

Reconciliation ~ Sacred Heart Church every Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
Parish Reconciliation ~ St. Anthony Church on Sunday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m.

Great things are being planned for Sacred Heart Church during the Christmas Masses.

Christmas Eve ~ December 24

4:00 p.m. – Children’s Mass. Rumor has it that Santa Claus may make a special appearance!

11:00 p.m. – Music by the Sacred Heart Adult Choir and special guest mezzo soprano, Valerie Nicolosi.

Christmas Day ~ December 25

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Music by two of our parish ensembles and a rumored visit from Santa Claus!

Many surprises in store for our Christmas Masses! Be sure to join us for our prayerful and song-filled Christmas Masses this season. Our various choirs and ensemble groups will lead each Christmas celebration, and Santa Claus will be here for our 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass as well as our Christmas Day Masses! Our 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will feature 30-member Sacred Heart Adult Choir and special guest Valerie Nicolosi. Valerie is well known for her worldwide opera and symphony performances. She is married to Teutopolis native Gary Niemerg, and will be visiting the Effingham area over Christmas. We are thrilled that she’s chosen to accompany our talented adult choir!

Christmas Flowers & Decorations ~ If you would like to make a donation for poinsettias and Christmas decorations in memory of a loved one, envelopes can be found in your December packets. Please complete the information on the back of the envelope and enclose your donation. Drop it in the collection or bring it by the parish office by Dec. 17.

Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Sunday, December 13, at a noon Mass at Sacred Heart Church. If you know of someone who could not make it to this Mass, but would like to be anointed, please contact Darlene at 347.7177 and the parish priest will come to your home.

Happy 1st Anniversary! It’s been one year since our “First Fruits” Sunday collection of the Extreme Makeover. To say THANK YOU, we’ll give a short presentation during the Masses on December 19/20.

Alumni Welcome Home event will be Sunday, February 7, beginning with a 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by a celebration at the Sacred Heart School and Parish Center. We would like to hear from Sacred Heart School alumni, so please fill out an alumni card in the pews, complete the information and return it to the parish office. If your children attended Sacred Heart, please complete one for them.

Welcome ~ FOCUS, (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), students at E.I.U. are speaking this weekend about the 2010 Made for More Conference in Orlando, Florida. FOCUS is hoping to raise \$7,200 for transportation and student scholarships for the students attending the conference. If you would like to make a donation, or know someone interested in attending the conference, please talk to the FOCUS team after Mass. For further questions, you may contact the team at easternil@focusonline.org or call 217.348.0188.

Young Hearts Potluck will be Tuesday, December 15, at noon in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Bring your favorite dish and invite a friend to join in the fellowship. Sacred Heart Grade School students will entertain us with Christmas songs from their upcoming play.

Pro-Life & Family Life Center Giving Tree is on display in the baptismal area. Please return items under the tree by December 20. All donations will be given to the area Pro-Life and Family Life Center.

Cookie/Candy Exchange during the upcoming Sacred Heart Moms-N-More *morning group* meeting on Monday, December 14, in the lower level of the Church at 8:30 a.m.. Bring 3 dozen cookies or candies, your recipe, and a take-home container. We’ll exchange goodies and you’ll leave with a wide variety of cookies and candy for the upcoming holidays! If you have questions, please contact Christy at 217.347.7177.

Christmas Dinner sponsored by the Effingham Ministerial Association will be Friday, December 25, at 11:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Reservations can be made by signing up in the back of church on the bulletin board or call the parish office 347.7177. Meals will be served at the parish center ~ transportation will be provided if needed. Meals will be delivered to the *home-bound only*, so please include phone number when registering.

Current addresses for holidays are posted on the “Christmas Events Bulletin Board.” Also, did you know, that Fr. Dan Bergbower will be celebrating his 50th Birthday on December 29. He would love to hear from you!

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, December 14

7:15 a.m.: Dolores Hinkle *by Milton Hinkle family*

Tuesday, December 15

7:15 a.m.: Jeanette Wenthe Lamkin *by family*

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 a.m.: George Bourgeois *by family*

Friday, December 18

7:15 a.m.: Pat Gress *by family*

Saturday, December 19

4:00 p.m.: Mary Ritchie *by family*

Sunday, December 20

8:30 a.m.: Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women Sick, Homebound, and Ladies over 80 *by SHCCW*

10:30 a.m.: Robert Yocum *by family*

5:30 p.m.: James Tolch *by Paula Tolch*

7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass: John Walker *by family*

WEEKLY OFFERING ~ Dec. 5-6

	<u>Weekly Total</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Envelopes ~ 282	\$ 18,625.25	\$ 290,279.25
Loose	\$ 1,372.99	\$ 34,039.73
Children ~ 44	\$ 50.65	\$ 872.80
Adopt-A-Student	\$ 280.00	\$ 10,309.00
Total	\$ 20,328.89	\$ 335,500.78
Budget Goal	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 345,000.00
Difference	\$ 5,328.89	- \$ 9,499.22

Comparison to 1 Year Ago (YTD)

<i>Total YTD 2008-09 07-01-09 to 12-06-09</i>	<i>Total YTD 2007-08 07-01-08 to 12-07-08</i>	<i>Difference for YTD 07-08 to YTD 08-09</i>
\$ 335,500.78	\$ 300,683.98	+\$ 34,816.80

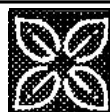
Tax Tips about IRA Distributions . . . “If you’ve reached the age of 70 1/2, you need to take a required minimum distribution from your IRA. For the remainder of 2009, you can donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to Sacred Heart Church and reap tax benefits. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Mark at the parish office 217.347.7177 before the end of the year.

Youth Ministry Update . . .

High School students, come celebrate the beginning of Christmas break Saturday, Dec. 19, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the lower level! We’ll begin with an opportunity for Reconciliation to prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming, then watch “The Nativity Story” movie, eat snacks, and have fun. Those who wish can stay to attend 4:00 p.m. Mass together. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

March for Life Trip ~ The Sacred Heart High School Youth will be attending the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. January 21-23 with the Effingham Area Life Caravan. Any high school students interested in attending and any parents interested in helping chaperone the trip should contact Kate Pruemmer as soon as possible or by December 21st at the latest at 217.347.7177 or k.pruemer@sheff.org. For more information and a registration form see the Youth Ministry bulletin board or the Youth Ministry link on the parish website.

Sponsor of the Week



**Hilton
Garden Inn**
Effingham

at the



(217) 540-7777

(217) 347-5115

SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS . . .

Christmas Program will be Tuesday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the SHS Gym. “The Legacy of Love,” presented by our K-8 grade students, reminds us that Christmas is such a special time of family and traditions and warm memories. It is a great opportunity to reflect on love, both past and present. Everyone is welcome to the play and join the students afterwards in the parish center for refreshments.

Son-Shine Kids for Jesus Celebration will be held Thursday, December 17, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart School. The three-year old preschool students will create “Jesus’ Works of Art,” perform songs, and enjoy story time with their families.

Booster Club has gifts available for purchase for Christmas: T-Shirts, crew neck sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, polo shirts, gym bag, license plate holder, SHS car decal, Shamrock chill mugs and Sacred Heart garden flags with stand. Place your order today!! Contact Kim Mills at 217.347.7531.

Christmas Break – the last day of school before Christmas break is Friday, Dec. 18. School will dismiss at the regular time. School resumes on Tuesday, Jan. 5.

Community Events

Advent Evensong will be Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Church at Wendelin. A candlelight service with Scripture, organ, English carols, and Austrian Christmas music sung in German, by the Wendelin Kloepfen Singers.

Girl Scout Troop 2225 will be sponsoring a blood drive through American Red Cross on Saturday, Dec. 19, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Village Square Mall.

Effingham K of C Adult Christmas Party will be Sunday, Dec. 20, with a social hour from noon until 1:00 p.m. The meal will be at 1:00 p.m. with the Sawyer Brothers Band to play from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Prayer List

Please pray for the sick and convalescing: Corky Bock, Lisa Crosson, Ava Gass, Leo & Helen Haarmann, Deanne Huey, Jeanie Meyers, Ada Mae Moran, Brian A. Niebrugge, Eileen Overbeck, Lynn Petty, Barb Sims, Larry Weber, Rebekah Volk, Judy Reardon, Jesse Ketteman, Melissa Fiscus, Tena Behrman, Larry Rhodes, Janet Knabe, Amanda Swan, Quade Aldrich, Mark Rogers, Doug Myers, Michael Platz, Cheryl Nuxoll, Jodi Waymoth, Mirta Donnelly, Evelyn Krone, Jeanie Knabe, Sylvan Bauer, Phyllis Stock, Charlie Meyers, Jackie Luchtefeld, Shannan Miner, Pat Kagay, Carolyn Koerner, Joyce Westjohn, Joyce Vahling, Kathy Smith, Jessica Rhodes, Nicholas Rhodes, Dorothy Levitt, Delbert Ritz, Mardell Weis, Adeline Bailey, Mary Willenborg, Kenneth Buening