

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we begin the season of Advent. It is the one season of the Church that seems to be celebrated only in the Catholic Church. Since the beginning of November, you and I have been bombarded by thoughts of Christmas, and the usual Christmas shopping. There was a time when this was reserved from Thanksgiving on. Not any more—the thought of Christmas has been present in stores since Halloween, if not before. And so, when everyone in society seems to be celebrating Christmas, the Catholic Church is the lone voice that seems to be saying—“wait a minute, we need to prepare our hearts and lives for Christmas. Christmas has not arrived. And we need to use this time to prepare for Jesus’ coming.” And so the Church begins this weekend the First Sunday of Advent.

Perhaps the meaning of Advent can be found in our first reading from Jeremiah. In that reading, we hear the following: “the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land.” As we know, this just shoot is none other than Jesus Christ. He has fulfilled the promise of God to His people. And as He came several thousand years ago, Advent helps us to realize not only that first coming, but also His coming again in glory. It is this final coming that the Church anticipates and helps us to prepare—the real meaning of Advent. May each of us use this time to separate ourselves from the attachments of this world, and find real meaning and peace with our attachment to Christ and His Church. Then and only then will our lives be prepared for Christ’s coming.

This Wednesday, December 2, the dedication of the renovated Cathedral will take place in Springfield. It is through the generosity of so many parishioners of St. Anthony that this vision of a renovated cathedral has become a reality. I hope that some of you will have an opportunity to see this renovated structure with some new additions as it is the focal point for our diocesan Church. Now we await a new bishop to assume his chair in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Next Sunday, December 6, the second grade children of our parish will be celebrating their First Reconciliation. I ask you to pray for them as they encounter the loving mercy and forgiveness of God.

In our bulletin two weeks ago, we announced two very important fundraisers for our schools. The

first fundraiser replaces the Annual Catholic School Car Raffle. This car raffle, as many of you experienced, really was successful for a number of years but seemed to have run its course. People were not only having difficulties forming teams but also had much difficulty in selling tickets. Instead of this car raffle, the fund raising committee is introducing the fundraising calendar. For \$25 per ticket, the buyer will have a chance to be in all the numerous drawings throughout the year. The monies drawn each week will vary but each buyer will have a chance to win each week. Even though we are only selling one calendar, a buyer can also purchase several other tickets that will enhance the possibility of winning cash every week. The main prize to be drawn in May, 2010 is \$4000 tuition and books credit for St. Anthony Schools or \$2500 cash. Another prize of \$2000 VISA SCRIP CARD will be drawn in November 2010 along with \$500 cash prizes on Holy Days and the Feast of St. Anthony. I am encouraging you to take part in this fundraiser and help St. Anthony Schools. You can’t win without a ticket. We are hoping to sell at least 2500 tickets and they can be purchased here at the Parish Center or from parishioners who are selling them. Then the second fundraiser is the St. Anthony Schools Online Auction. There are a number of items up for bids. Please visit the parish web site, www.stanthony.com for more information and items up for auction. Bidding started on November 15, and will conclude on December 12, 2009. Finally, I ask you to mark your calendars for Sunday, December 13, from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for the Reason for the Season Breakfast. It will be held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center and the monies raised will assist Catholic Charities. Come out and have some fun as we prepare ourselves for Christmas.

Reminder that Tuesday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holyday in our Church. Mass will be the following: Monday, December 7—5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, December 8—6:30 and 8:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. at St. Anthony; and 7:00 p.m. at Shumway.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: In the middle of December, a boy in kindergarten at a church school came home and asked his father, “What is buffalo ham?” The father patiently explained to him the difference between beef and pork. After his explanation, the boy asked, “Why did my religion teacher tell me that is where Jesus was born?”

Fr. Leo J. Enlow

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 30, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass; 3:30 p.m. Communion Service at Evergreen: Ted Richards Anniversary, Linda Koester, Gertrude Deters, Anton Osthoff Anniversary

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Phil Kinkelaar Anniversary, Clem & Clara Goldstein family, Robert Swingler, Catherine Beckler

Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Mary Kyle, Albert G. Willenborg Anniversary, Don Boos, Clarence Walk family

Thursday, December 3, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: William & Agnes Kabbes, Richard Will Anniversary, Arlen Clayton, Stella Mette Anniversary, Ronald R. Niebrugge

Friday, December 4, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass; 2:00 p.m. Communion Service at Lakeland: Daniel Stephens, Sr., Eugene Dasenbrock family, Leo Enlow, Sr., Bertha Mette, Lawrence & Barb Carie family, Vi Kabbes family

Saturday, December 5, 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mass: Florence Schuette Anniversary, Al Having, Dan J. Sullivan family, Jim Bourgeois Anniversary, Bertha Mette, Frank G. Schniederjon family

Sunday, December 6, 7:30, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. Mass: Nick Dust, Clem Green, Mickey Reynolds, Bob Platt Anniversary, Tom Bryant Anniversary, Kim Bushue, Charles J. Wiedman, Florence Bushur, Parishioners of St. Anthony

Living with Loss during the Holidays

Living with loss while others are celebrating the Holidays can be difficult when one has lost a loved one.

A holiday support group will meet each Tuesday through December 29 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Parish Center. All are welcome once, twice, each time. We want to walk with you in prayer and presence.

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

<i>Adeline Bailey</i>	<i>Michael Kay</i>	<i>Rosemary Soltwedde</i>
<i>Mary Baker</i>	<i>Lisa Kingery</i>	<i>Eric Stein</i>
<i>Jim Bloemer</i>	<i>Carolyn Koerner</i>	<i>Tom Stillwell</i>
<i>Jim Brady</i>	<i>Amy Koester</i>	<i>Lester Stoner</i>
<i>Lisa Crosson</i>	<i>Terry Kraft</i>	<i>Lee Thomas</i>
<i>Art Dasenbrock</i>	<i>Michelle Kuhl</i>	<i>Joyce Vahling</i>
<i>Doris Dasenbrock</i>	<i>Dorothy Levitt</i>	<i>Rebekah Volk</i>
<i>Alexis Didier</i>	<i>Minnie Luchtefeld</i>	<i>Craig Welch</i>
<i>Larry Fehrenbacher</i>	<i>Donna Martin</i>	<i>Valentine Wentz</i>
<i>Sally Ferry</i>	<i>Agnes Meyer</i>	<i>Joyce Westjohn</i>
<i>Joan Gardewine Ashley</i>	<i>Jolly Michels</i>	<i>Michael Wheeler</i>
<i>Bruce Hartke</i>	<i>Mildred Nash</i>	<i>Mark Worman</i>
<i>Jim Jansen</i>	<i>Diane Rallo</i>	
<i>Kris Jansen</i>	<i>Steve Sehy</i>	
<i>Tessie Kabbes</i>	<i>Ron Shoffstall</i>	

**Coffee & Donuts, St. Nick
CCW Cookie/Candy Sale**

Sunday, December 6

Come over to the parish center after the 9:15 Mass and join in the activities. St. Nicholas will be reading a story to the children. There will be activities and crafts. Don't forget there will be goodies from the Cookie and Candy Sale available for purchase.

**There is still Time to Turn in
Your Commitment Card**

You still have time to return your Commitment Card by bringing it or mailing it to the parish 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.

Children's Liturgy

All 3 and 4 year old parishioners are invited 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.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Those in our parish who have advent wreaths might want to celebrate this special blessing in their homes.

Parent: The Lord of light come to save us

All: Let us live in His light

Parent: Let us pray

O God, our Father in heaven by your Word all things are made holy. Send forth your blessings upon this Advent wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts and minds well for the coming of your Son, Jesus. May we receive from you many blessings and graces for our family. We ask these things in the name of the same Christ, your Son, and our Lord and Brother.

Parent: O Lord, stir up your might and come! Be our protector and liberator; rescue us from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins, and lead us to our salvation. You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen
One candle is lighted by the youngest child and left burning during the meal.

Holiday Cookie/Candy Sale
Council of Catholic Women

December 5 & 6 in the Parish Center

The Annual Cookie/Candy Sale is next weekend and we need all the parishioners of the parish to bring their bake goods to the parish center December 5 between 10:00 a.m. through the 4:30 p.m. Mass. The sale begins before the 4:30 Mass and after all weekend Masses.

Invitation to Ladies of the Parish

All Ladies are invited to the Council of Catholic Women's Christmas Party on **Monday, December 7**, 6:30 p.m. in the parish center. The turkey, dressing, drinks and table service will be provided. **REMEMBER** to bring a covered dish for our potluck meal and ask a friend to come.

Ladies with September and October birthdays are being asked to help serve the dinner.

The quilt will be raffled that night so be sure to turn chances in by putting in the church basket **marked CCW Quilt** preceding the dinner, bring to the dinner or mail to: Ann Platt, 1113 Diana Ct, Effingham IL 62401. Remember to bring a \$3 donation for our Christmas gift to our sister parish in Haiti.

Scrip Cards Update

Another NEW local retailer added to the list. RMC Cinemas has joined our locals listing with \$20 increment cards and 10% going back to the school.

SCRIP cards are sold each weekend through the end of December **after the Saturday 4:30 Mass and from 10-11 on Sundays.** You can also place orders by dropping them off at the parish office between 9a-4p.

If you order on line you will need the St. Anthony on line code: D76FF4CB21443

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Can you help with SCRIP cards??? We need support after church or during school events. Contact Dawn Grubb, to volunteer, at dawngrubb@consolidated.net.

What do you do with all those old, used SCRIP cards? Turn them back in! You can now drop off all of your used cards at the Parish Center through November 30.

Warm Feet and Seats Project

This is the project to help Catholic Charities and FISH with their Christmas Store. We are collecting **NEW socks and NEW underwear** in the sizes of infancy to 18 years of age. A box is in the back of church now to December 3 for you to place items. *Thank you!*



A Special Christmas Gift

Once again 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 a 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

PSR – Grades 4-12

Dec 9 6:30 p.m. St. Anthony Church

Grades Times

Dec 9 9:30 a.m. 3rd

10:30 a.m. 4th

1:00 p.m. 5th

Dec 10 9:30 a.m. 6th

10:30 a.m. 7th

1:00 p.m. 8th

Dec 17 10:30 a.m. Freshmen

12:30 p.m. Sophomores

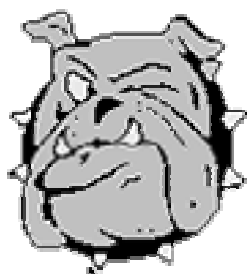
1:30 p.m. Juniors

St. Anthony High School Presents:
***Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim**

A cast of 23 colorful characters, including Cinderella, Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk), Little Red Riding Hood, a childless Baker and his Wife, and a Witch, all venture into the woods to pursue their various wishes. The lessons they learn along the way help them to grow and cope with the hardships life throws at us. Shows will be on Friday, December 4th (7:00pm), Saturday, December 5th (2:00pm and 7:00pm), and Sunday, December 6th (2:00pm) on the St. Anthony High School stage. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. Tickets are available in advance in the SAHS Office or can be purchased at the door.

20th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life

This is December 8-9 in St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Chapel. With over 50 million abortions performed in America since 1973, we will beg our Blessed Mother for her powerful intercession. Prayers begin at 9 p.m. Tuesday, December 8 and continue until 1 a.m. Wednesday, December 9.



PAW PRINTS



Sign up for **CONSTANT CONTACT** to receive St. Anthony news by registering at <http://www.stanthony.com/emailupdates/>

What's the Buzz...

...One final pitch for the fall musical, *Into the Woods*: the curtain goes up on Friday, December 4th, at 7:00pm. Shows continue through the weekend. A Saturday matinee (2:00pm) has been added to the schedule. *Into the Woods* is a fun show that the whole family will enjoy. Cast members include **Aaron Wall, Jackie Wortman, Drew Willenborg, Allie Kabbes, Leah Sloan, LeeAnn Bussman, Lewis Martin, Jessica Doehring, Josh Hanner, Miranda Rohlfing, Kara Pickowitz, Elizabeth Jansen, Mary Jo Bushur, Jake Spraul, Alex Brown, Marilyn Sudkamp, Josh Wall,**

Paul Sudkamp, Kelli Griffin, Katie Whightsel, Jesse Haarmann, Megan Zumbahlen, and Keri Utz. Miss Christy Cyrus and Mrs. Kim Deters are the directors

...**Mrs. Joy Jones** and her math students have been collecting toys to donate to the F.I.S.H. Christmas Store.

...**Mrs. Jerris Cross** is having her English II classes collect change for the benefit of Catholic Charities. Students are collecting pennies and other loose change throughout November. *Pennies for Heaven!*

...**Mrs. Tammy Keller's** National Honor Society

has been collecting toys from area businesses to aid the F.I.S.H. Christmas Store. NHS members have also been tutoring before and after school throughout the semester. They will be setting up "Exam Cram" sessions to help students prepare for semester exams

...**Mrs. Sandy Gillespie's** students have been collecting books for Catholic Charities.

...The SAHS Christmas Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00pm in the Enlow Center multi-purpose room. The concert is free to the public.

Calendar Highlights

- ☺ Dec. 4, Into the Woods, 7:00pm
- ☺ Dec. 5, Into the Woods, 2:00 & 7:00
- ☺ Dec. 6, Into the Woods, 2:00
- ☺ Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception Mass, 12:10
- ☺ Dec. 13, St. John's Brass @ Church, 6:30pm
- ☺ Dec. 15, Christmas Concert, 7:00pm, @ SAHS
- ☺ Dec. 17, High School Reconciliation @ Church
- ☺ Dec. 18-22 Exams
- ☺ Dec. 23-Jan. 4 Christmas Break
- ☺ Jan. 5 School resumes at 8:30 Mass

December/January Sports Schedule

Girls Basketball

Dec. 3 v Mt. Vernon
 Dec. 7 v Altamont
 Dec. 10 @ Cowden-Herrick
 Dec. 12 v Mater Dei
 Dec. 14 @ Teutopolis
 Dec. 22 v North Clay
 Jan. 5 @ Dieterich
 Jan. 7 v Shelbyville
 Jan. 11 @ Flora
 Jan. 14 @ Neoga
 Jan. 16 v Red Hill
 Jan. 21 @ Paris
 Jan. 25 v South Central

Boys Basketball

Dec. 8 v Beecher City
 Dec. 11 @ St. Elmo
 Dec. 12 @ Kentucky Shootout
 Dec. 19 @ Dieterich
 Dec. 29-30 Bulldog Christmas Tourney
 Jan. 9 @ Unity Shootout
 Jan. 12 @ Neoga
 Jan. 15 v Mater Dei
 Jan. 19 v Newton
 Jan. 22 @ Stew-Stras
 Jan. 25-30 NTC Tourney

F/S Basketball

Dec. 3 @ Teutopolis
 Dec. 5 @ Flora
 Dec. 7 @ Effingham
 Dec. 10 v Sullivan
 Dec. 12 @ Stew-Stras
 Dec. 14 @ Vandalia
 Dec. 17 @ Casey-Westfield
 Dec. 21 @ Pana
 Jan. 2 v Mt. Vernon
 Jan. 4 @ Mattoon
 Jan. 7 @ South Central
 Jan. 16 v Cowden-Herrick (Goff)
 Jan. 18 @ Newton

Jan. 21 v Olney
 Jan. 23 v Altamont
 Jan. 30 v Neoga

Wrestling

Dec. 5 @ Lawrence Cty.
 Dec. 10 @ Olney
 Dec. 12 @ St. Thomas More (JV)
 Dec. 19 @ Cumberland Tourney
 Dec. 30 @ Cumberland Dual
 Jan. 2 @ Mt. Carmel Invite.
 Jan. 9 @ Mattoon Tourney
 Jan. 25 @ St. Thomas More (JV)
 Jan. 26 @ Shelbyville
 Jan. 30 @ Salt Fork

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS - Repeat

Annual collection budgeted goal for year ended 6/30/10	\$ 1,924,000
Actual collections through 11/15/09 (20 weeks-\$25,379 average)	507,578
Balance required to reach goal (32 weeks)	<u>\$ 1,416,422</u>
Average weekly goal for remaining 32 weeks	<u>\$ 44,263</u>
Actual weekly offerings received for 11/15/09	<u>\$ 25,810</u>
Last Year Total for 20 weeks (22,845 average)	<u>\$ 456,904</u>

. . . Here's hoping your Thanksgiving was restful and family-filled, if possible. Every day so many people are thankful to so many others who provide for them. . . The Sunday offerings will be updated next week, as the printer's schedule could not let us wait the normal time. . . Please, please complete your commitment card, if not already done so, and mail to us. We hope to soon have the listing of

ministries and activities in which you are interested in participating. . . Thank You's to everyone involved with the Grade School Dedication Mass and Open House. Good jobs were performed and good times were had by all.

Calendar of Events

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

Music Ministry Schedule

- November
- 28 4:30, Jr. High Chorus/Barbara Konrad
 - 29 7:30, TBA/TBA
9:15, Adult Choir/Margaret Niebrugge
11:00, High School Chorus/Barbara Konrad
- December
- 5 4:30p, Adult Choir/Margaret Niebrugge
 - 6 7:30a, Fran Bergfeld/
9:15a, YACS/Allie Kabbes
11:00a, TBA /Kim Deters

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 Catholic Charities and the Keller Convention Center from 8am to 5pm Mon-Fri. There will also be tickets available at the door. You can bring any non-perishable items to help fill Catholic Charities pantry.

Breakfast is hosted by St. Anthony of Padua

Pray for Vocations

Knights of Columbus Children's Christmas Party

The party will be Thursday, December 10 with doors opening at 6 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive at 7 p.m. with games and refreshments prior to and during Santa's visit. There will also be a drawing for a girls and a boys bicycle.

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.

Christmas Store "Christmas for Kids"

Again this year FISH and Catholic Charities are working together to provide a better Christmas for needy families.

We are in desperate need of people to help pick-up donated items. This requires about 2 hours, one day a week starting now. All items collected need to be taken to the FISH warehouse. Call Karen Luchtefeld if you can to help, 217.342.6889.

Did you receive the St. Anthony Scrip Email?

There have been several emails sent over the past couple weeks reminding persons of the SCRIP opportunities. There was also the reminder of the Dedication Mass last Sunday. Did you receive these? If not read below.

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