

Dear Parishioners,

Just a day after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. If God were to become a human being and live among us, He would have to be Incarnate in the context of a human family. And so we find today the Church celebrating Jesus Christ, born as a human being, raised like us in the context of a human family, and growing in wisdom, age, and grace with a mother and father to assist Him. How appropriate then that we celebrate the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, for this feast declares Jesus was like us in all things but sin.

Our gospel today was a type of nightmare for all parents. In this gospel, we have the Holy Family completing their visit to Jerusalem and returning home. Usually these trips were made with a number of families, with the men leading the front, the women behind, and then followed by the children. Many parents will assume that the children are with dad, or mom, or with the rest of the children. Perhaps that was the case in our gospel when the nightmare occurs—the young Jesus is not with the group at all. As parents, most of you could relate how Mary and Joseph must have panicked. For three days they looked for Him. Finally, they found Him in the temple. One could only imagine the thoughts that went through the minds of these parents. First, there was relief—they found Him and everything is okay. But the second, I could only imagine that they could have killed Him (not literally). Their first question was, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” The young Jesus responds, “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Needless to say, they did not understand. The Scriptures then let us know that Jesus “went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart.”

On this feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I want all of our parish families to realize the dignity that they have, and the importance that they play, in forming and shaping their children. As Jesus was formed and shaped by the faith, hope, and love of Mary and Joseph, as Jesus experienced how this faith, hope, and love is lived in real life by His parents, so this is the responsibility of all of our parish families in assisting their children. Too often our parents neglect their fundamental responsibility for being the teachers of their children in the ways of faith and morals. If they took this role seriously, our Church would be packed each weekend with our

students and parents. I would pray that the fundamental role of a parent, a far greater role than helping our children succeed in life, is to help them and assist them in their journey toward heaven. Without this latter goal, any successes on earth are meaningless. Let us pray for all of our parish families that they will once again instill in their family life an atmosphere in which their children, like Jesus, will advance in wisdom and age and favor before God and men.

Next Friday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and is a Holyday of Obligation for all Catholics. It is one of the most ancient celebrations of Mary in our Church. Our Mass schedule is as follows:

December 31, Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Anthony Church

5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Mary Church, Shumway

January 1, 2010, Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

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

N.B. With Fr. Joe being away and the Holyday of Obligation on Friday and the weekend Masses the next day, there will be NO 6:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, January 2.

I want to thank all those people who assisted us in decorating the Church for Christmas. Since I am writing this bulletin before the decorating party, I do not know who to thank in particular. Know, however that the Church was beautiful for our celebrations and we owe you a debt of gratitude for decorating inside and outside. Thanks! To all who made our celebration of Christmas so inspiring, from the choirs, musicians, cantors, lectors, organists, servers, ushers, I thank you. Each of you shared your gifts of talents and we are truly grateful. Thanks!

On behalf of the parish staff, priests, and myself, I want to wish all of you a Blessed and Grace-filled New Year.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: A woman took two nuns to lunch at a restaurant where the Lions Club happened to be having its monthly luncheon. The hostess greeted them and asked, “Are y’all with the Lions?” “No,” one of the Sisters replied, “We’re with the Christians.”

Fr. Leo J. Enlow

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 28, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass; 3:30 p.m. Communion Service at Evergreen: Mary T. Fehrenbacher Anniversary, Maurice Goldstein, Henry Nuxoll Anniversary, Joan Engbring Anniversary, George & Philomena Haarman, Johnny Schaefer

Tuesday, December 29, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Clara Thies family, Walter Kowalski, George & Louise Willenborg family, Vondenbosch family, Pauline McDevitt Anniversary, Don Kabbes

Wednesday, December 30, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Joe & Elsie Nacke, Frank Dooling family, Lou Hille, Maurice & Margaret Imming, 18th Wedding Anniversary of Todd & Lisa Schuette, Lisa Crosson family

**Thursday, December 31, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass
New Year's Eve Mass 5:30 p.m.**

John (Jack) McHale, Charlie Lustig, Kelly Brown, Susanna Kollinger, Ronald R. Niebrugge, Joe & Suzette Brumleve, Robert Swingler, Caroline Braun

**Friday, January 1, New Year's Day
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Mass**

Albert "Al" Niemerg, Maurice & Linda Feldhake, Charles & Frances Brummer, Caroline Braun, Parishioners of St. Anthony

Saturday, January 2, 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mass: Philomena Kinkelaar, Quintin & Marie Siemer, Margaret Meyer Anniversary, Curt Richards Anniversary, 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ron & Joyce Kabbes, Leonard Kinkelaar, Jack Kabbes, Ormrod & Polarek family

Sunday, January 3, 7:30, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. Mass: Debby Lustig, Louis & Charlene Thies, Quintin & Marie Siemer

Bereavement Support Group
St. Anthony Parish Center
7pm Tuesday evenings

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

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

**Coffee, Donuts and Fellowship
Sunday ~ January 3**

Come to the parish center after the 9:15 a.m. Mass and spend some time visiting. Scrip cards will be available.

**Have You Turned in
Your Commitment Card?**

A second mailing has gone out to those who have not returned their card. Please return this even if you do not answer everything on it. There is still time to return your Commitment Card to the parish office. You can send it by mail to: PO Box 764, Effingham IL 62401; put it in the collection basket or bring it to the office.

Thank you to everyone who was able to return their cards. We have been receiving some helpful feed back.

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.

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

Offices Closed

The parish offices will close at Noon on Thursday, December 31 and be closed all day Friday, January 1.

Christmas Decorations

In Loving Memory of Don Grunloh and family
In Loving Memory of the parents of Glen & Cindy Mitchell:
Joe & Wanda Dirks and Clay & Alice Dilworth
In Loving Memory of Bud & Ruth Wentte and Wilbert & Pauline McDevitt by Doug & Kelly McDevitt
Loving Memory of the Living & Deceased Members of the Gapsis & Beigelbeck families
In Memory of Passalacqua & Siemer families
Lorne & Mary Fehrenbacher from the Fehrenbacher family

Pray & Talk about Vocations

St. Anthony Online and Spirit Store

This is **NEW** and can be viewed by going to www.stanthony.com. From here click on St. Anthony online store. There will be more information coming so watch the bulletin and/or check the web site and see what items are added. **Spirit Store items** will be available at the boys high school games.

St. Anthony Scrip Cards Update

Our Scrip Schedule

~Orders placed on December 28, will be ready for pick-up in the parish office on January 5 or may be sent home with students on this date as well.

~**Starting January 2 & 3, 2010**, we will go back to our regular scheduled dates for selling cards after 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday and after 9:15 a.m. Mass on Sundays. These dates will be the 1st and 3rd weekends of the month.

If interested or know someone interested in volunteering your/their talents to work any of these: 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.

St. Anthony Fundraiser Calendars Have Arrived!

If we sell 2500 calendars, we raise \$45,000!

If we sell 4000 calendars, we raise \$78,000!

If you have not yet purchased your calendar and a chance you can do so at this time. You can sell them to everyone. If you need a calendar they are available at the parish offices during regular office hours. (M-F, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). They are also at the schools or contact fundraising@stanthony.com or visit www.stanthony.com

Church Cleaners for January

Cleaning our church is done Saturday mornings, **8:30-9:30**. If your name appears we need to see you sharing your God given talents. **If unable to come please call a replacement.**

<i>Hecht, Dan/Paula</i>	<i>Henning, Kim/Norma</i>
<i>Hecht, Gerald/Donna</i>	<i>Herboth, Brian/Lucinda</i>
<i>Heil, Chris/Nicole</i>	<i>Herboth, Francis/Marsha</i>
<i>Heischmidt, Michael/Connie</i>	<i>Heuerman, Ron/Christy</i>
<i>Helal, Michael/Ricarda</i>	<i>Hightower, Jody</i>
<i>Henkelman, Richard/Karen</i>	<i>Hille, James/Karen</i>
<i>Henning, Brian/Mandy</i>	<i>Hille, Janet</i>

Ushers for January

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Steve Bushue/Bob Esker
7:30 a.m. Sunday	Keith Willenborg/Bill & Chris Huelsbusch
9:15 a.m. Sunday	Troy Greene/Joe Jansen
11:00 a.m. Sunday	George Dallmier/Gene Fearday

If you would like to be an usher or have questions please call Matt Unkraut at 217-821-7178.

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. 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. Auditions January 4 at the high school. There will be a **mandatory rehearsal held January 18**. 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

Men's Choir

They will resume January 7 and start at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Please note the time change. Many thanks to the men who have joined this ministry and it is open to all the men of the parish

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.

Early Morning Walking in Golf Gym

Beginning Monday, January 4, Golf Gym will be open for early morning walking and/or running from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.



Grateful St. Anthony Students Pay It Forward

When Christmas time comes around, most children's thoughts turn to presents, holiday goodies, and a welcome break from school. The students at our grade school and high school are no different in that regard. However, their involvement in recent charitable activities shows that they understand the true spirit of Christmas is found in giving rather than receiving. Following the extraordinary example of the anonymous donors who provided them with a brand new grade school, the students of St. Anthony put their own time, talents and treasures to good use this holiday season by helping those less fortunate.

The schools' season of giving began the week of Thanksgiving when grade school librarian, Mrs. Roberta Meyer, kept her promise to color her hair purple if students collected \$250 for the "One For Books" program. Through this program, Scholastic Book Club matched every dollar donated to the school library with books for national literacy programs.

Every student, from St. Anthony's first-ever Kindergarten classes all the way up through high school, participated in a school-wide drive that resulted in several truckloads of toys and food being delivered to FISH and Catholic Charities. The primary grades, kindergarten through second, collected toys for the FISH Christmas store and non-perishable food items for Catholic Charities. In addition the first-graders made decorations for Brookstone Suites Senior Living.

Third-graders kept busy praying for those in need and plunking nickels in a jar that "jingled" with donations as part of an Advent activity called "Give Me Five." The fourth grade students collected canned goods and board games for charity while the fifth-graders sent Christmas cards to veterans in the VA hospital in Danville and read 100 books as part of Scholastic Book Clubs "Classroom Care" program to help send 1 million books to disadvantaged children. The Junior High students collected monetary donations for people in need.

The St. Anthony Grade School art club, "Colors of the Future" made signs for FISH pick-up boxes and decorated grocery bags for Christmas giving. The budding artists also made ornaments for the residents of the Effingham Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and entertained them with Christmas carols.

St. Anthony High School students also got into the Christmas spirit. The National Honor Society collected toys from area businesses for the FISH Christmas store, while the rest of the student body contributed books for Catholic Charities and loose change as part of their "Pennies for Heaven" campaign.

The spirit of giving that permeates throughout St. Anthony Grade School doesn't stop outside the school walls. Five first-graders with early December birthdays invited their classmates to a joint birthday party. In lieu of presents for themselves, the birthday kids asked for gifts to be donated to the Ronald McDonald Christmas Store.

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Annual collection budgeted goal for year ended 6/30/10	\$ 1,924,000
Actual collections through 12/13/09 (24 weeks-\$26,886 average)	645,325
Balance required to reach goal (28 weeks)	<u>\$ 1,278,675</u>
Average weekly goal for remaining 28 weeks	<u>\$ 45,667</u>
Actual weekly offerings received for 12/13/09	<u>\$ 35,671</u>
Last Year Total for 24 weeks (23,666 average)	<u>\$ 567,976</u>

. . . The bulletin printing requirements did not allow last Sundays total to be known before printing, but we'll have more to share next week. Through 12/13/09, this years' offerings were almost 14% ahead of last year. That is a wonderful start! Historically for our parish, the next 3-5 weeks have seen offering totals which account for almost a fourth of each years' total. Our annual goal/need is attainable, but it will take everyone, including those who rely on the last weeks of the calendar year to complete their contributions. Thank you. Scrip sales set a new weekly record of \$33,000; calendars sold are approaching 1,000. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

Calendar of Events 12/27 - 1/2

- Sun,** 9:15 Children's Liturgy, pc sm
- Tue,** 7p, Bereavement Support Grp, pc
- Wed,** NO PSR
- Fri,** Offices Closed

Reason for the Season Breakfast Thank You

Thank you to everyone who took part in the breakfast Sunday, December 13 at the Keller Convention Center. We were able to raise money for Catholic Charities and help stock the food pantry. Over 125 tickets were given to those in need of help this Christmas season. It was a wonderful day, and being able to enjoy the fellowship, as well as helping others was worth all the efforts put forth by our parish family. Thank you to all of our volunteers who gave of their time and talents to serve and put together the breakfast. It was greatly appreciated.

A very special thank you goes to the Keller, the McHugh and the Marie Dust families. Without their very generous monetary support, this would not have been such a great success. Their tireless support of St. Anthony Parish does not go by unnoticed.

2 liter bottle collection drive

Clear empty colorless plastic bottles are needed (330) for the next Luminaries for Life project. Please rinse them out before placing them in the garbage container placed near the plastic bag drop off in the breeze way by church. These will be collected until January 10.

To the Council of Catholic Women

I would like to thank all the ladies of the CCW who had anything to do with the making of the beautiful Christmas quilt I won at the CCW Christmas party. Whether it was the backing, piecing or quilting, I am deeply grateful for the time, energy and LOVE that went into it. It will become a piece of family history to hand down to my family

With heartfelt thanks - *Cathy Polarek*

Music Ministry Schedule

December

- 26 4:30p, Jr. High/Barbara Konrad
- 27 7:30a, Modonna Broeker/Barbara Konrad
9:15a, St. Cecilia/Teresa Thies
11:00a, High School Choir/Kim Deters

January

- 2 4:30p, YACS/Allie Kabbes
- 3 7:30a, TBA/TBA
9:15a, TBA/TBA
11:00a, Nikki Quandt/TBA

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

What Can We Give to the New Year?

Give of your time, talents and/or treasure to the Church. There are endless opportunities for everyone to be involved. Let the office help you find the person(s) you can talk with to learn more.- - Happy New Year!

Pray the New Year In

Pray the New Year in at St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Chapel. The rosary begins at 10:30 p.m. with Holy Sacrifice of Mass at 11:00 p.m. More adorers are needed to pray an hour a week before the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please call 857-3153 or 342-4764 to volunteer.