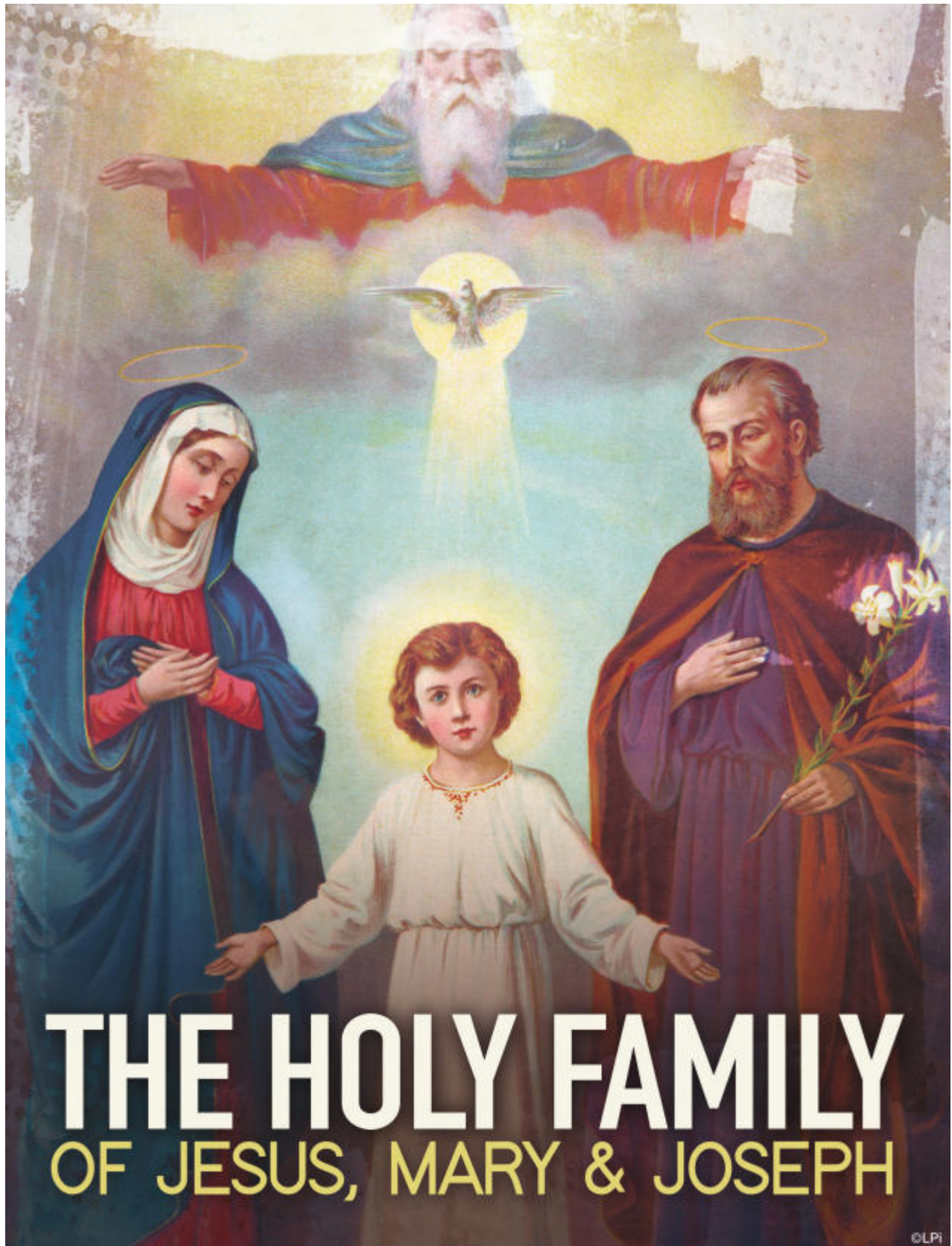


December 27, 2020 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

TEUTOPOLIS, IL



## From the Pastor

The staff of St. Francis Parish wish you and your loved ones the blessings of this Christmas season! We all know it is a Christmas season like none other, but we are glad and happy that we were able to come to Mass for Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. I know I will never forget Easter of this year when the church was empty for Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum, the Easter Vigil and Masses on Easter morning. For our Christmas Masses we had our quota for safe attendance, 25% of the capacity, for all of our Masses.

I thank Barb Runde, Lenora Drees, and Mary Waldhoff who came and helped Anita and Jane, with organizing the attendance at all the Masses. They took the phone calls, and they put up with an attitude that they should not have had to deal with. They were doing their jobs the best they could, and it was something no one else would want to do. We are grateful to them for going the extra mile to try to appease our parishioners.

And we are all grateful to the members of the Art and Environment Committee for the work they did in making our church so beautiful with all the decorations, the trees and lights, flowers and statues. We have a beautiful church, and our A and E Committee makes the church even more attractive.

In this “covid age” we all miss the songs that we are accustomed to singing especially during the Christmas season. We are grateful to Dan Williams, our organist and Director of Music, as well as the members of the choirs, guitar group and cantors for all the time our musicians and singers have put into practice and leading us in song to raise our spirits to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

With the extra Masses for Christmas, liturgical ministers had to step up and minister where God has gifted them to serve: Eucharistic ministers, readers, ushers, to name a couple. Some day we will have servers or acolytes back on the altar.

Part of our Christmas celebration for several years is the Giving Tree, and we thank Lisa Siemer and Karen Pruemmer for again stepping up to the plate with organizing and executing the project. They’d be the first to say that it takes a lot of people, and they’re glad everyone joins in. 300 people had a more joyful Christmas this year because of you, the parishioners. Thank you for your generosity and sense of stewardship.

We extend our sympathy and condolences to the family of Roger Borries, who was buried from St. Francis on Friday, 18 December. I understand he worked on building the grottos we have here on the property, like the altars that grace both sides of the front entrance to our church. Many of his Saturdays were spent laying stone and planning and building the altars and grottos. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

Shortly before the Confirmation Mass of our 9<sup>th</sup> graders on Thursday, 17 December, a camera was installed on the second pillar of the church on the east side. Tony Runde and Gabe Rauch did much of the wiring and figuring out how to make it all happen. Streaming the Mass, and having the Mass available later “on demand” via you-tube, will make it possible for many parishioners to stay connected to the liturgical life of our parish. Tony and Gabe saved the parish a good deal of funds. If anyone would like to contribute to the cost of the camera and hook-up materials, you are certainly welcome to pitch in. I think this will be used for many years to come.

Beginning in the new year we will have baptisms at St. Francis on two weekends each month, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. They can be after either the evening Mass or the morning Mass. Please keep this in mind for your planning. I like to have a maximum of two families per baptism. Otherwise it gets a little “busy” near the font.

I ask a prayerful remembrance from you for my sister, who has ovarian cancer in its 4<sup>th</sup> stage. Her name is Joanne Randles, and she lives with her family in Buffalo, New York. There were 4 children in my family, and now Ma and Dad and the two older ones have been embraced by Sister Death. I feel sort of sorry for Joanne because she and Ma were very close, and she can’t talk all this stuff over with Ma. Thank you for your prayers for Joanne. She and Larry have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

**Updates Requested** If you have changed your email address, please forward it to the parish office in order to receive future updates and information from the parish. Also, please update your current phone number and address. Thank you.

**Adoration** During the Octave of Christmas, there will **NOT** be adoration on Monday-Tuesday, 28-29 December. Thank you to all the people for coming to praise God and adore the Lord so faithfully in the Blessed Sacrament all year.

**Beginning in January, we are needing a volunteer for adoration from 3-4 am on the 2nd and 5th Tuesday mornings of the month. Please call or text Cindy Vahling at 217-821-3366 if interested.**



Monday, December 28, 6:30: Ambrose & Agnes Ruholl  
 Tuesday, December 29, 6:30: Eileen Yeh  
 Tuesday, December 29, 7:55: Herman F. Runde  
 Wednesday, December 30, 6:30: Jack Hardiek  
 Thursday, December 31, 4:30: Frank Wall III death anniv.  
 Friday, January 1, 9:00: Betty Koeberlein Schottman  
 Saturday, January 2, 4:30: Pro Populo  
 Sunday, January 3, 6:30: Kenneth Hoelscher  
 Sunday, January 3, 8:30: Living & Deceased C D of A Members  
 Sunday, January 3, 10:30: Dolores Will





## Liturgy Schedule December 28 - January 3

Monday,	The Holy Innocents Mass at 6:30 am No Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday,	St. Thomas Becket Mass at 6:30 & 7:55 am
Wednesday,	Mass at 6:30 am
Thursday,	Solemnity of Mary New Year's Eve Mass at 4:30 pm
Friday,	Solemnity of Mary New Year's Day Mass at 9:00 am
Saturday,	St. Basil the Great St. Gregory Nazianzen Mass at 4:30 pm
Sunday,	The Epiphany of the Lord Mass at 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 am



### Confession Schedule

Tuesday, December 29 - 6:15-6:45 pm  
Saturday, January 2 - 3:00-4:00 pm

### Liturgy of the Hours with Friars

Monday-Friday -- 11:45 am & 4:45 pm



### Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers:

Margaret Pruemer, Will Niccum, Joe Ruholl, Bill and Rosie Myers, Andrea Wernsing, Elizabeth Weidner, Paula Spencer, Mark Roedl, Linus Willenborg, Cole Wellbaum, Kyndal Dasenbrock, Dianne Schabbing, Bob and Mary Lee, Vivie Kinkelaar, Dawson Lohman, Heather Ordner, Sara Ordner, Bob Esker, Susan Alfaro, Marilyn Zerrusen, Roddnie Deters, Korrie Hartke, Tanner Pruemer, Sherri Wall, Chris Frey, Anita Holman, Connie Rieman, Steve Runde, Vera Kroeger, Toby McMahon.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the office at 217-857-6404.

**Stewardship of Treasure** The collection totals for December 20, December 25 and December 27 will be in the January 3rd bulletin.



## Parish Calendar

### Monday, December 28

- No Eucharistic Adoration

### Tuesday, December 29

- Confessions, 6:15 - 6:45 pm

### Thursday, December 31

- Solemnity of Mary, Mass at 4:30 pm

### Friday, January 1

- Solemnity of Mary, Mass at 9:00 am

### Saturday, January 2

- Confessions, 3:00 - 4:00 pm
- FOCCUS, 5:30 pm, St. Clare

**Please Note** The parish office will be closed on Friday, January 1st for the New Year's holiday. It will reopen on Monday, January 4th at 9:00 am.

**2021 Catholic Calendars** are in the foyer of the parish office. A gift to you from your parish.

**ASSISI FOR AFRICA** – We pray for the peace and joy of the Christ Child to surround the boys in the Congo. As we recall the tender scene of the Holy Family and Mary cradling Jesus in her arms, Fr. Damien writes of another caring mother: “On the other side of town, there is a policewoman who was clearly a loving mother, just what street children need. She explained how each day she fed a group of street children who sleep nightly in the buildings of the prison. She called her boys for us who greeted me warmly since we have known each other for years now. They are healthy adolescents thanks to Mama who keeps them busy ... we wanted to explore how we can work together. Thank God for Mama Kasuily Yav FiFi!”

### Happy January Birthdays

- 1/1 Barbara Worman (86)
- 1/4 Donald Meyer (85)
- 1/5 John Meyer (85)
- 1/6 Bob Lee (83)
- 1/7 Barbara Pals (86)
- 1/12 Stella Esker (89)
- 1/18 Rita Pals (84)
- 1/24 James Weis (84)
- 1/24 Joseph Weis (84)
- 1/29 Marilyn Meyer (88)



**CCW News** There will be a CCW meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Sr. Ethelbert Center. There will be a very short officer welcome and installation ceremony. Those who attend are asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

## Religious Education News

**Grade 1-6 Bake Sale:** The students were able to send \$750 to Father Damien and \$250 to the Notre Dame Missions both in Africa. The next Bake Sale is January 12-14, 2021.

**Grade 2:** The students will be preparing for their first Reconciliation. Parent meetings are scheduled for January 25 and January 28 in Sister Ethelbert Center at 7:00 p.m. A parent should attend one of the meetings. Reconciliation is scheduled for March 20, 2021 in the morning at 8:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.

**Grades 1-6 Parents:** Should school be closed due to Covid concerns, the students should do one lesson or chapter each week in their religion book. Religion teachers will check the work when school resumes.

## YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

January 13 – JH/HS religion resumes



**CHWC Announcement** - Thanks to the Community for again supporting Catholic Heart Workcamp group through holiday purchases of Scrip cards and Cardinal calendars! We wish you a joyous Christmas season and a Happy New Year!



**The Young 3 Kings** will be making their annual visit on January 1, 2, and 3. Contact Clint Goeckner at 821-5311.

**Marriage Requirements** If you have your wedding scheduled at St. Francis, you will be required to attend the following for preparation:



**Pre-Cana** workshops offered in the Effingham area:

- St. Francis, Teutopolis, January 31, 2021. Call 217-857-6404 to register.
- St. Mary, Ste. Marie, March 13, 2021. Call 618-455-3155 to register.

Additional dates are available on the diocesan website at [www.dio.org](http://www.dio.org) under vocation services, marriage and family life, or call 857-6404 for a list.

**Please Note: Because of COVID, we are limiting our Pre-Cana to 25 couples. If you need to attend, please register as soon as possible.**

**FOCCUS:** Scheduled dates at St. Francis are as follows:

- January 2, 2021
- April 10, 2021
- July 3, 2021
- October 2, 2021

All sessions begin after 4:30 pm Mass in St. Clare hall. To register call 857-6404.

## Upcoming NFP Classes

Saturday, January 9th, 9:00-10:30 am on WebEx  
Friday, February 5th, 6:00-7:30 pm on WebEx  
Saturday, March 20th, 1:00-2:30 pm on WebEx

To register for an NFP class on the Creighton Model Fertility Care System, contact Kate Pruemer, CFCP. Email her at [kpruemer@gmail.com](mailto:kpruemer@gmail.com) or call or text 217-821-1840.

## Baptism Prep Dates

- Thursday, January 7, 2021, St. Francis
- Thursday, February 4, 2021, St. Rose
- Thursday, March 4, 2021, St. Francis



All classes begin at 7:00 pm. To register for classes at St. Francis call 217-857-6404; at St. Rose call 217-924-4553; and at St. Isidore call 217-821-9178. All dates are subject to change.

**Please Note** Baptisms will take place on the second and fourth weekends of each month. No baptism during Lent.

## NEW YEAR'S







### Mary, the Holy Mother of God

This solemnity is a rather recent addition to the cycle of seasons, Sundays, and feasts in our liturgical year. We have Pope Paul VI to thank for the 1974 enshrining of the devotion to Mary into our calendar on January 1. It is also a day in our calendar as a World Day for Peace.

Let us pray...

God of heaven and earth,  
you came to us and took our earthly flesh  
through the gift of Mary's yes.  
She is our Mother in faith,  
as she is your earthly mother.

We are thankful beyond our ability to thank you  
for the gift of her Son as our brother and savior.  
Through her self-giving,  
we have been reconciled to you.

Bless us as we begin this New Year  
and endow us with the desire and ability  
to create a world of peace.

We ask all this,  
through the intercession of Mary to you,  
one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**Solemnity of Mary  
New Year's Eve  
Mass at 4:30 pm**

**Solemnity of Mary  
New Year's Day  
Mass at 9:00 am**

### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**Being Amazed.** All those who heard the shepherds (among the riffraff of ancient society) were amazed at what was said about angels on high ... about glory to God ... about the resting favor of God.

- How will I glorify and praise God this day?

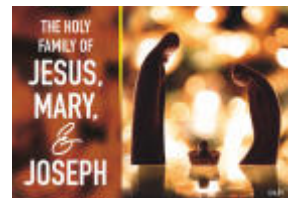
### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



### Parish Office

203 E. Main St., P.O. Box 730, Teutopolis, IL 62467-0730

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am-4:30 pm

Phone: (217) 857-6404

Fax: (217) 857-1031

Parish E-mail: [stfrancischurch@mchsi.com](mailto:stfrancischurch@mchsi.com)

Parish webs: [stfrancischurch.com](http://stfrancischurch.com)

Facebook: [@stfrancischurchteutopolis](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancischurchteutopolis)

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation  
Number (217) 321-1155



## The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, “people need people.”

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**Calendar Year End Contributions** Please note that the 2020 contribution ledger will be closed as of December 31, 2020. If contributions are to be considered in the year of 2020 for tax purposes, they must be received in the parish office by 4:00 pm on December 31st or be postmarked before January 1st. All contributions received or postmarked after December 31, 2020 will be posted to the year of 2021. Thank you.

## Now is Our Time Capital Campaign

Capital Campaign Goal \$1,500,000.00  
Total Pledges & Other Donations rec'd \$1,260,666.97

Donations are still coming in, but we are still in a deficit with the cost of the new center. The pledges outstanding of \$210,846.03 are included in the total received above. Please consider donating to the capital campaign. All donations to the Capital Campaign will not be assessed the parish tithe by the diocese. If the parish receives more donations than the cost of the center, those funds would be put toward the brick wall project, new kneelers and carpet for the church, and other projects on the church campus. Donations of cash, stock, and other tax deferred donations are accepted. Donations large and small, are welcome. Please, help your parish family reach our goal!

## ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars!! Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Drive-thru breakfast of whole hog sausage and eggs. Free will offering. A 50/50 raffle will also be offered.

New location: the Teutopolis Banquet Hall (formerly known as the KC Hall) located at 210 S. Pearl.

Volunteers needed for set up on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am and January 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 am at the banquet hall. Volunteer sign up -- call Susan at 217-663-2084 or email ninevogt@yahoo.com.

This is the primary fundraiser for **Effingham Area Right to Life**. If unable to attend, please consider sending a donation to: PO Box 861, Effingham, IL 62401

Thank you for your support for all life!



*Using truth-based education and Christian values, Effingham Area Right to Life transforms hearts, changes minds, and inspires people to take action to defend the most vulnerable human lives.*

Visit us on Facebook!

## Annual Catholic Services Appeal (ACSA) transitioning to Parish Community Tithe

This year we begin the transition from the ACSA appeal to the Parish Tithe. The funds received through the tithe will be used for the support and services provided by the diocese, in the same way that ACSA funds supported the diocese. This year the change is the calculation used by the diocese. The amount our parish is expected to tithe is 10% of our annual church income. Capital campaign income is not included in the calculation. Our parish tithing goal for this year is \$77,199.

Parishioners can donate directly to the Parish Tithe fund in the same manner we have in the past for ACSA. You can send your donation directly to the diocese, or donate through our online system, or you can drop it in the collection box and the parish staff will forward the funds to the diocese. When writing your check make it out to “Diocese Parish Tithe” and write St. Francis Teutopolis in the memo line. The tithing contribution can be in place of your weekly contributions to the parish. The funds that are donated directly to the Parish Tithe are not included in the tithe calculation.

If you have donated to ACSA through the summer and already this fall, these funds will be posted against our tithe goal for this year by the diocese.

If you have any questions, please call Fr. Joe or Anita Broom at 217-857-6404.



## God Bless Those Serving our Country.

Anthony Vahling, Jeremy Deters,  
Ryan Weber, Cody Bushue,  
Andrew Isley, Shawn Zerrusen,  
Ali Kingery, Andrew Simmons,  
Justis Coventry, Ross Sheehan,  
Jesse Koester, Braydan Bushue.



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