

Dear Parishioners,

The Third Sunday of Advent was traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday." The word "gaudete" comes from the Latin and means "rejoice." This word is the first word of what we used to call the entrance antiphon. This antiphon was often read in place of a processional song. This antiphon is beautiful and needs to be proclaimed and lived as we declare, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! The Lord is near." Our season of Advent is a time of hope for all of us. The very reason for this season, the true cause for our joy, and the visible expression of our rejoicing is because the Lord is near to all of us. Because of Christmas and the gift of the Incarnation, Jesus has not only come in history 2000 years ago but He also remains with us in mystery, each and every day of our lives. Our sacraments bear witness to this reality for us, as well as His Word proclaimed, listened to, and attempted to be lived by all of us each day. With the Incarnation, our God is not far from us but continues to journey with us, ever present to us, ever near to us. May this living presence continue to fill all of our lives with His joy and His hope, and may we never forget that the Lord is near! And so I say again, "Rejoice in the Lord always." It is because of this attitude of Christians to be filled with joy that the priest wears the rose colored vestments on this day. But all of us should be clothed with joy all the days of our lives.

This past weekend, we distributed to our parishioners our new parish calendars for 2010. The theme for these calendars is "vocations." I hope and pray that each time you look at the months of the year that you say a special prayer for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. On behalf of St. Anthony parish, I want to thank those who make this calendar available to us each year. These people are the Keller family who advertise for Holiday Inn Express, Hilton Garden Inn, K-Bowl bowling alley, Country Inn & Suites, and Thelma Keller Convention Center; and the Dust family who advertise for Dust & Son Auto Supplies. If you see the members of these families, please thank them for their generous gift to our parish and try to use their places of business whenever you can. There are still calendars available in the Church for anyone who did not get one, or for others who might need another one.

Next Sunday, December 20, we will have our Effingham community Advent Penance Service here at St. Anthony Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will

be a number of priests present for individual confessions. Very much essential for our Advent preparation is to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is in and through this Sacrament that we make our hearts ready to celebrate the Lord's coming at Christmas.

As we are less than two weeks before Christmas, I thought that I would publish the Mass schedule for this Holyday. Our Mass schedule for Christmas then is as follows:

December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. St. Anthony Church-- Intermediate and Junior High Choirs

7:00 p.m. St. Anthony Church, Young Adult Choir

12:00 Midnight: St. Anthony Church, Adult Choir and Bell Choir with singing starting at 11:40 p.m.

N.B. We will also be having a harpist, Ms. Keelin Eder, starting her performance at 11:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. St. Mary Church, Shumway—Adult Choir

December 25, Christmas Day

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony Church

N.B. Because of Christmas on a Friday and then the next day having a full weekend schedule, we will not be having the 6:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday morning.

To help you get in the mood for Christmas, I want to invite you to the Keller Convention Center this Sunday, December 13, as we celebrate the "Reason for the Season." Breakfast will be served and as always, the convention center will be decorated. This is a fundraiser for Catholic Charities sponsored by St. Anthony Church: \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Also that same evening, I invite you to St. Anthony Church at 6:30 p.m. to listen to the St. John's Brass as they present a Christmas concert for the community. A free will offering will be taken up. Again, these are two opportunities for us to celebrate this time of the year.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE; Two women were talking about a married couple in their Church.

"I don't know what she sees in him," one woman commented.

The other woman casually stated, "Jesus."

This Advent, may all of us begin to see Jesus in others.

Fr. Leo J. Enlow

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 14, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass; 3:30 p.m. Mass at Evergreen: Hilma Burford Anniversary, Albert Worman Anniversary, Living & Deceased Members of the Catholic Daughters of America, Catherine Beckler

Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: LeRoy Borries family, Clarence Feldhake, Maurice Brumleve, Andy Sur, Bill Braun, Special Intention

Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Henry Hoene, Dr. Henry & Esther Poterucha family, Diane Lange Schmitz, Paul T. Lange, Huelsing family

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: For All Priests, Herman Tegeler, Lawrence & Barb Carie family, Joann Warren, Ronald R. Niebrugge, Robert, Duane & Jason Jones

Friday, December 18, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass; 2:00 p.m. Communion Service at Lakeland: Mary Flach Anniversary, Mary Tays Anniversary, Ralph H. Koester, Frank Hoene Anniversary, Joyce Budde, Bob & Ramona Dirks family

Saturday, December 19, 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mass: Mike Kenter, Al Knabe, Al Niemerg family, Joseph Adducci, John (Jack) McHale Anniversary, Otto Goldstein, Jim & Marcella Bourgeois, Dick Behl

Sunday, December 20, 7:30, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. Mass: Joe & Wanda Dirks, Hugh McHugh, Gerry Bishop, Jack & Jane Kabbes family, Albert Haarmann family, A.J. Buenker & family, Alphonse & Irene Niemerg family, Kim Bushue, Parishioners of St. Anthony



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of Pearl Kaniewski and Margaret Barlage. May God and our prayers console them at this time and may they rest in peace.

Let us prayerfully remember those who call to God for help during their illness

Adeline Bailey	Lisa Kingery	Rosemary Soltwedel
Mary Baker	Amy Koester	Lester Stoner
Jim Bloemer	Michelle Kuhl	Lee Thomas
Jim Brady	Dorothy Levitt	Joyce Vahling
Lisa Crosson	Minnie Luchtefeld	Rebekah Volk
Art Dasenbrock	Brian Madlem	Craig Welch
Doris Dasenbrock	Donna Martin	Valentine Wentz
Alexis Didier	Bill Mette	Joyce Westjohn
Sally Ferry	Jolly Michels	Michael Wheeler
Bruce Hartke	Mildred Nash	Mark Worman
Jim Jansen	Diane Rallo	
Kris Jansen	Steve Sehy	
Michael Kay	Ron Shoffstall	

The Reason for the Season Breakfast

Sunday, December 13 ~ 8am-12:30pm

Thelma Keller Convention Center

Enjoy Breakfast with Santa Claus and view the trees in the Winter Wonderland. Pictures with Santa will be taken by Kim Jansen. Join in raising money for Catholic Charities. Tickets are \$6/adults & \$4/children with children 2 and under free. Tickets available at the door. Bring any non-perishable items to help fill Catholic Charities pantry.

Breakfast is hosted by St. Anthony of Padua

St. Johns Brass

Fr. Leo invites you to join him in celebrating Christmas with St. Johns Brass in concert this Sunday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. A free will donation will be taken.

Children's Liturgy**Has your child attended yet?**

All 3 and 4 year old parishioners are invited and encouraged to join the Children's Liturgy program during 9:15 Mass on Sundays. Come and participate in worksheets pertaining to the weekly scriptures. Come to Church and they will leave from there as a group and return to Church.

For the 3rd Sunday of Advent

Parent: Hear our prayers, O Lord, and enlighten the darkness of our minds by your coming on earth. You live and reign forever and ever.

All: Amen

Three candles are lit by the mother or another child and left burning during the meal.

**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS**

Be sure your contribution is included in the year it is intended. If you mail your 2009 year-end contribution, it should be **dated and post marked 2009**. If you hand deliver your year-end contribution, it should be dated 2009 and received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday January 4, 2009.

If you are planning a donation of stock, please be aware that we can give credit when the shares are in our name and control. Your tax advisor can show you how a stock donation could benefit you.

Thank You



A Special Christmas Gift

St. Anthony Church is accepting donations for the Christmas Season decorations. If you would like to make a donation towards the decorations please place it in an envelope marked “*Christmas Decorations*” and mail to P.O. Box 764, Effingham IL 62401 or place in the collection basket. Please include what or whom you would like listed in the bulletin. (i.e. donors and/or who it is for)

Reconciliation Schedule

All the Saturdays during the Season of Advent

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. – until all heard

Parish Reconciliation Service

Dec 20 7:00 p.m. St. Anthony Church

Grades Times

Dec 17 10:30 a.m. Freshmen
 12:30 p.m. Sophomores
 1:30 p.m. Juniors

Have You Turned in Your Commitment Card?

Please return your Commitment Card to the parish office by mailing it to: PO Box 764, Effingham IL 62401, putting in the collection basket or bringing to the office. Please take this opportunity to express your support for our parish with your time, talent, and treasure! If you misplaced your card we have extras in the parish office. We will be doing a second mailing as there are still about 1000 cards that have not been returned. Thank you to everyone who was able to return their cards. We have been able to get some helpful feed back.

Children’s Envelopes

The grade school children of the parish should have received their Sunday envelopes at school or in the PSR program. Please take time to encourage your children to become involved in the stewardship of the church through giving, donating of their time or their talents.

Sign Up at www.stanthony.com To Receive St. Anthony Email Updates
 You can now receive email updates regarding parish, school and alumni events

St. Anthony Scrip Cards Update

Thank You to everyone for ordering your SCRIP cards! SCRIP means substitute money in the form of the retailer’s cards. Every SCRIP card purchased gets us closer to reaching our goal. Since our kickoff in mid-August, our sales have exceeded \$210,000 and we have earned nearly \$10,000 for our schools.

Orders for SCRIP cards are placed weekly. Order forms can be brought to one of the schools, the Parish Center or dropped in the Sunday collection. Orders are placed on Mondays so they need to be **in by Noon Monday** and come in on Fridays. Cards are currently being sold every weekend after 4:30 Mass on Saturdays and 9:15 Mass on Sundays in the Parish Center. Orders can be picked up or dropped off at this time. Also we have cards available at several home ballgames.

If interested in volunteering to work the table after Mass, during sporting events, sorting, or order pickup/drop off, please contact Michelle Kinkelaar or Dawn Grubb.

Online ordering is now available at www.stanthony.com and click on Scrip Fundraising for more information and online code.

Michelle & Dawn thank you for your continued support.

Monday, December 14 is the last day orders can be taken/placed for Christmas. Orders need to be turned in before Noon on Monday.

Gift Ideas found in the Parish Office

Century Book, Press on to the Goal, DVD, CCW Cookbook, fundraiser Calendars or Mass Intentions.

St. Anthony Fundraiser Calendars Have Arrived!

Persons who have already purchased a chance or more can now pick up your calendar to go with your chance purchase. They will be in the parish center this weekend after all the Masses

If you have not yet purchased your calendar and a chance you can do so at this time.

These will also be available at the parish offices during regular office hours. (M-F, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Who Did I Sell To?

For anyone wanting to know who they sold car raffle tickets to last year here is what you can do. Email the fundraising committee at fundraising@stanthony.com or call Brad and Carrie Koenig at 342-9207.

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs us to make our faith visible so that others will be led to God: "Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Mt. 5:16). Women and men religious heed this call by their witness to gospel values and their commitment to serving those around them. Through their ministries, religious have founded Catholic schools and hospitals and launched initiatives that support the neediest among us. In our often troubled world, they remain a visible sign of Christ's love.

Throughout their lives, women and men religious invest in faith and the future of others, usually with little concern for themselves. Today, many are frail, elderly and in need of assistance. Often their religious institutes struggle to provide adequate care. The current economic downturn, which has affected so many people, also impacts elderly religious.

The **Retirement Fund for Religious** furnishes immediate support for aging religious and helps their religious institutes implement long-term retirement strategies. Through the ongoing generosity of Catholics to this collection, many religious institutes have been able to seed and stabilize retirement savings. Others have collaborated in creating elder care solutions. (Envelope in your packet.)

I understand times are challenging and many of you face increased financial burdens. I ask you simply to let your own light shine and give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for all religious, that they may continue to be beacons of faith and hope who lead others to Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Reverend Monsignor Carl A. Kemme
Diocesan Administrator

Some Mailing Addresses

The Rev. Daren J. Zehnle
Sacred Heart Church
721 North Springfield Street
Virden, Illinois 62690

Sr. Cordula Wekenberg
320 E Ripa
St. Louis MO 63125

Sr. Doris Poettker
P.O. Box 19431
Springfield IL 62794

Christmas Band and Chorus Concerts

Start the Christmas Season by listening to the talents of our school children.

Dec 15 7p, High School Concert in the Multipurpose room of the high school.

Dec 21 7p, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Christmas concert at the grade school.

St. Anthony School Variety Show

The Variety Show will be held January 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Enlow Center at the high school to start Catholic Schools Week. Put on your thinking caps and come up with an act. Open to all grade and high school students. The program will be by audition only and will be limited to 20 acts. Participants are limited to one act only. Auditions to be held January 4 at the high school. There will be a mandatory rehearsal held January 18. No changes in the program will be made following this rehearsal. If you would like to participate, contact Mrs. Barbara Konrad at the Parish Center or by email at bkonrad@stanthony.com

Clavinova Club Begins

Next semester's Clavinova Club begins on January 12. If you would like to participate, contact Mrs. Barbara Konrad at the parish office, 347-7129 during business hours or email @ bkonrad@stanthony.com

Catholic Men for Christ Conference

The 3rd Annual Catholic Men for Christ Conference is Saturday, February 6 at the America's Center in Downtown St. Louis. Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends with Mass at 3:00 p.m.. Registration fee includes lunch and is \$40 through December 31. After that date it is \$45. Contact Bernie Blanchette at 217-690-4893 if interested and to carpool. Visit www.catholicmenforchrist.org for more info and keynote speakers list.

Mom's Ministry

Mom's Ministry will be rescheduling the December 16 meeting to **January 1**. Please contact Tessie Kabbes for more information 347-8784.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner sponsored by the Effingham Ministerial Association will be held on Christmas Day, at 11:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Reservations are due in by December 20 and can be made by calling the parish office, 9am-4pm., 347-7129. Meals will be delivered to persons **home-bound only**, so indicate when you call.

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Annual collection budgeted goal for year ended 6/30/10	\$ 1,924,000
Actual collections through 12/06/09 (23 weeks-\$26,507 average)	609,653
Balance required to reach goal (29 weeks)	<u>\$ 1,314,347</u>
Average weekly goal for remaining 29 weeks	<u>\$ 45,322</u>
Actual weekly offerings received for 12/06/09	<u>\$ 31,337</u>
Last Year Total for 23 weeks (23,127 average)	<u>\$ 531,916</u>

. . . Everyone's involvement in the Scrip program is crucial to its successful beginning and ongoing growth. Thank you to all for their ministry of time and talent. Total sales have passed \$210,000, so profits are almost \$10,000. Most, if not all has been invested into card inventory for immediate sales... If you are considering automatic withdrawals or if you want to change what you initially selected, please let us know. We do not know what is

designated on the commitment cards... Our ACSA assessment is \$77,598. As of 11/24 we have pledges of \$34,415 from 248 parishioners. Please help reduce this pending \$43,183 shortfall.

Calendar of Events 12/12 - 12/18

- Sun,** 9:15 Children's Liturgy, pc sm
10-11a, SCRIP, pc
6:30p, St. Johns Brass, Church
- Tue,** 7:15a, Yoga, pc sm
7p, Bereavement Support Grp, pc
- Wed,** 5:30p, Handbells, Church
6:30p, PSR
7:00p, Adult Choir
- Thurs,** 7p, RCIA, pc lg
7:30p, Men's Choir, Church
- Sat** SCRIP after 4:30, pc

Music Ministry Schedule

- December
- 12 4:30p, Men's Choir/Barbara Konrad
 - 13 7:30a, TBA/Kim Deters
9:15a, St. Cecilia/Teresa Thies
11:00a, Bell Choir/Barbara Konrad
 - 19 4:30p, Intermediate Choir/Barbara Konrad
 - 20 7:30a, Fran Bergfeld/Allie Kabbes
9:15a, Adult/Margaret Niebrugge
11:00a, TBA/TBA
 - 24 4:00p, Intermediate & Junior high Choirs
7:00p, Young Adult Choir
11:00p, Ms Keelin Eder, harpist
Midnight, Adult Choir & Bell Choir, singing starting at 11:40p

Some of our Newly Baptized



*Claire Isabelle Kinkelaar, Jeff & Jodi (DeWerff) Kinkelaar
Mason Edward Bloemer, Matt*

Bloemer & Julie Ebeling

*Jameson Brian McAllaster, Jason & Tara
(Myerscough) McAllaster*

*Alexa Rae Wagner, Graham & Jane
(Niebrugge) Wagner*

Blood Drive

Girl Scout Troop 2225 is sponsoring a blood drive on December 19 from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Village Square Mall.

Knights of Columbus Adult's Christmas Party

The party is Sunday, December 20 with doors opening at Noon. Social Hour from Noon to 1 p.m. with meal served at 1 p.m. The Sawyer Brothers Band will begin at 2 p.m. and play until at least 4 p.m.

Sales Position with Knights of Columbus

World's Largest Catholic Fraternal Organization has a Sales Position available. Established clientele and protected territory provided. Benefits include: professional income, training allowance, expense, allowance, production bonus, pension plan, group medical, 401 K, and more. Send resume to Knights of Columbus, 179 N Main St., Breese, IL 62230 or call 618-526-7991 for more information.

Pray for Vocations

Apply Now ~ 2010 Census Team

The following part-time positions are available: Census takers, Census Crew leaders, Census Crew leader assistants, Census clerks. Call for upcoming testing information, 618-307-3730 or 866-861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.