

Sunday, January 7, 2024

# The EPIPHANY of the Lord

*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."*

*Mt 2: 1-2*



**St. Anthony of Padua**

101 E Virginia Ave, Effingham, IL 62401 217-347-7129 [www.stanthony.com](http://www.stanthony.com)

## "From the Pastor's Desk"

Dear St. Anthony Parish Family:

We will be hosting a prayer service, at 5:30pm, next Tuesday January 16, which is the beginning of the legislative session for the State of Illinois, to pray for all of our elected officials and lawmakers. Of concern for this session is the attempt to legalize assisted suicide. The Catholic Church strongly rejects such initiatives as contrary to the dignity of the human person and our vocation to care for the sick and suffering in our midst. Proponents of assisted suicide suggest that the choice to assist the hastening of one's death is an act of compassion when faced with the prospect of suffering. However, the word "compassion" literally means to "suffer with" another; to accompany and enter into solidarity with one in need. Assisting in the death of another person is the *exact opposite* of compassion, it is assisting in the dismissal of another human being. One need not either suffer endlessly alone or be dismissed due to their condition. The Catholic Church does not suggest that a person be allowed to suffer mercilessly or endlessly. Adequate palliative care is to be offered so that a person's pain can be managed. Realizing the limits of human bodily life, the Church recognizes that there are times when further treatments are futile and/or disproportionately burdensome. At such times, no one is obligated to take on medical treatment to extend life as long as is possible. Care in the form of pain management is to be addressed to the point needed to make a person comfortable, even when treatments are no longer helpful. This is the realization of the limits of our earthly life. However, there is a clear delineation between accepting death and activity assisting in the killing of a suffering person. For many suffering persons, their initial inquiries into assisted suicide have been reversed when their pain, emotional and spiritual needs are addressed.

There are many dangers to all individuals in making assisted suicide acceptable in our broader society. When the precedent of assigning value to one's life is established, then those whose care is in part dependent, even in part, upon additional resources (aid and/or insurance), decisions to withhold resources for delivery of treatment or care are a natural consequence. Very few would have predicted in 1973 that the legalization of abortion, frequently argued for extreme situations, would have led to the cultural phenomenon of "abortion on demand" for any reason or no reason at all. It would be naïve to assume that the same pattern for undermining the objective dignity of human life would not lead to similar dismissal of the poor, handicapped, sick and suffering. In places where assisted suicide has been legalized and is practiced, the cultural situation has deteriorated to the point of allowing death-inducing medications to be given to those who are unable to grant their desire or consent to such practices.

I share with many of you the frustration in some of our governmental policies, and that frustration can tempt us to despair. Instead, I ask you to join us in prayer (it is admittedly harder to pray than complain!) that God will lead, direct and sustain us as we try to do His will in all things. Plan to join us January 16.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Peter Harman

'Tis the season for snow and ice. Please remember, if you are uneasy on your feet, and the steps are snowy or icy, please use the West entrance of church. It is a covered entrance and may be easier to maneuver than the front steps.



**Please pray** for Restoration of Religious Liberty, those who are ill, those in hospitals and nursing homes, those recovering from surgery, and all those serving our country and also for:

Lidy Anderson	Cheryl Gross	George Mette
Margie Apke	Mike Hartke	Robert Meyer
Sara Bernhard	Lucinda Herboth	Bill Nuxoll
Steve Bierman	Norma Jean Huelsing	Art Pike
Dustin Borries	Frank Kabbes	Cathy Polarek
Dennis Bushur	Ron Kabbes	Kenneth Polarek
Mary Lynn Byers	Ingrid Kay	John Soucie
Britney Chester	Susan Keenan	Paul Will
Jim Feldhake	Tina Keller	Georgia Willenborg
Jackson Gaitros	Marita Kemme	Dr. Mel Willenborg
Claudia Gale	Amy Koester	Paul V. Willenborg
Avery Gardewine-	Clete Koester	Ann Worman
Braunecker	Coleen Linde	Dan Worman
Angela Geltz	Jeff Linde	Jerry Worman
Meg Goeckner	Blain Loll	Pauline Worman
Susan Goldstein	Rita McMillan	Richard J Worman



Niebrugge

### Christmas Decorations/Donations

- In Memory of Charles Harris, by his family
- In Memory of Willie Niebrugge, by Carol Niebrugge
- In Memory of Doug Niebrugge, by Carol Niebrugge

**In the event of a sudden illness, accident or life threatening emergency, while offices are closed, please contact our priests at (217) 703-1042.**

### St. Anthony Church Mass Times

Mon. thru Fri - 6:30am  
Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri - 8:30am  
Saturday - 4:30pm  
Sunday - 7:30am & 9:15am, 11:00am

### Live Streamed Masses

Saturday at 4:30pm  
Monday thru Friday at 6:30am

### Reconciliation Times

Mon, Tues, Thurs. & Fri: 7:45am to 8:15am  
Saturday: 3:15pm to 4:00pm





## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 6:

**6:30am Mass:** Margaret Hanfland

**4:30pm Mass:** Bud Braun

### Sunday, January 7:

**7:30am Mass:** Gregory Hobbs

**9:15am Mass:** Jerry Schutzbach

**11:00am Mass:** Parishioners of St. Anthony

### Monday, January 8:

**6:30am Mass:** Joe, Elizabeth, Harold & Maurice Metten

**8:30am Mass:** Living & Deceased Members of the Franklin Platz Family

### Tuesday, January 9:

**6:30am Mass:** Robert Swingler

**8:30am Mass:** Carolyn Kinkelaar

### Wednesday, January 10:

**6:30am Mass:** Norbert & Dorothy Niebrugge

### Thursday, January 11:

**6:30am Mass:** Marilyn Lane

**8:30am Mass:** Living & Deceased Members of the Joseph & Lena Hartke Family

### Friday, January 12:

**6:30am Mass:** Marie C Dust

**8:30am Mass:** Harold Bushur Anniversary

### Saturday, January 13:

**4:30pm Mass:** Dan Sullivan Family

### Sunday, January 14:

**7:30am Mass:** Bud & Marie Bloemer Family

**9:15am Mass:** Parishioners of St. Anthony

**11:00am Mass:** Living & Deceased Members of the Paul & Adele Krueger Family

### Luminaries for Life 2024 With Every Woman. For Every Child.\*



St. Anthony Church will be displaying their annual "Luminaries for Life" January 20 and 21, 2024. From dusk to dawn, the church steps will be illuminated with decorated bags shining pro-life messages about respecting life from the moment of conception to natural death.

The bags will have been decorated by St Anthony Junior High and High school students. Drive or walk by this beautiful public display of St. Anthony parish's respect for life. It is a beacon of Christ's love and hope in the community that will shine bright for a few nights during the weekend.

\*2024 "March For Life" Slogan

### Stewardship's Sunday Funday

Please join us on Sunday, January the 14th for our first Chili Cook-off. It will start at 1:00 pm in the Parish Center. If you would like to join as a competitor, please call the office at 217-347-7129 to register. The chili must be homemade. It may be white or red. It must be brought to the Parish Center by 12:30 in a crockpot, in order to be judged.

You do not need to register to taste, only if competing. Bring your drink of choice. Water will be provided. Prizes will be given as to 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Chosen by a team of judges and a crowd favorite. So please join us.

In February get ready to kick up your heels. More to follow.



### Kate Weber's Bible Study

Discovering the Mass in the Bible, by Brant Pitre  
Has anyone ever explained the Parts of the Mass to you? In this year of the Eucharistic Revival, when only 30% of practicing Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, please join us as we learn about the Eucharist. This will be a 10 week course beginning on Thursday, January 11th. You may attend either the 9:15 am or 6:30 pm session. Classes are held in the St. Anthony Parish Center. To sign up and order study materials, please call the Parish Office at 217-347-7129.

### St. Mary's Shumway CCW Casserole Dinner

The St. Mary's CCW of Shumway would like to invite the ladies of St. Anthony, Sacred Heart, and St. Mary's Green Creek to a casserole dinner on Jan. 9 at 6:30pm. Come for a night of fellowship and good food.



**Baptism Class** - Parents are required to attend a Baptism Class before their child is baptized. The next class will be held at St. Anthony's Parish Center, **Thursday, January 18th** at 7:00pm. To register call the parish office at 217-347-7129.



### Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact our parish office at least 9 months before your anticipated wedding date to begin your spiritual preparation. The process will begin with meeting with one of our Priests to set your date. One or both persons must be **registered** and **actively** living their faith at St. Anthony Church for at least 1 year to celebrate their wedding here. All couples planning to be married at our parish must attend a Pre-Cana program, Natural Family Planning program and FOCCUS evaluation. For those who were former members here, they must be **registered** and **actively** living their faith at the parish where they reside. The latest a wedding can begin is 1pm.

### Natural Family Planning Class

**2023 Sessions:** To register, contact Kate Pruemer at 217-821-1840 or [kpruemer@gmail.com](mailto:kpruemer@gmail.com).

**Saturday, February 10th - 1:00 - 2:30pm on WebEx**

**Saturday, April 6th - 9:30 - 11:00am - St. Francis Church**

## Liturgical Ministers for January 2024

Ministry	4:30pm	7:30am	9:15am	11:00am
<b>Lectors</b>	Phil Zaccari	Margie Haarmann	Stephanie Uebinger	Andrew Kremer
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Mary Jo Green BJ Kortte Patty McHugh Janet Probst Rob Zumbahlen	Alice Dust Greg Dust Carlene Weber Kate Weber <b>More Needed</b>	Sarah Geen Dixie Hartke Mandy Henning Patti Jansen Tom Jansen	Eric Koester Larry Masengale Theresa Masengale Susan Ealy <b>More Needed</b>
<b>Servers</b>	Max Schuette Elle Bierman Emery Jansen James Dust	Mike Fearday Lucy Hoke Mary Hoke	Jameson McAllaster Liam McAllaster Amaya Griffith Lilly Butts	Avery Stroud Matthew Runge Charlee Jansen
<b>Ushers</b>	Ed Deters Jeff Dust Mitch Martin Mike Nosbisch	William Percy Tony Weber Gerald Westendorf <b>More Needed</b>	Joe Jansen Vic Jansen Patrick Niebrugge Todd Wegman	Larry Goldstein Dennis Meyer <b>More Needed</b>

### Church Cleaning for January 2024

Cleaning is done Saturday morning from 8:30-9:30. If you are unable to clean, please call a replacement.

Philip & Cathy Zaccari	Eric & Nicole Zeller
Edward Zimmerman	Jeremy & Andrea Zumbahlen
Rob Zumbahlen	Derek & Emily Abendroth
Analiza Adams	Jim Adams
Robert Ahillen	Joseph & Stefanie Ajdinovich
Clint & Sasha Althoff	Anthony & Shannon Althoff
Donald & Carol Althoff	John & Kirsten Althoff
Ryan & Kayla Althoff	Shadi Altwal



**SonRise Men's Breakfast – This Friday**  
All men of the parish are invited to attend. It's a new semester beginning in January.

*The Light of Men*, produced by Paradisus Dei's *That Man Is You*, a series of insightful speakers. [www.paradisusdei.org](http://www.paradisusdei.org). This semester will include a unique focus on The Mysteries of the Rosary during Lent with virtual travel through the Holy Land.

SonRise Friday Men's Breakfast meets at St. Anthony's Parish Center Friday mornings for men from multiple parishes. Breakfast is served at 6:10 a.m., program at 6:30am, followed by discussion and concluding at 7:30am. Become a better son, brother, husband, father, and friend beginning with your relationship with God. There is no charge. Contact the parish office or Dan Woods, [danwoodsface@gmail.com](mailto:danwoodsface@gmail.com).



**Sacrament of Baptism** - Baptisms are celebrated during Mass on Saturdays & Sundays (not during Lent). A family must be **registered & actively** living their faith at St. Anthony Church for 1 year to assure faith will be shared with the new born child. Godparents must also be registered in a Catholic parish or other Christian church & actively living their faith. A Baptism Class is required for all parents. We ask that both parents attend this class together. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please call the parish office.



**The Effingham Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest** will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Registration from 12:00 to 12:30 with the free throw shoot starting at 12:30 p.m. at The Enlow Center at St. Anthony High School. ALL boys and girls ages 9 to 14 (age as of January 1) are invited and welcome to participate. The winners will go on to the District Free Throw Contest in February. If there are questions, please contact Greg Koester at (217) 821-7731.

Entry Forms can be completed at onsite registration OR be found and filled out on the K of C website at: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/community/free-throw-championship/1598-score-sheet.pdf> or by clicking the following link: [Free Throw Entry Form](#) and email to [665kofc@gmail.com](mailto:665kofc@gmail.com).



**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all of the COUNTLESS people who helped to make our annual Christmas Cookie/Candy Sale a tremendous success and lots of fun too! The final tally is just at \$4,500, which will help the ladies' group provide the hosts, wine, and candles, among other things, for our Eucharistic celebrations. It could not have been possible without the MANY wonderful bakers of cookies, bread, cinnamon rolls, snack mixes, and caramels & candy-makers who donated so much of their time and talents to allow us to offer such a variety of "goodies". Of course, a BIG thank you goes to the "angels" (you know who you are) who volunteered their time to help with the organization & beautiful presentation during the event.

In addition, the winner of the quilt was Pat Brumleve. A special thanks to Robin Westendorf for donating it.

A special thanks to Sue Green and her wonderful team who organizes the sale year after year. It wouldn't happen without them.

Finally, thank you to all of the generous SHOPPERS who came to support our efforts.



### Thank You! Thank You!

Fr. Harman, Fr. Berndt and our office staff would like to say THANK YOU! As our Christmas season has come to a close, our thoughts turn toward you for remembering the priests & staff with your goodies, gifts, cards and generosity. Your thoughtfulness over Christmas was greatly appreciated. Thank You to each of you for your kindness and we pray that God continues to bless each and every one of you as we enter this new year. May God, Peace and Joy surround you and your loved ones in the New Year.



## Pro-Life Corner

**Pray to Protect Human Life:** Join others from across the country in praying the 9 Days for Life annual novena, January 16-24, 2024. The novena is for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Sign up at: [www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup](http://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup).

**Save the date for the Illinois March for Life and Mass** – Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Mass, 10 a.m., Sangamon Auditorium, on the UIS Campus, 1 University Plaza, Springfield. Noon, rally in front of the State Capitol, followed by a march around the State Capitol complex. The Mass, rally and march are intended for 7th-12th graders, college students, and adults. More details coming.



**Poland > Effingham > U.S. Citizen – Fr. Michal Rosa's unique story** – Fr. Michal Rosa, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Effingham, became a U.S. citizen July 7, 2023. It's a journey he would have never imagined, growing up in Poland. So how did this all happen, how did Bishop Paprocki play a role, what does Fr. Rosa think of America, what does he miss the most about Poland (besides family), and what aspects of our faith does he wish America prioritized more? We Dive Deep with Fr. Michal Rosa. Go to [dio.org/podcast](http://dio.org/podcast) or [youtube.com/diospringfield](https://youtube.com/diospringfield) or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.



### Are You Registered with St. Anthony Parish?

Thank you for visiting St. Anthony Church. We're so glad you're here! We hope you've had the opportunity to mingle with members of our church family after Mass.

Have you been attending St. Anthony Church for a while? If so, we want to know you better! You may have attended St. Anthony Church your whole life, or may have even attended St. Anthony Schools. You may have moved back to Effingham after moving out of Mom & Dad's house or graduating college. If you're attending St. Anthony Church on a regular basis, register with us as a parishioner.

Every person 21 years or older should fill out a parish registration form to be considered a registered member of St. Anthony Church. Registering is the first step in receiving parish news and information about our parish life and activities such as bible studies, small groups, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Join us in our mission of forming lifelong intentional disciples of Jesus Christ within His Church. Registering as a parishioner is being an intentional disciple!

Visit [church.stanthony.com/join-us](http://church.stanthony.com/join-us) to complete our parish registration, or contact our parish office at 217-347-7129 or [shoene@stanthony.com](mailto:shoene@stanthony.com) to learn more. We look forward to getting to know you better!

## Pilgrimage to Ireland

In the Footsteps of St. Patrick, with Father Michal Rosa



**April 18 – 28, 2024**

Experience a spiritual journey that will connect you with Ireland's rich religious heritage and breathtaking landscapes. From the ancient monastic sites and medieval towns, to the awe-inspiring Cliffs of Moher and the tranquil Kylemore Abbey, you'll discover the profound beauty and serenity of Ireland while strengthening your spiritual connection with God. Mass will be celebrated daily, along with stops at many holy locations.

**\$4,900/person - includes flight tickets, all overnight accommodations, daily breakfast/dinner buffets, local tour guides, destination tickets, & more!**

**Contact the Sacred Heart Parish office in Effingham for more information! 217-347-7177**

"St. Anthony Grade School admits students of any race, color, sex or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and school administered programs. Our schools do reserve all their rights as religious entities in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church, the protections of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and the Illinois Religious Freedom Restoration Act 775 ILCS 35/."

Week Ending Dec. 24, 2023	Weekly Totals	Fiscal YTD (Week 26 of 52)	Last Year's YTD
Regular Church Support	\$64,504.66	\$707,823.52	\$688,035.93
GOAL	\$27,765.00	\$721,890.00	
Difference	\$36,739.66	(\$14,066.48)	
Christmas Offering	\$29,555.00	\$34,700.00	\$21,922.00
Christmas Goal	\$30,000.00	\$40,000.00	

Diocesan Collections	Week Ending Dec. 24, 2023	YTD
Twining Parish in Nigeria	\$1,225.00	\$29,812.00
Catholic Times	\$80.00	\$140.00
Cemetery	\$6,095.00	\$18,847.00
Catholic Children's Home	\$1,506.00	\$2,076.00
Christmas Flowers	\$480.00	\$4,392.00
Latin America	\$25.00	\$25.00
Retirement for Religious	\$1,080.00	\$3,290.00

Week Ending Dec. 31, 2023	Weekly Totals	Fiscal YTD (Week 27 of 52)	Last Year's YTD
Due to our bulletin printing schedule, the collection numbers for December 25-31, will appear in the bulletin on January 14th.			

*St. Thomas School 5th Annual*

# TRIVIA Night

*& Live Auction*

**Cash Prizes ~ Silent Auction ~ 50/50 ~ Heads/Tails ~ Food ~ Wine Pull**

**Saturday, February 24, 2024 @ 6:30 pm**

St. Thomas Parish Center, Newton ~ **Doors open at 5:00 pm** ~ Space is Limited!

**Cost to play: \$160/team of 8 adults over 21**  
(Must be on a team to be present)

**Pulled Pork & Chips available for a free-will donation.**  
**Beverages available for purchase.**

Questions: Contact Jill Bierman or Lori Smith at St. Thomas School  
618-783-3517

Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation number at 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE.

**SAVE THE DATE** **ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST**

**JANUARY 21 2024**  
**7AM - 12:00PM**

Hosted by  
Effingham Area  
Right to Life

**Please Join Us!**  
**Whole Hog Sausage & Egg Breakfast**

**Sunday, January 21**  
**from 7am-12:00pm**

**Teutopolis Banquet Hall**  
**210 S. Pearl Street**

- Free-Will Donation
- Dine In or Carry Out
- 50/50 Drawing
- Raffle Baskets for All Ages

To volunteer (or if you have questions), please call or text Susan at 217.663.2084

 **Effingham Area Right to Life**

Thank you for supporting this primary fundraiser for Effingham Area Right to Life. If you're unable to join us for breakfast, please consider sending a donation to PO Box 861, Effingham IL 62401.



**Effingham Retired Volunteer Firefighters Association ERVFA**


April 4th, 2024 will mark the 75th anniversary of the St. Anthony Hospital fire that claimed 77 lives and affected to some degree most everyone in the county. This tragedy reached national and international news, and was responsible for updated fire safety codes nationally, possibly saving hundreds of lives.

The ERVFA along with the City of Effingham will be erecting a statue on the site of the fire to stand as a memorial to the victims, the rescue personnel and those who assisted in the recovery and rebuilding process.

But we need your generosity to make this happen. We are initiating a campaign to raise the funds necessary to make this a reality. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 in time to unveil the statue by the anniversary date.

Your contributions may be paid to a special savings account at the Dieterich Bank or sent directly to the ERVFA at PO Box 1183, Effingham, IL 62401. we are a 501 (c)(3) not - for-profit corporation so your contributions can work for you as a tax deduction.

Thank you for your consideration.







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