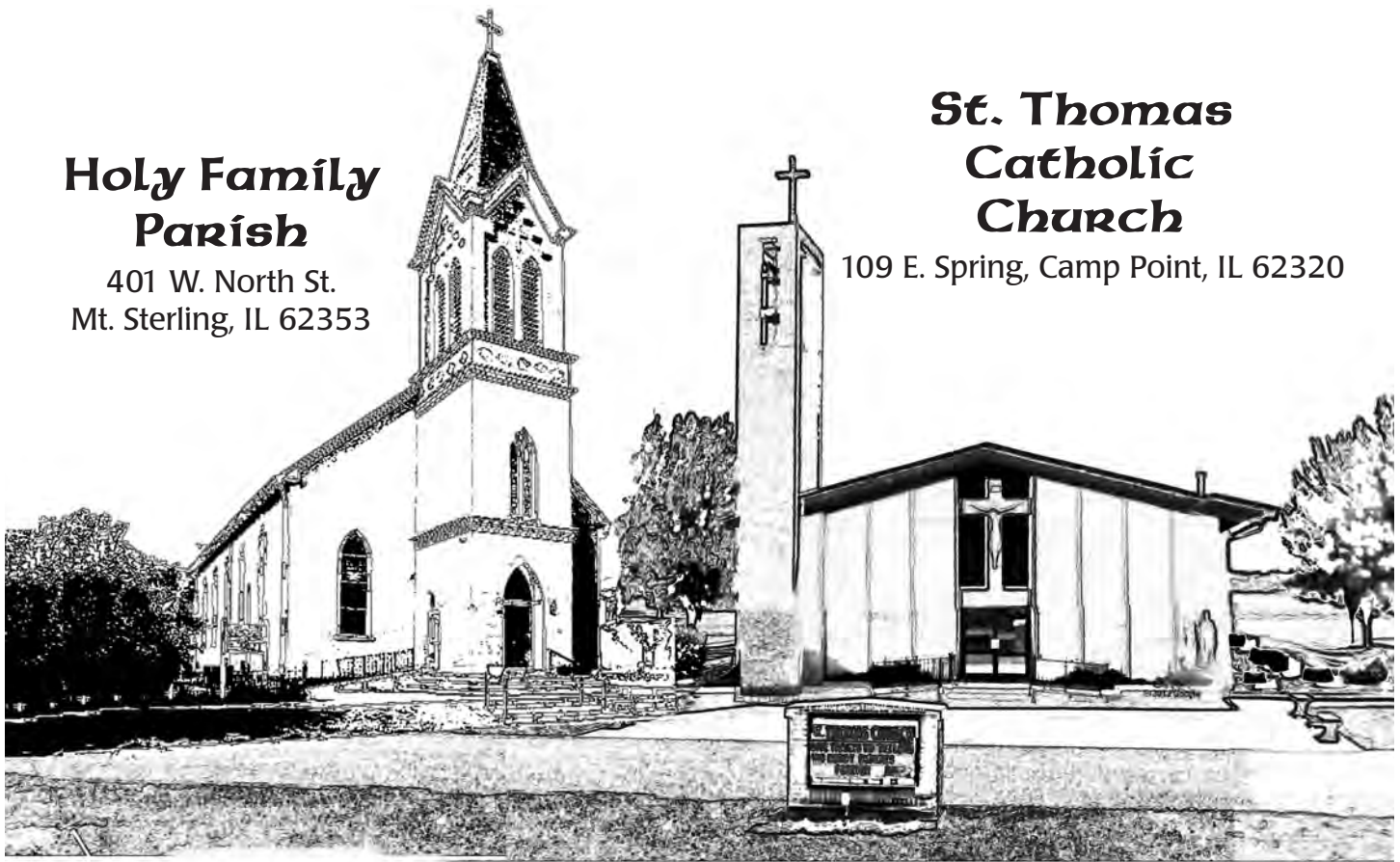


Holy Family Parish

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 21 – 7:00 a.m.

Monday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15

Father Aaron's Intentions

Tuesday, April 22 – 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 2:36-41; John 20:11-18

Thomas L. Tracy
(By Michael & Jacklyn Brennan)

Wednesday, April 23 – 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-25

Janet Yakle

Thursday, April 24 – 7:00 a.m.

Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48

Father Aaron's Intentions

AT ST. THOMAS – 5:30 p.m.

Wayne & Kathleen Mowen

Friday, April 25 – 8:30 a.m.

Friday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12; John 21:1-14

Jim Volk
(By Kathy Rigg)

Saturday, April 26 – 8:00 a.m.

Saturday within the Octave of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

Father Aaron's Intentions

Holy Family – 5:30 p.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

Sunday, April 27 – 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16; Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

Merle & Mary Childs
(By Marilee & Mary Lynn)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Jerry Herkert
(By Alice Hughes)

Evening Mass at Holy Family at the Conclusion of Divine Mercy Celebration 5:00 p.m.

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 12-13, 2025

Holy Family: \$7,274.00

School Support: \$730.00

Sister Parish: \$220.00

Holy Land: \$30.00

Easter Holyday: \$75.00

Seminary: \$30.00

Home Mission: \$30.00

Church in Central & Eastern Europe: \$10.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 13, 2025

St. Thomas: \$2,809.00

Easter Flowers: \$30.00

Candles: \$11.26

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 †
Marsha Wagner † Brandan Volk †

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Donna Stephenson who passed away on April 10, 2025. May God keep you in His care! Eternal Rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held Tuesday, April 29 at 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.

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 27 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Jim Clausius
Greeters:	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Lector:	David Leezer
Eucharistic Minister:	Alicia Schmidt, Ray Bockhold, Tod Perry
Servers:	Adalyn Llewellyn, Addiley Schmidt
Gift Bearers:	Darren & Amy Hildebrand
Collection Counters:	Dale & Sindy DeRousse
Ushers:	John Brady, Denny Campbell

From the Pastor's Desk

Christ is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia! First off, I would like to wish each of you and your family a very Happy and Blessed Easter. Having begun our Lenten journey just a few weeks ago, we arrived at the Sacred Triduum and now we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus. We embark now on the Liturgical Season of Easter. Much of the following we may know, and I have certainly

shared it before but it is always good to remind ourselves.

It is so important to remember that our joyous celebration is just beginning. The celebration of Easter will continue for fifty days when we will then celebrate Pentecost. Easter is certainly not just a one-day celebration. It is a prolonged celebration and a time of intensified consciousness where we come to an even greater realization of God's presence and God's power in our lives.

In these first eight days of Easter, we celebrate what we call the Octave of Easter. This Octave celebration takes precedence over all other celebrations. The Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave Day of Easter, is April 27 this year and is designated Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope St. John Paul II made this designation on April 30, 2000. Please see the information below concerning Divine Mercy Sunday as well as the planned celebration.

By dying Christ destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. This is the summation of God's plan of salvation. This is the great Paschal Mystery of our faith. This is the heart of every liturgy we celebrate. For today we do not merely recall what happened two thousand years ago on a cross and in a humble rock-hewn tomb, we participate in this continuing sacrificial mystery. We rejoice that Jesus suffered, died and rose for us. We rejoice because His sacrifice was once, for all. Today, we rejoice because He continues to save his people.

Our Risen Lord is here among us still, in Word and Sacrament. And like those first witnesses to the Resurrection, He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that He is the One appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

Today and every day, let us give God thanks and praise for such a spectacular gift as eternal life! And let us be so grateful that we spend each day of our lives so as to be worthy of so great a gift.

Nathan Mitchell, in his piece titled "The Blessed Pentecost" in Volume 20:1 of Assembly from the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy writes:

"Josef Pieper once remarked that the human capacity for festivity arises from the

ability to affirm all creation is good – from the ability to embrace in one resounding ‘yes,’ the length and breadth, the heights and depths of our experience in the world. We can hear this yes in Mozart’s music...We can hear it in the delighted squeals of a child...We can hear it in the contented, prayerful whispers of an elderly woman – full of love, grace, and years – as she prepares to meet death with quiet courage and dignity.

Saying yes to all of life. Letting all of it in – that is festivity’s sustaining source. But there’s the rub. Few of us can yes to anything very long. We live, after all, in an intensely mobile culture of fast food, faster cars, disposable diapers, and planned obsolescence. Our greatest goal...is to be famous for fifteen minutes. At parties, we do not carry on conversations, we posture – repeating to one another snippets of dialogue from movies, beer commercials, sitcoms, or interviews with sports’ celebrities. Small wonder that many in our society feel so isolated and lonely, so unable to connect to incapable of forming relationships that last. Small wonder too that as a people we find ourselves increasingly bored, angry, and violent – enraged and terrified by the awful emptiness that seems to stretch in every direction around us.

Given such cultural conditions, the Christian celebration of ‘the Blessed Pentecost’ will strike many as mad indeed. Fifty days of ‘dwelling in’ the Paschal Mystery! Fifty days of surrendering in joyful faith and love as the Spirit of God takes possession of our lives! Fifty days of mystagogy, of walking with the neophytes ever more deeply into the Baptismal mysteries of death and resurrection. Good heavens! What an order!

One reason why such a prolonged celebration strikes us as difficult – if not downright absurd – is that we tend to link feasts and holidays with mindless hoopla. ‘Party time’ for many is an invitation to obliterate consciousness, to get wasted, to veg out, to forget. But a season of Christian festival is precisely the opposite. It is a time of intensified consciousness, finely tuned awareness, awakened memory. The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to ‘party on,’ even if we

don’t feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply ‘the weather of the heart,’ to awaken our memory of God’s presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation. In short, it is a season for learning to say yes in a culture that wants to keep on saying no.”

-DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION – Divine Mercy Sunday is always the Sunday after Easter. This year it will be celebrated on April 27. Mark your calendars for the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration that is being planned at Holy Family that Sunday afternoon/evening beginning at 4:00 p.m. We will have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available during that time. I am hopeful to have at least one other priest confessor to help.

Since the promises of Divine Mercy involve Sacramental Confession and the reception of Holy Communion that day, I am also planning to celebrate Mass at the conclusion which will be the Sunday Mass and will fulfill your Sunday Obligation. I am hopeful the Mass will begin around 5:00 p.m. Mass will not begin before 5:00 p.m. but also will not start until we are finished with confessions.

We are also planning to have a meal in the school cafeteria when we finish in the Church.

I cannot express enough the importance of Divine Mercy Sunday. Please read the brief summary of information below concerning the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment associated with this day. More detailed information follows after that concerning Divine Mercy. Plan to join us for this great celebration.

“In her Diary, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus: ‘My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.’

In three places in her Diary, St. Faustina records our Lord’s promises of specific, extraordinary graces: ‘I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy.’ ‘Whoever

approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.' 'The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.'"

To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday by making a good confession beforehand and staying in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy. By these conditions, our Lord is emphasizing the value of confession and Holy Communion as miracles of mercy. The Eucharist is Jesus Himself, the Living God, longing to pour Himself as Mercy into our hearts.

In addition, our Lord says through St. Faustina that we are to perform acts of mercy: 'Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy.' 'The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.'"

Once again, considering the significance of this celebration and taking into account the Lord's promises, I encourage everyone to participate and to encourage and invite others to do so as well.

-DIVINE MERCY - As I've already mentioned, the Second Sunday of Easter is designated Divine Mercy Sunday. I have shared information about Divine Mercy before and would like to once again share some of that information concerning the Divine Mercy Message and Devotion. Most of this information I have obtained directly from the Divine Mercy website of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

-THE MESSAGE - "The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us - all of us. And, He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting

of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.

-This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message and devotional practices proposed in the Diary of Saint Faustina...are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ. Spend time to learn more about the mercy of God, learn to trust in Jesus, and live your life as merciful to others, as Christ is merciful to you."

-THE IMAGE - Concerning the Image of the Divine Mercy: "In 1931, our Lord appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the Heart, from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her:

'Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory. I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image

be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world.'

At the request of her spiritual director, St. Faustina asked the Lord about the meaning of the rays in the image. She heard these words in reply: 'The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works.' These words indicate that the Image represents the graces of Divine Mercy poured out upon the world, especially through Baptism and the Eucharist.

Many different versions of this image have been painted, but our Lord made it clear that the painting itself is not what is important. When St. Faustina first saw the original image that was being painted under her direction, she wept in disappointment and complained to Jesus: 'Who will paint You as beautiful as You are?' In answer, she heard these words: 'Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace.' So, no matter which version of the image we prefer, we can be assured that it is a vehicle of God's grace if it is revered with trust in His mercy."

-DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - Concerning Divine Mercy Sunday itself: "In a series of revelations to St. Faustina in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her Diary entry 699:

'My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all

souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.'

In all, St. Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast. Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St. Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St. Faustina - nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter. The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" does, however, highlight the meaning of the day."

-GRACES - Concerning the extraordinary graces: "In her Diary, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus. He told her to communicate it to the whole world: 'My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.'

In three places in her Diary, St. Faustina records our Lord's promises of specific, extraordinary graces: 'I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy.' 'Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.' 'The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy

Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.'

To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday (or the Vigil celebration) by making a good confession beforehand and staying in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy. By these conditions, our Lord is emphasizing the value of confession and Holy Communion as miracles of mercy. The Eucharist is Jesus, Himself, the Living God, longing to pour Himself as Mercy into our hearts.

In addition, our Lord says through St. Faustina that we are to perform acts of mercy: 'Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy.' 'The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.'

The worthy reception of the Eucharist on Divine Mercy Sunday is sufficient to obtain the extraordinary graces promised by Jesus. A plenary indulgence, obtained by fulfilling the usual conditions, also is available."

There is certainly much more to say concerning Divine Mercy Sunday, St. Faustina, and the Divine Mercy of the Lord Himself. Hopefully this will help you to begin to know more about Divine Mercy Sunday and open your hearts to that Divine Mercy.

Once again, I pray you have a holy and blessed Easter. Thank you for your continued prayers for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you.

-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.

Community for Christ Assistance Center is Looking for Drivers

Community for Christ Assistance Center in Camp Point is looking for a volunteer driver to go to the Southeastern Food Pantry in Bowen the First Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. The driver will be picking up commodities that the pantry is willing to share with CFCAC. A van or SUV is all that is necessary. They are very good about loading your vehicle and we have help here at the Center to unload.

They are also looking for a volunteer driver to go to Horizons in Quincy every Tuesday between 1 and 2. The driver will be picking up commodities that Horizons is willing to share with CFCAC. A van or SUV is all that is necessary. They are very good about loading your vehicle and we have help here at the Center to unload.

Please contact Dorothy Dieterle at 217-593-7052 if interested in volunteering.

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