December 31, 2023—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

TEUTOPOLIS, IL



## THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

#### From the Pastor

I never heard the expression "Old Year's Night" until I was stationed here at St. Francis in the 1980's. But then I never heard of "slick ice on the slab" either! It's difficult to believe another year has come and gone. We have much to be grateful for as we reflect on the past year.

As you gazed at our decorations in the sanctuary this Christmas, you noticed new statues of the Holy Family and the Three Kings. These come to us from the members of the Alice Pruemer Family and in her memory. We thank you. The statues will serve the parish for many years to come.

If you have been in the Sr. Ethelbert Center recently, then you have seen the new creche over the entrance. It fits like a hand in a glove, and it looks beautiful. The statues are elevated on small platforms so we can see them more easily.

Kevin Koester told me he was going to build a creche that would fit in that space, and he certainly did a good job. He said that two men helped him: Randy Thoele and Kent Koester. Please thank these three gentlemen when you see them.

In the bulletin last week I tried thanking the men and women, who have contributed so much to our liturgies all year and especially this past week with Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary. The Art and Environment people have outdone themselves again!

I don't know if you track the space in the bulletin that shares the information on church contributions. Tithing numbers are usually higher at this time of the year since some people contribute to the church only once a year instead of having an amount deducted from their bank account each week or month or quarter. We have received significant contributions from people's distributions from their IRA accounts. Thank you to all for your generosity and giving back to the Lord from the blessings you have received.

Speaking of gratitude, on behalf of the friars here at St. Francis I take this opportunity to thank those of you who have given gifts to the friars this Christmas. Our table has fruit, popcorn and cookies, and we have received gift certificates to local merchants. Your generosity is appreciated.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 1, 9:00 am: Living & Deceased Herman

& Stella Mette family

Tuesday, January 2, 6:30 am: Sherry L. Pruemer Tuesday, January 2, 7:55 am: Ted Hinkle

Wednesday, January 3, 6:30 am: Carol Lawson Wednesday, January 3, 7:55 am: James Waldhoff

Thursday, January 4, 6:30 am: Sue Borries Friday, January 5, 6:30 am: Bill & Billie Pals Friday, January 5, 7:55 am: Norma & Henry W

Friday, January 5, 7:55 am: Norma & Henry Weber Saturday, January 6, 4:30 pm: Randy Hutmacher

Sunday, January 7, 6:30 am: Pro Populo Sunday, January 7, 8:30 am: Mickey Weber Sunday, January 7, 10:30 am: Rosie Myers

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please remember in your prayers:
Will Niceum, Joe Puboll, Bill My

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 Pruemer, 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.

#### **Stewardship of Treasure**

12/17/23

	12/1//23	<u>r ear</u>
251 Envelopes	\$15,262.00	\$259,848.00
112 Online giving	\$ 4,375.00	\$ 65,773.50
Other	\$ 1,294.00	\$ 24,648.69
TOTAL	\$20,931.00	\$350,270.19
Assisi to Africa	\$710.00	\$16,285.00



### **Liturgy Schedule**

#### Octave of the Nativity of the Lord January 1—January 7

Monday, Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother

of God

New Year's Day Mass at 9:00 am

Tuesday, St. Basil the Great

St. Gregory Nazianzen Mass at 6:30 am & 7:55 am

Wednesday, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Mass at 6:30 am & 7:55 am

Thursday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Mass at 6:30 am

Friday, St. John Neumann

Mass at 6:30 am & 7:55 am

Saturday, St. Andre Bessette

Mass at 4:30 pm

Sunday, The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass at 6:30, 8:30 & 10:30 am

#### **Confession Schedule**

Tuesday, January 2, 6:15-6:45 pm Thursday, January 4, 3:00-4:00 pm & 6:15-6:45 pm Saturday, January 6, 3:00-4:00 pm

#### **Liturgy of the Hours with Friars**

Monday-Friday—11:45 am & 4:45 pm



#### **Attention Homebound**

Holy Communion will be brought to you on First Friday, January 5. No Communion to you on Sunday, January 7, 2024.



The parishioners extend our sympathies and condolences to the families of Phillip Joseph Niemerg and Sherry L. Pruemer. Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.



#### **JANUARY**

1/1 Joseph H. Beckman (81)

1/4 Donald Meyer (88)

1/5 John Meyer (88)

1/6 Bob Lee (86)

1/7 Doris Deters (82)

1/7 Barbara Pals (89)

1/11 Anna Kitten (82)

1/14 Jim Niebrugge (80)

1/18 Rita Pals (87)

1/24 James Weis (87)

1/24 Joseph Weis (87)

## THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

#### Monday, January 1

- Happy New Year!
- No Eucharistic Adoration this week.
- Parish Office closed.

#### Tuesday, January 2

• Confessions, 6:15-6:45 pm

#### Thursday, January 4

- Confessions, 3:00-4:00 pm & 6:15-6:45 pm
- Baptismal Preparation, St. Clare hall—7:00 pm

#### Saturday, January 6

- Confessions 3:00—4:00 pm
- FOCCUS, St. Clare hall after 4:30 pm Mass

#### **Wedding Bann**

Theodore Calvin Fifer & Lauren Angela Heuerman January 6, 2024 - 1:00 pm

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Welcome to our faith Family:

George William Niemerg Son of Nathaniel & Lindsay (Workman) Niemerg

# 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.



#### **Religious Education News**

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

**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.

#### Grade 1 & 2 Christmas play





#### YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

Jan. 10 - Religious Ed resumes



#### St Francis Catholic Heart Workcamp

group thanks you for your support of our Cookie sale, Cardinal calendar sale and Scrip card fundraisers during Advent! We wish you all 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!



**SAVE THE DATE** - CHWC trivia night will be held February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall! Tease your brain and win cash prizes! Doors open at 5:30 pm with a Free Will Do-

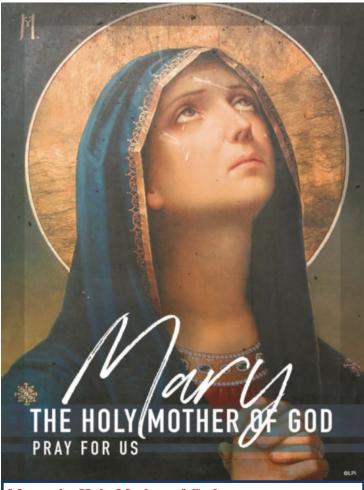
nation dinner and trivia starts at 6:30 pm. \$20/person or \$160/team of 8. Snacks are included during trivia! Reserve your table today by contacting any camper, email Maria at <a href="mailto:mkingery@stfrancischurch.com">mkingery@stfrancischurch.com</a>, or call 217-961-1500.



Members of the Children's, Youth and Adult Choirs added their voices to the Santa Stomp festivities Saturday, December 16th and were very well received. Over 900 runners/walkers were entertained along the race route by groups sporting jingle bells and Santa hats representing Francis Music Ministry.







#### 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.

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

# feast of the MOTHER OF GOD

#### **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 <a href="mailto:kpruemer@gmail.com">kpruemer@gmail.com</a> or call or text 217-821-1840.

In honor of The Epiphany, just as the Three Kings brought gifts to Baby Jesus..



The **CCW** would like to extend an invitation for the parishioners of St Francis to bring gifts to be donated to the babies and their mothers residing at The El Shaddai home.

The collection has been scheduled for the weekend masses of the Epiphany (Jan 6th and Jan 7th). Baskets for donations will be located at any of the church entrances. Specific requests include diapers (newborn and size 1), baby wipes, non perishable foods, trash bags, paper towels, and toiletries.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, St Francis CCW



Liturgical Ministers for January 6/7					
<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	Herman Brummer	Jerry Brummer Angie Esker	Sue Esker Stacey Ruholl	
Ushers	*Charles Semple Brian Drees Brent Weichman Doug Smith Tony Runde Kyle Jansen	*Mark Willenborg Ryan Willenborg Don Tegeler Pat Wente Dave Westendorf Don Zerrusen	*Ken Ritz John Flach Jason Niebrugge Jordan Niebrugge Clay Zerrusen Greg Bergfeld	*Brock Brumleve Addison Brumleve Roy Brumleve Dan Beckman Bruce Buhnerkempe Jason Ruholl	
Servers	Robert Niemerg Charles Niemerg Jaci Buehnerkemper	Ozzie Pals Evie Pals Merial, Sapphira or Xavier Schumacher	Noah Imburgia Allie Wilhelms Zoey Wilhelms	Annabelle Habing Kate Habing Jolene Habing Joey Habing (3servers)	

Clean Linens - Tess Probst

## UPCOMING EVENTS



# Teutopolis Community Blood Drive Sponsored by Teutopolis High

@ Teutopolis Banquet Hall 210 S Pearl Teutopolis, IL 62467

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: TeutopolisCommunity to schedule an appointment



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#### **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.



#### **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.

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