

## Holy Family Parish

401 W. North St.  
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

## St. Thomas Catholic Church

109 E. Spring, Camp Point, IL 62320



Rectory: (217) 773-3233

E-mail: [holy.family@smseagle.org](mailto:holy.family@smseagle.org)

### Parish Staff

Rev. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor – (217) 773-3233

*Emergency only* (217) 242-9669

*E-Mail:* [akuhn@dio.org](mailto:akuhn@dio.org)

Deacon Michael P. Ellerman

Ashley Guthrie, Bookkeeper

Tammy McKeown, Parish & School Secretary

Cheryl Dillard, Liturgical Music Coordinator

Ann O'Sullivan, C.R.E.

School: St. Mary (217) 773-2825

Website: [www.smseagle.org](http://www.smseagle.org)

Principal: Melissa Obert

### Mass Schedule

Daily: 7:00 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday - 8:30 a.m. Friday

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

Holy days: Will be Announced

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 4:30-5:00 p.m. - Anytime by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

First weekend of month

Phone (217) 593-6685, (217) 773-3233

E-mail: [stthomascp@gmail.com](mailto:stthomascp@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary: Pat Sharow

Renting of Hall: Cathy Holtschlag – 217-430-7493

Community for Christ Assistance Center Board Member:

Dorothy Obert – (217) 593-6520

Ministry Schedule: Bobbi Mock – (217) 430-2859

CHWC Director: Karen Janssen – (217) 242-5283

D.R.E: Laura Evans – (217) 316-1734

Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day: Will be Announced

First Friday Adoration of the Eucharist 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

First Friday Mass 6:00 p.m. with

Reconciliation prior 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study Wednesday 9:30 a.m.

PSR classes Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Men & Women's Society Meeting 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – 2nd Thursday 6:00 p.m.

Website: [www.stthomascp.org](http://www.stthomascp.org)

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Monday, March 25 – 7:00 a.m.

Monday of Holy Week  
Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

Communion Service

### Tuesday, March 26 – 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week  
Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Deceased Members of the  
Dwight Armstrong Family  
(By Cathy Black)

### Wednesday, March 27 – 8:30 a.m.

#### (School Mass)

Wednesday of Holy Week  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25

Jim McKeown

### Holy Family – 5:30 p.m.

David Wear  
(By Will & Alice Clark)

### Thursday, March 28 – 5:15 p.m.

#### AT ST. THOMAS

Holy Thursday  
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-15

Gay Gunn  
(By Jim & Nora Clausius)

### Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 p.m.

#### AT HOLY FAMILY

Vic Kassing  
(By Mary Kassing & Family)

### Friday, March 29 – 11:00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross at Holy Family

### Friday, March 29 – 3:00 p.m.

#### AT ST. THOMAS

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
John 18:1-19:42

Good Friday Services

### Friday, March 29 – 5:30 p.m.

#### AT HOLY FAMILY

Good Friday Services

### Saturday, March 30 – 7:30 p.m.

#### AT HOLY FAMILY

Holy Saturday

Mark Ebbing  
(By K of C Council #1281)

### Sunday, March 31 – 6:30 a.m.

#### AT HOLY FAMILY

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord  
Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4;  
John 20:1-9

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

### Holy Family – 8:00 a.m.

Mary Louise Moorman  
(By Tammy, Danny & Pat)

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Francis Norkus  
(By Pat Sharow)

#### HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

##### March 16-17, 2024

Holy Family: \$4,269.00  
School Support: \$370.00  
Sister Parish: \$10.00  
ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$175.00  
Catholic Relief Services: \$30.00  
Debt Reduction: \$3000.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

#### ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

##### March 17, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,514.00  
Sister Parish: \$40.00  
Catholic Charities: \$20.00  
Catholic Relief Services: \$10.00  
Flowers: \$40.00  
Candles: \$22.00  
Rice Bowl: \$250.00  
ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$25.00  
Good Friday: \$25.00  
Easter: \$25.00

St. Thomas weekly budgeted amount: \$2,635

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **Legion of Mary** meets each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the convent. All are invited to pray the rosary with us and learn more about the Legion. "With Mary's help we guide, console and enlighten others."

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or [tmckeown@smseagle.org](mailto:tmckeown@smseagle.org) with any information you wish to have placed in the bulletin. I will need any information by Monday at 2:00 p.m. for insertion into the next weekend's bulletin.

## OFFICE HOURS

*School Office hours will be Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Our phone number is (217) 773-2825.*

*The rectory phone number is: (217) 773-3233.*

## SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

Jeff Kozak † Jim Duvendack † Marilyn Clark †  
Dan Ray † Sheila Thompson † Luke Coggeshall †  
Linda VanGiesen † Logan Wilson †  
Betty Claire (Koch) Atteberry †

## ST. THOMAS

Please join our choir practices to prepare for Easter. All are welcome. Practices are Wednesday March 20 and 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the church.

Women's Altar and Rosary Society Meeting Sunday March 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., St. Thomas Hall. Ladies, bring your ideas on what ministry you feel needs to be addressed most at St. Thomas and what you feel the goals and objectives for the Society are to be. Call Claudia Coggeshall 217-653-6716 with questions.

Pastoral Council March 14, 2024 - Janice Brady, Pat Sharow, Claudia Coggeshall, Fr. Aaron.

Pastoral Council- In addition to Facebook and bulletin, discussed possibility of having parish-wide email list for disseminating information. Update on Women's Altar and Rosary Society was given. The next meeting is Sunday, March 24, at 6:00 p.m. Email from Diocesan Pro Life ministry was received giving information on legislation concerning Euthanasia Bill that will be coming up in Illinois House. Flyer in back of church giving information. Parish members, educate yourselves and be proactive.

Father attended diocesan priest meeting last week. Diocese is working on program to promote vocations, priests, deacons, women religious and sacramental marriage. Divine Mercy Sunday, Sunday after Easter, Holy Family will be having Mass in afternoon. Look for more information to come.

DRE- Preparing for First Communion/ Confirmation in April. We had 2 Honorable Mentions from Pro Life posters sent to Quincy from St. Thomas students.

Buildings and Grounds- burned out lights on outside of Hall need replacing.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

**March 31, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.**

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sacristan:</b>            | Denise Taylor               |
| <b>Greeters:</b>             | Pat Sharow                  |
| <b>Lector:</b>               | Tod Perry                   |
| <b>Gift Bearers:</b>         | Jerry & Marge Herkert       |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister:</b> | Tod Perry/<br>Kim Gronewold |
| <b>Collection Counters:</b>  | Greg & Elizabeth Likes      |
| <b>Ushers:</b>               | Jerel Mock, Alex Mock       |

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and the beginning of Holy Week. Our Liturgy begins joyously as Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is recounted and we hear and proclaim Hosanna in the Highest. Yet very soon the mood of the Liturgy changes, in a sense, as we hear the Passion of the Lord proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word.

As we begin Holy Week, the most solemn week, we recall the suffering of Christ and what He has done for us. Do we really know

and understand and take the time to contemplate this and the salvation that Christ brings to us?! It is incredible and frankly, should leave us in awe though sadly, sometimes it doesn't. We are reminded that indeed, we must enter into the suffering and death of Christ in order to share in the glory of His Resurrection. And really, that is what we live the entirety of our Christian lives for and so it is not only good, but necessary for us to both reflect on this and keep it always in our minds and our hearts.

Each year on Palm Sunday, we recount Jesus' Passion. We hear of the events leading up to His arrest, the agony of His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the passing of His case back and forth between Pilate, Herod, and the Sanhedrin. We can only try to imagine what it was like for the very Incarnation of God to be judged by human beings.

Through our Baptism, we are brought into the Paschal Mystery, and we accompany Jesus during these trials. It is certainly not the pleasant escape that we might find when we watch a movie or read a book. Rather, with Jesus' eyes we see the crowd whom He loves, shouting for His very death. With Him, we witness His closest friends abandon, deny, or watch from a distance. We see the cruelty of rulers and soldiers who mock Him, beat Him, and gamble for His garments. Jesus endures horrible suffering and a terrible death, a public and agonizing death of being nailed to a cross. Unpleasant, for sure! Why would He endure such? The answer...for you and His love for you.

Jesus' Death and Resurrection saves us from sin and death but even in Jesus' own terrible suffering and His triumph over death through His resurrection, suffering is not removed from our lives or the lives of those we love.

-ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY - The St. Thomas Altar and Rosary Society are meeting this Sunday evening, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. All ladies of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

-DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION - Please be aware that we have had to change the time for our Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at Holy Family on Sunday, April 7. **The celebration will begin at 5:00 p.m.** The green cards that I made available last weekend had the incorrect start time. I have new cards that are updated and will also have cards available as a reminder of our Divine Mercy Celebration.

Divine Mercy Sunday is always the Sunday after Easter. This year it will be celebrated on April 7. Mark your calendars for the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration that is being planned at Holy Family that Sunday evening beginning at 5:00 p.m. We will have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a talk on Divine Mercy, praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and a brief overview on celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and an Examination of Conscience. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

Since the promises of Divine Mercy involve Sacramental Confession and the reception of Holy Communion that day, I am also planning to celebrate Mass at the conclusion which will be the Sunday Mass and will fulfill your Sunday Obligation. We are also planning to have a meal in the school cafeteria when we finish in the Church.

More details on Divine Mercy to follow but please plan now to join us. It will be a great celebration and I am looking quite forward to it. I want to thank Matt Heldt for asking about the possibility to do this and for his contributions to it and his help in organizing it. Matt will be speaking to us about Divine Mercy at the celebration.

Again, we will be sharing more information on Divine Mercy, but I share the following with you in order to highlight the significance and magnificence of this celebration we are planning: "In her Diary, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus: 'My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.'

**In three places in her Diary, St. Faustina records our Lord's promises of specific, extraordinary graces: 'I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy.' 'Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.' 'The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.'**

To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday by making a good

confession beforehand and staying in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy. By these conditions, our Lord is emphasizing the value of confession and Holy Communion as miracles of mercy. The Eucharist is Jesus Himself, the Living God, longing to pour Himself as Mercy into our hearts.

In addition, our Lord says through St. Faustina that we are to perform acts of mercy: 'Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy.' 'The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.'"

Once again, considering the significance of this celebration and taking into account the Lord's promises, I encourage everyone to participate and to encourage and invite others to do so as well.

And once more, please be aware of the time for this which was originally published incorrectly. Our Divine Mercy Celebration will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 7 at Holy Family.

As a side note, for those who may be unable to join us for this celebration, I am planning to be available for Confession that Sunday morning before the 8:00 a.m. Mass as well. I will plan to be there around 7:00 a.m. until about 7:45 a.m.

- HOLY WEEK - Following is a summary of the celebrations during Holy Week. The schedule of these celebrations for both parishes is toward the end. This is the holiest of weeks and I encourage you to be very deliberate in keeping it holy. How? Attend the Masses and Services of Holy Week. Avoid unnecessary work and busyness. Spend some additional time in prayer. These are just a few ways.

-PALM SUNDAY - Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, this year, March 24. On this day, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish His Paschal Mystery. The memorial of this entrance of the Lord takes place at all Masses (including Vigil Masses). The Liturgy for Palm Sunday begins either with a Solemn or Simple Entrance. At this time (before processing to the Sanctuary in our parishes) the blessing of the palms takes place and a reading from one of the Gospels (this year from St. Mark) is proclaimed. After the Solemn Entrance, the

Priest, after venerating the Altar, goes to the chair and, omitting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and the Kyrie, says the Collect of the Mass and then continues the Mass in the usual way. Red vestments are worn on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and the Passion of the Lord is read.

-CHRISM MASS - For our Diocese, this takes place on the Tuesday of Holy Week in the evening (this year, March 26). Everyone is invited to attend and I encourage that. The Mass begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. Priests gather at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral that day for a Holy Hour.

This Mass is particularly significant for priests since at this Mass, the priests renew their Ordination Promises.

At the Chrism Mass, the Bishop blesses the Sacred Oils that will be used for the year throughout the Diocese. Each parish's new oils are sent home with the priests (or their representative) that evening. There are three Sacred Oils: Oil of Catechumens (used when bringing folks into the Church through Baptism), Oil of the Sick (used to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick where a person's forehead and palms of hands are anointed with this oil); Sacred Chrism (this oil is infused with Balsam which gives it a very pleasing smell). It is used in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders and to consecrate the Altars and walls of a new Church or Chapel.

All of the oils are pure olive oil. The previous year's oils are burned in the "Easter" fire at the Easter Vigil. The new oils will be brought forward at each parish just prior to the start of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

-PASCHAL TRIDUUM - Sometimes referred to as the Sacred Triduum, this is a continuous celebration that begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Easter Sunday. Lent ends before Evening Prayer is celebrated on Thursday.

-HOLY THURSDAY (this year, March 28) - the celebration of the Lord's Supper. During the Liturgy, the priest (optionally) washes the feet of 12 people present. Enough hosts are consecrated for both that Liturgy and the celebration of Good Friday the following day since no Mass, anywhere in the world, is celebrated on Good Friday. At the conclusion

of the Mass, there is a procession with the Blessed Sacrament around the Church with the Blessed Sacrament being reposed at a "side" chapel or Altar. Folks are encouraged to spend time praying that evening by either remaining after Mass or returning sometime during the night.

Around Midnight, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in a Tabernacle other than the main Tabernacle. The main Tabernacle remains empty and open until The Easter Vigil.

After the Holy Thursday Liturgy, the Altar of Sacrifice is stripped and the Sanctuary is mostly emptied. It will remain this way until the start of the Easter Vigil with the exception of a Good Friday Service where only the necessary items are brought into the Sanctuary when needed.

-GOOD FRIDAY (Friday of the Passion of the Lord) - this year, March 29. On this day, there is only a Service, no Mass. No Mass is celebrated anywhere in the world on Good Friday.

Stations of the Cross are often prayed on this day. Silence is observed by many from Noon until 3:00 p.m., with this time spent in prayer and reflection.

The service includes 3 parts - Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the Holy Cross, and Holy Communion (Consecrated the night before at the Mass on Holy Thursday).

This is a Universal Day of Fast and Abstinence. The Paschal fast is observed everywhere and if possible, should extend from this day until the Easter Vigil to honor the Suffering and Death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more deeply in His Resurrection.

On this day, the Passion of the Lord is proclaimed once again during the Liturgy of the Word and the Solemn Intercessions are offered.

-HOLY SATURDAY (Easter Vigil) - (this year March 30) This is the Liturgy where the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Eucharist) will be administered. The Easter Vigil is a more lengthy but beautiful celebration.

The Vigil may not begin before nightfall and must be concluded before daybreak on Sunday. The Vigil begins outside (if possible) where a fire is made (if possible) and the new Paschal candle is prepared.

The procession into the Church then takes place. The lights of the Church are off and those who are present will have individual candles that will be lit from the Paschal Candle during the procession in.

After the procession in and the lights of the Church are turned on, the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is made. This is followed by the Liturgy of the Word. In it, there are 9 readings total, seven from the Old Testament (it is permissible to have only 3) which is followed by the Gloria and the lighting of the Altar candles. Then there is one Epistle from the New Testament followed by the Gospel and a brief homily.

The Baptismal Liturgy occurs after the homily followed by the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows and the Mass concludes as usual with a Solemn Blessing and Dismissal.

-EASTER SUNDAY (of the Resurrection of the Lord) - (this year March 31) While the celebration of the Easter Vigil fulfills one's obligation to participate in the celebration of the Easter Liturgy, the faithful who participated in the Easter Vigil are, of course, welcome, and even encouraged to participate in the Easter Sunday Liturgy as well.

-PASCHAL FAST - As noted above, Good Friday (this year, April 29) is a **Universal Day of Fast and Abstinence**. The Paschal fast is observed everywhere and if possible, should extend from this day until the Easter Vigil to honor the Suffering and Death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more deeply in His Resurrection. Thus, I encourage you to observe this extension of the fast and abstinence as is possible.

-LENTEN REGULATIONS - Following are the Lenten regulations concerning Fast and Abstinence:

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

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**

-Monday, March 25 - Communion Service at Holy Family, 7:00 a.m.

-Tuesday, March 26 - 7:00 a.m. Weekday Mass at Holy Family; Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Springfield, 6:30 p.m.

-Wednesday, March 27 - 8:30 a.m. Weekday Mass at Holy Family with the School and 5:30 p.m. evening weekday Mass followed by Stations of the Cross at Holy Family.

-Holy Thursday, March 28 - No morning Mass. Mass at St. Thomas, 5:15 p.m.; Mass at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed at a side Altar after each Mass for prayer and Solemn Adoration...at St. Thomas, until 11:00 p.m. and at Holy Family until Midnight.

-Good Friday, March 29 - No Masses this day anywhere in the world. Services at 3:00 p.m. at St. Thomas; Services at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family. Additionally, Stations of the Cross at Holy Family at 11:00 a.m. (There will be no Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas that evening)

-Holy Saturday, March 30 - No Masses until Easter Vigil. Easter Vigil begins at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family.

-Easter Sunday, March 31 - 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Masses at Holy Family; 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas.

**CONFESIONS DURING HOLY WEEK:**

**Holy Family:**

-Wednesday, March 27 - 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

-Holy Thursday, March 28 - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

-Good Friday, March 29 - 11:30 a.m. - Noon

-Holy Saturday, March 30 - 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**St. Thomas:**

-Holy Thursday, March 28 - 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

-Good Friday, March 29 - 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

-Holy Saturday, March 30 - Noon - 12:30 p.m.

-HOLY THURSDAY - The sign-up sheets to be present with the Blessed Sacrament Holy

Thursday night are in the back of each Church. If there are still open spots, please consider signing up for a specific time. Everyone, of course, is both welcomed and encouraged to spend time in prayer that evening with the Blessed Sacrament.

-CCW MEETING - All ladies of the parishes, the next Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3 at St. Mary Parish in Pittsfield. If you have not done so already, please sign up if you are planning to go. The sign-up sheets are in the back of each Church. I encourage all ladies of the parishes to attend.

Thank you for your continued prayers 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 Holy Week.

Fr. Aaron

**HOLY FAMILY CHOIR PRACTICE**

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

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Holy Family Women's Guild is accepting donations for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones. Donations may be placed in the collection (checks should be made payable to Holy Family Women's Guild). Please include a note with the name of your loved ones.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who did the snow removal this past winter season at Holy Family and St. Mary School. It was very much appreciated!

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