

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 22 - 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18; John 10:1-10

Communion Service

# Tuesday, April 23 - 7:00 a.m.

St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr Acts of the Apostles 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

> Brian Husted (By Legion of Mary)

#### Wednesday, April 24 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr Acts of the Apostles 12:24-13:5a; John 12:44-50

> Janet Yakle (By Paul & Charlotte Koch)

# Thursday, April 25 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Mark, Evangelist 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20

> Charles Koch (By Mary Kassing)

# St. Thomas - 5:30 p.m.

Jim Stout (By Pat Sharow)

# Friday, April 26 - 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Acts of the Apostles 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

Mark Ebbing (By Carol Blentlinger)

# Saturday, April 27 - 5:30 p.m.

Acts of the Apostles 13:44-52; John 14:7-14

Jim Volk (By Kathy Volk)

# Sunday, April 28 - 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

Terry Dillard (By Cheryl Dillard)

#### St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

In Honor of Maurice & Clara Schmidt's 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

#### HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 13-14, 2024

Holy Family: \$9,348.00 School Support: \$240.00 Sister Parish: \$377.00 Good Friday: \$10.00 Debt Reduction: \$100.00 Easter: \$25.00

Rice Bowl: \$20.00 Seminary: \$10.00 Cemetery: \$20.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

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

April 14, 2024

St. Thomas: \$3,163.00 Candle Money: \$22.00

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."
- ❖ Red Cross Blood Drive: The need for blood by patients being treated for accidents, routine surgeries, cancer, heart disease, and hemophilia is ongoing and must be met every day. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the <u>Legion Hall</u> on Wednesday, April 24, 12:00 6:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. Call 1-800 Red Cross or 217-257-3117 for appointments.

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 † 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 (<a href="levans@adams.net">levans@adams.net</a>) 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!!

#### ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

#### April 28, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

**Sacristan:** Denise Taylor

**Greeters:** Jim & Nora Clausius

**Lector:** Karen Janssen

**Gift Bearers:** Butch & Dorothy Obert

**Eucharistic Minister:** Kim Gronewold/

Clara Schmidt

**Collection Counters:** Greg & Elizabeth Likes

Ushers: Jerry Herkert,

Andrew Llewellyn

# From the Pastor's Desk

Happy Easter! The Lord has Risen, let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Easter, sometimes referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the Liturgy of the Word for today, we hear that Jesus is the cornerstone rejected by the builders which has become the cornerstone. He is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for us. Through His Paschal Mystery (suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension), we have become children of God.

## -LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, April 23 – Optional memorials of St. George, Martyr, and Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr.

Tradition holds that George was decapitated perhaps in Palestine sometime before the reign of Constantine. Around the twelfth century, he was portrayed as a knight and dragon slayer. Since the crusades, he has been noted as the patron of England and Constantinople.

We remain mindful that the optional memorial of the Martyr St. George is the Patronal Feast of His Holiness, Pope Francis and so, prayers for the Pope are very fitting for this day. I encourage you to pray for the Pope each and every day as we do at every celebration of the Mass and on this day especially to offer special prayers for Pope Francis.

We remain mindful too of, and hold in prayer, the Order of Religious Sisters whose Motherhouse for the American Province is in our own Diocese in Alton, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. These Religious Sisters are always a delight to know and be around. If you've met any of them, you know what I mean. I encourage you to learn more about them. Young women who may be called to live Religious Life as their Vocation are certainly encouraged to learn more about them. If you'd like me to put you in touch with one of the Sisters, don't hesitate to ask me. And remember to pray always for and do all you can to foster good and holy Vocations to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, Religious Life, and Sacramental Marriage. It is everyone's responsibility!

St. George, pray for us!

Adalbert was born of a noble family in Bohemia. At age twenty-six he was appointed Bishop of Prague. He was forced to leave his See twice due to violent political oppression. He preached in Pomerania to the Prussians who murdered him on April 23, 997. He is buried in Gniezo, the first Capital of Poland. He is patron of Bohemia, the Czech Republic, and Prussia and a patron of Poland.

"Opposition to the Good News of Jesus did not discourage Adalbert, who is now remembered with great honor in the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Germany.

Born to a noble family in Bohemia, he received part of his education from Saint Adalbert of Magdeburg. At the age of 26, he was chosen as bishop of Prague. Those who resisted his program of clerical reform forced him into exile eight years later.

In time, the people of Prague requested his return as their bishop. Within a short time, however, he was exiled again after excommunicating those who violated the right of sanctuary by dragging a woman accused of adultery from a church and murdering her.

After a short ministry in Hungary, he went to preach the Good News to people living near the Baltic Sea. He and two companions were martyred by pagan priests in that region. Adalbert's body was immediately ransomed and buried in the Gniezno, Poland, cathedral. In the mid-11th century his relics were moved to Saint Vitus Cathedral in Prague. His liturgical feast is celebrated on April 23.

Preaching the Good News can be dangerous work whether the audience is already baptized or not. Adalbert fearlessly preached Jesus' gospel and received a martyr's crown for his efforts. Similar zeal has created modern martyrs in many places, especially in Central and South America. Some of those martyrs grew up in areas once evangelized by Adalbert." (Franciscan Media)

St. Adalbert, Pray for us!

-Wednesday, April 24 – Optional memorial of St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr. St. Fidelis, from Swabia, was known as the "lawyer of the poor" before becoming a Capuchin.

"If a poor man needed some clothing, Fidelis would often give the man the clothes right off his back. Complete generosity to others characterized this saint's life.

Born in 1577, Mark Rey became a lawyer who constantly upheld the causes of the poor and oppressed people. Nicknamed "the poor man's lawyer," Rey soon grew disgusted with the corruption and injustice he saw among his colleagues. He left his law career to become a priest, joining his brother George as a member of the Capuchin Order. Fidelis was his religious name. His wealth was divided between needy seminarians and the poor.

As a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi, Fidelis continued his devotion to the weak and needy. During a severe epidemic in a city where he was guardian of a friary, Fidelis cared for and cured many sick soldiers.

He was appointed head of a group of Capuchins sent to preach against the Calvinists and Zwinglians in Switzerland. Almost certain violence threatened. Those who observed the mission felt that success was more attributable to the prayer of Fidelis during the night than to his sermons and instructions.

He was accused of opposing the peasants' national aspirations for independence from Austria. While he was preaching at Seewis, to which he had gone against the advice of his friends, a gun was fired at him, but he escaped unharmed. A Protestant offered to shelter Fidelis, but he declined, saying his life was in God's hands. On the road back, he was set upon by a group of armed men and killed.

Fidelis was canonized in 1746. Fifteen years later he was recognized as a martyr.

Fidelis' constant prayer was that he be kept completely faithful to God and not give in to any lukewarmness or apathy. He was often heard to exclaim, 'Woe to me if I should prove myself but a halfhearted soldier in the service of my thorn-crowned Captain.' His prayer against apathy, and his concern for the poor and weak make him a saint whose example is valuable today. The modern Church is calling us to follow the example of 'the poor man's lawyer' by sharing ourselves and our talents with those less fortunate and by working for justice in the world." (Franciscan Media)

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Pray for us!

-Thursday, April 25 - Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist. Mark was the cousin of Barnabas and associated with Saints Peter and Paul. The Gospel ascribed to him is the shortest and also the oldest, likely written prior to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The Gospel according to Mark is largely a collection of narratives that depict Jesus as being almost constantly active. It presents Jesus as the Son of God whose ministry was marked by a series of might works, signs of God's power and Kingdom. Tradition holds that Mark was the first Bishop of Alexandria. He is portraved as a winged lion. He died in the first century and is the patron of notaries, Egypt, and Venice.

"Most of what we know about Mark comes directly from the New Testament. He is usually identified with the Mark of Acts 12:12. When Saint Peter escaped from prison, he went to the home of Mark's mother.

Paul and Barnabas took him along on the first missionary journey, but for some reason Mark returned alone to Jerusalem. It is evident, from Paul's refusal to let Mark accompany him on the second journey despite Barnabas's insistence, that Mark had displeased Paul. Because Paul later asks Mark to visit him in prison, we may assume the trouble did not last long.

The oldest and the shortest of the four Gospels, the Gospel of Mark emphasizes Jesus's rejection by humanity while being God's triumphant envoy. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome—after the death of Peter and Paul sometime between A.D. 60 and 70—Mark's Gospel is the gradual manifestation of a 'scandal': a crucified Messiah.

Evidently a friend of Mark—calling him 'my son'—Peter is only one of this Gospel's sources, others being the Church in Jerusalem (Jewish roots), and the Church at Antioch (largely Gentile).

Like another Gospel writer Luke, Mark was not one of the 12 apostles. We cannot be certain whether he knew Jesus personally. Some scholars feel that the evangelist is speaking of himself when describing the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane: 'Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked' (Mark 14:51-52).

Others hold Mark to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. Venice, famous for the Piazza San Marco, claims Mark as its patron saint; the large basilica there is believed to contain his remains.

A winged lion is Mark's symbol. The lion derives from Mark's description of John the Baptist as a 'voice of one crying out in the desert' (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion. The wings come from the application of Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures to the evangelists.

Mark fulfilled in his life what every Christian is called to do: proclaim to all people the Good News that is the source of salvation. In particular, Mark's way was by writing. Others may proclaim the Good News by music, drama, poetry, or by teaching children around a family table." (Franciscan Media)

St. Mark, Pray for us.

On the Feast of St. Mark, though not connected to this Feast at all, the Greater Litanies were formerly celebrated. These public prayers implored God to preserve us from calamities and to bless the crops. As such, I will be celebrating the order of Blessing of Fields and Flocks on this day immediately following the 7:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Family. More information is below.

-WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – This 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.

This day (the Fourth Sunday of Easter) is often referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday" as noted above. We will hear about Jesus as the Good Shepherd in the Liturgy of the Word. The prayers for Vocations on this day, especially Priestly Vocations, relate to this image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who calls and sends men as Priests today to shepherd His flock.

-RECEPTION – A reminder that I will be investing those who recently received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion from our parishes with the Brown Scapular and there will be a reception at each parish to celebrate the receiving of these Sacraments.

At Holy Family, this will be at the Saturday evening Vigil Mass this weekend, April 20. At St. Thomas, it will be at the 10:00 a.m. Mass this Sunday, April 21.

-APRIL – the Church traditionally dedicates each month to a particular devotion. The month of April is traditionally dedicated to devotion to Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The Catholic Church teaches that the Blessed Sacrament is the real and living presence of Christ—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—received into our souls with every reception of Holy Communion. Our Eucharistic Lord is the source and summit of our Christian life, the ultimate proof of His infinite love for us.

-BLESSING OF FIELDS & FARMS – In conjunction with the blessing of seeds and plants that I did last week at both parishes, I will also be praying the "Greater Litanies" this Thursday, 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. Sign-up sheets are 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.

Since our bulletin needs to be in early in the week for printing, I did not get additional information about the Greater Litanies put together in time to publish in the bulletin. However, I am going to try to have a separate insert completed that I can insert.

I hope that you will seriously considering joining us in praying the Litany after one of the Masses on Thursday. It is a lengthy but beautiful and important Litany. I also 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. If there are more fields and farms for me to bless on Thursday, I will continue on Friday. If you miss the sign-up in the back of one of the Churches, please call or e-mail me so I can add you to the list.

-VISITOR – A seminary classmate of mine is planning to visit this week. While I will be around the parishes, I do intend to spend a significant amount of time with him this week.

-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.

-FROM THE SAINTS – St. Padre Pio: "Pray, hope, and don't worry. Anxiety doesn't help at all. Our Merciful Lord will listen to your prayer."

-SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS - "Thus sin renders the soul miserable, weak and torpid, inconstant in doing good, cowardly in resisting temptation, slothful in the observance of God's commandments. It deprives her of true liberty and of that sovereignty which she should never resign; it makes her a slave to the world, the flesh, and the devil; it subjects her to a harder and more wretched servitude than that of the unhappy Israelites in Egypt or Babylon. Sin so dulls and stupefies the spiritual senses of man that he is deaf to God's voice and inspirations; blind to the dreadful calamities which threaten him: insensible to the sweet odor of virtue and the example of the saints: incapable of tasting how sweet the Lord is, or feeling the touch of His benign hand in the benefits which should be a constant incitement to his greater love. Moreover, sin destroys the peace and joy of a good conscience, takes away the soul's fervor, and leaves her an object abominable in the eyes of God and His saints. The grace of justification delivers us from all these miseries. For God, in His infinite mercy, is not content with effacing our sins and restoring us to His favor; He delivers us from the evils sin has brought upon us and renews the interior man in his former strength and beauty. Thus, He heals our wounds, breaks our bonds, moderates the violence of our passions, restores with true liberty the supernatural beauty of the soul, reestablishes us in the peace and joy of a good conscience, reanimates our interior senses, inspires us with ardor for good and a salutary hatred of sin, makes us strong and constant in resisting evil, and thus enriches us with an abundance of good works. In fact, He so perfectly renews the inner man with all his faculties that the Apostle calls those who are thus justified new men and new creatures." (from 'The Sinner's Guide,' Venerable Louis Of Grenada, p. 46)

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 week!

Fr. Aaron

# **Ladies of Charity**

The Ladies of Charity of Quincy invites you. both women and men, and both current and potential members, to attend an Orientation and Day of Reflection on Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the St. Francis Catholic Church Parish Hall. Although the Ladies of Charity is comprised of mostly women volunteers, we also invite men to assist us (particularly with the heavy lifting, transporting of items, etc.). We are a Vincentian organization called to serve those in need and we would love to have vou join us. Please plan to attend to learn more about us and the volunteer opportunities available! If you have any questions or need other details, please feel free to contact either Kathy Obert at 703-786-4788 or Brenda Ehrhardt at 217-257-8832.



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.

