

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 9 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Peter Claver 1 Corinthians5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11

Communion Service

<u>Tuesday, September 10 - 7:00 a.m.</u>

1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19

Charles Koch (By Tom & Judy Nolan)

Wednesday, September 11 - 7:00 a.m.

1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26

Barbara Gillan (By Legion of Mary)

Thursday, September 12 - 7:00 a.m.

The Most Holy Name of Mary 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13; Luke 6:27-38

Dr. Robert Henson

AT ST. THOMAS - 5:30 p.m.

JoAnne Welty Ferrill

<u>Friday, September 13 - 8:30 a.m.</u> (School Mass)

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6:39-42

Mark Ebbing (By Mark & Mary Hill)

Saturday, September 14 - 5:30 p.m.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

> Robert Kemper (By Paul & Charlotte Koch)

Sunday, September 15 - 8:00 a.m.

Isaiah 50:4c-9a; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Becky Metzger (By Pam Goudschaal)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

<u>August 31 - September 1, 2024</u>

Holy Family: \$4,497.00 School Support: \$1020.00 Debt Reduction: \$20.00 Sister Parish: \$45.00 Assumption: \$20.00 Mission Appeal: \$235.00 Church in Africa: \$50.00 Parish Tithe/ACSA: \$620.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

September 1, 2024

St. Thomas: \$1,706.00 Sister Parish: \$270.00 Mission Appeal: \$120.00 Parish Tithe/ACSA: \$420.00

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 † Kalvin Schenk †
Mary Gregory † Ezra Keokham †
John VanGiesen II † Greg Jones †

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas will once again be having their ministry sign-ups the following Sundays, September 8 & 15 immediately after Mass.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

September 15, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Jim Clausius

Greeters: PSR Lector: PSR Gift Bearers: PSR

Eucharistic Minister: Pat Sharow/Elizabeth

Likes

Collection Counters: Jerel Mock Family

Ushers: Justin and Chase Reed

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah speaks for the Lord, saying to the frightened to be strong and fear not. In the Letter from St. James in the Second Reading, we are encouraged to show no partiality because God chose the poor in the world to be heirs of the Kingdom. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf man with a speech impediment, and all are exceedingly astonished.

God's loving presence is with us always. We need to be attentive to God acting and speaking in our lives...it can be easy to miss, or misunderstand, God working in our lives. Indeed, we may need our eyes opened and our ears cleared.

The world's priorities are simply different from God's. If we ever wonder why God

does not act in our lives in the way we've expected or asked, it would be worthwhile considering this truth.

There is a mystery to God's action. We don't why God acts in certain ways and not in others. But we do know that God comes to save us, that He is acing for the ultimate and full good of every single person. God knows our needs and is present with us. If our hearts are frightened, the voice of the Prophet Isaiah rings out still today...be strong, fear not!

And so, may we be given eyes to see God's loving presence and the strength to participate courageously in His saving work.

We should also recognize this date (September 8) as being the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though it is not celebrated liturgically this year because it falls on a Sunday, it is still significant.

Only the three most consequential figures in the Bible receive the honor of a liturgical celebration to commemorate their births: Jesus, Saint John the Baptist, and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Saint Andrew of Crete beautifully relates that on this day, the "Creator of the world constructed His temple..." Mary is that temple, that Arc of the New Covenant, the tabernacle and first dwelling place of God Incarnate. Her soul was born pure, spotless, and holy. As she grew, she manifested every virtue perfectly.

Prayer: Dearest Mother Mary, your conception was immaculate and your birth glorious. You were conceived without sin, born without sin, and remained sinless throughout your life. In Heaven, you radiate God's beauty and splendor and will do so for all eternity. Please pray that I will more fully imitate your many virtues, so that I can be a fitting instrument of your divine Son in the world. Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

- Monday, September 9 - In the United States, Obligatory Memorial of St. Peter Claver, Priest. Lived 1581–1654; Patron Saint of African missions, African-Americans, black missions, foreign missions, interracial justice, slaves, and Colombia; Invoked against slavery; Canonized by Pope Leo XIII on January 15, 1888. Saint Peter Claver was born to devout, upper-class parents in Verdú, Catalonia, Spain. At age twenty, he entered the Jesuit novitiate. At the Jesuit college of Montesión on Mallorca, off the Spanish coast, Peter decided to become a missionary in the South American Spanish colonies. In 1610, he set sail for Cartagena, Colombia, a major hub in the transatlantic slave trade that had replaced enslavement of the indigenous people. By 1610, Spanish ships transported an estimated 10,000 slaves to Cartagena to be sold annually. Disease and malnutrition on the slave ships led to the deaths of onethird of the slaves during the journey. Despite Church outcries, the cruel behavior continued.

After six years of study in Tunja and Bogotá, Father Claver committed himself to serving the African slaves. He signed his final profession: "Peter Claver, slave of the slaves, forever." During thirty-eight years as a priest in Cartagena, Father Claver catechized and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves. He waited at the port for a new slave ship to arrive, each containing as many as 500 slaves. For the two-to-three month journey, they were poorly fed once a day, chained naked to each other, abused, threatened, and forced to sit in their own excrement and vomit. Their metal shackles caused the flesh on their wrists to bleed and become infected.

Once the ship arrived, Father Claver begged door-to-door for food for his new flock. With a small band of interpreters and charitable workers, he entered the foul-smelling hull of the ship where many lay dead, while the fearful survivors needed medical treatment and compassion. As a sign of love, he kissed their sores, sucked out the infectious pus, and washed the wounds with his handkerchiefs. He would baptize any babies, provide food, and demonstrate a compassion that many had never seen. He then helped transport the slaves to a new location, carrying those who could not walk, where they could be well fed and regain their strength before being sold.

Father Claver's primary concern was the salvation of souls, but he chastised the oppressors, calling them to repentance for their cruelty. He preached the Gospel to the slaves in ways they could understand and helped them see their innate dignity. He told

them that there was a loving God who died for their sins, who wanted to forgive them and fill them with joy. He held up the crucifix, revealing the God Who suffered for them, showing them the way to Heaven. As they listened, learned, believed, and converted, they were baptized, often a moment of tears and rejoicing. If a ship was not due for months, Peter travelled the countryside to see those he had baptized. Upon arriving on a plantation, he spent his time with the slaves, sleeping and eating in the slaves' quarters. He further instructed them in the Catholic faith, taught them to pray, and offered hope.

After decades of ministry to the slaves, Father Claver fell ill. One of his caregivers, a slave, mistreated him in his final days. Father Claver accepted this treatment, uniting it with Christ's suffering on the Cross as a form of penance for his own sins and as a way to deepen his communion with the slaves.

Prayer: Saint Peter Claver, you journeyed into the hellish conditions of abuse and suffering, caused by greed and a lack of respect for human dignity. You brought Christ's light, administered the Sacraments, and gave hope to those who needed it most. Please pray that I will be a beacon of hope for those in need, by preaching Christ Crucified and making the salvation of souls, beginning with my own, my first priority. Saint Peter Claver, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

-Thursday, September 12 – Optional memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary.

On September 12, 1683, the combined Christian forces of the Holy Roman Empire and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth defeated the larger forces of the Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Vienna. Prior to the battle, King John III Sobieski entrusted his troops to the Blessed Virgin Mary while visiting the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The victory was attributed to her intercession, and in gratitude, Pope Innocent XI instituted the feast of the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary into the universal calendar of the Church the following year, 1684.

Of course, reverence for the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary did not begin in 1684. The Council of Ephesus in 431 taught that the Blessed Virgin Mary was properly called the "Mother of God," or "God-Bearer" (Theotokos). By the sixth century, the angelic greeting in Luke 1:28 was commonly used as a prayer, "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" By the fourteenth century, the second part of the Hail Mary prayer was often used in conjunction, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." In the sixteenth century, the Council of Trent, in its catechism, formally recommended this entire prayer, as we have it today, to the faithful.

It's also providential to note that the date of September 12 falls shortly after we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8. When the Romans ruled Palestine, it was customary that newborn daughters were given their names at birth, or shortly afterwards. Thus, the Church celebrates Mary's naming day four days after the celebration of her birth. Firstborn male children were traditionally named and circumcised in the Temple on the eighth day after their birth. Hence, we celebrate the Memorial of the Holy Name of Jesus on January 3, shortly after the completion of the Octave of Christmas on January 1. Only Mary and Jesus have liturgical celebrations honoring their names.

Names bring with them much significance and meaning. When addressing someone formally and directly, it is common to first state the person's name, uniquely identifying and dignifying the person. For this reason, in praying to our Lord it is common practice to call on His name, "Jesus!" So also, with Mary. Calling on her by name is a way of seeking her prayers in a personal and intimate way. Hence, the names of Jesus and Mary should be seen and understood as being powerful, compelling us to call upon them personally, with trust in Who they are.

Prayer: Dearest Mother Mary, Mother of God and my mother, I love you and call upon you to receive me into your motherly heart and present me to your Son, Jesus. Your Son entrusted me to your motherly care as He hung upon the Cross, and I imitate that entrustment by giving myself to you as my mother. Please gain for me every grace I need to be faithful to God's will, so that I will imitate the fidelity that you manifested

in your own life. Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

-Friday, September 13 – Obligatory Memorial of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Lived about 347–407; Patron Saint of preachers, orators, lecturers, and public speakers; Invoked against epilepsy.

Saint John Chrysostom was born as John of Antioch in modern-day Turkey. "Chrysostom" is a title given to him, meaning "Golden Mouth," to emphasize his powerful preaching and writings. He and his sister were raised by their mother after their father died shortly after John's birth.

Although Christianity had recently been legalized in the Roman Empire and many Christians lived in Antioch, the city's residents had diverse religious beliefs, including Greek paganism. John received a comprehensive Greek education in the classics. Around age twenty, he met Bishop Meletius, whose stellar character, intelligence, and preaching influenced him to abandon his pagan studies for Scripture study, the ascetic life, and prayer. He underwent a profound conversion, was baptized, and became a lector. Drawn to greater solitude and prayer, he became a hermit. In a cave near Antioch, he embraced extreme fasting and other ascetic practices and studied the Bible continuously allegedly memorizing most of it. After eight years as a hermit, John's health suffered from his extreme fasting and penance, and he returned to Antioch to recover.

In Antioch, John was ordained a deacon. Five years later, he was ordained a priest. Over the next eleven years, he wrote sermons and commentaries, many of which still exist. His works of dogmatic, moral, and historical teachings from the early Church reveal a deep understanding of Sacred Scripture. Practical, relevant, bold, and deeply pastoral, they also condemn prevalent sins.

When the Archbishop of Constantinople died in 397, the Roman Emperor sent for Father John and had him ordained as archbishop. Archbishop John's powerful position in the Eastern Roman Empire came with wealth, prestige, and power. However, he immediately eliminated many extravagances, lived in simplicity, cared for the poor, railed against sin, and rooted out abuses among the clergy. In the newly

Christian Roman Empire, the archbishop sought to create a new Scripture-based civilization and culture. His sermons gave clear moral and spiritual guidance for individuals and society. He preached against the imperial court's materialism and extravagances, gaining much respect but also making enemies who felt he was too strict, including Empress Eudoxia.

In 403, the empress had Archbishop John falsely accused of heresy and cruelty to the empress, deposed, and exiled. However, due to a natural disaster and a revolt among the people, he was recalled for fear of God's wrath. He was soon exiled again when he refused to abandon his fearless preaching. In exile, he regularly wrote to his people while the pope and the Western Roman Emperor tried to have him released. After three years, he was to be moved to a more remote location. He died en route, due to harsh conditions and the cruelty of his military escorts.

Saint John Chrysostom was named a Doctor of the Church. In addition to his pastoral work, he left behind about 700 sermons, hundreds of letters, commentaries on Scripture, theological treatises on the Eucharist and priesthood and other writings that remain influential today.

Prayer: Saint John Chrysostom, you sought the truth. Once you discovered it, you radically devoted yourself to Christ through prayer, penance, and the study of Scripture. God gave you to the world as a powerful shepherd who preached, wrote, and taught fearlessly, continuously seeking the salvation of souls. Please pray that I will become well-formed in order for God to use me for his glory and others' salvation. Saint John Chrysostom, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

-Saturday, September 14 – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, commemorates three events: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its exaltation for public veneration in 335, and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628. Today, this feast also celebrates the boundless impact of Christ's Cross upon all of creation.

The Edict of Milan, issued in 313, granted religious freedom across the Roman Empire. After the Edict was signed, from 314 to 324, there was continual conflict between Roman Emperors Constantine I in the West and Licinius in the East. Tensions escalated when Constantine accused Licinius of plotting against him. In 324, Constantine defeated Licinius in battle and executed him on charges of conspiracy. Constantine became sole ruler of the Roman Empire, including Jerusalem, which had previously been under Licinius's control.

In 326, Constantine's mother, Saint Helena, a devout Christian, embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to identify significant sites from Christ's life and establish a church at each. In Jerusalem, she hoped to find the True Cross and to build a church over the sites of Mount Calvary and Jesus' tomb. known as the Holy Sepulchre. Upon identifying Mount Calvary and the empty tomb, she discovered three buried crosses. After an investigation, the local bishop confirmed they were the crosses used to crucify Jesus and the two thieves. Since Helena did not know which cross was Christ's, she arranged for a sick woman to touch all three. The woman was immediately healed upon touching one of them. indicating that it was the True Cross.

Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of a church to encompass Mount Calvary and Christ's tomb and to house the True Cross. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was erected and dedicated on September 13, 335. Legend says that the following day—September 14, 335—Christ's Cross was brought outside the church for the faithful to venerate. Over the next three centuries, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated annually in Jerusalem and varied elsewhere.

In 614, the Persians invaded Jerusalem, taking the True Cross as a trophy. The Persians, followers of the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism, were not Christians. Allowing the Holy Cross to remain in their possession was seen as sacrilegious. In 622, Eastern Roman Emperor Heraclius initiated military campaigns to recapture Jerusalem and the True Cross. In 628, he triumphed, and the following year, Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem with the True Cross, restoring it to the Church of the Holy

Sepulchre. After that, the Feast of the Holy Cross became a universal celebration within the Church, starting in Rome and subsequently spreading throughout the empire.

Although we commemorate three historical events today, the celebration's core is not the Cross's wood or the holy sites where Jesus died and was buried. The primary focus is the infinite love shown through the Son of God's selfless and perfect Sacrifice and the boundless mercy that has poured forth upon the world as a result. The Cross, a cruel instrument of torture and death, is now the symbol of God's perfect love, further magnifying that love and showcasing God's infinite power to use the worst for the best: to use death to bring life and to transform the greatest act of cruelty ever known into the greatest act of mercy ever bestowed upon the world.

Most glorious and triumphant Lord, You gave Your life for my soul's salvation, using the most horrific act of cruelty as the means of Your redeeming grace. I open myself to that grace, asking You to bestow it superabundantly. May I have the courage and wisdom to embrace my crosses every day, uniting them to Your Cross, and trusting that You will use my sacrifices to further bestow Your love on the world. Saving Cross of Christ, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You.

-HOG ROAST – The annual St. Mary School Hog Roast is next Sunday, September 15. Plan to join us!

Thank you for all you do and for your continued prayers. Be assured of my prayers for you each day. 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.

National Day of Remembrance-A new opportunity for prayer in Quincy

On Saturday, September 14, pro-life Americans throughout the U.S. will gather at memorial sites dedicated in honor of aborted babies and at their grave sites, for the 12th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Together, during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children, let us remember the victims of abortion and pray for a final end to this injustice in our land.

Solemn vigils will be held in over 100 locations to commemorate the more than 65 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child.

PLEASE join us for Quincy's first National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children memorial service.

Event: National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

When: Saturday, September 14, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Where: Knights of Columbus grounds, outdoors near the entrance to the main building, 700 S. 36th Street, Quincy

Sponsored by: Right to Life of Adams County

Please bring a lawn chair

More Info: Jane Haas, 217-257-0533

