

This detail from Michelangelo's 'Descent into Limbo' fresco shows Christ seated on a globe, holding a cross and a sword. He is surrounded by a crowd of figures, including the Virgin Mary and various saints, all depicted in a highly detailed and expressive style. The central figure of Christ is framed by a large, ornate oval frame.

Who is St. Nicholas?

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus’ words to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor,” Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships. Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals-murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th. Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas’ life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need. One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman’s

father had to offer prospective husbands something of value-a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man’s daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home-providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

2017 lists for Sacred Heart lectors, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers and Collection counters are posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday, changes have been made to the regular weekend Mass schedule. The following is a list of regular weekend Masses as well as the Christmas Mass schedule.

Sunday Mass Schedule:

Sat., December 23: 4:00 pm @ SA
6:00 pm @ SH
Sun., December 24: NO am Mass @ SH
9:30 am @ SA
Christmas Eve schedule:
Sunday, December 24: 4:00 pm @ SA
6:00 pm @ SH
11:00 pm @ St. Mary’s

Christmas Day Schedule:

Monday, December 25: 9:30 am @ SA

Sacred Heart Circle 4 will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, December 10 from 11-1 pm at the parish hall. Tickets, for raffle items, will be available to purchase. Circle 4 members will be in the back of the church selling tickets, for the dinner, before Mass starting the weekend of November 18-19. The dinner will be held after the Sacred Heart CCD program which will be held at 10:30 am. Come join us!

2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal
Thank you to all who have made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. No gift is too small, and our parish is trying to reach 100% participation. If you have not yet made a gift to the ADA, we invite you to do so today. There are pledge cards in the vestibule. Every dollar raised to make our goals supports important diocesan services and every dollar raised over our goals will be kept in the parishes for improvements.

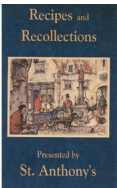
St. Anthony Update:
We have pledges of \$23,385 toward our goal of \$34,445. Leaving a balance of \$11,060. We have received pledge cards from 96 families for 68% of our goal.

Sacred Heart Update:
We have pledges of \$10,318 toward our goal of \$15,348. Leaving a balance of \$5, 030. We have received pledge cards from 69 families for 67% of our goal.

Purchase a St. Anthony’s Cookbook!

Recipes and Recollections is a 444 page cookbook with nearly 1000 recipes! It is a perfect gift for weddings, birthdays or the holidays!

For more information contact Ardith Burton at 936-7975 or Norma Gilbraith at 936-7583



St. Anthony’s Centennial aprons, hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts on sale! Orders should be texted to Kim Roman at 815-535-1758 (text only please).



The Jewels of St. Anthony’s Centennial Ornaments and Trivets are available by order through out this 2017 Centennial year. The ornaments are \$10 each or \$8 a piece if 5 or more are ordered. The Trivets are \$16 each. Call Sue Floriani 309-936-7333 or Bonnie Obrecht at 309-936-7968.



Centennial Year Books are available at the Parish Office. Books are \$5

Parish Staff
Rev. S. Stephen Engelbrecht, Pastor
frengelebrecht@stanthonysatkinson.org
(309) 936-7900

Deacon Nicholas Simon
nicksimon@juno.com
(309) 945-2436

Deacon Marshall Plumley
mvplum@gmail.com
(309) 944-2219

Bonnie VandeVelde, Parish Secretary
Valerie Plumley, Finance Bookkeeper
office@stanthonysatkinson.org
(309) 936-7900
Office Hours: Tue & Thur 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:30 pm at St. Anthony
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. at Sacred Heart or by appointment with priest.

Area Parishes
St. Malachy (Geneseo)
Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 am
St. John Paul II (Kewanee)
Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 am;
1pm Spanish

Baptism for Infants
Please call for an appointment to schedule Baptism preparation for your family.

Holy Matrimony
Please arrange an appointment with a priest at least eight months before the proposed wedding date to allow time for all necessary marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick
Call the church anytime someone is dying. If you are unable to attend Mass (hospitalized or at home) please call so Holy Communion and pastoral care can be administered.

New Parishioners
Welcome to our parishes! Please call the church office to register or if you have questions about our community.

Parish Cemeteries
St. Anthony Cemetery: Contact Bill Carmichael, Jr., (309)936-7651. Sacred Heart Cemetery: Contact Adam DeRycke at (309) 935-6080

Parish Halls Rental
The halls of both parishes are available for receptions and other gatherings. Please contact the office for further details.

Bulletin Deadline
Copy must be submitted by Wednesday at 4:00 pm to: office@stanthonysatkinson.org or mailing to PO Box 210, Atkinson, IL 61235