

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST. ANN, ST. GABRIEL, IHM, AND ST. ANTHONY

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Facebook: St. Anthony's Catholic Church

Websites:

www.acmcatholic.org St. Ann

www.triparishcfw.org Currie/Fulda/Westbrook

PARISH SERVICES

NEW PARISHIONERS We warmly welcome you to our Catholic parishes of St. Ann, St. Gabriel, Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Anthony! Contact the office to register.

MARRIAGE Recently engaged? Before setting up any other arrangements, call Father to start your preparation for this beautiful sacrament! Preparation must begin at least six months before a wedding.

BAPTISM Call Dana at St. Ann to make arrangements to have your child baptized as soon as possible! Those who have not had a child baptized before will also schedule a preparation session.

ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION

St. Ann Adoration and Confessions every Thursday from 5:00-6:00 pm.

St Gabriel Confessions-Before the 8:00 am Mass Sunday. (7:30 - 7:45 am) Adoration and Confession the 2nd Tuesday of every month after the 8:30 Mass.

IHM Adoration and Confession the 2nd Thursday of every month after the 8:30 Mass.

St. Anthony Confessions-Before the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass. (3:30 - 3:45pm)

MASS INTENTIONS – DEC 9 - DEC 15

Mon 9	9:00 am	St. Ann	†Dale Buse
Tues 10	8:30 am	St. Gabriel	†Maurice Odenbrett
Wed 11	<i>Father's Day Off</i>		<i>No Mass</i>
Thur 12	8:30 am	IHM	†Wayne Jensen
Fri 13	8:30 am	St. Anthony	†Pat Miller
Sat 14	4:00 pm	St. Anthony	†Vicki Jenniges
Sat 14	6:00 pm	IHM	†For The People
Sun 15	8:00 am	St. Gabriel	†Don, Gerry & Todd Appel
Sun 15	10:00 am	St. Ann	†Molly Clarke

CHURCH SUPPORT - NOV 30 & DEC 1

	Envelopes	Plate/Childrens	Online/ACH
St. Ann	\$ 1,502.00	\$ 253.59/29.50	\$ 1,324.50
St. Gabriel	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 137/49	\$
IHM-Currie	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 211/17	\$
St. Anthony	\$ 1,157.00	\$ 100	\$

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL - 2024 GOALS

St. Ann	Goal	\$12,900	Pledged	\$ 31,325
St. Gabriel	Goal	\$11,065	Pledged	\$ 11,860
IHM-Currie	Goal	\$ 9,769	Pledged	\$ 6,575
St. Anthony	Goal	\$ 4,872	Pledged	\$ 5,050

ST. ANN

NEXT WEEKEND help is needed following Mass to carry over Christmas trees and remaining Christmas items from the rectory for church decorating on Dec 22. Watch next week's bulletin for decorating times, help will be needed.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER donations are being accepted. Envelopes can be dropped into the collection baskets. If you give in honor/memory of – please list names.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS Dinner will be held on Wed, Dec 25 in St. Ann Hall serving begins at noon. Don't be alone for Christmas, call 507-760-0090 and let them know you are attending. All are welcome!

CDA will have their Christmas gathering/Heart Sister exchange Wed, Dec 18, at 5:30pm at the Pizza Ranch.

ANNUAL CDA collection of baked goods/candy/gift cards takes place on Dec 15. Please bring donations, clearly marked for CDA, to the St. Ann kitchen by 11am on Dec 15. Gifts will be distributed to families in need.

MASS SCHEDULES/CHANGES/ADDITIONS:

Mon Dec 9 9am Mass - St. Ann (*Immaculate Conception*)

Wed Dec 11 *No Masses*

Sun Dec 15 2pm Communal Penance - St. Gabriel

Tues Dec. 24 4pm IHM, Currie

Tues Dec. 24 6pm St. Anthony, Westbrook

Wed Dec. 25 8am St. Gabriel, Fulda

Wed Dec. 25 10am St. Ann, Slayton

Thur Dec 26 *No Masses*

Fri Dec 27 *No Masses*

Wed Jan 1 9am Mass - St. Ann (*Solemnity of Mary*)

FAITH FORMATION supper schedule for Dec 11:

K-5 Rosemary LeTendre 30-35 people 4:45 to church

6-9 Jody Jackels 25 people 6pm to church

CONGRATULATIONS to Kane and Kira Hoffman! They received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time at Mass this past Sunday.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION with faith formation grades 6-9 will be Wed, Dec 11 from 6:45-7 pm

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT featuring students in grade K-5 will be Sun, Dec 22 after 10am Mass. We will have the pageant as soon as we are set up and dressed. Rehearsal is Dec 18 during FF class time.

LITURGICAL DUTIES DEC 15

St. Ann - 10:00 am

Min of Hosp	Jim O, Mike M, Judy P, Marilou C
Servers	Kyra B, Brynn B
Reader	Judy P
Gifts	Dana Deacon Family
EMHC	Judy C, Travis S, Gary E
Comm to HB	Joanne B
Music	Dana C, Volunteer

ST. GABRIEL

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: All tax-deductible gifts to the parish **MUST** be in the office by Dec 31 (or post-marked by Dec 31) if the donation is to be credited to 2024 calendar year.

2025 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: Envelopes are on the table at the back of the Church. Please pick them up so our cost for mailing is minimal.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFO:

IRA Contribution \$1,005.00

FIRST RECONCILIATION: We have eight students preparing to make their First Confession next Sunday, Dec. 15. This is a fantastic Sacrament of Healing! Please keep Hudson, Matthew, Noah, Makenzie, Eli, Darrin, Gray and Teddy (& their families) in your prayers as they head down the homestretch of preparing.

THANK YOU! Special thanks to the very generous parishioners who joined us last weekend for the youth coffee & rolls social ... and for those who so generously provided delicious goodies and juice! You are very much appreciated!

COFFEE & CATECHISM: Next topic of conversation: *Who & what are the Angels?* Have you ever been curious to know more about these Heavenly Beings? How about your Guardian Angel? The Archangels? The fallen angels? Join us on **Sunday, Jan. 19** immediately following Mass as we dig into this topic. (We'll meet at the St. Gabriel School; in Father's office).

Epiphany Play Sunday, Jan. 5: Calling ALL families! Mark your calendar and plan to be a part of this special event! We will practice Sat, Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m. – meeting first in the Church Hall. Older HS students, we will need your help with the speaking roles (Typically, the Junior class is 'on call' for this ... but we're open to all volunteers!) – **Needed:** Adorable angels/precocious shepherds and wise wisemen to help fill the roles. If you are interested in helping direct this traditional play (or can just be there to help with 'kid control' please let Peg know (507)329-2103.

LITURGICAL DUTIES DEC 15

St. Gabriel - 8:00 am

Min of Hosp	Tom & Mary A, Kay K, Mark V
Servers	Colten E, Brenton E
Lector	Caleb A
Comm	Randy K
EHMC	Steve C, Roger & Karen Z
Sacristan	Edie T
Money	Steve & Donna C, Charlotte A

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Lita Schreier (507-227-8844) to add someone in need of our prayers

FAITH FORMATION: *Faith formation:* Christmas Break *Confirmation:* No Class Wednesday, Dec. 11th; YOU Class on Sunday Dec. 15th at 6pm; and Session #3 on Wednesday Dec. 18th at 7pm

CHOIR PRACTICE: Practice will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact LoAnn Hansen at 507-829-3129 or Patty LeClaire at 507-227-9965.

HEAVENLY DUSTERS NEEDED: We are in need additional dusters to dust windows sills, furniture, etc in the church. Several women have had to quit on account of health issues, re-locating, etc. If we have enough you only need to dust once every 8-10 weeks. Please text or call if you are willing to be added to the list. Thank you! Patti Dold. 507-221-0021

LASAGNA MEAL: IHM will be hosting the Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus Christmas concert on December 7 at 8:00 PM. The youth will be serving lasagna 7-7:45pm in the Basement. Free will offering toward youth activities.

SMS CALENDAR WINNERS:
12/6: \$100 Pat Kavanaugh
12/13: \$100 Matthew Zinser

ADDITIONAL FINANCIALS: Thanksgiving: \$3,166.00
Donations: \$80.00

ST. ANTHONY

CHRISTMAS GREENERY: Greenery will be available for pick up starting 11/23. Contact Joyce for pick up options. (507-822-4318)

LITURGICAL ROLES: We appreciate all liturgical ministers. Please continue to reach out to others to fill your roles when you cannot be at Mass.

THANK YOU: Thank you to Scott Schoborg for coming in each Saturday to vacuum up the flies.

PLEASE KEEP: Our Confirmation students in your prayers during the coming year. St. Anthony students are Hadley Jenniges, Jackson Jenniges, Ian Knakmuhs, Sydney Swenson.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFO: Thanksgiving \$75

MASS SCHEDULES:

Mon	Dec 9	9am	Mass - St. Ann (<i>Immaculate Conception</i>)
Wed	Dec 11		<i>No Masses</i>
Sun	Dec 15	2pm	Communal Penance - St. Gabriel
Tues	Dec. 24	4pm	IHM, Currie
Tues	Dec. 24	6pm	St. Anthony, Westbrook
Wed	Dec. 25	8am	St. Gabriel, Fulda
Wed	Dec. 25	10am	St. Ann, Slayton
Thur	Dec 26		<i>No Masses</i>
Fri	Dec 27		<i>No Masses</i>
Wed	Jan 1	9am	Mass - St. Ann (<i>Solemnity of Mary</i>)

LITURGICAL DUTIES - DEC 14

IHM - 6:00 PM

Server	Alison E, Mesa E
Lector	Matt S
Gift Bearers	Matt VanderVeen Family
EMHC	Jo E, Becky L, Tim R
Cantor	Choir
Ushers	Wyatt P, Dan S, Diane S, Steve S

LITURGICAL DUTIES - DEC 14

ST. ANTHONY - 4:00 PM

Greet/Gift	Herb H, Mark S
Lector	Gene O
Servers	None Available
EMHC	Joan O
Cleaners	Nate & Crystal K

WEEKLY WORDS FROM THE ROCK:

Chance

The reality of living in this world is that all things come to us in all their beauty only to be snatched from us. Here is one such story. Some twenty-five years ago, my brother brought home a new little puppy. It was a mix of black lab and German shepherd. He named the dog “Chance” because as he noted, “I am taking a chance on this dog.”

Let us jump ahead a couple years. I decided to walk along a creek in search of ducks. Dogs being dogs, Chance had to come along. As I walked along, no ducks exploded from the water below; however, well into our excursion, ahead of me, and I mean way ahead of me, I could see a hen pheasant run. When Chance got her eyes on the pheasant, she was off to the races. We didn’t have a shock collar on her so all I could do was watch. I got to where I last saw her, heard a noise in the bottom of the creek, when up explodes a rooster pheasant. I fire and miraculously, it falls out of the sky. As quickly as I wish the dog were there to retrieve the rooster, Chance runs out from the bottom of the creek and heads for the downed bird in the cornfield which happens to be on the opposite side of the creek. It was obvious, without me being able to see her, Chance was the “noise” in the bottom of the creek, had flushed the rooster, and when I shot, watched the bird tumble from the sky. I waited and waited. I called and called. It took a while, but she finally came with the rooster in tow.

I wish I could say that everything went perfect from that point forward, but it didn’t. There was water in the bottom of the creek and a barrier she somehow never noted with the falling of the bird, now became a major obstacle. She wouldn’t cross the creek, no way. Chance always was a little leery of water. It took some time, but I finally managed to coax her across. Before crossing the creek, she dropped the rooster. I tried sticks and anything else I could get my hands on, but I couldn’t reach the rooster. The divide across the creek was too far.

There was only one thing to do – walk 3/8 of a mile, cross the creek on a driveway, and walk back the 3/8 of a mile on the other side of the creek. As I walked along, I was happy but dumbfounded. I asked myself, could this be? We couldn’t possibly have a hunting dog when all of a sudden Chance dashes into the standing corn next to me. It doesn’t take long until I see pheasants flying out the end of the field. I race to the end of the field and watch pheasant after pheasant running and flying. One big rooster comes charging out of the field and looks back wondering what they black “thing” is chasing him. Feeling safe, the rooster turns his head, prepares to run only to see me. I’ve been there the entire time only about ten yards away. He didn’t know I was there too worried about that “thing” chasing him. The rooster flies and falls at my shot. Chance comes bolting out of the standing corn. I point out the rooster still moving around and what does she do? She goes up to it and gives it a big old chomp. Not a retrieve, just a chomp. It would be her characteristic trait – any pheasant you cleaned that as much as flopped or moved on the ground after the shot would have big teeth marks in it. She was not known to have a soft mouth.

No matter, we had a hunting dog. Not gun shy, I took her on many pheasant outings. I would define her as follows: she was never meant to be a pointer, she never wore a shock collar thus some birds would be flushed a half mile away and when flushed, she would look back and wonder where you were, she loved chasing rabbits as much as pheasants (meaning sometimes you just had to wait). Through it all, a lot of birds were harvested with her in tow. And that is when it happened, in 2012, someone drove up into our yard at night and stated they’d run over a dog. Upon further investigation, it was Chance and there was nothing we could do. As soon as she came into the world, she left the world. I miss her to this very day.

The reality of the story is that nothing lasts forever, not even you or me. The world as we know it will come to an end. Still, Advent reminds us that during our time on earth to be vigilant for Jesus Christ will come in all his glory and power to reign forever. Let us pray for vigilance, to be prepared.

Blessings to you!

Father Peter Schuster

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Advent Family Suggestions: The home is THE BEST place for your child(ren) to learn about Jesus and their Catholic faith. During Advent, take the time to visit and pray together as a family. There are some wonderful Advent activities you can do together

- * ***Make an Advent Wreath*** and light one of the four candles each week during meal time. (You can find simple Advent wreath ideas online via Catholicmom.com/Pinterest/YouTube or a variety of other sites. Just Google it!)
- * ***Put together a family "care package"*** for someone in the neighborhood and play secret Santa for that family; leaving it at their doorstep.
- * ***Go to Communal Penance*** together and experience 100 percent healing and forgiveness in this Sacrament of Healing and grace! (Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. @ St. Gabriel's in Fulda)
- * ***Sing some favorite Christmas Carols together*** or pop some popcorn or watch one of the classic Christmas movies together ("*It's a Wonderful Life*" is a great one!)
- * Before supper each evening (or before bed) start a **"gratitude list"** ... Go around the table and list three things you were grateful for that day.

Confirmation - Next Meeting (Session 3): Wed., Dec. 18, 7 p.m. @ IHM/Currie. This is the first meeting where Sponsors need to attend with their students. **Students:** At this meeting, please bring your signed "*Sponsor Agreement*" form, and your Saint Report. Be ready to present to the group who your chosen saint is and why you picked him or her!

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE: December 15, 2:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Below is a note from Father Schuster about this Holy Day.

There has been some confusion wrapped around the Immaculate Conception and whether it is a Holy Day of Obligation due to its being moved to December 9th. While it is a Holy Day of Obligation, due to all the confusion, Bishop Barron has issued a decree dispensing the faithful from the obligation.

To honor the day, while it is not a day of obligation for the people, each cluster will still offer a Mass on December 9th. Our clusters Mass is at St. Ann's at 9:00 a.m.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

90% goes to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** and 10% to the **Catholic University**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE/CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Tuesday	December 24	4:00 p.m.	IHM, Currie
Tuesday	December 24	6:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Westbrook
Wednesday	December 25	8:00 a.m.	St. Gabriel, Fulda
Wednesday	December 25	10:00 a.m.	St Ann, Slayton
Thursday	December 26	<i>No Masses</i>	
Friday	December 27	<i>No Masses</i>	
Wednesday	January 1	9:00 a.m.	St Ann (<i>Solemnity of Mary</i>)

SAVE THE DATE: Totus Tuus will again become to our parish cluster! *Hooray!* A team has been reserved for the week of June 8-13. This fantastic week of learning and fun will take place at St. Gabriel's in Fulda. ALL parishes are encouraged and welcome to come ~ Mark your calendars now and plan to start your child(ren)'s summer off well, by participating in this wonderful week-long program. Four college-aged students (two men/two women), specially trained by the Diocese, will be on hand to lead the program that, for elementary youth, runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (HS sessions, grades 7-12, run from approx.. 7-9:30 p.m.). Along with rock solid teaching on the Catholic faith, the children experience daily Mass/Adoration/Confessions/ Games/FUN/Water fights and so much more!! If you've not heard about Totus Tuus, contact your parish Faith Formation director for more information. It's well worth your time; and GREAT things happen for our youth by participating in Totus Tuus!

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