



Christmas Eve Mass
December 24, 2025
7 p.m.

Our Vision Statement: *We share the Light of Christ by giving hope, bringing joy, and loving each other.*

Our Mission Statement: *Through the Holy Spirit, we invite all to share the Gospel, celebrate life, and serve the Lord in our neighborhood, community, and the world.*

Our Beliefs:
We uphold the Anglican tradition, demonstrated through the liturgy, expressed through the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed, and celebrated through the sacraments.

We Value:
Shared ministry between the clergy and the laity, development of our youth, diversity and inclusion, relationships built through fellowship.



December 2025—February 2026

A PRAYER for ST. ANNE'S NEW BEGINNING

(Adapted by Joe Czolgosz from John O'Donohue's "For a New Beginning," in
To Bless the Space Between Us)

In out-of-the-way places of our hearts, where our thoughts never think to wander,
A beginning has been quietly forming, waiting until we are ready to emerge.

For a long time this beginning has watched our desires, feeling the emptiness growing inside us,
Noticing how we willed ourselves on, still unable to leave what we had outgrown.

This new beginning watched us play with the seduction of safety, and the gray promises that
sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent, wondered would we always live like this.

Then the delight when our courage kindled, and we stepped onto new ground,
Our eyes young again with energy and dream and hope, with paths of plenitude and fulfillment
opening before us.

Though our destination is not yet clear we can trust the promise of this opening;
May we, today, unfurl ourselves into the grace of **beginning that is at one with our life's desire.**

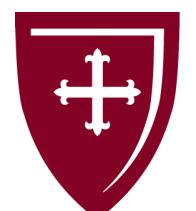
May we awaken our spirits to adventure; holding nothing back, **learning to find ease in risk;**
Soon we will be home in a new rhythm, for **our souls sense a new way of**
living in the world that awaits us.



I'm writing this missive at the time in our church year when our Gospel readings have us looking forward to our "**life's desire.**" As I've already reflected in one Sunday's homily, the Christian use of the religious term "resurrection" is a way of talking about our individual and communal "relationships" with God that go beyond the realities of human physical, emotional, relational limitations. "Resurrected life" refers to our relationship with "God" that preceded our respective births, continues through our self-reflective life as we live it out day by day, and continues after our bodies die and "return to dust." As our Gospel passages through the end of this church year on the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday, 11/23/2025, attest, our respective engagement of our "resurrected life" continues to form and inform our responses to all the natural and human-induced changes to our worlds. I think that this is what O'Donohue is referencing in his invitation to "*unfurl ourselves into the grace of beginning that is at one with our life's desire.*"

Since St. Anne's, as a faith community, has celebrated its first 75 years of life in Christ Jesus' Spirit, we've begun taking stock of our communal spiritual health to better engage St. Anne's next 75 years. In "taking stock" of life as we're living it, I've come to trust and rely on a kind of principle that I state as:

THE VISITOR
Winter Issue 2025-2026



StAnne's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"I/we are always closest to truth and reality in what we affirm(celebrate), rather than in what we deny (prohibit)." My first "adult" encounter with this principle was in my interfaith and ecumenical ministry as priest/theologian. Church theologian and ecumenist, Avery Dulles (son of John Foster Dulles), was the first theologian to explicitly apply this "principle" in his public assessments of Christian, inter-church relations. Applying this principle to St. Anne's, we can affirm the felt strength of St. Anne's renewed commitment to be a community of faith where "all are welcome" in the reality of "receiving" new members who do bring with them different experiences and perspectives in life and faith, across which established members are learning to communicate and share faith. This experience of new members gives all St. Anne's members the *learning to find ease in risk* as we take initiative to get to know and incorporate new members in our existing ministries and work as a faith community. This is just one example of where *our souls sense a new way of living in the world that awaits us* even as we participate in creating and "resurrecting" that world. In future homilies and Visitor articles, I'll expand on this taking stock of St. Anne's new beginning.

As I bring this missive with you to a close, I invite all readers to discern where and what you can affirm(celebrate) about St. Anne's new beginning as church. Please consider sharing what you discern with members of St. Anne's in our gatherings before and after our worship and committee and ministry meetings, while creating "cheese balls," and whenever you have opportunity with other members to compare notes on experiences at St. Anne's. May we continue to enkindle this reflective way of life in Christ Jesus' Spirit!

Joe Czolgosz, Interim Priest-in-Charge

EVENTS IN FOCUS

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 14, following the 10:15 a.m. service we decorated the church for the Fourth Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve Mass. Parishioners put the trees together, fluffed them, and made sure that the lights shone brightly. We hung greens from the balcony and made our space joyful and festive. Consider volunteering to help take the decorations down following the 10:15 a.m. service on January 5 to store for next year.



December 21, 2025
Advent IV
8 a.m. Advent Lessons and Prayers & Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols & Holy Eucharist
The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings or lessons from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir anthems.
December 24, 2025
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

2026 ALTAR FLOWER CHART
Did you know that you can sponsor the flowers that adorn the altar each Sunday? The 2026 Altar Flower Chart is posted in Rose Hall on the bulletin board. Place your name by the week you would like to sponsor. You will be sent an envelope for your donation that will have a space for you to write.
In celebration for..., In loving memory of...In thanksgiving for...
The cost is \$40 per arrangement and two are needed each Sunday.

December 21 at 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Advent IV
8 a.m. Lessons & Prayers with Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist
December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

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ST. ANNE'S VESTRY

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Through 2025

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* Clerk of the Vestry—Joy Craig

ST. ANNE'S STAFF

Revd. Joe Czolgosz—Interim Priest in Charge

Carol Bianchini - Parish Administrator
office@stanneswarsaw.org

Bob Jarboe - Director of Music
rjarboe@koshomercare.org

PARISH OFFICE

Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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TREASURER & ASST. TREASURER

Gary Proietti - Treasurer
gary_proietti@yahoo.com

Pam Hester - Asst. Treasurer
phester1023@gmail.com

WORSHIP

Sundays:

The Holy Eucharist: Rite I
8 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:15 a.m.

Christian Formation

The nursery is staffed during the
10:15 a.m. worship for infants and
preschool aged children.

THANK YOU TO:

- ♦ All who helped with Hal Smith's, Rod Teeple's and Mary Louise Miller's funeral services.
- ♦ Amy Thompson for decorating the large flower pots for the Autumn season. Lovely!!!
- ♦ Those who mixed, rolled, bought or sold cheeseballs this year.
- ♦ Our delegates, Julie Kuhn, Pam Hester and Brenda Rigdon who attended Diocesan Convention held at Trinity in Michigan City.
- ♦ The Special Events Committee, and those who decorated, prepared food, performed their talent, and cleaned up for the Open Mic Night on November 7. It was a fun and festive stewardship celebration.
- ♦ All who gave donations and helped pack the Thanksgiving baskets for our November outreach.
- ♦ St. Anne's parish family for preparing a lovely Advent Brunch. There was so much food, fellowship and fun being had by all. I don't remember seeing so much food at a carry-in!



UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

REFLECTIONS BIBLE STUDY Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. in the parlor.

GRIEF GROUP Tuesday, January 6, 2025 from 9:30 a.m.—11 a.m. is the next scheduled meeting.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING Second Sundays, following each service, December 14, January 11 and February 8.

SAMS & ECW MEETINGS Mondays, January 5 and February 2, at 6:30 p.m. in Rose Hall.

VESTRY MEETINGS January TBD and February 27 at 6 p.m. in the parlor.

ADVENT LESSONS & PRAYERS WITH HOLY EUCHARIST December 21, at 8 a.m.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS WITH HOLY EUCHARIST December 21, at 10:15 a.m.

LENT & EASTER The deadline for the next issue of "The Visitor" will be Tuesday, February 10. Please submit all articles for consideration to office@stanneswarsaw.org. Thank you.

OFFICE CLOSED The office will be closed Thursday, December 25, for Christmas through January 1 for New Years. **A year end deposit will be made for contributions on Tuesday, December 30. Please have all contributions that you wish to be in 2025 to the parish office by 9 a.m.**

GIFTING ST. ANNE'S IN YOUR WILL

St. Anne's makes a difference in the lives of people. Your contributions help support the many ministries of our church to the wider community. Please remember St. Anne's in your will. You can make a gift to St. Anne's AND earn income for the rest of your life! Ask Brenda Rigdon how. Call the parish office and we will put you in touch with Brenda.



DIOCESAN WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

This year's retreat for middle school and high school youth will be held January 16-18 at the Wawasee Episcopal Center in Syracuse, IN. Register on line at www.edninv.org or Facebook: Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana Sr. High Youth page. The cost is \$25 and medical forms are available on the website when registering or upon request from the parish office. If you have questions, contact Carol Bianchini.



ADVENT GREENS AND CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



If you would like to donate money towards our decorations, please place your donation marked "Advent/Christmas" flowers in an envelope. They are available in your offering envelope box or there is a stack of extra envelopes on the tile table in the narthex.

Gifts are given in memory of or in Thanksgiving for someone or something and are included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. To be included in the bulletin, donations must be in by December 18.

We have arrangements of evergreens during the season of Advent. For the celebration of Christ's birth, we have Christmas trees, beautiful flowers and greenery.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, worship will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a carry-in brunch and meeting. Please sign up in Rose Hall to bring a dish to share.

Leaders Needed!

At our January Annual Meeting we will be electing new Vestry Members. We will have three openings on the Vestry, for three year terms. If you are interested in serving a three year term, please speak with Sara Bauman, Miechi Petro and Bruce Shaffner who are currently serving as the nominating committee. Please note: to serve on vestry you **MUST** be a confirmed and pledging member of St. Anne's. At the Annual Meeting this is also a requirement to be able to vote.

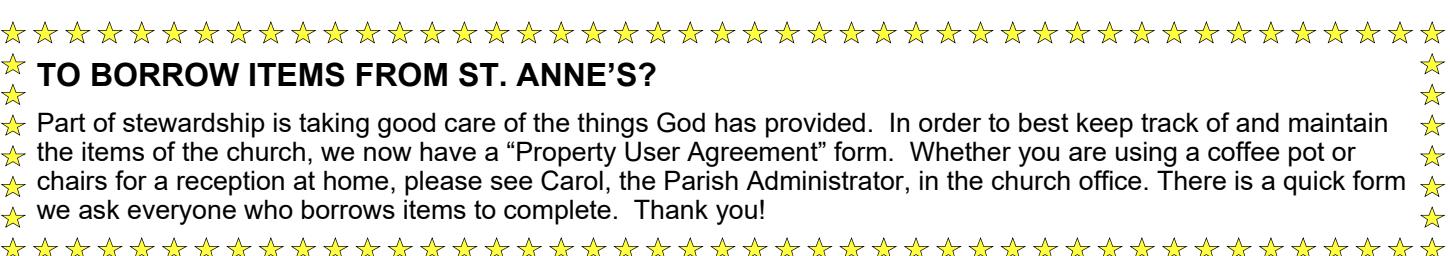
If you feel that God is calling you to serve your church in a leadership role, please submit your biography to the Parish Administrator, by email or drop it off to Carol directly. Biographies must be emailed to the Parish Administrator by January 1 in order to be posted. Please include a photo of yourself if possible.

The Vestry meets once per month, with the exception of July and November. Every Vestry member is expected to be a pledging member in good standing.

The Vestry works together, with our Priest to take care of governance issues, set policies, and achieve our mission. They approve the budget every December for the upcoming year. And we raise up the next group of leaders by asking them to serve on our committees with us.

We listen to the members of our congregation when they have an idea, issue, or a problem and bring that information to the board.

It is rewarding work. It is not a major time commitment, although some months the load is a bit heavier than others. This is an exciting time to be a leader at St. Anne's. Please prayerfully consider stepping up to serve.



★ TO BORROW ITEMS FROM ST. ANNE'S?

★ Part of stewardship is taking good care of the things God has provided. In order to best keep track of and maintain the items of the church, we now have a "Property User Agreement" form. Whether you are using a coffee pot or chairs for a reception at home, please see Carol, the Parish Administrator, in the church office. There is a quick form we ask everyone who borrows items to complete. Thank you!

MINISTRY NEWS

JUNIOR WARDEN

Bob Hastings, Jr. Warden

2025 Advent/Christmas: It's been a busy fall at church. The landscape maintenance was taken up a notch with additional trimming of bushes, hedges, and trees. Sidewalks were edged and the parking lot cleaned of sticks and leaves and recovered and lined. The landscape committee has met to consider updates and improvements or changes to the grounds around the church. If you are interested in joining and providing ideas, support and labor please consider adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The two areas most discussed include a labyrinth for the east lawn and ideas for the land north of the church. Stay tuned as we work towards project definitions and details.

The building has had some necessary fixes recently. The basement freezer that is used for cheeseballs needed a new cooling system. The repairs were done as soon as possible for the cheeseball season. In addition to the freezer three of the four gas furnaces used to heat the church needed repairs with two of them locked out due to excessive carbon monoxide levels. All three furnaces were replaced and are working well. The church foundation was fixed/sealed so no more water leaks. The church has programmable thermostats throughout the building which allow us to moderate the temperature. During the summer months the church may feel warmer during unused times and during the winter months the church may feel cooler during unused times. This helps us save on utilities. I mentioned earlier this year that I have trended the utility usage over the last several years. Good news is that utility usage has trended lower this year.

An area that deserves more attention is the kitchen. It is a hub of activity for so many missions. I think it is important for us to understand the use and operation of the equipment including safety and cleanliness of the kitchen. The dishwasher was recently fixed and is running well. There have been some concerns about the use of the

stove and ovens. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for a kitchen committee to discuss and develop common processes and procedures. There is also an opportunity to discuss new ideas and plans for the kitchen.

Finally, I have been listening to several of you that have had thoughts, ideas, and dreams about improvements or renovations to the building, and I have considered developing a plan to discuss with the church and the vestry. This is a longer-term effort but I'm keeping track of the ideas, so I'd like to hear from anyone. Please feel free to contact me.

ST. ANNE'S FOOD MINISTRIES

Brenda Rigdon
Sandra Buchanan
Pam Vosler
Kathy Kreicker
Paula Brown

It is a sure sign that winter is coming when the community garden has been cleaned up and put to bed. Egg shells and various compost items were mixed into the soil and the garden is bedded down with a layer of leaves. We had quite the bountiful harvest this year. Special thanks to all who signed up to water and tend the garden this season.

The Beacon has had a work out since SNAP benefits were suspended. We cannot thank everyone enough who donated to help tide our neighbors over during this uncertain time.

We continue to serve our friends at Retired Tigers by delivering food to them every two weeks. They especially loved getting food that was leftover from the soup kitchen. Every resident will be getting a surprise in December. We are putting together a Christmas gift bag full of goodies to make sure each and every one that lives there will have a Christmas gift.

It is because of your generous donations that we are able to bless our neighbors with the gift of food. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL FOOD OUTREACH FOR THIS MONTH

JoElla Hauselman, principal of Edgewood Middle School has asked us to consider helping

Confirmations and Receptions as members of St. Anne's



open Mic Night 2025



St. Anne's 75th Anniversary



with boxes of food to send home with students of low income families during the Christmas break. If you would like to help, please make your donation by contacting Edgewood directly or by placing a check in the offering plate and mark on the memo line: Christmas Food Box. Thank you.

COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Julie Kuhn

Dave Baumgartner, Carol Bianchini, Bob Jarboe, Judy Kinsey, Pam Nichols, Brenda Rigdon, Steve Shelby & Laurie Victa,

We have worked diligently to upgrade our live stream system and improve the quality of sound in the sanctuary. Leading our improvements is the purchase of a physical sound board a new camera, a new receiver, and headphones for the priest's microphones. We now have two microphones available for use. The video is better and clearer and our new camera allows the customization of views. Everything in these first two phases is hooked up and operational. The sound quality for both livestream and and sanctuary have drastically improved.

The final phase is almost ready for approval. While the sound in the church is improved, some parishioners with hearing aids still need help hearing the service and will benefit from Assistive Listening Devices. The devices we recommend use enhanced bluetooth technology. More will be shared as this process moves along.

In other news, we have started to scan photos for historical archive purposes and invite others to sign up to help and we are looking at restarting podcasts. Send ideas and volunteers our way!

RECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Co-chairs Greg Ellis & Diana Creech

We have placed our Parish and OTM Profiles on alternate sites as well as the National Office for Transition Ministries. We continue to wait for responses.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Deb Blatz

We held our annual St. Anne's food give-away two weekends before Thanksgiving. Warsaw schools submitted names of families who would need food during the upcoming holiday. For over twenty years, bags with traditional holiday food have been provided to school families. This year, 200 bags of food and \$40 food vouchers were given to families.

I haven't been part of the distribution for the past 4 years, and it was gratifying to be involved again. Warsaw Community High School students were translators for Spanish speaking parents this year, and it was a blessing to the team and to parents.

I observed parents hesitating as they entered the church, unsure whether they would understand how to obtain the food basket. However, when the students met them with a smile and greeting and spoke Spanish to them, parents visibly relaxed and many times engaged with the student, expressing their thanks with a smile.

St. Anne's has provided food baskets for so many years, and we normally have a few persons who come in during the food distribution and are not on the school lists. This year, these people did not go away empty handed.

Thanks to the Diocese of Northern Indiana's Feeding Grant, they completed an application and were provided with a food voucher for local groceries.

I'm proud to be a member of St. Anne's and I love helping students and their families with Thanksgiving food. We can all relate to the higher cost of food this year, and I'm especially proud that the families are treated with respect and understanding as the food is distributed to them. Thank you to everyone who gave time or funds to this food outreach.



OUTREACH OF THE MONTH

December

Hat and Mitten Tree

Chairperson: Miechi Petro

We are collecting items to keep children warm on the cold winter days. Please bring hats, mittens and scarves to be donated to the Title One Schools in Warsaw and place them on the "Giving Tree" in the entrance area.

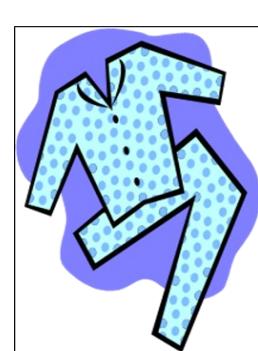


January

Beaman Home Pajamas

Chairperson: Carol Bianchini

We will be collecting pajamas for the residents of the Beaman Home. They are in need of all sizes for men, women, and children. Please place the pajamas in the baskets at the back of the church.



February

Fellowship Missions

Chair: Carol Bianchini

For the month of February we will take up a collection for Fellowship Mission homeless shelter. If giving a monetary donation, please make checks payable to St. Anne's and write Fellowship Missions on the memo line. If you prefer to bring items to be donated, items needed are:

- Diapers—sizes 3, 4, 5 & 6 and Baby wipes
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Fruit snacks, finger foods, fruit cups or jello cups
- Zip-lock bags quart and gallon size
- Coffee
- Coffee filters for Bunn coffee maker
- Cream and sugar packets
- Milk
- Kleenex
- Travel size shampoo & conditioner, soap
- Deodorant
- Feminine supplies



OUTREACH DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for giving generously to our outreach ministries! In September, October, November and December St. Anne's gave:

- \$1061.32 was spent on items for the Salvation Army Food Pantry
- \$2185 to Warsaw Community School for their Student Pantry needs
- \$1380 along with pet supplies was given to the Animal Welfare League to support their ministry with pets
- \$852.08 was for September Soup Kitchen at FUMC
- \$273.09 was spent on second Sunday meals at Fellowship Missions
- \$1000 was spent from the Diocese Feeding Grant to purchase \$50 Aldi gift cards for families who were not connected to WCHS for Thanksgiving Baskets.
- In November we gave away 200 Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need in our community. Along with the food items that we gave, we also gave each family a \$40 Food Only voucher to purchase the meat and other food items that they need for their family. We are awaiting the final bill from Kroger but estimate to spend \$9000—\$10,000 in total. Please hold each of these families in your prayers as you celebrate your own holidays. We have spent \$2525 and are waiting for the final invoices for vouchers
- \$1343.49 was spent from our Food Ministries Fund for Beacon food supplies and Retired Tigers Feeding Ministry
- \$1230 was given from the discretionary fund for rental assistance
- \$604 was given from the discretionary fund to assist with utilities

Thank you for your generosity in giving to these ministries to assist our brothers and sisters in our community.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Proietti, Treasurer

Holiday Greetings Everyone!

We are now in the midst of our Stewardship Drive for 2026. As you prayerfully consider your financial support for St. Anne's next year, I would like to thank you so much for your support for this past year.

The Pledge and Plate income so far for 2025 is running ahead of our budgeted level and also our 2024 income level. Thank you so much. Unfortunately, our Operating Expenses this year have far exceeded the gains in our income with needed replacements of furnaces and HVAC units, new freezer refrigeration components, structural repairs and other much needed improvements.

St. Anne's Finance Committee met in late September to begin drafting our 2026 Operating Budget, which we will complete later in November and present to the Vestry in December for their approval. My sincerest thanks and appreciation goes out to our Finance Committee members Pam Hester-Assistant Treasurer, Carol Bianchini-Parish Administrator, Jay Rigdon-Senior Warden, Bob Hastings-Junior Warden, Curt Singrey, Shawn Victa, Larry Brown and Father Joe Czolgosz.

I wish you all the very Happiest of Holiday Seasons and blessings for a safe, peaceful and joyful 2026!

Father Joe and Erin Leinbach who is a teacher at Warsaw Community High School attended services in November to share the impact that our donations from St. Anne's make on the students. Thank you for your generosity!

