

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 8 - 7:00 a.m.

The Annunciation of the Lord Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

Communion Service

HOLY FAMILY - 5:30 p.m.

Robert Kemper (By Norma Hufnagel)

Tuesday, April 9 - 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15

Pat Volk (By Kathy Rigg)

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

Acts of the Apostles 5:17-26; Luke 3:16-21

John & Mary Margaret Bullard (By the Family)

Thursday, April 11 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr Acts of the Apostles 5:27-33; John 3:31-36

Marie Faugust (By Tammy)

St. Thomas - 5:30 p.m.

Martha Koetters (By Margie Ahern)

Friday, April 12 - 8:30 a.m. (School Mass)

Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42; John 6:1-15

Neal Volk (By Kathy Rigg)

Saturday, April 13 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; John 6:16-21

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

Sunday, April 14 - 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-51; Luke 24:35-48

> John Colgan (By Cheryl Dillard)

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Frank & Bertha Steinkamp (By Barbara Steinkamp)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 30-31, 2024

Holy Family: \$2,075.00 School Support: \$80.00 Sister Parish: \$20.00 Catholic Relief: \$20.00 Debt Reduction: \$120.00 Rice Bowl: \$394.50 Good Friday: \$495.00 Easter: \$3,100.00 Seminary: \$605.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

March 31, 2024

St. Thomas: \$3,480.00 Holy Thursday For the Poor: \$225.00 Good Friday: \$340.00 Sister Parish: \$10.00 Seminary: \$360.00

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 LITURGICAL ROLES

April 14, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jonah Coggeshall Greeters: Denny & Nancy

Campbell

Lector: Kim Gronewold

Gift Bearers: Greg & Elizabeth Likes

Eucharistic Minister: Alicia Schmidt/

Cathy Wagner

Collection Counters: Robin Coggeshall Jerry Herkert,

Andrew Llewellyn

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy Easter to you! The Lord is Risen, Alleluia! We proclaim His Death and profess His Resurrection until He comes again!

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave Day of Easter, and also known as Sunday of Divine Mercy.

I remind you of our Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at Holy Family today, Sunday, April 7 beginning at 5:00 p.m. I've already put out a lot of information on that, so I won't put it here again. Information sheets are still in the back of each church. I do want to note that I should have at least one additional priest available for confessions and hopefully another. Additionally, the Mass celebrated at the conclusion will be the Sunday Mass and will fulfill your Sunday Obligation. A meal will be served immediately following Mass in the school cafeteria. I do hope you will join us for this great celebration!

In today's readings, we hear that Thomas believed because he saw the Risen Lord. Although we have never seen Him (in bodily form), we believe that Jesus is the Christ, begotten by God. We give thanks to the Lord that He has formed us into a community of believers, united in the Holy Spirit.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

-Monday, April 8 - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. This Solemnity is normally celebrated on March 25. However, when this date falls during Holy Week as it did this year, all days of Holy Week take precedence and so the Solemnity is moved to the first available day which is usually the Monday after the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday). The days from Easter Sunday through the following Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday), comprise the Octave of Easter. All of those days are celebrated as Solemnities, taking precedence over everything else. Thus, our first available day this year for the celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is Monday, April 8.

"The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a Solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends' (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to Him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Sometimes spiritual writers are accused of putting Mary on a pedestal and thereby discouraging ordinary humans from imitating her. Perhaps such an observation is misguided. God did put Mary on a pedestal and has put all human beings on a pedestal. We have scarcely begun to realize the magnificence of divine grace, the wonder of God's freely given love. The marvel of Mary—even in the midst of her very ordinary life—is God's shout to us to wake up to the marvelous creatures that we all are by divine design." (Franciscan Media)

-Thursday, April 11 – Obligatory Memorial of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr. As Bishop of Krakow, Stanislaus was known especially for assisting the poor. He was slain by the oppressive and savage king, Boleslaus II the Bold in 1079. He is the Patron of Poland.

"Anyone who reads the history of Eastern Europe cannot help but chance on the name of Stanislaus, the saintly but tragic bishop of Kraków, patron of Poland. He is remembered with Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for vigorous opposition to the evils of an unjust government.

Born in Szczepanow near Kraków on July 26, 1030, he was ordained a priest after being educated in the cathedral schools of Gniezno, then capital of Poland, and at Paris. He was appointed preacher and archdeacon to the bishop of Kraków, where his eloquence and example brought about real conversion in many of his penitents, both clergy and laity. He became bishop of Kraków in 1072.

During an expedition against the Grand Duchy of Kiev, Stanislaus became involved in the political situation of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II.

The king first excused himself, then made a show of penance, then relapsed into his old ways. Stanislaus continued his open opposition in spite of charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. Enraged, the latter ordered soldiers to kill the bishop. When they refused, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands.

Forced to flee to Hungary, Boleslaus supposedly spent the rest of his life as a penitent in the Benedictine abbey in Osiak.

Saints John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Thomas More, and Stanislaus are a few of the prophets who dared to denounce corruption in high places. They followed in the footsteps of Jesus himself, who pointed out the moral corruption in the religious leadership of his day. It is a risky business." (Franciscan Media)

St. Stanislaus, Pray for us!

-Saturday, April 13 – Optional memorial of St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr. As a Deacon, Martin served at the imperial court in Constantinople. He combated emperor Constans II (who reigned from 641-668) over Monothelite belief that Jesus had only a Divine Will and so was not truly human (a heresy, of course). As pope, Martin was forced from Rome to Constantinople where he was tried for treason. Later he was exiled to Crimea where he died of starvation and ill-treatment. Martin was the last pope to be martyred (in 656) to date.

"When Martin I became pope in 649, Constantinople was the capital of the Byzantine empire and the patriarch of Constantinople was the most influential Church leader in the eastern Christian world. The struggles that existed within the Church at that time were magnified by the close cooperation of emperor and patriarch.

A [heretical] teaching, strongly supported in the East, held that Christ had no human will. Twice, emperors had officially favored this position: Heraclius by publishing a formula of faith, and Constans II by silencing the issue of one or two wills in Christ.

Shortly after assuming the office of the papacy—which he did without first being

confirmed by the emperor—Martin held a council at the Lateran in which the imperial documents were censured, and in which the patriarch of Constantinople and two of his predecessors were condemned. In response, Constans II first tried to turn bishops and people against the pope.

Failing in this and in an attempt to kill the pope, the emperor sent troops to Rome to seize Martin and to bring him back to Constantinople. Already in poor health, Martin offered no resistance, returned with Calliopas, the exarch of Constantinople, and was then submitted to various imprisonments, tortures, and hardships. Although condemned to death and with some of the imposed torture already carried out, Martin was saved from execution by the pleas of a repentant Paul, patriarch of Constantinople, who was himself gravely ill.

Tortures and cruel treatment having taken their toll, Martin died shortly thereafter. He is the last of the early popes to be venerated as a martyr.

The real significance of the word martyr comes not from the dying but from the witnessing, which the word means in its derivation. People who are willing to give up everything, their most precious possessions, their very lives, put a supreme value on the cause or belief for which they sacrifice. Martyrdom, dying for the faith, is an incidental extreme to which some have had to go to manifest their belief in Christ. A living faith, a life that exemplifies Christ's teaching throughout, and that in spite of difficulties, is required of all Christians. Martin refused to cut corners as a way of easing his lot, to make some accommodations with the civil rulers.

St. Martin I, Pray for us!

-DONUTS – This Sunday, April 7 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas in the Parish Hall.

-MASS FOR THE ANNUNCIATION – As noted above, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord this year on Monday, April 8. See above for details and why the Solemnity is moved this year.

I have to be away early that morning. Deacon Paul will have a Communion Service at Holy Family at 7:00 a.m. as usual. I will also celebrate Mass that evening at Holy Family at 5:30 p.m.

-WEDNESDAY MASSES – Just a reminder that Wednesday Masses at Holy Family have returned to 7:00 a.m. Additionally, we will continue to have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday mornings. I am, however, making a slight change to that. Solemn Exposition will take place entirely before Mass and end with Benediction. I will expose the Blessed Sacrament around 5:45 a.m. and begin Benediction around 6:40 a.m.. I will then celebrate 7:00 a.m. Mass. For now, there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass.

-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." The prayer invokes the intercession of St. Joseph under his title "Defender of Life." The prayer cards are available at the back of each Church.

-TEACHING POSITION – St. Mary School has an opening for a teaching position for next school year. Contact our Principal, Mrs. Melissa Obert, for more details.

-CONFESSION – A reminder about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You may contact me at any time to set up a time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please do not hesitate to do so. At Holy Family, our regular Confession time is Saturday evening from 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.. At St. Thomas, I have Confessions on First Fridays of the month from 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. I am also planning to continue offering Confessions at St. Thomas on Thursday evenings during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which begins around 4:15 p.m. I will try to begin Confessions around 4:30 p.m. Mass is at 5:30 p.m.

I will also look at other "regular times" to be available but again, please never hesitate to ask me to celebrate the sacrament with you at any time. Additionally, if you are at Mass early and you see me in the Church, even if I am praying, just come and ask me to celebrate the Sacrament and I will be happy to if I am able.

I recently made available in the back of each church an Examination of Conscience and I included a copy in the Easter Sunday bulletins. I will keep these available. It is good that many folks have made use of these. Please feel free to take and keep these and share them with others.

The Sacraments were instituted by Christ not as a nice thing to do but necessary for our salvation. Sacramental Confession is necessary otherwise the Lord would not have given it to us. Not only is it necessary, the Lord wants us to celebrate it regularly as He desires us to be with Him for all eternity and He wants to show you His mercy. Forgiveness of serious sin can only be received through Sacramental Confession. Do not let anyone try to tell you otherwise. Preparing for the Sacrament by asking the Lord to help you know your sins and making a thorough Examination of Conscience is also necessary. The Examination of Conscience sheets that I have in each church should help with this. Do not try to kid or deceive yourself or someone else about sin and the serious harm it causes us.

I want to also mention again about actually celebrating the Sacrament itself:

-Prepare yourself for the Sacrament before coming to the Sacrament by asking the Lord to help you know your sins and making a thorough Examination of Conscience (using a prepared Examination of Conscience such as the ones now available in the back of the church is useful and sometimes even necessary).

-Tell the Priest how long it's been since your last Confession.

-Confess your sins by naming the sinful act. Generally speaking, it is not necessary to give an explanation or a reason for your sin. If the priest needs clarification, he will ask you.

-Name and confess ALL serious sin. DO NOT try to conceal a seriously sinful act in the Sacrament. That in itself is seriously sinful.

-Keep in mind that if you have committed a serious sin since your last confession and have received the Lord in the Holy Eucharist since that time, you need to confess that as well. That is the serious sin of sacrilege. I reiterate that this concerns serious (mortal) sin, not venial sin). Priests will sometimes ask about this after hearing your confession. Do not be shocked. He wants to make sure you are aware of your sins and that you

confess all serious sin. Though very serious, simply confess the sin.

-Only saying something like "I want to do better" or "I want to be a better person" or "I'm sorry and want God's forgiveness" is not, in itself, a confession of sin. It is a good thing, but it is not confession of sin. Confession of sin requires naming the sinful act, a free act of the will.

-Sinfulness can sometimes be a lack of doing something we should do. The sinful act is the very act of choosing not to do that which we should do which is good and holy.

-If you have no mortal sin (which is what we should aim for), it is still good to celebrate the Sacrament regularly to receive God's grace to help us to grow in holiness and virtue.

-The Penance given must be completed. Therefore, if for some reason you cannot complete the Penance given, then you need to tell the Priest and he will help you.

-You must say a good Act of Contrition. I'm almost hesitant to say "good" but again, an Act of Contrition, though there are different formulations, is not simply saying "Lord I'm sorry" or "Lord have mercy on me." It involves that, yes, but an Act of Contrition expresses acknowledgement and sorrow for our sin, recognizes God who is Almighty, and makes intention, with God's grace, to do penance, to go and sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads you to sin. A "good" Act of Contrition is found on the Examination of Conscience sheets. It is a good and prudent practice to make the Act of Contrition every single day, normally at the end of the day after we've done our daily examination of conscience.

-Remember the Seal of Confession. The priest (and anyone who may overhear a Confession) may never repeat or act upon anything that is revealed in the Sacrament.

-God wants you to celebrate the Sacrament and He wants to give you His mercy and forgiveness. Please do not remain uneasy about going to the Sacrament and thus keeping yourself from it. That is only the work of the devil. Come, come to the Sacrament, the Lord wants you there...no matter how long it may have been since you last celebrated Sacramental reconciliation, no matter what sin or sins you may have committed. The Lord Himself wants you there

to receive His forgiveness and to bring you back into union with Him.

-The Priest is the instrument that God has chosen to absolve you of your sins and to receive His grace in this Sacrament. The Priest acts 'in Persona Christi," the Person of Christ. It is Christ Himself whom you are speaking to when you celebrate Sacramental Confession. What a great gift!

-Be serious about the Sacrament. Bring your family! Come to receive forgiveness of sin, yes, but leave with that firm intention of amending your life, sinning no more, and avoiding that which leads you to sin. Your sincere confession of sin shows your humility and your repentance and then you must leave the Sacrament, not to go back to your old way of life and sin but with a conversion of heart and a repulsion to sin. And when you need to return to the Sacrament, do so right away! And not only that but make it a regular part of your life...not just when you "feel" like it and not just when you "need" it but a regular part of your life.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. You remain in my prayers each day. Once again, Happy Easter to you and may you have a most blessed week!

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:



REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel -- even if it is in the past -- individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE."



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.

