

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, June 26 – 7:00 a.m.

Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 7:1-5

Communion Service

Tuesday, June 27 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Genesis 13:2, 5-18; Matthew 7:6, 12-14

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Wednesday, June 28 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Matthew 7:15-20

Mary Klingele Ahmed
(By Rodney & Sue Flynn and Family)

Thursday, June 29 – 7:00 a.m.

Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles
Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18;
Matthew 16:13-19

Charlie & Norma Koch Family
(By Charlie Koch)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

JoAnne Welty Ferrill

Friday, June 30 – 8:30 a.m.

The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Matthew 8:1-4

Amy Ormond Lucky
(By Elaine Schrieber)

Saturday, July 1 – 8:00 a.m.

St. Junipero Serra, Priest
Genesis 18:1-15; Matthew 8:5-17

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Sunday, July 2 – 8:00 a.m.

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11;
Matthew 10:37-42

Aaron Koch
(By Barb Lehne)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Janet Harper
(By Jim & Fritzi Harper)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

June 17-18, 2023

Holy Family: \$5,657.00

School Support: \$215.00

Sister Parish: \$35.00

Catholic Communications: \$10.00

Retired Diocesan Priests: \$20.00

Peter's Pence: \$25.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

June 18, 2023

St. Thomas: \$1,429.00

Candle Money: \$19.00

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."
- ❖ **Red Cross Blood Drive:** The need for blood by patients being treated for accidents, routine surgeries, cancer, heart disease, and hemophilia is ongoing and must be met every day. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the **Legion Hall** on **Wednesday, June 28, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Appointments are recommended but walk ins are welcome.

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 † Dan Ray †

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Dave Wear who passed away. 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

Bottles for the Baby Bottle Blitz for CareNet of Quincy, which ended Father's Day, June 18, can be turned in at the back of church.

4th of July Ice Cream at the Park - We'll be serving ice cream at Bailey Park on the 4th of July. We will be freezing the ice cream on July 1. Lots of help will be needed that day and also on the 4th. There are sign-up sheets at the back of church for helping and for making pies or brownies.

Gallon Ice Cream Containers Needed - Please save any gallon ice cream containers that you have. We need them for both the 4th of July and for our ice cream social on August 20. If you can donate them, please bring them to the back of church (cloak room) or to the parish hall. We appreciate your help. Thank you!



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! Register TODAY!

Vacation Bible School at St. Thomas will be held the July 6-8. On July 6 and July 7, VBS will be from 5:30-7:30. We will serve the participants dinner at 5:30. On July 8, VBS will be from 9:00-4:00. Lunch and snacks will be provided. A mass will follow at 4 p.m. for all families of VBS and the parish. After mass, we will have a cookout, and the VBS kids will sing some of the songs they learned.

Children entering preschool - 5th grade are welcome to attend VBS. Children entering 6th - 12th grade are welcome as Crew Leaders. Please register both campers and crew leaders.

A \$10 donation for each child to cover some of the cost of VBS is suggested. It is only a suggestion and not required.

Please consider serving in one of the many volunteer roles. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Alicia Schmidt at 217-257-3210.

Please direct questions or concerns to Alicia Schmidt, 217-257-3210 or a_ordner@hotmail.com.

Register at:

<https://forms.gle/yY4yzOa591Uxovdv9>.

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Times. Our readings today remind us that we have been saved by the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Thus, for those who follow the Lord and His commands, we need not fear those who can take away our mortal life for the Lord will protect and defend us unto life everlasting.

As I mentioned last week, I am away from the parishes this weekend. I thank Fr. Dominic Vahling for covering the Masses at both parishes.

And now just a few notes:

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Tuesday, June 27 – Optional memorial of St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. St. Cyril of Alexandria defended Mary as “God-bearer” at the Council of Ephesus in 431 against the Nestorians. He was known to be a spokesman for orthodoxy and is noted especially for his Christological formulations. He is also known to have supported the growth of Egyptian Monasticism. He died in the year 444. St. Cyril of Alexandria, Pray for us!

-Wednesday, June 28 – Obligatory Memorial of St. Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr. Irenaeus was Bishop of Lyons for twenty-five years. He wrote against the Gnostics, was the first to provide a coherent rationale for a Christian Bible including both Testaments, and the first to offer a comprehensive account of belief in God’s universal providential and redemptive economy. He died a Martyr around the year 202. St. Irenaeus, Pray for us!

From Franciscan Media: “The Church is fortunate that Irenaeus was involved in many of its controversies in the second century. He was a student, well trained no doubt, with great patience in investigating, tremendously protective of apostolic

teaching, but prompted more by a desire to win over his opponents than to prove them in error.

A deep and genuine concern for other people will remind us that the discovery of truth is not to be a victory for some and a defeat for others. Unless all can claim a share in that victory, truth itself will continue to be rejected by the losers, because it will be regarded as inseparable from the yoke of defeat. And so, confrontation, controversy and the like might yield to a genuine united search for God’s truth and how it can best be served.”

-Thursday, June 29 – Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles.

St. Peter was a Galilean fisherman and “spokesman” for the Twelve. Two Letters in Sacred Scripture are ascribed to him. He was martyred around the year 64 in Rome under Nero and is the patron of those in the fishing industry. St. Peter, pray for us!

St. Paul was a Pharisee who became the “Apostle of the Gentiles.” Many of his letters are found in Sacred Scripture and his letters can be dated to around the years 50-65. He was martyred in Rome around the year 67. St. Paul, Pray for us!

St. Peter and St. Paul both are the principal patrons of Rome and are mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

From Franciscan Media”...(Peter) is perhaps a more striking example of the simple fact of holiness. Jesus says to us as He said, in effect, to Peter: “It is not you who have chosen Me, but I who have chosen you. Peter, it is not human wisdom that makes it possible for you to believe, but My Father’s revelation. I, not you, build My Church.” Paul’s experience of the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus was the driving force that made him one of the most zealous, dynamic, and courageous ambassadors of Christ the Church has ever had. But persecution, humiliation, and weakness became his day-by-day carrying of the cross, material for further

transformation. The dying Christ was in him; the living Christ was his life.”

-Friday, June 30 – Optional memorial of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church. Those many Christians who were tortured, crucified, and burned alive in the year 64 in Nero’s garden on the Vatican Hill are honored today. Both the pagan writer Tacitus and Pope St. Clement I testify to these events. Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church, Pray for us!

From Franciscan Media: “Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did, and many of those who began to follow Him shared His suffering and death. But no human force could stop the power of the Spirit unleashed upon the world. The blood of martyrs has always been, and will always be, the seed of Christians.”

-Saturday, July 1 – In the United States, optional memorial of St. Junipero Serra, Priest. Junipero Serra was a Franciscan Missionary who established nine of the California missions and baptized over 6,000 Native peoples. He is recognized as a builder of California and “an exemplary model of the selfless evangelizer.” He died in 1784. St. Junipero Serra, Pray for us!

-BAPTISM – On Saturday, June 19, I baptized Adelaide Jo Ruholl at Holy Family during the Saturday evening Vigil Mass ... always a joyous occasion! Adelaide is the infant daughter of Drew and Hannah Ruholl. Congratulations to Adelaide and her family and welcome to Holy Family Parish.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION – Saturday, July 1 is First Saturday and so we will have Nocturnal Adoration at Holy Family beginning at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday night and going through the night until 7:45 a.m. Sunday morning. Benediction is at 7:45 a.m. on Sunday morning followed by our regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Mass.

-POPE’S INTENTION – The Holy Father’s intention for July is for a Eucharistic life. We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of

their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and with all their brothers and sisters.

-NORBERTINE WELCOME – On Saturday, July 1, a Mass will be offered in Springfield to welcome the Norbertine Fathers and commemorate the establishment of Corpus Christi Priory in Springfield. I am planning to go but because of seating limitations, it is not open to the public. I hope to share more information with you concerning the Norbertines. The Order is a great addition to our Diocese.

-BIRTHDAY – Saturday, July 1 is my birthday. As I’ve mentioned before, many of us don’t necessarily like to make a big deal of it, including myself, but our birthdays are important and we recognize the great gift of life that God has given to us and the many gifts that He fills our life with.

-ICE CREAM – Just a reminder, St. Thomas is continuing to prepare for the upcoming ice cream and pie in the park in Camp Point on Independence Day and their annual ice cream social in August. Sign-up sheets to help and to bring desserts for July 4 are in the back of St. Thomas Church. If you have not already done so, please sign up.

There is also a need for gallon containers with lids. If you have some, please bring them to Church and leave them neatly in the back of church. If you bring them to Holy Family, I will make sure they get to St. Thomas.

-BABY BOTTLES – If you have not yet returned your baby bottle and/or contribution for the Pregnancy Centers, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your support of this important work.

-JULY 3 – At St. Thomas, we celebrate St. Thomas the Apostle as a Solemnity on Monday, July 3. I will be offering Mass at St. Thomas at 8:00 a.m. that day. Please plan to join us.

-VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Don't forget, Vacation Bible School at St. Thomas will be Thursday through Saturday, July 6-8; Thursday and Friday evening from 5:30 - 7:30 and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. There will be a Vigil Mass celebrated at 4:00pm on that Saturday followed by a cookout. Any questions, please contact Alicia Schmidt.

-PILGRIMAGE PROCESSION - To Fr. Tolton's Grave, Sunday, July 9; 4:00 p.m. at St. Peter's in Quincy; 4:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Cemetery in Quincy.

-EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS - Saturday, October 28 at the BOS Center in Springfield. If you'd like to go, please let me know as you will need a ticket through the parish. More information to follow but you can also refer to the Diocesan website and the Catholic Times. Please note that there will be no Saturday evening Vigil Mass at Holy Family on that day. Also, no funerals or weddings are allowed that day.

-VIRTUE AND THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - This week's article is titled "What is the Gifts of Understanding and Knowledge?" Again, I've taken the entirety of the article and present it here as it was originally written for Catholic Answers.

Having pondered the gifts of fear of the Lord, piety, and knowledge, we proceed to the gifts of understanding and wisdom. Please remember that the quoted definitions are from Father Jordan Aumann's *Spiritual Theology*.

Understanding is a gift "to give a deeper insight and penetration of divine truths held by faith, not as a transitory enlightenment but as a permanent intuition." Illuminating the mind to truth, the Holy Spirit aids a person to grasp the truths of faith easily and to penetrate the depths of those truths. Such illumination, grasping, and penetration allows one to enter a divine intimacy with the Lord.

Of course, this gift does not entail a complete understanding of the mysteries of faith, like fully comprehending the

mystery of the Holy Trinity or the Real Presence; rather, a person understands that these mysteries are credible; that they are compatible with and related to each other; and that they are not unreasonable although they may surpass reason.

The essential quality of this gift is a "penetrating intuition" — in a sense, the moving beyond the surface. This gift operates in several ways: first, disclosing the hidden meaning of sacred Scripture, as Our Lord did with the disciples on the way to Emmaus (Lk 24:13ff); second, revealing the significance of symbols and figures, like St. Paul seeing Christ as the Passover Lamb (Hebrews) or the image of the rock of the Exodus account that poured forth water to quench the thirst of the Israelites (I Cor 10:4); third, showing the hand of God at work in a person's life, even in the most mysterious or troublesome events, like suffering; and fourth, revealing the spiritual realities that underlie sensible appearances, like penetrating the mystery of the Lord's sacrifice in the offering of the Mass or recognizing the presence of Christ in the holy Eucharist, as did the peasant who said to St. John Vianney when asked about what he was doing while sitting in Church gazing at the tabernacle: "I look at Him, and He looks at me." This gift brings the virtue of faith to perfection. Accordingly, St. Thomas said, "In this very life, when the eye of the spirit is purified by the gift of understanding, one can in a certain way see God" (*Summa Theologiae* II-II, q. 69).

This gift also assists in understanding natural truths and the use of created things but through a lens of faith. While enjoying created things, a person understands that they not only attest to His majesty as the Creator but also are gifts from God to be used wisely. As such, a person understands that all of creation is passing and has a sense of detachment. Therefore, creation does not become an end in itself, or created things idols, but one understands they are gifts from Almighty God. Understanding, then,

moves a person always to be mindful to place God first in life, to be generous in helping others in need, and to reject what is useless. For example, some individuals may spend much time, even hours, on Facebook or texting, but neglect daily prayer; do they understand the fleeting satisfaction they crave will not gain for them the sustaining friendship with Our Lord and ultimately eternal life?

Given the gifts of knowledge and understanding which perfect faith, the gift of wisdom perfects the virtue of charity. Wisdom empowers a person “to judge and order all things in accordance with divine norms and with a connaturality that flows from a loving union with God.” So while knowledge and understanding enable a person to know and to penetrate the divine truths, wisdom moves us to “fall in love” with them. The Holy Spirit aids the contemplation of divine things, enabling the person to grow in union with God.

This gift unites us to the heart of Jesus. Father Adolphe Tanquerey taught, “This, then, is the difference between the gift of wisdom and that of understanding, the latter is a view taken by the mind, while the former is an experience undergone by the heart; one is light, the other love, and so they united and complete one another. Wisdom, withal, remains the more perfect gift; for the heart outranges the intellect, it sounds greater depths, and grasps or divines what reason fails to reach. This is particularly the case with the saints, in whom love often surpasses knowledge” (The Spiritual Life, p. 630). For example, St. Therese of Lisieux (declared a doctor of the church), had no formal education in theology, and yet was wise to the ways of the Lord, a wisdom gained through prayer and simple acts of love offered to God.

While this gift contemplates the divine, it also is a practical wisdom. It applies God’s ideas to judge both created and divine matter, thereby directing human acts according to divine wisdom. Therefore, a person will see and evaluate

all things — both joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, success and failure — from God’s point of view, and accept them with equanimity. With wisdom, all things, even the worst, are seen as having a supernatural value — for example, giving value to martyrdom. Here a person arises above the wisdom of this world, and lives in the love of God.

St. Paul captured well this gift of wisdom: “What we utter is God’s wisdom: a mysterious, a hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory. ...Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit. ...The Spirit we have received is not the world’s spirit but God’s Spirit, helping us to recognize the gifts He has given us. We speak of these, not in words of human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, thus interpreting spiritual things in spiritual terms. The natural man does not accept what is taught by the spirit of God. For him, that is absurdity. He cannot come to know such teaching because it must be appraised in a spiritual way. The spiritual man, on the other hand, can appraise everything. We have the mind of Christ” (I Cor 2:6ff).

Or consider St. John’s first epistle: “God is love. Everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. ...He who abides in love, abides in God, and God in him. Our love is brought to perfection in this, that we should have confidence on the day of judgment; for our relation to this world is just like His. Love has no room for fear; rather, perfect love casts out all fear” (I Jn 4:7, 17-18).

Thank you for your continued prayers and support and be assured of my prayers for you.

-Fr. Aaron

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RANDY E. FRESE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
94TH DISTRICT
3701 E. Lake Centre Drive, Suite 3
Quincy, Illinois • 217-223-0833
repfrese@adams.net

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Cell: 217-430-2865

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