

From the Diocese . . .

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends: Up-coming *Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends* in 2016 are: **February 12-14, April 8-10, and June 10-12** at **Elk Grove Village, IL**. Early registration is highly recommended. For reservations/information, contact **Jim & Kris at 630-577-0778** or at <http://wwme-chicagoland.org>.

Joyful Again! (A Widowed Ministry): The next *Joyful Again Widowed Retreats/Workshops* in 2016 will be: **January 16/17 and March 5/6**, at **Our Lady of the Angels House of Prayer in Lemont**. Contact them at **708-354-7211** or email joyfulagain7211@gmail.com. Visit their website at www.joyfulagain.org. Space is limited so please register early.

Assumption Eucharistic Adoration Church

Two candles burn perpetually around the Blessed Sacrament in Assumption Eucharistic Adoration Church. The burning candles serve as a constant prayer before the Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament. A binder is in the narthex for you to have your intentions remembered.

Pope John Paul II said that all the evils of the world could be eliminated through the great power of Eucharistic Adoration! With the world needing so much prayer at this time, please consider an hour with the Blessed Sacrament at Assumption BVM Parish in Ashkum. For information on how to participate, please call Renee Behrends at 815-383-5508 or Arlene Lanoue at 815-428-7491.

In Christ,
Fr. Raed Bader

Morning Offering Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparations of sins and the reunion of all Christians. *Amen.*

Please pray for our Service Members . . .

- Sr. Airman Thomas Westrick, son of Steve & Sharon Westrick
- AFC Andrew Kelnhofer, son of Michelle Hastings
- Hm3 Richard Kelnhofer, son of Michelle Hastings
- Sgt. Erik Shepherd, son-in-law of Michelle Hastings
- Sgt. Allison Shepherd, daughter of Michelle Hastings
- Lance Corporal Samuel Gross, grandson of Linda Hunt
- Sr. Airman Rorie Sorensen, granddaughter of Mary Sorensen

Please pray for . . .

- Francis Melson
- The victims of the recent senseless shootings and for their families
- For all those doing "good" in the world.

The Gospel today is very clear! Everyone is asking John the Baptist: "What should we do?" [See Luke 3:10-18.] That is the perfect question as we wait for Jesus Christ to come the second time. Let us be found doing the *Corporal Works of Mercy*: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the prisoners, burying the dead and giving alms to the poor.

- Who needs my second coat or blanket or boots?
- Who needs a tithe of my food budget, of my time, of my conversation?
- Who needs to hear good news? How can I proclaim it by word and by deed?

Please remember in your prayers....

Vivian Lovelass, matriarch of the Lovelass Family, who was called home to our Lord.

and

Bob Tonner, husband of Phyllis and father of John (Lynara), who was called home to our Lord.

May God's peace be with them.

ST. EDMUND CHURCH

219 EAST LOCUST STREET
WATSEKA IL 60970

PASTOR: Reverend Michael Powell

Rectory: 815-432-3274 ~ Office Hours: 8 a.m.—12 p.m. M-F

Religious Education Office: 815-432-5569

Website: www.stedstjoe.org

MASSES:

M-W-TH-F

7:30 AM

SATURDAY

5:00 PM

SUNDAY

7:30 & 10:30 AM

CONFESSIONS: Saturday, 4:30-4:50 PM or by appointment

"Transforming the world in which we live by bringing the teachings of Jesus Christ to every living person."

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

(A mission of St. Edmund Church)

307 UNION STREET
CRESCENT CITY IL 60928

PASTOR: Reverend Michael Powell

MASS: SUNDAY 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

Mon.	11/14	7:30 AM	John Powell by M/M David Rogers
Tue.	11/15	NO MASS	
Wed.	11/16	7:30 AM	Christine Ryan by Penny Hardesty
Thur.	11/17	7:30 AM	Vivian Lovelass by Our Parish Family
Fri.	11/18	7:30 AM	Jim Butler by Knights of Columbus Council #4391
Sat.	11/19	5:00 PM	Ralph Buswell by His Family
Sun.	11/20	7:30 AM	Rodney Popham by His Family
		9:00 AM	Parish Families of St. Edmund's & St. Joseph's
		10:30 AM	Delores Gullquist by Her Family



Preparing to hear next Sunday's Gospel:
4th Sunday of Advent "C"
Luke 1:39-45
"Blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

- How can I, like Mary and Elizabeth, welcome Jesus into my life?
- John the Baptist, still unborn, leapt for joy before his Lord; how do I rejoice in receiving Christ into my life, especially during Mass?
- Do I believe that what was spoken to me by the Lord in the Scriptures will be fulfilled?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, even in the womb of Mary, your mother, you brought joy to Elizabeth and John the Baptist. Help me to welcome you when you come into my life and to share the love you bring to me with my family and friends. Amen!

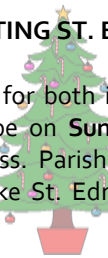
Weekly Parish Need for Operation:	\$ 3,200.00
Sunday Offering Dec. 5/6, 2015:	\$ 2,824.00
DEFICIT For the Week:	\$ (376.00)

Roof Fund Donations Dec. 5/6, 2015:	\$ 0.00
Total Roof Fund Donations:	\$ 152,189.00

Offering at St. Joseph's, Dec. 6, 2015	\$ 600.00

DECORATING ST. EDMUND'S

Church decorating, for both inside and outside at St. Edmund's will be on **Sunday, December 20th** following 10:30 Mass. Parishioners are invited to come and help make St. Edmund's ready for the Christmas season.



SECOND COLLECTION
This Weekend ~ December 12/13, 2015

This weekend's Second Collection is for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Your gift provides vital support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Thank you!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
Crescent City

Our 2016 Church Envelope Packets can be picked up in the back of the Church. Please take only those with your name on them. If you do not have envelopes and would like them, put your name on the sign-up sheet next to a number and take the corresponding number box of envelopes.

Thank you!

LAY MINISTERS Liturgical Appointments for Next Weekend

Dec. 19/20	5:00 PM	7:30 AM	10:30 AM
LECTOR	John Gooding	Amy Curry	Nancy Cowan
SERVERS	Justin McTaggart & Max Gooding	Wyatt Claire	Trenton & Sam Hemp
COMMUNION	Diana Wessels	Lynette Moyer	Anne Zumwalt
HOSPITALITY	Pat King Family Mary Sorensen	M/M Kevin Bohlmann Fam.	M/M Sam Stepp Laura Stepp

The **2016 Church Contribution Packets** are available in the Church basement. They are in alphabetical order. **Please write your name on the front of your envelopes the first few weeks of the new year.**

If you were new to St. Edmund's this past year and asked for (and used) envelopes or you signed up for a box last year, there should be a box with your name on it.

If you **DO NOT** see a box with your name on it and would like a box, please take a box **IN NUMERICAL ORDER** and write your name on the corresponding line on the envelope sign-up sheet on the table in the basement.

PLEASE:

- DO NOT** sign up for envelopes if there is already a box with your name on it.
- DO NOT** take someone else's envelopes.
- DO NOT** use envelopes from previous years once the new year starts.

If you **DO NOT** wish to receive envelopes in the future, please call the Rectory and let Colette know.

Thank you!

The lambs that you see in front of the altar were put there by our 2nd grade class after receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last Wednesday, December 9th. They represent good deeds and acts of forgiveness. Congratulations to these young people and their families!



Prayer Intention of the Holy Father

Universal: Experiencing God's Mercy
 That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Our Christmas and New Year's Mass schedule is as follows:

Thursday	December 24	4:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Friday	December 25	9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Thursday	December 31	5:00 p.m.
Friday	January 1, 2016	10:30 a.m.

On **Wednesday, December 16th**, **Individual Confessions** will be heard from **11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.** There will also be a **Penance Service** that evening at **7 p.m.**