

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 22 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8; John 16:29-33

Communion Service

Tuesday, May 23 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a

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

Wednesday, May 24 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19

Mary Kleinlein
(By Jim & Rosanne Ray)

SMS Eighth Grade Graduation – 7:00 p.m.

At Holy Family

Thursday, May 25 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church; St.
Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin
Acts of the Apostles 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26

John Yeakel
(By Barb Lehne)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Jim Stout
(By Marilyn Stout)

Friday, May 26 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

St. Philip Neri, Priest
Acts of the Apostles 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19

Becky & Mike Metzger
(By Lora Decker)

Saturday, May 27 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Acts of the Apostles 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25

Deceased Members of the Dwight
Armstrong Family
(By Catherine Black)

Sunday, May 28 – 8:00 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday
Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13;
John 20:19-23

Jennifer Volk
(By Larry Volk)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 13-14, 2023

Holy Family: \$3,929.25

School Support: \$370.00

Sister Parish: \$237.00

Easter Holy Day: \$25.00

Operation Rice Bowl: \$10.00

Catholic Times: \$15.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 14, 2023

St. Thomas: \$1,834.00

Parish Improvement: \$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."

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

St. Thomas Graduates - Congratulations to all of our parishioners graduating this year!

Jonathan Foote is graduating from QUINCY University and will be continuing his studies in Dental School!

Carlie Goehl is graduating from Central High School. She will be attending Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and plans to major in either Occupational Therapy or Engineering.

We wish you and all the graduates much success on your journey!!

Seven Sisters Meditation - No one could have been a better priest than she was. She could say without hesitation, "This is my body", because she really did give Jesus her own body.

And yet Mary remained the simple handmaid of the Lord, so that we can always turn to her as our mother. She is one of us, and we are always united with her. After the death of her Son,

She continued to live on earth so as to strengthen the apostles in their ministry, to be their mother, until the young Church had taken shape. BL. Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997).

Pastoral Council minutes May 11, 2023 - Pat Sharow, Father Aaron, Janice Brady

Pastoral Council-An article was in the Catholic Times April 30 concerning the Eucharistic Congress event planned at the BOS Center in Springfield, Saturday, October 28. More information in the coming months. Some might want to consider getting a group together to go.

All Graduation mass St. Thomas May 21.
May 26 Transitional Deaconate Ordinations

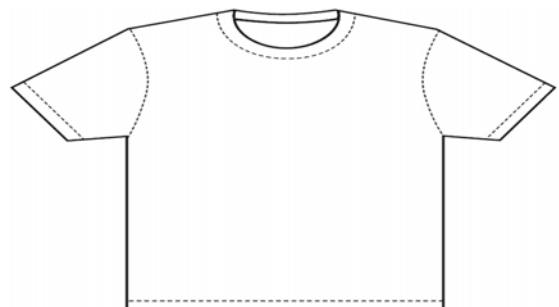
DRE- First Communion/Confirmation parish celebration Sunday June 4

Men and Women's- Men and Women planning to do ice cream and pie July 4 in Baily park

Buildings and Grounds- church parking lot, possible new roofs for church and hall, speakers in hall.

Next meeting Thursday June 8.

St. Thomas VBS T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST
Help us design our 2023 VBS Shirt



Things to know:

- Open to preschoolers to seniors in HS
- Design must include a drawing related to our theme of STELLAR and “2023,” “St. Thomas,” and “Shine Jesus’ Light”
- Only use black ink or black marker on white 8.5” x 11” paper
- Include your name and contact number on the BACK of the drawing
- Art will be judged by St. Thomas parishioners
- Due May 28 to Alicia Schmidt
- Contact Alicia, 217-257-3210, with any questions

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

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

May 28, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Denise Taylor
Greeters:	Matt & Laura Evans Family
Lector:	David Leezer
Gift Bearers:	Tod Perry Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Cathy Wagner
Collection Counters:	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Ushers:	Denny Campbell, John Brady

From the Pastor's Desk

In most Dioceses in the United States the Church celebrates the Ascension of the Lord today. The transfer of the celebration of the Ascension to Sunday occurred a number of years ago. Our celebration today and our readings for the day remind us that Jesus has prepared the way for us and sent the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Today's celebration of the Ascension of the Lord comes between two other

significant moments in the life the Church. A few weeks ago, we celebrated the greatest day on the liturgical calendar, the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter). Next week we will celebrate another important event for the Church, the Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost).

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, may we, by God's grace, have all that St. Paul prayed for: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give us a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of Him. May the eyes of our hearts be enlightened, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in His inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power for us who believe.

And now just a few notes:

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, May 22 - Optional memorial of St. Rita of Cascia, Religious. Rita was born in 1381. She lived with a brutal husband and had two sons. After the violent murder of her husband, she urged forgiveness in contrast to the customary vendetta of her day. Becoming an Augustinian nun, she spent some forty years in prayer, contemplation, and service to the sick and poor. Toward the end of her life, she received a wound from a thorn from the crown of thorns. She died in 1457 and is the patron saint of those in desperate situations. St. Rita of Cascia, Pray for us!

-Thursday, May 25 - Optional memorials of St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church, St. Gregory VII, Pope, and St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin

St. Bede, of the Order of St. Benedict is known as the “Father of English History” wrote Scriptural expositions, commentaries, and homilies. He was called “venerable” while still living. He died in 735. St. Bede the Venerable, Pray for us!

St. Gregory VII, also of the Order of St. Benedict, championed reform of the clergy against simony, clerical marriage, and lay investiture, leading to the

excommunication of Henry IV. He is also known for expanding the authority of the Holy See. St. Gregory VII died in 1085. St. Gregory VII, Pray for us!

St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi was a Carmelite mystic of Florence who led a hidden life of prayer and self-denial, praying particularly for the renewal of the Church and encouraging her fellow sisters in holiness. She was also instrumental in the reform of her order. She died in 1607. St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Pray for us!

-Friday, May 26 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Philip Neri, Priest. St. Philip Neri founded the Congregation of Priests of the Oratory (C.O.) which numbers about 550 members today. Its purpose is to promote holiness of priestly life and to foster effective preaching. Noted for his joyful and simple spirit and his use of short, wise maxims, St. Philip Neri was known as the "Apostle of Rome" and "Reformer of the Eternal City." He died in 1595. St. Philip Neri has special significance to me as I will share a bit later on. St. Philip Neri, Pray for us!

-Saturday, May 27 - Optional memorial of St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop. St. Augustine was a monk of Mt. Coelius in Rome and was sent with forty other monks by Pope Gregory I to England. He was ordained a bishop in 597 and established the Sees of Canterbury, London, and Rochester. In 601 he received the pallium as Primate of England. He died in the year 604 or 605. St. Augustine of Canterbury, Pray for us!

-DAY OF PRAYER - In May 2007, Pope Benedict XVI asked that May 24 be observed as a Day of Prayer for the Church in China. This day was chosen as it is the traditional Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, venerated at the Shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai. And so, on this day, I ask you to pray in a special way for the Church in China.

-TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATION - Friday evening, May 26, Bishop Paprocki will ordain 3 men as Transitional Deacons at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. A

Transitional Deacon, in contrast to a Permanent Deacon (like our own Deacon Mike and Deacon Paul), is anticipated to be ordained to the Priesthood next year. This is quite a joyous celebration for the Church and especially for our Diocese. Please keep the three men being ordained for our Diocese in your prayers as well as all those being ordained in the weeks to come. The men being ordained for our Diocese are Daniel McGrath, Alex McCullough, and Jayke White.

-WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS - Kraig and Sarah Haukapp and their daughter Kolbe recently joined St. Thomas Parish. We welcome the Haukapps to our parish and are filled with great joy to have you with us.

-ANNIVERSARY - Friday, May 26 marks the Five Year Anniversary of my Sacred Ordination to Priesthood. The Priesthood of Jesus Christ that I have been called to participate in has filled me with great joy. I am so very grateful to be the Pastor here at Holy Family and St. Thomas. I am also very grateful for the many people who have supported me and my Vocation to the Priesthood and for the countless people who have helped to form me and continue to do so.

I am especially grateful to my family and especially my parents. They indeed were the first teachers of the faith for me (and my siblings), as parents should always be, and gently supported and nurtured my vocation sometimes in the most subtle ways. The beautiful lives they lived and the sacrifices they made, all with Christ at the center, is a great example and model for me.

I ask each of you also for your continued prayers. Please also keep all priests in your prayers as many of them celebrate anniversaries this month. Additionally, continue to pray for good and holy vocations.

As I mentioned before, I was ordained on the Memorial of St. Philip Neri and thus the significance of this saint in my own life and in my Priesthood. St. Philip Neri was known for his humor and his joy and I pray that I may always share in that joy of the Priesthood with St. Philip Neri.

I am hoping to have a little celebration sometime later to celebrate my Five Year Anniversary.

-VIRTUE AND THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - Some time ago, a priest wrote a series of articles for Catholic Answers concerning the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and relating them to the Virtues. I found the series of articles to be very good. As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost and as some of our young people prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, I wanted to share these articles over the next few weeks. I am primarily taking them as they were written. They are divided up by the gifts of the Holy Spirit with the first being an overview. And so, for the next several weeks, I hope to share these articles with you here. Again, they are excellent articles and very much worth the time for each of us to read and pray over.

“What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? As a pastor, I fear that many people, no matter their ages, who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation know that they have received the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but never really appreciate them, or we could say, enact them. In the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop (or his delegate) prays, extending his hands over the confirmandi, “All powerful God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.” Then, the bishop confirms each candidate, making the Sign of the Cross with Holy Chrism on his forehead, while saying, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” This prayer reflects the importance of Confirmation: “It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of Baptismal grace. For ‘by the Sacrament of Confirmation, (the

baptized) are more perfectly bound to the church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed” (Catechism, No.1285).

The revelation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is rooted in the prophecy of Isaiah: “But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord” (Is 11:1-3). Given this basis, traditionally the seven gifts are listed as: fear of the Lord, piety, knowledge, understanding, counsel, wisdom, and fortitude. Note that while the Hebrew text of Isaiah lists only six gifts, with fear of the Lord being mentioned twice, the Greek Septuagint and Latin Vulgate translations list seven, adding “piety” and eliminating the repetition of “fear of the Lord.” Moreover, in the Old Testament, seven is the number of perfection, plenitude and covenant.

While the prophecy of Isaiah pertains specifically to the coming Messiah, the tradition of the Church is that these gifts were poured forth abundantly upon the apostles at Pentecost. Our Lord had promised that He would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit, whom He identified as the Advocate and the Spirit of truth. (Cf. Jn 15-16.) Empowered by these gifts, the apostles carried on the mission of the Lord: to preach the Gospel, to make disciples of all the nations, to baptize, and to teach everything He had commanded (Cf. Mt 28:18-20).

These gifts are extended to all of the faithful through the Sacraments of Baptism and especially Confirmation (Catechism, No.1303). For example, St. Ambrose in “De mysteriis” taught, “Recall, then, that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God’s presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked

you with His sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed His pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts” (7, 42). The faithful are reminded of the bestowal of these gifts in the Mass of Pentecost. In the Sequence, we pray, “On the faithful, who adore and confess You evermore in Your sevenfold gift descend; give them virtue’s sure reward; give them Your salvation, Lord; give them joys that never end.”

We use the term “gifts of the Holy Spirit” because the Holy Spirit graciously bestows them. Therefore, they are supernatural gifts operating in a supernatural mode or manner. These are not gifts one simply invokes in times of emergency; rather, these gifts are present to the person as long as he remains in a state of sanctifying grace. As such, these gifts help a person attain sanctification and bring to perfection virtues, both the theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity) and the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance). The idea here is that these gifts help a person to share in the very life and nature of God, now in this life and for eternal life. In this sense, as St. Thomas Aquinas asserted, they are in the fullest sense “habits,” from the Latin “habitus,” signifying their indwelling presence and operation. The Catechism underscores this point: “The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit. ...they complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations” (No.1830-31).

Therefore, as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, and in light of the new evangelization called for by both St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict,...we must pray for a reigniting of these gifts. As Pope Paul VI taught, “The oxygen-rich breath of the Spirit came to arouse drowsy energies in the Church, to awaken charisms which were asleep, to infuse that sense of vitality and joy which is at all times the mark of the church being young and up-to-date, ready,

and happy to re-announce Her eternal message to the new times.” Yes, we must pray that the Holy Spirit will set our hearts on fire with the love of the Holy Trinity so that each of us, who has been baptized and confirmed, can fully live the Gospel message and carry on the mission of the church in accord with our particular vocation.

The next article to come is titled “What is the Fear of the Lord?”

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

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



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