



Sacred Heart Church
Fr. Michal Rosa, Pastor
405 South Henrietta, P.O. Box 870
Effingham, IL 62401
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Fax: 217.347.0728
shchurch@sheff.org

*Welcome to Sacred Heart Church – We're glad that you're here!
Visit sheff.org to learn more about our parish.*



**SACRED HEART
CHURCH & SCHOOL**



Sacred Heart School

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



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

Sacred Heart Mass Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

4:00pm (Fr. Michal Rosa): For Our Parishioners

7:30pm (Fr. Michal Rosa): For Our Parishioners

Monday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)

Midnight (Fr. Michal Rosa): For Our Parishioners

9:30am (Fr. Michal Rosa): For Our Parishioners

5:00pm Spanish (Fr. Paul Habing): For Our Parishioners

Tuesday, Dec. 26

7:15am: Rich Rieman

Wednesday, Dec. 27

8:30am: Mary Ritchie

Thursday, Dec. 28

7:15am: Ethel Gallo

10:30am Lakeland Nursing Home Mass:

Anna Marie Wernsing

Friday, Dec. 29

7:15am: Dolores Hinkle

Saturday, Dec. 30

4:00pm (Fr. Michal Rosa): Living & Deceased Members of the Jerry Vonderheide Family

Sunday, Dec. 31

8:30am (Fr. Michal Rosa): Chuck & Tудie Kreke

10:30am (Fr. Michal Rosa): For Our Parishioners

5:30pm (Fr. Michal Rosa): Lorraine Althoff

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

Readings for the Week:

Monday, Dec. 25:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25; 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday, Dec. 26: Acts 6-8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, Dec. 27: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday, Dec. 28: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday, Dec. 29: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, Dec. 30: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, Dec. 31: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3;

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;

Lk 2:22-40 or 2-22, 39-40

We are scheduling Mass intentions for the entire year of 2018. You can schedule two for a weekend Mass and three during the weekday. If you are celebrating a special wedding anniversary and need a specific day, please call as soon as possible as several weekend dates are already scheduled. Please contact Darlene at 347.7177 to make arrangements.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 24: 4:00pm

7:30pm

Monday, Dec. 25: midnight

9:30am

5:00pm Spanish

With Christmas falling on Monday, many people will attend a Sunday morning Mass and then again on Christmas Eve that evening. 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.

We ask that you do not save seats for Christmas Eve and Christmas Masses. Please arrive early.

Feast of The Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 30: 4:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 31: 8:30am

10:30am

5:30pm

7:00pm Spanish

Solemnity of Mary ~ New Year's Day

Monday, Jan. 1: 9:30am

5:00pm Spanish

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.

No PSR on Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

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

The Effingham Area Catholic High School Youth Group will be on holiday break Dec. 24 to Jan. 14. Seats still available for the March for Life trip to Washington, D.C. Please, contact Katalyn Miller at kmiller@stanthony.com to sign up to attend and also on how to "sponsor a seat" for someone else.

A Bible Study on the Blessed Mother, hosted by Kate Weber, will begin on Thursday, January 11, at 6:30pm, at St. Anthony High School, room 101. To register, call St. Anthony Church, at 347.7129.

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.

The parish office is closed on Friday, Dec. 29. During a life emergency, while offices are closed, please contact 217.703.1042 to reach a priest.

Dear Parishioners, Benefactors, and Friends of Sacred Heart Parish:

As we live out this Christmas season, we recall one of the most crucial and fundamental events in the history of the world. God in His Son becomes a human being. Once again, we are being invited by our Lord during this Liturgical Time of Advent to experience the mystery of our faith. Don't squander this opportunity! Allow the Son of God to be born again in us and in our lives.



Despite the stress and commercialism of the holiday season, what we all enjoy most about Christmas is spending time with family and friends. Therefore, I invite you to come together with your children and family to church to celebrate the newborn Christ and to show them the real meaning of Christmas. Please entrust yourself and your family to the child Jesus. Please bring children and grandchildren with you, to pass on to them your faith, along with beautiful customs and traditions from your own family, which now, in this church, we try to preserve and flourish.

By attending Mass each Sunday, you have an opportunity to renew your friendship with Christ. Please give Him a special place in your life and let Him flourish. He will brighten up your life and help you to make the right choices. I'm inviting you to come every week to our church, and if possible, to please come even more. Our doors are wide open every day. Each day, we celebrate Mass - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7:15am; and Wednesday at 8:30am with our SHS students participating in the ministries.

Christmas time is a good opportunity to bestow gifts upon each other; therefore, I'm very grateful to all of you - parishioners, visitors, and homebound for your Christmas offerings to our parish. Thank you for sharing the gifts God bestows upon you with others.

During this season of Hope, our entire staff at Sacred Heart Church and School, wishes you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Let the hope flourish anew at this time of Christ's birthday. May this Christmas become not only a remembrance of His birth in Bethlehem, but also our own birth to a new life in Christ. May the Christ child fill our hearts with joy, give us a sense of life's meaning, and strengthen us in overcoming our own hurdles and obstacles.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Fr. Michał Rosa, Pastor

"Koleđa" - It is the Catholic tradition of pastoral visits to parishioners' homes, taking place after Christmas and before February 2nd (Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple).

During a visit a priest prays with the family, blesses the house, and talks to the family.

Code of Canon Law is saying:

"Can. 529 §1. In order to fulfill his office diligently, a pastor is to strive to know the faithful entrusted to his care.



Therefore, he is to visit families, sharing especially in the cares, anxieties, and griefs of the faithful, strengthening them in the Lord, and prudently correcting them if they are failing in certain areas. With generous love he is to help the sick, particularly those close to death, by refreshing them solicitously with the sacraments and commending their souls to God; with particular diligence he is to seek out the poor, the afflicted, the lonely, those exiled from their country, and similarly those weighed down by special difficulties. He is to work so that spouses and parents are supported in fulfilling their proper duties and is to foster growth of Christian life in the family."

I want to visit all of you, if you allow me. First, I want to start visiting those who will invite me to their homes. Please call our parish office to schedule a date for a "Koleđa".

God bless,
Fr. Michał



In Memory & Honor of Our Loved Ones

John Westfall

by Mary Westfall

C.M. Allen

by Verena Allen

Pedro Alvarado, Nome Keller

by Charles Jr. & Fanny Keller Family

Brenda Coe, Dorothy Klitzing,

Elmer Heuerman

by Fred & Judy Amacher

George & Kathleen Haarman

by Sidney & Audra Haarman

Fred Colburn,

Robert & Gertrude Pruemer

by Judy Colburn

Chris Hutts, Sam Rickelman

by Patricia Rickelman

Louis Kinkelaar, William D. Kinkelaar

by Eleanor Kinkelaar

Jerry & Paul Vonderheide,

Earl & Alma Vonderheide,

Hubert & Florence Weis

by Elaine Vonderheide

Grandpa & Grandma Nichols

by Jenny & Cassie

Dusty & Adele Rhodes,

Dode & Mode Toney

by Carol Toney

Tom & Thelma Denton Family,

J.M. & Jo Green Family

by Robert & Marjorie Denton

Tanner Family & Cecil Family

by Billie Tanner

Ray & Irene Kocher, Bernard Kocher,

Stephanie & Sharon Donsbach

by Bill & Janet Kocher

Robert Waitkus, Phyllis Waitkus,

Janice & Michael Schaefer,

Paul & Marilyn Fournie,

George & Dolores Thompson

by Scott & Michelle Schaefer

Bill & Anna Marie Schumacher

by Andrew & Susan Feldhake

Richard & Helen Stock

by Mel & Elaine Stock Family

John & Josephine Bloemer,

Albert & Verena Kreke

by Ken & Diane Kreke

For Our Families

by Bob & Vicki Walker

Lolami Keller, Thelma Keller,

Frank & Addie Bushue,

Charles A. & Clarissa Keller,

Hubert & Bea Keller,

Robert Lamkin, Lou Yost, Joe Larson,

Lloyd & Lena Godwin, Claude Riley

by Charles Keller

Dean F. Moran, Matt Dalton,

Winnie & Malcolm Johnson,

Joe & Jeanette Bergfeld,

by Steve & Judy Bergfeld

Gerry Miller, Laura Apke

by Richard & Mary Ann Sanders

Bernard Hoene

by Karen Hoene

Jump Warner

by Jason & Amy Warner

Henry & Dorothy Holkenbrink,

Art & Loretta Hakman

by Jim & Carol Hakman

Floyd & Loretta Frese,

Reg & Deloris Flach,

Mert & Larry McMahon,

Chris Kenter

by Peter & Karlene Frese

Robert F. Stephens,

Roscoe & Clara Stephens,

Max & Jennie Trujillo

by Katherine Stephens

Harry & Susan Schmidt,

Michael & Ethel Gallo

by Mike & Mary Schmidt

Leonard & Olivia Sheridan,

Norbert & Agnes Cohorst,

Louie & Sophie Kreke

by Bob & Sally Cohorst

Bernard & William Hardiek,

Herman & Helen Koester,

Carol Lawson, Tom Koester,

Ferd & Amelia Weis,

Chuck Meyers, Tom Wernsing

by Joe & Pat Weis

Fred Waldhoff, Jeff Wildbur

by Mark & Gloria Wildbur

Janice Schaefer, Michael Schaefer,

Carl & Lillian Schaefer,

Ben & Frona Osborne, Ben J. Osborne,

Paul & Marilyn Fournie

by Fred Schaefer

Floyd Cheatum,

Mike & Marie Bierman

by June Cheatum

Geri Grunloh, Adele Rhodes,

Robert Stephens, Dusty Rhodes

by Jim & Jill Grunloh

George Bourgeois

by Anne Bourgeois

Bill Kinkelaar

by Josi Wines

Kinkelaar & Wines Family

by Lovell & Alice Wines

Living & Deceased Family of

Lawrence J. Lustig & Gerry Fasig

by Ann Fasig

Kenneth Perkins

by Juanita, Kevin, & Keith Perkins

Families

Joseph Pike Family

by Mary Broom

Allie Gebben, Rose Gebben,

Louis Brummer, Loraine Brummer

by Andrew & Patricia Gebben

Charlie, Totty, & Jeannie Meyers,

Joe, Cecelia, & Kenny Buening,

Jim Buening

by Ruth Buening

Joe & Christine Czyzewski,

Albert & Zella Verdeyen,

Doris Kremer

by James & Irene Verdeyen

Andrew & Helen Szakacsi,

Clarence & Clara Willenborg,

Evan Michael Willenborg

by Dennis & Jane Willenborg

Living & Deceased Members of the

Alma & Earl Vonderheide Family,

Living & Deceased Members of the

Helen & Alfred Fuesting Family

by Darrell & Pat Fuesting

Robert Wiedman,

Ray & Alma Luchtefeld,

by Hal & Penny Wiedman

Victor & Mary Koester,

Al & Agnes Braun

by Larry & Pat Braun

Chris Westjohn,

Glenn & Nadine Bovard,

John & Carol Westjohn, Ron Seiler

by Susan Westjohn

Albert, Elsie, Paul, Edward,

Robert & Mildred Buenker

by Tom Buenker

Dan & Geraldine Hecht,

Jack, Marilyn, & Jim Michaelree

by Jim & Julie Hecht

Maxine Pattillo, Robert Martelli

by Connie Mullens

John Jansen Family

by Barbara Jansen

Clarence & Irene Niemerg

by Linda Jansen

All of Our Deceased Family Members

and Friends

by Mike & Cindy DePoister

In Memory & Honor of Our Loved Ones

**Delbert & Alma Steffen Family,
Harry & Helen Haarmann Family**
by Virgil & Eva Haarmann

**Reginald & Deloris Flach,
Ruben Bushue, Kimberly Bushue,
Nicholas Kramer**
by Donald & Aleta Bushue

**Henry L. Eversman,
Carol L. Eversman,
Gertrude M. Eversman,
Helena Feuerborn,
William A. Riley**

by Mary Ellen Eversman

Jim & Anna Marie Lidy
by Judy Lidy

Eugene McDevitt
by Doris McDevitt

**Ben Pike Family, Karla L. Niebrugge,
Eleanor Pulsford, Mary Pike**
by Louis & Esther Feldhake

**Jim Tolch, Alma & Bill Tolch,
Mary Louise & Ray Hook,
Ralph & Elsie Hook,
Andy Hook**

by Paula Tolch

**Steven Stork, James Stork,
Clinton Stork, Joseph Stork**
by Nancy Stork

**Chris Kenter, Danielle Bauman,
Floyd & Loretta Frese,
Larry & Martha McMahan,
Sacred Heart Church &
School Staff**

by Richard & Lucy Kenter

**Nolen Sheehan,
Charles & Malinda Burrell**
by Jean Sheehan

**Marshall & Rena Kingery,
Billy Kingery, Helen Guyon,
Dolores Kingery,
Fr. Victor Kingery, OFM,
Bill & Pat Kingery, Brenda Manzano,
Don Broom, Art Nuxoll, Barry Phelps,
Landon Stuckey, Izell & Roman Klaja,
Glenn & Mabel McKerrow,
Mary & Adolph Zerrusen,
Alfred & Ann Goeckner,
Lawrence & Vera Weishar**

by Robert & Anita McKerrow

**Peter & Ann Steinbach,
Ronald Steinbach,
Robert Tuttle, Robert Nelson**
by Leona Tuttle

Ray Pals Family
by Betty Pals

Pat Gress
by Audry & Ora Gress

Ralph Pike
by Anna Mae Pike
Eugene Koester, Angie VanScyoc
by Charles & Linda Koester

**Walter & Veronica Pals,
John & Anna Ungrund,
Marie Pike, Linda Root**
by Edward & Alice Ungrund

Leroy Bushue
by Rita Bushue

Robert Waitkus
by Joyce Waitkus

Bob & Mary Swingler
by Steve & Cathy Swingler

**Burson Family,
Koestler Family,
Furst Family**
by Linda Burson

**Donna, Rich, Joe, Rosa, and
Alfonse Rieman,
Clara, Roy, & Jim Painter,
Charlie & Agnes Bushue**
by Richard Rieman

Wilbert Kinkelaar
by Patricia Kinkelaar

**Virginia, Lou, Marion,
Bill, Ed, & Patricia Dasenbrock**
by Joseph & Rebecca Beall

**Clarence & Mabel Buennemeyer,
Bill & Florence Brummer**
by Ron & Barb Brummer

**Norb, Shirley, & Agnes Althoff,
Otto & Lela Margwarth,
Henry & Anna Dust,
Dwight Arganbright**
by Sandra Althoff

**John D. Cordes, Brittany Baker,
Nick & Rosemary Koste,
Michael "Chubbs" Williams**
by Kayla Cordes Family
**Chuck & Paula Mosher,
Jeanine, Herman, & Emma Copper**
by Scott & Kathy Mosher

**Edward Deibel,
Paul & Elizabeth Meinhart**
by Ruth Deibel

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

**Mel Zumbahlen, Patty Schlanser,
Paul & Dan Rubsam,
Tony & Tillie Zumbahlen**
by Tony & Tricia Schlanser

Peggy Starwalt Zumbahlen
by Michael & Kim Stanfield

Grace Schuetz
by Leland Schuetz

**Sylvester & Marie Westendorf,
John Westendorf, Bernice Walk,
Arthur Westendorf, Ian Shrock,
David Schaefer,
Kindra Westendorf,
Barbara & Laura Westendorf,
Norbert Klingler, Joe Myers,
Clifford & Dorothy Bushue,
Ross Harrawood, David Ordner**
by George & Ruth Bushue

**Don & Betty Elmore,
Andy & Alice Sur**
by Roger & Deb Sur Family

**Living & Deceased of the
Began & Dirks Families**
by Tom & Catherine Began

**Living & Deceased Members of the
Ingrid (Grujanac) & John D. Kay
Families**

by John & Ingrid Kay

**Allie & Tillie Mette, Carolyn Poe,
John Mitchell, Norma Mette**
by Rick & Kathy Mitchell

**Jack A. Ellis,
Mario & Louise Miramonti,
B.W. & Juanita Ellis**

by Gloria Ellis

Charlie Vansaghi, Sean Niebrugge
by Chuck & Sandy Vansaghi
Art & Helen Lustig,

Donald Tipsword
by Cheryl Lustig

**Robert B. & Eileen Overbeck,
Norbert & Alice Hoene**
by Bob & Ann Overbeck

**Elmer & Marcella Breiner,
Arthur Mills, Jim & Ruth Cook**
by David & Carol Mills

**Todd William Koester,
Norbert & Virginia Koester,
Harry & Helen Haarmann**
by Gary & Kathy Koester

**Dan Reardon, Cliff Reardon,
Art & Dolores Althoff,
Barbara (Althoff) Voelker,
Virgil Waldhoff, Joseph Waldhoff,
Mike Kenter**

by Nick & Mary Jo Althoff

**Theodore Gier, Charles Grunloh,
Lawrence & Helena Grunloh**
by Ruth Gier

Maureen Moore
by Fred & Paula Moore

**Bob & Marie Hunnicutt,
Deceased Members of the Gerth &
Steppe Family**
by Jerry & Bonnie Steppe

A special thank you for the new lectionaries which were given by an anonymous donor.

The previous books were very worn and tattered. We sought estimates to have them rebound; however, it was determined that it was cost prohibitive.

Fr Michal



All of the SHS students were able to visit with Santa this week, and each student received a special gift from our PTA - a Christmas ornament in honor of the parish's 125th anniversary.
Thank you PTA!

The SHS students in grades 3-5 donated items to the Family Life Center as part of their Advent giving projects. Jackie Walker accepted the gifts on behalf of the Center, and gave a short presentation to the students to explain how their gifts will help new babies and their parents.



A shower for baby Jesus was given on behalf of the SHS kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students. Baby items were presented to Sr. Carol Beckerman of Catholic Charities, and a prayer service was held in honor of Jesus' birthday.

~ Restoration Update ~

Our restoration committee will be back at the weekend Masses beginning January 6/7th to continue updating you on the progress of the restoration. In the meantime, here are a few points to recap our progress, while answering your questions.

Pews will be cleaned and re-stained. The kneelers will be repaired and re-padded. Padding will be added to the front pews in each aisle to better accommodate the handicap and elderly.

Flooring will most likely include a combination of carpet and tile. We are currently working with a designer to direct us on types of tile as well as carpet squares vs. rolls, etc., and we are also consulting with a sound & acoustic expert on which types of flooring will work best for the acoustics of our church.

Finishes on our wood will not be changed. We're simply planning to clean the beams and the ceilings and will remove the popcorn texture around the upper windows. 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!

The sanctuary platform will be raised one additional step to give more height and visibility. The second set of steps – the ones leading up to the Tabernacle – will be removed. The current backdrop and the storage area behind it will be removed. This will not only enable us to add a handicap-accessible ramp on the left side of the sanctuary, but will also give us more useable space in the sanctuary.

The designer we're working with is helping us to create a new, updated backdrop that will incorporate the current wood slats into a new backdrop. The slats of wood will be cleaned and polished. We plan to keep the same finish and use the wood slats along with some acoustical panels. In doing this, as well as removing the current overhang above the Tabernacle, we will have a more open and refreshed sanctuary space but will also preserve the wood that so many parishioners love.

The Altar and furnishings (*ambo, tabernacle area, and baptismal font*) will be constructed of marble and wood. We're working to finalize a design and will share the renderings of the sanctuary with all of you just as soon as we have something complete.

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

~ 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, 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, Billie Tanner, Kyle Schroeder, Dan L. Feldhake

Christmas Flower donations by: Albert Springer, David & Joanne Dow, Roy & Jean Campbell, William & Linda Weis, Michael & Margaret Borries, Zona "Joyce" Kreke, Catherine Bliss, James & Carol Faller, Mrs. Leroy Stroud, Charles & Paula Tegeler, Gertrude Alldredge, Mary Ann Edwards, Jerry & Bernice Sandschafer

Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will be Sunday, Jan. 14, from 7:00am to 12:30pm, at the Teutopolis Grade School. All you can eat whole hog sausage breakfast for a free-will offering. Call Liz at 273.9677 to volunteer or for information.

Help Wanted: Sacred Heart School is hiring part-time help in our Clubhouse after-school program, with a flexible schedule two to five days per week between the hours of 2:40pm and 5:40pm. If interested, please contact Mrs. Vicki Wenthe at 342.4060 or email v.wenthe@sheff.org.

"Living in Love" Marriage Enrichment Retreat weekend is Jan. 6-7, 2018, at the Villa Maria Catholic Conference and Retreat Center, 1903 E. Lake Shore Dr., Springfield, IL. To RSVP, call 217.321.1132 or email BSmith@dio.org. For more info, go to <http://www.dio.org/familylife/events.html>.

The Immigration Project is conducting a workshop for legal permanent residents who are ready to become a U.S. citizen on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9:00am to 1:00pm, at Christ the King Parish, 1930 Barberry Dr., Springfield, IL. For more information, please email Christine Howe at chowe@immigrationproject.org.

Flowers displayed by the tabernacle are donated by Connie Mullens in memory of Maxine Pattillo, Robert Martelli, and Dr. John Schlanser. We will continue placing fresh flowers by the tabernacle in 2018. If you would like to donate flowers, contact Vicki Walker at 821.6179.

Sunday Collection Income	17-Dec-17	Budgeted
Offering (169 Env.)	\$7,996.00	\$10,570.00
Loose	\$1,365.00	\$1,610.00
Holy Days	\$585.00	\$0.00
Total	\$9,946.00	\$12,180.00
Weekly Difference		(\$2,234)
YTD Totals	\$283,133	\$302,760
YTD Difference		(\$19,627)



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 \$26,933, leaving a balance of \$23,197.**

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 Dec. 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



Marty Stock
342-9335

1709 S. Fourth Street
Effingham, IL 62401



Invest In Kids Act

Illinois Scholarship Tax Credit

tax.illinois.gov/InvestInKids



Public Act 100-0465 Invest In Kids Act

On August 31, 2017, Public Act 100-0465 created the Invest In Kids Act (35 ILCS 40/1) which allows income tax credits for taxpayers who make authorized contributions to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). The SGOs, in turn, provide scholarships for eligible Illinois students to attend non-public (private/parochial) schools in Illinois.

What does this mean?

This means low income families in Illinois have the opportunity for more choices in education by applying for scholarships that are funded by donors who receive a substantial tax credit for their donation. The donations are managed by an SGO. In turn, that SGO awards scholarships to qualified families.

The scholarships are available to K-12 students and are based on financial need. With this new legislation, families are able to choose to enroll in a non-public (private/parochial) school with scholarship money available for tuition and necessary fees. The scholarships will be capped at \$100 million per year, allowing for tax credits of \$75 million.



What is an SGO?

An SGO is a scholarship granting organization. SGOs must acquire non-profit 501(c)(3) status and receive approval from the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) to operate as an SGO. SGOs receive qualified contributions from individuals and businesses that are then disbursed to qualified, non-public schools in Illinois in the form of scholarships to eligible students. They must distribute at least 95% of the qualified contributions received by donors towards scholarships.



How do our schools start an SGO?

The six Catholic dioceses in the state of Illinois have partnered with an SGO called EmpowerIllinois.org. Each of the six dioceses will have representatives who sit on the board of the SGO. Board members will be tasked with monitoring the effectiveness of the organization's programs and with their consistency to the mission.



Tax Credits for donations:

- The Invest in Kids Act allows income tax credits for taxpayers who make authorized contributions to an SGO.
- Illinois Dept. of Revenue can issue up to \$75 million in tax credits per calendar year.
- Credits shall be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis in a manner that is geographically proportionate to enrollment in recognized non-public schools in Illinois. For this purpose, Illinois is divided into five regions whose boundaries are the same as the Illinois Appellate court districts. For a full-size map of districts, visit illinoiscourts.gov.
- Effingham County falls into the 5th district of Illinois. This district (red on the IL map) receives around 8% of the \$100 million in available scholarships under this Act, equaling about \$8.2 million in scholarships.



Important facts for Donors:

Any donating taxpayer will receive a **75% tax credit** on the amount they contribute to the SGO through empowerillinois.org.

Individual taxpayers may donate up to \$1 million and are allowed to restrict their contribution to a **specific school of their choice**. Corporate donations cannot be specified.

The following website provides helpful information from IDOR:

<http://www.revenue.state.il.us/Publications/Bulletins/2018/FY-2018-07.pdf>



DONORS SHOULD REGISTER TODAY!

Many expect the tax credits to go fast, and they are available on a first come, first serve basis! We encourage all donors to begin the registration process with the Illinois Department of Revenue **TODAY** at mytax.illinois.gov. It takes at least 7-10 days to obtain a Letter ID, which will then be used to activate the donor's online account. Tax credits can be reserved starting January 2, 2018 **only if** donors have already activated their account. **NOTE: Obtaining a Letter ID and then activating your online account are separate processes.** Please reserve enough time to complete both steps.

Details of the process can be found in the donor section of empowerillinois.org.

Additional information about the program from IDOR is available at

<http://tax.illinois.gov/InvestInKids/Contributor.htm>.



Important facts for Families / Students:

Eligible students must be members of a household whose federal adjusted gross income the year before he or she initially receives a scholarship under this program, as determined by IDOR, does not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. Once the child receives a scholarship, the household does not exceed 400% of the federal poverty level.

The student must be eligible to attend a public elementary school or high school in Illinois in the semester immediately preceding the semester for which he or she first receives a scholarship or is starting school in Illinois for the first time when he or she first receives a scholarship. Students must reside in Illinois while receiving a scholarship. Students currently enrolled in Catholic schools can qualify!

To participate in the program, the parent/guardian and student:

- Must select a qualified school, apply, and be accepted by the school;
- Comply with the qualified school's published policies; and
- Authorize the SGO to access information needed for income eligibility determinations.

Families may choose to apply to any private or non-public school that is accredited by the State of Illinois. **All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois are accredited schools.**



STUDENT APPLICATIONS BEGIN JANUARY 24, 2018

Empowerillinois.org will begin accepting student applications for scholarships on January 24, 2018. The application portal will be available at empowerillinois.org. Families can begin preparing for the application process by collecting the following required documents:

- Copy of 2016 federal tax return, 1099, W-2, or year-end pay stubs.
- Verification of Illinois residence (utility bill, driver's license, etc.).
- Documentation of student age (birth certificate, federal/state ID or passport).
- Student's prior semester report card.
- If available, letter of acceptance or enrollment at an eligible school.