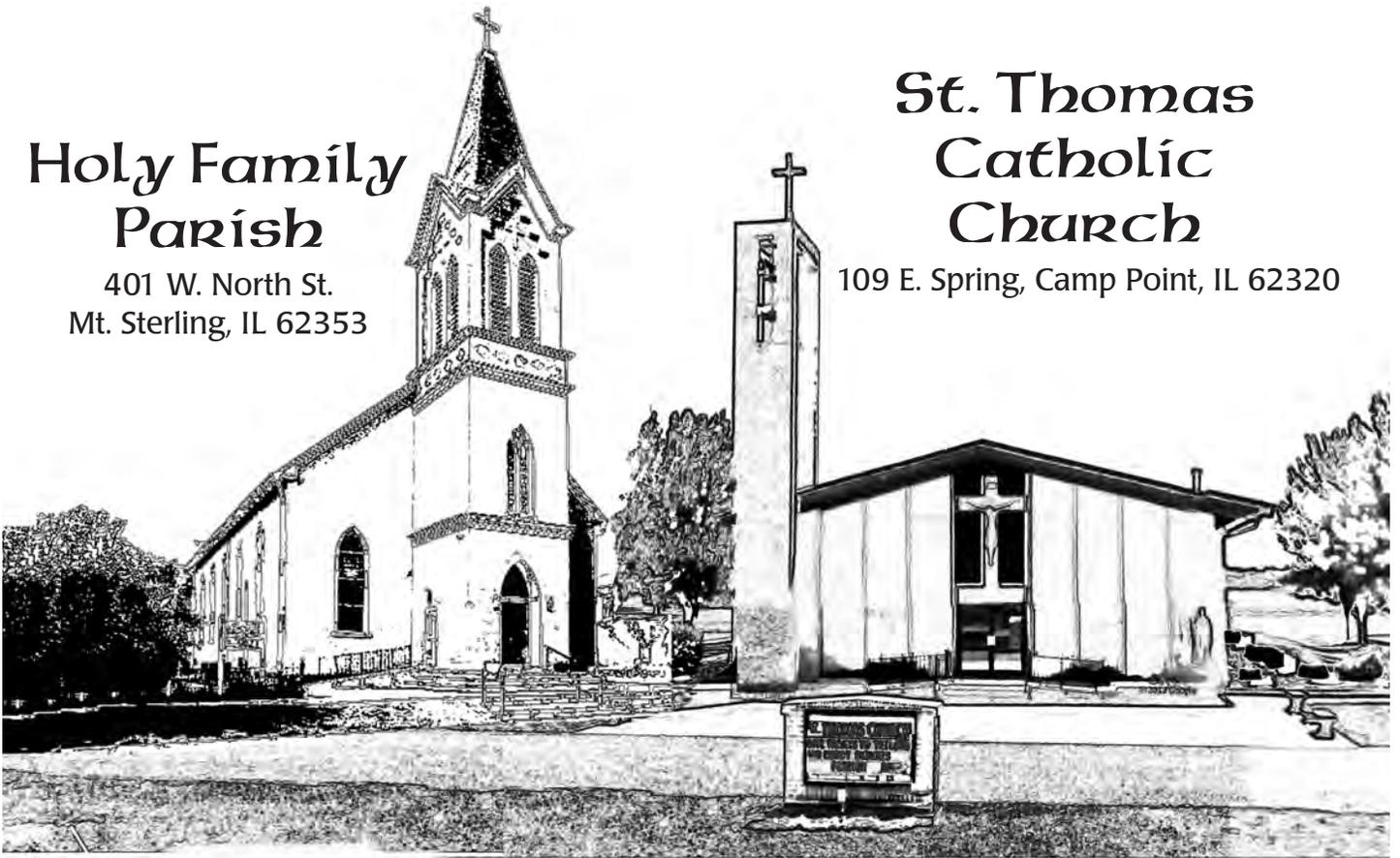


# Holy Family Parish

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, February 12 – 7:00 a.m.

James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13

Communion Service

### Tuesday, February 13 – 7:00 a.m.

James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21

Mary Margaret Bordenkircher  
(By Barb Lehne)

### Wednesday, February 14 - 7:00 a.m.

**(ASH WEDNESDAY - At HOLY FAMILY)**

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

### Wednesday, February 14 – 8:30 a.m.

**(ASH WEDNESDAY - AT HOLY FAMILY)**

**(School Mass)**

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

### Wednesday, February 14 - 12:00 p.m.

**(ASH WEDNESDAY - AT ST. THOMAS)**

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

### Wednesday, February 14 - 5:30 p.m.

**(ASH WEDNESDAY - AT HOLY FAMILY)**

Jennifer Volk  
(By Larry Volk)

### Wednesday, February 14 - 7:00 p.m.

**(ASH WEDNESDAY - AT ST. THOMAS)**

Henry & Rita Bockhold  
(By Ray & Teresa Bockhold)

### Thursday, February 15 – 7:00 a.m.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

James J. Wort  
(By Martha Fluckey)

### St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Wayne & Kathleen Mowen

### Friday, February 16 – 8:30 a.m.

**(School Mass)**

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

Joe Ray  
(By Michelle Downey)

### Saturday, February 17 – 5:30 p.m.

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

Cletus & Eleanor Koch  
(By Mark & Mary Hill)

### Sunday, February 18 – 8:00 a.m.

Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Raymond & Mildred Schrecke  
(By Greg & Elizabeth Likes)

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 3-4, 2024

Holy Family: \$5,932.00  
School Support: \$1,172.00  
Sister Parish: \$15.00  
Catholic Times: \$30.00  
New Year's Day: \$25.00  
Solemnity of Mary: \$15.00  
Church in Latin America: \$25.00  
ACSA: \$35.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 4, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,103.00  
Catholic Times: \$20.00  
Parish Improvement: \$320.00  
Candles: \$25.00

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."
- ❖ **Red Cross Blood Drive:** The need for blood by patients being treated for accidents, routine surgeries, cancer, heart disease, and hemophilia is ongoing and must be met every day. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the **Legion Hall** on Wednesday,

**February 28, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. Call 1-800 Red Cross or 217-257-3117 for appointments. **There is a critical shortage of blood – please consider being a donor!**

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 †  
Emelia Llewellyn † Luke Coggeshall †

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

***February 18, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.***

<b>Sacristan:</b>	Jim Clausius
<b>Greeters:</b>	Butch & Dorothy Obert
<b>Lector:</b>	Tod Perry
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Denny & Cathy Wagner
<b>Eucharistic Minister:</b>	Jerry Herkert
<b>Collection Counters:</b>	Dale & Sindy DeRousse
<b>Ushers:</b>	Brent Obert, Tony Obert

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time. We hear in the readings for today that Jesus manifests the powerful healing love of God by curing the leper who was forced to live under severe restrictions by Jewish legislation. The leper turned to Jesus in his need and was filled with joy.

True healing and joy are found only in Jesus Christ. The primary way we know this healing and joy is through the Church and the Sacraments that the Lord instituted and gave to Her to celebrate. We, of course, turn to the Lord with our needs and the needs of others. But may each of us turn all the more to the Lord every moment of every day to praise and thank God for His great blessings, not just to seek what we need but to also give glory to Almighty God.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday (and the beginning of Lent).

It's worth noting that the Obligatory Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop is normally celebrated on February 14. However, Ash Wednesday takes precedence over all other Liturgical celebrations that day.

It is also important to note that while the secular world celebrates Valentine's Day this day, the Church does not and this year, the Church celebrates Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. While the secular world calls us to "celebrate" with candy and flowers and exquisite dinner out, the Church and the Lord Himself call us to something very different... repentance and conversion and on this day, fast and abstinence. We always have to work to detach ourselves from the things of this world.

While it is always good to show our love and appreciation for people in our lives (not just on a singular day), let us remain mindful FIRST of Ash Wednesday. I cannot encourage you strongly enough to either forgo the dinner out and even the candy and flowers or to do that on another day, maybe on Tuesday. If you find that difficult, be mindful of the sacrificial life we are called to live. Ash Wednesday is a Universal Day of Fast and Abstinence. More on that and the Season of Lent below. To disregard this is seriously sinful.

-Saturday, February 17 – Optional memorial of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order.

The Order of Friar Servants of Mary, or Servites (O.S.M.), was founded by seven Florentine cloth merchants in 1223. Today, this Order numbers about eight-hundred Religious. The Servites popularized devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows.

"Can you imagine seven prominent men of Boston or Denver banding together, leaving their homes and professions, and going into solitude for a life directly given to God? That is what happened in the cultured and prosperous city of Florence in the middle of the 13th century. The city was torn with political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari, who believed that physical

reality was inherently evil. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless.

In 1240, seven noblemen of Florence mutually decided to withdraw from the city to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God. Their initial difficulty was providing for their dependents, since two were still married and two were widowers.

Their aim was to lead a life of penance and prayer, but they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of Saint Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic Orders.

Members of the community came to the United States from Austria in 1852 and settled in New York and later in Philadelphia. The two American provinces developed from the foundation made by Father Austin Morini in 1870 in Wisconsin.

Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in parochial work, teaching, preaching, and other ministerial activities.

The time in which the seven Servite founders lived is very easily comparable to the situation in which we find ourselves today. It is 'the best of times and the worst of times,' as Dickens once wrote. Some, perhaps many, feel called to a countercultural life, even in religion. All of us are faced in a new and urgent way with the challenge to make our lives decisively centered in Christ." (Franciscan Media)

Holy Founders of the Servite Order, Pray for us!

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING - Today, Sunday, February 11 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling beginning at Noon.

-WORLD MARRIAGE DAY - National Marriage Week began February 7 and runs through February 14. World Marriage Day is observed today, Sunday, February 11. This annual celebration normally falls on the second Sunday of February. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family - the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice, and joy in daily married life.

From the USCCB website: "The observances of National Marriage Week (February 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 11) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The theme, 'Marriage...one flesh, given and received' highlights the one-flesh union of husband and wife that is willed by God. It also indicates the personal self-gift of each spouse, one to the other. These concepts point to Christ who gives Himself under the appearance of bread and wine—as Real Flesh and Blood."

As I've written in previous bulletins, the Sacrament of Marriage has been instituted and given to us by Christ. He alone is the Author of Marriage. Marriage is the life-long covenant of one man and one woman. As Marriage and Family Life and its Sacredness remain under attack, I encourage you to pray for good and holy vocations to the married life, for all those discerning and preparing for marriage, for all married couples, and for all families.

-WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - Today, February 11, is also designated the World Day of the Sick. Pope St. John Paul II designated this day in his letter dated May 13, 1992. In it, referring to the designation of this day, he says that it is "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church, and reminding us to see in our sick brother and sister the Face of Christ who, by suffering, dying, and rising, achieved the salvation of humankind."

I'm sure most of you are aware of the serious and chronic illnesses that many people are facing or live with each day. We have a number of folks in our parishes and school who are seriously ill or have chronic illness. Please keep them and all who are sick (known and unknown) in your prayers.

I also want to mention that I had previously referred to this day as the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. However, its proper designation is World Day of the Sick as noted above. Perhaps a seemingly insignificant detail but not really. I encourage you to read once again the brief excerpt above from the letter of Pope St. John Paul II. It clearly calls each of us to pray for the sick, yes, but it does more than that as it also speaks directly to those who are sick as well and to all of us when he says to offer one's suffering for the good of the Church and to see the Face of Christ in the sick. Once again, our suffering can be and is redemptive if we make it as such...redemptive for ourselves and for others, and purifying for the Church.

-LENT - As noted above, the Liturgical Season of Lent begins this week. Wednesday, February 14 is Ash Wednesday, marking the start

of Lent. I encourage you to also read the note above concerning Ash Wednesday, especially for this year.

Masses for Ash Wednesday will be as follows:

At Holy Family – 7:00 a.m.; 8:30 a.m. (with the school); and 5:30 p.m.

At St. Thomas – Noon and 7:00 p.m.

As we enter into the Season of Lent, we remain mindful of its marked characteristics... Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. The Season of Lent calls us in a very particular way to repentance and conversion. We might ask ourselves where we are being called to repentance and not try to kid ourselves that we're not or that it's not all that important. It is important, very important, as the salvation of souls is of ultimate importance. I urge you to not take the Season of Lent lightly.

For your reference, the following are the Lenten Regulations:

1. ABSTINENCE – Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

2. FAST – Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

3. TO DISREGARD COMPLETELY THE LAW OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE IS SERIOUSLY SINFUL.

-SCHEDULE CHANGES – There will be a few small changes to Mass times and Exposition times for Lent. Wednesday Masses during Lent at Holy Family will be at 5:30 p.m. only. There will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass beginning Wednesday, February 21. This will be through Lent only. Please note the Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule above for both parishes.

The above change will affect Wednesday Exposition and Adoration as well. During Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday itself because of the Mass Schedule for that day and each Wednesday during Lent, Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. at Holy Family.

-EVENING MASSES DURING LENT – Wednesday evenings, 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family. Thursday evenings, 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas (this is all year at St. Thomas).

-ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES – I will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation before each of the evening Masses during Lent...Wednesday evenings, 4:45pm – 5:10 p.m. at Holy Family and Thursday evenings, 4:45 p.m. - 5:10 p.m. at St. Thomas.

-STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Wednesday evenings after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Family. Friday evenings, 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas. Praying the Stations of the Cross, especially during Lent, is a powerful tradition of the Church dating back many years. I encourage everyone to participate.

-40 DAYS FOR LIFE – St. Thomas will have the 40 Days for Life Calendar in the Back of Church. Please sign-up for one or more days to pray for life during Lent.

-RICE BOWLS – Will be in the back of each church. Please consider taking one and using it as part of the Lenten Season and your own Lenten practices.

-FISH FRY – St. Mary School Fish Fry is this Friday, February 16 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling serving from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., drive thru only. Be sure to come out and get your fish dinner and enjoy some of the best fish around.

-NO SCHOOL – Friday, February 16 and Monday, February 19 at St. Mary School. Mass and Communion Service times remain the same.

-ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY – St. Thomas is organizing an Altar and Rosary Society for the parish. This is for all ladies of the parish ages sixteen and up. The purpose of the Altar and Rosary Society is to foster a love for the House of God, for its care and adornment, and to promote the Catholic faith, charity, and fellowship among the women of the parish through service and support of parish activities.

To begin this, an informational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. I am grateful for the ladies initiating the start of an Altar and Rosary Society for St. Thomas and I encourage all the ladies of the parish to attend the meeting and to be involved.

For questions or more information, contact Claudia Coggeshall; (217)-653-6716 or [rccogg@adams.net](mailto:rccogg@adams.net).

-PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION – As I've mentioned in past bulletins, Matt Heldt is in Formation for the Permanent Diaconate for our Diocese. Matt is a member of Holy Family Parish. He is in his second year of formation, there are five years total of formation for the Permanent Diaconate. Matt is in Springfield the second weekend of every month for Formation.

His Formation, though, is continuous with study, prayer, and learning every day.

Matt has been visible at Masses as he often reads and serves at many of our Masses at Holy Family. Matt has also begun visiting classrooms in the school from time to time and does visits to the homebound along with a number of other things. For the past six months I have been, and for the next eighteen months I will be, Matt's Pastoral Supervisor. As his formation continues, I am responsible for introducing him to and teaching him things of parish life and Liturgical celebrations while also helping him in all areas of formation including his prayer/spiritual formation and intellectual formation.

Beginning in the Season of Lent, I will be having Matt offer a short reflection after the final blessing at Mass once a week or so during the week. This is not a homily as only a Priest or a Deacon can give a homily.

I ask you to keep Matt and his formation in your prayers as well as all of those who are in formation for the Priesthood or Diaconate. If you do not know Matt, please introduce yourself to him.

I did not take on the responsibility of Pastoral Supervisor for Matt lightly or without prayer and consideration when asked. I must say that it has been a great blessing for me personally and for my Priesthood. When we are willing to cooperate with what God asks of us, He will deliver us great joy and blessing. Serving as Matt's Pastoral Supervisor has given me a greater appreciation for the Permanent Diaconate, has helped me to grow in my own spiritual life, has aided in my own intellectual formation, and has made me an overall better man and Priest.

-MOWING - As we have done for the past several years at both parishes, we will be putting together a schedule of volunteers to mow and trim at both parishes.

Maurice Schmidt spearheads this at St. Thomas and is already beginning to put the schedule together. If you would like to help and get on the schedule, please get in touch with Maurice if he has not already reached out to you.

Tammy McKeown spearheads this at Holy Family. Again, if you are able to help, please contact Tammy to be put on the schedule. We are especially in need of more folks to help at Holy Family.

Finally, we are still accepting bids for the mowing and trimming of our Catholic cemetery in Mt. Sterling. If you or someone you know would like to bid on this, please let me or Jim Henrick know as soon as possible. I'd ask

you to consider thinking of and asking folks who might be interested to submit a bid.

-ADORATION AT HOLY FAMILY - As I hope you know, we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at both parishes on a regular basis. At Holy Family, I have only been doing Simple Exposition. After some consideration, I don't see any reason at all not to have Solemn Adoration with Benediction. And so, beginning with Lent, that is what I am planning to do. We already do Solemn Adoration with Benediction at St. Thomas.

As a reminder, the following is the schedule for Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Holy Family - Saturday afternoons, 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.; Sunday mornings, 6:45 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.; Wednesdays, during Lent, Adoration will be from 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Outside of Lent, Adoration is currently before and after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

St. Thomas - Sundays from about 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (there are some Sundays that I am unable to expose the Blessed Sacrament...such is the case this weekend); Thursday afternoons, 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.; First Fridays Noon - 5:45 p.m.

-“HOLY FAMILY FEST” - Saturday, March 2, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Quincy Notre Dame High School. The event is held in collaboration with the Apostolate for Family Consecration, designed for families to grow closer to each other and in their Catholic Faith. There is an emphasis on growing in devotion to the Holy Family as we navigate day to day family life in a complicated world. There is a flyer posted in Church with more information.

-CCW MEETING - Although it's a little ways off, I invite all ladies of the parishes to mark your calendars and plan to attend the next Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 3 at St. Mary Parish in Pittsfield. The day will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m. with opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, Praying of the Holy Rosary, and Confession. There will, of course, be the regular meeting and a luncheon provided. Sign-up sheets will be in the back of each Church as soon as we have them.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church as you remain in my prayers each day. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

## Fourth Day Renewal

Consider attending a Fourth Day Renewal to deepen your spiritual journey this Lent. If you have ever attended a Cursillo weekend, you are invited to attend. All are welcome - couples, singles, widowed, divorced, male and female. These 24 hours can be a real gift from God to you and re-fueling your Piety, Study, and Action. The March weekend is March 8-9 (7 p.m. Friday-7 p.m. Saturday) and is held at the Franciscan Retreat Center, Quincy, IL. There are several people from our parish on the team: Ann O'Sullivan, Lay Director (217-257-2516 or [aosullivan2031@gmail.com](mailto:aosullivan2031@gmail.com)); Deacon Paul Koch, assistant spiritual director, and Cathleen Koch, musician. Feel free to contact any one of us for further information or questions. Cost is \$55 per person. To learn more and to register online, go to: <https://www.quincycursillo.com/applications/fourth-day-renewal>.

## TAX REPORTING

If any parishioner would like to receive a statement of contributions for calendar year 2023, please contact the school office at (217) 773-2825 (for Holy Family) and (217) 593-6685 (for St. Thomas).

**A contribution statement will not be provided unless a request is received.** As always, we suggest you refer to your own personal contribution records if at all possible.

## POT OF GOLD

January Pot of Gold winners are:

- \$200.00 - Jennah Kerker
- \$100.00 - Kara Hugenberg
- \$50.00 - Tracy Mountain
- \$50.00 - Karen Yingling
- \$50.00 - Bob Schenk
- \$50.00 - Karen Janssen

Raylan and Lucas Koch were the \$100 winner for most tickets sold.

Alice Glasgow Family was the \$100 winner for families that sold 5 tickets.

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**3:00 - 6:00 PM**

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