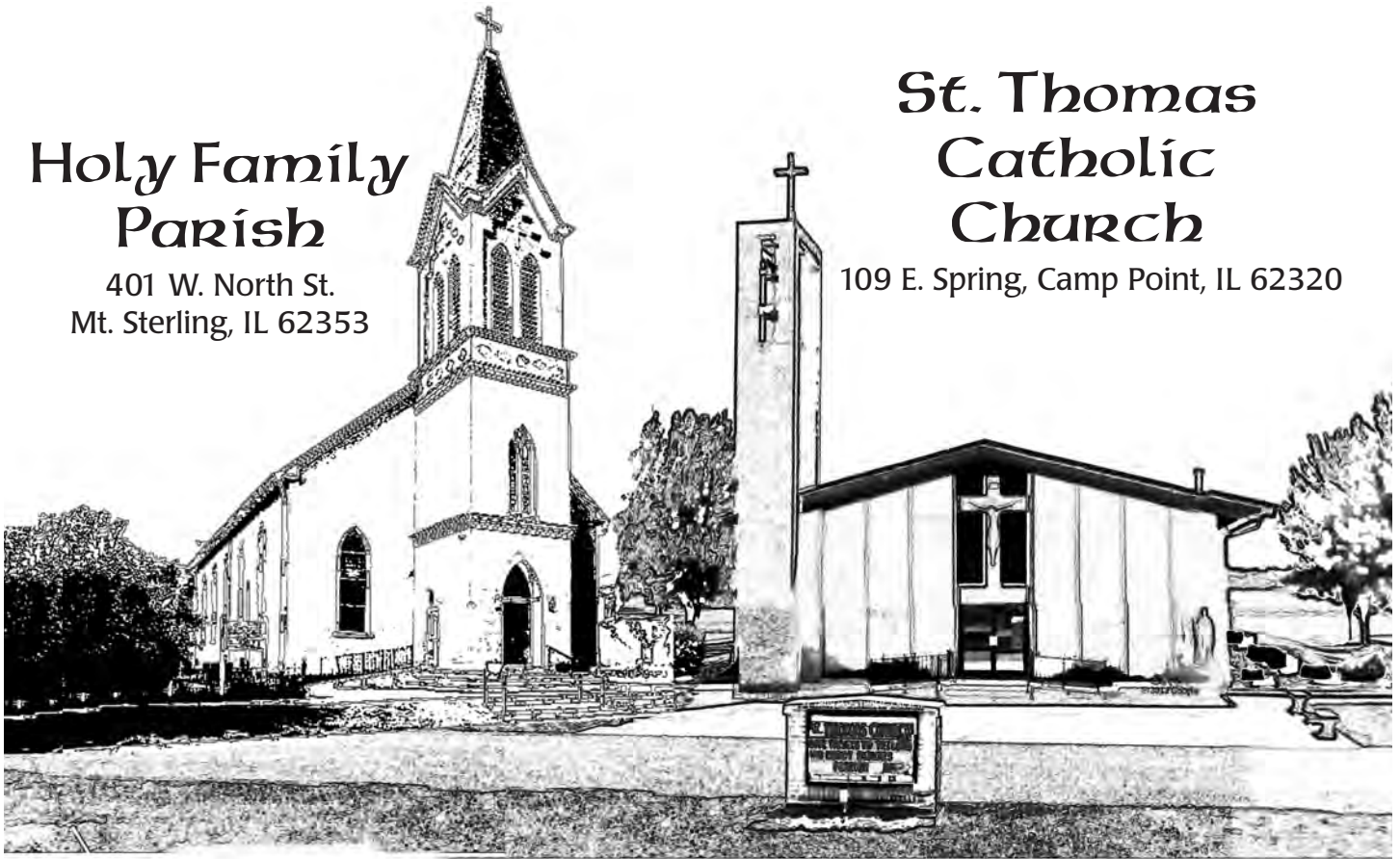


# Holy Family Parish

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 17 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 4:23-31; John 3:1-8

Communion Service

### Tuesday, April 18 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15

Dr. V.M. Zurita  
(By Joan Zurita)

### Wednesday, April 19 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 5:17-26; John 3:16-21

Beth Clark  
(By Tom & Nancy Schneider)

### Thursday, April 20 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-33; John 3:31-36

Jack Logsdon  
(By the Family)

### St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

John Faubel (Dec.) & his Family  
(By Ray & Teresa Bockhold)

### Friday, April 21 – 8:30 a.m.

#### (School Mass)

St. Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42; John 6:1-15

Bill O'Sullivan  
(By Luke, Karla & Will Metz)

### Saturday, April 22 – 5:30 p.m.

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; John 6:16-21

Damon Michael Ormond  
(By Maurice & Karla Ormond)

### Sunday, April 23 – 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21;  
Luke 24:13-35

Lucille Wagner  
(By Richard Ryan)

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Thomas  
and Holy Family

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 8-9, 2023

Holy Family: \$10,079.00  
School Support: \$625.00  
Sister Parish: \$245.00  
Operation Rice Bowl: \$325.00  
Good Friday: \$370.00  
Seminary: \$665.00  
ACSA: \$31.24

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 9, 2023

St. Thomas: \$3,585.00  
Holy Land: \$260.00  
Rice Bowl: \$20.00  
Seminarians: \$495.00  
For the Poor: \$560.00  
Candles: \$21.00

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 † Charlie Koch †  
Megan Miller † Irene Norkus †

## 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 23, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.***

**Sacristan:** Jim Clausius  
**Greeters:** Butch & Dorothy Obert  
**Lector:** Denise Taylor  
**Gift Bearers:** Jim & Nora Clausius  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Kim Gronewold  
**Collection Counters:** Greg & Elizabeth Likes  
**Ushers:** Jerry Herkert, Andrew Llewellyn

## From the Pastor's Desk

A Happy and Blessed Easter to each one of you. Indeed, the Lord is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia, Alleluia. The Risen Lord, indeed, brings joy into our lives and fills our lives with that joy. The glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ that we celebrate with great joy gives us hope for Eternal Life. And this joy we have is not a fleeting moment of happiness but rather, it is authentic Christian joy found only in knowing Christ and following Him in all things and at all times.

Today, we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave Day of Easter. This Sunday is also designated Divine Mercy Sunday, a designation made by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. I wrote in last week's bulletin about Divine Mercy. I share some of that same information here once again. It is well worth reading and reflecting on the Divine Mercy.

-DIVINE MERCY - As I've already mentioned, the Second Sunday of Easter is designated Divine Mercy Sunday. Most of this information I have obtained directly from the Divine Mercy website of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

-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.

-This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message and devotional practices proposed in the Diary of Saint Faustina...are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ. Spend time to learn more about the mercy of God, learn to trust in Jesus, and live your life as merciful to others, as Christ is merciful to you.”

-THE IMAGE - Concerning the Image of the Divine Mercy: “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.

Many different versions of this image have been painted, but our Lord made it clear that the painting itself is not what is important. When St. Faustina first saw the original image that was being painted under her direction, she wept in disappointment and complained to Jesus: 'Who will paint You as beautiful as You are?' In answer, she heard these words: 'Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace.' So, no matter which version of the image we prefer, we can be assured that it is a vehicle of God's grace if it is revered with trust in His mercy."

-DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - Concerning Divine Mercy Sunday itself: "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. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. 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.'

In all, St. Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast. Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St. Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St. Faustina - nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter. The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" does, however, highlight the meaning of the day."

-GRACES - Concerning the extraordinary graces: "In her Diary, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus. He told her to communicate it to the whole world: '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.'

The worthy reception of the Eucharist on Divine Mercy Sunday is sufficient to obtain the extraordinary graces promised by Jesus. A plenary indulgence, obtained by fulfilling the usual conditions, also is available."

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.

-HOW TO RECITE THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY - The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is sometimes preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer. It is often prayed at 3:00 p.m. each day but of course can be prayed at any time.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. Optional Opening Prayers: You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary: Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

5. The Apostle's Creed: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our

Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades Saying the "Eternal Father" (#6 above) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (#7 above) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Optional Closing Prayer: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen

11. Close with the Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 on Wednesday, 4/19 from 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 - 217-257-6415.

April 30- Kent & Leigh Ann's House

### 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!**

The *angel* said to  
the women,  
"Do not be afraid, for I know  
that you are looking for  
*Jesus,*  
who was **CRUCIFIED.**  
*He* is not here;  
*He* has *Risen.*  
just as *He* said."  
Matthew 28:5-6

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