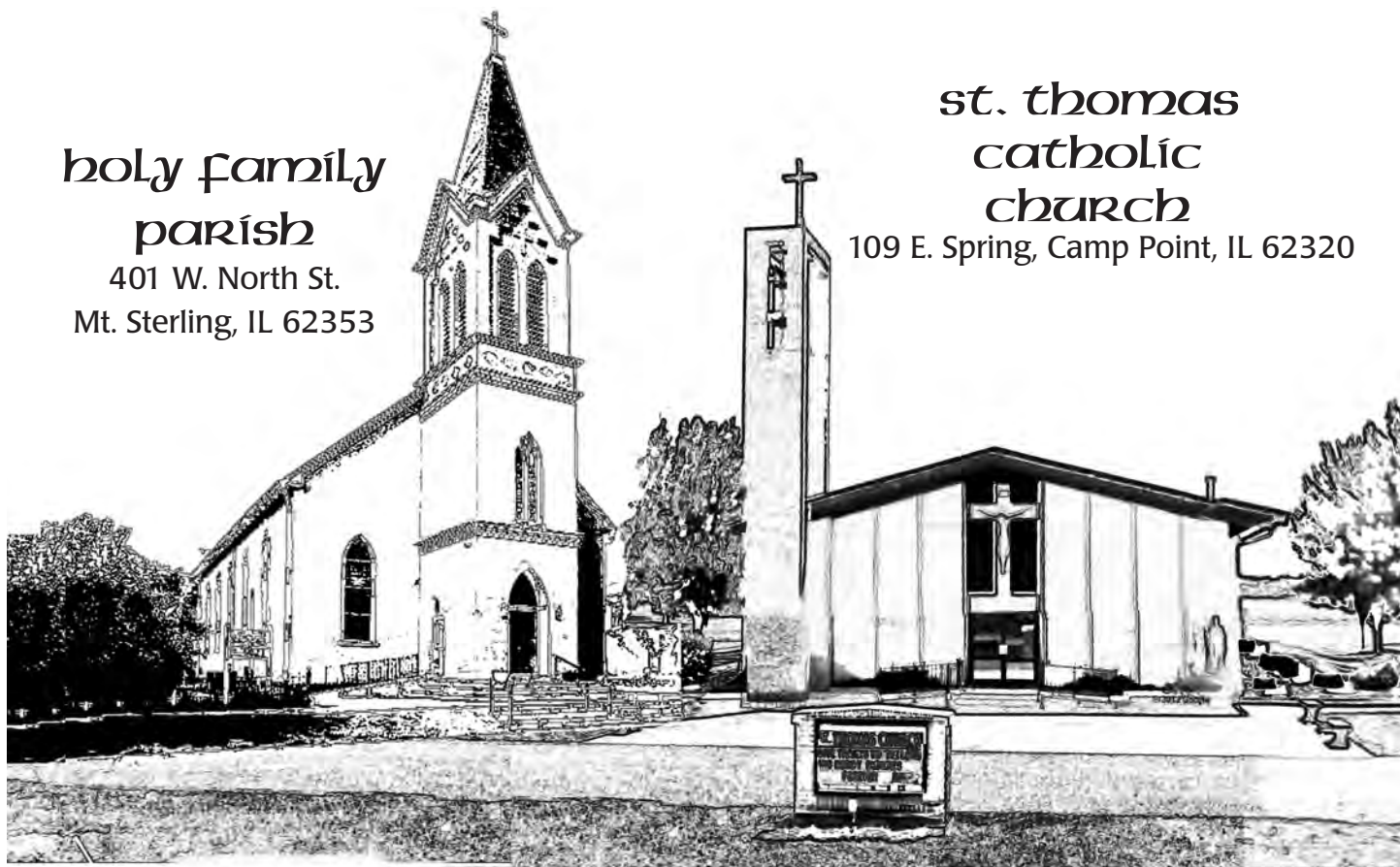


**holy family  
parish**

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. Vincent Obi, Pastor – (217) 773-3233  
Cell: (618) 384-1650

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: Christie Dickens

**Mass Schedule**

Daily: 7:00 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday - 8:15 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@parish.dio.org](mailto:stthomascp@parish.dio.org)

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

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.

Website: [www.stthomascp.org](http://www.stthomascp.org)

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Monday, 8/10-**

**7:00 a.m. NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)**

**Tuesday, 8/11 -**

**7:00 a.m.** Melvin & Eleanor McClelland & JoAnne McClelland Harris (By Linda Colgan) (HF)

**Wednesday, 8/12 -**

**7:00 a.m.** Mary Margaret Bullard (By the Family) (HF)

**Thursday, 8/13 -**

**7:00 a.m.** Dr. V.M. Zurita Family (By Joan Zurita) (HF)

**5:30 p.m.** Fr. Obi's Intentions (ST)

**Friday, 8/14 -**

**8:15 a.m.** Pat Volk (By Cheryl Dillard) (HF)

**5:30 p.m.** Bernice Dittmer (By St. Thomas Men & Women's Society) (ST)

**Saturday, 8/15 -**

**8:15 a.m.** Larry Orr (By Alan & Rhonda Koch) (HF)

**5:30 p.m.** Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas (HF)

**Sunday, 8/16 -**

**8:00 a.m.** Fr. Obi's Priestly Anniversary (HF)

**10:00 a.m.** Fr. Obi's Priestly Anniversary (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 † Sheila Thompson †  
Logan Wilson † Isabella Wilson † Calvin Schenk †  
Dylan Hendricks † Mary Gregory † Misha Follis Allen †  
Leona Dunn † Brandon Volk † Sharon Wiese †  
Raymond Lehne † Linda Lehne † Dyson Ham †  
Nancy Salrin † David Bordenkircher † Sandra Kemper †  
Stanley Obert †

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

**August 16 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Sacristan:** Dawn Peters  
**Greeters:** Andrew & Amanda Llewellyn  
**Lector:** David Leezer

**Servers:** Miles Kearby, Addalyn Llewellyn  
**Gift Bearers:** Jim & Nora Clausius  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Alicia Schmidt, Ray Bockhold, Tod Perry  
**Collection Counters:** Dale & Sindy DeRousse  
**Ushers:** Jerel & Alex Mock

## ST. THOMAS

**St. Thomas Ice Cream Social - August 16, Sunday**

**Basket Raffle:** Anyone who would like to donate a "basket" for the basket raffle, please contact Pat (217-740-2140). You choose your items or theme and it doesn't have to be in a real basket.

**Birthright will be at the K of C BBQ again this year.** It will be August 14, 15 and 16. We will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful handmade quilt and a large dining out package. We are requested to make items for the bake sale. Use your favorite recipe. It is amazing how many bake sale items are sold. We also profit from the kids' games. The KC has been very good to Birthright. This event coincides with the St. Thomas Ice Cream Social. Please drop off any baked goods at church and they will be transported to Quincy.

## Introducing the Sister Sara Koch Scholarship

Sister M. Sara Koch, O.P., a 1959 graduate of St. Mary School, went on to spend nearly six decades as a Dominican Sister — teaching, leading, and encouraging countless families in their faith. Her journey began right here in Mt. Sterling, formed by the same Catholic education our students receive today.

In her honor, Jim and Rosalie Shank and other family members have established the Sister Sara Koch Scholarship Fund. This fall, the first awards will go to St. Mary students, helping ensure Catholic education continues to shape young hearts for generations to come.

Consider joining this legacy of grace with a gift today at [www.smseagle.org/donate/scholarship](http://www.smseagle.org/donate/scholarship).

## From the Pastor's Desk

The readings for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A, August 9, 2026) focus on finding God in quiet moments and trusting Him during life's storms.

**First Reading (1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a)**

• **The Setting:** The prophet Elijah is hiding in a cave on Mount Horeb, feeling afraid and discouraged after fleeing from Queen Jezebel.

- **The Message:** God tells Elijah to stand on the mountain. A heavy wind, an earthquake, and a fire pass by, but God is not in any of them. Instead, God speaks through a tiny, gentle whisper (or silence). This shows us that God often works quietly rather than through loud, dramatic events.

#### **Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14)**

- **The Theme:** "Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation."
- **The Message:** A prayer asking God for peace, mercy, and salvation to dwell in the land.

#### **Second Reading (Romans 9:1-5)**

- **The Setting:** Paul expresses deep sorrow and great anguish in his heart for his own people, the Israelites.
- **The Message:** Paul cares so deeply for his kindred that he wishes he could be cut off from Christ if it would help save them. He reminds the community of the great heritage, covenants, and promises given to Israel, from whom Christ came.

#### **Gospel (Matthew 14:22-33)**

- **The Setting:** Jesus sends His disciples ahead in a boat while He stays behind on a mountain to pray. A strong storm hits the boat at sea.
- **The Message:** Jesus walks on the water toward them. Peter asks to come to Him on the water but begins to sink when he gets scared and looks at the wind. Jesus catches Peter, saying, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they get into the boat, the wind stops, and the disciples worship Jesus as the Son of God.

It's hard to believe it's already been a month since I arrived at our parishes! I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to God for His unwavering love and mercy. I'm also deeply thankful to each and every one of you who have helped me settle in - I'm almost fully settled, thanks to your support!

As I look ahead to my installation in September, I am writing to share some important updates regarding our liturgical schedule and spiritual opportunities, along with a personal note.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - We invite you to spend sacred time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament during our Adoration sessions:

**Holy Family Parish:** Every Wednesday, from 5:45 a.m. to 6:45 a.m.

Except on Wednesdays following the Saturday Nocturnal Adoration, which starts at 10:00 p.m. until 7:45 a.m. (Sunday morning), concluding with Holy Mass at 8:00 a.m.

**St. Thomas Parish:** Every Thursday, from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., followed by Holy Mass at 5:30 p.m. Please Note: except on Thursdays that follow the First Friday Adoration which starts from 12:00 p.m.

(noon) until 5:45 p.m., culminating in First Friday Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Adoration is a profound opportunity for quiet reflection, prayer, and deeper communion with Christ. All are welcome to participate for any length of time.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** - The Sacrament of Confession is a grace-filled opportunity to experience God's mercy and forgiveness. Please note our scheduled times:

**Holy Family Parish:** Saturdays, from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., immediately preceding the 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass.

**St. Thomas Parish:** Thursdays, from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., immediately preceding the 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass.

**Appointments for Spiritual Guidance or Sacraments\*\*** - For any specific needs such as anointing of the sick, spiritual direction, or confession outside of scheduled times, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office.

**Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers** - I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the dedicated Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, especially the new members, for your unwavering commitment to our parishes.

Fr. Obi would like to meet with you all on the following dates:

- **Holy Family Parish:** Saturday, August 22, after the 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass

- **St. Thomas Parish:** Sunday, August 23, after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass

Please be assured that this meeting will not take up much of your time.

**The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** in 2026 is on Saturday, August 15, 2026. It commemorates our belief that the Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into heaven. **The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated for this day because it falls on a Saturday.**

You're invited to celebrate the solemnity with us! Here's the Holy Mass schedule:

- **St. Thomas Parish:** Friday, August 14, 5:30 p.m.

- **Holy Family Parish:** Saturday, August 15, 8:15 a.m.

**Feast of Queenship of Mother Mary - Holy Family Parish:** Saturday, August 22, 8:15 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Assumption and Queenship of our blessed Mother Mary.

You're invited to a special Holy Mass on August 15 and 16 as we give thanks to God for Fr. Obi's 24 years of priestly ministry. His journey as a priest began on August 17, 2002, when he was ordained in Nigeria.

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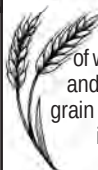
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 Amen, amen, I say  
to you, unless a grain  
of wheat falls to the ground  
and dies, it remains just a  
grain of wheat, but if it dies,  
it produces much fruit.  
**John 12:24**

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