

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, 12/15-
 7:00 a.m. Communion Service (HF)
Tuesday, 12/16 -
 7:00 a.m. Doug & Margie Dunn (By Doug & Dawn Dunn) (HF)
 8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
Wednesday, 12/17 -
 7:00 a.m. Mary Margaret Bullard (By the Family) (HF)
 8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
Thursday, 12/18 -
 7:00 a.m. Ross Kelly (By Karla Ormond) (HF)
 8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
 5:30 p.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (ST)
Friday, 12/19-
 8:15 a.m. Luke Hedden (By Linda Colgan) (HF)
Saturday, 12/20 -
 8:00 a.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (HF)
 5:30 p.m. Dave & Kay Downey (By Dava, Kim & Michelle) (HF)
Sunday, 12/21 -
 8:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas (HF)
 10:00 a.m. Paul & Martha Koettters (By Maurice & Clara Schmidt) (ST)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 6-7, 2025

Holy Family: \$5,868.70
 School Support: \$737.00
 Sister Parish: \$35.00
 Debt Reduction: \$550.00
 ACSA/Tithe: \$35.00
 Cemetery: \$20.00
 Retired Priests: \$50.00
 Christmas: \$25.00

Archdiocese for Military Services: \$250.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 7, 2025

St. Thomas: \$2,525.00
 Archdiocese for Military Services: \$25.00
 Christmas Flowers: \$240.00

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

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 †
 Greg Jones † Sharon Wiese † Raymond Lehne †
 Linda Lehne † Becky Pool † LeeAnn DeJaynes †
 Georgia Champagne † Abram Kelle †
 Pauline Seals † Edna Ford †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

December 21 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Denise Taylor
Greeters:	Tod Perry
Lector:	Denise Taylor
Servers:	Tess Obert, Myles Kearby
Gift Bearers:	Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn
Eucharistic Minister:	Laura Evans, Clara Schmidt
Collection Counters:	Robin Coggeshall
Ushers:	Justin Obert, Justin Reed

HOLY FAMILY CHOIR PRACTICE

Christmas choir practice will be Wednesday (December 17) at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Holy Family Women's Guild is accepting donations for Christmas poinsettias 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.

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 Mt. Sterling Legion Hall on **Monday, December 22, 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.

POT OF GOLD

December Pot of Gold winners are:

\$200.00 - Lance Paben
\$100.00 - Richard Johnson
\$50.00 - Shannon Shoopman
\$50.00 - Carl Mitchell
\$50.00 - Jake Seckman
\$50.00 - Kayla Beadles

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, so-called from the first word of the Introit (Entrance Antiphon). Gaudete means "rejoice" and sets the tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and Second Coming, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments.

The readings for today remind us that in the person of Jesus, God has come to heal and save us. Patiently, yet joyfully, we await the fulfillment of His Advent (Coming). In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will bring healing to the blind, deaf, lame, and mute. In the second reading, James encourages his readers to be patient and not to judge one another. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims that John the Baptist is more than a prophet. He is the one who prepares the way for Jesus.

Jesus' actions speak for themselves: The blind see; the lame walk; the poor receive the Good News. John the Baptist need not look for another, for God has arrived in human flesh, bringing the kingdom of God with him. Today, we carry on Jesus' work, allowing our words and actions to embody the love of God in the world.

How is your Season of Advent going? It is a question we need to ask ourselves each day. Have you found yourself becoming exhausted in the hustle and bustle of the world or have you experienced peace in the patient waiting and preparing for Christ? Have you entered more deeply into the penitential aspect of Advent or are you still putting that off for another day when you have time? Are you prepared and ready...prepared and ready for Christ, that is? Jesus reminds us time and time again in Sacred Scripture to be prepared for we do not know the day nor the hour when He will come again. If He came today, which He very well could, are you prepared? Don't dismiss that question or nonchalantly say yes. Resist the temptation to put it off for something else.

Have you recently celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and do you keep it a regular part of your life? Do you understand the need to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on every Sunday and every Holy Day of Obligation and the seriousness of not doing so. Have you

considered how you can better carry out the works of mercy? Are you working to drive out vice through the cultivation of virtue in your life? These are just a few questions for us to ponder and to help us prepare.

Looking for what you might do to help with this? Try committing to going to Mass during the week one or more days in addition to Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Spend some time in Eucharist Adoration, either when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed or simply dropping by one of the Churches for a visit to the Lord...He is there waiting for you. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament happens at both parishes a number of times each week: At Holy Family, before the Saturday evening, Sunday morning, and Wednesday morning Masses and overnight on the first Saturday of each month; at St. Thomas, before the Thursday evening Mass, after the Sunday morning Mass, and on the first Friday of each month. Pray the Holy Rosary, especially with your family, if you don't already. These are just some examples.

I do pray that your Advent Season is a holy one. Thank you for your continued prayers for me.

-O ANTIPHONS - According to the Universal Norms, number 42, beginning on December 17 each year, the Advent Weekdays are intended to serve to prepare more directly for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity (Birth). At weekday Masses, we will begin using Advent Preface II on that day (we have been using Advent Preface I) and we will begin hearing the "O Antiphons"...O Wisdom, O Sacred Lord, O Flower of Jesse's Stem, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of All Nations, O Emmanuel (O God is With Us).

-Christmas Masses - The Anticipated Christmas Mass Schedule for both parishes is:

Holy Family, Mt. Sterling:

Christmas Eve (Wednesday, December 24) -
4:00 p.m.; 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day (Thursday, December 25) -
Midnight; 8:30 a.m.

St. Thomas, Camp Point:

Christmas Eve (Wednesday, December 24) -
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day (Thursday, December 25) -
7:00 a.m.

-ADVENT GIVING TREE - Both parishes have an Advent Giving Tree. Consider taking one or more ornaments from the trees and purchasing the item(s) for one of the local Pregnancy Care Centers. Return the items to the Church (not wrapped) and we will take them to the location.

-BAPTISMS - We welcome Elowyn Jade Kenlon and Eve Alexandra Kenlon, daughters of Nevin and Kassie Kenlon, who were baptized on Saturday evening, December 6 at Holy Family. What a great joy!

Fr. Aaron

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