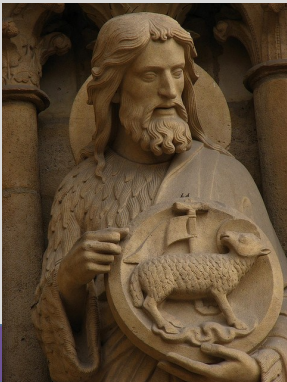


ST. ANTHONY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Atkinson  
ST. PATRICK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Sheffield  
SHRINE OF ST. MARY OF THE FIELDS, Hooppole  
Rev. S. Stephen Engelbrecht, Pastor  
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 210 Atkinson, IL 61235  
Phone 309.936.7900 Fax 309.936.4035  
www.theheartandthelily.org  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



MASS SCHEDULE

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 6  
4:00 pm @ SA + Ron Manthe  
Sunday, December 7  
8:00 am @ SA + Barney VanDeRostyne  
10:00 am @ SP - For the Parishoners

The Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, December 8  
5:30 pm @ SA + Esther DeSplinter & Anne Carlson  
7:00 pm @ SP - For the Parishoners

Tuesday, December 9 No Mass  
Wednesday, December 10 Our Lady of Loreto  
5:30 pm @ SP + Fr. Paul Meismer  
Thursday, December 11 St. Damasus I, Pope  
8:00 am @ SA + Royce & Joie Verstraete  
Friday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe  
8:00 am @ SA + Joe Goebert

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 13  
4:00 pm @ SA + Reuben & Pat DeSmith  
Sunday, December 14  
8:00 am @ SA + Chuck & Logan DeMay  
10:00 am @ SP - For the Parishoners

Serving at Our Lord’s Altar St. Anthony

4:00 pm @ St. Anthony – December 13  
Lector: Jeanne Carton  
Ushers: Lynn Cathelyn, Kevin Stafford

8:00 am @ St. Anthony – December 14  
Lector: Rod Jackson  
Ushers: Mark Murphy, John Cauwels  
EMHC: Mary Kay Franks

Serving at Our Lord’s Altar - St. Patrick

10:00 am @ St. Patrick - December 14  
Lector: Jim Owens  
Ushers: Rich Brummel, Shawn LeRette  
Altar Servers: Ryan P, Andrew E  
Money Counters: Kevin & Lisa Wilson, Jon & Gail Pickering

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, Barb Wagner, Marietta Andrews, Nick Welgat, Spike Hubbs, Lorraine Happach, Shelley Church, Alan Dietz, Gaye Abrhams, Steve Foerder

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve, December 24  
4 pm @ SA (Father Haake)  
4 pm @ SP (Father Engelbrecht)  
11 pm @ St. Mary’s of the Fields

Christmas Day, December 25  
9:00 am @ SA

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:  
December 31st: 4:00 @ SA  
December 31st: 5:30 @ SP

Sharing in the Work of Christ Through Sacrificial Giving  
(Weekly Sunday Contribution collected at Mass Nov. 28th)

Due to the weather postponing money counters ability to count,  
Sunday contributions will be reported next weekend.

Online Contribution totals for the previous month will be reported  
starting in January and will be posted on the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sun. Dec. 7th: CCD SP 8:30 –9:45 am SP Hall  
CCD SA 9:00 - 10:00 am SA Hall



Angel Tree Update

St. Patrick has a few angels for coats left on the tree. These coats are assigned to children at the food pantry. All coats for St. Patrick & St. Anthony angel trees should be NEW. All angels have been picked up from St. Anthony. Thank you to everyone who has picked up an angel. Please attach the angel to the coat when returned. You will NOT need to wrap the coat. All items should be returned by December 15th to be handed out. Your generosity lifts others and strengthens our own Christian purpose. Thank you!

The December Transition Team Meeting has been cancelled. An email will be sent to the team with the next meeting date.

St Patrick church will be open from 9-10 am each Monday, starting Monday, December 8th until Christmas. This silent time is for those who seek to Be Still and pray during Advent.

St. Anthony Religious Education Food Drive

Please help support our community by donating to the Annawan Food Pantry!  
Our collection will take place between now and Sunday December 14th . Donations can be dropped off during office hours or during CCD from 9 am - 10 am on Dec. 7th & Dec. 14th. There is a donation box by the angel tree in the entryway. Thank you for helping with the Religious Education Food Drive!  
  
Items Needed Include: Canned Goods, Paper Goods, Plates & Napkins, Pasta. Every item makes a difference - Thank you for your kindness this season!

St. Anthony and St. Patrick Christmas decorating will take place Sunday December 21st after Mass. All parishioners are invited to help with both days. We are in need of able bodied individuals to help carry items from the basement. Please come & help prepare for Christmas.

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.

2025 ADA

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: \$22,410 Pledged: \$1,837  
Balance: \$24,153 Balance: \$19,038



30 Minutes B.C.  
A Nativity Play



**Important Envelope Update regarding St. Anthony/ former Sacred Heart/St. Mary of the Fields. The envelope merging process is almost 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.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**  
If you would like to donate towards the Altar Christmas flowers in honor of a loved one, please send in your donation using the parish Christmas flower envelope, or in an envelope marked Christmas Flowers. **Please make sure your loved one’s name(s) is/are spelled and written clearly on the envelope.** Envelopes can be dropped in the collection basket or mailed it to the parish office at PO Box 210, Atkinson IL 61235. Make the check out to the parish in which you are a member. Each parish will have a separate list with ONLY the name of whom the donation is being given for. **Deadline for contributions & loved ones names, that will be honored on the list, is Thursday, December 18th.**

**Beware! It’s Phishing Season.** Phishing is a form of fraud. Usually the sender pretends to be a representative of a legitimate organization. Unfortunately, they like to prey upon church organizations by sending emails or text messages pretending to be your trusted pastor or deacon. They ask for you to “do a favor,” to purchase gift cards, or send money. They might also say “don’t call me right now because I am in a meeting.” As the Christmas season is upon us, these scams are beginning to show up daily. Every pastor or deacon in every church is targeted by these scammers. If you get one of these messages.....**DO NOT REPLY OR RESPOND TO THE MESSAGE IN ANY WAY!** Just delete it. If you respond you can trigger malicious software on your computer. If you send money the sender can access your accounts and contact lists. If you can report it to your email or phone provider, do so. There is no need to report it to us at the parish office, because we are already aware of these scam messages as we get them too. Father, the deacons and the office will never send you texts or emails regarding money/donation requests.

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.

**Abilities Plus Holiday Open House** is on Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 1 pm - 3 pm at Abilities Plus - 1100 N. East St. Kewanee, IL. Items available for purchase: raffle items & baskets, baked goods, sensory jars, epoxy coasters, snowflake ornaments, the daily fix nutrition tea, collectibles, holiday gifts, décor. Pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa’s elf (suggested donation for pictures: \$3). Refreshments will be served! Questions contact 309-852-4626.

**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).

**Advent talk series “Heart of the Holy Family” at Divine Mercy Parish in Silvis.** No talk on Monday, December 8th due to Holy Day. Monday, December 15th: Heart of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Monday, December 22 Heart of Jesus. Doors open each night at 6:00 pm. Talk with Father Peter Zorjan is at 6:30 pm. 7 pm - 8 pm is Holy Hour/Rosary/ Benediction. 7pm - last person, Confession.

Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday of Advent: Baruch 5:1–9; Psalm 126:1–6; Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11; Luke 3:1–6

Today’s Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing. It’s a glorious picture from Israel’s past, a “new exodus,” the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It’s being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn’t waxing nostalgic. Remembering “the Lord has done great things” in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He’ll do even greater things in the future. This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God’s saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today’s Epistle puts it, “the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it” until He comes again in glory. Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance. That’s the message of John, introduced in today’s Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1–4, 11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He’s preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of “all flesh” (see also Acts 28:28). John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he’s come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It’s a road we’ll follow Jesus down, a journey we’ll make, as today’s First Reading puts it, “rejoicing that [we’re] remembered by God.”

**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**  
mvplum@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