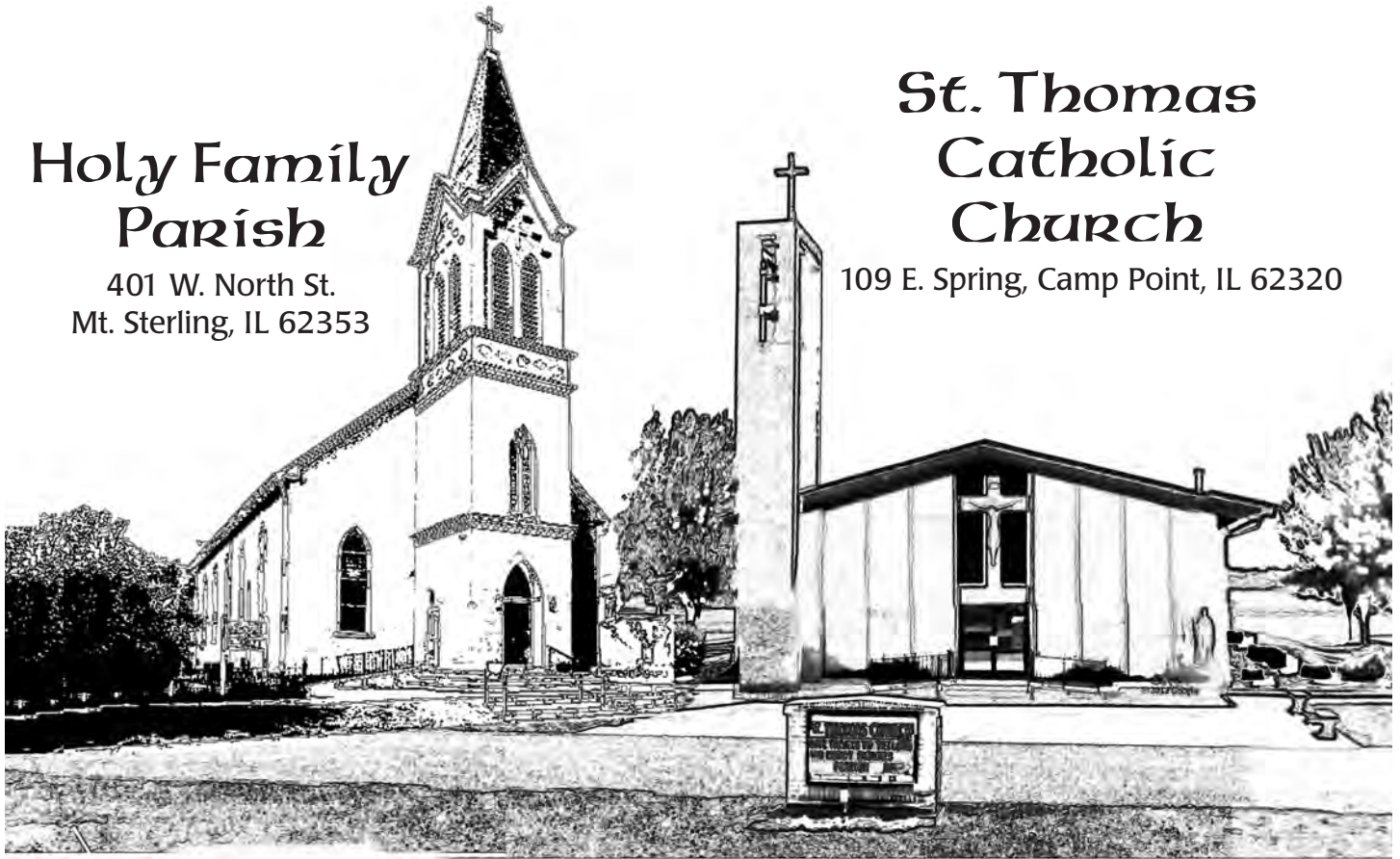


# Holy Family Parish

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, April 10 – 7:00 a.m.

Monday within the Octave of Easter  
Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15

Communion Service

### Tuesday, April 11 – 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter  
Acts of the Apostles 2:36-41; John 20:11-18

John & Mary Margaret Bullard  
(By the Family)

### Wednesday, April 12 – 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter  
Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35

Neal Volk  
(By Kathy Rigg)

### Thursday, April 13 – 7:00 a.m.

Thursday within the Octave of Easter  
Acts of the Apostles 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48

Mary Klingele Ahmed  
(By Lyndall & Peggy Pyle)

### St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Jerry Gunn  
(By the Family)

### Friday, April 14 – 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Friday within the Octave of Easter  
Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12; John 21:1-14

Marie Faugust  
(By Holy Family Women's Guild)

### Saturday, April 15 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday within the Octave of Easter  
Acts of the Apostles 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

Elliott Llewellyn  
(By Doug & Debbie Hammer)

### Sunday, April 16 – 8:00 a.m.

Sunday of Divine Mercy  
Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Esther Coggeshall  
(By St. Thomas Men's & Women's Society)

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 1-2, 2023

Holy Family: \$4,497.70  
School Support: \$832.00  
Sister Parish: \$40.00  
Catholic Relief Services: \$50.00  
Operation Rice Bowl: 155.00  
Easter Holyday: \$400.00  
Seminary: \$50.00  
Holy Land: \$30.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 2, 2023

St. Thomas: \$3,367.00  
Sister Parish: \$20.00  
Rice Bowl: \$80.00  
Catholic Charities: \$25.00  
Poor: \$20.00  
Fish Fry: \$20.00  
Candles: \$43.00

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 †  
Marilyn Clark † Jim Heaton † Vera Marie Rolf †  
Christine Colgan Moore † Maddy Perry †  
Dwayne Koch † Susie Parker Campbell †  
Debra Parker Baker † Jeanette Shields †  
Connie Johnson † Tom Langan † Oakley Ham †  
Rick Flatt † Elizabeth "Libby" Tichy †  
Mark Carlock † Jeff Kozak † Carol Likes †  
Janice Hendricks † Kendall Atteberry †  
Mark Ebbing † Eleanor Logsdon † Lane Wiese †  
Carolyn DeWitt † Jim Duvendack †  
Leeann DeJaynes † Paul Koch † Charlie Koch †  
Megan Miller † Irene Norkus †

*Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Aaron Koch who passed away on April 2, 2023. 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

**SAVE THE DATE - JULY 6-8** - Stellar VBS will launch kids on a cosmic quest as they have a blast learning how to shine Jesus' light everywhere! It will be an out-of-this-world adventure filled with light years of faith-building fun. We'll help Jesus' light shine in and through the heart of every child at Stellar VBS! We will have a star-studded time Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturday all day.

Children entering preschool - 5th grade are welcome to attend VBS. Children entering 6th - 12th grade are welcome as Crew Leaders. Adults are welcome to volunteer. Please contact Alicia Schmidt at 217-257-3210 ASAP if you'd like to volunteer.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

**April 16, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.**

<b>Sacristan:</b>	Denise Taylor
<b>Greeters:</b>	Gary & Gail Mast
<b>Lector:</b>	Laura Evans
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn Family
<b>Eucharistic Minister:</b>	Elizabeth Likes
<b>Collection Counters:</b>	Dale & Sindy DeRousse
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jerry Herkert, Andrew Llewellyn

## From the Pastor's Desk

Christ is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!

First off, a very Happy and Blessed Easter to you and your family. Having begun our Lenten journey just a few weeks ago, we arrived at the Sacred Triduum and now we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus. We embark now on the Liturgical Season of Easter.

It is so important to remember that our joyous celebration is just beginning. The celebration of Easter will continue for fifty days when we will then celebrate Pentecost. Easter is certainly not just a one-day celebration. It is a prolonged celebration and a time of intensified

consciousness where we come to an even greater realization of God's presence and God's power in our lives.

In these first eight days of Easter, we celebrate what we call the Octave of Easter. This Octave celebration takes precedence over all other celebrations. The Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave Day of Easter, is April 16 this year and is designated Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope St. John Paul II made this designation on April 30, 2000. Below is once again information concerning Divine Mercy Sunday.

By dying Christ destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. This is the summation of God's plan of salvation. This is the great Paschal Mystery of our faith. This is the heart of every liturgy we celebrate. For today we do not merely recall what happened two thousand years ago on a cross and in a humble rock-hewn tomb, we participate in this continuing sacrificial mystery. We rejoice that Jesus suffered, died and rose for us. We rejoice because His sacrifice was once, for all. Today, we rejoice because He continues to save his people.

Our Risen Lord is here among us still, in Word and Sacrament. And like those first witnesses to the Resurrection, He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that He is the One appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

Today and every day, let us give God thanks and praise for such a spectacular gift as eternal life! And let us be so grateful that we spend each day of our lives so as to be worthy of so great a gift.

Finally, we're reminded that Easter is a sign and a season of hope for us. Perhaps you have a particularly difficult struggle in your life right now...the loss of a loved one, an illness or disability, an addiction, some devastating news, estrangement from family, financial distress, worries about your job, questions about your faith. Whatever it might be, we find hope in the Risen Lord whom we unite our sufferings

to. Sharing in His suffering, we also hope to share in His Resurrection and in His gift of Eternal Life. And as we find that hope and joy in the Lord more and more each day as we journey through this life, may we too realize that we are those witnesses that are called to proclaim the Risen Christ to all people.

-EASTER REFLECTIONS - I have shared the following before but it does offer a powerful and renewed reflection for us.

Nathan Mitchell, in his piece titled "The Blessed Pentecost" in Volume 20:1 of Assembly from the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy writes:

"Josef Pieper once remarked that the human capacity for festivity arises from the ability to affirm all creation is good - from the ability to embrace in one resounding 'yes,' the length and breadth, the heights and depths of our experience in the world. We can hear this yes in Mozart's music...We can hear it in the delighted squeals of a child...We can hear it in the contented, prayerful whispers of an elderly woman - full of love, grace, and years - as she prepares to meet death with quiet courage and dignity.

Saying yes to all of life. Letting all of it in - that is festivity's sustaining source. But there's the rub. Few of us can say yes to anything very long. We live, after all, in an intensely mobile culture of fast food, faster cars, disposable diapers, and planned obsolescence. Our greatest goal...is to be famous for fifteen minutes. At parties, we do not carry on conversations, we posture - repeating to one another snippets of dialogue from movies, beer commercials, sitcoms, or interviews with sports' celebrities. Small wonder that many in our society feel so isolated and lonely, so unable to connect, so incapable of forming relationships that last. Small wonder too that as a people we find ourselves increasingly bored, angry, and violent - enraged and terrified by the

awful emptiness that seems to stretch in every direction around us.

Given such cultural conditions, the Christian celebration of 'the Blessed Pentecost' will strike many as mad indeed. Fifty days of 'dwelling in' the Paschal Mystery! Fifty days of surrendering in joyful faith and love as the Spirit of God takes possession of our lives! Fifty days of mystagogy, of walking with the neophytes ever more deeply into the Baptismal mysteries of death and resurrection. Good heavens! What an order!

One reason why such a prolonged celebration strikes us as difficult - if not downright absurd - is that we tend to link feasts and holidays with mindless hoopla. 'Party time' for many is an invitation to obliterate consciousness, to get wasted, to veg out, to forget. But a season of Christian festival is precisely the opposite. It is a time of intensified consciousness, finely tuned awareness, awakened memory. The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to 'party on,' even if we don't feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply 'the weather of the heart,' to awaken our memory of God's presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation. In short, it is a season for learning to say yes in a culture that wants to keep on saying no."

-DIVINE MERCY - As I mentioned above, the Second Sunday of Easter (April 16 this year) is designated Divine Mercy Sunday. I have shared information about Divine Mercy before and as we approach Divine Mercy Sunday would like to share some of that information once again.

-THE MESSAGE - "The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us - all of us. And, He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will

come to share His joy. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.

-THE IMAGE - "In 1931, our Lord appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the Heart, from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her:

'Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory. I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world.'

At the request of her spiritual director, St. Faustina asked the Lord about the meaning of the rays in the image. She heard these words in reply: 'The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls

righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works.' These words indicate that the Image represents the graces of Divine Mercy poured out upon the world, especially through Baptism and the Eucharist.

-DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - "In a series of revelations to St. Faustina in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina...The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her Diary entry 699:

'My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be

solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.'"

-GRACES - "In her Diary, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus: 'My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.'

In three places in her Diary, St. Faustina records our Lord's promises of specific, extraordinary graces: 'I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy.' 'Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.' 'The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.'

To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday (or the Vigil celebration) by making a good confession beforehand and staying in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy. By these conditions, our Lord is emphasizing the value of confession and Holy Communion as miracles of mercy. The Eucharist is Jesus, Himself, the Living God, longing to pour Himself as Mercy into our hearts.

In addition, our Lord says through St. Faustina that we are to perform acts of mercy: 'Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy.' 'The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.'"

There is certainly much more to say concerning Divine Mercy Sunday, St. Faustina, and the Divine Mercy of the Lord Himself. Hopefully this will help you to begin to know more about Divine Mercy

Sunday and open your hearts to that Divine Mercy.

Again, a very Happy and Blessed Easter to each one of you. 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 continued daily prayers for each one of you as well.

-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 and RCIA** will meet  
Wednesday, 4/12 at 6:15-7:30 in the  
convent.

**Youth Group:**

April 16- Colton Dixon Concert- We have a select amount of tickets ordered. If you are interested in going, please notify Leigh Ann by March 31 so she can assure we have enough tickets. Leigh Ann's number is 217-257-6415.

April 30- Kent & Leigh Ann's House

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Holy Family Women's Guild is accepting donations for Easter flowers 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.

**MT. STERLING CATHOLIC CEMETERY**

**The Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery** will be having their yearly spring clean-up March 31 - April 7. Please remove all items that you wish to keep. Everything left will be discarded. You may replace items after April 17. **NOTE: NO GLASS IN THE CEMETERY, PLEASE!**



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