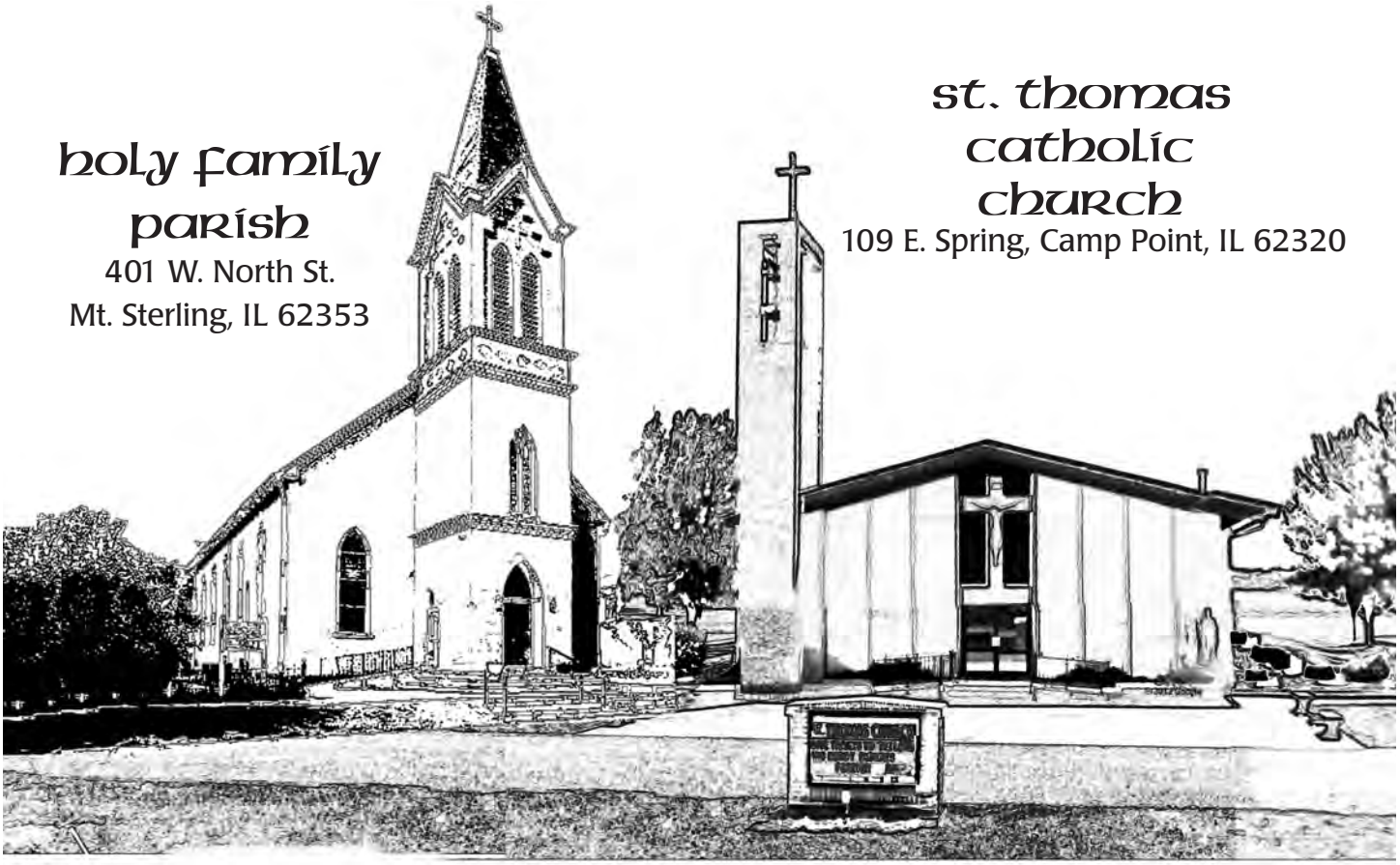
holy family parish

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

st. thomas catholic church

109 E. Spring, Camp Point, IL 62320



Parish Office: (217) 773-2825
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
(217) 773-2825
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, 11/9–
7:00 a.m. **NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)**
Tuesday, 11/10 –
7:00 a.m. Donna Stephenson (By Ed & Norma Markert) **(HF)**
Wednesday, 11/11 –
8:15 a.m. Raymond Metzger (By K of C Council #1281) **(HF)**
Thursday, 11/12 –
7:00 a.m. Fr. Ramesh's intentions **(HF)**
5:30 p.m. Carol Likes (By the Likes Family) **(ST)**
Friday, 11/13 –
8:15 a.m. John Bullard (By the Family) **(HF)**
Saturday, 11/14 –
8:15 a.m. **NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE (HF)**
4:00 p.m. Helen Kassing (By Tammy) **(HF)**
Sunday, 11/15 –
8:00 a.m. Jennifer Volk (By Larry Volk) **(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 † Clark Knight † Candy Knight † Kim Colbert † Ron Kassing † Sommer Kassing Stiefel †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

November 15 – 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Ray Bockhold
Greeters: PSR
Lector: PSR
Servers: PSR
Gift Bearers: PSR
Eucharistic Minister: Elizabeth Likes, Kim Gronewold, Cathy Wagner
Collection Counters: Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Ushers: Tod & Elijah Perry

ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Ministers of Holy Communion - If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or if you already are a minister, Fr. Ramesh will be having a meeting within the next few weeks. It is our hope to have all of the training and mandates completed by Christmas. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of church. Please sign up.

St. Thomas Parishioners - If you are homebound and are unable to attend Sunday Mass due to health constraints or a recent hospital stay and you would like to receive Holy Communion, please call Pat at 217-593-7059. We will arrange for someone to come and visit you and bring Holy Communion.

ST. MARY SCHOOL

4th Grade Newspaper

Mrs. Woodward's 4th grade English Language Art class is learning all about the elements necessary to make a newspaper. Last week John and Carolyn Ormond spoke to them about producing the Mount Sterling Democrat Message for many years and our students learned so much from them! Our 4th graders will begin interviewing staff members and will take their writing pieces through the processes necessary for publication such as creating a draft, verifying facts, editing and creating a final copy. Fourth grade, we cannot wait to read your newspaper! Mrs. Woodward is going to insert the newspaper in the Holy Family Church bulletin so that our parishioners can enjoy our students' publishing talents as well as get the latest news from St. Mary's School.

St. Mary's Facebook Page

If you haven't joined our St. Mary's Facebook page, I highly encourage you to do so! Our staff does an excellent job posting both school and classroom activities that you won't want to miss out on.

FOOD DRIVE

Marilyn Veith is heading up the food drive at Holy Family again this year. If you'd like to donate food items, there is a tub inside the doors of the church that you can place your items. We will be collecting items through November 30.

Brown County Historical Society

The Brown County Historical Society will hold its Fall Meeting & Program on Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Timewell Baptist Church. Guest speakers will be Tom Campbell & Gary Roe.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear parishioners,

As we continue our journey through the month of November, the Church invites us to reflect on the mystery of death, the promise of eternal life, and our responsibility to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. November is traditionally dedicated to remembering and praying for our beloved dead. Today's readings beautifully connect our Christian hope, the wisdom of living faithfully, and the importance of being spiritually prepared.

In the first reading from the Book of **Wisdom (6:12–16)**, we hear that wisdom is radiant and never fades away. She is readily perceived by those who love her and found by those who seek her. The sacred author presents wisdom almost as a person who actively seeks those who desire her. This reminds us that true wisdom is more than knowledge or worldly success. It is the ability to see life through God's eyes, to make choices according to His will, and to recognize what truly leads us to eternal life. When we seek God sincerely through prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments, His wisdom guides our daily decisions and prepares our hearts for eternity.

In the second reading, **(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)** St. Paul addresses a concern among the Thessalonians about those who have died before the return of Christ. He does not want them to grieve like those who have no hope. He reminds them that Jesus died and rose again, and that those who have died in Christ will also share in His Resurrection. His words offer great consolation to us, especially during this month when we remember our deceased parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, and fellow parishioners. Christian faith does not tell us that death is painless or that we should not mourn. Rather, it assures us that death does not have the final word. Because Christ has conquered death, we grieve with hope, trusting our loved ones to the mercy and love of God.

In the Gospel **(Matthew 25:1–13)**, Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins who take their lamps to meet the bridegroom. Five are wise and bring extra oil, while five are foolish and fail to prepare. When the bridegroom arrives unexpectedly, only those who are ready enter the wedding feast. Jesus concludes with a clear warning: "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The oil in the lamps reminds us of the importance of a living and persevering faith. We cannot borrow another person's relationship with God. Our parents' faith, our family's prayers, or our participation in parish activities cannot replace our own personal commitment to Christ. Each of us must cultivate our own spiritual life through prayer, the Eucharist, reconciliation, works of mercy, forgiveness, and love. Being prepared does not mean living in fear of death; it means living each day faithfully and keeping our hearts close to the Lord.

The month of November gives us a special opportunity to put this Gospel into practice. As Catholics, we believe in the Communion of Saints—the spiritual bond uniting the faithful on earth, the souls being purified in Purgatory, and the saints who already rejoice in heaven. Our prayers for the faithful departed are expressions of love that continue beyond death. We pray for them because we trust in God's mercy and believe that our prayers can assist them on their journey toward the fullness of heaven.

During this month, I encourage every family in our parish to make a special effort to:

1. **Offer Masses** for deceased parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends.
2. **Pray the Rosary** for the faithful departed, especially those who have no one to remember them.
3. **Visit a cemetery** and spend some time praying at the graves of loved ones.
4. **Remember the deceased at family prayer**, mentioning their names and thanking God for their lives.
5. **Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation** and participate in the Eucharist, renewing our own relationship with Christ.
6. **Teach our children to pray for the dead**, helping them understand that love and prayer continue beyond this earthly life.

Dear friends, this Sunday's Gospel challenges us to ask ourselves: If the Lord came today, would our lamps be burning? Are we living with faith, hope, and love? Let us not postpone our prayer, forgiveness, acts of charity, or reconciliation with God and one another.

May the wisdom of God guide our lives, the Resurrection of Christ strengthen our hope, and the example of the wise virgins remind us to remain spiritually prepared.

Let us keep our lamps burning, our faith alive, and our hearts ready, so that when the Bridegroom comes, we may joyfully enter into the eternal wedding feast of heaven.

May God bless you and your families, and may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

In Christ, Your Pastor

Mt. Sterling Monuments
Jim Henrick, Owner
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mtsterlingmonuments@casscomm.com
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Mt. Sterling, IL 62353
Ph.: 217-773-2026 Fax: 217-773-2975

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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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