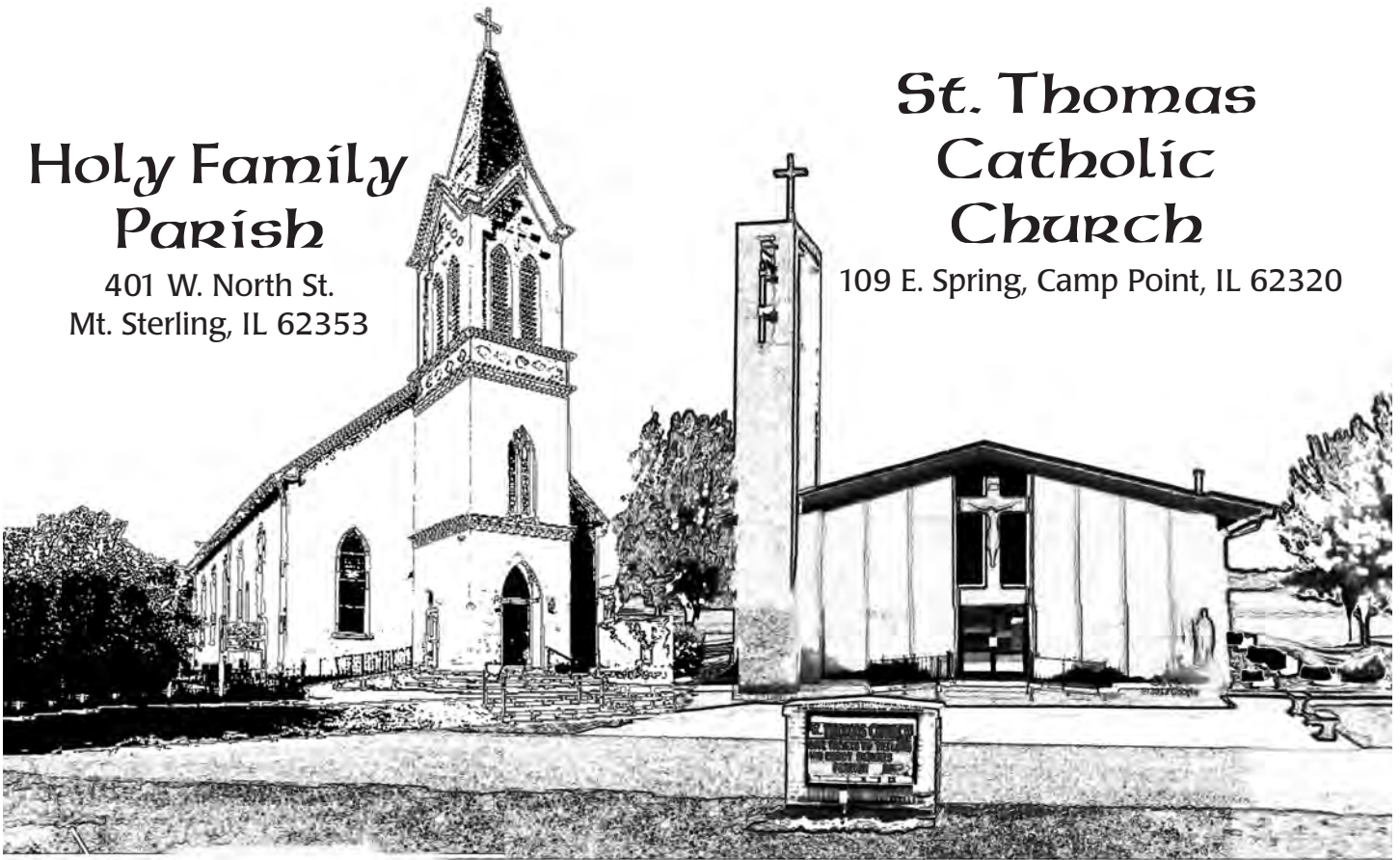


Holy Family Parish

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, March 4 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Casimir
2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30

Communion Service

Tuesday, March 5 – 7:00 a.m.

Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35

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

Wednesday, March 6 – 5:30 p.m.

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19

Communion Service

Thursday, March 7 – 7:00 a.m.

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23

Communion Service

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Louise Waner
(By Jim & Nora Clausius)

Friday, March 8 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

St. John of God, Religious
Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34

Louis & Mary Henrick
(By Carl & Nancy Mitchell)

Saturday, March 9 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Frances of Rome, Religious
Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

Matt, Mary, Scoot, Shirley & Ag
(By Larry Volk)

Sunday, March 10 – 8:00 a.m.

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10;
John 3:14-21

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Josephine Simmons Wadall
(By Chuck & Sally Simmons)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 24-25, 2024

Holy Family: \$2,809.00

School Support: \$110.00

Sister Parish: \$25.00

Catholic Times: \$15.00

First Offering: \$5.00

Catholic Relief: \$30.00

Parish Tithe/ACSA: \$400.00

Catholic Charities: \$30.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

February 25, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,584.00

ACSA/Tithe: \$25.00

Sister Parish: \$145.00

Parish Improvement: \$140.00

Candles: \$32.00

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 †
Luke Coggeshall † Linda VanGiesen †
Mark Carlock † Logan Wilson †

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the families of Robert Kemper who passed away on February 12, 2024, and Mark Ebbing who passed away on February 27, 2024. May God keep you in His care! Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ST. THOMAS

The first Altar and Rosary Society meeting was held at St. Thomas on February 26, 2024.

It was decided to come up with one ministry to start with that would fulfill one of our parish needs. Ladies, if you would like to bring forth an idea that you feel our parish needs to address, please let us know by the next meeting Sunday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. Contact Claudia Coggeshall at rccogg@adams.net.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

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

Sacristan: Denise Taylor
Greeters: Tod Perry Family
Lector: Kim Gronewold
Gift Bearers: Denny & Cathy Wagner
Eucharistic Minister: Teresa Bockhold/
Clara Schmidt
Collection Counters: Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Ushers: Jerel Mock, Alex Mock

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Lent. It is also the day for the first of three Scrutinies for those preparing to receive full initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. As such, when and where the Scrutinies are celebrated, there are options for the readings for Mass.

In our readings for Year B which we are in (not for the Scrutinies) we are reminded that the law liberates and leads us to freedom. It is to be trusted for it is a source of wisdom. Jesus speaks of the ultimate freedom to be won for us by His being raised up. He is the sign of the power and wisdom of God.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:
Just a reminder, all memorials are celebrated as optional memorials during Lent. This applies to memorials only, not to Feasts and Solemnities.

-Monday, March 4 - Optional memorial of St. Casimir. Casimir was a Polish Prince known as the "brother and defender of the poor." He led an austere life, died in 1484, and is patron of Poland and Lithuania.

"Casimir, born of kings and in line to be a king himself, was filled with exceptional values and learning by a great teacher, John Dlugosz. Even his critics could not say that his conscientious objection indicated softness. As a teenager, Casimir lived a highly disciplined, even severe life, sleeping on the ground, spending a great part of the night in prayer and dedicating himself to lifelong celibacy.

When nobles in Hungary became dissatisfied with their king, they prevailed upon Casimir's father, the king of Poland, to send his son to take over the country. Casimir obeyed his father, as many young men over the centuries have obeyed their governments. The army he was supposed to lead was clearly outnumbered by the 'enemy'; some of his troops were deserting because they were not paid. At the advice of his officers, Casimir decided to return home.

His father was irked at the failure of his plans, and confined his 15-year-old son for three months. The lad made up his mind never again to become involved in the wars of his day, and no amount of persuasion could change his mind. He returned to prayer and study, maintaining his decision to remain

celibate even under pressure to marry the emperor's daughter.

He reigned briefly as king of Poland during his father's absence. He died of lung trouble at 25 while visiting Lithuania, of which he was also Grand Duke. He was buried in Vilnius, Lithuania.

For many years, Poland and Lithuania faded into the gray prison on the other side of the Iron Curtain. Despite repression, the Poles and Lithuanians remained firm in the faith which has become synonymous with their name. Their youthful patron reminds us: Peace is not won by war; sometimes a comfortable peace is not even won by virtue, but Christ's peace can penetrate every government repression of religion." (Franciscan Media)

St. Casimir, Pray for us!

-Thursday, March 7 - Optional memorial of Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs. Perpetua, a noble lady, and Felicity, her slave, were martyred at Carthage in 203 under Septimus Severus. Their names are mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

"When my father in his affection for me was trying to turn me from my purpose by arguments and thus weaken my faith, I said to him, 'Do you see this vessel—water pot or whatever it may be? Can it be called by any other name than what it is?' 'No,' he replied. 'So also I cannot call myself by any other name than what I am—a Christian.'"

So writes Perpetua: young, beautiful, well-educated, a noblewoman of Carthage in North Africa, mother of an infant son and chronicler of the persecution of the Christians by Emperor Septimius Severus.

Perpetua's mother was a Christian and her father a pagan. He continually pleaded with her to deny her faith. She refused and was imprisoned at 22.

In her diary, Perpetua describes her period of captivity: 'What a day of horror! Terrible heat, owing to the crowds! Rough treatment by the soldiers! To crown all, I was tormented with anxiety for my baby.... Such anxieties I suffered for many days, but I obtained leave for my baby to remain in the prison with me, and being relieved of my trouble and anxiety for him, I at once recovered my health, and my prison became a palace to me and I would rather have been there than anywhere else.'

Despite threats of persecution and death, Perpetua, Felicity—a slavewoman and expectant

mother—and three companions, Revocatus, Secundulus and Saturninus, refused to renounce their Christian faith. For their unwillingness, all were sent to the public games in the amphitheater. There Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded, and the others killed by beasts.

Felicity gave birth to a daughter a few days before the games commenced.

Perpetua's record of her trial and imprisonment ends the day before the games. 'Of what was done in the games themselves, let him write who will.' The diary was finished by an eyewitness.

Persecution for religious beliefs is not confined to Christians in ancient times. Consider Anne Frank, the Jewish girl who with her family, was forced into hiding and later died in Bergen-Belsen, one of Hitler's death camps during World War II. Anne, like Perpetua and Felicity, endured hardship and suffering and finally death because she committed herself to God. In her diary, Anne writes, 'It's twice as hard for us young ones to hold our ground, and maintain our opinions, in a time when all ideals are being shattered and destroyed, when people are showing their worst side, and do not know whether to believe in truth and right and God.'" (Franciscan Media)

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Pray for us!

-Friday, March 8 - Optional memorial of St. John of God, Religious. St. John of God was a shepherd, a soldier, and an entrepreneur before his conversion at the age of forty-two. He laid the foundation for the Order of Hospitallers (O.H.) which today numbers about 1,100 religious. St. John of God died in 1550 in Granada and is patron of hospitals, the sick, nurses, and booksellers.

"Having given up active Christian belief while a soldier, John was 40 before the depth of his sinfulness began to dawn on him. He decided to give the rest of his life to God's service, and headed at once for Africa where he hoped to free captive Christians and, possibly, be martyred.

He was soon advised that his desire for martyrdom was not spiritually well based, and returned to Spain and the relatively prosaic activity of a religious goods store. Yet he was still not settled. Moved initially by a sermon of Saint John of Avila, he one day engaged in a public beating of himself, begging mercy and wildly repenting for his past life.

Committed to a mental hospital for these actions, John was visited by Saint John, who advised him to be more actively involved in tending to the needs of others rather than in enduring personal hardships. John gained peace of heart, and shortly after left the hospital to begin work among the poor.

He established a house where he wisely tended to the needs of the sick poor, at first doing his own begging. But, excited by the saint's great work and inspired by his devotion, many people began to back him up with money and provisions. Among them were the archbishop and marquis of Tarifa.

Behind John's outward acts of total concern and love for Christ's sick poor was a deep interior prayer life which was reflected in his spirit of humility. These qualities attracted helpers who, 20 years after John's death, formed the Brothers Hospitallers, now a worldwide religious order.

John became ill after 10 years of service, but tried to disguise his ill health. He began to put the hospital's administrative work into order and appointed a leader for his helpers. He died under the care of a spiritual friend and admirer, Lady Ana Ossorio.

The utter humility of John of God, which led to a totally selfless dedication to others, is most impressive. Here is a man who realized his nothingness in the face of God. The Lord blessed him with the gifts of prudence, patience, courage, enthusiasm, and the ability to influence and inspire others. He saw that in his early life he had turned away from the Lord, and, moved to receive His mercy, John began his new commitment to love others in openness to God's love." (Franciscan Media)

St. John of God, pray for us!

-Saturday, March 9 - Optional memorial of St. Frances of Rome, Religious. St. Frances of Rome was a noblewoman, wife, and mother who founded a community of Benedictine women Oblates committed to serving the poorest of the poor. She died in 1440 and is the patroness of widows and motorists.

"Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor.

Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected

and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband.

As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannoza, set out together—with their husbands' blessings—to help the poor.

Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household.

The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannoza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society—serving the poorest of the poor.

Looking at the exemplary life of fidelity to God and devotion to her fellow human beings which Frances of Rome was blessed to lead, one cannot help but be reminded of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, who loved Jesus Christ in prayer and also in the poor. The life of Frances of Rome calls each of us not only to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. Frances shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows." (Franciscan Media)

St. Frances of Rome, Pray for us!

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

-CEMETERY MOWING - We are still accepting bids for mowing and trimming of the Catholic Cemetery in Mt. Sterling. If you are interested or know someone who is, please reach out to me right away.

-PRIEST MEETING - The Spring Meeting for Priests in our Diocese will be this coming Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7. On those two days, Deacon Paul will offer a Communion Service at Holy Family at the regularly scheduled Mass time (5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. on Thursday). I should be back in time on Thursday evening for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass at St. Thomas.

Please keep Bishop Paprocki and the priests of the Diocese in your prayers as we gather together.

-DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIMES - Begins next Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. I don't want you to find yourself missing Mass because of the time change.

-LENTEN REGULATIONS - The following are the very minimum we are obliged to follow for the Lenten Season and Paschal Triduum. While the following are strictly necessary, we should always strive to do more in our life of sacrifice and holiness.

1. ABSTINENCE - Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, 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.

-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.

-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.

-CURRENT ISSUES - Recently, a journalist declared that what unites "Christian nationalists" is their belief that human rights "come from God," suggesting that such a belief is dangerous for the country.

Heidi Przybyla said on Thursday, February 22 that "...the thing that unites them as Christian nationalists — not Christians, by the way, because Christian nationalists is very different — is that they believe that our rights as Americans, as all human beings, don't come from any earthly authority. They don't come from Congress, they don't come from the Supreme Court, they come from God."

This statement garnered a lot of comments, pointing to the persecution of the Church and the faithful. Bishop Robert Barron posted an excellent video response. In it, he noted that Przybyla was deeply mistaken in attributing the belief in the divine origin of rights to Christian nationalist "weirdos."

"First of all, it was Thomas Jefferson who made that claim," Bishop Barron said. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights."

Bishop Barron goes on to clarify that "It is exceptionally dangerous when we forget the principle that our rights come from God and not from the government because the basic problem is if they come from the government (or Congress, or the Supreme Court) they can be taken away by those same people."

Bishop Barron said "This is opening the door to totalitarianism," and added: "This is

not some kind of religious nationalism or sectarianism. It is one of sanest principles of our democratic governance: that our rights come from God. Yes, government exists to secure these rights — the Declaration says — not to produce them.”

Bishop Barron went on to say that going down this road is “exceptionally dangerous” because rights would lose their grounding in something transcendent and become subject to the whims of our rulers. “In their enthusiasm to go against Christian nationalism, they’re actually going against the foundations of our democracy,” he cautioned.

Bishop Barron went on to say that this is further evidence of the left’s “extreme hostility” toward religion and concluded his video saying: “As an American, I want to hold that my rights come not from something as vacillating and unreliable as Congress and the Supreme Court; they come from God.”

Again, Bishop Barron’s video response was excellent and succinct. It would be worth watching if you can find it online.

To reiterate, God is the Creator of all that is good and He is the Creator of each one of us, born and unborn. Our rights are indeed given to us by God alone, not government or some entity. Sadly, even some faithful Christians can sometimes fall for the deceit that we have rights outside of what is given by God alone.

These types of things may seem insignificant. Believe me, they are not! You might think, oh well, what’s the big deal. The big deal is the salvation of souls and the eroding of God from our lives. Satan has deceived many, has led many away from God, has threatened the eternal salvation of many, even those who may think themselves as “faithful.” Let us always be on guard against that deceit and speak out against it. Let us pray for one another and ourselves, for our repentance and conversion, and for the grace and strength to persevere in the Truth of Jesus Christ alone.

Please be assured of my prayers for you each day and thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. 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, 217-2567-2516 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-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/fourth-day-renewal>.

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.

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.

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