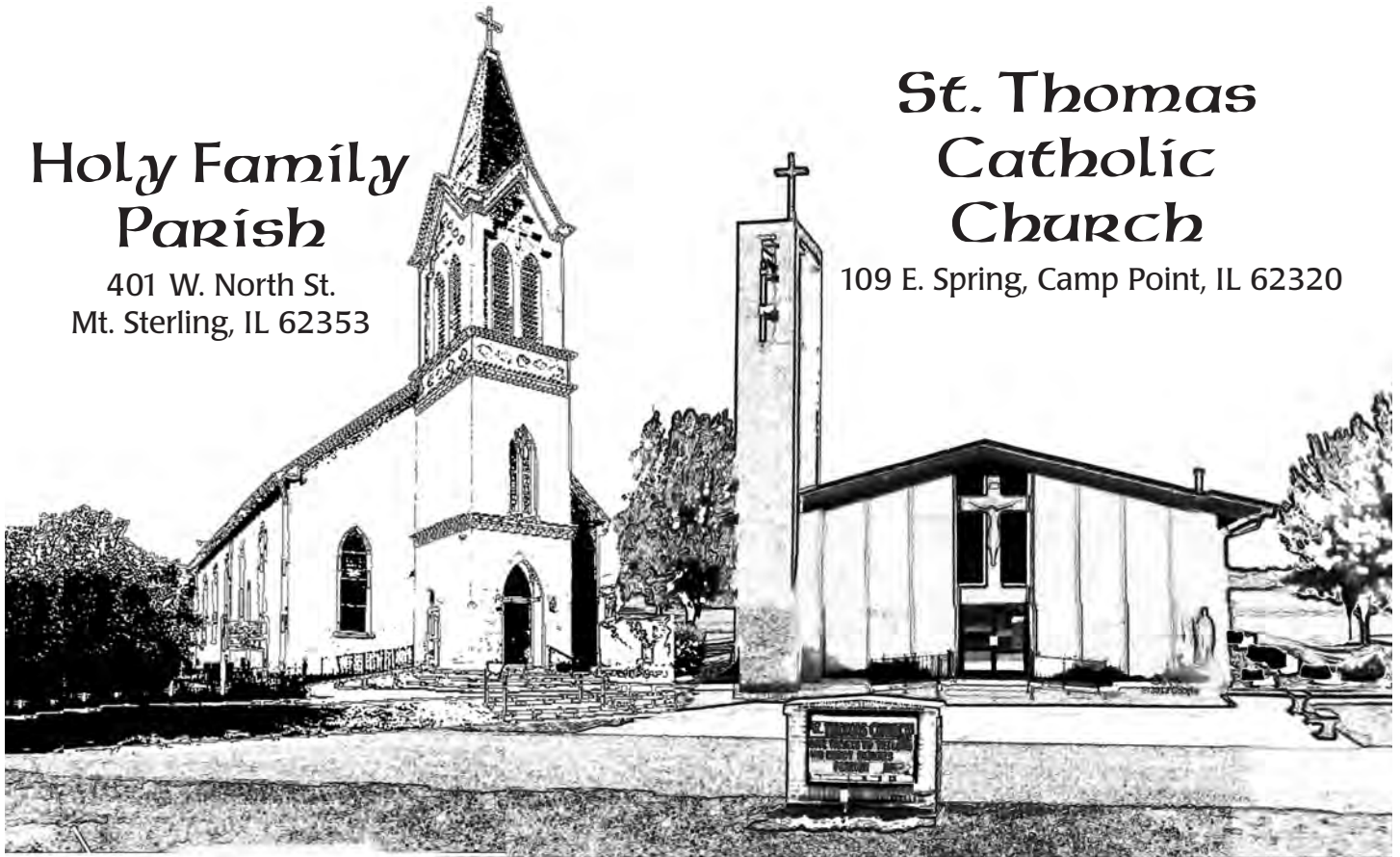


# Holy Family Parish

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, November 20 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43

Communion Service

### Tuesday, November 21 – 7:00 a.m.

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10

Lucille Wagner  
(By Richard Ryan)

### Tuesday, November 21 – 8:30 a.m.

**(School Mass)**

Father Aaron's Intentions

### Wednesday, November 22 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28

Jim McKeown  
(By Tammy)

### Thursday, November 23 – 7:00 a.m.

**AT HOLY FAMILY**

St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr; St. Columban Abbot;

Blessed Miquel Agustín Pro, Priest & Martyr

1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44

Charles Koch  
(By Patty Koch)

### St. Thomas – 8:30 a.m.

Larry Balzer  
(By Liz Balzer)

### Friday, November 24 – 8:30 a.m.

**(School Mass)**

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs

1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48

Tom and Barb Kuhn  
(By Norma Hufnagel)

### Saturday, November 25 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40

Aaron Koch  
(By Mary Kassing)

### Sunday, November 26 – 8:00 a.m.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28;

Matthew 25:31-46

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Martha Koettters  
(By Pat Sharow)

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 11-12, 2023

Holy Family: \$5,788.00

School Support: \$206.00

Sister Parish: \$290.00

All Saints: \$30.00

All Souls: \$20.00

Cemetery: \$655.00

Campaign For Justice & Hope: \$15.00

Debt Reduction: \$40.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 12, 2023

St. Thomas: \$1,979.00

Sister Parish: \$60.00

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:**

Dylan Hendricks † Bud Bordenkircher †  
Jeff Kozak † Jim Duvendack † Marilyn Clark †  
John Colgan †

## ST. THOMAS

**Pastoral Council November 9, 2023 -**

Fr. Aaron, Pat Sharow, Janice Brady,  
Claudia Coggeshall

Pastoral Council-Christmas Mass schedules  
discussed. Deacon Mike's Going Away Party  
Sunday, November 19 after 10:00 Mass

Men's and Women's- Parish Christmas Party  
Sunday, December 10 after 10:00 Mass

Buildings and Ground- Hall microphone and  
sound system are now working.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

***November 26, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.***

<b>Sacristan:</b>	Dawn Peters
<b>Greeters:</b>	Brent & Jenni Obert Family
<b>Lector:</b>	Karen Janssen
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn Family
<b>Eucharistic Minister:</b>	Clara Schmidt
<b>Collection Counters:</b>	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
<b>Ushers:</b>	John Brady, Denny Campbell

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. Our readings today remind us that those who use their gifts and talents in the service of one another, especially the poor and the needy, are blessed indeed. They shall be known as children of the light and will be ready for the Lord's return.

This sounds easy enough, but it is a tall order and sometimes very difficult for us. We need to reflect carefully on the gifts and blessings in our lives, all of which come from God and God alone and really consider

how we use those gifts. Even before that though, we have to recognize what those gifts are and recognize that God is the giver of all that is good. He desires us to be with Him, now and for all eternity. We cannot take this for granted but rather, we have to become more and more aware of our responsibility to know and respond to and cooperate with God's grace in our lives and to follow His commands and the Truth of Jesus Christ.

Again, God desires our Eternal Salvation, but it is no guarantee for any of us. May we come to know our responsibility in following the Lord day in and day out so as to prepare us for that Eternal Life.

**-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:**

**-Tuesday, November 21 - Obligatory Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

The Memorial celebrates the Presentation of Mary in the Temple by her parents, Anne and Joachim, and continues the impact, so to speak, of Mary's Immaculate Conception and Birth. It emphasizes the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond. The magnificence of Mary also enriches us who are Temples of God and sanctified in order that we might enjoy and share in God's saving work.

**-Mary, conceived without sin, Pray for us!**

**-Wednesday, November 22 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Cecelia, Virgin and Martyr. St. Cecelia is known from her legendary "Passio," a poem which exalts Christian virginity. She is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) and has been honored in Rome since the Fifth Century. She died a martyr in the Third Century and is the patroness of Sacred Music because of the song of God in her heart. St. Cecelia, Pray for us!**

**-Thursday, November 23 - Optional memorials of St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St. Columban, Abbot; in the United States, Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr.**

St. Clement I was the fourth Bishop of Rome, known for his epistle that he wrote to the Corinthians, and is mentioned in the Roman

Canon. He was martyred around the year 100 under Trajan. St. Clement I, Pray for us!

St. Columban (also known as Columbanus) was an Irish monk and missionary to France. He wrote a strict monastic rule and Penitential and founded several monasteries. He was exiled to Italy for denouncing court immorality and lax bishops. He died in 615 at Bobbio. St. Columban, Pray for us!

Blessed Miguel Pro was a Jesuit from Guadalupe, Mexico, noted for his sympathetic nature and firm piety. During Mexican religious persecution, he was accused of plotting against the government and was executed exclaiming "Long live Christ the King!" He died on November 23, 1927, at the age of thirty-six. Blessed Miguel Pro, Pray for us!

In the United States, Thanksgiving Day is also observed. While there is an option to use alternate readings and Propers, I will likely use the readings and Propers for one of the memorials.

-Friday, November 24 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs. During the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries in Vietnam, some 130,000 Christians suffered cruel martyrdom, many by decapitation or strangulation. This day's memorial remembers St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions, most of whom died between 1820 and 1883. All were canonized on June 19, 1988, by Pope St. John Paul II. St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Pray for us!

-Saturday, November 25 - Optional memorial of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr. St. Catherine of Alexandria was a learned woman of the early fourth century who, according to legend, following her conversion at the age of eighteen, preached the Gospel throughout Alexandria in Egypt. While imprisoned by the emperor Magnus Maximus, she converted both the empress and the leader of the armed forces. For this, she was martyred. There is a story that upon her death, after a wheel of torture (known as "Catherin's wheel") broke, her body was carried by angels to Mt. Sinai. St. Catherine is the patron saint of philosophers, preachers, and unmarried

women. St. Catherine of Alexandria, Pray for us!

-DEACON MIKE - Another reminder that Deacon Mike has been re-assigned to Blessed Sacrament parish in Quincy. He will certainly be missed, and I ask you to keep him and his family in your prayers especially in this transition. We are having a farewell gathering at each parish this weekend. At Holy Family, we will have a reception in the school cafeteria immediately after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, November 18. At St. Thomas, we are having a farewell gathering on Sunday, November 19 in the parish hall immediately following the 10 a.m. Mass. I hope that you will be able to join us one of these days.

-HOMEBOUND & NURSING HOME - Over the years, Deacon Mike has faithfully visited, nearly every week, our parishioners of both parishes who are homebound or in a nursing home. He has provided me with a list of names of those he has been seeing regularly. Deacon Paul, Matt Heldt, and I will be working together to try and make sure these folks are seen by one of us...our aim will be at least once a week. The Legion of Mary also does visits to our parishioners as well.

If you are aware of a homebound parishioner or a parishioner in a nursing home, please let me know so that I can make sure they are on the list. If you become aware of parishioner who is in the hospital, a nursing home, or becomes homebound, let me know that as well so that I can make sure we visit them.

-NO SCHOOL - There is no school at St. Mary School from Wednesday, November 22 through Sunday, November 26. Dismissal on Tuesday, November 21 is at 2:00 p.m. This serves as a small break for our teachers, staff, and students and an opportunity to spend time with family for Thanksgiving.

There will be an 8:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, November 21 with the school kids and teachers present before they head out for Thanksgiving break. I will also celebrate the regular 7:00 a.m. Mass that day. You are, of course, welcome to join us for either Mass.

Although there is no school on Friday, November 25, Mass will still be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. as usual.

-THANKSGIVING - As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, I want to wish each of you and your family a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. I will be celebrating Mass at both parishes that morning...7:00 a.m. at Holy Family and 8:30 a.m. at St. Thomas. I encourage you to make every effort to join us as we give praise and thanks to God for all the gifts and blessings in our lives that He alone has bestowed upon us. There will be no evening Mass or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas that day.

-ANNIVERSARY - Friday, November 24 would mark my parents' 61st wedding anniversary. As many of you know, dad died twelve years ago, and mom died almost two years ago. I miss them both beyond words. I thank God for the gift of my very life, my parents, and my family. I will be offering Mass for mom and dad on this day, and I encourage each of you to pray for those who have died and also to pray for good and holy vocations to Marriage, Single Life, and Priesthood & Religious Life and that within the great gift of family, all these vocations may be nurtured.

-NOVEMBER - A reminder that during the month of November especially, we remember and pray for the dead. Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

-THANK YOU - Thank you to all who helped make this year's Brown County Deer Classic a great success. No matter how you supported the event, thank you. All proceeds go to support St. Mary School.

It was quite an enjoyable evening, and it was good to see all the people there. I know a lot of work goes into planning and carrying out such an event so thank you.

-ADVENT - Ordinary Time and our Liturgical Year are coming to a close. Our new Liturgical Year begins in a couple of weeks with First Sunday of Advent, this year, December 3. Take time now to consider how you will spend the upcoming Season of Advent.

Next Sunday will be the final Sunday of the Liturgical Year, celebrated as the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, also commonly referred to as the

Solemnity of Christ the King. More on that in next week's bulletin.

-FOOD DRIVE - Once again, a reminder that we are collecting different kinds of food each week at Holy Family for the Mt. Sterling Food Pantry. This week we collected canned vegetables. Next week we will be collecting pasta. That will bring our current food drive to a close. If you'd like to donate to the food pantry, you can bring your items to church and place them in the tote in the vestibule. Thank you to all who have contributed and helped in any way.

-“MEMORIAL” MASS - As I've mentioned throughout the month, November is a month dedicated especially to praying for the dead. Of course, we should never confine our prayers for the dead to a particular month. November, however, finds us nearing the end of our Liturgical Year and our readings begin to focus specifically on preparing for the reality of death and Christ's Second Coming.

Next Thursday, November 30, as we close out the month of November, Mass will be celebrated as usual at St. Thomas at 5:30 p.m. (Exposition and Adoration from 4:15 - 5:15.) At this Mass, there will be a table in the Sanctuary where pictures of those who have died will be arranged and we will pray for those folks in a particular way at that Mass. If you'd like to include a picture of someone who has died, you can bring it to Church any time before then...I will try to have a designated place in the “coat room” off the vestibule for you to leave the pictures. It would be nice to include a note with the picture(s) with the name of the person(s) but not necessary. Then, I hope you can join us for this Mass as we pray for the faithful departed in a particular way.

-ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS PARTY - Mark your calendar for St. Thomas Men's and Women's group parish Christmas party for all St. Thomas parishioners on Sunday, December 10 in the parish hall immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Be on the look-out for a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church to help prepare for the meal.

-CROPS FOR KIDS - A reminder that you can still participate in the Crops for Kids for St. Mary School. You can simply ask that a portion of the funds from the grain you are

selling be sent to the school. Thank you to all those who have already participated this year!

-FALL COLLECTION - The Annual Holy Family Fall Collection will get underway soon. I have been a little slow getting that together to say the least.

-CHRISTMAS CARDS - I will again be making available to you some beautiful and solidly Catholic Christmas cards. As of this writing, they are not yet here but are supposed to be on the way. They will be available in the back of church at both parishes when they arrive and while they last.

There will also envelopes available once again marked Christmas Cards for you to make a contribution toward the cards if you'd like...you can drop that in the collection basket or give it to me.

Once again, I am personally making these available to you myself. There is no cost to the parishes. Any contributions beyond the cost of the cards will go to the parishes. Likewise, costs not covered by contributions will be covered by me. I want folks to use these if they desire so, please do. If you cannot make a contribution at this time, that is fine. Do not let that stop you from using the cards.

I am happy to make these available since they are solidly Catholic and beautiful cards, and it is so important that we remember what Christmas is and what it celebrates and that we share that with others. Sending cards and notes is also a great way to reach out to folks. I also urge you to use the Religious stamps from the Post Office when sending your cards and other mail. Those tend to sell out early, so I urge you to get them as soon as they are available.

-CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS - As in the past, if you would like to make a contribution toward our Christmas flowers, I invite you to do so.

St. Thomas Parishioners should have an envelope for Christmas Flowers in their regular set of offertory envelopes. If not, simply place your contribution in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers."

At Holy Family, please place contributions in an envelope and mark clearly on the outside "Christmas Flowers."

The contributions can be placed in the regular Sunday collection or mailed in to the parish office.

These contributions are often made in memory of someone. If you are making such a contribution, please include the name(s) of the person(s) with your contribution, if you would like, so that I may offer prayers for them.

-RESTORATION - Just briefly, I wanted to mention that the exterior restoration work that we intended and contracted for on the exterior of Holy Family Church is complete. I am grateful to see this work to completion. It was necessary in order to preserve the Church. If you would like to make any final contributions to this work, please do so as soon as possible. I will try to provide a more in-depth update sometime soon.

There are, of course, many projects that we need to work on. The completion of this exterior work on the Church has set the stage for those future projects. Thank you for your continued support!

-YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS - Sometimes folks wish to make a contribution near the end of the calendar year. If you so wish, please consider doing so as soon as possible so that we can get it recorded.

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

### **HOLY FAMILY BOSCO KIDS AND RCIA**

Bosco Kids continue to meet as per the teachers' schedule. We will not have class on 11/20. Confessions for Bosco Kids and families will be on 12/4 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. No classes will be held on 12/18, 12/25, and 1/1.

## HOLY FAMILY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our 2023-2024 Adult Faith Formation session will be held during the 3 weeks of Advent and 5 weeks of Lent. The group last year chose this topic-- "Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother". The Better We Know Mary, the Better We Will Know Her Son. This program is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys ... and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ.

We have received a grant from the diocese for this program--so there is no charge. Classes during Advent will be held on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. on 11/28, 12/5 and 12/12. Please register with Ann O'Sullivan at 217-257-2516 or [aosullivan2031@gmail.com](mailto:aosullivan2031@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you all.

## St. Peter Advent Mission


Fr. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, a Benedictine Monk and Priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, will offer an Advent Parish Mission at St. Peter Catholic Church in Quincy, IL from Sunday, December 3-Tuesday, December 5. This Parish Mission will focus on the Eucharist as part of our National Eucharistic Revival. His Parish Mission will begin with the homily during all Masses on Sunday, December 3 and will continue with Parish Mission Conferences at 6:30 p.m. on both December 4 and 5. Fr. Kolbe's Sunday homily will be recorded and posted to our Parish social media accounts if you are unable to attend for Mass. We hope to see you!

## ST. THOMAS ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION  
MINI SERIES

*3 Nights-3 Topics*

NOVEMBER 8TH <b>Eucharistic Miracles</b> Did you know there are miracles that back up the true presence of the Eucharist? Fr. Robert Spitzer tell us about the incredible science behind them.	NOVEMBER 29TH <b>Why Go To Mass?</b> Fr. John Riley and Chris Stefanick discuss the roots of Mass and its profound implications for us today.	DECEMBER 6TH <b>Why Would A Loving God Allow Such Suffering?</b> Discuss Catholic philosophy and theology to help us understand this question as well as free will!
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JOIN US FROM 6:30-7:45 AS WE WATCH A VIDEO AND DISCUSS THIS POPULAR TOPICS!

Meet at St Thomas Church Hall for this FREE event! Contact Laura Evans with any questions. 217-316-1734 or [levans@adams.net](mailto:levans@adams.net)

## Snow Removal

We are in need of volunteers for snow removal around the school once it starts snowing. If you are interested in helping with snow removal, please let Melissa know (217-773-2825 or [mobert@smseagle.org](mailto:mobert@smseagle.org)). Thanks!



## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who mowed the church and school grounds this past summer. We greatly appreciate you!

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