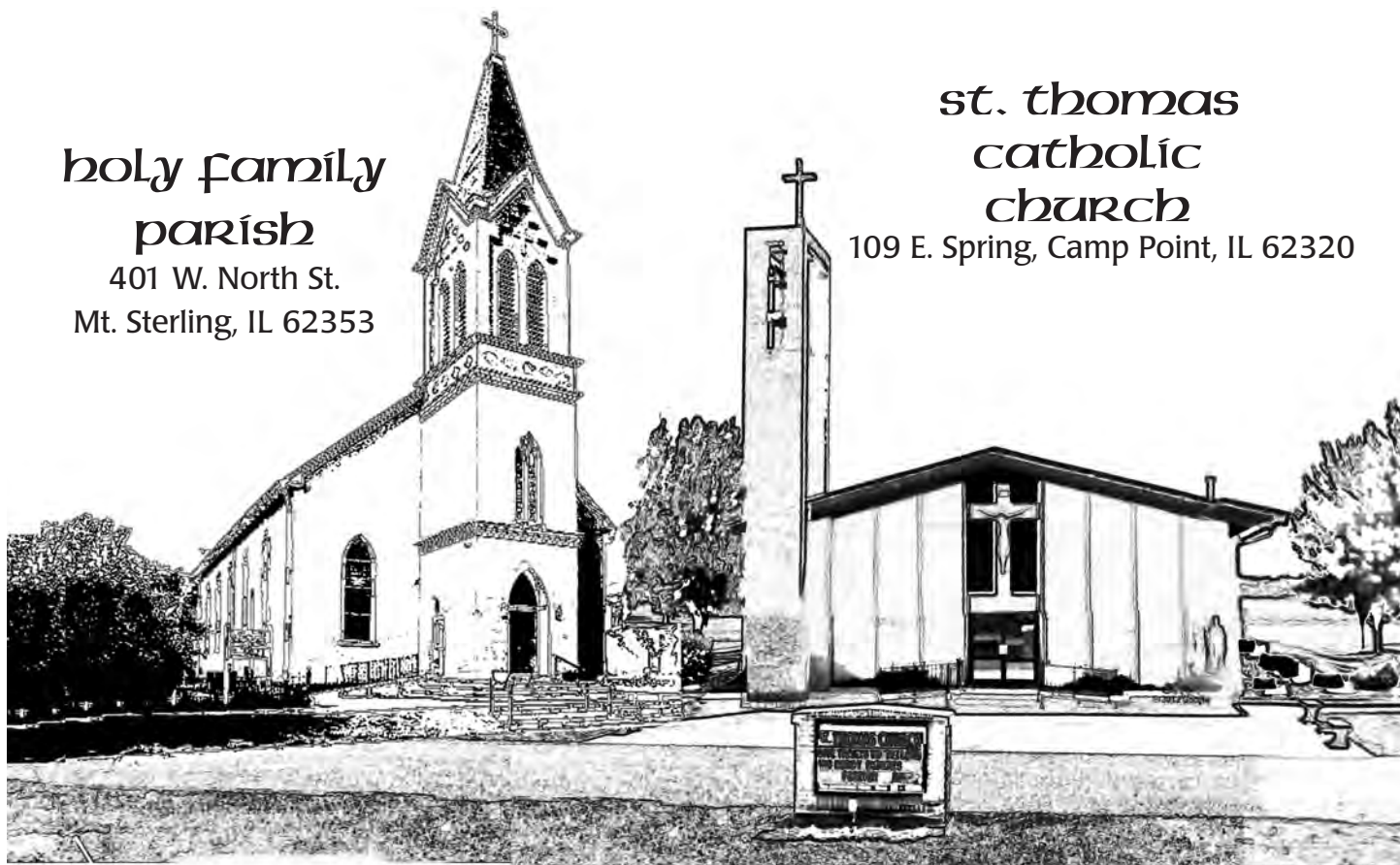


**holy family  
parish**

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. 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](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:

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

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Monday, 10/5-**

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

**Tuesday, 10/6 -**

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

**Wednesday, 10/7 -**

**7:00 a.m. Paul, Frances & Larry Schenk and Ruth James (By Bob & Judy Schenk & Family) (HF)**

**Thursday, 10/8 -**

**7:00 a.m. Special Intention (By Legion of Mary) (HF)**

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

**Friday, 10/9 -**

**8:15 a.m. Sr. Sara Koch (By Alan & Rhonda Koch) (HF)**

**Saturday, 10/10 -**

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

**5:30 p.m. Marie Rolf (By Grandpa & Grandma Rolf) (HF)**

**Sunday, 10/11 -**

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

**10:00 a.m. Eugene Steinkamp (By Barbara Steinkamp) (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:**

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 †

## ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

**October 11 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Sacristan:** Denise Taylor

**Greeters:** Denny & Cathy Wagner

**Lector:** David Leezer

**Servers:**

Charlie Reed, Sydney Kearby

**Gift Bearers:**

Tod Perry Family

**Eucharistic Minister:**

Alicia Schmidt, Ray Bockhold, Tod Perry

**Collection Counters:**

Dale & Sindy DeRousse

**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.

## ST. MARY SCHOOL

**VOCATION'S DAY**

5th and 6th grade students

St. Mary's 5th and 6th graders attended the Diocese sponsored Vocation's Day on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at Routt Catholic High School in Jacksonville, led by Father Zach Samples. The day began with Mass and Father Zach's homily focused on developing stronger relationships with God. Students participated in two "talk" sessions: 1) Identity-God is proud of us. He delights in us and we do not have to earn his love. 2) Mission-What does it mean to be sons and daughters of God? What Mission does God have special for me? This was a wonderful faith-filled opportunity for our students, and we greatly appreciate that the diocese made this opportunity available for our 5th and 6th grade students.



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 weekend, the Word of God invites us to reflect on a beautiful but challenging reality: **God has entrusted His vineyard to us.** The vineyard is an image of God's people, His Church, our families, and all that He has placed into our care. The question is not simply, "What has God given me?" but also, "**What am I doing with what God has entrusted to me?**"

In the First Reading, Isaiah presents the beautiful image of the beloved vineyard. The owner carefully prepares the vineyard, plants the finest vines, and provides everything necessary for it to produce good grapes. Yet, when harvest time comes, it produces wild grapes. Isaiah then asks, "What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done?" This is a powerful question for each of us. God has given us His love, His grace, His Church, His Word, the sacraments, our families, our parish community, and countless opportunities to grow in holiness. How are we responding to these gifts?

The Gospel continues this vineyard imagery. Jesus speaks of a landowner who plants a vineyard and entrusts it to tenants. When the owner sends servants to collect the harvest, they are rejected and mistreated. Finally, he sends his son, but the tenants kill him. Jesus is speaking about God's relationship with His people and ultimately pointing toward His own rejection and death.

The Gospel therefore reminds us that **God's gifts come with responsibility.** We are not owners of everything we possess; we are stewards. Our time, talents, resources, relationships, parish, school, and faith are gifts entrusted to us. One day, the Lord will ask us how we used them.

This is especially important for us as a parish family. A healthy parish does not depend only on the pastor, staff, or a few volunteers. **The vineyard belongs to God, and every one of us has a place in caring for it.** Some serve through ministries, some through prayer, some through generosity, some by welcoming newcomers, some by teaching children, and others simply by being present and encouraging someone who is struggling.

The Second Reading gives us practical guidance for living as faithful stewards. St. Paul tells the Philippians, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." He then encourages them to think about what is

true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise.

What a wonderful invitation for our parish life! Instead of allowing anxiety, criticism, discouragement, or division to take root, Paul invites us to cultivate a different harvest: **prayer, gratitude, goodness, peace, and hope.**

**NOCTURNAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION (First Saturday of the month):** I would also like to encourage everyone to take advantage of our **nocturnal Eucharistic adoration**, which takes place every First Saturday night into the early hours of Sunday morning. It's a great blessing to our parishes and community. What a beautiful opportunity to spend quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. During the night, when the world is quiet, we can come before the Lord with our joys, burdens, families, parish, school, nation, and personal intentions.

I warmly invite parishioners to participate in this time of adoration. Come for an hour or come for whatever time you are able. Sit with Jesus. Pray with Him. Listen to Him. Thank Him. Bring Him your worries and allow His presence to renew your heart.

At the same time, our Eucharistic adoration should lead us toward the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. **Sunday Mass is at the heart of our Christian life.** Our time of adoration is not a substitute for Sunday Mass; rather, it prepares our hearts to celebrate the Lord's Day and to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. As Catholics, we are called to participate in Sunday Mass, where the parish family gathers around the altar to hear God's Word and receive Christ Himself.

Let us therefore ask ourselves this week: **What kind of fruit is my life producing?** Is there prayer? Is there forgiveness? Is there generosity? Is there patience? Is there love? Is there service?

God has lovingly planted His vineyard and entrusted it to us. May our parish always produce a harvest that gives glory to God.

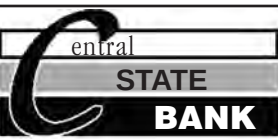
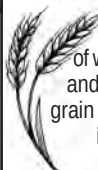
**The vineyard belongs to God. We are His stewards. Let us produce good fruit.**

May our prayer, our Eucharistic adoration, and our Sunday celebration strengthen us to become faithful workers in God's vineyard.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Ramesh

Pastor

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  Amen, amen, I say<br>to you, unless a grain<br>of wheat falls to the ground<br>and dies, it remains just a<br>grain of wheat, but if it dies,<br>it produces much fruit.<br><b>John 12:24</b>                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>HELP SUPPORT YOUR PARISH</b><br><b>ADVERTISE HERE!</b><br><b>CALL 1-800-635-0622</b><br><b>OR</b><br><b>CONTACT LORI AT</b><br><b><a href="mailto:lori@sundaymissal.com">lori@sundaymissal.com</a></b>                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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