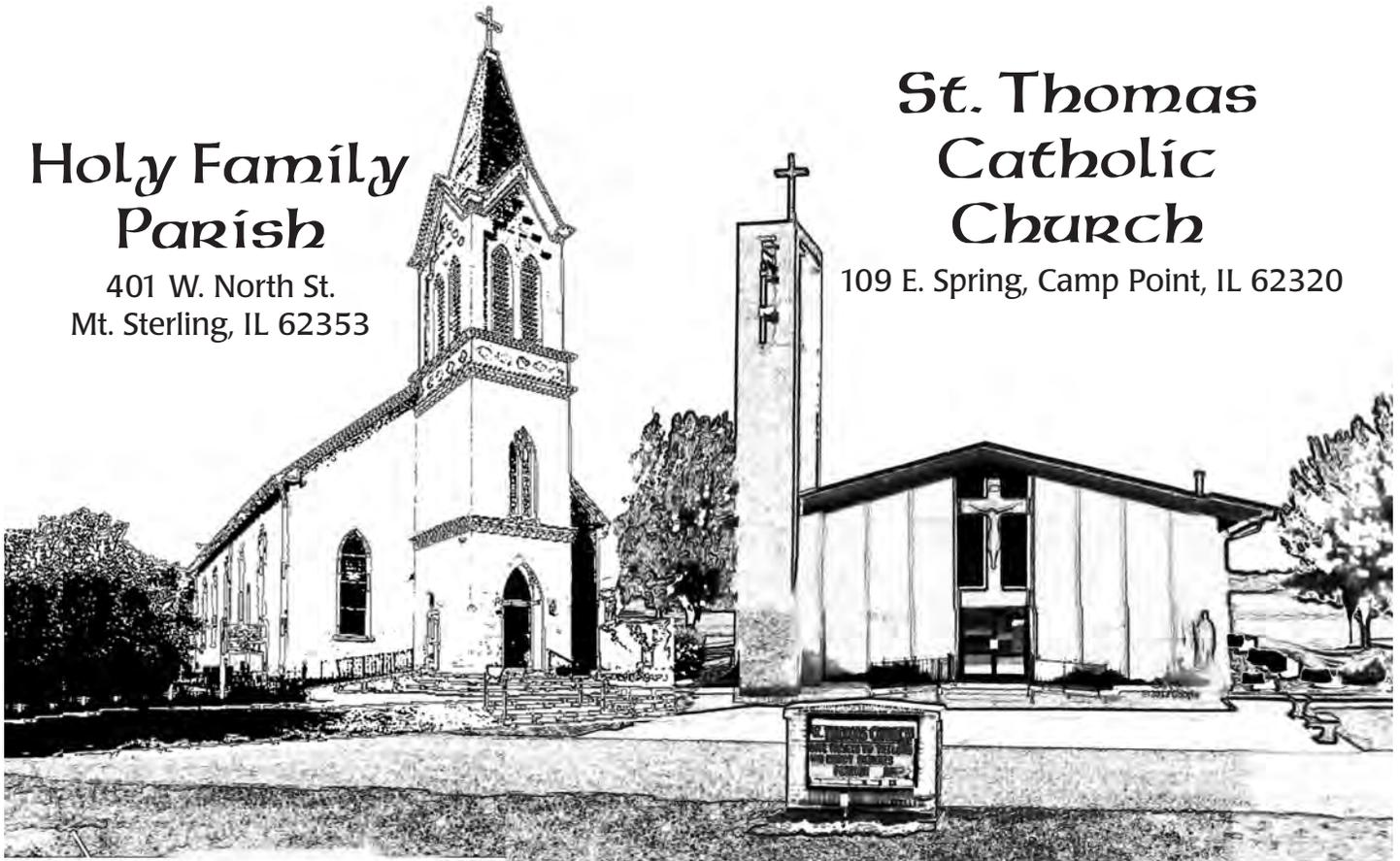


# Holy Family Parish

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, July 3 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Thomas, Apostle  
Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29

Communion Service

### St. Thomas – 8:00 a.m.

Jon Faubel (dec.) & His Family  
(By Ray & Teresa Bockhold)

### Holy Family – 5:30 p.m.

For Favorable Weather

### Tuesday, July 4 – 7:00 a.m.

Genesis 19:15-29; Matthew 8:23-27

James G. & Norma Wort  
(By the Children)

### St. Thomas – 8:30 a.m.

Tom & Barb Kuhn  
(By Mary Fischer)

### Wednesday, July 5 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest  
Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34

Paul, Frances & Larry Schenk  
and Ruth James  
(By Bob & Judy Schenk & Family)

### St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

For Favorable Weather

### Thursday, July 6 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr  
Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8

Jack Logsdon  
(By the Family)

### St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

David & Esther Coggeshall  
(By Pat Sharow)

### Friday, July 7 – 8:30 a.m.

Genesis 23:1-4; 19: 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13

Beth Clark  
(By Jim & Marilyn Wort)

### FIRST FRIDAY - ST. THOMAS – 6:00 p.m.

Danny Seals  
(By Pauline Seals)

### Saturday, July 8 – 4:00 p.m.

#### St. Thomas

Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29; Matthew 9:14-17

Jim Stout  
(By Robin & Claudia Coggeshall)

### Holy Family – 5:30 p.m.

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Profession of  
Sr. JoAnn Volk, SSND  
(By John & Rosemary Holler & Family)

### Sunday, July 9 – 8:00 a.m.

Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9, 11-13;  
Matthew 11:25-30

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Jerry Gunn  
(By the Gunn Family)

#### HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

June 24-25, 2023

Holy Family: \$2,212.00  
School Support: \$150.00  
Sister Parish: \$5.00  
Cemetery: \$125.00  
Peter's Pence: \$232.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

#### ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

June 25, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,450.00  
Sister Parish: \$55.00  
Peter's Pence: \$130.00

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 - Tuesday - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 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 † Irene Norkus †  
Boone Holden † Sean Fink † Dan Ray †  
Elijah Craig † Julie Ray Radel † Joan Zurita †

## ST. THOMAS

**Gallon Ice Cream Containers Needed** - Please save any gallon ice cream containers that you have. We need them 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 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](mailto:a_ordner@hotmail.com).

Register at:

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

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

**July 9, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.**

<b>Sacristan:</b>	Denise Taylor
<b>Greeters:</b>	Butch & Dorothy Obert
<b>Lector:</b>	Kim Gronewold

**Gift Bearers:** Matt & Laura Evans  
Family  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Jim Clausius  
**Collection Counters:** Jerel Mock Family  
**Ushers:** Jacob Schmidt, Maurice Schmidt

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

Today the Church celebrates the Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Our readings today remind us that if we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him. The Lord invites us to take up our cross and follow Him and to respond to those who are in need, as did the woman who extended hospitality to Elisha the prophet. It's not always easy, that is so very true but may we accept the Lord's invitation so as to live the holiness of life that the Lord calls us to.

#### **-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:**

-Monday, July 3 - Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (celebrated as a Solemnity in the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle; see below for more information on that). Thomas, one of the Twelve, is perhaps best known as "doubting Thomas." But we have to remember that his doubt gave way to faith when he saw the Risen Lord. We too can sometimes doubt and we pray that any doubt that may come upon us may give way to faith in the Risen Christ. Thomas is associated with founding the Church in south India. He is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). He was martyred in the First Century and is patron of builders, India, and Pakistan. St. Thomas the Apostle, Pray for us!

-Wednesday, July 5 - Optional memorial of St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest and, in the United States of America, St. Elizabeth of Portugal.

Anthony Zaccaria lived in the sixteenth century and was a doctor turned priest. He was a popular preacher who, in 1530 in Milan, founded the Clerics Regular of St. Paul for the reform of society which today numbers about 375 members. He was known to seek collaboration between

the clergy and the laity and to promote frequent Communion. He died in 1539 at Cremona at the age of thirty-six. St. Anthony Zaccaria, Pray for us!

Elizabeth of Portugal was named after her great aunt, St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She was a queen and mother, lover of the poor, and peacemaker in the royal family. She died in 1336 and is the patroness of Catholic charities. The optional memorial of St. Elizabeth of Portugal is perpetually transferred from July 4 to July 5 in the United States of America. St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Pray for us!

-Thursday, July 6 - Optional memorial of St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr. Born near Ancona, Maria Goretti was stabbed to death in 1902 at the age of twelve, preferring to die than to be raped. Canonized in 1950, her mother was present for her canonization. It was the largest crowd ever assembled in Rome for a canonization. St. Maria Goretti is the patroness of teenage girls. St. Maria Goretti, pray for us!

-JULY 3 - As I noted in last week's bulletin, 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.

-INDEPENDENCE DAY - Tuesday, July 4 marks Independence Day for our Country. While this is a secular celebration and not a Liturgical Celebration, we recognize the importance of our Independence as a country. We recognize the freedoms that we are afforded, hopefully with a correct understanding of freedom. We recognize too those who have worked to protect that independence. Above all, we give praise and thanks to God, the Creator of all that is good!

I will be celebrating Mass at both parishes on Tuesday, July 4...7:00 a.m. at Holy Family and 8:30 a.m. at St. Thomas. As you celebrate Independence Day, I encourage you to start the day by joining us for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I

cannot think of a better way to begin the day.

**-MASSES FOR FAVORABLE WEATHER -**  
At the time of my writing this, our need for rain is becoming serious. I will be offering an additional special Mass at each parish this week for the intention of favorable weather especially for our farmers and for rain. I will expose the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration about an hour and fifteen minutes before the start of each Mass as well and include Benediction.

Mass at Holy Family offered for this intention will be Monday evening, July 3 at 5:30 p.m.

Mass at St. Thomas offered for this intention will be Wednesday, July 5 at 5:30 p.m.

I recognize that there are likely many "holiday" activities planned but I do hope you will take some time to join us for one or both of these Masses and to spend some time in Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament for this need.

**-ICE CREAM -** Another 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.

**-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 4:00 p.m. on that Saturday (July 8) followed by a cookout. If you have not signed up for the cookout, please do so in the back of

Church this weekend. The Mass, of course, and the cookout is for the entire parish. If you miss the sign-up for the cookout, please reach out to Alicia Schmidt. Any questions, please contact Alicia.

**-FIRST FRIDAY -** Friday, July 7 is First Friday and so we will be having our First Friday Devotions at St. Thomas. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be at Noon with Adoration continuing until 5:45 p.m. Benediction will be at 5:45 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. Confession will be available from 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. As always, I encourage everyone to spend some time in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

**-CONFESSIONS NEXT SATURDAY -**  
Since I will be offering a Vigil Mass next Saturday evening at St. Thomas, there will be no confessions at Holy Family at the usual time. I will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Thomas from 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. next Saturday, July 8. You can, of course, contact me anytime to meet for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I am more than happy to celebrate the Sacrament with you at any time.

As a side note, the regularly scheduled Vigil Mass at Holy Family at 5:30 p.m. will be celebrated as usual next Saturday evening (July 8) as well.

**-BABY BOTTLES -** Last Call...If you have not yet returned your baby bottle and/or contribution for the Pregnancy Centers, please do so right away.

**-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.

-SUPREME COURT DECISION - Just over a year ago, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade which had legalized the murder of millions of children. The overturning of Roe v. Wade is significant and we give praise and thanks to God for that decision. Still, there is much work to be done, especially in our own state of Illinois, in order to protect all human life in all stages. I repeat what I said last year at this time:

There is much to be said concerning the sanctity of life. Let me just say this for now...Human life begins at the moment of conception and all human life must be protected. We must continue to work for and pray for the respect and dignity of all human life in all stages. We must continue to promote, recognize, and witness to the sanctity of all human life in all stages. All human life must be legally protected. Again, the overturning of Roe v. Wade is a step in the right direction as we continue our work and prayer for life.

It is sad that violence has erupted in some parts of the country over this. That violence really stems not from the decision of the Supreme Court but from the lack of dignity for human life, a self-centered approach to living, a dismissal of our call to live a chaste and holy life, an incorrect understanding of freedom, and the fear of having to face the reality of these things.

Again, there is much to be said. I ask you to seriously enter into prayer and sacrifice more fully and deliberately in regards to life and to continue the work to protect all human life in all stages. That work remains. May our Blessed Mother and all the Saints help us to persevere in protecting the dignity of all human life in all stages.

-VIRTUE AND THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - This week's article is titled "What are the Gifts of Counsel and Fortitude?" This is the last in a series of articles that I've been sharing over the past

several weeks. Again, I've taken the entirety of the article and present it here as it was originally written for Catholic Answers.

"We now continue with the last two gifts of the Holy Spirit: counsel and fortitude.

The gift of counsel is "to render the individual docile and receptive to the counsel of God regarding one's actions in view of sanctification and salvation." Primarily, this gift enables a person to judge individual acts as good and ought to be done, or as evil and ought to be avoided. Aiding the virtue of prudence, the Holy Spirit not only makes our heart docile to search for the truth (as taught by the Church) and to accept it, but also helps us to remember and learn from past events. The counsel given pertains to one's own personal sanctification and ultimate supernatural end. Therefore, this gift prompts the person to ask himself, "Is this act true to Christ and the teachings of this Church? Does this act lead to or strengthen holiness? Will this act lead to heaven?" Therefore, the gift of counsel enlightens a person to know what must be done at this particular time, place and circumstance; it also enlightens us to counsel others who ask for advice and direction.

Clearly, the gift of counsel perfects the virtue of prudence; however, while the virtue of prudence operates in accord with reason as enlightened by faith, this gift operates under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, the counsel given may be that about which reason would not be able to give an explanation. As Our Lord said to the Apostles, "When they hand you over, do not worry about what you will say or how you will say it. When the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say. You yourselves will not be the speakers; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you" (Mt 10:18-20).

For example, St. Catherine of Siena, although very young and without any great

training, counseled, even admonished, Popes Gregory XI and Urban VI. As a priest, I have been asked to give advice or provide spiritual direction to individuals. Oftentimes, when I am finished, I am “surprised” at myself and can only say, “Thank you, Holy Spirit.” Also, when preparing a homily, I pray to the Holy Spirit to help me know what I need to preach to my people and what will benefit them.

To cultivate this gift, a person should pray for the help of the Holy Spirit (in particular for the gifts of knowledge and understanding). Also, continued study of sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church, especially in the moral issues of the day, provide fuel for this gift.

The gift of fortitude, our last gift to consider, enables a person “to overcome difficulties or to endure pain and suffering with the strength and power infused by God.” Through fortitude, the Holy Spirit inspires and energizes a person to undertake great things joyfully and without fear despite obstacles.

As with the other gifts, fortitude operates under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, so it perfects the virtue of fortitude, charging it with energy, endurance, perseverance and promptness. It strengthens a person to resist evil, to overcome luke warmness and persevere to everlasting life. Moreover, it brings a confidence of success and certain hope, despite the most difficult circumstances.

For example, St. Maximilian Kolbe not only had great fortitude to offer his life promptly in exchange for another and to endure a horrible death, but also had the confidence of success that he would overcome the powers of evil and gain everlasting life. Blessed Teresa of Kolkata generously spent her life and persevered in her work among “the poorest of the poor,” day in and day out, despite dangers, weariness and overwhelming circumstances.

The gift of fortitude enables the individual to live the other virtues heroically. So, a person can cultivate this virtue by recognizing one’s own weaknesses and limitations, begging for the gift of fortitude, and relying on the strength of Our Lord Jesus Himself.

Second, we need the strength and nourishment of the Holy Eucharist. St. John Chrysostom said, upon receiving Holy Communion, “Let us return from that table as lions breathing fire, terrible to the devil,” meaning to go forth not with fear, but with hearts afire with the love of the Lord Himself.

Thirdly, we can foster the gift of fortitude by keeping to a spiritual regimen: taking time to pray throughout the day, including 15 minutes devoted to prayer and studying or doing spiritual reading for 15 minutes; making a confession monthly; attending Sunday Mass, and even daily Mass once a week; and making a regular, even daily, examination of conscience. Another part of this spiritual regimen would be to make a purposeful sacrifice daily (e.g. giving up a dessert or a drink or doing an act of charity), for a special intention, like the poor souls in purgatory or the Christians suffering persecution. If we can be faithful and do our duty in “little things,” more likely we will do the same in “big things.”

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are great gifts essential for our sanctification and salvation. Each baptized and confirmed Christian should implore the Holy Spirit to inflame his soul with these gifts. St. John Paul II said, “With gifts and qualities such as these, we are equal to any task and capable of overcoming any difficulties.”

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. You remain in my prayers. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

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**RANDY E. FRESE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
94TH DISTRICT  
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repfrese@adams.net

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