

# 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

404 W. Jourdan, Tel: 618-783-8741  
Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-8742  
E-mail: [stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com](mailto:stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com)  
Website: [www.stthomasnewton.net](http://www.stthomasnewton.net)  
Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326

### St. Thomas School Office:

306 W. Jourdan, PO Box 26 Tel: 618-783-3517  
Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-2224  
E-Mail: [jillbierman@stthomassaints.com](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com)  
Website: [www.stthomassaints.com](http://www.stthomassaints.com)

### St. Thomas Parish / School Staff:

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst  
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller  
Office Manager: Linda M. Hemrich  
School Principal: Jill Bierman  
School Secretary: Dawn Meinhart  
PSR Coordinator: Pete Pasero  
RCIA Coordinator: Jan Schackmann

### Scheduling/Celebration of Sacraments

**Anointing of Sick:** Administered upon request due to serious illness or injury, or prior to hospital visit. Anointing of the Sick also takes place during the Masses held in October and February.

**Baptism: Infants/Toddlers:** During Weekend Mass with Fr. Dean Probst. The Pre-Baptismal Instruction is required of parents. Baptism is the first sacrament and entrance to the church's other sacraments.

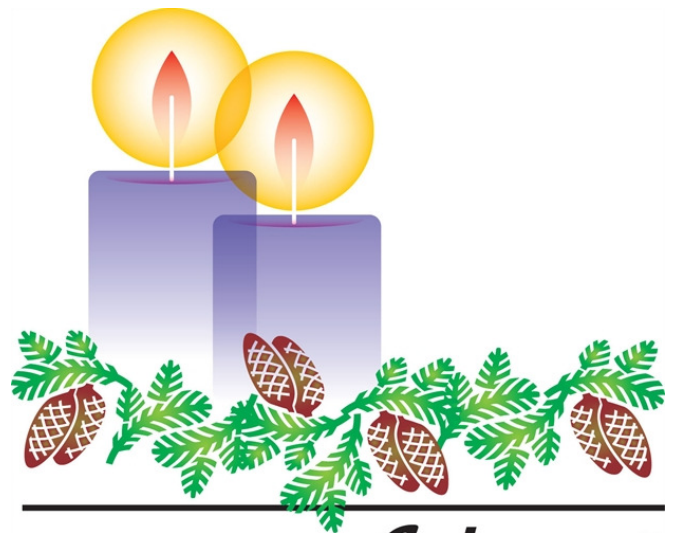
**Baptism: Adults:** At Easter Vigil following the Catechumenate.

**Marriage:** Scheduled only after initial meeting with the Pastor to assure conformity with Church.

### Bulletin Sponsor:



HSHS  
**St. Anthony's  
Memorial Hospital**



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

112 W. Embarras, PO Box 68 Tel: 618-455-3155  
Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459 Fax: 618-455-3665  
E-mail: [stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com](mailto:stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com)  
Website: [www.stemariechurch.org](http://www.stemariechurch.org)  
Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326

### Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst  
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller  
Office Manager: Judy Wagner\*  
\*(We continue to pray for her full recovery)  
Substitute: Denisse Ochs  
PSR Coordinator: Marie Wagner  
**Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm Tues., Wed., Thurs.**

### MASS SCHEDULE

	<b>St. Thomas</b>	<b>St. Mary</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>7:30 &amp; 9:00 a.m.</b>	
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	
Thursday		8:30 a.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m.	
<b>Holy Days</b>	<b>As scheduled in the bulletin.</b>	
<b>PENANCE/RECONCILIATION</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>3:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Or as scheduled by request.</b>		

## Dear Parishioners:



John the Baptist proclaims a Baptism of Repentance for the forgiveness of sins in the Gospel on this Second Sunday of Advent. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Allow the grace of God to have a clear entry into your heart and soul by ridding yourself of sin. The Sacrament of Penance given by Jesus when he announced forgiveness to the disciples in the upper room following His resurrection. "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven. Whose sins you shall retain, are retained."

The Priests of the Church have been empowered by Jesus to administer God's merciful love in the Sacrament of Penance/the Rite of Reconciliation.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This **Thursday, December 13,** a **Penance Service** will be held in our parishes:

**1:45 p.m. St. Thomas Parish School in the Church**

(Anyone is welcome to attend; students/faculty will have first opportunity to receive the Sacrament).

**6:30 p.m. St. Mary's and St. Thomas Joint Service**

At St. Mary's in Ste. Marie. (Anyone is welcome to attend and receive God's mercy.)

Various priests from the Effingham Deanery will be present to administer the Sacrament of Penance at each service.

**Other PENANCE SERVICES in the Area:**

**December 12: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday**

**Sacred Heart Church, Effingham.**

**December 18: 6:30 p.m. Sunday**

**St. Anthony Church, Effingham.**

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available to the Residents of the Newton Care Center (Dec. 7) and Villa of Holly Brook (Dec. 14) following the celebration of Masses at each place. I will make arrangements to bring Holy Communion and offer the Sacrament of Penance to all homebound parishioners in next two weeks.

**NOTE: On December 22,** the Sacrament of Penance will be available also in the Reconciliation Room of the Church: **8-10 a.m. Saturday, St. Thomas Church**  
**2 - 3 p.m. Saturday, St. Mary's Church**

The Sacrament is also generally available as noted on the bulletin cover (excepting Tribunal Tuesdays).

### PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

	St. Thomas	St. Mary's
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Tuesdays	5:00 p.m.	7:30 a.m.

Or as scheduled by reasonable request.

**THE FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of MARY on Saturday, December 8 is a Holy Day** for us to attend Mass in addition to the Sunday obligation. Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is the patron of our United States of America and the patron of our Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The Mass Schedule for the Holy Day is:

**Friday: 5:30 pm** Vigil at St. Thomas

**7:00 pm** Vigil at St. Mary's

And **Saturday: 8:00 am** at St. Thomas

### NOTICE:

Denisse Ochs has given me notice of her decision to terminate her temporary position as office manager with the hiring of someone else. Application for the part-time job of 18 hour/week part-time 9-3 pm Tues.-Thurs. is available at the St. Mary's office.

Requirements: A Catholic practicing the faith as job requires knowledge of Church of Church doctrine and devotion; confidentiality; good communication skills, and working knowledge of computer programs of Quickbooks and Microsoft Office.

Applications are available from the St. Mary Parish Office. Expected start date is January 7.

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

**Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm St. Mary's**  
**5:30 pm St. Thomas**

**Late Night: 11:00 pm St. Thomas**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: 8:00 am St. Mary's**  
**9:30 am St. Thomas**

**Please sign up for the liturgical ministries for any of the masses. Sign-up in Church or by calling the parish offices.**

### Addresses for Christmas Cards:

**Fr. Allen Kemme**  
800 Stevenson Drive,  
Springfield, IL 62703

**Fr. Joe Molloy**  
2400 S. Franklin  
Decatur, IL 62521

**Fr. Robert Spriggs**  
50 Starfish Drive #104  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

**Sr. Phyllis Shenk, O.P.**  
300 Missouri Avenue  
Carterville, Illinois 62918

# St. Thomas Parish News

## Disciples' Stewardship

Collection November 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Envelopes (174)	\$7,809.00
Loose	\$538.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,347.00</b>
Justice & Hope (1)	\$10.00
All Saints (1)	\$10.00
Thanksgiving (5)	\$100.00
School Fund (14)	\$425.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$545.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,892.00</b>

## "Step Forward in Faith Together" Campaign

<b>Total Paid 3rd Internal Campaign (Oct. 1, 2014)</b>	\$1,147,409.36
<b>Grand Total Pledges Collected</b>	\$3,385,619.66
<b>Balance to be Paid</b>	
Includes \$23,924.75 profit from Harvest Picnic----->	<b>\$126,520.52</b>



## Ministries for Next Weekend's Masses

### Lectors:

**5:30 p.m.** Karen Buerster  
**7:30 a.m.** Lori TeVault  
**9:00 a.m.** Kevin Parker

### Gift Bearers:

Brad & Kim Ochs  
 Randy Hemrich Fam  
 Maurice Ochs Family

### Eucharistic Ministers:

**5:30 p.m.** Mark Bolander, Denisse Ochs, Kaitlyn Ochs, Kimberly Ochs, Glenda Spiker, Wanda Kocher  
**7:30 a.m.** Jill Bierman, Eliza Bierman, Linda Hemrich, Maddi Hemrich, Sarah Hemrich, Connie Hemrich  
**9:00 a.m.** Mackenzie Miller, Amanda Baltzell, Amy Tarr, Marge Horton, Kaleb Wright, Becky Parker

### Musicians/Cantors:

**5:30 p.m.** Guitars  
**7:30 a.m.** Patsy Leffler/Lily Bierman  
**9:00 a.m.** Patsy Leffler/Jeff Finley

### Servers:

**5:30 p.m.** Cole Phillips  
 Peyton Willenborg  
**7:30 a.m.** Laney Hemrich  
 Katie Bierman  
**9:00 a.m.** Aleah Higgs  
 Kylie Higgs

### Ushers:

Vic Klingler  
 Zach Weber & Sons  
 Jim Robins

## This Week in our Parish & School

+ behind name in Mass intention is for deceased.

### **Monday, Dec. 10, Advent Weekday**

Noon – 2:00 p.m. Effingham Deanery Mtg w/the Bishop in Springfield  
 6:15 p.m. Boys Basketball, here

### **Tuesday, Dec. 11, St. Damasus I**

10:00 a.m. Diocesan Cemetery Mtg in Effingham  
 4:00 p.m. **RCIA - Youth**  
 5:00 p.m. Rosary & Reconciliation  
 5:30 p.m. Mass (*Int.:* Doc & Clara Donsbach+)

### **Wednesday, Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.* Linda S. Massie+)  
 5:30 p.m. Youth Choir practice  
 6:30 p.m. RCIA  
 6:30 p.m. Penance Service at Sacred Heart, Effingham  
 6:30 p.m. PSR – Toys for Kids/CYO

### **Thursday, Dec. 13, St. Lucy**

1:45 p.m. Student Reconciliation at St. Thomas  
 6:30 p.m. Joint Reconciliation Service at St. Mary  
 6:15 p.m. Boys Basketball @ Oblong

### **Friday, Dec. 14, St. John of the Cross**

7:30 a.m. Fr. Dean has Mass at Sacred Heart, Effingham  
 8:30 a.m. Mass (*Int.:* Charles & Bertha Kocher Fam.+)  
 9:00 a.m. Ministerial Alliance Collecting Food for  
 5:00 p.m. Assembling Food boxes (Fairgrounds)  
 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. School Christmas Dance

### **Saturday, Dec. 15, Advent Weekday**

8:30 a.m. Ministerial Alliance delivering Food Boxes  
 All Day: Newton Holly Jolly Activities  
 3:00 p.m. St. Thomas musicians at Holly Jolly Event  
 5:30 p.m. Mass (*Int.:* Rosalie Miller/Dennis Miller+)

### **Sunday, Dec. 16, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

7:30 a.m. Mass–(*Int.:* Brenda Kocher+)  
 9:00 a.m. Mass –(*Int.:* Mildred & Delbert Drewes+)  
 10:15 a.m. Communion Service (Newton Care Center)  
 10:30 a.m. Communion Service (Villa of Holly Brook)



## Santa Claus is Coming to

**Town.** Santa Claus will once again be making his annual stop at the Newton Knights of Columbus Hall on **December 9, 2018** from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Santa will begin checking his list

soon. The Knights hope that all of you are caught being good, so that Santa will see all of your names on the Nice List! Thanks to everyone for their support of the Knights of Columbus throughout the year!

## St. Thomas Parish & School News



### Best Wishes for the Future.

Congratulations *Kyle and Rachel (Frichtl) Weber!* They were united in Marriage at St. Thomas Church on December 1, 2018. We wish them a happy married life in faith and may God continue the good work begun in them!

### Jasper County Ministerial Association's Food Box Project.

Please drop off your non-perishable food items for the Food Box Project in the baskets provided in the gathering space. *We will collect donations through December 14<sup>th</sup>.* This is a wonderful service project for our community and any donations or help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. The true joy of Christmas is in the giving...not the receiving.

St. Thomas Parish Christmas Tree. Once again, our parish tree is going to be decorated with ornaments that list special items that will be donated to Heritage Health Care in Hutsonville. This facility houses and provides care for Veterans. A donation box will also be available for monetary donations that will assist in purchasing the facility a new TV. Any surplus donations will be shared with the Family Life Center in Effingham.

Everyone is welcome to take a pink or purple ornament off the tree that lists an item of need. Boxes are available under the tree where donated items can then be collected. Be sure to replace the ornament that you take off the tree with one of the white, silver or gold ornaments that will be available in a basket. Watch our tree change colors as we join together to lend a helping hand.

### The St. Thomas School will have their classroom Christmas wreaths

on display next weekend in the church gathering space. Parishioners can purchase tickets for the Wreath raffle and place them in the bucket next to the wreath they would like to win. Tickets are \$1 or 6/\$5. The drawing will be held at the school Christmas Concert on December 19<sup>th</sup>. You need not be present to win. Thanks for your stewardship and supporting our students as all proceeds will benefit St. Thomas' Angels in our Midst!

## 2018 Annual Catholic Services Appeal

**2018 Goal = \$47,581.00**

**Pledged: \$12,050.00 Paid: \$10,240.00**

St. Thomas PSR/CYO. The PSR/CYO youth in our parish are preparing for the holidays by being of service to our parish and community. The **PSR youth** are shopping for *Toys for Kids* and then will go caroling in the upcoming weeks while visiting our local health care facilities. If you see a **CYO youth** be sure to give them a pat on the back for all of their help decorating our church for the Christmas season. The Worship Committee really appreciated the extra man power and muscle!! They will also be assisting the Jasper County Ministerial Association with the *Food Box Project!* How fortunate we are to have so many parish youth actively participating in their parish and community!!

The January/February St. Thomas Lay Ministry Schedules are available. Please stop by the display case in the main entrance of church to pick up your schedule. Thanks so much to all of our parishioners that participate in a ministry and for your stewardship!

The Guitar Group has great news! Their Five For One CD's are available again in the gathering space. They are asking for a \$10.00 donation when picking up a CD. Your donations will benefit the St. Thomas music ministry and...what a great stocking stuffer idea ☺

Our School Board and a few others are working on hosting a **Trivia Night** on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is fun trivia that everyone can contribute to. A table is made up of 8 people 21 years and older, so be thinking of who you want to get together to play! Contact the school or parish offices for more details.

### SCRIP Cards + Holiday Shopping = Merry

Christmas. Holiday shopping couldn't be easier... Simply stop by the school office or the SCRIP table at the weekend Masses to purchase SCRIP Cards from your favorite retailers and local businesses. *Last day to order before Christmas is Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.* A "Shout Out" to our local participating businesses!

St. Thomas Advent/Christmas Décor. If you would like to contribute to our annual decor fund in memory of a deceased loved one, please put your name(s) & contribution in an envelope marked "décor." A list to use during prayer will be included in the Christmas bulletin. Please submit names to the Parish Office by noon on Dec. 19.

The Villas of Holly Brook Ministry Schedule is available in the Gathering Space. Please consider signing up to take Communion to Holly Brook residents! Thanks so much to those already participating and visiting residents at the Newton Care Center as well!

# St. Mary's Parish News

## This Week in our Parish

### **Monday, December 10th Advent Weekday**

7:00 p.m. – Country Music Dance (parish hall)  
6:00 p.m. – Choir Practice

### **Tuesday, December 11th, St Damasus I**

8:00 a.m. - Rosary  
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Jim & Dorothy Hahn+)  
9:30 a.m. – Visitation for Eufala Bigard  
10:30 a.m. – Mass of Christian Burial for Eufala Bigard

### **Wednesday, December 12th, Our Lady of Guadalupe**

6:30 p.m. - Penance Service - Sacred Heart, Effingham  
6:30 p.m. – PSR Classes

### **Thursday, December 13th, St Lucy**

8:00 a.m.- Rosary  
8:30 a.m. –Mass (Int: Norman Copper+  
& Delores Brockett+)

**6:30 p.m. – PARISH PENANCE SERVICE**

### **Friday, December 14th, St John of the Cross**

### **Saturday, December 15th, Advent Weekday**

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. – Reconciliation  
4:00 p.m. – Mass (Int: Clarence Keller+)

### **Sunday, December 16th, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Blood Drive



**CHOIR PRACTICE:** We will be having practice on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to prepare for the Christmas Eve Mass.

Anyone who would like to join us to help celebrate Christmas is welcome to attend the practices. Hope to see you there!

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE:** To be held at St Mary's on **Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** There will also be Penance Service at St Thomas Church at 1:45 p.m. that day. Several priests will be present to administer the Sacrament of repentance.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** The American Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at St Mary's Parish Center. *Please consider giving the gift of life during this season of giving!*

**MINISTRIES LIST:** The sign-up sheets for the Ministers for the Christmas Masses can be found on the entrance tables in church. Please take the time to share your talents for these masses.

**FAMILY LIFE RAFFLE:** The December raffle was won by Norma Beavers. Thanks to Edwin & Cindy Zwilling family for the donation of a \$20 gift certificate from Hartrich Meats,

## **Stewardship as Measurement of Our Discipleship**

Collection for weekend of December 1-2,2018

Envelopes (36)	\$ 1140.00
Loose:	\$ 163.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 1303.00</b>

Thanksgiving (1)	\$ 20.00
Capital Improvement (1)	\$ 76.00
Christmas Décor (5)	\$ 160.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 1559.00</b>

## **Ministries for Next Week**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.**

**Ushers:** David Ochs, Randy Reis, Marvin Zwilling

**Servers:** Owen Ochs, Ethan Griffith

**Lectors:** Claire Griffith

**Gift Bearers:** Richard & Joyce Ochs

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Norman Boehl,  
Elfrieda Kaufmann, Maynard Kaufmann

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL:** Please help to enrich our Christmas environment by making a donation in memory of a loved one. You may make a donation in an envelope marked "Flowers" or use the envelope in your collection box. The liturgy committee will purchase the poinsettias. Please specify for whom the memorial is for on the envelope. The list of memorials will be published at a later date. The deadline for contributing to the fund is December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**MONDAY NIGHT DANCE:** The last Monday night dance for this year will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will start up again, sometime in March.

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL:** Update for ACSA – If you have not given or pledged to this campaign, please consider helping by making a contribution. If you have made a pledge or contributed Thank You.

**GOAL** - \$ 17,599.00

**Pledged** – \$ 4,014.00 – 20 families

**Total Paid** - \$ 3,714.00

## ST. THOMAS AND ST. MARY PARISHES

### This Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday:	Is 35:1-10	Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11	Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Zec 2:14-17	Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20	Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19	Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4,9-11	Mt 17:9a,10-13
Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a	Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

### Those we remembered in our prayers:

The Parish Book of Requests, Residents in Health Care Facilities, Judy Wagner, Beth Lawler and Family, Marilyn (Dhom) Zumbahlen, Theresa Leohr



## Resources For Advent

\*Visit <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever> for a free e-mail program, reflections, advent prayers and much more.

\*Visit [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/) for an interactive Advent calendar, information about Advent wreaths and so many other additional resources.

The Pre-Baptismal class at St. Thomas will now be held every other month on the first Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. (following the 9:00 a.m. Mass). **The next class will be held Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.** The preparation is required prior to baptism of infant/child unless already attended one within past 3 years.

## AREA & DIOCESAN NEWS

BEND COUNTRY CHRISTMAS: The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Bend Country Christmas will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 p.m. at St Valentine's Hall. This event is open to the public. There will be door prizes, refreshments and our favorite Jolly Ole Santa. The OHS Village Jazz Choir will perform at 3:30 p.m. Come join us and enjoy the visit with family and friends!!

ADVENT EVENSONG: Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Church- Wendelin- 4:00 p.m. A candlelight service with Scripture, Organ, English Carols & Austrian Christmas music – sung in German, presented by the "Wendelin Kloeppen Singers" All are Welcome.

## JASPER COUNTY MINISTERIAL

ASSOCIATION: We are once again asking for financial assistance, help with food items and also physical assistance at various time. We are calling on your help, so that we might help others. We are asking for help through the donation of non-perishable food items and monetary donations. Food donation will be accepted through Friday, December 14, 2018. Dates that we could really use help are **Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9a.m.** to collect food and start putting boxes together, also at 5p.m. on that day to fill the boxes. We really need help **Saturday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.** for distribution of boxes, help is need to load the boxes and we need help to stay until everything is cleaned up!!! Why not make it a family project for Christmas to help out this year!!! All of this will take place at the Jasper County Fairgrounds Floral Hall. Monetary donations can be mailed to Jasper County Ministerial Association, PO Box 213, Newton, IL 62448.

Jasper County Holly Jolly Christmas. Be sure to visit the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page for all the Holly Jolly area happenings throughout December. Find them listed under Holly Jolly Jasper County Christmas. The Chamber would also like to thank everyone for shopping local this holiday season!

A Protecting God's Children Workshop will be held at St. Isidore Parish, St. Aloysius Hall on Monday, February 4th at 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to attend a workshop close to home if you still need to full this requirement. Just a reminder that this workshop is for all volunteers and lay ministers that work directly with our youth. Please call 217-925-5788 to register.



## Holly Jolly

### Remembrance Luminaries

December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> we will light the courthouse lawn during Holly Jolly with remembrance luminaries. Each one will be dedicated to an individual (or pet) who is no longer here to celebrate with us this coming holiday season. Each luminary will be \$15 and available at the Chamber office or call 618-783-3399. They can be purchased at the Chamber office, Joe's, Medicine Shoppe, and both Peoples State Bank locations!

Name of Remembered: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_