

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, 1/5-**
7:00 a.m. Communion Service (HF)
- Tuesday, 1/6 -**
7:00 a.m. John Bullard (By the Family) (HF)
8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
- Wednesday, 1/7 -**
7:00 a.m. Robert & Betty Koch (By Mike, Alan, Glen, Diane & Families) (HF)
8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
- Thursday, 1/8 -**
7:00 a.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (HF)
8:15 a.m. School Mass (HF)
5:30 p.m. Jerry Herkert (By Ted & Elda Hayn) (ST)
- Friday, 1/9 -**
8:15 a.m. Jim Kassing (By Tammy) (HF)
- Saturday, 1/10 -**
8:00 a.m. Fr. Aaron's Intentions (HF)
5:30 p.m. Mary Volk (By Dawn Dunn) (HF)
- Sunday, 1/11 -**
8:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas (HF)
10:00 a.m. Don Sharow (By Pat Sharow) (ST)

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 †
Kalvin Schenk † Dylan Hendricks † Mary Gregory †
Misha Follis Allen † Leona Dunn † Brandon Volk †
Greg Jones † Sharon Wiese † Raymond Lehne †
Linda Lehne † Becky Pool † LeeAnn DeJaynes †
Georgia Champagne † Abram Kelle † Pauline Seals †
Edna Ford † Lloyd White †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

January 11 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Dawn Peters
Greeters:	Jim & Nora Clausius
Lector:	Kim Gronewold
Servers:	Alex Mock, Myles Kearby, Jordan Kearby
Gift Bearers:	Denny & Cathy Wagner
Eucharistic Minister:	Jim Clausius, Pat Sharow
Collection Counters:	Jerel & Bobbi Mock
Ushers:	Mark & Everett Obert

Cursillo

Are you looking for some spiritual growth? Would you like to deepen your faith in this coming new year? Consider going on a Cursillo weekend. A Cursillo-short course in Christianity- is held 8 times a year at the retreat center located on the north campus of Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois. It is designed to be a spirit filled three-day weekend where your relationship with Christ will be enriched and grow. For more information there are brochures in the back of church. You can also contact our area representatives Gail and Gary Mast 217-617-1731, Rector for the January weekend, Robin Coggeshall 217-779-1873, or anyone who has been on a weekend. You can also visit our website at www.quincycursillo.com. The dates as follows:

Men's weekends: January 22-25, March 19-22, June 25-28 and September 17-2

Women's weekends: February 19-22, April 16-19, July 16-19 and November 12-15

From the Pastor's Desk

First off, Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you. Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord. In the first reading Isaiah speaks of the divine glory of Jerusalem. People will come bearing gold and frankincense. In the second reading, Paul writes that the Gentiles are coheirs and copartners in the Body of Christ. The Gospel from Matthew relates the visit of the Magi. They rejoice and offer gifts to the infant Jesus.

The Magi undertook a difficult journey to see Jesus. For us, sometimes even a short trip to Mass can feel like a challenge. Yet the God who set the stars in the sky desires an intimate relationship with each of us. This year is a good time to renew our commitment to grow closer to God. A star revealed Jesus' birth to the Magi; let us ask God to reveal Himself to us today.

In the Gospel for today, we hear that "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him."

Why did God use a star to reveal the birth of the King of Kings to foreigners from the East? To Mary, Joseph, and even the shepherds, God sent an angel to announce the Good News. But to

the Magi, He chose to use a medium they understood—a star.

The Magi, originally a priestly caste from Persia, were skilled in astrology, astronomy, dream interpretation, and other forms of wisdom and divination. The three Magi mentioned in Matthew's Gospel were clearly experts in astrology, carefully studying the night sky. On the night of Christ's birth, they made an extraordinary discovery: a new star had appeared in the sky. They knew it was a sign of great significance. According to their beliefs, the appearance of a new star heralded the birth of a new king.

This star was not just a celestial phenomenon; it symbolized the light of Christ breaking into the world, guiding all nations—Jew and Gentile alike—toward the Savior. Just as God drew humble Jewish shepherds to the newborn King, He also drew representatives of the Gentiles to adore Him, for Jesus came to save all of humanity.

The divine initiative to include the Gentiles was not a new concept but a fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham in Genesis: "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you." The prophets and Psalms echo this theme, emphasizing that all nations will come to the Lord. In Jesus' public ministry, we see His outreach to the Gentiles, a mission that continued in the early Church, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. At the time of Jesus' birth, however, the Jewish emphasis was primarily on being the chosen people. The story of the Epiphany reveals God's universal call to holiness from the very beginning of Jesus' life, establishing that His mission was for all people, not just for Israel.

Because of this universal call to holiness, we who believe in Christ and live our Catholic faith must avoid becoming isolated, creating a small, self-contained world. Instead, we are called to live our faith in a way that reflects the universal mission of the Church. Being Catholic is not merely a cultural heritage; it is the spiritual means of eternal salvation that everyone needs. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation," and Christ must be made manifest to all, becoming the King of every soul.

As we celebrate the Epiphany, be open to the ways God might want to use you to share the light of faith with those who are not yet faithful Catholics. We must be like the star of Bethlehem, drawing others to Christ in ways they can understand and accept. This is best accomplished when we place ourselves at God's service, ready to be used as instruments of His grace. God alone knows how to draw all people to Himself, and when we offer ourselves to His service, He will

inspire us and use us to be that shining light, guiding others out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

My Lord and Light of the World, You desire to shine brightly for all to see, so that all may be drawn to You, the one and only Savior of all. Please use me as You will, to be like that star over Bethlehem. Give me wisdom, love, and courage to shine brightly, radiating Your light for all to see. Amen.

-CHRISTMAS SEASON - A reminder that we remain in the midst of the Christmas Season. All too often we brush Christmas aside at the conclusion of December 25 and hurry on to something else. But December 25 is just the beginning of this joyous Season, certainly not its conclusion. We remain in the Season of Christmas until we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord which this year is next Sunday, January 11. I encourage each of us to remember this and to celebrate Christmas in its fullest before rushing off to something else.

-THANK YOU - Thank you to all who generously contributed baby items from our Advent Giving Trees at both parishes for local pregnancy centers. We had a bountiful collection.

On a personal note, thank you also for all the kind and thoughtful Christmas wishes, cards, and gifts that you extended to me. I am most appreciative and as I mentioned at the Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses, I am filled with great joy to know each of you and to be your Pastor.

-FROM THE SAINTS - St. Vincent de Paul: "The works of God are not accomplished when we wish them, but whenever it pleases Him."

St. Thomas Becket: "Remember the sufferings of Christ, the storms that were weathered... the crown that came from those sufferings which gave new radiance to the faith... All saints give testimony to the truth that without real effort, no one ever wins the crown."

St. John Chrysostom: "If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit."

St. Philip Neri: "If you wish to go to extremes, let it be in sweetness, patience, humility and charity."

St. Francis of Assisi: "We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way."

Father Aaron

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