

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, August 25 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22

Communion Service

Tuesday, August 26 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26

Donna Stephenson
(By Legion of Mary)

Wednesday, August 27 - 7:00 a.m.

St. Monica
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32

Mike Rolf
(By Larry & Rosella Rolf & Family)

Thursday, August 28 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

ST. THOMAS – 5:30 p.m.

Jim Stout
(By Marilyn Stout & Michele VanSickle)

Friday, August 29 – 8:15 a.m.

The Passion of St. John the Baptist
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Mark 6:17-29

H. Ray Gregory
(By Legion of Mary)

Saturday, August 30 – 8:00 a.m.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Fr. Aaron's Intentions

Holy Family – 5:30 p.m.

Jennifer Volk
(By Robert & Teresa Frazier)

Sunday, August 31 – 8:00 a.m.

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a;
Luke 14:1, 7-14

JoAnn Wietholder
(By Curt & Beth Boylen Family)

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

August 16-17, 2025

Holy Family: \$4,158.00
School Support: \$645.00
Sister Parish: \$144.00
Assumption: \$665.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

August 17, 2025

St. Thomas: \$2,359.00
Parish Improvement: \$460.00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **Legion of Mary** meets each Tuesday at **4:00 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, August 27, 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 † Calvin Schenk † Dylan Hendricks †
Mary Gregory † Misha Follis Allen † Leona Dunn †
Brandan Volk † Tricia Grenier † Mike Babb †
Karl Groesch † Rachel Saxer † Dyson Ham †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

August 31 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Justin & Emily Obert Family
Lector:	Tod Perry
Servers:	Charlie Reed, Sydney
Gift Bearers:	Darren & Amy Hildebrand
Eucharistic Minister:	Laura Evans, Jim Clausius, Clara Schmidt
Collection Counters:	Jerel & Bobbi Mock
Ushers:	Jerel & Morgan Mock

From the Pastor's Desk

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." This is what we hear Jesus tell us in today's Gospel as the Church celebrates the Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time...strive to enter through the narrow gate!

It's a strong warning, really, from Jesus but not one to despair over. Rather, one that should cause us to stop and consider if we are striving, each and every day, to enter through the narrow gate, to be strong enough to do so through the building up of a virtuous life, filled with Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, especially the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. And we should never presume we've "done enough." The Lord is always calling us to more and if we become lax, then our disciplines begin to wane, our prayer life diminishes, the Sacraments become unimportant to us, we slowly abandon Christ and His Church, and we remain attached to and slaves to sin and death as we become miserable making our very selves the center of everything instead of God. We are reminded of what John the Baptist said..."I must decrease and He (Jesus) must increase."

And so, while, yes, the Lord is giving us a warning in today's Gospel, He is also giving us great encouragement to remain faithful to Him in all things and in all our works, even when things may be tough for us and especially when things are "going well" for us. Perhaps that's when many need to make sure they are remaining faithful to God and His Truth and His Church all the more because it is often in those times that we forget about God, neglect Him and His commands, and believe ourselves to be self-made and self-sufficient. May each of us, through the grace of God, strive at every moment of every day to enter through the narrow gate...for many will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.

-VOTIVE CANDLES - The cost of votive candles increased significantly a while back. Costs for them seem to have stabilized a bit and I have worked with the gentleman who brings our candles to try to keep the cost stable.

Some time ago, I had asked folks in the bulletin to consider an offering of \$2.50 for each votive candle at Holy Family. Recently, you may have noticed that we placed a new sign at Holy Family suggesting a \$3.00 offering. I would kindly ask that you prayerfully consider making this offering for each candle lit at Holy Family. At St. Thomas, I kindly ask you to continue your offerings for the candles you light as you have been doing. If you have not been making an offering, I encourage you to do so.

Why an offering for each candle? While it helps defray the cost, there is something much deeper and spiritual about the offering. The monetary offering is an offering of your very self for the intention(s) for which you are lighting the candle. It places you in that offering. And so, if we are lighting a votive candle for an intention, we should try to make an offering for that. It is similar to an offering for a Mass intention...that offering is in a very real way an offering of yourself for the intention...again, you are offering your very self in that offering, placing yourself in that offering in a very real way.

A couple practical reminders about the votive candles. The votive candles used at Holy Family are not designed to be burned outside of a suitable glass container like we have. Please, please, DO NOT light one and leave it burning outside of a glass container. They MUST be burned in a suitable glass container and have sufficient air flow. I ask you to also consider lighting only one candle for multiple intentions at this point so that there is an opportunity for everyone to light a candle when they want to. I will once again look for an additional stand that we may be able to bring in to add more candles for burning.

-ADORATION - Going forward at least for now, Saturday afternoon Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will normally be done using a Ciborium instead of the Monstrance. More information on that later and a few changes to Benediction that I will be writing about. I am constrained by space in this bulletin.

-WEEKDAY MASSES AT HOLY FAMILY - Reminder, Friday Masses at Holy Family will now be at 8:15 a.m. Additionally, there will be a Mass Tuesdays through Thursdays at 8:15 a.m. when school is in session which the School will be joining us for. Anyone is welcome to join us, of course. The 7:00 a.m. weekday Mass schedule will continue for now and will be evaluated later in the year. We did not get the new 8:15 a.m. Masses added to the list of Masses in this bulletin this week but those Masses will begin this Tuesday, August 26. We will get them added to the list soon.

-STREET CLOSURE - In last week's bulletin, I included information about Washington Street in Mt. Sterling being closed and how this will be affecting the school and the parking lot. Please review that information. I do not have the space here to repeat it this week. Please, please be very aware of traffic patterns especially when school is in session.

-Fr. Aaron

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