

A note from Fr. Michal, our pastor . . .



The Second Sunday of Advent ~ As the journey of Advent continues, we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God. It is with our everyday behavior in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.

With Christmas falling on Monday, many people will attend a Sunday morning Mass and then again on Christmas Eve that evening. I just want to clarify about receiving communion. You may receive communion at both Masses as the first Mass is for the Sunday liturgy, and the second Mass is for Christmas, which is a holy day.

This past Monday, we celebrated Adoration with our liturgical ministers and several of our parishioners. It was a great start to a faith-filled Advent season and we will continue Adoration monthly throughout the next year, so watch the bulletin for upcoming dates.

Please take home a Sacred Heart 2018 Catholic calendar which designates the holy days and feast days, and also includes our Mass and reconciliation schedules. Each month, there is a prayerful reflection on stewardship. A special thank you to Dust and Son Auto Supplies and the Keller family businesses for donating the calendars to our parish.



A special thank you to the men who came to help unload flooring for the rectory. Within two hours of needing assistance, they came and unloaded the truck in record time. Their assistance was greatly appreciated especially due to the short notice.

The Spanish community would like to invite everyone to the special Lady of Guadalupe Mass on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 7:00pm, at Sacred Heart Church. She is the patron saint of Mexico. According to tradition, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego on Dec. 9, 1531 and the story will be re-enacted. There will be a special celebration following in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. *Everyone is welcome to join in the Mass and festivities.*



There will be the following reconciliation services to accommodate particular groups, however everyone is welcome.

- ▶ PSR students ~ Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30pm @ Sacred Heart Church
- ▶ Parish Reconciliation ~ Sunday, Dec. 17, from 3:00pm to 4:00pm @ St. Anthony Church
- ▶ Parish Reconciliation ~ Monday, Dec. 18, beginning at 6:00pm @ Sacred Heart Church

The sacrament of Reconciliation is available 30 minutes before weekday Masses and again at 3:00pm on Saturdays.

If these times do not fit your schedule, please call Fr. Michal to set up a time.

On New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1, we will have Mass at 9:30am and a 5:00pm Spanish Mass at Sacred Heart Church. The weekend of Dec. 30-31, we will follow the regular weekend Mass schedule.

Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Eve: 4:00pm and 7:30pm

Christmas Day: midnight, 9:30am, and a 5:00pm Spanish Mass

Ministry schedules are in the back of church, so please sign up as soon as possible so we can finalize a schedule.

St. Anthony Church

Christmas Eve: 4:30pm (incense free), 7:00pm;

Christmas Day: midnight, 8:00am, and 10:00am

St. Mary's Shumway

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm; Christmas Day: 8:30am



Synopsis of Fr. Michal's First Sunday of Advent homily . . .

As we begin our journey of Advent together, I want to thank each and every one of you for your involvement and support of Sacred Heart Parish. We have a great community and we are following our mission.

So what now? Eat, drink, and be merry?! Well, well... No! Get ready!

Are you ready to work?! We need you to be an active member of Sacred Heart. If someone wants to volunteer during the Mass as a server, lector, usher, Eucharistic Minister, sacristan, musician, etc. – please contact me, or our parish office. Don't be shy!

And many of you will say that you are not worthy to serve at the altar... Ok. Let me tell you something.

God still calls today. He calls us to walk with him, to be so full of His love that others will see the joy on our faces and want what we have. Christianity, it has been said, cannot be taught. It must be caught.

Perhaps, you're thinking: "Nah... I could never do that." You're wrong. Here is a list of some of the great people in the Bible. Every one of them had a reason for thinking God could not use them. So, the next time you feel like God can't use you, remember:

"Noah was a drunk. Abraham was too old. Isaac was a daydreamer. Jacob was a liar. Leah was ugly. Joseph, the Egyptian, was abused by his brothers. Moses had a stuttering problem. Gideon was afraid. Samson had long hair and was a womanizer. Rahab was a prostitute. Jeremiah and Timothy thought they were too young. David had an extra-marital affair and he was a murderer. Elijah was suicidal. Isaiah thought himself unworthy. Jonah ran away from God's call. Naomi was a widow. Job went bankrupt. Martha was a perpetual worrier. The Samaritan woman who spoke with Jesus at the well was five-times divorced. Zacchaeus was too small. Peter was a traitor. The disciples fell asleep while praying. At Jesus' arrest, they all forsake him and fled. Paul was too religious. Timothy had an ulcer. And Lazarus was dead!"

So what's your excuse? Hmmm? Whatever it may be, God can still use you to your full potential. Besides, we aren't the message. *We are only the messengers.*

At this very special Christmas time of gift giving, I would also like to ask all of you (even if you are not a parishioner) to consider making a very special Christmas gift to our parish to help us fund our school and the many programs we have throughout the year and help us eliminate our current \$24,000 budget deficit. There are several ways for you to give which includes increasing your December Sunday envelope donation, mail in a gift to the parish office, or drop your gift there.

I am ever so grateful for your support of our parish. I pray for you and your families every day. Please pray for me and for our staff. Let us pray for one another during this beautiful Advent Season.

When you were born, you were crying, and everyone around you was smiling. Start today (if you haven't started already) living your life so that when you die, you're the only one smiling, and everyone around you is crying.

Have a wonderful Advent season!

~ Restoration Update ~

As we mentioned last week, our Restoration Committee (Fr. Michal, Sr. Rene, Mike Schmitz, Vicki Walker, Marty Stock, Judy Luchtefeld, Judy Bergfeld, Penny Wiedman, and Christy Hakman) reviewed all your nearly 500 comments made during the Feasibility Study, and will be sharing the results and comments, as well as answering your questions and addressing your concerns here in the bulletin and before weekend Masses. Watch this space weekly for updates.

We were pleased to learn that 97% of the survey respondents felt it was very important or important to make aesthetic improvements including refinishing pews, replacing flooring, and addressing the finishes of our walls, beams, and ceilings. Based on your comments, here's some points we need to share:

Pews: We fully intend to refinish the pews to clean them up, fix the parts that are scratched, and have them stained (the same color or slightly lighter). IF the cost to replace the pews is cheaper, we will choose to do so, but we expect the refinishing to be more cost effective. The kneelers will be repaired and re-padded.

Flooring: We all agree we need new flooring but among the parishioners, there's varying opinions on carpet, tile, cork, or laminate. Currently, we are planning a combination of tile (altar and center isle) with carpeting under the pews. However, we have been talking with other churches about their flooring choices, and we are evaluating the feedback, but have not yet made a final decision. We are also working with a designer to direct us on carpet squares vs. rolls, etc. In addition, we are consulting with a sound/acoustic expert who will direct us on which type of flooring will work best for the acoustic success of our church.

Finishes: We plan to remove the "popcorn" look around the window areas and walls. As for the beams and the ceiling, we believe that a good cleaning will help to make it look nicer. We do not plan on painting any of the beams, walls, ceiling, etc. We intend to keep the rich wood that we all love in the church!

As always, if you have questions, please contact Fr. Michal or any of the committee members.

And, stay tuned for more information in next week's bulletin.

Sacred Heart Church Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:30pm,
7:00pm (Misa en Español)

Reconciliation

3:00pm on Saturday
and 30 minutes prior to weekday Masses

Sacred Heart Weekday Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:15am
Wednesday: 8:30am

St. Anthony Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:15am, and 11:00am

St. Anthony Weekday Mass Times

Monday-Friday: 6:30am & 8:30am
On the first Saturday of the month: 6:30am

St. Mary's, Shumway Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 5:30pm; Sunday: 8:30am

Advent Reflection on the Birth of Jesus Christ will be held on Tuesdays (Dec. 12 & 19), at 12:30pm, at Sacred Heart Church lower level, and again at 6:30pm, at St. Anthony Parish Center. Through classic works of art, music, and Gospel narratives, come explore the Life of Christ from the Annunciation of the angel Gabriel, Visitation of Mary, and the Nativity and Birth of Jesus Christ. *Everyone welcome!*



We invite families to join the Family Choir to sing at the 8:30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month. Contact Judy Bergfeld at 821.6324 for rehearsal times as we want to accommodate schedules. This opportunity is open to all parish and school families that would like to sing together as a group and lead the congregation. *We encourage you and your children to become involved in church ministries!*

Young Hearts Potluck will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at noon, at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Meat is furnished, so bring your favorite side dish and join us for food and fellowship.

The annual free Effingham County Christmas Day Dinner will be on Monday, Dec. 25, at 11:30am, at Sacred Heart Parish Center. This dinner is open to all Effingham County residents and their families. RSVP for a meal to Susan Elke at 868.5913 or the Effingham Senior Center at 347.5569 by Dec. 20. Please let them know if you need transportation or need the meal delivered. *Dinner is sponsored by Effingham Co. FISH.*

Parish Calendar Events

Tuesday, Dec. 12

12:30pm: Advent Reflection @ Sacred Heart Lower Level

Wednesday, Dec. 13

6:00pm: Parish Choir Practice @ Sacred Heart Lower Level
6:30pm: PSR Advent Reconciliation
@ Sacred Heart Church

Sunday, Dec. 17

10:30am: Sunday School @ Sacred Heart Lower Level
6:30pm: Effingham Area Youth Group Caroling
7:00pm: Spanish Mass with a Christmas theater following
@ Sacred Heart Parish Center



Baptism Class will be on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 6:00pm, at Sacred Heart Parish Center. Please call Darlene at 347.7177 to register.

Christmas Flowers ~ Envelopes are included in your December packets for Christmas flowers and decorations. If the donation is made in memory of a loved one, please note that on the envelope. A special memorial page will be included in the bulletin.

Readings for the Week:

Monday, Dec. 11: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday, Dec. 12: Zec 2:14-17; Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Lk 1:26-38; Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday, Dec. 13: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday, Dec. 14: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday, Dec. 15: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday, Dec. 16: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17-9a, 10-13
Sunday, Dec. 17: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24;
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Sacred Heart Mass Schedule

Monday, Dec. 11

7:15am: Verena Kreke, Carol Anne Utz

Tuesday, Dec. 12

7:15am: Brenda Amacher Coe

Wednesday, Dec. 13

8:30am: Bob Niehaus

Thursday, Dec. 14

7:15am: Ruth Hardiek

Friday, Dec. 15

7:15am: Mary Pike

Saturday, Dec. 16

4:00pm (Fr. Michal Rosa): Maxine Pattillo

Sunday, Dec. 17

8:30am (Fr. Michal Rosa): Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women, Sick, Homebound, and Ladies over 80

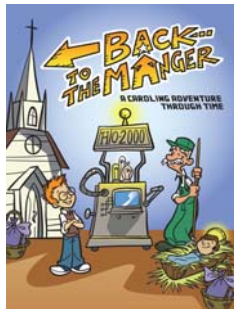
10:30am (Fr. Michal Rosa): Nome Keller

5:30pm (Fr. Michal Rosa): For Our Parishioners

7:00pm Spanish Mass (Fr. Paul Habing): Hilma Goeckner

School News . . .

“Back to the Manger” Christmas program will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 6:30pm, at Sacred Heart School. This musical presents a blast-from-the-past array of carols as well as a life-changing message: During the annual Christmas Caroling Outreach at Midway Community Church, Jackson and his friends discover a time machine in the basement. After accidentally hitting a lever, they embark on an adventure throughout the twentieth century and learn how helping others changes lives. Seeing the caroling outreach effects over the decades, once-skeptical Jackson comes to know Christ better and discovers the true value of God’s gift and why we celebrate His birth. We invite the whole parish to experience our annual presentation. In addition to the evening performance on Dec. 12, the public is invited to our dress rehearsal on Monday, Dec. 11, at 1:00pm. Everyone welcome.



Purchase a \$25 Technology Raffle ticket to benefit Sacred Heart School’s technology and enrichment programs and have a chance to win up to \$5,000

CASH! Tickets are available at the parish or school office. The grand prize of up to \$5,000 will be given away at the Christmas program on Tuesday, Dec. 12. As an added bonus – the Sacred Heart School student selling the grand prize ticket will win an iPad Mini!

All Sacred Heart School students in grades 4-8 are invited to sing in the children’s choir at our 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass! They will practice during school hours beginning on Wednesday, Dec. 13, so please return your permission slip as soon as possible.

Protecting God’s Children Workshop will be held at St. Isidore Parish, Bishop, on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 6:30pm, and Monday, Feb. 5, at 6:30pm. Call 925.5788 to register.

School Calendar

Monday, Dec. 11

1:00pm: Christmas program dress rehearsal @ SHS gym
6:15pm: Boys Basketball @ Newton St. Thomas

Tuesday, Dec. 12

6:30pm: SHS Christmas program & raffle drawing @ SHS gym

Wednesday, Dec. 13

8:30am: School Mass @ Sacred Heart Church
1:30pm: Children’s Christmas Choir practice @ Church
5th/6th Boys Basketball practice begins

Thursday, Dec. 14

1:30pm: Children’s Christmas Choir practice @ Church

SCRIP Cards are a great way for you to Christmas shop AND raise money for Sacred Heart School! Local business owners – please consider SCRIP Cards if you will be buying gift cards for your employees and/or colleagues!



SCRIP cards will be sold after all weekend Masses in December and in the church office on Wednesdays from 9:00am to 4:30pm and Fridays from 9:00am to 1:00pm, and at the Baseball Card Connection in downtown Effingham.

Coming soon . . . We’re adding the option to purchase SCRIP cards online using auto withdrawal from your checking account. Parents and grandparents of SHS students can also earn credit toward their child’s 2019-2020 tuition with each SCRIP Card purchased in 2018. Watch the bulletin and your email for additional information. *Thank you to everyone who has purchased cards in the past few weeks. We appreciate your support.*

PSR Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30pm, at Sacred Heart Church. The whole family is welcome to go to reconciliation at this time. Please note: first grade students do not need to attend. Second grade students will meet in the Sacred Heart Parish Center for a special program. If you have any questions, call Tom Purcell at 217.821.7077.

Effingham Area High School Youth . . .

The Effingham Area Catholic High School Youth Group will be visiting the area nursing homes and caroling on Sundays, Dec. 10 & 17.

*No singing experience necessary, just a bit of JOY! All high school age youth are invited. We will depart from Sacred Heart Church at 6:30pm and return at 8:30pm. A permission form is required to attend. The EACYG will be on holiday break Dec. 24 to Jan. 14.

Seats still available for March for Life - Washington, D.C. St. Anthony High School students along with other area youth have a bus reserved and seats are available. The cost for the trip is approx. \$125. We are also offering a “sponsor a seat” opportunity for parishioners who want to support the March but are unable to attend the trip. Snacks may also be donated for the bus ride and can be dropped off at the high school office! *A brief itinerary listed below.*

Jan. 18 - 4:00pm: Board a Bales Bus at SAHS parking lot
Jan. 19 - 6:30am: Arrive in D.C. for March
Jan. 20 - 8:00pm to 12:00pm -- Return to Effingham

For more information about Effingham Area Youth Group and the March for Life trip, contact Katalyn Miller at kmiller@stanthony.com.

Effingham Knights of Columbus News

The Adult Christmas party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17, with doors opening at 12:00pm. The social hour will be from 12:00pm-1:00pm with the meal served at 1:00pm. Live music starts at 2:00pm and will play until at least 4:00pm. There will also be 50/50 and door prize drawings throughout the afternoon.

There will be a youth activities raffle fundraiser with proceeds going towards various youth programs such as the Coats for Kids, contest awards, assist students attending March for Life, 5th grade vocations field trip, and the Columbian Squires Circle. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 with only 1000 printed. First prize will be the choice of 1 of 2 firearms or \$750. Second prize will be the winner's choice of 1 of 2 firearms or \$500 – or the prize can be a credit to the firearm of your choice. An early bird drawing will be held at the K of C Adult Christmas Party on Dec. 17. Grand prize will be drawn at the Egyptian Collectors Trade Show on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2:00pm.

Community Events . . .

Christmas Open House will be held at the Cross at the Crossroads Welcome Center on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Guests will enjoy music from FACE and various choirs, nativity scenes from around the world, door prizes, and free refreshments. They will also have a free “make and take” Christmas craft.

“Advent Evensong” will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4:00pm, at Holy Cross Church, Wendelin. There will be a candlelight service with Scripture, Organ, English Carols, & Austrian Christmas music sung in German, by the Wendelin Kloepfen Singers. *All are welcome.*

~ Prayer List ~

Amanda McKinney, Kimberly Poe, Barb Sims, Frank Kemo, Bryce Beccue, Catherine Began, Lydia Hemrich, Rosie Myers, Caroline Hoene, Barbara Jansen, Mary Ellen Eversman, Debbie Myers, Emily McCabe, Harold Poe, Gertrude Alldredge, Eric Hartke, Katie Kroeger, Jack Richardson, Travis Miller, Tom Pruemer, Greg Schaefer, Mary Edwards, Craig Lindvahl, Cathy Hayes, Fred Amacher, Kevin Ordner, Elizabeth Weidner, Dorothy Levitt, Jill Quandt, Gloria Ellis, Sandy McDevitt, Esther & Lou Feldhake, Brian Wirth, Ron Caron, Cheryl Woodard, Carolyn Westendorf, Steve Schniederjan, Rex Easton, Bill Myers, Eva Applegate, Sam Stitz, Philip Wendt, Penny Myers, Alice Watson, Julie Hoffman, Rosanna Schallert, David Geltz, Lisa Crosson, Donna Rentfrow, Rita Tucker, Marcia Rexroat, Elliot Minor, Angie Borrelli, Harper Rose Ellis, Sr. Jeanette Willenborg, Kristen Angel, Don Musser, Judy French, Madonna Bushur, Fidelity Mette, Scott Schaefer, Becky Ordner, Cindy Mietzner, Bill Althoff, Bertha Walls, Paula Moore, Michael Habing

A Note from Fr. Paul Habing . . .

Perhaps, some young people of Sacred Heart Parish (*or children of all ages*) have seen the recently released movie “Coco” from Disney-Pixar. The animated movie has some basis as a custom in Mexico and many countries of Latin America: “El Día de los Muertos”. The Day of the Dead is celebrated from Nov. 1, All Saints Day through Nov. 2 All Souls Days, when many people remember the deceased members of their families in prayer at church, cemeteries, or their homes. Often in Mexico, people go to the tombs of their departed loved ones to place their favorite food and drink nearby. This is a way to remember the earthly lives of those so loved in life. Death is such a great mystery, but the movie “Coco” omits entirely our prayers for those who have passed from this life.

Sacred Heart Parish, including the Mexican-American community, prays devoutly for their departed loved ones as members of the Communion of Saints. One can certainly see this devotion at Mass in the priestly ministry. So, it might be good to clarify that a movie such as “Coco” has some big fallacies about our belief in the afterlife. Miguel, the little boy of unappreciated musical talent wants to know more about his great-great-grandfather who was a talented guitarist, singer, and actor many years ago in Mexico. So on the Day of the Dead, through some special power, Miguelito is able to pass over to look for his (real) father in the afterlife . . . though it is not such a nice place in the movie. The skeleton-faced departed and their intrigues in the afterlife are a very odd resemblance to our belief in eternal life!!

We read in 1 Thessalonians 4:14 *“For we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep”*. Also, Jesus’ words in John 14:2 remind us: *“My Father’s house has many rooms, if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?”*

A redeeming feature of the movie “Coco” is the kind realistic view of extended family so appreciated in Mexico (e.g. Miguel’s love for his great-grandmother Coco whose departed son is Miguel’s father). So if your children have seen the movie, it might be good to explain to the children about our strong ties to the Faithful Departed through prayer in the Communion of Saints.

The first part of Advent now looks in quiet expectation to the Second Coming of Christ. We all meet the Lord in the Eucharist, our daily lives, and in our deaths to pass to eternal life. At our passing, we hope to see our Lord, the Beatific Vision, and his Mystical Body, the Church. That will be much better than any movie . . . “But, this is just as it has been written: The eye has not seen, and the ear has not heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man, what things God has prepared for those who love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

Keeping in touch over the holidays:

- Rev. Brian Alford**, c/o St. Jude Church
P.O. Box 47, Rochester, IL 62563
- Rev. Al Allen**, c/o St. Louis Church
311 S. Elm St, Nokomis, IL 62075
- Rev. Dan Bergbower**, c/o St. Mary's Church
1802 Madison Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025
- Rev. Zachary Edgar**, c/o St. Elizabeth Church
2300 Pontoon Rd, Granite City, IL 62040
- Rev. Sunder Ery**, c/o St. Michael's Church
P.O. Box 68, Sigel, IL 62462
- Rev. Jeff Goeckner**, c/o St. Boniface Church
110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville, IL 62025
- Rev. Paul Habing**, c/o St. Elizabeth Church
120 N. Windmill, Marine, IL 62061
- Rev. Ronald Hilt**, c/o St. Mary's Church
528 N. Main, P.O. Box 577, Paris, IL 61944
- Very Rev. David Hoefler**
1615 West Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702
- Rev. Rafal Pyrchla**, c/o Our Saviour Church
453 E. State St., Jacksonville, IL 62650
- Rev. Carl Schmidt**
509 N. Main St., Effingham, IL 62401
- Rev. Marty Smith**, c/o St. Francis Xavier
506 S. State St., Jerseyville, IL 62052
- Rev. Robert Spriggs**, c/o Sacred Heart Church
P.O. Box 870, Effingham, IL 62401 (will forward mail)
- Msgr. Kenneth Steffen**, c/o St. Francis Hospital
1215 Franciscan Dr., Litchfield, IL 62056
- Rev. Ralph Zetzl**, c/o St. Anthony Hospital
503 N. Maple St., Effingham, IL 62401

Seminarians in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Addresses for several of our local seminarians . . .

Dominic Rankin, Chris Trummer
Pontifical North American College
00120 Vatican City State, Europe

Troy Niemerg
Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary
2500 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN 46222

**Dominic Vahling, Michael Meinhart,
Michael Trummer**
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
5200 Glennon Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119

Help religious communities. Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry. Your gift to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. An envelope is included in your December packet. *Please give generously to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection.*

Sunday Collection Income	3-Dec-17	Budgeted
Offering (207 Env.)	\$14,923.00	\$10,570.00
Loose	\$1,664.00	\$1,610.00
Holy Days	\$230.00	\$0.00
Total	\$16,817.00	\$12,180.00
Weekly Difference		\$4,637
YTD Totals	\$259,058	\$278,400
YTD Difference		(\$19,342)



The 2017-2018 Annual Catholic Services Appeal "ACSA" goal for our 2017-18 ASCA is \$50,130. We invite you to direct your weekly tithing to the Diocese. Simply make your check payable to ACSA (with Sacred Heart Church in the memo line), ACSA on the envelope, and drop it in the collection. If our parish goal is surpassed, then 100% of the overage is returned to the parish. Any questions, call Mark Volk at 347.7177. **To date, we have received \$22,928, leaving a balance of \$27,202.** Please make a donation to help us meet our goal.

End of year giving: This is the time of year when many people are looking for a good opportunity to donate to their church or school and then itemize those deductions on their taxes. Tax-deductible donations to Sacred Heart Parish can be made through December 29, 2017. If you want to direct your donation to the Annual Fund, the future church restoration, or simply to the regular church or school offering, please let us know.

Traditional IRA Distributions are a great way for those age 70-1/2+ to donate up to \$100,000 directly to Sacred Heart Church or School. The contribution counts toward your required minimum distribution and isn't 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. Please speak to your financial advisor or contact Christy or Mark at 217.347.7177 to further discuss.

Sponsor of the Week

EFFINGHAM
OPHTHALMOLOGY
ASSOCIATES

217-347-EYES (3937)

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Joseph W. Spraul, MD
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