

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, 12/22-

7:00 a.m. Communion Service (HF)

Tuesday, 12/23 -

7:00 a.m. Robert & Betty Koch (By Mike, Glen, Alan, Diane & Families) (HF)

Wednesday, 12/24 -

7:00 a.m. All Priests of the Diocese (By Cheryl Dillard) (HF)

4:00 p.m. JoAnn Wietholder (By Curt & Beth Boylen & Family) (HF)

6:30 p.m. Joyce Dietrich (by Pauline Seals) (ST)

9:00 p.m. Vic Kassing (By Mary Kassing & Family) (HF)

Thursday, 12/25 -

12:00 a.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (HF)

7:00 a.m. Vivian Schutte (By Robin & Claudia Coggeshall) (ST)

8:30 a.m. Greg Flynn (By Linda Colgan) (HF)

Friday, 12/26-

8:15 a.m. Helen Armstrong (By Cathy Black) (HF)

Saturday, 12/27 -

8:00 a.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (HF)

5:30 p.m. Thomas L. Tracy (By Mike & Gina Welbourne) (HF)

Sunday, 12/28 -

8:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas (HF)

10:00 a.m. Carol Likes (By the Likes Family) (ST)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 13-14, 2025

Holy Family: \$3,411.00

School Support: \$380.00

Sister Parish: \$67.00

Immaculate Conception: \$665.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Retired Priests: \$205.00

Archdiocese for Military Services: \$50.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

December 14, 2025

St. Thomas: \$1,549.00

Retirement for Religious: \$245.00

Immaculate Conception: \$35.00

Christmas Flowers: \$75.00

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 28 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Jonah Coggeshall
Greeters:	Maurice & Clara Schmidt
Lector:	Kim Gronewold
Servers:	Charlie Reed, Addiley Schmidt
Gift Bearers:	Tod Perry Family
Eucharistic Minister:	Pat Sharow, Theresa Bockhold, Brent Obert
Collection Counters:	Jerel & Bobbi Mock
Ushers:	Justin Obert, Justin Reed

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Advent. In the first reading, Ahaz is given a sign despite his refusal to ask for one: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son. In the beginning of the Epistle to the Romans, St. Paul describes Jesus as a descendent of David. The Gospel tells of Joseph's dream, in which Mary's miraculous conception is explained and he is told to name her Son Jesus.

The coming of Jesus Christ is the sign of our salvation. He is "God with us" and has invited us to turn our lives over to Him. Are we ready to accept this sign? Will we, like Joseph, put aside our fears and enter into a completely new reality, a new way of life?

-ADVENT - We remain in the Season of Advent. Let us remain mindful of this Season each day. Advent calls us to prepare, to quiet our minds and our hearts as we reflect on God's presence and His coming. In the busyness of life and especially in the hustle and bustle of these days leading up to Christmas, let us remain vigilant to the Season of Advent.

-O ANTIPHONS - I mentioned the O Antiphons in last week's bulletin and continue with a bit more here. Some of the following I've shared before, but it is always a good review. From the USCCB, "The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century...They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah."

And from Catholicculture.org, "The 'O' Antiphons are ancient antiphons that all begin with the invocation 'O.' They call to mind the ancient longing and pleading of the people of the Old Testament for a Savior to come, invoking different Christological titles on the seven days before Christmas Eve. In praying these we remember the original yearning for the First Coming of Christ at Bethlehem and echo the same waiting and supplication for the Emmanuel to come at Parousia, His Second Coming. The 'O' Antiphons take us through chronological order from before Creation to the birth of Christ at Bethlehem."

The O Antiphon for each day are as follows, in Latin and English: December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom); December 18: O Adonai (O Lord and Ruler); December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse); December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David); December 21: O Oriens (O Dayspring); December 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations); December 23: O Emmanuel (O God with Us). So very interesting is that by the time we reach December 23, the backwards acrostic of the Latin initials of the Christological titles

(the first letter of each Latin title) spell ERO CRAS which means "Tomorrow I will come."

The "O" itself may seem to be nothing more than the start of an invocation. However, the "O" points to fullness. Again, from Catholicculture.org, "The circle is just a simple closed geometric shape, but in context with these 'O' Antiphons it is more than a shape or letter of the alphabet. The 'O' is all encompassing. The 'O' denotes fullness, completeness, wholeness, ripeness. The 'O' symbolizes eternity, no beginning or end. This simple letter plumbs the depths and speaks to the final fulfillment in the Second Coming of Christ at Parousia."

-BAPTISM - Elynor Jean Reich, daughter of Erik and Allix Reich, was Baptized at Holy Family on Sunday, December 14. What a joyous occasion! We welcome Elynor as one of the newest members of the Church. If you have a child who needs Baptism or are expecting a child, please reach out to me so that we can get the Baptism scheduled.

-END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS - Often times, folks wish to make a year-end contribution to the parish. If you would like to make such a contribution, I ask you to make those as soon as possible so that we can get them recorded in this calendar year. Additionally, folks are sometimes required to take a withdrawal from a retirement account each year. In many cases, if the withdrawal goes directly to a charitable organization, there are significant tax advantages. If this applies to you, I encourage you to speak to a tax professional soon and consider a contribution to the parishes or to St. Mary School.

-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.

Fr. Aaron

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