

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, November 6 – 7:00 a.m.

Romans 11:29-36; Luke 14:12-14

Communion Service

Tuesday, November 7 – 7:00 a.m.

Romans 12:5-16b; Luke 14:15-24

James G. & Norma M. Wort
(By their Children)

Wednesday, November 8 – 7:00 a.m.

Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33

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

Thursday, November 9 – 7:00 a.m.

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3L9c-11, 16-17;
John 2:13-22

Mary Franklin Brahler
(By Maureen Norvell)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Allen, Mary & James Stout
(By Russ & Karen Ebbing)

Friday, November 10 – 8:30 a.m.

St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church
Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8

Floyd “Scotty” Blentlinger
(By Jerry & Lila Shoopman)

Saturday, November 11 – 4:00 p.m.

St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16:9-15

Terry Dillard
(By Cheryl Dillard)

Sunday, November 12 – 8:00 a.m.

Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Matthew 24:42a, 44

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Esther Sherman
(By Her Daughters)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

October 28-29, 2023

Holy Family: \$3,474.00
School Support: \$100.00
Sister Parish: \$10.00
All Saints: \$55.00
All Souls: \$5.00
Cemetery: \$100.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

October 29, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,062.00
Sister Parish: \$45.00
Parish Improvement: \$25.00
Votive Candle Offering: \$27.00

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:

Alan Bowen † Dylan Hendricks †

Bud Bordenkircher † Jeff Kozak

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

November 12, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jonah Coggeshall
Greeters: Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Lector: Laura Evans
Gift Bearers: Denny & Cathy
Wagner
Eucharistic Minister: Pat Sharow
Collection Counters: Dale & Sindy
DeRousse
Ushers: John Brady, Denny Campbell

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time. As the end of our Liturgical year approaches, we hear the Prophet in the First Reading denouncing those priests who in their pride have turned away from the Law, causing others to go astray. Jesus, too, is critical of the religious leaders who fail to practice what they preach. The readings for today remind us that God is the Almighty and we are all called to greatness through humility and service by sharing our lives with others, yes, but also by knowing the Truth of Jesus Christ and abiding in and with that Truth.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Thursday, November 9 - Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. This day marks the anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral Church of Rome on land owned by the Laterani family by Pope St. Sylvester I in 324. The Lateran Basilica is honored as the Episcopal Seat of The Pope as Bishop of Rome. According to an inscription which Pope Clement XII placed on the façade, this Basilica is the "Mother and Head of All Churches of Rome and the world." The present structure was commissioned by Pope Innocent X in 1646. Beneath its High Altar rests the remains of the small wooden table on which, according to tradition, St. Peter celebrated Mass. It was

dedicated to the Savior and later to St. John the Baptist.

-Friday, November 10 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church. St. Leo the Great was a well-known Pastor and preacher and a defender of the Roman Primacy. He was a great combatant of heresy, especially Pelagianism (in short, denies Original Sin and Christian Grace), and Manichaeism (a dualistic religion whose cosmic dualism of God and Satan is unacceptable to any monotheist who believes in One Supreme God of goodness). His extensive and scholarly writing on Christ's Two Natures was accepted by the Council of Chalcedon in 451. He is known to have saved Rome from marauding Huns and Vandals. Many of St. Leo's prayers are found in the Roman Missal. He died in 461. St. Leo the Great, Pray for us!

-Saturday, November 11 - Obligatory memorial of St. Martin of Tours, Bishop. St. Martin of Tours was a soldier turned Christian at the age of eighteen. He was a disciple of St. Hilary and founded the first monastery in the West. He was the Bishop of Tours and was the first non-martyr with an annual feast in the Western Church. He died in 397 and is the patron of soldiers, wine producers, and France. St. Martin of Tours, Pray for us!

-EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS - Last Saturday was our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Springfield. I know some you were able to be there. It was a most joyful day and one that was even better than I expected. May we all renew ourselves in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

-TURKEY DINNER - A final reminder that the Holy Family Turkey Dinner is this Sunday, November 5 serving from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. Don't miss getting some delicious meals and your chances for some great raffle prizes.

-DONUT SUNDAY - This Sunday, November 5 is the first Sunday of the month and so it is "Donut Sunday" at St. Thomas. Come over to the parish hall after the 10:00 a.m. Mass and enjoy a donut and coffee and some conversation. After you have your donut, come on up to Mt. Sterling and get your turkey dinner. Details are above.

-VOCATION AWARENESS - This Sunday, November 5 marks the beginning of National Vocation Awareness Week. Please pray for

and do all you can for good and holy vocations. Please continue to join folks across the Diocese to pray one Hail Mary at 4:40 each day that our Diocese may have 40 seminarians. I ask you to also pray for those who are in formation for the Priesthood, Diaconate, or Religious Life.

While this week is dedicated in particular to Vocations to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, and Religious Life, we keep in prayer all vocations that they be holy and fruitful and that folks respond generously to God's call in their lives. Be mindful too of where vocations arise from...that is the family. The family is so very important in our world, in our society, in the Church and that is why there are such grave attacks against the family. May we do all we can to protect families and family life.

If you or someone you know may be considering a vocation to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, or Religious Life, I encourage you to reach out to me. Please also see the information below about an upcoming Andrew Dinner and vocations in general.

-NO SCHOOL - There is no school at St. Mary's on Friday, November 10. Mass will still be at 8:30 a.m. that morning.

-DEER CLASSIC - The Brown County Deer Classic is next Saturday, November 11. Check out their website for more information (www.bcdeerclassic.com) and for the link to the online auction when it goes live. A reminder that the Saturday evening Vigil Mass that evening, November 11, will be at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Family. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be from 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

-FOOD DRIVE - A reminder that we are currently collecting different kinds of food each week at Holy Family for the Mt. Sterling Food Pantry. This week we collected soup. Next week we will be collecting crackers and peanut butter. 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.

-CCW - All ladies of the parishes, mark your calendar for the next Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting, Wednesday, November 15 at St. Francis Solanus in Quincy. I encourage all women of the parishes to go if at all possible; it's always a nice day. Please look for the sign-up sheet at

the back of each Church. It will be posted as soon as we have it. Mass that morning at St. Francis is at 8:30 a.m. At this meeting, there will be installation of officers immediately following Mass and some time for Eucharistic Adoration before the meeting begins. Any questions, contact Claudia Coggeshall or myself.

-ANDREW DINNER - The Quincy Deanery is planning an Andrew Dinner on Monday, November 27. This dinner is for men who are high school aged and older who may be called to the Priesthood. We come together with our Bishop and clergy of the Deanery for dinner and prayer. It does not commit anyone to anything. It is but one way for a man to open his heart to knowing and following God's Will. If you are a man reading this that has considered the Priesthood or know a man who might be called to the Priesthood, please let me know. I would like to invite those men to join me at the Andrew Dinner.

It can be an uneasy thing to do, I get it. There can be lots of questions, doubts, and even fear. But the joy in following God's call for us, whoever we are, is profound. God IS calling men to the Priesthood, make no doubt about it. If you're a single man, maybe He's calling you. Maybe He's calling your son, or your grandson, or your friend, or your neighbor. The devil hates the Priesthood and tries to instill fear and doubt about following God's call. But we can find no greater joy or happiness or fulfillment than in knowing and following God's Will for us. And if we open ourselves up to the Lord and hand ourselves over to Him, He WILL show us how He is calling us.

If you have questions about vocations or would like to talk to someone about vocations, you can certainly meet with me, I'd be happy to visit with you. I might also suggest reaching out to Matt Heldt who is in formation for the Permanent Diaconate or Deacon Mike or Deacon Paul. Again, talking to someone about vocations, whatever vocation that may be, is not a commitment to anything and there should be no pressure felt by anyone who is sincerely trying to know and follow God's call in their life. Talking about your vocation to someone else only shows your willingness to know and follow God's Will, which is a call for all of us!

-NOVEMBER - As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, during the month of November, we are called in a special way to

remember and pray for all those who have died. I encourage each of us to do just that. We pray for the souls of all the faithful departed that, through the mercy of God, they may rest in peace. November is also an excellent time to visit the cemetery and pray for the dead. These are excellent habits for all of us.

-MASS INTENTIONS - Along with the reminder above about the month of November, I want to mention too the importance of having Masses offered for those who have died. This is both good and necessary. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most powerful and life-giving prayer that God has given to us. There is no greater way to show our love for one who has died than to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for them. That is, in part, why the Catholic Funeral Liturgy is so very important.

To have Masses offered for those who have died is a noble action. The fruits of the Mass bring about, in some way, the remission of sins of both the living and dead. The Council of Trent said, in part, concerning the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that ... "[the Mass] is rightly offered not only for the sins, punishments, satisfactions, and other necessities of the faithful who are living, but also for those departed in Christ but not yet fully purified." Additionally, Pope Paul VI's document, *Firma in Traditione*, states that the donor of Mass offerings "associate themselves more closely with Christ's act of offering Himself as victim and in so doing experience its effects more fully." This is powerful for us. We remain mindful, though, that this experience does not occur automatically upon the giving of the offering but depends upon the extent of the donor's own faith, devotion, and actual participation in the Holy Eucharist.

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives us of all of our sins, including mortal sin and we come back into the grace of God through that forgiveness of sins. Sin, however, carries with it temporal punishment which forgiveness of sin does not take away. God has given us the gift of Purgatory so that those who die in God's grace but whose soul is in need of purification may receive that purification and one day join in the glory of Heaven itself. Thus, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is necessary...of course it is because God gave it to us. Necessary so that we might have forgiveness of sin and be in the grace of God and be recipients of His healing. So too, Purgatory is necessary for the

purification of the souls of the faithful departed who may need it. Our prayers for the souls in Purgatory and especially the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for them, are necessary and aid in the purification of one's soul, hastening them all the more to the glory of Heaven.

To have Masses offered for the soul of one who has died, please contact Tammy in the St. Mary School Office (217)-773-2825 who arranges the scheduling of Mass Intentions. Masses may also be offered for other appropriate needs as well.

This may all sound daunting or confusing. In part, it is because there is a lack of understanding what the Mass is...Christ's Eternal Sacrifice. Additionally, many have lost a sense of the reality of sin, the ugliness of sin, and the damage that sin causes. Many don't want to speak about or acknowledge sin. Others want to try and chastise the Church for identifying and calling out sin, even claiming Her to be unwelcoming when She calls out sin. But sin is real and it's ours, and it is detrimental to us and our eternal salvation. But God desires every person to be with Him and provides us a way back to Himself... namely, the Church and Her Sacraments that Jesus Christ Himself instituted for us. We can't take this lightly or we risk our own eternal salvation. Participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is necessary and the offering of a Mass for a particular intention, especially for the soul of a faithful departed, is both necessary and noble. May God help each of us to know more fully the effects of sin in our own life and the need and importance of praying for the dead, offering Masses for them, and our participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

-FREEMASONRY - In the most recent edition of the Catholic Times, there was a response to a question regarding Freemasonry. The question was this: "What is the Church's position on being a Catholic and a Freemason?" This is important for us all to know and be aware of and so I'm re-printing the answer to the question here. The response was written by Fr. Michael Meinhart, a priest of our Diocese.

..."Many people wonder about the relationship between being a Catholic and participation in Freemasonry. There is a complicated history, and the short and simple answer is that Catholics are not allowed to join the Masons. The most recent 1983 Code of

Cannon Law implicitly regulates that a Catholic must not belong to the Masons (Cannon 1374).

At its heart, Freemasonry is technically another religion with rituals, altars, moral codes, and a theology. Those kinds of claims are contrary to the God of Revelation whose Son became human, died on the cross, rose from the dead, sent His Spirit upon us, and left us sacraments and a Church. Sprinkled throughout the history of the Masons, is plenty of anti-Catholic actions and policies.

Most people, however, do not see that side of Freemasonry. They see a fraternal group of men in their community who seek to carry out charitable deeds. I suspect that is probably why most of their members join. Good intentions, though, do not overcome the deeper reality of a false religion and an anti-Catholic history.

In 1882, the young American priest, Blessed Father Michael McGivney, saw the attraction and the need for fraternal groups like the Masons. He gathered the men of his parish and founded the Knights of Columbus. The group would strive to serve these needs while remaining authentically Catholic in its teaching of religion.

There are some that hold on to different conspiracies about the Masons and see them as having secret control of different facets of society. To be sure, there is a complicated history that people point to in support of these ideas. I would not encourage putting much stock into those ideas. In general, I understand the local Masons in our communities to be men of good intentions who desire to work together for charitable causes. It is unfortunate that they hold and promote false theology while doing so, making it impossible for the Church to allow Catholic men to join.

I would humbly and earnestly implore a Catholic man involved in the Masons to leave. Catholics should remind their sons, grandsons, and fellow Catholics that membership in the Freemasons is not permitted. Instead, get involved with your local Knights of Columbus and invite other Catholic men to join you. Enjoy fraternity, performing charitable deeds, and good theology with the Knights of Columbus.

I ask you to continue to keep me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church in your prayers each day.

Thank you for those powerful prayers. Please be assured of my prayers for you each day as well. 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.

We look forward to seeing you all.

HOLY FAMILY YOUTH GROUP

November 5- Service at Holy Family
Turkey Dinner.

ST. THOMAS ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION MINI SERIES

3 Nights-3 Topics

NOVEMBER
8TH

Eucharistic Miracles

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

Why Go To Mass?

Fr. John Riley and Chris Stefanick discuss the roots of Mass and its profound implications for us today.

DECEMBER
6TH

Why Would A Loving God Allow Such Suffering?

Discuss Catholic philosophy and theology to help us understand this question as well as free will!



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

COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST ASSISTANCE CENTER "THERE'S A TIME FOR GIVING" CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Beginning Tuesday, October 24, CFCAC began selling raffle tickets for 5 different Christmas gifts to raise funds for our assistance program. This program assists local clients with rent/mortgage and/or utilities expenses to keep them in their homes. The raffle tickets are \$3 each or \$10 for 4 tickets. Those who purchase will then put their tickets in the container associated with the gift they would like to win. The winners will be drawn at Christmas in the Village activities on December 1 and notified that evening. You will not need to be present to win.

The five donated gifts are shown below:

A Massey Ferguson Pedal tractor



16" x 20" Diamond Art picture



a 62"x72" homemade Quilt



a Winter Lantern with gift cards



a new 50" TV



So please stop by the Center, buy some raffle tickets and take a chance to win a great Christmas gift and support a great cause!

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). Thanks!



VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM

St. Mary School will be having a Veterans' Day Program on Wednesday, November 8 at 1:00 pm at Holy Family Church. All are welcome to help us celebrate our veterans and our freedoms. If attending, please park in front of the church or on Cherry Street. Thank you!



KASSING
LUMBER CO., INC.
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601 Pittsfield Rd.
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