

SCRIP Testimonials

I am Judy Hains and I have been a member of St. Anne's for the last 10 years. I have been involved in a number of ministries through out the years. This year I decided to try the Scrip ministry because my brother in law and niece were involved and I didn't want to miss anything. I watch my brother in law and niece purchase scrip and realized it is quite easy so I purchased just gas cards since I didn't always have money on the weekends.

In the beginning I had some difficulty purchasing scrip because I didn't plan for it. Now I purchase scrip every other week and the purchase depends on plans for the next two weeks. This was definitely a bit of a struggle when I first started because I like to just go shopping and spend money but now I think about it differently and plan for it. I always have Scrip cards in my purse ready to use.

The beauty of Scrip is you put your household shopping dollars to work for St. Anne's. You earn money for St. Anne's without spending a single additional penny. Scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gas, dining out and home repairs. The Scrip cards you purchase are the same gift cards that you buy at the Store – with ONE big difference – St. Anne's benefits from the cards you buy through the Scrip program. So you ask, just how do the retailers help us make money? It is simple, the retailer agrees to sell the gift cards at a discount. We purchase the card and get face value of the cards and the St. Anne's keeps the difference as revenue. Take for instance going to Chili's one night for supper and paying your \$50 bill with a card from scrip St. Anne's would get \$5.50!

Scrip is a powerful fundraising tool because families would make those purchases anyway but by purchasing scrip you help generate revenue for St. Anne's.

Just let me walk you through of normal week of mine using scrip:

1. Saturday we shopped at Woodman's and spent \$150 for a total of **\$7.50** going back to St. Anne's.
2. Sunday afternoon we went to the cinema and spent \$18 (yes we had the good buttery popcorn) but .75 went back to St. Anne's. Then, I didn't feel like cooking so we went to Red Robin and spent \$28.00 with **\$2.50** going back to St. Anne's
3. Monday I filled the car with gas at Speedway and spent \$50 for a total of **\$2** going back to St. Anne's.
4. Wednesday, I needed a birthday gift and went to Bath and Body and spent \$25 for a total of **\$3.25** going back to St. Anne's
5. Thursday, I needed to stop at Supervalu for some incidentals and spent \$25 for a total of **\$1** going back to St. Anne's.
6. Friday night we decided to go to Culver's for a quick dinner and spent \$20 and yes we had ice cream but .. a total of **\$2** went to St. Anne's.

This was pretty much a normal week for me and in just that week we gave an additional **\$19.00 back to St. Anne's**. This is addition to my monthly stewardship. If I didn't plan and have Scrip for my purchases St. Anne's would not

have received that \$19.00 Even if I spend that much only every other week, St. Anne's would receive **\$494.00** from me alone. Just think.... If 300 families purchased scrip an average of \$500 year at an average of 5% to back to St. Anne's that would give back to St. Anne's **\$150,000**.

As the holidays approach I know that many people exchange gift cards – wouldn't it be great to give someone a \$40 gift card from Bath & Body and know that they will not only enjoy shopping there but you have given St. Anne's \$5.20 from the purchase of that card.

Again, preplanning for the holidays would bring a nice size revenue to St. Anne's Or are you planning a special holiday event? Bristol Oaks will give 10% back to St. Anne's. Here is one more thought, end of year sales are great on big screen TV's and if you purchased a \$1000 TV at Best Buy St. Annes' would receive \$20 and the added bonus for you is you can watch the super bowl on a big screen TV.

Scrip is sold before and after each Mass. And also on Thursday evenings from 6:00 -7:30 until Christmas.

Since scrip has started at St. Anne's the scrip brought in over \$190,000. Last year we were so close to reaching 1 mil in cards sold. There is huge **potential for revenue** for St. Anne's if we all made purchasing Scrip part of our monthly planning.

I challenge you to take a few minutes and sit down and calculate your average monthly expenses to include groceries, gas, dining out, clothing, entertainment, home repair and see what your total monthly expenses add up to. Grab a Scrip form and see just how much of a difference your family could make to St. Anne's by preplanning and purchasing scrip JUST for your monthly expenses.

Personally we can make a difference but in numbers we are strong and we can make a big difference.

Think about it...

Hopefully, I have convinced you to take a look at planning and purchasing Scrip in the future.

Thanks to all of you who have been purchasing Scrip. We *have* made a difference.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and God Bless.

Please read on...

My name is Sam Wulterkens. My wife and I moved to Kenosha in 2005, and joined St. Anne's soon thereafter. We visited a number of churches in the area, but found St. Anne's to be the clear fit for us.

Soon after joining St. Anne's we began using the Scrip program. As a young couple, we were working hard to keep our finances in line. Keeping the church in our financial plans was important to us. We wanted to give more to the church, but we also had to be responsible with our money. Since we already knew about SCRIP, it was an easy choice to use SCRIP as another way to fulfill our stewardship goals.

For us, using scrip has been easy. We make it a point to use scrip for gas and groceries. Like many, we are able to contribute a large amount to scrip just through these major purchase areas. But we have found a way to take it further.

Heather purchased this small container, which has separate file sections. We have different sections that are labeled for different gift cards. We keep cards on hand for groceries, gas, fast food, sit-down dining, retail, and other. Since we know that we often stop at Culvers when on the road, we keep some of that in the container. I like to get coffee from time to time, so we keep SCRIP for Starbucks and Beaners in there, too. I like to go on shopping sprees at Tenutas, so we keep that on hand, too. We know that we need dog food, treats and toys, so we keep scrip for Pet Smart, as well.

When we use up the supply of a particular place of business, we just replace it. That way, we are always ready to add to the power of the money we spend. We still keep a monthly budget, and the money we spend using the gift cards goes on the budget, just like it would if we used cash or a credit card. We just spent some money up front to ensure our strong participation in the program.

Of course, we also buy scrip for special purchases, such as home improvement projects or holiday needs.

In the end, it took a couple of months for us to get in the habit of using SCRIP this way. However, it feels great to know that so many of our regular purchases are adding a small percentage to what we are able to give to our church.

Our example is maybe a bit more involved than some might like. With that said, even using scrip for things from time to time helps. I think most people would find it easier than they expected, if they tried it.

Did you know that SCRIP has brought in over \$190,000 since we started using it at St. Anne's? Even more interesting, if we doubled our SCRIP participation, it would ELIMINATE our budget shortfall.

So, it's time for you to step up, folks! SCRIP is available right here, in the gathering area, after masses and before AND after all of the other regular masses. Scrip sales are also available on Thursday nights from 6-7:30. My challenge to you today: Buy at least one gift card through scrip after mass. It's like potato chips; nobody can have just one!

And one more...

My name is John Riedlinger. My wife Amy, my children Grace, Madalyn, Emma, Luke and I moved to Kenosha in 1999. We spent several months visiting various churches in the area until we found the warm, welcoming community of St. Anne. About three years ago, I was part of the Finance and Administration Commission. We were discussing ways to increase income at St. Anne. I remember our trustee at the time commenting that since we were only profiting about \$2,000 a year with SCRIP, we won't be able to count on

this form of fundraising to help out much. I remember thinking to myself, 'I wish I could do SCRIP, but I can't. I am on too tight of a budget. With our teacher's salaries, all our expenses and the four kids, we don't have any extra money.' Well, one day after hearing a few fellow parishioners talk about it, I finally did it. Instead of writing that check to Woodman's, I bought the SCRIP. I realized that it wasn't that I needed **extra** money to buy SCRIP; ***I just had to spend the money that I was already spending for groceries through St. Anne's SCRIP program.***

After trying it, I found it extremely easy to do. I discovered that using SCRIP actually helped me stick to my budget. Now I feel strange walking into Woodman's and paying with anything other than SCRIP. And the best part is my basic \$250 - \$350 a week in food and gas has turned into an **additional \$60 a month for St. Anne.** That is just for my basics! So anytime I know that I am going to Menard's, Lowe's, Best Buy or Rogan's shoes, I always try to buy SCRIP first. It is free money for St. Anne. And that \$2,000 a year profit I talked about earlier, thanks to those parish members who tried SCRIP, that number has grown to \$47,000 a year and over \$190,000 since we started! I feel that if more of parishioners would try it, we could realistically **make \$60,000 or \$80,000 a year!**

So I come before you today with this challenge. "If you don't use SCRIP, give it a try." SCRIP is always available after 8:15 masses. We now offer it on Thursday nights from 6:00 - 7:30 until Christmas. Lastly, if you prefer, you can order on line for a small fee of \$.39. If you order on line by 7:00 am Monday, SCRIP will be ready by Thursday evening.

I know we all want to give more to St. Anne. I can't think of an easier way. Come over to the SCRIP table today. We will be happy to show you how easy it is to use. Thank you.