

ST. ANTHONY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Atkinson
ST. PATRICK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Sheffield
SHRINE OF ST. MARY OF THE FIELDS, Hooppole
Rev. S. Stephen Engelbrecht, Pastor
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 210 Atkinson, IL 61235
Phone 309.936.7900 Fax 309.936.4035
www.theheartandthelily.org
http://stmaryofthefieldsshrine.weebly.com
St. Anthony Location: 204 W Main Street, Atkinson IL
St. Patrick Location: 233 W Atkinson Street, Sheffield IL



MASS SCHEDULE

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 27
4:00 pm @ SA + Herb Vandersnick
Sunday, December 28
8:00 am @ SA – For the Parishoners
10:00 am @ SP + Ann Sprowels
Monday, December 29 No Mass
Tuesday, December 30
5:30 pm @ SA + Dale VanVooren

The Solemnity Of Mary, Mother Of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, December 31
4:00 pm @ SA + Larry & Owen Plumley
5:30 pm @ SP - For the Parishioners
Thursday, January 1 No Mass
Friday, January 2
8:00 am @ SA + Evelyn DeSplinter
5:30 pm @ SP + Lorelle Burcham

Epiphany Of The Lord

Saturday, January 3
4:00 pm @ SA + Arthur & Regina Vandersnick
Sunday, January 4
8:00 am @ SA + Julio & Pauline Lorenzana
10:00 am @ SP - For the Parishioners

Serving at Our Lord’s Altar St. Anthony

4:00 pm @ St. Anthony - December 31
Lector:
Usher: Rod Jackson, Kevin Stafford
4:00 pm @ St. Anthony – January 3
Lector: Janice Wyffels
Ushers: Steve Clementz, Vince Schopp
8:00 am @ St. Anthony – January 4
Lector: Wayne Brau
Ushers: Mark Murphy, Eric Ufheil

Serving at Our Lord’s Altar - St. Patrick

5:30 pm @ St.Patrick - December 31
Lector: Pat Corwin
Usher: Richard Brummel, Shawn LeRette
10 am @ St. Patrick - January 4
Lector: Lisa Wilson
Ushers: Ken Brummel, Rick Cernovich
Money Counters: LeRette/Klosterman

Please remember these parishioners who ask for your prayers.

Christine Sand Dunahee, Barry Miller, Mary Frank, John & Wink Barry, Abby Hahne Brokaw, Mike Curran, Jay DeBruyn, Barb Wagner, Joan Miller, Joan Glubzinski, Kelly Hennigh, Joe Hoenschied, Chris Johnson, Elaine Kelm, Cleo Lanham, Dan Woods, Megan Lanham, Julie Marley, Hudson McCook, Aaron Stetson, Marietta Andrews, Nick Welgat, Spike Hubbs, Lorraine Happach, Alan Dietz, Gaye Abrahams, Steve Foerder, Mary Jo Nelson, Jan Doty

2025 ADA UPDATED 12/18

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your support, in prayer and through your sacrificial gift to the ADA, makes it possible to provide services throughout the Diocese which support our parishes. If you have not made your pledge by mail please take a pledge card located at the entrances of both parishes. The goals for each parish are as follows: St. Anthony’s: \$46,563 St. Patrick’s: \$20,875 Please make all checks out to Diocese of Peoria and send donations directly to the Diocese. Thank you.
St. Anthony Goal: \$46,563 St. Patrick Goal: \$20,875
Pledged: \$23,910 Pledged: \$1,937
Balance: \$22,410 Balance: \$18,938

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sun. Dec. 28th: No CCD at SP or SA

The Church Office will be closed the week of December 29th. The office will reopen on January 8th. A quick reminder to please refrain from texting or calling staff on their cell phones or at home. Please contact staff via email or calling the parish office. Emails and voice mail are always checked periodically.

St. Anthony Altar & Rosary Society St. Anthony Event

Please help us sell tickets and plan to attend St. Anthony's BINGO FUN DAY on Sunday, January 25th from 1-3pm. Cash prizes and homemade desserts!

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information

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

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



2025 financial contributions for St. Anthony, St. Patrick, Sacred Heart Cemetery & St. Mary of the Fields must be turned into the parish office by December 31st in order to be included on your 2025 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 2026 financial giving.

Sharing in the Work of Christ Through Sacrificial Giving
(Weekly Sunday Contribution collected at Mass Dec. 21st)

St. Anthony Sunday Collection: \$2,467
St. Patrick Sunday Collection: \$2,640

Dear Parishoners,
I hope that you have a very Blessed Christmas. Don't forget we celebrate Christmas Day for Eight days (until New Year's Day), then comes Epiphany, followed by the Baptism of the Lord. So there is plenty of cheer to be had these days. This is because the church realizes 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 our families wishes for God's blessings for the 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

Important Envelope Update regarding St. Anthony/ former Sacred Heart/St. Mary of the Fields. The envelope merging process is complete for St. Anthony/former Sacred Heart parishioners.
Starting January 1, 2026 all parishioners will now receive envelopes from St. Anthony. The exception being the cemetery. Four times a year there will be cemetery envelopes included in the monthly mailing. St. Anthony Cemetery envelopes will remain green. Sacred Heart Cemetery envelopes are now Lavender. Any checks for the cemetery should be written to St. Anthony or Sacred Heart depending on which one you are financially contributing to. Sunday collection and special collection checks should be made out to St. Anthony. There is no longer an Improvement or Fuel envelope in the mailing, Also, envelope numbers have changed for former Sacred Heart Parishioners. In order to combine parishes the system required renumbering. Please note your new number on the envelope. St. Mary of the Fields—if you give weekly/monthly contributions in your Sunday envelopes, please mark the envelope accordingly with either an SM or St. Mary of the Fields, this will help the money

counters when they process the envelopes. Checks should be made out to St. Mary of the Fields. Thank you.
Please note that **incense** will be used on Sundays at 8:00 am & 10 am Mass during Advent and Christmas Season. Incense was used in the worship of God 2,000 years ago and is employed in the Church's Sacred Liturgy today. The sweet smelling incense rising up to heaven reminds us of our prayers rising up to God. At Christmas we celebrate our God who so loved us that he sent his only Son down to us. This perfectly represents what happens at Mass—God comes to us and we are taken up to God. There might be some that would prefer to avoid Masses with incense, so I inform you presently.
St. Patrick Important Notice: Please do not adjust the thermostat in the church as doing so creates the pipes to freeze. If you have concerns over the temperature please contact a trustee or Father.
St. Patrick is in need of 5 volunteers to co chair a circle in 2026. If you have never volunteered before there will be lots of help. It would be nice to not require 5 people to take 2 months when we only need 24 to begin with. Any questions or to volunteer call Connie Hahne at 815-713-7695.
Anyone who would like their name added to the **St. Patrick Circle text chain** or the prayer text chain. please text your name to Connie Hahne at 815-713-7695. The Circle text chain informs parishioners about circle & funeral information and church activities.
Geneseo/Atkinson Food Pantry needs for December: The pantry is in need of Spaghetti sauce, sweet potatoes, stuffing, flour, sugar, vanilla, chocolate chips, juices, water. Non-food items: toilet paper, paper towels, men's body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush, cleaning supplies, baby wipes, diapers, shampoo, conditioner and deodorant.
Sheffield (Western Bureau County) Food Pantry * please note there is a basket in the entrance of SP for food donations. The

pantry is in need of pancake mix and syrup. Items always needed: Mac & Cheese, Noodles, Peanut Butter, Soup, Tuna Fish, Cereal, Instant Potatoes, Rice, Canned Fruit, Jell-O, Canned Vegetables, Sugar, Spaghetti Sauce, Coffee, Hamburger Helper, Crackers. We also accept paper products (toilet paper, paper towels) and personal care products (toothpaste, shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, etc).
Joy to the World Nativity Display Over 500 Nativities will be on display at St. Malachy, Geneseo in the parish hall. December 26, 2025 - January 1, 2026 from 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Free will donations will be accepted Handicap Accessible Sponsored by: St. Malachy Altar & Rosary Society
Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend offers a beautiful opportunity for healing to any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. The retreat is a chance to get away from the daily pressures of work and family, to focus on a painful time in life, and to begin healing through a supportive and nonjudgmental process. To register for either February 27-March 1, 2026 or October 30-November 1, 2026 retreat, register online at www.cdop.org/rachel'svineyard or by contacting Colleen Harmon at 309-264-1489, rvrpeoria@gmail.com. The cost is \$175.00 which includes: lodging for 2 nights, three meals on Saturday, 2 meals on Sunday, and materials. Financial assistance is available. The Rachel's Vineyard strictly respects confidentiality and privacy. If you or someone you know is hurting, please call today
The Magi Gala: A benefit for The Magi Baby Chest. This formal event will take place on Sat. February 14, 2026 at The Barn at Hornbaker Garden, Princeton IL. Tickets and Donations are available at www.magibabychest.com 5pm: Hors D'oeuvres & cash bar; 5pm - 9 pm: Silent Auction; 6 pm: Dinner. 7:30 - 10 pm: Felix & Fingers Dueling Pianos and Dancing. \$80 per ticket.

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

What can you do in the fight for life? It doesn't take much to make a big difference! Help continue the Legacy of Life - Fill the Bottle 2026. Money raised through Baby Bottles will support the life-changing work of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of men and women who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy. Pregnancy Resources provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, maternity and baby supplies plus parenting classes. You are reaching thousands of students through our No Regrets school program, and helping those touched by abortion to find healing. With your help, we show them that their baby's life is worth defending. When you choose to defend life, the possibilities are endless! Baby Bottles will be available in all three parishes from January 3rd to January 31st and should be returned by February 4th. Contributions will be sent to the Quad City Pregnancy Resource Center. Thank you!

Thank you to ALL who made our Christmas liturgies a joyous occasion. Thank you to our musicians, vocalists, Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, those who cleaned and decorated and anyone else who helped us celebrate the birth of Our Lord in a most joyful way.

Thank you for those who helped and contributed towards the Angel Tree Coat Donations. A big thank you to Annette DeMay for helping with the collection & distribution of the coats. Everyone's generosity made the Angel Tree a huge success. Thank you!

Parish Staff
Rev. S. Stephen Engelbrecht, Pastor
office@stanthonysatkinson.org
(309) 936-7900
Deacon Nicholas Simon
nicksimon@juno.com
(309) 945-2436
Deacon Marshall Plumley
mvlplum@gmail.com
(309) 944-2219
Bonnie VanDeVelde, Parish Secretary
Valerie Plumley, Finance Bookkeeper
office@stanthonysatkinson.org
(309) 936-7900
Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:30 pm at St. Anthony
Sunday: 9:30 to 9:50 am at St. Patrick
or by appointment with priest.
Adoration
St. Patrick's, Sheffield
First Friday of every Month 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Area Parishes
St. Malachy (Geneseo)
Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 am
St. John Paul II (Kewanee)
Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday: 8:30
11:15am Spanish
St. Louis (Princeton)
Sat. 4:00pm, Sunday 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 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:
Sue Mochel at (309)944-7289.
Sacred Heart Cemetery:
Adam DeRycke at (309) 935-6080
St. Mary's of the Field Shrine Cemetery:
Steve Clementz at (309) 936-7142
St. Patrick's Cemetery:
Dave Hahne at (815) 252-2798
Parish Hall Rental
St. Anthony's parish hall, St. Patrick's parish hall and St. Mary's of the Fields parish hall 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 x 210, Atkinson, IL 61235