

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 29 – 7:00 a.m. 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20

Communion Service

<u>Tuesday, January 30 – 7:00 a.m.</u> 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mark 5:21-43

Fr. John Kennedy

Wednesday, January 31 – 7:00 a.m. St. John Bosco, Priest 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6

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

Thursday, February 1 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13

Mary Klingele Ahmed (By Donnie & Linda Howard)

<u>St. Thomas - 5:30 p.m.</u>

Edwin Schulte (By Robin & Claudia Coggeshall)

Friday, February 2 - 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass) The Presentation of the Lord Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

> Amy Ormond Lucky (By Legion of Mary)

FIRST FRIDAY - ST. THOMAS - 6:00 p.m.

Irene Norkus (By Jim & Nora Clausius)

Saturday, February 3 – 8:00 a.m. HOLY FAMILY St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

HOLY FAMILY - 5:30 p.m.

Aaron Koch (By Carol Blentlinger)

Sunday, February 4 – 8:00 a.m. Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

> Roberta Young (By Her Friends)

<u>St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.</u>

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 20-21, 2024

Holy Family: \$3,766.00 School Support: \$75.00 Sister Parish: \$210.00 Debt Reduction: \$300.00 Solemnity of Mary: \$15.00 New Year's Day: \$25.00 Catholic Times: \$320.00 First Offering: \$30.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 21, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,908.00 Catholic Times: \$75.00 Votive Candles: \$30.00

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 <u>tmckeown@smseagle.org</u> 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 LITURGICAL ROLES

<u>February 4, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.</u>

Sacristan:	Jonah Coggeshall
Greeters:	Andrew & Amanda
	Llewellyn Family
Lector:	David Leezer
Gift Bearers:	Justin & Emily
	Obert Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Cathy Wagner
Collection Counters:	Dale & Sindy
	DeRousse
Ushers: Brent Obert, Tony Obert	

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Our readings for today remind us that as Moses challenged the Israelites to listen to God's voice, so we are called to hear the voice of Jesus and live out His teachings by what we say and do, whatever our vocation in life may be.

It's so very important for us to know the Lord's "voice" and not be deceived by some other "voice." We can come to know this through our attentive celebration of the Sacraments, our prayer life, Sacred Scripture, and studying the Truth of Christ and His Church. We need to understand also that "hearing" the Lord's "voice" is not, in most cases, like hearing someone's voice on the telephone. God "speaks" to us in many ways, that's true...but we need to make sure it is the authentic "voice" of God (not through skepticism, of course, but through the Lord's revealed Truth). Make no doubt about it, satan himself also speaks to us, often times in very inviting ways. God's "voice" is always True and calls us to holiness in that Truth by calling us out of sinfulness.

Living out God's teachings is also very important for us to reflect on. Many folks find it easy to say that they know God or that they love God...indeed it is easy to say it. However, lives lived don't always reflect that and it is only an excuse to remain in sin to say things like "it's just the way I am" or that "no one is perfect" or "other people do it" etc., etc., whatever the excuse is.

Sometimes there is an outright rejection of God's teachings...how can one claim to know and love God if that is the case?! Sometimes there is pick and choose mentality that goes something like this..."I'm a good person but I don't agree with this or that."

The Lord is calling us to fullness of life through the complete following of His teachings...we can't possibly have fullness of life when we fail to follow the fullness of God's teachings and not only that, our Eternal Life is at risk as well.

The Lord may indeed meet us where we're at (that's become a popular thing to say) but the Lord does not want us to remain there...He is continually calling us out of sin and to repentance and to a life of holiness so that we can have hope for Eternal Life with Him. Eternal Life with God is our ultimate good and ultimate goal. Nothing else is more important. All too often, Eternal Life in Heaven is presumed (which is seriously sinful) or not even considered at all in our daily lives of what we do and say.

The dismissal of God's teachings is all around us. We see it in such things as the cultural normalization of fornication (sex outside of marriage); the serious problem of pornography and the threat of addiction to it; the selfish act of masturbation; cohabitation and a failure to see the beauty and Truth in married life; normalization and even affirmation of homosexual acts and lifestyles; the widely promoted use of artificial contraception; the promotion of mutilating one's body.

We see it too in the use of vulgarity; the complacency of the murder of children called abortion; the rationalization of ending an "unproductive" or 'burdensome" life through euthanasia.

It is seen also in the seeking of pleasure rather than any real worship of God: the notion that suffering is bad and not redemptive: a lack of knowledge of the Sacraments and a mentality that they are "optional;" a lack of Reverence for the Holy Eucharist and, for many, a denial of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist; an inability to imagine the extraordinary and to enter into the Mysteries of God and our Faith: the making of wealth, power, and pleasure ultimate, and even necessary goods; the lack of and even scoffing at sacrifice; a lack of true friendship: dismissive destruction of marriage and family life; selfishness and self-absorption; rampant jealousy and deceit; Sunday as a day to get things done rather than a necessary day of worship and works of mercy.

These are just some examples and each one of us is affected by them in some way, sometimes more personally than others. Indeed, let us hear the voice of the Lord and live out His teachings by what we say and do so as to be drawn out of sin and into the holiness of life.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Wednesday, January 31 – Obligatory Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest.

"John Bosco's theory of education could well be used in today's schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one's work, study and play.

Encouraged during his youth in Turin to become a priest, John was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan in Turin, and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism.

After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, Don Bosco opened the Oratory

of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring.

By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. John's interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers.

John's preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854, he and his followers informally banded together, inspired by Saint Francis de Sales.

With Pope Pius IX's encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.

John Bosco educated the whole person body and soul united. He believed that Christ's love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do—work, study, play. For John Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-aweek, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us. Yet, because John realized the importance of job-training and the self-worth and pride that come with talent and ability, he trained his students in the trade crafts, too." (Franciscan Media)

St. John Bosco, Pray for us!

-Friday, February 2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. "As faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph performed two ritual acts that the law prescribed after the birth of the firstborn son—Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' dedication. The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce Mary's Immaculate Heart. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and 'gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.' In the ritual acts in the Temple, Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

We are invited to participate in Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' ritual redemption. Each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven, yet we are invited to do so in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to God's Will that opened the door of God's grace to us all. By allowing Jesus to be born in our hearts by grace, we spiritually become Jesus' "mother." With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

In presenting Jesus in the Temple, Saint Joseph also redeems us by presenting to the Father all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us.

Ponder, today, your soul being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter into the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you." (mycatholic.life)

-Saturday, February 3 – Optional memorials of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr and St. Ansgar, Bishop.

"We know more about the devotion to Saint Blaise by Christians around the world than we know about the saint himself. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. In 1222, the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labor in England on Blaise's feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor, and for decades many United States Catholics have sought the annual Saint Blaise blessing for their throats.

We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea. Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.

The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, he was beheaded.

Four centuries give ample opportunity for fiction to creep in with fact. Who can be sure how accurate Blaise's biographer was? But biographical details are not essential. Blaise is seen as one more example of the power those have who give themselves entirely to Jesus. As Jesus told His Apostles at the Last Supper, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). With faith we can follow the lead of the Church in asking for Blaise's protection." (Franciscan Media)

St. Blaise, pray for us!

Ansgar, "the 'apostle of the north' (Scandinavia) had enough frustrations to become a saint—and he did. He became a Benedictine at Corbie, France, where he had been educated. Three years later, when the king of Denmark became a convert, Ansgar went to that country for three years of missionary work, without noticeable success. Sweden asked for Christian missionaries, and he went there, suffering capture by pirates and other hardships on the way. Fewer than two years later, he was recalled. to become abbot of New Corbie (Corvey) and bishop of Hamburg. The pope made him legate for the Scandinavian missions. Funds for the northern apostolate stopped with Emperor Louis's death. After 13 years' work in Hamburg, Ansgar saw it burned to the ground by invading Northmen: Sweden and Denmark returned to paganism.

He directed new apostolic activities in the North, traveling to Denmark and being instrumental in the conversion of another king. By the strange device of casting lots, the king of Sweden allowed the Christian missionaries to return.

Ansgar's biographers remark that he was an extraordinary preacher, a humble and ascetical priest. He was devoted to the poor and the sick, imitating the Lord in washing their feet and waiting on them at table. He died peacefully at Bremen, Germany, without achieving his wish to be a martyr.

Sweden became pagan again after his death, and remained so until the coming of missionaries two centuries later.

History records what people do, rather than what they are. Yet the courage and perseverance of men and women like Ansgar can only come from a solid base of union with the original courageous and persevering Missionary. Ansgar's life is another reminder that God writes straight with crooked lines. Christ takes care of the effects of the apostolate in his own way; he is first concerned about the purity of the apostles themselves. (Franciscan Media)

St. Ansgar, Pray for us!

-NURSING HOME & HOMEBOUND VISITS – If you would be willing to make weekly visits or be in a rotation for weekly visits to our parishioners in nursing homes and those who are homebound, please let me know. We are especially looking for folks at St. Thomas. This would likely include taking the Blessed Sacrament to these folks. If you are not already mandated by the Bishop as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, I will need to submit your name to him before you can take the Blessed Sacrament.

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

-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – Catholic Schools Week is this week. We recognize the great gift of Catholic Education throughout the country and especially for us, in our very own community, with St. Mary School. St. Mary School is a great gift and blessing and a mission of the Church that has been with us for many years and which we have been entrusted with. Thank you for your generous and continued support of St. Mary School.

In addition to our other supporters, I want to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to our Principal, Mrs. Melissa Obert, and all of our teachers and staff who work so diligently each day to make St. Mary School such a great place. Thank you for all you do to shine the Light of Christ in our School.

-POPE'S INTENTION – The Holy Father's intention for February is for the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

-BLESSING OF THROATS – Saturday, February 3 is the memorial of St. Blaise. The Church allows for the blessing of throats to be given on this day during Mass. I will be offering the individual blessing of throats with crossed candles at the morning Mass on this day. Mass on most Saturday mornings is at 8:00 a.m. at Holy Family as it will be on this day.

-FIRST FRIDAY – Friday, February 2 is First Friday and so we will be having our First Friday Devotions at St. Thomas. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at Noon and goes until 5:45 p.m. Benediction is at 5:45 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION – At Holy Family; begins on Saturday, February 3 at 10:00 p.m. and goes through the night with Benediction at 7:45 a.m. followed by our regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Mass.

-ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING – Nocturnal Adoration annual meeting is Sunday, February 11 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling beginning at Noon. If you have not already done so, please sign up in the back of Holy Family Church in order to help plan enough food for the luncheon.

-DONUTS – Next Sunday, February 4 is the first Sunday of the month which means Donut Sunday at St. Thomas. Come on over to the hall after Mass and enjoy a donut and a cup of coffee and visiting with parishioners. I recognize that Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament overlaps this. My suggestion might be to go enjoy a donut and then come back to Church in time for Benediction which will be around 12:10 p.m.

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

NOCTURNAL ADORATION SOCIETY

Nocturnal Adoration Society (NAS) will hold their annual meeting following 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.

Lenten Parish Mission

Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, a Benedictine Monk and Priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, will offer a Lenten Parish Mission at St. Peter Catholic Church in Quincy, IL from Saturday, February 24-Sunday, February 25. This Parish Mission will focus on the Eucharist as part of our National Eucharistic Revival. His Parish Mission will begin with the homily during all Masses on 2/24 & 2/25 and will continue with Parish Mission Conferences at 6:30 p.m. on both 2/24 and 2/25. Fr. Denis's Sunday homily will be recorded and posted to our Parish social media accounts if you are unable to attend for Mass. Childcare will be available in the Cafeteria. We hope to see you!

Lenten Retreat "Gathered in Worship"

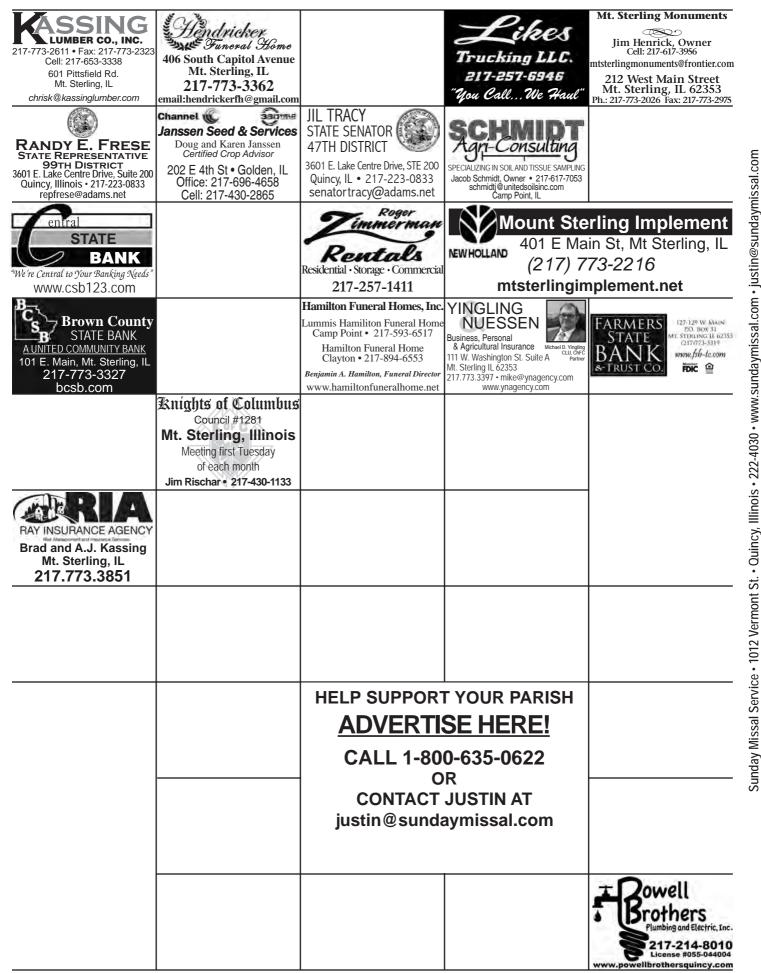
Mark your calendar! The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites all women to this annual winter Lenten Retreat at Villa Maria in Springfield beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27 and ending at noon on Wednesday, February 28, with Fr. Richard Chiola, retired priest of our diocese, as retreat master. What a wonderful time for spiritual presentations, reflection, prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, fellowship, and much more. Bring your sister, your mom, your friend. All are welcome! Registration form with cost is available in the parish office. Registration deadline: February 17. Contact: Mary Ann Sullivan 217-822-1928.

QUINCY 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Walgreens and CVS corporations are on the path to becoming the largest abortion providers in the USA by providing the abortion pill regimen. Join us February 14 through March 24 as we stand (or sit) and peacefully pray during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Walgreens on Broadway between 17th and 18th streets.

Help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information - and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Colleen Maalouf at <u>Ouincy40daysforlife@gmail.com</u>. Website to sign up for prayer vigil shifts is www.40daysforlife.com/en/quincy.

RSVP to Colleen Maalouf at: 619-395-0625 or <u>quincy40daysforlife@gmail.com</u>.



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