

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Holding on to Advent

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 24th-Christmas Eve

Office Closed

Confessions—10 AM to 12 PM and 1 to 2 PM

Masses—4:30, 6:30 PM and Midnight

Tuesday, December 25th-Christmas Day

Mass—10 AM

Friday, December 28th

Adoration—8:30 –11:45 AM

Mass—12:00 PM

Monday, December 31st

Vigil Mass-The Nativity of the Lord—4:30 pm

Tuesday, January 1st

Mass-The Nativity of the Lord-10 AM

Legend

Church (1)

Religious Education (3)

Padua Hall (2)

Ewald Center (4)

Mass Intentions December 17th to 23rd

12/24	4:30 pm	Joseph Cecil (D) r/b Dottie Cecil
	6:30 pm	Charles Garner (D) r/b Dottie Cecil
	12 :00 am	Joseph Bergen & Mary Drakos (D) r/b Rosalie Bergen Russell
12/25	10 am	Patricia Osburn (D) r/b Dillon Family
12/26	8 am	Father He (D)
12/27	8 am	Josephine McWhorter (L)
12/28	8 am	Jeff Wagner (D) r/b Jimmy and Gail Carroll
	12:00 pm	Orlando Marinaccio (D) r/b Delores Marinaccio
12/29	9 am	Fr. Richard Vila (L) r/b Weilmuenster Family
	4:30 pm	Jennie Crocker (L)
12/30	8:15 am	Parishioners
	11:15 am	Lewis Wimbush (D)



Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

As you read this bulletin article, I am sure you are probably into the Holiday swing already. We here at the parish offices have already had our staff Christmas luncheon and have exchanged our Christmas gifts. Thanks to the hard work of the finance council and you, my dedicated parishioners, we find ourselves in a much better position financially this year than in years past. God bless you for responding to my previous years "Sermon on the Amount." We are in good shape and just in time. This spring the parish will have to take on some major expenses to keep our plant in good shape for the years to come. But all that can wait for the time being.

The Advent season is coming to an end very quickly. The next day, after the fourth Sunday of Advent, is Christmas Eve. As it happens in the Church calendar, we don't get much of a "Fourth Week of Advent." So, we take what we can and finish off with a very beautiful meditation on this Sunday's gospel that comes to us from the evangelist Luke. Only Luke references the long trip that the Blessed Mother Mary took from her home town of Nazareth to a small village just outside of Jerusalem called "Ein Karem."

Luke recounts for us this beautiful event which in the history of Christianity is known to all as the "Visitation." The Visitation happens to be my favorite mystery of the Holy Rosary. The rosary now has 20 mysteries, 5 joyful, 5 sorrowful, 5 luminous and 5 glorious; of all of these, I love the visitation.

The Visitation is a mystery that calls forth the virtue of waiting. In our modern world we are used to things that are instant. Instant coffee, instant service, microwave ovens that cut short cooking time. In our modern world we hate to wait. I am among those whose patience wears thin in traffic and in grocery stores. This is an area we all need help. In this most interesting biblical encounter we are greeted by two women who are waiting for the promises of God to be fulfilled in them. Mary, of course who is pregnant with the "Word made flesh" namely, Jesus and Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist. These two women have much to teach us about the importance of waiting.

Many times, in life when our patience to wait wears thin, we end up making dreadful mistakes in life. Mistakes that we wish we could take back if we had the chance to do it all over again.

At the end of this profound biblical encounter Elizabeth says these words to Mary: "Blest is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." Trust is the main component of waiting. God is faithful. He never breaks a promise. Even though we must wait for it to be accomplished, it will come about in God's time. Remember, that God is the timeless One. All time belongs to Him when we bless the Easter candle at Easter, we pray this prayer: "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end. Alpha and Omega, all times belongs to Him and all ages to Him be glory and power through every age for ever. Amen."

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

FAITH FORMATION

**We wish all our families a happy,
holy Christmas!**

There are no faith formation classes December 23rd or December 30th. We will resume classes on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th.

Looking for a place to donate this Christmas? How about helping to send a youth to summer camp? This summer we are taking a coach bus to Camp Cove Crest in Daholonega, Georgia for Life Teen Summer Camp. So far we have 18 youth signed up (with 12 spots remaining.) Some of the youth are in need of full and partial scholarships. Life Teen gives our youth an incredible opportunity to experience the Catholic Faith in a fun and powerful way. It is led by young dynamic Catholic Missionaries, Priests, and Religious. They offer high adventure rope courses, white water rafting, as well as daily Mass, Confessions and Adoration. Contact Mary Beth Woodburn at 443-646-5721 or go to LifeTeen.com if you have questions. Thank you in advance for investing in our youth and for your generosity!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

LIFE TEEN

A big thank you to all of our youth who came out to Christmas Carol and bring the light of Christ to the town of North Beach! Our first Life Night of the year, titled "No Matter How Small", is Saturday, January 12th, beginning with the 4:30 Mass.

Please go onto our website at www.stanthonycal.us to see all of the scheduled dates and themes from January through May, 2019. Our Core Team is working hard to provide fun, meaningful, well-planned Life Nights for our teens to draw closer to Christ. Please encourage any and all young people to join us! You can also go to www.lifeteen.com for great articles on many different subjects to help spark faith discussions with your teen—subjects on relationships, dating, prayer, saints, social media use, and even test taking! If you are looking for new and different ways to strengthen the relationship you have with your teens—check out this site!



MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

St. John Paul II Seminary invites men in their 20's—40's who are interested in learning more about the priesthood to attend a discernment retreat led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The retreat will be held the weekend of **February 1-3, 2019 at St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington DC.** The weekend will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the seminary and priesthood. Registration is now open at www.DCPriest.org. For more information contact the **Office of Priest Vocations 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Chrissy Baxter, Vicki Baxter, JB, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Florence, Dominic Brady, Jack Bragger, Jeff Carr, Ralph Carrello, Bill Carroll, Jimmy Carroll, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Wlaine Cunnane, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Gavin DiBitetto, Jo Finch, Linda Foresta, Anthony Fowler, Taylan Fowler, John P. Flynn, Noah Christopher Haas, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Roza Ivanac, Lindsey Jay, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, JoAnn Kery, Richard Knupp, Rick Kollinger, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Mark Mann, Walter Matziet, Kelly McCarley, Jennifer Melanab, Maude Mangels, Margie Edwards Morgan, Sarah Olsen, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Ray Pyles, Babies Ace and Troy Remer, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Joel Rivera, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Bunny Tate, Betty Theurer, Carolyn Vargas, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Chelsea Whittington, Shannon Wink, Sue White.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 30TH, 2018

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Sirach emphasizes the importance of honoring one's parents. He explains that spiritual riches will come to those who are kind to their mother and father.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Paul advises us to treat each other with kindness and mercy and to forgive as God forgives us. His words remind families to always love and respect one another and let Christ's peace reign in their hearts and in their homes.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

When Jesus was twelve years old, the Holy Family traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Jesus did not return with the company. Instead, he stayed in Jerusalem, sitting among the teachers while amazing them with his understanding and questions. When found by his concerned parents, Jesus reminded them that he must be in the house of his Father. Returning together, Mary kept these things in her heart.

Contributions and Donations

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

December 8/9 — \$9,468.37

**2019 Contribution envelopes are available
for pick-up outside of Padua Hall if
you receive envelopes.**

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

January 8th at 6 pm will be the next Altar Server training led by Deacon Eric. Children in 4th grade and up are encouraged to attend if considering altar serving. Please contact Deacon Eric if interested at 410-610-3844.