

St. Mary’s Catholic Church

Annunciation Church of B.V.M., Shumway, IL
+Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
Father Albert (Al) Allen, Pastor
Reconciliation Time: Saturdays 3-3:30 pm

Or by appointment
Mass Times: Saturday 4:00 pm & Sunday 8:00 am
Wednesday 8:00 am

Phone: 1-844-536-6514 (leave a message)
During a life emergency please contact
217.703.1042 to reach a priest.

Website: www.stmaryshumway.org
Email: stmarysshumway@gmail.com
Address: PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461

To reserve the church basement please call
1-844-536-6514.

Diocese Website: www.dio.org



Green Creek Mass Times:
Friday – 8 am
Saturday – 6 pm
Sunday – 10:30 am

Victim Assistance Contact Information-To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE

PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!



Nelda McCoy
Marita Kemme
Sam Sheehan
Larry Nation
Jim Gordon
Don Kemme
Danny Zacha
Don Clark
Kendall Fulk
Dan Zacha Sr.

Dean Gengler
Steve Moore
Sally Wakefield
Pat Kuhns
Bill Hamilton
Christie Dust
Helen Kollinger
Bill Nuxoll
Mrs. Scott (Stacey)
Vonderheide
Jane Emmerich
Marita Elson



Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone. Thank You.

December Committee: Jamie Brown, Kara Brown, Donna Davis, Kathy Brown, Christy Brown, Katrina Davis, Theresa Davis, Betty Gengler

LITURGICAL MINISTERS					
SAT 4pm	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30	Jan. 6
Servers	Abby Brown Anna Brown Aubrey Brown	Trey Brown Tryston Brown Madalyne Brown	Isaac Wells Abby Brown Anna Brown	Aubrey Brown Tryston Brown Trey Brown	Anna Brown Madalyne Brown Isaac Wells
Lector	Katrina Davis	Mike Holland	Alaina Miller	Jesse Davis	Abby Brown
Usher	Jason Wells Mike Holland	Jesse Davis Don Brown	Doug Brown Mike Holland	Jason Wells Don Brown	Jesse Davis Doug Brown
Ech Min	Don Brown Kathy Brown Rosemary Holland	Donna Davis Jesse Davis Katrina Davis	Mike Holland Don Brown Kathy Brown	Donna Davis Rosemary Holland Katrina Brown	Mike Holland Jesse Davis Don Brown
Gift Bearers	Don Brown Family	Doug Brown Family	Jesse Davis Family	Jason Wells Family	Wanda Ohnesorge
Greeters	Wells Family	Davis Family	Wells Family	Davis Family	Wells Family
SUN 8am	Dec. 10 Parish Families in Faith	Dec. 17 Parish Families in Faith	Dec. 24 NO 8 AM MASS	Dec. 31 8am	Jan. 7 Parish Families in Faith
Servers	Wade Conder Zoey Conder Olivia Vonderheide	Garrett Hoene Rory Miller Wylie Miller	Christmas Eve Mass at 6:30 pm. This mass doesn’t fulfill your Sunday obligation. Christmas Day Mass at 8 am. Sign up for ministries in the cry room.	Daisy Miller Zoey Conder Olivia Vonderheide	Garrett Hoene Wade Conder Jacob Vonderheide
Lector	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene		Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene
Ushers	Justin Conder John Neu	Don Antrim Jason Vonderheide		Charley Vonderheide Larry Lieb	Jim Vonderheide Roy Waldhoff
Ech Min	Lisa Waldhoff Barb Vonderheide Roy Waldhoff	Lisa Thompson Leslie Kemme Timber Miller		Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff	Leslie Miller Lisa Thompson Roy Waldhoff
Gift Bearers	Greg Michelle Spannagel	Deb Stremming		Wanda Ohnesorge	Wally Thompson Family
Greeters	Tom Helen Doedtman	Ed Leslie Kemme		Jim Mary Miller	John Karen Neu
Money Counters	Doedtman Shadwell	Waldhoff Hoene	Kemme Adams	Bales Richards Sheehan, Hackman	Stremming Conder
WED. 8am Lectors	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 3
	Irene Koester	Kay Conder	Linda Doedtman	Irene Koester	Kay Conder

Weekly Offering.....12-3-23

Adults..... \$1730.00
Loose..... \$602.00
Child Home..... \$50.00
Christmas Flowers..... \$120.00
Basement Rental.....\$70.00
Campaign for J&H..... \$5.00
Total..... \$2577.00

Mass Money \$10.00.

Poland > Effingham > U.S. Citizen – Fr. Michal Rosa’s unique story – Fr. Michal Rosa, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Effingham, became a U.S. citizen July 7. It’s a journey he would have never imagined, growing up in Poland. So how did this all happen, how did Bishop Paprocki play a role, what does Fr. Rosa think of America, what does he miss the most about Poland (besides family), and what aspects of our faith does he wish America prioritized more? We Dive Deep with Fr. Michal Rosa. Go to dio.org/podcast or youtube.com/diospringfield or search “Dive Deep” on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAYS-

Weekend of Dec 23/24



SATURDAY

Shumway @ 4pm
Green Creek —NO MASS

SUNDAY

Shumway —NO MASS
Green Creek- 8 am



(There is a ministry sign up in the cry room for Christmas Eve/Day Masses.)

Christmas Eve

Shumway @ 6:30pm
Green Creek @ 4pm

Christmas Day

Shumway @8 am
Green Creek @ 10:30am

New Year’s Eve

Shumway @ 6pm
Green Creek —No Mass

New Year’s Day

Shumway —No Mass
Green Creek @ 9 am

The ladies of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Effingham would like to invite you to shop at our annual Holiday Cookie/Candy Sale which will be held this year only on Saturday, Dec.16 from NOON to 6 P.M. The sale is held in our Parish Center located west of the church. In addition to our wonderful array of cookies, snack mixes, candies, and fudge, there will be delicious breads, coffee cakes, and cinnamon rolls. In addition, there will be a raffle featuring a gorgeous quilted Christmas throw handmade by one of our CCW ladies.

Please come and stock up on our delicious homemade holiday treats for your family and guests.

If you have any questions, please call Sue Green at 217-690-0029.

Thank you



Saturday, Dec. 9 – Brenda Vahling by Tom & Cindy Vahling
Sunday, Dec. 10 – Ross Pautler by Duane & Joyce Shadwell
Wednesday, Dec. 13 – Matthew Tegeler by family
Saturday, Dec. 16 – Deceased Members of Miller & Kirchoffer families
Sunday, Dec. 17 – Brenda Vahling by Joe & Kay Conder
Wednesday, Dec. 20 - John Sheehan by Carol Sheehan

Please call or email (info on front page) to schedule an intention or put an envelope in the collection basket with the information. Envelopes can be found in the mailbox in the cry room. There is a calendar of available dates located on the bulletin board and in the cry room.

2024 Masses are now being scheduled.

Happy Birthday



Terry Thomas 12-14
Shelby McCormick 12-15

Happy Anniversary

Dwight & Bev Storm
12-14-1963
60 years

Drawing will be Friday night Dec. 15 @ 7pm in the church basement. The drawing will also be on Facebook live. Stay around afterwards for a little socializing. Bring your own drinks and munchies.

Parish Families in Faith



Next class: Dec. 10 & 17

Adult classes AND Parish Family Time are for ALL PARISHIONERS not just those who have children in PSR!!!

Reminder ALL tickets need to be turned in by DEC. 10.



Christmas Tree Blessing

Dear God, you sent Jesus into this world to show us how much you love us. As we look at this tree, we we think about Jesus's birth and the eternal life he give us. Bless this tree and help it to serve as a reminder of your Son's birth. May the gifts we place under this tree remind us of the many gifts you have given us. We ask you to bless this home and watch over us during this holy season. Amen

Invite each family member to take turns sharing their own reflections or personal prayers. This is an opportunity to express gratitude for the blessings of the past year and to ask for God's guidance and blessings for the year ahead. Conclude the blessing ceremony with a final prayer, asking for God's presence and blessings to fill your home throughout the Christmas season and beyond. More can be found at <https://young-catholics.com/174/christmas-tree-blessing/>

St. Mary’s Parish is looking for someone to take care of cemetery record keeping. If you have questions about what the position entails, please talk to Fr. Allen. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Gene Doedtman to his many years of service as the cemetery record keeper. Thank you very much.

Something new for this Advent--**Advent Stations** They are a powerful devotion that invites participants to embark on a spiritual journey through prayer and scripture. Similar to the Stations of the Cross, Advent Stations guide us through God’s preparation for the coming of Christ throughout history. These stations beautifully connect Old Testament stories with corresponding New Testament readings, allowing us to witness the divine plan unfolding over time. Each station serves as a reminder of God’s faithfulness and His unwavering commitment to redeem humanity. Go to <https://young-catholics.com/5413/advent-stations/> for the stations.

Reflection Questions

- How do you typically view time in your spiritual life, and how might embracing God's perspective on time, as described by Peter, change your approach to waiting and preparation during Advent?
- In what ways can you practice 'active patience' during Advent, using this time not just to wait but to grow and prepare spiritually?
- Considering Peter's depiction of the Lord's coming as sudden and unexpected, how can you cultivate a state of constant spiritual readiness and vigilance in your daily life?
- Reflect on your current life choices and actions. How do they align with the Gospel's call, and what changes might you need to make to be “found by him at peace, without spot or blemish”?
- In what ways do you feel spiritually exiled, and how can the message of Isaiah and John the Baptist guide you back to a life in harmony with God's will?
- How does the concept of repentance manifest in your life, and what steps can you take this Advent to deepen your understanding and practice of it?
- Reflect on John the Baptist's humility. How can you incorporate this virtue into your own life, especially in your interactions within your parish community and personal relationships?
- As you prepare for Christ’s coming, what areas of your life require transformation, and how can you actively work towards this change during Advent and beyond?
- How can you ensure that your journey of transformation and alignment with God’s will extends beyond the Advent season into your everyday life?
- In what ways do you experience Jesus as a shepherd in your life, leading you out of the 'exile' of sin and towards God's love?

Please join us as we study the Eucharist, Discovering the Mass in the Bible, by Brant Pitre. This will be a 10 week course beginning on Thursday January, the 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, please call the Parish Office at 217-347-7129.

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. The purchase price for the 1974 and 1999 combination reprint is \$25 dollars; \$15 for the 1924 reprint. Preview copies are in the your church’s sacristy or vestibule. Please contact Sandy Meinhart: 217-273-1758/sameinhart@gmail.com or St. Isidore Parish Office: 217-925-5788/ office@stisidore.dio.org with inquiries and orders.

Pre-Canva Dates---Upcoming dates for programs in the diocese are listed below.
Sunday, February 4, 2024 - St. Francis, Teutopolis
Call 217-961-6404 to register. The fee is \$50 per couple to cover lunch and expenses.

REFLECTIONS—

A Journey of Patience and Purity

The second letter of Peter, chapter 3, verses 8-14, serves as a profound reminder for the faithful during the season of Advent, especially on the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B. Peter emphasizes the timeless nature of God, contrasting it with human perceptions of time, reminding us that "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day."

This passage invites us to reflect on the nature of our waiting during Advent. Often, we are impatient in our waiting, expecting quick answers and immediate gratifications. However, Peter's words encourage us to adopt a divine perspective on time, one that values patient, steadfast waiting. This patience is not passive but active; it's a time of preparation and growth, mirroring the long wait of humanity for the Messiah.

Peter also speaks of the day of the Lord as coming like a thief, unexpected and unannounced. This imagery is particularly striking during Advent, a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth and his eventual second coming. The unexpectedness of the Lord's coming serves as a call to constant readiness and spiritual vigilance. It challenges us to live each day in anticipation of God’s kingdom, aligning our actions and choices with the Gospel.

This period of waiting is not just about looking forward, but also about examining our present – how we live, act, and interact with others. It’s a reminder that every moment is an opportunity to embody the values of the kingdom, to be “found by him at peace, without spot or blemish,” as Peter exhorts. It is a call to personal and communal purification, a recommitment to our baptismal promises. On this 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B, let us embrace this call to purity and peace, preparing ourselves to celebrate the coming of Christ with hearts renewed and lives transformed by His grace.

Pathways to Transformation

In Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B, the people of Judah, exiled and longing for their homeland, are given a promise of return. This return is not just a physical journey but a spiritual realignment with God. The path back to their homeland symbolizes a return to a life in harmony with God's will, a theme that resonates deeply in our Advent journey.

Similarly, in the Gospel, St. John the Baptist uses language that echoes Isaiah’s prophecy. He speaks not only to his contemporaries but to us across the ages. Our exile is not physical but spiritual, caused by our sins. John's message is clear: repentance is the road back from this exile. As John prepares the way for Jesus, he invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

Isaiah’s vision of a transformed world and John’s call for repentance underscore the need for personal and communal change. The coming of Jesus signifies a profound shift in how we relate to God and one another. This transformation requires a deep introspection to identify what needs change in our lives. However, pride often blinds us to our shortcomings, creating a barrier to true repentance and growth.

Embracing Humility and Repentance

John the Baptist exemplifies humility, a virtue essential for Advent preparation. He acknowledges his role as merely the forerunner to someone greater – Jesus. John's humility in recognizing his place in God's plan is a powerful model for us. In our parish communities and personal lives, embracing humility like John's allows us to make room for others to lead and for God’s work to be done through them.

Our Advent journey, then, is marked by a dual movement: inward, to confront and repent of our sins, and outward, to embrace humility and allow God to work through us and others. As we reflect on the messages of Isaiah and John the Baptist for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B, we're invited to smooth the path for Christ’s coming into our hearts and communities, transforming our lives in anticipation of His arrival. This preparation is not just an Advent exercise but a continual call to live in alignment with the divine will, guided by Jesus, our shepherd, who leads us out of the exile of sin into the embrace of God's love.