

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, December 25 – Midnight Mass

AT HOLY FAMILY

Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

Monday, December 25 – 7:00 a.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

The Nativity of the Lord
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Larry and Rosemary Moorman
(By Laura Kerker)

Monday, December 25 – 9:00 a.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

Bob and Jane Langan
(By Jim & Kim Gronewold)

Tuesday, December 26 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

Robert Koch
(By Mike, Alan, Glen, Diane & Families)

Wednesday, December 27 – 7:00 a.m.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8

Kathleen Cramblit
(By Mary Kassing)

Thursday, December 28 – 7:00 a.m.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Ed Veith
(By Marilyn and Pat Veith)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

**No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and No Mass**

Friday, December 29 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Mary Margaret Bordenkircher
(By Paul & Charlotte Koch)

Saturday, December 30 – 5:30 p.m.

Sixth Day with the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Sunday, December 31 – 8:00 a.m.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;
Luke 2:22-40

Janet Yakle
(By Carol Blentlinger)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Martha Koettters
(By Dan and Nancy Genenbacher)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 16-17, 2023

Due to the printing deadline for this bulletin
this will be updated in an upcoming bulletin.

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 17, 2023

Due to the printing deadline for this bulletin
this will be updated in an upcoming bulletin.

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 **KC Hall** on **Wednesday, December 27, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. Call 1-800 Red Cross or 217-257-3117 for appointments

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:

Bud Bordenkircher † Jeff Kozak †

Jim Duvendack † Marilyn Clark †

John Colgan † Dan Ray † Sheila Thompson †

Dick Bordenkircher † Connie Boling †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

December 31, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Jim Clausius
Greeters:	John & Janice Brady
Lector:	Tod Perry
Gift Bearers:	Maurice & Clara Schmidt
Eucharistic Minister:	Kim Gronewold
Collection Counters:	Jerel Mock Family
Ushers:	Jerry Herkert, Andrew Llewelyn

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Our readings for today remind us that David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the Son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To Him belongs all glory and praise forever.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, we celebrate that moment in history when Jesus comes into the world as an infant, through Mary's cooperation with God's plan, saving each one of us from sin and death and bringing salvation to those who believe in Him and follow Him.

Masses for this Solemnity are listed below.

-Tuesday, December 26 - Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr. St. Stephen is

one of the seven deacons of the Acts of the Apostles and the first disciple to be martyred (around the year 35). He is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).
St. Stephen, Pray for us!

-Wednesday, December 27 - Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. St. John was the son of Zebedee and brother of James. It is presumed that he is the one who is referred to as the "disciple whom Jesus loved." St. John has contributed greatly to Sacred Scripture, authoring three letters, the Book of Revelation, and the most spiritual of the Gospels. He is symbolized by the eagle. He is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). He died around the year 100 at Ephesus and is the patron of Asiatic Turkey.
St. John, Pray for us!

-Thursday, December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents - This Feast commemorates the children slaughtered by the barbaric King Herod whose goal was to kill the Christ Child and preserve his own power. Herod was an evil man, but ultimately, he was powerless against the Infant King of Glory. In the great plan of our salvation, only God the Father could dictate the perfect timing of Christ's sacrifice. His enemies pursued Him from the womb to the tomb, but He fulfilled His purpose with the help of the Holy Innocents. Theirs was a hidden martyrdom but their immaculate lives bear witness to His glory as they reside in Heaven with Him forever. The only offense of the Holy Innocents was coming into the world at the same time as the Infant Jesus. They looked like Him and for that, they suffered death.

What about us? How closely do we resemble Christ? Do we "look like Him" spiritually? How do others recognize Christ in us? Can they see Him in the way we speak, act, serve, and love? Together, let us aspire to "look like Christ" in honor of the Holy Innocents. In gratitude for their incomparable gift, let us live to sacrifice for the coming of His Kingdom. May our sacrifices be rewarded with triumph and glory, if not for ourselves, then for those who follow.
All the Holy Innocents, Pray for us!

-Friday, December 29 - Optional memorial of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr. Thomas Becket was Chancellor of England for eight years and as Archbishop of Canterbury, he defended the freedoms and rights of the Church. He was killed on December 29, 1170, by order of Henry II. He was canonized just

three years after his death and is considered the most famous martyr of the Middle Ages. St. Thomas Becket, Pray for us!

-Sunday, December 31 - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (at Holy Family, this is celebrated as a Solemnity). The Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. This day should be a huge family feast, since it is devoted entirely to the Holy Family as a model for the Christian family life.

As Rev. Edward Sutfin states in "True Christmas Spirit," "The children must learn to see in their father the foster-father St. Joseph, and the Blessed Mother as the perfect model for their own mother. The lesson to be learned is both practical and theoretical, in that the children must learn how to obey and to love their parents in thought, word and action, just as Christ was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Helping mother in the kitchen and in the housework, and helping father in his odd jobs about the home thus take on a new significance by being performed in a Christ-like spirit."

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Pray for us!

-ADVENT - Though just for a day this year, we remain in the Season of Advent, and I encourage you to remain mindful of this Season. Advent calls us to prepare, to quiet our minds and our hearts as we reflect on God's presence and His coming. In the busyness of life, let us remain vigilant to the Season of Advent.

-CHRISTMAS - I want to wish you all and your families a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. As we enter into this glorious Season of Christmas, let us reflect each day on Christ coming into the world. Christmas, remember, is not just a day. It is a Season. The Season of Christmas runs through the Baptism of the Lord, this year, January 8. So, I encourage you not to rush this most joyous Season but to celebrate it as we are called to do. Mass times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at both parishes are below.

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, please be mindful that many folks find the Season a challenging one for a number of reasons. Sometimes it is because of personal difficulties such as illness or suffering, or strained relationships, or a whole host of other things. Sometimes it is because of grief over the loss of a loved one. Whatever it

might be, the challenge is very real for many. Please keep these folks in your prayers and perhaps reach out to them if you are aware of the struggles to wish them a Merry Christmas and to extend Christ's peace. We remain mindful that it is Christ and Christ alone who brings healing and joy to our lives, even in times of difficulty, so that we may know His peace, have fullness of life, and enjoy Eternal Life with Him in Heaven as we strive to follow Him fully.

Also, be mindful of the many gifts and blessings that God has bestowed upon you, your family, and the world and offer praise and gratitude to Him for these gifts and blessings.

-OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS - The eight days of Christmas including Christmas Day celebrates Christmas. This is referred to as the Octave of Christmas. The Octave Day of Christmas is Monday, January 1.

The following is taken, in part, from catholicculture.org:

We "recognize that Christmas is not only on December 25...The Church's liturgy actually emphasizes the eight days or octave of Christmas. The Church recognizes that the days of the Christmas Octave are repeating the solemnness of Christmas for eight days, concluding on a high note with another solemnity that echoes the solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

There are two principal feasts in the Liturgical Year: Easter and Christmas. These are both solemnities (and holydays of obligation) and in the current Liturgical Calendar are the only feasts that have octaves attached (the 1962 calendar also has an octave of Pentecost). Solemnities are festive and exceptional days, the highest ranked feasts of the liturgical calendar marked with special characteristics...and according to Canon 1251, if a Solemnity falls on a Friday, there is no obligation for abstinence.

An octave is the eight-day period during which Easter or Christmas is celebrated and includes the actual feast. The eighth day is also called the octave or "octave day," and days in between are said to be "within the octave."...

The Easter Octave is from Easter Sunday to the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, each day being another "little Easter." The Easter octave "overrides" any other feasts on the calendar. Christmas also has an octave,

but it is very different from Easter, because it is filled with various feast days, but yet each day is still another “little Christmas.”

From Christmas Day until January 1, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is the Octave Day of Christmas. The Liturgy gives the clues that every day within the octave is treated the same as the original feast day of the Nativity of our Lord. The Liturgy of the Hours repeats Sunday Week I every day of the octave. The Mass has a special Communicantes (In communion...) to insert every day of the Octave when Eucharistic Prayer I is used...Finally, the Gloria is repeated each day of the Octave.

Despite having four days within the octave that are feasts: St. Stephen, St. John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents, and the Holy Family (a Solemnity at Holy Family Parish), each of these days is another “day of the octave of Christmas.”

It has often been said that Catholics know how to celebrate. The Church has a built-in pattern within the liturgical calendar that provides what man needs to celebrate the feasts of the year: times of preparation and penance building to major feasts that are prolonged, and multi-level feast days spread throughout the year...The octave gives us time to impress upon our souls the mysteries, joys, and graces of the principal feasts of the Church year.”...

-CHILDREN’S PROGRAM – The kids at St. Thomas have been preparing for a brief program before the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Thomas. They will begin around 6:00 p.m. If you’re able, please come and listen. Any questions, contact Alicia Schmidt.

-CHRISTMAS LITURGIES – Below is the anticipated schedule of Christmas Liturgies for both parishes:

At Holy Family, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 – 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

-Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 – Midnight and 7:00 a.m.

At St. Thomas, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 – 6:30 p.m.

-Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25 – 9:00 a.m.

A reminder that the faithful are obliged to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent AND for the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas).

-BAPTISM – Jade JoAnne Goudschaal was Baptized at St. Thomas last Sunday, December 17. Jade is the infant daughter of Ryan and Hanna Goudschaal. We welcome Jade JoAnne as one of the newest members of God’s Family and St. Thomas Parish. Congratulations to her family.

If you have a child in need of Baptism or are expecting a child, please contact me so that we can meet and get the Baptism scheduled.

-PRIEST AND SEMINARIAN GATHERING – Each year, the priests of the Diocese and the seminarians have been gathering sometime within the Octave of Christmas for prayer and dinner. This year we will be gathering on Thursday, December 28. I am planning to go.

Young men considering or interested in the Priesthood are also welcome to join us. If you are a young man who has an interest in a Priestly Vocation or know a young man who might, please let me know. I’d be most happy to take you as my guest. Again, this doesn’t commit anyone to anything...it is just an opportunity to pray and eat with the Bishop, priests and seminarians of our Diocese.

Please continue to keep Bishop Paprocki, all our priests, and our seminarians in your prayers.

-ALTAR BREAD – For the last couple of years, we have been getting our Altar Breads from the Cistercian Sisters of the Valley of our Lady Monastery in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, the Sisters are unable to continue to supply us with Altar Bread.

However, the Sisters kindly pointed us to other Religious Orders who also make Altar Breads. We will be using Altar Bread from the Benedictine Nuns of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Abbey in Westfield Vermont, a Benedictine Contemplative Community. I am happy to be able to support their contemplative life and work by using the Altar Breads that they make in both parishes. I appreciate also the prayers they offer for us in their work.

I recently received our first order. We will begin using them soon. I doubt you will notice much difference. They are very similar to what we have been using.

-VOTIVE CANDLE OFFERING – We continue to see a rise in the cost of our votive candles and Altar candles. I would like to ask you that if you are able, to please include an offering for the votive candles that you light. I know

many of you already do so, thank you. As I am writing this, we just received a new shipment of candles. Once I see the new cost on these, I will let you know.

-SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD - This is celebrated every year on January 1, the Octave Day of Christmas. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Since it falls on a Monday this year, the Obligation has been lifted. However, it remains an important and significant celebration. I would hope that we would all participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that day without having an obligation attached to it. I am planning to celebrate Mass at both parishes that day...8:00 a.m. at Holy Family and 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas.

-SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS - If you have an interest in subbing in the classrooms at St. Mary School, please contact our Principal, Mrs. Melissa Obert, to find out more. The school phone number is (217)-773-2825 and Melissa's e-mail address is mobert@smseagle.org.

If you have an Associate's Degree, love children, and have the desire to teach, you could be a substitute teacher for St. Mary School!

-HOLY FAMILY FALL COLLECTION - As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, each year Holy Family Parish embarks on what has come to be known as the Fall Collection. I have been delayed in getting this prepared as we normally do it. We will have the collection beginning after Christmas. However, if you'd like to make a contribution toward it before the end of the calendar year, simply place your contribution in an envelope and mark it "Fall Collection" and place it in the collection basket at church. Or, you can also mail your contribution into the parish office: PO Box 252, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353. Thank you for your generosity and your patience.

-END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS - If you would like to make a contribution to the parish or school before the calendar year-end, please do so as soon as possible so that we can get them recorded in this calendar year.

As a reminder also, folks are sometimes required to take a withdrawal from a retirement account each year. In many cases, if the withdrawal goes directly to a charitable

organization, there are significant tax advantages. If this applies to you, I encourage you to speak to a tax professional soon and consider a contribution to the parishes or to St. Mary School.

-CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES - Thank you to those who regularly use their contribution envelopes. If you are not receiving contribution envelopes and would like to, please let me know.

-ADVENT GIVING TREE - If you still have items to bring to Church for the Advent Giving Tree, please do so as soon as possible so we can get them delivered.

-CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS - You can still make a contribution toward the flowers for Christmas if you'd like. Simply place the contribution in an envelope marked: "Christmas Flowers" and drop it in the regular collection basket. Thank you for your generosity.

-CALENDARS - There are still some 2024 calendars left in the back of both churches. These are excellent calendars to have as they give a lot of information concerning Liturgical celebrations and norms. Feel free to take one for yourself and/or for anyone you know who may be homebound or in a nursing home or otherwise unable to get one from the church. We have also sent one home with each St. Mary School Family.

-HOLY FAMILY DEBT REDUCTION - Thank you to those who have contributed to the Debt Reduction at Holy Family. I am confident that we will be able to continue to pay this down and to have it completely paid off sometime soon. If you would like to make a contribution to the Debt Reduction, the envelopes marked "Holy Family Debt Reduction" remain in the pews at Holy Family and in the back of both Holy Family and St. Thomas Churches. You may use these envelopes to make a contribution and place it in the regular collection basket. Thank you for your support!

-THANK YOU - I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every one of you and especially for the cards, gifts, and kind words and gestures for this Season of Christmas. What a blessing it is for me to be the pastor here at Holy Family and St. Thomas Parishes and St. Mary School.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my prayers for you each day. As we bring to a close the Advent Season and Enter into the Season of Christmas, may you all have a most blessed week and joy-filled Christmas.

-Fr. Aaron

HOLY FAMILY BOSCO KIDS

No classes will be held on 12/18, 12/25, and 1/1.

RAGS & BAGS

St. Mary School is selling rags and bags. Dishcloths are 6 for \$12. Trash bags are \$25 per box - a box contains 100 bags that fit 30 gallon containers and have a thickness of 1.5 mil. Contact your favorite SMS student or call the office (773-2825) to purchase!

POT OF GOLD

December Pot of Gold winners are:
\$250.00 - Kayla Mountain
\$100.00 - Marlee Long
\$50.00 - Holly Pollitt
\$50.00 - Joni Wagner
\$50.00 - Jim Rischar

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!



CHRISTMAS CARD ADDRESSES

Below are addresses for the convenience of those wishing to send Christmas cards to clergy and deacons:

Fr. Aaron Kuhn
P. O. Box 252
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Deacon Mike Ellerman
2322 St. Charles Drive
Quincy, IL 62305

Deacon Paul Koch
7 Highland Park Drive
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Fr. John Beveridge
1017 Meadows Ct.
Maryville, IL 62062

Fr. Charles Edwards
St. Jude Parish
P.O. Box 47
Rochester, IL 62563

Fr. Stephen Thompson
Holy Family Parish
2606 Washington Ave.
Granite City, IL 62040

Fr. David Beagles
202 South Lincoln
Robinson, IL 62454

Fr. James O'Shea
IL Presbyterian Home
2005 W. Lawrence Ave., Room 64
Springfield, IL 62704

Fr. John Patrick Day, C.P.
c/o Passionist Monastery
1924 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205
(*NEW ADDRESS*)

MT. STERLING CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery will be closing their books for 2023 shortly. If you wish to make an additional contribution, please drop in the collection or mail to: Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery, P.O. Box 252, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353.



Merry Christmas from the staff and students at St. Mary School!



KASSING
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Quincy, Illinois • 217-223-0833
repfrese@adams.net

Channel 
Janssen Seed & Services
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