

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, December 2 - 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 3 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier, Priest Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Joe Ray (By Carol Blentlinger)

Wednesday, December 4 - 7:00 a.m.

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37

Pat Parker (By John & Carolyn Ormond)

Thursday, December 5 - 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Anne & Paul M. (By Joan Zurita)

<u>AT ST. THOMAS - 5:30 p.m.</u>

Danny Seals

<u>Friday, December 6 – 8:30 a.m.</u> (School Mass)

St. Nicholas, Bishop Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

> Aaron Koch (By Dan Salrin)

FIRST FRIDAY - ST. THOMAS - 6:00 p.m.

Lawrence & Gus Langan (By Kim & Jim Gronewold)

Saturday, December 7 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Becky and Mike Metzger (By Raymond Metzger)

Sunday, December 8 - 8:00 a.m.

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

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

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 23-24, 2024

Holy Family: \$4,644.00 School Support: \$135.00 Sister Parish: \$15.00

Campaign for Justice & Hope: \$35.00

Cemetery: \$280.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 24, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,378.00 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 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 † Kalvin Schenk †
Dylan Hendricks † Mary Gregory †
Ezra Keokham † Greg Jones †
Misha Follis Allen † Susan Kenady †
Leona Dunn † Georgia Metz †
Dyson Ham † Caden Callihan †

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year! Really and truly, Happy New Year!

Today the Church celebrates the First Sunday of Advent which also marks the beginning of a New Liturgical Year. In the First Reading for today, Jeremiah prophesies that the days of fulfillment are coming. A shoot will come from the line of David, and it will be a time of security and justice. In the Second Reading, St. Paul prays for the Thessalonians and exhorts them to conduct themselves as pleasing to God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples what it will be like at the coming of the Son of Man, and that they are to be vigilant in anticipation of that day.

As we begin Advent, our readings today offer wisdom in discerning what it means to prepare our hearts for the Lord. They are beckoning us to wake up and be attentive to what is around us, for God's time is at hand.

We have the blessing of this season to prepare for the coming of the Lord, and to allow our hearts to be transformed.

From Catholicculture.org: "Happy New Year! While a month yet remains in the civil year, the Church is celebrating the beginning of a new Liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent on December 1. Advent - from the Latin ad venio, "to come" - is the liturgical season anticipating the Adventus Domini, the "coming of the Lord." While the days grow shorter and colder, we prepare for the "Sun of Justice" who comes to kindle our hearts with his light and his love.

The Eternal Word, who is outside of time, became Incarnate in time, thereby making all time sacred. In the season of Advent, we await the coming of Christ on all the levels which we experience time: in the past - as a babe in the stable of Bethlehem; in the present - as grace in our souls; and in the future - as the Judge at the end of time.

The Advent season is filled with preparation and expectation. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas - shopping and decorating, baking and cleaning. Too often, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the real reason for our activity: the Word made flesh coming to dwell among us. Christians are urged to preserve the spiritual focus of Christmas amidst the prevailingly secular and consumer-driven society.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, let us strive to keep Advent a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and hope, meditating often on the incredible love and humility of our God in taking on flesh of the Virgin Mary. In our shopping and baking, let us remember to purchase and prepare something for the poor. When we clean our homes, let us distribute some of our possessions to those who lack many necessities. While we are decking the halls of our homes, let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein our Savior may come to dwell.

Focus on the Liturgy: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord. There are always four Sundays in Advent, though not necessarily four full weeks. The liturgical color of the season is violet, except on the Third Sunday

of Advent, called Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday, when optional rose vestments may be worn. The Gloria is not recited during Advent liturgies, but the Alleluia is retained.

The prophecies of Isaiah are read often during the Advent season, but all of the readings of Advent focus on the key figures of the Old and New Testaments who were prepared and chosen by God to make the Incarnation possible: the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, Sts. Elizabeth and Zechariah. The expectancy heightens from December 17 to December 24 when the Liturgy resounds with the seven magnificent Messianic titles of the O Antiphons.

The Advent season also has a Marian and pro-life focus. We meditate on this wonderful mystery of the Word Made Flesh with as much eagerness as his Mother, Mary prepared and awaited the birth of her son. In the USA we celebrate the special feasts of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States of America, on December 8, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, on December 12. Other saints' days traditionally associated in with our preparation for Christmas include St. Nicholas, patron saint of children whose feast falls on December 6, and the saint of light, St. Lucy on December 13."

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

- Tuesday, December 3 – Obligatory Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest. Lived 1506–1552; Patron Saint of foreign missions, missionaries, navigators, and parish missions; Invoked against plague epidemics; Canonized by Pope Gregory XV on March 12, 1622; Liturgical Color: White

"Within ten years of intense missionary work, it is estimated that Saint Francis Xavier traveled about 38,000 miles on land and sea, being the first to bring the Gospel to many parts of Asia, baptizing about 30,000 souls. Though he wrote extensively to those he left behind in Europe, he never returned; once he left his family at the age of nineteen, he never saw them again. His life was a true sacrifice. His body was eventually brought back to Goa where it is buried and venerated today. In honor of his numerous baptisms, his arm was removed

from his body in 1614 and is venerated at the Gesù, the Jesuit church in Rome.

Saint Francis Xavier was truly another Saint Paul to the Asian peoples. His constant traveling and founding of mission churches planted the seeds of faith deep in the soil he traversed. Though persecution stifled Catholicism's later growth in Japan, that stifling ultimately deepened the resolve and faith of those persecuted. As we honor this great apostle of Christ, ponder all that he accomplished in ten short years. As you do, consider the next ten years of your own life, and rededicate yourself to the mission Christ has for you.

Prayer: Saint Francis Xavier, the Gospel was planted deep in your heart through the Spiritual Exercises given to you by Saint Ignatius, your founder. Those exercises transformed your life, and through you, many other lives were touched. Please pray for me, that I will be open to the transformation that God wants for me, so that I can then go forth to share His love with others. Saint Francis Xavier, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Wednesday, December 4 – Optional memorial of Saint John Damascene, Priest, Religious and Doctor. Lived about 676–749; Patron Saint of pharmacists, icon painters, and theology students; Declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1890; Liturgical Color: White.

"In addition to his writings against the iconoclasts, Saint John Damascene is known for his summary of the doctrinal teachings of the Early Church Fathers, called De Fide Orthodoxa (An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith). Along with that work, he also wrote against heresies and on logic and philosophy. Further works include hymns, letters, commentaries, and sermons. Among his sermons is a series on the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was also critical of Islam, pointing out many of its flaws.

Saint John Damascene left behind a clear exposition of the faith of the Church that became a standard for study in the centuries to follow. None of that would have been possible, however, had he not first entered the monastery and perfected his spiritual life as a hermit. As we honor this great saint, reflect upon the foundation that you need to

establish within your own spiritual life. Without that solid foundation of deep union with God, God will be limited in the ways He can use you. With that foundation established, great things can be done in and through you for the salvation of souls and the glory of God.

Prayer: Saint John Damascene, you sensed God calling you out of the world to a place where you could enter into deep communion with Him. In that holy monastery, you were formed in virtue and holy learning. God then used you in remarkable ways for the good of the Church and His glory. Please pray for me, that I will embrace the deeper conversion I need so as to be better equipped to serve God as He wills. Saint John Damascene, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

- Friday, December 6: Optional memorial of Saint Nicholas, Bishop. Lived about 270-346; Patron Saint of children, sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, Russia, and numerous countries and cities. Liturgical Color: White.

"Though most of what we know about Saint Nicholas' life is legendary rather than historically certain, those legends have added much to the faith of the people of God throughout the centuries. These tales have inspired faith and hope and have led to numerous reported miracles.

As we honor this saintly bishop from 1,700 years ago, ponder the faith of the people of God throughout those centuries who have benefitted from the sacred art, pilgrimages to his tomb, and the miraculous Manna of Saint Nicholas. Allow the longtime devotion to him to inspire you, entrusting yourself more fully to his intercession, as well as the intercession of all the saints of Heaven.

Prayer: Saint Nicholas, through your intercession, God has touched many lives. The legends of your life have inspired faith throughout the centuries, just as your priestly and episcopal ministry impacted the people of your day. Please pray for me, that I will become a true saint and fulfill the mission God has given to me. Saint Nicholas of Myra, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Saturday, December 7: Obligatory Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor. Lived

about 339–397; Patron Saint of beekeepers, bishops, candlemakers, domestic animals, geese, honey cake bakers, learning, livestock, police officers, schoolchildren, security personnel, starlings, and wax refiners; Liturgical Color: White.

"In addition to being an outstanding pastor to his people and a powerful preacher, Saint Ambrose left behind a wealth of writings that have had a great impact on the Church's theological tradition. In his writings, he is especially known for his refutation of Arianism and his teaching on the true nature of Christ and the Holy Spirit. He also wrote on the Sacraments, virginity, ethics, penance, and the duties of the clergy, and penned commentaries on Sacred Scripture. He left behind many letters of great importance, composed hymns, and wrote beautifully about our Blessed Mother.

As we ponder the life of Saint Ambrose, reflect upon his sudden and unexpected election as Bishop of Milan. Though he had his eyes on an important political career, God's will was different; therefore, Ambrose cooperated with the divine will. As you ponder his life, consider any ways that your own will differs from God's will for you. As you do, try to imitate Saint Ambrose by choosing the divine will and letting go of your own preferences and plans.

Prayer: Saint Ambrose, God called you to become bishop, and you responded. Once ordained, you embraced your new calling with vigor and unwavering devotion. Through you, many lives were touched and continue to be touched through your writings and witness. Please pray for me, that I will be more fully open to God's will for my life, always surrendering my own preferences and embracing God's. Saint Ambrose of Milan, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-ADVENT – I want to emphasize the penitential nature of the Season of Advent. It is indeed a time of preparing and even joyful expectation. Our call for preparation, though, is to prepare our very selves through repentance. Let us fully embrace that call in this Season of Advent and not let the hustle and bustle of the world's preparations keep us from this most holy time.

-POPE'S INTENTION – The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December is "For pilgrims of hope. We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

"Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. From time to time, the Holy Father may add a second prayer intention related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The second prayer request will help mobilize prayer and action related to the urgent situation." (USCCB)

-DONUT SUNDAY – Today, Sunday, December 1, is the First Sunday of the Month. Join us for coffee and donuts after Mass at St. Thomas in the parish hall.

-FIRST FRIDAY – This Friday, December 6 is First Friday. We will have our First Friday devotions at St. Thomas. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at Noon until 5:45; Reconciliation available from 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.; Benediction at 5:45 p.m.; Mass at 6:00 p.m.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION – Next Saturday, December 7 is First Saturday. We will have Nocturnal Adoration at Holy Family beginning that night at 10:00 p.m. going throughout the night. Benediction is around 7:40 a.m. on Sunday followed by our regularly scheduled Mass at 8:00 a.m.

-HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation meaning we are obligated (required) to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrating this Solemnity.

This Solemnity is normally celebrated on December 8. However, when that falls on a Sunday during Advent as it does this year, the celebration is moved. This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated in the Church on Monday, December 9.

Recently, it was clarified by the Vatican that the obligation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception always exists and when the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception needs to be transferred to another day, as described above, the obligation to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that day remains.

Thus, this year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9 and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. The faithful are obligated (required) to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on that day. To completely disregard is seriously sinful.

Please be aware that prior to the Vatican issuing this clarification this Fall, many publications had already been printed indicating no obligation. This is not accurate...not a fault of any of the publications necessarily.

With that said, following is the anticipated Mass schedule for the Holy Day. All Masses will be on Monday, December 9. There will be no Vigil Mass:

Holy Family: 7:00 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.; 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas: Noon; 5:30 p.m.

-FALL COLLECTION – A reminder that the Holy Family Fall Collection is under way. Thank you to all who have already made a contribution. If you have not yet done so, please make your contribution as soon as possible.

-MISSALETTES – With the start of Advent, we will be using a different Missalette at both parishes, the Pray Together, published by Sunday Missal Service/P.A.M. Printers in Quincy. They are the folks who also print our bulletins. For this Liturgical Year, we will continue to use the Music Issue hymn books from OCP.

I am happy to move to the Pray Together and to also support a local Catholic business. Since we became very familiar with the Today's Missal missalette from OCP, the new Pray Together missalettes will likely take us a little time to get used to. The Pray Together missalettes include the daily readings which I am grateful for.

Please DO NOT take Pray Together Missalettes from the pews. We have very few extras of the Pray Together. I do have a few copies of OCP's Today's Missal that will be available at both churches that folks may take while they last. Additionally, the Pray Together missalette is available in large print. There are a few copies available for each parish that will be in the back of each Church. Feel free to use these at Mass but please **DO NOT** take them with you. When Mass is over, please return them to the back of church. There is a very limited number of these available.

-ADVERTISING – The advertising on the back of our bulletins help to pay for the bulletins and also now, our missalettes. We have quite a few spots available for advertising that would be good to fill. If you or someone you know operates a business, I would encourage you to consider placing an ad. Individuals or families can also purchase an ad space. Information is currently on the back of the bulletin concerning who to contact regarding advertising or let me know and I will help you.

A sincere thank you to our current, future, and former advertisers. We appreciate your support. I encourage each of us to support these businesses when we can.

-CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – As in the past, I invite you to make a contribution toward the Christmas flowers. If you do not have an envelope marked and designated for Christmas flowers, simply place your contribution in a plain envelope and mark on it clearly "Christmas Flowers." Often times folks make these contributions in honor of or in memory of someone. If that is the case, please include their name(s) so that I can include them in my own personal prayers.

-CHRISTMAS LITURGIES – Following is the anticipated Mass schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at both parishes:

Holy Family - Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24: 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.; Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25: Midnight and 8:30 a.m.

St. Thomas – Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24: 6:30 p.m.; Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25: 7:00 a.m.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you each day. May you have a most blessed and holy week and Advent Season.

-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!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Holy Family Women's Guild is accepting donations for Christmas poinsettias in memory of loved ones. Donations may be placed in the collection (checks should be made payable to Holy Family Women's Guild). Please include a note with the name of your loved ones.

MOUNT STERLING, IL . HOLY FAMILY

