



PASTOR'S CORNER

God's Plan

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Saint Francis of Assisi loved Christmas. He argued that no one should fast on this holiday and that everyone should celebrate because Christmas is an incredibly joyful event for all mankind. Of course, from a liturgical point of view, Easter is the most important holiday because we celebrate the redemption of the human race through Jesus' death on the cross and His glorious resurrection. That's true. However, let us note that if God had not become a man, had not been born in a stable in Bethlehem, and had not taken human nature as His own except for sin, then His death and resurrection would not have happened.

Christmas is a holiday that reminds us that God had a plan for humanity. It was the plan of salvation, rescue, and restoring the human race to its original dignity and participation in the Kingdom of God. God had a plan and carried it out in a distinctive way. He entered the history of man as one of us. Saint Matthew the Evangelist began his Gospel by describing the genealogy of Jesus. In this genealogy, he placed all the characters from the history of the Chosen Nation, from Abraham through David to Jesus. These names show people's life stories. Every name is a story. The story of people who lived, breathed, sinned, repented, persevered, and believed. Patriarchs, women, wives, husbands, kings, sinners, murderers. These stories are a litany of heroes, tragedies, and incredible events. This is the story of our salvation because Jesus, becoming man, entered these stories and became part of all of it: the fame and sin, to purify it all and raise it to the heights of heaven.

God did all this by participating in man's life in the most natural way for man - through the family. That is why, after Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family – this year, we will celebrate it on Friday, December 30th . Jesus did not come into the world anonymously. He became a man, a child, and a son in a particular family. Family is the basis of human life, society, and our most natural environment. That is why the family as an institution is sacred. During these holidays, we should be thankful for our families, whatever our families are because they are certainly not perfect. However, our families are the basis for us and the starting point for everything we experience. Let us thank God for our parents, let us thank God for our siblings, and let us thank God for the family environment.

Christianity is not only about churches, celebrations, and rituals. Christianity is, first and foremost, a family as God ordained it and planned it. This is also part of God's excellent plan. Father, mother, children, and the generations that preceded us that we should respect and love. One could say that Christmas reveals to us in full the essence of God's plan for man. The family is this essence because it is God's plan. Let's celebrate the family.

On behalf of our Franciscan community, I wish you all a Christmas full of God's blessings and all possible graces to the new year of 2023. May God bless you all abundantly. Thank you for your good heart and your testimony of faith.

Peace and Goodness,
Fr. Witold Adamczyk, OFM Conv.

January 1 Holy Day: Since the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God falls on a Sunday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is covered by your attendance at our regular weekend Masses.

Our office will be closed from December 26 through January 2, reopening on January 3.

The next monthly Mass followed for Prayers for Healing is Thursday, January 5, at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart. Confessions will be available starting at 5:30 p.m. as well as after Mass. Also following Mass is Adoration, with prayer teams available for those who would like individual healing prayer opportunities.

Contribute online to our parishes: Sign-up for a one-time gift, or as an annual contributor from our parish websites: www.sacredheartri.com and www.stmaryri.com. You can also call our Office Manager Christine at the parish office if you prefer to have her set it up for you.

MASS SCHEDULE & MORE!	
Dec 27	12:10 p.m. Mass - <i>Bob Tanghe</i> ST. MARY'S
Dec 28	11:00 a.m. Adoration & Confessions ST. MARY'S 12:10 p.m. Mass - <i>Susan Breuwet</i> ST. MARY'S
Dec 29	12:10 p.m. Mass - <i>William L. Flynn</i> SACRED HEART
Dec 30	12:10 p.m. Mass - <i>Theresa Cavins</i> SACRED HEART
Dec 31	3:00 p.m. Confessions ST. MARY'S 4:00 p.m. Mass - <i>For the People of Sacred Heart & St. Mary's Parishes</i> ST. MARY'S 5:15 p.m. Mass - <i>Pam Meyers</i> SACRED HEART
Jan 1	8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Confessions SACRED HEART 9:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Giuseppe Leone</i> SACRED HEART 10:30 a.m. Mass - <i>Fred Orth and Elizabeth Redecker</i> ST. MARY'S

SACRED HEART PARISH NEWS

Stewardship of Treasure: Dec 17/18

Offertory Envelopes	\$2,478.00
Loose Money	\$247.25
Online Giving	\$645.00
Property Improvement Fund	\$1,976.00
Envelopes Used	72

Thank you to all of the children who are a part of our Children's Choir this Christmas! Our thanks also to our choir director, Trevor, for all of his work directing them.

We appreciate everyone who worked to make our Christmas liturgies so special and decorated the church for Christmas. Thank you to Chris and Tim for organizing all of this and for all who pitched in bringing up decor and helping us prepare for Christmas. Thank you to Trevor, members of our Sacred Heart Choir, and to Chris Versluis for their exceptional work on our Christmas Eve music. We also appreciate having our Burmese Choir members join us this year. Lastly, our thanks to Christine for all of the extra work in the office leading up to the holidays! It's the most wonderful time of year - and the busiest!

The last significant project tied to our 125th anniversary is the completion of the restoration and projection of our historic stained glass windows on our north side. To do this work we need about \$40,000 in sponsorship. As a reminder, full payments are not due until the end of 2023. Contact Chris Mandle at (309) 738-5967 if you can help us finish off our 125th Anniversary campaign goals or to learn more about this important work.

Mark your calendars for our big 125th Anniversary Mass & Celebration: June 18, 2023
Our big anniversary Mass will be at 3 p.m. on June 18 and Bishop Lou will be the main celebrant. He'll be joined of course by Fr. Witold, and we are also inviting back all of our former pastors: Fr. Greg, Fr. Anthony, and Fr. Luke. Also invited will be the priests of the Rock Island Vicariate, many of whom have filled in and celebrated Mass for us here. Other clergy throughout the diocese with history tied to Sacred Heart will also be invited to attend. Following the Mass there will be a social, followed by a dinner where we'll have remarks and memories shared by our former pastors and others. This date will also mark the release of the official history book of Sacred Heart Parish of Rock Island, Illinois. More to come, but mark those calendars now!

Join Our Choir! You are invited to join our choir here at Sacred Heart! If you are interested in singing at our Saturday and/or Sunday Masses, or if you have a musical talent we are unaware of please contact Trevor at (414) 217-0354. We would love to have many voices and new faces join us!

ST. MARY'S PARISH NEWS

Stewardship of Treasure: Dec 17/18

Offertory Envelopes	\$3,563.00
Loose Money	\$496.75
Online Giving	\$330.00
Building Improvement Fund	\$155.00
Envelopes Used	70

Thank you to Helen Boden, the Dasso Family, Ed and Nancy Hanna, Larry and Carol Hougland, Mike McKinney, Chris Versluis and Kathy Versluis for decorating the church for Christmas. It looks beautiful inside and out! Also, thank you to Jared Vogeles and Calvary Cemetery for donating the greenery for outside.

Many thanks to all who made our Christmas liturgies so special! And an extra thank you to Chris Versluis for all his work both leading the choir and playing the organ. We appreciate all you do! Thank you to the choir members and the African choir members for helping us celebrate the birth of Jesus so beautifully.

Lectors for January are Nancy Hanna at 4 p.m. Mass on January 7 and 14, Carol Hougland at 4 p.m. Mass on January 21 and 28, and Eric Young at 10:30 a.m. Mass.

A look back at St. Mary's history: Did you know that Fr. Witold is not the first religious order priest to serve as pastor of St. Mary's? There were Benedictines who served at St. Mary's in the late 1800s. According to the *Centennial of St. Mary's Church* book from 1951. "In December of 1890, the bishop entrusted St. Mary's to the care of the Benedictine Fathers from the Abbey of St. Benedict in Achison, Kansas. The Rev. Otto Knopf, O.S.B., was the pastor during the greater part of the Benedictine stay. During his first year, Father Otto decorated the interior of the church and installed stained glass windows. In 1892 he built the present two-story school [now Schroeder Hall] at a cost of \$10,000, a monument to his energy and devotion. The other Benedictine Fathers who completed the last years of this period include Rev. Aurelius Wendell, O.S.B., Rev. Thomas Wold, O.S.B., Rev. Leopold Probst, O.S.B., Rev. Eusebius Geiger, O.S.B., and Rev. Conrad Ebert, O.S.B. The Benedictines completed their work at St. Mary's in 1894."

Do you need to send mail to St. Mary's? If you need to mail something to the parish, please send it to the office address instead of the church address. The office address is 2810 5th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201.

Gift bearers sign-up: If your family would like to take up the gifts at either weekend Mass, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

FLOCKNOTE FOR SACRED HEART AND ST. MARY'S PARISHIONERS!

Get the latest news from Sacred Heart & St. Mary's with Flocknote! To sign up for FlockNote notifications of Mass times and interesting parish information:

Text to the number: 84576
With the message: 123sh (for Sacred Heart)
With the message: 123stm (for St. Mary's)

LOCAL CATHOLIC NEWS & EVENTS

Get the latest news from our local Catholic parishes and groups at www.catholicqc.com

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Ministry schedules including altar servers, EMHC's, lectors are now available to members of that ministry via Flocknote and/or email correspondence, and to Sacred Heart parishioners on our website.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR PARISHES

Financial support for both Sacred Heart and St. Mary's parishes can be accomplished several ways. If you wish to receive contribution envelopes are not currently doing so, please contact our parish office immediately.

Please also consider giving online. This allows you to keep track of your giving for the year (tax statements) and makes bookkeeping easier for the parishes. If you're interested in this route, please contact the parish offices for more information!

REMEMBER US

Both Sacred Heart and St. Mary's Parishes have always been very appreciative of the generosity of their parishioners. We're often asked how you can remember Sacred Heart in your wills, trusts, or via other gifts. It's important that you reference the parish as Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Congregation of Rock Island, Illinois or St. Mary's Roman Catholic Congregation of Rock Island, Illinois.

SACRED HEART FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Weekend is always the 2nd weekend of the month at both Sacred Heart and St. Mary's. We appreciate your support of this vital ministry!

DID YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGE?

Please let the church office know your new information as soon as possible so that we may update our records.

WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE

A wheelchair is available for any parishioner who needs a pick up or drop off at the parking lot. It's in Good Shepherd Vestibule at Sacred Heart and the vestibule at St. Mary's.

SACRED HEART & ST. MARY'S CONTACTS

Sacred Heart 794-0660
2810 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL.
shrec@sacredheartri.com www.sacredheartri.com

Saint Mary's 788-3322
2208 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL.
stmarysrockisland@gmail.com www.stmaryri.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Office Address for Both Parishes: at Sacred Heart:
2810 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL.
Christine Coleman, Office Manager

Fr. Witold Adamczyk, OFM Conv., Pastor

Catholic Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery is our local Catholic Cemetery - 2901 12th St., Rock Island, IL 61201-5335. Please call them when making arrangements for loved one by contacting them at 309-788-6197 or via email at info@calvarycemeteryri.com or at www.calvarycemeteryri.com.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISM: Parents must be registered and doing what is within their means to support the parish and be faithful in sharing the Sunday Eucharist. A baptismal class is required. Godparents must be Confirmed and be practicing Catholics and if married, that their marriage is validly recognized by the Catholic Church. If you are a Sacred Heart parishioner, contact Chris Mandle. For St. Mary's parishioners please contact Christine in the parish office.

MARRIAGE: Diocesan Policy - Please notify the office at least 8 months prior to setting the date for your marriage. Requires completion of the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Whenever needed, please call the parish office. Please advise us of persons in the hospital, nursing facilities, or homebound.

RECONCILIATION: Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. and Saturday: 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. at St. Mary's. Sunday: 8 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart. Also, by appointment.

Thinking of joining the Catholic Church?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
Persons wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith, or to join our Catholic community, please contact Christine in our parish office at (309) 794-0660 or (309) 788-3322 to set up a time with Fr. Witold.

DECEMBER 25, 2022

CHRISTMAS

O' Come,
all ye
Faithful

SACRED HEART
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

ST. MARY
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FR. WITOLD ADAMCZYK, OFM CONV., PASTOR
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA

ADDITIONAL PARISH NEWS AND MORE!

Keep these parishioners, family members, and friends in your prayers:

Joe Cervantes	Mike Clark	John Versluis
Stephanie Smith	Judy Clark	Jean Paggen
Rosa Steinbaugh	Nancy Harlow	Rebecca Becker
Lois Evans	Angie Conicella	Deb Owens
Ron Boland	Peggy Henderson	
Dean Christiansen		

If you would like to have prayers offered for parishioners, family or friends, please contact Christine in the office at (309) 794-0660 or (309) 788-3322 or ricatholicoffice@gmail.com. We will publish these names from time to time as space allows. It'll also be important to alert Christine in the office if someone's name should later be removed from the list. Thank you in advance to all who will be praying for those in need!

ADA Update

As you know, the 2022 ADA is underway in our parishes. Thank you to all who have already contributed! With your help, we are getting closer to reaching our parish goal. If you have not received a pledge card in the mail or have misplaced it, the Diocese of Peoria will be mailing a follow up letter that you may have already received. It will include another pledge card and a self addressed envelope. Please consider supporting our diocesan ministries. If you have already contributed and receive this letter in the mail, please disregard it, as pledges are often received and processed after a letter is assembled and mailed. Currently, we have:

	Goal	Pledged
Sacred Heart	\$26,798	\$13,470
St. Mary's	\$33,178	\$13,362

If you would like help with a pledge please contact Christine in our office at (309) 794-0660 or (309) 788-3322. You can also go online to contribute at: www.cdop.org/offices/development-stewardship/ada

An Evening to Celebrate the Epiphany! Attn. all Catholic young adults (ages 18-35) in the QCA! We cordially invite you to join us Thursday, January 5th, 7-10 PM at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Rock Island, IL as we come together to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany! We will begin the evening by adoring Jesus, as the Magi did, with Adoration in the church 7-7:45. After Adoration we will gather in McCarthy Hall for an evening of fellowship, food, and fun! Feel free to come for as much or as little of the evening as you are able - we look forward to seeing you there! RSVP is




appreciated, but not required - it will just help us to estimate food, etc. Please RSVP by January 1st, if possible, by scanning the QR code.

Supplies needed for Catholic Care Packs! The demand for Catholic Care Packs has been very high lately, and all supplies for the backpacks are needed. These include men's socks, hats and gloves; blankets; and hygiene products such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo. Items can be left in the Catholic Care Packs boxes in the vestibule at both churches. Thank you very much for your support in this busy time of year!

The St. Joseph Evening Meal welcomes volunteers and help. Meals are served at the Rock Island Township Hall, and cooks are asked to prepare 35-40 meals. A supervisor is always on duty, and a member of the Evening Meal Committee is also present to assist. If you, an organization to which you belong, or just a group of friends is interested in cooking one evening, please contact Rita Kirk at 309-786-3799.

Local Pro-Life Masses: A monthly inter-parish pro-life Masses is planned on Saturday January 21 at Sacred Heart, 1608 13th St. in Moline. Mass is at 4:00 PM. A monthly inter-parish pro-life Mass is scheduled on Monday January 23 at St. Ambrose, Christ the King Chapel, 518 W. Locust St. in Davenport. Mass is at 12:15 PM.



Growing Disciples: Pastoral Plan Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have sown the seeds of faith in your people and given us the responsibility as the Church to nurture and grow an abundant harvest for the Kingdom of God.

Send forth, we pray, the grace of the Holy Spirit to allow us to discern a path forward as we read the signs of our times. Help us become unified in the dream you have for us — to be a vibrant and mission-driven Church.

As we seek to live as disciples of your Son, Jesus, inspire us to give authentic witness to our relationship with you, so that others may be inspired by our love for you. Center us and feed us by the gift of the Eucharist that we may be strengthened for our mission. May each of us live out our vocation in service of the Gospel.

Almighty God, may we enter into this challenge and opportunity as a people filled with hope. Allow us to truly pray, dialogue, assess, discern and do what it is you are inviting us to, so that we may respond to today's needs and tomorrow's promise.

Committing ourselves anew to GROWING DISCIPLES, we trust in your providence, and we pray, Almighty God, that our efforts today will bear fruit for a brighter tomorrow.

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, pray for us!



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- TBD 50/50 Cash Drawing - Last year was \$25,000+
- \$100,000 Cash Drawing at the Father Mirabelli
Heritage Ball on March 25!

Cost of each share is \$150. Only 2,500 shares will
be sold. Purchase your shares today at
www.allemanhighschool.org/heritage-ball

Alleman forms New School Board! Alleman
Catholic High School has formed a new local School Board
that will serve as a consultative body to the Administration.
Members of our Board include: Adam Bain, Beth Behrends,

Hon. Sara Darrow (Chair), Fr. Mark DeSutter, Fr. Antonio
Dittmer, Jeni Hodge-Burkett (Vice-Chair), Jack Kearney, John
Reynolds, Paul Schmitt, Dr. Greg Schneider, Debbie Schwie-
bert, Lisa Short, Cathie Whiteside, and Amanda Wood.

The Board is establishing standing committees for academics,
advancement, Catholic identity, enrollment, facilities, finance,
governance, and student life, in addition to an executive com-
mittee. We anticipate the involvement of many more talented
individuals serving on these committees. Since 1949, Alleman
Catholic High School has worked to develop a faith-lived
community by exemplifying Gospel values through Catholic
education. As we near our 75th year, our commitment to
forming the future leaders of our communities is unwavering
and we are excited about the future and the opportunities to
build on the legacy of Alleman. Updates regarding the Alle-
man School Board can be found at www.allemanhighschool.org/board.

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the paths of the seas, O Lord, our Lord how awesome is
Your name through all the earth!"
- Psalm 8:9-10

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Thank You

**to everyone who sponsored
a Christmas Poinsettia at
Sacred Heart this year!**

In Memory of:

- Cortesio Family
- Dean & Vogel Families
- Ende & Bridges Families
- Jamine, Kaley & Jessie Dean
- Mike, Lynn-Ann, & Don Lind
- Harold & Elizabeth Young
- Ray & Dorthy Lind
- Mike & Julie Young
- Roe & Sanden Families
- Loretta Beckwith
- La Donna Spindel
- Msgr. Cunningham
- Catherine Neary
- Merele and Marjorie Myers
- Willard & Hallie Blair
- Lawrence & Florence Senger
- Larry & Laurie Senger
- Bonnie & Vivian Thornton
- Philip Roller
- Cory Creger
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- Ruth & Roy Sellers
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- Norma Jean & George Kavanaugh
- Evelyn Spero
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- Frances Brozovich
- Epifanio Gutierrez
- Giuseppe Leone
- Lucia Leone
- Peter Hien Do
- Thomas Minh Nguyen
- Matha Xuyen Nguyen
- Anton Nghiem Nguyen

Sponsored in Family Names:

- Theresa Nhpum & Greg
- Pat & Diane VanAcker
- The Doyle & Adams Families
- The Mosley Family
- The Billy Lind Family
- Jeff & Nina Zeglin
- Oanh Nguyen
- In honor of Anna
Oanh Nguyen

ADDITIONAL SACRED HEART PARISH NEWS

Confessions Schedule Update and a New Opportunity for Adoration at Sacred Heart: Beginning on January 6, Sacred Heart will offer Adoration and Confession from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Friday! Fridays are also special to the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, so we're really excited about this change. The First Fridays Devotion, also called the Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is a devotion that originated in the apparitions of Christ to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century. Maybe your New Year's resolution could be joining us now on Fridays?! We are also adjusting our Sunday Confession schedule to 8:30-8:50 a.m. We hope you take every opportunity to not only come and spend time with the Lord, but to also be healed with the Sacrament of Confession.

Join us for our next Sacred Heart Dinner on Wednesday, January 11! As you know, we recently established our "Sacred Heart Dinners" as a way to build community here at Sacred Heart and to secondarily, to raise a little money for various ministries and needs around the parish. Our dinner in November helped raise funds for our Christmas Gift & Food Basket Ministry. Our next dinner is coming up on Wednesday, January 11 and we hope you'll join us. A sign-up sheet is located in the Fr. Anthony Vestibule. You may also sign-up online at www.sacredheartri.com/dinner. Dinner is at QC Pancake House, 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL (across from Circa 21). A special menu is being prepared by owner and Chef Jose Zepeda and we'll have the restaurant to ourselves. The dinner will be from 6-8 pm. The cost will be announced soon. You may pay when you arrive. Please join us - all you have to do is show up and eat some wonderful food while also getting to know your Sacred Heart family a little better. Invite anybody you'd like!

Condolences to all who knew Sister Joan Opatts, BVM, known as Sister John Annette when she taught at St. Joseph's in Rock Island. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

125th Anniversary Request: Kindly requesting names of early Sacred Heart members. If anyone or any name is remembered, please it to: maryarnould@hotmail.com. Pictures are also welcomed! Thank you!

Pray the Rosary at funerals/visitations: Would you like to support others' during their time of loss? Please use the sign up sheet in the Fr. Anthony vestibule and someone will contact you when there is a need.



Thank You

to everyone who sponsored a Christmas Poinsettia at St. Mary's this year!

In Memory of:

- Marge Attwood
- Bergan Family
- Robert Berhensmeyer
- Ray and Betty Beswick
- Susan Breuwet
- Carolyn A. Brown
- Joan Brown
- John Brown
- Joseph Mary Dasso
- Our Parents, from Pete and Lorrie Dasso
- Carrie Lucile Davis
- Clyde and Roberta Davis
- Betty DeGrande
- Ethan Dobereiner
- William Flynn
- William Goebel
- Tom Hinzman
- Deceased of Hougland Family
- Walter and Emily Janik
- Therese Lootens
- McKinney Family
- Deceased of McNamara Family
- Anthony and Rose Norbut
- Fred Orth
- Matthew and Irene Orth
- Palmisano Family
- Posateri Family
- Clarence and Elizabeth Redecker
- Gomer R. Royal
- Fr. George Schroeder
- Valiquette Family
- Joe and Martha Van Hecke
- Alfons and Anna Van Mieghem
- Joe Versluis
- Visitation Sisters

