

## 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](mailto:holy.family@smseagle.org)

### Parish Staff

Rev. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor – (217) 773-3233

*Emergency only (217) 242-9669*

*E-Mail: [akuhn@dio.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stthomascp.org)

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Monday, November 18 – 7:00 a.m.

The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter & Paul,  
Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin  
Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Luke 18:35-43

Communion Service

### Tuesday, November 19 – 7:00 a.m.

Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22; Luke 19:1-10

Janet Yakle  
(By Mark & Mary Hill)

### Wednesday, November 20 – 7:00 a.m.

Revelations 4:1-11; Luke 19:11-28

Dr. Victor Zurita  
(By Joan Zurita)

### Thursday, November 21 – 7:00 a.m.

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Revelation 5:1-10; Luke 19:41-44

Kay Downey  
(By John & Linda Colgan)

### AT ST. THOMAS – 5:30 p.m.

Edwin & Vivian Schulte  
(By Pat Sharow)

### Friday, November 22 – 8:30 a.m.

#### (School Mass)

St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr  
Revelation 10:8-11; Luke 19:45-48

Jim McKeown  
(By Tammy)

### Saturday, November 23 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr; St. Columbian, Abbot;  
Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest & Martyr  
Revelation 11:4-12; Luke 20:27-40

Mark Ebbing  
(By Brown County Deer Classic Committee)

### Sunday, November 24 – 8:00 a.m.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37

Don Koch  
(By Joan Zurita)

### St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family  
and St. Thomas

## HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 9-10, 2024

Holy Family: \$5,577.00  
School Support: \$395.00  
Sister Parish: \$332.00  
All Saints: \$20.00  
Cemetery: \$1,095.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

## ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 10, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,376.00  
All Souls: \$20.00  
Sister Parish: \$50.00  
Candles: \$23.00

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](mailto: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 †  
Dylan Hendricks † Mary Gregory †  
Ezra Keokham † Greg Jones †  
Misha Follis Allen † Susan Kenady †  
Leona Dunn † Georgia Metz †

## ST. THOMAS

The Altar and Rosary Society is collecting baby items and gift cards for food and gas during the Advent season for BIRTHRIGHT and CARENET. There is a tree in the entryway of St. Thomas, please take an ornament, purchase the requested item and leave it under the tree or if it is a gift card, place it in the offering basket. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please put it in a marked envelope in the offering basket and the society will purchase needed items.

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

*November 24, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.*

<b>Sacristan:</b>	Denise Taylor
<b>Greeters:</b>	Justin & Chelsea Reed Family
<b>Lector:</b>	Karen Janssen
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Matt & Laura Evans Family
<b>Eucharistic Minister:</b>	Tod Perry/Jim Clausius
<b>Collection Counters:</b>	Dale & Sindy DeRousse
<b>Ushers:</b>	John Brady, Denny Campbell

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. As we quickly approach the end of the Liturgical Year, the readings too point us to the end of time. In the Readings, Psalm, and Gospel for today, we hear that at the end of time, the Son of Man will return with great power and glory, placing His enemies under His feet. Those whose names are in the Book shall live forever in light and joy.

From catholicculture.org: "The First Reading is taken from the Book of Daniel 12:1-3. Today's reading puts before our eyes the fact that this world will have an end marked by great upheavals and disasters. However, these will be followed immediately by a new and everlasting existence.

The Second Reading is from the Letter to the Hebrews 10:11-4; 18. St. Paul continues to compare the priesthood of Christ with the Jewish priesthood.

The Gospel is from the Gospel of Mark 13:24-32. There are some obscurities in this extract from St. Mark. Firstly, because Christ was discussing and answering questions on two distinct topics : the destruction of the temple and the end of the world. Secondly, because we may not have the ipsissima verba of Christ here, as many exegetes suggest. The message we must learn from today's gospel comes across without any ambiguity or doubt : we must always be ready to face our judgement for we know not the day nor the hour when we will be called from this life. When or how this world will end is of no great importance to us; what is important is that we shall leave this world very soon and our eternity will depend on the state of our consciences at the moment of our departure.

This is the steadying thought the Church, in her wisdom, wishes to put before our minds today. We all know that we must die someday. We are strangers and pilgrims on this earth; we have not here a lasting city, as St. Augustine says. No sane person among us will try to deny this and yet, many of us are so immersed in the things of this world that we forget or try to forget that we must leave this world soon. This is very natural : life is a precious gift and as our earthly life is the only one of which we have experience our every inclination is to hold on to it at all costs. Even when our intelligence tells us that it can, in spite of all our endeavors, end very soon we try to convince ourselves that that "very soon" is really in the distant future.

We have God's word for it and the example of Christ's resurrection to a life of glory. Let us appreciate the truth that our death on earth is not the end of life but rather the beginning of the true life that will never end. As the liturgy says in the Mass for the Dead : "Life is changed (by death) not taken away." Our death is the doorway through which we pass into the unending life. The years on earth are a gift of God to

enable us to earn the infinitely greater gift which in his loving mercy he has prepared for us from all eternity.

God in his mercy is calling on each one of us to be ready when our call comes. We can do nothing about the when or the where of that call, but we can do much about the state of our relationship with God when death comes; in fact, aided by God's grace we can ensure that all will be well with us. We cannot avoid a sudden death, but we can avoid an unprepared death by striving always to live in peace with God. This does not mean that we must be always on our knees praying to God and that we must take no interest in the things and the joys of this world. Far from it. God wants us to use the things of this world, but to use them so that they will not hinder us on our journey.

A very practical way to see how we stand in relation to God and to the things of this world, is for each one of us to ask himself today : "How would I fare if I were called to render an account of stewardship tonight?" This is the practical question that God, through today's readings, is asking us to put to ourselves. If, to our dismay, we find there are several things which have to be put right before facing our judge we will start right away to put them right. We may get another chance, another warning, and we may not. If we value our eternal happiness we will take this warning; we will put our books in order; we will make peace with God and our neighbors—and with God's grace, we will do all in our power to persevere in this good resolution. —Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M."

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

- Monday, November 18: Optional memorials of the Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles and, in the USA, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin. Liturgical Color: White.

"As we honor the dedication of these two Roman basilicas, we honor much more than churches; we honor the apostles to whom they are dedicated. On June 29 each year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, honoring their unique

and foundational ministries. Today, on November 18, we honor these two saints once again as we commemorate the dedication of the basilicas dedicated to them, which were built upon their graves.

Symbolically, as their graves stand as a foundation for these two churches, so their lives and ministry stand as a foundation for the entire Church. Saint Peter was the first pope and source of unity who was given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven and of whom Jesus said, "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Saint Paul was the great evangelist to the Gentiles and is a symbol of the Church missionary life and theological articulation of the faith, due to his extensive writings that make up most of the New Testament. Though we are centered and unified by Saint Peter the Rock, we must go forth to the ends of the earth, sharing the Gospel with all, like Saint Paul. Because of the significance of these apostles, every bishop throughout the world is obliged to make an "ad limina apostolorum" visit to Rome once every five years, during which time he gives a report to the pope about his diocese and visits the tombs of these two apostles.

As we honor these two great saints and revere their graves, ponder the fact that we are all called to become foundations on which the Church continues to be built. Our lives must become a source of unity for those who believe and a means by which God sends forth His Word to others. Renew today the dedication of your own life to the mission of Christ so that you more fully imitate the heroic and holy lives of these two men of God.

Prayer: Saints Peter and Paul, God used you in unique and powerful ways that continue to have a profound impact upon the lives of God's people today. Please pray for me, that I will also become a foundation upon which God continues to build His Church and from which the message of salvation goes forth. Saints Peter and Paul, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."



St. Rose: lived 1769–1852; Invoked for perseverance amid adversity and against the opposition of Church authorities; Canonized by Pope John Paul II on July 3, 1988.

“This courageous woman gave up all that she knew and all that she had, except for her religious habit and the companionship of a few sisters, so that she could bring the Gospel to the frontier of the United States as the people slowly moved West. Her deepest desire to share the faith with the natives became a reality because of her perseverance and reliance on prayer. As we honor Saint Rose today, we honor her as a true spiritual mother who saw everyone as her children whom she needed to nurture in love by instilling faith and hope. In imitation of her, allow the desire to be a missionary to be enkindled within your heart. Though you might not be called to travel the seas to share the faith, you will certainly be called to share the love of Christ in accord with your own vocation. Submit yourself fully to that mission, and God will use you, as He used Mother Duchesne, for glorious things.

Prayer: Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, God called you from an early age, and you responded. As you endured one hardship after another in the pursuit of your religious vocation, you persevered, continuously devoting yourself to God’s service. In the end, God brought every desire He had planted in your heart to fruition. Please pray for me, that I will always overcome every obstacle to the fulfillment of God’s will by divine faith, hope, and love. I pray that I will always persevere as you did, so that God will be more fully glorified by my life. Saint Rose, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Thursday, November 21 - Obligatory Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“As we celebrate the liturgical memorial of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple, we especially honor the fact that, regardless of the lack of certainty of the historical details, the Blessed Virgin Mary lived a life of profound prayer and contemplation from her earliest years and continued to do so throughout her life. She always has been, and continues to be, the Immaculate One,

the sinless Spouse of the Holy Spirit, the first contemplative, and one who dedicated her whole life to the service of the will of God. Even if the account of her presentation and childhood service in the Temple is not accurately represented in these early sources, the spiritual reality of her total dedication to the will of God throughout her life is an indisputable dogma of our faith.

As we ponder the early life and dedication of the Blessed Virgin Mary to God’s will today, reflect upon the fact that every child is capable of a profound faith and commitment to God’s will. For those who are entrusted with the guardianship and raising of children, allow your prayerful reflection on the holy life of Blessed Mary as a child to inspire you to help all young people imitate her profound faith and holiness.

Prayer: Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary, you were conceived without sin and remained sinless throughout your life. With the perfection of every virtue and grace, you loved and served God even as a young child. Please pray for me, as I help to inspire young people in the ways of holiness, that I will never shy away from pointing them to you as a model and mediator of God’s grace. Most Holy Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Friday, November 22 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr. Lived late Second or early Third Century; Patron Saint of bodily purity, composers, martyrs, music, musicians, musical instrument makers, poets, and singers; Liturgical Color: Red.

“Despite the legendary nature of her story, God has used Saint Cecilia to inspire many through the centuries, and there is little doubt that the details of her life were passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth, until they were finally put in writing. Her name was inserted into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I), along with other saints and Roman martyrs. The Basilica of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere remains a revered church in Rome to this day, where many enter to pray and beseech her intercession and are inspired as they kneel before the marble sarcophagus depicting her young, martyred body awaiting

her final resurrection with Christ, her divine Spouse.

Prayer: Saint Cecilia, you clung to your divine Spouse without fear during persecution. Your courage and love converted your husband and his brother, and your martyrdom inspires many today. Please pray that I will not fear suffering that is inflicted upon me because of my faith but will follow your example and willingly lay down my life out of love for God and others. Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Saturday, November 23 – Optional memorials of St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr (lived about 35-99; Patron Saint of sailors, mariners, sick children, and stonecutters); St. Columban, Abbot (543-615; invoked against floods); and, in the USA, Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr (1891-1927; invoked against political persecution).

St. Clement: “As we honor this early pope, pray for our current pope. Pray for his wisdom, openness to the Holy Spirit, and holiness of life. The Church throughout the world prays for the pope every day for a reason. The pope needs our prayers and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Add your prayers to the many so that our Holy Father, the successor of Saints Peter, Linus, Cletus, and Clement, will shepherd the Church with both the mind and heart of Christ Himself.

Prayer: Pope Saint Clement, you were entrusted with the care of the Church on earth at the very beginning of its founding. You led through your pastoral care, your writings, and by the witness of your life. Please pray for me, that I will have the courage to lay my life down for Christ. Pray that out of love for others, I will share the Gospel with those entrusted to my care in imitation of you. Saint Clement I, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

St. Columban: “As we honor this holy monk, ponder the fact that it is never too late to do great things for God. Saint Columban began his missionary journey at the age of fifty and continued to forge new paths for the Gospel until the time of his death in his early seventies. In imitation of him, renew

your commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel and the apostolate to which God is calling you. Age, wisdom, and experience are all tools God can use, just as He did with Saint Columban.

Prayer: Saint Columban, God called you at a young age to enter monastic life so as to form you into a holy man of God. He later called you forth to preach, administer the Sacraments, found new communities, teach, and influence the Church throughout Europe. Please pray for me, that I will first cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the conversion of my own soul so that God can then use me for His greater glory and the salvation of souls. Saint Columban, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

“Blessed Miguel Pro fell in love with his Lord during a time of extreme persecution. Rather than shying away from his faith, he prayed and fulfilled his priestly ministry with courage and love. His life culminated with a choice either to be bitter or to forgive and hope in his God. He chose the latter. May his life and witness inspire all who are persecuted for their faith, and may his prayers assist you on your own journey when times are rough. The following prayer was written by Blessed Miguel in his journal shortly before his death:

Prayer: I believe, O Lord; but strengthen my faith ... Heart of Jesus, I love Thee; but increase my love. Heart of Jesus, I trust in Thee; but give greater vigor to my confidence. Heart of Jesus, I give my heart to Thee; but so, enclose it in Thee that it may never be separated from Thee. Heart of Jesus, I am all Thine; but take care of my promise so that I may be able to put it in practice even unto the complete sacrifice of my life. Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-THANK YOU – To all who helped make the Holy Family Turkey Dinner a great success!

-LOOKING AHEAD:

-THANKSGIVING – I am planning to offer Masses on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28 as follows: 7:00 a.m. at Holy Family; 8:30 a.m. at St. Thomas. There will

be no evening Mass at St. Thomas that day nor Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

-DECEMBER 9 - The celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is moved to Monday, December 9 this year. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Obligation is not lifted. We are each required to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on that day. I will have several Masses that day and will have the schedule out soon.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. You remain in my prayers each day.

-Fr. Aaron

### **POT OF GOLD**

November Pot of Gold winners are:

\$200.00 - John Ormond  
\$100.00 - Charles & Chelsea Erwin  
\$50.00 - Carol Steinberg  
\$50.00 - Pam Bick  
\$50.00 - Richard Ebbing  
\$50.00 - Susan Lipcaman

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you, parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas churches, for your very generous support of the 2024 Coats for Kids campaign.

Knights of Columbus Council 1281

### **HOLY FAMILY TURKEY DINNER**

We served approximately 875 meals. Overall the event raised \$15,250.

Thank you to all those that volunteered to help. It was amazing! Thanks also to all who donated turkeys and/or bought meals.

Raffle Winners:

Charlene Clifford - FS Gas Card  
Donna Matthews - FS Gas Card  
Ray Gregory - Hagel Gift Certificate  
Justine Welty - Quilt  
Karen Geisler - Kassing Gift Certificate  
Hazel Prather - Dorothy's Market Gift Card

Mary Markert - Lucky Chances/  
Blessings shelf

Charla Myers - Mt. Sterling Foods Gift Card

Lori Veith - Conoco Gas Card

Jerry Shoopman - Conoco Gas Card.

### **HOLY FAMILY PARISH ADVENT STUDY PROGRAM**

Our parish Adult Faith Formation series for Advent and Lent will be A Biblical Walk Through the Mass --Discover the Beauty and Riches of the Mass. This is the program that the group from last year chose to study this year. This is a 5-week program. We will do the first 2 sessions during Advent and the last 3 sessions during Lent.

The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. The words, the gestures, and the rituals of the Mass are rich in meaning. Everything we say and do in the Liturgy is steeped in biblical language. A Biblical Walk Through the Mass explores the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

"Dr. Sri's best-selling study program, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, has been a blessing for thousands over the past decade. ... We need to recommit ourselves to the central act of our faith with passion and joy.

This marvelously written aid will help us join ourselves to the Lord as he offers himself to the Father in the Sacrifice of the Mass."

We will meet on Tuesdays, December 3 and 10, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. We invite you to gift yourself this Christmas season by attending this program. We received a grant for this program from the Diocese, so there is no charge for this program. Please let me know if you would like to come so I can order enough books -- e-mail at [aosullivan2031@gmail.com](mailto:aosullivan2031@gmail.com) or text/call 217-257-2516.

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