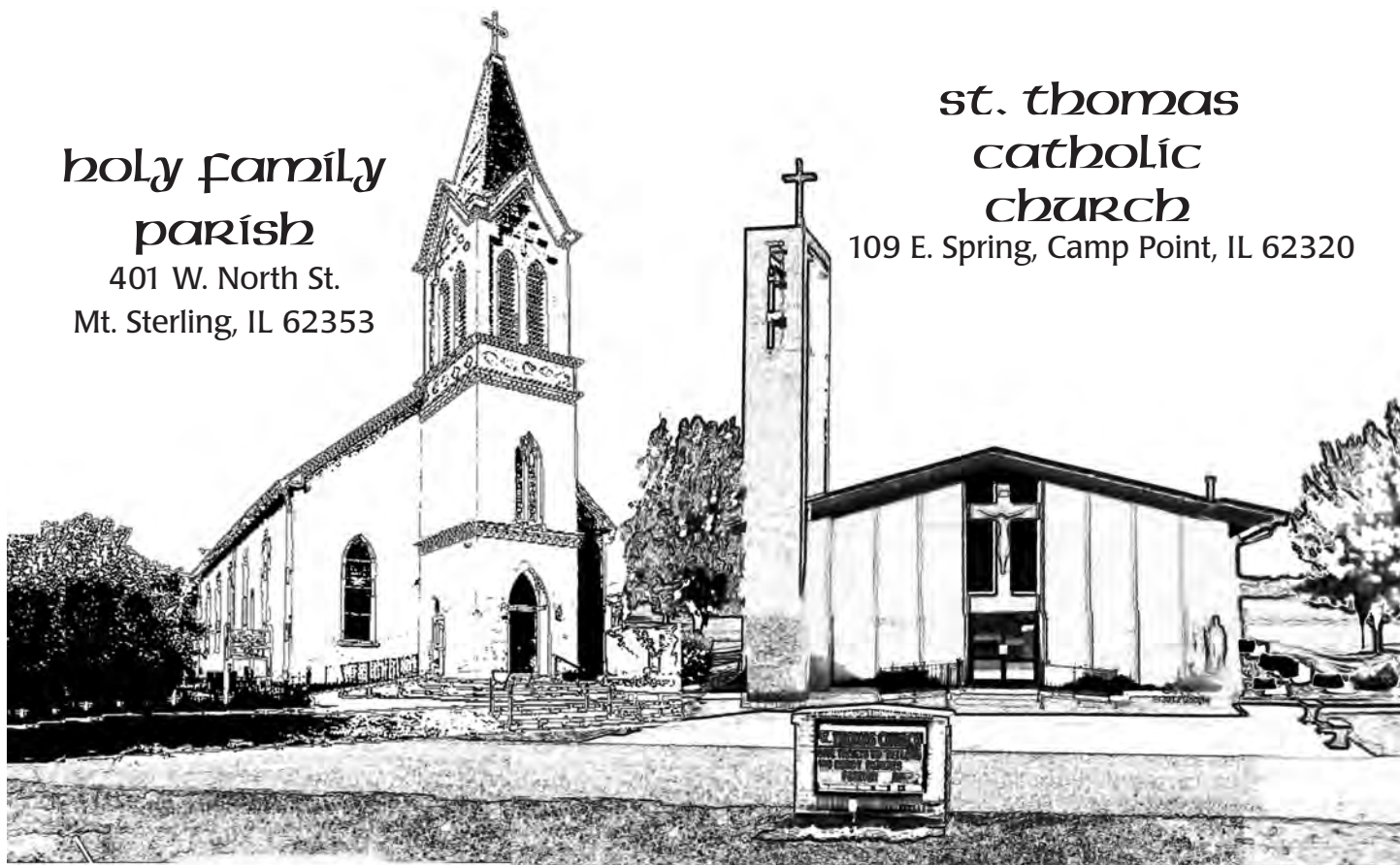


**holy family
parish**

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. Ramesh Matta, Pastor – (217) 773-3233
Emergency Only: (217) 414-7166

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:

Brent and Jenni Obert - (217)779-0720

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, 10/12-

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

Tuesday, 10/13 -

7:00 a.m. Doug & Margie Dunn (By Doug & Dawn Dunn) (HF)

Wednesday, 10/14 -

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

Thursday, 10/15 -

7:00 a.m. Ed Veith (By Marilyn & Pat Veith) (HF)

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

Friday, 10/16 -

8:15 a.m. Bruce Schrieber (By Sara & Zachary Dawson) (HF)

Saturday, 10/17 -

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

5:30 p.m. Dwight & Helen Armstrong (By Cathy Black) (HF)

Sunday, 10/18 -

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

10:00 a.m. Henry Ehrhardt & Malinda Wiseman (By the Family) (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 †
 David Bordenkircher † Stanley Obert †
 Dona Hedden †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

October 18 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Dawn Peters
Greeters: John & Janice Brady
Lector: Elijah Perry
Servers: Charles Evans,
 Charlie Reed

Gift Bearers:

Justin & Chelsea Reed
 Family

Eucharistic Minister:

Elizabeth Likes,
 Kim Gronewold,
 Cathy Wagner

Collection Counters:

Greg & Elizabeth Likes

Ushers:

Jacob & Maurice
 Schmidt

ST. THOMAS

SAVE THE DATE - Deacon Dennis Holbrook will be coming to St. Thomas Church Hall on Monday evening October 26 at 6:00 p.m. He will be speaking on "The Gift of Divine Mercy." Everyone is invited.

24th ANNUAL PENNIES FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN for Adams County Right to Life will be collected after Sunday Mass October 18 at St. Thomas. 1 cent for each year of your life. Give thanks to God for your life.

Box of Joy Campaign started for St. Thomas PSR and parishioners Sunday, October 4. Boxes and donation envelopes need to be returned by SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 to Claudia Coggeshall or any other member of Altar and Rosary. Check off your box on the Group Checklist, which will be on a clip board in the cloak room, when you return box and envelope. There are extra boxes, donation envelopes, Gift Idea sheet, information sheet, and a Signup sheet (Group Checklist) in the cloak room at St. Thomas if you were unable to pick one up on October 4.

ST. MARY SCHOOL

Monday, October 12 NO SCHOOL-Columbus Day



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY - School pictures will be taken on Tuesday, October 13.

We have a website that will allow you to buy St. Mary School apparel, lunches, & seasonal tasty treats.



Check out the website below!

<https://stmaryschool.bigcartel.com/>



The Knights of Columbus Council 1281 will once again accept donations throughout October to help purchase coats for people in need. The coats will be

distributed by Two Rivers Regional Council in Brown County and the Community for Christ Assistance Center in Camp Point. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Sullivan at 217-242-9862. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping provide warmth and support to members of our community.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, the Word of God invites us to reflect on one of the most beautiful images in Scripture: a **banquet prepared by God for His people**. In the readings, we encounter a God who desires to gather His children, feed them, comfort them, and share His abundant life with them. The invitation is generous, but it also asks for a response.

In the first reading (Isaiah 25:6-10a), the prophet Isaiah describes the Lord preparing a magnificent feast for all peoples. It is a banquet of rich food and fine wine, but it is much more than a meal. It represents God's promise of salvation, joy, and communion. Isaiah tells us that God will wipe away the tears from every face. What a beautiful picture of our heavenly Father! God sees our struggles, our disappointments, our worries, and our tears, and He promises that suffering will not have the final word.

The Gospel (Matthew 22:1-14) presents a similar image. Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a king who prepares a wedding feast for his son. The invitations are sent, but some refuse to come. Others become too busy with their own affairs. Still, the king does not give up. He sends his servants into the streets and invites everyone—good and bad—to the feast.

This Gospel reminds us that **God's invitation is generous and personal**. He invites each of us into a relationship with Him. He invites us to prayer, to the Eucharist, to the community of the Church, and ultimately to eternal life.

But there is an important detail in the parable: the guest without a wedding garment. The wedding

garment reminds us that accepting God's invitation is not simply about showing up. We are also called to allow God's grace to change the way we live. We cannot receive God's invitation and remain completely unchanged.

Our participation in the Eucharist should make a difference in us. We come to Mass carrying our joys and burdens, but we should leave with renewed hearts — more patient, more forgiving, more generous, and more willing to serve.

St. Paul gives us a wonderful example in the second reading (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20). He says, **"I have learned to be well off wherever I am."** He knows abundance and he knows need. Yet he has learned the secret of living with trust: **"I can do all things in him who strengthens me."** Paul's strength does not come from possessions or circumstances. His strength comes from Christ.

This is an important lesson for our parish family. There will be seasons of abundance and seasons of difficulty. There will be joyful moments and challenging moments. Through all of them, Christ remains our strength.

Every Sunday, the Lord continues to prepare a banquet for us—the Eucharistic banquet. **The table is prepared. The invitation is given. The question is: Will we come?**

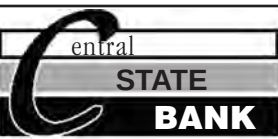
Let us not allow busyness, distractions, worries, or other priorities to keep us away from the Lord's table. Sunday Mass is not simply another appointment on our calendar. It is the gathering of God's family, where we hear His Word, receive Christ in the Eucharist, and are strengthened to live our faith throughout the week.

As we gather each Sunday, let us come with grateful hearts and with the desire to put on the "wedding garment" of Christian love—faith, kindness, forgiveness, humility, generosity, and service.

May we never forget that **God's invitation is always an invitation to joy**. He has prepared a place for us at His table. May we respond generously, not only by coming to the feast, but by allowing the grace of the feast to transform our lives.

As a parish family, may we continue to invite others to God's banquet—especially those who feel forgotten, lonely, discouraged, or distant from the Church. Sometimes a simple welcome, a kind word, or an invitation to Mass can become the beginning of someone's return to God.

The Lord has prepared the feast. The invitation is for everyone. Let us come and let us bring others with us.

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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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