Gaudete Sunday … We’re Half Way Home……

How do you like those “Rose” vestments? Did you notice? Well today is still in the Advent Season, but since we are lighting the 3rd candle, it is what we call “Gaudete Sunday”. Gaudete in Latin means “Rejoice”. We are rejoicing because we are now more than half way through the Advent season and we are closer to that great celebration of Christmas.

The Old Testament reading tells us of the joy of Zion, Israel, and Jerusalem. Zion is told to not be discouraged any longer…. The Lord is in their midst, and he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love……

Have you gotten into the true Spirit of Advent? Are we awake to his invitation? Have we prepared a straight path? Are we living out the Gospel’s call to care for one another with our blessings? If so and I have 5 coats, how many do I give away? If I have stored up food in the freezer, can I share someone’s next meal with them? His WORD challenged the tax collectors and the soldiers. They all asked “What shall we do?” He first told them what to stop doing, and then encouraged a Gospel response to be of care and concern, sharing your wealth with those in need.

A few folks have come to me and asked if I knew of a family or person who were experiencing tough times and could benefit from a gift of funds to help them. ALL ANONYMOUS. Sure, Fr. Mark and I can always find our brothers and sisters with these needs. In offering this gift, it brought tears of JOY (this week’s theme) to the parent of the family when I shared the gift. GOD is good, All the Time and All the Time, God is good !!!

Catholic Charities and other great organizations are here for us to support and help. They are 24/7; 52 weeks a year. Yet for sure in this season of giving….. all we can do to support their outreach will go a long way. Not just materially by the things we give them, but more so spiritually with the love we offer, and the truth that someone cares, and they are not forgotten by their God, and by their neighbor.

Yes we are half way home in this Holy Season ! The Scriptures are so beautiful and powerful in the Spirit’s force. The teachings are clear, and gentle. In what we are called to do, we help make “Jesus truly the Reason for the Season”. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ……

Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel …… Shall Come to US, O Israel……. Gaudete !!!

- Peace, Fr. Chuck

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Mary (Mangimeli) Knabe. May she enjoy eternal peace and happiness in Heaven.

Please pray for Restoration of Religious Liberty, those who are ill, those in hospitals and nursing homes, those recovering from surgery, and all those serving our country. Also, Christine Adams, Adelaïda Anderson, Steve Bierman, Millie Braun, Ruth Bushue, Rosemary Bushur, Mary Lynn Byers, Mitchell Coffin, Nick Compton, Drew Conder, Mary Conder, Lisa Crosson, Doris Dasenbrook, Mary Einhorn, Karen S. Flach, Judy French, John Gapsis, Richard Gerth, Hilma Goeckner, Eric Gurtner, Stacia Gorden, Katie Guffey, Adam Haslett, Francis Herboth, Mike Herboth, Charlie Hicks, Mark Irak, Ingrid Kay, Susan Keenan, Steve Koebele, Clete Koester, Elisabeth Koester, Dan Kruger, Craig Lindvahl, Lloyd Ludwig, Mrs. Don McDevitt, Penny Meyer, Geraldine Miller, Rory Miller, Brenda Milleville, Tom Murphy, Florence Peters, Kenneth Polarek, Susan Pritchett, Jill Quandt, Carole Ray, Marty Worman, Pauline Worman.

Christmas Mass Schedule

St. Anthony Church
- Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm & Midnight
- Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m. (Incense free)

Sacred Heart Church
- Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm & Midnight
- Christmas Day: 9:30 am, 5:00 pm (Spanish Mass)

Shumway Church
- Christmas Eve: 5:30 pm
- Christmas Day: 8:30 am

In the event of a death, accident or other life emergency, while offices are closed, please contact (217) 703-1042.

St. Anthony Church Mass Times
- Mon., Tues, Thurs, Fri - 6:30 am & 8:30 am
- Wednesday 6:30 am
- Saturday 4:30 pm
- Sunday 7:30 am & 9:15 am, 11:00 am

St. Mary’s, Shumway Mass Times
- Wednesday 7:15 am
- Saturday 5:30 pm
- Sunday 8:30 am

Sacred Heart Mass Times
- Mon., Tues, Thurs, Fri - 7:15 am & Wed - 8:30 am
- Saturday 4:00 pm - Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am, 5:30 pm
- Spanish Mass Sunday 7:00 pm
Dear Parishioners of St. Anthony,

We are excited to announce our decision to begin a new relationship of “adopting” a parish with St. Paul Parish, Nekede, Imo State, Nigeria. We have formally switched from our previous relationship with the Haiti parish.

We have sent Rev. Fr. Wenceslaus Isidienu and the 15,000 parishioners of St. Paul Parish our formal commitment to enter into a “Twining” parish relationship. “Fr. Wence” spoke at our parish last August at our annual mission appeal weekend. “Twining” parishes, are joined in a spiritual bond, like an entwined rope. We become “sacred brothers & sisters”. We will continue St. Anthony’s long history of heeding the call of the Gospel, to help the needy, feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsting, from Matthew’s Gospel.

Our parish is committed to offer to this parish (which also has 3 outer mission churches) financial, spiritual, and heartfelt support. We recently have helped this parish, who began building a church in 2011, to be able to finally put a roof on their church and install a cement/tile floor as well, and God willing, they will joyfully celebrate their first mass in their new church on Christmas day this next week. A large photo of our Church of St. Anthony Parish in Effingham, Illinois will be blessed and hang in the entrance foyer as a reminder of our generous sharing which helped them achieve their goal to build a new church for the glory of God.

As your pastor, and with our 16 member “Twining Parish” Committee, we are so proud of our parish’s history of giving, and strongly encourage our continuous love and concern for now our parish in Nigeria. Our envelope will eventually say Twining Parish in Nigeria. God Bless You one & all…….

Nigerian Twining Parish Committee: Fr. Chuck, Fr. Mark, Connie Broom, Peggy Clough, Madonna Hakman, Ron Hakman, Cathy Polarek, Ken Polarek, Kelly Roepke, Todd Wegman, Kim Willenborg, Ron Willenborg, Eric Zeller, Nicole Zeller. Our next meeting will be January 14th, 2019 at 6:30 at Parish Center.
Calendar of Events

Sun 12/16
10:00am Radio Mass AM 1090 or FM 99.5 & 96.3
10:00am - 11:00am - Scrip Store Open
7:00am - 1:00pm - CCW Cookie/Candy Sale

Mon 12/17
9:00am - 1:00pm - Scrip Store Open

Tues 12/18
9:00am - 1:00pm - Scrip Store Open
6:15pm - Grief Support in the Parish Center

Wed 12/19
9:00am - 1:00pm - Scrip Store Open
6:00pm - Men's Choir Practice
7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

Thur 12/20
9:00am - 1:00pm - Scrip Store Open

Fri 12/21
6:00am - SonRise Men's Group
Parish Office Closed at Noon

Advent Reconciliation Service
St. Anthony will host a Parish Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30pm in the Church. We have 6 priests scheduled to hear confessions that evening.

The Parish Office will be closed the following days:
Friday, December 21st the parish office will close at Noon for our Staff Christmas Lunch.

New Year’s Mass Schedule

St. Anthony Church
New Year’s Eve: 5:30 p.m.
New Year’s Day: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Shumway Church
New Year’s Eve: 8:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
New Year’s Eve: 7:00 p.m.,
New Year’s Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. 5:00pm (Spanish)

A Special Christmas Gift
St. Anthony Church will be accepting donations for the Christmas Season decorations. If you would like to make a donation towards the decorations, please place it in an envelope marked “Christmas Decorations” and mail it to PO Box 764 Effingham IL 62401 or place in the collection basket. Please include how you would like your donation listed in the bulletin.

Food Donation Thank You
Catholic Charities wishes to thank the parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Parish for the generous food donation received during the month of December through the Feeding the Poor Program. We are especially thankful for the overwhelming response to our immediate need for pancake mix and for making an additional trip to drop off the items at the pantry.

Natural Family Planning Class

2019 Sessions:
Saturday, January 26th 2:30pm - St. Francis, Teutopolis
Saturday, March 9th 9:00am - St. Isidore, Bishop Creek
Friday, April 26th 6:00pm - St. Anthony, Effingham
Saturday, June 1st 2:00pm - Sacred Heart, Effingham
To register Contact Kate Pruemer at 217-821-1840 or kpruemer@gmail.com.

Parking for Church: Please help us be good neighbors to those that live around St. Anthony Church and Parish Center by respecting private drives and parking spaces. Some of our neighbors are having trouble accessing private drives or parking spaces because parishioners are parking in or blocking private entrances when parking for Mass. This includes houses and apartment buildings. Thank you for helping us be good neighbors!

Protecting God’s Children Workshop
St. Isidore Parish, St. Aloysius Hall
Monday, February 4th at 6:30pm
Call 217-925-5788 to register

Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 17:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Kim Bushue
8:30 a.m. Mass: Jim Kinkelaar

Tuesday, December 18:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Christine Niebrugge
8:30 a.m. Mass: Johnny Schaefer Family

Wednesday, December 19:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Dick Behl
7:15 a.m. Mass at St. Mary’s, Shumway:
   Anne Martens; Tom Nacke; Richard Will
   Family; Jeaneane Jenne Anniversary;
   Margaret Hanfland; Joe F. Green

Thursday, December 20:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Art & Jeanne Willenborg Family
8:30 a.m. Mass: Paul Krueger Family

Friday, December 21:
6:30 a.m. Mass: Nikki Wente-Jennings Family; Kent
   Devall; Catherine Westendorf; Clara
   Cornell Anniversary; Mark Kenter;
   Robert Dirks Family
8:30 a.m. Mass: Vansaghi & Bloss Family

Saturday, December 22:
4:30 p.m. Mass: Al & Martha Having and Joe & Clara
   Cornell

Sunday, December 23:
7:30 a.m. Mass: Parishioners of St. Anthony
9:15 a.m. Mass: Kenny Koenig
11:00a.m. Mass: Jenny Buenker
## Liturgical Ministers for December 22/23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>4:30pm</th>
<th>7:30am</th>
<th>9:15am</th>
<th>11:00am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presider</td>
<td>Fr. Mark Tracy</td>
<td>Fr. Mark Tracy</td>
<td>Fr. Mark Tracy</td>
<td>Fr. Chuck Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>Bob Schultz</td>
<td>Joe Spraul</td>
<td>Doug McDevitt</td>
<td>Kate Weber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucharistic Ministers</td>
<td>Denise Deters*</td>
<td>Nicole Field*</td>
<td>Debbie Kabbes*</td>
<td>Kelly McDevitt*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servers</td>
<td>Max Koenig</td>
<td>Jackie Niebrugge</td>
<td>George Scheidemann</td>
<td>Mary Scheidemann</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Denotes those who are to clean vessels after Mass.

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**St. Anthony of Padua Hall of Fame**

The St. Anthony of Padua Hall of Fame committee will be accepting nominations for this year’s 2018 class of inductees. The selection criteria & nomination application is accessible at stanthony.com/church/about/hall-of-fame. The deadline for submission of applications is December 31, 2018.

There are four categories for nominations:

- Alumni of St. Anthony School
- Former Faculty, Staff, or Coach of St. Anthony
- Friends of St. Anthony
- Athlete or Team of St. Anthony

The Inductees will be announced at the end of January with a dinner and celebration on Saturday, April 6th at the Keller Convention Center.

Last year’s inductees to the St. Anthony of Padua Hall of Fame were Fr. Ben Meyer (’50); Dan Sr & Gerry Hecht family; and Dr. Danielle Grunloh-Gumenberger (’06)

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**Pro-Life Corner**

“In 1531, when the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was still a recent memory, the Mother of God appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman, now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

She sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples.”


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**Thinking of Priesthood Day**

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Have people always told you that you would make a great priest?
- Have you always been intrigued by the idea of priesthood?
- Is Jesus Christ Calling you to be His priest?

**What:** Thinking of Priesthood Day

**When:** Thursday, December 27, 9:30am - 7:00pm

**Where:** Villa Maria Retreat Center, Springfield, IL

**Who:** Any man, aged 18-30, interested in learning more about priesthood.

**How:** Sign up at: https://goo.gl/N1ZDLc

Fr. Jonathan Fassero, OSB, a Monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey will be offering this program. Fr. Jonathan currently serves as a Spiritual Director at both Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology. Fr. Jonathan has formed men for the priesthood for over 40 years.

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**Holiday Scrip Store Hours**

Beginning Monday, December 3rd and ending Thursday, December 20th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday - Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am to 1pm</td>
<td>9am to 11am</td>
<td>10am to 11am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The last day to order scrip gift cards before Christmas is **December 17**. The last day to purchase in stock scrip gift cards before Christmas is December 20th.

There will be **NO SCRIP SALES from December 21st thru January 2nd**. Sales will begin again on Thursday, January 3rd, 2019.
### The Financial Corner

**Income**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>7/1/18-6/30/19</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>$1,452,913.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose &amp; Children’s</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Days</td>
<td>$41,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Fund</td>
<td>$333,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Regular Giving</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,867,413.64</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>$206,100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests &amp; Gifts</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trusts Distributions</td>
<td>$120,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Resource Fees</td>
<td>$2,194,998.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$338,184.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,741,696.72</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>7/1/18-6/30/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$3,724,257.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$154,012.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance (P &amp; L)</td>
<td>$54,240.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>$148,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment &amp; Furniture</td>
<td>$23,210.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$226,579.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>$81,006.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$329,956.48</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,741,462.53</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Profit/Loss**

| $234.19 |

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**Diocesan Collections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of Dec 3-9</th>
<th>YTD Jul 30-Dec 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offering &amp; Holy Days</td>
<td>$35,508.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose &amp; Children’s</td>
<td>$747.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$36,255.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**St. Anthony Schools Annual Fund Update**

**As of Monday, December 10, 2018**

49 $1,000 Challenge

171 Family Gifts

$111,228 Total Pledges

$99,448 Total Cash Gifts Rec.

$333,000 Goal for 2018/2019

Thank you to everyone who has Made a Difference in St. Anthony Schools!

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**Annual Catholic Services Appeal**

The programs, services, & ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Services Appeal meet the larger diocesan needs of Catholics and others in the Diocese of Springfield.

**As of Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

1,304 Parish Families

212 Family Gifts (16.3%)

$250 Average Gift Per Family

$53,020 Total Pledge Gifts Received

$25,000 ACSA Goal for 2018/2019 (56.4%)

Simply make your check payable to ACSA (with St. Anthony of Padua, Effingham in the memo line), use the envelope provided by the diocese or write ACSA on an envelope and drop it in the collection.

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**Trip to Italy…Padua to Rome**

Fr. Chuck will be leading a pilgrimage to Italy next summer, June 12th to June 22nd, 2019. Leave on June 12th to arrive and Celebrate our parish feast day of St. Anthony of Padua with mass at the Cathedral of St. Anthony, Padua following by a Feast day dinner. We will then spend nine days traveling to and enjoying Venice, Florence, Assisi, and Rome. We will tour many famous sites such as St. Peter’s Basilica, the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Colosseum, The Benedictine Abbey of Monte Casino, built in 529. We will see the Basilica of St. Mark’s in Venice, the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi, and many other famous spots. Cost for 11 day trip including Airfare, 4 star hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, and major taxes is $4150.00 per person (double occupancy), with a single supplement of $600.00 Come by the parish office for an itinerary sheet and more information.

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**Year End Contributions**

To ensure your contributions are included in the year intended, 2018 contributions must be dated and post marked in 2018. If you hand deliver your year-end contributions, it must be dated 2018 and received by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

If you are planning a donation of stock, please be aware that credit cannot be given until the shares are in our name and control. Your tax advisor can show you how a donation of stock could benefit you.

Please note, the Parish Office will be closed the following dates: December 24-26, 2018 and Dec. 31st, 2018 & Jan. 1, 2019.

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Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation number at 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE.