

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Peace

A 2ND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



"From the Pastor's Desk"

Dear St. Anthony Parish Family:

Our Gospel for this weekend tells us that "John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins."

That is quite a statement, that *all* of Judea went to John and acknowledged their sins! Can we come in trust to Jesus to have our sins forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent? Can we be renewed so as to celebrate Christmas with greater peace and joy? Can we...will we? I would argue that until we are reconciled with each other and with God, we do not carry about in ourselves the Spirit which the Lord desires to provide for us. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks about how the Spirit of truth can help us to navigate life rightly, "not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted." Does our world not need this in its divisions and bitterness? Not to fall victim to judgments, gossip and rumors? Do we not need to be reconciled to truth and peace in our relationships? We provide as a part of the school day the opportunity for our grade school and high school students to do this, and for the whole parish as well! In addition to our regular confession times, we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, next Sunday, December 14 beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation and the Patronal Feast of our Country and our Diocese. Masses will be celebrated Monday only, 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Peter Harman

Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule

Monday, December 8th:
6:30am, 8:30am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm

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



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:

Margie Apke	Gina Hargis	Kenneth Polarek
Steve Bierman	Ron Harris	Deborah Richards
Marty Brumleve	Lucinda Herboth	Olivya Smith
Rich Brummer	Donna McDevitt Jones	Shirley Valenti
Danny Bushue	Ingrid Kay	Ashley Westendorf
Dennis Bushur	John Keenan	Karen A Westendorf
Mary Lynn Byers	Evelyn Koester	Judy Willenborg
Cody Chasteen	Joan Koester	Keith Willenborg
Ramona Dirks	Kevin Langland	Paul V. Willenborg
Msgr. Leo Enlow	Mary Lawyer	Ann Worman
Richard Feldhake	Colleen Linde	Dan Worman
Claudia Gale	Blain Loll	Jerry Worman
Jackson Gaitros	Barbara Mayhew	Richard J. Worman
Susan Goldstein	George Mette	
Cheryl Gross	Bill Nuxoll	
Heather Dial Hakman	Art Pike	

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

Advent Reconciliation Service

St Anthony will host a Parish Reconciliation Service in church on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00pm until all are heard.




St. Anthony of Padua Hall of Fame committee will be accepting nominations for this year's 2025 class of inductees. The selection criteria & nomination application is accessible at stanthony.com/church/about/hall-of-fame. The deadline for submission of applications is December 31, 2025.

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

The Inductees will be announced in January with a dinner and celebration on Saturday, March 28th.

2024 inductees to the St. Anthony of Padua Hall of Fame were Andrew Gardewine (Athlete), Bill Farrey (Staff), Eric Zeller (Alumni) and Roy & Kate Weber (Friends).



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 6:
6:30am Mass: Bob Platt Anniversary
4:30pm Mass: Alex Pickett

Sunday, December 7:
7:30am Mass: Kay Adams Anniversary
9:15am Mass: Nick & Marie Dust Family
11:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony

Monday, December 8:
6:30am Mass: Rita Dial Anniversary; Arthur Kinkelaar;
 Jeane Kinkelaar Anniversary;
 Bernie Niemann
8:30am Mass: Charles & Grace Hotze Family
12:10pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony
5:30pm Mass: Kathy Barr

Tuesday, December 9:
6:30am Mass: Leonard Willenborg
8:30am Mass: Dick Kabbes


Wednesday, December 10:
6:30am Mass: Maggie Bushue Anniversary

Thursday, December 11:
6:30am Mass: Mary Ludwig
8:30am Mass: George Willenborg Anniversary


Friday, December 12:
6:30am Mass: Max Fehrenbacher
8:30am Mass: Charles Harris Anniversary

Saturday, December 13:
4:30pm Mass: Carl Koerner Family

Sunday, December 14:
7:30am Mass: Larry Byers
9:15am Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony
11:00am Mass: Albert Worman Anniversary



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 15th** at 7:00pm. To register call the parish office at 217-347-7129.



Blue and Pink Support Group

If you have experienced pregnancy or infant loss, please join us in our new peer support group. "The Blue and Pink Group" will meet every Monday in January from 6:15-8:00 at the Parish Center. This inclusive group will meet to share, listen, and support one another through our journey of loss of grief and healing. Resources will be available. For questions, please contact Kara Huston at khuston@stanthony.com

ADVENT

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 21st @ 4:00pm
St. Anthony Church



As part of St. Anthony's Spiritual Opportunities Initiative, our Music Ministry is honored to offer an evening of Scripture and Carols to help us more fully reflect on the Holiness of the Season.

We look forward to you joining us!



DON'T MISS OUR WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?
ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR WEEKLY EMAILS?



SEND YOUR EMAIL TO EMAIL@STANTHONY.COM
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Grief Support Meetings are held Tuesday evenings at 6:15pm in the St. Anthony Parish Center.

Liturgical Ministers for December 2025

Ministry	4:30pm	7:30am	9:15am	11:00am
Lectors	Phil Zaccari	Doug McDevitt	Julie Wortman	Kim Willenborg
Eucharistic Ministers	Vic Fauss Nicole Field Ellen Hann Janet Probst Mary Beth Stuckey	Sue Bushur Janet Kennedy Kelly McDevitt Carlene Weber Sarah Wendt	Teresa Beck Patti Jansen Tom Jansen Eric Mammoser More Needed	Brenda Jansen Mike Klitzing Susan Ealy More Needed
Servers	Jackson Hann James Dust Mason Dust	Bryson Bartimus Owen Wendt	Will Ludwig Josie Ludwig Ryan Wohltman	Owen Gillenwater Charlotte Sprecher Barron Sprecher
Ushers	Ed Deters Eric Althoff Ken Bourgeois Don Niebrugge	Greg Bushur Tony Weber More Needed	Justin Brummer Patrick Niebrugge Brian Sehy More Needed	George Dallmier Dennis Meyer More Needed



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

**Saturday, December 13th
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 13th 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 will be in the bulletin next weekend, or you may stop by the parish office to pick some up. You need not be present to win.



SonRise Fridays A New Day for Men

SonRise Men's Breakfast invites all men for a Hot Breakfast on Friday, December 12. Grow in fellowship and faith 6:15 AM – 7:30 AM, Friday, at the St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham.

That Man is You! this week continues with great hope and wisdom from St. John Paul II. The best days of Christianity and the family are in the future, not in the past! We are all called to be part of this New Springtime! All men are welcome. Learn more at thatmanisyou.com or Dan Woods, 217-821-1495.

Please submit written bulletin articles to:
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.



Join us for three Wednesdays of Advent, December 3, 10 and 17 at 5:15 p.m for Mass, followed by a presentation in the Parish Center. This year's theme, the Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love in Advent and Christmas Art. I think you will find this interesting. It follows the format we have used in recent years for Lent and Advent.

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 14 at 3:00pm in church.

Advent Talks



Christmas Caroling

Join us Sunday, December 7th
Buses will load at the Parish Center @
12:30pm, and depart at 1:00pm.
Hot chocolate upon return

If you or someone you know is homebound and lives within city limits contact the parish office at 217-347-7129 to receive a visit from the carolers.



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DEC 9TH @7PM



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For young adults ages 21-35



HOLY HOUR HAPPY HOUR

7pm @ St. Francis Church
203 E. Main St. Teutopolis
8pm @ Kenters Tavern
109 E. Main St. Teutopolis

Effingham CYA Group Presents:

Ask a Priest Anything

with special guest:

Fr. Ambrose Criste, O.Praem.



Effingham Event Center
Knights Meeting Room

For young adults 21+
Monday Dec. 22 @7p



Pro-Life Corner

Becky Bauerle, Mother of Dolors, Vandalia is organizing a group to the March for Life in Washington DC on Jan 21-25.

The last time the large group went was 6 years ago. Many of today's teenagers have not experienced this life changing event. Abortion in Illinois has been increasing since the overturn of Roe v Wade. We must stand up, speak out, and MARCH FOR LIFE.

The cost is \$200 by Dec 1, with the balance \$200 by Jan 1. Partial scholarships are available.

For more info call Diann Ruholl at 217-663-2056.

Natural Family Planning Class

2025 Sessions: To register, contact Kate Pruemer at 217-821-1840 or kpruemer@gmail.com

Saturday, January 17th
10:00-11:30am virtual class on WebEx

Saturday, March 7th
1:00-2:30pm at St. Anthony Church in Effingham

Week Ending Nov 23, 2025	Weekly Totals	Fiscal YTD (Week 21 of 52)	Last Year's YTD
Regular Church Support	\$32,706.21	\$549,898.67	\$504,938.51
GOAL	\$28,265.00	\$593,565.00	
Difference	\$4,441.21	(\$43,666.33)	

Diocesan Collections	Week Ending Nov 23, 2025	YTD
Twining Parish in Nigeria	\$90.00	\$8,397.00
Cemetery	\$531.00	\$7,925.10
Catholic Children's Home	\$50.00	\$50.00
Easter/Christmas Flowers	\$660.00	\$2,160.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope	\$75.00	\$160.00
Retirement for Religious	\$25.00	\$75.00
Propagation of Faith/World Mission Sunday	\$25.00	\$820.00

Week Ending Nov 30, 2025	Weekly Totals	Fiscal YTD (Week 22 of 52)	Last Year's YTD
Regular Church Support	\$16,546.45	\$566,445.12	\$520,880.43
GOAL	\$28,265.00	\$621,830.00	
Difference	(\$11,718.55)	(\$55,384.88)	

Diocesan Collections	Week Ending Nov 30, 2025	YTD
Twining Parish in Nigeria	\$70.00	\$8,467.00
Cemetery	\$355.00	\$8,280.10
Easter/Christmas Flowers	\$415.00	\$2,575.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope	\$85.00	\$245.00
Triennial US Military	\$40.00	\$950.00

The St. Hildegard Von Bingen Schola will present their annual Holiday concert at Sacred Heart Church in Effingham on Sunday, December 14th at 2:30 pm. The concert begins with a classical piano prelude performed by Ronan Bailey. The ladies of the Hildegard schola will follow at 3 pm. performing sacred music of the season.

The 2025-26 members of the schola are: Addison Bunton, Norah Frost, Shae Conder, Gianna Frisbie, Evie Sayne, Susy Trupiano, Addie Overbeck, Aliyah Bunton, Lilly Butts, Sophia Ivy, Charlee Jansen, and Emery Jansen. The students are under the direction of Barbara Konrad. The concert is free and open to the public. Come early for a good seat!

Time to think about End of Year Giving

To meet our many needs in a time of rising costs, which we all feel; should you find your own financial situation puts you in a place to advance your support, we would most gratefully be blessed to receive the encouragement of your end-of-year gift.

To ensure your contributions are included in the year intended, 2025 contributions must be dated and post marked in 2025. If you hand deliver your year-end contributions, it must be dated 2025 and received by 4:00pm on Friday, January 2, 2026.

Annual Effingham County FISH Christmas Day Dinner

Effingham County FISH Organization is sponsoring their Annual Christmas Day Dinner on Thursday, December 25, 2025. A congregate meal as well as delivery and curbside pickup is available. The congregate meal will begin at 12:30pm at the Effingham Event Center, 1501 W Fayette Ave, Effingham, IL. Delivered meals will be delivered after 10am. Curbside pickup will be available between 11:00am and 12 noon at the Effingham Event Center.

This event is free and open to all Effingham County residents and their families, donations are greatly appreciated and may be given to the delivery driver, left in a donation bucket at the Event Center or mailed to FISH, PO Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401.

Reservations may be made beginning December 1st through December 22, 2025. For the congregate, home delivery and curbside pickup meals, please call 217-343-7342.

ADVENT IN WENDELIN EVENSONG



**DECEMBER 7, 2025
4:00 P.M.**

*A Candlelight Service with Scripture and Organ Music,
with English Advent Hymns,
and Austrian Christmas Music
sung in German by the Kloeppen Singers*

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"Share with the Lord's people who are in need..." Romans 12:13

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