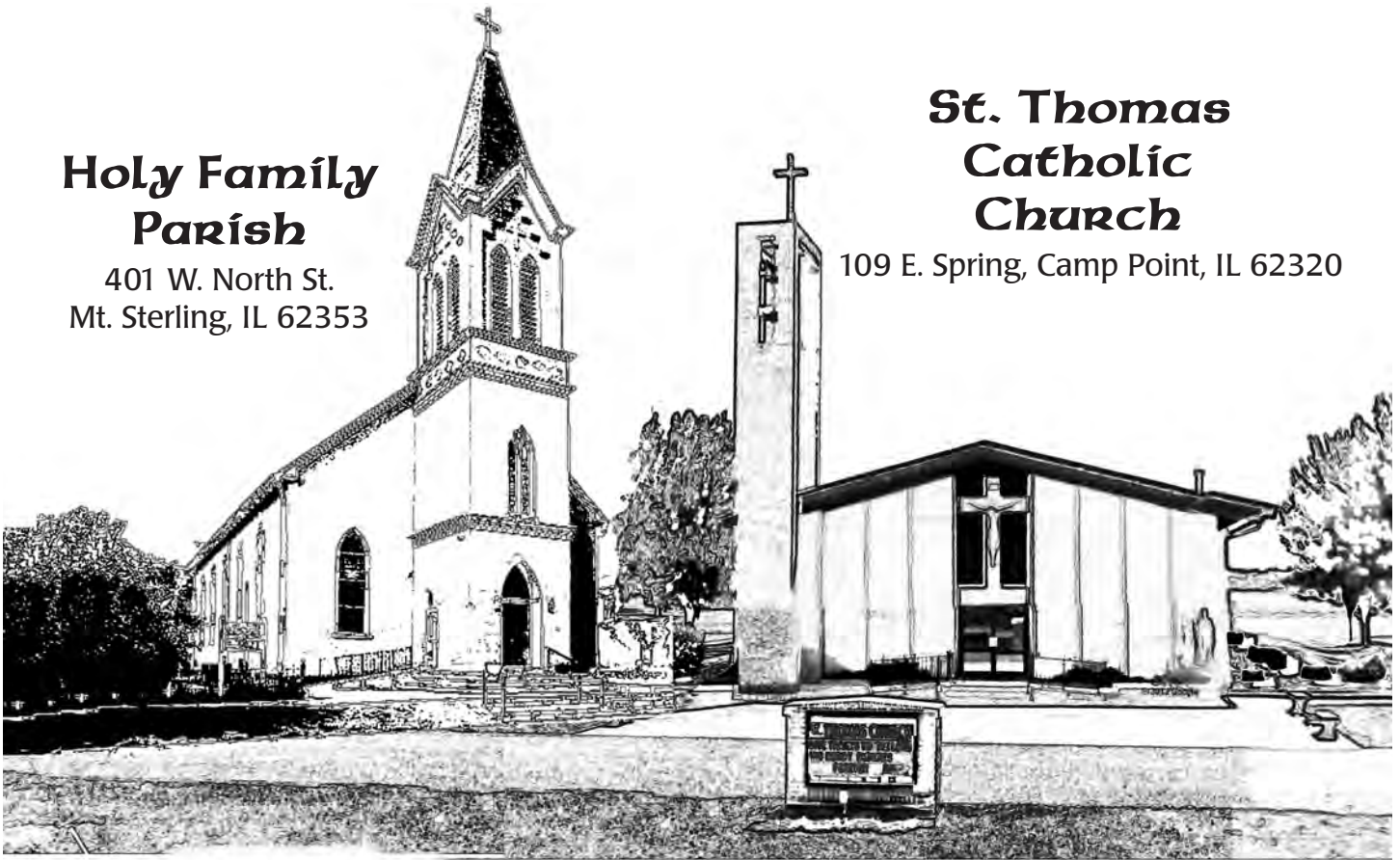


Holy Family Parish

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, April 14 – 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

Communion Service

Tuesday, April 15 – 7:00 a.m.

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Joe Ray

(By Karla & Luke Metz)

Wednesday, April 16 – 5:30 p.m.

Isaiah 50:4-91; Matthew 26:14-25

Amy Ormond Lucky

(By Sarah Markert, Liz Garrett & Dawn Dunn)

Stations of the Cross following Mass

Thursday, April 17 – 5:15 p.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-15

Tom Kuhn

Thursday, April 17 – 7:00 p.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Vic Kassing

(By Mary Kassing & Family)

Friday, April 18 – 11:00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross at Holy Family

Friday, April 18 – 3:00 p.m.

AT ST. THOMAS

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;
John 18:1-19:42

Good Friday Services

Friday, April 18 – 5:30 p.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Good Friday Services

Saturday, April 19 – 8:00 p.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Holy Saturday

Thomas J. Schneider

(By Martha Fluckey)

Sunday, April 20 – 6:30 a.m.

AT HOLY FAMILY

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4;
John 20:19-31

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

Holy Family – 8:00 a.m.

Floyd “Scotty” Blentlinger
(By Jerry & Lila Shoopman)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Robert Druffel & Lawrence Shaffer
(By Sheila Druffel)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 5-6, 2025

Holy Family: \$4,389.50

School Support: \$992.00

Sister Parish: \$30.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Debt Reduction: \$150.00

Rice Bowl: \$30.00

ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$35.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 6, 2025

St. Thomas: \$2,580.00

Catholic Relief: \$20.00

Candles: \$55.01

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.

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 †
Misha Follis Allen † Leona Dunn † Georgia Metz †
Marsha Wagner † Brandan Volk †

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Hall. There will be sign-up sheets in the back of church for those women who would like to attend and their guests.

St. Thomas Fish Fry Thank You - Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who helped or came to the Fish Fry, especially considering the impending weather for that night. We don't have a total of how many we served, but we had about 80 carry-outs, which is a lot. Altogether we cleared around \$2,300. Thanks, too, to everyone who returned their white envelopes with a donation. That sure helps towards the expenses. It was a good evening of coming together in fellowship and support for our parish. Thank you.

The SDCCW (Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) will be holding their Women of Distinction Mass and Banquet in Springfield on Saturday, June 21 this year. There are nomination forms in the back of church we are asking the women of St. Thomas to fill out for the woman who they feel exemplifies the SDCCW values of Leadership, Faith, and Service. A box will be in the back of church for you to place your nomination form in. The woman with the most nominations will be St. Thomas WOD for 2025. Any questions contact Claudia Coggeshall 217-653-6716 or rccogg@adams.net.

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

April 20 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Denise Taylor
Greeters:	Darren & Amy Hildebrand
Lector:	Karen Janssen
Eucharistic Minister:	Pat Sharow, Theresa Bockhold, Brent Obert
Servers:	Tess Obert, Charlie Reed

Gift Bearers:	Matt & Laura Evans Family
Collection Counters:	Robin Coggeshall
Ushers:	John Brady, Denny Campbell

EASTER FLOWERS

Holy Family Women's Guild is accepting donations for Easter flowers 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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and the beginning of Holy Week. Our Liturgy begins joyously as Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is recounted and we hear and proclaim Hosanna in the Highest. Yet very soon the mood of the Liturgy changes, in a sense, as we hear the Passion of the Lord proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word.

As we begin Holy Week, the most solemn week, we recall the suffering of Christ and what He has done for us. Do we really know and understand and take the time to contemplate this and the salvation that Christ brings to us?! It is incredible and frankly, should leave us in awe though sadly, sometimes it doesn't. We are reminded that indeed, we must enter into the suffering and death of Christ in order to share in the glory of His Resurrection. And really, that is what we live the entirety of our Christian lives for and so it is not only good, but necessary for us to both reflect on this and keep it always in our minds and our hearts.

We are reminded also of the suffering of others and our responsibility for compassion, that being much more than just kindness or even concern but the entering into the suffering of another.

Each year on Palm Sunday, we recount Jesus' Passion. We hear of the events leading up to His arrest, the agony of His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the passing of His case back and forth between Pilate, Herod, and the Sanhedrin. We can only try to imagine what it was like for the very Incarnation of God to be judged by human beings.

Through our Baptism, we are brought into the Paschal Mystery and we accompany Jesus during these trials. It is certainly not the

pleasant escape that we might find when we watch a movie or read a book. Rather, with Jesus' eyes we see the crowd whom He loves, shouting for His very death. With Him, we witness His closest friends abandon Him, deny Him, or watch from a distance. We see the cruelty of rulers and soldiers who mock Him, beat Him, and gamble for His garments. Jesus endures horrible suffering and a terrible death, a public and agonizing death of being nailed to a cross. Unpleasant, for sure! Why would He endure such? The answer...for you and His love for you.

Jesus' Death and Resurrection saves us from sin and death but even in Jesus' own terrible suffering and His triumph over death through His resurrection, suffering is not removed from our lives or the lives of those we love.

It can be terrifying to experience suffering ourselves or to walk with someone who is in distress. And we have choices when we do. We can be like Peter who denies, or the soldier who jeers, an acquaintance who watches, or Pilate who washes his hands of the matter. Or we can be like Joseph of Arimathea, who refuses to participate in an unjust persecution, or like the women who do not run from the agony of Jesus' death, but tended to his broken, lifeless body. Perhaps we will be like the centurion who praises God, even in the midst of darkness.

It is much easier, in the midst of affliction and suffering, to find a distraction...to turn on the television, to shop for the newest gadgets, to escape. Yet each year, Palm Sunday puts suffering squarely in our midst. Why? Because our suffering, and the suffering of the world, are bound to Christ's suffering. We are asked to enter into our Lord's Passion – to walk with Him, to accompany Him as He faces utmost cruelty, injustice, pain, abandonment, so that we may walk with others who suffer, that we may live out that responsibility of compassion.

Suffering is so very real for all of us and it's not just about physical pain. Suffering is found in our lives in a multitude of ways, often times hidden or unnoticed. As we enter into Christ's Passion and partake of His victory found in the Holy Eucharist, let us pray for the grace to see what is before us, to open our hearts to those who need us, and to be filled with compassion for those who suffer, just as Christ did, and continues to do, for us.

And now just a few notes:

- HOLY WEEK – Following is a summary of the celebrations during Holy Week. The schedule of these celebrations for both parishes are toward the end. This is the holiest of weeks and I encourage you to be very deliberate in keeping it holy.

-PALM SUNDAY - Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, this year, April 13.

-CHRISM MASS – For our Diocese, this takes place on the Tuesday of Holy Week in the evening (this year, April 15). Everyone is invited to attend and I encourage that. The Mass begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. Priests gather at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral that day for a Holy Hour.

This Mass is particularly significant for priests since at this Mass, the priests renew their Ordination Promises and the Bishop blesses the Sacred Oils that will be used for the year throughout the Diocese.

Each parish's new oils are sent home with the priests (or their representative) that evening. There are three Sacred Oils: Oil of Catechumens (used when bringing folks into the Church through Baptism), Oil of the Sick (used to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick where a person's forehead and palms of hands are anointed with this oil); Sacred Chrism (this oil is infused with Balsam which gives it a very pleasing smell). It is used in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders and for the dedication of a new Church or Chapel or Altar.

All of the oils are pure olive oil. The previous year's oils are normally burned in the "Easter" fire at the Easter Vigil. The new oils will be brought forward at each parish just prior to the start of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday

-PASCHAL TRIDUUM - This is a continuous celebration that begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Easter Sunday. Lent ends before Evening Prayer is celebrated on Thursday.

-HOLY THURSDAY (this year, April 17) – the celebration of the Lord's Supper. During the Liturgy, the priest (optionally) washes the feet of 12 people present. Enough hosts are consecrated for both that Liturgy and the celebration of Good Friday the following day since no Mass, anywhere in the world, is celebrated on Good Friday. At the conclusion of

the Mass, there is a procession with the Blessed Sacrament around the Church with the Blessed Sacrament being reposed at a "side" chapel or Altar. Folks are encouraged to spend time praying that evening by either remaining after Mass or returning sometime during the night. We leave the Church in silence this night.

Around Midnight, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in a Tabernacle other than the main Tabernacle. The main Tabernacle remains empty and open until The Easter Vigil.

After the Holy Thursday Liturgy, the Altar of Sacrifice is stripped and the Sanctuary is mostly emptied. It will remain this way until the start of the Easter Vigil with the exception of a Good Friday Service where only the necessary items are brought into the Sanctuary when needed.

As in the past I would like to have at least two people/couples/families at each parish sign up to be with and pray before the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the side Altar. Sign-up times will be for one hour after the initial time. For St. Thomas, this will be immediately after Mass until 11:00 p.m. and for Holy Family this will be immediately after Mass until Midnight. I have a sign-up sheet in the back of each Church. Please consider signing-up to spend some time in prayer that evening.

-GOOD FRIDAY (Friday of the Passion of the Lord) - this year, April 18. On this day, there is only a Service, no Mass.

Stations of the Cross are often prayed on this day. Silence is observed by many from Noon until 3:00 p.m., with this time spent in prayer and reflection.

The service includes 3 parts - Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the Holy Cross, and Holy Communion (Consecrated the night before at the Mass on Holy Thursday).

This is a Universal Day of Fast and Abstinence. The Paschal fast is observed everywhere and if possible, should extend from this day until the Easter Vigil to honor the Suffering and Death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more deeply in His Resurrection.

On this day, the Passion of the Lord is proclaimed once again during the Liturgy of the Word and the Solemn Intercessions are offered.

Once again, as for Holy Thursday, we leave the Church in silence on this day.

-HOLY SATURDAY (Easter Vigil) - This is the Liturgy where the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Eucharist) will be administered. The Easter Vigil is a more lengthy but beautiful celebration.

The Vigil may not begin before nightfall and must be concluded before daybreak on Sunday. The Vigil begins outside (if possible) where a fire is made (if possible) and the new Paschal candle is prepared.

The procession into the Church then takes place. The lights of the Church are off and those who are present will have individual candles that will be lit from the Paschal Candle during the procession in.

After the procession in and the lights of the Church are turned on, the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is made. This is followed by the Liturgy of the Word. In it, there are 9 readings total, seven from the Old Testament (it is permissible to have only 3) which is followed by the Gloria (which had been mostly silent during Lent) and the lighting of the Altar candles. Then there is one Epistle from the New Testament followed by the Gospel and a brief homily.

The Baptismal Liturgy occurs after the homily along with the Sacrament of Confirmation for the Elect. The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows and the Mass concludes as usual with a Solemn Blessing and Dismissal.

-EASTER SUNDAY(of the Resurrection of the Lord) - While the celebration of the Easter Vigil fulfills one's obligation to participate in the celebration of the Easter Liturgy, the faithful who participated in the Easter Vigil are, of course, welcome and even encouraged to participate in the Easter Sunday Liturgy as well.

-PASCHAL FAST - As noted above, Good Friday (this year, April 18) is a Universal Day of Fast and Abstinence. The Paschal fast is observed everywhere and if possible, should extend from this day until the Easter Vigil to honor the Suffering and Death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more deeply in His Resurrection.

Following are the Lenten regulations concerning Fast and Abstinence:

ABSTINENCE - Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

FAST - Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and

abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

-HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

-Saturday evening and Sunday (April 12-13)
- Regular Sunday Mass Schedule, 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday (April 12) at Holy Family; 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday (April 13) at Holy Family; 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday (April 13) at St. Thomas. Palms will be distributed and blessed at all Masses.

-Monday, April 14 - Communion Service at Holy Family, 7:00 a.m.

-Tuesday, April 15 - 7:00 a.m. Weekday Mass at Holy Family; Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Springfield, 6:30 p.m.

-Wednesday, April 16 - 8:30 a.m. Weekday Mass at Holy Family with the School and 5:30 p.m. evening weekday Mass followed by Stations of the Cross.

-Holy Thursday, April 17 - No morning Mass. Mass at St. Thomas, 5:15 p.m.; Mass at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed at a side Altar after each Mass for prayer and Solemn Adoration...at St. Thomas, until 11:00 p.m. and at Holy Family until Midnight.

-Good Friday, April 18 - No Masses this day anywhere in the world. Services at 3:00 p.m. at St. Thomas; Services at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family. Additionally, Stations of the Cross at Holy Family at 11:00 a.m.

-Holy Saturday, April 19 - No Masses until Easter Vigil. Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m. at Holy Family.

-Easter Sunday, April 20 - 6:30 a.m. and 8:00am Masses at Holy Family; 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas.

-CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK:

Holy Family:

-Wednesday, April 16 - 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

-Holy Thursday, April 17 - Noon - 12:30 p.m.

-Good Friday, April 18 - 11:30 a.m. - Noon

-Holy Saturday, April 19 - 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St. Thomas:

-Wednesday, April 16 - about 7:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

-Holy Thursday, April 17 - 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

-Good Friday, April 18 - 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

-Holy Saturday, April 19 - Noon - 12:30 p.m.

-EASTER FLOWERS - If you would like to make a contribution toward the Easter flowers, you still have time. If you do not have an envelope for this, simply place your contribution in an envelope and mark it "Easter Flowers." These contributions are often times made in memory of someone. If you are making such a contribution, please include the names of those folks either on or in the envelope so that I may offer prayers for them.

-HOLY THURSDAY SIGN-UPS - As noted above, I need two individuals, couples, or families to sign up at each parish to pray before the Blessed Sacrament after Mass on Holy Thursday. Anyone and Everyone is invited and encouraged to spend time in prayer then, but I need these folks to commit to being there during the sign-up time. It is generally one hour time slots beginning immediately after Mass and going until 11:00 p.m. at St. Thomas and Midnight at Holy Family. The sign-up sheets are in the back of each church. Thank you for helping to make sure the times are covered.

-DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - The Sunday after Easter Sunday is designated Divine Mercy Sunday. This is very significant. More information in next week's bulletin.

-FIRST RECONCILIATION - Several of our Second Graders at Holy Family recently celebrated their First Reconciliation. This, and all the Sacraments, are so very important for our growth in holiness and as a way to participate in the Divine Life. Please keep these children in your prayers.

I also encourage you to make sure you are making the Sacrament of Reconciliation a "regular" part of your life. Don't hesitate to go or put off going any longer. Go now...the Lord is waiting for you!

"Regular" Confession may look different for each of us. Maybe it's monthly, maybe it's weekly. Regardless, don't get hung up on that, just go...again, the Lord is waiting there for you. Go!

-SILENCE - Please continue to be aware of the Sacred Silence that needs to be maintained in our churches (Sacred Silence is also important in our lives as a whole). Especially during Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, there should generally be silence (sometimes there are planned prayers or reflections or even hymns which is perfectly fine, but not idle chatter). There certainly should not be talking during Benediction; again, there are prayers and hymns that are both necessary and fine for Benediction itself.

-COMMUNION TO THE SICK - If you or a family member or someone you know is taken to or admitted to the hospital, please let me know so that I can go and celebrate the Anointing of the Sick with them. Do not assume that I will somehow automatically know.

Likewise, if you know of a parishioner who is homebound or in the nursing home, please let me know. I will make sure that someone from the parish is visiting them and taking them Holy Communion each week and I will visit when I am able.

-FROM THE SAINTS - St. John Vianney: "What does Jesus Christ do in the Eucharist? It is God who, as our Savior, offers Himself each day for us to His Father's justice. If you are in difficulties and sorrows, He will comfort and relieve you. If you are sick, He will either cure you or give you strength to suffer so as to merit Heaven. If the devil, the world, and the flesh are making war upon you, He will give you the weapons with which to fight, to resist, and to win victory. If you are poor, He will enrich you with all sorts of riches for time and eternity. Let us open the door of His sacred and adorable Heart and be wrapped about for an instant by the flames of His love, and we shall see what a God who loves us can do. O my God, who shall be able to comprehend?"

St. Francis of Paola: "Put aside your hatred and animosity. Take pains to refrain from sharp words. If they escape your lips, do not be ashamed to let your lips produce the remedy, since they have caused the wounds. Pardon one another so that later on you will not remember the injury. The recollection of an injury is itself wrong. It adds to our anger, nurtures our sin, and hates what is good. It is a rusty arrow and poison for the soul. It puts all virtue to flight. It is like a worm in the mind: it confuses our speech and tears to shreds our petitions to God. It is foreign to charity: it remains planted in the soul like a nail. It is wickedness that never

sleeps, sin that never fails. It is indeed a daily death."

Please know of my prayers each day for each of you and thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. May you have a most blessed week.

-Fr. Aaron

MISCELLANEOUS

- Holy Family Parish/St. Mary School in Mt. Sterling is looking for a janitorial and maintenance sub who can fill in on an as-needed basis with possibility for regular part-time flexible hours. State minimum wage to start. Accrued time off based on hours worked. Contact Fr. Aaron for more information, (217)-773-3233 or akuhn@dio.org.

-St. Mary School in Mt. Sterling is seeking a 3-8 Grade ELA Teacher. Salary based on education and experience. Benefit options available during interview process. Contact Mrs. Melissa Obert, School Principal, for more information: mobert@smseagle.org or (217)-773-2825.

-St. Mary School in Mt. Sterling is also seeking a Music Teacher. Compensation to be discussed during interview. This is a part time position. Contact Mrs. Melissa Obert, Principal, for more information: mobert@smseagle.org or (217)-773-2825.

-Please be aware that we are in the process of evaluating new hypoallergenic incense for the parishes and Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Fr. Aaron may be making changes to the schedule for Exposition and to how the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed at times. More information to follow.

REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel -- even if it is in the past -- individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE."

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Mt. Sterling Monuments

Jim Henrick, Owner
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