

ASH WEDNESDAY



SAINT ANTHONY
OF PADUA CHURCH

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm

Website: www.stanthony.com
www.dio.org

Email: info@stanthony.com

Phone: 217-347-7129

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 764

Physical Address:
101 E Virginia Ave

High School Office:
304 E Roadway Ave
217-342-6969
Mr. Greg Fearday, *Principal*

Grade School Office:
405 N Second St
217-347-0419
Mr. Cody Rincker, *Principal*

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

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Liturgy Schedule:

Monday thru Friday: 6:30am
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:15pm to 4:00pm (anytime by appointment)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:45am to 8:15am



Fr. Peter C. Harman, Pastor
Fr. Jayke White, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Joe (Pat) Emmerich
Mrs. Carrie Koenig, Director of Operations
Mrs. Sara Hoene, Executive Parish Secretary
Mrs. Tiffiny Wrigley, Business Manager
Mrs. Mary Koester, Financial Secretary
Mrs. Karie Sudkamp, Financial Secretary
Mrs. Liz Schmidt, Spiritual Direction, Annulment Ministry
Ms. Regina Villafuerte, Music Director
Mr. Kenny Thies, Technology Administrator
Mr. Bart Willenborg, Cemetery Sexton

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all our guests and visitors who have joined us at today's liturgy. We hope that you feel at home here. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance while you are among us.

“From the Pastor’s Desk”

Dear St. Anthony Parish Family:

I think we are ready for Lent to begin this week. Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. The adult men of the parish, 21+ are all invited to an informal talk and fellowship Monday evening February 16 at 7pm. I will begin in Church with a short reflection “How does a man live the season of Lent well?” Then we will share in some fellowship in the parish center. There is no charge, and drinks and snacks will be provided. We do request that the men RSVP so we can have an accurate count: bzuber@stanthony.com.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda, of Minneapolis has recently written a good challenge for us as we witness the struggle in our country for immigration reform. We can be tempted to prefer one-side of a political point over another and not critique one or the other. But we are called to more critical thinking than that. I think it is worth your time to read:

“If recent events in Minnesota have clarified anything, it’s that we can no longer put off the hard work of immigration reform. Each year of inaction has made the debate louder, angrier and less humane. A difficult policy discussion has hardened into a cultural and political battleground. It’s playing out on the streets here, where federal immigration officers are clashing with protesters.

We had a chance in 2013, when a bipartisan bill passed the Senate. It was a strong bill that provided billions for border security and a 12-year path to citizenship for law-abiding undocumented immigrants. The House never took it up. The longer Washington waits, the worse the problem gets. Communities are strained and millions live in a constant state of uncertainty. This serves neither justice nor the common good.

As a bishop entrusted with the care of souls, I want to reiterate the consistent call of Catholic bishops around the U.S. for true statesmen to step forward, set aside partisan calculations and enact meaningful federal immigration reform. Recent failures can’t be ignored. The nation was poorly served by those who threw the border open. The flood of migrants overwhelmed local communities, eroded public trust and weakened the rule of law. Compassion divorced from order isn’t compassion at all; it’s negligence. At the same time, it’s wrong to blame undocumented immigrants themselves, many of whom came here seeking safety, work or family reunification. Solidarity can’t be selective. We must stand with citizens and undocumented immigrants together as human beings created in God’s image.

The Catholic tradition insists on holding together truths that politicians prefer to separate. Nations have the right and duty to secure their borders and enforce their laws. Immigrants are human beings with natural rights that must be respected. Authentic justice requires both the rule of law and mercy, both accountability and hospitality. In this light, it is right to respect the efforts of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers when they are fulfilling their mission to identify and detain serious criminals who have illegally entered the country. The removal of dangerous people serves the common good. Protecting the innocent is a moral obligation.

Yet the current environment is untenable. Even law-abiding immigrants are living in fear that any interaction with authorities could separate parents from children or unravel years of honest work. What’s required is a comprehensive, long-term solution that reflects reality rather than ideology. That solution must include the granting of a lawful status for those who have put down roots, contributed to their communities and lived here for years. A workable solution would also have to acknowledge that some people will be deported. Mercy doesn’t negate consequences, and compassion doesn’t mean wide-open borders.

The 2013 Senate bill offered a glimpse of what responsible governance can look like: bipartisan engagement, attention to enforcement and legal pathways and a recognition that widespread irregularity benefits no one. That effort sadly failed, not because the problem was unsolvable, but because political will collapsed under pressure from the extremes. We have paid the price for that failure ever since.

As a pastor, I see the human cost on all sides. I minister to immigrant parishioners who are fearful of driving their children to school or shopping for groceries, regardless of their legal status. I also serve those who feel abandoned by leaders who have seemed more interested in political posturing than in protecting their communities. The church can’t choose one flock over another. Neither should the nation. Immigration reform isn’t about erasing borders or demonizing newcomers. It’s about restoring moral order, strengthening families and promoting the common good. That work demands courage, humility, and a willingness to compromise - virtues that define proper statesmanship. If we continue to delay, the debate will only grow more bitter and the solutions more elusive. The moment to act is now.”

Fr. Harman

Ash Wednesday: February 18, 2026

Mass Times at St. Anthony
6:30am, 8:30am, 12:10pm & 5:30pm

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and ends just prior to the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, when the Paschal Triduum begins. Lent is the principal penitential season in the Church year. All the Christian faithful are urged to develop and maintain a voluntary program of self denial (in addition to the Lenten regulations), serious prayer and the performing of deeds of charity and mercy, including the giving of alms.



Stations of the Cross

During this season of Lent, St. Anthony Church will have Stations of the Cross on Friday at 2:10pm in church (on school days) and every week at 7:00pm in church.

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



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 14:

4:30pm Mass: Chuck Bierman Anniversary

Sunday, February 15:

7:30am Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony

9:15am Mass: Jim Poeppelmeyer

11:00am Mass: Agnes Mette Anniversary

Monday, February 16:

6:30am Mass: Clarence Unkraut Anniversary

8:30am Mass: Christine Niebrugge; Andrew Niebrugge;
Jim & Alice Rhodes

Tuesday, February 17:

6:30am Mass: Caroline Dietzen

8:30am Mass: Richard & Carolyn Kabbes Family

Wednesday, February 18:

6:30am Mass: Stu & Millie Stumeier

8:30am Mass: Diane Reynolds

12:10pm Mass: Marie Niemerg

5:30pm Mass: Kenneth Stuckey

Thursday, February 19:

6:30am Mass: Thad Jurgens

8:30am Mass: Chuck Stuckey

Friday, February 20:

6:30am Mass: Gary & Kathy Koester Loved Ones

8:30am Mass: Lawrence Jansen

Saturday, February 21:

4:30pm Mass: Robert L & Marcella Behrman

Sunday, February 22:

7:30am Mass: Tim Mahon

9:15am Mass: Dr. John Dust

11:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony



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:

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

We Are CLOSED



Parish Office Closed - The parish will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day.

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



Lenten Regulations

1. ABSTINENCE – Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

2. FAST – Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

3. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.



AN INVITATION TO OUR PARISHIONERS

Join us for the St. Anthony Spring Gala
Saturday, March 28, 2026
Keller Convention Center

Enjoy a social evening of dinner, celebration and fun,
featuring your 2025 Hall of Fame

Inductions. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate
St. Anthony's rich history.

For more information, visit our website at:

<https://church.stanthony.com/hall-of-fame/>

To purchase tickets online, visit:

<https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/455/responses/new>

Honoring the Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Joyce Kabbes (Alumni) • Don (Alumni) & Twila (Staff) Wentz • Gene & Rhonda Fearday (Friends of St. Anthony)
- 2000-2009 Women's Tennis Teams (Athletic Team) • Michelle (Valenti) Bolliger (Fine Arts) • Gary Greene (Booster Club Member of the Year)



Men's Weekend: March 12-15
Lay Leader: Gene Niemerg
Call or Text him at 217-240-4365

Women's Weekend: March 19-22
Lay Leader: Pat Thompson
Call or Text her at 217-246-2150

or email Effingham DeColores: effdecolores@gmail.com

Liturgical Ministers for February 2026

Ministry	4:30pm	7:30am	9:15am	11:00am
Lectors	Sr. Claret Feldhake	Margie Haarmann	Rita Devore	Kim Koester
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Bierman Jacob Emmerich Mary Jo Green Carla Koerner Patty McHugh	Sue Bushur Janet Kennedy Kelly McDevitt Kate Weber Sara Wendt	Lilly Gannaway Sarah Geen Carrie Koenig Russ Sehy Anne Wilson	Brenda Jansen Mike Klitzing Eric Koester More Needed
Servers	Elle Bierman Leo Bierman Emily Gilmore	Owen Wendt Dylan Verdeyen	Charlee Jansen Emery Jansen Paxton Nosbisch	Anna Mae Scheidemantel Martin Scheidemantel
Ushers	Phil Koerner Mike Nosbisch Larry Thies Joe Ungrund	Greg Bushur Bill Overbeck Gerald Westendorf More Needed	Gene Fearday Todd Wegman Mike Wilson More Needed	Chris Quandt Bart Wiedman More Needed



**Get Up for
SonRise
this Lent!**

We are now entering Lent and hopefully your Lenten journey will have a strong start. Men, wherever you are, we want to support each other in being successful!

All men are welcome for Hot Breakfast on Friday's at 6:15am, prayer, program and discussion from 6:30 -7:30am, at the St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham. Learn more at thatmanisyou.com or Dan Woods, 217-821-1495 or danwoodsface@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE:

**St. Anthony
Parish
Treasure Sale**



St. Anthony Church & Schools will once again be having a Treasure Sale. Save your items and be thinking about what you will be donating.

This year's sale will be held: **Friday, May 29th & Saturday, May 30th.**

Thank you for donating items or for your time to pull this week-long fundraiser off with such huge success! Every year our total of earnings raised, volunteers, and donations are truly amazing! The staff at St. Anthony is truly grateful!

For questions call the parish office at 217-347-7129.

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

Natural Family Planning Class: To register, contact Kate Pruemer at 217-821-1840 or kpruemer@gmail.com

Saturday, March 7th

1:00-2:30pm at St. Anthony Church, Effingham

Saturday, May 2nd

10:00-11:30am at St. Francis, Teutopolis



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." We will not meet in March, but will resume in April.

This inclusive group will meet to share, listen, and support one another through our journey of loss of grief and healing.

For questions, please contact Kara Huston at khuston@stanthony.com

JIGSAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE

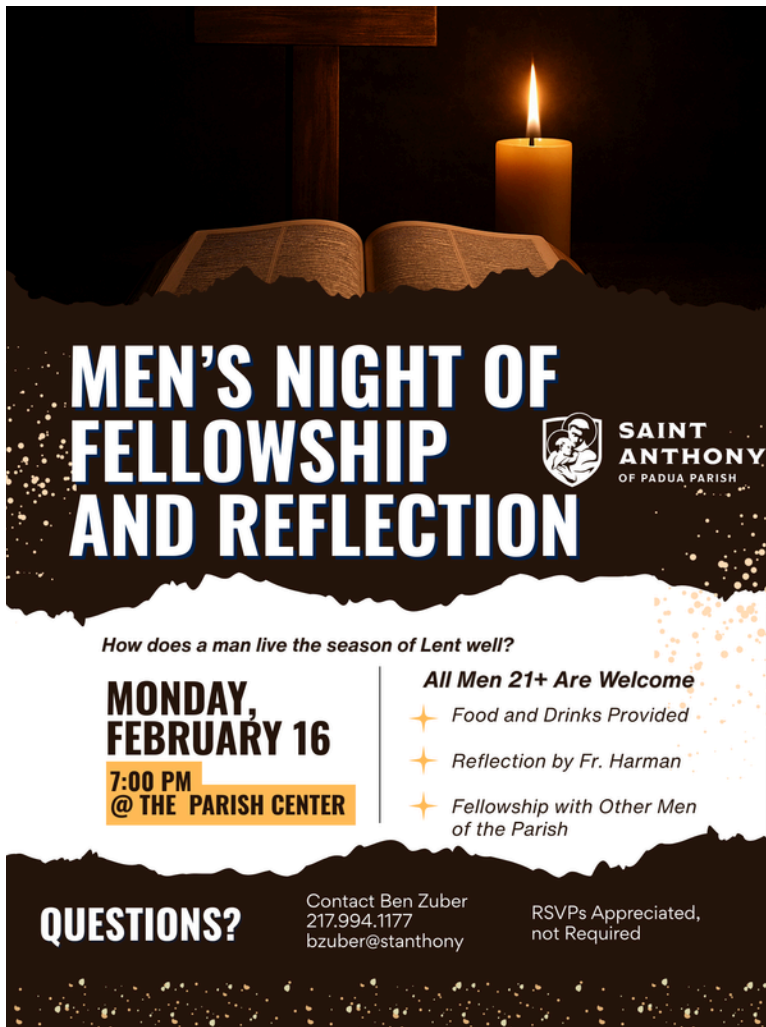
SATURDAY, FEB. 28TH

11:00AM - 12:00PM

**ST. ANTHONY
PARISH CENTER**

BRING A PUZZLE

TAKE A PUZZLE!



MEN'S NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH

How does a man live the season of Lent well?

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16
7:00 PM @ THE PARISH CENTER

All Men 21+ Are Welcome

- ★ Food and Drinks Provided
- ★ Reflection by Fr. Harman
- ★ Fellowship with Other Men of the Parish

QUESTIONS? Contact Ben Zuber 217.994.1177 bzuber@stanthony

RSVPs Appreciated, not Required



SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH

St. Anthony Parish in Effingham, IL is currently accepting applications for a

Rectory Housekeeper

The Rectory Housekeeper is responsible for cleaning the parish rectory one day per week, requiring up to six hours of work. Housekeeping duties include cleaning bedrooms, bathrooms, dusting, mopping, washing linens and towels, among other household cleaning.

The ideal candidate is energetic, a self-starter, pleasant, and can maintain confidentiality.

For more information about the position or to apply, contact Carrie Koenig at 217-347-7129 or visit our website at <https://church.stanthony.com/employment/>

Pro-Life Corner

Everyone is welcome to attend the **Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life** to Pray for the Protection of All Life at Sacred Heart Church in Lillyville on Tuesday, February 17th. Praying the rosary will begin at 6:00 pm. Fr. Hyland Smith will be the celebrant for the 6:30 pm Mass. A business meeting will follow in the parish hall with refreshments being served while current pro-life issues and events are discussed.



Lent and Learn 2026

Wednesday Mini-Retreats

Join us weekly
 February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, & March 25

6:30 am	Parish Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 am - 5:15 pm	Adoration in church
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Confessions in church
5:15 pm	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Mass
6:00 pm	Soup / Light Meal in the Parish Center free of charge

Lent and Learn Presentation with Fr. Harman and Fr. Jayke

2026 Lent and Learn Series:
Experiencing The Paschal Mystery through the Lives of Those Walking with Jesus
 Join us for a weekly reflection of how the Apostles, Mary, and friends of Jesus lived the Cross and Resurrection. Contemplate what that means for disciples today.



SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH

Lenten Dates

February 18 Ash Wednesday
 Mass: 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:10 pm, 5:30 pm

March 8 Parish Reconciliation Service 3:00 pm

Fridays in Lent Stations of the Cross 2:10 pm (on school days) and 7:00 pm in church

Holy Week

April 2	Holy Thursday	6:30 pm
April 3	Good Friday	3:00 pm
April 4	Holy Saturday	8:00 pm
April 5	Easter	7:30, 9:15, 11:00 am

Alleluia! He Is Risen!

Week Ending Feb. 8, 2026	Weekly Totals	Fiscal YTD (Week 31 of 52)	Last Year's YTD
Regular Church Support	\$24,532.10	\$941,613.43	\$892,843.79
GOAL	\$28,265.00	\$876,215.00	
Difference	(\$3,732.90)	\$65,398.43	

Diocesan Collections	Week Ending Feb. 8, 2026	YTD
Nigeria	\$815.00	\$13,798.66
Catholic Times	\$165.00	\$2,485.00
Cemetery	\$5.00	\$12,565.10
Central/Eastern Europe	\$50.00	\$95.00
Church in Latin America	\$85.00	\$255.00



Millions of Monica's Prayer Group

Millions of Monica Prayer group will meet February 16th from 6-7pm @ Sacred Heart Parish in Effingham. We invite all mothers to come pray with us. This is a group of mothers, grandmothers, aunts and godmothers coming together to lift up their children (of all ages) in prayer. Following St. Monica's example of patience and perseverance, we pray for the joyful return of our children to full unity with the Catholic Church. For more information, visit www.millionsofmonicas.com.

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.

You are invited to a Family Lenten Retreat at St. Isidore Parish. It will be held on Saturday, March 7 beginning with a TALK at 10 am at St. Aloysius Hall. Mass will follow in the Church. Potluck meal after Mass in will be in the parish hall, with meat and drinks provided. After lunch, we will hear the second talk. Our speaker will be Fr Michael Trummer. Adoration and confessions will begin at 2 pm and the day will conclude at 3 pm with Benediction. There is no cost to attend, but a free will offering will be accepted. Babysitting will be provided, and please sign up to attend the retreat on the signup sheet in the back of St. Aloysius Church or St. Joseph Church, or you may sign up by emailing office@stisidore.dio.org. Please call Karla Slifer 217-690-5282 or Stephanie Niemerg 217-821-5970 if you have questions.

Springfield March for Life Thursday March 19

- Leave Effingham Event Center 7:30am on charter bus
- \$20 each.
- Mass with Bishop Paprocki 10am at Sangamon Auditorium
- Eat your sack lunch
- 12noon Rally, Speakers, March at the Capitol
- 3 pm depart for Effingham
- 5pm arrive at Effingham Event Center
- For info and registration papers, call bus captain Diann Ruholl 217-663-2056 or email at dcruholl@hotmail.com

Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry in Vandalia, IL will be hosting a conference on February 20-22. Join us for this upcoming retreat titled "Self-Deliverance, Spiritual Warfare, and the Military Mindset". In this conference you will be equipped for spiritual battle by two Catholic veterans and spiritual warriors, Dr. Dan Schneider, who is a member of Fr. Chad Ripperger's exorcism team and Jason Henderson who uses his combat experience to train Catholics in spiritual warfare. Also Fr. Augustine Puchner of the Norbertines, will be giving a talk and having Mass for us each day. Please go to osmm.org to register, and the full agenda is listed on their website. The cost is \$100 to attend. You may also contact Karla Slifer at 217-690-5282 for more information.

Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (S.D.C.C.W.) 2026 Lenten Retreat

"Heaven Meets Earth"

A Journey through the Holy Mass

The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites all women to their annual Lenten Retreat at Villa Maria in Springfield, Feb 24th – 25th with Retreat Director, Sister Margaret Schreiber OP, PhD.

What a wonderful time for spiritual presentations, prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, fellowship and much more!

Bring your sister, your mom, and your friend.
All are welcome!

Registration forms with cost and further information is available in the parish office.

Deadline to register is Feb 14th .
Contact Mary Ann Sullivan 217-822-1928.

St. Michael School, Sigel, IL

Swine & Dine Breakfast

Sunday – February 22, 2026
7:00 am – Noon



DELICIOUS ALL YOU CAN EAT MENU:

Whole Hog Sausage, Eggs, Buttermilk Pancakes, Homemade Rolls,
Breads, Orange Juice, Coffee and Milk.

Adults	Children 5 - 13 yrs
\$10.00	&Seniors
	\$7.00

All Proceeds Benefit St. Michael School.
There will be a craft store, raffle items and mystery boxes.

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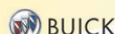
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