

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

Parish Staff

Rev. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor – (217) 773-3233
Emergency only (217) 242-9669
E-Mail: 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

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

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

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, May 15 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Isidore
Acts of the Apostles 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a

Communion Service

Tuesday, May 16 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 16:22-34; John 16:5-11

Beth Clark
(By Mary Kassing)

Wednesday, May 17 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15

Jack Logsdon
(By the Family)

Thursday, May 18 – 7:00 a.m.

St. John I, Pope and Martyr
Acts of the Apostles 18:1-8; John 16:16-20

Charles, Maxine, Raymond & David Colgan
(By John & Linda Colgan)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Jerry Gunn
(By the Family)

Friday, May 19 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Acts of the Apostles 18:9-18; John 16:20-23

Ed & Verna Veith
(By Marilyn & Pat Veith)

Saturday, May 20 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
Acts of the Apostles 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Sunday, May 21 – 8:00 a.m.

The Ascension of the Lord
Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23;
Matthew 28:1-20

Charles Koch
(By K of C Council #1281)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Eugene Steinkamp
(By Barb Steinkamp)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 6-7, 2023

Holy Family: \$7,929.70
School Support: \$802.00
Sister Parish: \$10.00
ACSA: \$35.00

Easter Holyday: \$150.00
Retired Diocesan Priests: \$50.00
Cemetery Support: \$40.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 7, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,264.00
Catholic Home Mission: \$40.00
Parish Improvement: \$365.00

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 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 † 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 † Jeff Kozak † Carol Likes † Janice Hendricks † Kendall Atteberry † Mark Ebbing † Eleanor Logsdon † Lane Wiese † Carolyn DeWitt † Jim Duvendack † Leeann DeJaynes † Megan Miller † Irene Norkus † Boone Holden † Sean Fink †

ST. THOMAS

Graduates - We will celebrate our parishioners who are graduating (8th grade, high school or college) at Mass SUNDAY-May 21 at 10:00 a.m.

If this is you-please reach out to Laura Evans either on Facebook or email (levans@adams.net) so we can include you in the bulletin! Also, if you would like to be a reader during mass or a gift bearer, please let her know as well! All graduates will serve as greeters so our parish family can congratulate you!!

Wear your cap and gown!!! You earned it!!

St. Thomas church is once again participating in CARENET of Quincy Baby Bottle Blitz this year. Bottles may be picked up after Mass on Mother's Day, fill them up with your loose change and bring them back Father's Day June 18.

Meditation for Seven Sisters Apostolate; Priestly ordination is administered as a means of salvation, not for an individual man, but rather for the whole church. St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274).

Scout Troop 42's Picnic in the Park - Sunday, June 4 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Bailey Park, Camp Point, IL

Menu: Pork chops & Hot dogs, baked beans, apple sauce, chips, assorted desserts, lemonade, tea, or water

Carry outs available

Free will donation, all proceeds to fund Troop 42 of Golden, IL

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

May 21, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Jim & Nora Clausius
Lector:	Bobbi Mock
Gift Bearers:	Mark & Amanda Obert Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Jim Clausius
Collection Counters:	Jerel Mock Family

Ushers: Denny Campbell, John Brady

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Sixth Sunday of Easter and we are reminded through the readings for today that through it all, Jesus promises that we will not be left alone. Jesus was, is, and will always be our reason to hope. God calls us to use our will to choose love for Him first, to love Him most, and to love Him forever, as He loves us. The many promises that Jesus fulfills calls us to just one promise in return, to show our love for Him by keeping His commands. Let us pray that we may always do just that.

And now a few notes:

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, May 15 - Optional memorial of St. Isidore the Farmer. St. Isidore the Farmer, not to be confused with St. Isidore of Seville whose memorial is celebrated on April 4, is significant for our parishes in a special way in that he is the Patron Saint of farmers and rural communities.

“When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe, Isidore entered the service of John de Vergas, a wealthy landowner from Madrid, and worked faithfully on his estate outside the city for the rest of his life. He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint—Maria de la Cabeza. They had one son, who died as a child.

Isidore had deep religious instincts. He rose early in the morning to go to church and spent many a holiday devoutly visiting the churches of Madrid and surrounding areas. All day long, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. His devotion, one might say, became a problem, for his fellow workers sometimes complained that he often showed up late because of lingering in church too long.

He was known for his love of the poor, and there are accounts of Isidore's supplying them miraculously with food. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals.

He died May 15, 1130, and was declared a saint in 1622, with Saints Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila, and Philip Neri. Together, the group is known in Spain as ‘the five saints.’

Many implications can be found in a simple laborer achieving sainthood: Physical labor has dignity; sainthood does not stem from status; contemplation does not depend on learning; the simple life is conducive to holiness and happiness. Legends about angel helpers and mysterious oxen indicate that Isidore's work was not neglected and his duties did not go unfulfilled. Perhaps the truth which emerges is this: If you have your spiritual self in order, your earthly commitments will fall into order also. ‘Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,’ said the carpenter from Nazareth, ‘and all these things will be given you besides’ (Matthew 6:33).”

On a personal note, and I have shared this before, St. Isidore the Farmer is the name I chose for my Confirmation name...and gosh, that was some thirty-one years ago...hard for me to believe.

St. Isidore the Farmer, Pray for us!

-Thursday, May 18 - Optional memorial of St. John I, Pope and Martyr. “Pope John I inherited the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. Italy had been ruled for 30 years by an emperor who espoused the heresy, though he treated the empire's Catholics with toleration. His policy changed at about the time the young John was elected pope.

When the eastern emperor began imposing severe measures on the Arians of his area, the western emperor forced John to head a delegation to the East to soften the measures against the heretics. Little is known of the manner or outcome of the negotiations—designed to secure continued toleration of Catholics in the West.

On his way home, John was imprisoned at Ravenna because the emperor had begun to suspect that John's friendship with his eastern rival might lead to a conspiracy against his throne. Shortly after his imprisonment, John died in 526, apparently

from the treatment he received in prison. His body was transported to Rome and he was buried in the Basilica of St. Peter.

We cannot choose the issues for which we have to suffer and perhaps die. John I suffered because of a power-conscious emperor. Jesus suffered because of the suspicions of those who were threatened by His freedom, openness, and powerlessness. 'If you find that the world hates you, know it has hated me before you' (John 15:18)." St. John I, Pray for us!

-Saturday, May 20 - Optional memorial of St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest. "Most of the saints suffer great personal opposition, even persecution. Bernardine, by contrast, seems more like a human dynamo who simply took on the needs of the world.

He was the greatest preacher of his time, journeying across Italy, calming strife-torn cities, attacking the paganism he found rampant, attracting crowds of 30,000, following Saint Francis of Assisi's admonition to preach about 'vice and virtue, punishment and glory.'

Compared with St. Paul by the pope, Bernardine had a keen intuition of the needs of the time, along with solid holiness and boundless energy and joy. He accomplished all this despite having a very weak and hoarse voice, miraculously improved later because of his devotion to Mary.

When he was 20, the plague was at its height in his hometown of Siena. Sometimes as many as 20 people died in one day at the hospital. Bernardine offered to run the hospital and, with the help of other young men, nursed patients there for four months. He escaped the plague, but was so exhausted that a fever confined him for several months. He spent another year caring for a beloved aunt whose parents had died when he was a child, and at her death began to fast and pray to know God's will for him.

At 22, he entered the Franciscan Order and was ordained two years later. For almost a dozen years he lived in solitude and prayer, but his gifts ultimately caused him to be sent to preach. He always traveled

on foot, sometimes speaking for hours in one place, then doing the same in another town.

Especially known for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, Bernardine devised a symbol—IHS, the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek—in Gothic letters on a blazing sun. This was to displace the superstitious symbols of the day, as well as the insignia of factions: for example, Guelphs and Ghibellines. The devotion spread, and the symbol began to appear in churches, homes and public buildings. Opposition arose from those who thought it a dangerous innovation. Three attempts were made to have the pope take action against him, but Bernardine's holiness, orthodoxy, and intelligence were evidence of his faithfulness.

General of the Friars of the Strict Observance, a branch of the Franciscan Order, Bernardine strongly emphasized scholarship and further study of theology and canon law. When he started there were 300 friars in the community; when he died there were 4,000. He returned to preaching the last two years of his life, dying in 1444 while traveling."

It is important to remember that "there is danger that we see only the whirlwind of activity in the Bernardines of faith—taking care of the sick, preaching, studying, administering, always driving—and forget the source of their energy." This single and only source, of course, is God Himself. St. Bernadine of Siena, Pray for us!

-A note concerning the celebration of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord: The Ecclesiastical Provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia have retained the Solemnity's celebration on the proper Thursday (this year, May 18). All other Provinces, including the Province of Chicago which the Diocese of Springfield is part of, have transferred the celebration of this Solemnity to the Seventh Sunday of Easter (this year, May 21).

Thus, as noted above, this coming Thursday, May 18, I will celebrate the memorial of St. John I at the 7:00 a.m. Mass

at Holy Family. The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated at both parishes next Sunday, May 21 (including the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening in anticipation of Sunday).

-NOVENA CONSIDERATION – As we prepare for the celebration of Pentecost (this year, May 28) you might consider beginning a novena of prayer and renewal on Friday, May 19, leading up to the celebration.

-RETIREMENTS – St. Mary School has two teachers retiring this year. Mrs. Mary Weronko, our Kindergarten teacher, has taught at St. Mary School for twenty-four years. Mrs. Jenni Obert, one of our Pre-K teachers, has taught at St. Mary School for ten years.

As part of their retirement celebration and recognition & gratitude for their work at the school, I will offer Mary and Jenni a special blessing at the 5:30 p.m. Mass this weekend (May 13) at Holy Family. Immediately following Mass, we will continue the celebration in the school cafeteria with some refreshments and an opportunity to visit with Mary and Jenni and all those present. Please come over and join us.

I want to personally extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mary and Jenni for their many of years of dedicated teaching in the school. They have impacted many young lives.

-MOTHER'S DAY – Today we celebrate Mother's Day. Though it is a secular celebration, we recognize the importance and beauty of all mothers, with our Blessed Mother being the model for all mothers. We recognize and honor those women who have cooperated with God to bring life into this world. And so, Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers. I will be offering a special blessing to all mothers at the Masses this weekend.

Certainly we recognize that there are some who are separated for a time here on earth from their mothers through earthly death. This can be difficult and challenging. Yet, we are mindful that we remain united to our deceased love ones through Christ. We

pray for the repose of their souls and for their eternal salvation.

-SCHOOL UPDATE – It's almost hard to believe but the last day of school for this school year at St. Mary's is this Wednesday, May 17. St. Mary School Graduation is Wednesday, May 24.

PSR is also concluding in both parishes for the school year.

May all of our students have a good and safe summer.

Remember, summer break doesn't mean that our learning stops nor does it mean that our faith life is suspended. Absolutely not! Your prayer life, your study, and your celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist each and EVERY Sunday is absolutely necessary. Do not allow the summer break to be used as an excuse to not do these things. I will see you all at Mass throughout the summer.

-“ALL GRADUATES MASS” – If there is a graduate from grade school, high school, or college, please join us for the Graduates' Mass. At Holy Family, this will be on Saturday evening, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. At St. Thomas, this will be on Sunday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.

-BABY BOTTLES – It is noted elsewhere in the bulletin but just a reminder that both parishes will have baby bottles available, like we've done in the past, this weekend (Mother's Day weekend). These are used as a fundraiser for Pregnancy Centers. Please take a bottle and fill it with donations of cash, coins, or checks and return the bottle on Father's Day (this year, June 18). Please make sure you return all bottles...even if it's one you found that you had from last year. Holy Family's collection will go to the Pregnancy Center in Rushville. St. Thomas' collection will go to CareNet in Quincy. Thank you in advance for your participation.

-SPECIAL USE ENVELOPES – I am working on preparing “special use envelopes” for each parish that I will place in the back of the church. Besides your regular support of the parishes through weekly contributions, I would encourage to prayerfully consider

how you might be able to help with additional financial support. This additional support is needed for a number of things. I will be expanding on those areas in future bulletins.

Just to give you an example of some of the needs:

At Holy Family, this Fiscal Year we have been able to retire an additional \$40,000 of outstanding debt that was quite aged. This is great. It did, however, impact our operating cash balance. Additionally, we still have about \$50,000 of significantly aged outstanding debt and \$30,000 of aged outstanding Diocesan invoices that we need to continue to work on. We have been making progress on all of this. Just three years ago when I first came, we had over \$110,000 in aged debt and nearly \$50,000 of aged unpaid Diocesan invoices. These numbers are not meant to startle you but to give you a real picture of where we are with things and to help explain some of the needs that these "special use" envelopes will cover.

At St. Thomas, we have to look at future upkeep needs such as roof work on both the church and hall. These will be significant but necessary expenses.

As always, if you would like to make a gift to the parish outside of your regular weekly support and want to talk with me about it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

-RESTORATION - Just a quick update on the exterior restoration work at Holy Family. Work continues and is coming along nicely. They have resumed masonry work on the bell tower which comprises the bulk of the remaining work. They will also be finishing gutter downspouts sometime soon. Painting also needs to be done and work on the doors. Again, the work is coming along nicely as you can see. We can really see it coming together. We have a bit more time to go but what a blessing we have in this restoration work.

Thank you for your past and continued support of this much needed project. As we near the end of this exterior work, we remain about \$250,000 short of designated

funds. The final invoices will be paid from regular operating support. If you'd like to make a contribution or an additional contribution to the project, please let me know or you can use the envelopes in the back of Holy Family Church and drop it in the collection basket.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. You remain in my prayers each day. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

Baby Bottle Boomerang

The kick off for the Holy Family Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser for the Pregnancy Resource Center will kick off on Mother's Day. Baby bottles will be distributed on May 13-14 and collected on Father's Day (June 17-18). There are a few options for contributing: take a bottle home, filling with change, and returning on Father's Day, or bringing a check, made out to the PRC Rushville instead of taking a bottle. Donations to the Center may be made in memory of a loved one. (Just fill out information on the form in the bottle.) Please only take a baby bottle if you plan to contribute and return the bottle. Also, if you have a baby bottle not returned from previous years, please return it. Every gift is much appreciated and brings hope and help to families in our community.

ST. MARY SCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER

We are nearing the end of the school year! Below are some dates in May that you may want to make a note of:

May 20: All Graduates Mass - 5:30 p.m.

May 24: SMS graduation - 7:00 p.m.

The last day of school will be May 17!



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