

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 11 - 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

Communion Service

<u>Tuesday, March 12 - 7:00 a.m.</u>

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-26

John Yeakel (By Doug & Crissy Yeakel)

Wednesday, March 13 – 5:30 p.m.

Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

Joe Ray (By John & Linda Colgan)

Thursday, March 14 - 7:00 a.m.

Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

Charles Koch (By William Volk)

St. Thomas - 5:30 p.m.

Evelyn Tooley (By Don Tooley)

Friday, March 15 - 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10,25-30

Bill O'Sullivan (By Luke, Karla & Will Metz)

Saturday, March 16 – 5:30 p.m.

Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

Bob & Sylva Dixon and Julie Link (By Cheryl Dillard)

Sunday, March 17 - 8:00 a.m.

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Martha Koetters (By Barbara Duesterhaus)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 2-3, 2024

Holy Family: \$5,193.70 School Support: \$922.00 Sister Parish: \$10.00 Catholic Charities: \$500.00 Debt Reduction: \$125.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 3, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,150.00 ACSA/Tithe: \$25.00 Sister Parish: \$235.00 Parish Improvement: \$10.00 Catholic Charities: \$255.00

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 †
Dan Ray † Sheila Thompson † Luke Coggeshall †
Linda VanGiesen † Logan Wilson †

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the families of Gay Gunn who passed away on February 28, 2024, and John Colgan who passed away on February 29, 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 17, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jim Clausius

Greeters: Jacob & Alicia Schmidt

Family

Lector: Karen Janssen
Gift Bearers: John & Janice Brady
Eucharistic Minister: Cathy Wagner/

Cathy Wagner/ Tod Perry

Collection Counters: Jerel Mock Family Jerel Mock, Alex Mock

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the 4th Sunday of Lent also known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare, meaning rejoice, is taken from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon for this Sunday. It sets the tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter Mystery as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments. Lent is indeed a solemn time for us as we reflect on our own interior life and those areas that need purifying and sanctifying, yet we are reminded this Sunday of the joy that we will experience in the celebration of Easter.

This weekend we also celebrate the Second Scrutiny for those who will be receiving all three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. We look forward to when they will join in professing the Creed, our faith, with us for the first time at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to keep the Elect and all those coming into the Church in your prayers.

As a reminder, the Scrutinies are for the Elect, those who will be Baptized at the Easter Vigil. The Scutinies are generally celebrated at a Sunday Mass (or at the Saturday Vigil Mass). The Scrutinies are beautiful rituals given to us by the Church to help those who are journeying toward Baptism and entry into the Church that their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ may be deepened. The Scrutinies are Rites of the Church for self-searching and repentance and have above all, a spiritual purpose. The Scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong, and good. The Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the Elect from the power of sin and satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

There are 3 Scrutinies that occur on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. Following the First Scrutiny, the Elect are presented with the Creed. Following the Third Scrutiny, the Elect are presented with the Lord's Prayer (the Our Father).

As was the case last week, this week we have the option of using the readings from Year A or Year B. At the Mass with the Second Scrutiny we use the readings from Year A. For the other Masses, we use the readings from Year B. The following is in relation to the readings for Year B.

If we take a look back over the whole of history including our very own lives, humans have a tendency to choose what is the easier path but not necessarily the better path. The easier path can often lead away from God and into the darkness of sin. But Christ's way is the way of light, and we are called to be His disciples...to let go of preferences and actions that keep us in the dark and to joyfully and eagerly take the

path which leads to truth and goodness. We see this reflected in the readings for today. Christ is the light of the world who saves us from the darkness of sin and death. There is nothing and no one else who can lay claim to that.

In the First Reading from the Book of Chronicles we hear of the people's sinfulness and infidelity to God time and again. Still, it says, early and often God sent messengers to the people because of the compassion He had for them. But the people mocked God's messengers, despised God's warnings, and scoffed at God's prophets. But this path led to destruction and death. The people rejected God's message because to accept His message would mean to change, to grow, to face their own wickedness. But the people preferred the easier path and chose their ways over God's ways...they chose death over life. And we can't just look at those people with pity because they reflect our very selves. Even though we know and have experienced God's love and mercy and compassion and even though we know that Christ is the light that leads to Eternal Life, we too can reject God's message. We too can despise and mock and scoff and refuse to change, to grow, and to face our own wickedness. We sometimes too prefer the easier path and choose our ways over God's ways. We sometimes too choose death over life for our very selves. You might say no way, not me but Lent is a great time to bring all of that to the surface of our life, to bring it to the light.

St. Paul in the Second Reading reminds us that God is rich in mercy because He loves us. This is true and we should be eternally grateful for that. But it doesn't give us the pass to go about and do whatever we want and to choose our ways over God's ways. It doesn't give us a license to try and define Truth or change Truth. It doesn't allow for anything and everything under the disguise of equality, inclusion, or whatever else someone wants to call it. Foregoing the Truth so that we or someone else might "feel good" or "feel better" is not a good thing. It deprives one of the fullness of life and complete freedom and even puts one in danger of not taking part in Christ's healing and salvation.

As we move to the Gospel for today, we hear Jesus saying that the light came into the world but people preferred darkness to light because their works were evil. The people preferred their way...the easier way. And again, don't try to let yourself or anyone else off the hook so easy. The Lord's words are for each and every one of us.

Evil thrives in darkness but light exposes those deeds. In darkness, everything is unclear and it's hard to navigate. Without God's help, we flounder around in darkness. And so, God sent His only Son into the world, to be the Light of the world...not to condemn the world, by no means, but rather, to save the world. How could we not give praise and glory to God for this alone and strive to live the life of holiness we are called to! Only Light can lead us to Truth and only Light can show us the path to follow and only Light can dispel darkness. That Light is Christ.

None of us are unfamiliar with temptation and the allure of sin. We struggle with it every single day. In addition, we seem to be surrounded with darkness at times. But Christ, who is the Light of the world, saves us from the darkness of sin and death and freedom comes from knowing that the Light is stronger than any darkness. Indeed, the saving power of God brings love and mercy. healing and salvation to the world. As we continue our Lenten Season and strive for that purification and sanctification in our own life that we are called to let us remain mindful of that Light. And again, may we also choose the path that, although it may not be the easiest, leads to truth and goodness.

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

During this coming week, we have no Memorials, Feasts, or Solemnities inscribed on the Roman Calendar.

-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 at the back of each church. Please consider taking one and using it as part of the Lenten Season and your own Lenten practices.

-ANNIVERSARY - March 13 marks the anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis in 2013. March 19 is the Anniversary of the Installation of Pope Francis in 2013 as Supreme Pastor of the Universal Church. Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers.

-FUNERALS – I recently celebrated several Funeral Masses at both parishes. Funeral Masses for Bob Kemper, Mark Ebbing and John Colgan were recently celebrated at Holy Family. Funeral Masses for Louise Waner and Gay Gunn were recently celebrated at St. Thomas. We continue to pray for the repose of their souls and for their families in this time of sorrow.

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.

-ANOINTING OF THE SICK – This is one of the seven Sacraments that the Lord has given us to aid us and to help us grow in holiness. Sacraments are gifts from God, instituted by Christ Himself where we really and truly encounter Christ and receive God's grace. The Sacraments are necessary for our growth in holiness and for our salvation. These great gifts given to us by the Lord must come to be understood more fully and deeply and celebrated regularly for our sanctification and our salvation.

Anointing of the Sick is one of the two Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation being the other). I want to encourage you all to never hesitate to call for or ask for Anointing of the Sick for serious or chronic illness, before undergoing surgery or other major medical procedures, when admitted to the hospital, and especially when one is near death. In cases of emergency, please call me anytime, day or night.

-SACRED TRIDUUM & EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE – Following is the anticipated schedule for the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday at both parishes:

At Holy Family:

-Holy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

-Good Friday – 11:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross; 5:30 p.m. Services

-Holy Saturday - 7:30 p.m. Vigil

-Easter Sunday - 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

At St. Thomas:

-Holy Thursday - 5:15 p.m.

-Good Friday – 3:00 p.m.

-No Easter Vigil at St. Thomas -Easter Sunday – 10:00 a.m.

Please consider keeping this schedule handy somewhere for your reference. I will try to get small cards printed with this information once again to have at the back of each church with the schedule so that you can take them for yourself or hand out to others.

The times are varied, I know, as I try to accommodate both parishes while keeping in mind what the Church intends.

-HOLY THURSDAY - I need to have at least 2 people (or 2 couples) sign up to be present with the Blessed Sacrament after the Masses at both parishes on Holy Thursday night. Of course, anyone is both welcome and encouraged to spend some time in prayer that evening in the Church but since I will be having Mass at both parishes, it will be necessary to make sure there is someone always present with the Blessed Sacrament as I cannot be at both places the entire time. I will put a sign-up sheet at the back of each Church. For St. Thomas, I will need folks starting at 6:30 p.m. through 11 p.m. At Holy Family, I will need folks from 8:00 p.m. through Midnight. Again, I encourage everyone to spend some time that evening in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament but am asking that I have at least 2 people at all times who can sign up for an hour and commit to being present. If you miss the sign-up sheet, just give me a call at the rectory (217)-773-3233.

-CCW MEETING – 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 so be on the look-out for those.

-PRISON MINISTRY – Deacon Mike had gone to the prison in Mt. Sterling regularly for a number of years. Even before Deacon Mike was reassigned, Bishop Paprocki asked me to take on Prison Ministry here in Mt. Sterling and appointed me Chaplain of the Western Illinois Correctional Facility in Mt. Sterling. I recently completed the necessary paperwork and other items to go into the prison regularly. I began doing that a little over a month ago.

Matt Heldt, who is in Formation for the Permanent Diaconate has also completed the paperwork and other necessary items to go into the prison regularly. Matt and I have already gone together and plan to do so.

At present, we go to the prison Saturday evenings after the Vigil Mass at Holy Family. Though it will not always be the case, I am hopeful that if one of us cannot go one week, the other one will be able to so that we can be there regularly and consistently. I appreciate Matt's willingness to help with this work.

I ask you to be aware of this additional responsibility and the timing of it each week. I also ask you to keep Matt and I in your prayers as well as all those who are incarcerated, those who work in correctional facilities, and all those who minister to the spiritual needs of those who are incarcerated. Visiting the imprisoned is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

-CONFESSION – Sacramental Confession is absolutely necessary...to think it is not would be to say that the Lord gave us something we do not need. I have spoken about celebrating the Sacrament regularly in previous bulletins and how to do so.

We should all be doing an examination of conscience each night before we go to bed...to reflect on our day and to recognize where we have failed to love, in other words, where we have fallen into sin. And be mindful, Sacred Scripture Itself tells us that if we say we are without sin we are deceiving ourselves.

We also must do a thorough examination of conscience before celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All too often, there seems to be a real lack of doing this. We have to ask the Lord to help us know our sins and then be deliberate about our examination of conscience. The examination of conscience helps to reveal our sins to us and helps us to know the sinful acts to name in the Sacrament.

A reminder that when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we have to name the sinful act(s) that we have committed. Saving something like I want to be a better person or I want to work on being better at whatever IS NOT confession of sin. It may help us uncover and reveal our sinful acts but then the act itself must be confessed. A thorough examination of conscience (before going to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation) helps us to know and name our sins. I will be making available in each of the churches a sheet with an examination of conscience and prayers for the Sacrament. I ask you to please take them and use them.

One other note...please be aware that an Act of Contrition is necessary for the Celebration of the Sacrament. I would encourage you to learn an Act of Contrition and say an Act of Contrition every single day. If you do not know it, the priest will certainly help you with it in the Sacrament. Be mindful though that one's Act of Contrition must express sorrow for one's sins, knowledge of our need to love God, and the intention/commitment to, with God's grace, do penance and go and sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. These are necessary elements of an Act of Contrition.

The following is one such Act of Contrition: "O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of hell but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen"

Another is this: "O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In His Name, my God, have mercy. Amen."

Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my prayers each day 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, 217-2567-2516 or aosullivan2031@gmail.com).

HOLY FAMILY CHOIR PRACTICE

Please join our choir practices to prepare for Easter. All are welcome. Practices are Wednesdays after Mass and stations.

Quincy Deanery DCCW

For All Women: The flyer and sign-up sheet for the next Quincy Deanery DCCW for our Spring gathering Wednesday April 3, 2024, in Pittsfield can be found in your church lobby.

Our theme for this gathering is Confession: Mercy, Justice, and Forgiveness. We learn, pray, and gather new information and ideas to take back to our parishes and families and in the process make new friends and further our Faith. Bring along a friend to spend the day with us in Historic Pittsfield. The sign-up sheet gives our host church an idea on how many to plan for lunch.

Our Lady of Good Counsel is our Spiritual Director and has led us in all our gatherings. Please come and find out what Our Lady is calling you to. Please call 217-653-6716 with any questions you might have.

Claudia Coggeshall-President of Quincy DCCW



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