

## 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](mailto:holy.family@smseagle.org)

### Parish Staff

Rev. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor – (217) 773-3233  
*Emergency only (217) 242-9669*  
*E-Mail: [akuhn@dio.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stthomascp.org)  
<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Monday, 12/29-**

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

**Tuesday, 12/30 -**

7:00 a.m. Charles Koch (By Rosemary Howell & Family) (HF)

**Wednesday, 12/31 -**

7:00 a.m. James J. Wort (By John & Carol Ormond) (HF)

4:00 p.m. Thomas J. Schneider (By the Family) (HF)

6:00 p.m. Joyce Dietrich (By Carlene Dietrich) (ST)

**Thursday, 1/1 -**

8:00 a.m. Karla Ormond (By Legion of Mary) (HF)

10:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas (ST)

**Friday, 1/2-**

8:15 a.m. Aaron Koch (By Phillip Hadden) (HF)

6:00 p.m. Gay Gunn (By Mike & Pam Rein) (ST)

**Saturday, 1/3 -**

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

5:30 p.m. Dwight Armstrong (By Cathy Black) (HF)

**Sunday, 1/4 -**

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

10:00 a.m. Russell & Esther Sherman (By the Family) (ST)

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or [tmckeown@smseagle.org](mailto: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

*January 4 - 10:00 a.m.*

<b>Sacristan:</b>	Denise Taylor
<b>Greeters:</b>	Denny & Nancy Campbell
<b>Lector:</b>	Laura Evans
<b>Servers:</b>	Charles Evans, Charlie Reed
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Maurice & Clara Schmidt
<b>Eucharistic Minister:</b>	Teresa Bockhold, Clara Schmidt
<b>Collection Counters:</b>	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
<b>Ushers:</b>	Mark & Everett Obert

## From the Pastor's Desk

First off, a very happy and blessed Christmas to each of you and your family. It is with great joy that we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God made man, who came into this world to save us from sin and death so that we might live forever with Him in the glory of heaven. Take some time to really ponder this great Mystery, sitting in wonder and awe at what the Lord has done for us and what He continues to do for us, all out of love for us. May our lives reflect that love each and every day in everything we do and say.

And as we approach the start of a new calendar year, I pray you may each have a most blessed new year as well.

Having moved through the Season of Advent where hopefully we have prepared ourselves all the more for the coming of Christ again, we now enter into the Season of Christmas. The SEASON of Christmas reminds us that Christmas is not just a singular day. In fact, we celebrate the Octave of Christmas, that is, eight days of Christmas and the Christmas Season continues through the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, this year celebrated on Sunday, January 11. So indeed, though the world likes to try to make us believe that Christmas is now basically over, we have just begun this great and joyous Season of Christmas. Celebrate it!

Of course, on Thursday, December 25, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Son of God took on human nature for the sake of our salvation. As sons and daughters of God, we are called to let Christ be born in our hearts more fully so we can share his light and love with others. God has made his dwelling among us.

The following day, December 26, we celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr. Perhaps we shy away from sharing our faith because we think we don't know enough or won't know what to say. Yet in Gospel for this day, Jesus reassures us that the Holy Spirit speaks through us, giving us the words

we need. From there, our actions of love and resolve in the face of uncertainty speak loudly enough.

On December 27 we celebrate the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. John shared the joy of his witness with others through his writings; he wrote his Gospel so that others could come to believe in Jesus and be saved. Let us likewise share the joy of our faith with others.

Ordinarily, the Feast of The Holy Innocents is celebrated on December 28. This year however, because of how the calendar falls, this Feast is omitted but we do remember and pray for the innocent who have perished through abortion, starvation, and war.

On Sunday, December 28 this year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. At Holy Family Parish, this celebration is elevated to a Solemnity. We are reminded that family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. Jesus was born and grew up within a family which was marked by holiness, love, and fidelity to the will of God. Their example calls us to strive to do the same. The readings for this day provide an example of ideal relationships among families. Even in the midst of broken relationships, the virtues that Paul names can send all of us on the road to healing and reconciliation.

Let us pray for families and with our families. The devil is always attacking families and family life in order to try and destroy the very fabric of our society. May our families always be strong, persevering, virtuous, and faith-filled as they witness to the Truth of Jesus Christ.

**-HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - Thursday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. The faithful are obliged (required) to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this day or at a Vigil Mass the evening before. TO DISREGARD THIS OBLIGATION IS SERIOUSLY (MORTALLY) SINFUL.**

The Mass Schedule for both parishes for this Solemnity is:

**Holy Family, Mt. Sterling:**

Wednesday, December 31 - 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Thursday, January 1 - 8:00 a.m. Mass

**St. Thomas, Camp Point:**

Wednesday, December 31 - 6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Thursday, January 1 - 10:00 a.m. Mass

**There will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Family on Thursday. There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Mass Thursday afternoon/evening at St. Thomas.**

Besides being a Day of Obligation, I can think of no better way to begin our new calendar year than through the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In regard to this Solemnity, we are mindful that we invoke Mary under many different titles, all of which speak something of her. But pause and consider this most extraordinary title of Mary...Mother of God. Wow!

Let us strive to imitate Mary with trust and simplicity of heart. Jesus was born into the humblest of settings, amid circumstances that were less than ideal for the birth of a child. Despite all of this, Mary trusted God's plan. When the shepherds arrived and saw Jesus, their lives were changed. Trusting in God even when our circumstances aren't what we hope them to be, we, like Mary, can help others to see the presence of God in our midst.

**-FIRST FRIDAY - January 2, 2026. 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 10:00pm on Saturday night, January 3 and running through the night. Benediction at 7:35 a.m. followed by the regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.**

**-DONUT SUNDAY - Sunday, January 4 at St. Thomas in the parish hall immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.**

**-POPE'S INTENTION - For January, for prayer with the Word of God. "Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church."**

**-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 and consider a contribution to the parishes or to St. Mary School.

**-SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS - "Knowing our past, our wounds, and our resulting emotional, mental, and spiritual tendencies helps us recognize our weak points and "triggers." Awareness of these triggers means that they can't sneak up on us and that we are always prepared for them. It also shows us the virtues we must actively cultivate to strengthen our souls against these impulses. Importantly, this kind of self-knowledge also reveals the people and things in our past that we need to forgive! We just can't get around forgiveness. It is a huge part of the spiritual life. No wonder Our Lord spent so much time discussing it in the Gospels and wove it into the Our Father prayer!**

Fr. Aaron

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