

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, September 23 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Proverbs 3:27-34; Luke 8:16-18

Communion Service

Tuesday, September 24 – 7:00 a.m.

Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Luke 8:19-21

John Yeakel

(By Jim & Carolyn Chaney)

Wednesday, September 25 – 7:00 a.m.

Proverbs 30:5-9; Luke 9:1-6

Pat Parker

(By John & Carolyn Ormond)

Thursday, September 26 – 7:00 a.m.

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Luke 9:7-9

Amy Ormond Lucky

(By Joan Siebers & Pat Barry)

AT ST. THOMAS – 5:30 p.m.

Albert & Pauline Frericks Descendants
(By the Frericks Family)

Friday, September 27 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Luke 9:18-22

Floyd "Scotty" Blentlinger

(By Carol Blentlinger & Family)

Saturday, September 28 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz &
Companions, Martyrs
Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8; Luke 9:43b-45

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Sunday, September 29 – 8:00 a.m.

Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Dave & Kay Downey
(By Carl & Nancy Mitchell)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Verna Taylor
(By McKenzi, Dessy & Reese Wilkey)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

September 14-15, 2024

Holy Family: \$3,044.00

School Support: \$175.00

Debt Reduction: \$300.00

Sister Parish: \$20.00

Solidarity Fund/Africa: \$190.00

Parish Tithe/ACSA: \$100.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

September 15, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,679.00

Mission Appeal: \$100.00

Parish Tithe/ACSA: \$50.00

Solidarity Fund/Africa: \$90.00

Candles: \$14.00

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 & Tuesday mornings – 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.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 † Logan Wilson †
Isabella Wilson † Calvin Schenk †
Mary Gregory † Ezra Keokham † Greg Jones †

ST. THOMAS

Ice Cream for Sale -- St. Thomas still has some of their homemade ice cream for sale. Gallons (\$20) and Half-gallons (\$10). If you'd like to buy some, please contact Pat (217-740-2140).

There is an article in the September 15, 2024, edition of the Catholic Times regarding Sunday September 29 as "Priesthood Sunday: 10 Ways to Celebrate Your Priest". The Seven Sisters Apostolate encourages you to review the article and find out ways to celebrate our priest.

Altar and Rosary Society meeting Sunday September 29, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

October is Pro Life Month. Sign-Up for praying during the 40 Days For Life Campaign starts Wednesday September 25.

Adams County Right to Life annual, "Pennies for Life Campaign" will be held the weekends of October 6 & 13.

Pastoral Council Minutes September 12, 2024 - Janice Brady, Pat Sharow, Claudia Coggeshall, Father Aaron, guest-Robin Coggeshall

The Pastoral Council-Christmas project for the parish called Box of Joy discussed. More information coming in the future.

The Ministries of "Bereavement" and "New Members of Parish" will be placed under Altar and Rosary Society.

Discussed implementing a Vocation Awareness Committee and ideas that could be used to promote this.

Having a speaker come to St. Thomas and inviting the surrounding Catholic Churches to attend.

Discussed changing number of times per year Pastoral meetings will be held.

The annual collection for "Pennies for life Campaign" for Adams County Right to Life will be held on the weekends of October 6 & 13.

Men and Women's-August Ice Cream Social did well. Discussed having Parish Christmas Party after Christmas.

Buildings and Grounds-List of projects for the Church building, grounds, and hall presented. Capital Campaign for all Diocesan churches discussed.

Next meeting Thursday October 10, 2024

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

September 29, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn Family
Lector:	Laura Evans
Gift Bearers:	Maurice & Clara Schmidt
Eucharistic Minister:	Kim Gronewold/Clara Schmidt
Collection Counters:	Dale & Sindy DeRousse
Ushers:	Justin and Chase Reed

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. In the readings for today, we hear Jesus speaking of His own rejection, torture, and shameful death. True discipleship, He says, is concerned not with status but with service to the poor, with justice and peace.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, September 23 - Obligatory Memorial of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest. Lived 1887-1968; Patron Saint of adolescents and civil defense volunteers; Invoked by those in need of stress relief, spiritual healing, and for January blues; Canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 16, 2002; Liturgical Color: White.

"Quote: 'Prayer is the best weapon we possess. It is the key that opens the heart of God. You must always humble yourself lovingly before God and before men, because God speaks only to those who are truly humble and He enriches them with His gifts. Humility and purity are the wings which carry us to God and make us almost divine. Let us always keep before our

eyes the fact that here on earth we are on a battlefield and that in paradise we shall receive the crown of victory; that this is a testing-ground and the prize will be awarded up above; that we are now in a land of exile while our true homeland is Heaven to which we must continually aspire.' ~Saint Padre Pio

Reflection: Saint Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione in Pietrelcina, Italy, a rural town of about 4,000 people. As a child, he was called Franci (Frankie). His parents were peasant farm laborers, and the children assisted with the work. Franci was the third of seven (or eight) children, two (or three) of whom died in infancy, which was quite common at that time. The town centered around the local church of Saint Anna with continuous feasts, Masses, processions, novenas, and parish festivals. The main festival each year was in honor of their patroness, Our Lady of Deliverance, which lasted three days every August. After the day's work was completed, most evenings were spent with neighbors, eating macaroni, singing, telling stories, and playing in the fields.

The Forgione family was quite devout, and Franci exhibited extraordinary piety from a very early age. The family was especially devoted to the saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary, a love that would remain with Franci throughout his life. As a toddler, Franci often had nightmares. He would later say that he believed the devil was tormenting him at that young age. He also later recalled that, as early as he could remember, he was able to communicate with his guardian angel and had regular visions of the Blessed Mother and Jesus. From the age of five, Franci dedicated himself to God and the Blessed Virgin. He was a good student, even though only three years of public schooling was available in his village. He also suffered from various illnesses throughout his childhood.

At the age of ten, Franci encountered a bearded Capuchin friar who was traveling the countryside begging for food and provisions for his community. Franci was so impressed with him that he informed his parents, "I want to be a friar with a beard!" Though initially amused, his parents took his request seriously and visited the Capuchin friary about thirteen miles north. The friars agreed Franci could join them, but he needed a better preparatory education. Because his parents could not afford to send him to private school or hire a tutor, his father decided to travel to America to earn money for his education. Once in

America, his father sent nine American dollars home each week, and Franci received his education. At the age of fifteen, he entered the Capuchins, receiving the name Pio, possibly after Pope Pio I, whose relics were in his hometown church of Saint Anna, or possibly in honor of Pio of Benevento, the provincial.

Just five days before he entered the Capuchins, however, Franci experienced worries about leaving the only life he knew and entering religious life. As he was praying, he had what is known as an "intellectual vision" in which his mind saw what he would later describe as "a majestic Man of rare beauty, resplendent as the sun." This Man took him by the hand and led him to a "formidable warrior" and "mysterious creature" that he was told to do battle with. He hesitated but the Man encouraged him. He fought and won, and the creature fled. The Man then placed a crown of indescribable beauty on his head and informed him he would have to continually fight the creature but would always win with His help. Three days later, after receiving the Holy Eucharist, Franci realized that his life as a Capuchin would be a continuous battle against the creature from hell, but the Man at his side was Christ Who would never leave him. He had one more vision two days later, the night before his departure, of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin who consoled and strengthened him as he prepared for his new vocation. These visions would come true during his sixty-five years as a friar.

Life as a novice brought with it much structure and discipline. The friars gathered for prayer seven times a day, spent long hours studying, lived in a very simple and small cell, went barefoot, fasted often, and engaged in manual labor. In 1907, at the age of nineteen, Pio took his final vows, and in 1910, at the age of twenty-three, he was ordained a priest. Throughout his seven years of preparation for ordination, Friar Pio was continually in poor health. His fellow friars also reported that he regularly fell into ecstasy in prayer, levitating at times, weeping at others, so immersed that he lost track of time and place. Once ordained, his health was so poor that he was permitted to move to his family home in hopes of recovery. He remained there until 1916 when, at the age of twenty-nine, he was sent to Our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary, in San Giovanni Rotondo, where he would live the rest of his life, other than a short period of time when he was drafted for military service and quickly discharged for poor health during World War I.

In San Giovanni Rotondo, Padre Pio quickly became known as a mystic. His Masses were exceptionally devout and lengthy due to his prolonged ecstasies. He heard confessions often and gave spiritual counsel to many. His most famous advice was to “pray, hope, and don’t worry.” On September 20, 1918, while praying after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of a Man, dripping with blood from His hands, feet, and side. Suddenly, Padre Pio’s body was pierced with those wounds as he received the stigmata. He openly carried those wounds for exactly fifty years. They bled up to a cup of blood every day, had a heavenly aroma to them, and caused great pain, especially a wound he had on his shoulder where Christ carried the Cross. Countless doctors examined the wounds over the subsequent fifty years, none of whom was able to give a scientific explanation. Over the next thirteen years, people flocked to see this living saint and mystic. He began to manifest the charisms of healing, bilocation, levitation, prophecy, numerous miracles, and the gift of tongues, in which foreign visitors heard him speak in their own language. He had the ability to read hearts, would spend weeks at a time eating nothing but the Holy Eucharist, and would sleep very little or not at all. Miraculous and profound conversions resulted from his ministry.

To the normal Catholic, these miraculous events were beyond inspiring; to some of the Church authorities they were cause for concern. In 1922, a lengthy investigation began, and restrictions were placed on his priestly ministry. In 1931, the Holy See banned Padre Pio from public ministry and private communications with the people of God. Two years later, Pope Pius XI reversed the restrictions stating, “I have not been badly disposed toward Padre Pio, but I have been badly informed.” Though able to minister publicly, Padre Pio remained under scrutiny and suspicion by various Church authorities for the next thirty years until he was fully exonerated by Pope Paul VI after his papal election in 1963.

In addition to his miraculous ministry consisting of daily Mass, preaching, and countless hours in the confessional, Padre Pio constructed a hospital for those in extreme need. The Holy See granted him special permission to oversee and govern the hospital himself, which was beyond the normal rights and duties for friars.

On September 22, 1968, Padre Pio celebrated a televised solemn Mass attended by thousands to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his reception of the stigmata. The following day, his wounds disappeared and he passed to Heaven. An estimated 100,000 people attended his funeral.

In many ways, Saint Padre Pio was a once-in-a-millennium saint. Though other saints have borne the stigmata, no one bore it so openly for so long. He lived continually in divine union, was used by God in the most miraculous of ways, brought about countless conversions, and believed that his real work would take place after his death. Since 1968, that work has continued as his story has been told, his intercession felt, and miracles continue to occur. His body now lies at rest in the Padre Pio Pilgrimage Church in San Giovanni Rotondo, one of the most frequented pilgrimage sites in the world.

As we honor this amazing saint, allow yourself to be inspired by his miraculous life. Ponder even more deeply the life of prayer and union with God that he led. His sanctity went far beyond miracles. It was primarily the result of prayer, penance, virtuous living, and unwavering obedience to the will of God. Every one of us is capable of this same level of sanctity, even if God does not use us in a miraculous and charismatic way. Seek holiness through prayer and penance, and seek Saint Padre Pio’s intercession to help you.

Prayer: Saint Padre Pio, you loved God with all your heart and bore the wounds of Christ on your body. Through you, many lives were converted, hearts healed, and sins forgiven. Please pray for me, that I will receive the healing I need so that I will more fully devote myself to the will of God and serve Him with all my might. Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Thursday, September 26: Optional memorial of Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs. Lived around the Late Third Century to around 287 or 303; Patron Saints of apothecaries, barbers, blind people, chemical industry, druggists, midwives, physicians, pharmacists, surgeons; Invoked against blindness, kidney stones, hernias, and pestilence; Liturgical Color: Red.

“Today, the Church honors Saints Cosmas and Damian—twin brothers, physicians, and martyrs who have been widely venerated in the East and West since the time of their deaths. Legends relate the life stories of the brothers who might have been born in

Cyrrhus, modern-day Syria, and later moved to Cilicia, modern-day Turkey, in the mid- to late-third century. Raised in the faith, they learned the science of healing and became physicians.

Rather than charging for their services, the brothers decided to evangelize their largely pagan community by offering healing for free. Their charitable work drew many to the faith and earned them the title “Anargyroi,” meaning “without silver.” Legends say that they were excellent physicians who healed many, perhaps more through their prayer than by science. One legend holds that they were the first to transplant a leg to an amputee, an event often depicted in art.

In 303, Roman Emperor Diocletian issued a series of edicts that led to an empire-wide persecution and the deaths of many Christians. Around 287 or 303 (records conflict, the Roman Prefect Lysias of Cilicia arrested Cosmas and Damian. Christians of prominence were often the first to be targeted.

The brothers were given the opportunity to publicly renounce their faith and honor the Roman gods to save their lives. They refused and were sentenced to death. Various legends report that during torture, they were miraculously preserved from suffering and injury. Attempts to kill them by drowning, fire, arrows, and stoning all failed. Finally, Cosmas and Damian, along with three of their brothers, were beheaded.

Cosmas and Damian were possibly buried in Cyrrhus, their likely birthplace. From then on, they have been widely venerated, with many miraculous healings attributed to their intercession. Soon after their martyrdom, churches were built in their honor in Jerusalem, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.

In the sixth century, Emperor Justinian I honored these saints by restoring the city of their burial. Shortly after, the emperor received a miraculous cure through their intercession. In gratitude, he brought their relics to Constantinople where he built a church in their honor that became a popular pilgrimage site. There, a custom began for the faithful to remain all night at their tomb in prayer, seeking miraculous cures to their ailments. Many miracles have been reported over the centuries.

Also in the sixth century, Pope Symmachus inserted the names of Cosmas and Damian into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) and Pope Felix IV repurposed a fourth-century pagan temple in Rome as the Basilica Santi

Cosma e Damiano. Though it has gone through many renovations, the fifth-century mosaics depicting their story are among the most revered pieces of sacred art in Rome.

Prayer: Saints Cosmas and Damian, touched by Christ, you shared your faith in Him through selfless and free service to all who needed your medical care. When persecuted, you remained strong in your faith, preferring death over sin. Please pray that I will follow your example of selfless service and will courageously witness to Christ, no matter the cost. I also entrust to you all who are ill and need your prayers. Saints Cosmas and Damian, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Friday, September 27: Obligatory Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest. Lived about 581–1660; Patron Saint of charitable societies and workers, horses, hospitals and hospital workers, lepers, lost articles, prisoners, spiritual help, and volunteers; Canonized by Pope Clement XII on June 16, 1737; Liturgical Color: White.

“Quote: ‘Brothers, let’s strive to conceive a great—a very great—esteem for the majesty and holiness of God. If our mind’s eyes were powerful enough to penetrate ever so little into the immensity of His sovereign excellence, Jesus! with what lofty sentiments we’d be filled! We could easily say, as did Saint Paul, that eyes have never seen, nor ears ever heard, nor mind imagine anything comparable to it. God is an abyss of perfections, an eternal, very holy, very pure, very perfect, and infinitely glorious Being, an infinite Good who encompasses all goods and is incomprehensible in Himself. Now, this knowledge we have, that God is infinitely elevated above all kinds of knowledge and all created understanding, should suffice for us to make us esteem Him infinitely, to annihilate ourselves in His presence, and to cause us to speak of His Supreme Majesty with a great sentiment of reverence and submission; and in proportion as we esteem Him we will also love Him, and this love will produce in us an insatiable desire to acknowledge His benefits and to procure true adorers for Him.’ ~Saint Vincent de Paul, Conference to his brothers.

Prayer: Saint Vincent de Paul, you were called by God to serve the poor, sick, and many others in need. You drew many others into this service through your work in forming the clergy, religious sisters, and laity to be instruments of God’s love. Please pray for me, that I will more fully devote myself to a life of

compassion, and that I will make the proclamation of the Gospel my central mission in life. Saint Vincent de Paul, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Saturday, September 28 - Optional memorials of Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr and Saints Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

St. Wenceslaus: Lived about 907-929; Patron Saint of brewers, Czech Republic, Bohemia, and Slovakia; Liturgical Color: Red.

“Saint Wenceslaus epitomizes the supremacy of divine love over earthly allurements. His life, marked by devout prayer, resolute leadership, and boundless compassion—even towards adversaries—attests to the primacy of God’s love over the worldly pursuits of power, prestige, or wealth. He serves as an exemplary figure for both leaders and followers. Allow him to inspire you today so that you will make the Gospel the central focus of your life.

Prayer: Saint Wenceslaus, you listened to the voice of God, learned the faith through the instrumentality of your grandmother, and chose the Gospel as the central mission of your governance. Please pray for me, that I will always choose Christ above anything this world has to offer and make the proclamation of the Gospel my central mission in life. Saint Wenceslaus, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

Saints Lawrence Ruiz and Companions: Lived about 1600-1637; Patron Saint of the Philippines, Filipinos, immigrants, the poor, separated families, and altar servers; Canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 18, 1987; Liturgical Color: Red.

“As we honor these heroic witnesses to the Catholic faith, ponder the fact that their lives concluded with exceptional pain and suffering. Still, their eternal lives in Heaven are now celebrated with the highest praises. Saint Lawrence Ruiz, memorialized in today’s commemoration, was the first Filipino martyr, making his witness greatly revered among Filipino Catholics who seek his intercession. Saint Lawrence, along with the numerous other Japanese martyrs from the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, did more for the faith by courageously sacrificing their lives than they could have by living comfortably. Love is sacrificial, and while we might not be called to be martyrs in blood, we must nurture a faith so profound that it bears the same witness, sacrificially dedicating our lives for Christ and the salvation of souls in whatever ways we are called.

Prayer: Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, you endured cruel and ongoing tortures to force you to renounce your faith, but you stayed firm to the end. Please pray for me, that I will never allow persecution or any other form of suffering to deter me from offering my life sacrificially to Christ, for His glory and the salvation of souls, beginning with my own. Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

Thank you for all you do and for your continued prayers. You remain in my prayers each day. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

HOLY FAMILY BOSCO KIDS AND RCIA

Bosco Kids (the Holy Family Parish School of Religion {PSR}) will start classes in early September for students in grades K-6. We will set the day and time for these classes based on what works best for the families and teachers. Please let me know if your children are coming to class this year. Just a reminder that 2nd grade students receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and 3rd grade students receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please let me know if you have any questions. Ann O'Sullivan -- aosullivan2031@gmail.com or 217-257-2516.

RCIA classes are for those interested in learning more about the Catholic religion and/or coming into the Catholic Church. Please let me or Father Aaron know if you are interested in attending these classes or have any questions about the Catholic Faith.

ST. MARY SCHOOL CROPS FOR KIDS

St. Mary School Crops for Kids will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Farmers may donate at Prairieland FS in Mt. Sterling or Cargill in Meredosia - just specify St. Mary School. Lunch will be provided as in year’s past. Please contact Jon Boylen at (217) 257-5276 with any questions.

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