

# Pastor's Letter

Nov. 30, 2025—1st Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

"For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." Romans 13:11

One of the blessings of being a Christian is knowing that history is going somewhere. Many people today suffer from a lack of meaning in their lives. They think that human beings are just a product of random chance, an accidental collision of chemicals that evolved over billions of years resulting in you and me. The universe has no purpose or goal or direction. It's pretty hard to have hope for the future when you don't believe there is any point to your existence.

The Christian faith teaches that our lives do have a point. We are here for a reason: to love and serve God and enjoy life in his presence forever. Every day is an opportunity to grow in love and move closer to the fulfillment of that purpose. The story of the universe is a love story. It begins with our creation in the outpouring of God's love. It develops as God invites us to return his love and expand the circle of his love by sharing it with others. It comes to completion at the end of time when all things will be made new and love will triumph over all, even death.

But, as Shakespeare said, the course of true love never did run smooth. There is drama in this love story because this is a real love story, and we have a say in how it all turns out. Will we accept God's love? Will we embrace the purpose for which we were made? Or will we part ways with our Creator and leave behind the source of meaning for our lives?

Last Sunday we read in St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, "(Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Col. 1:15-17) Everything comes from him and everything is moving back to him. Love is our origin and love is our endpoint. May love be the driving force that gives meaning to our lives and brings us home.

Blessings,

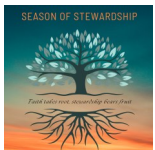
Fr. Scott

P.S. As we begin a new year of grace, we are blessed to welcome a new member of our tri-parish staff. Mitchell Brecht has joined us as our new Pastoral Associate for Formation. We look forward to getting to know him and we are grateful for the gifts and talents he brings to our church family.

## Dec 8—Immaculate Conception Mass

8:00 am Mass @ St. Edward

6:30 pm Mass @ St. Brigid



Don't Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card! We're still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven't turned in your Commitment Card, it is NOT too late. Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of our parishes. Please take this opportunity to discern how God is calling you to grow closer to Him this year.



*Catholic Heart Work Camp*

### **Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser**

ORDERS CAN BE PLACED BY ANY CHWC CAMPER  
OR JEANNE CRAMSEY @ 217-653-3962.

ORDER SHEETS WILL ALSO BE AT EACH CHURCH.

All orders must be placed by

Friday, Dec. 12

Cost is \$20 per dozen

Rolls can be picked up

Dec. 20, after the 4:30 pm mass at St. Brigid

Dec. 21, after 9 am mass at St. Joseph

Or they will be delivered between Dec. 22-24

## **Calendar**

### **Saturday, November 29**

3:45 p.m.—4:15 pm Reconciliation @ St. Brigid

4:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

### **Sunday, November 30**

7:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

9:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph

10:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

### **Monday, December 1**

6:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

### **Tuesday, December 2**

7:15 a.m.—7:45 am Reconciliation @ St. Edward

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

### **Wednesday, December 3**

7:15 a.m.—7:45 am Reconciliation @ St. Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph

6:30 p.m. PSR *Practice* for St. Brigid Christmas Program

### **Thursday, December 4**

6:30 p.m. Holy Name Meeting @ St. Joseph

### **Friday, December 5—Frist Friday**

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

### **Saturday, December 6**

3:45 p.m.—4:15 pm Reconciliation @ St. Brigid

4:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

### **Sunday, December 7**

7:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

9:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph

10:00 a.m. St. Joseph Christmas Program follows Mass

St. Joseph Donut Social follows Christmas Program

9:15 a.m.—10:15 am PSR @ St. Edward

10:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

### **Monday, December 8**

6:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

### **Tuesday, December 9**

7:15 a.m.—7:45 am Reconciliation @ St. Edward

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

### **Wednesday, December 10**

7:15 a.m.—7:45 am Reconciliation @ St. Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph

2:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. PSR @ St. Edward

6:00 p.m. St. Brigid PSR Christmas Program, meal to follow

### **Thursday, December 11**

5:30 p.m. Altar Society Christmas Party @ St. Joseph

### **Friday, December 12**

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

## **Mass Intentions**

### **SAT. NOVEMBER 29**

4:30 p.m.—St. Brigid: +Trina Logan

+Jeffrey Graham

+George Barry

### **SUN. NOVEMBER 30**

7:30 a.m.—St. Brigid: +Bernice Mowen

9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph: +Lenny Venvertloh

+Jason Ohnemus

+Patty Lieurance

+Leroy & Virginia Brinkman

10:30 a.m.—St. Edward: *For the People of Our Parishes*

### **MON. DECEMBER 1**

6:30 p.m.—St. Brigid: +Mary Jo Obert

+Jim & Mary Powell

### **TUES. DECEMBER 2**

8:00 a.m.—St. Edward: +Karen Shaffer

+Edward Blickhan

### **WED. DECEMBER 3**

8:00 a.m.—St. Joseph: +Fon Fessler

+Katie, Don, Bob & Rosie Hugenberg

### **FRI. DECEMBER 5—Frist Friday**

8:00 a.m.—St. Edward: +John Blickhan

+Ronnie Duesterhaus

### **SAT. DECEMBER 6**

4:30 p.m.—St. Brigid: *For the People of Our Parishes*

### **SUN. DECEMBER 7**

7:30 a.m.—St. Brigid: +Leonard & Loretta Klauser

+Rose Mary Howell

+Alan Hildebrand

+Deceased members of Henry Schwartz family

9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph: +Jeanette Knapp

+Dale & Rose Mary Zanger & Deceased family

10:30 a.m.—St. Edward: +Doris Cornwell

+John, Andrew & Valerie Frese

+Howard Niekamp

+Vern Shaffer

## **QCES Mass Attendance Cards**

Mass attendance cards are available at the back of church.

## **Parish Collection: Nov. 23**

St. Brigid \$ 3,924.00

St. Edward \$ 2,380.00

St. Joseph \$ 1,916.25

***Thank you for your generous support!***

***All Collections included in total this week***

## **Bulletin Deadline**

All information must be submitted by noon on Tuesday. Submit to: [church@stsbej.org](mailto:church@stsbej.org)

# Ministry Schedules

ST. BRIGID CHURCH						
December 6 & 7	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Usher	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
<b>SATURDAY 4:30 P.M.</b>	Ashley Schutte Kelsey Schutte	Kristin Obert Stacy Clark Robin Mowen	Randy Maas Laura Maas Dave Obert	Rich Cramsey	Randy & Laura Maas	Theresa Neisen
<b>SUNDAY 7:30 A.M.</b>	Dylan Hocking Mason Hocking	Vickie Cramsey Nancy Obert	Mike Hummel Kyle Leonard Justin Mewes	Mark Heidbreder	Mark & Carol Heidbreder	Rick & Kris Barry

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH						
December 7	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Usher	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
<b>SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.</b>	Isabella Neisen Piper Steffen Warren Drebes	Barb Frese Jolinn Tripp Brenda Siebers	Mark Bockhold Andrew Rangel	Dan Frese		Bockhold/Rangel Families

ST. EDWARD CHURCH						
December 7	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Rosary	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
<b>SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.</b>	Alivia Feld Allie Felde Lincoln Hoffman	Breanne Kelly Margie Kendrick Donna Voss	Margie Kendrick	Julie Logan	Tyler Wellman Family	Joe Hoening Family
<b>* Please continue passing the basket for collection.</b>						

## Please Remember to Pray For:

Daran Knuffman	Monica Mast	Connie Dietrich
Zoey Obert	Elizabeth Leonard	Virginia Berhorst
Julia Winfield	Ben Venvertloh	Corey Sheurman
Haddlei Burnett	Ripken Rangel	Lisa Bohan
Jim Steinkamp	Tony Peters	Rinley Barry
Kayle Sheely	Joy Huebotter	Bill Hilgenbrinck
John Kroner	Raleigh Bess	Lily Jean Roberts
Marvin Meyer	Karen Woodworth	Sandra White
Carl Schisler	Doug Woodworth	Dorothy Mayfield
Rachel Cramsey	Ryan Wiemelt	Phil Freiburg
Denny Meyer	Bernice Dittmer	Jim Brinkman
Rosie Miller	Joann Walton	Bennett Duesterhaus
Joe Rice	Kent Hilgenbrinck	Bill Ervin
Linda Windoffer	Jim Wilson	Sophie Shriver

Please contact us if we need to remove your name from our prayer list.

## Stewardship Reflection

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.



**Big news!** The 50/50 raffle has a total of \$3480 this week. Some lucky person will win \$1740 on Dec 7! Just two more weeks to build the pot even bigger.

There's still time to buy a ticket. You

can contact any camper, Jeanne Cramsey (217-653-3962)

Drawing is at St Joseph Donut Day, Dec 7.

## Where does CHWC stand?

We started out needing \$17,785

We deposited \$2850 in September

Received \$4750 from the Tracy Family Grant

Received a \$500 donation from a generous parishioner

Earned \$344 from our Childcare Night

Last week we received \$177 in donations

Earned \$1675 from the online auction

So now we just need \$7500. We're over 1/2 way

there! Cinnamon Roll order forms are in each church

or you can call any camper. Thank you for your continued support!

## St Joseph's Altar Society Christmas Party

"Our Cup is Full" - December 11th @ 5:30

Come join us for a night of food, fun and friends.

Bring: a covered dish, a wrapped white elephant gift and a guest.

RSVP at the sign up sheets located at both entrances of church.

## St. Edward Church Decorating

Please join us Sunday, Dec. 21 after the 10:30 am Mass to decorate our church for coming of Christmas. All are welcome!



Please join us after Mass  
Sunday, December 7, 2025

for our Donut Social in the Church Hall.  
Come visit with other parishioners  
and enjoy a donut!

~ St. Joseph  
Altar Society

## Cookie Baking at S. Joseph Church

The ladies at Saint Joseph will once again be baking cookies on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd following the 8 o'clock mass. Please mark your calendar and join us for this fun and tasty event!

## ST. JOSEPH'S PSR CHRISTMAS Program!

Please join us on Sunday, December 7th after 9AM Mass for our St. Joseph PSR Christmas Program. To honor Jesus' birthday, please bring an unwrapped baby gift (diapers, wipes, etc.) or a monetary donation that will be donated to Birthright in need in honor of our Blessed Savior!

After the program, we will enjoy a meal together donated by the Altar Society!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

## St. Brigid's Nativity Play

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM (Please have PSR students at church at 5:40 to have time to get into costumes). The play will be in St. Brigid's Church, meal directly to follow in the hall!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please bring a salad or dessert to share!

FREE-WILL donation to help with main dish!

## St. Peter Job Opening - Director of Liturgy and Music

St. Peter's Church is looking for a Full Time or Part time - Director of Liturgy and Music. This person will oversee all aspects of the parish's liturgical life.

Qualifications requested are a professional who holds specialized credentials in music and has a thorough understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy, serves the parish as principal musician, organist/pianist, and choir director. This person of faith is responsible for the technology in the church and effective planning, coordination, and execution of both the rituals and music for the parish liturgies. Salary ranges from \$20,000 to \$40,000. Please send resume along with 2 references to St. Peter Parish Office, 2600 Maine Street, Quincy IL, 62301 or email [k.smith@cospq.org](mailto:k.smith@cospq.org).

## Online Giving

Below are the links:

<https://pushpay.com/g/stbrigidliberty>

<https://pushpay.com/g/stedwardmendon>

<https://pushpay.com/g/stjosephquincy>

It will walk you through setting up your giving account.





## Project Rachel

Help for women and men to heal from the pain of abortion. For assistance call 1-877-RACHEL-5.

## St. Anthony Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

The Pancake & Sausage Breakfast sponsored by the St. Anthony Men's Society will be Sunday, Dec. 14th, 7 a.m.-noon. Adults \$14, Children \$7 (under 5 free). Dine in or carry out.

Advance meat orders:

Link & Bulk Sausage, Ribs and Chops 5 lbs—\$25

Cooked links (Precooked weight) 5lbs-\$30

Call orders to 217-257-2108.

Orders will be taken from November 1st-December 1st or until 2000 lbs. are sold!



SPEAKER  
PATTY SCHNEIER

# SAVE THE DATE

## December 7, 8, & 9<sup>TH</sup>

*Blessed Sacrament*  
**PARISH MISSION**  
"SEE THE BEAUTY, DISCOVER THE JOY"

COME JOIN US

BLESSED SACRAMENT | ALL ARE WELCOME | FREE ADMISSION



## ST FRANCIS HOLIDAY BAZAAR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2025  
1721 COLLEGE QUINCY, IL  
9 AM - 2 PM

FREE ADMISSION  
VENDORS, RAFFLES, FOOD AND MORE

## ST. PETER ADVENT MISSION

### THEY THAT HOPE

AN ADVENT MISSION FOR THE END OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

JOIN US STARTING AT 6 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1 & 2



Join us in the church each evening at 6:00 p.m. for the Advent Parish Mission hosted by Sister Clementia. Call 217.222.3155 for more information.

Sister M. Clementia Toalson, FSGM

Parish Liaison for Restored Order & Coordinator for Diocesan Celebrations  
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

*They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings;  
They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint. ~Isaiah 40:31 NAB*

## QUEST

Quest is a fast-paced 24-hour Christian experience for 13 to 15 year olds. It is a time to come together to find out about God, friendships, and self in a fun-filled, exciting, amusing, thoughtful, and carefree surrounding. A time to meet new people while praying, playing, singing, and sharing with them. Quest gives you the chance to search for the real you.

Quest is held at the Franciscan Retreat Center of Quincy University and lasts from 6:00pm Friday to 5:30pm Saturday. There is a fee for this retreat, but St. Brigid, St. Edward, and St. Joseph have funds available to cover this cost! Please contact the office at 217-645-3444 if you are wanting to go on a weekend, and our awesome churches will pay for you to go!

**The next retreat weekend:**

- December 12-13
- January 30-31, 2026

## TEC (Teens Encounter Christ!)

In the three-day weekend of TEC, you can experience being part of a vibrant, loving, and supportive faith community in which the friendship of Jesus Christ becomes a real possibility that makes sense. For more information go to [greatrivertec.org](http://greatrivertec.org)

TEC weekends are held at the Franciscan Retreat Center of Quincy University, 18th & Seminary Road, Quincy, IL 62301. The weekend begins Saturday morning at 9:30am and ends Monday evening 6:00-6:30pm. Candidates ages 16-21 --there is a fee for this retreat, but St. Brigid, St. Edward, and St. Joseph have funds available to cover this cost! Please contact the office at 217-645-3444 if you are wanting to go on a weekend, and our awesome churches will pay for you to go!

**Other TEC Dates for 2025: January 17-19, 2026**



# ST. BRIGID – ST. EDWARD – ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)



## DATES TO KNOW

- Dec. 3—St. Brigid **Practice** for Program
- Dec. 7—St. Joseph **Practice** for Christmas Program
- Dec. 10—St. Brigid Christmas Program @ 6:30 pm
- Dec. 14—Joseph—Christmas Program after Mass
- Dec. 17—St. Edward (K– 4TH) Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 21—NO PSR— St. Edward  
St. Edward Children's Christmas Mass @ 10:30
- Dec. 24—NO PSR—Edward & Brigid
- Dec. 28—NO PSR—Edward & Joseph
- Dec. 31—NO PSR—Edward & Joseph

<b>November 30</b> ...the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light... Romans 13:12  Pick a good habit to work on for Advent!	<b>December 1</b> I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1  What can you do to make your house ready for Jesus?	<b>2</b> A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse... Isaiah 11:1 Thank God for your parents! 	<b>3</b> The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces. Isaiah 25:8  Who can you cheer up today?	<b>4</b> Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock. Isaiah 26:4 Pray: Jesus, I trust in You! 	<b>5</b> Out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. Isaiah 29:18 Draw a Christmas picture for someone! 	<b>6</b> <b>Feast of Saint Nicholas</b>  "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving..." St. Nicholas of Myra
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## SAINT ANDREW NOVEMBER 30

SAINT ANDREW LIVED AT THE SAME TIME AS JESUS. HE WAS A BROTHER OF PETER, AND THEY BOTH WERE FISHERMEN.



Can you help me haul this net up?

AT FIRST ANDREW WAS A DISCIPLE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, BUT THEN HE FOUND JESUS AND FOLLOWED HIM.



Behold the Lamb of God!

JESUS CHOSE ANDREW AS ONE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES.



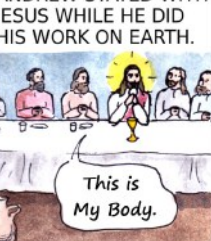
Andrew, come! Follow Me.

ANDREW WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE BOY WITH THE LOAVES AND FISH.



What?! I thought you only had five loaves!

ANDREW STAYED WITH JESUS WHILE HE DID HIS WORK ON EARTH.



This is My Body.

AFTER THE ASCENSION AND PENTECOST, ST. ANDREW WENT OUT TO PREACH THE FAITH.



Can you come and preach in my town?

ANDREW WAS MARTYRED BY CRUCIFIXION. HE WAS TIED TO A CROSS IN THE SHAPE OF AN X. HE PREACHED FROM IT FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE HE DIED.



God gave us the Church to bring us closer to Himself.

WE DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT THE LIFE OF ST. ANDREW EXCEPT THAT HE WAS A FAITHFUL APOSTLE OF JESUS AND ONE OF THE FIRST MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH. HE BEGAN AS A POOR FISHERMAN. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS STORY THAT JESUS CALLS US ALL TO BE SAINTS, NO MATTER WHERE WE'RE FROM.

## It's Time to get Ready for Christmas!

Advent is here! In a few weeks it will be Christmas, so it's time to start getting ready!



During Advent we remember Jesus' first coming, and get ourselves and our homes ready to celebrate His birthday. Lighting the candles on an Advent wreath helps us to remember that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. We start with one candle, and every week light one more, so that the closer we get to Jesus' coming the brighter it gets.



In Advent we also think about Jesus' second coming. In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the people to be prepared for that time. We must never let ourselves forget that this world and this life are only temporary and that we have something much greater to look forward to: Jesus and Heaven!

