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 23 - DEC 29

Mon 23	Father's Day Off	No Mass
Tues 24	4:00 pm IHM	†Wayne & Irma Carlson
Tues 24	6:00 pm St. Anthony	†William Baxter
Wed 25	8:00 am St. Gabriel	For The People
Wed 25	10:00 am St. Ann	†Wm & Bertha Crommert
Thur 26	Father's Day Off	No Mass
Fri 27	Father's Day Off	No Mass
Sat 28	4:00 pm St. Anthony	†Craig Olsem

Sat 28 6:00 pm HM †Teri Luft

Sun 29 **8:00 am** St. Gabriel †Decs'd of Mary Reith Fam. Sun 29 **10:00 am** St. Ann For The People

CHURCH SUPPORT - DEC 14 & DEC 15

	Envelopes	Plate/Childrens	Online/ACH
St. Ann	\$ 4,240.00	\$ 148.56/43.25	\$ 710.50
St. Gabriel	\$ 7,020.00	\$ 168.00/46.25	\$
IHM-Currie	\$ 1,407.00	\$ 231.00/11.00	\$
St. Anthony	\$ 743.00	\$ 121.00	\$

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL - 2024 GOALS

St. Ann	Goal	\$12,900	Pledged	\$ 33,175
St. Gabriel	Goal	\$11,065	Pledged	\$ 11,875
IHM-Currie	Goal	\$ 9,769	Pledged	\$ 6,875
St. Anthony	Goal	\$ 4,872	Pledged	\$ 5,500

ST. ANN

BREAD PLATE: Thank you to our anonymous donor! **NO BULLETINS** will be printed for Sunday, Dec 29. Please see following for upcoming liturgical duties.

LITURGICAL DUTIES <u>DEC</u> <u>25</u>: Servers-Kate B; Josie S Reader-Joe M Gifts-Mick K family EMHC-Karen J; Bill B; Gary E Music-Judy A; Connie M

JAN 5: Ushers/Servers/Reader/Gifts-Youth Mass EMHC -Angie F; Jill M; Marti E Music-Sharon L

2025 BULLETIN ADS on the back page are renewing! Please submit notification of renewal/changes by Jan 10.

COFFEE AND ROLLS will be served during youth practice, following Mass on Dec 29 by the CCW Ladies group. All are welcome to stay for refreshments and fellowship.

PLEASE HAVE ALL 2024 tax-deductible gifts to the office by noon Dec 31 (or postmarked by Dec 31) for the 2024 tax credit. *Thank you!*

LIVING FAITH pocketbooks are available in the Hall. I WOULD LIKE to thank our amazing St Columba Council who worked together during a very difficult time to come to agreements that caused pain of heart with our parish closing. They all worked and voted with each parishioner in mind. Angie Frisk, Ron Einck, Kay Platt, Bruce Platt & Nick Bergman. ~JoAnn Biren Chair

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS dinner is Wed, Dec 25, St. Ann serving at noon. Call 507-760-0090. All are welcome!

MASS SCHEDULES:

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

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

SPEAKER: Maria Stumpf Ahmed will be speaking on "Saints of Civil and Human Rights" on Wed, Jan 8 from 7-8 pm during gr 6-9th FF classes. Supper served from 6:15-6:40. Everyone invited for supper and speaker.

1ST **RECONCILIATION** for the 2nd graders will be Jan 25 9am. Please pray for Brooks B. Micah B. Guillermo C. Oliver D. Lucas E. Tucker G. Owen J. Zavion J. Emmett J. Gabe K. & Taya N.

Marcie will be **out of the office** Dec 30-Jan 5.

LITURGICAL DUTIES DEC 29

St. Ann - 10:00 am

Min of Hosp Jim O, Mike M, Judy P, Marilou C

Servers Jada J, Noah F

Reader Kate H

Gifts Brandon Lolkus Family
EMHC Angie F, Jill M, Marti E

Comm to HB Jill M

Music Judy A, Rita L

ST. GABRIEL

LTT. DUTIES DEC 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY—Servers: Brady M, Kellen H; Reader:: Margene V; Comm: Sue (J) Z; Euch Min: Suzi Z, Torri Z, Randy K; Min of Hosp: Ron & Diane K, Delano & Renee D; Sacristan: Edie T

<u>LITURGICAL DUTIES JAN 5</u>—Servers: Truman O, Grace S; Reader: Christian P; Comm: Linda C; Euch Min: Mary L, Randy K, Steve C; Sacristan: Edie T, Money Counters: Jason A, Jason & Kelsey B

<u>CEMETERY BOARD MTG</u> Jan. 7 @ 1:00 p.m. in the Church basement.

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

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). Needed are ALL children pre-K through sixth grade to be shepherds, angels and wisemen.

First Sunday Coffee & Rolls: Join us Sunday, Jan. 5 for the 'First Sunday of the Month' youth coffee and rolls. Thanks to all who have baked delicious rolls, coffeecakes & goodies for these monthly gatherings. Also, a very special thanks to those who have so generously financially supported the youth!

January Coffee & Catechism: Learning about Angels: Who are these Heavenly Beings, and what is their purpose? Sunday, Jan. 19, immediately after 8 a.m. Mass. We will

meet at the school in Father's office.

Altar Server Training: For all students in grades 4-12. Edie and Father have been updating and working on changes for our servers. Formal training (and retraining) will take place during Release Classes later this January. All students (even our older servers) will attend.

Release Time Notes: As we enter into Christmas break, we recognize the following individuals who graciously give of their time each week to teach our parish youth. (Next time you see them, tell them *THANKS!*): Suzi Zins & Pam Mailander, Sue Zins, Kay Klein, Cathy Stewart, Chelsea Hein, Katie Clarke, Christian Potocnik, Mark Bartosh, Don Olsem and Renee Dorpinghaus (*Passover Meal Instructor*).

THANKS SANTA! Special thanks to Mike Vortherms for sending the Release Time kids off on a festive note at the end of Release for the 2024 school year.

LITURGICAL DUTIES DEC 29

St. Gabriel - <u>8:00 am</u>

Min of Hosp Dave T, Paul R, Steve & Lori T

Servers Owen O, Ivan O

Lector Sharon F
Comm Shannon W

EHMC Mike & Margene V, Peg O

Sacristan Linda C

Money Steve & Donna C, Charlotte A

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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

FAITH FORMATION: Christmas Break; Confirmation: Session #3 on Wednesday Dec. 18 at 7 pm

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFO: (Past 2 weeks combined): Plate: \$495; Youth: \$49.31; Religious Retirement: \$477; Christmas: \$100; Thanksgiving: \$100

SMS CALENDAR RAFFLE

12/20 \$100 Kim VanMoer 12/27 \$100 Emily Hartman

LIT. DUTIES DEC 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM

Servers: Mason G, Nolan G; Gift Bearers: Dan Schmitz Family, Song Leader: Choir; Lector: Romane D; Euch Min: Jo E, Dawn K, Lori M

JAN 4 LITURGICAL DUTIES: Ushers-Mark G, Kevin & Lori M, Jason S; Lector-Kelli K; Song Leader-Choir; Servers-Nolan & Mason G; E. Ministers-Dawn K, Romane D, Kim O

IN MEMORY: Leone (Hofstadter) Arendt, 86, passed away on 12/8/2024 at Pipestone. Leone, sister of Mary Sweetman, was an IHM parishioner in her youth. Condolensces to her husband, Frank, and everyone in her family. Services are pending. May she rest in peace.

IN MEMORY: Sympathy is extended to Chad Buysse on the loss of his father Larry Buysse, 75. Mr. Buysse passed away at Marshall on 12/13/2024. Funeral services were conducted at St. Mary's Catholic church in Tracy on 12/17/2024 with burial following in the Calvary Cemetery in Tracy. May he rest in peace.

ST. ANTHONY

LIT. DUTIES DEC. 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 PM

Greeters/Gift Bearers: Jake & Sophie Jenniges Fam.

Lector: Carol E

Servers: Hudsen & Kendall Euch. Min: Ethan J, Sophie J

Cleaners:

LITURGICAL DUTIES JANUARY 4TH

Greeters/Gift Bearers: Erik & Angie B

Lector: Gene O

Servers: Jack & Keegan Euch. Min: Sophie J, Ann J Cleaners: Jake & Sophie J

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.

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:

Misc. Giving: Greenery-\$1,268.00; Flowers-\$65.00; Baby Bottle Campaign-\$152.00; Religious Retirement-\$10.00

LITURGICAL DUTIES - DEC 28

IHM - 6:00 PM

Server Ethan S, Evan S

Lector Ioe S

Gift Bearers Randy & Sharon B

EMHC George A, Loretta G, Marcia S

Cantor Choir

Ushers Wyatt P, Dan S, Diane S, Steve S

LITURGICAL DUTIES - DEC 28

ST. ANTHONY - 4:00 PM

Greet/Gift Sheila K, Jan J Lector Shelly M Servers Ian

EMHC Joan O, Ethan J Cleaners Carol E, Kassandra Q

WEEKLY WORDS FROM THE ROCK:

Reflections on My Father Surrounding Christmas and Holy Family

This bulletin article will encompass the next two weeks – December 22nd and December 29th. With my father's death on November 8th, I want to share with you a reflection on my father surrounding Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family. Let us get underway.

My Sincere Gratitude

It is humbling to lose a parent. One believes a parent will always be there until they pass away. I have been stunned, not in a bad way, at the outpouring of God's people at my father's death. The number of people who have stopped me to offer their condolences is beyond any number I could have conceived. A priest never realizes the people he touches until an occasion like this. People have reached out to me from my seven parishes along with numerous other parishes I have served. It has been humbling. I am grateful to everyone. I am grateful to those who have offered condolences, prayers, cards, and gifts. To those of you who have sent a gift asking that a Mass be offered, I have been faithful to your requests. It will take some time however the Masses will be offered.

A Memorial To My Father

I have been in discussion with my mother and sister who live at home, and it has been decided that the monetary gifts offered on behalf of my father (outside of Mass intentions) will be used to purchase a workbench for the garage at home. I enjoy tinkering around with various things however have no workbench on which to undertake this work. My mother and sister were thrilled at the idea. The bench will include a workspace six feet in length and two feet in width. It includes two drawers, the capacity to plug in power cords and USB ports, a shelf located underneath the bench and will be mobile (on wheels) so it can be moved from one location to another. Someone has kindly provided a vise which can be attached to the bench. I am still debating whether I should include a bench grinder. We will wait and see. To all who have made this possible know of my sincere gratitude.

Christmas

With the loss of my father, Christmas takes on a special meaning. The story of Christmas really comes to life. Jesus Christ came to us to suffer and die for our sins. My father was a faith-filled man. He lived a simple yet deep faith. He didn't need to read Bible passages every day. He believed in what Jesus Christ said, taught and lived. He never doubted even when times were difficult. It takes time yet as we age, we learn our parents aren't perfect. Just like everyone who walks this earth, me included, my father wasn't perfect; he sinned. It is for someone like my father that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. To him, Jesus' words were, "Lowell, my father's name, I know that you were not perfect. You have sinned. Still, if you believe in me and confess your need for me, I will bring you life." My father knew that he was a sinner. He faithfully celebrated the Sacrament of Penance. His example was an example for me. If my father was a sinner, how dare I think differently of myself. For people to be convinced in these current times that "my sin isn't that big a deal" is an injustice to the Christmas story. Jesus Christ came did not come so we could have an excuse to decorate our homes, gather as family, or purchase gifts. Jesus Christ came because of our pain and suffering. He knew what sin had done to us.

Holy Family

To face sin, evil, the devil, Jesus Christ was born to a human family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph compose the Holy Family. They faced joys and hardships, the ebb and flow of living on this earth. It is different without my father being with us. I look at where he sat in his chair and he isn't there. I look at his place at table and he isn't there. I look at where he sat in the garage (where we will incorporate a new workbench) and he isn't there. Life is different still it is beyond a shadow of a doubt that I believe my father is in heaven. Maybe some of that stems from the fact that a person doesn't want to think differently or because he is my father, still I firmly believe he is with God. He lived his faith and knew the day would come when he would pass from this world. He was ready and prepared. It is now left up to the remainder of us, his family, to live that faith so that we can live with him eternally.

A Concluding Thought

With the death of someone we love, time can be ruthless. We may which it to halt but it grinds forward. There is also a good in this fact. No one desires time to halt. Our faith teaches us forward we march. We find ourselves at the end of our year 2024. To all the condolences, prayers, cards and gifts that I have received at my father's passing and around this Christmas season, I am very grateful. Know of my prayers for all of you as I "tinker" away at my new workbench and serve you in 2025.

Blessings to you! ~Father Peter Schuster

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 30 – JANUARY 5

Mon 30	Father's Day Off	No Mass	
Tues 31	St. Gabriel	8:30 a.m.	†Ken Freking
Wed 1	St. Ann/Solemnity of Mary	9:00 a.m.	For The People
Thurs 2	IHM	8:30 a.m.	†Christina Toupal
Fri 3	St. Anthony	8:30 a.m.	†John & Jane Weis
Sat 4	St. Anthony	4:00 p.m.	For The People
Sat 4	IHM	6:00 p.m.	†Norbert Schmitz
Sun 5	St. Gabriel	8:00 a.m.	†Jay Sauer
Sun 5	St. Ann	10:00 a.m.	†Barb Surprenant

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	No Masses	
Friday	December 27	No Masses	
Wednesday	January 1	9:00 a.m.	St Ann (Solemnity of Mary)

Confirmation Preparation (Session 4): Fourteen students from St. Ann, St. Anthony, St. Gabriel & IHM are three months in to their Confirmation preparations. The candidates have chosen their saints and begun meeting with their sponsors on their "Catholic Handbook" project. (This is a booklet that delves into what it means to be Catholic). In January, the students will stand before us during Mass at the "Rite of Commitment" and declare publicly their readiness proceed in their preparations for Confirmation. Please continue to pray for them!

Next Meeting: Session 4/ Wed., Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel/Fulda.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH! Children and teens are the future of our Church ... and teaching them the deep truths of Catholicism will guide and direct their lives into eternity! Our "Greater Catholic Church" offers so many opportunities for young people to witness the fullness of this truth.

TEC (Together Encountering Christ): **Feb. 15-17** – Luverne, MN. This is a fantastic weekend for anyone (adults also), age 16 and older. For more information, contact your Faith Formation Director. TEC weekends are indeed transformative!

High School Youth Retreat (*Living Our Faith in Love*): **Mar. 16** (1-7 p.m.), Jackson, MN. Mass, top-notch music and times for prayer/outreach.

<u>Totus Tuus:</u> Week of June 8-13, St. Gabriel/Fulda. This is for ALL youth, grades K-12 the grade. Four college aged missionaries will be spending the week in Fulda teaching our youth. (Elementary children from 9 am -2:30 p.m. and HS youth in the evenings).

Mission Trip: June 15-21. It's not too late to sign up! The group will be going to St. Michael's, AZ in the Diocese of Gallup to serve. This is an amazing opportunity for your youth to get a hands-on working experience in outreach; along with times for prayer/worship and reflection. Contact Marcie Cowan at St. Ann's for more information. (507)360-1885

<u>Camp Summit Adventure Camp:</u> *Middle school youth (Those entering gr. 6-8)* **July 29-Aug. 1.** Held in the beautiful bluffs of eastern Minnesota near Lanesboro, MN



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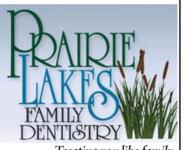
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