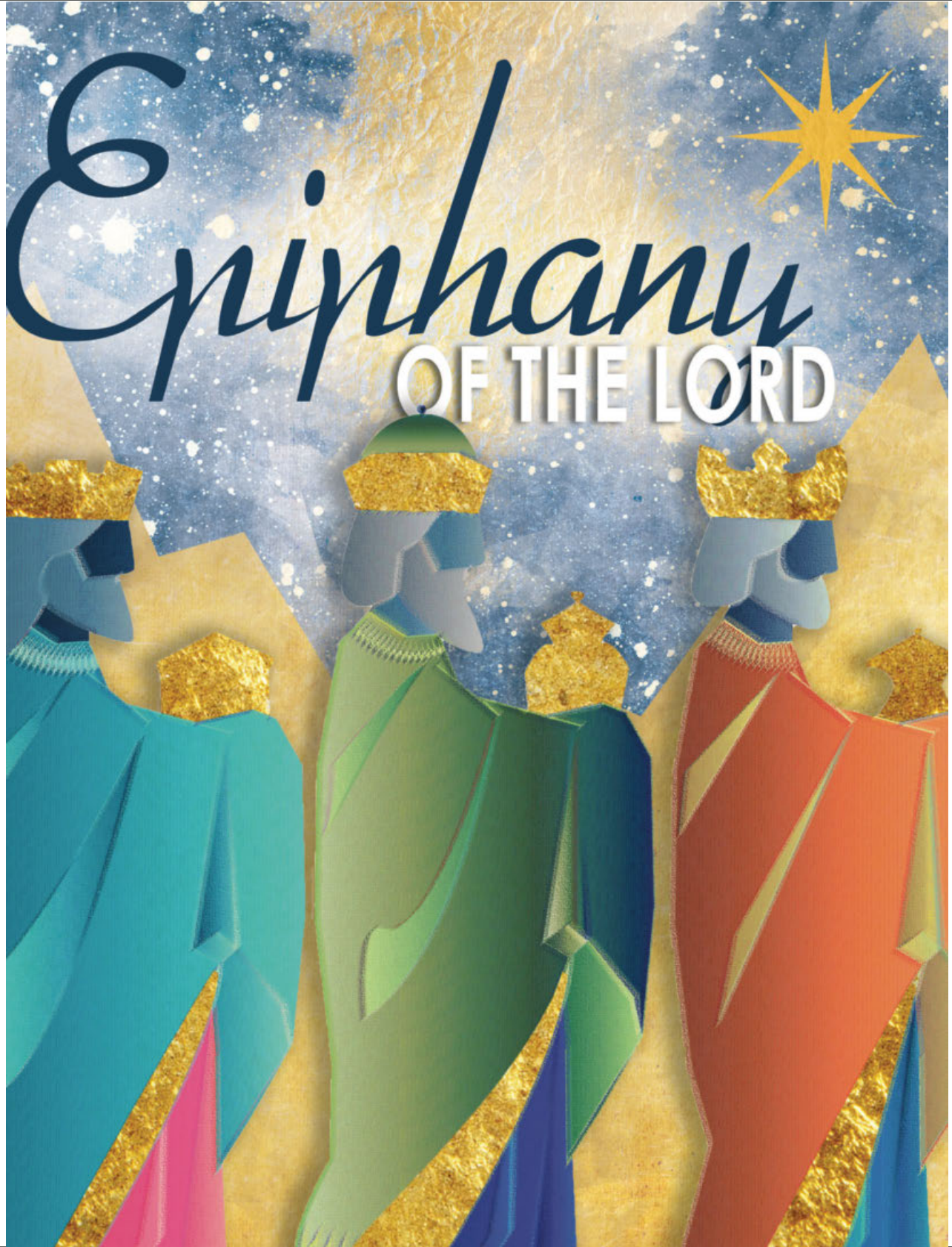


January 2, 2022 - The Epiphany of the Lord

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



203 EAST MAIN ST., PO BOX 730, TEUTOPOLIS, IL 62467

From the Pastor

We know that normally the first of January is a holy day of obligation not because it is the first day of the new year, but on this day we celebrate the feast of the Solemnity of Mary! In practical terms, it's New Year's Day.

This year we find ourselves celebrating the feast of the Epiphany on the second day of January. So this year we have the Solemnity of Mary on the first of January; the Epiphany on the second of January and the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus on the third of January. We can almost get shell shocked with the major feasts. Liturgically, the Christmas season ends with the Baptism of the Lord, and that feast falls on the 9th of January this year. It seems like the Christmas season is going faster and faster each year.

Like you, I am very happy that we could come together in church and praise God on these major feasts. We have so much to be grateful for.

I have already mentioned how the parishioners are grateful to the people, who made our church so inviting and beautiful, our Art and Environment committee. And it isn't just Christmas, but it seems like all the guns come out for this season.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky, the victims of the tornado that tore through that area, I thank our parishioners who have contributed over \$15,000.00 to their cause. I suspect because of the "short fuse" in presenting the collection to you, more funds will be coming in as people donate. It's true that the government is going to pay their bills for the first thirty days – I think that's the case – but who knows how soon or fast the government is going to act?

And speaking of contributions, I thank you for your donations to the parish, especially at this time of the year when you have so many other needs to shop for. When people ask me "how many parishioners does St. Francis have?" I really don't know how to answer them. We have people's names on the books, but some don't contribute anything to the support of the parish. The names on the books are close to 1,300 families or households, but they obviously are not all active. How many do we have at Masses? How many contribute? Be interesting to find that out. This is true for other parishes as well – like St. Anthony's and Sacred Heart.



The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

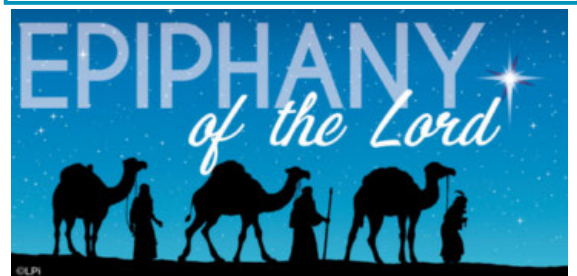
We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 3, 6:30: Leonard and Anna Marie Niebrugge
 Tuesday, January 4, 6:30: Gloria Meyer
 Tuesday, January 4, 7:55" Hank Ruholl
 Wednesday, January 5, 6:30: Brian Austin
 Thursday, January 6, 6:30: Frank and Mildred Vahling wedding anniversary
 Thursday, January 6, 7:55: Ruth Ann Miller
 Friday, January 7, 6:30: Dorothy Ruholl
 Friday, January 7, 7:55: Ronin Niemerg
 Saturday, January 8, 4:30: Jack Hardiek
 Sunday, January 9, 6:30: Bob Deters
 Sunday, January 9, 8:30: Norma Ruholl
 Sunday, January 9, 10:30: Pro Populo

God Bless Those Serving our Country.

Anthony Vahling, Ryan Weber,
 Cody Bushue, Andrew Isley,
 Shawn Zerrusen, Ali Kingery,
 Andrew Simmons, Jesse Koester,
 Justis Coventry, Braydan Bushue,
 Mallory Stone, Paul Schumacher,
 Damon Sabo.





**Liturgy Schedule
Christmas Weekday
January 3 - 9**

- Monday, The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Mass at 6:30 am
Adoration 1:00 pm until 6:00 am
Tuesday morning
- Tuesday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Mass at 6:30 & 8:00 am
- Wednesday, St. John Neumann
Mass at 6:30 am
- Thursday, St. Andre Bessette
Mass at 6:30 & 8:00 am
- Friday, St. Raymond of Penyafort
Mass at 6:30 & 8:00 am
- Saturday, Mass at 4:30 pm
- Sunday, The Baptism of the Lord
Mass at 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 am

Confession Schedule

- Tuesday, January 4 6:15-6:45 pm
- Thursday, January 6 - 3:00-4:00 & 6:15-6:45 pm
- Saturday, January 8 - 3:00-4:00 pm

Liturgy of the Hours with Friars

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



Planning Marriage

Brock Hardiek and Kelsey Reardon
Saturday, January 8, 2022
1:00 pm



Attention Homebound

Holy Communion will be brought to you on
First Friday, January 7th. No Communion to
you on Sunday, January 9th.



Monday, January 3

- Adoration, 1:00 pm - 6:00 am Tuesday
- RCIA, 7:00-8:15 pm, Sr. Ethelbert Center

Tuesday, January 4

- Confessions, 6:15-6:45 pm

Wednesday, January 5

- Children's choir, 3:30-4:45 pm
- Young adult choir, 6:00 pm

Thursday, January 6

- Confessions, 3:00-4:00 and 6:15-6:45 pm
- Baptism prep, 7:00 pm, St. Clare
- Adult choir, 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 8

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



Please remember in your prayers:

Margaret Pruemer, Will Niccum, Joe Ruholl, Bill and Rosie Myers, Andrea Wernsing, Paula Spencer, Mark Roedl, Linus Willenborg, Cole Wellbaum, Kyndal Dasenbrock, Bob and Mary Lee, Vivie Kinkelaar, Dawson Lohman, Heather Ordner, Sara Ordner, Marilyn Zerrusen, Roddnie Deters, Korrie Hartke, Tanner Pruemer, Steve Runde, Toby McMahon, Debbie Meyer, Nicholas Wentte, Barb Worman, Gary Cornell, Sharon Ghast, Jennifer Carlen, Tammy Gebben, Chad Nelson, Liz Kremer, Judy Lueken.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the office at 217-961-6404.

Stewardship of Treasure

	<u>Sunday</u> 12/19/2021	<u>Total Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>
216 Adult envelopes	\$25,220.50	\$249,247.10
54 Online giving	\$2,076.00	\$59,669.00
Other	<u>\$825.00</u>	<u>\$19,696.16</u>
TOTAL	\$28,121.50	\$328,612.26
Assisi to Africa	\$2,815.00	\$24,419.00
Tornado Relief	\$13,591.00	

Collection totals for Christmas, December 26, New Years and January 2 will be in the January 9th bulletin.

Religious Education News

January Bake Sale: Grade 1-6 students' next bake sale is scheduled. Grade 1, 2, 5M, 5W, and 6 will be January 11, 2022. Grade 3, 4, 5B, and 5K will be January 12, 2022.

Catholic Daughters of America Contest: Grade 4-6 will be participating in the C D of A contest. The students have been given the information. The projects are due on January 7, 2022.

Christmas Holiday: Students will be on holiday through January 3. Religion classes resume on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

January 12 – Wednesday night classes resume!



The St. Francis CHWC group thanks the community for their support during this Advent season. Whether you volunteered to sell Scrip cards, purchased items from our fundraisers, or made a monetary donation, it doesn't go unnoticed. Thanks for supporting us in our goal to help others!

Thanks to the Kountry Kitchen for allowing us to sell Scrip cards at the restaurant on Saturday mornings during Advent! It proved to be a successful adventure!

And a HUGE THANK YOU to Hank Niebrugge and Amy Repking from Niebrugge Country Financial. They have been selling scrip for CHWC since the beginning of the scrip program. We are truly grateful.

St. Francis Music Ministry enjoyed a cold morning Saturday, December 18 entertaining the runners/walkers during the Annual 5K Santa Stomp Race in Teutopolis. A huge THANK YOU to the 3 groups of carolers from the Adult and Children's Choirs and the newly formed Brass Ensemble dispersed throughout the race route singing and supporting the runners. The 42 parishioners that sang and chaperoned the children were very well received by all. We have already been asked to come back next year!!



Join us at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Teutopolis as we study the biblical roots of the Eucharist!

EUCCHARIST

DISCOVERING THE MASS IN THE BIBLE

Lectio: Eucharist
Discovering the Mass in the Bible

Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching.

"The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life," "The Body and the Blood of Christ"... these are phrases we know from the Mass. But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? We'll discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are an integral and wondrous part of God's plan for our salvation.

Be sure to bring your Bible!

Beginning Wednesday, January 12 at 4:00pm

10 Sessions
continuing every Wednesday
from 4:00-5:30pm
in the Sr. Ethelbert Center

Email Laura
at landerson@stfrancischurch.com to register!

CCW The next meeting of the St. Francis Ladies CCW will be held on Monday, January 10th, 2022 beginning at 6:30 pm in the Sr. Ethelbert Center. All ladies of our parish are welcome! Please join us for installation of our new officers, a dessert contest, and fellowship! If you've never been to a meeting, please join us for a relaxed and laid-back evening.



If you have a competitive edge, and love desserts, this meeting is for you! All ladies attending are asked to bring their favorite homemade dessert of their choice, AND, a copy of the recipe! We'll all taste test, vote for our favorites, and be able to snap a picture (bring your cell phones) of the recipes we want to add to our own collection! A prize will be awarded to the winner, and there will also be door prizes!

We'll also have a collection box available, and money collected will be donated to Catholic Charities.

See you on Monday, January 10th!



Welcome to our faith those who recently received the sacrament of Baptism.

Mara Jo Dasenbrock
Daughter of Kyle and Macy (Koester) Dasenbrock

Beckett Ray Esker,
Son of Brent and Kelly (McCall) Esker

Charlie Reed Fombelle,
Son of William and Michelle (Hartke) Fombelle

Adeline Catherine Schumacher,
Daughter of Blake and Hannah (Dust) Schumacher

We also welcome new families to St. Francis.

Joseph and Emily (Koester) Flach

Jordan and Katie (Ruholl) and Ava Haskenherm

Mitch and Sydney (Higgs) McMahon

Rourke and Megan (Miller) Schultz

Cemetery News

The age requirement for pre-sales of cemetery graves and columbarium niches has been changed to 70 years and above. The columbarium pre-sales are open to all ages. Please contact the parish office at 217-961-6404 if you are interested in pre-purchasing.

The price of the cemetery graves and columbarium niches increased on January 1, 2022. The new prices are \$550 for parishioners and \$750 for non parishioners and non active parishioners.

Sacrament of Matrimony:

Arrangements must be made a minimum of 6 months in advance with the pastor.



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 30, 2022.
Call 217-961-6404 to register.
- St. Mary, St. Marie, March 12, 2022.
Call 618-455-3155 to register.

Additional dates are available on the diocesan website at www.dio.org under marriage and family life.

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

- January 8, 2022
- April 2, 2022
- July 2, 2022
- October 1, 2022

All sessions begin after 4:30 pm Mass in St. Clare hall. To register call 217-961-6404.

Upcoming NFP Classes

- Saturday, January 15, 2022 9:30-11:00 am on WebEx.
- Saturday, February 26, 2022, 2:00 pm, Sr. Ethelbert Center.

To register contact Kate Pruemer, CFCP. Email her at kpruemer@gmail.com or call or text 217-821-1840.

Baptism Prep Dates

- Thursday, January 6, 2022 St. Francis
- Thursday, February 3, 2022, St. Rose
- Thursday, March 3, 2022, St. Francis
- Tuesday, April 5, 2022, St. Isidore
- Thursday, May 5, 2022, St. Francis

All classes begin at 7:00 pm. To register for classes at St. Francis call 217-961-6404; 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 first, second and third weekends of each month.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

Liturgical Ministers for January 8/9

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>4:30 pm</u>	<u>6:30 am</u>	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
Readers	Denise Will Jim Quatman	Herman Brummer	Jerry Brummer Angie Esker	Sue Esker Stacey Ruholl
Ushers	*Tony Runde Brian Drees Brent Weichman Doug Smith Charles Semple Mark Weber	*Mark Willenborg Ryan Willenborg Don Tegeler Pat Went Dave Westendorf Don Zerrusen	*Ken Ritz John Flach Jason Niebrugge Ryan Jansen Tom Rauch Greg Bergfeld	*Kyle Jansen Addison Brumleve Brock Brumleve Roy Brumleve Bruce Buhnerkempe Jason Ruholl
Servers	Gavin Buening Landyn Buening Andrew Probst	Estella Mette Eva Mette Clara Mette	Caleb Bloemer Devin Deters Jayden Deters	Annabelle Habing Kate Habing Molly Habing

Clean Linens - Tess Probst

The Epiphany of the Lord - Isaiah 60:1-6. Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. Matthew 2:1-12.

Gifts. The Magi, these foreign interpreters of dreams, do the following: follow a star, travel a great distance, trust the words of others, bring and give gifts. In some countries, Epiphany and not Christmas is gift-giving day. This twelfth-day (when on the traditional 6th of January) brings to completion the manifestation of Christ – first to the Jews and today to everyone. No one is foreign to God’s good grace.

- How will I search diligently for Jesus?
- Because God is merciful to me, what mercy work can I do for another?
- What gifts will I give to others in need?

Effingham Area Right to Life Breakfast will be January 16, 2022 at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall from 7:00 am to 12:30 pm with inside dining. Sausage, eggs, sweet breads, and drinks will be served. There will be a quilt raffle and 50/50 raffle. For donations of cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, and to volunteer to help please text Susan Vogt 217-663-2084.

Springfield March for Life is Friday, January 21, 2022. Mass with Bishop Paprocki at the Cathedral at 10:00 am, followed by an 11:00 am march to the Capitol and back. We will be leaving Effingham Events Center (KC hall) on a charter bus at 7:30 am and returning 4:00 pm. The ADULT and YOUTH registration and information papers are in the entrance of church. Deadline is **January 10**. Questions? Call Diann Ruholl 217-663-2056.



The Young 3 Kings will be making their annual visit on January 7, 8 and 9. Contact Clint Goeckner at 217-821-5311.

Grow your marriage! - The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend coming to Springfield this March is a positive and personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It is a chance to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. It is a time to share their feelings, hopes and dreams with each other. The emphasis of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is on the communication between husbands and wives. It is not a retreat, marriage clinic, group sensitivity, or a substitute for counseling. It is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to rediscover each other and together focus on your relationship for an entire weekend. It’s March 18-20 at the Villa Maria Conference Center in Springfield. There is an application fee of \$100. Apply at wwme.org by January 17. Questions? Call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.



St. Thomas School presents the 3rd annual Trivia Night & Live Auction on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm, at the St. Thomas Parish Center in Newton. Cost is \$160 per team of 8 adults over age 21 (space is limited, so sign up early-deadline is February 5). There will be fun trivia questions, silent & live auction, games, food, and more!! For more information contact Jill Bierman or Lori Smith at 618.783.3517.

Parish Office

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 Fax:(217) 961-0680
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