

Second Sunday of Advent

St. Anthony of Padua
First Reconciliation
December 6, 2009



Reilly Ashton
Taylor Beesley
Alexis Bell
Jessica Coffin
Caroline Deters
Sophia Deters
Jaccob Dust
April Dy
John Elder
Blake Fitzgerald
Austin Flach
Averee Greene
Makenna Grubb
Grace Hakman
Shelby Herboth
Mitchell Heuerman
John Hoene
Darin Hutchison
Rachael Kemme

Emma Klitzing
Jordan Koester
Mackenzie Koester
Sutherland Litke
Claire Lustig
Allison Niebrugge
Audrey Niebrugge

Sophia Poston
Karlee Roepke
Luke Rudolphi
Michael Sager
Madison Schabbing
Gabriel Schuette
Ryan Schultz
Riley Seachrist
Katherine Slaughter
Olivya Smith
Aidan Steineman
Davis Tingley
Carson Utz
Hayden Wiedman
Christopher Widauf
Abigail Will
Catherine Willenborg
Jessica Wilson
Kira Wrigley

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate this first weekend of our month of December, the Church celebrates the Second Sunday in our season of Advent. Our gospel for this weekend introduces us to a man named John the Baptist. It was John's role to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. He is the Advent prophet, the one chosen by God, as the gospel tells us, "to proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." John's baptism was a symbolic gesture on the part of the people who would come forward, recognize that they were sinners, and enter the waters to begin a new life. This baptism was a symbolic washing as people prepared themselves for the coming of the Messiah. John preached a message, challenging the people to make straight the paths of the Lord, filling in every valley, bringing down every mountain and hill, and making straight and smooth the winding roads and rough ways. This message is still clear today. How many of our lives are filled with valleys, those areas in which we find comfort in the ways of this world. How many of our lives have mountains and hills of pride and selfishness that need to be made level. How many of our lives have winding roads that lead us away from the Church and our Savior. How many of our lives have those rough ways which made to be made smooth, rough ways where we fail to forgive, fail to love, and fail to see Christ in others and reach out to them. Yes, the message of John is still relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. Let's heed that message as we prepare our lives for Christmas and the coming of Christ.

This Tuesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and a Holyday of Obligation for all Catholics. This particular solemnity should have special meaning for us as our nation and our diocese is dedicated to Mary under this particular title. To celebrate this Holyday, we will have the following Mass schedule:

Monday, December 7, 5:30 p.m. (Vigil)
Tuesday, December 8: 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m.
and 12:10 p.m., St. Anthony Church
7:00 p.m. St. Mary Church, Shumway

Two weeks ago, I thanked the many men of the parish for helping with the installing the playground equipment. One fear that I have in listing names in the bulletin is that I will forget someone or someone forgot to include a name. Whatever the case, I want to thank Ken Polarek for his work on the playground. Sorry about missing you!

This Sunday, December 6, the second grade students of our parish will be celebrating their First Reconciliation. I want to thank their teachers for helping prepare these young people for this moment of grace. These teachers include Anne Wilson, Gina Gardewine, Jason Frichtl, Nicol Koester, and Sr. Alicia Drone. A special thanks is extended to the parents of these young students for helping them at home by their example and their formation. I ask our parishioners to pray for these young students who will experience Christ's forgiveness for the first time—may it be an experience that they will remember and celebrate throughout their future lives.

Next Sunday is a new adventure for St. Anthony Parish as we will be hosting the "Reason for the Season Breakfast" at the Keller Convention Center. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children (children two and under are free) with the proceeds going to help Catholic Charities. The breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please make this event a part of your Christmas tradition.

There are so many exciting things happening in our parish. The Scrip program continues and is catching on; our online auction continues; and our fundraising calendar is being initiated and sold. In order to do some of these events and fundraising opportunities, we are in need of some help. Our marketing committee is looking for some volunteers to help in not only the events above but also at certain events from basketball games to other events in what is termed as the "Spirit Store." If anyone is interested and plans to be at certain events like basketball games, I ask you to contact Kelly Roepke or Emily Hartke who are seeking volunteers to help them. Remember the success of any venture depends upon people sharing their time and talents. So, please come forward and assist these parishioners who really are marketing our parish and our schools—but are in need of your help.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking her, "which virgin was the mother of Jesus—the Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

Fr. Leo J. Enlow

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 7, 6:30 & 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mass; 3:30 p.m. Communion Service at Evergreen: Andrew & Elsie Tonelli, Howard Goellner, Gertrude Koebel, Steve Huelsing Anniversary, Kathleen Repking Anniversary, Bernie Burford family

Tuesday, December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception ~ 6:30 & 8:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. Mass: L.A. "Hank" Henkelman, Norbert & Virginia Koester, Tom & Connie Wegman family, Helen Apke Anniversary, Jim & Rita Mahon family, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Habing, Charles & Grace Hotze & family, Parishioners of St. Anthony

Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Edward & Delores Hartke, Mary Katherine Hoene, Tony Osthoff, Lawrence E. Brumleve family

Thursday, December 10, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass: Clem & Minnie Luchtefeld, George Willenborg Anniversary, Louis Kreke Anniversary, Celeste Reiss Anniversary, Carl Koerner, Margaret Behl Anniversary, Edna Worman Anniversary

Friday, December 11, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Mass; 2:00 p.m. Mass at Lakeland: Joe, Elizabeth, Harold & Maurice Metten, Mary Katherine Hoene, Ronald R. Niebrugge, Robert Swingler

Saturday, December 12, 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mass: Norman Rentfrow, Tony & Adolph Kaufman, Leo Bourgeois, Leonard Lake family, Cliff & Lucille Kaufman, Clarence J. Brumleve

Sunday, December 13, 7:30, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. Mass: Richard E. Worman Anniversary, Mary Louise Dietzen, Sean Niebrugge, Russ & Mary Uptmor, Ray, Carlene, Bob & Joe Wente, Walter Bussman family, Frank & Christine Kortte family, Herman & Stella Mette, Parishioners of St. Anthony



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Caroline Braun. May God and our prayers console them at this time and may she rest in peace.

During this Advent Season let us remember those who need our Special Prayers in the nursing homes, hospitals, the homebound, and those who are sick and convalescing.

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.

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.

Holiday Cookie/Candy Sale

Council of Catholic Women

December 5 & 6 in the Parish Center

The sale begins before the 4:30 Mass and after all the weekend Masses.

CCW Christmas Party

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. **REMEMBER** to bring a covered dish for our potluck meal and ask a friend to come.

Bring any quilt raffled tickets that night to the dinner. Remember to bring a \$3 donation for our Christmas gift to our sister parish in Haiti.

Turn in Your Commitment Card

You can return your Commitment Card to the parish office mailing it to: PO Box 764, Effingham IL 62401. 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.

For the 2nd Sunday of Advent

Parent: O Lord, stir up our hearts to prepare the way of your only begotten Son so that through His coming on earth we may serve you always with pure intention. You live and reign for ever and ever.



All: Amen

Two candles are lighted by the oldest child and left burning during the meal.

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

St. Anthony Scrip Cards Update

Once again, **Thank You** to everyone for ordering your SCRIP cards! SCRIP means substitute money in the form of the retailer's gift cards. Every gift card purchased gets us closer to reaching our goal. Since our kickoff in mid-August, our sales have exceeded \$160,000 and we have earned nearly \$8,100 for our schools.

Orders for SCRIP gift 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 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.

Pray for Vocations

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.



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. | 8th |
| | | 1:00 p.m. | 7th |
| 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 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 can be purchased at the door.

20th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life

December 8-9 ~ St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Chapel. Prayers begin at 9 p.m. Tuesday, December 8 and continue until 1 a.m. Wednesday, December 9.

Gift Ideas found in the Parish Office

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



December News

December 6, 2009

2009-2010 UPCOMING DATES

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| 12/6/09 | First Reconciliation, Gr. 2, 1:30 p.m. |
| 12/8/09 | All School Mass - <i>Immaculate Conception</i> |
| 12/10/09 | KC Children's Christmas Party 6:00 p.m. |
| 12/20/09 | KC Adult Christmas Party, 12:00 noon |
| 12/21/09 | Behavior Celebration |
| | Christmas Music Concert, 7:00 p.m. |
| 12/22/09 | 11:30 Dismissal, All School Mass |
| | End of 2nd Quarter |
| 12/23/09 -1/4/10 | <i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i> |
| 1/4/10 | Teacher Institute |
| 1/5/10 | School Resumes-report cards go home |
| 1/6/10 | Confirmation Mtg, Gr. 8, 6:30 p.m. |
| 1/18/10 | No School - <i>Martin Luther King Birthday</i> |
| 1/29/10 | 12:00 Noon Dismissal |
| 2/1/10-2/7/10 | <i>Catholic School Week</i> |
| 2/5/10 | Mid Term |
| 2/15/10 | No School - <i>President's Day</i> |
| 2/17/10 | All School Mass - <i>Ash Wednesday</i> |
| 2/26/10 | Gr. 6 leaves for Space Camp |

First Reconciliation

Grade 2 students will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Sunday, December 6th, at 1:30 p.m. We hope they will continue to participate in this sacrament in the future. We ask your prayers for these young people as they receive the sacrament.

Advent Activities

In preparation for Christmas the students will hear an Advent reading each day over the intercom system. There will be Jesse tree located in the lobby that will have a symbol placed on it as the readings are completed. Each teacher will decorate her classroom door with the symbol that represents the reading.

In addition the students in grades 3-8 will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Grades 3-5 will be on December 9 and grades 6-8 will be on December 10.

Winter Week Activities

Student Council has daily activities planned for the last full week of school in December, to celebrate the winter season.

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|------------------|--|
| Monday, 12/14 | If students wear a red or green shirt they will be able to wear jeans. |
| Tuesday, 12/15 | Pajama Day (school appropriate, no slippers) |
| Wednesday, 12/16 | A Christmas Cake Raffle will be held |
| Thursday, 12/17 | Students are encouraged to wear a winter hat and scarf |
| Friday, 12/18 | Surprise |

Please Note

St. Anthony Grade School and High School will have a full day of school on Monday, December 21 and a half day of school on Tuesday, December 22. Unit 40 is not. Therefore it will be necessary for parents to drop off and pick-up their children. The After School Program will be available. School resumes on Tuesday, January 5 for the students.

Behavior Celebration Day - December 21

Students may wear jeans on Monday, 12/21/09, as part of their Behavior Celebration. If you have not yet returned the yellow paper to volunteer, please do so soon.

Christmas Music Concert

If you would like to get into the Christmas spirit you are most welcome to attend the Christmas Music Concert put on by the band and choruses on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Hope to see you there!

Catholic Charities / Fish Collection

Each November/December we collect food for Catholic Charities and toys for Fish. The Student Council is planning a pie in the face contest as an incentive. The last day to accept items is Friday, December 11. Thanking you in advance for your continued support of these organizations.

Inclement Weather

With the Alert Now system we try to notify parents by phone when there will not be school. Because we use Unit 40 buses the decision to not have school is based on Unit 40's decision. Sometimes we do not get the notification of Unit 40's decision before we hear it on the local radio stations. Therefore, you are encouraged to listen to any of the following radio stations: WXF (97.9 FM), KJCountry (102.3 FM), WCRA (1090 AM), or WCRC (95.7 FM). If Unit 40 does not have school assume we do not either.

CONGRATULATIONS

The St. Anthony Eco Team placed third at an Eco-Meet recently held in Mattoon. The Eco-Meet "dubbed" Nature Sleuths is open to area schools for grades 4-6. The team is composed of four members who compete in nature related academic tests. This years team members were Ian Harris, Kyle Hartke, Chandler Martelli, and Emma Richards.

We'd also like to recognize three of our current students for placing in the Red Ribbon Poster Contest recently.

Receiving second place in Category B was Carly Spraul, while Regan Koester received third place.

Receiving third place in Category C was Grace Christian.

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS

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|---|---------------------|
| Annual collection budgeted goal for year ended 6/30/10 | \$ 1,924,000 |
| Actual collections through 11/29/09 (22 weeks-\$26,287 average) | 578,316 |
| Balance required to reach goal (30 weeks) | <u>\$ 1,345,684</u> |
| Average weekly goal for remaining 30 weeks | <u>\$ 44,856</u> |
| Actual weekly offerings received for 11/22/09 | <u>\$ 41,511</u> |
| Actual weekly offerings received for 11/29/09 | <u>\$ 29,227</u> |
| Last Year Total for 22 weeks (22,512 average) | <u>\$ 495,262</u> |

... To reiterate some facts regarding the new grade school: the building costs reached \$6.9 million; an additional \$.5 million was received for technology, kitchen, maintenance and classroom furnishings and equipment. The value of an additional \$2 - 2.5 million of finishing materials, sub-contractor contributions, cable burying, landscaping & bushes, design, & coordination and volunteers for everything was also received. The dedication was a wonderful event. Thanks again to the marketing group and all participants and providers.

Calendar of Events

- Sun,** After All Masses, Candy/Cookie Sales, pc
 9:15 Children's Liturgy, pc sm
 After 9:15 Mass, Coffee Donuts/St Nick, pc
 10-11a, SCRIP, pc
 1:30p, 1st Reconciliation, Church
- Mon,** 6:30p, CCW Christmas, pc
- Tue,** 7:15a, Yoga, pc sm
 7p, Bereavement Support Grp, pc
- Wed,** 5:30p, Handbells, Church
 6:30p, PSR Reconciliation, Church
 7:30p, Adult Choir
- Thurs,** 7p, RCIA
 7:30p, Men's Choir, Church
- Sat** SCRIP after 4:30, pc

Music Ministry Schedule

December

- 5 4:30p, Adult Choir/Margaret Niebrugge
 6 7:30a, Fran Bergfeld/Abbie Dougherty
 9:15a, Allie Kabbes/Kim Deters
 11:00a, TBA /Barbara Konrad
- 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

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.

St. Johns Brass

Fr. Leo invites you to join him in celebrating Christmas with St. Johns Brass in concert December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Please come and enjoy the sounds of our local group which includes our own Amanda Moloney. A free will donation will be taken.

Clavinova Recital

The Christmas Clavinova recital will be held Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Enlow Center at the high school. Please come and enjoy the sounds of Christmas by our piano students.

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

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.