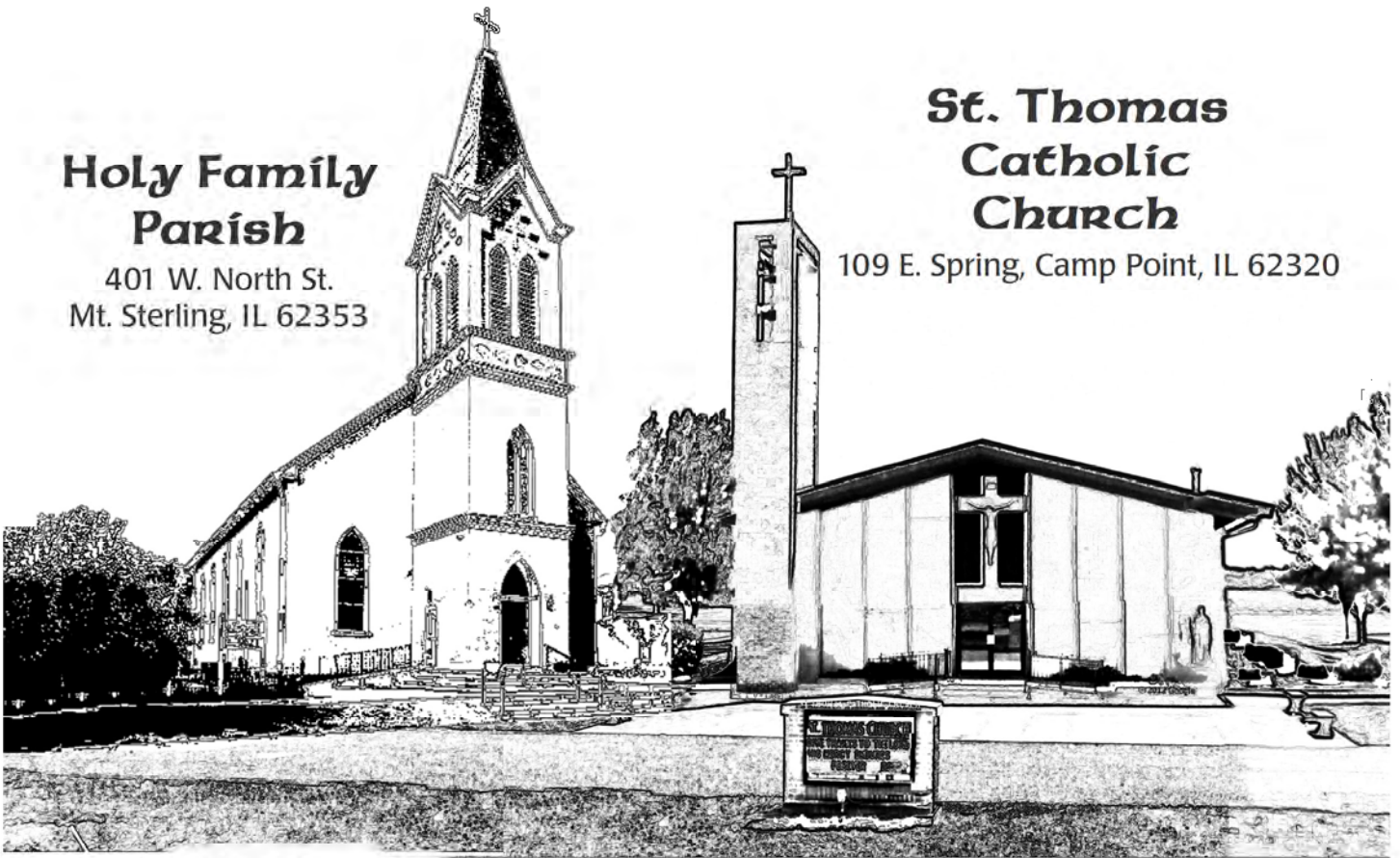


Holy Family Parish

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, November 25 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr
Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21:1-4

Communion Service

Tuesday, November 26 – 7:00 a.m.

Revelation 14:14-19; Luke 21:5-11

Corrine Kassing
(By Tammy)

Wednesday, November 27 – 7:00 a.m.

Revelations 15:1-4; Luke 21:12-19

Mike Rolf
(By Paul & Charlotte Koch)

Thursday, November 28 – 7:00 a.m.

Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Luke 21:20-28

The Living & Deceased Members of
the Legion of Mary

AT ST. THOMAS – 8:30 a.m.

Barb Kuhn

Friday, November 29 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2; Luke 21:29-33

Janet Yakle
(By Dan & Jo Geisler)

Saturday, November 30 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Andrew, Apostle
Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

Sunday, December 1 – 8:00 a.m.

Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37

Vic Kassing
(By Mary Kassing & Family)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Russell Sherman
(By Sheila Druffel)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 16-17, 2024

Holy Family: \$4,371.00
School Support: \$280.00
Sister Parish: \$95.00
Immaculate Conception: \$25.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope: \$235.00
Cemetery: \$570.00
Vestments: \$1,100.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 17, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,851.75
Campaign for Justice & Hope: \$60.00
Sister Parish: \$80.00

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 †
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.

Thank You to the St. Thomas parishioners and families of PSR students who participated in Cross Catholic Outreach "Box of Joy". It was a success. We heard many positive comments from the participants.

Thank You to the parish men who served and everyone who assisted with the Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women Gathering that was held at St. Thomas November 13.

St. Thomas Altar and Rosary Meeting Sunday, November 24 at 6:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

December 1, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Jonah Coggeshall
Greeters:	Butch & Dorothy Obert
Lector:	Kim Gronewold
Gift Bearers:	Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Laura Evans/Teresa Bockhold
Collection Counters:	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Ushers:	Matt and Charles Evans

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Thirty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the final Sunday of the Liturgical Year, celebrated as the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe or commonly known as Christ the King.

From CatholicCulture.org: "The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of man's thinking and living and organizes his life as if God did not exist. The feast is intended to proclaim in a striking and effective manner Christ's royalty over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations.

Today's Mass establishes the titles for Christ's royalty over men: 1) Christ is God, the Creator of the universe and hence wields a supreme power over all things; "All things were created by Him"; 2) Christ is our Redeemer, He purchased us by His precious Blood, and made us His property and possession; 3) Christ is Head of the Church, "holding in all things the primacy"; 4) God bestowed upon Christ the nations of the world as His special possession and dominion.

The Mass also describes the qualities of Christ's kingdom. This kingdom is: 1) supreme, extending not only to all people but also to their princes and kings; 2) universal, extending to all nations and to all places; 3) eternal, for "The Lord shall sit a King forever"; 4) spiritual, Christ's "kingdom is not of this world". -Rt. Rev. Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas"

"The kings of this earth demand of their subjects that they should be ready, if necessary, to lay down their lives to defend their king and realm. Men have always accepted this and millions have gladly given their lives to defend their country and rulers. We have a king who laid down his life for us and set us an example unlike that of any earthly king. Following his Father's will, he did this to make us worthy to share in the Father's eternal kingdom. The incarnation, which made us adopted children of God, and the crucifixion, which obtained remission of our sins, surely proves to us the love and the esteem in which God holds us. It should also show how important is our future life. Christ did not come on earth to make us healthy, happy or prosperous in this world; he came to open heaven for us where we could be happy forever. This was God's purpose in creating us. This is his purpose for us still. All our other

interests in this life are secondary when compared with this.

In honoring Christ today as our King, let us especially thank him for all the humiliations and sufferings he endured on our behalf. If our Christian way of living makes some demands on us let us not forget how trivial they are when compared with what Christ's earthly life cost him. He made these severe sacrifices for us; we are asked to make our small offerings for ourselves. Our self-interest alone should inspire us, but our gratitude to Christ should especially move us to play our part. Let us promise to be grateful and loyal subjects of his for the rest of our days. He has made us members of his kingdom on earth—the Church—and is preparing a place for us in his everlasting kingdom. Let no one be so foolish as to forfeit an eternal happiness because of some earthly attachment to the passing things of this world. -Excerpted from The Sunday Readings, Cycle B, by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.”

-CHRIST THE KING - As part of the celebration for the Solemnity of Christ the King, I am planning to do a couple of things...process with the Blessed Sacrament around the interior of the Church at the conclusion of both the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass at Holy Family and the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Thomas. I do not know if this will be possible at the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Family. At all the Masses, however, we will recite the Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Christ the King. A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, publicly recite this Act of Dedication; a partial indulgence is granted for its use in other circumstances. The prayer for this Act of Dedication is as follows:

“Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before you. We are yours, and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart. Many indeed have never known you; many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected you. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your Sacred Heart. Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock

and one Shepherd. Grant, O Lord, to your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give tranquility of order to all nations; make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor for ever. Amen.”

-THANKSGIVING - Masses on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28 are 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.

-RECENT DEATHS - Please pray for the souls of Carol Likes, Tom Tracy, and Rosemary Ashbaker who recently died and for their families in this time of sorrow. Carol's Funeral Mass was at St. Thomas this past Tuesday; a Memorial Mass for Tom was this past Monday at Holy Family; Committal for Rosemary was at our Catholic Cemetery in Mt. Sterling recently (Rosemary's Funeral Mass was in O'Fallon, IL where she had moved to be close to her children; Rosemary is originally from this area).

-PRAYERS- Please continue to pray each day for those who are sick or suffering in any way...those known and unknown to us, especially the members of our parishes.

Pray also for the conversion of sinners, especially yourself. Each of us are sinners in need of God's mercy.

-FALL COLLECTION - The Holy Family Fall Collection is underway. Thank you to those who have already made a contribution. If you have not yet done so, please do so as soon as possible. If you have not received a letter and contribution envelope, please let me know so that we can make sure we have the correct address for you.

-THANK YOU - To all who helped make the Brown County Deer Classic another great success. This is a major fundraiser to help support the operations of St. Mary School and to keep Catholic Education strong and vibrant in Brown County.

-WE NEED YOU - Recently we had a particularly full Church at Holy Family for Mass. Several folks have mentioned how good it was to see the Church full and to hear the participation in the prayers and responses. I certainly agree. YOU NEED the Lord in the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist at least each Sunday (more often when you are able) and in regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is in the Sacraments that you have a real encounter with Jesus Christ. It is in the Sacraments that

you receive grace. It is in the Sacraments that you are able to participate in the Divine Life. Wow!

While you need the Lord in the Sacraments, the Church NEEDS YOU also. The Church needs you to be present. For the Holy Eucharist, the Church needs you to be present each and every Sunday, participating with the Mystical Body of Christ in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. When you are absent, we suffer from your absence. We need you!

You need the Lord in the Sacraments and the Church needs you present for those Sacraments. No matter what else you have going on, no matter how busy you are, no matter what, don't let us suffer by your absence. Be present in the celebration of the Sacraments. Be there at the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at least every Sunday. We need you there!

-ST. ANDREW "CHRISTMAS NOVENA" - I want to give you more information on this Novena and encourage each of us to pray this novena.

From Hallow.com: "The single prayer of the St. Andrew Christmas Novena is traditionally prayed fifteen times each day, beginning on the feast of St. Andrew (November 30) and concluding on Christmas Eve. In 2024, Christmas Eve falls on a Tuesday.

St. Andrew was Jesus's first apostle and the older brother of St. Peter, the second apostle. In the Gospel of John, we read that Andrew was also a follower of John the Baptist, and in Matthew's Gospel, we hear the account of Christ calling on two brothers and fishermen - Andrew and Peter.

"Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers. They were Simon (his other name was Peter) and Andrew, his brother. They were putting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Follow Me. I will make you fish for men!" At once they left their nets and followed Him." (Matthew 4:18-20)

While this exchange between Jesus and Andrew and Peter is brief, what followed was Jesus's Sermon of the Mount and the Feeding of the 5,000, two of the most critical moments in the Gospels and the rest of the Gospel narrative of which Peter is a key figure. We might know more about Peter - how he was forgiven, redeemed, and called upon to build the Church - but Andrew remains a critical character in the Gospels; Andrew led Peter to Jesus.

Why is it called the St. Andrew Christmas Novena? The simple answer to this question is

that St. Andrew's feast day of November 30 precedes Christmas and helps us to determine the start of Advent. To answer this question more fully, however, the thematic underpinnings of Andrew's role in the Gospel narrative align well with the purpose of this novena: to prepare for His coming.

How to Pray the St. Andrew Christmas Novena: With a few exceptions, we pray novenas for nine days. The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is one such exception - we pray this novena for 25 days, overlapping with much of the liturgical season of Advent.

We begin the novena on the feast of St. Andrew on November 30 and conclude on Christmas Eve. Tradition holds that we pray the novena 15 times daily for a particular intention.

Praying the Novena:

-Make the Sign of the Cross. "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

-Say the St. Andrew Christmas Novena prayer: "Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen."

-Name any intentions or other prayers you wish to share with God. Maybe consider your response to Jesus's call to follow Him; just as he called on Andrew and Peter, he also calls on us to let go and surrender.

-Conclude with the Sign of the Cross. "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

-Repeat the above steps fourteen times throughout your day (yes, 15 times total each day from November 30 through December 24...it's a short and powerful prayer).

And from CatholicCulture.org concerning the Novena: "The day is finally here! Saint Andrew's feast day!

This feast is the marker that determines the start of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent begins on the Sunday closest to (or on) November 30, St. Andrew's feast day. That explains the first part of the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena's name. The second part simply refers to when the novena ends. On Christmas. So, a longer way of saying it is: The Saint Andrew to Christmas Day Novena. Kind

of long, which is why it's also known simply as the Christmas Novena.

Some people mistakenly think they are praying to St. Andrew while praying this novena, surely, and innocently due to its initially peculiar sounding title. Understandable. But just to be clear, while no one is saying to ignore or exclude Saint Andrew from our thoughts while saying this prayer (indeed, St. Andrew is a great example of "dropping our nets" to follow Christ and inviting others to do the same), the Christmas Novena itself is actually directed toward God Himself. We are asking God directly, with joyful anticipation and confidence, to grant our deepest longings on the momentous occasion of our Savior's birth.

It is a short, deceptively simple, and beautiful Advent prayer that is traditionally said 15 times a day and zeros in on that epic, sacred moment when Christ, through His Blessed Mother, entered human history, and our destiny was forever changed.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.

It's an amazing visual! ...at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold! The repetition of the prayer really drives home how cold, dark, and isolated that moment was: when the most omnipotent being, the Son of God, in the dark of night slipped quietly into this side of the veil, through an extraordinary young woman. By those words, we allow ourselves to focus our hearts and minds squarely at that moment and just let ourselves 'be' in awe of the humble beginnings of our salvation and redemption, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. Just breathtaking!

The prayer continues, In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires... At the most ripe, fruitful, and potent moment in human history up to that point, we are invited to present the desires of our heart. Could there be a more hopeful time to entrust our needs in? As salvation history begins to unfold, we have reason to allow ourselves to confidently hope for the fulfillment of our present needs, as well as joyfully look forward to the Second Coming.

The season of Advent doesn't exist just to prepare us to commemorate the historical coming of Christ 2000 years ago, but Advent is also meant to help us prepare ourselves for Christ's Second Coming as well.

It is in that hopeful space of the promise of Christ having already come, and also coming

again, that we search our hearts for our deepest desires and confidently present them to God Himself in virtue of His Son's birth. Who can say no to all that?

It is piously believed that whoever says this prayer with devotion will have their prayers answered, when or how is another matter, I'm sure. But this hour and moment remind me of another potent hour and moment when a certain good thief, on a certain Good Friday, 'stole heaven' as they say. So, practicing the presence of being acutely aware of these 'potent moments' and offering our heart's desires, in the name of those moments, seems to be a really good practice with big-time results.

The prayer concludes with, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen. At the time of His birth, an admittedly joyous celebration, we are reminded of the means of our salvation by the word 'merits'. Christ won our salvation by crucifixion on the cross, a sober reminder of the cost He paid for our sins.

And all this Our Lady consented to with her first 'yes'. It was prophesied by Simeon that a sword would pierce her heart, that she would suffer also. She, in essence, co-redeemed us with her Son, which is why she is also known as Mediatrix of All Grace, because it was through her that Christ was born, and through her, we continue to receive the merits of salvation.

This is good to remember as we commemorate Christ's birth historically, experience Christ every day in the sacraments especially in the Eucharist, as well as how we look towards the promised Second Coming of Christ, that the most pure Virgin Mary, continues to have her hand in presenting her Son to us, along with the graces He wants us to have.

Why 15 times a day? No one really knows, but I'll take a pious stab at some possibilities. The prayer is believed to be over 100 years old and is traditionally prayed 15 times every day, though not necessarily all at once. (It may be broken up to be prayed throughout the day, such as five prayers in the morning, afternoon, and evening, the way the Angelus is repeated, or the Divine Office is spread out throughout the day.) The number 15 reminds me of the original 15 decades of the rosary, which was itself seen as a potentially simplified version of praying the 150 psalms that are still sung by religious in monasteries and convents praying the Divine Office. There you go, not official, but it could explain why 15 times.

Not to mention that the 15 repetitions a day definitely drives home the visual of how blessed that hour and moment was at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold, so much so, that those words just seem to waft in the subconscious all day long. Which is why it's such a perfect Advent prayer of preparation and petition. It helps to keep the scattered mind focused on spiritually preparing for Christmas during the busy and noisy modern holiday season.

I find this to be one of the shortest and most potent prayers of all time and is my favorite, albeit not traditional, novena. Novenas traditionally only last nine days in honor of the first novena, or time of prayer, when the embryonic Church prayerfully waited in anticipation of the descent of the Holy Spirit between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday (nine days). Our word for nine comes from the Latin word novem, which is where we get novena from. Even though the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena lasts for 25 days, it still falls within the tradition of an 'anticipation prayer', like that first novena to the Holy Spirit. In fact, it is also often called simply the Christmas Anticipation Prayer."

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

-Fr. Aaron

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 or text/call 217-257-2516.

Holy Family Choir Practice

Holy Family Christmas choir practices will be held on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.:

December 4
December 11
December 18

Please join us!

Community Band and Choir

The Community Band and Choir will host a concert on Sunday, November 24 at 2 p.m. in the Brown County High School Auditorium.

The concert will feature patriotic and Christmas selections and is free to attend. The band and choir are sponsored by the Mt. Sterling Community Center YMCA.

Please join them in starting off the holiday season!

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