

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, 12/8-

- 7:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas (HF)
- 8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
- 12:00 p.m. Fritzie Harper (By Jim Harper) (ST)
- 5:30 p.m. Larry Langan (By Jim & Kim Gronewold) (ST)
- 7:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Matt & Mary Volk Family (By Larry Volk & Family) (HF)

Tuesday, 12/9 -

- 7:00 a.m. Donna Stephenson (By Pittsfield Legion of Mary) (HF)
- 8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)

Wednesday, 12/10 -

- 7:00 a.m. Pat Volk (By Cheryl Dillard) (HF)
- 8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)

Thursday, 12/11 -

- 7:00 a.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (HF)
- 8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
- 5:30 p.m. Judy Walton (By Susan Mayfield Staszak) (ST)

Friday, 12/12-

- 8:15 a.m. Mary Louise Moorman (By Tammy) (HF)

Saturday, 12/13 -

- 8:00 a.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (HF)
- 5:30 p.m. Jennifer Volk (By Larry Volk) (HF)

Sunday, 12/14 -

- 8:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas (HF)
- 10:00 a.m. Janice Siebers (By Sheila Druffel) (ST)

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 29-30, 2025

Holy Family: \$1,995.00

Archdiocese for Military Services: \$130.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

November 30, 2025

St. Thomas: \$1,677.00

Archdiocese for Military Services: \$60.00

Christmas Flowers: \$10.00

Votive candles: \$31.00

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 † Eileen King † Sharon Wiese †
 Raymond Lehne † Linda Lehne † Bob Kassing †
 Becky Pool † LeeAnn DeJaynes †
 Georgia Champagne † Abram Kelle †
 Pauline Seals †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

December 14 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Mark & Amanda Obert Family
Lector:	Bobbi Mock
Servers:	Alex Mock, Grace Mock
Gift Bearers:	Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Eucharistic Minister:	Elizabeth Likes, Kim Gronewold, Cathy Wagner
Collection Counters:	Jerel & Bobbi Mock
Ushers:	Justin Obert, Justin Reed

Advent Adult Faith Formation Program

We invite you all to attend this Advent Adult Faith Formation Study program: Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer. Learn the Essentials of a Fruitful Prayer Life. Do you find it easy to pray? Do you hear God's voice in your daily life and know how to respond? For most of us the answer is no, and we struggle to find even a few minutes every day to pray. The good news is that you can overcome these difficulties. Oremus (Let us Pray) teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Over eight weeks you will learn the simple yet profound steps of Catholic prayer. Following Church Tradition and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn to talk to God and hear his voice in Scripture, in your heart, and in ordinary moments. You will become more aware of his close presence, will learn to overcome distractions and dryness, and will recognize desolation and consolation as normal prayer experiences. As you grow closer to God, you will also grow in your relationship with those around

you. It is 8 sessions. We'll do 3 sessions in Advent and 5 in Lent. We will meet on Tuesday nights at the K of C Hall on 12/9 (place to be determined), and 12/16 from 7-8:30. Please let Ann O'Sullivan know if you plan to attend at 217-257-2516 or aosullivan2031@gmail.com.

HOLY FAMILY CHOIR PRACTICE

Christmas choir practice will be Wednesdays (December 10 & 17) at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Coats for Kids

Thank you, parishioners of Holy Family and St. Thomas churches for your very generous support of the 2025 Coats for Kids campaign. Four dozen coats were purchased for those in need.

Knights of Columbus Council 1281.

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent. In the readings for today, there is great hope but also great challenge, reflecting a fundamental tension in all our Advent preparations. While we look forward to the joy of welcoming the Christ Child, we are also called to prepare a place for Him.

The First Reading encourages us as it reminds us that "a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." There is great beauty in these images. Great hope can be built in the assurance that even from the remnants of a grand tree, even from a stump, new life blooms. No matter what has torn us down or stunted our growth, blossoms can still bud in our lives. This hope is essential as we hear in today's Gospel: "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance."

How do we do that? Some may feel barren or exhausted, but we remember that the God who promises that the cow and the bear shall be neighbors also promises to enter into our broken relationships, if we allow Him. The God who promises that the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" seeks to bring peace to the brokenness in our lives. "He shall judge the poor with justice and will bring a spirit of wisdom and of understanding" to all our concerns.

To do this mighty work in our lives, God asks us to "prepare the way of the Lord. Repent." We are called to turn away from the idols of power, money, comfort, self-reliance, distraction, or anything else that we might place where only God should stand. We are invited to allow the purifying fire of God's love to clear space for the new growth He desires for us this holy season.

To bear good fruit, we must repent and make room for God to work in and through us this Advent. What might this look like in the coming weeks? We must prepare the way of the Lord with silence, prayer, Scripture study, and space for worship. Who can help us, encourage us, and hold us accountable in this work?

Our participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is vital and necessary. In it, we ask for God's healing, we listen for God's voice, we raise our hearts to Him in worship, and we receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, truly and fully present to us in the Holy Eucharist. And so, while participation in the Mass on EVERY Sunday and EVERY Holy Day of Obligation is a non-negotiable, I encourage you to also prepare yourself by participating in the Mass during the week as well...this Advent Season, try coming to Mass just one additional day during the week in addition to Sunday. See how it will change your life! And celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. See too how it will change your life!

May the Lord, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and throughout this Season of Advent, bring us to new life and new growth. May He heal and nourish us and may we be given the grace to receive all His good gifts.

-SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - Tomorrow, Monday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The faithful are obliged (required) to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this day. **TO DISREGARD THIS OBLIGATION IS SERIOUSLY (MORTALLY) SINFUL.**

Following is the schedule of Masses for both parishes that day:

Holy Family, Mt. Sterling - 7:00 a.m.; 8:15 a.m.; 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas, Camp Point - Noon; 5:30 p.m.

-WINTER WEATHER - The recent winter weather nudged me to remind you that I will always try to celebrate Masses at both parishes as scheduled. However, if it becomes impossible for me to get to one of the Churches for Mass for any reason, I will place a recording on the rectory phone number as soon as possible so you can call that number to check. I will also try to make a post to Facebook.

-PRIESTS - I ask you to pray for the repose of the souls of two of our Diocesan Priests; Fr. Joe Ring, who had been the Pastor at Our Saviour Parish in Jacksonville, died on November 20; Fr. Daren Zehnle died on November 27.

We have a number of priests in our Diocese who are also dealing with some serious health issues and I ask you to keep them in your prayers as well.

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