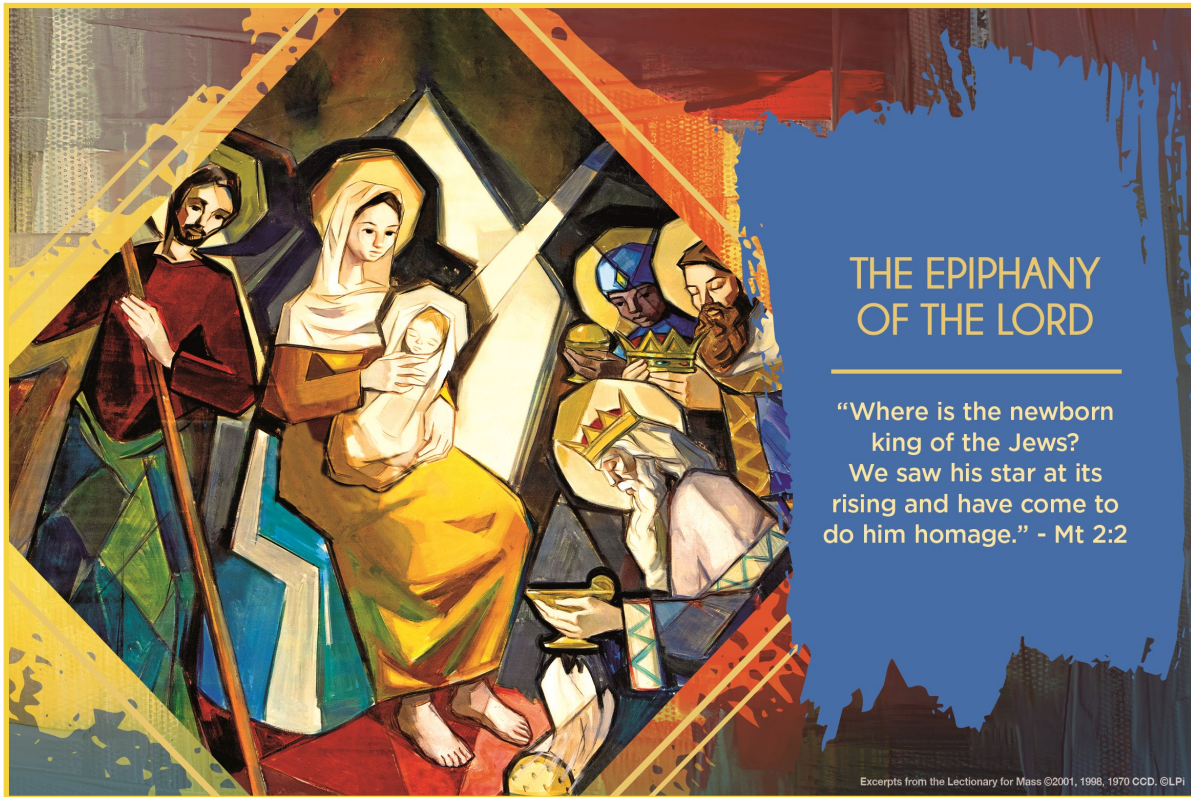




SACRED HEART CHURCH



2224 Avenue J, Sterling, IL ♦ www.sacredheartparish.net ♦ Tel. 815-625-1134 ♦ Emergency 815-625-0631



♦ LITURGY SCHEDULE ♦

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday-Wednesday & Friday: 7:00 AM
Thursday Communion Service: 7:00 AM
Saturday: 8:30 AM

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Tuesday: 7:30 AM
Friday: during Adoration
Saturday: 9:00 AM & 4:30 PM

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday anticipatory: 5:30 PM
(with livestream on YouTube)
Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

ADORATION

Friday: following 7:00 AM Mass until 8:30 AM

Mission Statement

We are a Eucharistic Community which recognizes and values
the dignity of each person by responding to the Gospel.
We are called to
Pray, Teach and Serve.

Pray

Mass Intentions

Mon. 1/05 7:00 AM † Betty Hall

Tues. 1/06 7:00 AM † Sue Hondley

Wed. 1/07 7:00 AM † Betty & John Murphy

Thurs. 1/08 7:00 AM Communion Service

Fri. 1/09 7:00 AM † Esther Mullen

Sat. 1/10 8:30 AM † Kathy Heffelfinger

5:30 PM † Frances Clark

Sun. 1/11 8:30 AM † Kathy Heffelfinger

10:00 AM Sacred Heart Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of Ben Melendrez

Sacred Heart Announcement:

If you are 18 or older living at home, you must register separately as an adult. The only exceptions are if you are still a dependent or currently attending school. Thank you for your cooperation.

We are Seeking Donations of Christmas Trees and White String Lights

If you would like to contribute, we are specifically looking for trees, preferably pre-lit white with white lights, 6-7 ft tall, new or in good condition.

Please call ahead to make arrangements.

Let Amber or the parish office know, if you would like to donate.

Thank you!



Sacred Heart Church Announcement Important update - CGH Communion

CGH will no longer be able to contact Churches for Communion, due to their new communication system. If you would like to request Holy Communion for a Sacred Heart parishioner or a loved one please contact the parish office directly.

Monday-Thursday, before 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Parish office #: 815-625-1134

Emergency only : 815-625-0631

Schedule of Liturgical Ministers



Saturday, Jan. 10th & Sunday Jan. 11th

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:30 PM Deacon Kevin, Dawn Harrielle, Mary Nelson

8:30 AM Melissa Reyes, Marvin Reyes, Tom Ausman

10:00 AM Paula Passini, Christy Vincent, Bobbie Hannan

Lectors:

5:30 PM Peg Hoffmiller, Dawn Harrielle

8:30 AM Tom Ausman, Ryan Reyes

10:00 AM Bobbie Hannan, Jeanie Sullivan

Servers:

5:30 PM Cora McDaniels

8:30 AM Lauren & Nora Gruber

10:00 AM Elliot Wahl & Nolan Hutchison

Ushers:

5:30 PM Tim Nelson, Mary Nelson

8:30 AM Jeff Gould, Brenda Gould

10:00 AM Jeff Vincent, Cristy Vincent

Cantors:

5:30 PM Barb Westra

8:30 AM Kathy Schmidt

10:00 AM Kristie Geil

We are looking for more vocalists and ushers at all the Masses . Contact Amber Allen or call the parish office if you are interested.

Liturgical Ministers & Music Schedule changes, updates, corrections will be updated via Flocknote.

The Epiphany Chalk House Blessing

The weekend of **January 3rd - 4th** we put out chalk that has been blessed for you to ask God's blessing on your home and those who live in or visit your home. Below are the instructions for blessing your home. Chalk will still be available in the parish office after the weekend.

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door, the brick above your door, or front porch step as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 25 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty five years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, Christus mansionem benedictat, "May Christ bless the house."

What is the DS APPEAL?

It runs every year and starts in May and ends in April the following year. EVERY parish in the diocese is given an amount the parishioners are asked to contribute to fund the works of the Bishop Malloy's office. These funds are used to Care for the poor and vulnerable through the Catholic Charities, Life Office and St. Elizabeth Community Center. Forming and supporting Clergy through Vicar for Clergy Office, Permanent Diaconate Program, Vocations Office, Priest Health Care & Pensions. The biggest portion of your dollars (62%) for Proclaiming the Gospel and passing on the faith through Youth Ministry Office, Campus Ministry Office, Catholic Education Office, Adult Faith Formation, Hispanic Ministry and Regional Ministries, Divine Worship Office, Bishop Lane retreat Center, Diocesan Administrative Services. Since the Bishop does not have a Parish each Diocesan Parish shares in these costs. If we do not get enough pledges/payments to cover our Assessment, then the Parish covers the balance each year. Currently we are about **\$8,055.54 short** which is a parish liability. The money gets spent by Bishop Malloy's office, and not contributing only puts a strain on the parish. Please prayerfully consider if you can contribute. Note, if we go over target it comes back to the parish. If pledges fall short of payments it also becomes a bill.

Tax Time...Already?

In order to streamline donation reporting, donation letters will be available in the office or emailed by request.

All 2025 donations must be posted marked on or before December 31st, 2025.

If you haven't financially supported your parish yet this year, now is great time to help the parish continue to do God's work through the sacraments, ministries, religious education and much more! We hope to have statements available no later than January 31st, 2026. Please remember if you received a separate letter those donations will not be included, on you tax statement.

Please note records for All Diocesan Appeals are sent directly to you from the Diocese and will not be included on your parish statements.

Please contact Joan Cooney at 815-625-1143 or email her at jcooney@rockforddiocese.org. Thank you for your faithful support!

Diocesan End of Year Tax Letters

End of the year tax donation letters for donations to Diocesan appeals will be sent to you directly from the Diocese of Rockford. This includes the Diocesan Appeal, National Appeal, Int'l Appeal, and Mission Appeal.

2026 Mass Intentions

December 2026 is now available for scheduling Mass intentions. If you would like to schedule an intention, you can either stop in the parish office or call The suggested donation is \$10.

We have January 2026, 7:00 AM weekday and Saturday 8:30AM, Mass Intentions available.

Weekly Collection December 27th & 28th

Numbers unavailable

Diocesan Appeal Goal: **\$ 33,327.00**

Pledged : **\$ 25,271.46** **Shortfall: \$8055.54**

Please consider giving to the Diocesan Appeal we are over \$8,055.54 short.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Go to **www.sacredheartparish.net** and click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy. Thank you.

Parish Office

Hours.....Monday-Thursday: 7:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Hours.....Closed on Friday's

Phone 815-625-1134

Fax.....815-625-1138

Rectory, Emergency Only815-625-0631

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Thomas J. Doyle.....ext. 3

Permanent Deacon

Kevin Nestor.....815-499-8002

Email.....sheartdeacon@gmail.com

Business Manager

Joan Cooney.....ext. 2

Email.....JCooney@rockforddiocese.org

Executive Assistant

Sandy Krueger.....ext. 0

Email.....sheartoffice@gmail.com

Director of Music and Liturgy

Amber Allen.....ext. 4

Emailsheartmusicliturgy@gmail.com

Coordinator of Religious Education

Melinda Hutchison.....ext. 5

Email.....sheartreligioused@gmail.com

Coordinator of RCIA

Gonzalo Reyes

Email.....sheartRCIA@gmail.com

Prayer Chain for Special Intentions

Call.....815-625-1134

Email.....sheartoffice@gmail.com

Baptism

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for baptism's at least 2 months in advance.

You can find additional information online **sacredheartparish.net** under sacraments.

Matrimony

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for marriage at least 6 months to 1 year in advance.



**Happy Birthday from
Father Doyle &
The Sacred Heart Staff !**

January 5th

Kay Turk

January 6th

Victoria
Castaneda
Jax Hutchison
Anna Larson

January 7th

Gary Bauer

Jake Scroggings
Vicki Van Natta

January 8th

Pauline Marquez
Michael Sunday

January 9th

Michelle Boesen
Lisa Cambell
Eugene McBride
Chris Scott

Jodi Stalsworth

January 11th

Trevarn Burn
James Fane
Addison Foster
Sue Nester
Amy Mandrell
James Preston

Military Prayer List

Lucas Anguish
Ryan Arndt
Connor Brown
Dominic Burke
Jacob Burke
John M. Clark
Colin Messer
Brady Moran
Justin Morgan
Zac Muntean
Ethan Nash
Devon Parker
Zach Passini
Madison Rauenbuehler
Ryan Rauenbuehler
Joshua Sweeney
Eric Thom
Andrew Valentino
Lucas Velasquez
Gary Velasquez, Jr.

*Heavenly Father hold our
troops
In your loving hands.
May they be guided, protected
and strengthened at home and
abroad. Protect them as they
protect us. May every man,
woman and child
appreciate the privilege of
loving and
living on American soil. Bless
them and their families.
Amen*



The National Appeal Reflects the varied ways we seek to communicate Christ's message. You can help to promote the Gospel through your support of these worthy causes.

**Retirement Fund for Religious
Catholic Communication Campaign
Catholic University of America
Rockford Diocesan Priests' Pension
Catholic School Support for the Diocese of Rockford**

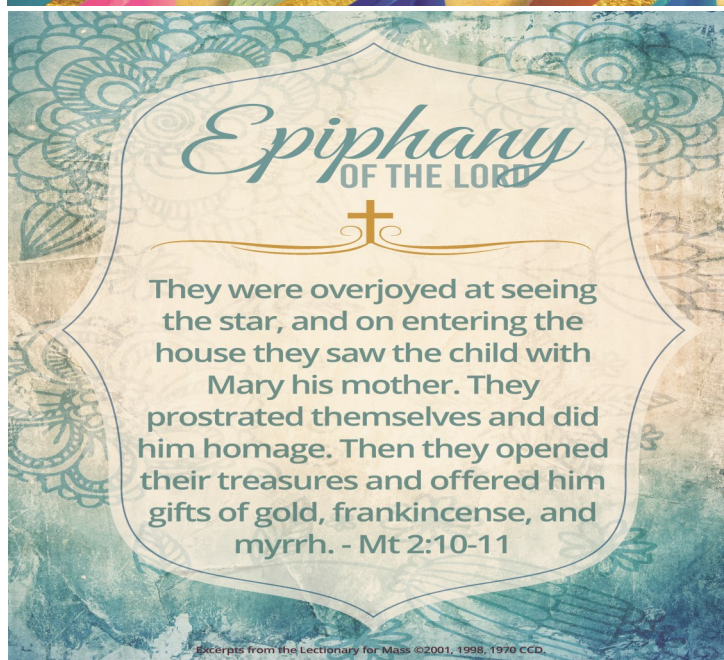
Look for your contribution envelope in the mail or at your parish. Please bring the National Appeal envelope to Mass, or donate online at rockforddiocese.org/donate.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

January 4th

“Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary”



Sacred Heart Annual Raffle Winners

Sacred Heart raffle tickets can be purchased now in the parish office during office hours and are \$50 each.

**Winner for 12/22/25
Young Song**



Catholic television shows on EWTN

Participate in praying a Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet. EWTN also offers daily Mass and Adoration. Great Movies, talk shows, etc. **Comcast Channel 275, Direct TV Channel 370, Dish Network Channel 261.**

GOT TALENT?
ST. MARY'S
TALENT SHOW
WANTS YOU!

Sponsored by Student Council

OPEN TO ALL

MUSICIANS, SINGERS, DANCERS, SPECIAL TALENTS, ACTORS, COMEDIANS, MAGICIANS, ETC.

PERFORM DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AT THE END OF JANUARY

SIGN UP WITH MRS. MASON BY JANUARY 10TH.

ACTS SHOULD BE LESS THAN 5 MINUTES.



Everyone has a purpose.
Help your child find theirs at Newman.

SHADOW DAYS

7-8th graders "shadow" a day in the life at Newman with a Newman Student. Students attend classes, participate in the House Program, and meet teachers.

Tuesday, March 3rd - All Day

TOUR AVAILABILITY

45 minute family tours for grades 5-8. Meet teachers, explore Newman, and learn about the valuable programs available to students.

Saturday, December 13th 10:00- 12:00

Wednesday, January 14th 3:30 - 5:30



WHY CHOOSE NEWMAN?



EVERY LIFE COUNTS: FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PRESENTED BY RECLAIM13

Sunday, Jan. 11th
2pm

St. Patrick Church
3500 Washington
McHenry, IL

Reclaim13 is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the cycle of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Their work focuses on prevention, protection, and restoration, empowering communities to recognize and respond to the signs of exploitation. In their upcoming presentation, Reclaim13 will provide preventative education aimed at raising awareness and equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to help stop trafficking before it begins.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

(SAD) (taken from NIH) is a type of depression characterized by a recurrent seasonal pattern, with symptoms lasting about 4-5 months out of the year.

LIGHT your way!

- L- Limit social media
- I- Instill boundaries
- G- Gather with loved ones
- H- Healthy meals, hydrate, exercise
- T- Time in nature (soak up sunshine)

Need HELP now call or text: 988 (SAMHSA)

Brought to you by Catholic Charities Mental Health Ministry

Putting Things Right



BELLARMINE
 Jesuit Retreat House

January 9-11, 2026

Ignatian, Silent
Weekend Retreat for Men

"All creation groans, longing for restoration" (Romans 8:22). In this retreat, we seek the God of justice, who makes all things new. Drawing on the wisdom of N.T. Wright, we will explore how God is ever at work, reconciling the world to Himself—restoring justice, healing brokenness, and calling us into right relationship with Him and one another.



Retreat Leader: Fr. Keith Muccino, SJ
 Associate Director of Pre-Health Professions
 Advising at the College of the Holy Cross; Course
 Director at UMASS Medical School.

To register for this retreat, scan the QR Code
 or visit jesuitretreat.org/retreats



847-381-1261 • JesuitRetreat.org • Barrington, IL

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!



- ♦ Give the gift of time to each other this year!
 - ♦ On the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, learn to prioritize the important things.
 - ♦ Make 2026 the best year of your marriage by signing up today for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on February 13-15 in Geneva, IL, April 10-12 at St. Mary's in Lemont or May 16-17 in Chicago.
- For more info go to: wwme.org or call (888) 574-5653



- ♦ Early registration is highly recommended.

St. Anne Parish in Dixon

Is seeking a part-time secretary (25-29 hours per week) to assist with parish office and administrative duties.

at tdraper@rockforddiocese.org or call
815-288-3131, ext. 103.