Welcome!





First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2025

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.

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Mass Schedule:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30am, La Misa en Español 5:00pm el domingo

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 Monday-Friday 3:00pm Saturday

Pray the Rosary:

Healing: Mondays at 9:00am Flame of Love: Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Monthly on First Monday 9:00am-8:00pm Reconciliation 7:00-8:00pm We are excited to begin the season of Advent this Sunday! Advent is a beautiful time of year... a time of hope, anticipation, and joy as we await and prepare for the birth of our Savior! The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word meaning "coming". It is during these four weeks of Advent that we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The Advent season reminds us about the importance of Christ in our lives, prepares us to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas, and refers to His second coming at a future time.

Heavenly Father, during this season of Advent, we pray for focus and peace. There are so many distractions this time of year, many of them well-meaning. But, nothing gives our hearts rest like resting in You. We seek to keep You as the focus of each day, so we can know the peace that only You offer. Your son, Jesus, is Your greatest gift to us, a great sign of Your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to Your son. Amen.

Our Advent wreath is beautifully displayed in front of the altar. The wreath and candles help us visualize the progression of this special 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, symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love.

We invite you to join us as we prepare for Jesus' birth during this very special and holy time of year. 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.

You're Invited! Ladies of the parish: you are invited to our CCW Christmas party this Tuesday evening! Check page 5 of this bulletin for complete details. We hope to see you there!

Parking Monday!

Our west parking lot will be open and ready for traffic, effective Monday, December 1. We are excited about this Lot Opens wonderful enhancement to our property! Special thanks to everyone who has contributed to our Strengthen & Secure Campaign, making this long-desired project become a reality.

Prayer List: Nicole Bishop, Bill Weis, Maria Dolores Kingery, Tom Palmer, Alice Wines, Brenda Harris, Trevor Roy, Cis Ozenkoski, Mary Jane Behrman, Jackson Gaitros, Fr. Zach Patibandla, Keith Willenborg, Robert Overbeck, Jim Hakman

Names will be kept on our prayer list for 1 month and then removed. If you or your loved one would like to remain on the list for another month, simply call the parish office at 217-347-7177 and we will be happy to renew your name. \blacktriangledown



Our 2026 parish 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!

SACRED HEART CHURCH & SCHOOL CALENDAR

⊕ Parish Event
⊕ School Event

December 1-5

© Eighth-Grade Girls' BB Regionals

Monday, December 1

- ⊕ Rorate (Candlelight) Mass 6:30am

- ☆ Reconciliation 7:00pm-8:00pm
- © Boys' BB Home vs. Newton St. Thomas 6:00pm

Tuesday, December 2

- ⊕ CCW Christmas Party 6:00pm
- © Boys' BB Home vs. Sigel 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 3

- ₱ Pray the Flame of Love Rosary in church 3:30pm
- ₱ PSR Reconciliation (3 priests) in church 6:30pm
- ⊕ E.T.C. Effingham Teen Catholics Group in church lower level 7:00pm

Thursday, December 4

- © Boys' BB Home vs. Stew-Stras 6:00pm
- © K/1 Polar Express Train Trip 6:15pm
- ⊕ Men's Prayer Group in narthex 7:00pm

December 5-11

© Seventh-Grade Boys' BB NTC Tournament

Saturday, December 6

⊕ Rosary Making Class in narthex 9:00-10:30am

Rosary Making Group: Please join us to make rosaries for the missions! This is an excellent way to spread devotion to Jesus and His Blessed Mother throughout the world. We will meet in the narthex on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00-10:30am. It's fun and easy to learn. All materials are provided. Everyone is welcome!

Important Time Change: The time for our Monday Healing Rosary will change during Advent! It will continue to be prayed on Monday mornings, however, it will be prayed at 7:00am instead of 9:00am. (It will be prayed following the 6:30am Rorate Mass).



Our December altar server meeting will be Wednesday, December 3, at 5:34pm in the church. We ask for all servers to attend.



This weekend we advance to the next liturgical year—which is Year 'A' in the Saint Augustine Hymnals. As always, you can look at the song board to find the page for that day's Mass. The letter (A, B, or C) denotes which liturgical year we are in. The following number denotes the page number for the readings for that day's Mass. (In the example shown here, the liturgical year is 'A' and the readings can be found on page 808.) The remaining rows of numbers denote song numbers.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 1—Rorate Mass

6:30am: †Anne Imburgia, Nicole Bishop, Poor Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, December 2

8:30am: The Ben H. Pike Family

Wednesday, December 3 8:30am: †Robert Waitkus

Thursday, December 4

8:30am: †Fr. Victor Kingery

Saturday, December 6

4:00pm: †Louise Rose Nuxoll

Sunday, December 7—Second Sunday of Advent

8:30am: †Floyd Wilson

10:30am: For Our Parishioners **5:00pm:** La Misa en Español

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A Note from our Principal, Mrs. Habing: Happy Thanksgiving! I want to take a moment to thank you for trusting your children to our Sacred Heart Shamrock family. We are so grateful for their smiles, their laughter, and the joy they bring to each day. They keep

every day interesting and keep us on our toes!

It has taken me a long time to realize that good does not come without bad. Would we truly recognize the really great things in our lives without having experienced low and challenging moments? I believe that challenges are placed in our path because, for a reason only God can understand, there are lessons we need to learn. Maybe it is because we will need valuable information to help ourselves or another person someday. Maybe we need to learn a lesson in empathy, grace, or forgiveness for ourselves or others. Maybe God is sending us signs that the path we are going down is leading us toward poor choices and even worse consequences, and is trying to divert us onto the path that He has paved for us. Maybe it is a combination of reasons... Who truly knows but God? What I do know without a doubt is that God does not make mistakes. We are exactly where we should be, exactly where we NEED to be at every moment in time, whether they are fulfilling or challenging. It is difficult at times to give up control of our lives and events in our lives. However, in my experience, it has been worth it Every. Single. Time. I'd like to share a simple prayer that has helped me through many trials: Jesus, help me know what you want me to do. I hope it can help you too!

I pray that this Advent season brings you peace, mercy, clarity, and, with the help of God, all the grace that only He can bestow. Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and New Year.

~ Charlotte Habing, Principal, Sacred Heart School



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Food Drive! Members of our Student Council helped deliver the items to Catholic Charities. While there, they were given a tour of the food bank and heard about why the food program is so important in our local community.

Keeping in touch with priests this Christmas:

Fr. Brian Alford,

c/o Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 524 E. Lawrence, Springfield, IL 62703

Fr. Dan Bergbower,

c/o St. Agnes Parish, 245 N. Amos Ave., Springfield, IL 62702

Fr. Michael Berndt,

c/o St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 921 Madison Ave., Charleston, IL 61920

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 Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, P.O. Box 1237, La Crosse, WI 54602

Fr. James Flach,

215 N. Second St., Effingham, IL 62401

Fr. Jeff Goeckner.

c/o St. Boniface Parish, 110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville, IL 62025

Fr. Paul Habing,

c/o St. Alexus Parish, 215 W. 5th Street, Beardstown, IL 62618

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,

20057 N. 1525th Road, Effingham, IL 62401

Fr. Dean Probst,

602 N. Fourth Street, Effingham, IL 62401

Fr. Rafal Pyrchla,

c/o Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Parish, 400 N Whitetail Circle, Mt. Zion, IL 62549

Fr. Dominic Rankin,

Catholic University of America, 620 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20064

Fr. Zachary Samples,

c/o Blessed Sacrament Parish, 1725 S Walnut Street, Springfield, IL 62704

Fr. Martin Smith,

c/o St. Francis Xavier Parish, 506 S. State St., Jerseyville, IL 62052



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

Join us on Mondays during Advent!

On December 1, 15, and 22, we will be hosting the following in church:

- ⇒ Rorate (candlelight) Mass at 6:30am (no 8:30am Mass these days)
- \Rightarrow Pray the Healing Rosary in church at 7:00am
- ⇒ Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00am 8:00pm
- ⇒ Confession from 7:00pm 8:00pm (December 22 will be a special Night of Confession with 4 priests available.)

Please note: Any time you pray at Eucharistic Adoration, you can receive a partial indulgence. A plenary indulgence is granted when you visit the most Blessed Sacrament during Adoration for at least 30 minutes. (All other qualifications for plenary indulgence still apply: go to Confession, receive Communion the same day, say prayers, and be free of venial sin. If you are interested in more information, please talk to Fr. Michal or contact the parish office.)

Due to it being the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Monday, December 8, has a different schedule than the other Mondays in Advent. 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 Monday, December 8 at 8:30am, 12:10pm, and 6:30pm. Please join us! *The 8:30am Mass will be incense-free.



During Advent, our men's group will be studying the book Waiting Well by Fr. Mike Schmitz. All men are invited! They meet on Thursdays at

7:00pm in the church narthex. Any questions, contact Tom Purcell at 217-821-7077.

Celebrate Advent with Hallow and FORMED.

Hallow has many great resources for spiritual growth during Advent, including prayers, schedules, activities, calendars, and more. Visit https://hallow.com/advent/tocheck it out.

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.

<u>Each SHS class has a special Advent project to collect items or money for those in need.</u>

- 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



Advent Angel Update: Our helpers have been busy putting together Advent Angels bags. These bags will be delivered to almost 100 local people who are in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or are homebound.

We need just a little bit more help! We are in need of the following items. If you are able to donate, please drop these items off to our church narthex this weekend. Thank you!

- ◆ Fleece Lap Throws
- ♦ Men's Socks
- Women's Socks
- **♦** Tissues
- ♦ Bar Soaps
- ♦ Men's Body Soaps
- ♦ Word Search Books
- ◆ Toothpaste

If you prefer to make a cash donation, place it in the collection basket and designate it for "Advent Angels". Thank you! The items will be delivered on Saturday, December 6, the Memorial of St. Nicholas.



The Advent edition of *The Word Among Us* is now available in the narthex. It includes inspirational daily meditations and readings. We invite you to take a copy as you prepare for the birth of Jesus during this Advent season.

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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

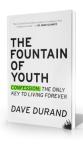
Christmas Caroling

Our Sacred Heart youth will be Christmas caroling on Wednesday, December 17, to some of our parishioners in local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and homebound. This is always a special tradition and fun way to spread Christmas cheer.

Christmas Programs

Sacred Heart School invites you to "Christmas in Bethlehem Gulch," our K-8 Christmas Program and **Band Concert!** Saddle up for a country Christmas in Bethlehem Gulch starring our very own eight-grade students on Wednesday, December 17, starting at 6:15pm in the school gym. It is sure to be a darn tootin' good time! Dress rehearsal is Tuesday, December 16, at 1:00pm. Parents, grandparents, and friends are welcome at both performances!

The Sacred Heart School 4-year-old Preschool Christmas Program will be held on Friday, December 19, at 10:30am in the school gym. Parents and grandparents are welcome!



A Gift for You-When you come for Mass, make sure to grab a copy of The Fountain of Youth in the narthex. This book offers a refreshing perspective on the sacrament that is most often overlooked (and even avoided): Confession. Author Dave Durand will help you break through what's holding

you back and lead you to the freedom that Christ came to win for us. With clean souls, we will be able to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist with a joyful heart and share in His victory over sin and death.





the holidays!

- ⇒ Purchase gifts for others
- ⇒ Purchase groceries for your holiday parties
- \Rightarrow OR, give 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 www.raiseright.com/shop.





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 Friday, December 12.



Our parish Christmas cards were mailed last week! Advent and Christmas Mass times are included in the card for your convenience.

Volunteers Needed-Men, Women, & Teens!

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Tuesday, December 23, starting right after 8:30am Mass. The biggest area of need is carrying decorations up from the basement. Please come to help decorate and/or carry things, even if you can only stay for a little while.

<u>Christmas and New Year Mass Times:</u>

Christmas:

- * Wednesday, December 24: 4:00pm & 9:30pm **The 9:30pm Mass will be incense-free.
- * Thursday, December 25: 12:00am & 9:30am

New Year, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

* Thursday, January 1: 8:30am, 12:10pm, & 6:30pm **The 12:10pm Mass will be incense-free.

Fundraising for the 2026-27 Junior High Trip has begun!

Students will be selling Christmas Calendar Raffle tickets and pecans in the narthex after each Mass.





\$25/Raffle Ticket with 25 Chances to Win

A winner will be drawn each morning at Sacred Heart School. Daily winners will be re-entered into the raffle. Purchasers can win up to 25 times with one single ticket.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT SACRED HEART JUNIOR HIGH TRIP.

Please fill out and return the bottom section with payment.		
Name:	Phone:	
Address:	City:	
Student who sold ticket:		
Entries will be accepted until December 21, but enter early for more chances to win. Make checks payable to: Sacred Heart Junior High Trip		

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Mattoon Deanery Marriage Date Night

"49 Years of Keeping the Christ and the Church at the center of our Marriage" Talk given by Bill and Pat Prichard

Join us to strengthen your marriage, listen to a loving couple share their experiences, and join in

fellowship.
Open to everyone, not just St. Mary's

parishioners.
Childcare available, Please RSVP by November

25th. Catering provided by Joe's Pizza and Pasta. \$40 a couple

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Sunday, November 30, 4:00-7:00pm

Pro-Life Update: As we look back on the 40 days of the Prayer Campaign for Life (Sept. 24 - Nov. 7), we reflect on our many blessings: 44 churches and organizations in our region participated to fill the days with pro-life prayer...generous volunteers provided 110 hours of service at the Silk Purse Thrift Store, which supports the Family Life Center. Hundreds of people in our community prayed to protect all human life from conception to natural death. THANK YOU!!

Our local effort was conducted in solidarity with the international "40 Days for Life" campaign. They have documented 25,795 babies saved from abortion (that they know of) since campaigns started in 2007! Be inspired by the true stories of abortion-minded women that had a change of heart. Go to www.40daysforlife.com to read their blog posts (click on MEDIA at the top). Please keep the protection of all human life in your prayers.

Our Stewardship of Treasure

Date	Weekend Collection	Budgeted Amount	Difference
Nov. 2	\$15,846.00	\$12,880.00	+\$2,966.00
Nov. 9	\$13,270.20	\$12,880.00	+\$390.20
Nov. 16	\$12,416.38	\$12,880.00	(\$463.62)
Nov. 23	\$8,834.00	\$12,880.00	(\$4,046.00)

Thank you for your generosity and support!

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

Ways to continue supporting Sacred Heart Parish:

In Person: Place donation in the offertory basket at
Mass or slip it through the parish drop box.

Online: https://pushpay.com/g/sacredhearteffingham

Online: https://pushpay.com/g/sacredhearteffingham Mail: 405 S. Henrietta Street, Effingham, IL 62401

Upcoming Natural Family Planning Classes:

- Saturday, December 6, 1:00-2:30pm at St. Francis Church in Teutopolis
- Saturday, January 17, 10:00-11:30am virtual class on WebEx
- Saturday, March 7, 1:00-2:30pm at St. Anthony Church in Effingham

To register please contact Kate Pruemer at kpruemer@gmail.com or 217-821-1840.

Join Fr. Michal Rosa for a Catholic Journey through Turkey May 17-30, 2026. Enjoy an unforgettable 14 days traveling through the historic and spiritual heart of Turkey. Questions, ask Fr. Michal or visit sheff.org.





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