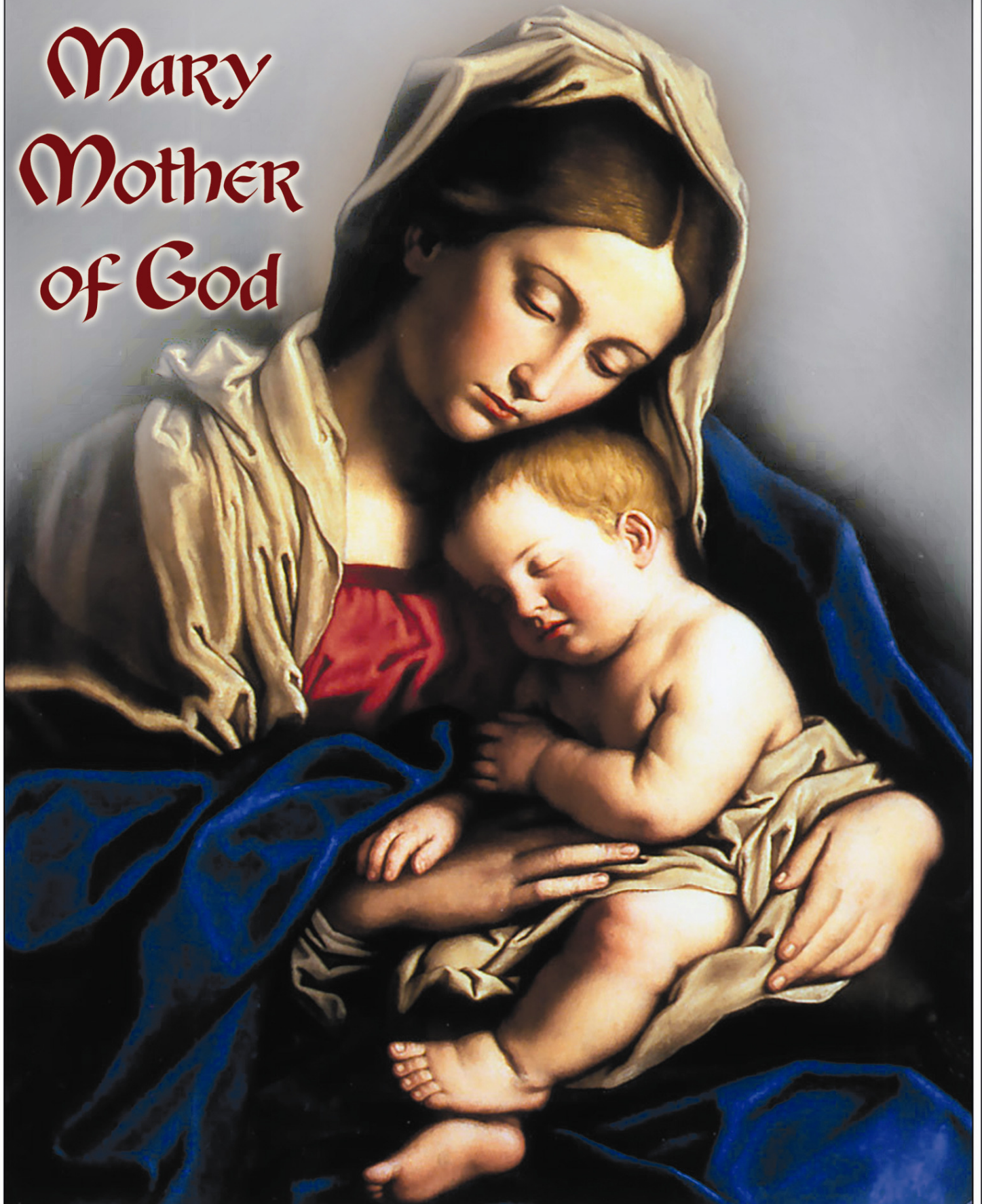


Mary
Mother
of God



Dear Parishioners,

Today, January 1st 2012, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. How appropriate. Even as we celebrate the beginning of a new year we often see the image of a baby picking up where Father Time has left off. This is a time to celebrate new beginnings and renewal of life. This type of tradition is as old as human history and has been celebrated in some form in most cultures.

How does this fit with the celebration of the motherhood of Mary? A week ago we celebrated the birth of the Christ. Mary didn't just give birth to any son; she gave birth to the Son of God. It was not just the beginning of a particular human life but the beginning of the recreation of all human life. In the first reading today God told Moses: "This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!" Little did they know that God actually meant it literally.

God didn't have a human face for us to see until Jesus. The Son of God took on His humanity through Mary. This is how God came to dwell among us in a physical presence. One of my favorite works of art is a sculpture of the pieta, Mary holding the body of Jesus at the foot of the cross. In this particular sculpture at Blessed Sacrament Church in Springfield, the face of Mary and the face of Jesus are identical except for the beard of Jesus. They should look alike. His mother is His only human parent. The face of God looks like the face of Mary and this is the face that shines upon us with the grace of salvation. We owe our salvation to Jesus along with the cooperation and willingness of Mary.

In theology we have something called "soteriology," the study of salvation. The main principal of soteriology is "what is not assumed is not redeemed." Through Mary, who was conceived without sin, Jesus assumed every bit of our humanity except for sin. He did not come to redeem sin but to save us from it. He came to redeem us and the motherhood of Mary made this possible. Mary is one of us. Because of her "yes" to God, Jesus is also one of us and we can now be incorporated into the body of Christ.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish
101 E. Virginia, P.O. Box 764
Effingham, Illinois 62401
Phone: 217-347-7129

Fr. David Hoefler, Pastor
 Fr. Brian Alford, Parochial Vicar
 Fr. Sunder Ery, Parochial Vicar
 Joe Emmerich, Deacon
 Sr. Jane Marie Hotze, SSND
 Sr. Alicia Drone, ADC

If this seems like a lot to digest, what must this have been like for Mary? The Gospel tells us that "Mary kept all these things reflecting on them in her heart." In the motherhood of Mary we realize that she is the first and greatest of all disciples. In this quote from Sacred Scripture we realize that she is also a great teacher of prayer. No human being could have been closer to Jesus yet in her humanity she was still limited in her understanding of God. She was always close to God and so always in a position to receive what God would reveal to her. Even so, the moments of great revelation were too great to ever understand the depth of the mystery of God. So she "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." The whole truth of God is present in Jesus Christ. God reveals Himself to us through Jesus. We have to continually reflect on our encounters with Christ to come to know Him more. In this New Year, let's commit ourselves to a closer conversation with God and a habit of reflection on God's presence in our life.

At this moment Fr. Alford is actively doing this just that. He is on retreat so let's keep him in our prayers. The fruit of his retreat will be something that feeds us all. I pray that it is very fruitful for him. Fr. Alford will be back with us next weekend.

Also at this time our school students are on a kind of retreat from their academic rigor. Let's also keep them in our prayers. May their "retreat" be fruitful and safe.

Fr. Ery, Fr. Alford, and I thank you all for the many kindnesses you shared with us at Christmas. What a gift to share the gift of the Christ child with you together for the first time!

In Christ,
Fr. David Hoefler



Pro-Life Corner

Jesus, open my eyes to your presence in the life of every child. Open my heart to joy in the birth of every child, a birth that reflects the joy of your own birth in Bethlehem.

As you shared life in the womb of Mary, so now send your protection upon every child still in the womb, and grant to their mothers the strength and joy that comes from welcoming the gift of life. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

(Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life)

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 2, 6:30 a.m. Mass: Jack Kabbes Family **8:30 a.m. Mass:** Curt Richards Anniversary
Tuesday, January 3, 6:30 a.m. Mass: Jacob Stock **8:30 a.m. Mass:** Henry Hoene
Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 a.m. Mass: Eugene Dasenbrock Family **8:30 a.m. Mass:** Quint & Marie Siemer Family, Leo Martin, Margaret Meyer Anniversary, Frank & Betty Esker Family, Louis & Charlene Thies Families
Thursday, January 5, 6:30 a.m. Mass: Eileen Carson **8:30 a.m. Mass:** Clarence Braun Anniversary
Friday, January 6, 6:30 a.m. Mass: Leo Haarmann, Pauletta Zimmerman Family **8:30 a.m. Mass:** Alphonse Mette
Saturday, January 7, 4:30 p.m. Mass: Peter Grujanac Anniversary
Sunday, January 8: 7:30 Mass Walter Jones Anniversary **9:15 Mass** Anton Dasenbrock Family **11:00 Mass** Parishioners of St. Anthony

Calendar of Events Jan. 1-8

Sun., Jan 1 10-11 Scrip Store Open
12-2 Calendar Ticket Pickup
Mon., Jan 2 Parish Office Closed
Tues., Jan. 3 7pm, Bereavement Support
Wed., Jan. 4 9am-2pm, SCRIP Store Open
6:30 PSR, Grade School
6:30 Parish Council Mtg.
7:30 Stewardship Mtg.
Thurs., Jan. 5 7pm, RCIA
Fri., Jan. 6 10-2 Scrip Store Open
6pm, All Council Christmas Party
Sat., Jan. 7 5:30-6:30 Scrip Store Open
5:30 Choir Christmas Party
Sun., Jan. 8 10:15-11:15 Scrip Store Open



**St. Anthony Parish Offices
Will Be Closed
Monday, January 2.**

Mass Servers

Weekday Masses, January 2-6

Jan. 2-4 6:30 a.m. Jacob Blanchette/Zach Dust
 Jan. 5-6 6:30 a.m. Luke Flaig/John Hartke
 Jan. 2 8:30 a.m. Samantha Brandenburger/Maddie Schuette
 Jan. 3 8:30 a.m. Elizabeth Falconburg/Chris Jones
 Jan. 4 8:30 a.m. Chandler Martelli/Will Clausius
 Jan. 5-6 8:30 a.m. Grade School Provides

Weekend Masses in January

4:30 p.m. Sat. Grace Zeller/Kaitlyn Zeller/Laura Deters
 7:30 a.m. Sun. Dawn McGuire/Keri McGuire/Barbara McGuire
 9:15 a.m. Sun. Samantha Brandenburger/Nicholas Goeckner/Natalie Goeckner
 11:00 a.m. Sun. Greg Utz/Avery Liss/Parker Seachrist



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, Michael Avery, Harold Bushur, Glenn Ehrhart, Duane Feldhake, Bob Hawickhorst, Brandt Jarrett, Jeaneane Jenne, Mary Lawyer, Marie McDaniel, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Ken Polarek, Ron Shoffstall, Pat Tate, Lee Thomas

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

To ensure your contributions are included in the year intended, 2011 contributions must be dated and post marked in 2011. If you hand deliver your year-end contribution, it must be dated 2011 and received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

If you are planning a donation of stock, please be aware that credit cannot be given until the shares are in our name and control. Your tax advisor can show you how a donation of stock could benefit you.

St. Anthony Parish Calendars Are Available

The 2012 St. Anthony Parish Calendars are now available at the exits of church. Special thanks to Dust & Son Auto Supplies and the Chuck Keller Family for your generous support.



Pre-Cana

St. Anthony will host a Pre-Cana Workshop Sunday, March 4, 2012. Please call 347-7129 to register. Size is limited to 15 couples.

Baptism Class

Anyone wishing to have their child baptized at St. Anthony Church must attend a Baptism Class every 3 years. The next class is Monday, January 23, 2012 at St. Anthony Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. Call the parish office at 347-7129 to register.



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.



Please make plans to join us Saturday, January 7 from 6-9 pm at Tuscan Hills Winery for our New

Year celebration! Spouses are welcome as we enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. \$2 cover charge plus bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Dress casually. It's sure to be a good time as we ring in the new year with our Mom's Ministry friends! For questions or more information, contact Barb Hoene at bbhoene@mchsi.com or 342-4432. To learn more about Mom's Ministry, visit us at www.stanthony.com/ministriesprograms/momsministry

Confirmation Meeting

All students, and their parents, who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year at St. Anthony Church are required to attend a meeting at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 11 in the Parish Center. If you are absolutely unable to attend, please contact Sister Alicia Drone at 347-7129, as soon as possible. A make-up meeting will be required.



Thank you for all who participated and supported our SCRIP Program this year. Once again, you have exceeded all of our expectations!

Total sales for week 7 of the contest were \$34,169.50!

Total sales for the **7 week contest were \$109,665.50!**

In 6th place is Mrs. Gardewine's Class with 123

In 5th place is Mrs. Faber's Class with 124

In 4th place is Mrs. Cummins's Class with 125

In 3rd place is Mr. Mette's Class with 133

In 2nd place is Mrs. Wente's Class with 286

In 1st place is Mrs. Devall's Class with 350

Congratulations to Mrs. Devall's Class. They will be deciding on a bowling party or a class party during Christmas break.

Again, Thank you!

SCRIP Coordinators,

Debbie Hodge & Amy Blanchette



2011 Fundraising Calendar Update

Congratulations

December 23—\$50 Winner:

Norma Lustig, Effingham

December 25—\$500 Winner:

Bob Behrman, Effingham

Sales for the 2012 Calendar Raffle are under way! This year, we are taking a team sales approach. Our overall goal is to sell 2,000 tickets for this year's calendar raffle! To date we have sold 857 calendars. Results are as follows:

Dave Brumleve's Team: 182 tickets

Kathy Clausius's Team: 91 tickets

Charlie Brumleve's Team: 87 tickets

Noah Brandenburger's Team: 68 tickets

Jerry Hecht's Team: 41 tickets

Nicole Zeller's Team: 22 tickets

Carolyn Spraul's Team: 9 tickets

David Emmerich's Team: 8 tickets

Parish Office sales: 124 tickets

AlumNite & Chili supper sales: 45 tickets

Monetary Donations not included in team sales: \$4500



*May the souls of Norman
Fuesting and Coletta Wilhelms
sing praises with the Angels in
Heaven Forever.*

PINK OUT Day at High School Boys' Basketball Game

Fill the stands with PINK on Friday, February 3 at the high school boys' basketball game! Show your support by wearing pink. St. Anthony Pink Shirts are available. Order and payment should be submitted to the school office by Friday, January 13.

High School Open House: St. Anthony High School is planning an open house for Wednesday, February 1 for all 2012-2013 incoming freshman and interested families. The open house begins at 7:00 pm. Please feel free to extend the invitation to families that may be interested in learning more about St. Anthony High School! Contact the high school office at 342-6969 with any questions.

Grade School Open House: St. Anthony Grade School is planning an open house for Tuesday, February 21 for all 2012-2013 incoming kindergarteners and interested families. The open house begins at 6:30 pm. Please feel free to extend the invitation to families that may be interested in learning more about St. Anthony Grade School! Contact the grade school office at 347-0419 with any questions.

Message from Bishop Paprocki

My dear friends in Christ,

One of my greatest privileges as your bishop is communicating with you through my regular column in *Catholic Times*, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

I am proud to be a part of the Catholic press and to be publisher of a Catholic newspaper that provides news of the diocese, the nation and the world.

The purpose of the Catholic press is more than merely reporting “what” is happening. The Catholic press tries to explain the meaning of the world and national developments through the lens of our Catholic faith. In *Catholic Times* you can read about important events in our parishes and schools. Your diocesan newspaper brings you stories of people living fervent, faith-filled lives right here in the 28 counties of our diocese.

I have found *Catholic Times* to be interesting, informative and solidly grounded in Catholic teaching. Throughout the year, readers can count on *Catholic Times* to inform, educate, teach, serve and inspire the people in central Illinois.

As is our long-standing custom, I expect *Catholic Times* to be sent to each household in the diocese, either digitally or through the mail. At \$15 annually, *Catholic Times* is a most inexpensive and valuable way for us to keep informed on the vital issues that affect us and our faith. Please renew your subscription by contributing to the second collection for the weekend of January 7-8, 2012.

With thanks for your generous support of *Catholic Times*, I remain Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Times has “gone green” and you can preview a free, no-obligation sample issue at ct.dio.org/gogreen. Just click “Check us out on-line.” *CT*’s digital edition has all the great stories, pictures and advertisements available in the paper edition. With the user-friendly, page-turning format, you can search current or archived issues by keyword; access a table of contents; view ads from all our advertisers and e-mail or visit their Web sites; translate into Spanish; and e-mail stories to friends. Plus, you’ll receive an e-mail alert when a new issue of *Catholic Times* is posted. If you like what you see, go back to ct.dio.org/gogreen to make the switch to paperless!



Christmas Decoration Memorials

In Memory of Alex Pickett, Ethel & Maurice Brumleve from their family.



Welcome Newly Baptized

Bella Marie, daughter of Brian & Jill (Jurgensmeier) Schultz

Braxton Matthew, son of Brian & Jill (Jurgensmeier) Schultz

Taylor Leigh, daughter of Clint & Amy (Holland) Denning

Henry Dean, son of Mark & Megan (Schmidt) Haarman

Isadora Maria, daughter of Darren & Jeanna (Nuxoll) Stewart

Claire Alexandria, daughter of Matthew & Sheena (Layton) Reed

Nicholas Charles, son of Brent & Angela (Dust) Bierman

Emma Ching, daughter of John & Christine (Chin-Chwin-Tan) Scally

Martin Thomas, son of Thomas & Sarah (Weber) Scheidemantel

Ushers for January

4:30 p.m. Mass	Bernie Sandschafer James Stuckey
7:30 a.m. Mass	Terry Westendorf Keith Willenborg
9:15 a.m. Mass	Mark Reiss Mary Sur
11:00 a.m. Mass	Gene Fearday Ryan Worman

Church Cleaning Crew for January

Cleaning of our church is done Saturday mornings from **8:30-9:30**. If your name appears, please bring your family and share your God given talents. If you are unable to attend, please call a replacement. Those needing service hours are always welcome.

Warren/Emma Schmidt	William/Sue Schmidt
Frank/Rita Schniederjon	Gerald/Deborah Schoenhoff
Mark/Elizabeth Schottman	Greg/Barb Schuette
Brian/Kenda Schuette	Carmen Schuette
Chuck/Jan Schuette	David/Jamie Schuette
Jean Schuette	Kelly Schuette
Mike/Krystle Schuette	

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

May the Blessings of our Lord and the Peace of the Christ Child be yours, this day and all of 2012!

Did you see Mrs. Devall's first grade class at the varsity basketball game on December 20? They won the Scrip card selling competition held between grade school classrooms and were treated to the game (sitting in a special section to themselves), popcorn, met the team and the boys toured the locker room. Congratulations to them and thanks to all who helped them win this prize and thanks to all who continue to participate in the Scrip school fundraising program. Our total purchases, since this program began during the fall of 2009 are \$1,418,000. At an estimated return of 4.5%, over \$63,000 has been generated for St. Anthony Schools! After the amount used for inventory, \$32,000 has been received so far.

It is not too late to enter the calendar drawings. Over the 12 months of 2012, there will be 59 drawings and winnings totaling \$12,000. The calendars are good too.

Congratulations to the Primary teachers and students. A packed home-side crowd of parents, grandparents and siblings watched the kindergarteners act out and narrate *Christmas is on the Way*. First graders were missing two front teeth initially and then rocked around the clock. The experienced second graders gave a visual and audio rendition of Frosty and Jingle Bells. Together first & second sang the Twelve Days of Vacation and everyone was wished a "*Merry Christmas*". Hope yours is too (still 9 days left).

Updated collection totals will be available next week. Thanks for your financial support.



"Pray the New Year In" at the St. Anthony Memorial Hospital Chapel on New Year's Eve. The Rosary will begin at 10:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 11:00 p.m. All are invited.

Additional Adorers are needed to pray for an hour each week before the most Blessed Sacrament. To sign up, or for more information, please call Lorraine at 857-3220 or 342-4764.

Anyone interested in one hour of Eucharistic Adoration at the hospital chapel from 4:00-5:00 a.m. the 3rd & 4th Friday of each month, please contact Betty Brown at 342-9470.

Taste of Teutopolis

Delicious Food & Great Entertainment

Who could ask for more? The Teutopolis Area CHWC group and The First National Bank of Dieterich are offering BOTH at the Taste of Teutopolis on January 14! More than 20 food booths will be set up to tempt your taste buds! Food will be served from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the T-Town K of C Hall. All CHWC participants, as well as all the branches of the bank, have tickets for sale for this fun event! Enjoy great food and support our area youth!

Effingham County Right to Life Whole Hog Sausage & Egg Breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Sunday, January 15, at the Teutopolis Grade School. Volunteers are needed for set up on Saturday and for serving and cleanup on Sunday. Donations of home-baked breads and novelty store items would be appreciated. To volunteer, or for additional information, contact Loretta Koester at 857-3060.



Luminaries for Life

"Luminaries for Life", a public display of our pro-life beliefs, will be held on January 21st and 22nd in commemoration of the tragic Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade. Thirty-nine years ago this court decision led to the legalization of abortion throughout all nine months of a pregnancy. High school students from the PSR classes and from St. Anthony High School will each decorate a luminary to express their pro-life support. Please pray the students will be inspired, as well as those who view the display.

Sunday Youth Instruction

There will be NO Sunday Youth Instruction at the high school gym on December 25 and the entire month of January. Instruction will resume on February 5, 12, 19 and end on the 26th.



Tom Bryant Memorial Basketball Shooting & Fundamentals Camp January 8th, 15th & 22nd, 2012

Boys and girls in Grades K-6 are invited to participate in a shooting camp where they will have fun and learn the fundamentals of basketball. Cost is \$25.00. All proceeds fund the Tom Bryant Scholarships. Registration Forms are available online at www.stanthony.com and can be picked up at the Grade School, High School, and Church Office.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

We wish to thank the many merchants who are generously supporting our weekly bulletin with their advertising. We hope that you will patronize these services and businesses who make it possible.