

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH

### **Monday, December 23rd**

Adoration and Confessions—6 to 8 pm

### **Tuesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve**

Confessions—10 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 2 pm

Mass—4:30 pm, 6:30 pm and 12 midnight

Parish Offices Closed

### **Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day**

Mass—10 am

### **Thursday, December 26th**

Parish Offices Closed

### **Tuesday, December 31**

Vigil Mass—4:30 pm

Parish Offices Closes at 12 pm

### **Wednesday, January 1st-The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God**

Mass 10 am

Parish Offices Closed

## MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 23-29

12/23	8:00 am	Renee Krankeski (L) r/b Tom & JoAnne Drewry
12/24	8:00 am	Tony O'Connor (D)
	4:30 pm	Jean Hosein (D) r/b Hetmansk Family
	6:30 pm	June Kretzing (L)
	12:00 am	Mary Drakos, Joseph Bergan and family r/b Rosalie Russell
12/25	10:00 am	John Zachuber (D) r/b Hetmansk Family
12/26	8:00 am	Lillian, Stephen F. & Suzanne Pettko (D) r/b Doris Pettko
12/27	8:00 am	Sarah Rodgers (L) r/b Tom & JoAnne Drewry
12/28	9:00 am	Jeff Wagner (D) r/b Jimmy & Gail Carroll
	4:30 pm	Thomas J. Arroyo (D) r/b Jim & Eileen Kleinheinz
12/29	8:15 am	Nathan Cortes-Peck (D)
	11:15 am	Parishioners

### **"AND I WILL GIVE THEM REST"**

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased members and their families.

### **PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**

Please pray for all members of our parish community serving our country both here and overseas.

**The Men's Group will begin meeting again on January 4th, 2020** and will be meeting in Padua Hall on Saturday mornings at 7:30 am. Please contact Joe Bunn at 443-968-0914 if you have questions. All men are welcome.

## FROM THE PASTORS DESK

### **The Grace of Christmas Day**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

The day of Christmas is marked with extraordinary graces that are second to none. In Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol, we witness those graces that turn the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge from a selfish self-centered person, who thinks only of money, to a caring individual ready to spend his life helping the underprivileged. It is one of the classic transformations of the heart that is at the root of the Christmas graces.

I have heard that when Dickens sought to create a story of the power of the Christmas event, that some people thought he left out the normal characters of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. While this is true, what Dickens captured was what happens to the heart of an individual who has accepted the graces of the Christmas event and how it impacts that person's heart. Dickens sought to approach the beautiful event of Christmas from a different angle; an angle which would speak of the effects of the birth of the Son of God and the impact that it would have forever on the world in which we live.

It has been said that the graces of Christmas day release many souls from purgatory and that the gates of heaven are thrown wide open on this special day when God entered the world, through His incarnate son. The birth of Jesus, who is God, was the turning point in human history. This is the awesome belief of Christianity, that Jesus, who is God from God and Light from Light, entered the human situation as a baby child to save and redeem the world. No other faith traditions even come close to this beautiful truth. The mystery of the incarnation is, for me, the sole reason why I am Christian. The Christian belief as it unfolds in Catholicism, is the very fullness of the truth of what God has and will accomplish in our broken world.

To all who come to worship at St. Anthony's, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas. On this Christmas morning to receive the Holy Eucharist is the fulfillment of Bethlehem. The Hebrew word Bethlehem literally means; "The House of Bread." How fitting that the Lord would be born in a town that has eating and feeding in its roots. In the Gospel of John (chapter 6) we read the bread of life discourse. Jesus says: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood real drink..." (John 6:53-55)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as I have said to you numerous times, the Eucharist is the be all and end all. It is the one thing that keeps me going in this life. Life for me has meaning because of what Jesus gave us in his Eucharistic self. You cannot have a complete Christmas celebration without Jesus who comes in the form of bread and wine but who is actually and mystically present in these sacred species.

Merry Christmas to all!

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

## **FAITH FORMATION**

Our children will be portraying the night of Christ's birth at the 4:30 Children's Mass on December 24th. We hope to see you for this special pageant on Christmas Eve!

No Faith Formation Classes on December 22nd or December 29th. Our classes will resume on January 5th, the Feast of the Epiphany. We will be having our Christmas sing-along and Epiphany party in Padua Hall at 10:15 am. The Knights of Columbus will be serving up their famous breakfast so come and enjoy good food and the gift of our faith formation children. The winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest will be announced!

## **LIFE TEEN**

### **March For Life 2020!**

Please join us on Friday, January 24th for the Youth Rally and Mass at the Capital one Arena in Washington DC! Doors open at 6:15 am so our bus will leave St. Anthony's at 5:30 am. **You need a ticket to attend, so please contact Mary Beth ASAP to reserve your seat on the bus.** Deadline to order tickets is January 11th. The Youth Rally and Mass for Life occurs each year in conjunction with the annual National March For Life held on (or near) the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade court decision making abortion legal in this country. This year, St Anthony's will be hosting two youth groups from Michigan, Our Lady of the Lakes and Brother Rice High Schools, and we will be helping welcome them to our parish after the March.

**Looking for a place to donate this Christmas?** How about helping to send one of our youth to Summer Camp? Cost for one youth is \$600/week and Life Teen's Camp CoveCrest gives our teens an incredible opportunity to experience our Catholic Faith in a fun and powerful way. Contact Mary Beth Woodburn at 443-646-5724 or go to LifeTeen.com if you have questions. Thank you in advance for investing in our youth and for your generosity!

## **MARCH FOR LIFE 2020**

St. Anthony's will have a bus going to the March for Life in Washington DC on Friday, January 24th. We need at least 50 people to sign up for the bus in order to secure it. We will leave from St. Anthony's at 7:00 am and return at 5:00 pm. The cost will be \$5 per person. We will attend the "Adult and Family Rally" followed by Mass at St. Matthews at 10:00 am, lunch at the Building Museum and then begin the March at 1:00 pm. Meeting back at Stanton Park at 4:00 pm to come home. **Please contact Denise Waters: [dd\\_waters@comcast.net](mailto:dd_waters@comcast.net) or 410-474-9393 if you would like to reserve your spot.** St. Anthony's will also be hosting youth from Our Lady of the Lakes High School from Waterford, MI and Brother Rice High School from Bloomford Hills, MI the night of the March for Life.

## **STAY IN TOUCH WITH FLOCKNOTE! GET UPDATES VIA EMAIL OR TEXT**

Text: beach to 84576 or  
go to: [stanthonycal.flocknote.com](http://stanthonycal.flocknote.com)

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Vicki Baxter, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Florence, Dominic Brady, Jack Bragger, Jeff Carr, Jane Carrello, Bill Carroll, Mary Chin, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Elaine Cunnane, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Gavin DiBitetto, Dominic Dilorio, Jo Finch, Anthony Fowler, Jace Fowler, Taylan Fowler, Aaron Fortney, Cathy Giancoli, Noah Christopher Haas, Anna Halterman, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Carolyn Humerick, Roza Ivanac, Lindsey Jay, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, Richard Knupp, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Anne Marie Mako, Josephine Martin, Mark Mann, Catherine Mathiesen, Kelly McCarley, Josephine McWhorter, Jennifer Melanab, Margie Edwards Morgan, Sarah Olsen, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Babies Ace and Troy Remer, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Infant Brandon Simonds, Jr., Richard Swann, Bunny Tate, Marc Timms, Carolyn Vargas, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Chelsea Whittington, Shannon Wink, Sue White.

**Families that were unable to attend this year's Memorial Mass** may still pick up the Christmas ornament created in memory of their loved one. Please contact **Sherry Speed at [speedfamilymd@comcast.net](mailto:speedfamilymd@comcast.net) or 301-518-1644** to make arrangements to receive the ornament.

**Visit us on Facebook @[stanthonycal](https://www.facebook.com/stanthonycal)**

### **Weekly Offerings and Donations**

December 14 / 15 — \$8,152.27

**Offertory envelopes for 2020 are available outside of Padua Hall for those who receive them.**

**If you would like envelopes please contact the parish office.**

### **Next Weeks Readings: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph: December 29th, 2019**

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

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



## **CARDINAL HICKEY ACADEMY**



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