Bulletin Short for <u>Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday</u> in Ordinary Time

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Solemnity - 20 November 2022

Who Is This Beloved Son? In today's gospel, we hear the conversations of the two thieves with Jesus. It is talk about the Kingdom of Heaven. The second reading is worth rereading all week long. It describes what we believe about this beloved Son, this firstborn from the dead, this Jesus the Christ.

- Spend time with the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds that affirm what we believe.
- How can I fall more and more in love with this beloved Son?
- What can I do and say to make my way to heaven?

Announcements from the Holy Family Parish Coordinator of Religious Education (Ann O'Sullivan-aosullivan2031@gmail.com or 217-257-2516)

Bosco Kids

Classes are held every Wednesday night in the school convent for grades K-6 from 6:15-7:30. There is no class on Wednesday 11/23. Classes will resume on 11/30 with grades 3-6 receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation followed by regular class.

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.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday night, November 20th for Grades 7-12 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the KofC Hall and meet every other week. 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 start on Tuesday, November 29, December 6 and 13 in the school cafeteria from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This Bible study program helps you to get the "big picture" of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. In this study, presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it. Aided by a unique color-coded Bible Timeline Chart that arranges the key people, places, and events of Scripture in chronological order, Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible will help you discover the story of salvation history and understand how you fit into God's plan.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can order enough books. I am facilitating the discussions.

Have a blessed week.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Holy Family Women's Guild is again 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.

COMMUNITY BAND & CHOIR

The Community Band and Choir will host a concert on Sunday, November 20 at 2 p.m. in the Brown County High School Auditorium.

The concert will feature patriotic and Christmas selections and is free to attend. The band and choir are sponsored by the Mt Sterling Community Center YMCA.

Please join them in starting off the holiday season!

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, December 12 - 7:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 13 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32

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

Wednesday, December 14 - 7:00 a.m.

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church Isaiah 45:6c-18, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23

Margaret Ann Cravens

Thursday, December 15 - 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30

Marvin Schrieber (By Maurice & Karla Ormond)

<u>Friday, December 16 - 8:30 a.m.</u> (School Mass)

Isaiah 56:1-31, 6-8; John 5:33-36

Barb Kuhn (By Diane Lagoski)

Saturday, December 17 - 5:30 p.m.

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

Mary Margaret Bullard (By the Family)

Sunday, December 18 - 8:00 a.m.

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Rosemary Hinkamper (By the Hinkamper Family)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 3-4, 2022

Holy Family: \$6,349.70 School Support: \$957.00 Sister Parish: \$42.00 Immaculate Conception: \$30.00 ACSA: \$250.00

ACSA: \$250.00 All Saints: \$10.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 4, 2022

St. Thomas: \$1,849.00 Christmas Flowers: \$245.00

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."
- ❖ 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, December 28, 12:00 6:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome.

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 † Gav Gunn † Don & Marie Hendren † Jolene Lawson † Sharon Johnson † Gavin McDaniel † Boyd Tenhouse † Janice Leverton † Margo Pool † Gary Shields † Carroll Hedden † Abby Schuhardt † Betty (Koch) Atteberry † 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 † Carol Walker † Sandy Smith † Janice Hendricks † Kendall Harper Passmore † Rick Kunkel † Marissa Atteberry † Mark Ebbing † Joan Weilbacher † Roger Lanz † Brian Zurita † Aaron Koch † Rex Kindhart † Elinor Logsdon

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Betty Lehne who passed away on December 2, 2022. May God keep you in His care! Eternal Rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Christmas Party - Get ready for some festive fellowship and fun! Our St. Thomas Christmas party will be Sunday. December 11 after the 10:00 a.m. mass. A full meal will be provided. Plus, you can expect lots of laughs and a chance to take home a homemade cake. We're having a CAKE WALK! Don't forget to sign up. We'd sure like everyone to come.

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

December 18, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Denise Taylor **Greeters:** J. Obert Family

Tod Perry Lector:

Gift Bearers: J. Schmidt Family **Eucharistic Minister:** Clara Schmidt **Collection Counters:** Coggeshall **Ushers:** Tod Perry. Elijah Perry

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent which is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, so-called from the first word of the Antiphon at the Introit. Gaudete means "Rejoice" and sets a tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's Second Coming and the celebration of His Birth as does the permitted rose-colored vestments for this day.

As a side note, December 11 is the earliest possible date for Gaudete Sunday on the calendar...you never know, you may just need that bit of information in a round of Jeopardy some day. It is somewhat unique, that we still have two full and

complete weeks of Advent...often times the Fourth Week of Advent is not a full week.

The readings for today reflect the rejoicing. Still, we are reminded of the stark reality of John the Baptist's persecution, imprisonment, and the violence against him for the truth he spoke to those in power.

Iesus tells us that there is no one greater than John the Baptist, but then goes on to also say that "yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he" (John the Baptist, that is). So where does that leave each one of us? How can we be great like John? Shall we cry out in the desert and prepare to suffer violence? Not exactly. Our redemption is not about what John the Baptist did but what Jesus does. John the Baptist and his message is important in helping us to prepare, no doubt, but it is Christ who redeems us, and it is He whom we are preparing ourselves for. We may indeed suffer as John the Baptist did as well as many of the Saints. It is Christ who redeems and saves us and our faith in Him demands of us to follow Him completely.

In this Season of Advent especially, may the Lord help us all the more to know our sinfulness and in knowing it, may we be open to and eager for our own conversion and reform of life. Knowing our own sinfulness is a great gift so that we can continue our growth in holiness.

And now just a few notes:

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, December 12 – In the United States, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This Feast recalls the apparitions of Mary at the hill of Tepeyac from December 9 – 12, 1531 to the native convert, St. Juan Diego whose memorial we celebrate on December 9. Our Lady of Guadalupe is known to the Aztecs as Tecoatlaxope (or de Guadalupe in Spanish) which means "she will crush the serpent of stone." Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Patroness of the Americas by

Pope Pius XII. This celebration was raised to a Feast for all the countries of the Americas by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 25, 1999 is ordinarily observed as the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary, the Mother of God is a great and powerful intercessor for us. As a loving Mother, she always points us to Christ. May we look upon her with confidence and model her life of service to God's Will. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for us!

-Tuesday, December 13 – Obligatory Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr. Because of her name, which comes from the word meaning "light," St. Lucy is the patroness of those afflicted with diseases of the eye and she is associated with the festival of light especially in Scandinavia. She is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharist Prayer I) and is also patroness of Syracuse and all of Sicily. St. Lucy was martyred under Diocletian around the year 304, likely in Sicily. St. Lucy, Pray for us!

-Wednesday, December 14 - Obligatory Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church. St. John of the Cross was born around 5142 in Fontiveros, Spain. He was a mystic and a poet and an ally of St. Teresa of Avila in founding the Discalced (Reformed) Carmelite Friars (O.C.D.) He suffered imprisonment by the unreformed Carmelites of the Observance. He wrote several pieces, including The Ascent of Mount Carmel, The Dark Night of the Soul. The Spiritual Canticle, and O Flame of Living Love. He is known as the Mystical Doctor. Today the Discalced Carmelites number about 4,000 religious. St. John of the Cross died around the year 1591. St. John of the Cross, Pray for us!

-ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS PARTY – Just a reminder, the St. Thomas Men's and Women's group parish Christmas party for all St. Thomas parishioners is this Sunday, December 11 in the parish hall following the 10 a.m. Mass.

-DIOCESAN YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST – As I mentioned at the Masses last weekend, Bishop Paprocki "kicked off" our Diocesan year of the Eucharist and the Centennial celebration of the transfer of our Diocese from Alton to Springfield last Thursday, December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Diocese. I will be putting more information out about this, including the Plenary Indulgence that I mentioned at the Masses. Bishop Paprocki will also be including more information in the December 11 edition of the Catholic Times.

-ADVENT LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS -According to the Universal Norms, number 42, beginning on (Saturday), December 17, the Advent Weekdays are intended to serve to prepare more directly for the celebration of the Lord's Birth. At Mass. we begin the use of Advent Preface II (we have been using Advent Preface I) and we will begin to hear the "O Antiphons" ...O Wisdom, O Sacred Lord, O Flower of Jesse's Stem, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of All Nations, O Emmanuel (O God is With Us). It is no coincidence that the hymn, O Come, O Come Emmanuel has seven verses - as each verse picks up on one of the seven O Antiphons.

-ADVENT – As we have entered into and remain in the Season of Advent, I encourage you to remain mindful of this Season each day. Advent calls us to prepare, to quiet our minds and our hearts as we reflect on God's presence and His coming. In the busyness of life and especially in the hustle and bustle of these weeks, let us remain vigilant to the Season of Advent.

-ADVENT GIVING TREE – A reminder that there is an Advent giving tree in the back of each church with Advent "ornaments." The ornaments list baby items that we will collect and give to a pregnancy center. There is also a short prayer on the back of each ornament that I encourage you to pray.

If you'd like, take one or more ornaments and purchase the item(s) listed on the ornament. Return the item(s) to church by Sunday, December 18 (or as soon as possible thereafter). I will have totes somewhere in the back of the churches to place your items. Please do not wrap the items and please keep the ornament and pray the prayer that is on it.

There are many needs and many opportunities to give. This is but one way to help those in need. I will keep the trees up until after Masses on December 18.

-CALENDARS – 2023 calendars are now available in the back of both churches while they last. Hendricker Funeral Home in Mt. Sterling provides these calendars for our parishes. I thank them for continuing to provide these for our parishioners. If you see Jamie or his staff, please thank them or send them a note thanking them for the calendars.

There are 2 different styles this year...Feasts and Saints (similar to what we've had for 2022) and the Divine Mercy. These are excellent calendars to have as they give a lot of information concerning Liturgical celebrations and norms.

Feel free to take one for yourself and/or for anyone you know who may be homebound or in a nursing home or otherwise unable to get one from the church. We are also planning to send one home with each St. Mary School Family.

-SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - Please keep in your prayers those who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. We have a number of children from both parishes preparing for these Sacraments in the spring. We also have a number of folks in RCIA who are either preparing for full initiation into the Church or for Baptism and full initiation. Please keep these folks in your prayers as well.

-CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS - As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, if you

would like to make a contribution toward the flowers for the Church at Christmas, that would be great.

St. Thomas parishioners should have an envelope for this in the regular set of contribution envelopes. If you don't, you can simply put your contribution in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and place it in the collection basket.

For Holy Family, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers." The envelopes can be placed in the collection basket or mailed in to 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 I encourage all of our parishioners to do the same.

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

AT HOLY FAMILY:

- -Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- -Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 Midnight and 7:00 a.m.
- -Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Vigil Mass Saturday, December 31 – 5:30 p.m.

Please note that there will be no confessions at 4:30 p.m. on this day since I will be offering Mass at St. Thomas at 4:00 p.m. Confession will be available at St. Thomas from 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Sunday, January 1 – 8:00 a.m.

AT ST. THOMAS:

- -Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 6:30 p.m.
- -Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 9:00 a.m.
- -Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Vigil Mass Saturday, December 31 4:00 p.m.

Confessions from 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Sunday, January 1 – 10:00 a.m.

-FEAST (SOLEMNITY) OF THE HOLY FAMILY - The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and, Joseph will be celebrated this year on Friday, December 30. At Holy Family Parish, this celebration is elevated to a Solemnity since the parish bears its name. Mass will be celebrated that day at Holy Family at the regularly scheduled time for Friday, 8:30 a.m. I am hopeful that we will celebrate the Solemnity with some rolls and coffee after Mass so please plan to join us.

-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.

Additionally, folks are sometimes 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.

-JANITOR SUB – I mentioned in last week's bulletin that from time to time we are in need of someone to fill in as a sub for the janitor at St. Mary School for a day or two. It may be that we would need some additional help during the summer as well. We'd like to find a couple of folks who we could call on as needed. If you or someone you know would be interested, please let the principal, Melissa Obert, or myself know.

-SNOW REMOVAL – Once again, I am reminding folks that with winter approaching, we are in need of folks to help with snow removal.

At St. Mary School especially, we are perhaps looking for someone to oversee this for us and a number of folks to help with it when needed. Please contact Melissa in the school office (217)-773-2825 if you would be able to help out.

For Holy Family and St. Thomas, we normally have folks who graciously work to clear the sidewalks around the churches. If you are able to help out from time to time, 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 prayers each day for you. May you have a most Blessed week and Holy Season of Advent.

-Fr. Aaron

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Bosco Kids

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Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday night, 12/18 from 5:30-7:30 at the KC Hall and go carolling at the nursing home and other places. Dress warmly. We welcome all parishioners, families and friends to join us as we bring some joy and songs to people. We look forward to seeing all of our youth again.

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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.

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Blessings to you all this beautiful Advent season.

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RAGS & BAGS

St. Mary School is selling rags and bags. Dishcloths are 6 for \$12. Trash bags are \$22 per box - a box contains 100 bags that fit 30 gallon containsers and have a thickness of 1.5 mil. Contact your favorite SMS student or call the office (773-2825) to purchase!

Holy Family Choir Practice

Attention Choir!

Christmas choir practice will be: Tuesday, December 20: 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

