

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, October 28 – 7:00 a.m.

Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles
Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16

Communion Service

Tuesday, October 29 – 7:00 a.m.

Ephesians 5:21-33; Luke 13:18-21

Helen & William Koch
(By Joan Zurita)

Wednesday, October 30 – 7:00 a.m.

Ephesians 6:1-9; Luke 13:22-30

Betty Koch
(By Mike, Alan, Glen, Diane & Families)

Thursday, October 31 – 7:00 a.m.

Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-35

Mike Rolf
(By Linda Colgan)

Thursday, October 31 – 5:30 p.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

Vivian Schulte
(By Denny & Cathy Wagner)

Thursday, October 31 – 7:00 p.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Joe Ray
(By John & Rosemary Holler)

Friday, November 1 – 7:00 a.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Solemnity of All Saints
Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3;
Matthew 5:1-12a

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Friday, November 1 – 8:30 a.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

(School Mass)

Jack, Marilyn & Greg Mitchell
(By Carl & Nancy Mitchell)

Friday, November 1 – 4:00 p.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Maurice Ormond
(By Maurice & Clara Schmidt)

Friday, November 1 – 6:00 p.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

Saturday, November 2 – 8:00 a.m.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11; John 6:37-40

Robert Kemper
(By Martha Fluckey)

Saturday, November 2 – 5:30 p.m.

Alfred & Mary Wegs, their children
& spouses

(By Doug & Dawn Dunn)

Sunday, November 3 – 8:00 a.m.

Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28b-34

Bob & Sylva Dixon and Julie Link
(By Cheryl Dillard)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

October 19-20, 2024

Holy Family: \$4,068.00

School Support: \$170.00

Sister Parish: \$60.00

All Souls: \$25.00

All Saints: \$25.00

World Mission: \$270.00

Debt Reduction: \$25.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

October 20, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,405.85

World Mission: \$276.00

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 † Logan Wilson †
Isabella Wilson † Calvin Schenk †
Mary Gregory † Ezra Keokham † Greg Jones †
Misha Follis Allen † Susan Kenady †
Leona Dunn † Georgia Metz †

ST. THOMAS

There will be an Altar and Rosary Society meeting Sunday October 27 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Council Minutes October 17, 2024 - Janice Brady, Justin Reed, Pat Sharow, Claudia Coggeshall, Fr. Aaron

Pastoral Council-Box of Joy update given, Vocation Ministry ideas discussed. Inviting speaker to come to St. Thomas after first of the year. Pat continues to update the new ministry lists and will have copies for each ministry after she finishes.

QDCCW Fall Gathering will be hosted by St. Thomas Wednesday, November 13. The Altar and Rosary Society will be sponsoring an Advent tree for the local pregnancy centers. Watch bulletins for All Saints Day, Nov. 1 Masses. All Soul Memorial Mass for the month of November possibly Sunday November 10.

Diocesan Centennial Campaign- over 3 years with pledges. More information to come.

Diocesan Parish Vitality Study introduced. Possible grouping of parishes differently, different priests, etc.

New OCIA- Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Pray Together Missalettes starting with new Liturgical Year

DRE- PSR has 23 students

Men's and Women's- Christmas Party after Christmas possible Epiphany Party.

The Buildings and Ground-Road ditch in front of church has been addressed. Fundraising for new roof on hall, church, HVAC system, and parking lot discussed.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

October 27, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Jim & Nora Clausius
Lector:	David Leezer
Gift Bearers:	Matt & Laura Evans Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Jim Clausius/Laura Evans
Collection Counters:	Dale & Cindy DeRousse
Ushers:	Jerel Mock, Morgan Mock

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time. In the readings for today, an oracle of consolation regarding the restoration of Israel finds its fulfillment in the person of Jesus, our merciful High Priest. His healing of the blind man witnesses to the inauguration of the Kingdom. Through God's grace, may we have the courage to not only ask the Lord for what we need but to follow Him on the way when He answers.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday October 28: Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles. Patron Saint of curriers, woodcutters, and tanners (Simon); hopeless causes and hospital workers (Jude); Liturgical Color: Red.

“Today, the Church honors Saints Simon and Jude, two of the Twelve Apostles chosen by our Lord. They were two of the first bishops through whom our Lord established His Church and from whom every bishop, priest, and deacon is a spiritual descendant. Very little is known about these two Apostles, other than what is briefly mentioned about them in the New Testament, and even that is a little confusing.

As we honor these Apostles, what we know for certain is that they were instrumental in the early Church. Being among the first bishops, they bore the sacred responsibility of transmitting the Sacraments and the teachings of Jesus to a nascent Church. One day in Heaven, we will see clearly the effects of their pastoral ministry. Today, we rejoice in what we do not fully know, trusting that their lives gave great glory to God and won the salvation of many souls.

Prayer: Saints Simon and Jude, you were both privileged to learn from Jesus Himself. After His Ascension, you were among the first to receive the Holy Spirit and ordination as bishops. God used you to then go forth and fulfill His command to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Please pray for me, that I will more fully understand my mission within the Body of Christ and will fulfill my duties with diligence and love. Saints Simon and Jude, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Friday, November 1: Solemnity of All Saints - Holy Day of Obligation (See Mass Schedule below); Liturgical Color: White.

“Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, a celebration honoring all men and women who have entered Heaven. While this includes every soul in Heaven, the focus is particularly on those who led extraordinarily holy lives on earth and that the Church has canonized as saints. These individuals honored God in a variety of ways: through deep prayer and mystical union, through enduring martyrdom or other forms of religious persecution, and through acts of service, such as caring for the needy or teaching the faith. Some saints were powerful preachers or miracle workers. Others were leaders, some lived in obscurity, and still others experienced exile or made significant personal sacrifices for their faith. In various ways, these saints glorified God during their lifetimes.

By honoring this host of saintly witnesses, we honor and glorify God through their lives. By honoring them, we honor Him Who made them holy. This liturgical solemnity is but a foretaste

of the eternal Solemnity of Heaven. Heaven will be the eternal glory of God through the lives of all His saints. In Heaven, the virtues, sacrifices, prayers, and selfless service of all the saints will radiate as beacons that eternally manifest the great mercy and goodness of God. The life of every saint in Heaven will become a continuous chorus of praise and worship of God, intertwined with the nine choirs of angelic hosts. With the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones, the saints will cry “Holy, Holy, Holy...” With the Dominions, Virtues, and Powers, the saints will participate in God’s providential care of the New Heavens and Earth. With the Principalities, Archangels, and Guardian Angels, the saints will celebrate God’s protection and continuous communication with all of His sons and daughters. Heaven today, as well as the New Heavens and Earth at the end of time, will be nothing other than a continuous solemn celebration of all that God is in His essence and all that God has done in the lives of those who responded to His grace.

Honoring the saints also becomes an invitation to each one of us on earth to strive after the holiness the saints attained. The saints give us an example; their lives are a “how to” book in holiness. The lives of the “super saints”—such as the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Ávila, Thérèse of Lisieux, Augustine of Hippo, and Thomas Aquinas—should be studied and pondered so that we can learn from their example.

We must also remember that, from Heaven, the saints become powerful intercessors for us on earth. It is true that God could deal directly with us without using the mediation of angels and saints. He chooses to use secondary causes, while He always remains the First Cause and Source of all grace. The saints and angels are among those secondary causes God chooses to mediate His grace. For that reason, we should rely upon their intercession. Doing so is an act of faith by which we profess our belief in God, using the saints and angels as His instruments.

Today’s solemnity has its roots in the earliest days of the Church. Even in the New Testament times, martyrs were honored by the community of believers, beginning with the deacon Saint Stephen, the first martyr. As the first century of the Church unfolded, others began to suffer persecution and death at the hands of Roman emperors, and the Church honored their deaths. In 64, Emperor Nero was the first to organize a persecution of Christians in Rome, taking the lives of Saints Peter and Paul, and many others. After this first persecution in Rome, other Roman emperors systematized various persecutions throughout the entire empire. The worst persecution took place under Emperor

Diocletian from 303–311. During that persecution, churches and sacred texts were destroyed; Christians lost their property, legal rights, and lives; and those who were not killed were imprisoned and tortured. Some estimate that during the Diocletian persecutions, there were as many as 3,500 martyrs. Although there is no way to confirm the exact number, there were many.

In the fourth century, after Christianity was legalized in 313 by Emperor Constantine I, who became a Christian himself and began building churches and monuments to the martyrs, public devotion to the martyrs began to flourish. Their graves became churches and places of pilgrimage and prayer. On May 13, 609, Pope Boniface IV transformed the Pantheon in Rome, a former pagan temple, into a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all martyrs. The annual celebration of its dedication also honored the Blessed Virgin Mary and all martyrs. On November 1, 731, Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory within Saint Peter's Basilica to "all saints" that included the Apostles, martyrs, confessors, and all holy men and women throughout the world. This broadened the commemoration of the saints beyond the martyrs to all who lived saintly lives. In 844, Pope Gregory IV extended the November 1 celebration to the entire Church. In 1484, Pope Sixtus IV made November 1 a holy day of obligation for the entire Church and added a vigil day and octave to follow, making the celebration nine days in all. The vigil celebration for All Hallows' Day was called All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. Unfortunately, in many places, Halloween has lost its Christian and saintly focus and has become a secular, and even pagan, celebration.

As we honor all the saints in Heaven today, ponder the fact that you are called to be among their company. The extent to which you become holy while on earth is the extent to which your life will be an eternal glorification of God. Seek a profound depth of holiness. Don't just try to remain in a state of grace. Seek an abundance of grace. Strive to grow in virtue. Purge all sin, even small sins, from your life. Pray as often as you can. Read about the saints. Ponder the Scripture. Act with generosity and charity. Forgive everyone. And do everything you can to become the super saint God wants you to become.

Prayer: All saints in Heaven, I thank you for the holy witness you each have given to the Church and rejoice in the blessings you now enjoy in Heaven. Please pray for me and for all people, that every one of us will become holy, bearing witness to Christ with our lives, and one day enter Heaven. May God pour forth an abundance of grace upon the world through the example you set and the prayers you now pray before His

throne. All saints of God, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Saturday, November 2 – Commemoration of All Souls; Liturgical Color: White, Violet, or Black

On November 1, the Church celebrates "those men and women who have gone before us who now see God face to face in the Beatific Vision. Whether they are officially canonized or not, everyone in Heaven is a saint and will remain so for eternity, living lives of perfect communion with God and with everyone else in Heaven. There will be perfect order, knowledge, joy, love, and happiness forever. Too often in this life we lose focus on eternity. We easily become overly concerned about the here and now and fail to turn our eyes to Heaven, seeking to prepare ourselves fully for the day we die and come before God for our particular judgment.

Today, as we commemorate All Souls, we turn our eyes to those men and women who have gone before us in death but died before being fully purified of every venial sin and all of sin's effects. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned." (#1030-31).

All Souls' Day should have a twofold focus for each of us. First and foremost, today's commemoration is a call to prayer for those who have died and are being purified in final preparation for their entrance into the Beatific Vision. Though God has no need of our prayers, it is His divine will that we participate in the distribution of His grace. For that reason, He chooses to solicit our prayers and then answer them, making us active instruments of His purifying grace so needed by those in this world and in Purgatory. By praying for those in Purgatory, especially today, we are assured that God lavishes upon them all that they need for the complete purification of their souls. The Mass, and our participation in the Mass, is particularly powerful and is the ideal way to open the floodgates of mercy for our loved ones who have died and remain unperfected. Take this duty to pray for these "poor souls" seriously. A common secular heresy that permeates Western culture says that a good person goes to Heaven immediately after death or becomes an angel. This well-intentioned, but erroneous, belief leaves many souls unprayed for. Know that those souls are depending on your prayers, because God wants you to pray for them and lovingly share in their purification. Offer prayers fervently for those souls.

A second focus to have on All Souls' Day is upon your own soul. Today's commemoration reminds us of the importance of our ongoing deepening conversion. We are all called to be saints. Ideally, our central focus in life is to become a living saint and not wait to be fully purified in Purgatory. Becoming a saint today requires not only a lot from us, it requires everything. Absolutely everything! Becoming a saint here and now means that we diligently seek out every sinful attachment within our souls and annihilate them. It means we continuously seek God's mercy, confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and then change our lives completely. This is no small task!

One of the best ways to understand Purgatory is by studying the teachings of the greatest masters of the spiritual life, especially Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Ávila. These two Doctors of the Church wrote extensively about the process a soul goes through on its way to divine union, also called mystical marriage. Saint Teresa does this by describing a series of seven interior dwelling places through which a person must travel, each one requiring a deeper level of purification, culminating with the soul entering the innermost dwelling place, the presence chamber, where divine union takes place and the soul is fully purified of everything that is not God. Only souls who have entered this innermost dwelling place in this life, and die while in that state of divine union, will avoid the purification of Purgatory.

Saint John of the Cross wrote extensively of the same process of purification, using different terminology. He described two main purifications a soul goes through on the journey toward perfection. The first is the dark night of the senses, by which every bodily sense and appetite is purified. The second is the dark night of the spirit, by which the intellect, memory, and will are fully purified by the perfection of infused faith, hope, and charity. Prior to the first purification, the soul is in the purgative way. While in between the two purifications, the soul is in the illuminative way. After completing the second purification, the soul enters the unitive way, or mystical marriage, which is the same as Saint Teresa's seventh dwelling place.

The reason for painting this very broad overview of their detailed writings on the journey of a soul toward perfection is to emphasize the fact that perfection is, indeed, a long and difficult process, but a necessary one that must take place either in this life or in the next. Every person must come to the realization that personal sanctity must become not only each one's first mission in life but the exclusive mission. When personal sanctity is a person's exclusive mission, every other part of that person's life falls into place. Virtues grow, love

for family and friends increases, duties are perfectly fulfilled, and God is fully glorified.

As we participate today in this Commemoration of All Souls, commit yourself first to praying for those who have died and are in need of final purification. Purgatory is God's act of final mercy for those whom He loves with a burning and purifying love. Your prayers open the floodgates of God's love on those who need it the most. As you pray for those who have died, pray also for your own soul and ponder how fervently you seek to become transformed into a living saint. Though the journey to divine union is not a quick and easy one, it is a journey well worth it. Make it your exclusive mission in life, and know that if you do, you will never regret it.

Prayer: Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the angels and saints, I beg for an outpouring of Your Divine Mercy upon every poor sinner and every poor soul in Purgatory. Cleanse them all, especially my family and friends who have died, and bring them into the full beauty and splendor of Your presence. Please also pour Your mercy down upon my poor soul, and free me from every sin and every attachment I have to sin. Increase my virtue, and draw me into union with You, my God. Angels and saints of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You."

-ALL SAINTS DAY - Friday, November 1. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. We are obligated (required) to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this day or at a Vigil Mass the evening before. **TO DISREGARD THIS OBLIGATION IS SERIOUSLY SINFUL.**

Between both parishes, there will be a number of Masses offered. There should generally be no reason (aside from illness or another extraordinary circumstance) someone cannot make it to Mass.

The Mass schedule is as follows:

Thursday evening, October 31: St. Thomas 5:30 p.m.; Holy Family 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 1: St. Thomas 6:00 p.m.; Holy Family 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m.

-ALL SOULS DAY - Saturday, November 2. While not a day of obligation, I encourage everyone to join us for Mass. The Mass for this Commemoration will be at 8:00 a.m. at Holy Family. It is so very important for us to pray for the dead. How sad it is that this celebration seems to be overlooked or ignored by so many. The evening Mass that day will be the Vigil Mass in anticipation of Sunday as usual.

-“MEMORIAL MASS” - November is specifically set aside to pray for the dead. At St. Thomas, we are planning to pray the prayers for the dead immediately after Mass on Sunday, November 10.

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.

Holy Family Turkey Dinner

Turkey time again! November 3 is the Annual Turkey Dinner. This will be a drive through event from 11-1. Meals are \$10. Turkey donations (\$35) and raffle tickets/money can be dropped in the box as you come into church. Extra sheets of raffle tickets will be available on the table in the back. Let us come together as a Catholic family to support our Church and School. Bless you.



You are invited to bring a picture of loved ones which will be displayed during Mass and the Prayers for the Dead. Please have any pictures at the Church by Friday, November 8. You can leave them in the "coat room" in the back of Church. You might consider including the names of the people. During the Prayers for the Dead, I may mention the names individually.

-FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS- This Friday, November 1. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Noon until 5:45 p.m.; Mass at 6:00 p.m. Because of the Holy Day Mass schedule, Confessions will likely begin later than 5 p.m. but I will try to be there as soon as possible.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION - Saturday, November 2. It will begin at 11:00 p.m. because of the time change. Exposition is overnight with Benediction at 7:45 a.m. followed by our regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Mass.

-TURKEY DINNER - Holy Family Turkey Dinner is next Sunday, November 3 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., drive thru only. Plan to come by to get your delicious turkey dinners.

-DONUT SUNDAY - Next Sunday, November 3 is the first Sunday of the month which means donut Sunday at St. Thomas immediately after Mass in the parish Hall.

-TIME CHANGE - Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

-EXPOSITION - There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament next Sunday, November 3 at St. Thomas.

-PASTORAL PLAN - The Diocese is in the process of working on an updated Pastoral Plan. This involves a number of things including looking at grouping of parishes, Mass times, availability of priests, etc. It is hopeful that an updated Pastoral Plan will be implemented as early as next summer. How this will affect either of our parishes or if it will, is not yet known. As we receive additional information, I will pass it on to you. Please keep those involved in updating the Pastoral Plan in your prayers. Please do not speculate on this. There has been nothing put forth as of yet. Pastoral Plans are common in all Diocese. To my knowledge, there is no "secret agenda" though folks often times want to suggest that there is. Again, when I have any additional information, I will pass it on to you.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. May you have a most blessed week as you remain in my prayers each day.

-Fr. Aaron

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