

He Is Risen



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, April 1 – 7:00 a.m.

Monday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15

Communion Service

Tuesday, April 2 – 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 2:36-41; John 20:11-18

Pat Parker
(By Legion of Mary)

Wednesday, April 3 – 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35

Randy Rigg
(By Kathy Rigg)

Thursday, April 4 – 7:00 a.m.

Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48

Fred Marquez
(By Martha Fluckey)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Danny Seals
(By the Family)

Friday, April 5 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Friday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12; John 21:1-14

Floyd “Scotty” Blentlinger
(By John, Rosemary, Carissa, Jay
and Andy Holler)

FIRST FRIDAY - ST. THOMAS – 6:00 p.m.

Ron & Judy Bull
(By Jenni Obert)

Saturday, April 6 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

Aaron Koch
(By Paul & Charlotte Koch)

Sunday, April 7 – 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

Joe Ray
(By Larry Volk)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Evening Mass at Holy Family at the Conclusion of Divine Mercy Celebration

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 23-24, 2024

Holy Family: \$3,463.00
School Support: \$165.00
Sister Parish: \$36.00
Catholic Charities: \$110.00
Debt Reduction: \$25.00
Catholic Times: \$15.00
Rice Bowl: \$110.00
Good Friday: \$55.00
Easter: \$50.00
Seminary: \$70.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 24, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,150.00
Easter Flowers: \$15.00
Rice Bowl: \$45.00

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 †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

April 7, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Jim Clausius
Greeters:	John & Janice Brady
Lector:	Laura Evans
Gift Bearers:	Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn
Eucharistic Minister:	Laura Evans/ Teresa Bockhold
Collection Counters:	Jerel Mock Family
Ushers:	Jerry Herkert, Andrew Llewellyn

From the Pastor's Desk

A very Happy and Blessed Easter to each one of you. Indeed, Christ is Risen, Alleluia! It is hard to believe that we now embark on the Liturgical Season of Easter. Just a few weeks ago, we began our Lenten journey and have hopefully been strengthened by our spiritual disciplines in those forty days. Now we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus. What a splendid celebration it is.

Our joyous celebration is just beginning. Indeed, the celebration of Easter will continue for fifty days when we will then celebrate Pentecost. Easter is certainly not just a one day celebration. It is a prolonged celebration and a time of intensified consciousness where we come to an even greater realization of God's presence and God's power in our lives.

In these first eight days of Easter, we celebrate what we call the Octave of Easter. This Octave celebration takes precedence over all other celebrations. The Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave Day of Easter, is April 7 this year and is designated

Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope St. John Paul II made this designation on April 30, 2000. Please see the information below concerning Divine Mercy Sunday and the celebration we have planned.

As we look at our Scripture passages for today, we hear in the Gospel from St. John of the finding of the empty tomb by Mary Magdalene and we're reminded by St. Paul in the Second Reading (the first letter to the Corinthians which is one of two options for today) that we are called to conversion...malice and wickedness replaced with sincerity and truth, free of any corrupting influences in our life.

But Peter reminds us of something significant in our First Reading as well. Yes, indeed we celebrate Christ's glorious Resurrection and His victory over sin and death for each of us. But our First Reading reminds us that it's not just experiencing the joy of the Risen Lord but sharing that experience and joy with others...and not just with a few friends but with as many people as possible so that all may know the Risen Christ. Peter speaks of the witnesses chosen by God who ate and drank with Jesus after He rose from the dead. We are those witnesses today and we too eat and drink with Jesus every time we take part in the Holy Eucharist...and we don't just share a meal with Jesus, we truly receive His Body and His Blood in the Holy Eucharist, made present to us through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Indeed we receive the fullness of Christ in the Holy Eucharist...His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. What a remarkable gift we are given.

Indeed, today we don't just recall what happened some two-thousand years ago. We participate in this continuing sacrificial mystery. What a beautiful gift the Lord has given us, all so that we might share one day in that Eternal Life with the Father in Heaven. How could we not proclaim that to others.

Finally, we're reminded that Easter is a sign and a season of hope for us. Perhaps

you have a particularly difficult struggle in your life right now...the loss of a loved one, an illness or disability, an addiction, some devastating news, estrangement from family, financial distress, worries about your job, questions about your faith. Whatever it might be, we find hope in the Risen Lord whom we unite our sufferings to. Sharing in His suffering, we also hope to share in His Resurrection and in His gift of Eternal Life. And as we find that hope and joy in the Lord more and more each day as we journey through this life, may we too realize that we are those witnesses that are called to proclaim the Risen Christ to all people.

By dying, Christ destroyed our death and by rising restored our life. May we always recognize God's active presence in our life and the fullness of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. And may we be so grateful for that gift that God has given to us that we spend each day of our life so as to be worthy of so great a gift, the gift of Eternal Life.

-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.

I cannot express enough the importance of Divine Mercy Sunday. Please read the brief information below concerning the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment associated with this day. Plan to join us for this great celebration.

"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.

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.. I will also do my best to try and arrive at St. Thomas earlier to hear confessions before Mass though this will be a very limited timeframe.

-CCW MEETING - All ladies of the parishes, the next Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting will be held this coming 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.

-WELCOME - We want to welcome all those who were brought into the Church at the Easter Vigil. What a wonderful celebration! At Holy Family, Grant Waterkotte received Full Initiation into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

-ST. MARY SCHOOL - Our school is on Easter break through Tuesday of this week (April 2). There is no school Monday or Tuesday. School resumes on Wednesday, April 3.

-TEACHING POSITION - St. Mary School has an opening for a teaching position for next school year. Please see the announcement here in the bulletin.

-EASTER FLOWERS - I would like to thank those who made contributions to the Easter flowers this year. If you made a contribution in memory of someone, please be assured of my prayers for them. If you would still like to make a contribution, you certainly can. Simply put your contribution in an enveloped clearly

marked Easter Flowers and put it in the collection basket or mail it into the office.

-WEDNESDAY MASSES - Will return to 7:00 a.m. at Holy Family beginning this week (April 3). I am also looking to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament completely before Mass on Wednesdays rather than before and after Mass as we had been doing.

-PRAYER CAMPAIGN - The United States Bishop's Conference has called for a nationwide prayer campaign for "the end of abortion and the protection of women and preborn children" beginning on March 25, the anniversary of St. John Paul II's pro-life encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) and the day before the U.S. Supreme Court's scheduled hearing concerning the availability of the abortion pill mifepristone. The prayer invokes the intercession of St. Joseph under his title "Defender of Life." "We ask Catholics to offer this prayer daily, from March 25 through June, when a decision is expected," the bishops wrote.

I received the prayer cards last week and they are now available in the back of each Church. Please take one and offer this prayer each day!

I am including the Prayer here as well for your reference:

"Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child.

We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life especially where it is vulnerable or

threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.”

St. Joseph, Defender of Life, Pray for us!

-ANNIVERSARY - Tuesday, April 2 marks the Anniversary of the death of Pope Saint John Paul II in 2005. We pray for his intercession in all of our needs and the needs of the Church.

-POPE’S INTENTION - The Holy Father’s Intention for April is for the role of women. “We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.”

-FIRST FRIDAY - Friday, April 5 is First Friday and so we will be having our First Friday Devotions at St. Thomas. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at Noon and goes until 5:45 p.m. Benediction is at 5:45 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION - At Holy Family; begins on Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 p.m. and goes through the night with Benediction at 7:45 a.m. followed by our regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Mass.

-DONUTS - Next Sunday, April 7 is the first Sunday of the month which means Donut Sunday at St. Thomas. Come on over to the hall after Mass and enjoy a donut and a cup of coffee and visiting with parishioners.

-VOCATIONS - I urge you all to pray each day for good and holy Vocations to the priesthood, Diaconate, Religious Life, and Sacramental Marriage.

Please pray also for those discerning a Vocation and those who are in formation.

Pray also for our Holy Father, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious Brothers and Sisters, Married Couples and Families, and those who are single.

Pray too for your own openness and encouragement of Vocations.

Want to talk more about Vocations including your own, talk with me or another priest. Deacon Paul Koch and Matt Heldt are also excellent folks to talk with concerning Vocations.

Vocations come from families... your family and all other families. They come from the struggles of families and the holiness of families. Pray for families, including your own, that they may be protected from all evil and might foster these good and holy vocations all the more.

Keep in mind also our own Diocese’s initiative to pray one Hail Mary at 4:40 each day (a.m. or p.m.) for the intention of having 40 seminarians.

Once again, a very Happy and joyous Easter to you and your family. Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my prayers for you each day. May you have a most blessed week and Octave of Easter!

Fr. Aaron

AMAZING GRACE!

I have found this to be an amazing help during the Liturgy. Follow the words of every song (even if you don’t sing) and the meaning of the verses will astound you. They are selected to enhance the Mass readings. I dare you to try it!

Cheryl Dillard

Great River TEC

If you or anyone you know is interested in TEC, below are the dates for 2024. Please pass these dates along with the QR Code to those interested.

2024 Great River TEC Dates:

TEC 344: April 20-22, 2024

TEC 345: June 8-10, 2024

TEC 346: July 27-29, 2024

TEC 347: November 2-4, 2024

For more information:



Stop Assisted Suicide
Weekly Lunch and Learn Webinar

PRESENTED BY Catholic Dioceses in Illinois and the Catholic Conference of Illinois


When: Every Thursday, 12:30-1:00 p.m.
 Dates: March 14—May 30, 2024
 (or until the bill is voted on —whichever comes first)

Where: TEAMS
 Meeting ID: 253 979 836 825
 Passcode: 9dTrz6
 Dial-in by phone
 +1 779-513-8756
 Phone conference ID: 391 252 163#

Purpose: To inform people about the negative ramifications of Assisted Suicide.

Audience: Anyone interested in learning more about the dangers of assisted suicide.

[JOIN TEAMS MEETING](#)




Are you passionate about teaching students and want to work for a school that values you as a professional? If so, St. Mary School has a position for you!

St. Mary School is looking for an elementary teacher or an English Language Arts 3-8 grade teacher. SMS

has small class sizes, comparable compensation and benefits to the public school, prep time each day, teacher collaboration, positive and supportive atmosphere, and a family environment!

Candidates must have a valid teaching certificate.

If you are interested, please call Melissa Obert at 217-773-2825 or email her at mobert@smseagle.org.

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