

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Aviston, IL

Pastor - Fr. Von C. Deeke (cell 618-214-6852)

May 03, 2026

Deacon Brad Haar

Custodian & Sexton: John Toennies

Office Manager - Amber Griesbaum

Admin. Assistant - Carol Rapp

Dir. of Religious Education - Sister Jeannette Fennewald

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

| | | |
|--------------|--------|--|
| Sat. May 02 | 4:00pm | Joseph & Mary Jane Gebhart Karla Draper |
| Sun. May 03 | 7:30am | George & Rosina Hollenkamp |
| | 9:30am | L/D Tony & Clara Toennies Family |
| Mon. May 04 | 7:30am | NO MASS |
| Tues. May 05 | 7:30am | George Becker |
| Wed. May 06 | 7:30am | Dolores Von Bokel |
| Thur. May 07 | 7:30am | Mueller & Nettekmeier Families |
| Fri. May 08 | 7:30am | Marita Strubhart |
| Sat. May 09 | 4:00pm | All Mothers of the Parish |
| Sun. May 10 | 7:30am | All Mothers of the Parish |
| | 9:30am | All Mothers of the Parish |

CONFESSIONS:

(Also by appointment)

Sat. 2:00pm - 3:40pm

Sun. 8:45am - 9:10am

WEEKLY ROSARY:

Sat. Afternoon at 3:30pm

Sun. Morning at 7:10am

PASTOR'S NOTE: Our efforts on the financial feasibility study for the Parish Center are moving forward. Our Executive Committee, consisting of our Trustees Milissa Faust and Dan Mondt, as well as Amber Griesbaum, April Foutch, David Weis and me, are meeting weekly on a Zoom call with Mary Fischer and Frank Donaldson of the Institute for School and Parish Development, our consultant, discussing the steps of the feasibility study. We have a Steering Committee of about 30 parishioners that has met twice with Mary Fischer and will meet once more in May. The Steering Committee is preparing our case statement and a questions and answers document for parishioners. This committee is also planning listening sessions for parish groups and organizations as well as listening sessions for all parishioners to attend. We plan to finalize these efforts at our May meeting so that we can then share the details with everyone. Please pray and reflect on what God may be calling us to do with regard to our facilities, as we also pray and reflect on how God wants to work through us to bring more people closer to Jesus.

Let us pray for each other.

-Fr. Von Deeke

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP!

May 6th - 6:00pm -incoming 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Meeting

May 10th - 9:30am- CYM Mass (Selling of Roses for Pro Life)

June 15th - 7:00pm- Parish Picnic Meeting in Heritage Room

June 20th (UPDATED)- Fueled by Faith Event at the Aviston Park

June 23rd - 6:00pm- Parish Center Cleanup for VBS & Picnic

July 6th-10th - 9:00am- Noon - St. Francis Vacation Bible School

July 18th & 19th - 11:00am-3:00pm - St. Francis Parish Quilt Show

Aug. 1st - St. Francis Parish Annual Picnic

OFFERINGS APRIL 25th & 26th:

General Fund

Sunday Envelopes: \$ 1,935.00

Loose: \$ 403.00

Online Giving: \$ 2,438.00

General Fund Total: \$ 4,776.00



*Your General Fund contribution enables
FAITH IN ACTION*



Catholic Fraternal Life presenting a check to Fr. Von, Denise & Lynn for additional supplies for Quiet Bags.

Special Collections:

Improvement Fund \$ 125.00

Catholic Home Missions \$ 972.75

Servants of St. Francis \$ 50.00

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOSPITALIZED:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Brooks | Lisa Eilers | David Foy |
| Tracy Frey | Carla Haselhorst | Ryan Haukap |
| Michael Hogg | Jessica Hudspeth | Betty Huelsmann |
| Scott Huelsmann | Marie Jansen | Phyllis Kendall |
| Dale Lampe | Carol Markus | Mark Moss |
| Darleen Nelson | Don Rakers | Patricia Rollings |
| Phoenix Sanders | Seona Sanders | Kathy Schaar |
| Rev. Carl Schrage | Don Schulte | Tanya Shultz |
| Colton Snow | Pat Sudholt | Brayden Thole |
| Marge Thole | Corey Toennies | RaeAnne Toennies |
| Khara Vanderhyden | Carolyn Wilson | Darvin Zeisset |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sun. May 03 - 9:30am - St. Francis Sunday School Class
- 9:30am - Ratermann Scholarship Announcements

Tues. May 05 - 12Noon-4:30pm- Quilting in Room #1

Wed. May 06 - 6:00pm incoming 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Mtg.

Sun. May 10 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL- **Happy Mother's Day**



QUILTING for the 2026 picnic will continue on every Tuesday, now until **June 16th** from **12Noon-4:30pm** in the **Parish Center**. Please come and help!



SYMPATHIES: Remember **Marie B. Henrichs** (mother of Linda [Brian] Richter) & **Steven M. "Choggie" Rakers** (brother of Mike [Peggy] Rakers) who died. Keep **Marie, Steven & their families** in your prayers.

IMPROVEMENT FUND COLLECTION: This weekend, there will be a second collection for the **“Parish Improvement Fund”** which is used for major repairs on the Church, etc.

SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend’s second collection is for Seminarian Education. DID YOU KNOW??? It takes 6 years after college to prepare one seminarian for the priesthood. It costs approximately \$47,000 per year to educate one seminarian after college graduation. The Diocese of Belleville currently has 5 seminarians preparing for Ordination. Please consider a donation to support the education & formation of men who are discerning a call to ordained priesthood. We must continue efforts to invite young people to consider priesthood & religious life. With more seminarians, we incur more costs. A gift to this collection is an investment in the future of our Church. **Thank you** for your generosity & may God bless you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMED:
Alexis Bellemey, Augustus Block, Cameron Boeckman, Mason Brandmeyer, Addyson Budde, Waylan Buehne, Aiden Deien, Caleb Deien, Aubrey Eversgerd, Makayla Foster, Dylan Gerstner, Easton Griffith, Callie Haselhorst, Gabriel Heimann, Aliya Hollenkamp, Fischer Hollenkamp, Tyson Hollenkamp, Arabella Horstmann, Hutley Howard, Ava Huegen, Adalyn Jansen, Emma Kampwerth, Braxten Kehder, Elise Kohnen, Madysen Korte, Brycen Langenhorst, Emma Lappe, Audrey LeCroy, Carter Markwell, Myla McAllister, Aubrey Netemeyer, Jackson Timmermann, Brennan Toennies & Noelle Venturini.

Special thanks to our Religion Instructors, Hannah Schmitz & Kurt Schmitz, Fr. Von Deeke, Deacon Brad Haar, Our DRE, Sr. Jeannette Fennewald, our parents, sponsors, relatives, and all who helped make this a Special Day for us to remember always.

RATERMANN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
 Dorothy & Wilhelmine Ratermann are former members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish who funded a charitable remainder Unitrust to provide college/ vocational/ technical scholarships for students of our Parish. St. Francis Parish is honored to be one of the organizations permitted to award these scholarships in their memory. St Francis parishioners salute each of the following recipients, and wish them all the very best: **Ean Kehrer** (son of Jeff & Renee Kehrer); **Keegan Kohlbrecher** (son of Kevin & Angie Kohlbrecher); **Danica Krebs** (daughter of Garrick & Cathy Krebs); **Lydia Kuhn** (daughter of Chad & Anna Kuhn); **Lily Lappe** (daughter of Tim & Christi Lappe); **Sophie Markus** (daughter of Adam & Amber Markus); **Reed Pingsterhaus** (son of Troy & Stephanie Pingsterhaus); **Melaina Rakers** (daughter of Mark & Karrie Rakers); **Mabree Strubhart** (daughter of Craig & Amy Strubhart); **Karysyn Voss** (daughter of Randy & Kim Voss).

Mother’s Day Roses-Clinton County Citizens for Life is again selling long stemmed Roses for Mother’s Day in front of church before & after Masses on **Mother’s Day May 10th at both Masses.** Cost of the Roses are \$2.00 each. Vases will be available for Memorial Roses to be placed on Mary’s Altar. This is our only fundraiser for the year and supports all of our Pro-Life Programs and Activities, including billboards, educational flyers at parades, newsletters regarding current Pro-Life and Pro-family events. We are also having our Membership Drive and will be handing out brochures. We would love to keep you abreast of Pro-Life activities & events as well as legislative issues. Please pick one up & mail them back to the address. Thank you for helping us speak out to save Babies & help Mom’s in need.

FAITH FOCUS

Do Catholics worship Mary?



Mary, the Mother of Jesus, certainly holds a place of honor in the Catholic Church. The number of parishes without side altars or even statues (to include Michealangelo’s beautiful *Pieta*) depicting the Blessed Mother would be few indeed. So, why do Catholics hold Mary in such high esteem? It comes not only from Scripture, but from the Council of Ephesus in the year 431, where the very first canon approved and promulgated by the council acknowledges the title Mother of God was proper to “the holy virgin.” As we’ll learn in future commentary in this space, Mary is not idolized or worshipped as God, but rather is recognized as the ultimate apostle for Christ, as she most famously stated at the wedding in Cana: Do whatever he tells you.”

ST. FRANCIS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

What: Rainforest Falls VBS!
 When: July 6-10th from 9:00am – 12Noon
 Where: St. Francis Parish Center
 Who: Kids going into K-5th Grade as of Aug.2026.
 Registration Forms are now available! Go to the Parish website www.stfrancisav.org and click VBS under the Links & Forms tab. To use the “pay online” option, scan the QR code or go to this direct link www.osvhub.com/stfrancisav/forms/vbs-2026



PSR TEACHERS NEEDED: The Parish School of Religion is in need of several teachers in grades 1-5. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 7:30-8:15 am. It is a great opportunity to share your faith and love for Jesus and to get your day started with making a positive impact with the next generation. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Sister Jeannette 618-228-7219.

PSR REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! To register, go to our web page www.stfrancisav.org and click PSR Registration under the Links & Forms tab. To use the “pay online” option, scan the QR code or got to the direct link www.osvhub.com/stfrancisav/religious-ed/parish-school-of-religion-psr-2026.



MASS TO HONOR THE GRADUATES at ALL the weekend masses on **May 30th & 31st.** We will honor our 2026 Graduates (Eighth Grade, High School and College). Please let us know if you have a College Graduate so we can add their name to the list of those graduating. Please advise us if they will be in attendance at the weekend masses. Call 228-7219 or e-mail parish@stfrancisav.org!



ACCOMPANIST NEEDED for 4:00pm, Saturday and 7:30am & 9:30am, Sunday, liturgies. We are looking for an organist, pianist, or a guitar player. If interested, contact Lois Brandmeyer at 806-9286 or Amber, our secretary at 228-7219 or email parish@stfrancisav.org



LEGION NEWS - AVISTON:
 Mon. May 04 - K of C Blood Drive
 Fri. May 08 - 4:30pm - 7:00pm - FISH FRY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!:
PARISH PICNIC MEETING: Next picnic meeting is on **Monday, June 15th at 7:00pm** in the Heritage Room. **It is important** that **ALL Chairs & Co-Chairs** attend!!
PARISH CENTER CLEAN-UP: The annual clean-up of the parish center will be Tuesday, **June 23rd** at 6:00pm. Bring a bucket and rag and the job will get done quickly. *Everyone’s help is needed!!*

