

Padre's Point of View . . .

After the great Amen, we change from kneeling to standing. This change is very significant. We don't stand because everyone is tired, although kneeling for four minutes can make your knees sore. In Mexico and many places in Europe, the kneelers are not padded, only wood planks. *Imagine that... ouch!* We kneel out of respect for the Consecration of the Bread and Wine into the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ. When we kneel, something very special is happening. Standing is another sign of respect and unity. We stand for the Lord's prayer as a sign of unity and as a sign that we are all praying together.

Parish Advent Reconciliation will be Sunday, December 18, at 3:00pm, in St. Anthony Church. Also, there is reconciliation at Sacred Heart at 3:00pm on Saturdays and prior to all weekday Masses.

A special "Lady of Guadalupe" Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 7:00pm, at Sacred Heart Church, with a special dance group performing prior to Mass. Immediately following the Mass, there will be a social gathering in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. *Everyone is welcome.*



Men doing manly stuff . . .

Prepare your best dish and come hungry to the Advent Tailgate Party on Friday, December 16, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, at the St. Anthony Church parking lot.

12 Keys to Spiritual Vitality group meet on Tuesdays at 3:30pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. On Dec. 13, the topic will be "Give Yourself to Others". *The degree to which we actually "do" for others in a selfless manner motivated by love.*

Bible Study on Wednesdays at Sacred Heart and Thursdays at St. Anthony are cancelled during the holidays. We will resume on January 11 at Sacred Heart and January 12 at St. Anthony.

F.A.C.E. letters are in the back of church. If you sponsor a child, please pick up your letter.

Envelopes are included in your December packets for Christmas flowers & decorations. If the donation is made in memory of a loved one, please note that on the envelope and return to the church office by Dec. 16. A special memorial page will be in the bulletin.

Sacred Heart Parish has finalized its Mass schedules for Christmas. For those who participate in ministries, we need your help at these Masses. Ministry sign up sheets are in the back of church, and we ask you to sign up for the Mass(es) that you'll be attending.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Eve Masses, December 24:

4:00pm, 7:30pm (Incense free)

Christmas Day Masses, December 25:

Midnight, 9:30am, and Misa en Español at 5:00pm

St. Anthony Church

Christmas Eve, December 24:

4:30pm, 7:00pm

Christmas Day, December 25:

Midnight, 8:00am & 10:00am (Incense free)

St. Mary, Shumway Church

Christmas Eve, December 24: 5:30pm

Christmas Day, December 25: Midnight (Latin Mass), 8:30am

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Masses will follow the regular weekend Mass schedule.

Rest in Peace

We extend our sympathy to the family & friends of Pat Rezabeck



Wedding Banns

(I) Tyler Sheehan & Brittany Roderick

Sacred Heart Mass Schedule

Monday, December 12

7:15am: Brenda Amacher Coe, Charles Gordon Dilley, Jr., Annette Raffa family

Tuesday, December 13

7:15am: Alfred & Helen Fuesting family

Wednesday, December 14

7:15am: John & Adele Niebrugge

8:30am: Living & deceased members of the Robert & Marilyn Wirth family

Thursday, December 15

7:15am: Anna Meyer Gill

Friday, December 16

7:15am: John Lange

Saturday, December 17

4:00pm (Fr. Chris Brey): Maxine Pattillo

Sunday, December 18

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

10:30am (Fr. Michal Rosa): Mary Flach

5:30pm (Fr. Chris Brey): For Our Parishioners

7:00pm Spanish Mass (Fr. Paul Habing): For Vocations

Sacred Heart Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 7:15am
Wednesday: 8:30am (school year)

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. Anthony High School Mass

Thursdays: 7:00am in the High School Chapel
(Subject to change ~ check with SAHS)

St. Mary's, Shumway Weekend Mass Times

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

Readings for the Week:

Monday, Dec. 12: Zec 2:14-17; Rv 11:19a,
12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38; Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday, Dec. 13: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday, Dec. 14: Is 45:6b-8,18, 21b-25;
Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday, Dec. 15: Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30
Friday, Dec. 16: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday, Dec. 17: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday, Dec. 18: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24

There will be a Lakeland Nursing Home Communion Service on Friday, Dec. 23, at 2:00pm. There will not be a Mass on Dec. 16.

Young Hearts Potluck will be Tuesday, December 20, at noon, in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Bring your favorite side dish and join us for the food & fellowship.

Baptism Class will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 6:00pm, in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Call Darlene at 347.7177 to register.

PRE-CANA Workshop

St. Francis Church, Teutopolis

Sunday, January 29, 2017 ~ Call 217.857.6404

St. Mary Church, Ste. Marie

Saturday, March 18, 2017 ~ Call 618.455.3155

Theology on Tap is a social young adult group that is open to young adults between the ages of 21-40. We discuss faith-based topics and how our faith intertwines with our everyday lives and current events! We meet every third Thursday, at 7:00pm, at Village Wine and Gifts located at 109 S Banker St, Effingham, IL 62401. Contact Katalyn Miller at kmiller@stanthony.com for more information.

Parish Calendar Events

Monday, December 12

5:30pm: Sacristan meeting @ Sacred Heart Church

Wednesday, December 14

6:00pm: Parish Choir @ Sacred Heart Church
6:30pm: PSR Class @ St. Anthony High School

Thursday, December 15

3:30pm: Way of Lights Bus Trip leaves Sacred Heart parking lot
7:00pm: RCIA @ St. Anthony High School
7:00pm: Theology on Tap @ Village Wine & Gifts

Sunday, December 18

3:00pm: Advent Reconciliation @ St. Anthony Church
6:30pm: Effingham Area Youth Group @ Sacred Heart Church

The Effingham Area Youth Group will be visiting the area nursing homes/assisted living homes caroling and to deliver gifts during the next two Sundays. If you are a high school age youth, please join us on Dec. 11 & 18. We will depart from Sacred Heart Church at 6:30pm and return at 8:30pm. If interested in joining us, contact Katalyn Miller at kmiller@stanthony.com. A permission form is required to attend. The EACYG will be on holiday break from Dec. 25 until Jan. 8.

Join us on a bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. St. Anthony High School along with other area youth have a bus reserved, so please consider being a part of this annual trip. The cost for the trip is approx. \$150. They are also having a "sponsor a seat" opportunity for parishioners who want to support the March but are unable to attend the trip. If interested in riding the bus or sponsoring a seat, please contact Katalyn Miller at kmiller@stanthony.com.

A brief itinerary listed below.

January 26: 4:00pm -- Board a Bales Bus at SAHS parking lot

January 27: 6:30am -- Arrive in D.C. for the youth rally

January 28: Return to Effingham

~ Prayer List ~

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick, in the hospital, nursing homes, recovering from surgery and those who are in need:
Amanda McKinney, Kimberly Poe, Barb Sims, Frank Kemo, Jason McFarland, Bryce Beccue, Beth Upton, Lillian Nolan, Catherine Began, Lydia Hemrich, Rosie Myers, Caroline Hoene, Barbara Jansen, Brandon Wurl, Mary Ellen Eversman, Debbie Myers, Carolyn Poe, Emily McCabe, Harold Poe, Gertrude Alldredge, Eric Hartke, Katie Kroeger, Dolores Kingery, Cathy Swingler, Nikki (Dust) Szymonik, Mike Ritchie, Jack Richardson, Travis Miller, Tom Pruemer, Greg Schaefer, Mary Edwards, Craig Lindvahl, Cathy Hayes, Fred Amacher, Kevin Ordner, Elizabeth Weidner, Wm. "Bill" Dasenbrock, Fr. Ron Hilt, Jesse Ketteman, Dorothy Levitt, Jill Quandt, Lois Emmerich, Gloria Ellis, Sandy McDevitt, Esther & Lou Feldhake, Bill McDevitt, Daniel Hoeffft, Brian Wirth, Richard Herzing, Rita Marie Hunnicut, Mike Tegeler, Ron Caron, Cheryl Woodard, Chris Debolt, Bob Bushur, David Ordner, Rodney Raber, Carolyn Westendorf, Steve Schniederjan, Jerry Ludwig, Shawn Bourland, Dan Feldhake, Rex Easton, Carol Utz, Bill Meyers, Betty Brown, Eva Applegate, Sam Stitz, Philip Wendt

The bus trip to the "Way of Lights" at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows is Thursday, Dec. 15 is full. Reminder: The bus will leave Sacred Heart parking lot at 3:30pm, so please be prompt. We will return at approx. 10:30pm.

Advent Angels ~ Gift bags will again be delivered during the Christmas season to our loved ones who are homebound, sick, or in the nursing home. If you would like to help provide items to fill a gift bag, please bring items or gift bags to the parish office. Suitable items include soaps, lotions, perfume/cologne, air fresheners, socks, slippers, handkerchiefs, small afghans, small religious picture, statue, picture frame, doily, or basic essentials for everyday use. If you prefer to make a cash donation, place money in an envelope marked "Advent Angels." Return gift bags or items to church by Dec. 12.

Experience the joy of Advent with adult coloring books! You are invited to St. Anthony Parish Center, on Friday, Dec. 16, from 9:00am until noon, to color an Advent picture for our residents in area nursing homes and memory centers. Books and supplies will be provided! Breakfast rolls, juice, & coffee will be served.

Family Life Center ornaments are available on the Christmas tree displayed in the baptistery area. We ask for a minimum donation of \$5. Donations can be placed in the envelopes by the tree and dropped in the collection. If you prefer to donate a "baby item" such as sleepers, diapers, lotions, socks, layettes, etc. for the Family Life Center's new mother program, please place items under the tree.

Effingham Ministerial Association is sponsoring the annual Christmas Day Dinner at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, on December 25, at 11:30am. To volunteer your time to help, call 347.5569. If you can help financially, please make checks payable to the Effingham Ministerial Association and send it to the treasurer, Roger Marshall, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 306, Effingham, IL 62401. This is a free dinner and open to all. If you would like to come to the dinner or volunteer, please call the Senior Citizen Center at 347.5569 to make your reservations by Dec. 22. Please let them know if you will need a ride.

Christmas Store volunteers needed . . .

Dec. 11-14: Volunteers needed to help with tables and shopping. Lunch will be provided. Dates & times are: Sunday from 1:00pm-5:00pm; Monday & Tuesday from 9:00am-5:00pm; Wednesday from 9:00am-2:00pm.

Dec. 15: Tear down from 9:00am to completion. Any questions, call Molly Bushue at 217.254.0777 or send an email to MollyBushue@gmail.com.

Keeping in touch over the holidays:

Rev. Brian Alford

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

Rev. Al Allen, c/o St. Cecilia Parish

155 North Main Street, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Rev. Dan Bergbower, c/o St. Mary's Church

1802 Madison Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Rev. Sunder Ery, c/o St. Michael Church

P.O. Box 68, Sigel, IL 62462

Rev. Jeff Goeckner, c/o St. Boniface Church

P.O. Box 423, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Rev. Paul Habing, c/o St. Elizabeth Parish

P.O. Box 457, 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. Carl Schmidt

509 N. Main St., Effingham, IL 62401

Rev. Marty Smith

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

Rev. Robert Spriggs

2222 East 200 North Rd, Shumway, IL 62461

Msgr. Kenneth Steffen, c/o Ss Peter & Paul Parish

717 State Street, Alton, IL 62002

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 . . .

Deacon Rafal Pyrchla

Sacred Heart Church

405 S. Henrietta, Effingham, IL 62401

Robert Johnson, Deacon Wayne Stock

Mundelein Seminary

1000 East Maple Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060

Chris Trummer, 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

Deacon Michael Friedel

c/o Diocese of Springfield, Vocations Office

1615 West Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702

All men are invited every Friday to the Son Rise Men's Group gathering at St. Anthony Parish Center for a hot breakfast and a program. The breakfast is at 6:15am and the program is at 6:30am. Any questions, please call Tom Purcell at 821.7077.

School News . . .

The classes have been busy with Advent projects. Pre-K students are donating pet-friendly items to give to the Effingham County Humane Society. Kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 students are donating baby items for the Baby Jesus Tree in the school lobby. These items will be given to Catholic Charities. Grades 3, 4, and 5 students are donating baby items to the Family Life Center and sending care packages to our seminarians. Grades 6, 7, and 8 students are participating in the Advent Angel Project for our parish. They are donating items to create gift bags for nursing home residents.

We are pleased to announce that Hollie Sarchet is our new “Clubhouse” Director for our after-school program. Hollie has been working in “Clubhouse” for the last several months and is now stepping into the director position and will also continue as our school cook.

Sacred Heart students will host their annual Christmas program “All About That Baby” on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30pm, in the SHS gym. The band will perform at 6:15pm. If you are not able to attend the evening performance, you may attend the dress rehearsal on Monday, December 12, at 1:00pm.

5th/6th grade boys basketball will be starting soon. Kevin and Aja Wiedman, our SHS coaches, will have their first practice on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. A practice and game schedule will be finalized and distributed to all players. If there are any 5th or 6th grade boys who would like to play, please contact the school office.

8th grade boys basketball and cheerleading recognition night will be during the last home basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 12. Also, we are going to hold a ‘pack the gym’ night on Jan. 5.

Mark your calendar . . .

Parent Retreat for 2nd and 8th Grade Parents

Sunday, February 26, from noon to 4:00pm

8th grade students will also have a retreat on that date at the same time.

Confirmation:

Sunday, April 23, at 1:00pm

First Communion:

Sunday, April 30, at noon

School Calendar

Monday, December 12

1:00pm: Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal @ SHS gym

6:15pm: Boys Basketball @ Newton St. Thomas

Tuesday, December 13

6:30pm: Christmas Program @ SHS gym

Technology raffle winner announced

Wednesday, December 14

9:15am: Reconciliation for Grades 2-8 (after Mass)

Technology Raffle is well underway! Purchase a \$25 raffle ticket for your chance to win \$5,000 CASH! Tickets are available in the church and school offices, after weekend Masses, and from SHS students (PreK-8), and at upcoming parish events. Almost 500 tickets have been sold, and we hope to sell 1,000 tickets! *As an added bonus – the Sacred Heart School student selling the grand prize ticket will win an iPad Mini!* The grand prize winner will be selected on Dec. 13, immediately following our SHS Christmas program.

Scrip Cards will be sold after all weekend Masses in December and in the parish office Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 1:00pm, or at Baseball Card Connection. Scrip cards make a perfect gift for babysitters, paper carriers, teachers, and that “*hard to buy person*” in your life. We keep a wide variety of cards IN STOCK of local businesses, along with many retail stores, gas stations, and restaurants.

To our local business owners, will you be buying gift cards for your employees and/or colleagues this year? Please consider giving the gift that everyone loves ~ scrip cards. SCRIP Card Gift Certificates can also be purchased in increments of \$25, \$50, and \$100. If you’re not sure which card to choose, this will allow them to pick their own card. Also, thousands of national retailer and restaurant cards are available for special order, so check out our website at www.sheff.org to see a full listing.

Christmas Wish List

Typically the teachers compile a wish list at this time of year. However, we are already asking so much of our families right now, that instead of a wish list we are simply providing a reminder of all the various opportunities to help SHS. This Christmas season if you want to give to Sacred Heart, please consider one of the following: School Technology Raffle (or simply a donation to the Technology Fund), Annual School Fund Drive, and/or if applicable, finish paying your “Raise the Roof” campaign pledge. Of course you can always make a donation to Sacred Heart School, and of course we’ll put it to good use...there’s just no specific Wish List this year. THANK YOU for your ongoing support!

The next Moms-N-More Luncheon will be held on Thursday, Dec. 22, from noon-1:00pm, in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Lunch is provided, and all moms from Sacred Heart Church and School are invited to attend (children welcome!). We’ll share a devotion and fellowship. Please RSVP for lunch to Christy at 347.7177.

Community Events . . .

The Cross at the Crossroads will host a Christmas Open House on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 2:00-4:00pm at the Cross Welcome Center. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

Stop in anytime between 2:00-4:00pm for a variety of family-friendly activities, including:

- * Nativity scenes from around the world
- * Live Christmas music from FACE Orchestra and Choir
- * Free refreshments
- * Free “make & take” Christmas craft projects
- * Door Prizes

Advent Evensong will be Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4:00pm, at Holy Cross Church, in Wendelin. There will be a candlelight service with Scripture, Organ, English Carols, & Austrian Christmas music, sung in German, by the Wendelin Kloeppen singers. Refreshments to be served afterwards in the Holy Cross Parish Center. All are welcome.

HSHS St. Anthony’s Foundation is hosting a “Glow-Inga” on Saturday, January 14, at the Keller Convention Center. Pre-sale tickets are \$25 per person. Tickets are limited, so please contact 217.994.3158 or glow-inga2017@hshs.org to get your tickets now.

Effingham K of C News . . .

Adult Christmas party will be Sunday, Dec. 18, with doors opening at 12:00pm. The social hour will be from 12:00pm to 1:00pm with the meal being 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. We will again have the “Keep Christ in Christmas” posters on display.

St. Nicholas Circle 5651 Columbian Squires invites all young men interested in joining the squires to call Chief Squire Drew Doedtman at 217.821-2446.

A youth activities raffle fundraiser is in progress. Proceeds will be given to various youth programs such as the Coats for Kids, contest awards, Columbian Squires Circle and Boy/Cub Scouts. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 with only 1000 printed. First prize will be the winner’s choice of 1 of 2 firearms or \$500. Second prize will be the winner’s choice of 1 of 2 firearms or \$250 – or the prize can be a credit to the firearm of your choice. A valid FOID card is required to claim a firearm. The drawing is on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2:00pm, at the Egyptian Collectors Trade Show. *The winner does not need to be present.* Call Greg Koester at 217.821.7731 to buy tickets or if you want tickets to sell.

Trust in the mercy of God’s love. Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Call Project Rachel for a confidential referral to those who can help: 1-877-RACHEL-5.

De Colores Fall Weekends

Men’s Weekend ~ March 23-26

Lay leader ~ Eric Koester, phone 217.273.4071

E-mail: ericfkoester@gmail.com

Spiritual Director will be Fr. Ron Hilt

Women’s Weekend ~ March 30 - April 2

Lay leader ~ Shiela Greuel, phone 217.725.6081

E-mail: smgreuel@gmail.com

Spiritual Director will be Fr. John Titus

Say yes to a three-day beautiful experience at Camp Walter Scott where you share in inspiring talks, renew your faith, and make new friends. For more information, please call Mary Sur at 342.2003.

March for Life 2017 Diocesan Pilgrimage in Washington, DC will be held Jan. 25–29. The trip includes the March for Life demonstration parade, visits to our members of Congress, free time to explore downtown Washington, DC, and a visit to Gettysburg National Military Park. Details are on the diocesan website at www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl or contact Kyle Holtgrave, Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry Director, at 217.698.8500, ext. 154.

King’s House Retreat and Renewal Center is nestled in 47 quiet, wooded acres in Belleville, IL. They have released their 2017 retreat schedule and invite you to take time away from your busy life to pray, rest, and reflect on your relationship with God. Retreats include inspirational conferences, prayer, and the opportunity to talk with their qualified staff. For more information, call 618.397.0584 or 800.779.7909 or at www.KingsRetreatCenter.org.

HSHS Hospice Southern Illinois need volunteers in the areas of home care, clerical, bereavement, and spiritual care to help them in their mission. Complete training to become a hospice volunteer is available free of charge. For more information, call 347.1777. *Consider being a volunteer!*



Come to save us. That is our prayer. It is God’s promise. How do we know? Our own eyes will show us. Our own ears will tell us. The feeble are made strong. The frightened do not fear. The blind see. The sick are healed. The poor are cared for. Jesus’ ministry of healing and mercy is evident everywhere. At this mid-point of Advent, this time of waiting for the Second Coming of Christ is not a passive waiting in easy chairs. It is active. It is robust. It is filled with behavior as if Jesus is right here, right now. Because he is! In what ways can his ministry of healing and mercy be my own?

- *Who needs a ride to the doctor or grocery?*
- *Who needs a visit to ease loneliness or fear?*
- *And let me recite Psalm 146:6-10 all week – it sings of mercy works.*

The Financial Corner 2016-2017			
Income	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Total Budget
	Jul 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jun 30
Offering	\$226,371.00	\$224,145.00	\$534,725.00
Loose	\$33,240.99	\$33,354.00	\$79,570.00
Holy Days	\$1,416.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
Other	\$61,496.75	\$50,750.00	\$112,500.00
Tuition & Fees	\$323,154.93	\$309,520.00	\$501,340.00
Fundraisers	\$43,639.38	\$66,250.00	\$270,000.00
Parish Org.	\$51,304.05	\$62,800.00	\$157,000.00
Total	\$740,623.10	\$746,819.00	\$1,673,135.00
Expenses	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Total Budget
	Jul 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jun 30
Salaries & Benefits	\$479,823.53	\$496,604.72	\$1,228,263.38
Utilities	\$31,634.37	\$27,125.00	\$65,080.00
Insurance (P & L)	\$26,214.00	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00
Repairs & Maint.	\$26,534.80	\$18,650.00	\$44,800.00
Supplies	\$53,564.91	\$39,200.00	\$80,000.00
Parish Org.	\$34,304.19	\$52,460.00	\$131,150.00
Other	\$56,914.09	\$50,625.00	\$122,300.00
Fundraisers	\$24,750.40	\$25,000.00	\$45,000.00
Total	\$733,740.29	\$735,664.72	\$1,742,593.38
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$6,882.81	\$11,154.28	(\$69,458.38)

Sunday Collection Income		4-Dec-16	Budgeted
Offering (234 Env.)		\$11,961.00	\$10,255.00
Loose		\$1,514.90	\$1,526.00
Holy Days		\$145.00	\$0.00
Total		\$13,620.90	\$11,781.00
Diocesan-Other Collections	Received & Not Yet Sent	Collected & Paid Out	YTD Total Collected
Catholic Times	\$354.50	\$4,013.50	\$4,368.00
Peter's Pence	\$0.00	\$42.00	\$42.00
Mission CO-OP	\$0.00	\$1,600.71	\$1,600.71
Flood Victims	\$0.00	\$2,597.92	\$2,597.92
Retired Religious	\$80.00	\$5.00	\$85.00
Children's Home	\$110.00	\$5.00	\$115.00
Catholic Charities	\$100.00	\$418.00	\$518.00
World Mission	\$0.00	\$694.00	\$694.00
Retired Dio Priest	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Justice & Hope	\$45.00	\$336.00	\$381.00
Cemetery Fund	\$0.00	\$2,126.00	\$2,126.00
FACE program	\$2,895.00	\$3,625.00	\$6,520.00
Mission Trip	\$10,100.00	\$0.00	\$10,100.00
Bolivia Mission	\$0.00	\$3,211.00	\$3,211.00
Totals	\$13,684.50	\$18,694.13	\$32,378.63

The programs, services, & ministries supported by the **Annual Catholic Services Appeal** meet the larger diocesan needs of Catholics and others in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Sacred Heart Parish ACSA goal for 2016-17 is \$48,944. To date, \$21,113 has been collected.

We invite you to start directing 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. Any questions, call Mark Volk at 347.7177.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Effingham County is going strong with community and school-based programs at Central School and Altamont Grade School. Wish list items are small stickers, craft glue, craft supplies, board games, legos, table-top games, and volunteers. Contact Beth Florido at 540.1413 for information.

Sponsor of the Week



**Effingham
TIRE & AUTO
Center**
Your Hometown Car Care Specialists

1601 W. Fayette Road, Effingham, IL 62401 ~ (217) 347-7718

End of year giving: It's that time of year when many people are looking for a good opportunity to donate to their church, school, or favorite charity and then itemize those donations on their taxes. Tax-deductible donations to Sacred Heart Parish can be made through Dec. 31, 2016, to be included on 2016 contributions.

Because of a law made permanent last December, seniors age 70 ½ and older may donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA's 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. Although you can transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA, even smaller donations will lower your AGI. This is a useful tax break for seniors who no longer have enough deductions to itemize. It's a "win-win" situation for both parties! Please speak to your financial advisor or contact Christy or Mark at 217.347.7177 for more information.

Please support the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime. *Your donations works for aging religious. Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more.*