



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023





Sacred Heart Church Fr. Michal Rosa, Pastor

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Sacred Heart School

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> 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.

A Christmas Message from Father Michal: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This time of year is always a special time to reflect on God's many blessings and the little reminders He gives us of His presence in our lives. These reminders can be found in nature, in the smiling faces of our friends and loved ones, in prayer, and even in music. Too often we take these little reminders for granted and don't consciously let them soak in. This Christmas, let the reminders of God's love, grace, and mercy fully embrace you and soak into your mind and spirit.

In my Christmas homily, we will talk about the beautiful hymn 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. I encourage you to read the lyrics and really absorb what they mean and how they can strengthen you today.

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie, above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above. While mortals sleep, the angels keep Cast out our sin and enter in, their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth and praises sing to God the King and Peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in. O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray. be born to us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us **Our Lord Emmanuel.**

We wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas!

From, Fr. Michal & Staff

December 27 is the feast of St. John the Evangelist. We invite you to join us for Mass at 8:30am. Following Mass, there will be a special blessing of wine.

It is said that, while in Ephesus, John was offered a glass of poisoned wine. Before drinking, he blessed the drink and the poison came out of the cup in the form of a small green snake. This is why some images of John show him holding a chalice with a small green snake emerging. It is also why wine is blessed on his feast day, December 27, each year.

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

~ Prayer List ~

Pat Prichard, Britney (Walters) Chester, Barb Hoefft, 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

This weekend we wrap up Advent with the Fourth Sunday of Advent also being Christmas Eve. Please join us for Mass!

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.

**The 9:30am Christmas Day Mass will be the only Christmas Mass livestreamed. Visit our YouTube page @SacredHeartEffingham to watch it livestreamed.

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

SACRED HEART CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24

RCIA 11:30am;

Decorate church for Christmas 11:30am;

Christmas Eve Masses 4:00pm and 9:30pm

Monday, December 25

Christmas Masses 12:00am and 9:30am;

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Parish Office Closed;

No Tuesday Study Groups

Wednesday, December 27

Wine blessing following 8:30am Mass

No PSR Classes

Thursday, December 28

No Men's Prayer Group

Friday, December 29

Parish Office Closed

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!

Study Group Schedule Updates

- Our Thursday men's group will not meet on Thursday, December 28. They will resume Thursday, January 4.
- Our Tuesday study groups will not meet on Tuesday, December 26, or Tuesday, January 2. They will resume Tuesday, January 9.



Following our book study "Consoling the Heart of Jesus", these members of our Tuesday morning Sip & Study group were consecrated to our Lord Jesus Christ – The Divine Mercy on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, on December 8.

Sacred Heart Mass Schedule

Monday, December 25

12:00am: For Our Parishioners **9:30am:** For Our Parishioners

Tuesday, December 26 8:30am: †Trenton Kingery

Wednesday, December 27 8:30am: †Judy Wagner

Thursday, December 28 8:30am: †Ethel Gallo Friday, December 29

8:30am: †George Westjohn

Saturday, December 30 4:00pm: †Don Miller Sunday, December 31

8:30am: †Donnie Hille Family **10:30am:** For Our Parishioners



Christmas Flower Donations

We sincerely thank all of those who donated to help decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas.

Bernard & Dolores Will Linda Lister Bill & Jane Herman Joe & Patricia Weis Shari Goldstein James & Carol Faller
Dr. Dominic & Marcia Imburgia
Jill Westendorf
Albert Springer



<u>Christmas Flower Donations</u> In Memory & Honor of Our Loved Ones

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Bill & Dale Denton
by Bob & Marge Denton

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Brian Wenthe by April & Alex Ritz

Frank Koester
by Richard & Mary Ann Sanders

Edward & Alice Ungrund by Keith & Kay Foreman

Evan Michael Willenborg by Russ & Tracy Willenborg family



<u>Christmas Flower Donations</u> In Memory & Honor of Our Loved Ones

Angela Jansen by Fred Jansen & Family

Kenneth Perkins Family by Juanita Perkins

Diana Fuesting, Kenneth Perkins Leroy & Leona Zacha Gerald & Elanor Fuesting by Thomas & Kristin Perkins

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by Betty Wise

Glenn & Nadine Bovard, Steve Bovard, Chris Westjohn, Carol & John Westjohn by Susan Westjohn & Family

Dorothy Kade, Emma Lu Podrasky by Jo Ann McNaughton-Kade

Joseph J. McIvor, Patrick & Agnes McIvor, Robert & Paulene Nestlerode, Joseph & Mary Balluck by Robert & Laurel McIvor

Walter & Eleanor Buening, George & Phyllis Stock by Marty & Joyce Stock

Dusty & Adele Rhodes, Dode & Mode Toney by Carol Toney

Henry & Dorothy Holkenbrink,
Art & Loretta Hakman, Joyce Habing
Leroy Schackmann,
by Jim & Carol Hakman

Robert & Mary Wiedman, Ray & Alma Luchtefeld, by Hal & Penny Wiedman

Frank & Mildred Wendt, Tim Wendt, Philip, Leonard, & Betty Wendt, Jack & Charlene Kistner by Ed & Jane Kistner Frederick & Janice Schaefer, Michael Schaefer, Robert Waitkus, Norbert & Blanche Eden, Ben & Veronica Osborne by Scott & Michelle Schaefer

John D. Cordes, Nick & Rosemary Koste, Hugh "Tony" Koste By Kayla Cordes Family

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Clarence & Clara Willenborg, Andrew & Helen Szakacsi, Terry Lee Szakacsi Evan Michael Willenborg by Dennis & Jane Willenborg

John & Eileen Neumann by Mark & Monica Young

Victor & Mary Koester, Al & Agnes Braun, Patricia Braun

by Larry Braun Family

Deceased Members of the Joe & Becky Beall Families by Joe & Becky Beall

David & Danny Bowlin, Ruth & Pete Koester, Sean Niebrugge, Jess Bowlin, Bob, Elsie, & Tony Osthoff by Jim & Carolyn Bowlin

Karlene Frese, Chris Kenter, Floyd & Loretta Frese, Reg & Deloris Flach, Mert & Larry McMahon by Pete Frese

Kindra Westendorf,
Barbara & Laura Westendorf
Shirley Armstrong, Hilda Smith
by Kenneth & Colleen Westendorf



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Simon Michael by Alex & Laura Ann Tays

Ruth Deibel, Joe & Louise Tegeler by Charlie & Paula Tegeler

Pedro Alvarado by Chuck & Fanny Mae Keller Family

All Our Deceased Family & Friends by Mike & Cindy DePoister

Cathy Swingler, Bob & Mary Swingler by Steve Swingler

Fred Amacher, Brenda Coe, Heuerman Family, Eldor Klitzing by Judy Amacher

Fred Colburn,
Robert & Gertrude Pruemer
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Harold & Mildred Koester, Eugene Koester by Charles & Linda Koester

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Lawrence J. Lustig Family
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Richard Lukash by Karen Lukash Chuck Keller, Lolami Keller, Thelma Keller, Claude Riley by Doris Keller Family

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Joe & Jeanette Bergfeld,
by Steve & Judy Bergfeld

Henry Opilka, Roberta Opilka, Nina Garbers, Kay Adams by John & Lisa Opilka

Clarence, Bernie, Dave, & Lori Hoene, Clyde & Thelma Harder, Kathy Harder, Karen Ashbaugh, Gail Buenker by Jean Harder

Allie & Rose Gebben,
Louis & Loraine Brummer
by Andrew & Patricia Gebben

Stephen Jones, Judy Willenborg, Robert & Joyce Willenborg, by Joy Jones

Deceased Members of the Audry V. Gress Family by Ora Gress

Virginia & Henry Wendt Kenny Wendt, Jodi Wear by John & Janice Wear



<u>Christmas Flower Donations</u> In Memory & Honor of Our Loved Ones

Vince & Anna Rohr, Carol Rohr by Tom Rohr

James Wilson
by Donna Wilson

Louise Rose Nuxoll by Joe Nuxoll

Cathy Swingler, Bob & Mary Swingler, Margaret Hanfland by Tony & Christy Hakman Family

Allie & Tillie Mette,
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Joe & Christine Czyzewski,
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Living & Deceased Members of the Sheehan & Burrell Families by Jean Sheehan

Deceased Members of the Louis & Norma Roedl Family, by Debra Stone

Chuck & Paula Mosher, Norman, Jeanine, Herman, & Emma Copper

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Art Nuxoll, Fr. Sylvano Pera, OFM, Fr. Victor Kingery, OFM, Dolores Kingery, Trenton Kingery, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Guyon Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Goeckner, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kingery, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Kingery, Billy Kingery, Brenda Manzano, Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Zerrusen, Don Broom, Kevin McKerrow, Katie Raffa, Landon Stuckey, Mr. & Mrs. Roman Klaja, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn McKerrow, Mac McKerrow, Suzanne McKerrow by Robert & Anita McKerrow

Marcia Meinhart by Bob & Vicki Walker

Dan & Lucille Reardon, Cliff Reardon, Art & Dolores Althoff, Barb Voelker, Bill, Gert, & Mike Kenter, Owen Newburn, Joe & Josephine Waldhoff Family by Nick & Mary Jo Althoff

Jerry & Paul Vonderheide & Family, Earl & Alma Vonderheide & Family, Hubert & Florence Weis & Family, Patricia Fuesting by Elaine Vonderheide

Peggy Zumbahlen by Michael & Kim Stanfield

Patricia K. Fuesting by Darrell Fuesting

Richard & Helen Stock by Mel & Elaine Stock

John & LaVerne Kortte, Rita Schwerdt, Robert & Johanna Willenborg by Rita Kortte

Living and deceased members of the Al & Johanna Wendt Family by Brenda Henry 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.

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



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 office. Reserve your spot today—only 19 spots left!

SACRED HEART SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK

Friday, December 22-Wednesday, January 3

It is the Catholic tradition of pastoral visits to parishioners' homes, taking place after Christmas. During a visit, a priest prays and talks with the family, and blesses the house. Fr. Michal would like to visit all of you every year, if possible. Please call our parish office or talk to him after Mass and schedule a date for a visit.





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(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 wish you a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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