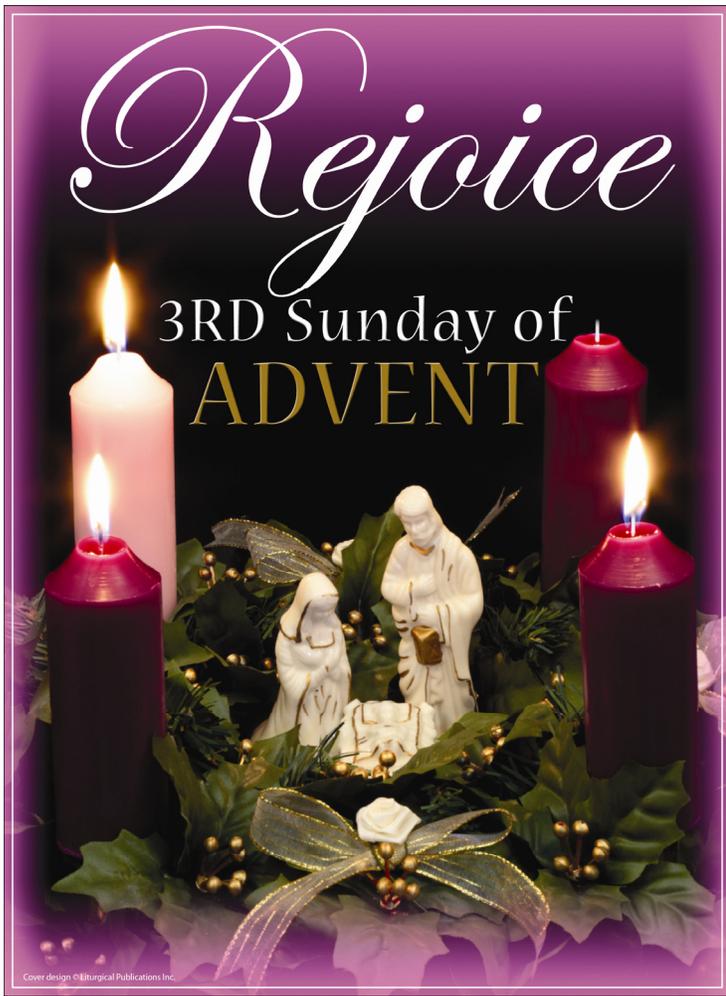


St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Teutopolis, Illinois

December 14, 2014

John answered them,
"I baptize with water; but there is one among you
whom you do not recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."



MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Liturgy:

See inside schedule

Weekend Liturgy:

Saturday 5:30 pm; Sunday 7:00, 8:45, & 10:30 am

Holy Days Liturgy:

Eve 7:00 pm; Day 6:00 am, 12:10 pm & 5:30 pm

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

Parish website: stfrancischurch.com

Submit written bulletin notices by noon Monday.

Diocesan website: www.dio.org

Ember Beddingfield, Victim Assistance Coordinator.....
(217) 321-1155

Sacramental Celebrations

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 pm

Thursday before First Friday: 3:30-4:30 pm

Anytime by appointment

Sacrament of Matrimony:

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

Sacrament of Baptism:

Baptism Prep. class is required before baptism. Please call
office to pre-register.

Parish Pastoral Team

Fr. John Eaton, OFM, Pastor

Fr. Ken Rosswog, OFM, Associate Pastor

Fr. Thinh Tran, OFM, Associate Pastor

Maria Wargolet, Director of Music Ministry

Theresa Draper, Coordinator of Music Ministry

Anita Broom, Bookkeeper

Bernice Matteson, Part-time Secretary

Jane Miller, Part-time Secretary

Ron Ruholl, Maintenance

Religious Education:

Sr. A. Pierre Wilken, OSF, Director of Faith Formation: 857-6404

Sr. Ann Siemer, SSND, Gr. Sch./Jr. Hi. DRE: 857-6477/3015

Lisa Siemer, Youth Director & Sr. High CRE: 857-1500

Carlene Rauch, Part-time Rel. Ed. Secretary: 857-6477

Parish Council:

Dan Beckman

Carrie Copple

Mick Deters

Sandy Gillespie

Bernie Hartke

Duane Kremer

Tony Pals

Mike Tipton

Denise Will

From the Pastor

Dear Members,

Ordinarily, I will no longer be publishing announcements to the bulletin. Instead, I will be preparing a series of articles on the liturgy. There are a couple of things, though, that need to be included in this week's bulletin.

Hygiene Reminder

We're getting into the cold and flu season, and I would like to remind you of the following:

- If you are seriously sick, please do not come to church. The "Sunday obligation," like some other rules of the Church, does not apply to people who are ill.
- Please be aware that the people around you might not want to shake hands during the Sign of Peace. Remember, they may be protecting you. A wave or a bow is also a sign of peace.
- Please keep some hand sanitizer handy. This may be particularly important if you have young children with you.
- If you are coughing, sneezing, or blowing, please consider refraining from receiving Communion from the cup so that others will not feel reluctant to drink.

When I was in Nashville, one of the local dentists walked in before Mass and shook my hands. Then he told me, "You might want to use some hand sanitizer, I think I have the flu." PLEASE don't do that. Let's exercise good hygiene and try to keep everyone as healthy as possible.

Year of Consecrated Life

The first Sunday of Advent marked the beginning of a Year of Consecrated Life decreed by Pope Francis. That means that religious congregations throughout the world (Franciscans, Dominicans, Benedictines, and all the rest) will be examining their lives, thanking God for their vocations, and planning for the future. On your part, please pray for religious sisters, brothers, and priests. Also, please be generous in supporting the Retirement for Religious collection which is being taken up this weekend.

Land of Peace

The people from Land of Peace were scheduled to be at St. Francis last weekend to sell religious articles made from olive wood. The proceeds from those sales go to support Christians living in the Holy Land. As it turns out, they lost their database and didn't remember that they were supposed to come see us. Instead, they will be here this weekend to display and sell their wares. Please check them out in St. Clare Hall after all the weekend Masses. Religious articles make great Christmas gifts.

Columbarium Project. Donations continue to come in for our columbarium project at the parish cemetery. You should have received a donation envelope in the recent bulk mailing from the parish office. Otherwise there are envelopes available in the church entrances.

As part of our fundraising effort for the columbarium, we are now ready to pre-sell niches. Ordinarily, the niches will sell for the same price as a grave (currently \$500). From now until February 1, however, we will offer the niches for \$400—a \$100 discount. Please remember that one side of the columbarium will have double niches suitable for spouses or for a parent and child.

Mass Intentions

Mon., December 15, 6:30: Leroy Niebrugge
 Mon., December 15, 12:10: Marie Martin
 Tues., December 16, 6:30: Deceased Classmates of 1959
 Tues., December 16, 8:05: Roger Geers
 Wed., December 17, 6:30: Larry McMahon
 Wed., December 17, 8:05: Alice Schumacher-Pruemer
 Thurs., December 18, 6:30: Francis Wentz
 Thurs., December 18, 12:10: Francis Wentz
 Fri., December 19, 6:30: Doris Kremer
 Fri., December 19, 8:05: August & Marian Schultz Family
 Sat., December 20, 8:00: Marie Martin
 Sat., December 20, 5:30: Ruth & Joe Schmidt Family
 Sun., December 21, 7:00: Pro Populo
 Sun., December 21, 8:45: Larry Walk
 Sun., December 21, 10:30: August & Marian Schultz Fam.

Is This Possible?

Rejoice always. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Some explanation may help to relieve the seeming impossibility of this command. "Rejoice" here does not mean "feel happy," but "find your source of joy and express your thanks." We can certainly always remind ourselves of God's love and of our hope of being with him forever. But can we always really find joy in that? In some situations—I am thinking of my daughter whose own daughter is sick—to rejoice seems beyond human ability, even contrary to human nature.

Perhaps it is significant that the Greek translation here is plural, directed to a group. "You all, rejoice always." Paul speaks of rejoicing in God's love, in hope, as something we do *together*. Perhaps he envisions us accompanying each other in our struggles, helping one another, bearing one another's burdens, so that those who have sorrow are carried along by being part of a community that rejoices and hopes in the Lord. In that case, rejoicing always is something we do by reaching out to each other. Paradoxically, rejoicing may involve weeping with those who weep, as Paul also says in Romans 12:15.

LIVING FAITH, Kevin Perrotta

Liturgy Schedule 3rd Week of Advent December 15-21

Monday,	Mass at 6:30 am & 12:10 pm
Tuesday,	Mass at 6:30 & 8:05 am
Wednesday,	Mass at 6:30 & 8:05 am
Thursday,	Mass at 6:30 am & 12:10 pm
Friday,	Mass at 6:30 & 8:05 am
Saturday,	Mass at 8:00 am & 5:30 pm
Sunday,	4th Sunday of Advent Mass at 7:00, 8:45, 10:30 am

Confession Schedule

Saturday, December 20 - 3:30-4:30 pm

Liturgy of the Hours with Friars

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

Ministry sign-ups. 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. Also, please check in sacristy the day of the Holy Day to see where you are needed. Thank you for sharing your time and ministry!



Pray for the Sick

Please remember in your prayers: Eddie Siemer, Cheryl Ann Huber, Anna Habing, Jack Hardiek, Paula Spencer, Lucille Worman, Agnes Kremer, Pauline Gobjczynski, Devin Mette, David Pruemer, Harold Hardiek, Ray Lohman, Margaret Pruemer, Will Niccum, Joe Ruholl, Kay Schwartz, Tom Rhodes, Rosie Myers

Stewardship of Treasure

	<u>Sunday</u> 12/7/2014	<u>Total Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>
265 Adult envelopes	\$9,842.50	\$182,951.50
Other	\$461.87	\$15,780.72
TOTAL	\$10,304.37	\$198,732.22



Parish Calendar

Monday, December 15

- CCW Christmas party, 6:30 pm, Grade School Gym
- Men's Holy Name mtg., 7:30 pm, Museum Meeting Room

Tuesday, December 16

- Catechist/Mass Supervisor party, 8:00-9:30 am, Museum Dining Room
- Social Concerns mtg., 7:00 pm, St. Clare

Wednesday, December 17

- Children's choir, 3:30-5:00 pm
- Jr. Hi. Religion
- Rosary, 8:00 pm, Chapel
- Christmas decorations going up in Church

Thursday, December 18

- Adult Choir, 7:00 pm

Friday, December 19

- Rosary, 9:30 am, Church and St. Clare

Saturday, December 20

- Confessions, 3:30-4:30 pm
- SCRIP cards sold after Mass

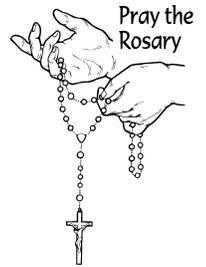
Sunday, December 21

- SCRIP cards sold after all Masses
- Secular Franciscans meet, 2:00 pm, Church and St. Clare

Sing Along. St. Francis Singers and Friends will be singing at Lakeland Nursing Center on Thursday, December 18th, at 10:00 am.

Rosary Vigil at Effingham Planned Parenthood every Tuesday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The scientific reality is that when the sperm and egg unite and fertilization occurs, the genetic make-up of a unique human is established. That person is a he or she. Their hair and eye color, and to some extent, personality and intelligence are established. (Mayo Clinic 2012 Fetal Development)

Any questions, phone Peg Mihlbachler 844-2172.



Homebound Ministry

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound for Sunday, December 21st are Lenora Drees 857-3583 and Deb Runde 857-6281

RCIA meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum Meeting Room. We will be on break over the holidays until Tuesday, January 6th. Please continue to pray for our candidates and catechumens, especially during this season of preparation for Christ's growth in our hearts. Feel free to contact S. Pierre 857-6404 ext. 227 for more information.

Recently asked: What's the difference between a CANDIDATE and a CATECHUMEN in RCIA? A candidate in RCIA is an already baptized person seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus through the Catholic Church.

A candidate can, through mutual discernment, make a profession of faith on any Sunday, except during Lent, and become a practicing member of the Catholic Church. A catechumen is an adult seeking information and a deeper relationship with Jesus resulting in the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday in the Catholic Church.

Scrip Cards make great Christmas gifts!

CHWC youth are selling scrip cards after weekend Masses, through the week at Niebrugge Financial, and on Saturdays at the parish office! Scrip cards are gift cards to places you normally shop already, but they also give a benefit to our youth! It's a win win system! Please consider stopping by to pick up your scrip gift cards today!

GIVING TREE gifts are due back tonight, December 14, by 7 pm. Gifts will be sorted and delivered tomorrow morning (Monday, December 15). Any volunteers who would like to help sort and deliver, are welcome to come to church on Monday at 9 am. Thank you for your generosity!

A side story of the Giving Tree outreach – when my mother was shopping at Walgreens, she told the cashier she was looking for something with Scooby Doo on it. The lady told her she had Scooby material at home and would be happy to make pillow cases to be included with Mom's gift. The cashier was a complete stranger. Mom offered to pay the lady and she declined. She felt blessed to be part of the tree experience. God is good, and people are generous. THANKS to you all for sharing your hearts with others.
--Lisa Siemer

Youth Notes: THANKS to all of our carolers last weekend! What a fun crew who really know how to make a joyful noise! Thank you for sharing your Christmas spirit!

Teen Center resumes January 16, 2015.

Religious Education News

GRADE SCHOOL- Tuesday, December 16, Catechist Christmas gathering from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

Mass supervisors' and helpers' gathering from 8:45 to 9:30 in the Museum Dining Room.

Grades 3-6 attend Mass in Church. Grades 1 and 2 see the Nativity video in the areas to be announced.

Grade 3- Christmas store proceeds amounted to \$3,424.00. Local Mission recipients of \$500.00 each to be used for needy children and families in these areas are: Franciscan Missionary Union to honor Fr. Maurice Hawickhorst, and to aid in his previous mission work in Brazil; for the Franciscan Vietnamese Formation Program; for Fr. Paul Habing, for his present mission work with the poor or his previous missionary location in Peru; to the Adorers of the Blood of Christ Sisters in Ruma, Illinois, for Sister Anita Fearday's mission work in Bolivia; for Sister Mary Christine Spour, for African missions; for School Sisters of Notre Dame Mission Advancement Program; In addition, \$424 will be sent to the Covenant House of New York for their program to help run-away youth. From previous mission projects, \$500 will be donated to the Teutopolis/Effingham Catholic Charities in the name of Sister Carol Beckermann OSF.

Once again, thanks to all Grade 3 families, children, catechists, teachers, helpers, all who donated gifts, and all who purchased gifts, those who supported the work for the missions and those who pray for the Mission children and their needs every day.

PRE/KDGN Sunday morning program's last class before Christmas is today, December 14. Classes resume on Epiphany Sunday, January 4, in the Museum Dining Room with a practice of the Epiphany program to be presented in church following the 10:30 Mass that day. Refreshments for all who wish to attend will be served in St. Clare Hall from 12:30 to 1:30.

JUNIOR HIGH—Classes will take place on Wednesday, December 17, when Reconciliation will take place. This will be the last class of the year. Classes will resume on January 7. with a short celebration of the new Church year at the end of class.

Blessed Christmas and New Year to all parents and students!

High School Religious Ed. High School religious ed classes are finished for this semester. We look forward to seeing all high school students back at class on January 14! Blessed Christmas to you & your families.

CCW News—Christmas Party.

The Officers of St. Francis Council of Catholic Women (CCW) wish to extend an invitation to all the women of our parish to our annual CCW Christmas Party on Monday, December 15, 2014. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm at the Teutopolis Grade School Auditorium.



Turkey, dressing, noodles, drinks and table service will be provided for the dinner. Please bring a covered dish. A \$3.00 gift exchange is optional—please put your name on the gift so that the receiver will know who it is from.

Please join us for a delicious dinner, fun, and fellowship. Entertainment for the evening will be a Christmas Style Show by Ten Brooke LeAnne.

***Donations for Catholic Charities Food Pantry will be accepted and warmly appreciated!!!



Thank and support our advertisers listed on the back of our bulletin.

Pilgrimage Opportunity. This coming May, God willing, I will be celebrating my 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, and I would like to celebrate with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. From May 12 to May 23, 2015, we will have daily Mass and opportunities to pray at such sites as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (containing both the site of Calvary and of the empty tomb of Our Lord), the site of the Resurrection, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, the Sea of Galilee and many, many more. This pilgrimage also includes the possibility of a visit to Mt. Sinai and the monastery of St. Catherine. (The Mt. Sinai option will be only possible depending on the political climate of the time, which will be determined closer to the time of the pilgrimage.) The cost of the pilgrimage is \$3,145.00.

A visit to the holy places of the foundations of our faith will bring Scripture alive to you as nothing else will. Here we will pray and meditate on the life, death and resurrection of Our Lord. We will gain new insight into the world in which Jesus lived. Such insight allows us to know our Lord better and love him more deeply.

Please contact Fr. Barry Harmon, 322 N. 7th St., PO Box 377, Vandalia, IL 62471 (618-283-0214) or harmon.barry@gmail.com for a brochure or more information. I hope that you will prayerfully consider joining this pilgrimage.

Here & There

“Advent Evensong” will be held on Sunday, December 14th, at 4:00 pm, at Holy Cross Church, Wendelin. This will be a candlelight service with Scripture, Organ, English Carols, and Austrian Christmas music—sung in German, by the Wendelin Kloepfen Singers. All are welcome. (Individual Reconciliation available, 3:00-3:45 pm). Refreshments afterwards in the parish center.

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at the Crossroads! The annual “**Christmas at the Cross**” Open House will be held on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 2-4 pm, in the Cross Welcome Center. There will be Nativity scenes, live Christmas music, free refreshments, make & take crafts and give-a-ways. Fun for the whole family!

Teutopolis Park District

3rd and 4th Grade Basketball: Sign-up continues (late fee applies)

3rd and 4th Grade Basketball Clinics: Sign-up continues for girls

Boot Camp: January 5—February 27; Sign-up by Dec. 15

Zumba: January 5—February 13; Sign-up by Dec. 15

World Youth Day, Kraków, Poland. The 2016 World Youth Day pilgrimage will be here before you know it. The diocesan trip will include visits to the Czestochowa Marian Shrine as well as the Auschwitz concentration camp. Details are at www.dio.org/youthministry/wyd. Call kyle Holtgrave at 217-698-8500, ext 154 for more information.



Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting on Nov 20, 2014

Present: Fr. John, Dan Beckman, Bernie Hartke, Duane Kremer, Mike Tipton, Carrie Cople, Sandy Gillespie, Ron Ruholl and Denise Will.

The meeting opened with prayer. Minutes from the October 16, 2014, meeting were reviewed and approved.

The following committee reports were given:

Finance:

- Ron Ruholl was present to present to us the bids from 3 various companies for a better speaker system throughout the church. The old speakers would not be necessary, but we would still keep them in the church on the pillars. The speakers that are currently in the balcony would stay as well.

A motion was made by Duane to accept a bid from Thompson Electric to do the work, and all present were in favor of this. We will wait for the finalization from the Bishop and proof of the required insurance. Once we have the okay from the Bishop, Ron will contact the representative from Thompson to let them know.

Building & Grounds – Bernie Hartke

- We have received the bids for the construction, concrete and electrical work for the new shed in the cemetery. Ron will be contacting the companies with the awarding bids, and Fr. John will contact the other companies.
- The concrete bunker in the cemetery has been completely removed.
- Earl Pals has finished painting 80% of the exterior of the church. He will finish next spring.
- The windows on the north side of the garage are rotting out. We voted on replacing the 3 windows. Bernie will talk to Ron about going ahead to replace the 3 windows.

Liturgy – Carrie Cople

- The Christmas Eve Masses will be at 4:00, 6:00, and 10:30 p.m.
There will be only a cantor at the 8:45 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day.
- There will be a blessing of infants born in 2013 on Jan. 11, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Religious Ed – Sandy Gillespie

Sr. Ann

- Grades 1-2 donated 125 shoe boxes for Christmas project
- Grade 3 wrapped gifts for the Christmas store which was open to the children on Dec. 2, 3 & 4.
- JR High are preparing for the Diocesan Religious Knowledge test to take place on Dec. 8.
- Reconciliation for JR High will take place on Dec. 10.

High School –

- 54 students were confirmed in November. Three sophomores chose not to be confirmed.

Adult Education-Sr. Pierre

- Sr. would like to encourage anyone who has yet not completed the session on Protecting God's Children to please sign up.

Stewardship – Denise Will

- 5 welcome packages have been delivered to 7 of the new members.

Social Concerns –Mike Tipton

- There are several different organizations that the group has talked about supporting. They are trying to narrow the listing down to just a few.

Pastor's Report

- Fr. John was asked about giving a donation to the Boy Scouts. St. Frances is a charter sponsor for the Boy Scouts. It was voted on to give a donation of \$1000 to the Boy Scouts. Fr. John will contact the Boy Scouts.
- Our next Parish Council meeting will be January 15 at 7:00 PM in St. Clare Hall