



SACRED HEART Catholic Parish



**Third Sunday
of Advent
December 17, 2023**



Sacred Heart Church Fr. Michal Rosa, Pastor

405 South Henrietta St.
Effingham, IL 62401
Phone: 217.347.7177
Fax: 217.347.0728
shchurch@sheff.org



Sacred Heart School

407 South Henrietta St.
Effingham, IL 62401
Phone: 217.342.4060
Fax: 217.342.9251
shschool@sheff.org

Visit www.sheff.org
to learn more about our parish.

During a life emergency, while offices
are closed, please contact
217.703.1042 to reach a priest.

Please join us Monday, December 18, for our Rorate (candlelight) Mass at 6:30am. This is a beautiful way to celebrate the last Monday of Advent! Following Mass we will have Eucharistic Adoration until 8:00pm.



We are also hosting a special parish Reconciliation night from 7:00-8:00pm on Monday, December 18. Fr. Michal and several area priests will be here for Confession. Come prepare your heart for the birth of our Savior!

Volunteers Needed! Our church will be decorated for Christmas in two phases. The dates and times are below. We need many hands to accomplish this task. Please make plans to join us for a few hours.
Saturday, December 23 at 9:00am
Sunday, December 24 at 11:30am

The Art & Environment Committee would like to borrow PENCIL Christmas trees in the height ranging from 3' to 6' tall. These trees will be used to create a wooded environment surrounding our nativity scene in church. They would be used from December 23 through the end of January. Contact Vicki Walker at 217.821.6179 for more information.



Pilgrimage to Ireland

office. Reserve your spot today—only 20 spots left!

You are invited to a Pilgrimage to Ireland with Fr. Michal from April 18-28, 2024.

An itinerary brochure with pricing information is available in the church

Make sure to check out the diocese's recent Dive Deep Podcast featuring our very own Fr. Michal Rosa! Fr. Michal was interviewed about his unique story of coming to Effingham from Poland, and then becoming a U.S. citizen. It's a journey he would have never imagined, growing up in Poland. So how did this all happen, how did Bishop Paprocki play a role, what does Fr. Michal think of America, what does he miss the most about Poland (besides family), and what aspects of our faith does he wish America prioritized more? We Dive Deep with Fr. Michal. Go to dio.org/podcast or [youtube.com/diospringfield](https://www.youtube.com/diospringfield) or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.



Welcome to Sacred Heart - we're glad that you're here!

~ Prayer List ~

Pat Prichard, Britney (Walters) Chester, Barb Hoeffft,
Carolyn Ordner, Tom Hewing, Bill Foreman,
Jackson Gaitros, Avery Gardewine Braunecker,
Holly Althoff Newburn, Dawson Althoff, Bill Frese,
Linda Frese, Mindy Reardon, Sister Pat Thies,
Lucinda Herboth



Our Young Hearts Potluck is Tuesday, December 19, at 12:00pm in the parish center. Meat is furnished, so bring your favorite side dish and enjoy the fellowship!

The parish office will be closed on December 25, 26, and 29, and January 1. Fr. Michal and the staff wish you a very blessed Christmas and New Year!

SACRED HEART SCHOOL CALENDAR

Monday, December 18

PTA Christmas Store;
Boys' BB Home vs. Cumberland 6:00pm

Tuesday, December 19

PTA Christmas Store

Wednesday, December 20

Junior High Christmas Caroling;
PreK Christmas Program (Mrs. Kreke's class) 10:30am

Thursday, December 21

PreK Christmas Program (Mrs. Vahling's class) 10:30am;
End of Second Quarter;
Boys' BB at Teutopolis 4:30pm

Friday, December 22-Wednesday, January 3

Christmas Break



- **Count Down to Christmas Calendar Raffle** – We are down to the last week of the Count Down to Christmas Calendar Raffle! Purchase a calendar for \$25 for your chance to win as we count down to Christmas. Drawings held daily until December 25!
- **Pecans** – Students are harvesting pecans from the trees located at Sacred Heart. The pecans are being sold at the back of church.
- All proceeds go to the 2025 SHS Space Camp trip.

SACRED HEART CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17

RCIA 11:30am;

Monday, December 18

Rorate Mass 6:30am (*no 8:30am Mass*);
Eucharistic Adoration 7:00am-8:00pm;
Parish Confession 7:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, December 19

Study Group in church narthex 9:15am & 6:30pm;
Young Hearts Potluck 12:00pm in parish center;
Building & Grounds Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 20

Choir Practice 5:30pm;
PSR Community Christmas Night 6:30pm

Thursday, December 21

Men's Prayer Group in church narthex 7:00pm

Friday, December 22

Pray the Rosary in the church 9:00am

Saturday, December 23

Decorate church for Christmas 9:00am

Sunday, December 24

Decorate church for Christmas 11:30am

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 16, 2024: St. Pat's Bash

Tickets available in the church office!

Study Group Christmas Updates

- Our Thursday men's group will not meet on Thursday, December 21 or Thursday, December 28.
- Our Tuesday study groups will not meet on Tuesday, December 26.

Sacred Heart Mass Schedule

Monday, December 18

6:30am: †Nolen Sheehan, †Robert & †Rita Yocum,
†John Hollinshead

Tuesday, December 19

8:30am: †Pat Braun

Wednesday, December 20

8:30am: †John Hollinshead

Thursday, December 21

8:30am: †Sarah Taylor

Friday, December 22

8:30am: †Virginia Wendt

Saturday, December 23

4:00pm: †Jerry Stock

Sunday, December 24

8:30am: †Audry Gress

10:30am: For Our Parishioners

4:00pm: For Our Parishioners

9:30pm: For Our Parishioners

Liturgy Committee Meeting

November 28, 2023

On November 28th, the Sacred Heart Liturgy Committee met in the church narthex. After an opening prayer and a welcome to a new member, Amy Westjohn, the committee reviewed the notes from their August meeting in regards to the plans for Advent and Christmas. It was noted that the parish Christmas card looks great and is a nice reminder to place on our fridge or bulletin board to display all the happenings going on at church during this special time of year.

The committee then discussed Lent and Easter. Items discussed include Ash Wednesday and whether to place ashes on the top of the head versus the forehead, a possible format for the Lenten retreat, and all Triduum and Easter related services and Masses. Father Michal shared that we should have 5 people coming into the Catholic church at the Easter Vigil. Praise be to God!

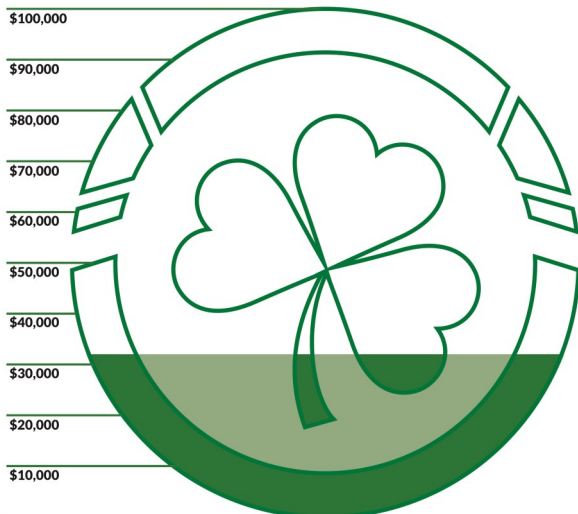
Next, the group discussed solemnities and the importance of these dates in the Catholic calendar. Individual churches celebrate solemnities in various ways. At Sacred Heart, we have chosen to celebrate solemnities with the use of 6 altar candles, incense, and distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Liturgy Committee meets 4 times per year and the members include: Father Michal Rosa, Mike Schmitz, Vicki Walker, Carol Toney, Shauna Albert, Julie Roedl, Amy Westjohn, Christy Hakman, Chuck Keller, Joe Sudkamp, Joan Frey, and Billi Jansen.



With the end of the year drawing near, we invite you to make a contribution to our Annual Fund. All gifts are 100% tax-deductible. The Annual Fund directly benefits the school and our students, as the money raised provides additional funding for school operating expenses. Our 2023-24 goal is \$100,000. Currently, we have received a little over \$30,000. Please consider supporting Sacred Heart School and joining us in our mission to provide an affordable high-quality Catholic education!

GOAL: \$100,000



Donating is easy!

- Donate online at www.sheff.org/school. Click on the Giving tab, select Annual Fund and then click on the 'Donate Today' button.
- Donate online by scanning this QR Code. There is a place on the donation form called 'Designation'. Please enter 'Annual Fund' in that field .
- Donate via check or cash by placing your donation in the collection basket or mailing it to:
Sacred Heart School Annual Fund
405 S. Henrietta Street
Effingham, IL 62401



Planned giving opportunities to benefit Sacred Heart School, including bequests, charitable trusts, real estate, insurance, etc., may be discussed with Sacred Heart Parish staff at 217.347.7177.

Annual Fund brochures are available in the church narthex or in the church or school offices.



CCW Christmas Party



Sacred Heart CCW held their annual Christmas party/meeting on December 5 in the parish center with 65 ladies and Father Michal present. A delicious catered meal was served and a silent auction was held featuring 70 items! The auction raised \$1,483 which will be going to a church family. The 50/50 drawing was won by Teri Hillyer, and Vanessa Floyd won the door prize. Thank you to Penny Wiedman, Carol Stumborg, Marilyn Purcell, and Terri Buening for organizing the Christmas party/meeting.

Carol Stumborg explained that the CCW hosts and assists at funeral dinners, and asked for volunteers to help. This is a very special ministry. Please call the church office if you would like to help with funeral dinners.

The Sacred Heart CCW also hosts the concession stand at the Knights of Columbus Bingo on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Come out for a fun night of Bingo on December 19!

We still need volunteers and items donated to the Silk Purse. Please help if you can.

There is no meeting in January. The next CCW meeting will be held in the parish center on February 5 for a noon soup luncheon. All are welcome.



Christmas



For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:5

Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to the Sacred Heart School 4-year-old Preschool Christmas Programs! Dates and times are listed below:

- Mrs. Kreke's class:
Wednesday, December 20, 10:30am
- Mrs. Vahling's class:
Thursday, December 21, 10:30am

On Wednesday, December 20, our Sacred Heart Parish 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 go caroling in the morning while our PSR students will go that evening.



Our K-8 students presented their annual Band Concert and Christmas Program this past Thursday. The students did a great job sharing the story of Jesus' birth and what it means to follow Him. They demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. For it is in giving that we receive!



Sacred Heart Parish invites you to join us for Christmas Masses!

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses:

Saturday, December 23: 4:00pm
Sunday, December 24: 8:30am & 10:30am

Christmas Masses:

Sunday, December 24: 4:00pm* & 9:30pm*
Monday, December 25: 12:00am & 9:30am

*The Christmas Eve evening Masses do not fulfill the Sunday obligation for Sunday, December 24.

Holy Family Sunday:

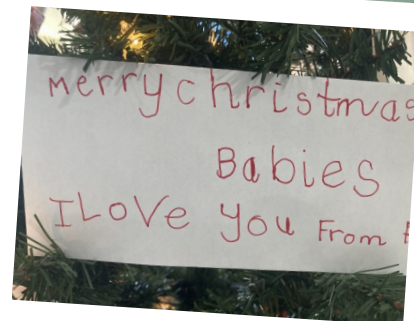
Saturday, December 30: 4:00pm
Sunday, December 31: 8:30am & 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

Monday, January 1: 8:30am & 6:30pm

One of the special traditions at Sacred Heart School is our "Baby Jesus Tree"!

As their Advent project, students in K-2 donate baby items and place them on the special tree in the school lobby. Right before Christmas, all of the items are then donated to Catholic Charities for all the babies who are in need. Our students love knowing that they are helping babies and it is heart-warming to see the tree packed with so many nice baby items.





Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Hispanic community celebrated in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 10. Mass was held at 5:30pm, followed by a performance about the apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe in the SHS gym. They celebrated again on the actual feast day, Tuesday, December 12, with a special Mass followed by hot coco and Mexican bread in the parish center.



The Effingham County FISH Organization is sponsoring the Annual Free Effingham County Christmas Day Dinner on Monday, December 25, 2023 at the Effingham Event Center. This year they will be having a congregate meal, with serving starting at 1:30pm. Delivery and curbside meals will also be available.

This event is free and open to all Effingham County residents and their families, however, donations are always greatly appreciated and may be sent to: FISH, P.O. Box 473, Effingham IL 62401.

To reserve meals for the Congregate, Home Delivery, and/or Curbside Pickup, please call the Senior Center at 217-347-5569 by December 21st.

Volunteers are needed to package and deliver meals. To volunteer, please call Susan Elke at 217-868-5913.



Covenant Network Catholic radio fills the airways with inspirational and educational programming that will help prepare your heart and mind to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas. Listen to Catholic radio on WGMR 91.3 FM . You can also listen anytime on the Covenant Network App or at OurCatholicRadio.org.

Our Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Envelopes:	\$ 15,189.00
Loose Collection:	\$ 1,802.00
Total:	\$ 16,991.00

“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

YEAR-END GIVING

GIFTS OF CASH

The most popular way to make a gift is with cash or a check. To take a deduction for the gift on your 2023 tax return, your gift must be dropped off at the parish office by Thursday, December 28, 2023, or postmarked on or before December 31, 2023.

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.

We are currently renewing advertising for the bulletin.

If you are interested in an ad for the bulletin, please call the parish office for complete information.

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