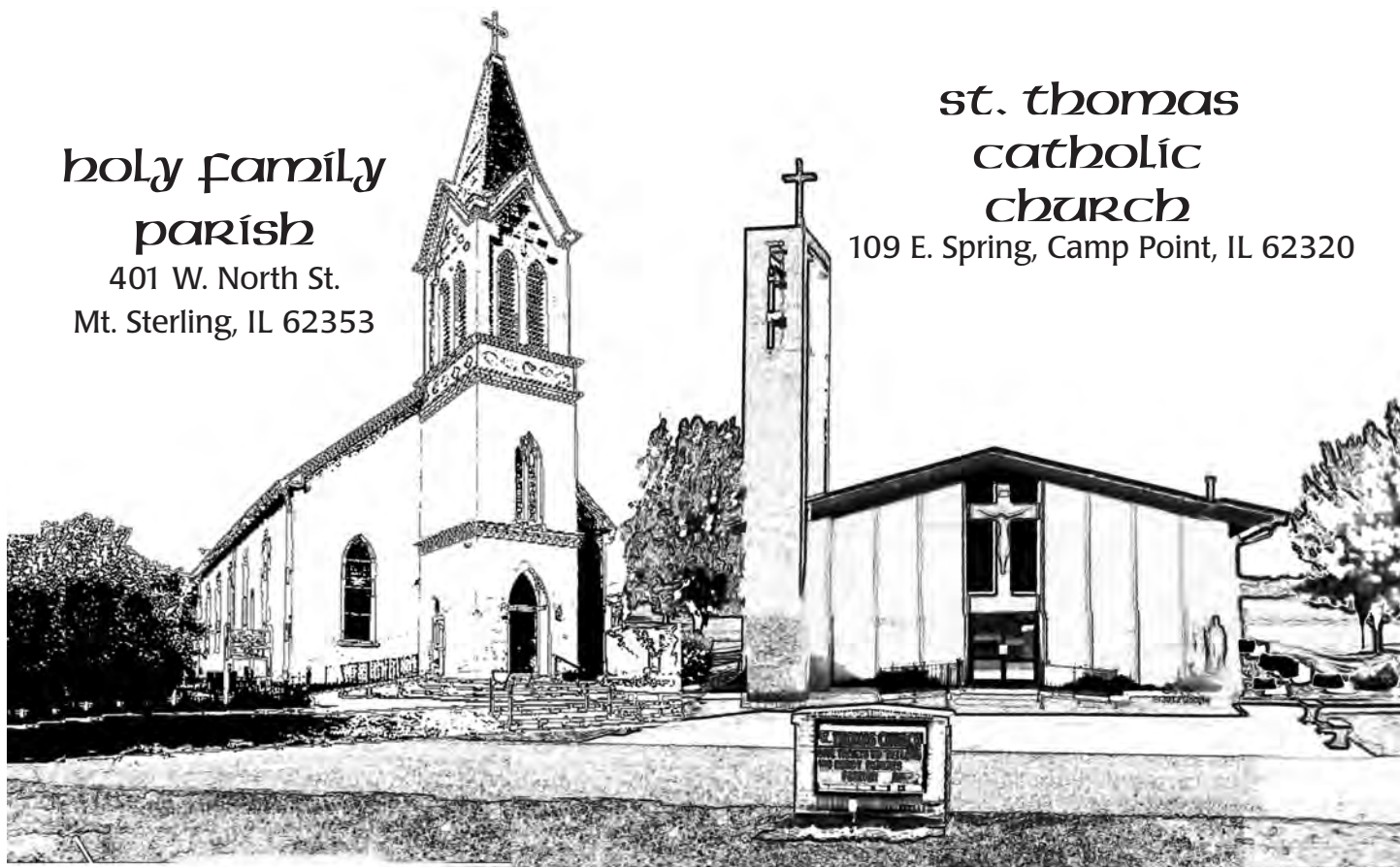


**holy family
parish**

401 W. North St.
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

**st. thomas
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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, 9/21-

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

Tuesday, 9/22 -

7:00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)

Wednesday, 9/23 -

7:00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)

Thursday, 9/24 -

7:00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)

5:30 p.m. NO MASS OR COMMUNION
SERVICE (ST)

Friday, 9/25 -

8:15 a.m. Corrine Kassing (By Donnie &
Linda Howard) (HF)

Saturday, 9/26 -

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

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

Sunday, 9/27 -

8:00 a.m. Floyd "Scotty" Blentlinger (By
Carl & Marcia Taylor) (HF)

10:00 a.m. Chris Jones (By Jim & Kim
Gronewold) (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 27 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan:	Denise Taylor
Greeters:	Jacob & Alicia Schmidt Family
Lector:	Kim Gronewold
Servers:	Alex Mock, Grace Mock
Gift Bearers:	Justin & Emily Obert Family

Eucharistic Minister:	Laura Evans, Clara Schmidt
Collection Counters:	Jerel & Bobbi Mock
Ushers:	Curtis Cramsey, Andrew Llewellyn

ST. THOMAS

Special Scouting Award - Alex Mock of St. Thomas has successfully completed the requirements for the Ad Altare Dei (To the Altar of God) emblem, including meeting with a Board of Review from the diocese. As explained by Catholic Scouting America, the program focuses around the seven sacraments and service as related to each sacrament and the Scout's spiritual growth. Fr. Ramesh will present this award to Alex on September 27. Congratulations, Alex!

ST. MARY SCHOOL

We have had a great start to this school year! Our only obstacle was the excessive heat the second week of school, but early dismissal days provided much relief from afternoon high temperatures in classrooms, hallways, gym and of course the playground. Our little school is quite a special place in so many ways but accommodating multiple AC units and modern technology electrical needs were not part of the design when it was built in 1908.

When students arrive each day, we have Morning Meetings in the gym. We say the pledge together, pray, celebrate accomplishments and we have begun talking about the Beatitudes beginning with **Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit**.

EXPLANATION: Your heart has a total dependence on God and a willingness to serve others. You know that you need God's help in your life being **humble** and admitting that you don't know everything. (**HUMILITY**) With this we have, also, had a "BE" focus. Thus far, we have discussed, provided examples for and taken the challenge to "BE" Grateful, "BE" Prayerful and "BE" kind.

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

If you are currently in 7th Grade or older, we invite you to join us on an epic adventure next summer! We will be attending a Catholic Heart Workcamp in Waterloo, IA from June 13-18. We'll leave on Saturday, June 12 so that we can

have a fun day at Lost Island Amusement & Waterpark and have some team building before camp starts. Please contact Jeanne Cramsey at 217-653-3962 by September 28 if you're interested in joining us.

CROPS FOR KIDS' FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARY SCHOOL

Crops for Kids this year will be October 3. Donations will be accepted at WGM in Mt. Sterling as in years past. Beth Boylen and her crew will be providing brisket lunch. Contact Jon Boylen 217-257-5276 or Beth Boylen 217-242-1237.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The readings for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, invite us to reflect on the difference between God's ways and our ways. So often, we see life through the lens of what seems fair to us, what we think people deserve, and how we believe things should happen. But God's mercy is greater than our calculations, and His love reaches far beyond our human expectations.

In the first reading, Isaiah 55:6-9, we hear the beautiful invitation: "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near." Isaiah reminds us that God is always ready to welcome us back. Even when we have wandered away, God calls us to return to Him. The prophet also reminds us that God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways."

How comforting this is! God does not love us according to the limited standards by which we sometimes judge one another. His ways are higher than our ways, and His mercy is greater than we can imagine.

This truth is clearly seen in today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16a, through the parable of the workers in the vineyard. The landowner goes out at different hours of the day and invites workers into his vineyard. Some work all day, while others arrive much later. Yet, at the end of the day, the landowner gives each of them the same wage.

Those who worked longer complain, "These last ones have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us." From a human point of view, we may understand their reaction. It seems unfair. But Jesus is teaching us something deeper. God's Kingdom is not based on jealousy, comparison, or keeping score. It is built upon grace and generosity.

The workers who came early received exactly what they were promised. The landowner did not treat them unjustly. Rather, he chose to be generous to those who came later.

Sometimes we can be like the workers who came first. We may compare ourselves with others and ask, "Why does that person receive so much?" "Why does God bless someone who has not worked as hard as I have?" "Why should someone who turned to God late in life receive the same mercy?"

But God's grace is not something we earn as a reward or measure like a paycheck. It is a gift. Grace cannot be measured; it can only be received with gratitude.

The second reading, Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a, gives us another important perspective. St. Paul says, "For to me life is Christ." Whether he lives or dies, Paul belongs to Christ. His greatest concern is not comparison with others but living faithfully for the Lord.

What would change in our lives if we could say with St. Paul, "For to me life is Christ"? Perhaps we would complain less, compare less, and be more grateful. Perhaps we would become less concerned about what others receive and more attentive to the gifts God has placed in our own hands.

As a parish family, we are called to rejoice in one another's blessings. When someone succeeds, we can give thanks rather than become jealous. When someone returns to the Church, even after many years away, we can celebrate God's mercy. When a new person joins our parish, we can welcome them warmly.

There is room in God's vineyard for everyone. The Lord continues to go out and call people, at every stage of life, saying, "Come into my vineyard." Perhaps He is calling someone who has been away from the Church. Perhaps He is calling us to a deeper prayer life, greater service, or a new beginning.

The good news is that it is never too late to respond to God's invitation.

This week, let us "seek the Lord" and allow His ways to shape our hearts. Let us stop keeping score and start giving thanks. Let us rejoice in God's generosity toward others as well as ourselves.

May we always remember: God does not ask us to compare our journey with someone else's. He asks us to faithfully follow Him.

May the Lord help us to say with St. Paul, "For to me life is Christ," and may our parish continue to grow as a grateful, welcoming, and generous family of faith.

With prayers and blessings,
Fr. Ramesh, Pastor

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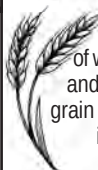
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 Amen, amen, I say
to you, unless a grain
of wheat falls to the ground
and dies, it remains just a
grain of wheat, but if it dies,
it produces much fruit.
John 12:24

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