

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

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, May 13 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8; John 16:29-33

Communion Service

Tuesday, May 14 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Matthias, Apostle

Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

Dr. Robert Henson

Wednesday, May 15 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Isidore

Acts of the Apostles 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19

Charles Koch

(By William Volk)

Thursday, May 16 – 7:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26

Kay Downey

(By Norma Hufnagel)

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Jerry Gunn

(By the Gunn Family)

Friday, May 17 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Acts of the Apostles 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19

Mark Ebbing

(By the Salrin Family)

Saturday, May 18 – 5:30 p.m.

St. John I, Pope & Martyr

Acts of the Apostles 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25

Jennifer Volk

(By Cheryl Dillard)

Sunday, May 19 – 8:00 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11;

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Grace Shaffer & Olivia Ehrhardt
(By Sheila Druffel)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 4-5, 2024

Holy Family: \$4,543.20

Catholic Communication: \$15.00

School Support: \$1,192.00

Sister Parish: \$20.00

Catholic Charity: \$10.00

Retired Diocesan Priests: \$25.00

Cemetery: \$15.00

Seminary: \$20.00

Debt Reduction: \$220.00

ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$35.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

May 5, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,273.00

Catholic Home Mission Appeal: \$25.00

Parish Improvement: \$315.00

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 † 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!!

Quincy CareNet Pregnancy Center has asked St. Thomas Parish to participate again this year in their annual Baby Bottle Blitz which starts Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day and goes to Father's Day June 16. Place your loose change in the baby bottles during this time period and bring the bottles back June 16. Thank you for your support.

St. Thomas Vacation Bible School

SAVE THE DATE - JULY 11-13

Grab your dive buddies for a whale of a good time! At Scuba, kids plunge into an undersea world brimming with colorful coral, flashy fish, and abundant life. Immersed in oceans of fun, kids discover God is a real friend who loves them forever. At St. Thomas VBS, we will have a fun-filled Thursday and Friday evening and Saturday all day.

Children entering preschool - 5th grade are welcome to attend VBS. Children entering 6th - 12th grade are welcome as Crew Leaders. Adults are welcome to volunteer. Please contact Alicia Schmidt at 217-257-3210 ASAP if you'd like to volunteer.



St. Thomas VBS T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST
Help us design our 2024 VBS Shirt



Things to know:

- Open to preschoolers to seniors in HS
- Design must include a drawing related to our theme of SCUBA
- The words that must be on the shirt are the following:
 - 2024
 - St. Thomas
 - Scuba - Diving into Friendship with God
- Only use black ink or black marker on white 8.5" x 11" paper
- Include your name and contact number on the BACK of the drawing
- Art will be judged by St. Thomas parishioners
- Due May 26 to Alicia Schmidt
- Contact Alicia, 217-257-3210, with any questions

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

May 19, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Jim & Nora Clausius
Lector:	Karen Janssen
Gift Bearers:	Mark & Amanda Obert Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Cathy Wagner/ Tod Perry
Collection Counters:	Dale & Sindy DeRousse
Ushers:	Elijah Perry, Tod Perry

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. In our readings, Jesus commissions His disciples to baptize in His Name reminding them that He is always present through His Spirit. Having ascended to His Father amid cries of gladness, we are to be witnesses for we have been gifted with His Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Let us, therefore, live in a manner worthy of the call we have received.

“At the end of His earthly life Jesus ascends triumphantly into heaven. The Church acclaims Him in His holy humanity, invited to sit on the Father's right hand and to share His glory. But Christ's Ascension is the pledge of

our own. Filled with an immense hope, the Church looks up towards Her leader, who precedes Her into the heavenly home and takes Her with Him in His own person: ‘for the Son of God, after incorporating in Himself those whom the devil’s jealousy had banished from the earthly paradise, ascends again to His Father and takes them with Him’ (St. Leo).

The ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, and the State of Nebraska have retained the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord on the proper Thursday, while all other provinces have transferred this solemnity to today, the Seventh Sunday of Easter.”

“As we all know well, the Resurrection, Ascension and gift of the Holy Spirit are all one mystery looked at from different angles. The great mystery of reconciliation, the marriage between God and His creation, is split up for us in liturgical time to enable us to cope with it. The Ascension is not different from the Resurrection, rather we are asked to dwell on a partial aspect of the Resurrection.

The Ascension means essentially that Jesus is with His Father, "I go to the Father"; and this is His supreme joy, His goal, His reward. ‘If you loved me, you would be full of joy because I am with my Father.’ Are we? With a joy that can supersede all subjective states of trouble and grief?

The first aspect of the Ascension is unalloyed joy that no man can take away from us. The Father at last has all He wants—an open heart into which He can pour His love without hindrance. Jesus is the recipient of that blissful love, and we rejoice in Him and for Him. Secondly, Jesus has entered heaven as our pioneer. He has blazed a trail. More, He is our representative; in a real way we are there with Him. The great work of reconciliation has been accomplished. The massive dam walls that human beings, through their wrong choices, had built up against the love of God have been demolished. We have only to stand in the way of these flood waters and not fly from them as though fleeing from death.

‘Abide in my love. How do we abide in His love? He tells: ‘If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, as it is by keeping my Father’s commandments that abide in His love.’ What we have seen Jesus doing in relation to the Father, we must do. Jesus has shown us the Father and what the Father wants of us; has shown us how we must live to be in truth His children. We have to be

living embodiments of Jesus as He is of His Father. And this, says Jesus, is my joy which you must share.

How the thought of the Ascension should lift our lives above our petty, selfish concerns, to live with Jesus where He is now—in the glory of the Father! That we are able to do this, able to enter into the mystery of Jesus, to receive His life and live by it, is the mystery of Pentecost.

Just as in Advent the Church invites us to assume the attitude of those to whom the Lord has not yet come, and to yearn for that coming, so now in the time between Ascension and Pentecost. We are invited to put ourselves with the waiting disciples. Our ardent willing must hasten the coming of the Spirit, the Power from on high, who will enable us to live the very life of Jesus.

Let us attend to [St.] Paul’s exhortation: “With unflagging energy, with ardor of spirit serve the Lord. Let hope keep you joyful, in trouble stand firm, persist in prayer.” (Ruth Burrows, *Through Him, With Him, In Him*)

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, May 13 – Optional memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady of Fatima is venerated under this title following apparitions to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance from sin, and prayer, especially the Holy Rosary.

“Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese children—Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos—received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up, she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See’s Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a “bishop in white” who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets

and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

The message of Fatima is simple: Pray. Unfortunately, some people—not Sister Lucia—have distorted these revelations, making them into an apocalyptic event for which they are now the only reliable interpreters. They have, for example, claimed that Mary's request that the world be consecrated to her has been ignored. Sister Lucia agreed that Pope John Paul II's public consecration in St. Peter's Square on March 25, 1984, fulfilled Mary's request. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith prepared a June 26, 2000, document explaining the "third secret."

Mary is perfectly honored when people generously imitate her response "Let it be done to me as you say" (Luke 1:38). Mary can never be seen as a rival to Jesus or to the Church's teaching authority, as exercised by the college of bishops united with the bishop of Rome. (Franciscan Media)

Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for us!

-Tuesday, May 14 - Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle. Matthias was chosen to replace Judas, qualified because he witnessed Jesus' ministry and Resurrection. He is said to have suffered martyrdom in the first century either at Colchis Z(modern day Georgia) or in Jerusalem. He is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

"According to Acts 1:15-26, during the days after the Ascension Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers—about 120 of Jesus' followers. Now that Judas had betrayed his ministry, it was necessary, Peter said, to fulfill the scriptural recommendation that another should take his office. "Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection" (Acts 1:21-22).

They nominated two men: Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias. They prayed and drew lots. The choice fell upon Matthias, who was added to the Eleven.

Matthias is not mentioned by name anywhere else in the New Testament.

What was the holiness of Matthias? Obviously, he was suited for apostleship by the experience of being with Jesus from his baptism to his ascension. He must also have been suited personally, or he would not have been nominated for so great a responsibility. Must we not remind ourselves that the fundamental holiness of Matthias was his receiving gladly the relationship with the Father offered him by Jesus and completed by the Holy Spirit? If the apostles are the foundations of our faith by their witness, they must also be reminders, if only implicitly, that holiness is entirely a matter of God's giving, and it is offered to all, in the everyday circumstances of life. We receive, and even for this God supplies the power of freedom." (Franciscan Media)

St. Matthias, Pray for us!

-Wednesday, May 15 - Optional memorial of St. Isidore the Farmer. St. Isidore the Farmer, not to be confused with St. Isidore of Seville whose memorial is celebrated on April 4, is significant for our parishes in a special way in that he is the Patron Saint of farmers and rural communities. On a personal note, and I have shared this before, St. Isidore the Farmer is the name I chose for my Confirmation name...and gosh, that was some thirty-two years ago...hard for me to believe.

"St. Isidore was born at Madrid, Spain, in the latter half of the 12th century. For the greater part of his life he was employed as a laborer on a farm outside the city. Many marvelous happenings accompanied his lifelong work in the fields and continued long after his holy death. He was favored with celestial visions and, it is said, the angels sometimes helped him in his work in the fields. St. Isidore was canonized in 1622.

In 1947 he was proclaimed the patron of the National Rural Life Conference in the United States.

Prayer: God, through the intercession of St. Isidore the holy Farmer grant that we may overcome all feelings of pride. May we always serve you with that humility which pleases you, through his merits and example. Amen." (Lives of the Saints, Catholic Book Publishing)

St. Isidore the Farmer, Pray for us!

-Saturday, May 18 - Optional memorial of St. John I, Pope and Martyr. John was from

Tuscany and introduced the Alexandrian computation of the date of Easter. He led an embassy to Constantinople to discuss Emperor Justin I's policy toward Arians in the East. Not satisfying the demands of Theodoric, the Arian King in Ravenna, and not knowing his fate, he died there in 526, a wretched man, ill and worn out from his travels. He is buried in Rome and his epitaph salutes him as a "Victim for Christ."

"A native of Tuscany in Italy, while he was still an archdeacon John was elected Pope upon the death of Pope Hormisdas in 523. At that time the ruler of Italy was Theodoric the Goth who subscribed to the Arian brand of Christianity but had tolerated and even favored his Catholic subjects during the early part of his reign. However, about the time of St. John's accession to the Papacy, Theodoric's policy underwent a drastic change and a result of two events: the treasonable (in the sovereign's view) correspondence between ranking members of the Roman Senate and Constantinople and the severe edict against heretics enacted by Emperor Justin I, who was the first Catholic on the Byzantine throne in fifty years.

Spurred on by the appeals of Eastern Arians, Theodoric threatened to wage war against Justin but ultimately decided to negotiate with him through a delegation of five Bishops and four Senators. At its head he named Pope John - much against the latter's wishes. Little is known for certain about the nature of the message which the Pope bore and the manner in which he carried out his mission. What is known is that he succeeded in persuading the Emperor to mitigate his treatment of the Arians and thus avoid reprisals against the Catholics in Italy. the Pope's visit also brought about the reconciliation of the Western and Eastern Churches which had been plagued by a schism since 482 when Zeno's Henoticon had been published.

St. John I, Pray for us!

However, Theodoric had been becoming more suspicious with each passing day. While waiting for the delegation to return, he ordered the execution of the philosopher Boethius and his father-in-law Symmachus on a charge of treason; and as he got word of the friendly relations between the Pope and the Emperor, he concluded that they were plotting against him. Hence, on the delegation's return to the capital city of Ravenna, Pope John was imprisoned by the order of Theodoric and

died a short time later as a result of the treatment he experienced there.

Prayer: God, the rewarded of those faithful to You, on this day You consecrated the martyrdom of Pope St. John. Hear the prayers of your people and grant that we who venerate his merits may imitate the constancy of his Faith. Amen." (Lives of the Saints, Catholic Book Publishing)

-MOTHER'S DAY - Today we celebrate Mother's Day. Though it is a secular celebration, we recognize the importance and beauty of all mothers, with our Blessed Mother being the model for all mothers. We recognize and honor those women who have cooperated with God to bring life into this world. And so, Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers. I will be offering a special blessing to all mothers at the Masses this weekend.

Certainly, we recognize that there are some who are separated for a time here on earth from their mothers through earthly death. This can be difficult and challenging. Yet, we are mindful that we remain united to our deceased loved ones through Christ. We pray for the repose of their souls and for their eternal salvation.

"Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so You watch over Your Church. Bless all mothers that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

-ST. MARY SCHOOL - Last day of school at St. Mary's is Wednesday, May 15. 8th Grade Graduation Mass is Wednesday, May 22.

Remember, summer break doesn't mean that our learning stops, nor does it mean that our faith life is suspended. Absolutely not! Your prayer life, your study, and your celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist each and EVERY Sunday is absolutely necessary. Do not allow the summer break to be used as an excuse to not do these things. I will see you all at Mass throughout the summer.

-BABY BOTTLES - Both parishes will have baby bottles available like we've done in the past this weekend (Mother's Day weekend). These are used as a fundraiser for Pregnancy Centers. Please take a bottle and fill it with donations of cash, coins, or checks and return

the bottle on Father's Day (this year, June 16). Please make sure you return all bottles...even if it's one you found that you had from last year. Holy Family's collection will go to the Pregnancy Center in Rushville. St. Thomas' collection will go to CareNet in Quincy. Thank you in advance for your participation.

-DEATH NOTICE - In last week's bulletin, I listed the priests in our Diocese that are celebrating significant Ordination Anniversaries this year. After the bulletin had already been sent for printing, I received word that Fr. Irenaeus Kimminau, O.F.M. died on Monday, April 29 at the age of 103. Fr. Irenaeus was celebrating his 75th Anniversary this year. Please keep Fr. Irenaeus in your prayers.

Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

-MAY - A reminder that the month of May has traditionally been known as the month of Mary. We will be including Marian hymns for each Mass. These hymns are a rich treasure that we have in the Church. We also had our May Crownings at both parishes and the May Altars are up in both Churches.

May Altars are also very much a tradition, especially in individual homes. I would encourage you to "build" your own May Altar at home for the month of May. A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary along with flowers and perhaps a Rosary and whatever else to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Be sure to pray together as a family as well, perhaps the Holy Rosary each evening, and to talk about Mary's great role in salvation history and how she is a both a perfect example for us in living our Christian lives and a great intercessor.

-PRISON MINISTRY - As I've mentioned in previous bulletins, Matt Heldt and I have been visiting the prison on Saturday nights and I have now been able to begin celebrating Mass there.

There has been some expense in gathering items to have at the prison for the celebration of Mass and to provide good and solid Catholic material for them. If you would like to make a contribution toward these expenses, please place your contribution in an envelope and mark it clearly "Prison Ministry." You may place this in the collection basket, give it to me, or mail it into the parish office. Thank

you in advance for your kind consideration. This is important and rewarding work.

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

Baby Bottle Boomerang

The kickoff for the Holy Family Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser for the Pregnancy Resource Center will kick off on Mother's Day. Baby bottles will be distributed on May 11-12 and collected on Father's Day (June 15-16). There are a few options for contributing: take a bottle home, filling with change, and returning on Father's Day, or bringing a check, made out to the PRC Rushville instead of taking a bottle. Donations to the Center may be made in memory of a loved one. (Just fill out information on the form in the bottle.) Please only take a baby bottle if you plan to contribute and return the bottle. Also, if you have a baby bottle not returned from previous years, please return it. Every gift is much appreciated and brings hope and help to families in our community.

POT OF GOLD

May Pot of Gold winners are:

\$200.00 - Tony Busen
\$100.00 - Jamie Lichtsinn
\$50.00 - Amy Mitchell
\$50.00 - Charlie Buss
\$50.00 - Dane Flesner
\$50.00 - Matt Boylen



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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