

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 27 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Angela Merci, Virgin & Religious Founder Hebrews 9:15, 24-28; Mark 3:22-30

Communion Service

Tuesday, January 28 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church Hebrews 10:1-10; Mark 3:31-35

Teresa Robinson (By Robin & Claudia Coggeshall)

Wednesday, January 29 - 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 10:11-18: Mark 4:1-20

Mike Rolf (By Neal Wagner)

Thursday, January 30 - 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 10:19-25; Mark 4:21-25

Father Aaron's Intentions

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

Irene Norkus (By Pat Sharow)

<u>Friday, January 31 – 8:30 a.m.</u> (School Mass)

St. John Bosco, Priest Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34

Mark Ebbing (By Barb Lehne)

Saturday, February 1 - 7:00 a.m.

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 1:35-41

Father Aaron's Intentions

Holy Family - 5:30 p.m.

Russell & Louise Taylor (By Connie Taylor)

Sunday, February 2 - 8:00 a.m.

The Presentation of the Lord Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Tom Schneider (By Nancy Schneider & Family)

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 18-19, 2025

Holy Family: \$4,353.00 Sister Parish: \$75.00 School Support: \$70.00 Solemnity of Mary: \$60.00 First Offering: \$40.00 Catholic Times: \$150.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

January 19, 2025

St. Thomas: \$2,317.00 Candles: \$18.00 Catholic Times: \$87.00

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 † Pam Dunbar †

ST. THOMAS

Altar and Rosary Society meeting time for Sunday January 26, 2025, has been moved up to 3:30 p.m.

Pauline Seals will be celebrating her 95th birthday on February 6. If you would like to wish her a happy birthday by sending her a card, her address is:

Pauline Seals Good Samaritan Home 2130 Harrison Street Quincy, IL 62301

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday or Ordinary Time. In the first reading, Ezra the priest-scribe reads from the book of the law, interpreting so that all could understand. He enjoins them, "today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep." In the second reading, Paul writes that, in Christ, all are one body. Each part of the body has a purpose to fulfill. In the Gospel, Jesus returns to Nazareth. There he reads in the synagogue and announces that the passage is fulfilled in their hearing.

Rejoicing in the Lord must be our strength. The priest-scribe Ezra proclaims the law of Moses to the Jewish people who had returned from exile in Babylon. Upon hearing the words of the law for the first time in a generation, the people weep. Their sorrow at not having adhered to the law for so long should call attention to our own infidelities to God's law. But most of all, this people's wholehearted response to the law can fill us with gratitude to God for revealing His merciful love to us in Jesus Christ.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Monday, January 27 – Optional memorial of St. Angela Merici, Virgin. Lived 1474–1540; Patron Saint of sickness, death of parents, disabled, handicapped, or physically challenged people; Canonized May 24, 1807, by Pope Pius VII; Liturgical Color: White. "Angela was the youngest of five children born into a faith-filled family in Desenzano in northern Italy. Raised on a farm just outside of town, Angela loved to hear her father read from "The Golden Legend" about the lives of the saints. Within a short period of time, however, Angela's parents and sister died. She and her brothers were entrusted to the care of an uncle who continued her education in and love for the faith.

As a young woman, Angela joined the Third Order Franciscans, the lay branch of the Franciscan Order who lived their vocations in the midst of the world. Angela wore the simple Franciscan Tertiary habit and moved back to her family home in Desenzano.

Angela received the gift of visions that inspired her to teach young girls about God and to form them for holy living. Young girls who would gather in Angela's home each day to learn to be better Christians. Soon, other young single women began to welcome girls into their homes, and the laywomen teachers formed a loose association among themselves, joining in a united mission and lay vocation. After twenty years in Desenzano, Angela was invited to start another house in the nearby city of Brescia.

In Brescia, Angela counseled many, including former prostitutes, the upper class, the poor, and all who sought her guidance. In 1535, at the age of sixty-one, she fulfilled the final part of her mission when she gathered twenty-eight other virgins to form the lay organization of women known as the Company of Saint Ursula, the first secular institute for laity in the history of the Church. A couple of years later, Angela was elected the mother of this new company and remained so until her death in 1540. Though the Company of Saint Ursula remains today, some of its first members branched off into a new religious order called the Ursulines under the leadership of Archbishop Saint Charles Borromeo of Milan in 1572. Both the Ursulines and the Company of Saint Ursula, which are

distinct entities in the Church, point to Saint Angela as their founder.

God used Saint Angela for a unique mission. At first, her mission was a personal mission of loving girls and guiding them to God in her home. Eventually, God expanded that mission and enfolded it into His Church.

God does not call every person to start a new movement within the Church or to spark the beginnings of a religious order, but He does call us all to see the needs of those around us and work to meet those needs with love and devotion. Ponder the needs that are present around you and in imitation of Saint Angela, offer yourself to God so that you may help meet those needs in accord with God's divine will.

Prayer: Saint Angela, after losing many within your beloved family, God gave you new spiritual children to care for as a spiritual mother. You embraced that calling, and much good fruit was borne in the Church. Please pray for me, that I may care for those whom God has placed in my life, devoting myself to serving them in accord with God's perfect will. Saint Angela, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Tuesday, January 28 – Obligatory Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church. Lived 1225– 1274; Patron Saint of students, Catholic schools, apologists, booksellers, chastity, philosophers, publishers, scholars, theologians; Invoked against storms; Canonized by Pope John XXII on July 18, 1323; Proclaimed Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius V in 1567; Liturgical Color: White.

"Given Saint Thomas Aquinas' impact on the development of Church doctrine and our understanding of the faith, he is regarded as the greatest intellectual in Church history. He is a Doctor of the Church and holds the titles Angelic Doctor, Common Doctor, and Universal Doctor.

Thomas was born in a grand castle in central Italy near the town of Aquino. He began his studies at the age of five at the famous Benedictine Monastery, Monte Cassino, where his uncle was abbot. At age fourteen, he moved to the University of Naples where he came into contact with members of the Dominican order. Five years later, he would greatly disappoint his family by choosing the Dominicans over the Benedictines, who held a place of honor within Europe's feudal system.

The Dominicans sent Thomas to Paris where he became a student under intellectual giant Brother Albert, now known as Saint Albert the Great, Brother Thomas was especially drawn to Aristotle's philosophy, which would become the foundation of much of his future writings. As Thomas continued his studies under Brother Albert, he became more reserved in class as he grew in the virtue of humility, rarely speaking up, debating, or revealing his keen intellect. His quiet nature led his fellow students to give him the nickname "Dumb Ox." One day, Brother Albert gave Thomas a difficult question to answer and asked him to present his answer to the class the next day. After Thomas did so, his fellow students were in awe and Brother Albert said of him, "You call him the Dumb Ox, but in his teaching he will one day produce such a bellowing that it will be heard throughout the world."

In 1252, at the age of twenty-six, Brother Thomas received the title "Master in Theology" from the pope. For the next twenty-two years, he wrote books, sermons, commentaries on Scripture, and even composed some of our Church's most beautiful hymns, including Pange Lingua. He continued as a teacher, preacher, and papal theologian in Paris, Naples, Orvieto, and Rome.

Among his many works, Saint Thomas is best known for the Summa Theologica, or "Summary of Theology," which he never completed. After experiencing a vision while celebrating Mass one day, he told his scribe, Brother Reginald, that he could no longer write. When Brother Reginald asked him why, he responded, "Reginald, I cannot, because all that I have written seems like straw to me." Brother

Thomas died the next year after a series of illnesses.

Despite his brilliance, Saint Thomas was also humble and sincere. A story told by one early biographer relates that as Brother Thomas was praying one morning before the crucifix, he anxiously implored the Lord as to whether or not his writings were correct. Jesus spoke to him saying, "You have written well of Me, Thomas, what shall be your reward?" Thomas replied, "Nothing but You, Lord."

Prayer: Saint Thomas, you listened to God's voice, pondered all that He revealed, and used your gifts to share these truths with the Church. Please pray for me, that I may open my mind to the many truths that God wants to speak to me so that the Truth Himself will become the center of my mission in life. Saint Thomas, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-Friday, January 31 – Obligatory Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest. 1815– 1888; Patron Saint of apprentices, boys, editors, laborers, magicians, students; Canonized by Pope Pius XI on April 1, 1934; Liturgical Color: White.

I found this quote from St. John Bosco particularly powerful. It is from a letter he had written and should hopefully speak to each of us as the Lord transforms us: "My sons, in my long experience, very often I had to be convinced of this great truth. It is easier to become angry than to restrain oneself, and to threaten a boy than to persuade him. Yes, indeed, it is more fitting to be persistent in punishing our own impatience and pride than to correct the boys. We must be firm but kind and be patient with them. See that no one finds you motivated by impetuosity or willfulness."

"The youngest of three sons, John Bosco was born into a poor family in northwest Italy in the rural hamlet of Becchi. His father, a farmhand, died when John was only two. Until the age of twelve, John helped support his family by working as a shepherd and farmhand.

Inspired by a dream at the age of nine, John sought to care for young boys in

need of guidance. Beginning at the age of ten, he would attend the shows of entertainers who performed juggling, magic tricks, and acrobatics. John studied their shows and then imitated them for other boys, always including prayers within the show and lessons he learned from Sunday sermons.

After John left home at the age of twelve to search for work, he caught the attention of a newly ordained priest and future saint, Father Joseph Cafasso, who saw John's intellectual gifts and assisted him with his education. With the aid of some money from John's mother, Father Cafasso helped John enroll in the seminary at the age of twenty. After six years of study, John was ordained a priest.

Father John joined Father Cafasso in Turin to continue his studies at the Institute of Saint Francis where Father Cafasso was in charge. The two also engaged in ministry to the poor and imprisoned, cared for girls at a boarding school, and assisted in country parishes. It was in the prisons that Father John became aware of the number of boys who needed help. Father John's plan was to found an oratory to provide structure and purpose for these boys. He helped them get jobs by teaching trades. At the same time, he provided them with food and shelter, taught them catechism, and gave them moral guidance and hope. Within ten years, Father John was assisting as many as 800 boys in need.

Less than a decade later, in 1861, some of the boys Father John mentored wanted to follow in his footsteps and assist other boys. Father John founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales with a priest, seminarians, and a high school boy. The Salesian Order was formally approved by the Vatican in 1869. In 1871 Father John expanded his mission by founding a Salesian religious order of women called the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians to care for girls. Finally, in 1874 he founded the Salesian Cooperators, a lay organization that worked with the male and female Salesian Orders.

Saint John Bosco saw a need as he encountered troubled, imprisoned, poor, orphaned, but good-hearted young boys. He offered them loving discipline, friendship, education, skills to support themselves, and a family within his oratory. This loving concern for these young boys overflowed into the hearts of many others, and God used this saintly man to save many souls by raising up an army of workers to care for them.

Ponder those in your life who are troubled, abandoned, disgraced, or struggling in other ways. Strive to imitate Saint John Bosco by seeing the good in them and helping to draw that goodness out so that they will find hope in the midst of their struggles with despair.

Prayer: Saint John, your heart was touched by the plight of many suffering boys living in poverty and prison. You loved them with the heart of Christ and brought them hope. Please pray for me that I may see Christ in all people, working to build them up as a loving minister of God's compassionate heart. Saint John Bosco, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You."

-SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD – The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the Word of God. In his moto proprio of September 30, 2019, Aperuit illis, Pope Francis declared that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God...A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak His Word and to break bread in the community of believers."

-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – Begins today Sunday, January 26. We celebrate our Catholic Schools and give praise and thanks to God for all Catholic Schools and especially for the blessing of St. Mary School. Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary School. A special thank you and acknowledgement to all of our great teachers and staff as well.

-CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - On Saturday, February 1, the Third Graders from both parishes will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, administered by Bishop Paprocki at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. This is a joy-filled occasion.

Morning Mass that day will be at 7:00 a.m. at Holy Family so that I can get to Springfield in time for the Confirmation and First Holy Communion Mass.

We will celebrate this in our parishes that same weekend (next weekend), at the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass at Holy Family and at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Thomas. Those being Confirmed will be at those Masses in their respective parish in their First Communion attire. They will be seated in the front of the Church with their families. After Mass, I will invest each of them with the Brown Scapular and then we will have a reception with light refreshments afterwards...in the school cafeteria at Holy Family and in the parish Hall at St. Thomas. Please plan to join us.

Please keep the Confirmandi in your prayers as well as their parents (the first and primary teachers of the faith) and their sponsors who take on an important role and responsibility in the faith formation of these young people.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION – Saturday, February 1 is First Saturday and thus we will be having Nocturnal Adoration at Holy Family. It begins at 10:00 p.m. Saturday night and runs overnight. Benediction is at 7:45 a.m. followed by our regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Mass.

-POPE'S INTENTION – The Holy Father's Prayer intention for February is "for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the Priesthood and Religious Life."

I would like to also add a reminder to continue to pray for all Vocations including to the Permanent Diaconate and Sacramental Marriage in addition to Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. I ask you to also pray for those who are in Formation for these Vocations and for all those who are living out these Vocations.

I've mentioned it before, but I do want to say it again...seeing you faithfully living out your Vocation strengthens my own Priestly Vocation. Thank you! May each of us always know the grace of God to follow His Will in all things and to faithfully live out our Vocation.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS - "Much that is true of human relationships is also true of our relationship with God. Human relationships of friendship or marriage need time, attention, and care for them to continue and to grow. The same is true of our relationship with God. We have been called to union, but we need to respond. As we turn to God in conversion or in a deeper awakening, besides turning away from deliberate sin—which deforms the soul, blocks the relationship and offends the Person who has sacrificed His life for us—we need to positively build the relationship by paying attention to the One who loves us. Prayer is at root simply paying attention to God." -Ralph Martin, The Fulfillment of all Desire, p. 121.

-FROM THE SAINTS – St. Anthony of the Desert: "Earthly riches are like the reed. Its roots are sunk in the swamp, and its exterior is fair to behold; but inside it is hollow. If a man leans on such a reed, it will snap off and pierce his soul."

St. Margaret of Hungary: "Many of the people who look forward to a long life put off doing good works, since they think that they will have plenty of time before they die. As for me, I prefer to be among those who consider that they have no time to lose if they wish to give God all the glory that they can before they die."

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

<u>Annual Whole Hog Sausage</u> <u>& Pancake Day</u>

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.

TAX REPORTING

If any parishioner would like to receive a statement of contributions for calendar year 2024, please contact the school office at (217) 773-2825 (for Holy Family) and (217) 593-6685 (for St. Thomas). A contribution statement will not be provided unless a request is received. As always, we suggest you refer to your own personal contribution records if at all possible.

MT. STERLING CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery will be closing their books for 2023 shortly. If you wish to make an additional contribution, please drop in the collection or mail to: Mt. Sterling Catholic Cemetery, P.O. Box 252, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353.

