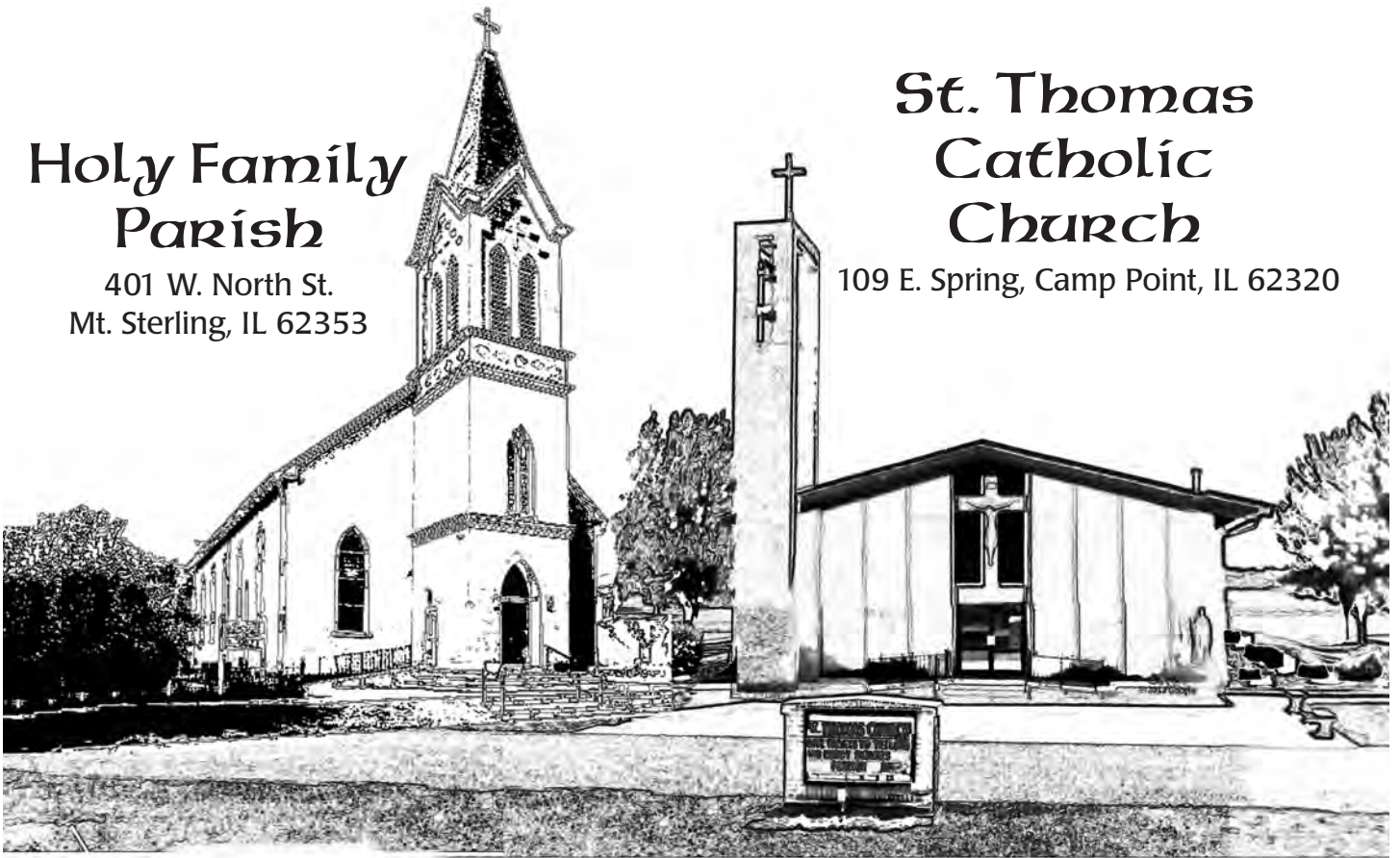


Holy Family Parish

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, January 15 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 16 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28

Beth Clark

(By Jim & Marilyn Wort)

Wednesday, January 17 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Anthony Abbott

1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6

Jack Cannon

(By Barb Lehne)

Thursday, January 18 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12

In Thanksgiving to St. Jude

(By Marilyn Veith)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Esther Coggeshall

(By George & Laura Greenwell)

Friday, January 19 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19

David Wear

(By Norma Hufnagel)

Saturday, January 20 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

1 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Sunday, January 21 – 8:00 a.m.

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Joe Ray

(By Norma Hufnagel)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Lawrence & Justin Langan

(By Jim & Kim Gronewold)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 6-7, 2024

Holy Family: \$3,558.00

School Support: \$1,190.00

Sister Parish: \$42.00

Debt Reduction: \$100.00

Fall Collection: \$100.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$155.00

New Year's Day: \$332.00

Cemetery: \$105.00

Church of Latin America: \$10.00

Catholic Times: \$150.00

First Offering: \$155.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 7, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,629.00

Christmas: \$5.00

Catholic Children's Home: \$35.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$80.00

Catholic Times: \$110.00

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:

Jeff Kozak † Jim Duvendack † Marilyn Clark †
John Colgan † Dan Ray † Sheila Thompson †
Dick Bordenkircher † Connie Boling †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

January 21, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Denise Taylor
Greeters: Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Lector: Karen Janssen
Gift Bearers: Maurice & Clara
Schmidt
Eucharistic Minister: Tod Perry
Collection Counters: Teresa Bockhold
Ushers: John Brady, Denny Campbell

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. I've mentioned before that one may wonder what happened to the First Sunday of Ordinary Time. Last Tuesday, we entered into the First Week of Ordinary Time, following the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday (which brought to a close our Christmas Season). Thus, we have arrived at the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. It's certainly worth knowing, and frankly, interesting to know but nothing to lose sleep over. A similar thing often happens with the Season of Advent. Many folks will often say there are four weeks of Advent...well, not always exactly...there are always four SUNDAYS of Advent that we celebrate but the Fourth Week of Advent is often shortened because of how the calendar falls.

Now some may say why get hung up on such details and I would agree that we shouldn't get hung up on it, but we should have at least a basic understanding of these things as every aspect of the Church and Her Seasons and Celebrations point to the Paschal Mystery of Christ that we are baptized into. Without knowing of these kinds of things (such as the Liturgical Year) on at least some basic level, we dismiss the

connectedness of Christ to everything, including our very lives that we live. One can easily (and quickly) move from thinking that knowing the Liturgical Seasons is not all that important to thinking that knowing Christ and worshipping Him is not all that important. That simply is not true.

Additionally, we need to always be open to learning and renewing ourselves in the Faith. The elements of our Faith bring us to know Christ and to follow Him and to obey His commands so that we might share in Eternal Life with Him in Heaven. I will speak a bit more about the Liturgical Year and Ordinary Time further on.

Our readings for today remind us that through Baptism we have been joined to the Lord who calls us to be His disciples. Our First reading invites us to consider how well we listen to the Lord's voice while our Responsorial Psalm invites us to consider how willing we are to do the Lord's Will.

These are important considerations for each and every one of us no matter who we are and no matter how advanced we think we may be in our Spiritual life. These considerations are necessary for our growth in holiness and our continual conversion. So too is the humility and honesty in which we enter into these considerations. As we enter into this week, let us not dismiss these considerations but give them the real attention they need each and every day.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Wednesday, January 17 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Anthony, Abbot. St. Anthony or Antony, sometimes referred to as St. Anthony of the Desert, was born in upper Egypt in the year 251. He was a hermit and early founder of religious life. He is called the "Patriarch of Monks" and aided St. Athanasius of Alexandria in combatting Arianism (the heresy that denied the Divinity of Christ). He died in 356 at the age of 105.

"The life of Anthony will remind many people of Saint Francis of Assisi. At 20, Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message, "Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor" (Mark 10:21b), that he actually did just that with his large inheritance. He is different from Francis in that most of Anthony's life was spent in solitude. He saw

the world completely covered with snares and gave the Church and the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification and prayer. But no saint is antisocial, and Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance.

At 54, he responded to many requests and founded a sort of monastery of scattered cells. Again, like Francis, he had great fear of “stately buildings and well-laden tables.”

At 60, he hoped to be a martyr in the renewed Roman persecution of 311, fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison. At 88, he was fighting the Arian heresy, that massive trauma from which it took the Church centuries to recover. ‘The mule kicking over the altar’ denied the divinity of Christ.

Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his valiant warfare with the devil—the cross his constant means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. The book recalls his preference for “the book of nature” over the printed word. Anthony died in solitude at age 105.

In an age that smiles at the notion of devils and angels, a person known for having power over evil spirits must at least make us pause. And in a day when people speak of life as a ‘rat race,’ one who devotes a whole life to solitude and prayer points to an essential of the Christian life in all ages. Anthony’s hermit life reminds us of the absoluteness of our break with sin and the totality of our commitment to Christ. Even in God’s good world, there is another world whose false values constantly tempt us.” (Franciscan Media)

St. Anthony, Pray for us!

-Saturday, January 20 - Optional memorials of St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr, and St. Sebastian, Martyr. Fabian was elected Bishop of Rome in 236. He was described as an “incomparable man, the glory of whose death corresponded with the holiness of his life.” He died a martyr in the year 250 under Decius. His body was

transferred from the Catacombs of Callistus to the Basilica of St. Sebastian.

“Fabian was a Roman layman who came into the city from his farm one day as clergy and people were preparing to elect a new pope. Eusebius, a Church historian, says a dove flew in and settled on the head of Fabian. This sign united the votes of clergy and laity, and he was chosen unanimously.

He led the Church for 14 years and died a martyr’s death during the persecution of Decius in 250 A.D. Saint Cyprian wrote to his successor that Fabian was an ‘incomparable’ man whose glory in death matched the holiness and purity of his life.

In the catacombs of Saint Callistus, the stone that covered Fabian’s grave may still be seen, broken into four pieces, bearing the Greek words, ‘Fabian, bishop, martyr.’ St. Fabian shares the celebration of his liturgical feast with St. Sebastian on January 20.

We can go confidently into the future and accept the change that growth demands only if we have firm roots in the past, in a living tradition. A few pieces of stone in Rome are a reminder to us that we are bearers of more than 20 centuries of a living tradition of faith and courage in living the life of Christ and showing it to the world. We have brothers and sisters who have ‘gone before us with the sign of faith,’ as the First Eucharistic Prayer puts it, to light the way for us.” (Franciscan Media)

St. Fabian, Pray for us!

St. Sebastian was chief of the Praetorian cohort, said to have been pierced by arrows and later clubbed to death. He died a martyr around the year 288 and is the patron of archers, soldiers, and police associations.

“Almost nothing is historically certain about Sebastian except that he was a Roman martyr, was venerated in Milan even in the time of Saint Ambrose and was buried on the Appian Way, probably near the present Basilica of St. Sebastian. Devotion to him spread rapidly, and he is mentioned in several martyrologies as early as 350.

The legend of Saint Sebastian is important in art, and there is a vast iconography. Scholars now agree that a pious fable has Sebastian entering the Roman army because only there could he

assist the martyrs without arousing suspicion. Finally, he was found out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. His body was pierced with arrows, and he was left for dead. But he was found still alive by those who came to bury him. He recovered but refused to flee.

One day he took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He accosted the emperor, denouncing him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs. He was buried on the Appian Way, close to the catacombs that bear his name.

The fact that many of the early saints made such a tremendous impression on the Church—awakening widespread devotion and great praise from the greatest writers of the Church—is proof of the heroism of their lives. As has been said, legends may not be literally true. Yet they may express the very substance of the faith and courage evident in the lives of these heroes and heroines of Christ.” (Franciscan Media)

St. Sebastian, Pray for us!

-NO SCHOOL - In the United States of America, Monday, January 15 marks the celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. This is not a liturgical celebration, but it is a federal holiday. There is no school on this day.

-CHRISTIAN UNITY - In the United States of America, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Thursday, January 18. We include in our prayers in a special way that week the unity of all Christians.

-POT-OF-GOLD - Friends of St. Mary's is once again having their Pot-of-Gold Fundraiser. If you haven't gotten your tickets already, be sure and do so as soon as possible. There is a drawing each month with six winners each time. The first drawing is held during Catholic Schools week which this year begins Sunday, January 28. If you need tickets, let me know or contact the school office. Last year folks made tickets available for purchase one weekend after the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. As of this writing, I'm not sure when that will be, but I am

hopeful they will be able to do the same this year.

-SAUSAGE ORDERS - The Mt. Sterling Knights of Columbus are taking orders for sausage. Bulk and patty sausage is available. It is well known that this is excellent sausage. Be sure and get yours ordered soon. You can call Kent Boylen (217)-257-0761 with questions or to place an order.

-SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD - Next Sunday, January 21 is the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, “a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God.” We remain mindful of the necessity of the Word of God in our life and strive each day to capture its importance and significance for each of us. Sacred Scripture is the Living Word of God, and our Lord is really present when Sacred Scripture is read during the Liturgy.

-DAY OF PRAYER - In the United States, Monday, January 22, 2024, marks the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. As directed by the General Instructions of the Roman Missal (no. 373), this day is observed as “a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through the acts of abortion.” I am planning to celebrate Mass at both parishes that day. The schedule will be in next week's bulletin. Throughout this month of January especially, let us pray for the protection of all human life in all forms from conception to natural death.

The murder of children in the womb is a great tragedy and one that we cannot become complacent with. So too is the aiding and speeding up of death for anyone. God is the Author of all life. It is His gift given to us, not to be used in any way we want or to be disposed of at will but to be honored, respected, and protected at ALL stages.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION - The Nocturnal Adoration Society will be holding their annual meeting and luncheon on Sunday, February 11, 2024, beginning at Noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. Please plan to attend, especially if you are a Nocturnal Adorer.

In order to help plan for the meal, please sign up on the sheet in the back of Holy Family Church if you are planning to go. If you have any questions, contact Mary Koch.

-CEMETERY MOWING & TRIMMING - We are accepting bids for the mowing and trimming of our Catholic Cemetery in Mt. Sterling. If you are interested in learning more, contact Jim Henrick. You may also contact me and I will try to help in any way I can. Bids need to be submitted as soon as possible.

-THE HOLY EUCHARIST - The following is taken from a larger news story published by the National Catholic register on their website, but the elements are important reminders to us. To think that this sort of thing does not happen is foolishness. Additionally, it points to our need to renew our own reverence for the Holy Eucharist, the Real Presence of Christ in His fullness, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. The article and the priest and Archbishop quoted are speaking, in part, of the desecration of the Holy Eucharist being publicly encouraged. Deception is of the devil and is so easy to fall into if we're not careful or if become indifferent or complacent. Please, for your own sake and your own Eternal Salvation, know the faith and recognize deception where it lies.

"This is a grave mortal sin: using holy Communion to use it in witchcraft is a sacrilege. The Eucharist is the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ. Encouraging people to go to Mass and pretend to take Communion and then bring the host to these rites is deceitful and repulsive," he said.

Father Valdivia also pointed out that 'there are no good, pious, white witches or wizards compatible with the faith. ... Notice how this lady even says that you have to steal the host but not on Sunday, because on Sunday you take Communion, like, a good Catholic? People get confused by that. It's piety or goodness on a hook to believe that everything else will be fine. This is a deception.'

'Every sorcerer or witch, white, black, brown, or fuchsia, works with their witchcraft against God, whether she herself knows it or not. She induces us into a

mortal sin and opens the doors to the action of the devil in our lives,' the priest explained.

Father Valdivia stressed that 'as Catholics we cannot accept this serious offense against Christ and our faith. Nor can we allow them in our own life practices. The Eucharist is our most precious treasure. Witchcraft cuts us off from the love and tenderness of God in our lives.'

After reminding the faithful that desecrating the Eucharist incurs automatic excommunication, Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos told the faithful to 'not be surprised by ill-intentioned people who use the sacred to promote superstitious and sacrilegious rituals, and at the same time I call on you to join together in prayer, to make reparation, to be vigilant, and to promote the love of Christ in the Eucharist.'"

-CATHOLIC TIMES - As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, The Catholic Times is the official newspaper of the Diocese. Each edition is filled with great information for each one of us. Each January, we are asked to contribute to the publication of the Catholic Times. I encourage you to make an offering for this valuable publication.

If you have an envelope for Catholic Times, simply place it in the collection basket with your contribution. If you do not have a specified envelope, you may place your contribution in any envelope and clearly mark it "Catholic Times."

If you are not receiving the Catholic Times in the mail and would like to (I know some folks prefer to view it online), please let me know so that we can add you to their mailing. All parishioners should be receiving the Catholic Times.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and for the Universal Church. Please keep in your prayers all those who are sick or suffering in any way, Bishop Paprocki, and our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you each and every day. May you have a most blessed week

-Fr. Aaron

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!

POT OF GOLD

Friends of St. Mary School is again selling Pot of Gold tickets. The profit from this fundraiser helps FOSM pay for field trips, give teachers \$300 to help pay for items in their classrooms, etc. See any school family to purchase your Pot of Gold tickets. The first drawing will be during Catholic Schools Week beginning January 29.

HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Joan Zurita in memory of: Raymond & Marie Koch Family

Barb Lehne in memory of: William, Helen, and Aaron Koch

Mary Kassing and Family in memory of: Vic, Allen, and Joyce Kassing

Doug & Dawn Dunn in memory of: Lyle (Doug) & Margie Dunn

Larry Volk in memory of: Jennifer Volk

Cheryl Dillard in memory of: Bob & Sylva Dixon, Terry Dillard, & Julie Link

Jim & Rosanne Ray in memory of: William & Ruth Ormond, Amy Ormond Lucky, Francis & Mary Ray, Joe Ray, Joan O'Connor

Jane Veith in memory of: Lawrence & Mary Veith's Family, Joseph & Rosa Klingele's Family, Frank & Edith Veith's Family

Jim & Doris Duvendack in memory of: M/M Ralph Bollin and M/M Richard Duvendack

Kathy Rigg in memory of: Randy Rigg, Pat Volk, and Jim Volk

Barry & Karen Wear in memory of: Mrs. Barbara Ann Kuhn

Norma Hufnagel in memory of: Ramon E. Hufnagel, Emmett & Dorothy Lehne, and Elmer & Evelyn Hufnagel

Thank you to all that contributed!



K OF C WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE SALE

Knights of Columbus Council 1281 is having a whole hog sausage sale. \$6.00 per pound. Pickup will be January 27, 2024, from 9-12 for fresh. Frozen pickup after that by appointment. Contact Kent Boylen (217-257-0761) for details.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION SOCIETY

Nocturnal Adoration Society (NAS) will hold their annual meeting at noon on February 11, 2024, at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

A meal will be served followed by a short annual meeting with an informative presentation and fellowship. Please use the sign-up sheet in the back of church.



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