

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

School: St. Mary (217) 773-2825 Website: www.smseagle.org Principal: Melissa Obert

Mass Schedule

Ann O'Sullivan, C.R.E.

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 9 - 7:00 a.m. <u>AT HOLY FAMILY</u>

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Rosemary Howell (By Barb Lehne)

<u>Monday, December 9 - 8:30 a.m.</u> <u>AT HOLY FAMILY</u> <u>(School Mass)</u>

> Louie & Mary Henrick (By Carl & Nancy Mitchell)

Monday, December 9 - 12:00 noon AT ST. THOMAS

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

Monday, December 9 – 5:30 p.m. AT ST. THOMAS

Joyce Dietrich (By Pauline Seals)

Monday, December 9 – 7:00 p.m. <u>AT HOLY FAMILY</u>

Maurice Ormond (By Legion of Mary)

Tuesday, December 10 - 7:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Loreto Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

Parishioners of Holy Family Parish (By Joan Zurita)

Wednesday, December 11 – 7:00 a.m. St. Damasus I, Pope

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

Ed & Verna Veith & John VanGiesen II (By Marilyn & Pat Veith)

Thursday, December 12 – 7:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47

Deceased Members of the Dwight Armstrong Family (By Cathy Black)

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

Jerry Gunn (By the Gunn Family)

Friday, December 13 - 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass) St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19

Mary Louise Moorman (By Tammy)

Saturday, December 14 - 8:00 a.m.

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Luke 3:4, 6

Father Aaron's Intentions

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

Matt & Mary Volk, their children & spouses (By Larry Volk)

Sunday, December 15 – 8:00 a.m.

Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

<u>St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.</u>

Francis & Irene Norkus (By Pat Sharow)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 30-December 1, 2024

Holy Family: \$4,491.00 School Support: \$890.00 Sister Parish: \$30.00 Campaign for Justice & Hope: \$25.00 Cemetery: \$50.00 Retired Religious: \$50.00 Catholic Children's Home: \$30.00 ACSA: \$35.00 Debt Reduction: \$400.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 1, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,385.00 Sister Parish: \$20.00 Christmas Flowers: \$465.00

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."
- Red Cross Blood Drive: The need for blood by patients being treated for accidents, routine surgeries, cancer, heart disease, and hemophilia is ongoing and must be met every day. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the <u>Legion</u> <u>Hall</u> on Monday, December 23, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended but walk ins are welcome. Call 1-800 Red Cross or 217-257-3117 for appointments.

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or <u>tmckeown@smseagle.org</u> 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

<u>Please keep the following in your prayers:</u>

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 the needed items.

We will be taking Christmas cards this year to our parishioners that are homebound and in nursing homes:

Teresa Brady Jerry Herkert Pauline Seals

There is a box in the entrance of the church if you would like to drop off a card for them and they will be delivered.

If there is a parishioner who we missed, please call Clara @ 217-257-3244 and she will be happy to include them.

Last day to bring cards is Sunday, December 22. Thank you!

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent. Our Readings remind us that we are made pure and blameless through Jesus Christ. When the path of salvation appears rocky, we can be assured that God will lower mountains and level depths to lead the faithful into His glory. This holy season, we rejoice to be remembered by God because He draws near and unites Himself to us through Emmanuel – God with us. How will you respond?

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, December 9 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Patronal Feast of the United States – Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass Schedule:

At Holy Family – 7:00 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.; 7:00 p.m. At St. Thomas – Noon; 5:30 p.m.

"As we celebrate this great Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, try to ponder the incomprehensible nature of the Mother of God. Knowing that she is an impenetrable mystery will help us honor her with the reverence and awe she deserves. The best news of all to ponder is that this perfect creation of God is not a distant icon to adore, she is our own caring mother, a mediatrix of God's grace. Her tender care for her children will never waver, and her intercession will always bring to us all good things we need to achieve salvation.

Prayer: Most holy Mother, you are the Immaculate Conception, God's most precious treasure and His singular delight. To your intercession and mediation I entrust my life. Take me to your Son and pour forth His grace upon me and upon the whole world. I entrust to you every care, concern, confusion, struggle, and cross. I turn to you for every grace of faith, hope, and love from Heaven, so that I can become more fully conformed to the image of your Son Who alone is the Savior of the World. Mother Mary, the Immaculate Conception, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Tuesday, December 10 – Optional memorial of Our Lady of Loreto, Patron Saint of aviators and builders.

"Added to the Roman Calendar in 2019 by Pope Francis, this memorial of Our Lady of Loreto recalls the mystery of the Incarnation. Since the Middle Ages, veneration for the Holy House of Loreto has powerfully illustrated the evangelical virtues of the Holy Family. A Marian Litany, also known as the Litany of Loreto, has its firstknown origins at the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto (Italy), where its usage was recorded as early as 1558."

"Prayer: Our Lady of Loreto, your home was a sacred place. Within it, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Within your home, you raised your divine Son and saw Him grow in grace and virtue. The love you shared with your Son in that home was pure and perfect in every way. Please pray for me, that my home will more fully reflect the grace and virtue that abounded in your home so that my home will become more like your Holy House. Our Lady of Loreto, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Wednesday, December 11 – Optional memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope. Lived about 305–384; Patron Saint of archeologists.

"Pope Saint Damasus lived and served during a transformative time for the Church. He was born during the worst imperial persecution of Christians but saw religious tolerance established with the Edict of Milan and saw Christianity become the official religion of the Roman Empire four years before his death. As we honor this great saint, who had such a reverence for the saints who had gone before him, ponder the fact that our Church today professes the faith that he so vigorously fought to defend and define. His doctrinal purity, love for the liturgy, veneration for the saints, and pastoral ministry all contributed to the fruitful growth of the Church throughout Europe, and eventually to the ends of the earth. Commit yourself more fully to imitate Saint Damasus' love for the orthodox faith so that you will share more fully in the sanctity that he now shares in Heaven.

Prayer: Pope Saint Damasus, you lived during a transformative time in the history of the Church. Through you, God navigated the Church of your day, leading toward a fuller image of the Kingdom of Heaven. Please pray for me, that I, in my own way, will make myself more fully available to God so that He can use me to help navigate His Church through the challenges it faces in my day and age. Pope Saint Damasus, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Thursday, December 12 – In the USA, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. A lengthy but fascinating account:

"Quote: Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish for? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything. -Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego"

"After their baptisms, Juan Diego and María Lucía began to practice their faith as they continued their formation. Most records indicate that María died around the year 1529. Juan grew in his faith, and some extended family members also converted. On December 9, 1531, Juan Diego's life was forever changed, and the Mother of God immediately strengthened the missionaries' efforts. Juan was walking some distance to the nearby city of Tlatelolco early in the morning so he could attend daily Mass and catechism class. As he passed by Tepeyac Hill, a heavenly woman appeared to him. She appeared as a mestiza woman, a mixture of Spanish and Indigenous heritage, with dark-toned skin and long black flowing hair. Behind her was an oval of beaming rays that resembled the sun. She was clothed in a rose-colored robe with a blue-green mantle, adorned with gold stars and a golden edge. On her protruding womb was a bow with a four-petal floral design that depicted abundant new life. She wore a black tassel above her womb, which was an Aztec indication of pregnancy. She was standing on a crescent moon held by an angel. Her general appearance was one of great sanctity, peace, gentleness, and high nobility.

As soon as she appeared, she spoke to Juan in his native Nahuatl language, referring to him affectionately as "Juanito, Juan Dieguito..." (My little Juan, my dear Juan Diego), and lovingly introducing herself to him as the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. She told Juan that she wanted a church built on that very spot in her honor and instructed him to inform Bishop Zumárraga of her request. Juan did so that same day, but the bishop needed time to think about his request. Juan then returned home by the same route and once again encountered the Mother of God at the same spot. He regretfully informed her that the bishop did not agree to her request and humbly suggested to her that she pick someone more important for the task so that the bishop would more easily agree. Smiling, the Blessed Virgin Mary informed Juan that he was her chosen one and that he should return to renew her request to the bishop.

The following morning, December 10, Juan did as the Mother of God had asked. He returned to the bishop's residence and informed him that the Virgin Mary appeared a second time, renewing her request. This time, the bishop appeared to be more open and told Juan that if the Mother of God appeared to him a third time, he should ask her for a sign so the bishop could be certain that the request came from her. While returning to his home, the Virgin Mary appeared to him a third time at the same spot and Juan informed her of the bishop's request. The Mother of God agreed to meet that request and instructed him to return to her at their meeting spot the following day.

The next day Juan's uncle, Juan Bernardino, came down with a sudden and severe illness, so Juan remained with him all day and was unable to go to meet his heavenly mother. Very early the next morning, Juan Bernardino's condition worsened, so Juan Diego set off for the city to ask a priest to come to anoint him. Because he was in a hurry and feared being delayed by the Mother of God, Juan took an alternate route to the city, but the Mother of God appeared to him on that route. When Juan informed her of his uncle's illness, the Mother of God exclaimed with love, "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" She assured Juan that she had already cured his uncle, which was confirmed when Juan arrived home to his uncle who informed Juan that he, too, had experienced an apparition of the Mother of God who healed him. In the meantime, the Mother of God asked Juan to climb a hill where he would find roses that were not in bloom that time of year. He did so, picked them, and returned to her. She rearranged the roses in his cloak (tilma) and told him to go to the bishop and show him the roses as proof for him. So Juan set off for the bishop's residence.

After arriving, Juan remained waiting for a long time. When he was finally announced and entered the bishop's residence, he opened his tilma and poured the roses on the ground, telling the bishop that they were the sign he asked for. As he did so, the Mother of God imprinted her image on Juan's tilma, just as she had appeared to him. The bishop fell to his knees and venerated her. The bishop kept Juan's tilma in his chapel until he built a chapel in compliance with the wishes of the Mother of God. Bishop Zumárraga led an elaborate procession to the new Tepeyac Hill chapel, where he enshrined the tilma on December 26, 1531. Juan was so transformed by the experience that he successfully requested permission from the bishop to build a hut nearby and live as a hermit and guardian of the image. From that time on, Juan's prayer life grew deep and his virtues became continuously more pronounced. The story spread rapidly among the Aztec peoples of every tribe, and many came to venerate the holy image, while Juan Diego offered hospitality and further details that inspired many conversions.

The tilma itself is believed to be miraculous for many reasons. The cloth on which the image is imprinted is made from cactus and normally disintegrates after about fifteen years. The tilma, however, is now almost 500 years old and is in perfect condition. The image itself does not appear to have been painted by human hands. There are no brush marks, and it has remained vibrant over the years without fading. No underlying sketch of the image can be found by modern scientific techniques. The eyes of the Virgin have been examined under magnification and reportedly reveal a reflection of the bishop on his knees along with some others nearby. In 1921, a bomb exploded next to the image in an attempt to destroy it, bending a thick medal cross on the same altar but leaving the image undamaged.

Perhaps the greatest sign of the miraculous nature of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the spiritual impact that it has had upon the native people of Mexico and throughout the world. The fact that Our Lady appeared as a mixture of native and Spaniards was her way of communicating to the natives that God wanted them to be open to the message of the Gospel from the Spanish missionaries. The bishop who built the chapel, the priests who served there, and especially the native Juan Diego himself could be trusted, and the message they had to share was heavenly. Miracles followed and conversions took place at a pace previously unseen by missionaries. Our Lady proved herself to be the greatest of evangelizers. Her appearance as a mixture of Spaniard and Indigenous also sent a message to the Spaniards that they needed to treat their new neighbors as family.

Today the Basilica in which the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is enshrined remains one of the most sacred places of inspiration and pilgrimage in the Americas. She is patroness of the Americas and is especially revered in Mexico. As we honor this sacred apparition of the Mother of God, ponder the ongoing miracle of the 500year-old tilma of Saint Juan Diego. To this simple and humble man, God sent His mother as a missionary; through him, the Blessed Virgin Mary's message resonates today.

Prayer: Dearest Mother, Queen of Heaven and Earth, Ever-Virgin and Lady of Guadalupe, your love for the people of Central America led you to appear to a humble Christian and entrust him with a sacred task. His willingness to fulfill your will led to the conversion of countless people who will now spend their eternity with you in Heaven. Please pray for me, and for the Americas, that we will never turn away from your divine Son and will always rely upon your motherly intercession. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

Friday, December 13 – Obligatory Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr. Lived about 283– 304; Patron Saint of blind people, martyrs, peasants, penitent prostitutes, poor people, sick children, authors, cutlers, farmers, glassmakers, glaziers, gondoliers, laborers, lawyers, maidservants, notaries, eye doctors, porters, printers, saddlers, sailors, salesmen, seamstresses, tailors, upholsterers, weavers, and writers; Invoked against dysentery, epidemics, hemorrhages, throat infections, fire, poverty, and spiritual blindness.

"Quote: December 13: At Syracuse, in Sicily, the birthday of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, in the persecution of Diocletian. By the order of the ex-consul Paschasius, she was delivered to profligates, that her chastity might be insulted; but when they attempted to lead her away, they could not succeed, either with ropes or with many yoke of oxen. Then pouring hot pitch, rosin, and boiling oil over her body without injuring her, they finally plunged a sword into her throat, and thus completed her martyrdom. -Official Roman Martyrology"

"As we honor this saint who was crowned with virginity and martyrdom, ponder the courage and resolve she had to choose death over a life of nobility. She fell in love with her divine Spouse, He entered into union with her, and she turned her eyes firmly upon His holy will. Seek to imitate Saint Lucy's courage and resolve, choosing Christ and Him alone, renouncing all that is contrary to His holy will.

Prayer: Saint Lucy, you grew deep in faith at a young age, committed yourself to your God, and never turned back. Please pray for me, that I will have your strength, wisdom, and charity so that I will unwaveringly fulfill the will of God, choosing Him above all else. Saint Lucy, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Saturday, December 14 – Obligatory Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church.

"Saint John of the Cross endured many trials throughout his life, but God used those trials as a foundation for the spiritual formation he would provide to the Church through his masterful mystical theology. It could be argued that no one has captured the depths of the spiritual life, leading us to Divine Union and Mystical Marriage, better than Saint John of the Cross. He did not shy away from describing, in great detail, the interior purifications a soul must endure on that journey to complete freedom.

As we honor that great saint and mystical doctor of the Church, ponder the profound spiritual truth—that complete union with God is an ongoing process that requires total surrender, interior purgations of the senses and spirit, mortification, and mystical annihilation. Though these concepts are deep and utterly otherworldly, they are beautiful truths that the Church continues to uphold. Allow Saint John to inspire you to go deeper in your faith journey so that your divine union will evolve and blossom into the glorious life God desires for you.

Prayer: Saint John of the Cross, through the sufferings you endured in your youth and as a friar, God purified you and called you deeper. You responded, and through you the Carmelites were reformed, and from you came a wealth of spiritual treasures in your teachings. Please pray for me, that I will never shy away from the sufferings of the Cross but will see those sufferings as the means of my deeper union with our loving God. Saint John of the Cross, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – A reminder that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9 this year. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The faithful are required to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this day, just as they are every Sunday. TO DISREGARD THIS IS SERIOUSLY SINFUL. The Mass schedule for our parishes is as follows. All Masses are on Monday, December 9; there are no Vigil Masses.:

At Holy Family – 7:00 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.; 7:00 p.m. At St. Thomas – Noon; 5:30 p.m.

-ADDRESSES – For your convenience, we have placed the addresses of those Priests, Deacons, Religious, and those in Formation who have either served in our parishes or are from our parishes. If we have missed anyone, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. May you continue to have a most Blessed Advent. You remain in my prayers each day.

-Fr. Aaron

HOLY FAMILY PARISH ADVENT STUDY PROGRAM

Reminder that the parish Adult Faith Formation series will be held 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.

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 <u>aosullivan2031@gmail.com</u> 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 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.

CHRISTMAS CARD ADDRESSES

Below are addresses for the convenience of those wishing to send Christmas cards to clergy and deacons:

Fr. Aaron Kuhn P. O. Box 252 Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Fr. Stephen Thompson Holy Family Parish 2606 Washington Ave. Granite City, IL 62040 Fr. John Beveridge 1017 Meadows Ct. Maryville, IL 62062

Fr. David Beagles 202 South Lincoln Robinson, IL 62454

Fr. Mark Tracy Holy Family Parish 2400 S. Franklin St. Decatur, IL 62521 Fr. Charles Edwards 2913 Bluff Ridge Dr. Quincy, IL 62305

Deacon and Mrs. Mike Ellerman 2322 St. Charles Drive Quincy, IL 62305

Deacon and Mrs. Paul Koch 7 Highland Park Drive Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Heldt 1062 050E St. Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Fr. John Patrick Day, C.P. c/o Passionist Monastery 1924 Newburg Road Louisville, KY 40205

Canon Benjamin Coggeshall St. Francis de Sales Oratory 2653 Ohio Ave. St. Louis, MO 63118

Sister Mary Gabriel Villa Regina Motherhouse 4100 SW 56th St. Lincoln, NE 68522

Sister Marcelline Koch Sophia House 924 N. 7th St. Springfield, IL 62702

Sister M. Samuella Volk Sacred Heart Convent, Motherhouse 1237 W. Monroe St. Springfield, IL 62704

Sister JoAnn Volk, SSND 4200 Minnesota Ave., Apt. E St. Louis, MO 63111

