ASH WEDNESDAY
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
This Wednesday millions of Catholics and others will come to church and stand near the Sanctuary of thousands of churches and allow the priest and ministers to place ashes upon the crown of their head or their forehead. At our two churches we will say to them, “Turn away from Sin, & be faithful to the Gospel”.

They will walk away “marked” with a cross made of ashes. It is a radical moment of truth if we totally embrace what this signifies. It is a radical call to fiercely take hold of the cross of our human sinfulness, and in bearing the guilt and heavy burden of shame, to fight the good fight against the former darkness of these sins and to walk to higher ground into the light of His truth, the new life of mercy, and God’s redeeming forgiving grace. To reconcile our life to those we have hurt, to reconcile our life to our God who calls us to holiness, and just as important to reconcile our life with our own heart and soul, stained by our former way of sin, but cleansed in the blood of Jesus through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that Jesus himself instituted as he said to the disciples, “Go Ye Therefore and forgive their sins” (in His Name).

Our second graders are anxiously preparing for their First Reconciliation sacramental moment at St. Anthony’s. St. Mary’s children celebrated this grace moment earlier in the school year. Parents - remember when they were baptized??? Handing on the faith has been your divine call from the same Jesus who commanded the disciples to forgive us.

That truth disturbs Satan, the author of sin. So you can only understand how much “the Sacrament of Reconciliation” infuriates the angel of darkness. Since your child’s baptism, how many times has your son/daughter witnessed you “come home to the mercy of God in this healing Sacrament of God’s love” ? Grandparents and Godparents…..have you blessed your grandchild and godchild with witness of “who you are” as a Catholic?

Marking ourselves with ashes each Ash Wednesday is the call to holiness by which mercy heals, and grace empowers us to be these “intentional disciples” who not only run the race towards the goal of heaven’s eternal gate, but also convicts our lives to the purpose to bring our “brothers and sisters, family and friends, along the way”. Cain, after his sin of extreme jealousy, answered the Lord by saying…… “Am I my brother’s keeper”? There is only one answer…..YOU BET…..

Let us go to the desert for the next 40 days of the Lenten season of 2019. Be humble and be hopeful! Be sorrowful for our sins, and saturated by His grace and mercy. Be willing to die, knowing it will lead to our rising. Take up the armor of our faith and the shield of the strength of the Holy Spirit and claim the victory over Satan and His power to control us. Name your sin, claim its power, shame its filth, tame its control, and aim it back into the dungeon of the evil one….. In Christ, who has already won the victory …… mark yourselves with the Ashes, but only with the conviction to welcome back the blessed waters of Easter which will have cleansed and eradicated the former way of sin, and set us free, then and only then, can the Easter Alleluia be for real ……. 

- Peace, Fr. Chuck
Mass Intentions

Monday, March 4:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Joe, Elizabeth, Harold & Maurice Metten
8:30 a.m. Mass: CCW Members; John Sanders

Tuesday, March 5:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Lucille E Probst
8:30 a.m. Mass: Mark Kenter

Wednesday, March 6:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony
8:30 a.m. Mass: Margaret Hanfland
12:10 p.m. Mass: Christine Niebrugge
6:30 p.m. Mass: Jeaneane McWhorter-Jenne

Thursday, March 7:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Clem & Minnie Luchtefeld
8:30 a.m. Mass: Mark Kenter

Friday, March 8:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Mary P Willenborg; Ross & Mary Uptmor Family; Thomas Thies Anniversary
8:30 a.m. Mass: Ronald Greuel

Saturday, March 9:
4:30 p.m. Mass: Lorraine Jones

Sunday, March 10:
7:30 a.m. Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony
9:15 a.m. Mass: Charles & Grace Hotze Family
11:00 a.m. Mass: Helen Einhorn Martin Anniversary

Calendar of Events

Sun 3/3
10:00am Radio Mass AM 1090 or FM 99.5 & 96.3
10am to 11am - Scrip Sales in the Parish Center

Mon 3/4
6:30pm - Pastoral Council Meeting in the Parish Center

Tues 3/5
9am to 1pm - Scrip Sales in the Parish Center
6:15pm Grief Support in the Parish Center

Wed 3/6
Ash Wednesday Mass Times:
6:30am, 8:30am, 12:10pm & 6:30pm

Thurs 3/7
9am to 1pm - Scrip Sales in the Parish Center
6:00pm - New Lector Training in Church
6:45pm - New Eucharistic Minister Training in Church
7:30pm - New Usher/Hospitality Training in Church

Fri 3/8
6am - SonRise Men's Group
9am to 1pm - Scrip Sales in the Parish Center

Sat 3/9
9am to 11am - Scrip Sales in the Parish Center

March 6th - Ash Wednesday Mass Times
St. Anthony - 6:30am, 8:30am, 12:10pm & 6:30pm
St. Mary’s Shumway - 7:15am & 5:30pm
Sacred Heart, Effingham - 8:30am, 12:10pm and 7:00pm

Lenten Mass Times
On Wednesdays during Lent there will be a 6:30am and 6:30pm Mass. Ash Wednesday is March 6th.

Simple Soup Supper
St. Anthony church will again be hosting a simple soup supper on Wednesday evenings during Lent starting on March 13th. We will join each other in the parish center for food and fellowship from 5pm to 6pm, and will be serving a variety of soups. Following the soup supper, we will gather at church for Mass at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

Stations of the Cross
During this season of Lent there are several opportunities to attend the Stations of the Cross.
Friday at 7:00pm at St. Anthony
Friday at 6:00pm at St. Mary’s Shumway
Friday at 5:30pm at Sacred Heart (March Only)

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.

Protecting God’s Children Workshop
Sacred Heart Church, Effingham
Tuesday, March 26th at 6:00pm
Call 217-347-7177 to register
Church Cleaning for March
Cleaning is done Saturday morning from 8:30-9:30. If you are unable to clean, please call a replacement.
Kevin & Gigi Behl
Rick Belford
Jason & Morgan Benline
Kenneth & Pam Bergfeld
Beth Bernahl
Zach & Sara Bernhard
Justin & Sara Beyers
Brent & Angie Bierman
Doug Bierman
James & Cathy Bierman
Mark & Jessica Bierman
Ross & Ashley Bierman
Steven & Kathryn Bilbrey
Richard & Tami Bishop

Liturgical Ministers for March 9/10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>4:30pm</th>
<th>7:30am</th>
<th>9:15am</th>
<th>11:00am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>Marty Brumleve Bob Schultz</td>
<td>Peggy Valenti Kate Weber</td>
<td>Stephanie Uebinger Ken Vogt</td>
<td>Liz Schmidt Kent Schmidt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Servers</td>
<td>Maddux Clark Jackie Niebrugge Annabelle Weishaar</td>
<td>George Scheidemantel Mary Scheidemantel</td>
<td>Jackson Schultz Joanna Mitchell Kallie Kabbes</td>
<td>Susie Broeker-Wright Collin Westendorf</td>
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7th Annual St. Anthony Treasure Sale is Friday, April 5th & Saturday, April 6th. Please take a minute to think of what your donations will be for this year’s Treasure Sale. Our advertising is most effective when we know in advance of larger items: furniture, antiques, collectibles, or any special items that should be included in advance advertising. Please call or text, as soon as possible, to tell us of such specific items. For questions call Alice Conlin @ 343-8372 or Pat Brumleve @ 821-7129. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

De Colores Spring Weekends
Spring into action: making a DeColores weekend.
Say yes to a 3 day beautiful experience at Camp Walter Scott. Share in inspiring talks, renew your faith, and make new friends. For more information, please call Mary Sur at 217-342-2003.
* The Men’s Weekend, March 21st - 24th Lay leader: Brian Koester; contact @ 217-821-4716 or goodwithhands67@yahoo.com
* The Women’s Weekend, March 28th - 31st; Lay leader, Betty Zumbahlen a@ 217-844-3328; bettyzumbean@gmail.com

Table of Plenty continues to be instrumental in helping Catholic Charities provide for those in need. We would like to thank Mrs. Bierman's 5th grade class for helping to load all of the February donations. You were a big help! Thank you!! For the month of March, Catholic Charities would like to receive canned soup, small boxes of oatmeal and assorted crackers. Donations may be brought to church during the weekend masses of March 2nd and 3rd as well as during the junior high mass on Tuesday, March 5th and the grade school mass on Thursday, March 7th.
Don’t Give Up Chocolate for Lent

Instead, discover simple ways to transform your life in forty days. Join our parish for BEST LENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that is designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Each day, you’ll receive a short inspirational video that will help you . . .

- Find areas for growth
- Build better habits
- Spark lasting change

SIGN UP AT DynamicCatholic.com/BestLent

Dynamic Catholic

Thank you to the more than 330 girls and their dates who attended the 10th Annual Father/Daughter Dance on February 10th. The girls and their dates were able to enjoy snacks, dancing and games while making lasting memories! Thank you to all of the parents who donated cookies and fruit trays! Thank you to the students who volunteered their time to help at the dance and a big thank you to The Effingham Events Center, Kohls Cares, Party Wrox, Burklands Florist, Dairy Queen, Jerod Vogt at Third Street Entertainment, Ja-Fa Photo and Walnut Street Weddings who help make this dance financially feasible for everyone! We sincerely appreciate all of your generosity!

Sacred Heart Parish, Effingham Fish Fries
Friday, March 8, 15, and 22 serving from 4:30 - 7:30pm, in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Menu includes: Fish, Mac & Cheese or Baked Potato, Slaw or Applesauce, Chips, Drink, and Dessert. Carry-outs available. Price: Large plate $8.00 & Small Plate $4.00. Additional piece of fish is $2.00 each.

Sacred Heart, Effingham No Fish Fry
Friday, March 29, serving from 4:30 - 7:30pm, in the Sacred Heart Parish Center, Effingham. Come and enjoy cheese pizza and meatless pasta, salad, and breadsticks (prepared by Joe’s Pizza) and desserts. Price: Adults $6.00 & Children $4.00.

Proceeds to benefit the 2020 Space Camp Trip.

The pilgrims who recently attended World Youth Day made a visit to the PSR classrooms last week to give a short presentation detailing their trip. Each pilgrim gave his/her perspective on meeting other teens from around the world, shared stories of seeing Pope Francis, and encouraged the students to take the opportunity to attend the 2022 WYD event in Portugal. It was a great experience for both the pilgrims and the PSR students!

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Companions on the Journey is the name of the lunch-time for seniors that is held on the first Monday of each month. Our hope is to promote positive social connections, offer an array of speakers on relevant spiritual topics and to encourage people to enjoy the beautiful spaces at the Chiara Center. A delicious lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and followed by a presentation and discussion. Our presenter for March 4th is Steven Spearie, staff writer for the State Journal Register newspaper who will discuss the spiritual aspects of the news, whether secular or religious in content. Following the presentation, participants are welcome to stay for the duration of the afternoon to walk the grounds or for some quiet reflection. We ask for a $20.00 fee to honor the support given by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis who sponsor the Chiara Center. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 217-523-0901 or sending an e-mail to info@chiaracenter.org.

St. Anthony Schools Annual Fund Update
As of Monday, February 25, 2019
93 $1,000 Challenge
241 Family Gifts
$286,026 Total Pledges
$278,137 Total Cash Gifts Rec.
$333,000 Goal for 2018/2019
Thank you to everyone who has Made a Difference in St. Anthony Schools!
EXTREME Abortion Bills
Introduced in IL Legislature

House Bill 2467 & Senate Bill 1594:

*Repeals* Illinois Parental Notification of Abortion Act

*Current law* requires a parent or legal guardian be notified when a minor seeks an abortion. Includes a waiver for children physically or sexually abused. Passed in 1995 but not implemented until 2013 by a *unanimous* Illinois Supreme Court ruling.

House Bill 2495 & Senate Bill 1942:

- *Repeals* current state ban on partial-birth abortions.
- *Defines* abortion as a fundamental right.
- *Removes* abortion clinics from regulations for serious medical procedures.
- *Removes* the requirement that only doctors can perform abortions.
- *We are studying the bill for further impact.*

February 2019

We will keep you updated at [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org), and via emails sent through our Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network (I-CAN).

Sign up for I-CAN at: [www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/join-i-can](http://www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/join-i-can)

Contact your state House and Senate lawmakers and urge them to vote "no" on HB 2467, SB 1594, HB 2495 & SB 1942.

Go to [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for more info.
Effingham Area Pro-Life Meeting

**RED ALERT!**

****Red Alert Action Meeting****
Tuesday, March 5, 7pm
Effingham Event Center
1501 W. Fayette Ave.
Effingham IL

Please join us as we fight the **two**
*EXTREME* Abortion Bills Introduced in Illinois!

Reproductive Health Act (HB 2495)
Worse than New York’s recent law!
Allows abortions up until birth, requires all health
insurance to cover abortions (no exemptions for
religious org), and many more harmful provisions.

Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion Act (HB 2467)
*Removes* the requirement that a parent or legal
guardian be notified when a minor seeks an abortion.

Effingham Area Right to Life
*Follow us on Facebook!*
EffinghamRTL@yahoo.com

Additional Information on back
WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?

A Day Retreat for Women of the Effingham Deanery

Reflect upon the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and how this relates to being a Catholic Christian.

Saturday, March 23rd

8:30am Mass
St. Anthony Church
(101 E Virginia Ave, Effingham)

9:00am - 3:00pm - Speaker
St. Anthony High School
Multi Purpose Room
(304 E Roadway Ave, Effingham)

Presenter: Marlene Mulford
Marlene is retired from the Springfield Diocese after 25 years of service. Most recently, she was the Director of Communications, and former Chancellor of the Diocese. A graduate of the Catholic Spiritual Mentorship Program, she spiritually mentors women.

To register contact Sara Hoene at 217-347-7129 or email at shoene@stanthony.com

Registration fee for the day is $10. This includes lunch & materials.
**CALENDAR**

March 5 & 7 - Table of Plenty Donations
March 6 - Ash Wednesday All School Mass (K-8)
March 7-12 - IOWA Assessments (Grades 3-8)
March 7-8 - Pre-School Hearing and Vision Screenings
March 8 - Religious Vocations Assembly (Grades 3-8)
March 10-12 - Parish Mission
March 13 - Rescheduled CSW Deanery All Schools Mass
March 15 - AR Store (Grades 1-5)
March 15 - StuCo St. Patrick’s Day Dance (w/Deanery)
March 16 - IESA Solo/Ensemble Contest at SAGS
March 22 - SAGS facilitation of Stations of the Cross
March 24 - First Reconciliation (2nd Grade)
March 27 - Junie B. Jones Presentation (Grades K-2)
March 29-31 - Jr. High Musical

*These events and more at stanthony.com!*

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**SAGS Open House Recap**

St. Anthony Grade School welcomed potential new students and their families into the building on February 13th for our annual Open House. We had a great turnout and received many positive comments about our facilities, staff, and student helpers! Thank you to all those who made this event possible and for each of you that encouraged families to “Join Our Tradition”.

**Enrollment Prioritization and Deadlines:**

- March 1 - Siblings of children already enrolled and St. Anthony Parish families
- March 16 - Families in the neighboring Catholic parishes w/out parish schools
- March 29 - Waitlisted Families from previous year
- April 1 - Open Enrollment, Families of other faiths

If you know of interested families, or need more information yourself, please contact Grade School Principal, Matt Sturgeon, at 217-347-0419.

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**Extra-Curricular Corner**

**Boys Basketball:** Congratulations to both the 7th and 8th Grade teams for a great season, and especially to our 7th graders who finished 4th at IESA State! Thank you to the Cheerleaders, Jr. Bellettes and all the fans who supported them throughout post-season play!

**Volleyball:** 7th grade is hosting their own Regional this week and 8th grade begins next. Best of luck to the girls through post season play!

**Scholastic Bowl:** The season is in full swing as SAGS will host the South Central Conference Round robin Tournament on Saturday, March 2nd. Best of luck!

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**Diocesan IOWA Assessments**

Students in grades 3 through 8 will complete the annual IOWA Assessments from March 7-12. We’re hopeful that this year’s schedule with the weekend break will help to keep our students fresh and encourage best effort. Remember that this assessment is used locally by our school and by the Diocese to help make decisions regarding our curriculum and instructional approach. We appreciate your encouragement of your child during the testing process and look forward to sharing individual student, school, and diocesan data in coming weeks.

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**Like & Follow SAGS**

Stay engaged and celebrate our good news @stagradeschool!
For the calendar . . .
* Mar. 1, 1/2 Day of School, 11:48am
  Dismissal (EB-7th Hours Meet); H.S. Mass in Church, 8:30am
* Mar. 2, IHSA Solo & Ensemble Contest; Scholar Bowl EIU Tournament
* Mar. 4, Scholar Bowl Regionals
* Mar. 6, Ash Wednesday H.S. Mass in Church, 12:10pm
* Mar. 7, Academic Challenge Sectional @ EIU
* Mar. 7, Renewal of Consecration
* Mar. 8, H.S. Mass in Church, 8:30am; End of 3rd Quarter
* Mar. 10, Daylight Saving Time Begins
* Mar. 11, Spring Sports Photos, 2:50pm
* Mar. 12, Report Cards Available Online After 3:00pm
* Mar. 13, Senior Retreat
* Mar. 13, CSW Mass, 9:30am
* Mar. 14, Senior Retreat; Freshmen Retreat
* Mar. 15, Senior Retreat; Juniors No Classes; Sophomore Retreat; Freshmen Day of Service
* Mar. 22, H.S. Mass in Church, 8:30am
* Mar. 28, Junior High Musical Matinee for G.S. MPR, 9:00am
* Mar. 29, Junior High Musical, MPR, 7:00pm
* Mar. 30, Junior High Musical, MPR, 7:00pm
* March 31; Junior High Musical, MPR, 2:00pm
**Mass in Chapel, Thursdays, 7:00am

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM EARS FIRST PLACE IN REGIONAL COMPETITION!
The regional Academic Challenge (formerly WYSE) was held at Lake Land College on Friday, February 1. Twenty-five high schools came together to battle in biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering graphics, English, mathematics, and physics. Each high school competed against other high schools in the same division, which is based on school enrollment, and an award ceremony followed. Students advancing at the regional competition will compete at Eastern Illinois University on March 7.

Congratulations to the St. Anthony High School team who placed first in the 300 Division. Placing in Biology were Carly Spraul-1st & Emilee Mossman-2nd. In Chemistry, Suhyun Moon-1st & Michael Kaldas-2nd. Placing in Math were Bryson Wall-1st tie & Kate Hartke-1st tie; Michael Kaldas-2nd; Carly Spraul, Ava Wegman, Emilee Mossman, Suhyun Moon—all 3rd tie; . In Physics, Allie Densonbrock-1st. Placing in English was Kate Hartke-2nd. Ben Strudlmyer placed 3rd in Computer Science. Michael Kaldas, Suhyun Moon, Allie Densonbrock, Bryson Wall, and Kate Hartke each earned $1000 Lake Land College Tuition Waivers. This year’s team members are shown in the photo. Team members pictured below are, L to R: Suhyun Moon, Kate Hartke, Mrs. Joy Jones (Coach), Mr. Matt Poston (Coach), Kaitlyn Zeller, Ollie Kingery, Allie Densonbrock, Alex Erickson, Ava Wegman, Ben Strudlmyer, Sophia Poston, Bryson Wall, Carly Spraul, Michael Kaldas, Emilee Mossman, and Rachel Kemme. Absent when photo taken were Sophie Moore and Jessica Wilson.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATED AT SAHS
St. Anthony High School recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week. Students and staff were allowed to wear jeans all week for a donation. $700 was collected and given to a 8-year-old Rory Miller (whose mother was a graduate of SAHS) who was involved in an accident and has ongoing medical issues. Students also competed in a week-long ping pong tournament with Nathan Schultz earning “champion” honors vs. Mr. Green. The annual deanery Catholic schools’ Mass was cancelled this year due to cold weather forcing school cancellation the day it was scheduled. Students Sophie Moore & Suhyun Moon, assisted by volunteer Cindy Eder, organized a soup collection for Catholic Charities. Shown in photo are Sophie and Suhyon presenting all of the collected food items to Sr. Sandra of Catholic Charities.

Two speakers shared their faith experiences with the students on Thursday and Friday. Shown in the photo to the right is Albert Yu, a graduate student from the University of Illinois, who shared his journey of faith into the Catholic Church.

Shown on the left is Catholic priest, Fr. Chase Hilgenbrink, a former pro soccer player, who spoke to the junior and senior students about living their faith during their college years.