



First Sunday of Advent December 3, 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.

We are excited to begin the season of Advent this Sunday! This is always a special and holy time of year as we prepare for Jesus' birth. Please check pages 4-5 of this weekend's bulletin for a list of events and spiritual growth opportunities for Advent and Christmas. Let us remember the reason for the season and keep Jesus at the forefront of our minds and activities.



Our December altar server meeting will be Tuesday, December 5, at 6:32pm in the church. We ask for all servers to attend.

Friday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is the holy day of obligation celebrating that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception. Masses will be held on Friday, December 8, at 8:30am, 12:10pm, and 6:30pm. Please join us!

Pilgrimage to **Treland**

A Note from Fr. Michal ...

You are invited to join me on a Pilgrimage to Ireland from April 18-28, 2024. Together, we can walk in the footsteps of St. Patrick and enjoy the beautiful scenery and rich religious heritage during this 11-dav pilgrimage. A complete itinerary is included in a special brochure and reservation agreement in the church office. includes lt complete breakdown for each day along with pricing information. Please talk to me if you are interested in





joining me on this special trip! Reserve your spot now!

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

SACRED HEART SCHOOL CALENDAR

Friday, December 1-Thursday, December 7

Boys' BB 7th Grade NTC Tournament at Sigel

Tuesday, December 5

Yearbook Pictures: Volleyball, Boys' BB, Cheer, & Band

Wednesday, December 6

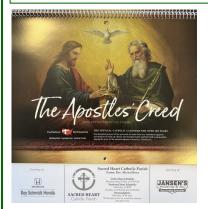
Noon Dismissal; No Lunch Served

Thursday, December 7

K/1 Polar Express Train Trip 6:00pm

Friday, December 8

Feast of Immaculate Conception School Mass 8:30am



2024 Sacred Heart Church calendars, courtesy of Roy Schmidt Honda and Jansen's Heating & Air, are available in the church narthex. Each family is invited to take one home!

Rest in Peace

Our sympathy to the family and friends of †Gertrude Alldredge

SACRED HEART CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3

RCIA 11:30am

Monday, December 4

Rorate Mass 6:30am (no 8:30am Mass)

Eucharistic Adoration 7:00am-8:00pm

Confession 7:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, December 5

Study Group in church narthex 9:15am;

CCW Christmas Party in parish center 6:00pm;

Servers Meeting in church 6:32pm

Wednesday, December 6

Choir practice in church 5:30pm;

PSR Reconciliation & Family Night 6:30pm

Thursday, December 7

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

Friday, December 8

Immaculate Conception Masses 8:30am, 12:10pm, 6:30pm;

Pray the Rosary in the church 9:15am

Saturday, December 9

Rosary making in the narthex 8:30am

~ 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

The Hispanic community invites you to the celebrations in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

- Sunday December 10
- 5:30pm Mass

After the Mass, we will have a play

about the apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe in the SHS gym. On Tuesday, December 12, we will celebrate Mass at 5:30pm and then have hot coco with Mexican bread in the parish center. We hope you can make it.

La comunidad Hispana los invita a las celebraciones Guadalupanas:

- DOMINGO 10 de diciembre
- 5:30pm Misa

Después de la Misa, tendremos una obra de teatro sobre las apariciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe en el gimnasio de la escuela. El día MARTES 12 de diciembre, celebraremos la Misa a las 5:30pm y después tomaremos chocolate con pan en el salón parroquial. Los esperamos.

Sacred Heart Mass Schedule

Monday, December 4

6:30am: †Emma Lu Podrasky, †Christine Haarmann

Tuesday, December 5

8:30am: †Richard & †Madelyn Koester

Wednesday, December 6 8:30am: †Louis & †Lelia Volk

Thursday, December 7 8:30am: †Joyce Habing

Friday, December 8

8:30am: †Pedro Alvarado **12:10pm:** For Our Parishioners

6:30pm: †Doug Bushue

Saturday, December 9

4:00pm: †Louise Rose Nuxoll

Sunday, December 10 8:30am: †Anthony Sicoli

10:30am: For Our Parishioners



Reminder that this weekend we are officially switching to the Saint Augustine Hymnals. You will now notice a row of letters/numbers at the top of the song board. The letter (A, B, or C) will denote which liturgical year we are in. The following number will denote the page number for the readings for that day's Mass. (In the example shown here, we are in liturgical year 'B' and the readings can

be found on page 954.) The remaining rows of numbers will denote song numbers—as they have in the past.



SCRIP cards are great for the holidays! They can be ...

- ⇒ used to purchase gifts for others,
- ⇒ used to purchase groceries for your holiday parties,
- \Rightarrow OR, given as gifts!

SCRIP cards can be purchased after Masses on the first and third weekends of the month, in the church office, or online at online at www.raiseright.com/shop.

School families can earn tuition credit, simply by using SCRIP cards! SCRIP cards are gift cards that generate a rebate back to Sacred Heart School. That rebate can be split 50/50 with school families and used toward K-8 tuition! For more information, email shscrip@sheff.org, or call the parish office at 217-347-7177.



Help Spread the Faith: Learn to Make Rosaries for the Missions

Come learn how to make rosaries for the Catholic Missions! There's a longstanding tradition that the Blessed

Mother gave the rosary to St. Dominic to combat heresy. This is an excellent way to spread devotion to Jesus and His Blessed Mother throughout the world. Our next rosary making day will be on Saturday, December 9 at 8:30am in the church narthex. Everyone is welcome—please join us!

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed on weekdays at 3:15pm and on Saturdays at 3:00pm at Sacred Heart Church. Please join us!



Keeping in touch with local priests and seminarians:

- **Fr. Brian Alford**, c/o Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 524 E. Lawrence, Springfield, IL 62703
- **Fr. Al Allen**, c/o St. Mary Annunciation Church, P.O. Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461
- Fr. Dan Bergbower, c/o St. Agnes Church, 245 N. Amos Ave, Springfield, IL 62702
- **Fr. Michael Berndt**, c/o St. Anthony Church, P.O. Box 764, Effingham, IL 62401
- Fr. Juan Carlos O.F.M., c/o St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 203 E. Main St., P.O. Box 730, Teutopolis, IL 62467
- Fr. Zachary Edgar, c/o St. Rose of Lima Church, 1009 N. 8th St, Quincy, IL 62301
- Fr. James Flach,
 - 215 N. Second St., Effingham, IL 62401
- **Fr. Jeff Goeckner**, c/o St. Boniface Church, 110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville, IL 62025
- **Fr. Paul Habing**, c/o St. Luke Parish, 240 E. Myrtle St., Virginia, IL 62691
- **Fr. Msgr. David Hoefler**, c/o Catholic Pastoral Center, 1615 West Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702
- **Fr. Zachraiah Patibandla**, c/o Our Saviour Parish, 453 E. State St., Jacksonville, IL 62650
- Fr. Adam Prichard, c/o St. Anthony Hospital, 503 N. Maple St., Effingham, IL 62401
- Fr. Dean Probst,
 - 602 N. Fourth Street, Effingham, IL 62401
- **Fr. Rafal Pyrchla**, c/o St. Francis Solanus Parish, 1721 College Ave., Quincy, IL 62301
- **Fr. Dominic Rankin**, c/o Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 524 E. Lawrence, Springfield, IL 62703
- **Fr. Zachary Samples**, c/o St. Peter Parish, 2600 Maine St., Quincy, IL 62301
- **Fr. Martin Smith**, c/o St. Francis Xavier Parish, 506 S. State St., Jerseyville, IL 62052

Jacob Esker, (St. Isidore the Farmer, Dieterich), Bishop Simon Brute Seminary, 2500 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46222

Devin Flach, (St. Rose of Lima, Montrose), Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119

Dcn. Troy Niemerg, (St. Isidore the Farmer, Dieterich), Pontifical North American College, 00120 Vatican City State, Europe

Dcn. Alex McCullough, (Immaculate Conception, Mattoon), -and-

Dcn. Bruce Scott, (St. Mary, Paris), St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577



"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man." -Pope Francis

SPECIAL ADVENT SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

On Mondays during Advent (December 4, 11, and 18), we will be hosting the following:

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

On Monday, December 18, we will have a special night of Reconciliation for our parish. Fr. Michal and other area priests will be here for Confession. Everyone is invited to come prepare your hearts for the coming of Jesus—with quiet prayer time during Adoration and Confession.

Our PSR classes will have Reconciliation on Wednesday, December 6, at 6:30pm in the church. Several area priests will join Fr. Michal this evening.

During Advent, our Tuesday study group will be doing a video and discussion on Walking with Mary in Advent by Ed Sri. They will meet on December 12 and 19 at 9:15am in the narthex. A 6:30pm group will also be offered if there is enough interest in that class time. If you are interested in the 6:30pm class, please sign up in the narthex. Everyone is welcome! (no signup needed for the morning class)

SHS students will be participating in various Advent projects this year.

- PreK: Ballard Nature Center
 - Accepting donations of fish food, birdseed, craft items, etc.
- Gr. K-2: Catholic Charities Babies
 - The students will bring in baby items to place on a special 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 SHS kindergarten students will be sharing a living Advent wreath with our school family. Each week we will gather in the gym to 'light the candle' on the special wreath. Some kindergarteners will stand in a circle to form the wreath, while others will stand in the center to represent the candles. This is a special way for them to bring the Advent season to life as we prepare for the coming of baby Jesus.

We are excited to have our Advent wreath in front of the altar this year! Special thanks to Bierman Welding for welding a new stand which displays the wreath beautifully in front of church. Advent wreaths and candles are full of symbolism, making them an extra special part of the Advent season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they respectively symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love.

Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple) Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple) Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd's Candle (rose) Advent week 4 – Love: Angel's Candle (purple)



Find peace in God this Advent. Hallow has many great resources for spiritual growth during Advent and throughout the year. There is a Hallow display in the narthex with information about their Advent Pray25 Challenge. Check it out and visit hallow.com/pray for more details.

There is also a lot of helpful information and Advent resources on FORMED. FORMED is an online library with Catholic movies and

programs—somewhat of a "Catholic Netflix". Learn and enjoy your faith at home and on the go, from any device. Sign up for free at formed.org/signup.



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

Christmas Programs

Sacred Heart School invites you to "The Legend of the Christmas King"! This K-8 Christmas Program and Band Concert is Thursday, December 14 at 6:15pm in the gym. Dress rehearsal is Wednesday, December 13 at 1:00pm. Parents, grandparents, and friends are welcome at both performances!

SHS alumni: We did this same Christmas program in 2006. We would love to welcome back anyone from the Class of 2007 (or anyone who remembers the play from 2006) to come reminisce and enjoy the show!

The Sacred Heart School 4-year-old Preschool Christmas Programs will be held as follows:

- Mrs. Kreke's class: Wednesday, December 20, 10:30am
- Mrs. Vahling's class: Thursday, December 21, 10:30am
- Parents, grandparents, and friends 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 20. Our PSR students will go that same evening to visit others.

Our choir and several ladies of the parish are also visiting and caroling when they drop off Advent Angel gifts. Thank you to everyone who donated items!



Our Christmas cards are in the mail! Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped stuff envelopes!



<u>Sacred Heart Parish invites you to join us</u> for Christmas Masses!

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so the Sunday morning Masses are separate from the Christmas Eve evening 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.



Envelopes for Christmas flowers & decorations are in the December packets. Please note on the back of the envelope if the donation is made in memory or in honor of a loved one. A special memorial page will be included in the bulletin. Please return envelopes by December 15.





2023-24 Annual Fund

This week, we sent out information regarding the Sacred Heart School Annual Fund. Our 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. Please consider supporting Sacred Heart School and joining us in our mission to provide an affordable high-quality Catholic education. All gifts are 100% tax-deductible. 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.

This past Tuesday our Booster Club hosted "Alumni and Green Out Night" at the junior high boys' basketball game against Sigel St. Michael. The gym was packed with Shamrock fans! Pictured here are our 7th/8th grade boys' basketball coaches,



Trent Jansen and Luke Schuette, both SHS alumni!



Our kindergarten students presented a great Thanksgiving program for their parents and grandparents! They sang songs about turkeys, pilgrims, Indians, and all

things Thanksgiving-related. They each had a turn with the microphone to share their name and something they are thankful for. This is special tradition at SHS and was a great way to kick off Thanksgiving break!



SHS students are raising money for their trip to Space Camp in the Spring of 2025.

- •Count Down to Christmas Calendar Raffle Purchase a calendar for \$25 for your chance to win up to 25 times as we count down to Christmas. Prizes include gift certificates, cash, and even a White Elephant gift! Drawing will be held daily from December 1-25!
- •**Pecans** Students are harvesting pecans from the trees located at Sacred Heart. The pecans will be sold at the back of church on the honor system.

Students will be selling items in the Narthex following weekend Masses from now until December 17.

Now Hiring!

Track & Field Coach

Join us to continue the success of our track and field program!

Last year, we had 11 athletes compete at the state level.
We are looking forward to another great year!
Season runs February 26 - early May

Interested? Send inquiries to athletics@sheff.org

Substitute Cook

Food service experience is preferred, but not required. Hours: approximately 9:00am - 1:30pm Duties: prepare, plate, and serve meals; clean kitchen

The assistant cook will be present for serving and clean-up. A lunchroom supervisor is also present during lunch hours.

Interested? Send inquiries to a.sheehan@sheff.org





Congratulations to our Sacred Heart School marching band for winning first place in the Junior High Band category at the Effingham Halloween Parade. They were recently presented with their First Place plaque.



The Effingham Knights of Columbus will once again conduct a "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest. Youth Director Greg Koester will be distributing rules and entry forms to Sacred Heart and St. Anthony schools. If

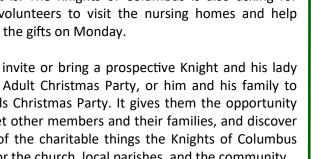
your child wants to do a poster, give Greg a call at (217) 821-7731 to get the entry forms.

The K of C Kids Christmas Party is Sunday, December 3.

Doors open at 3:00pm with Santa arriving shortly thereafter. Christmas cards will be available for kids and parents to draw a picture and/or write a note to friends and family in area nursing homes. Cookies, hotdogs and nachos will be served.

The K of C Adult Christmas Party (no children under 18 please) is Sunday, December 17, with doors opening at noon and lunch at 1:00p.m. To spread a little Christmas Spirit, guests are asked to bring a wrapped gift for our friends and loved ones in nursing homes. Gift ideas include socks, small blankets, coloring books, wordsearch books, puzzles and other clothing or activity items. Please wrap the gift with a note on the outside what it is. The Knights of Columbus is also asking for some volunteers to visit the nursing homes and help deliver the gifts on Monday.

Please invite or bring a prospective Knight and his lady to the Adult Christmas Party, or him and his family to the Kids Christmas Party. It gives them the opportunity to meet other members and their families, and discover some of the charitable things the Knights of Columbus does for the church, local parishes, and the community.







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Sunday, November 26, 2023

Envelopes: \$ 9,237.56 Loose Collection: \$ 1,123.00 Total: \$ 10,360.56

"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

Advent Teen Retreat with Coach Kramer Soderberg



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Sunday, December 10, 2023

Immaculate Conception "Family of Faith Center" 2000 Richmond Ave, Mattoon

All teens are invited to this free retreat with Coach Soderberg for his presentation of "What is your Goal?"

Lunch provided! RSVP to the Parish Office at 217-235-0539 or carlajanewill@yahoo.com by Thursday, December 7th.



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