

Welcome!



SACRED HEART
Catholic Parish & School



Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2024

Fr. Michal Rosa, Pastor

405 South Henrietta Street
Effingham, IL 62401

Phone: 217-347-7177

Email church: shchurch@sheff.org

Email school: shschool@sheff.org

During a life emergency,
while offices are closed, please contact
217-703-1042 to reach a priest.

www.sheff.org



Facebook

@SacredHeartCatholicParishEffinghamIL



Instagram

@SacredHeartParishEffinghamIL



YouTube

@Sacred Heart Effingham

Masses are live streamed on YouTube

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30am,

La Misa en Español 7:00pm

Reconciliation:

30 minutes before weekday Masses

Saturday: 3:00pm-3:45pm

Liturgy of the Hours:

7:45am Sunday-Friday

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

3:15pm Daily

Healing Rosary:

Mondays at 9:00am

Eucharistic Adoration:

Monthly on First Monday

9:00am-8:00pm

Reconciliation 7:00-8:00pm



witness to love
A Marriage Movement

Sacred Heart Parish is in the beginning stages of implementing a new marriage preparation program called "Witness To Love". This program gives parishes, dioceses, and mentor couples tools and programs that they need to prepare engaged couples for a marriage that will last.

Most couples that approach the church for the sacrament of marriage are in a place in their life during which their faith and going to Mass haven't been at the forefront of their lives. Therefore, they don't have a solid foundation in the parish and don't know how to go about establishing one. The main practical difference in this marriage preparation program is that the engaged couple gets to choose their own mentor couple. The main role of the mentor couple is to journey and grow alongside their engaged couple. The goal is that after the literal honeymoon is over, the newly married couple will feel a part of our parish and will know their mentor couple is there for ongoing encouragement and support.

Please read more about this program on the center pages of this bulletin. This program has been proven to lower the chances of divorce and increase the chances of parish involvement.

This weekend, our Witness to Love leaders, Mike & Kallie Esker, will be at all Masses to share with you about the new program.

Our Spanish community will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 15. Mass will be at 5:00pm, followed by a celebration and dinner in the parish center. All are welcome! There will be NO 7:00pm Mass on December 15.

We still have some beautiful items for sale in our "Holy Land Pop-up Shop" in the narthex. These items have been shipped to us directly from the Holy Land and are all hand-crafted, unique, high-quality, and made of olive wood. All of the money collected for these items will be sent directly to our contact in Bethlehem, Daniel Yacoub. Mr. Yacoub will distribute the funds to the craftsmen that supplied the products to Sacred Heart. This money will help offset the loss of income they are experiencing during this time of war between Israel and Palestine. Since they are not receiving any income from pilgrims and tourism right now, this is a way we can help the residents of our Holy Land.



Our Young Hearts Potluck is Tuesday, December 17, at 12:00pm in the parish center. Meat is furnished, so bring your favorite side dish and enjoy the fellowship!

SACRED HEART CHURCH & SCHOOL CALENDAR

† Parish Event ☺ School Event

Sunday, December 15

† Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass & Celebration 5:00pm

Monday, December 16

† Rorate (candlelight) Mass 6:30am;
 † Pray the Healing Rosary in the church 7:00am;
 † Adoration in the church 7:00am—8:00pm;
 ☺ PTA Christmas Store in parish center;
 ☺ Wear Christmas Socks;
 ☺ Boys' BB at Newton 6:00pm;
 † Millions of Monicas Prayer Group in church 6:00pm;
 † Reconciliation in church 7:00pm—8:00pm

Tuesday, December 17

☺ PTA Christmas Store in parish center;
 ☺ Wear Red and Green;
 † Study Group in church narthex 9:15am;
 † Young Hearts Potluck in parish center at noon;
 ☺ Meyer Twins Art 3:00-5:00pm

Wednesday, December 18

☺ PTA Hot Cocoa Bar;
 ☺ Wear Christmas Scarves & Hats after Mass;
 ☺ Jr High Christmas Caroling;
 † Parish Choir Practice 5:30pm;
 † PSR Classes at Sacred Heart School 6:30pm

Thursday, December 19

☺ Wear Christmas Sweats; K-8 Bowling Day;
 † Resurrection Choir Practice 5:30pm;
 † Men's Prayer Group in church narthex 7:00pm

Friday, December 20

☺ End of Second Quarter;
 ☺ Wear Christmassy Attire; Classroom Parties;
 † Decorating the church for Christmas 8:00am;
 ☺ 4-Year-Old PreK Christmas Program in gym 10:30am

Saturday, December 21-Friday, January 3

☺ Christmas Break

Saturday, December 21

† Young Women's Group (age 20s-40s) in narthex 7:30am

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, December 27: Movie Night—The Sandlot, 7:00pm in SHS gym

Prayer List: Britney (Walters) Chester, Carolyn Ordner, Tom Hewing, Bill Foreman, David Dow, Avery Gardewine Braunecker, Bill Frese, Linda Frese, Sister Pat Thies, Lucinda Herboth, Cindy Rogger, Bill Weis, Mary Jane Behrman, Rick Manson, Sara Bernhard, Pat Stockman, Marilyn Langhorst, Bernard Will, Mary Jo Pemberton, Maria Dolores Kingery, Dennis Willenborg, Rob Grupe, Vicki Will, John Miller, Richard J. Feldhake, Cassie Worman, Charlie McWhorter, Sister Ann Fearday, Karly Brummer, Brenda Harris

..... *Rest in Peace*

Our sympathy to the families and friends of

†**Robert J. Pankau**



We invite all mothers to come pray with our Millions of Monicas group this Monday, December 16 from 6:00-7:00pm in the church.

Millions of Monicas is a nationwide effort that includes groups of mothers who unite together in prayer for their children. Many mothers have children who are struggling to embrace their Catholic faith or have left the church entirely. Like St. Monica, these mothers pray for their children's joyful return to the church. For details, visit <https://millionsofmonicas.com/>

Banns of Marriage

(II) Allison McDevitt & Parker Siner

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 16

6:30am: Annette Raffa Family, †Nolen Sheehan, †George Westjohn, For Poor Souls in Purgatory
No 8:30am Mass

Tuesday, December 17

8:30am: †Rita Yocum

Wednesday, December 18

8:30am: †Angela Jansen

Thursday, December 19

8:30am: †Verena Allen

Saturday, December 21

4:00pm: †Sarah Taylor

Sunday, December 22

8:30am: Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women Sick, Homebound, Ladies over 80
10:30am: For Our Parishioners
5:00pm: La Misa en Español



Special Advent Spiritual Growth Opportunities:

Join us on Mondays during Advent. On December 16 & 23 we will be hosting the following:

- ⇒ 6:30am Rorate (candlelight) Mass
(no 8:30am Mass these days)
- ⇒ Pray the Healing Rosary 7:00am
- ⇒ Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00am - 8:00pm
- ⇒ Confession from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Each SHS class is participating in an Advent project to collect items or money for those in need.

- **PreK: Ballard Nature Center**
- Accepting donations of fish food, birdseed, craft items, etc.
- **Gr. K-2: Catholic Charities Babies**
- Collecting baby items to place on a special "Baby Jesus Christmas Tree" in the school lobby. All donations will be given to Catholic Charities.
- **Gr. 3: Humane Society**
- Accepting donations of dog food, cat food, etc.
- **Gr. 4-5: Family Life Center**
- Accepting donations of baby items
- **Gr. 6-8: El Shaddai**
- Collecting money for El Shaddai, the new home in Effingham for mothers and their newborns

Our Tuesday morning study group is watching a video series entitled "The Jewish Roots of Christmas". In this Bible study, Dr. Brant Pitre goes back to the Bible and ancient tradition to shed light on the little-known Jewish roots of Christmas. The presentations will cover questions such as why Jesus was laid in a manger and what it reveals about his identity, who the Magi were and how they knew to follow the star, the real reason Jesus' birth is celebrated on December 25th, and much more! They will not meet on December 24th or 31st.

Our Thursday men's group is studying "Rejoice: An Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture" by Fr. Mark Toups and published by Ascension Press. They will watch a video each week and attendees will receive a companion book. The book and website have many great resources for your entire family to enjoy this Advent season. More info can be found online at rejoiceprogram.com. They will not meet on December 26th.

Preschool Christmas Program

The Sacred Heart School 4-year-old Preschool Christmas Program will be held on Friday, December 20 at 10:30am in the school gym. Parents and grandparents are welcome!

Christmas Caroling

Our Sacred Heart youth will be Christmas caroling and spreading Christmas cheer to some of our parishioners in local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and homebound. Our SHS junior high students will visit some on the morning of Wednesday, December 18. Our PSR students will go that same evening to visit others.

The parish office will be closed on December 24, 25, 31, and January 1 in honor of Christmas and New Year's.

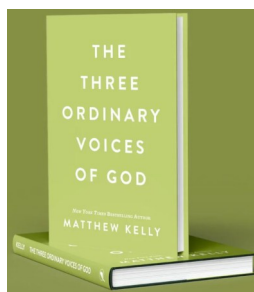
We invite you to join us for Mass this Christmas!
Christmas:

Tuesday, December 24: 4:00pm & 9:30pm
Wednesday, December 25: 12:00am & 9:30am

New Year, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

Wednesday, January 1: 8:30am, 12:10pm, & 6:30pm

Volunteers Needed! Our church will be decorated for Christmas in two phases and we need many hands to accomplish this! Please join us if you can. The dates and times are: Friday, December 20 at 8:00am and Tuesday, December 24 at 8:00am. Specifically on Friday the 20th, we need men and women who are able to help carry decorations up from the church basement.



Our Advent Gift to You!
Please take a copy of "The Three Ordinary Voices of God" as you leave Mass this weekend and next weekend. In this simple and powerful guide, Matthew Kelly demonstrates that God speaks to everyone - whether we are aware of it or not - through three ordinary voices: Our Needs, Our Talents, and Our Desires.

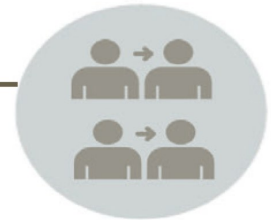
JOURNEY THROUGH TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE PREP

VS.



INFORMATION DRIVEN – Couples go to a conference or a retreat where they are given information about the Sacrament of Marriage through a series of intellectual talks delivered by someone they usually do not know.

ASSIGNED MENTOR COUPLE – Couples are assigned a mentor couple. The vast majority of these assigned relationships do not blossom into authentic friendships. As a result, these couples part paths after the wedding day, and the newly wedded couple is not shown what it means to live out a virtuous, holy marriage when they need it the most.



LACK OF PARISH INVOLVEMENT – Since the vast majority of couples do not grow in their trust of the Church or their assigned mentors, they often do not increase their Church involvement. In fact, statistics show that the majority of newly wedded couples do not attend Mass regularly.

LACK OF SUPPORT – Without someone to turn to, couples do not have support and marriage enrichment throughout their marriage. Couples who do reach out for help often do so after they are separated.



23%

Divorce Rate for
Catholic Couples
5-Year Mark

VS.

25%

Divorce Rate
for General Population
5-Year Mark

Results

Traditional marriage preparation is not significantly impacting the divorce rate.



MENTORSHIP — Through a mentorship model, couples preparing for marriage choose a mentor couple to grow in relationship with who attends Mass regularly and is active in their parish. Couples meet with their mentor couple monthly to read and discuss the Sacrament of Marriage, friendship, and virtue using the Witness to Love workbook and videos.

RELATIONSHIP — Trusting, authentic, and chosen relationships deepen with the chosen mentor couple. The couples often go out on double dates and attend Mass together. Through relationship, the mentor couple models what it means to live a virtuous, holy marriage.



INCREASED PARISH INVOLVEMENT — Because a trusting relationship deepens, the couple openly receives invitations from the mentor couple to be involved in the Church parish by attending Mass or joining small groups. The couple is naturally integrated into parish life pre- and post-wedding day.

CONTINUED SUPPORT — As a result of having a trusting relationship with their chosen mentor couple, couples have the support and marriage enrichment needed early on and throughout the journey of marriage.



5.8%

Divorce Rate for
Witness to Love Couples
5-Year Mark

70-90%

Increase in Church
attendance among
Witness to Love newlyweds.

Results

Witness to Love marriage preparation lowers the chances of divorce and increases the chances of parish involvement. Witness to Love renews the parish through relationship.

We are having a special collection the next couple of weeks for the Catholic Children's Home in Alton. Donations can be dropped in the collection basket up until Christmas. Please designate on your check that it is for the Catholic Children's Home.

The Catholic Children's Home celebrated their 145th anniversary this year. Although times have changed, their mission to serve as a 'beacon of hope' for children in need has not. The Catholic Children's Home (CCH) has been a safe harbor and a place to call home for thousands of children over the years.

CCH continues their mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic material needs of all the children sent for residential care or special education services. This includes an innovative program designed to serve the needs of children with severe autistic challenges. "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3 The children served by CCH have been chronically abused, designated "unmanageable" by their schools or simply have no place to call home. They are some of the most vulnerable in our society.

The Christmas season can be a particularly difficult time for these youths as many of them are without a family. Those who have a family often lack the special care they need. Please keep these children in your prayers throughout this holy season of Advent and Christmas. With your help, the Catholic Children's Home can continue to serve the special needs of these children in the name of Jesus Christ, as it has since 1879. In the spirit of Christ's incredible love for all children, please prayerfully consider supporting the work of the Catholic Children's Home and generously contribute to the special Christmas collection. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)



Today - Tomorrow - Together

We invite you to prayerfully consider supporting our Sacred Heart School 2024-25 Annual Fund. Our annual fund directly benefits the school and our students, as the money raised provides additional funding for school operating expenses. Our 2024-25 goal is \$150,000. Please consider joining us in our mission to provide an affordable high-quality Catholic education. All gifts are 100% tax-deductible. Annual fund brochures are available in the church narthex or in the church or school offices.

Giving Methods include:

- Cash or check (please notate Annual Fund)
- Online at sheff.org/school/giving/annual-fund
- Online via the QR Code shown here
- Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.
- Matching gifts from your employer



SCAN HERE:



Our PTA is hosting a Christmas Store on December 16 and 17. All K-8 students will have the opportunity to shop at the store for Christmas gifts for their immediate family members. All items are priced between \$1-\$5. This has become a special tradition at SHS and creates such joy in the students as they are able to 'shop on their own' and pick out gifts for their family members.



There is still time to purchase a Space Camp Count Down To

Christmas Calendar Raffle! Winners will be drawn every day until Christmas! Fifth and sixth grade students will be selling Raffle Calendars and pecans in the narthex after Masses now until December 22. Proceeds go toward their 2025 trip to Space Camp.

SCAN ME!

BLOOD DRIVE

Sacred Heart Church

Sunday, January 12
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Parish Center
405 S. Henrietta

To schedule an appointment, scan QR code, call ImpactLife at 800.747.5401 or online at bloodcenter.org/group; grp #70742

50 Years of Saving Lives

The Effingham County FISH organization is sponsoring the Annual Free Effingham County Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 25. This year they will be having a congregated meal at the Effingham Event Center at 1:30pm. They will offer delivered meals as well as curbside pick-up. The event is free and open to all Effingham county residents and their families. You may reserve a meal by calling 217-343-7342. The deadline to reserve is December 20.

Volunteers are needed to package and deliver meals. We will start cutting cakes and packaging meals at 10:00am at the Effingham Event Center (1501 W. Fayette Avenue in Effingham). To volunteer, please call Susan Elke at 217-868-5913.

YEAR-END GIVING

GIFTS OF CASH: The most popular way to make a gift is with cash or check. To take a deduction for the gift on your 2024 tax return, your gift must be dropped off at the parish office by Monday, December 30, 2024, or postmarked on or before December 31, 2024.

IRA DISTRIBUTIONS: The age for mandatory IRA distributions is age 72. When you choose to make your distribution to Sacred Heart Parish from your IRA, the contribution counts towards your required minimum distribution and is NOT included in your adjusted gross income (AGI). This could qualify you for tax breaks tied to your AGI and reduce or eliminate taxes on your Social Security benefits. For specific questions about how IRA giving may impact your personal situation, consult a financial or tax advisor.



Our Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Envelopes:	\$ 13,065.00
Loose Collection	\$ 1,652.00
Total:	\$ 14,717.00

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
(1Peter 4:10)

*Thank you for sharing your “Treasure”
with Sacred Heart Parish*



FRI DEC 27 AT 7:00PM
IN SHS GYM

SANDLOT

CONCESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.
ENTRY FEE = FREE!
PLEASE BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS OR BLANKETS.

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