

# 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) 773-3233  
*Emergency only* (217) 242-9669  
*E-Mail:* [akuhn@dio.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stthomascp.org)

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Monday, January 9 – 7:00 a.m.

The Baptism of the Lord  
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Matthew 3:13-17

Communion Service

### Tuesday, January 10 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28

Kenny Lercher  
(By Pat Lercher)

### Wednesday, January 11 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39

John Yeakel  
(By Tom & Nancy Schneider)

### Thursday, January 12 – 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45

Elinor Davis  
(By Carroll & Dona Hedden)

### Friday, January 13– 8:30 a.m. **(School Mass)**

St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12

Jim Kassing  
(By Tammy)

### Saturday, January 14 – 5:30 p.m.

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17

Melvin & Eleanor McClelland and  
JoAnne McClelland Harris  
(By John & Linda Colgan)

### Sunday, January 15 – 8:00 a.m.

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

Russell Volk  
(By John & Rosemary Holler & Family)

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas & Holy Family

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 31, 2022 – January 1, 2023

Holy Family: \$11,162.50

School Support: \$1,295.00

Sister Parish: \$40.00

Christmas Offering: \$145.00

New Year's Offering: \$370.00

First Offering: \$220.00

Catholic Times: \$75.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$381.00

Parish Tithe: \$50.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 1, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,145.00

Christmas: \$100.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$615.00

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."

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 - 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

## ST. THOMAS

**Card shower for Louise Waner.** Her birthday is January 15 and she will be 98 years young. Louise's picture was in the dedication booklet when our Church was built. Her address is: 2207 N. 2900th Ave. Golden, Il 62339.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

*January 15, 2023 - 8:00 a.m.*

**Sacristan:** Gary Mast  
**Greeters:** Jim & Nora Clausius  
**Lector:** Brenda Hoelscher  
**Gift Bearers:** Andrew & Amanda

Llewellyn Family

**Eucharistic Minister:** Alicia Schmidt

**Collection Counters:** Dale & Sindy DeRousse

**Ushers:** John Brady,

Denny Campbell

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church in the United States of America celebrates the Solemnity of Epiphany of the Lord. The word epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world. After being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles. They lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

Do not misinterpret this to mean guaranteed salvation or to presume one's salvation. That is simply not an accurate interpretation and presumption of one's salvation is sinful. God indeed desires our salvation and offers it to all people which is the meaning of universal salvation. But this is not a guarantee of one's salvation since we have the responsibility to choose to follow Christ in all things. Just as the Holy Catholic Church is the Universal Church, She is for all people but universal does not mean we believe and do whatever we want. The Universal Church, which Christ Himself established for the sanctification of souls and the world, has a professed Creed based on the Fullness of Truth revealed by Christ alone and the Universal Church places demands upon us that, sadly, some folks ignore. One cannot claim to be part of the Universal Church when he or she denies any portion of the Fullness of Truth revealed to us by none other than Jesus Christ Himself. Does it make any sense to say I believe in Jesus Christ but not in one or more of His teachings or revealed Truths?!

St. Leo brings out this point of universal salvation admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Savior. We too are summoned to seek

our Savior in the life that God has given us to live. In that seeking, we come to praise, honor, and adore God and to give Him thanks as we strive to follow Him and His Will in all things.

On Monday, January 9, we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and draw to a close our Christmas Season. We then enter into the First Week of Ordinary Time and will remain in Ordinary Time until Ash Wednesday which this year is February 22. I will hopefully be able to share more about Ordinary Time in next week's bulletin.

And now just a few notes:

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, January 9 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The celebration of this feast concludes the Christmas Season and, as noted above, we then move into Ordinary Time.

-Thursday, January 12 - In the Dioceses of Bellville, Peoria, and Springfield, Illinois, optional memorial of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Virgin. Born April 17, 1620, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys was a French nun and founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal. She died January 12, 1700, was Beatified in November 1952 by Pope Pius XII, and canonized on October 31, 1982 by Pope John Paul II. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Pray for us!

-Friday, January 13 - Optional memorial of St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. St. Hilary was a convert from paganism and a leading opponent of Arianism (denial of Christ's Divinity) in the west. He died in the year 367. St. Hilary, Pray for us!

-As a reminder, during Ordinary Time when there is no other Obligatory Memorial, Feast, or Solemnity on the calendar for Saturdays, to celebrate a Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary remains an option.

-ETERNAL REST - Please pray for the repose of the souls of Norma Stone and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Norma died on Wednesday, December 28. Her Funeral Mass was this past Wednesday, January 4 at Saints Mary and Joseph in Carlinville. Norma is the mother of Fr. Jeff Stone. Fr. Jeff was the Parochial Administrator and then Pastor of St. Brigid in Liberty, St. Joseph in Fowler/Quincy, and St. Edward in Mendon from 2007-2021. He is now Pastor of

St. Lawrence Parish in Greenville. Fr. Jeff's mailing address is: St. Lawrence Parish; P.O. Box 401, Greenville, IL, 62246. Please keep Norma and her family in your prayers. 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.

Parents play a special and indispensable role in nurturing all vocations. The loss of a loved one is difficult for anyone. Priests generally are very close to their mothers and the loss of a parent, and especially our mothers, can be especially difficult for quite a period of time. It is only through our faith and our hope in the Resurrection and Eternal Life that one can really move through this grief. Closeness to our Blessed Mother is also important, and dare I say, even necessary.

Your prayers for all priests are so very important. Please continue to pray for them and for their holiness. And please remember the parents of priests as well, especially their mothers. Just as it was through our Blessed Mother who brought our Savior, Jesus Christ the High Priest, into the world, it is through these women that priests are born into the world to celebrate the Sacraments which Christ Himself left us. The reflection on this beautiful gift is a powerful one. And like our Blessed Mother, the mother of priests often times quietly and humbly endure the sorrows of our own Blessed Mother.

This, by no means, diminishes the importance of one's father, and the importance of fathers in the life of a family. We are reminded of that in the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Again, it is the family that brings about and nurtures all good and holy vocations. May our place in the family reflect this as we remain mindful of the devil's unending attacks on the family and family life and his attempts to destroy the family.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died on Saturday, December 31. His Funeral Mass was on Thursday, January 5. Most of us remember Benedict XVI very well. He was The Sovereign Pontiff from 2005 - 2013.

Bishop Paprocki celebrated the Mass for the Dead on Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m. for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. He encouraged his priests to do

the same and so the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 1 at Holy Family was celebrated as the Mass for the Dead with the intention of the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Additionally, a picture of Benedict XVI with a lit candle has been placed in both St. Thomas and Holy Family Churches and will remain there for a period of time.

Specific Norms govern the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. Given the unique situation we found ourselves in with the death of Benedict XVI, I share the following instructions from our Office of Divine Worship and some of the associated Norms:

“Bearing in mind that ‘the Church offers the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Christ’s Passover for the dead so that, since all the members of Christ’s body are in communion with each other, the petition for spiritual help on behalf of some may bring comforting hope to others,’ it is fitting to offer a Mass for the Dead for the deceased Pope Emeritus. Such a Mass, not being a funeral Mass, is colloquially called a “memorial Mass,” though this phrase is not found in the Roman Missal.”

“A Mass for the Dead may be celebrated on receiving the news of a death, for the final burial, or the first anniversary, even on days within the Octave of Christmas, on obligatory memorials, and on weekdays, except for Ash Wednesday or weekdays during Holy Week.”

“The color of vestments worn for a Mass for the Dead may be “violet, white, or black.” However, it is customary for red vestments to be worn at a Mass for the Dead offered for a Pope since we are mourning the death of the successor of the Apostle Peter.”

I share this with you as it is both interesting and fascinating to know how our Liturgical Celebrations are governed. They are not to be willy-nilly, do whatever you want and whatever makes us feel good. They are structured so that the sacredness is preserved and there are rules and norms set forth that are not optional but necessary to preserve this sacredness. The Church is not a social club of voting and doing what one likes but rather maintains and safeguards the Fullness of Truth so that we might have Eternal Life through Her.

Please continue to pray for Benedict XVI. 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.

In his statement concerning the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI which I read in part at some of the Masses last weekend, Bishop Paprocki said this: “Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was an authentic example of faithfulness to God and Catholicism, living and preaching the Gospel message with truth and passion. Always writing and teaching, his warm smile, gentle demeanor, and pastoral approach to explaining and living out the Catholic faith inspired millions and brought people closer to Christ. His reverence toward the Eucharist, the Mass, and the sacraments are examples for us today on how we should all view and respect these treasures of the Catholic faith. His steadfast defense of our faith’s teachings and traditions and remaining faithful to them, despite the pressures of the secular world and from inside the Church, is the mark of a true leader.

To this day, I am humbled Pope Benedict appointed me as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. I had the honor of meeting with him several times. I will forever remember his friendliness and compassion. His theological genius and his ability to communicate our rich and oftentimes difficult theology to the people in a clear and understandable way was most impressive. The Catholic Church lost an incredible and humble man, but his legacy leaves a lasting impression on the faithful and our Church.”

-CATHOLIC TIMES - The Catholic Times is the official newspaper of the Diocese. Each edition is filled with great information for each one of us. Each January, we are asked to contribute to the publication of the Catholic Times. Because of some confusion on my part regarding envelopes in our regular pack of offering envelopes for Catholic Times, some of you may not have such an envelope. Still, I encourage you to make an offering for this valuable publication. If you have an envelope for Catholic Times, simply place it in the collection basket with your contribution. If you do not have a specified envelope, you may place your contribution in any envelope and clearly mark it “Catholic Times.” I will also try to have some envelopes in the back of each



church marked "Catholic Times" that you may use.

If you are not receiving the Catholic Times in the mail and would like to (I know some folks prefer to view it online), please let me know so that we can add you to their mailing.

Following is a letter from Bishop Paprocki regarding the Catholic Times and the January special collection for its publication:

"My Dear Friends in Christ, Catholic Times has always been a key communication tool for our diocese. Whether it is important announcements, teaching the faith, or inspirational stories, the magazine provides tremendous value to readers. That was most apparent in the November 27 special edition of Catholic Times that focused on the Eucharist, our Year of the Eucharist, and previewing the diocesan celebration of the See transfer from Alton to Springfield. That edition proved that not only do a lot of people read the magazine, but it is positively impacting people.

Here are just two stories that prove the point: One is from Jerseyville where a reader told us that one of his friends, who is going through the RCIA process now, read the magazine "cover to cover" and "loved it" and now "understands" the Eucharist. In Springfield, a reader told us that he knew a gentleman who comes to Mass often and approached him. "He had a copy of the Eucharistic miracles article from the recent special issue of Catholic Times. He told me he had been one of the 70 percent who thought the Eucharist was a symbol, but that after reading the article, and I assume the other articles in the special issue, he was now among the 30 percent who believed in the Real Presence."

What God moments! We heard other stories of positive impact as well and received many requests for more copies of the special edition so readers could hand them to family, friends, and people searching for the Truth.

In 2022, Catholic Times won eight national awards at the annual Catholic Media Association Awards; the most the magazine has ever won during a single year. Moreover, the team at Catholic Times continues to try new things to engage readers. For example, this entire next year will feature Eucharistic

miracle stories, saint stories, and monstrosities from across the diocese.

The magazine will also continue its emphasis on catechesis of the Catholic faith such as their Hey, Father! series, navigating the difficult world of bioethics, and explaining the sacraments. Of course, feature reporting is a major part of the magazine, highlighting the stories of people, parishes, and schools that are building up the Kingdom of God in our diocese. The magazine's commitment to local coverage means when each edition is opened, readers will see stories that are important to their lives and read stories written by people and priests they know.

My column, 'Lex Cordis Caritas,' is on page 4 of each issue. It is one of the best ways that I can speak about the issues that we face as Catholics in Central Illinois and update readers on important decisions I make that impact the faithful. As bishop of this diocese, it is important for me to be an active participant in Catholic media. It is all these reasons why I believe that Catholic Times should be available to every household in our diocese, either online ([ct.dio.org](http://ct.dio.org)), by email, or by mail.

I invite you to support this important communication tool in our diocese. During the weekend of January 7-8, you will have the opportunity to respond gratefully and ensure the Catholic Times remains an inexpensive source of information on the vital issues I have noted.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield in Illinois; Publisher, Catholic Times."

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

-Fr. Aaron

**Announcements from the Holy Family  
Parish Coordinator of Religious  
Education (Ann O'Sullivan -  
[aosullivan2031@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **TAX REPORTING**

If any parishioner would like to receive a statement of contributions for calendar year 2020, please contact the school office at (217) 773-2825 (for Holy Family) and (217) 593-6685 (for St. Thomas). A **contribution statement will not be provided unless a request is received.** As always, we suggest you refer to your own personal contribution records if at all possible.

### **CATHOLIC TIMES**

Please donate to support Catholic Times - Catholic Times has always been a key communication tool for our diocese. Whether it is important announcements, teaching the faith, or inspirational stories, the magazine provides tremendous value to readers. The magazine's commitment to local coverage means when each edition is opened, readers will see stories that are important to their lives and read stories written by people and priests they know. Please support Catholic Times so the magazine can continue serving Catholics in our diocese. You can give through your second collection envelope or online at [dio.org/give](http://dio.org/give). Thank you!

### **MEN'S CURSILLO**

Does your life need a spiritual recharge? Are you ready to charge up your faith? How about spending quality time learning, growing, and contemplating on what God is calling you to do in your life. The Quincy Cursillo is hosting its next Men's Cursillo January 19 -22 at the Franciscan Retreat Center located on Quincy University's North Campus. Imagine spending a few days in spiritual renewal with other Catholic men eager to deepen their relationship with Jesus.

For more information, contact Ann O'Sullivan or Gary or Gail Mast.

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