

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

ST. FRANCIS
OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Nativity of the Lord

*“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord.” Lk 2:11*

Merry Christmas!

From the Pastor

This Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Advent, so normally there would be one more week of Advent before Christmas. It's different this year, isn't it? Today is also Christmas Eve! This makes for a very short Advent season, and a real challenge for people involved with scheduling like Masses for Sunday, Masses for Christmas, and next week a repeat in terms of January 1st and the Solemnity of Mary or New Year's Day. My suggestion is for you to get a schedule of Masses and put it on your refrigerator or some common place in the house where everyone can have access to it. Which Mass to go to will be different depending on which day of the weekend we are talking about! It will all work out, and the problem is minor when we consider the shape the world is in.

I'm sure the Art and Environment people will do another wonderful job decorating our beautiful church. We are all grateful to the people who work on hauling the trees from storage, setting them up and decorating them, and this year we have something new to add to our Christmas decoration. More about this in next week's bulletin. And next week we will have some information on the Sr. Ethelbert Center and improvements there. The parishioners are also grateful to the people who enhanced the beauty of the outside of our church with the wreaths and lights.

Special thanks are due the people providing the music for our liturgies – the singing, the organ, guitars and choirs. We have children, who love to sing, and they give praise to God with their beautiful voices and are a delight to our parishioners, who listen to them. So many people, readers, servers or acolytes, ushers, sacristans, and I'm sure there are many people in our community who are grateful to the people who gave them presents this Christmas. It takes an army of volunteers to separate the presents and distribute them to the right place and people! This year our Giving Tree was responsible for over 350 people having a better Christmas than they would have had. Thank you to the many generous parishioners for reaching out to them.

Soon I'll be able to give a report on the Parish Census. We have some "good" numbers instead of guesses. Your Parish Council has spent a good deal of hours on this project. Some parishioners responded to filling out the census form as soon as the request came out, and no doubt they are wondering what took people so long. I am wondering that also. How long did it take to fill out the census form? It was a matter of mere minutes!

As we conclude the season of Advent and begin the season of Christmas, the Franciscans here wish you and your family and loved ones the blessings and graces of the season.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 25, 9:00 am: Larry & Mert
McMahon
Tuesday, December 26, 6:30 am: Randy Hutmacher
Tuesday, December 26, 7:55 am: Richard & Luella
Roepke
Wednesday, December 27, 6:30 am: Living & Deceased
CD of A members
Wednesday, December 27, 7:55 am: John Worman
Thursday, December 28, 6:30 am: Fred Meyer
Friday, December 29, 6:30 am: Doris Kremer
Friday, December 29, 7:55 am: Herman F. Runde
Saturday, December 30, 4:30 pm: Andrew Ruholl
Sunday, December 31, 6:30 am: Pro Populo
Sunday, December 31, 8:30 am: Mike Hewing
Sunday, December 31, 10:30 am: Frank Wall III

There are ministry sign-up sheets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in the main entrance of Church. If you are commissioned to be in any of the ministries: Usher, Lector, Gift Bearer, or Communion Minister, please consider sharing your ministry this Christmas season. Please check in sacristy the day of the Holy Day to see where you are needed. Thank you for sharing your time and ministry! Also, a reminder that those regularly scheduled for December are expected to serve on Saturday, December 30 (4:30 pm Mass and Sunday, December 31 (6:30, 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember in your prayers:

Will Niccum, Joe Ruholl, Bill Myers, Andrea Wernsing, Paula Spencer, Mark Roedl, Linus Willenborg, Cole Wellbaum, Kyndal Dasenbrock, Bob and Mary Lee, Vivie Kinkelaar, Dawson Lohman, Tanner Pruemmer, Toby McMahon, Debbie Meyer, Nicholas Wente, Sharon Ghast, Jennifer Carlen, Tammy Gebben, John W. Miller, Dustin Borries, Lizzie Westendorf, Joseph F. Huber, Betty Jansen, Art Deters, Bill Frese, Linda Frese, Doug Niemerg, Raymond Vahling, Mandy Schumacher, Luella Waldhoff.

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

There will not be confessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:15 pm between Christmas and The Solemnity of Mary, January 1st.

God Bless Those Serving Our Country.

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

Liturgy Schedule

Octave of the Nativity of the Lord December 25—December 31

Sunday	Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00, 6:00 & 10:00 pm
Monday,	The Nativity of the Lord Mass at 9:00 am
Tuesday,	St. Stephen Mass at 6:30 am & 7:55 am
Wednesday,	St. John Mass at 6:30 am & 7:55 am
Thursday,	The Holy Innocents Mass at 6:30 am
Friday,	Mass at 6:30 am & 7:55 am
Saturday,	Mass at 4:30 pm
Sunday,	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Mass at 6:30, 8:30 & 10:30 am

Confession Schedule

Saturday, December 30. 3:00-4:00 pm

Liturgy of the Hours with Friars

Monday-Friday—11:45 am & 4:45 pm

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday, December 25

- Merry Christmas!
- No Adoration this week.
- Parish Office closed.

Tuesday, December 26

- No Confessions.
- Parish Office closed.

Thursday, December 28

- No Confessions.

Saturday, December 29

- Confessions 3:00—4:00 pm

Catholic Children's Home collection Since 1879, the Catholic Children's Home has served as a 'beacon of hope' for thousands of children in need of a safe harbor and a place to call home. The Catholic Children's Home has been there to give the love and compassion these children desperately need. In the spirit of Christ's special affection for all children, please support the work for the Catholic Children's Home and contribute generously to this collection at all the Masses on Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.



Attention Homebound

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound for Sunday, December 31 are Chuck Deters (217) 857-6084 and Jane Meyer (217) 215-9995.

Wedding Bann

Lucas Dale Haukap & Sidney Rose Brumleve
December 30, 2023 - 12:30 pm



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Welcome to our faith Family:

James Alvin Mette
Son of Jonathan & Katherine (Mammoser) Mette

Caroline Michele Borries
Daughter of Hank & Jantzen (Zinc) Borries

Donations for Flowers

We are accepting donations for flowers for Christmas and special occasions during 2024. Please put your donation in an envelope marked "FLOWERS", and place it in the collection basket, or drop it off at the parish office. If the donation is being made in memory of a loved one, please note this on the envelope also.



Christmas Mass schedule

Sunday, December 24—4:00, 6:00 and 10:00 pm
Monday, December 25—9:00 am

Weekend of December 30/31 Mass schedule

Saturday, December 30—4:30 pm
Sunday, December 31—6:30, 8:30, and 10:30 am

New Year's Mass schedule

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Sunday, December 31—4:30 pm
Monday, January 1—9:00 am



Religious Education News



Christmas Break: December 22—January 2, 2024.
Religion program resumes January 3.

Christmas Store made a profit of \$3,756 for the missions. **Thanks** to third grade parents and students, as well as all the volunteers that helped make the store a big success.

THANK YOU: The grade school children would like to thank the **secret** St. Nicholas for the oranges, candy canes, stickers, St. Nicholas cards, and pencils.

Grade 4 Candy Sale is January 18 in the Sister Ethelbert Center at 8:00 am. Students will be asked to bring items to sell. Proceeds go to the missions in Africa.

Grade 2 Parent Meeting for Reconciliation is scheduled for January 22 and January 24 in the Sister Ethelbert Center. The parent of each student is asked to attend one of the meetings. First Reconciliation is scheduled for March 16, 2024.

Reminder—Religion Program for children ages 3-7 during the 10:30 am Sunday Mass. If you can help, please call Stephanie Rauch 217-821-1868.

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:

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 203 E. Main St. Teutopolis Sunday, February 4, 2024, call 217-961-6404 to register.

St. Mary Church, Ste. Marie, Saturday, March 9, 2024, call 618-455-3155 to register.

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 6, 2024	April 6, 2024
July 6, 2024	October 5, 2024

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

Upcoming Natural Family Planning Classes

- Saturday, February 10, 2024 1:00-2:30 pm, on **WebEx**.
- Saturday, April 6, 2024 9:30-11:00 am, Sr. Ethelbert To register contact Kate Pruemer, CFCP. Email her at kpruemer@gmail.com or call or text 217-821-1840.



YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

Jan. 10 - Religious Ed resumes



St Francis Catholic Heart Workcamp group thanks you for your support of our Advent fundraisers! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Scrip card sales – This is a great way to buy the gift cards you need for those after Christmas gatherings! Forms are available on the church website or where cards are sold. Scrip cards are sold at Teutopolis State Bank during regular lobby hours for your convenience!

St. Louis Cardinal calendars – Cardinal calendars are in stock and sold in the religious education office. They are \$17 each. Contact Maria for more information!



SAVE THE DATE - CHWC trivia night will be held February 17th at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall! Tease your brain and win cash prizes! Doors open at 5:30 pm with a Free Will Donation dinner and trivia starts at 6:30 pm. \$20/person or \$160/team of 8. Snacks are included during trivia! Reserve your table today by contacting any camper, email Maria at mkingery@stfrancischurch.com, or call 217-961-1500.

BAPTISM

Prep Dates

- Thursday, January 4, 2024 at St. Francis
- Thursday, February 4, 2024 at St. Rose
- Thursday, March 7, 2024 at St. Francis
- Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at St. Isidore

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.



Giving Tree—thank you.



Prayer sponsor, Mrs. Zerrusen GAVE Mrs. Weber’s religion class snowman kits, which the class in turn GAVE her a GIFT bag of thank you and Christmas wishes. God loves a cheerful GIVER! 2 Cor 9:7

2024 calendars are available for pickup at all the church entrances.

Discovering the Mass in the Bible,

by Brant Pitre

Has anyone ever explained the Parts of the Mass to you? In this year of the Eucharistic Revival, when only 30% of practicing Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, please **join us** as we learn about the Eucharist. This will be a 10 week course beginning on Thursday, January 11th. You may attend either the 9:15 am or 6:30 pm session. Classes are held in the St. Anthony Parish Center.

To sign up and order study materials, please call the Parish Office at 217-347-7129

The Teutopolis K of C will hold an initiation

For men who want to become members of the KC’s on December 27, at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions contact Rich Walk 217-821-4963 or Todd Smith 217-821-8610.

Pilgrimage to Ireland
In the Footsteps of St. Patrick, with Father Michal Rosa

April 18 – 28, 2024

Experience a spiritual journey that will connect you with Ireland’s rich religious heritage and breathtaking landscapes. From the ancient monastic sites and medieval towns, to the awe-inspiring Cliffs of Moher and the tranquil Kylemore Abbey, you’ll discover the profound beauty and serenity of Ireland while strengthening your spiritual connection with God. Mass will be celebrated daily, along with stops at many holy locations.

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Contact the Sacred Heart Parish office in Effingham for more information! 217-347-7177



Liturgical Ministers for December 30/31

Ministry	4:30 pm	6:30 am	8:30 am	10:30 am
Readers	Dan Niemerg Jamie Habing	Pat Wente	Shannon Hinkle Monica Kremer	Dick Hawickhorst Patty Ruholl
Ushers	*Glen Waldhoff Tim Ordner Larry Habing Toby McMahon Scott Brumleve Todd Probst	*Mike Tipton Allen Koester Steve Mette Dave Runde Joe Runde Chris Hartke	*Steve Witges Dennis Gillespie Todd Voelker Mark Probst Cory Wermert Dan Habing	*Denny Runde Carl Waldhoff Logan Waldhoff Russ Deters Brian Ruholl Jeff Thoele
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There are ministry sign-up sheets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day in the main entrance of Church. If you are commissioned to be in any of the ministries: Usher, Reader, Gift Bearer, or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please consider sharing your ministry this Christmas Season. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teutopolis Park District
Fitness Programs (January 1-March 29): Sign up continues (late fee applies)



Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Below are listed the next three experiences. Sign up now as space is limited! For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org, or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.
 2/2/2024—2/4/2024, St. Peters, MO
 3/15/2024—3/17/2024, Cape Girardeau, MO
 4/5/2024—4/7/2024, St. Peters, MO

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Sesquicentennial Celebration
St. Joseph’s Church



St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Island Grove will be commemorating 150 years as a Faith Community throughout 2024. A public celebration is in the planning for September 8th, 2024. Orders for spiral reprints of prior centennial books are now being accepted. Pickup dates for purchases will be conducive for Christmas (2023) gift giving on orders placed in a timely manner. The purchase price for the 1974 & 1999 combination reprint is \$25 dollars (cover image included here); \$15 for the 1924 reprint. For inquires and orders, please contact Sandy Meinhart: 217-273-1758 sameinhart@gmail.com or St. Isidore Parish Office: 217-925-5788 office@stisidore.dio.org

Samples of the books are in the office entrance.

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