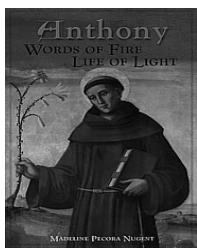


***BORN A CHILD.....  
YET A KING***



**SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA**  
**A MEMBER OF ST. GEORGE DEANERY**  
**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
**DECEMBER 25TH, 2016**



**Pastor: Father Tom Extejt ~ Office: 419-659-2263 or 419-659-4190 e-mail: [tjextejt@sa.noacsc.org](mailto:tjextejt@sa.noacsc.org)**  
**Deacon: Mr. James Dunn: 659-2707 e-mail: [jdunn9@woh.rr.com](mailto:jdunn9@woh.rr.com)**  
**Principal: Mr. Scott Hummel: 659-2103 Fax: 659-4194 e-mail: [hummels@sa.noacsc.org](mailto:hummels@sa.noacsc.org)**  
**Parish Office: Mrs. Marilyn Siefker: 419-659-2263 Office Fax: 419- 659-5202 e-mail: [siefkem@sa.noacsc.org](mailto:siefkem@sa.noacsc.org)**  
**CCD Program Leader, Judy Schroeder : 419-659-5498 e-mail: [judyfhc@yahoo.com](mailto:judyfhc@yahoo.com)**  
**Youth Minister: Hannah Warren: 419-303-5476 e-mail: [lifeteen@sa.noacsc.org](mailto:lifeteen@sa.noacsc.org)**  
**Parish Office Hours: Monday Thru Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**St. Anthony Parish Website: [www.cgstanthony.org](http://www.cgstanthony.org)**  
**St. Anthony School Website: [www.stanthonyschool.info](http://www.stanthonyschool.info)**

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*This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's.  
 We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our  
 loving "ACCEPTANCE" of our children.*

**Merry Christmas!**

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**Mass Schedule**

December	27	Tuesday		<b>No Morning Mass</b>
December	28	Wednesday		<b>No Morning Mass</b>
December	29	Thursday		<b>No Morning Mass</b>
December	30	Friday	8:00 a.m. Mass	The Holy Family of Jesus ~ {Margaret & Wilfred Warnecke}
December	31	Saturday	8:00 a.m. Rosary	
December	31	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Vigil ~ Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God ~ {Carl Candler ~ John Schroeder ~ Alphonse & Angela Schroeder}
January	01	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God ~ Vern Karhoff ~ Elmer & Lucille Karhoff}
January	01	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God ~ {Alvin Best}

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**Servers**

December	30	Friday	8:00 a.m. Mass	Garrett Langhals, Tayte Langhals, Jevin Langhals
December	31	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Clay Bonnell, Addison Bonnell, Amy Vorst
January	01	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Cheyenne Mershman, Renee Schroeder, Elizabeth Martin
January	01	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Hannah Schroeder, Levi Schroeder, Emma Wenzinger

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**Lectors**

December	31	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Marge Tabler
January	01	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Carl Warnecke
January	01	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Hannah Warren

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**Eucharistic Ministers**

December	31	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Norm & Rose Schnipke, Don & Laura Siefker, Marilyn Birkemeier
January	01	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Diana Kaufman, Rose Ellerbrock, Marilyn Hoffman, Gib Kaufman, Marilyn Siefker
January	01	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Stephanie Moore, Connie Bonnell, Lisa Meuleman, Dave & Christie Tabler
January	01	Hilty Home	~ Marilyn Siefker	

**Attention ~ Hilty Home Distributors ~ The list for you of the residents at the Hilty Home to receive Holy Communion on Sunday mornings will be on the table in Father Tom's Sacristy. If you would like to call the Hilty Home to remind them to bring the residents to the chapel before you arrive, the number is 419-384-3218.**

**~ Hilty Home Residents ~**

*Jean Stechschulte-Room 101; Wilbert Roof-Room 105B; Agnes Friedel-Room 109; Velma Pope-Room 117;  
 Mary Maag-Room 119; Bill Alt-Room 121; Mary Margaret Bockrath-Room 125; Betty Meyer-Room 203A;  
 Margaret Rosenbauer-Room 208B; Dolores Daniels-Room 209B; Angela Schulte-Room 211B;  
 Beatrice Inkrott-Room 212B; Dorothy Geiger-Room 215A; Cathy Ruhe-Room 306; Jim Fischbach-Room 314*

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**Ushers**

December 31 Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass George Ellerbrock, Doug Roof, Rob Verhoff, Don Stechschulte  
January 01 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass Tom Dunlap, Eric Dunn, Ron Hoffman, Gene Siefker  
January 01 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass Ken Rieman, Dwain Schroeder, Nathan Siefker, John Selhorst

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**St. Rita's Medical Center ~ Paul Adkins**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Income For The Week of December 18th**

Sunday Adult ~ 195	\$ 7,302.00
Children's ~ 23	<u>34.32</u>
	7,336.32
Christmas	1,570.00
Tuition	2,525.00
Christmas Flowers	536.00
School Donations	6,050.00
Miscellaneous	<u>966.85</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 18,984.17</b>



**Expenses For The Week of December 18th**

Ordinary Parish & School Expenses	\$ 1,118.80
Payroll ~ 12/20	18,504.47
Payroll Taxes & 403-B	<u>9,853.36</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 29,476.63</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

**300 Club Winner ~ December 25th ~ Steve & Sharon Koch ~ Ticket #20 ~ \$100.00**

**Special Christmas Drawing- (Final Drawing) ~ December 25th ~ Mary C. Fuerst ~ Ticket #174 ~ \$250.00**

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**Jace Allen, son of Steve & Connie Bonnell, was baptized here at St. Anthony's this past week. May the new gift of God's Spirit be with you always.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Parish Office Closed** ~ The parish office will be closed on **Monday, December 26th.**

**Christian Formation Classes** ~ The next CCD classes will be **Sunday, January 8th, 2017.**

**Scrip** ~ The next Scrip weekend will be **January 7th & 8th, 2017.** The helpers are: Ken & Connie Kruse, Karen Martin, Shirley Goedde, Mary Langhals, Anne Schroeder and Trina Rode.

**Truth & Life** ~ "Truth & Life Dramatized Audio Bible New Testament", recommended by EWTN, is a free app available on mobile devices and your computer. The app is available on [DownloadJesus.com](http://DownloadJesus.com) and [TruthandLifeApp.com](http://TruthandLifeApp.com) for iPhone, Android, iPad, iPod Touch and Kindle Fire. The app can also be used on a personal computer via the same websites. This app is being given free to anyone in the world. A cast of stars do the voices of the people in the stories of the New Testament ~ making the Scriptures in the New Testament come alive for you. The CD set is also available in our parish library at the elevator entrance of the church.

**Life Teen** ~ St. Anthony's will be hosting the St. George Deanery Jr. High Gathering on **Sunday, February 5, 2017.** More details will be coming soon.

**Eucharistic Ministers** ~ Thank you for helping with the new changes at Mass. Reminders: Call for your replacement. If unable to find a substitute then call the coordinator for the month. Sign in (initial) before mass in the sacristy (at least 10 minutes before mass). Stand 1-2 steps in front of the first pew at the first "Lamb of God". Walk up the steps after the priest has received the Body & Blood of Christ himself. Bless you for your service.

**Parish Council Election** ~ The biographies of the candidates for Parish Council will be in the December 31st-January 1st bulletin with the election being held on **January 7th and 8th.** If there are any parishioners who would like to vote in the election but will be gone that weekend, you can come into the parish office and vote prior to the actual election weekend. Ballots will be available. The first Parish Council meeting for the New Year will be **Tuesday, January 10, 2017.**

**Bibles** ~ Do you need a special gift, for that special occasion, for that special person? Consider giving them the gift that will keep on giving ~ The American Bible-Catholic Family Life Edition. We have bibles in white or navy. We also have special wedding bibles. The cost is \$30.00. If interested, contact the parish office at 419-659-2263.

**2017 Pictorial Directory** ~ Sign-up sheets to make your appointment to have your family picture taken for our 2017 Parish Pictorial, is on the table in the back of church. (Please feel free to take an appointment reminder card.)

- Schedule families/groups in open sessions only.
- Do not add to or adjust the times shown on the schedule.
- For families/groups of seven (7) or more, schedule the family in two consecutive time slots.
- For families to receive an automated Appointment Reminder Call, simply initial in the "Call O" column.

The sign-up sheets will be in the church basement **December 24th & December 25th.** After Christmas, the sign-up sheets will only be in the back of church on weekends. After Christmas we will have online sign-up during the week. If you have any questions, call Pat Birnesser at 931-267-2357 or Amy Brinkman at 419-615-9239.

## *"Twas The Night Before Christmas"*

Late one Christmas Eve, I sank back, tired, but content, into my easy chair. The kids were in bed, the gifts were wrapped, the milk and cookies waited by the fireplace for Santa. As I sat back admiring the tree with its decorations, I couldn't help feeling that something important was missing. It wasn't long before the tiny twinkling tree lights lulled me to sleep. I don't know how long I slept, but all of a sudden I knew that I wasn't alone. I opened my eyes, and you can imagine my surprise when I saw Santa Claus, himself, standing next to my Christmas tree.

He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot just as the poem described him, but he was not the "jolly old elf" of Christmas legend. The man who stood before me looked sad and disappointed. And there were tears in his eyes. "Santa, what's wrong?" I asked, "Why are you crying?" "It's the children," Santa replied sadly. "But Santa, the children love you," I said. "Oh, I know they love me, and they love the gifts I bring them," Santa said, "but the children of today seem to have somehow missed out on the true spirit of Christmas. It's not their fault. It's just that the adults, many of them not having been taught themselves, have forgotten to teach the children." "Teach them what?" I asked. Santa's kind old face became soft, more gentle. His eyes began to shine with something more than tears. He spoke softly. "Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas. Teach them that the part of Christmas we can see, hear, and touch is much more than meets the eye. Teach them the symbolism behind the customs and traditions of Christmas which we now observe. Teach them what it is they truly represent." Santa reached into his bag and pulled out a tiny Christmas tree and set it on my mantle.

"Teach them about the Christmas tree. Green is the second color of Christmas. The stately evergreen, with its unchanging color, represents the hope of eternal life in Jesus. Its needles point heavenward as a reminder that mankind's thoughts should turn heavenward as well." Santa reached into his bag again and pulled out a shiny star and placed it at the top of the small tree. "The star was the heavenly sign of promise. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of the fulfillment of that promise on the night that Jesus Christ was born. Teach the children that God always fulfills His promises, and that wise men still seek Him." "Red," said Santa, "is the first color of Christmas." "He pulled forth a red ornament for the tiny tree. Red is deep, intense, vivid. It is the color of the life-giving blood that flows through our veins. It is the symbol of God's greatest gift. Teach the children that Christ gave his life and shed his blood for them that they might have eternal life. When they see the color red, it should remind them of that most wonderful gift."

Santa found a silver bell in his pack and placed it on the tree. "Just as lost sheep are guided to safety by the sound of the bell, it continues to ring today for all to be guided to the fold. Teach the children to follow the true Shepherd, who gave His life for the sheep." Santa placed a candle on the mantle and lit it. The soft glow from its one tiny flame brightened the room. "The glow of the candle represents how people can show their thanks for the gift of God's son that Christmas Eve long ago. Teach the children to follow in Christ's footsteps...to go about doing good. Teach them to let their light shine before people that all may see it and glorify God. This is what's symbolized when the twinkle lights shine on the tree like hundreds of bright shining lights, each of them representing one of God's precious children's light shining for all to see."

Again Santa reached into his bag and this time he brought forth a tiny red and white striped cane. As he hung it on the tree he spoke softly. "The candy cane is a stick of hard white candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the church, and the firmness of God's promises. The candy cane form's a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth. It also represents the Good Shepherd's crook, which He uses to reach down into all ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray. The original candy cane had three small red stripes, which are the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed, and a large red stripe that represents the shed blood of Jesus, so that we can have the promise of eternal life.

Teach these things to the children." Santa brought out a beautiful wreath made of fresh, fragrant greenery tied with a bright red bow. "The bow reminds us of the bond of perfection, which is love. The wreath embodies all the good things about Christmas for those with eyes to see and hearts to understand. It contains the colors of red and green and the heaven-turned needles of the evergreen. The bow tells the story of good will towards all and its color reminds us of Christ's sacrifice. Even its very shape is symbolic, representing eternity and the eternal nature of Christ's love. It is a circle, without beginning and without end. These are the things you must teach the children." I asked, "But where does that leave you Santa?" The tears gone now from his eyes, a smile broke over Santa's face. "Why bless you, my dear," he laughed, "I'm only a symbol myself. I represent the spirit of family fun and the joy of giving and receiving. If the children are taught these other things, there is no danger that I'll ever be forgotten." "I think I'm beginning to understand." "That's why I came," said Santa. "You're an adult. If you don't teach the children these things, who will?"

Author Unknown

**Aluminum Can Drive** ~ There will be an aluminum can drive the weekend of **January 6, 7 & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, sponsored by the St. Anthony Athletic Boosters. 5 Angle Construction will have a trailer in the church parking lot to place cans and scrap in.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** ~ Need the perfect gift for your spouse this Christmas? Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. Upcoming dates: **January 13-15, 2017 in Perrysburg, Ohio and March 31-April 2, 2017 in Lima, Ohio**. Contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or [bcschroeder@bright.net](mailto:bcschroeder@bright.net) or go to [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org) for more information.

**High School Deanery Winter Fun Day** ~ Will be **December 28th-29th**. We will start at Liberty Lanes in Leipsic at 2:00 p.m. Price for that part of the day is \$10. About 4:00 p.m. we will be traveling to Kalida for food and dancing. Cost for that part of the day is \$5. At 8:00 p.m. we will start the overnight Lock In. We will be closing down at 8:00 a.m. on the 29th. The cost for the Lock In is \$3. Come join us for one or all of the events. Scholarships are available. Please call Hannah Warren at 419-303-5476, if you will be coming to any part of the day.

**Engaged Couple Workshops** ~ This workshop for engaged couples is in two parts: Living a Joy-Filled Marriage, which approaches "life Skills" through an emphasis on virtue, and God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage which discusses the sacramentality of marriage. For more information on the workshop along with dates and locations in the area, go to [www.jfntoledo.eventbrite.com](http://www.jfntoledo.eventbrite.com).

**Putnam County Right to Life** ~ Will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**, at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mary Jane Stechschulte (next to Kalida's fire station). All are welcome to come.

## A Note from Fr. Tom

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BISHOP THOMAS:** "So when we hear tell of the birth of Christ, let us be silent and let the Child speak. Let us take His words to heart in rapt contemplation of His face. If we take Him in our arms and let ourselves be embraced by Him, He will bring us unending peace of heart." (Pope Francis Christmas Eve 2015- Homily)

"As these beautiful words of Pope Francis so tenderly remind us, in this often confusing, troubling and tumultuous world, the baby Jesus is for us the true source of lasting peace – our Savior, Jesus Christ, comes to embrace us.

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, we do so in a world that is full of sin, uncertainty, fear, violence and division. The Christmas season gives us a glimpse of God's love for us and the ultimate victory He has won through His Son. I invite you to encounter Christ this season through His Church, to be fortified by the Sacraments, and to be enlivened by the community of the faithful, so that together we may know Him and bring His peace, joy and love to all those we encounter within our families and beyond our homes.

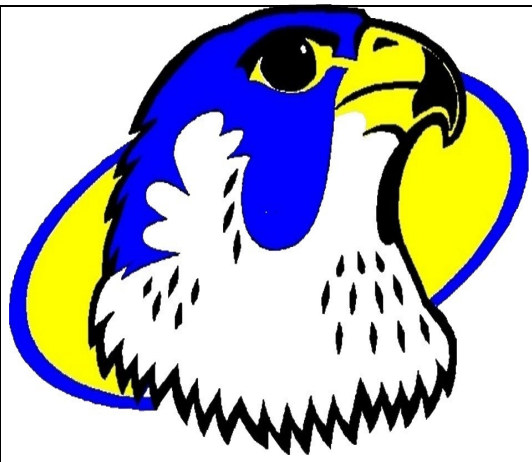
It is through reconciliation with estranged family members, parishioners, neighbors, friends and coworkers that we will truly feel the unending peace of Christ in our hearts. It is in forgiveness of those who have wronged us that we truly feel the unending peace of Christ in our hearts.

Jesus desires us to know His peace this Christmas, and to receive the love only He can give. 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.' (Matt 1:23) My wish for you and your loved ones this Christmas is that you may welcome and know the real presence of "God with us". As we share our common mission as a diocese to foster holy disciples, holy families and holy vocations, we are strengthened and renewed by the birth of our Savior. May you have a blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year!"

**MERRY CHRISTMAS:** I would like to add a greeting of my own to the above words from the Pope and the Bishop. This is now our sixth Christmas together. It's a joyous time for most of us, but a bittersweet time for others. Many of us can rejoice in family and friends gathered around us. We see God's love at Christmas made present in them. Luke's account of angels, shepherds, and joy amid the poverty of Bethlehem speaks so clearly to us. Others of us have to deal with a family breakup, with sickness or with the death of someone we love. Neither Christmas nor any other holiday will ever be the same. Maybe Saint Matthew's more somber telling of the blessed events is for us this year, with Saint Joseph's sense of confusion, the Magi leaving suddenly in order to throw Herod off the track as he tries to find the Child and kill Him, the flight into Egypt, and the slaughter of the Innocents. The Nativity story tells us that Jesus knows what you are dealing with and He loves you, both when you deal with problems wisely, when you fall short, and when your emotions stop you from dealing with anything at all. Christmas means that the Lord Jesus is with all of us, no matter our state of sadness or happiness.

**RESISTING HAPPINESS** is the title of Matthew Kelly's latest book, which we are able to give you thanks to the generosity of a parishioner. It's an easy read, but filled with helpful insights into how each of us can stop being our own worst enemy in 2017. Just on Christmas Eve and Day, let's take one copy per family to make sure we have enough to go around. If we have some left, then I would invite you to take all you can reasonably give away to co-workers, older sons and daughters, etc. There is a group of area priests and ministers who meet each Thursday morning in Glandorf for coffee; we are probably going to adopt this as our discussion book.

*Father Tom*



# Saint Anthony Falcon News

Dear Heavenly Father from above,  
Look down on Saint Anthony's School  
with love.

Please guide them and teach them.

Fill them with your power  
So that in everything they do,  
They will be a delight to you!

Amen.



### Golden Falcon Award Winners

The top left group picture is the December Falcon Award Winners. Not pictured is Haley Burkholder Kindergarten and Levi Burkholder 4th grade who were ill when the picture was taken. The other award winners were Isaac Barto 1st, Lylah Wilson 2nd, Dakota Dunn 3rd, Andrew Pohl 5th, Gwen Langhals 6th, Max Eversole 7th, David Pohl 8th, Griffin Langhals 1st for Music and Andrew Morman 6th for PE. Congratulations!

On the left are pictures from Mrs. Bonifas's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students classroom activity to locate Elves on the Globe in Social Studies class! They are using Cardinal Directions, latitude and longitude to determine location, and graphic scales to determine distances on a map. They are helping the Elves plan Santa's trip around the world to deliver presents to the children.



### Merry Christmas from St. Anthony School!

The Faculty and Staff would like to thank the parents, grandparents and St Anthony Parishioners for the continued love, prayers and support for the work that we do at St Anthony School. Catholic infused Education is our Mission. May God Bless you all. We wish everyone a Holy Christmas and Blessed New Year.



### Lunch Recess

### Volunteers



Week of: Jan. 3, 2017

Monday - No School

Tuesday - School Resumes

**Jen Siefker**

Wednesday - Lisa Langhals

Thursday - Sue Schroeder

Friday - Tammy Speer &

**Sarah Barto**

## Calendar Items:

Dec. 21-Jan 3	No School Christmas Break
December 27	Jr. High GB @ Kalida @ 5:00 PM
December 31	Mrs. Selhorst Birthday
Jan 2	Jr. High GB @ Glandorf @ 5:00 PM
Jan 3	School Resumes Jr. High BB vs MC @ 5:00 PM Away Jr. High GB vs Bluffton @ 5:00PM Away
Jan 5	Jr. High BB vs Temple Christian @ 5:00 PM H
Jan. 6	Grade Cards go Home 2nd Grade to YMCA @ 1:00 PM

### This Week's LIFE Skill :

### Caring

Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but everyone for those of

others.

Phil 2:



Knock, Knock.

Who's there? Mary & Abbey. Mary & Abbey who?

Mary Christmas & Abbey New Year!