

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

**Fr. Peter Schuster - Pastor**

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### OCIA

**Pat Merrick** c/(507)407-1063

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### St. Gabriel - Fulda - 507-425-2369

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### Immaculate Heart of Mary - Currie

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### St. Anthony - Westbrook

P O Box 278 Westbrook MN 56183

**Joyce Vortherms - c/(507) 822-4318**

Faith Formation [joyce117@centurytel.net](mailto:joyce117@centurytel.net)

**Elizabeth Johnson - Bulletin** c/(507)830-0113

Facebook: St. Anthony's Catholic Church

### **Websites:**

[www.acmcatholic.org](http://www.acmcatholic.org) St. Ann

[www.triparishcfw.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month after the 8:30 Mass.

**IHM** Adoration and Confession the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 16 - DEC 23

Mon 16	<i>Father's Day Off</i>	<i>No Mass</i>
Tues 17	10:00 am Maple Lawn	†Decs'd of Miller Family
Wed 18	9:00 am Lindenwood	†Vince Schreier
Thur 19	8:30 am IHM	†Eva Clausen
Fri 20	8:30 am St. Anthony	†Janice Merrick
Sat 21	<b>4:00 pm</b> St. Anthony	†William Merrick
Sat 21	<b>6:00 pm</b> IHM	†Vince, Jeanne, John, Pat Gervais
Sun 22	<b>8:00 am</b> St. Gabriel	†For The People
Sun 22	<b>10:00 am</b> St. Ann	† Norm & Doris Cote

## CHURCH SUPPORT - DEC 7 & 8

	Envelopes	Plate/Childrens	Online/ACH
St. Ann	\$ 4,157.00	\$ 148.05/44.00	\$ 1,103.75
St. Gabriel	\$ 1,655.00	\$ 361.00/33.48	\$
IHM-Currie	\$ 5,192.00	\$ 264.00/38.31	\$
St. Anthony	\$ 3,146.00	\$ 83.00	\$

## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL - 2024 GOALS

St. Ann	Goal \$12,900	Pledged \$	<b>31,425</b>
St. Gabriel	Goal \$11,065	Pledged \$	<b>11,860</b>
IHM-Currie	Goal \$ 9,769	Pledged \$	<b>6,575</b>
St. Anthony	Goal \$ 4,872	Pledged \$	<b>5,050</b>

## ST. ANN

**HELP IS NEEDED** on Sun, Dec 22 at 2pm to decorate the church for Christmas. All help will be appreciated.

**ST. ANN REQUEST:** Father asked if St. Ann would be able to obtain a bread plate for use during offertory. If you are willing to donate towards this item, please call the office and let Dana know.

**\*\*\*PLEASE SEE ST. ANN NOTE** on additional information sheet, (page 5)\*\*\*

**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.

### MASS SCHEDULES:

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 18:

**K-5** *Volunteer needed* 30-35 people 4:45 to church

**6-9** Bev Schreier 25 people 6pm to church

**“LIVE NATIVITY” FOOD SHELF** collection of personal care items will take place until the end of FF classes on Dec 18 since the live nativity was canceled.

**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.

**SPEAKER:** Maria Stumpf Ahmed of Catholic Charities will be speaking on “Saints of Civil and Human Rights” on Wed, Jan 8 from 7-8 pm during gr 6-9<sup>th</sup> faith formation classes. Supper served from 6:15-6:40. Everyone invited for supper and speaker.

## LITURGICAL DUTIES DEC 22

### St. Ann - 10:00 am

<b>Min of Hosp</b>	Jim O, Mike M, Judy P, Marilou C
<b>Servers</b>	Tyler R, Garret R
<b>Reader</b>	Trish K
<b>Gifts</b>	Paul Johnson Family
<b>EMHC</b>	Kathy S, Dave S, Missy B
<b>Comm to HB</b>	Dave & Kathy S
<b>Music</b>	Sharon L, Sue B

## 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 the 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.

**FLOWER FUND** donation envelopes are on the table at the back of Church for anyone wishing to give. If you are giving In Memory/Honor of, please list names.

**SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS/Eight students do 1st Reconciliation this Sunday:** We celebrated, together with the Baumgartner, Bertrand, Dittman, Echternach, Gonzalez, Hakeneis, Hein & Perish families as their children receive the beautiful, healing Sacrament of Reconciliation. Congratulations to Hudson, Matthew, Noah, Makenzie, Eli, Darrin, Gray & Teddy! Please remember all of these special young people in your prayers. A special thank you to catechist, Mrs. Sue (Jeff) Zins and her classroom assistant Cathy Elskamp for preparing these children so well.

**EPIPHANY PLAY SUNDAY, JAN. 5:** Mark your calendars and please plan to participate in this yearly play. Practice will be on Sat., Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m. (meet in the Church Hall for costumes first). Older HS students with speaking/acting roles, will be practicing Friday morning, Jan. 3 at 9 a.m. Thanks to the Junior class; and other great volunteers for stepping up! If you have questions, please contact Peg at (507)329-2103.

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:** You are bound to hear more about this new (to our parish) program in the months ahead. Stephanie Funk, Jamie Opdahl and Peg are completing the last phase of “Level 1” training this weekend. This is a Montessori style of learning for preschool (eventually elementary)- aged children that immersed the children in a hands-on learning program. We'll be looking for talented woodcrafters/artesians in the parish willing to help us set up our very own Atrium (learning room) for the youth. Contact Stephanie or Jamie for more information or questions. You can learn more about Catechesis of The Good Shepherd (CGS) at [cgsusa.org](http://cgsusa.org)

## LITURGICAL DUTIES DEC 22

### St. Gabriel - 8:00 am

<b>Min of Hosp</b>	Ken & Cathy S, Amy C, Barb K
<b>Servers</b>	Grace S, Mara C
<b>Lector</b>	Mary L
<b>Comm</b>	Katie C
<b>EHMC</b>	Lenore W, Ted W, Edie T
<b>Sacristan</b>	Margene V
<b>Money</b>	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:* 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. 17th 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

### SMS CALENDAR WINNERS:

12/6: \$100 Pat Kavanaugh

12/13: \$100 Matthew Zinser

**SEXUAL ABUSE:** The Diocese of Winona-Rochester will provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (employees, volunteers, vendors, religious or clergy). Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual abuse should call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 507-454-2270, Ext 255. Caller will be asked to provide name and phone number. **Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities.** The DOW-R is committed to protecting children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. Questions about the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, contact Michael Gerard: 507-361-3377, or mgerard@dowr.org.

## ST. ANTHONY

### CHURCH DECORATING AND CAROLING EVENT:

All are invited to join in on a fun afternoon decorating the church, caroling and refreshments on December 23rd beginning at 1 pm. We will decorate the church and then go caroling at the Good Samaritan Home and Pederson estates ending with treats and hot chocolate. Remember this is for ALL ages!!! Please RSVP to Joyce V, Elizabeth J or Joan O.

**YEAR END GIVING:** All year end giving needs to be either delivered to the church or post marked by December 31st to go into the 2024 calendar year.

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

**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—\$20

Retirement for the Religious—\$258

## LITURGICAL DUTIES - DEC 21

### IHM - 6:00 PM

**Server** Levi K, Luke S  
**Lector** Marcia S  
**Gift Bearers** Jo Edwards Family  
**EMHC** Kim O, Joe S, Shari S  
**Cantor** Choir  
**Ushers** Wyatt P, Dan S, Diane S, Steve S

## LITURGICAL DUTIES - DEC 21

### ST. ANTHONY - 4:00 PM

**Greet/Gift** Dean & Elizabeth J  
**Lector** Pat M  
**Servers** Sydney & Lukas  
**EMHC** Shelly M, Ann J  
**Cleaners** Brady & Sara K

## WEEKLY WORDS FROM THE ROCK:

### Are You Ready?

The main character of this week's gospel is John the Baptist. I have always liked John the Baptist. How many people are associated by a first name (John) and title (the Baptist)? Think about my story. How would these sound?

- A. Peter the Priest
- B. Peter the Fisherman
- C. Peter the Hunter
- D. Peter the Kit Kat Man
- E. Peter the Dr. Pepper Man

That isn't how things roll unless you are a John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was a unique human being. Maybe camel's hair was in vogue in his day yet not today. And your staple of food? I have shared with you some of my favorites:

- A. Pizza
- B. Spaghetti
- C. Hotdishes
- D. Soups (in the winter months)

Still, I came from a farm family where there was nothing fancy. It was mainly meat, veggies, and potatoes. For John the Baptist? Honey and locusts.

I have often wondered what type of child John the Baptist was while growing up. He may have been a handful. Think about what he says in the pages of Scripture,

- To the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you of the coming wrath" (Luke 3:7).
- Appearing in Judea, his words weren't words of greeting. He began his preaching with the words, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).
- He challenged King Herod, and it cost him his life (see Mark 6:17-29).

And that leads us to our heading of today, are you ready? Are you ready for the challenge of John the Baptist? Fresh off his words from Luke 3:7, the people ask, what are we to do? Here is his response:

1. To the crowds, "If you have two tunics share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise" (Luke 3:11).
2. To the tax collectors, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed" (Luke 3:13).
3. To the soldiers, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages" (Luke 3:14).

These responses lead to our challenge. What might John the Baptist state if we asked, "What are we to do?" I can't really answer because every person is unique, still I am certain he would have something to say. There is a challenge he would have for each of us. Such is the call of Advent. As we prepare for the Christmas story, we are to repent, to repent of whatever stumbling blocks stand in the way of our readying for the coming of our Savior. May we repent! May we be found ready!

Blessings to you!

Father Peter Schuster

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Confirmation Meeting (Session 3):** This Wed., Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at IHM/Currie. Student and Sponsor should attend. Students: Please bring your signed "Sponsor Agreement form" and also be prepared to present to the large group your Saint report. Being able to answer the following questions: Who is your Saint? Why did you pick him or her? In what ways will you emulate your life to following your saint's example?

**Looking For a Web Page Developer ...** Are you technologically gifted? We are looking for someone with the skills to develop a web page for our parish cluster including the parishes of St. Ann/St. Gabriel/IHM & St. Anthony. It has been a number of years since any work has been done to update these websites. Your help would be greatly appreciated. If this is something you think you'd be able to volunteer for, please contact your parish administrator.

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**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE:** Today at 2:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel

### **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!

### **ST. ANN NOTE - ADDITIONAL:**

The Church of St. Ann is accepting 4 stained glass windows from the Church of St. Columba with its closing. The windows of The Good Shepherd; Mary, Mother of God; Elizabeth; and John the Baptist will be removed from Iona, then be framed and backlit to be installed on the walls of the sanctuary in St. Ann Church. The display cases will also be brought over to display liturgical items from all 3 parishes - St. Columba, St. Mary, and St. Ann. The cases will be set up in Divine Mercy Hall. With the goal of preservation in mind, incorporating items, and the hopes to accomplish this task - will cost money. We are taking donations towards these projects if you would like to contribute to the monetary need of relocating these items. A fund has been set up. You can place a plain envelope marked "Stain Glass Windows" in the collection baskets, mail your donation to the office, or stop by the office. Please ask if you have any questions. We do not have a timeline on when the display cases and windows will be completed, hopefully soon. Thank you to all those who continually support our parish, many things would not be accomplished without our parishioner's generosity!

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