



MR. DAVID O'CONNELL

Mayor of St. Anne

REV. PHILIP GARDNER

Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee

REV. MICHAEL SEED

First Presbyterian Church, St. Anne

REV. PETE JANKOWSKI

St. Anne's Catholic Church, St. Anne

**SERVICE HONORING THE VILLAGE OF ST. ANNE
IN HONOR OF HER 175TH ANNIVERSARY
St. Anne Pavillion – July 5, 2025**

Introductory Comments

READ BY MAYOR DAVID O'CONNELL

Mayor of St. Anne

**OPENING HYMN: AMERICA THE
BEAUTIFUL**

O beautiful for spacious
skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain
majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with
brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned
stress
A thoroughfare of freedom
beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-
control,
Thy liberty in law!

READ BY REV. PETE JANKOWSKI
St. Anne's Church, St. Anne

O beautiful for heroes
proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their
country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot
dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with
brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

Good afternoon and welcome to our service in honor of our village's 175th Anniversary here at St. Anne's Church, the First Shrine of the United States. Once again the American people unite to express gratitude for our national independence, and as usual Christians gather for worship on this Lord's Da. As we do so, we ask God to help us extend freedom to all our people, especially to those who are the most imprisoned by poverty, illness, or social inequality. Therefore with thanksgiving for all the blessings which have come to us as citizens of this nation, let us, with confidence, worship God.

READ BY REV. PETE JANKOWSKI
St. Anne's Church, St. Anne

Almighty God, bless our nation and make it true to the ideas of freedom and justice and brotherhood for all who make it great. Guard us from war, from fire and wind, from comprise, fear and confusion.

Be close to our president and those who serve our country, give them vision and courage, as they ponder decisions effecting peace and the future of our world. Make me more deeply aware of my heritage realizing not only my rights but also my duties and responsibilities as a citizen. Make this great land and all its people know clearly your will, that they may fulfill the destiny ordained for us. We ask this in your name. **Px. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

READ BY CHRIS SUTHERLAND

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

The word of the Lord.

Rx. Thanks be to God.

Deuteronomy 10:17-21

HYMN: MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed
hills;
My heart with rapture
thrills,
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be
bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God our King.

READ BY REV. PETE JANKOWSKI

St. Anne's Church, St. Anne

**A reading from the
holy gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Px. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:43-48

MINI-SERMON – REV. PHILIP GARDNER

Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee

MINI SERMON – REV. MICHAEL SEED

First Presbyterian Church, St. Anne

EXCERPT FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
READ BY DAN MOORE
(FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF WICHERT)

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off

such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

INTERCESSIONS

FR. PETE JANKOWSKI (PRESIDER)

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

READER(S) (CHRIS SUTHERLAND & “OTHER”)

Please respond, **“We thank you Lord”** after each of these petitions.

For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers,
farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and
provide for the common good, **Px. We thank you
Lord.**

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and
deserts, fields and meadows, **Px. We thank you
Lord.**

For our own community, for those who came before us
in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,
Px. We thank you Lord.

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might
always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty
and freedom, truth and justice. **Px. We thank you
Lord.**

That we might always be a nation where all are free to
worship and pray, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who
live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,
Px. We thank you Lord.

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would
be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that
has been given them, **Px. We thank you Lord.**

That we would be a people who repent from our sins,
and who always return to you and to your grace, **Px.
We thank you Lord.**

FR. PETE JANKOWSKI (PRESIDER)

Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above.

From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home,
God bless America, my home sweet home.



The Village of St. Anne (Kankakee County, IL) was established in 1850 and was founded in by Charles Chiniquy, a French-Canadian Catholic priest and friend of the 16th U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. Chiniquy was excommunicated by the Catholic Church in 1856. He later converted to Protestant Christianity, becoming a Presbyterian Evangelical minister and a well-known temperance activist in Canada and the United States.

A small but dedicated community, St. Anne's Church is home of an annual Pumpkin Fest and is home to the First Catholic Shrine of the United States.