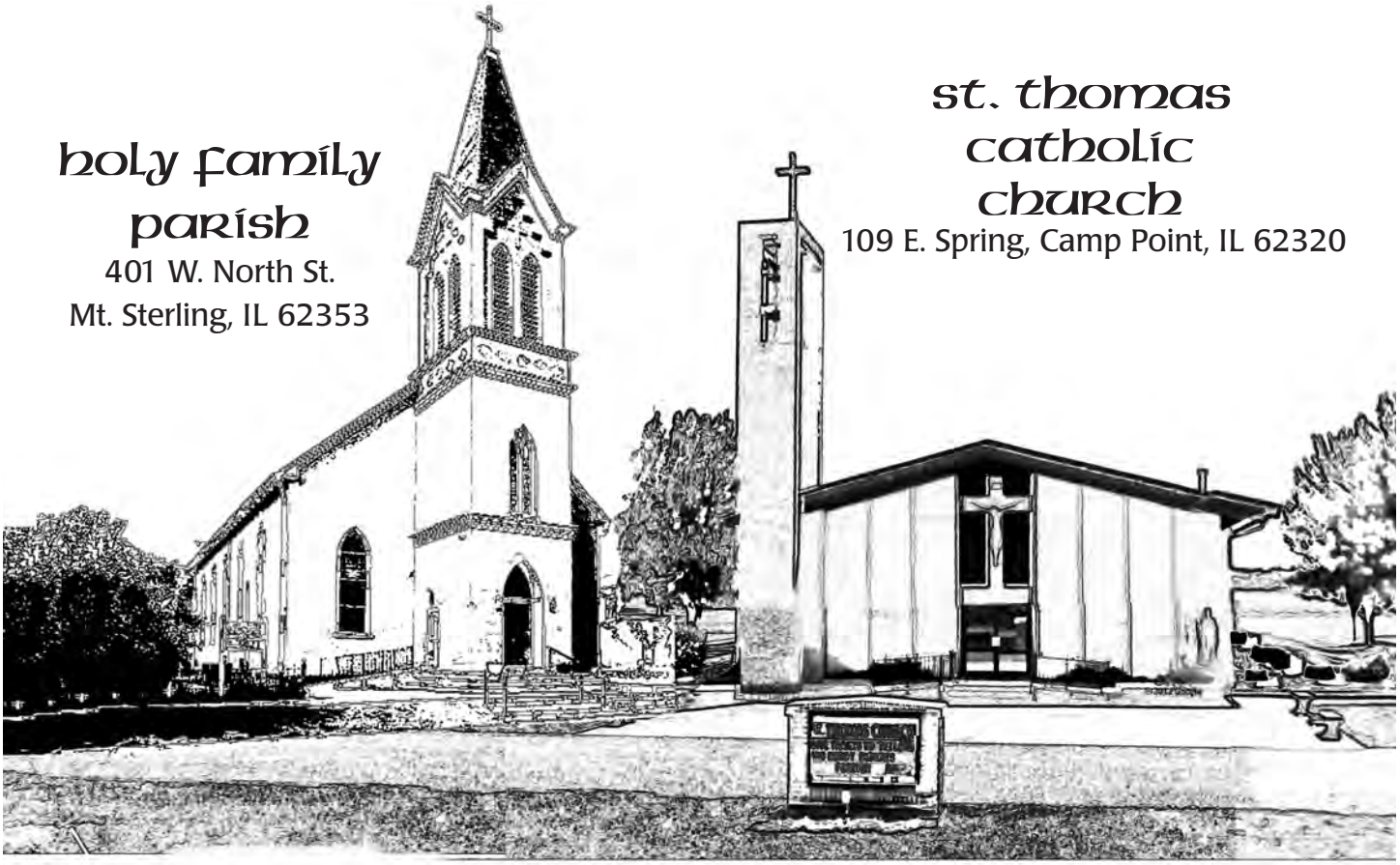
holy family parish

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, 10/26–
7:00 a.m. **NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)**
Tuesday, 10/27 –
7:00 a.m. Raymond, Mable & John Salrin (By Nancy Salrin) **(HF)**
Wednesday, 10/28 –
7:00 a.m. Maurice Ormond (By Mary Lynn Tucker) **(HF)**
Thursday, 10/29 –
7:00 a.m. Fr. Ramesh's intentions **(HF)**
5:30 p.m. Richard & Delores Obert (By Butch & Dorothy Obert) **(ST)**
Friday, 10/30 –
8:15 a.m. Betty Koch (By Mike, Alan, Glen, Diane & Families) **(HF)**
Saturday, 10/31 –
8:15 a.m. **NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)**
5:30 p.m. Doug & Margie Dunn (By Doug & Dawn Dunn) **(HF)**
Sunday, 11/1 –
8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of Legion of Mary **(HF)**
10:00 a.m. Parishioners of Holy Family & St. Thomas **(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 † Kalvin 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 † Tom Tracy †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

November 1 – 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Denise Taylor
Greeters: PSR
Lector: PSR
Servers: PSR
Gift Bearers: PSR
Eucharistic Minister: Pat Sharow, Theresa Bockhold, Brent Obert
Collection Counters: Jerel & Bobbi Mock
Ushers: Tod & Elijah Perry

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Altar and Rosary Society meeting Sunday, October 25, 5:00 p.m. in the church hall.

BOXES OF JOY need to be returned by Sunday, October 25. Contact Claudia Coggeshall, 217-653-6716 if any questions.

ST. MARY SCHOOL

Classroom News - Students in PreK had a wonderful field trip to Mrs. Behymer's Farm last week! They went on a hayride, played in some corn, ate yummy snacks and made some great memories.

All students in Mrs. Saxer's 1st grade class achieved independent reader status! Congratulations, First Grade!!

We have been doing some clean-up at school and we are very thankful for our students in grades 5-8 who helped a LOT! They eagerly assisted and helped in the process of parting with some old and unused items.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be located at the Mt. Sterling **Legion Hall** on **Wednesday, October 28, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Appointments are recommended but walk ins are welcome. Call 1-800 Red Cross or 217-257-3117 for appointments.

ANNUAL WREATH FUNDRAISER

Cass Schuyler Area Hospice Volunteers are doing our annual wreath fund raiser. Money is to be turned in with the orders (other arrangements can be made). The wreaths will be delivered on the week of Thanksgiving. Please call Karen Yingling at 812-459-2022 or the Hospice office at 217-452-3057 by October 30.

SAVE THE DATE

Holy Family Turkey Dinner - November 1, 2026, at the KC Hall. Drive -thru only from 11-1. Local delivery available, as well as bulk orders may call 217-242-1237.

St. Mary School's largest fundraiser of the year – the **Brown County Deer Classic** – will take place on November 14, 2026. Please see the website www.bcdeerclassic.com for details.

HOLY FAMILY CHOIR PRACTICE

Attention: Choir Members – Choir practice will be Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
All are welcome.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear parishioners,

Peace and blessings to you and your families!

In this Sunday's Gospel **(Matthew 22:34–40)**, Jesus is asked a very important question by one of the scholars of the law: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus responds with words that summarize the entire Christian life: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then He adds, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." He concludes by explaining that the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.

These words remind us that **love is at the very heart of our faith**. Our relationship with God cannot be separated from the way we treat the people around us. We cannot claim to love God while ignoring the suffering, loneliness, or needs of our brothers and sisters.

In the first reading from **Exodus (22:20–26)**, God commands His people to care for strangers, widows, orphans, and the poor. The Lord reminds them that He hears the cries of those who suffer. This passage reveals God's special concern for the vulnerable and calls us to reflect His compassion in our own lives. Loving our neighbor is not simply a kind thought or a good intention; it requires concrete acts of mercy, justice, and generosity.

St. Paul, in the second reading **(1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10)**, praises the Thessalonians for receiving the Gospel with joy and becoming examples of faith to others. Their lives demonstrated the power of God's Word. Likewise, our Christian faith should be visible in the way we live. Our kindness, patience, forgiveness, and generosity can become a living witness to Christ in our families, parish, workplace, and community.

As we reflect on these readings, we might ask ourselves: How do I show my love for God each day? Do I make time for prayer, participate faithfully in the Eucharist, and seek to follow His Word? And how do I love my neighbor? Do I listen patiently to someone who feels forgotten? Do I forgive those who have hurt me? Am I willing to help someone in need, even when it is inconvenient?

Sometimes, we imagine that loving our neighbor requires extraordinary sacrifices. Yet love often begins with small, ordinary gestures: a sincere smile, a comforting word, a visit to someone who is lonely, a helping hand to a struggling family, or a willingness to set aside our differences and offer forgiveness. These simple actions can become powerful expressions of Christ's love.

Dear friends, our parishes are called to be a community where love of God and love of neighbor go hand in hand. When we gather for the Eucharist, we receive Christ's love so that we may carry that love into the world. Let us strive to make our homes places of understanding, our parishes a welcoming community, and our neighborhood a place where everyone experiences the dignity and compassion of God's children.

As we journey through this week, let us remember that holiness is not measured only by what we say in prayer, but also by the love we share with others. May the Lord give us hearts that love Him wholeheartedly and recognize His presence in every person we meet.

May we always remember: Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself. When we live these two commandments, we fulfill the very heart of the Gospel.

May God bless you and your families with His peace and love!

In Christ,

Your Pastor

Fr. Ramesh Matta

Celebrating the Saints: Our Friends in Heaven

On **Friday, October 30, 8:15 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church**, our school community will celebrate a special **All Saints Mass**, honoring the holy men and women who faithfully followed Jesus and now rejoice in heaven. Some of our students will dress up as saints, helping us discover their inspiring stories and virtues.

The saints are wonderful examples of how to live our faith through prayer, kindness, courage, forgiveness, and service to others. They remind us that holiness is not reserved for a few extraordinary people; we are all called to become saints by loving God and our neighbors in our daily lives.

On November 1, the universal Church celebrates the **Solemnity of All Saints**, honoring all the saints in heaven, both known and unknown. We celebrate their holy lives, seek their prayers, and remember that heaven is our ultimate destination.

May the saints inspire our children, strengthen our families, and guide our parish toward holiness.

All Saints, pray for 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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