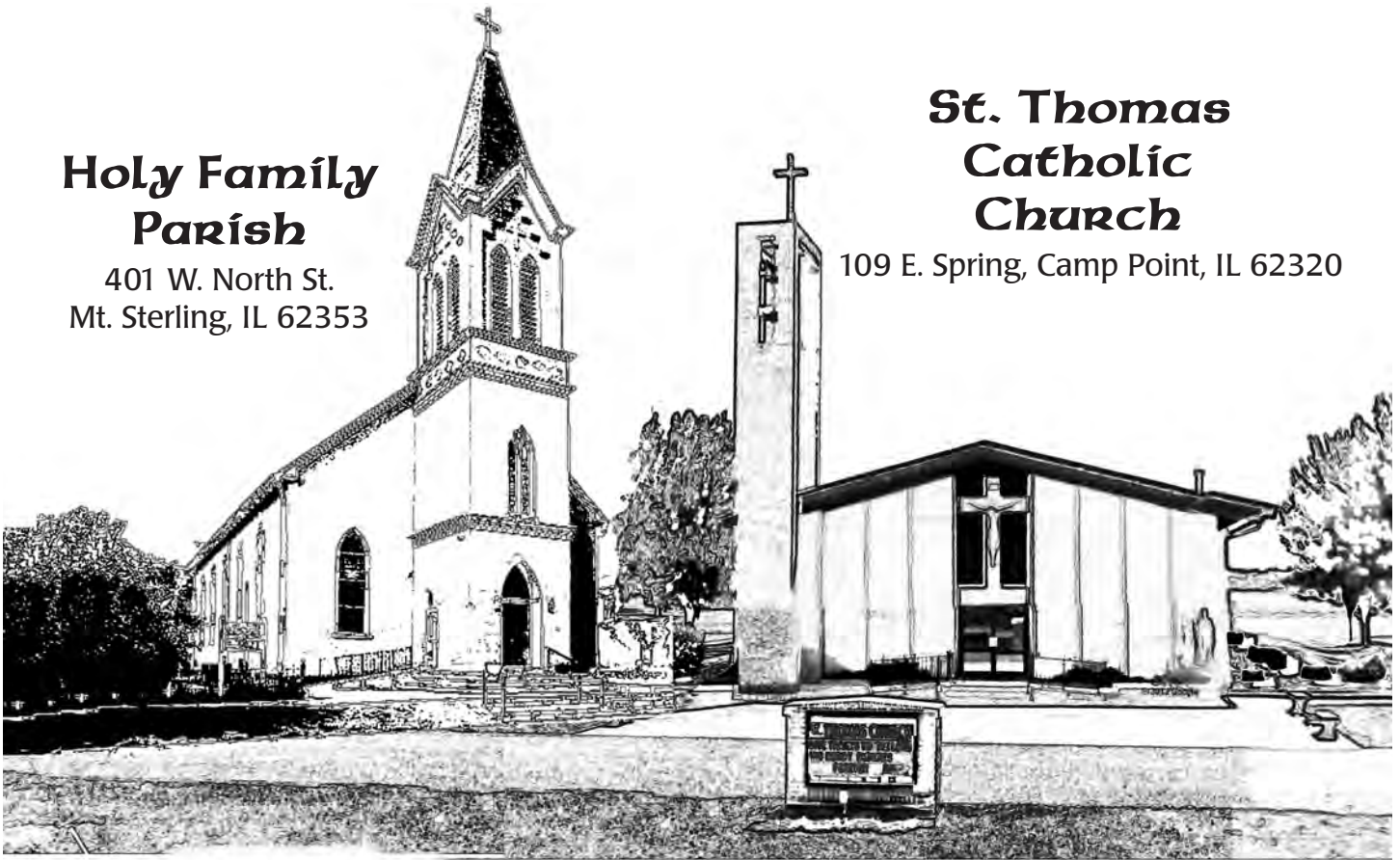


Holy Family Parish

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, January 20 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 21 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28

Amy Ormond Lucky
(By Joan Siebers & Pat Barry)

Wednesday, January 22 – 7:00 a.m.

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn
Children
Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6

Charles Koch
(By Tom & Judy Nolan)

Thursday, January 23 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
Hebrews 7:25-8:16; Mark 3:7-12

Robert Kemper
(By Greg & Elizabeth Likes)

AT ST. THOMAS – 5:30 p.m.

Father Aaron's Intentions

Friday, January 24 – 8:30 a.m.

(School Mass)

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19

Maurice Ormond
(By Linda Colgan)

Saturday, January 25 – 8:00 a.m.

Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
Acts of the Apostles 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18

Father Aaron's Intentions

Holy Family – 5:30 p.m.

Jim McKeown
(By Tammy)

Sunday, January 26 – 8:00 a.m.

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30;
Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Larry Langan
(By Jim & Jim Gronewold)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 1, 2025

Holy Family: \$311.00
New Year's Day: \$430.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$670.00
First Offering: \$95.00

January 4-5, 2025

Holy Family: \$3,741.77
Sister Parish: \$30.00
Christmas: \$50.00
School Support: \$725.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$80.00
Debt Reduction: \$300.00
New Year's: \$100.00
First Offering: \$60.00
Church in Latin America: \$5.00
ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$40.00
Catholic Times: \$120.00

January 11-12, 2025

Holy Family: \$7,880.00
Sister Parish: \$215.00
School Support: \$640.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$15.00
Debt Reduction: \$130.00
Christmas: \$5.00
New Year's: \$40.00
First Offering: \$55.00
Church in Latin America: \$30.00
Catholic Times: \$400.00
Cemetery: \$20.00
Catholic Children's Home: \$5.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 5, 2025

St. Thomas: \$1,888.00

January 12, 2025

St. Thomas: \$3,316.00
Catholic Times: \$280.00

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 † Dyson Ham †

Caden Callihan † Pam Dunbar †

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. As I've shared before, Ordinary Time is anything but "ordinary." "What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday, like all Sacraments, is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the Kingdom. [Again], this is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living."

Additionally, "besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the Mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the Mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time. (Universal Norms, 43)."

Ordinary Time began last Monday, January 13 and continues through Tuesday, March 4, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. It will resume when the Easter Season ends, this year, that is on Monday, June 9, the day following Pentecost.

In the readings for today, we hear that at Cana in Galilee, Jesus performed the first of His signs, revealing His glory to His disciples and later to all nations. He has revealed as well the manifestation of the Spirit who distributes different gifts as He chooses.

-SACRAMENTS - Seven Third Graders from Holy Family and four from St. Thomas will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion on Saturday, February 1 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. Please keep these children, their families, and sponsors in your prayers. This is an exciting and important time. The kids have been preparing for these Sacraments all school year. We look forward to this great celebration.

More information to follow but we will celebrate this locally at each parish. At Holy Family we will do this on that same day at the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass with a reception following in the School Cafeteria. At St. Thomas we will do this the next day at the 10:00 a.m. Mass with a reception following in the parish hall.

-DAY OF PRAYER - Wednesday, January 22, marks the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe vs. Wade in 1973. Though this decision was overturned a couple years ago, we still very much have a need to protect and pray for the protection of all human life in all stages from conception through natural death. There are still many threats against human life and the dignity and sanctity of human life. An individual life begins at the moment of conception. That cannot be changed. Additionally, we are called to support, nurture and protect life in all stages through natural death.

As such, "all Dioceses of the United States shall observe a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, GIRM, 373)

This is for all of us and should not be taken lightly. I urge you to enter into that

prayer and penance that we are each called to in a very particular way that day.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, January 20 - Optional memorials of St. Fabien, Pope and Martyr and St. Sebastian, Martyr.

St. Fabien: "Fabian was most likely born around the year 200. Nothing is known about his early life, except that he was chosen in a miraculous fashion to serve as the pope for fourteen years.

After the death of Pope Anterus, Fabian traveled from his farm to the city of Rome to attend the election of the new pope. No one present considered Fabian as an option for the papacy, since there were other far more noble churchmen under consideration. During the public discussions, however, all that changed when a dove descended upon Fabian, similar to the way a dove descended upon Jesus at His baptism. When the astonished crowd saw this, they cheerfully chose Fabian as the new Bishop of Rome.

Fabian's reign as pope began during a relatively peaceful period in Rome. However, once the Emperor Decius came to power in 249 A.D., he issued an edict that required everyone in his empire to offer sacrifice both to the Roman gods and for the good of the emperor himself. Those who refused risked imprisonment or death.

In the face of persecution and the threat of death, some Christians went through the motions of offering sacrifice in order to save their lives. Others fled and hid. Pope Fabian was among those who looked persecution and death in the face and accepted his cruel end, as did our Lord. Pope Fabian and many other Christians died as martyrs for the faith.

Prayer: Saint Fabian, you were divinely chosen as the Vicar of Christ on earth. In your humility and obedience to the will of God, you not only bore this heavy responsibility but also died for it. Please pray for me, that I may have the same courage as you to face an un-Christian culture bravely and accept the consequences of such a choice, no matter the cost. Saint Fabian, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

St. Sebastian: "Saint Sebastian was born in Narbonne, Gaul (modern-day France) and raised in Milan, Italy. The Roman empire's persecution of Christians resumed when Sebastian was an adolescent. He joined the

Roman army in 283, hoping to have access to jailed Christians. Not knowing Sebastian's faith, Emperor Diocletian made him one of his bodyguards and intelligence officers the following year.

Soon after, Sebastian intervened when twin brothers Marcus and Marcellianus—imprisoned for their faith—were being pressured by family and friends to deny Christ. Sebastian revealed to all at the jail that he was a Christian. He so persuasively exhorted the imprisoned brothers to stay strong in their faith that the brothers' parents, sixteen prisoners, and more than sixty other family and friends were converted and baptized.

While many of the new converts moved to the countryside for safety, Sebastian stayed in Rome to assist persecuted Christians. In 286, Diocletian discovered Sebastian was a Christian and ordered his brutal and public execution. After archers pierced his torso and limbs with arrows, Sebastian was untied and left for dead. Instead, a holy woman named Irene found Sebastian, removed his arrows, and nursed him back to health.

Restored to health, Sebastian presented himself before the emperor and firmly accosted him for his cruelty towards Christians. Shocked that Sebastian was still alive and angered by his words, Diocletian once again ordered his execution. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs and thrown into a sewer.

After his death, Sebastian appeared in a vision to a holy woman named Lucina. She obeyed his request to remove his remains from the sewer and bury him in the catacombs of Callixtus. A basilica was built there in his memory and remains an important pilgrimage site today. In later centuries, Saint Sebastian became well-known for his intercessory prayer, especially in fighting off the bubonic plague in the fourteenth century. More recently, he has been honored as the patron saint of athletes because of his dogged perseverance.

Prayer: Saint Sebastian, you received the glorious crown of martyrdom twice. Please pray for me, that I may have your same unwavering courage and thus equally fulfill God's will, no matter how high the cost. Saint Sebastian, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Tuesday, January 21 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Agnes, Martyr.

“History tells us little about Saint Agnes, except that she was martyred at the age of twelve or thirteen. One tradition says that Emperor Constantine the Great, who legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire, had a daughter who contracted leprosy. After she prayed at Agnes’ grave, the young girl was healed, and Constantine ordered the construction of a church over the gravesite. To this day, the faithful beseech Agnes’ intercession in that church.

Born into a noble Christian family in Rome, Agnes was beautiful, wealthy, and holy. Though that made her attractive to many young noblemen, Agnes wanted only to love Jesus and dedicated herself to a life of virginity.

One frustrated suitor reported Agnes to Sempronius, the local prefect, for being a Christian. Sempronius tried to convince Agnes to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, but she refused. The prefect threatened Agnes with torture, but when she showed no fear, he ordered that she be taken to brothels to be sexually violated.

At the brothels, most men were afraid to approach Agnes. The one man who came to her was immediately struck blind and brought to the ground, only to have his sight restored after Agnes prayed for him.

The prefect, having failed to convert Agnes back to paganism, or to defile her body, then condemned her to a death by beheading. Agnes willingly offered her neck to the executioner, who trembled with fear as he approached, while she was as joyful as a bride waiting to meet her Bridegroom.

Saint Agnes, along with Saint Cecilia, was one of the earliest martyrs whose name was honored by its insertion into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I in today’s Mass.) Her name in Latin means “lamb.” As a result, since the sixteenth century, every year on her feast day two lambs are brought to the Roman basilica built over her tomb. Their wool is shorn and weaved into various pallia, vestments covering the shoulders. These very pallia are later placed on the shoulders of archbishops by the pope himself on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Along with his crozier, or staff, the pallium symbolizes a bishop’s role as shepherd.

Prayer: Saint Agnes, at a tender age you gave your life to Christ, choosing Him alone as your Spouse, and preferring death to betrayal.

Please pray for me, that I may also choose Christ as the Spouse of my soul and be faithful to Him even until death. Saint Agnes, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.”

-Thursday, January 23 – In the USA, optional memorials of St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr and St. Marianne Cope, Virgin.

St. Vincent: “Saint Vincent of Saragossa was born in today’s Spain and carries the title of “protomartyr,” indicating he was the first, or “proto,” man to die for Christ on the Iberian Peninsula. He is one of many martyrs who perished during Emperor Diocletian’s fierce persecution of the Church in the early 300s. As is common with the early saints, many legends are attributed to him.

According to these legends, Bishop Valerius of Saragossa, Spain had a speech impediment, so he ordained and appointed Deacon Vincent, who was well-spoken, as his personal preacher. The local Roman governor at the time, Dacian, ruthlessly carried out Diocletian’s edict to force Christians to renounce their faith by burning incense to Roman gods. Dacian had the elderly bishop and his deacon arrested and imprisoned. While in prison, with the permission of his bishop, Deacon Vincent gave testimony of his faith with serenity in the face of torture and death, and the governor was tormented by his own outrage.

Legend has it that Vincent was scourged, stretched on the rack, fixed to a fiery grate, lacerated with iron hooks, burned with a hot iron, and then thrown onto the prison floor covered with broken glass. Through it all, Vincent remained at peace, for he did not fear “those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” (Matthew 10:28). The legend concludes that Vincent’s joy in the face of this torture was so great that it caused one of his jailers to immediately convert.

The governor, however, was not yet done. He gave Vincent a soft bed on which to recuperate, hoping to entice him to renounce his God through comfort. But neither threats of violence nor promises of comforts held any appeal for Vincent. No sooner was he laid upon the bed than he died. His body was thrown to vultures, but ravens came to his defense. Another account, from a sermon by Saint Leo, states that Vincent’s body was cast into the sea, but Providence washed him ashore, and his fellow Christians gave him a dignified burial where a shrine was later erected over his grave. The place in southern

Spain where, according to legend, these final events unfolded, is now called Cape Saint Vincent. Flocks of ravens and vultures still hover over this very coast.

Saint Vincent, in the face of persecution and torture, you remained courageous, conquered the evil one by your fidelity, and were crowned with glorious martyrdom. Please pray for me, that I may also receive that crown through my daily sacrifices of love. Saint Vincent, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

St. Marianne Cope: Mother Marianne cared for the leprosy-stricken outcasts and their families for many years in Hawaii before her death of natural causes at the age of eighty. She never contracted the disease herself. "Two days after her death, a Honolulu newspaper wrote of the reverence for Mother Marianne among the Hawaiians: 'She impressed everyone as a real 'mother' to those who stood so sorely in need of 'mothering.'"

As we honor Saint Marianne Cope, consider the quality of your affection and sincere concern for society's "outcasts." The alcoholic, addict, criminal, impoverished, foreigner, and sinner are all images of Jesus waiting for your love. Allow this holy woman to inspire you to see it as a privilege to love those most in need.

Prayer: Saint Marianne, you laid down your life for those in need of your love and affection, embracing the outcast wholeheartedly with joy and gratitude. Please pray for me, that I may seek out the outcasts and help them come to know the love and mercy of our glorious God. Saint Marianne, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

Friday, January 24 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

"Just fifty years after the Protestant Reformation ignited in Europe, the future Saint Francis de Sales was born into a noble family in the Duchy of Savoy, modern-day France. He received an excellent education in civil law and theology but was deeply troubled by a lecture he attended at the age of nineteen on the Calvinist idea of predestination. Through prayer to Mary, he was freed from the error of thinking that he was destined for hell. He decided to pursue the priesthood in the hope of helping others who were subjected to erroneous theology.

His preaching focused on virtues, prayer, holiness, and overcoming sin and was clear,

respectful, truthful, and charitable. His motto was "He who preaches with love, preaches effectively."

After nine years as a priest and twenty years as a bishop, he suffered a stroke and died soon after. One of the last things he wrote were the words, "Humility, humility, humility," his dying exhortation to his flock.

As your bishop, Saint Francis de Sales would have regularly reminded you that holiness is not reserved for the monk alone; you are also called. He would have exhorted you to confess your sins, to grow in virtue, to believe in every truth revealed by God through His Catholic Church, and to seek to become a saint through daily prayer and meditation. Respond as one of his flock and resolve to follow the path God has in store for you, seeking to love Him and glorify Him with your life.

Prayer: Saint Francis de Sales, you tirelessly preached the faith to your flock, calling them to repentance, exhorting them to embrace a life of prayer and virtue, and helping them to more fully love God by fulfilling His will in their lives. Please pray for me, that I may seek to become a saint within the context of the vocation I have been given. Saint Francis, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Saturday, January 25 - Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

"When Saul was in his early twenties, Jesus of Nazareth began His public ministry during which He challenged the Pharisees' interpretations of the Law of Moses. After Jesus' crucifixion, Saul zealously devoted himself to persecuting Jesus' followers.

When Saint Stephen was stoned to death, the cloaks of those stoning Stephen were laid at Saul's feet, with his consent. Soon, the high priest of Jerusalem gave Saul a letter of permission to go beyond the city, searching from house to house to arrest those who followed Jesus and bring them back in chains to Jerusalem to stand trial. With that letter, Saul set out for Damascus.

'On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He said, 'Who are you, sir?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting' (Acts 9:3-5). Blinded,

Saul arose and was led to Damascus, where he fasted, prayed, and pondered for three days.

In a dream Jesus appeared to Ananias, one of His followers, and told him to go to Saul, lay his hands on him, heal him, and baptize him. Despite his fear, Ananias went to Saul, who listened, converted, was baptized, and began a new life as Jesus' apostle, using his Roman name "Paul."

He traveled far and wide for the next twenty-seven years, proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. At least thirteen of the twenty-seven New Testament books are traditionally attributed to Paul, providing us with much of what we know about Jesus. His letters are not only historical, they are rich in theology, providing a sturdy foundation for Christians belief. He was tireless in his efforts, despite enduring physical suffering and danger.

In his mid-fifties, Paul was arrested and spent years in prison. As a Roman citizen, he was eventually sent to Rome for trial. There, he suffered martyrdom at around the age of sixty. Tradition states that he was beheaded with a sword.

Prayer: Saint Paul, after you encountered Jesus, you changed your life and became one of the most zealous evangelists in the history of the world. Please pray for me, that I may embrace the same zeal you had and allow Jesus to convert my soul as fully as you allowed Him to convert you. Saint Paul, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

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

-Fr. Aaron

Annual Whole Hog Sausage & Pancake Day

St. Edward Church, Mendon, Annual Whole Hog Sausage and Pancake Day with biscuits and gravy. Sunday, February 9 from 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Adults \$12; 10 and under \$6. To place a meat order by February 5 call Lindsey at 430-7437 or stedwardsmeatorders@gmail.com.

K OF C WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE SALE

Knights of Columbus Council 1281 is having a whole hog sausage sale. \$6.00 per pound. Pickup will be February 1, 2025 from 8-11 for fresh. Frozen pickup after February 1, 2025 by appointment. Make checks payable to K of C 1281. You can pre-pay or pay at pickup. Contact Kent Boylen (217-257-0761) with questions. There are order forms on the bulletin board at Holy Family.

HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Cheryl Dillard in memory of Bob & Sylva Dixon, Terry Dillard & Julie Link

Amy Moore in memory of Ellen Moore

Norma Hufnagel in memory of Emmett & Dorothy Lehne, Robert & Darlene Lehne, Elmer & Evelyn Hufnagel and Ramon E. Hufnagel

Larry Volk in memory of Jennifer Volk

Jim & Doris Duvendack in memory of M/M Ralph Bollin, M/M Richard Duvendack and Craig Bollin

Mary Kassing and Family in memory of Vic, Allen and Joyce Kassing

Carol Blentlinger in memory of The Volk, Blentlinger & Moroney Families

Penny Ebbing in memory of Mark Ebbing

Martha Fluckey in memory of Gelasius & Margery Henrick

Jane Veith in memory of Lawrence & Mary Veith Family, Joseph & Rosa Klingele Family, Frank & Edith Veith Family and Father Cyril Wagner

Cheryl Flynn in memory of Vernon & Jeanette Flynn and Greg Flynn

Barb Lehne in memory of William, Helen and Aaron Koch

Connie Taylor in memory of Russell & Louise Taylor, Cindy Harper-Coats and Carroll Hedden

Vada Yingling

Thank you to all that contributed!

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