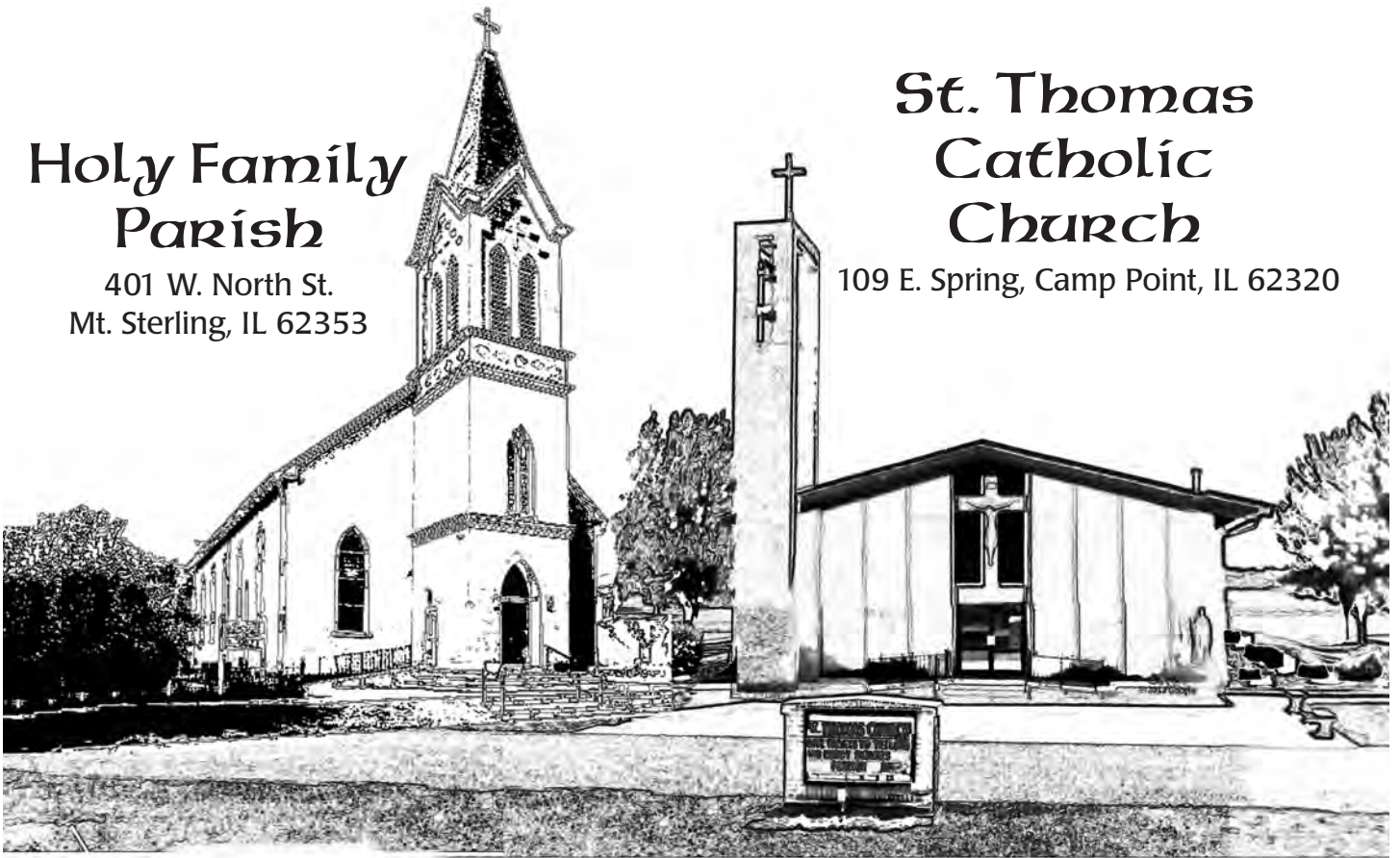


Holy Family Parish

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, February 5 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56

Communion Service

Tuesday, February 6 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs
1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13

Barb Kuhn
(By Sharon Lauer)

Wednesday, February 7 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Kings 10:1-10; Mark 7:14-23

Betty Koch
(By Mike, Alan, Glen, Diane & Families)

Thursday, February 8 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
1 Kings 11:4-13; Mark 7:24-30

John Moorman
(By Tammy)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Danny Seals

Friday, February 9 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

1 Kings 11:29-32; 12-19; Mark 7:31-37

Aaron Koch
(By Paul & Charlotte Koch)

Saturday, February 10 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Scholastica, Virgin
1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mark 8:1-10

Logan & Rosemary B. Mayfield
(By Glen & Amy Koch)

Sunday, February 11 – 8:00 a.m.

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1;
Mark 1:40-45

Living & Deceased Members of the
Nocturnal Adoration Society

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 27-28, 2024

Holy Family: \$6,278.00
School Support: \$180.00
Sister Parish: \$50.00
Debt Reduction: \$100.00
Catholic Times: \$45.00
First Offering: \$20.00
Fall Collection: \$150.00
Church in Latin America: \$370.00
Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 28, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,400.00
Catholic Times: \$65.00
Share Your Faith: \$135.00
Parish Improvement: \$5.00
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:
Jeff Kozak † Jim Duvendack † Marilyn Clark †
John Colgan † Dan Ray † Sheila Thompson †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

February 11, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	PSR Students
Lector:	PSR Students
Gift Bearers:	PSR Students
Eucharistic Minister:	Elizabeth Likes
Collection Counters:	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Ushers:	Brent Obert, Tony Obert

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. In today's readings, Job's cry of hopelessness in the First Reading stands in marked contrast to the hope of those who put their trust in Jesus who heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. Such are the blessings of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Catechism defines hope as the Theological Virtue by which we desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it. This, of course, is not presumption and we have to remain mindful of the necessity on our part to cooperate with God's grace. The Catechism further tells us that hope is the virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Hope is the sure and steadfast anchor of the soul and a weapon that protects us in the struggle of salvation. Hope is expressed and nourished in prayer, especially the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire.

We can therefore hope in the glory of Heaven promised by God to those who love Him and do His Will. In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere to the end and to obtain the joy of Heaven as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ. In hope, the Church prays for all men to be saved. She longs to be united with Christ, Her Bridegroom, in the glory of Heaven. St. Teresa of Avila offers this prayer:

"Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully,

for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one. Dream that the more you struggle, the more you prove the love that you bear your God, and the more you will rejoice one day with your Beloved, in a happiness and rapture that can never end."

Let us pray that we may have and nourish this great virtue of hope in our own lives and let us pray for others that they too may have and nourish the virtue of hope.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, February 5 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr. Agatha died around the year 251 in Sicily. She is the patroness of Palermo and Catania. She is invoked for protection against volcanic eruptions and fires. She is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

"As in the case of Agnes, another virgin-martyr of the early Church, almost nothing is historically certain about this saint except that she was martyred in Sicily during the persecution of Emperor Decius in 251.

Legend has it that Agatha, like Agnes, was arrested as a Christian, tortured, and sent to a house of prostitution to be mistreated. She was preserved from being violated and was later put to death.

She is claimed as the patroness of both Palermo and Catania. The year after her death, the stilling of an eruption of Mt. Etna was attributed to her intercession. As a result, apparently, people continued to ask her prayers for protection against fire.

The scientific modern mind winces at the thought of a volcano's might being contained by God because of the prayers of a Sicilian girl. Still less welcome, probably, is the notion of that saint being the patroness of such varied professions as those of foundry workers, nurses, miners, and Alpine guides. Yet, in our historical precision, have we lost an essential human quality of wonder and poetry, and even our belief that we come to God by helping each other, both in action and prayer?" (Franciscan Media)

St. Agatha, Pray for us!

-Tuesday, February 6 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs.

“Nagasaki, Japan, is familiar to Americans as the city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped, immediately killing over 37,000 people. Three and a half centuries before, 26 martyrs of Japan were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki. Among them were priests, brothers, and laymen, Franciscans, Jesuits, and members of the Secular Franciscan Order; there were catechists, doctors, simple artisans, and servants, old men and innocent children—all united in a common faith and love for Jesus and his Church.

Brother Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among the martyrs of Japan. While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: ‘The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me, and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ’s example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain.’

When missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first, they found no trace of Christianity. But after establishing themselves they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith. Beatified in 1627, the martyrs of Japan were finally canonized in 1862.

Today, a new era has come for the Church in Japan. Although the number of Catholics is not large, the Church is respected and has total religious freedom. The spread of Christianity in the Far East is slow and difficult. Faith such as that of the 26 martyrs is needed today as much as in 1597.

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Pray for us!

-Thursday, February 8 - Optional memorials of St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin.

“A careless and irreligious soldier for the city-state of Venice, Jerome was captured in a skirmish at an outpost town and chained in a dungeon. In prison Jerome had a lot of time

to think, and he gradually learned how to pray. When he escaped, he returned to Venice where he took charge of the education of his nephews—and began his own studies for the priesthood.

In the years after his ordination, events again called Jerome to a decision and a new lifestyle. Plague and famine swept northern Italy. Jerome began caring for the sick and feeding the hungry at his own expense. While serving the sick and the poor, he soon resolved to devote himself and his property solely to others, particularly to abandoned children. He founded three orphanages, a shelter for penitent prostitutes and a hospital.

Around 1532, Jerome and two other priests established a congregation, the Clerks Regular of Somasca, dedicated to the care of orphans and the education of youth. Jerome died in 1537 from a disease he caught while tending the sick. He was canonized in 1767.

Very often in our lives it seems to take some kind of “imprisonment” to free us from the shackles of our self-centeredness. When we’re ‘caught’ in some situation we don’t want to be in, we finally come to know the liberating power of Another. Only then can we become another for ‘the imprisoned’ and ‘the orphaned’ all around us.” (Franciscan Media)

St. Jerome Emiliani, Pray for us!

“For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave, but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed.

Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice’s Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened

on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

Josephine's body was mutilated by those who enslaved her, but they could not touch her spirit. Her Baptism set her on an eventual path toward asserting her civic freedom and then service to God's people as a Canossian Sister. She who worked under many "masters" was finally happy to address God as "Master" and carry out everything that she believed to be God's will for her." (Franciscan Media)

St. Josephine Bakhita, Pray for us!

This day is also observed as a Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

-Saturday, February 10 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin.

"Twins often share the same interests and ideas with an equal intensity. Therefore, it is no surprise that Scholastica and her twin brother, Benedict, established religious communities within a few miles from each other.

Born in 480 of wealthy parents, Scholastica and Benedict were brought up together until he left central Italy for Rome to continue his studies.

Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery.

The twins visited each other once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. They spent these times discussing spiritual matters.

According to the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great, the brother and sister spent their

last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day.

He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey.

Benedict cried out, 'God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?' Scholastica replied, 'I asked a favor of you, and you refused. I asked it of God and He granted it.'

Brother and sister parted the next morning after their long discussion. Three days later, Benedict was praying in his monastery and saw the soul of his sister rising heavenward in the form of a white dove. Benedict then announced the death of his sister to the monks and later buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

Scholastica and Benedict gave themselves totally to God and gave top priority to deepening their friendship with Him through prayer. They sacrificed some of the opportunities they would have had to be together as brother and sister in order to better fulfill their vocation to the religious life. In coming closer to Christ, however, they found they were also closer to each other. In joining a religious community, they did not forget or forsake their family but rather found more brothers and sisters." (Franciscan Media)

St. Scholastica, Pray for us!

-DONUT SUNDAY - Today, February 4, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas in the parish hall.

-ANNIVERSARY - Monday, February 5 marks the two-year death anniversary of my mother.

The death of a loved one is always difficult. The death of a parent, and especially a mother is particularly difficult, especially for most priests. I still miss mom beyond words and yet confidently entrust her to the loving mercy of our Heavenly Father who brings peace and comfort to all.

To those of you who continue to grieve the death of a loved one, please know of my prayers for you and may you know the peace and comfort of Christ who promises Eternal Life with the Father to those who follow Him.

-DAY OF PRAYER - February 11 (next Sunday) is designated the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Pope St. John Paul II designated this day in his letter dated May 13, 1992. In it, referring to this Day of Prayer, 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."

-WORLD MARRIAGE DAY - Also celebrated next Sunday, February 11. More information in next week's bulletin.

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

-NURSING HOME & HOMEBOUND VISITS - As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, 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.

-ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING - Nocturnal Adoration annual meeting is next 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.

If you are interested in learning more about Nocturnal Adoration or spending one hour overnight each month in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, contact Mary Koch.

-LENT - We will soon be entering the Liturgical Season of Lent in the Church. Next Wednesday, February 14 is Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent. As we look forward to the Season of Lent, we remain mindful of its marked characteristics...Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.

Masses for Ash Wednesday will be as follows:

Holy Family: 7:00 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.

St. Thomas: Noon; 7:00 p.m.

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.**

I will continue this year to celebrate Mass at Holy Family on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 5:30 p.m. There will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesdays during Lent. Adoration will be before the evening Mass from 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. I believe folks are also still planning to lead and pray the Stations of the Cross after the Wednesday evening Masses each week.

I will hopefully have a more complete schedule for Lent and Easter in next week's bulletin including Stations of the Cross at both parishes and additional times for Confession.

-FISH FRY - Mark your calendars for the St. Mary School Fish Fry on Friday, February 16 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling.

Thank you once again for your continued prayers and support 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

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 Quincy40daysforlife@gmail.com. Website to sign up for prayer vigil shifts is www.40daysforlife.com/en/quincy.

RSVP to Colleen Maalouf at: 619-395-0625 or quincy40daysforlife@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. 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); 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/forth-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.

ST. EDWARD CHURCH

214 S. State Rd.
Mendon, IL

FEB. 11, 2024

Annual Whole Hog

Sausage & Pancake Day and
Biscuits & Gravy



ALL YOU CAN EAT!!
8 am - 12 pm

Sponsored by St. Edward Men's Club

Adults \$12.00
10 and under \$6.00

**TO ORDER BY FEB. 7
BY 4 PM**

To place a meat order please
call: Lindsey 430-7437 or
email to:
stewardsmeatorders@gmail.com

SATURDAY PICKUP

2:00PM to 4:00PM

PORK FOR SALE

Sausage Links and Bulk 3lbs package	\$12
Ribs 3lb package	\$10
Pork Chops 3 lb package	\$15
Backbones 3 lb package	\$10
Head Cheese per stick	\$8

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