



Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we hear in the Gospel that “John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People ... were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.” As we await and prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus we are always called to a deeper conversion. Always a part of this conversion is an acknowledgement of our sinfulness. Repentance opens the door to deeper relationship. God is looking more forward to a deeper intimacy with us than we are with Him. May we make good use of this season of hope and respond to God’s grace with all of our heart, mind, and soul.

Fr. Dominique returned home to Switzerland a week ago. He will not be coming back to us. This decision came after much stress, worry, and prayer on his part. His mother nearly died about six years ago and as a result had a few health issues. His father had been taking care of her and after he died it became quite a challenge to find a way to care for her. The only solution Fr. Dominique could find was to return home and care for her himself. I know this was very difficult for him since he loved being here. Thank you all so much for your kindness to Fr. Dominique and for your prayers for him at this difficult time. I for one will miss him greatly. I have had requests for his address, it is: Abb Dominique Fabien Rimaz, c/o Adelina Rimaz-Locatelli, Aloys-Mooser 3, 1700 Fribourg Switzerland.

I have heard a few questions concerning this issue. To answer a couple of them, I do not yet know if we will have a replacement for Fr. Dominique. We may not have the answer to that until next spring or summer or we may find out much sooner. This also affects the question of who will live at the Sacred Heart rectory. While I want to see a priest living at the Sacred Heart rectory I am reluctant to have one or more of us move since we may very well have to move again. Right now I think we should wait a bit to see what happens.

A factor that plays into the living arrangements is that Fr. Alford is newly ordained. The first three years after ordination have proven to be critical years in the life of a priest. Part of his formation into the priesthood really needs to include living in a rectory with another priest. This helps him learn to step into the priesthood in all of its aspects. I only pray that I am a good mentor for him.

This leaves the question of how to handle after hour emergencies. At Sacred Heart there is an emergency option

when you call the parish phone number. This operates the same as it did before. When you leave a message the system will call our emergency phone. One of the priests should have the emergency phone with him and should respond as soon as possible. For St. Anthony and for Shumway just call the parish number and it will ring at the rectory.

Remember that this Thursday, December 8th, is a Holy Day of obligation. The Immaculate Conception is the patroness of our diocese and of our country. It is also a major event in our salvation history. God allowed Mary to participate in the redemptive grace of Christ’s death and resurrection ahead of time so that she could be the means of His Incarnation. Thank God for Mary’s cooperation with this great grace. Without Mary we have no Jesus. Without Jesus we have no hope. It is appropriate that we celebrate this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception during Advent since Advent is the season of hope.

Reconciliation is an integral part of this season as well. Christ Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God is our reconciliation with God. During this season young people of our three parishes are celebrating their first Reconciliation. Annunciation parish in Shumway celebrated this sacrament last Wednesday November 30th. First Reconciliation will be celebrated at Sacred Heart this weekend after 10:30 Mass. At St. Anthony it will be celebrated next Sunday afternoon December 11th. Please keep all of these children in your prayers as they enter deeper into the life of the Church and into their relationship with Jesus Christ through this very important sacrament.

The Advent Reconciliation service for the rest of us will be Sunday December 11th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anthony Church. As always, this is a wonderful way to prepare to meet our Lord.

Please also make plans to attend the Evening of Repentance and Prayer for Those Harmed in the Church. Bishop Paprocki has asked the whole diocese to do this on the night of December 12th, at 7:00 p.m. In the Effingham Deanery we will do this at St. Francis of Assisi in Teutopolis. Bishop has asked that we do not schedule any other events that night so that as many as possible can attend.

In Christ,
Fr. David Hoefler

Eucharistic Minister/Sacristan/Lector Training

There will be a training session for Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, and Lectors at 7:15 p.m., December 8, in the church. This training is for new volunteers, as well as anyone else who would like to brush up on their skills.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 5, 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Jim Bourgeois Anniversary, Florence Schuette Anniversary, Special Intention

Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Bob Platt Anniversary, Nick Dust

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. Masses: Andrew & Elsie Tonelli, Howard Goellner, Bede Stockman, Steve Huelsing Anniversary, Gilbert Rimaz

Thursday, December 8, 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 12:10 p.m. Mass: Mary K. Hoene, Gerald Koester Family, Helen Apke Anniversary, Charles & Grace Hotze Family, Jim & Rita Mahon Family, Mr & Mrs. Herman Habing, Sean Niebrugge, Al Having, Parishioners of St. Anthony

Friday, December 9, 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Emma Hoene Anniversary, Evelyn Krone, Leo Martin

Saturday, December 10, 4:30 p.m. Mass: Leo Bourgeois, Louis Kreke Anniversary, George Willenborg Anniversary, Carl & Carolyn Koerner Family, Edna Worman Anniversary, Margaret Behl Anniversary, Alf Willenborg, Sophie Kreke Althoff

Sunday, December 11, 7:30, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. Mass: Mickey Reynolds, Bernie & Marcie Burford Family, Jolene Arend, Ron Brown Otto Goldstein, Parishioners of St. Anthony

Mass Servers

Weekday Masses, December 5-9

Dec. 5-7 6:30 a.m. Taylor Beesley/Alex Beesley
 Dec. 8-9 6:30 a.m. Caroline Deters/Alex Deters
 Dec. 5-7 8:30 a.m. Cole Hoene/Abby Zaccari
 Dec. 8-9 8:30 a.m. Grade School Provides

Weekend Masses in December

4:30 p.m. Sat. Kelly Rentfrow/Abby Buenker/Elizabeth Falconburg
 7:30 a.m. Sun. Michael Stephens/Thomas Stephens/Maddie Schuette
 9:15 a.m. Sun. Avery Elder/Paige Koester/Michael Lustig
 11:00 a.m. Sun. Donovan Hammer/Tierney Hammer/Garrett Hixenbaugh



December 8, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at St. Anthony will be Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, December 8 at 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.



If you would like someone who is sick included in our prayer list please call the Parish Office at 347-7129.

Due to the large number of requests to be placed on the prayer list, names will be left on the list for one month and then removed, unless we receive a call to continue.

Please pray for those who are ill, those in hospitals and nursing homes, for those recovering from surgery, and for all those serving our country.

Also, Deb Alldredge, Harold Bushur, Glenn Ehrhart, Duane Feldhake, Brandt Jarrett, Jeaneane Jenne, Mary Lawyer, Marie McDaniel, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Ron Shoffstall, Pat Tate, Lee Thomas

Calendar of Events Dec. 3—Dec. 9

Sat., Dec. 3 5:15-6pm, SCRIP
 4:30-6:00 CCW Cookie Sale
 7:00pm, Grease, The Musical

Sun., Dec. 4 7:30am-Noon CCW Cookie Sale
 10-11am, SCRIP
 10am, Coffee & Donuts
 12am-2pm, Calendar Ticket Pickup
 2pm, Grease, The Musical

Mon., Dec. 5 10am-2pm, SCRIP
 6:30 pm, CCW Christmas Party

Tues., Dec. 6 5:30pm, Bell Choir
 6:30pm, Bible Study Sacred Ht. PC
 7pm, Bereavement Support

Wed., Dec. 7 9am-2pm, SCRIP
 3pm-Intermediate Choir
 6:30pm, Immac. Conception Mass
 6:30pm, Parish Council Mtg.
 7:30pm, Stewardship Mtg.
 7:30pm Adult Choir

Thurs., Dec. 8 12:10pm, Immac. Conception Mass
 6:15pm, Men's Choir
 7:15pm, Ministry Training
 7-9pm, RCIA

Fri., Dec. 9 10am-2pm, SCRIP
 3pm, Pueri Cantores Choir
 7pm, EIU Comerata Concert

December Coffee & Donuts includes a visit from St. Nicholas!

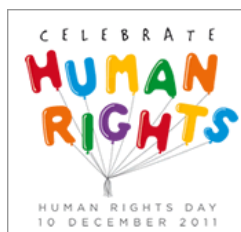


Please come fellowship with us on December 4 after 9:15 Mass in the Parish Center at this extra special "Coffee & Donuts" event. Along with coffee and donuts, you and your family will enjoy the CCW Candy and Bake Sale, holiday music, and a visit from St. Nicholas! Join us in celebrating the beginning of Advent!



Bereavement Support

To help ease the pain of the grief journey as the holidays approach, the Bereavement Support Group will meet every Tuesday at 7pm through January 3. The group is open to all who have lost a loved one through death, regardless of how long ago. By gathering together and sharing stories in a loving prayerful environment, we find support and peace. If you have any questions, please call Sister Jane Marie Hotze, 217-347-7129.



God of Justice,
You have given all of your children human dignity and human rights. Help us recognize the dignity and the rights of all human kind. Open our hearts to hear your teachings.

Open our eyes to the suffering of those who are denied their basic economic, social, and political rights.

Let our voices join in declaring all humanity is sacred, all human rights must be respected.

National Night of Prayer for Life will be observed on December 8-9 in St. Anthony's Hospital Chapel in Effingham. Prayers will begin at 9:00 p.m. on December 8 and end at 1:00 a.m. December 9. Fr. Ralph Zetzl, OFM will be the celebrant for the 12:00 a.m. Mass.



We will be celebrating a **Community Advent Penance Service** at St. Anthony Church, Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a number of priests available for hearing confession. Confessions are also heard 30 minutes prior to any weekday or weekend Mass, and First Friday from 4:00-5:00 p.m.



A Special Christmas Gift

St. Anthony Church will be 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 PO Box 764, Effingham, IL 62401 or place in the collection basket. Please include how you would like your donation listed in the bulletin.



Pro Life Corner

Only with prayer - prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls - will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life."

(Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Catholic Bishops)

During this season of advent, consider praying the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) daily to honor Christ in the womb. Pray for an increased respect for life, especially for the unborn. Consider learning more about the pro-life movement. As you pray, listen for direction on how God wants you to respond.



**COME TO THE
Council of Catholic Women
Holiday Cookie/Candy Sale
December 3 & 4
in the Parish Center**



2011 Fundraising Calendar Update 2012 Calendar Sales

Congratulations to the following winner:
Elaine Arisman, Springfield, \$50

Sales for the 2012 Calendar Raffle are under way! This year, we are taking a team sales approach. Our overall goal is to sell 2000 tickets for this year's calendar raffle!



Invitation to Ladies of the Parish

Ladies of the parish are invited to attend the **Council of Catholic Women's Christmas Party** on Monday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Turkey, dressing, drinks and table service will be provided. Please bring a covered dish for our potluck meal and ask a friend to join you. Salads, potatoes, vegetables, desserts, and rolls are needed. *Ladies with January and February birthdays are being asked to help serve the dinner.*

Chances for the quilt being raffled that night are in the bulletin and are 6 for \$5.00. You may put your chances in the church collection basket marked **CCW Quilt** prior to the dinner, or bring to the dinner.

Again we are sharing our Christmas Blessing with our sister parish in Haiti. Please bring a monetary donation for their Christmas gift.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH SCRIP!

We are now offering SCRIP Store Gift Certificates! This is a wonderful gift for those on your list who are difficult to buy for. They can come to our SCRIP Store and choose their gift from over 350 different retailers.

Congratulations to Mrs. Devall's 1st grade class who won the Sept/Oct SCRIP Contest. They will be attending the St. Anthony High School basketball game on Tuesday, Dec. 20th as their reward.

The Nov/Dec contest is in full swing. The winning class will choose between a bowling party or a class party during Christmas break. Currently, Mrs. Devall's 1st grade class is in first place with over 40 orders.

November Sales: \$73,496!

November Profit: over \$2,500



*May the soul of Art Dasenbrock sing
praises with the Angels in Heaven
Forever.*

Thank You

Thank you Fr. Hoefler, Fr. Dominique, Fr. Carl Schmidt, Effingham American Legion Post 120, Theresa Thies, St. Cecilia Music Group, Veterans, and anyone else who attended or participated in our Veteran's Mass on November 11. Also, thank you Parish Council members for hosting the reception following the Mass.



Grease, The Musical

St. Anthony High School is proud to present "Grease, The Musical"! Performances are Friday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are available in the High School Office. All performances are in the St. Anthony High School Multi-Purpose Room.

Vianney
RENEWING THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

PERFORMED BY
LEONARDO DEFILIPPIS

This inspiring live production, by the director and star of the feature film *THÉRESE*, will be presented at Eastern Illinois University Newman Center in the St. Philip Neri Chapel in Charleston on Friday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the E.I.U. Knights of Columbus, St. Charles Knights of Columbus, and the Msgr. Moriarty Circle of Columbian Squires.

Come experience the gripping story of Saint John Vianney, the remarkable priest who battled the devil to save souls, and who has been recently recognized as the model saint for all priests and laity by Pope Benedict XVI.

The production, which incorporates state-of-the-art technology projected onto a screen, offering a full cast of characters, is suitable for ages 9 and up. A free-will offering will be taken to support the St. Hedwig Haus of Hospitality, a Catholic Worker House for Women and Children. For additional information, contact the Newman Catholic Center at (217)-348-0188 or visit www.vianneydrama.com.

Check out the video preview for the live drama!
Visit www.vianneydrama.com

An Evening of Repentance and Prayer for Those Harmed in the Church

will be held on Monday, December 12, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. Simultaneously a similar service will be held at one church in each of the other six deaneries of the diocese to accommodate those from outlying areas. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki will preside at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and his homily will also be read at each of the 6 deanery churches so that all will hear the Bishop's message to those harmed in the Church. The evening of repentance and prayer is an effort to reach out in a special and individual way to anyone abused by a cleric within the Springfield diocese and also to anyone who may have been hurt in other ways by someone in the Church. All members of the faith community are welcome to join in this *An Evening of Repentance and Prayer for those Harmed in the Church*. The six other Deanery Churches designated to hold *An Evening of Repentance and Prayer for those Harmed in the Church* are: Alton Deanery, St. Boniface Church Edwardsville; Decatur Deanery, Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Church, Mt. Zion; **Effingham Deanery, St. Francis of Assisi, Teutopolis**; Jacksonville Deanery, Our Saviour Church, Jacksonville; Litchfield Deanery, St. Agnes Church, Hillsboro; Quincy Deanery, Blessed Sacrament Church, Quincy.



Please make plans to join us on the 3rd Wednesday of every month for our regularly scheduled meetings. We celebrate Advent and the Christmas season on December 21 with a cookie exchange and bunko. If you would like to join us for the cookie exchange, please email Barb Hoene at bbhoene@mchsi.com. Our evening begins at 8:00 pm with the rosary. Enter through door #3 in the back of the high school. All mothers welcome. Mandatory attendance/membership is not required; come when you can, as we grow in our faith and friendships.

www.stanthony.com/ministriesprograms/momsministry

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Attention all singers: This year for Christmas Eve 7:00 Mass, we are going to have a choir of people singing. If you are interested in joining for the night, we'd love to have you! Please email Allie Kabbes at akabbes6@gmail.com to confirm or ask for more details. We hope to get a big group to make the music fill the air.

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS:			
	Actual	Budget	Last Year
11/20/11	\$ 20,762	\$ 34,990	\$ 22,386
11/27/11	\$ 35,367	\$ 34,990	\$ 42,856
YTD (since 07/01/11)	\$615,391 (-2.0)	\$ 628,126 (10.0)	\$ 690,939
12 month totals		\$1,819,500 (10.0)	\$1,653,511
Scholarships	\$ 960	\$ 15,095 YTD	
Haiti Parish	\$ 364	\$ 9,290 YTD	
ACSA	\$ 27,236	\$ 89,029	
Catholic Times		\$ 18,157	

It is hard to believe that the first Sunday of Advent is already “in the book” and we are now lighting two candles. With Black Friday and Cyber Monday also behind us, some of the super shoppers feel finished, but Christians are still waiting for the Christ Child, waiting for Jesus to return.

We also are rapidly approaching the end of 2011. You will soon receive an update of your financial support for St. Anthony Parish. Please take a look and let us know if you have any questions. If you are an end-of-year contributor, please know that the donations during this time of year, are very important to the financial well-being of your Parish. Through

the first 22 weeks of this year, ending 11/27/11 this year, the amount received has been \$615,391. In 2010 it was \$628,126 and in 2009 it was \$578,316. During the next 13 weeks the totals were \$572,321 in 2010 and \$653,601 in 2009. Additionally, please watch for the announcement of an upcoming informational meeting. Details regarding the current tax laws pertaining to IRA’s (end 12/31/11) will be given. If you are at least 70 and ½ years old you can avoid tax, helping yourself and St. Anthony.

Thanks to all the weekly, monthly, periodic and annual contributors to our Parish. 528 students and 82 school and parish employees and 3,660 parishioners, really appreciate it.

St. Isidore Council of Catholic Women is hosting a **Christmas Walk: “Showing Our Homes for St. Hedwig Haus”**, Sunday, December 4 from 1-4 p.m. Homes on the walk are: Joe & Tina Brummer, Jerry & Alice Goeckner, Rodney & Brandi Lidy, & Sue Sandschafer. The Bishop Hall is also on the walk showing Christmas table settings, nativity sets, Christmas trees, and villages, plus refreshments and live entertainment. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the church office, FNB Dieterich, National Trail Bank, Washington Savings Bank, or Teutopolis Bank. Proceeds for the walk will go to the St. Hedwig Haus in Charleston. It is a home for women and children in need, of which Fr. John Titus is a board member. Also, Operation Santa—Christmas Quilt will be raffled off at 5:00 p.m. Proceeds go to Military Men & Women. For more information contact Christy Repking 536-6045 or Alice Drees 925-5288.



Christian superstar group MercyMe is bringing their Christmas show to the Effingham Performance Center, Friday, December 9. Tickets are available at the EPC Box Office M-F 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. or online at www.ticketmaster.com



St. Anthony and Sacred Heart Parishes are once again hosting The Reason for the Season Breakfast on Sunday, December 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Keller Convention Center. Enjoy a full breakfast of biscuits & gravy, pancakes, eggs, and sausage. View the Christmas trees in the Winter Wonderland and get your photo taken with Santa Claus. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 3-10. Advanced tickets available at Catholic Charities or Keller Convention Center. Tickets are also available at the door. All proceeds from the breakfast will benefit Effingham Catholic Charities.

EIU Honors Choir & Camerata

Join the EIU Honor Choir and Camerata on Friday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. for a concert in St. Anthony’s church. St. Anthony Alum Ms. Megan McDevitt (2008) will be performing a solo in German with the choir.

You Are Invited to *An Advent Evensong Service*, Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church of Wendelin. The candlelight service will include Scripture, English and Austrian Christmas Carols being sung by Wendelin Klopken singers. Any questions, call Marge Kessler 618-752-6841

THE EFFINGHAM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY will be Thursday, December 8 with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive shortly thereafter. There will be games and refreshments prior to and during Santa’s visit. There will be door prizes including a drawing for a girls bicycle and boys bicycle and like last year, we will be giving away a free Meeting Room rental for a children’s party.

THE EFFINGHAM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY will be Sunday, December 18 with doors opening at 12:00 p.m. Social Hour will be from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the meal served at 1:00 p.m. The band will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will play until at least 4:00 p.m. There will also be 50/50 and door prize drawings throughout the afternoon. We will again have the *Keep Christ in Christmas* Posters on display.

Teen Mission Work Camp

There is still time to register for next summer’s work camp but the deadline is in one week!!! The Catholic Heart Work Camp will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 17-22. If interested, contact Glenn Pankonen at 663-7821.