although New Year's Day is not celebrated by the Church, this day has been observed as a Holy Day of Obligation since early times for this feast."

And now just a few notes:

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, January 2 – Obligatory Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church.

Basil was a hermit who became Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia and is noted for his learning and being a foe of Arianism. He wrote a rule of monasticism and is the source of Eucharistic Prayer IV. Along with Saints Gregory Nanzianzen Athanasius and John Chrysostom, Basil is considered one of the four Great Doctors of the Eastern Church. Basil died on January 1, 379.

Gregory Nazianzen was Patriarch of Constantinople. He is noted for his knowledge of Sacred Scripture and his outstanding teaching abilities and eloquence. He died on January 25 in either the year 389 or 390.

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Pray for us!

-Tuesday, 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.

-Wednesday, 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!

-Thursday, 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!

-Friday, 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!

-Saturday, January 7 – Optional memorial of St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest. Raymond of Penyafort was A Dominican and second master general after St. Dominic. Raymond was a collator of Canon Law and noted for his work on penance. He died in 1275 at the age of ninety-one and is the patron of canonists and lawyers. St. Raymond of Penyafort, Pray for us!

-NEW YEAR – As we enter into the new calendar year of 2023, I 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 the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord on January 9. Though Christmas Day has come and gone for this Liturgical 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 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.

-ADVENT GIVING TREE - Thank you to all who purchased baby items at both parishes for our Advent Giving Tree. Both parishes collected many items. Items from St. Thomas will go to Birthright in Quincy and items from Holy Family will go to the Pregnancy Resource Center in Rushville. This is but one way we can help in recognizing and promoting the dignity and sanctity of every human life. Please continue to pray the short prayer that was on the back of each "ornament" for the family who will receive the items: "Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life. Bless the child and his or her parents for whom this is given. Amen."

-CLASSES RESUME – St. Mary School resumes this week as well as RCIA and PSR/Bosco Kids at Holy Family. St. Thomas PSR resumes the following week. As I've said many times before, our learning never ceases and that includes learning about our faith.

-FIRST FRIDAY – Friday, January 6 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.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION – At Holy Family beginning Saturday night, January 7 at 10:00 p.m. and running through the night until 7:45 a.m. Benediction at 7:00 a.m. followed by our regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Mass

-POPES'S INTENTION – The Holy Father's Intention for January is for educators. We pray that educators may be credible witnesses.

-REST IN PEACE – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Carroll Hedden who died on Tuesday, December 20. Carroll's Funeral Mass was at Holy Family this past Friday, December 30. Please also pray for Carroll's family in this time of sorrow. Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

-CALENDARS – There are still a few 2023 calendars available in each church. Please take one if you'd like and feel free to take one for someone else who may be unable to get to church to get one. These calendars are compliments of Hendricker Funeral Home in Mt. Sterling. If you see Jamie, please extend your appreciation for the calendars.

-SEMINARIANS – Last Tuesday evening, I gathered with the seminarians of our Diocese and 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 each day that our Diocese may have 40 seminarians.

-DAY OF PRAYER – In the United States, January 23, 2023 marks the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Throughout this month especially, let us pray for the protection of all human life in all forms from conception to natural death.

The murder of children in the womb is a great tragedy and one that we cannot become complacent with. So too is the aiding and speeding up of death for anyone. God is the Author of all life. It is His gift given to us, not to be used in any way we want or to be disposed of at will but to be honored, respected, and protected at ALL stages.

-EPIPHANY – Next Sunday, January 8, in the United States of America, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Mass times at both parishes will be our usual Sunday Mass and Vigil Mass Schedule.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school and the Universal Church. Please keep in your prayers all those who are sick or suffering in any way and those most in need of prayer. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you each day. May you have a most Blessed and Holy Week.

-Fr. Aaron

Announcements from the Holy Family Parish Coordinator of Religious Education (Ann O'Sullivan <u>-</u>

aosullivan2031@gmail.com or 217-257-2516)

Bosco Kids

I pray you have a beautiful and blessed Christmas and New Year. Classes will resume on January 4, 2023 from 6:15-7:30 in the convent.

RCIA

RCIA classes are for those interested in learning more about the Catholic religion and/or coming into the Catholic Church. Please let me or Father Aaron know if you are interested in attending these classes or have any questions about the Catholic Faith. Classes continue on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 in the convent.

Youth Group

Due to the holidays, we will resume on January 8, 2023 at the KC Hall. We look forward to seeing all of our youth again.

Catholic Heart Work Camp is July 9-15 in Nashville, TN. We are working with St. Thomas Parish. Please let me know ASAP if you plan to attend. The registration fee is \$100 and we will raise funds for the rest of the cost.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation sessions on Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible will resume in February for the last 5 sessions of the program. It is not too late to start!! You can easily catch up. Let me know if you would like the materials.

MT. STERLING CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery will be closing their books for 2022 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.

POT OF GOLD

Friends of St. Mary School have taken over the Pot of Gold this year. The profit from this fundraiser helps us to pay for field trips, give teachers \$300 to help pay for items in their classrooms, etc. See any school family to purchase your Pot of Gold tickets.



