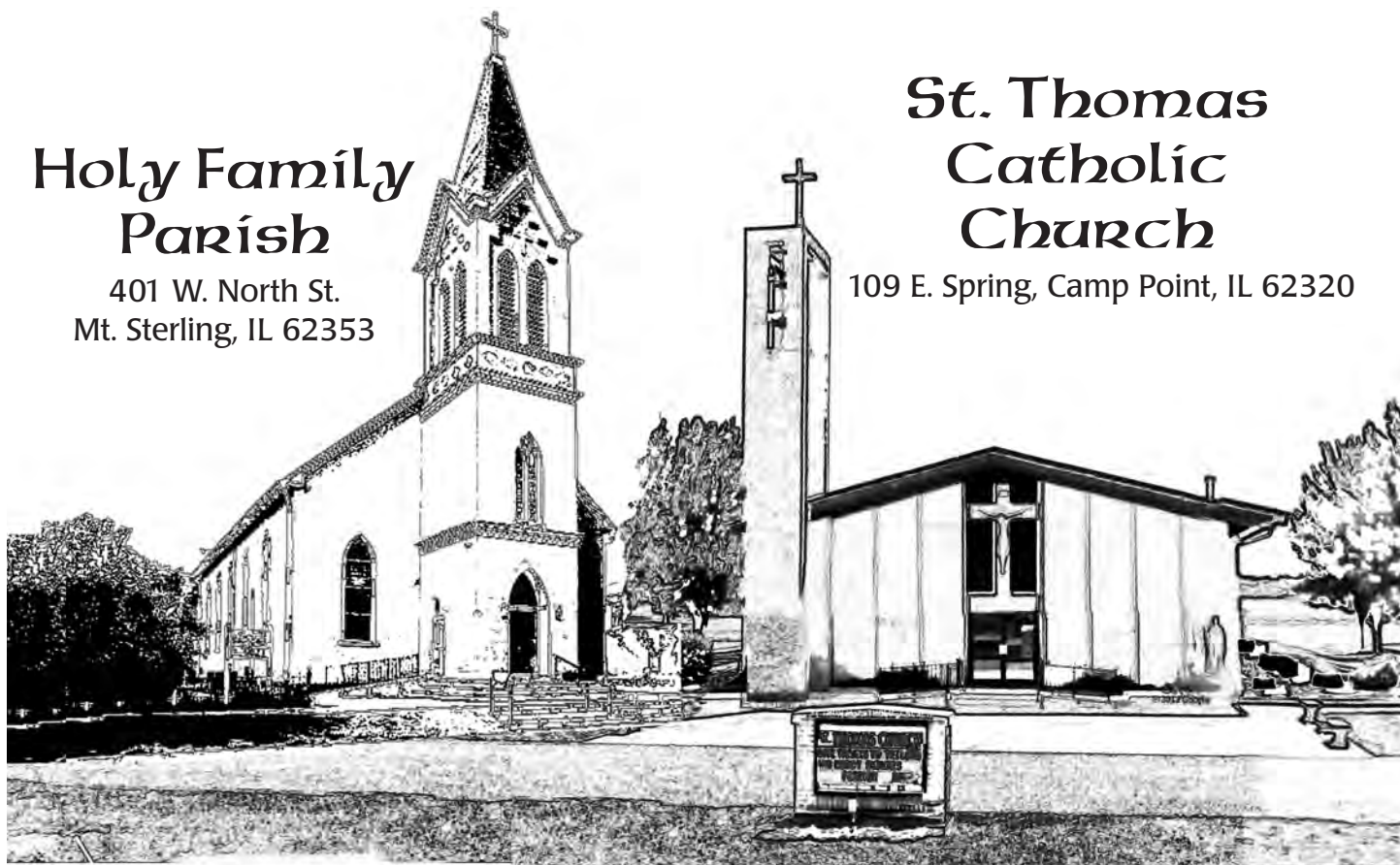


Holy Family Parish

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 8 – 7:00 a.m.

The Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 55:1-11; Mark 1:7-11

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 9 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

John Bullard
(By the Family)

Wednesday, January 10 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39

Jaron Yakle
(By Mary Kassing)

Thursday, January 11 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

Eugene Zackey
(By Scott & Celeste Gillette)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Jon Faubel (Dec.) and his Family
(By Ray & Teresa Bockhold)

Friday, January 12 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12

Russell & Georgia Volk
(By Carol Blentlinger)

Saturday, January 13 – 5:30 p.m.

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17

Rosemary B. Mayfield
(By Amy & Glen Koch)

Sunday, January 14 – 8:00 a.m.

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20;
John 1:35-42

Jennifer Volk
(By Scotty & Carol Blentlinger)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 23-25, 2023

Holy Family: \$8,308.00
School Support: \$365.00
Sister Parish: \$115.00
Debt Reduction: \$900.00
Immaculate Conception Holyday: \$20.00
Religious Retirement: \$50.00
Catholic Children's Home: \$900.00
Christmas: \$1,970.00
Fall Collection: \$800.00

December 30-31, 2023

Holy Family: \$2,813.00
School Support: \$525.00
Sister Parish: \$20.00
Debt Reduction: \$100.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$300.00
Catholic Children's Home: \$60.00
Christmas: \$255.00
Fall Collection: \$500.00
ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$35.00
Catholic Times: \$50.00
First Offering: \$45.00
New Year's: \$330.00
Cemetery: \$200.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 24, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,480.00
Christmas: \$1,235.00
Catholic Children's Home: \$255.00
Candles: \$5.00

December 31, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,871.00
Christmas: \$50.00
Catholic Children's Home: \$65.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$355.00
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:

Bud Bordenkircher † Jeff Kozak †

Jim Duvendack † Marilyn Clark †

John Colgan † Dan Ray † Sheila Thompson †

Dick Bordenkircher † Connie Boling †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

January 14, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Jim & Nora Clausius
Lector:	Kim Gronewold
Gift Bearers:	Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Alicia Schmidt
Collection Counters:	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Ushers:	John Brady, Denny Campbell

From the Pastor’s Desk

Today the Church in the United States celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Our readings remind us that all nations are invited to sing the Lord’s praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gifts of their lives.

The following is taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 528, concerning the Mysteries of Jesus’ Infancy and in particular the Epiphany:

“The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with His baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi’s coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the King of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the Star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship Him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that ‘the full number of the nations’ now takes its ‘place in the family of the patriarchs,’ and acquires Israelitica dignitas (is made ‘worthy of the heritage of Israel’).”

On Epiphany there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of moveable Feasts for the coming year. I am planning to include this Epiphany Proclamation at each of the Masses celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Following is its text:

Know, dear brethren, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the Fourteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the Thirty-First day of March you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the Twelfth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the Nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the Second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the First day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,

to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, January 8 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The celebration of this Feast concludes the Christmas Season and we move into Ordinary Time.

“The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the ‘substance of our flesh’ and was recognized ‘outwardly like unto ourselves’, He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world:

‘Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world.’

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the ‘Beloved Son’ of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. -Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas” (Catholicculture.org)

-Friday, January 12 - In the Dioceses of Bellville, Peoria, and Springfield, Illinois, optional memorial of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Virgin. Born April 17, 1620, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys was a French nun and founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal. She died January 12, 1700, was Beatified in November 1952 by Pope Pius XII, and canonized on October 31, 1982 by Pope John Paul II.

“‘God closes a door and then opens a window,’ people sometimes say when dealing with their own disappointment or someone else’s. That was certainly true in Marguerite’s case. Children from European as well as Native American backgrounds in 17th-century Canada benefited from her great zeal and unshakable trust in God’s providence.

Born the sixth of 12 children in Troyes, France, Marguerite at the age of 20 believed that she was called to religious life. Her applications to the Carmelites and Poor Clares were unsuccessful. A priest friend suggested that perhaps God had other plans for her.

In 1654, the governor of the French settlement in Canada visited his sister, an Augustinian canoness in Troyes. Marguerite belonged to a sodality connected to that convent. The governor invited her to come to Canada and start a school in Ville-Marie (eventually the city of Montreal). When she arrived, the colony numbered 200 people with a hospital and a Jesuit mission chapel.

Soon after starting a school, she realized her need for coworkers. Returning to Troyes, she recruited a friend, Catherine Crolo, and two other young women. In 1667, they added classes at their school for Indian children. A second trip to France three years later resulted in six more young women and a letter from King Louis XIV, authorizing the school. The Congregation of Notre Dame was established in 1676 but its members did not make formal religious profession until 1698 when their Rule and constitutions were approved.

Marguerite established a school for Indian girls in Montreal. At the age of 69, she walked from Montreal to Quebec in response to the bishop's request to establish a community of her sisters in that city. By the time she died, she was referred to as the "Mother of the Colony." Marguerite was canonized in 1982.

It's easy to become discouraged when plans that we think that God must endorse are frustrated. Marguerite was called not to be a cloistered nun but to be a foundress and an educator. God had not ignored her after all." (Franciscan Media)
St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Pray for us!

-Saturday, January 13 - Optional memorial of St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. St. Hilary was a convert from paganism and a leading opponent of Arianism (denial of Christ's Divinity) in the west. He died in the year 367.

"This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a "disturber of the peace." In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France.

Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. He was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of

the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

The heresy spread rapidly. Saint Jerome said "The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian." When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the "Athanasius of the West."

While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people.

Christ said His coming would bring not peace but a sword (see Matthew 10:34). The Gospels offer no support for us if we fantasize about a sunlit holiness that knows no problems. Christ did not escape at the last moment, though He did live happily ever after—after a life of controversy, problems, pain and frustration. Hilary, like all saints, simply had more of the same." (Franciscan Media)

St. Hilary, Pray for us!

-As a reminder, during Ordinary Time when there is no Solemnity, Feast, or Obligatory Memorial inscribed on the Roman calendar for Saturdays, to celebrate a Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary remains an option.

-CATHOLIC TIMES - 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 in your regular set of collection envelopes, 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." In years past, the customary offering was \$15.00 per year per household. The offering envelopes still reflect this amount. You are welcome to give whatever offering you can or would like to give.

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.

Following is a letter from Bishop Paprocki regarding the Catholic Times and the January special collection for its publication:

"My dear Friends in Christ, Catholic Times has always been a key communication tool for our diocese. Whether it is important announcements, teaching the faith, or inspirational stories, the magazine provides tremendous value to readers. That was apparent this past year with a special edition highlighting the rich history of our diocese when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the See city from Alton to Springfield and a special edition that captured the historical Eucharistic Congress in Springfield.

We were also given this powerful story this past year from one of our parishes. In one of their bible studies, the topic of Confession came up. Two women mentioned that they had went to Confession after many decades because of the encouragement found in 2021 special edition of Catholic Times that focused solely on the sacrament. They both said they had saved their copy because it was so good, helpful, and encouraging!

For another consecutive year, Catholic Times received a national award from the Catholic Media Association's national awards program. Also new this past year, Catholic Times launched a new website, dio.org/catholictimes that features

podcasts, videos, articles, my column, and a better search tool.

Catholic Times remains dedicated to helping Catholics better understand the Catholic faith through their Hey, Father! series, addressing complex issues in bioethics, and explaining the significance of sacraments. Feature reporting stands as a cornerstone of the magazine, spotlighting narratives of individuals, parishes, and schools actively contributing to the growth of the Kingdom of God within our diocese. The magazine's steadfast commitment to local coverage ensures that each edition brings forth stories relevant to readers' lives, showcasing contributions from familiar faces, including both laity and clergy.

My column, 'Lex Cordis Caritas,' is one of the best ways I can speak about the issues we face as Catholics and update readers on important decisions I make that impact the faithful.

It is all these reasons why I believe Catholic Times should be available to every household in our diocese, either digitally or by mail. Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield in Illinois; Publisher, Catholic Times"

Bishop Paprocki encourages each of us to respond gratefully in support of this communication tool so we can ensure Catholic Times remains an inexpensive source of Catholic information, education, and inspiration.

-ORDINARY TIME - The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord (this year celebrated on Monday, January 8) concludes our Christmas Season and we move into Ordinary Time. I do hope that you have all had a very Merry Christmas and I pray for a Blessed New Year for each of you. Thank you once again for all of the Christmas greetings, kind words, cards, and gifts. Your love and kindness is held deeply in my heart. Thank you also to all of those who helped make the Christmas Season so special in our parishes. Your work is greatly appreciated.

As we enter into Ordinary Time, I share with you what I have shared before but it is certainly worth our reflecting on once again. We are reminded from the Universal Norms, number 43: "Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time."

We will remain in Ordinary Time until Ash Wednesday (this year, February 14) when we will enter into the Season of Lent followed by the Sacred Triduum and the Easter Season. We will return to Ordinary Time on May 20, the Monday after Pentecost.

-DEER CLASSIC - On the last day of school before Christmas break, on behalf of the Brown County Deer Classic Committee, Santa and "Booner" presented Mrs. Melissa Obert and I a check for \$150,000 for St. Mary School, the proceeds from this year's Deer Classic. This is wonderful news and I am so very grateful for everyone's hard work on this. I am also very grateful for the great support that we have for our wonderful Catholic Grade School. It is a wonderful blessing and a great gift that we have in our parish.

WINTER WEATHER - A reminder once again this year of the very real possibility of winter weather impeding travel in our area. I will certainly do all that I can in order to celebrate Mass at the Church where it is scheduled. However, we have to be aware that it could become impossible for me to travel to and make it to one of the churches. In such an event, I will try to make that known as widely as possible and as soon as possible including through Facebook, TV, and radio. I will also record an announcement on the office/rectory telephone number as soon as possible regarding any cancellations. So, if you are in doubt about the celebration of Mass or another event, please try phoning the office number for any recorded information.

-DAY OF PRAYER - In the United States, January 22, 2024 marks the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Throughout the month of January especially, I ask you to continue to 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.

-VOTIVE CANDLE OFFERING - Just a reminder that we continue to see a rise in the cost of our votive candles and Altar candles. I ask 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. At Holy Family the large 7-day devotional candles that we use are now at a cost of \$2.50. I ask you to consider this when making an offering. At St. Thomas, we use much smaller devotional candles right now and the increase in cost has not been quite as noticeable just yet.

Please know of my continued prayers for you each day and thank you for your prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. 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!

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