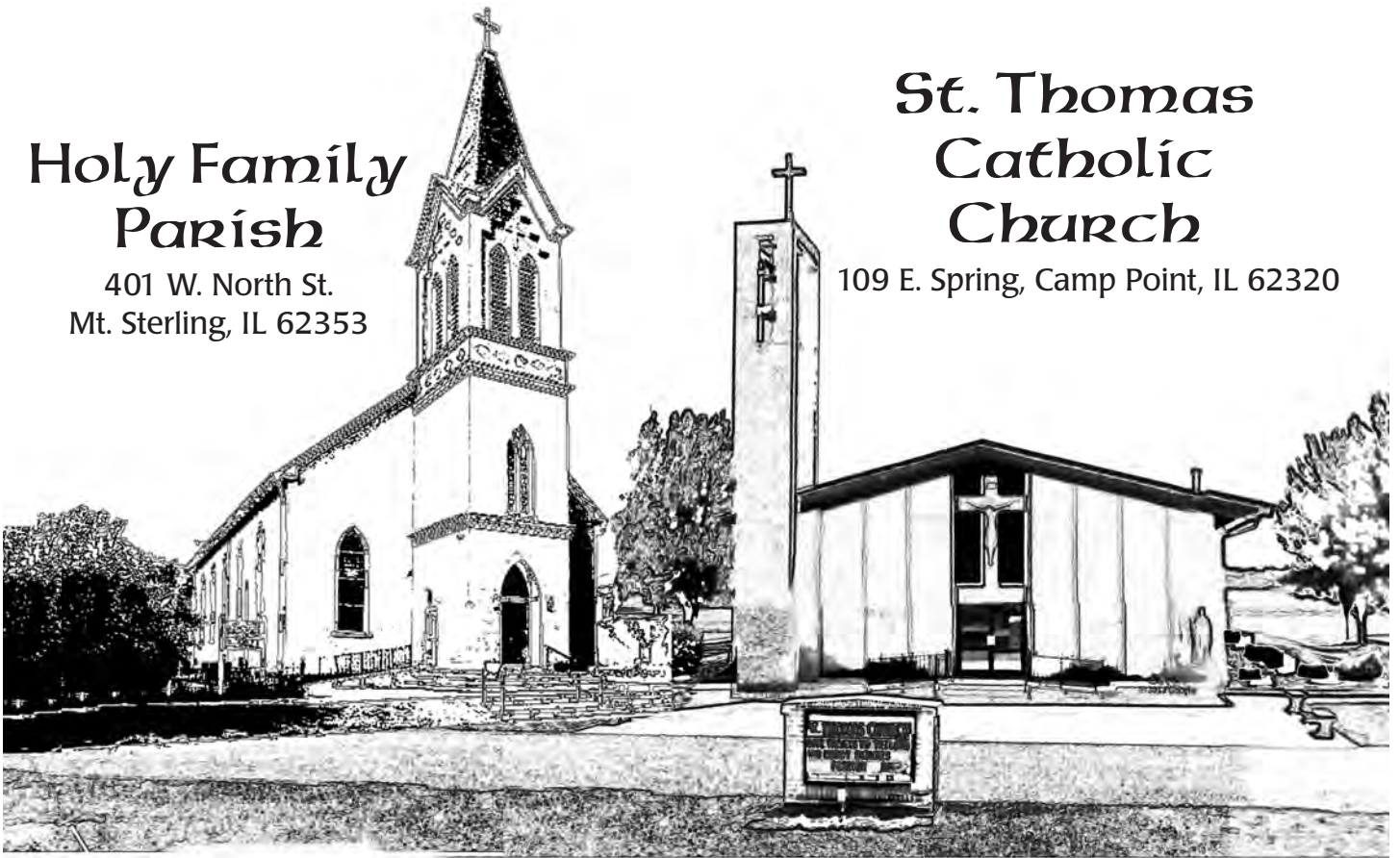


# Holy Family Parish

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, January 22 – 7:00 a.m.

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children  
2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30

Legal Protection of All Human Life

### St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Legal Protection of All Human Life

### Tuesday, January 23 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin  
2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mark 3:31-35

Mary Franklin Brahler  
(By Maureen Norvell)

### Wednesday, January 24 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Religious  
Founder & Doctor  
2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20

Agnes Patterson  
(By Cathy Black)

### Thursday, January 25 – 7:00 a.m.

The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle  
Acts of the Apostles 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18

James T. Wort  
(By Carol Blentlinger)

### St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Jim Stout  
(By Marilyn Stout)

### Friday, January 26 – 8:30 a.m.

#### (School Mass)

St. Timothy & St. Titus, Bishops  
2 Timothy 1:1-8; Mark 4:26-34

Jim McKeown  
(By Tammy)

### Saturday, January 27 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Angela Merici, Virgin  
2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41

Charles, Maxine, Raymond  
& David Colgan  
(By John & Linda Colgan)

### Sunday, January 28 – 8:00 a.m.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35;  
Mark 1:21-28

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Janet Harper  
(By Jim & Fritzi Harper)

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 13-14, 2024

Holy Family: \$1,975.70  
School Support: \$207.00  
Sister Parish: \$65.00  
Debt Reduction: \$25.00  
Solemnity of Mary: \$5.00  
New Year's Day: \$15.00  
Catholic Times: \$225.00  
First Offering: \$35.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 14, 2024

St. Thomas: \$1,189.00  
Catholic Times: \$115.00

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:**

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

## ST. THOMAS

**Pastoral Council January 11, 2024.** Fr. Aaron, Janice Brady, Claudia Coggeshall.

Pastoral Council- Discussion on feasibility of starting a Women's group at St. Thomas called Altar and Rosary Society. More information to follow.

Hall rental prices discussed.

40 Days for Life Kickoff Campaign for Quincy information meeting/dinner will be held Sunday, January 21 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament School. More information to sign up for the campaign will be coming.

Stations of the Cross for this coming Lent season discussed. To be held on Friday nights.

Men's and Women's- There will be no Fish Fry this Lent.

Next meeting February 8, 2024.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

*January 28, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.*

**Sacristan:** Jim Clausius  
**Greeters:**  
**Lector:** Bobbi Mock  
**Gift Bearers:** Tod Perry Family  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Teresa Bockhold  
**Collection Counters:** Robin Coggeshall  
**Ushers:** John Brady, Denny Campbell

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. In today's readings, we hear of the Ninevites who heard the preaching of Jonah and repented of their evil ways, thus experiencing the Lord's compassion. Further, the readings prompt us to ask ourselves if we repent when we hear the preaching of Jesus and to consider whether we invest our lives in the world or in God's Kingdom. These are important questions and considerations for our lives and our Eternal Salvation, and the answers require great humility and complete honesty. The Lord isn't calling us to "feel good" but rather, He is calling us out of sin through continual repentance and conversion so that we can

have fullness of life here on earth and hope for Eternal Life with the Father in Heaven.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, January 22 - In the United States of America, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. According to the General Instructions of the Roman Missal, #373, on this day, all Dioceses of the United States shall observe 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 acts of abortion." I will be offering Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on that day at both parishes. Details are further on.

The optional memorial of St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr, is perpetually transferred from January 22 to January 23 in the USA.

-Tuesday, January 23 - In the United States of America, optional memorials of St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr and St. Marianne Cope, Virgin.

"Most of what we know about [St. Vincent] comes from the poet Prudentius. According to the story, the unusual devotion he inspired must have had a basis in a very heroic life. Vincent was ordained Deacon by his friend Saint Valerius of Zaragoza in Spain. The Roman emperors had published their edicts against the clergy in 303, and the following year against the laity. Vincent and his bishop were imprisoned in Valencia. Hunger and torture failed to break them. Like the youths in the fiery furnace, they seemed to thrive on suffering.

Valerius was sent into exile, and Dacian, the Roman governor, now turned the full force of his fury on Vincent. Tortures that sound very modern were tried. But their main effect was the progressive disintegration of Dacian himself. He had the torturers beaten because they failed.

Finally, he suggested a compromise: Would Vincent at least give up the sacred books to be burned according to the emperor's edict? He would not. Torture on the gridiron continued, the prisoner remaining courageous, the torturer losing control of himself. Vincent was thrown into a filthy prison cell—and converted the jailer. Dacian wept with rage, but strangely enough, ordered the prisoner to be given some rest.

Friends among the faithful came to visit him, but he was to have no earthly rest. When they finally settled him on a comfortable bed, he went to his eternal rest.

The martyrs are heroic examples of what God's power can do. It is humanly impossible, we realize, for someone to go through tortures such as Vincent had and remain faithful. But it is equally true that by human power alone no one can remain faithful even without torture or suffering. God does not come to our rescue at isolated, 'special' moments. God is supporting the super-cruisers as well as children's toy boats." (Franciscan Media)

St. Vincent, Pray for us.

Marianne Cope was a Religious of the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, New York known for her charitable works and virtuous deeds.

"Though leprosy scared off most people in 19th-century Hawaii, that disease sparked great generosity in the woman who came to be known as Mother Marianne of Molokai. Her courage helped tremendously to improve the lives of its victims in Hawaii, a territory annexed to the United States during her lifetime (1898).

Mother Marianne's generosity and courage were celebrated at her May 14, 2005, beatification in Rome. She was a woman who spoke 'the language of truth and love' to the world, said Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. Cardinal Martins, who presided at the beatification Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, called her life 'a wonderful work of divine grace.' Speaking of her special love for persons suffering from leprosy, he said, "She saw in them the suffering face of Jesus. Like the Good Samaritan, she became their mother."

The government authorities were reluctant to allow Mother Marianne to be a mother on Molokai. Thirty years of dedication proved their fears unfounded. God grants gifts regardless of human shortsightedness and allows those gifts to flower for the sake of the kingdom." (Franciscan Media)

St. Marianne Cope, Pray for us.

-Wednesday, January 24 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

"Francis was destined by his father to be a lawyer so that the young man could eventually

take his elder's place as a senator from the province of Savoy in France. For this reason, Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After receiving his doctorate, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wished to enter the priesthood. His father strongly opposed Francis in this, and only after much patient persuasiveness on the part of the gentle Francis did his father finally consent. Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, then a center for the Calvinists. Francis set out to convert them, especially in the district of Chablais. By preaching and distributing the little pamphlets he wrote to explain true Catholic doctrine, he had remarkable success.

At 35, he became bishop of Geneva. While administering his diocese he continued to preach, hear confessions, and catechize the children. His gentle character was a great asset in winning souls. He practiced his own axiom, 'A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar.'

Besides his two well-known books, the Introduction to the Devout Life and A Treatise on the Love of God, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. For his writings, he has been named patron of the Catholic Press. His writings, filled with his characteristic gentle spirit, are addressed to lay people. He wants to make them understand that they too are called to be saints. As he wrote in The Introduction to the Devout Life: 'It is an error, or rather a heresy, to say devotion is incompatible with the life of a soldier, a tradesman, a prince, or a married woman.... It has happened that many have lost perfection in the desert who had preserved it in the world.'

In spite of his busy and comparatively short life, he had time to collaborate with another saint, Jane Frances de Chantal, in the work of establishing the Sisters of the Visitation.

Francis de Sales took seriously the words of Christ, 'Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart.' As he said himself, it took him 20 years to conquer his quick temper, but no one ever suspected he had such a problem, so overflowing with good nature and kindness was his usual manner of acting. His perennial meekness and sunny disposition won for him the title of 'Gentleman Saint.'" (Franciscan Media)

St. Francis de Sales, Pray for us!

-Thursday, January 25 - Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle.

“Saint Paul’s entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot’s hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: ‘...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment’ (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was ‘entered,’ possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting’ (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to ‘present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me’ (Colossians 1:28b-29).

Paul’s life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the Cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ’s victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this Risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So, Paul’s great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal, and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more ‘works’ than the Law could ever contemplate.

Paul is undoubtedly hard to understand. His style often reflects the rabbinical style of argument of his day, and often his thought skips on mountaintops while we plod below.

But perhaps our problems are accentuated by the fact that so many beautiful jewels have become part of the everyday coin in our Christian language.” (Franciscan Media)

St. Paul, Pray for us!

-Friday, January 26 - Obligatory Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops.

“What we know from the New Testament of Timothy’s life makes it sound like that of a modern harried bishop. He had the honor of being a fellow apostle with Paul, both sharing the privilege of preaching the gospel and suffering for it.

Timothy had a Greek father and a Jewish mother, Eunice. Being the product of a ‘mixed’ marriage, he was considered illegitimate by the Jews. It was his grandmother, Lois, who first became Christian. Timothy was a convert of Paul around the year 47 and later joined him in his apostolic work. He was with Paul at the founding of the Church in Corinth. During the 15 years he worked with Paul, he became one of his most faithful and trusted friends. He was sent on difficult missions by Paul—often in the face of great disturbance in local churches which Paul had founded.

Timothy was with Paul in Rome during the latter’s house arrest. At some period, Timothy himself was in prison (Hebrews 13:23). Paul installed him as his representative at the Church of Ephesus.

Timothy was comparatively young for the work he was doing. Several references seem to indicate that he was timid. And one of Paul’s most frequently quoted lines was addressed to him: ‘Stop drinking only water, but have a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent illnesses’ (1 Timothy 5:23).

Titus has the distinction of being a close friend and disciple of Paul as well as a fellow missionary. He was Greek, apparently from Antioch. Even though Titus was a Gentile, Paul would not let him be forced to undergo circumcision at Jerusalem. Titus is seen as a peacemaker, administrator, and great friend. Paul’s Second Letter to Corinth affords an insight into the depth of his friendship with Titus, and the great fellowship they had in preaching the gospel.

When Paul was having trouble with the community at Corinth, Titus was the bearer of Paul’s severe letter and was successful in smoothing things out. Paul writes he was

strengthened not only by the arrival of Titus but also 'by the encouragement with which he was encouraged in regard to you, as he told us of your yearning, your lament, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.... And his heart goes out to you all the more, as he remembers the obedience of all of you, when you received him with fear and trembling' (2 Corinthians 7:7a, 15).

The 'Letter to Titus' addresses him as the administrator of the Christian community on the island of Crete, charged with organizing it, correcting abuses, and appointing presbyter-bishops.

In Titus we get another glimpse of life in the early Church: great zeal in the apostolate, great communion in Christ, great friendship. Yet always there is the problem of human nature and the unglamorous details of daily life: the need for charity and patience in 'quarrels with others, fears within myself,' as Paul says. Through it all, the love of Christ sustained them. At the end of the Letter to Titus, Paul says that when the temporary substitute comes, 'hurry to me.'"  
(Franciscan Media)

Saints Timothy and Titus, Pray for us!

-Saturday, January 27 - Optional memorial of St. Angela Merici, Virgin.

"Angela Merici has the double distinction of founding the first of what are now called 'secular institutes' and the first teaching order of women in the Church.

Born in Desenzano, Italy, she was orphaned in her teens. As a young woman, with her heart centered on Christ, Angela joined the Third Order of St. Francis and embraced austerity. In a visionary experience, she felt called to found a 'company' of women.

Angela was invited to become a live-in companion for a widow in the nearby town of Brescia. There she became the spiritual advisor of a group of men and women with ideals of spiritual renewal and service to those in need. While on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1524, Angela was struck with blindness. She proceeded to visit the sacred shrines, seeing them with her spirit. On the way back while praying before a crucifix, Angela's sight was restored.

At age 60, Angela and 12 other women began the Company of St. Ursula, named for a patroness of medieval universities and

venerated as a leader of women. This constituted a new way of life: single women consecrated to Christ and living in the world rather than in a monastery. With Angela as their 'mother and mistress,' Company members did not live in community, wore no special clothing, and made no formal vows.

Angela Merici died in Brescia, Italy, in 1540. Clothed in the habit of a Franciscan tertiary, her body was interred in Brescia's Church of Saint Afra. Four years later the Company's Rule that Angela had composed, prescribing the practices of chastity, poverty, and obedience, was approved by the pope.

In the early 1600s, Companies that had expanded into France were re-organized into the religious Order of St. Ursula, to teach girls. Angela's words continue to inspire the Ursuline nuns' mission of education, a mission that spread worldwide. The Company of St. Ursula also continued to exist and is federated worldwide today with members in 30 countries. Angela Merici was canonized by Pope Pius VII in 1807.

As with so many saints, history is mostly concerned with their activities. But deep Christian faith and love sustain one whose courage lasts a lifetime, and who can take bold new steps when human need demands."  
(Franciscan Media)

St. Angela Merici, Pray for us!

-SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD - The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, is to be devoted to the Word of God. In 2019 Pope Francis declared that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God...A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak His Word and to break bread in the community of believers."

-40 DAYS FOR LIFE - Kick-off meeting and dinner for Quincy Area this Sunday evening, January 21, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament School in Quincy.

-DAY OF PRAYER - As noted above, in the United States, Monday, January 22, 2024, marks the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. I will be

exposing the Blessed Sacrament and celebrating Mass at each parish on that day.

At Holy Family, Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 a.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be both before and after Mass. I will expose the Blessed Sacrament at approximately 6:15 a.m. until approximately 6:45 a.m. and then again after Mass until 8:00 a.m.

At St. Thomas, Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Please make an effort to join us. Also, in addition to prayer, this day calls for penance from each one of us for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

-ROSARY SIGN-UP - A new sign-up sheet to lead the Rosary on Sundays before Mass at St. Thomas is posted in the back of St. Thomas. Please sign up for one or more Sundays.

-DOORS - At St. Thomas, please keep the vestibule doors leading into the Church closed before Mass begins for the praying of the Holy Rosary and so that folks can more intentionally prepare themselves for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

At Holy Family, please try to make sure the exterior doors are shut tight as you leave.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION - Annual meeting and luncheon on Sunday, February 11, 2024; Noon; K of C Hall in Mt. Sterling. Sign up in the back of Holy Family Church. Questions, contact Mary Koch.

-CEMETERY MOWING - Bids being accepted for the mowing and trimming of our Catholic Cemetery in Mt. Sterling. To learn more, contact Jim Henrick.

-POT-OF-GOLD - Tickets available. If you need tickets, let me know. We are also hoping to have them available for purchase at Masses one weekend.

-SAUSAGE ORDERS - Mt. Sterling K of C are taking orders for sausage. Call Kent Boylen (217)-257-0761 with questions or to place an order.

-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - Begins next Sunday, January 28. We celebrate our Catholic Schools and give praise and thanks to God for the blessing of St. Mary School and all Catholic Schools.

Thank you for your continued prayers 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

### **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!

### **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. Pot of Gold tickets will be sold at Holy Family at all masses the weekends of January 20 and 27.

### **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) with any questions or to order.

### **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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