

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | DECEMBER 1, 2024

First Sunday of

ADVENT



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am

WEEKDAYS

Monday & Tuesday:
8:30 am

HOLY DAY MASSES

Consult the bulletin

PARISH OFFICE

1305 E. Erie Ave.
Lorain, OH 44052
Phone: 440-288-0106
Fax: 440-288-0143
www.stanthonylorain.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday:
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL

Monday - Friday:
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

Monday 6:15-7:30 pm
October 21st to May 5th

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL

440-288-2155
www.stanthonylorain.org

Julio Alarcon, Principal

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Today we begin the season of Advent, a time of preparation and remembrance. Our preparation is for the "King of kings" that we celebrate today, hoping and expecting that He will come into our hearts and homes on Christmas day with all the peace and joy that only a loving God and Savior could bring. The remembrance is of the time He came to earth 2000 years ago as an infant to begin the Christian era with the divine gift of salvation which He holds out to all who are willing to commit themselves to His way of living.

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (2:1-5), we hear the prophet in the early part of the 8th century BC extolling the future blessings of greatness for Jerusalem which was about to be destroyed by the Assyrians. Jerusalem was looked upon by the Jews as the center of the world, and the Lord's seat of presence and power rested there. Now it was about to be destroyed, but a new day would come, and it would again shine with eternal light. Isaiah's purpose was to get the people to prepare for that time now, to return to the Lord now, and not wait another minute. We must do the same and for the same reasons.

The Responsorial Psalm, (122:1-9) takes up the same theme, but at a time much later when the Israelites were returning from their exile in Babylon. They finally got the message that Isaiah had preached earlier. They were now returning to Jerusalem and were realizing a dream that had eluded them for over 50 years.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (13:11-14). In it we hear Paul exhort the early Christians to prepare for the coming of the Lord. This epistle was written during a very difficult time for the early Christians, much like the Jews of Isaiah's time. Conditions were much the same except that this time it was the Romans who were about to destroy Jerusalem. Paul counsels the Christians to be ready to suffer, if necessary, for their faith and their God.

In the Gospel Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (24:37-44), we hear what is often referred to as the "little apocalypse" or Jesus' prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years later in 70 AD. Here, as in St. Paul's letter above, the early Christians are counseled to pray and prepare for what will seem to them to be the "end of the world." However, for those who are living according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the end of this world is only the beginning of heaven.

The readings at the end of Ordinary Time (last Sunday) and the first part of Advent (today) are full of what appears to be gloom and doom; but they are only reminders that this life, this world, is only temporary and we should be looking to the future, to the New Jerusalem in heaven. That doesn't mean that we should not enjoy life here on earth, but it does mean that we should be prepared because "we know not the day or the hour." However, our preparation should take the form of an inventory of our spiritual walk with our God in Jesus Christ. "Are we walking in His footsteps?"

Something to think about during your prayer time this week.

Rev. Edward J. Smith **2**

DECEMBER 1, 2024

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:00 pm or by appt.

BAPTISM

At least one parent must be a parishioner & actively attend Mass prior to calling the Office.

Baptisms will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month.

MARRIAGE

At least one member of the couple must be a parishioner & actively attend Mass prior to calling

Couples need to make arrangements at least 6 months in advance

No date may be reserved until discussion with the pastor of the parish.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call the Parish Office

PASTORAL STAFF

440-288-0106

Rev. Edward J. Smith, Pastor

Father Thomas Sanders, OSB,
Weekend Associate

Father Ken Katricak, OSB,
Priest in Residence

Deacon Paul Heise

Kim Kuhn, Secretary

Diana Lesiecki, Business Manager

Kathleen Obermiller,
Bulletin Editor/PCL

John Kowalski, Music Minister

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers - Alan Brailer

Art & Environment - Linda Mathewson

Extraordinary Ministers of
Holy Communion - Marybeth Brailer

Lectors - Nadya Cole

Sacristans - Mike Darby

Ushers - Fran Stack

SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING: "In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land." (Jer 33:15)

PSALM: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (Ps 25)

SECOND READING: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. (1 Thes 3:12-13)

GOSPEL: "But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (Lk 21:28)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 1, 2024

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

DECEMBER

Sunday - Dec 1st - 1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 am - †Janet Mecurio

Requested by: Virginia Glass

Monday - Dec 2nd - Advent Weekday Mass

8:30 am - †Anthony Smith (Birthday)

Requested by: Joseph & Juanita Smith

Tuesday - Dec 3rd - Weekday Mass

8:30 am - †Living & Deceased Members of the Concheck Family

Requested by: Dan & Georgianna Concheck

Saturday - Dec 7th - St. Andrew, Apostle

4:00 pm - †Mick Bainbridge

Requested by: Carol Bainbridge

Sunday - Dec 8th - 1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 am - †Gilbert Amador

Requested by: Lydia Inchaurregui

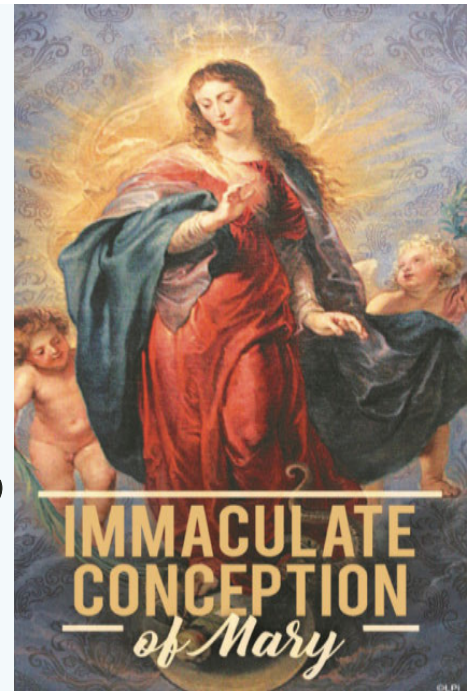
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASSES

**Monday,
December 9th**

**8:30 am
(with the School Children)
&
4:00 pm**

*Eucharistic Ministers:
Hilaire T., & Pam W.*



Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 7th at 4:00 pm

Lectors: Marybeth B.

Eucharistic Ministers: Pam W., Patty R., Marybeth B.

Server: Lucy K.

Sunday, December 8th at 10:00 am

Lectors: Celia F.

Eucharistic Ministers: Hilaire T., Dan L., Karen L.

Servers needed!

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1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OFFERTORY REPORT

FISCIAL YEAR (7/1/24-6/30/25)

AMOUNT BUDGETED WEEKLY..... \$5,779.00
 SUNDAY COLLECTION (11/10/2024) \$5,267.00
 7/1/2024 TO DATE +/- BUDGET..... + \$2,100.25

MY GIFT TO GOD REFLECTS HIS GENEROSITY TO ME

If you are unable to contribute, please submit your envelopes all the same as it is our most clear indication of active participation for Mass.



YEAR-END GIVING

This season of giving is a perfect time to express your gratitude for the blessings in your life by making a year-end gift to our parish. As you plan your charitable contributions for 2024, please know that we gratefully accept gifts of cash and appreciated assets, such as stocks and bonds.



THE 1ST WEEK OF ADVENT - 12/1 LIGHTING THE 1ST PURPLE CANDLE

Scripture Reflection: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Isaiah 9:2*

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.*



PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Gloria Badillo	Janet Baxter	Joanne Bilancini	Tim "Swampy" Burton	Lynn Coscho	Ann DiFrancesco
Jerry Donovan	Denise Ellis	Deacon Jose Flores	Norma Jean Flores	Scott Friges	Virginia Glass
Barbara Glick	Joe Gluvna	Brian Grace	Dan George	Renee Golowski	Carol Gonzales
D'Arie Gonzalez	Delores Gonzalez	Jose Gonzalez	Jose Gonzalez Jr.	Juan Gonzalez	Clara Hodorowski
Kevin Holley	Phyllis Holomuzki	Bob Humphrey	Jennifer Humphrey	Boston Lee Jackson	Iris Pearl Jackson
Al Jacobs	Devin Jarvis	Sylvia Johnston	Johnna Kuhar	Amanda Jacobs-Leadbetter	Deacon Luis Maldonado
Dean Martin III	Alan McCartney	Rita McConley	Sandra Merkly	Jen Mitterholzer	Frank Murphy
Mary Nazario	Luci Payne	Elizabeth Raddell	Emily Raddell	Joe Rizzo	Jack Tocchi
Audali Torres	Rosa Torres	Nanette Truffin	Peter Uies	Stacie Velasquez	Nick Vivens
Sherri Wedgeworth	Paul Winkler	Doris Zgola-Whitka			

Call the Parish Office if you would like to add someone to this list. Please notify us when to remove the name.

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Call the "Prayer Line" for immediate prayer requests,

Linda: 440-667-9050 from 9 am - 3 pm or Terri, 440-320-3272 from 3 - 9 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL

First Sunday of Advent

O Come let us adore Him in the Holy Eucharist.

Mary, Mother of our Savior prepare for Jesus a cradle in our hearts.

“Adoration is recognizing that Jesus is my Lord, that Jesus shows me the way to take, and that I will live well only if I know the road that Jesus points out and follow the path He shows me.

Therefore, adoration means saying: ‘Jesus I am yours. I will follow you in my life, I never want to lose this friendship, this communion with you.’

I could also say that adoration is essentially an embrace with Jesus in which I say to Him: ‘I am yours, and I ask you, please stay with me always!’

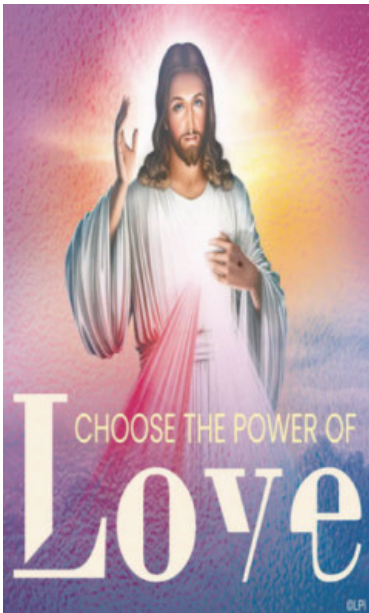
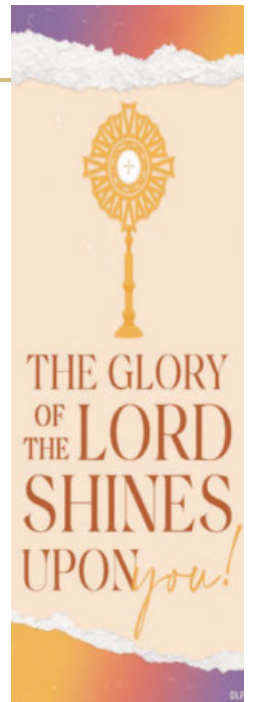
~Pope Benedict XVI

“If we were to sit for an hour a few feet away from a radioactive element, how much would that change affect us? The Lord is infinitely more powerful than this and if we go to Him seeking grace and mercy, how much more can we hope to be changed?”

~St. Faustina

“We must understand that in order ‘to do,’ we must first learn ‘to be,’ that is to say in the sweet company of Jesus in adoration.”

~St. John Paul II



DIVINE MERCY MEDITATION - PART 3: A WHOLE-BURNT OFFERING

But what the superiors will not manage to do, I Myself will accomplish directly in your soul. And in the most hidden depths of your soul, a perfect holocaust will be carried out, not just for a while, but know, My daughter, that this offering will last until your death (*Diary*, 923).

**The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

My Prayer Response:

Thank You, Jesus, for the promise that You will do what I cannot do.

May I live the total surrender to You that You promise to souls who desire to be a perfect holocaust for the salvation of souls. Amen.

Get daily mediations emailed to you at forms.thedivinemercy.org/dmdsignup/.

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

PRO-LIFE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK FROM [PROLIFECORNER.COM](https://www.prolifecorner.com)

Let us throw ourselves on the mercy of God, our Creator, & unceasingly ask Him for an end to abortion & euthanasia. Then & only then can we have peace in our hearts, in our families, & in the streets of America.

Think about this:

Life is like a snowflake. Just as every snowflake is different, every person is different and irreplaceable! We, as Americans, have allowed over 65,000,000 irreplaceable babies to be destroyed through abortion. Like the melting snow of springtime, our future generations are also disappearing.

Lord, let us not be cowards; give us the courage & wisdom necessary to stand up & fight the evil of abortion & euthanasia today. Amen!



MANY PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

upon the death of retired Diocese of Cleveland priest,
Rev. Neil O'Connor on November 14, 2024.

*May Fr. Neil's soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

LIFE IS CHANGED, NOT ENDED.



"LET'S GET ACQUAINTED" CARDS IN CHURCH PEWS

With the New Year approaching, we would like to take the opportunity to update your information in our systems. We are asking for ALL parishioners and visitors to complete a "Let's Get Acquainted" card. Cards can be found at the end of every pew. Please complete the card and place it in one of the designated drop boxes located at all exit doors. Thank you!

BE THE LIGHT: SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS

This annual holiday program is meant to help our needy School Families & Active Parishioner Families. We are asking for monetary donations that can be used to purchase gift cards to help these needy families. Donations can be made through the regular weekend collection this weekend or mailed to the Parish Office. Checks should include the memo line: *Be the Light*.

If you are a family that needs help, please call 440-288-1752 Ext. 222 and leave your name and phone number. You will be verified and then contacted. The cut off date will be Monday, December 2nd.

Thank you for considering a donation on behalf of our own struggling brothers and sisters. God Bless You!

MARIAN GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - 12/8

The Marian Guild's Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 8th, at the Lorain Senior Center on Garfield Boulevard after the 10:00 am Mass (approx. 11:15 am).

All ladies of the parish are more than welcome to join us! The cost for this luncheon is \$15. Chicken Paprikash, with all the fixings, will be on the menu, along with a delicious dessert and beverages.

In keeping with our theme for this year, "Alumni Speaker," Linda Schoenberger Howell will again entertain us, not only with her soulful and seasonal music, but also with an interesting program reflecting on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

For reservations, please send the coupon below with your check to:
The Marian Guild c/o St. Anthony Church, P.O. Box 2199, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054.

MARIAN GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

NAME _____

PHONE # _____ RSVP & CHECK ENCLOSED _____

Mail to: P.O. 2199, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054 with \$15 per RSVP

MARIAN GUILD HOLIDAY BAKE SALE - 12/14 & 12/15

The Marian Guild will be sponsoring their annual Holiday Bake Sale and Gift Basket Raffle after Mass on Saturday, December 14th & Sunday, December 15th in the main vestibule of the church.

If you would like to bake cookies for this event, we would greatly appreciate the donation! Please drop them off at the church on Friday, December 13th between 10 am and NOON. We will be glad to pick up if you are unable to bring them to the Church. Call Linda, 440-667-9050 to schedule a pick up.

As in the past there will be a tempting array of delicious homemade cookies and other small items for purchase, and of course, a 50/50 raffle. And in keeping with our past reputation, we will have lots of gift baskets filled with a variety of items: seasonal, sports, home goods and fun and unique things, just in time for the gift giving season!



MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE AT ST. TERESA - 12/17

Join us at St. Teresa of Avila Church on Tuesday, December 17th at 7 pm as we pray that unborn lives are saved and all life will be considered valuable. *Our prayers make a difference!* The Holy Hour will include Scripture, Litanies & the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you have any questions, call the church office at 440-934-4227.

Giving Tree Donations

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The students of the St. Anthony of Padua Little Trojans Pre-School class are asking for your support in living in the way of St. Nicholas. As we count our many blessings during the holiday season, we remember those who are less fortunate!

The Little Trojans Pre-School class is partnering with **Birthright of Lorain for the Giving Tree Program**. The students have decorated the Giving Trees with "angel ornaments" that list gift requests for underprivileged babies and children right her in Lorain.

Please consider choosing an ornament from one of the Giving Trees located in the Church vestibules of different price ranges to help a baby or child in need.

If you are not able to choose an angel ornament in person, there are some items that are always needed you can donate: *diapers of any size, pull-ups (sizes 3T-5T), baby wipes, children's underwear & socks (all sizes), baby wash & shampoo, baby washcloths & towels, cotton sleepers (sizes 0-3 & 3-6 months), fleece sleepers (sizes 0-18 months), outfits for all seasons (sizes 12 months-5T), receiving blankets, baby fleece blankets, baby sleep sacks (0-6 months) and books.*

Please **DO NOT WRAP** the gifts. **Instead use an open gift bag & attach the ornament tag. Gifts should be brought to the church by the weekend of December 14th & 15th and placed in front of the St. Anthony altar.** These gifts will then be delivered to the Lorain County Birthright & will be received by those in need this Christmas Season.

*The Little Trojans Pre-School students & Birthright sincerely than you for your generosity.
May God Bless our parish families of St. Anthony of Padua this Christmas Season!*

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