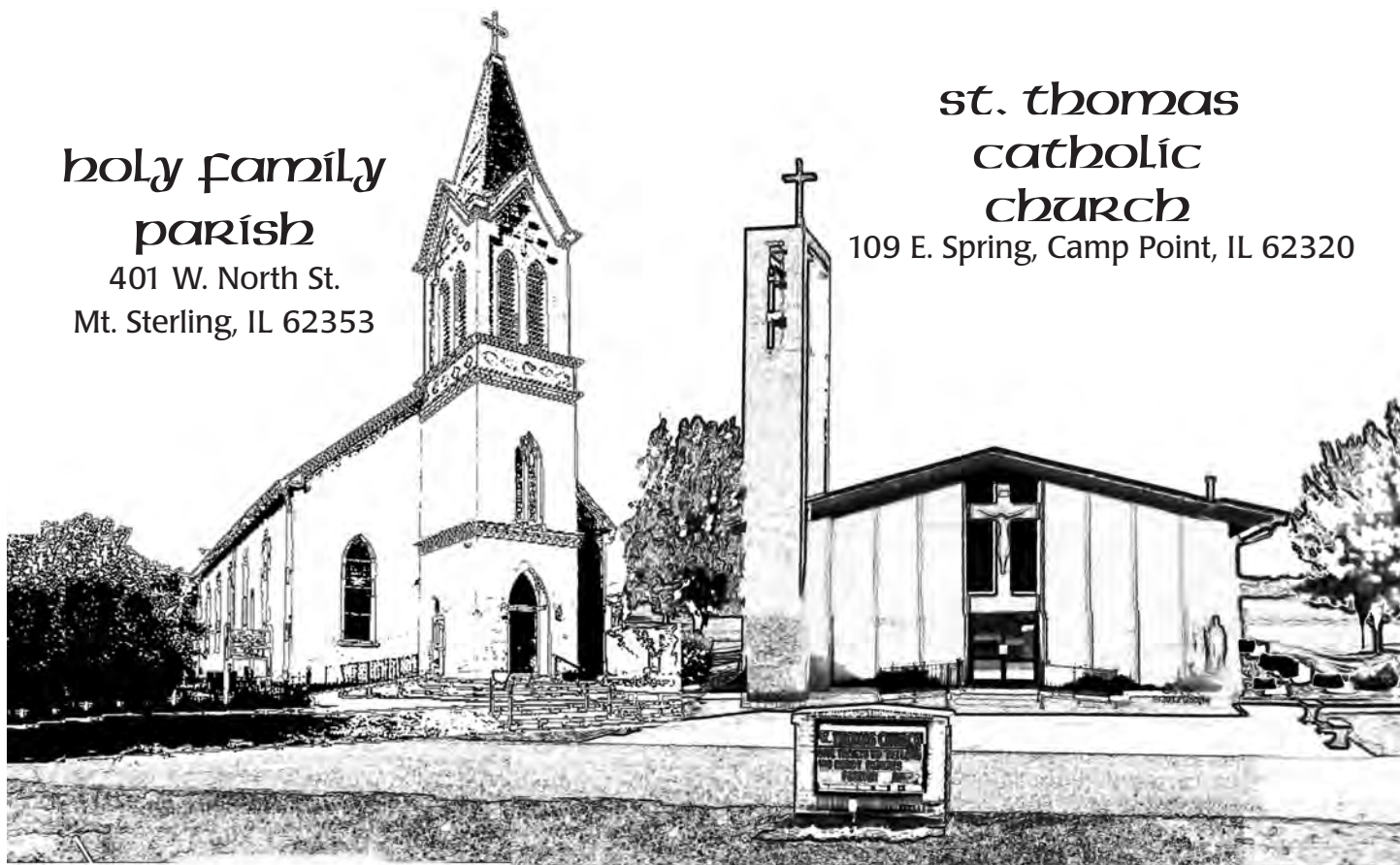


**holy family
parish**

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. 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

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

Parish Secretary: Pat Sharow

Renting of Hall: Cathy Holtschlag – 217-430-7493

Community for Christ Assistance Center Board Member:

Dorothy Obert – (217) 257-8625

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 8:30 a.m.

PSR classes Sunday 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Men & Women's Society Meeting 1st Thursday 6:00 p.m.

Website: www.stthomascp.org

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, 9/14–

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

Tuesday, 9/15 –

7:00 a.m. Bruce Schrieber (By Carol Blentlinger) (HF)

Wednesday, 9/16 –

7:00 a.m. Charles, Maxine, Raymond & David Colgan (By Linda Colgan) (HF)

Thursday, 9/17 –

7:00 a.m. Fr. Ramesh's Intentions (HF)

5:30 p.m. Jerry Herkert (By Ted & Elda Hayn) (ST)

Friday, 9/18 –

8:15 a.m. Randy Rigg (By Kathy Rigg) (HF)

Saturday, 9/19 –

8:15 a.m. NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)

5:30 p.m. Luke Hedden (By Karl & Barb Groesch & Family) (HF)

Sunday, 9/20 –

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

10:00 a.m. Catherine G. Sherman & Janice Siebers (By Sheila Druffel) (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:

Jim Duvendack † Sheila Thompson †
 Logan Wilson † Isabella Wilson †
 Calvin Schenk † Dylan Hendricks †
 Mary Gregory † Misha Follis Allen †
 Leona Dunn † Brandan Volk † Sharon Wiese †
 Raymond Lehne † Linda Lehne † Dyson Ham †
 Nancy Salrin † David Bordenkircher †
 Stanley Obert † Dona Hedden †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

September 20 – 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Dawn Peters
Greeters: PSR
Lector: PSR
Servers: PSR

Gift Bearers:

Eucharistic Minister:

PSR

Elizabeth Likes,
 Kim Gronewold,
 Cathy Wagner

Collection Counters:

Ushers:

Greg & Elizabeth Likes
 Curtis Cramsey,
 Andrew Llewellyn

ST. MARY SCHOOL



Friday, September 4, was a special day for our St. Mary's students and staff! Father Ramesh went to each classroom with the monstrance and gave a beautiful blessing. Thank you, Father!

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The Word of God for the **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, invites us to reflect upon one of the most essential yet challenging aspects of Christian discipleship: **forgiveness**. We all know that forgiveness is easier to talk about than to practice. When we have been hurt, misunderstood, disappointed, or treated unfairly, it can be difficult to let go of anger and resentment. Yet Jesus continually invites us to discover the freedom and peace that come through forgiveness.

The first reading from **Sirach 27:30–28:7** speaks very directly about anger and resentment. Sirach reminds us that holding on to anger can become a burden upon our hearts and relationships. He encourages us to remember our own weaknesses and to be mindful of the mercy that God has shown us. None of us is perfect, and all of us depend upon God's forgiveness.

This is an important spiritual lesson: **before we look at another person's faults, we should remember our own need for God's mercy.**

The second reading from **Romans 14:7-9** gives us an even broader perspective: **"None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself."** Our lives belong to the Lord. As Christians, we are connected to one another as members of the Body of Christ. Our words, attitudes, choices, and actions affect those around us.

This is especially important as we continue to grow together as a parish family. A strong parish is not simply a place where people come together for Mass. It is a **family of faith** where we pray for one another, encourage one another, care for one another, and, when necessary, forgive one another.

The Gospel from **Matthew 18:21-35** brings this message into sharp focus. Peter approaches Jesus and asks, **"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?"** Peter suggests seven times, perhaps believing that he is being very generous. Jesus responds, **"Not seven times but seventy-seven times."**

Jesus is not giving Peter a number to calculate. He is teaching us that **there should be no limit to the mercy we are willing to offer.**

Jesus then tells the parable of the servant who owes his master an enormous debt. The master has compassion on him and forgives the entire debt. But that same servant encounters another person who owes him a much smaller amount, and instead of showing mercy, he refuses to forgive.

The contrast is striking. The servant has received extraordinary mercy, but he is unwilling to extend even a small portion of that mercy to someone else. The message for us is clear: **We have been forgiven much; therefore, we are called to forgive much.**

Forgiveness, however, does not mean that we pretend the hurt never happened. It does not mean that we ignore injustice, excuse harmful behavior, or immediately restore

trust when trust has been seriously broken. Forgiveness is often a process. Sometimes it requires time, prayer, wise counsel, and healthy boundaries. But forgiveness means that we gradually place our pain into God's hands rather than allowing bitterness to control our hearts.

Forgiveness does not erase the past, but it can open the door to a new future.

As a parish family, we have a beautiful opportunity to make our communities places of reconciliation. There will always be differences of opinion, misunderstandings, and moments when we hurt one another. What matters is how we respond. Instead of gossip, may we choose honest conversation. Instead of resentment, may we choose prayer. Instead of division, may we seek reconciliation.

Perhaps this weekend we can quietly ask ourselves two questions: **Is there someone I need to forgive? Is there someone from whom I need to ask forgiveness?** If a name comes to mind, let us bring that person before the Lord. We may not be able to solve everything immediately, but we can take the first step toward healing.

The Eucharist is at the heart of our life as a parish family. Every time we gather around the altar, we encounter Christ, who gives Himself to us completely in love. Having received His mercy and love, we are sent forth to share that same love with others.

May our homes and our parish communities become places where **mercy is stronger than anger, reconciliation is greater than division, and love has the final word.**

As we continue our journey together, let us remember: **"Forgiven people become forgiving people."**

May the Lord bless you and your families, strengthen those who are struggling, comfort those who are hurting, and help all of us grow together as a **family of faith**, united in Christ's mercy and love.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Ramesh, Pastor

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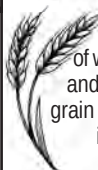
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 Amen, amen, I say
to you, unless a grain
of wheat falls to the ground
and dies, it remains just a
grain of wheat, but if it dies,
it produces much fruit.
John 12:24

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