

December 8, 2024

*Peace*



**St. Anthony of Padua**

101 E Virginia Ave, Effingham, IL 62401

217-347-7129 [stanthony.com](http://stanthony.com)

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

*“From the Pastor’s Desk”*

Dear St. Anthony Parish Family:

Hearing that it may be likely that the Illinois General Assembly may again take up the cause to legalize euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, it is important to inform ourselves of what is at stake in this attempt, versus what we may likely hear from its proponents. This lengthy quote from the Church’s 2020 document, *“SAMARITANUS BONUS On the Care of Persons in the Critical and Terminal Phases of Life”* is helpful: “Euthanasia and assisted suicide are always the wrong choice: “medical personnel and the other health care workers – faithful to the task ‘always to be at the service of life and to assist it up until the very end’ – cannot give themselves to any euthanistic practice, neither at the request of the interested party, and much less that of the family. In fact, since there is no right to dispose of one’s life arbitrarily, no health care worker can be compelled to execute a non-existent right”. This is why *euthanasia and assisted suicide are a defeat* for those who theorize about them, who decide upon them, or who practice them.

For this reason, it is gravely unjust to enact laws that legalize euthanasia or justify and support suicide, invoking the false right to choose a death improperly characterized as respectable only because it is chosen. Such laws strike at the foundation of the legal order: the right to life sustains all other rights, including the exercise of freedom. The existence of such laws deeply wound human relations and justice, and threaten the mutual trust among human beings. The legitimation of assisted suicide and euthanasia is a sign of the degradation of legal systems. Pope Francis recalls that “the current socio-cultural context is gradually eroding the awareness of what makes human life precious. In fact, it is increasingly valued on the basis of its efficiency and utility, to the point of considering as ‘discarded lives’ or ‘unworthy lives’ those who do not meet this criterion. In this situation of the loss of authentic values, the mandatory obligations of solidarity and of human and Christian fraternity also fail. In reality, a society deserves the status of ‘civil’ if it develops antibodies against the culture of waste; if it recognizes the intangible value of human life; if solidarity is factually practiced and safeguarded as a foundation for living together”. In some countries of the world, tens of thousands of people have already died by euthanasia, and many of them because they displayed psychological suffering or depression. Physicians themselves report that abuses frequently occur when the lives of persons who would never have desired euthanasia are terminated. The request for death is in many cases itself a symptom of disease, aggravated by isolation and discomfort. The Church discerns in these difficulties an occasion for a spiritual purification that allows hope to become truly theological when it is focused on God and only on God.

Rather than indulging in a spurious condescension, the Christian must offer to the sick the help they need to shake off their despair. The commandment “do not kill” (*Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17*) is in fact a *yes to life* which God guarantees, and it “becomes a call to attentive love which protects and promotes the life of one’s neighbor”. The Christian therefore knows that earthly life is not the supreme value. Ultimate happiness is in heaven. Thus, the Christian will not expect physical life to continue when death is evidently near. The Christian must help the dying to break free from despair and to place their hope in God.

From a clinical perspective, the factors that largely determine requests for euthanasia and assisted suicide are unmanaged pain, and the loss of human and theological hope, provoked by the often inadequate psychological and spiritual human assistance provided by those who care for the sick.

Experience confirms that “the pleas of gravely ill people who sometimes ask for death are not to be understood as implying a true desire for euthanasia; in fact, it is almost always a case of an anguished plea for help and love. What a sick person needs, besides medical care, is love, the human and supernatural warmth with which sick persons can and ought to be surrounded by all those close to him or her, parents and children, doctors and nurses”. A sick person, surrounded by a loving human and Christian presence, can overcome all forms of depression and need not succumb to the anguish of loneliness and abandonment to suffering and death.”

Join us Sunday at 12:30 p.m. in the parish center to go caroling! The parish Reconciliation Service will be here *next* Sunday, December 15, at 3 p.m. We will have a total of six priests hearing confessions.

Have a blessed week!


Fr. Peter Harman



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

Lidy Anderson	Dennis Bushur	Heather Dial Hakman	Marita Kemme	George Mette	Art Willenborg
Margie Apke	Mary Lynn Byers	Gina Hargis	Amy Koester	Roberta Meyer	Dr. Mel Willenborg
Robert J Behrman	Lawrence Carie	Mike Hartke	Betty Koester	Bernadette Niemann	Paul V. Willenborg
Sara Bernhard	Cody Chasteen	Lucinda Herboth	Joan Koester	Bill Nuxoll	Ann Worman
Steve Bierman	Britney Chester	Norma Jean Huelsing	Terry Kraft	Mick Pierson	Dan Worman
Norma Bloemer	Richard Feldhake	Donna McDevitt Jones	Colleen Linde	Art Pike	Jerry Worman
	Jackson Gaitros	Ron Kabbes	Blain Loll	Cathy Polarek	Richard J Worman
	Susan Goldstein	Ingrid Kay	Linda McDevitt	Kenneth Polarek	
	Cheryl Gross	John Keenan	Rita McMillan	Deborah Richards	





*Mass Intentions*

**Saturday, December 7:**  
**6:30am Mass:** Nick Dust  
**4:30pm Mass:** John Gapsis

**Sunday, December 8:**  
**7:30am Mass:** Parishioners of St. Anthony  
**9:15am Mass:** Charles & Grace Hotze Family  
**11:00am Mass:** Kay Adams Anniversary

**Monday, December 9:**  
**6:30am Mass:** Carl Koerner Family; Bill Pearcy; Rita Dial Anniversary; Charlie Harris Anniversary  
**8:30am Mass:** Jeane Kinkelaar Anniversary  
**12:10pm Mass:** Parishioners of St. Anthony  
**5:30pm Mass:** Marie C Dust

**Tuesday, December 10:**  
**6:30am Mass:** Maggie Bushue Anniversary  
**8:30am Mass:** George Willenborg Anniversary

**Wednesday, December 11:**  
**6:30am Mass:** The Eugene Westendorf Family  
**5:15pm Mass:** Dale A Koester

**Thursday, December 12:**  
**6:30am Mass:** Denis & Janice Flach  
**8:30am Mass:** Michael Henning Family

**Friday, December 13:**  
**6:30am Mass:** Michael & Jackie Kabbes  
**8:30am Mass:** Tony Niebrugge

**Saturday, December 14:**  
**4:30pm Mass:** Living & Deceased Members of Albert & Amelia Wortman Family

**Sunday, December 15:**  
**7:30am Mass:** Parishioners of St. Anthony  
**9:15am Mass:** Jim Rhodes  
**11:00am Mass:** William Thies

**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

**Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule**  
 Monday, December 9th:  
 6:30am, 8:30am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm

**Advent Reconciliation Service**  
 St Anthony will host a Parish Reconciliation Service in church on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00pm until all are heard.

**Christmas Mass Schedule at St. Anthony Church**  
 Christmas Eve: 4:30pm 7:00pm & Midnight  
 Christmas Day: 9:00am (Incense Free)  
 Please call the parish office if you can help with any of the ministries at these Masses.

**New Year's Mass Schedule at St. Anthony Church**  
 New Year's Eve: 5:30pm  
 New Year's Day: 8:00am & 10:00am

*With Sympathy* We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Arthur L Wolfert**. May he enjoy eternal peace and happiness in Heaven.

**The Table of Plenty** wishes you all a blessed December, as we enter the season of giving to others, especially, those in need. Once again, Catholic Charities is serving triple the families as last year at this time. I can't thank you enough for your generosity in November for your incredible Thanksgiving donations to this worthy cause!



The baskets we are filling for December (over 1,000 families) are in need of the following: pancake mix, cake, brownie, and muffin mix, stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, pancake syrup, and squeeze jelly.

On Tuesday, December 10th, the Jr. High Students may bring their donated items to the morning Mass. On Thursday, December 12th, the elementary students may bring their donations to the morning Mass. Parishioners may also drop off donations on either of these days, or in the church foyer during the weekend Masses of December 14/15.

Let's give these families in need some blessed meals with their families during the holidays. A BIG Thank You goes out to two incredible parishioners who donated over 160 one pound packages of ground beef towards these Christmas baskets. There are so many angels among us at St. Anthony! God's Blessings to you and Merry Christmas!

- Jayne Genta, Table Of Plenty

**Kate Weber's Bible Study** - Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, with the Study of the Book of Revelation. Revelation literally means "to pull back the veil". This pulling back of the veil, allows us to see the nature and beauty of the Church. Come and learn with us.

Sessions will be held at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm. You may choose to attend at either time. Please call the Parish Office at 217-347-7129 to register by January 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions, you may contact Kate Weber at 217-821-3003 or kateweber51@gmail.com

## Liturgical Ministers for December 2024

Ministry	4:30pm	7:30am	9:15am	11:00am
<b>Lectors</b>	Bob Mette	Doug McDevitt	Ken Vogt	Norma Fisher
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Cathy Bierman Patty McHugh Cindy Thies Rob Zumbahlen Billy Zeller	Sue Bushur Kelly McDevitt Carlene Weber Kate Weber <b>More Needed</b>	Deanna Koester Tom Murphy Carolyn Rohlfing Kevin Roewe Russ Sehy	Eric Koester Larry Masengale Theresa Masengale <b>More Needed</b>
<b>Servers</b>	Brooks Niebrugge Henry Gannaway Max Schuette	Kyle Thoele Jacob Thoele	Luke Roewe Meg Roewe Hanna Frisbie	Morgan Kabbes Sophie Kabbes
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken Bourgeois Larry Thies Bart Willenborg Mike Zeller	Greg Bushur Tony Weber Terry Westendorf <b>More Needed</b>	Justin Brummer Joel Griffith Joe Jansen Carl Koester	Preston Barr Larry Goldstein <b>More Needed</b>



## Advent Discipleship Series 2024

**Join us for a Mini-Retreat  
as we prepare for the coming of  
our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas.**

For 3 evenings in Advent, spend time with us  
in prayer, fraternity, and catechesis.

**Wednesday, December 4 -Why an Incarnate God**  
**Wednesday, December 11 -What Christ's Incarnation Means for us**  
**Monday, December 16 -Encountering the Incarnate God Today**

Each Evening, our Mini-Retreat schedule will include:

- 5:15 pm - Parish Mass
- 6:00 pm - Presentation by Fr. Harman & Fr. Jayke  
in the Parish Center
- Light snacks and refreshments provided

Our Advent Discipleship Series is a continuation of St. Anthony Parish's Intentional Discipleship Series. All are invited to attend. Invite a friend or family member to join you. However the Lord speaks to you this Advent and Christmas season, we want to be with you as you become a more intentional disciple of Jesus Christ.

A reminder that the Parish Advent Reconciliation Service  
will be on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00pm.



**St. Anthony of Padua Hall of Fame** committee will be accepting nominations for this year's 2024 class of inductees. The selection criteria & nomination application is accessible at [stanthony.com/church/about/hall-of-fame](http://stanthony.com/church/about/hall-of-fame). The deadline for submission of applications is December 31, 2024.

There are five categories for nominations:

- Alumnus of St. Anthony School
- Former Faculty, Staff, or Coach of St. Anthony
- Friends of St. Anthony
- Athlete or Team of St. Anthony
- Fine Arts (New Category)

The Inductees will be announced in January with a dinner and celebration on Saturday, March 1st.

2023 inductees to the St. Anthony of Padua Hall of Fame were Greg Green, Mary Sur, Keelin (Eder) Schneider, Joe, Diane & Yale Reynolds and the 2012 Baseball Team.



**St. Anthony's CCW  
Annual Christmas Cookie &  
Candy Sale**

**Saturday, December 14th  
Noon to 6:00pm**

The ladies of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Effingham would like to invite you to shop at our annual Holiday Cookie/Candy Sale on Saturday, December 14th from Noon to 6pm. The sale is held in our Parish Center located west of the church. There will be a wonderful array of cookies, snack mixes, candies, and fudge, delicious breads, coffee cakes, and cinnamon rolls. Please come and stock up on our homemade holiday treats for your family and guests.

We will also have a raffle for a beautiful Christmas quilted throw, donated by Robin Westendorf. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Raffle tickets are available at the parish office. You need not be present to win.



### SonRise Friday Men's Breakfast - Called to Joy!

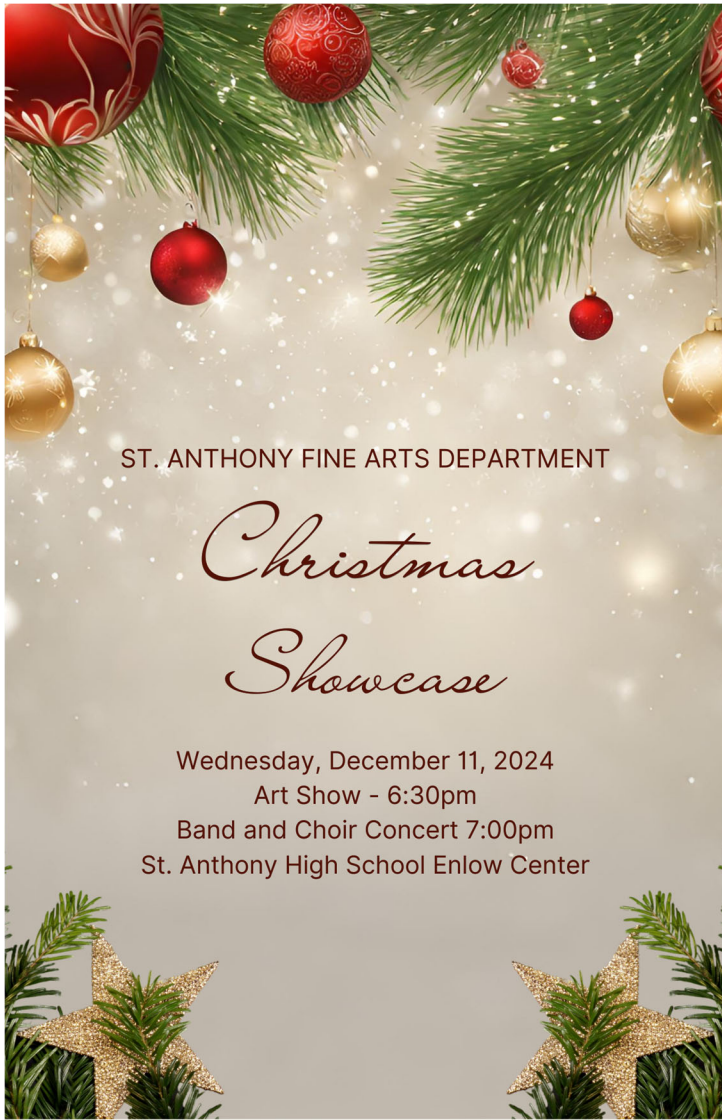
This coming Friday, December 13, concludes a journey through the Holy Land with the Joyful Mysteries. (This will be the final gathering of 2024.)

MEN, come as you are. All are called to Joy. Join us in retreat to Pray and Find God in the Silence.

All Men are welcomed. Gather at the St. Anthony Parish Center for delicious hot Breakfast ready after 6:10 AM, VIDEO program at 6:30AM, and concluding at 7:30.

More info, contact Dan Woods at [danwoodsface@gmail.com](mailto:danwoodsface@gmail.com)





ST. ANTHONY FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

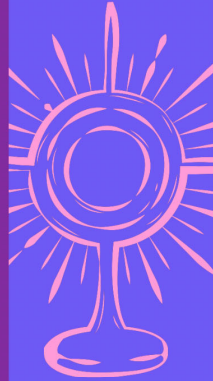
# Christmas Showcase

Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
 Art Show - 6:30pm  
 Band and Choir Concert 7:00pm  
 St. Anthony High School Enlow Center

## Effingham Catholic Young Adults

**DEC.  
13TH  
@7PM**

# HOLY HOUR HAPPY HOUR



**CONFESSIONS  
WILL BE  
AVAILABLE!**

**FOR  
YOUNG  
ADULTS  
AGES  
21-35**

**HOLY  
HOUR**

7-8pm @ St. Francis Church  
203 E Main St, Teutopolis

**HAPPY  
HOUR**

8-9pm @ Teutopolis Hall  
210 Pearl St, Teutopolis



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE ON EVENTS!**



**SAINT  
ANTHONY**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St. Anthony Parish and Schools in Effingham, IL are currently accepting applications for a

- Cook** (full-time)
- Substitute Cooks** (with potential for regular, part-time hours)
- Custodian** (part-time afternoon/evenings)

St. Anthony Schools are seeking reliable and enthusiastic individuals to join our kitchen staff and custodial teams. With upcoming retirements in the kitchen, we are hiring a full-time cook this school year to assist with the transition into next school year.

We are also looking for substitute cooks that could be called on high lunch count days. The substitute cook could potentially move into a part-time position beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

For full qualifications and more information regarding St. Anthony Schools or to apply, visit <https://gradeschool.stanthony.com/about-us/employment/>



Week Ending Nov 24, 2024	Weekly Totals	Fiscal YTD (Week 21 of 52)	Last Year's YTD
Regular Church Support	\$31,127.82	\$504,556.01	\$522,667.60
<i>GOAL</i>	\$27,765.00	\$583,065.00	
Difference	\$3,362.82	(\$78,508.99)	

Diocesan Collections	Week Ending Nov 24, 2024	YTD
Twining Parish in Nigeria	\$90.00	\$12,434.10
Cemetery	\$660.00	\$7,582.00
Catholic Childrens Home	\$75.00	\$75.00
Christmas Flowers	\$1,010.00	\$2,220.00
Justice & Hope	\$460.00	\$475.00
Retired Religious	\$25.00	\$25.00

Week Ending Dec. 1, 2024	Weekly Totals	Fiscal YTD (Week 22 of 52)	Last Year's YTD
Regular Church Support	\$15,559.42	\$520,115.43	\$559,796.02
<i>GOAL</i>	\$27,765.00	\$610,830.00	
Difference	(\$12,205.58)	(\$90,714.57)	

Diocesan Collections	Week Ending Dec. 1, 2024	YTD
Twining Parish in Nigeria	\$701.00	\$13,135.10
Cemetery	\$595.00	\$8,177.00
Catholic Childrens Home	\$160.00	\$235.00
Christmas Flowers	\$480.00	\$2,700.00
Justice & Hope	\$52.00	\$527.00
Retired Religious	\$110.00	\$135.00

### Annual Effingham County Christmas Dinner

The Effingham County FISH Organization is sponsoring the Annual Free Effingham County Christmas Day Dinner on Wednesday, December 25, 2024.

FISH will offer a congregate meal (Serving at 1:30pm) at the Effingham Event Center, meal delivery (After 11am) and curbside pick (12:00 noon - 1:00pm) at the Effingham Event Center (Former KC Hall), 1501 W Fayette, Effingham.

This event is free and open to all Effingham County Residents and their families, however, donations are always greatly appreciated and may be sent to: FISH, PO Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401.

You may reserve meals December 1, 2024 through December 20, 2024 by calling 217-343-7342.

Volunteers are needed to help package and deliver meals. We will start cutting cakes and packaging meals at 10:00am, at the Effingham Event Center, where all the FUN takes place. To volunteer, please call Susan Elke at 217-868-5913.

### Year End Contributions

To ensure your contributions are included in the year intended, 2024 contributions must be dated and post marked in 2024. If you hand deliver your year-end contributions, it must be dated 2024 and received by 4:00 pm on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

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.

**The Effingham Catholic Charities** is in need of volunteers! The Food Pantry needs volunteers to pick up food, sort and put away food, and help to give out food through the pantry. Second Hand Rose is in need of volunteers to run the cash registers.

These volunteer opportunities are available Monday - Friday. Please call the Eff. CC office at 217-857-1458 and ask for Crystal (Pantry) or Brigid (Second Hand Rose).

### 2024 Young Adult Advent Retreat

Sponsored by The Forge

Sunday, December 15th  
8:30am - 5:00pm

Corpus Christi Priory  
867 Laverna Rd  
Springfield, IL 62707

Lunch is Bring-Your-Own



Please scan QR code to RSVP by December 9th

There is no registration fee, but a collection will be taken to support the Norbertines

For questions email: [theforgespringfield@gmail.com](mailto:theforgespringfield@gmail.com)

### Natural Family Planning Class

**2024 Sessions:** To register, contact Kate Pruemer at 217-821-1840 or [kpruemer@gmail.com](mailto:kpruemer@gmail.com)

**Saturday, December 14th**  
8:00-9:30am at St. Francis Church in Teutopolis

**Saturday, February 15th**  
9:30-11:00am virtual class on WebEx

### Pre-Cana Dates

Marriage prep programs may be a one-day Pre-Cana program, a weekend for the engaged experience or another approved marriage preparation program.

**Sunday, February 2, 2025 @ St. Francis, Teutopolis**  
Call 217-961-6404 to register.

**Saturday, March 8, 2025 @ St. Mary, Ste. Marie**  
Call 618-455-3155 to register.

### Please submit written

**bulletin articles to:** [bulletin@stanthony.com](mailto:bulletin@stanthony.com) or mail to Bulletin, PO Box 764, Effingham, IL 62401. Articles must be in the office by noon Monday prior to publication.



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