Bulletin Short for <u>Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday</u> <u>in Ordinary Time</u> <u>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the</u>

<u> Universe, Solemnity – 20 November 2022</u>

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--<u>aosullivan2031@gmail.com</u> 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 5 - 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 6 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Nicholas, Bishop Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

Tom & Barb Kuhn (By HF Nocturnal Adoration Society)

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

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

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

<u>Wednesday, December 7 – 5:30 p.m.</u> <u>AT HOLY FAMILY</u>

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

<u>Wednesday, December 7 – 7:00 p.m.</u> <u>AT ST. THOMAS</u>

Irene Baucom (By St. Thomas Men & Women's Society)

Thursday, December 8 – 7:00 a.m. The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

AT ST. THOMAS

Evelyn Tooley (By St. Thomas Men & Women's Society)

<u>Thursday, December 8 – 8:30 a.m.</u> <u>AT HOLY FAMILY</u> (School Mass)

Russell Volk (By Scotty & Carol Blentlinger)

<u>Thursday, December 8 – 5:30 p.m.</u> <u>AT ST. THOMAS</u>

Ron Bull (By Jenni Obert)

<u>Thursday, December 8 – 7:00 p.m.</u> <u>AT HOLY FAMILY</u>

Beth Clark (By Jim & Marilyn Wort) Friday, December 9 - 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass) St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 16-19

Mike Metzger (By Carl & Nancy Mitchell)

<u>Saturday, December 10 – 5:30 p.m.</u> Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

<u>Sunday, December 11 – 8:00 a.m.</u>

Isaiah 35:1-61, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Mary Louise Moorman (By Tammy)

<u>St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.</u>

Anne Norkus (By Pat Sharow)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 26-27, 2022

Holy Family: \$2,778.00 Sister Parish: \$45.00 Immaculate Conception: \$50.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 27, 2022

St. Thomas: \$3,274.00 Sister Parish: \$20.00 All Souls: \$20.00 Mission Appeal: \$25.00

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 December 6 at noon. A light meal will be provided.

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or <u>tmckeown@smseagle.org</u> 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

<u>Please keep the following in your prayers:</u> 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 **†** 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

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 LITURGICAL ROLES

<u> December 11, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.</u>

Sacristan: Greeters: Lector: Gift Bearers: Eucharistic Minister: Collection Counters: Ushers: Dawn Peters M. Obert Family Jenni Obert J. Obert Family Elizabeth Likes D. DeRousse Tod Perry, Elijah Perry

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent. As we recall that Advent is a time of genuine conversion and reform of life for each of us, we might ask ourselves how the Advent Season is going for us...how is my own conversion and reform of life? We are reminded that it is Christ Jesus whose return in glory we long for and whose birth in time we celebrate.

The prophets of Scripture (we hear from Isaiah today) come with words of challenge, yes, but also with a message of consolation and hope, highlighting God's past saving acts and assuring us of God's future fidelity.

John the Baptist enters into today's Gospel and brings us the message of repentance. He calls us to make an exodus from our desert of sinfulness to repentance and conversion of heart, challenging us to prepare the way of the Lord.

Saint Paul shares a similar message in the Second Reading. Full of encouragement and

hope, he speaks of harmony, unity, the mercy of God and, above all, the call to glorify the Lord's name so that others will be energized in their journey of faith. Paul prays that the Roman's way of life in Christ (and ours) will abound in knowledge and right judgment so as to reflect the goodness of Christ and give glory to His Name.

In this Season of Advent, may we know the gentle presence of God more fully as we work for our conversion and reform of life each day.

And now a few notes:

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Tuesday, 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 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!

-Wednesday, 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!

-Thursday, 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!

-Friday, December 9 – Optional memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin. 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!

-Saturday, 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!

-DONUT SUNDAY – This Sunday, December 4, is the first Sunday of the month which is "Donut Sunday" for St. Thomas. Come on over to the hall and join us after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

-SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACUALTE CONCEPTION – As noted above, Thursday, 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:

Holy Family: Wednesday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, December 8, Masses at 8:30 a.m. (with the school) and 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas: Wednesday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m.; Thursday, December 8 Masses at 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Please make special note of the times and locations of the Masses especially the 7:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday, December 8. It will be celebrated at St. Thomas.

-ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS PARTY – St. Thomas Men's and Women's group parish Christmas party for all St. Thomas parishioners is next Sunday, December 11 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 hope that you all will be able to join us. A meal will be provided and it will be a fun gathering for everyone.

-ADVENT GIVING TREE – There was interest in having an Advent Giving Tree at St. Thomas. I decided to also try to get one up for Holy Family. So, at both parishes, there is a tree in the back of 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 (different from what I had in last week's bulletin). I will have totes somewhere in the back of the churches to place your items. At St. Thomas, in conjunction with the Christmas Party on December 11, you can also bring the items to the parish hall on that day. Either way, we'll get the items to where they can be used. Please do not wrap the items. 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.

-SNOW REMOVAL – 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.

-JANITOR SUB – 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.

-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 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.

-CHRISTMAS CARDS – As of the time of my writing this, there were still some beautiful religious Christmas cards available in the back of both churches. If you would like to use these, please do. 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.

-FALL COLLECTION – Holy Family Parishioners, the annual Fall Collection continues. If you have not done so already, remember to return your contribution as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

-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. -THANK YOU – Thank you to those who participated in the recent food drive at Holy Family. Marilyn Veith who headed this up for us tells me that it was a great success.

-MINISTRY CONTACTS – The ministry contact sheets are in the back of church at St. Thomas. These sheets list the folks who signed up for particular roles along with phone numbers and e-mail addresses. There is a sheet for each role, separated into folders. In order to make it easier for you to get a substitute if you are unable to be present on the day you are assigned, please take a sheet for each role you signed up for and keep for your reference.

-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 Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m., Masses on Thursday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m. (with the school children) and 7:00 p.m.

-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.

AT ST. THOMAS:

-Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Vigil Mass on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m., Masses on Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

-Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 – 6:30 p.m.

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

May you all have a most blessed week. Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. May you have a good and holy Advent Season.

-Fr. Aaron

Diocesan-wide Rosary

Pray along to a Diocesan-wide Rosary December 8 – To honor Mary on the feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and to pray for a Eucharistic revival during the diocesan-wide Year of the Eucharist which starts December 8, join Catholics from our parishes and schools as the faithful from every corner of our diocese prays a part in the holy Rosary.

Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or facebook.com/diospringfield on December 8 at any time to watch and pray with Catholics from our 28 counties!

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Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday night, December 4 for Grades 7-12 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the home of Kent and Leighann Boylen for a Christmas Party. We will also meet on Sunday, 12/18 from 5:30-7:30 at the KC Hall and go carolling at the nursing home and other places. Dress warmly. 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.

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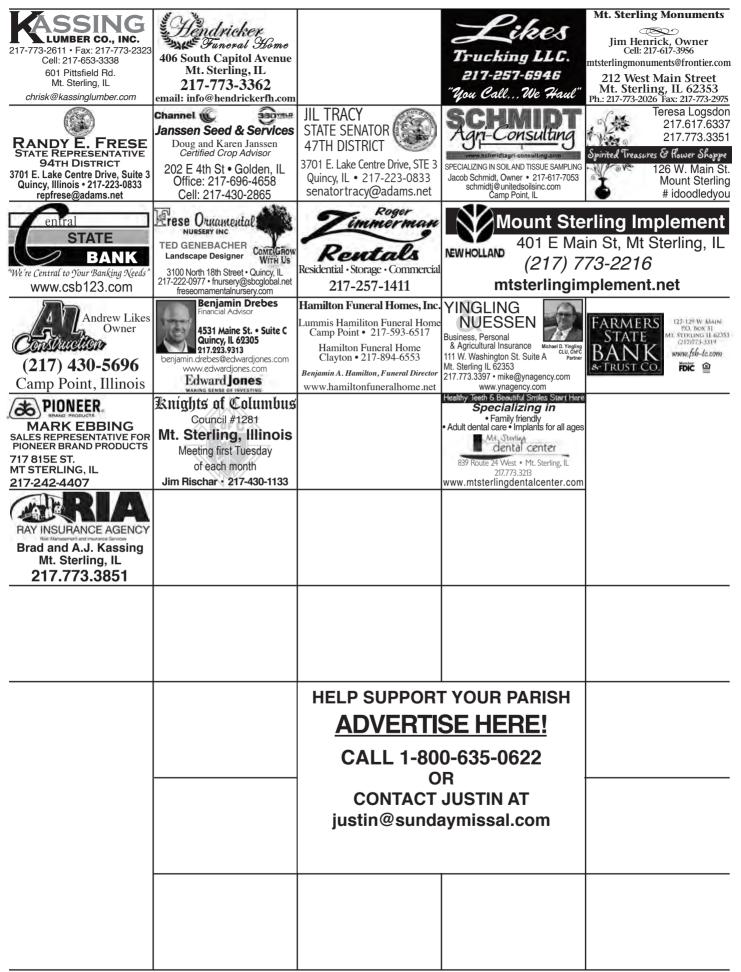
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RAGS & BAGS

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!



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