

BY THE WAY . . .

- Our **Parish Mass for Thanksgiving Day** will be at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, Thanksgiving morning.

- This weekend (already!) the **Advent Giving Tree** goes up near the Sacred Heart Shrine in the front of the church. This year, the mechanics of making a gift through the Advent Giving Tree Program are slightly different in light of Covid-19 restrictions. There is an entire page of options and instructions attached below for participating this year. Please read them carefully.

- I know that we are all getting tired of Covid-19 precautions, even as we are being told that we need to continue to be extra cautious. There are two **Covid-19 precautions/manners** that I want to bring to your renewed attention.

The first involves the **church entrances**. At the present time there are three entrances to the church that are in use, namely the main central door, the handicapped door, and the back door by the rectory. The other two entrances (by the rest rooms and the choir loft stairs) are not in use at the present time and should not be unlocked.

The other involves the **Sacrament of Penance**. At the present time we are using the front of the church near the shrine of the Sacred Heart for Confessions on Saturday afternoon. If you come to Saturday Evening Mass before 5:15 P.M., please do not sit in the front of the church to allow some privacy for the people going to Confession.

- As we celebrate Thanksgiving and prepare to enter the Season of Advent, I once again want to thank you for your generosity during these challenging times. As I mentioned a few weeks ago when we published the **Parish Financial Statement**, our first quarter income (July-August-September) is down 15% (\$25,000) compared to last year. I have already witnessed a heart-felt response. In this past week's collection, we received two large checks for \$1,000 and \$2,000!

As the year 2020 draws to a close, please take a moment to review your giving history. You may find that because of the shutdown (the weeks the church was closed) and various other issues, you are not at the level you intended to be at. Or perhaps you can do better than intended. Instructions can be found on the **Stewardship page** attached below to help remedy that.

As our new bishop, Bishop Sweeney and I were coming back into church after Confirmation on September 15, the Bishop – checking out our church for the first time with a sense of awe and wonder – looked at me and said, “They don't build them like this anymore.” Indeed, they do not. This Wednesday marks the **86th anniversary** of the opening of our parish church. Thank you for all you do, over and over again, to keep it standing and vibrant.

- This time of the year as we plan to celebrate Thanksgiving, our thoughts and prayers will be for all those who passed away from the coronavirus and the many families impacted. It will be for those on the frontlines of COVID-19 who selflessly care for so many. It will be for all who may be hurting in some way. In our own diocese, tens of thousands of your neighbors in profound need seek out the services of our Catholic Charities and, with help from the **Diocesan**

Ministries Appeal, they find an open door and a compassionate response. Please make a pledge to our Appeal today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2020appeal.org.

- Please remember in your prayers this week one of my classmates, **Father Alan Savitt** who died last Thursday. A native of Holy Trinity Parish in Passaic, Alan spent most of his priestly career in ministry with the Passaic County Council on Alcoholism.
- If you are gathering with family for **Thanksgiving**, this might be a suitable blessing for the meal.

O God, source and giver of all things, we give you thanks and all the glory on this Thanksgiving Day, for the splendor and majesty of creation.

We give you thanks for the blessings of family and friends: both those gathered around this table and those who are present only in our hearts.

We give you thanks for this food, prepared by loving hands, and for the graces you provide to nourish our spirits, souls and bodies so that we may continue to serve you passionately.

Help us to be faithful stewards of all we have been given. May we reflect your love and that which we have received to all those we meet, especially the less fortunate in our midst.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessed Thanksgiving to all,

Father Ray

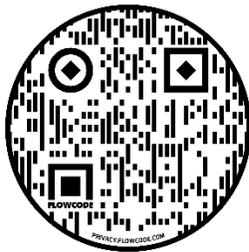
THE GIVING TREE IS HERE!

Our Advent "Giving Tree" is in place to the left of the Sacred Heart Shrine. This year we will be collecting gifts to benefit clients of the following social service agencies in our diocese: Catholic Family & Community Services, which includes the Father English Center; Oasis, providing services for women and children; Straight & Narrow, the drug and alcohol rehabilitation center; and New Jersey Development Corp., a private, non-profit community development agency; all are based in Paterson.

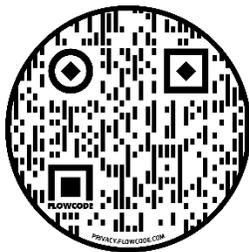
Obviously the COVID-19 pandemic will affect our effort, and we are offering parishioners the opportunity to donate gifts both in person and virtually, online. For those of you coming to church, tags are available on the tree. Purchase the gift specified and return it to church (placed under the tree) ***unwrapped***, with the tag securely attached, ***no later than Friday December 18.***

As an alternative, you can purchase and donate gifts, including gift cards, online. Check out these links:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/22OLAPKW9H8M5?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_ip_rV5AVwRvjAO31



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044AA4AC2DABF85-saint>



The Social Services Ministry is very grateful for your participation.

Stewardship

Sunday Offering (10/25/20):	\$8,497.36
Sunday Offering (11/1/20):	\$11,779.81
Sunday Offering (11/8/20):	\$9,355.06
Sunday Offering (11/15/20):	\$2,584.16 (Online Giving)
	<u>\$11,892.50 (Envelopes)</u>
Total:	\$14,476.66

Access Your Account

As the year draws to a close and we approach tax season, it is a great time to review your annual donations to St. Anthony Church!

1. Log in to My Own Church following this link:
<https://paterson.parishsoftfamilysuite.com/>
2. Enter your Username and Password
3. On the My Own Church Page, click on the "My Offering" tab
4. Just under the tabs on the top left click on "Giving History"
 - a. This page allows you to look at your donations by year

Online Giving and Text to Give

Please use this link found on our parish website or our Facebook page to register in ParishSOFT Giving and participate in our online giving program:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stanthonyrcchurch>

Text a donation amount (e.g. 10, 20, 50 etc.) to **973-245-9778** and ParishSOFT Giving will prompt you to enter any required information.

You can donate to any of our parish or national funds by using our online giving platform, such as: Offertory, **Christmas Flowers**, **Christmas**, Project Faith, The Beacon, Social Services and many more.

For Assistance please contact Donna Mallory at 973.557.0858 or finance@stanthonyschool.org

