

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 15, 2017

This is my Beloved, in whom I am well pleased!

Masses for January 16-22, 2017

Monday

8:30 a.m. (MDF) +Dorothy Churilla by Tricia,
Greg & Christopher Canfield

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. (MDF) +Deceased Members of the
Creasap Family by Beth Perini

Wednesday

8:30 a.m. (MDF) +Mary Sue Schmitz by Kathy Power

Thursday

8:30 a.m. (MDF) +Cgiovanni Del Bove
by Carmina Eramo

Friday

8:30 a.m. (MPG) +David Gaus by Lee & Peg Brock

Saturday

5:00 p.m. (MDF) +Dan Flowers by Mom, Jean

Sunday

8:30 a.m. (MPG) Respect Life by Knights of Columbus

10:15 a.m. (MDF) Living & Deceased
Members of the Parish

12:00 p.m. (RM) Rene Yandrich
by The Thompson Family

This Week at Saint Pius Masses for January 16-22, 2017

Monday

Pivotal Players – Study Program Café, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday

SVDP Meeting Bride's Room, 7:00 p.m.
K of C Business Meeting PAC, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
School Board Meeting Rectory, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Adoration Church, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Divine Mercy Bride's Room, 6:30 p.m.
K of C Assembly Meeting PAC, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Choir Church, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday

Men's Faith Sharing PAC, 5:45-7:15 a.m.
Children's Choir Church, 5:15-5:45 p.m.
RCIA PAC, 7:00 p.m.
New Creation Bride's Room, 7:00 p.m.
Deacon's Deanery Meeting Rectory, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Men's Faith Sharing Rectory, 6:30-8:00 a.m.
K of C District Meeting PAC, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Confirmation Bake Sale Church, After Mass
K of C Spaghetti Dinner Cafeteria, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
K of C Free Throw Contest Gym, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Sunday

Confirmation Bake Sale Church, After All Masses
PSR School, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

For the Week of January 1, 2017:

Budget Requirements	\$ 19,000.00
Actual Offertory Received:	\$ 12,687.30
Weekly Surplus (Deficit):	\$ (6,312.70)

**EFT (Debit) Program:	\$ 1,041.00
Envelope Offering:	\$ 10,400.50
Cash Offering:	\$ 1,245.80
Total Offering:	\$ 12,687.30

Debit Program Participants	49
Envelopes Used:	280

For the Month of January, 2017:

MTD Budget Requirements:	\$ 19,000.00
MTD Actual Offertory Received:	\$ 12,687.30
MTD Surplus (Deficit):	\$ (6,312.70)

YTD Budget Requirements:	\$ 526,500.00
YTD Actual Offertory Received:	\$ 535,814.47
YTD Surplus (Deficit):	\$ 9,314.47

For the Week of Jan 8, 2017:

Budget Requirements	\$ 19,000.00
Actual Offertory Received:	\$ 15,094.17
Weekly Surplus (Deficit):	\$ (3,905.83)

**EFT (Debit) Program:	\$ 1,246.00
Envelope Offering:	\$ 10,924.00
Cash Offering:	\$ 2,924.17
Total Offering:	\$ 15,094.17

Debit Program Participants	51
Envelopes Used:	307

For the Month of January, 2017:

MTD Budget Requirements:	\$ 38,000.00
MTD Actual Offertory Received:	\$ 27,781.47
MTD Surplus (Deficit):	\$ 10,218.53

YTD Budget Requirements:	\$ 545,500.00
YTD Actual Offertory Received:	\$ 550,908.64
YTD Surplus (Deficit):	\$ 5,408.64



COLLECTION COUNTERS

Sunday, January 22, 2017

CAPTAIN: TOM ULRICH

Team 1: Tom & Karen Armstrong & Gene Shultz

SCHOOL NEWS

Monday, January 16...

No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 17....

School Mass, Grades 1-8

School Advisory Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Rectory

Friday, January 20...

Weekly Update posted

Feb. Panther Pen due

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE
January 21-22, 2017

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

(H): Host • (C): Cup

5:00 p.m.

- H: (2) - Pulpit side - Andrew Berger & Megan Berger**
H: (2) - Organ side - Scott Marsh & Cynthia Williams
C: (3) - Pulpit side - Lisa Ludwig, Theresa Wiseman & Mary Lynn Cummings
C: (3) - Organ side - Sue & Dick Rickerl & Charles Laskey
Lectors Gerard Crane & Judy Cafmeyer
Servers Caroline Berger, Riley Mann & Gabriella

8:30 a.m.

- H: (2) - Pulpit side - Julie Gallagher & Scott Gallagher**
H: (2) - Organ side - Nancy Majerus & Joyce Guth
C: (3) - Pulpit side - Kevin Gallagher, Kurt Rodenkirchen & Ann Cox
C: (3) - Organ side - Mike Paszkiewicz, Gerald Cooke & Jeff Cox
Lectors Kerri Pollet & Janet Rodenkirchen
Servers Rayna Rodenkirchen, Megan Gallagher & Penelope Riederer

10:15 a.m.

- H: (3) - Pulpit side - Amy Barnhart, Tom Bryan & Sue Bryan**
H: (3) - Organ side - Greg & Patricia Canfield & Kelli Herman
C: (4) - Pulpit side - Dorothy & Vincent Ficocelli, Mary Girard & Kim Moore
C: (4) - Organ side - DeAnn Bukowski, Christine Servick, Mary Waite & Gordon Burke
Lectors Mike Barnhart & James Anzelmo
Servers Olivia Bobak, Lauren McFann & Lexie Albert

12:00 p.m.

- H: (2) - Pulpit side - Mark Ficocelli & Elizabeth Ficocelli**
H: (2) - Organ side - Matthew Ficocelli & Daniel Ficocelli
C: (3) - Pulpit side - Mary Ann & Wayne Wingard & Judy Burke
C: (3) - Organ side - Dave Roby, Jon Caruso & Kim Connors
Lectors Tim Zack & Teresa Iannaggi
Servers John Cassons, Abby Zack & Elijah Cassidy

GIFT BEARERS:

- 5:00 p.m. Holly Bare & Family
 8:30 a.m. Chuck & Joyce Hanlin
 10:15 a.m. The Gilmore Family
 12:00 p.m. Sonny & Loretta Shalosky

GREETERS:

- 5:00 p.m. Diane Einstein
 8:30 a.m. Mike Paszkiewicz Family
 10:15 a.m. John Zacovic Family
 12:00 p.m. Francis Karga

YOUNG STEWARDS CORNER

January 1, 2017

Donations: \$11.75

Number of Envelopes: 5

- Examples of our young stewards' use of time and talent:
 - chores & prayed for the sick (Dominic)
 - did my chores (Keegan)
 - helped my sister with a Lego set (Nathan)
 - babysat my cousin (Piper)
 - prayed the Rosary (Maleah)

January 8, 2017

Donations: \$1.75

Number of Envelopes: 6

- Examples of our young stewards' use of time and talent:
 - made a card (Avery)
 - helped take the dog to the vet (Keegan)
 - gave my family a present (Rowan)

IN OUR PARISH

NEWLY REGISTERED: Antonio Albanieze; Eric, Anny, Clarissa & Victoria Ziegler; Adam, Meagan, Jace & Everly Weis

NEWLY BAPTIZED: Madeline Jennifer Markovich daughter of William & Jennifer & Aniyah Yvonne Lee daughter of Montel Lee and Kaira Beunaventura

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS: Thomas Ucker



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER - The Knights of Columbus, Council 5253, is sponsoring an "All-You-Can-Eat" Spaghetti Dinner on January 21, 2017, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Two types of pasta, meatballs and sauce, salad, garlic toast and beverages will be served. Takeout meals available. The Ladies K of C will offer desserts for contributions. Come join us for fellowship and fun!

YOUTH BASKETBALL FREE-THROW CONTEST: The Knights of Columbus Council 5253 is holding a Youth Basketball Free-Throw Competition in the school gym on Saturday, January 21st, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This competition is open to all boys and girls, ages 9 to 14 years. Please bring proof of age to the event. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. The competition begins at 7:00 p.m. Trophies will be awarded to the winners and those winners will advance to the District competition. Questions, please contact Mike Bauman at 614-286-9592.

SPX SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Come visit Saint Pius X School on January 24th, 2017, between 6:30-8:00 p.m. for our Open House. This annual event will feature artwork done by our students, choir and ukulele performances, and some demonstrations in our new science lab. All school families and anyone interested in SPX are welcome to attend.

JOSEPH'S COAT COOKIE SALE A HUGE SUCCESS! A huge thank-you to the many, many bakers, packers and sellers for the 2016 St. Pius X Cookie Sale. It was a huge success! Initial counts indicate \$3,836.00 was raised by SPX parishioners. Messiah and Parkview Presbyterian, our partners at Joseph's Coat, raised \$1,532.00, which brings us to over \$5,368.00 raised for Joseph's Coat. This will be used to help provide warm clothing and shoes for the winter. It also will be used to buy heavy duty shelving for our warehouse to store clothing and other items for upcoming seasons. We thank all our parishioners for their tremendous support of the Cookie Sale! Mark your calendars for 2017's Cookie Sale, scheduled for December 17 and 18!

SVDP CHRISTMAS BASKETS....The St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes to thank the St. Pius X and PSR students, parents, teachers and staff for collecting food items for our annual Christmas Basket program. Our thanks also go out to the Saturday morning volunteers who always answer our call for help. They have tirelessly been there when needed. We also extend a special thank-you to the parishioners of St. Pius X who have contributed their treasure. Without your monthly financial support, our ministry would not be able to function. Your donations allowed us to provide additional monetary food assistance for 60 families and 2 Veteran Homes this Christmas Season. Thank you to the St. Pius X community for all you do to help us help others at Christmas. May the grace of our Lord fill your hearts with the same happiness and hope that you have given so many. "Whatever you do for these, the least of my brethren, you do for me." Matthew 40:24



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW JESUS? If there is one person we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus. And the best time to get to know Jesus is right now. In his NEW book *Rediscover Jesus*, Matthew Kelly, America's best-selling Catholic author and internationally acclaimed speaker, takes you on a 40-day spiritual journey to encounter Jesus – the amazing friend who is going to help you answer life's tough questions.

The parish distributed copies of *Rediscover Jesus* at all the Christmas Masses to families as they arrived. If your family didn't receive one, you may pick up your copy in the vestibule. Please help yourself to one. We are now gearing up for a six-week faith-sharing experience based on the book, beginning the week of January 29. There is no charge to participate. Sign-ups for these groups will take place after all Masses on January 14/15, 21/22, and 28/29. Online sign-ups are also now open via the *Rediscover Jesus* webpage, spxreynoldsburg.com/book-study. You are invited to visit the page and watch a **preview video** from the author.

There will be six opportunities each week, from which you may select one session. This study will be open-ended; we will start with prayer and discussion of the study guide, and the Holy Spirit will take us from there.

Available Study Groups

- Tuesday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Bride's Room
- Tuesday evening, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Bride's Room
- Wednesday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Rectory Basement
- Wednesday evening, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Bride's Room
- Thursday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Bride's Room
- Thursday evening, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Rectory Basement



VIDEO OF THE MONTH: Every month, the Adult Faith Formation page features a new faith-based video. This month's video: "What is Lectio Divina?" a four-minute presentation by Father Josh Johnson, who teaches us to read Scripture prayerfully and come away with something we can do to improve our faith in God. He demonstrates how Lectio Divina is a helpful guide in our walk to eternity. Visit spxreynoldsburg.com/education/adult-faith-formation.html (or, from the parish home page, spxreynoldsburg.com, click "Education" then "Adult Faith Formation").

TIME TO THINK ABOUT REGISTERING FOR PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K FOR NEXT FALL!

Do you have or know of a little one that will be 3 or 4 years of age by September? – or even a young 5-year-old? If so, right here at St. Pius X, the BEST Preschool in the land is getting ready for our annual registration to start on Monday, February 20th. Please go to our website to check us out: spxchildrenscenter.com or you can call Directors Mary Benedict or Sharon Miller at 614-577-0826. You are also invited to come and take a tour! Let us help to get your little one "School Ready" in our safe and friendly environment. We are licensed by the Ohio Dept. of Education and have consistently passed their inspections of high quality early-learning methods.

PSR INFORMATION

CONFIRMATION BAKE SALE AND DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:

The 2nd Confirmation Bake Sale will be held the weekend of January 21st and 22nd, after all weekend Masses. The Bake Sale will help the Confirmation Candidates toward the cost of their Confirmation Retreat on March 11th and 12th. We thank you for your help in advance. Also, the Confirmation Candidates are asking you to pray for them while they are on their journey toward Confirmation on May 22nd. At the end of the Bake Sale area, you can choose a Confirmation Prayer Intention written by one of the Confirmation Candidates. Please keep them in your daily prayers until Confirmation and beyond. If you have any questions, please feel free to call De Ann Bukowski at 614-864-3505.

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION OF THE WORD:

The Celebration of the Word will be held on Saturday, January 21st, from 4:00-4:45 p.m. in the PAC Room. The First Communion Candidates will learn about God's Word as it is given to us in the Bible and how to apply it in their daily lives. Questions, please call De Ann Bukowski at 614-864-3505.

SAVE THE DATES

Columbus Catholic Conferences

Women's: Courageous Faith Contagious Joy, February 18th

Men's: Calling All Men, Into the Breach, February 25th

Please be a part of these inspirational conferences with many of our Catholic sisters and brothers throughout the diocese. This is a wonderful opportunity to practice and grow in our Catholic faith. Attend Mass, listen to wonderful speakers, participate in reconciliation services, and shop for books and religious articles. Conferences will be in the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. Brochures are available in the back of church. Car-pooling will be available. **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!** Register online before January 23rd and save! Adults, \$35.00; Couples, \$60.00; first 800 students \$20.00 each. Contact Jeanne Swisher (614-314-2428) for women's information www.columbuscatholicwomen.com or John Zacovic (614-322-9473) for men's information www.catholicmensministry.com.

ANNUAL PARISH PARTY - "Save the Date" and Register now... The annual Parish Party (aka the VIP Party), sponsored by the Parish Advisory Council, is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th, from 6:00 p.m. (after 5:00 p.m. Mass) until 10:00 p.m. in the school gym.

This is an adults only event and a free event. All parish adults welcomed and encouraged to attend. The more, the merrier!! Great food/desserts (*thanks Culver's!*). Great drink (beer, wine and soda). Great music (a DJ will be playing tunes). Plus, plenty of door prizes will be given away.

The theme is "A Mid-Winter's Night Celebration." Come enjoy a fun and enjoyable (*and free*) evening with all your fellow Parishioners. You can register one of four ways: 1) Phone: 614-477-7730; 2) Text: 614-477-7730; 3) email: swisher721@gmail.com, or 4) fill out the form in the bulletin and drop it in the Mass collection basket. Any questions, please contact John Swisher at the phone number/email above.

PARISH PARTY

Saturday, January 28, 2017
RSVP by Monday, January 23, 2017

Names: _____

Number attending: _____

AROUND TOWN

JOSEPH'S COAT seeks 2 volunteers for Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Volunteers will be trained to check out clients who have shopped for clothes. There is no money involved, just counting items. Please contact Michele Hamsher at mahamsher@gmail.com or leave message at 614-863-1371.



BI-MONTHLY HEALING MASS ON JANUARY 16 AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL: A Mass of Healing and Healing Service will be celebrated on Monday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad Street, Columbus. Following the Mass, a Service of Healing will begin with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Veneration of relic of the True Cross of Christ, followed by an

opportunity for each person to speak individually with a priest and receive a prayer of healing for what they seek; the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will also be available. The Service of Healing will close with Benediction. All persons who seek Christ's healing are invited - especially those who suffer with physical illness and infirmities, in addition to those who seek emotional and spiritual healing. All caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community are invited as well. Parking is available at the rear of the Cathedral accessible off East Gay Street; handicap accessible elevator is located in the courtyard (west side of the Cathedral) on East Broad Street. Bi-monthly Healing Masses take place at the Cathedral on the third Monday of the month; during the remainder of 2017, they are scheduled for: March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18, and November 20. If you have any questions about this special Mass, please call the Cathedral: (614) 224-1295.

RESPECT LIFE MASS - JANUARY 23 - DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN:

The annual Respect Life Mass will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrant. Since January 22nd, the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, falls on a Sunday, our diocese will join all of the dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Monday, January 23rd. All are invited to attend. For more information about the Church's teaching on pro-life issues, visit the U.S. Bishops' website at www.usccb.org/prolife or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

ROE REMEMBRANCE AT OHIO STATEHOUSE - JANUARY 23:

Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor the annual Roe Remembrance event on Monday, January 23, Noon to 1:00 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse following the 10:30 a.m. Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral. The program will be held in the Statehouse Atrium. Please allow extra time for new Statehouse security measures. Stickers, signs, and weapons are not permitted inside the Statehouse. For additional information, please visit Greater Columbus Right to Life online at www.gctrl.org/roe.html.

NEWARK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PRESENTS BEAUTY & THE BEAST - JANUARY 20-21:

Contact Dennis Moore at 614-679-5373 or DLMOORE@LACA.ORG. NEWARK, OHIO - The Newark Catholic Drama Department will present *Beauty & The Beast*, Jan. 20-21 at the Midland Theater in Newark, Ohio. *Beauty and the Beast* is a traditional fairy tale written and published in 1740. Dennis Moore, Drama and Music Teacher at Newark Catholic said it seemed fitting to produce this musical for a few different reasons, "It's been 10 years since we've done a Disney musical, it is a fun popular musical with a 'happy' ending, and most importantly it is the musical that showcases our students' talents the best for this year." Ticket prices are \$15.00 at the door.

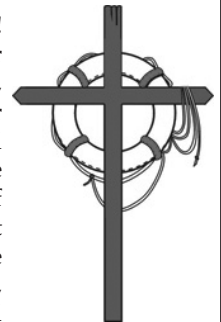


11TH ANNUAL GREEN WAVE WINTER GOLF... TAD Sports, 3825 Columbus Road, Granville, OH. Every Sunday, starting February 12 thru April 2, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Boys and Girls from 4th grade to 11th grade (all skill levels). Golfers will learn all phases of the game. Cost \$100.00 (\$75.00 for 2nd or 3rd child).

Call Coach Thom McManus, Newark Catholic Boys Golf Coach at 740-973-1307 with questions. Thank you for helping support our youth in the Catholic community!!!

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE!

Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring? Your relationship grown cold, distant? Thinking about a separation or divorce? Already separated or divorced but you wish to try again? The Retrouvaille program may help you. Retrouvaille of Columbus will be sponsoring its next program on February 10th-12th, 2017, at the Procter Center Retreat House in London, Ohio. The program consists of a weekend experience and follow-up sessions. All inquiries are confidential. For more details or to register, go to HelpOurMarriage.com or call 800-470-2230.





Father Andrew H. Hohman Council 5253
Knights of Columbus

P.O. Box 31
 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068



A CATHOLIC FAMILY FRATERNAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Chaplin Msgr. David Funk
 Phone 614-866-2859

Grand Knight John Swisher
 Phone 614-477-7730

Financial Secretary John Beyer
 Phone 614-361-2569

Brett Bennett
 K. of C. Insurance F.A.
 Phone 614-205-6325

JANUARY 2017

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

In an age when the number of abortions approaches (and, in some areas exceeds) the number of live births in this country, we Catholics have an obligation to declare our belief in the Sanctity of life. Each Sunday during January, members of the St. Pius X Parish Community will have the opportunity to express our opposition to the crime of abortion in a very positive manner.

Within our parish boundaries, there are many economically disadvantaged women who have opted for life by bringing their children to full term, rather than aborting. The need for assistance for these people is great.

We are asking the members of the Parish to bring to weekend Masses during January any serviceable used or new infants clothing, **even Diapers** of which there is a great need, as well as any infant furniture for which you no longer have a need. Father Hohman Council of the Knights of Columbus, in cooperation with the J.O.I.N at the Diocesan Center, will see that the items are distributed to those in greatest need.

January has become the traditional month we set aside to celebrate the Sanctity of life in all its stages especially the unborn. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you for your support.

**The natural choice is Life
 Together we can make a difference.**



PS - Any used eyeglasses that are no longer needed will also be collected at this time for the missions & the needy.

Here I Am Lord

PHONES:

Rectory & Church Office.....	866-2859
Rectory Fax.....	866-1499
Cafeteria	866-1282
Latchkey	866-1209
School.....	866-6050
Children’s Center	577-0826
Religious Education & Youth Ministry.....	864-3505

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF:..... 866-2859

Msgr. David Funk, Pastor – Ext. 104
 Deacon John Vellani – Ext. 102
 Deacon John DuPrey – Ext. 102
 Deacon Jim Kelly – Ext. 102
 Brenda Brammer, Business Manager – Ext. 116
 John Beyer, Assistant Business Manager – Ext. 101
 Michelle Carey, Administrative Assistant – Ext. 102
 Judy Miller, Bookkeeper – Ext. 105
 Christina Zacovic, Office Assistant – Ext. 112
 Leah Kelly, Pastoral Minister – Ext. 103

Sr. Maxine Shonk, OP, Pastoral Minister..... 866-1575
 Carole Winkel, Interim Principal..... 866-6050 – Ext. 240
 Mary Benedict, Co-Director, Children’s Center..... 577-0826
 Sharon Miller, Co-Director, Children’s Center..... 577-0826
 De Bukowski, Director of Religious Education..... 864-3505
 Judie Bryant, Youth Minister..... 864-3505
 Beth Antommarchi, Director of Latchkey..... 866-1209
 John Pottkotter, Coordinator of Music..... 501-0104

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Dominic Nocera..... (614) 946-1821

EMAIL REGISTRATION SUPPORT

If you would like assistance with your registration or have questions about our program, please contact:
Michelle Zuccarelli, Communications Support Specialist, at contact@spxreynoldsburg.com or (614) 866-2859.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS...



Saint Anthony of Egypt (251-356)

Saint Anthony of Egypt’s Story

The life of Anthony will remind many people of St. Francis of Assisi. At 20, Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message, “Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor” (Mark 10:21b), that he actually did just that with his large inheritance. He is different from Francis in that most of Anthony’s life was spent in solitude. He saw the world completely covered with snares, and gave the Church and the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification and prayer. But no saint is antisocial, and Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance.

At 54, he responded to many requests and founded a sort of monastery of scattered cells. Again like Francis, he had great fear of “stately buildings and well-laden tables.”

At 60, he hoped to be a martyr in the renewed Roman persecution of 311, fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison. At 88, he was fighting the Arian heresy, that massive trauma from which it took the Church centuries to recover. “The mule kicking over the altar” denied the divinity of Christ.

Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his valiant warfare with the devil – the cross his constant means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. The book recalls his preference for “the book of nature” over the printed word. Anthony died in solitude at age 105.

Reflection: In an age that smiles at the notion of devils and angels, a person known for having power over evil spirits must at least make us pause. And in a day when people speak of life as a “rat race,” one who devotes a whole life to solitude and prayer points to an essential of the Christian life in all ages. Anthony’s hermit life reminds us of the absoluteness of our break with sin and the totality of our commitment to Christ. Even in God’s good world, there is another world whose false values constantly tempt us.