

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, February 26 - 7:00 a.m.

Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38

Communion Service

Tuesday, February 27 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church Isaiah1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12

Joseph Wagner (By John & Linda Colgan)

Wednesday, February 28 - 5:30 p.m.

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28

> Kay Downey (By Karla & Luke Metz)

Thursday, February 29 - 7:00 a.m.

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31

Mary Franklin Brahler (By Maureen Norvell)

St. Thomas - 5:30 p.m.

Wayne & Cathleen Mowen

Friday, March 1 - 7:00 a.m. (School Mass)

World Day of Prayer Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

> John Yeakel (By Mike & Nancy Kropp)

FIRST FRIDAY - ST. THOMAS

THERE WILL BE NO FIRST FRIDAY MASS AT ST. THOMAS

Saturday, March 2 – 5:30 p.m.

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

Sunday, March 3 - 8:00 a.m.

Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

Erik Heldt (By Matt Heldt)

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Esther Sherman (By Her Daughters)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 17-18, 2024

Holy Family: \$2,570.75 School Support: \$195.00 Sister Parish: \$70.00 Catholic Times: \$75.00 First Offering: \$5.00

Church in Central & Eastern Europe: \$170.00

ACSA: \$975.00 Debt Reduction: \$450.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 14 and February 17, 2024

St. Thomas: \$3,495.38 ACSA/Tithe: \$430.00

Church in Central & Eastern Europe: \$50.00

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."
П	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 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 $(217) 773-2825 \square$

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 † Linda
VanGiesen † Mark Carlock †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

March 3, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Dawn Peters

Greeters: Mark & Amanda Obert

Family

Lector: Bobbi Mock
Gift Bearers: Maurice & Clara

Schmidt

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Clausius/Laura

Evans

Collection Counters: Dale & Sindy DeRousse

Ushers: Jerel Mock, Alex Mock

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Lent. In today's readings, we hear of Abraham prepared to offer the ultimate sacrifice of thanksgiving, the gift of his very son. This, of course, prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us all. In the Gospel, we hear St. Mark's account of the Transfiguration and God's message "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to Him."

God held nothing back, not even His Beloved Son, to lead us to the goodness He desires for us. In the Transfiguration, He shows us the glory that awaits us when we live and love in service of Him. God invites us to listen more closely to His Beloved Son...but boy can we find that difficult at times when we refuse to detach ourselves from the things of the world. Yet, it is the Lord, and the Lord alone, who leads us through this Lenten journey we are on and through our lives. May we grow in trust and learn to follow the fullness of Christ's voice and the fullness of His Truth in all we do.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Tuesday, February 27 – Optional memorial of St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church.

Gregory of Narek who lived around the year 1000 was an Armenian mystical and lyrical poet, abbot, and theologian. He is venerated as a saint in the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015 and added to the General Roman Calendar in 2021 as an optional memorial. He is best known for his "Book of Lamentations," a major work of mystical literature (this, of course, is not to be confused with the Book of Lamentations found in Sacred Scripture).

"Gregor was born in a village on the shores of Lake Van between 945 and 950. When his parents died, Gregor and his older brother were raised by a scholarly uncle who had them educated at the Narek monastery where he was a monk. The monastery was a prominent center of learning located in what is now Turkey. Gregor too entered the monastery and was ordained in 977.

A professor of theology, Gregor wrote a mystical interpretation of the Song of Songs, and a long mystical poem called the Book of Prayer or the Book of Lamentations. He described his poem as "an encyclopedia of prayer for all nations." This classic of Armenian literature has been translated into 30 languages. The Russian text of the Book of Lamentations was set to music in 1985.

Little else is known about Gregor, other than he died in the early 11th century and was buried within the walls of the Narek monastery where he had spent his life. In 2015 as the world observed the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire, Pope Francis concelebrated a Mass at the Vatican with Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmouni and declared the monk, poet, and saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Gregory of Narek, a Doctor of the Church. His liturgical feast is celebrated on February 27.

As opposed to the Armenian Catholic Church that began in the 17th century, the earlier Armenian Apostolic Church did not accept the Council of Chalcedon's 451 teaching that Christ was fully divine and fully human. In 1996, St. John Paul II and Apostolic Catholicos Karekin I signed a declaration confirming the common faith of their two Churches. Prayer often unites groups of people who have seen themselves as very distinct—even enemies." (Franciscan Media)

St. Gregory of Narek, Pray for us!

-THANK YOU – As many of you are aware, I was quite ill for a period of time. Thank you for your prayers and support. As of this writing, I am finally beginning to feel a little better.

As I've mentioned before, there are a number of people who are ill and a number of folks in the hospital. Please continue to prayer for all those who are sick and all those who are suffering in any way.

-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 this Sunday, February 25 at 6:00pm 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.

-SCHEDULE CHANGE – I need to make a one-time schedule change for this coming Friday's Mass, March 1. Mass will be at 7:00 a.m. that day. There will be NO 8:30 a.m. Mass nor will there be a Communion Service. Additionally, as noted below, there will be NO First Friday Devotions at St. Thomas that day.

-POPE'S INTENTION – The Holy Father's prayer intention for March is for the new martyrs. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

-FIRST FRIDAY – There will be NO First Friday Devotions at St. Thomas for the month of March. I have to be out-of-town that day the entire day. I am planning to celebrate Mass at 7:00 a.m. at Holy Family that morning before I head out since I know many folks like to go to Mass on First Fridays. I suspect a number of parishes in Quincy will also have Mass that morning if you want to check with them.

-"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.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION – Saturday, March 2 is the first Saturday of the month and so we will have Nocturnal Adoration at Holy Family. Exposition and Adoration begins at 10:00pm and goes through 7:45 a.m. Sunday morning. Benediction is at 7:45am followed by our regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Mass.

-DONUT SUNDAY – Donuts and coffee after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas next Sunday, March 3 in the parish hall.

-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.

-LENT – The Liturgical Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday. As we have now entered into the Season of Lent, we remain mindful of its marked characteristics of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving and our continual call to Repentance and Conversion.

Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday which then begins the Sacred Paschal Triduum. The Liturgical color for Lent is violet which signifies its repentant nature. "Alleluia" is not sung or said from the beginning of Lent until the Easter Vigil. Although not required, I will most often use Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation I and II for Masses during Lent.

Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week take precedence over all Solemnities and Feasts. All memorials of saints occurring during Lent are observed as optional. Note that this is for memorials only. So, for example, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday, March 19 (not on Ash Wednesday and not during Holy Week) is not optional as it is a Solemnity, not a memorial.

The Churches and Sanctuaries are not decorated during Lent and specifically no use of flowers. The exception to this is on Solemnities and Feasts celebrated during Lent and on Laetare Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent).

Musical instruments may be played ONLY to give necessary support to the singing. The Liturgical music takes on the tone of the Season of Lent, penitential, repentance, conversion.

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 on 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.

-EVENING MASSES DURING LENT – Wednesday evenings, 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family (There will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesdays during Lent). 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, 4:45 p.m. – 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 has 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 – Are in the back of each church. Please consider taking one and using it as part of the Lenten Season and your own Lenten practices.

-ADORATION – As I mentioned in a previous bulletin, with the start of Lent, I had intended to move from Simple Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Family to Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Because of my own illness, I did not start that immediately. I am hopeful to now have begun this.

With Solemn Exposition, there will be the opening hymn, the closing hymn, Benediction, the Divine Praises, and the final hymn. When possible, I will try to incorporate incense and bells as well.

For Lent, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays at Holy Family will be in the afternoon before Mass starts (4:15-5:15 p.m.) (it is normally on Wednesday mornings). Additionally, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Family is from 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. on Saturday evenings and from 6:45 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Nocturnal Adoration is normally the First Saturday of each month.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas is normally on Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. Mass until about 12:15 p.m. and on Thursdays from 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Exposition normally happens on First Fridays as well from Noon until 5:45 p.m. (please note there is NO First Friday Devotion at St. Thomas in March).

-CURRENT ISSUES – The Church and the Fullness of Truth continue to remain under attack. Sadly, many sit by as if is no big deal. It's true, the devil hates the Church, of course, and seeks to try and destroy the Church for the sake of the Fullness of Truth of Jesus Christ which She is entrusted with. While the Lord promises us that the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against Her, we remain mindful of the real spiritual battle that we are engaged in and frankly, it is serious because it has to do with the only thing that is truly important, the salvation of souls.

A few things I'd like to mention here. There is a grave lack of understanding of the Sacraments in general. Without getting into that here and now, it's always important to remember that the Sacraments are given to us by Christ Himself as a means of grace so that we might grow in holiness and hope in Eternal salvation. The Sacraments are not ours. They are given to the Church who in turn safeguards those Sacraments through the Holy Spirit. When properly understood generally and specifically, the Sacraments open to us a much richer depth of a life in Christ.

With that said, there are a number of things to mention. I'll start with a few here. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of Healing. It is necessary for us, not just a nice thing that the Lord made available to make us feel good...frankly, it's time we start putting our emotions aside and focus rather on the very real and serious notion of salvation. Every individual should be using the Sacrament regularly.

Part of the Sacrament involves the Seal of Confession. The Priest may never, for any reason at all, reveal anything heard in a Sacramental Confession. This is very serious and an element that has been under attack for years. Priests take this very serious, as they should, and penitents should expect such. Threats against this should be fought against by all people. I will never reveal anything from a Sacramental Confession to anyone for any reason, regardless of civil penalty. Of course it easy for me to say that now and I pray that God will always help me to persevere through any persecution for this and any other matters of Faith and Truth. We should all pray for that perseverance in our own lives.

Now, this particular issue you may think is not much relevant but believe me, it is. There is always legislation introduced trying to somehow circumvent the Seal of Confession. Frankly, each of these attempts should enrage us and we should be speaking out against it. If peoples and governments can find ways to persecute the Church and Her faithful, believe me, they will. It will happen. It does happen. It is happening.

In this Season of Lent, let us pray and offer sacrifice for ourselves and for one another and for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, that we may remain steadfast in the Truth of Jesus Christ alone and that we might persevere in the persecution that we will undoubtedly face doing so.

More "current affairs" to follow in future bulletins.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my daily prayers for you. May you have a most blessed week.

Fr. Aaron

Adult Faith Formation Series

We will restart our Series on Mary-- A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother on Tuesday night March 5 at 7-8:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This is the same program we started in Advent, but we didn't get very far. We'll start with the Week 2 session and continue through week 8. We will skip the Tuesday in Holy Week and finish on 4/16. About 15 people have already started the course. It's not too late for you to join us. I will need to order more books--so let me know ASAP if you'd like to join. (Ann O'Sullivan, 217-257-2516 or aosullivan2031@gmail.com).

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. This 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-7pm 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); 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.

HOLY FAMILY CHOIR PRACTICE

Please join our choir practices to prepare for Easter. All are welcome.

Practices are Wednesdays after Mass and stations beginning February 28.

Mt. Sterling Community Center YMCA Band and Choir

You are invited to join the Mt. Sterling Community Center YMCA Band and Choir. The choir practices on Mondays, starting 2/19/24 at 7 p.m. and the band practices on Thursdays, starting 2/22/24 at 7 p.m. Both groups practice in the Brown Co. High School Band room. Participation is free and open to anyone 14 and over.

SAVE THE DATE

The upcoming QCCCW meeting will be held Wednesday April 3 at St. Mary's Parish in Pittsfield. More information will be forthcoming.





217-214-8010