

ST. ANTHONY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Atkinson  
 SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Annawan  
 SHRINE OF ST. MARY, Hooppole

Rev. S. Stephen Engelbrecht, Pastor

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**MASS SCHEDULE**  
**Celebrating Our Faith This Week**

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Saturday, December 23**

4:00 pm @ SA – For the Parishoners by Fr. Engelbrecht

**Sunday, December 24**

8:00 am @ SH + William Rambo by Eunice and Family

9:30 am @ SA + Justin Nelson by Deacon Marshall & Valerie

**The Nativity of the Lord**

**Sunday, December 24**

4:00 pm @ SH + Marilyn VanDeVoorde by Gene & Family

4:00 pm @ SA + Dick & Mary Martens by Martens Family

**Monday, December 25**

9:30 am @ SA – For the Parishoners by Fr. Engelbrecht

**Tuesday, December 26**

No Mass

**Wednesday, December 27**

No Mass

**Thursday, December 28**

No Mass

**Friday, December 29**

No Mass

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**Saturday, December 30**

4:00 pm @ SA + Carter Yackley by Lynn & Pam Cathelyn

**Sunday, December 31**

8:00 am @ SH - For the Parishoners by Fr. Engelbrecht

9:30 am @ SA + Herb Vandersnick by Jerry & Mary Buysse

**Serving at Our Lord's Altar - Sacred Heart**

**8:00 am @ Sacred Heart - December 31**

Lector: Rod Jackson

EMHC: Sue Ann Wells

Ushers: Chad Gripp & Richard VanKerrebroeck

Money: Marilyn Verdick and Sue Ann Wells

**Serving at Our Lord's Altar St. Anthony's**

**4:00 pm @ St. Anthony - December 30**

Lector: Robin VanMeenan

Eucharistic Minister: Dave VanDeVelde

Ushers: Lynn Cathelyn and Richard DeSmith

**9:30 am @ St. Anthony - December 31**

Lector: Jeanne Carton

Ushers: Gary Olson and Terence Patton

Please remember these parishioners  
 who ask for your prayers.

Katelyn DeRycke, Christine Sand Dunahee, Barry Miller,  
 Berniece Cathelyn, Mary Frank, Bernie Weidner

**2023 ADA**  
**Ready To Bring The Love Of Jesus**

The 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway in both parishes. Thank you to all who have already pledged to the appeal. No gift is too small and the parish is trying to reach 100% participation. If you received your pledge card in the mail, please complete it and mail it back. If you have not, there are pledge cards in each parish. Every dollar raised over the goal will be returned to both parishes to help with parish needs.

St. Anthony's 2023 goal: \$33,621 Pledged: \$14,785

Sacred Heart 2023 goal: \$12,161 Pledged: \$4,986

Both parishes will need to pay the full amount of the goal that is not met. Please help your parish by reaching it's goal.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Wednesday, December 27 SA No CCD

Sunday, December 31 SH No CCD

**Sacred Heart and St. Anthony's would like to thank all those who helped decorate and clean our churches for the Christmas Season.**



**Beautiful Eucharist**

*Beautiful Eucharist* is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives.

Some of the most beloved authors of our times have come together to witness to their personal encounters with Jesus in the Eucharist, provide eye-opening insight into the Mass, and inspire every reader to grow closer to God, one step at a time. Father Mike Schmitz, Peter Kreeft, Lisa Hende, Matthew Kelly, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Fulton Sheen, Sister Helena Burns, Allen Hunt, Matt Wamer and others have each contributed deeply personal reflections.

*Beautiful Eucharist* is an invitation to encounter the life-giving presence of Jesus in the Eucharist so you can be a life-giving presence in the world.

**Copies of the book *Beautiful Eucharist* are available for free at entrances at St. Anthony's & Sacred Heart.**



O Divine Redeemer Jesus Christ, prostrate before Thy crib, I believe Thou art the God of infinite Majesty, even though I do see Thee here as a helpless babe. I humbly adore and thank Thee for having so humbled Thyself for my salvation as to will to be born in a stable. I thank Thee for all Thou didst wish to suffer for me in Bethlehem, for Thy poverty and humility, for Thy nakedness, tears, cold and sufferings.

Would that I could show Thee that tenderness which Thy Virgin Mother had toward Thee, and love Thee as she did.

Would that I could praise Thee with the joy of the angels, that I could kneel before Thee with the faith of St. Joseph, the simplicity of the shepherds. Uniting myself with these first adorers at the crib, I offer Thee the homage of my heart, and I beg that Thou wouldst be born spiritually in my soul.

Make me reflect in some degree the virtues of Thy admirable nativity. Fill me with that spirit of renunciation, of poverty of humility, which prompted Thee to assume the weakness of our nature, and to be born amid destitution and suffering.

Grant that from this day forward, I may in all things seek Thy greater glory, and may enjoy that peace promised to men of good will.

Prayer before the Christmas Crib



**Sharing in the Work of Christ**  
*through sacrificial giving*

**St. Anthony Monthly Financial Support November**

Sunday: \$6,967 Candle: \$89.75

Holy Day: \$205 Cemetery \$380

**Sacred Heart Monthly Financial Support November**

Sunday: \$3,104 Fuel: \$70 Candles: \$162

Holy Day & Mission Sunday: \$89

**Please note the following changes and updates:**

The weekend of December 23 -24 there will be regular weekend Mass schedule:

Saturday, December 23rd:

4:00 pm at St. Anthony's (Father Engelbrecht)

Sunday, December 24th:

8:00 am at Sacred Heart (Father Vien Van Do)

9:30 am at St. Anthony's (Father Vien Van Do)

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Sunday, December 24th:

4:00 pm at St. Anthony's (Father Engelbrecht)

4:00 pm at Sacred Heart (Father Vien Van Do)

Monday, December 25th:

9:30 am at St. Anthony's (Father Engelbrecht)

There will NOT be Christmas Mass at St. Mary's nor at Sacred Heart on Christmas Day as previously scheduled.

Dear Parishioners,

I hope all of you have a very Blessed Christmas. Don't forget we celebrate Christmas Day for eight days ('til New Years Day), then comes Epiphany. So there is plenty of Christmas cheer to be had these days. This is because the Church realizes that when celebrating a mystery such as the Incarnation we need to take time to "soak in" its meaning.

Part of Incarnation is that God became part of a family—the Holy Family which we celebrate next Sunday. So I extend to all of our families wishes for God's blessings for this upcoming year.

I am so thankful to those who have sent me Christmas cards and gifts, as we remember the greatest gift ever received— Christ the Lord. All God's blessings to you and yours in this New Year!

- Father Engelbrecht

Confessions: Confessions times will remain the same for the weekend. Before the 4 pm Mass at

St. Anthony's on Saturday and before the 8 am Mass at Sacred Heart on Sunday.

Please note that January 1st, Mary Mother of God is NOT a Holy Day of obligation this year since it lands on a Monday. There will not be a Mass on January 1st.

After having surgery on the eighth of December, Father Engelbrecht was released from the hospital on the 12th. Father has returned to limited duties. Thank you for your prayers and understanding during this time. Many thanks to Father Vien Van Do who has and will continue to assist with Mass.

**2023 financial contributions for St. Anthony's, Sacred Heart and St. Mary's of the Field must be turned into the parish office by December 31st in order to be included on your 2023 tax contribution statement. If you are mailing your contribution please make sure you plan accordingly and mail in advance. Any contributions received after this deadline will be included in your 2024 financial giving. Thank you.**

**Christmas with the Seminarists:** Please join us on Wednesday, December 27th for vespers at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Peoria at 6:30 pm. Vespers will be followed by cookies and conversation at the Spalding Pastoral Center.

St. Malachy's Church, Geneseo is hosting a **Joy to the World Nativity Display** Over 250 Nativities will be on display in the Parish Hall. December 26, 2023 - January 1, 2024 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Fee will donations will be accepted Handicap Accessible Sponsored by St. Malachy Altar & Rosary.

It's Time to COME TOGETHER, **New Year's Eve "Pre Party", Let's Celebrate....** December 31st 2023 Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, Silvis. 11:30 am-12:00pm—Mocktails 12:00pm Lunch 1:00 - 3:00 pm music entertainment and

games . \$20 per adult; \$10 per child K-12th grade; 0 yrs-Pre-School Free; FAMILY Price is \$50 (2 adults and up to 3 kids) Menu: Signature Pleasure Party Sandwiches, Chicken Wings, Soup, Veggie Charcuterie Boards, Fruit Charcuterie Boards, Potato Bar, and Dessert is Ice Cream Sundae Bar Drinks included in ticket price. Games and Prizes for adults and kids alike. New Years Eve Pre Party goodie bags for all children. Tickets on sale in the OLG office during normal business hours and after Masses at Our Lady of Guadalupe the month of December with last tickets sold December 22nd. Questions call Katrina at 309-796-3867 ext 3

**ATTENTION ALL CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS** (ages 18-35) in the QCA! We cordially invite you to join us Friday, January 5th, 7-9:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Rock Island, IL as we come together to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany! The evening begins by adoring Jesus, as the Magi did, with Adoration in the church 7-7:45 p.m. After Adoration we gather in McCarthy Hall for an evening of fellowship, food, and fun! Feel free to come for as much or as little of the evening as you are able - we look forward to seeing you there! RSVP is appreciated, but not required—it just helps us to estimate food, etc. Please RSVP by January 1st, if possible.

Due to rising costs to maintain our cemeteries and lower interest rates on our investments , we will be raising the price for a grave site to \$500 effective January 1, 2024. If you are interested in buying a grave site for St. Anthony's call Sue Mochel, Sacred Heart call Adam Derycke, and St. Mary's call Tom Church.

## Did you know? The Twelve days of Christmas

Aside from the fact that Epiphany—which comes twelve days after Christmas—used to mark the end of the Christmas Season, the song “Twelve Days of Christmas” is not really any part of Catholic liturgy.

The song of that name actually derives from a time in England from 1558 to 1829 when it was illegal to be a Catholic, and so the song contains a hidden catechism of Catholic theology.

- A Partridge in a Pear Tree: Jesus Christ
- Two Turtle Doves: The Old and New Testaments
- Three French Hens: The Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity)
- Four Calling birds: The Four Gospels/The Four Evangelists
- Five Golden Rings: The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the “Pentateuch”
- Six Geese a-Laying: The Six Days of Creation
- Seven Swans a-Swimming: The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit/The Seven Sacraments
- Eight Maids a-Milking: The Eight Beatitudes
- Nine Ladies Dancing: The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Ten Lords a-Leaping: The Ten Commandments
- Eleven Pipers Piping: The Eleven Faithful Apostles
- Twelve Drummers Drumming: The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostles' Creed

### Parish Staff

**Rev. S. Stephen Engelbrecht, Pastor**  
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**Deacon Nicholas Simon**  
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**Bonnie VanDeVelde**, Parish Secretary  
**Valerie Plumley**, Finance Bookkeeper  
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Office Hours: Thursday 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 5:00pm, Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 am

**St. John Paul II (Kewanee)**  
Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 am;  
12:00pm Spanish

**St. John Vianney (Cambridge)**  
Sunday at 8:00 am

### 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 Sue Mochel,  
contact at (309)944-7289. Sacred Heart  
Cemetery: Contact Adam DeRycke at  
(309) 935-6080

### Parish Hall Rental

St. Anthony's parish hall is 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