

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 28 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest Acts of the Apostles 4:23-31; John 3:1-8

Communion Service

Tuesday, April 29 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15

> Barb Kuhn (By Al & Noreen)

Wednesday, April 30 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Pius V, Pope Acts of the Apostles 5:17-26; John 3:16-21

> Kay Downey (By Mary Kassing)

<u>Thursday</u>, May 1 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Joseph the Worker Acts of the Apostles 5:27-33; John 3:31-36

> Charles Koch (By Barb Lehne)

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

Father Aaron's Intentions

Friday, May 2 - 8:30 a.m.

St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42; John 6:1-15

Mark Ebbing (By Penny Ebbing)

FIRST FRIDAY - ST. THOMAS - 6:00 p.m.

Ron & Judy Bull (By Jenni Obert)

Saturday, May 3 - 8:00 a.m.

Sts. Philip & James, Apostles 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14

Father Aaron's Intentions

Holy Family - 5:30 p.m.

Terry Dillard (By Cheryl Dillard)

Sunday, May 4 - 8:00 a.m.

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40b-41; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

St. Thomas - 10:00 a.m.

Grace Shaffer & Olivia Ehrhardt (By Sheila Druffel)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 19-20, 2025

Holy Family: \$5,341.00 School Support: \$65.00 Sister Parish: \$102.00 Good Friday - Holy Land: \$460.00

> Easter: \$3,685.00 Seminary: \$1,145.00 Rice Bowl: \$450.00

Catholic Home Mission Appeal: \$30.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

April 20, 2025

St. Thomas: \$1,090.00 Easter: \$2,185.00 Seminary: \$425.00 Holy Land – Good Friday: \$230.00 For the Poor: \$265.00 Candles: \$33.00

St. Thomas weekly budgeted amount: \$2,635

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Legion of Mary meets each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the convent. All are invited to pray the rosary with us and learn more about the Legion. "With Mary's help we guide, console and enlighten others."
- ❖ Red Cross Blood Drive: The need for blood by patients being treated for accidents, routine surgeries, cancer, heart disease, and hemophilia is ongoing and must be met every day. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the Legion Hall on Wednesday, April 30th, 12:00 6:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended but walk ins are welcome. Call 1-800 Red Cross or 217-257-3117 for appointments.

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or 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 † Kalvin Schenk †
Dylan Hendricks † Mary Gregory †
Misha Follis Allen † Leona Dunn †
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.

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

A Happy and Blessed Easter to each one of you. Indeed, the Lord is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia, Alleluia. The Risen Lord, indeed, brings joy into our lives and fills our lives with that joy. The glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ that we celebrate with great joy gives us hope for Eternal Life. And this joy we have is not a fleeting moment of happiness but rather, it is authentic Christian joy found only in knowing Christ and following Him in all things and at all times.

Today, we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave Day of Easter. This Sunday is also designated Divine Mercy Sunday, a designation made by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. I will speak more about Divine Mercy Sunday a bit later on and I remind you of the Adoration and prayer this weekend at both parishes for Divine Mercy Sunday which is also detailed below.

In the readings for the Mass today, fear is contrasted with confidence. In the first reading, despite the signs and wonders performed by the Apostles, some are unable to join them as believers, while others confidently are added to the number. A similar fear is evident in the seven churches of Asia in the reading from Revelation when John acknowledges their distress and speaks with confidence about his testimony and imprisonment on Patmos.

John's confidence comes from his encounter with the Risen Jesus in today's Gospel. This encounter carried the greeting, "Peace be with you." Now this greeting is more than just a wish or a hope. It is a statement. It does not mean "may peace be with you." It means "peace is with you." The immediate effect of Jesus' presence and words is shown in their "rejoicing." And for this reason, John and his fellow Apostles have confidence that Jesus' peace will abide with them, providing the strength to face any fears life may present.

Thomas, who was not with them when Jesus appeared to the others, refuses to believe their testimony. While we do not know the exact reason Thomas was not present with the Apostles when Jesus came, nor why he does not believe what he is told, we do know what happens when Jesus appears again.

This time, Thomas is present and professes his belief in the Resurrection after touching Jesus' wounds. But, before Jesus invited Thomas to touch His wounds, He greeted him with, "Peace be with you." Again, this simple phrase, as it did for the other Apostles, instilled within Thomas a

sense of confidence that would ultimately lead him to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

We all face encounters, events and people that can create distress and leave us fearful. But Thomas, John, Peter, and the other disciples teach us today that Jesus came to liberate us from our spiritual and emotional prisons of fear. Jesus invites us to embrace the peace He offers and join with the other believers, who walk with confidence knowing the peace of Jesus dispels any fears. Jesus' desire for us to enjoy His peace is echoed in His words when he told Sister Faustina, in one of His appearances to her: "My child, life on earth is a struggle indeed; a great struggle for my kingdom. But fear not, because you are not alone" (Diary, 1488).

-DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION – As noted above, today is designated Divine Mercy Sunday. We will be celebrating this for the parishes in a very special way. Beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Family, Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Reconciliation available beginning at 4:00 p.m. Mass will follow at 5:00 p.m. OR when Confessions are completed. We will enjoy a dinner together in the school cafeteria immediately after Mass. I encourage each of you to join us for this.

There was a lot in last week's bulletin concerning Divine Mercy. Just to reiterate and highlight the importance of Divine Mercy Sunday, I share the following brief information with you once again:

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.

WOW! What a great gift the Lord extends to us on this day because of His love for us and His desire for us to be with Him forever in Heaven...Complete forgiveness of sin AND complete pardon of any temporal punishment. I do hope you recognize this extraordinary gift and join us for this great celebration!

A "good" confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a thorough examination of conscience forgives us of our sins and puts us in a state of grace. However, it does not remove the temporal punishment attached to that sin...thus the need for Purgatory. However, on Divine Mercy Sunday, confession of sin, worthy reception of Holy Communion, and trust in Divine Mercy frees one's soul from all temporal punishment for sin as well. Again, this is incredible and cannot be stressed enough.

In addition to this incredible gift, Pope St. John Paul II also attached a Plenary Indulgence to this day. "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven..." "An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all temporal punishment due to sin. The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1471).

From the Decree on Indulgences Attached to Devotion in Honor of Divine Mercy:

"Three conditions for the plenary indulgence. And so, the Supreme Pontiff, motivated by an ardent desire to foster in Christians this devotion to Divine Mercy as much as possible in the hope of offering great spiritual fruit to the faithful, in the Audience granted on 13 June 2002, to those Responsible for the Apostolic Penitentiary, granted the following Indulgences:

-A plenary indulgence, granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession,

Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!").

-A partial indulgence, granted to the faithful who, at least with a contrite heart, pray to the merciful Lord Jesus a legitimately approved invocation."

-FIRST FRIDAY – Friday, May 2. First Friday Devotions at St. Thomas: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Noon – 5:45 p.m.; Confessions 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.; Benediction 5:45 p.m.; Mass 6:00 p.m.

-NOCTURNAL ADORATION – At Holy Family beginning at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday night, April 3 and going throughout the night until 7:30 a.m. Mass follows at 8:00 a.m.

-DONUT SUNDAY – At St. Thomas next Sunday, April 4 in the parish hall after Mass.

-DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS – It is with sadness that we were informed of the death of Pope Francis on Monday, April 21. I ask you to pray for Pope Francis and the repose of his soul. Please pray too for the Cardinals, the upcoming Conclave, and for our new Pope. As of this writing, it has been reported that Pope Francis' Funeral Mass will have been celebrated on Saturday, April 26.

The following information, much of it in question-and-answer format, was put out by our Diocesan Communication Office to help us understand how the next few weeks will look:

-While the See is vacant, what happens to the government of the Church? During the vacancy of the Apostolic See, the government of the Church is entrusted to the Sacred College of Cardinals. They dispatch ordinary business matters which cannot be postponed, and they prepare everything for the election of the new Pope.

-Who elects the pope? The college of electors of the supreme pontiff is composed solely of the cardinals of the Holy Roman Church. The universality of the Church is expressed in the very composition of the College of Cardinals, whose members come from every continent. Those cardinals who celebrate their 80th birthday before the day when the Apostolic See becomes vacant do not take part in the election, but they may participate in the preparatory meetings of the conclave, supporting the work of the electors with prayer.

-What is a conclave? "Conclave" means "with key" and refers to the locking in of the cardinals for election of the next pope.

-When will the election take place? All the cardinal electors, convoked by the cardinal dean or by another cardinal in his name, are required in virtue of holy obedience to obey the summons to the conclave and to proceed to the place designated unless they are prohibited by sickness or other grave impediment which must be recognized by the College of Cardinals.

After the death of the Pontiff, the cardinal electors must wait fifteen days for those who are absent. But once twenty days has elapsed, they should proceed with the conclave. If all have arrived before the fifteen days, they can choose to proceed.

-Where will the election take place? Everything will take place within the Vatican City State. The election of a new pope itself takes place in the Sistine Chapel.

How is a new pope elected? Two-thirds of the votes are required for a valid election. The voting begins immediately after the cardinal dean has ascertained that there are no additional questions. Only one ballot will be taken on the afternoon of the first day. If additional days are needed, two ballots will be held in the morning and two in the afternoon of the following day(s).

-How will secrecy be maintained? From the time established for the beginning of the

electoral process until the public announcement that the election of the Supreme Pontiff has taken place, or in any case until the new Pope so disposes, several rooms and in particular the Sistine Chapel and the areas reserved for liturgical celebrations are to be closed to unauthorized persons, by the authority of the Cardinal Camerlengo and with the outside assistance of the Vice-Camerlengo and of the Substitute of the Secretariat of State. During this period, the entire territory of Vatican City and the ordinary activity of the offices located therein shall be regulated in a way which permits the election of the Supreme Pontiff to be carried out with due privacy and freedom.

The cardinal camerlengo and three cardinal assistants must be especially vigilant in maintaining secrecy. For the whole duration of the election, cardinal electors are required "to refrain from written correspondence and from all conversations, including those by telephone or radio, with any person not admitted to" the Apostolic Palace or the Sancta Marthae. Such conversations shall be permitted only for the most grave or urgent reasons.

The cardinal electors may not receive or send message of any kind outside Vatican City and no one in Vatican City can deliver such messages. It is specifically prohibited for the cardinal electors to receive newspapers or periodicals, to listen to radio, or to watch television. Anyone who violates this secrecy – whether by words, writing, or signs – may incur the penalty of excommunication latae sententiae. This secrecy is to be maintained after the election as well, unless the new pope gives explicit permission.

-Watching for the famous white smoke -While the conclave is in session, the entire Church will be praying for the electors and for the prospective pope. When the ballots are burned, oil is added to the fire so that the smoke that escapes from the chimney from the Sistine Chapel is dark, signifying a new pope has not been elected. On the final, successful ballot, nothing is added to the fire so that the smoke is white. Bells will also be rung. The crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square will cheer and the billions watching on televisions around the world will know that a new pope has been elected.

-Consent by the New Pope - When the election has canonically taken place, the iunior Cardinal Deacon summons into the hall of election the Secretary of the College of Cardinals, the Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations, and two Masters of Ceremonies. Then the Cardinal Dean, or the Cardinal who is first in order and seniority, in the name of the whole College of electors, asks the consent of the one elected in the following words: "Do you accept your canonical election as Supreme Pontiff?" And, as soon as he has received the consent, he asks him: "By what name do you wish to be called?" Then the Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations, acting as notary and having as witnesses the two Masters of Ceremonies, draws up a document certifying acceptance by the new Pope and the name taken by him.

If he has already received episcopal ordination, he is immediately Bishop of Rome and head of the college of bishops. If he is not, he shall be immediately ordained bishop by the dean of the College of Cardinals using the usual Rite of Ordination of a Bishop. The electors come forward to make an act of homage and obedience. An act of thanksgiving is made to God.

-Announcement to the world - The senior cardinal deacon announces that the election has taken place and proclaims the name of the new pontiff. The new pope then appears and imparts the apostolic blessing, urbi et orbi (to the city and world) from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

-BISHOP PAPROCKI'S STATEMENT – The following is Bishop Paprocki's Statement regarding the death of Pope Francis, also released form our Diocesan Communication Office on Monday, April 21:

"Today, our church mourns and prays. Pope Francis showed what it means to be a witness of love. This is beautifully reflected is his fourth and final Encyclical Letter, issued October 24, 2024, Dilexit nos, Latin for 'He loved us,' quoting Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans, in which he wrote that Christians can overcome all adversities through Him [Jesus] who loved us' (Romans 8:37).

"Pope Francis challenged the world daily through his words and actions that we are all called to something greater, not of this world, but the next. His life was a testament that if we are to go to heaven, we must embrace our crosses and sacrifices, and we must live an authentic Catholic life. That means we must show empathy, compassion, and love to our neighbors. We must live humbly and selflessly. We are called to care for the poor, the afflicted, the sick, and the marginalized. Finally, we must pray, hold true to the Gospels, and participate in the greatest treasure Jesus gave to us: His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity - present in the Holy Eucharist at Mass.

"I had the honor of meeting Pope Francis during my ad limina visit in Vatican City in 2019. I was struck by his joy. He spoke to me and my brother bishops not as a boss, but as a fellow 'apostle,' tasked with the same mission all priests have – to passionately advance our faith.

"As I look back on his pontificate, one of the most powerful scenes I have witnessed occurred in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Vatican City, against a backdrop of St. Peter's Basilica, heavy rain, darkening skies, and not a soul around, Pope Francis prayed for the world, holding up the Blessed Sacrament during his "Urbi et Orbi" (To the City and the World) blessing. Pope Francis taught us in that powerful moment that amongst all the trials, fear, uncertainty, stresses, violence, and hatred in this world, we must always turn to God, praying with a heart of full of love and hope, saying, 'Jesus, I trust in You.'

"We are united as people of faith, praying for his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, our Church, and that the Holy Spirit will guide us in the upcoming conclave when cardinals meet to choose Pope Francis' successor." -FROM THE SAINTS – St. Rose of Lima: Know that the greatest service that man can offer to God is to help convert souls."

St. John of the Cross (excerpt from Dark Night of the Soul): "There is another reason also why the soul has traveled safely in this obscurity; it has suffered: for the way of suffering is safer, and also more profitable, than that of rejoicing and of action. In suffering God gives strength, but in action and in joy the soul does but show its own weakness and imperfections. And in suffering, the soul practices and acquires virtue, and becomes pure, wiser, and more cautious."

Again, Happy Easter to you. Thank you for your continued prayers and for all you do 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.

