

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 Paul Koch

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, April 15 - 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; John 6:22-29

Communion Service

<u>Tuesday, April 16 – 7:00 a.m.</u>

Acts of the Apostles 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35

Fr. Thomas Henseler (By Leon & Linda Urven)

Wednesday, April 17 - 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40

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

<u>Thursday, April 18 – 7:00 a.m.</u>

Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40; John 6:44-51

Jennifer Volk (By John & Linda Colgan)

St. Thomas - 5:30 p.m.

Gay Gunn (By Legion of Mary)

Friday, April 19 - 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Acts of the Apostles 9:1-20; John 6:52-59

Harry & Marie Wort (By Carl & Nancy Mitchell)

Saturday, April 20 - 5:30 p.m.

Acts of the Apostles 9:31-42; John 6:60-69

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

Sunday, April 21 - 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

Merle & Mary Ann Childs (By Marilee and Mary Lyn)

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Martha Koetters (By Barbara Duesterhaus)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 6-7, 2024

Holy Family: \$6,051.70 School Support: \$1,477.00 Sister Parish: \$50.00 Catholic Home Mission: \$10.00 Debt Reduction: \$145.00 Easter: \$165.00 Rice Bowl: \$25.00 Seminary: \$30.00

ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$135.00 Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 7, 2024

St. Thomas: \$1,422.13 Easter: \$20.00

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

ST. THOMAS

We will celebrate our parishioners who are graduating (8th grade, high school, or college) at Mass SUNDAY-May 19 at 10:00 a.m.

If this is you-please reach out to Laura Evans either on Facebook or email (levans@adams.net) so we can include you in the bulletin! Also, if you would like to be a reader during mass or a gift bearer, please let her know as well! All graduates will serve as greeters so our parish family can congratulate you!!

Wear your cap and gown!!! You earned it!!

Congratulations are in order!!! The students of St. Thomas Catholic Parish's PSR program once again participated in the annual Right to Life Adams County Poster Contest.

This year's theme for posters was "My Mom Chose Me".

The 4 place winners for St. Thomas were: 1st Place Tess Obert, 2nd Place Addiley Schmidt, 3rd Place Grace Mock, 4th Place Evan Hoelscher.

The placement winners' posters were sent to Quincy for the County wide contest and Evan Hoelscher and Addiley Schmidt were awarded Honorable Mention and received a monetary award!!!

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

April 21, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:
Greeters:
Confirmandi
Lector:
Confirmandi
Confirmandi
Confirmandi
Eucharistic Minister:
Elizabeth Likes/

Jim Clausius

Collection Counters: Dale &

Sindy DeRousse

Ushers: Jerry Herkert,

Andrew Llewellyn

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Easter. In the Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Mass this Sunday we pray "May Your people exult forever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection." While the Collect calls us together and prepares us for the Liturgy that is about to unfold, today's Collect is also a great reminder of the joy of the Easter Season that we are now in and the hope that has been given to us in Christ's Resurrection.

In the Liturgy of the Word for today, we hear Peter proclaiming the wonders of the Lord and how the Suffering Messiah is raised from the dead and has been glorified. This Jesus is our Intercessor, and our Offering for sin, and our peace.

Let us continue to rejoice in this great Season of Easter that we are in and remain mindful of what God has done for us and what He continues to do for us and the hope of Eternal Life with the Father in Heaven.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS – Each day this week we celebrate an Easter Weekday. There are no other Memorials, Feasts, or Solemnities inscribed in the Universal Roman Calendar.

-DIACONATE ORDINATION – I failed to mention in last week's bulletin the Diaconate Ordination that was coming up. This past Friday, April 12, Bishop Paprocki ordained four men to the Diaconate for our Diocese at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

Ordained to the Transitional Diaconate were Stefan Kaniewski, Ryan Kehoe, and Charles Delano. Ordained to the Permanent Diaconate was David Beach. What's the difference? It is anticipated that Transitional Deacons will be ordained to the Priesthood (probably next May, 2025)

for these three men). Permanent Deacons are as the name suggest...they are often married although not always and are expected to remain as a Permanent Deacon. Deacon Paul is a Permanent Deacon; Matt Heldt is in Formation to be a Permanent Deacon.

I want to mention that I misspoke to a number of folks concerning the Ordination of David Beach. I had originally thought he was being Ordained as a Transitional Deacon but that was incorrect. I apologize for any confusion. Once again, David Beach was Ordained to the Permanent Diaconate.

Please keep these men who were Ordained in your prayers. Pray also for those who are in Formation and those serving as deacons in the Church.

Should you wish to send a note of support and congratulations, please let me know and I will try to get the current address for these folks, or I will find a way to get it to them.

-BLESSING OF SEEDS & PLANTS – Since planting season is under way, I will be offering the blessing of seeds and plants this week at both parishes.

At Holy Family I will offer this blessing on Wednesday, April 17, immediately after our 7:00 a.m. Mass.

At. St. Thomas I will offer this blessing on Thursday, April 18, immediately after our 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Everyone, and especially our farmers, are encouraged to bring seed and plants that you will be planting which I will bless. There will be a table near the Sanctuary in each Church on these days where you can place your seeds and plants for blessing and then take them back with you after Mass. For our farmers, I am happy to bless whatever seed you'd like, even at your farm before planting. For this blessing at Mass, last year folks brought small bags and containers of seed to be blessed then included those seeds with all their seed for planting.

Last year I offered the blessing of seeds and plants on April 25 after the morning Mass as prescribed or suggested by the Church. There is a reason for this which I will explain briefly in this bulletin below and more thoroughly in next week's bulletin. However, I recognize that April 25 will be getting late for many and so, I will be offering the blessing of plants and seeds as noted above and then sort of continue with the blessing of fields and farms on April 25. I am grateful to have had the request to have this blessing of seed and plants and am happy to do it. I encourage everyone to participate.

From the Church's current Book of Blessing (966-967): "Through this Rite of Blessing, the faithful express their grateful recognition of the blessings of God, who created the universe out of His inexpressible love and entrusted its care to human labor as the way of providing for common human needs.

The present order...may be used in rural life to sanctify the work of the farm through prayer and to mark through God's blessing the changes of seasons and the labor each season brings."

-BLESSING OF FIELDS & FARMS – In conjunction with the blessing of seeds and plants described above, I will also be praying the "Greater Litanies" on April 25 after Mass at both Holy Family and St. Thomas. After we conclude at Holy Family, I will begin "processing" to fields and farms to bless those fields and farms for those who wish me to do so.

If you would like me to come that day to have your farm and fields blessed, I ask you to "sign-up" so that I can create a bit of a schedule for myself and for you. I will have sign-up sheets in the back of each church. Please put your name and address of where you'd like to have the blessing or where you want me to meet you to proceed to the fields. I am most happy to do this and am looking forward to it.

Why April 25? This day was previously chosen in the Church to celebrate the "Greater Litanies," public prayers that implored God to preserve us from calamities and to bless the crops. Sadly, this has been widely lost yet the Church

even today still suggests the "Blessing of Fields and Flocks" for this day as noted above. I think this is so very important, especially with both of our parishes being heavily rural with a large dependence on agriculture.

I am planning to include more information about the "Greater Litanies" and more on this procession and blessing in next week's bulletin. I do hope you will consider having me visit your farms and fields to offer the blessing on that day. Again, please sign up in the back of one of the Churches so I can put this all together.

-ANNIVERSARY – Saturday, April 20 marks the anniversary of the Appointment of Bishop Papocki as our Diocesan Bishop in 2010. Please continue to keep Bishop Paprocki and all Bishops in your prayers.

-DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - A quick note of gratitude for the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday last week. It was great to have so many folks there. I cannot express how grateful I am to have been able to see how God is working so profoundly in our lives and drawing us to Himself. This celebration especially has been particularly life-giving to me and my Priesthood that I share in.

In a very special way, I want to thank Fr. Rafal for helping with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and con-celebrating the Mass with us and Deacon Paul for assisting with the Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. I also thank Matt Heldt for his help with this and who was the one who put this into motion for us by simply asking me some time ago if we could do something like this. That simple inquiry came to fruition with a great celebration. There are others who offered and helped with other elements of the day as well so thank you. Thank you also to each one of you for participating in this great celebration. What a great gift!

-FEET WASHING – For our celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Church gives the priest the option of the washing of feet during Mass. This year I asked fathers and sons at both parishes to let me wash their feet. This is often times very humbling for the priest himself but also for those whose feet he is washing. I wish to thank those men who participated in the feet washing, for their humility to allow me to do this, and for their example of faith.

Please keep in mind some of what I said that evening. First, each one of us is called to humble service. Second, ALL Vocations (Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, Religious Life, and Sacramental Marriage) are born from and nurtured by families. It is your responsibility and everyone's responsibility to promote, foster, encourage, and nurture good and holy Vocations. We all have a particular Vocation, and we will only find true happiness and fulfillment in following God's Will. Third, pray for your priests. Everyone needs prayer and priests are no exception. The Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Lord's Supper is particularly significant to priests in part because it is on this night, when the Lord celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples, that He instituted both the Holy Eucharist with those words of consecration ("...This is My Body...;...This is My Blood), and the Sacred Priesthood in the words "Do this in Memory of Me." We hear these words of institution of both Sacraments at every Mass we celebrate. What a great gift the Lord has left us!

-CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - On Saturday, April 20, eleven folks from our two parishes and school will be receiving Confirmation and/or First Holy Communion at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield with Bishop Paprocki. We are excited about the celebration of these Sacraments and I ask you to keep these folks, their parents and sponsors, and all who are receiving the Sacraments that day in your prayers.

From our parishes and school, we have the following. Each will be receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion unless noted otherwise:

-Charles John Evans, son of Matt and Laura Evans; Confirmation name Charles; Sponsor Dwight Seeley

-Parker Lane Howard, son of Greg and Chelsey Howard; Confirmation name Nicholas of Myra; Sponsor Hannah Howard

-Clark Lawrence Isley (Confirmation only), son of Brett and Schuyler Isley; Confirmation name Padre Pio; Sponsor Mark Thompson

-Adalyn Mae Llewellyn, daughter of Andrew and Amanda Llewellyn; Confirmation name Anne; Sponsor Karen Janssen

-Grace Elizabeth Mock, daughter of Jerel and Bobbi Mock; Confirmation name Jerome; Sponsor Phyllis Mock

-Ezekiel Adam Parsons, son of Rodney and Lesley Parsons; Confirmation name Ezekiel; Sponsor Becca Kassing

-Ashleigh Marie Patrick, daughter of Robert and Barbara Patrick; Confirmation name Gianna Beretta Molla; Sponsor Joni Wagner

-Tinley Irene Prather, daughter of Ryan and Haley Prather; Confirmation name Rose of Lima; Sponsor Heidi Hill

-Charlotte Faye Reed, daughter of Justin and Chelsea reed; Confirmation name Mary; Sponsor Janie Reed

-Addiley Marie Schmidt, daughter of Jacob and Alicia Schmidt; Confirmation name Julie Billiart; Sponsor Amanda Genenbacher

-Emma Rae Smith, daughter of Jeremy and JoEllen Smith; Confirmation name Anne; Sponsor Elizabeth Balzer

To celebrate the reception of these Sacraments in the parishes, I will be Investing each of these folks with the Brown Scapular and we will have a reception at each parish.

At Holy Family, this will be at the Saturday evening Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 20. Reception will be in the School Cafeteria.

At St. Thomas this will be at the Sunday morning Mass on April 21. Reception will be in the Parish Hall.

You are all most welcome and encouraged to join us to celebrate the reception of these Sacraments.

-FIRST RECONCILIATION - We have a number of folks preparing for or who have very recently celebrated their First Reconciliation. Please keep them in your prayers. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great gift given to us by the Lord. So too is our ability to know our sins.

-WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Next Sunday, April 21 is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray in a special way on this day for good and holy Vocations to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, Religious Life, and Sacramental Marriage. We will be mindful of this prayer especially during the celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and during the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours.

-TEACHING POSITION – St. Mary School in Mt. Sterling has an opening for a teaching position for next school year. To learn more, contact our Principal, Mrs. Melissa Obert, (217)-773-2828 or mobert@smseagle.org.

-HOUSEKEEPING/MAINTENANCE SUB – St. Mary School in Mt. Sterling is looking for someone to serve as a housekeeping and maintenance sub as needed. Please let me or our Principal, Mrs. Melissa Obert, know if you are interested.

-PRIESTLY ORDINATION – Just a quick note, Bishop Paprocki is anticipating ordaining five men to the Priesthood for our Diocese on Saturday, May 25 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. They are:

Rev. Mr. Daniel McGrath;

Rev. Mr. Jayke White;

Rev. Mr. Troy Niemerg;

Rev. Mr. Alex McCullough; and

Rev. Mr. Bruce Scott. Please keep these men, all those preparing for Priestly Ordination, and all seminarians in your prayers.

-FROM THE SAINTS - St Catherine of Siena: "I've appointed the Devil to tempt and to trouble My creatures in this life [St. Catherine of Siena reports that Our Lord said to herl. I've done this, not so that My creatures will be overcome, but so that they may overcome, proving their virtue, and receiving from Me the glory of victory. And no one should fear any battle or temptation of the Devil that may come to him, because I've made My creatures strong, and I've given them strength of will, fortified in the Blood of My Son. Neither the Devil nor any other creature can control this free will, because it's yours, given to you by Me. By your own choice, then, you hold it or let it go if you please. It's a weapon, and if you place it in the hands of the Devil, it right away becomes a knife that he'll use to stab and kill you. On the other hand, if you don't place this knife that is your will into the hands of the Devil—that is, if you don't consent to his temptations and harassments—you will never be injured by the guilt of sin in any temptation. Instead, you'll actually be strengthened by the temptation, as long as you open the eyes of your mind to see My love, and to understand why I allowed you to be tempted: so you could develop virtue by having it proved. My love permits these temptations, for the Devil is weak. He can do nothing by himself unless I allow him. So, I let him tempt you because I love you, not because I hate you. I want you to conquer, not to be conquered, and to come to a perfect knowledge of yourself and of Me."

Once again, a Happy and Blessed Easter to all of you. 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



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 <u>elementary teacher</u> or an <u>English</u> 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.

POT OF GOLD

April Pot of Gold winners are:

\$200.00 - Penny Ruiz

\$100.00 - Deb Willis

\$50.00 - Becky Barlow

\$50.00 - Edna Ford

\$50.00 - Shareefah Drahos

\$50.00 - Phil Koch



