

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

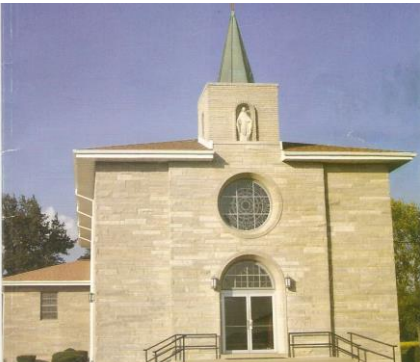
Or by appointment
Mass Times: Saturday 4:00 pm & Sunday 8:00 am
Wednesday 8:00 am

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.....12-10-23

Adults..... \$1985.00
Loose..... \$514.00
Child Home..... \$20.00
Imm.Concept..... \$249.00
Cemetery.....\$40.00
First Offering.....\$25.00
Retired Religious.....\$145.00
Flowers.....\$110.00
Total..... \$3088.00
Mass Money \$60.00.

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Illinois March for Life: Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Mass, 10:00 am, Sangamon Auditorium, on the UIS Campus, 1 University Plaza, Springfield. Noon, rally in front of the State Capitol, followed by a march around the State Capitol complex. The Mass, rally and march are intended for 7th-12th graders, college students, and adults.



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
Saturday, Dec. 23 – Louis Tegeler by family
Christmas Eve-Bernard, Dorothy & Charlotte Ruholl by family
Christmas Day-Members of the Bolton, Stump, Montello and Witken Families

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



Jonathan Wakefield 12-20
Josh Miller 12-23
Kyle McCormick 12-23

Happy Anniversary

David & Christy Bales
12-17-1983
40 years

St. Mary's, Shumway CCW-
We will be hosting a casserole dinner
on Jan. 9 @ 6:30pm.
The ladies of St. Anthony's, Sacred Heart and
St. Mary's, Green Creek will be our guests.
Come for a night of fellowship and good food.

Why Linus Drops His Blanket in
A Charlie Brown Christmas

Here is an interesting reflection to share as a family this Advent and Christmas season. Find it at
<https://young-catholics.com/112/why-linus-drops-his-blanket/>

PRAYER WORKS--- Remember SB 1909? This Illinois bill unfairly targeted pregnancy care centers and was likely to lead to their closure.

We filed witness slips and did everything we could to let our elected officials and the Governor know we opposed it. Unfortunately, it passed in the House and the Senate, and was signed into law over the summer by Gov. Pritzker. The Thomas More Society immediately filed a lawsuit to stop it. They were victorious! Praise God!

You can learn more here: <https://www.thomasmoresociety.org/news/pro-life-ministries-victorious-against-state-of-illinois-attack-on-pregnancy-centers>

Thank you for your efforts to support life. Our prayers, phone calls, emails, and donations do make a difference. More lives will be saved and more women helped because of this win. It's great to recognize these important victories!

Parish Families in Faith



Next class: Dec. 17
Jan. 7, 14, 28, 2024

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

Eucharistic



Adoration

Thursday, Dec. 21 –6:30-7:30pm
Followed by private confessions at 7:45
until all are heard.

REFLECTIONS—cont. from page 2

As we journey through Advent, we are reminded that our preparation for Christ's coming is not only a remembrance of a historical event but an active participation in the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. The convergence of joy from Isaiah, the testimony of John the Baptist, and Paul's exhortation to continual prayer and thanksgiving, shapes our Advent season as a time of deep spiritual renewal and expectant waiting for the fullness of God's salvation.

- Reflection Questions*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 speaks of rejoicing always, even in difficult times. Reflect on a time when you found joy in a challenging situation. How did this experience shape your understanding of joy as a Christian virtue?
 - What does "pray without ceasing" mean to you in practical terms? How can you incorporate continuous prayer into your daily routine, especially during the Advent season?
 - How can you cultivate a habit of gratitude, even in less-than-ideal circumstances? Discuss ways in which gratitude can change your perspective on life's challenges.
 - In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist plays a crucial role as a witness to the light of Christ. How can you embody the humility and dedication of John the Baptist in your own life as a Christian?
 - How do you interpret the concept of being a bearer of Christ's light in your community? Share examples of how you have witnessed or can witness Christ's light in everyday interactions.
 - Reflect on a moment when Christ's light brought clarity or understanding to a situation in your life. How did this illumination transform your approach or attitude?
 - Paul's call to holiness in 1 Thessalonians involves spirit, soul, and body. Discuss practical ways you can engage in this holistic sanctification during Advent.

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—

Joyful Anticipation

The second reading for the 3rd Sunday in Advent Year B, taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, resonates with a profound message of hope and anticipation. As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing in the Advent season, this passage invites us to immerse ourselves in a spirit of continuous joy, prayer, and gratitude. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in all circumstances give thanks," Paul writes, encapsulating the essence of Christian life, especially poignant in the time of Advent.

This call to perpetual joy is not an invitation to ignore the realities of pain or suffering but to maintain a hopeful stance in the face of life's challenges. The anticipation of Christ's coming reminds us that joy is rooted not in our current circumstances but in the promise of God's faithful presence and ultimate salvation.

In this season of preparation, Paul's exhortation to hold fast to what is good and abstain from every form of evil serves as a guiding principle. This period of waiting is not passive but an active journey of spiritual refinement and alignment with God's will. As we await the celebration of Christ's birth, we are called to embrace a holistic sanctification, "spirit, soul, and body," as Paul articulates. This process involves a conscious and continuous effort to nurture our relationship with God through prayer, embrace joy in our daily lives, and express gratitude in all circumstances.

As we heed this call, we prepare ourselves not just for the commemoration of Christ's historical birth but for his ongoing presence in our lives, transforming us from within and making us ready for his eventual return.

Illuminating the Path

In the Gospel for the 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B, John 1:6-8, 19-28, we encounter John the Baptist, a pivotal figure who came to testify to the light. This light is not just a physical entity but a profound metaphor for the clarity and vision that Jesus Christ brings into our lives. When we embrace Christ, our perception of the world undergoes a remarkable transformation. This divine light illuminates our path, revealing truths that were once shrouded in darkness. With Christ as our guiding light, we navigate life's journey with greater clarity, avoiding obstacles that once tripped us up. Our understanding of the world, our relationships, and our purpose becomes clearer under this heavenly light.

John's role in this narrative is crucial yet humbling. He understood that he was not the light; he was merely its witness and bearer. His mission was to transmit this light to others, not to claim it as his own. In this, John exemplifies a profound humility that we are called to emulate.

The light of God that we may carry within us, that brightens the lives of those around us, is not of our own making. It is a divine gift, passing through us like rays through a windowpane. Our task is not to boast of this light as if it were our own achievement, but to humbly acknowledge its true source and purpose. We become conduits of this heavenly light, tasked with spreading it without claiming ownership.

This Gospel passage invites us to reflect on our role in bearing the light of Christ. Like John, we are called to be humble messengers, illuminating the world with the light we have received. This light enables us to see the beauty and truth in God's creation, to discern our path more clearly, and to help illuminate the way for others. It is a reminder that in following Christ, we not only walk in light but also become bearers of that light to the world. Our journey, therefore, becomes a testament to the transformative power of Christ's light, guiding us and others towards the path of truth, clarity, and ultimate fulfillment.

A Tapestry of Joy and Light

Considered together, the readings for the 3rd Sunday in Advent Year B intertwine to create a rich tapestry of anticipation and illumination. In Isaiah, we hear the jubilant proclamation of good news, liberty, and divine favor, a vivid depiction of the joyous fulfillment that comes with the Messiah's arrival. This joy, as echoed in Thessalonians, is not a fleeting emotion but a state of being, sustained by continuous prayer and gratitude, deeply rooted in the promise of Christ's transformative presence. Just as Isaiah speaks of being clothed in the garments of salvation and righteousness, so too are we invited to clothe ourselves in the joy and thanksgiving that come from God.

In John's Gospel, we encounter John the Baptist, the herald of the Light, embodying the role of a witness to the one true Light, Jesus Christ. This Light, which John testifies to, is the same Light that Isaiah foretells will bring freedom and renewal. The call in Thessalonians to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances is a response to this Light that illuminates our path, revealing the way to truth and salvation.

The rest of the article is continued later in the bulletin.