# **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**

# **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | DECEMBER 22, 2024**

# Fourth Sunday of BONERIT

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 ParishOffice@ StAnthonyLorain.com

MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 2199 Sheffield Lake, OH 44054

> **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

WEBSITE: WWW.STANTHONYLORAIN.ORG/OUR-PARISH

# **MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

Although we are getting very close to the great and awesome day of Christmas, the readings for today give us some of both the highs and the lows in the life of Jesus Christ which serve to remind us that, although we are celebrating the birth of our Divine Savior which is a "high," there is a darker side that we must not forget. Likewise, when celebrating the birth of a new baby, which often causes us to think of many cute images, this particular baby is "...destined to be the rise and fall of many in Israel." (See Luke 2:34-35)

The First Reading is taken from the Book of the Prophet Micah (5:1-4a). The message of this prophet, who lived about the 8th century BC, is dark and foreboding. He is chastising the rulers of his day because of their evil ways and all of Israel because they are not following the ways of the God of Israel. However, in this passage he gives them a ray of hope through this prophesy concerning the restoration of Israel and the coming of "...One who is to be ruler in Israel." This was to be a great honor for this little village, Bethlehem; but it was also to be the village where Herod had the little innocent babies slaughtered. (See Matt: 2:6 and 16)

**The Responsorial Psalm** (80:2-3, 15-19) is a prayer that the people of the Prophet Micah's time should have prayed and taken seriously. Unfortunately, it was written much later and by a different group of people who were in a desperate period of history and truly called upon the Father, the "Shepherd of Israel," to "come to save us and protect what your right hand has planted." What a different tone! In this psalm, the writer uses the term "Son of Man" which Jesus used to refer to Himself rather than "Son of God" which any first-born Jewish male could claim to be. At the end they ask for "new Life" which, of course, the Christ Child did eventually bring through His death and resurrection.

The Second Reading is taken from the Letter to the Hebrews (10:5-10). In this passage, the writer is saying that Jesus quoted from *Psalm 40:6-8* in referring to Himself as the Divine sin offering that needed to be offered, but only once for the forgiveness of all sin: past, current and future. He did it to fulfill the will of His Father on our behalf. In other words, the Father "...gave His only son that we might have life." In doing so, Jesus fulfilled the First covenant and established the New and Eternal Covenant. That is what we are celebrating at Christmas, the entry into this world of the "One who is to be ruler of the New Israel."

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel of Luke (1:39-45). On a much lighter side, in this passage we have the beautiful scene of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, coming to visit and help her relative, Elizabeth. These two women are destined for great joy and much sorrow; but at this point all they can think about is the birth of each of their babies but under very unique circumstances for each of them. Elizabeth realizes that Mary is blessed with the privilege of carrying the Lord within her; and Mary knows that Elizabeth's pregnancy is for a much higher purpose than either of them could know at this point. So, obviously, the two women must have celebrated their good fortune and put aside for another day the sorrow that was to come. So let us celebrate with Mary and Elizabeth and the whole world; but let us also keep in mind that Christmas, the birth of Christ, is not *"just for children."* It is the gift of the Father, for all humanity.

Keeping that in mind, what is <u>YOUR</u> gift to Him?

Rev. Edward J. Smith

DECEMBER 22, 2024 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

CONFESSION Saturday 3:00 pm or by appt.

#### **BAPTISM**

At least one parent must be a parishioner & actively attending 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 attending 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:** You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel. (*Mi 5:1*)

**PSALM:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (*Ps 80*)

**SECOND READING:** "Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God."" (Heb 10:7)

**GOSPEL:** "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43)

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DECEMBER 22, 2024

**Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

**Tuesday:** *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20

*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

**Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2 -3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

# DECEMBER

†Joan Wolbom Requested by: Marilyn Mercurio

Monday - Dec 23rd - St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:30 am - †The Brandt Family Requested by: Joanne Churchill

Tuesday - Dec 24th - Christmas Eve4:00 pm -†Jeanne ProvenzaRequested by: Loving Family

*Wednesday - Dec 25th - The Nativity of the Lord* 10:00 am - †Living & Deceased of the Parish

Saturday - Dec 28th - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 4:00 pm - †Dorthy Eiter Requested by: Loving Family

Requested by: Loving Fo

<u>Sunday - Dec 29th - The Holy Family</u> 10:00 am - †Deceased Members of the Luca & Stohla families Requested by: Marcie Downie

# HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

**<u>Christmas - Nativity of the Lord:</u>** 

Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm Wednesday, December 25th at 10:00 am





<u>New Year's - The Solemnity of Mary,</u> <u>The Holy Mother of God</u>:

Tuesday, December 31st at 4:00 pm Wednesday, January 1st at 10:00 am

Liturgical Ministers

<u>Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm</u> Eucharistic Ministers: Pam W., Joann T. Servers: Rose K., Jacob K., Ellie O.

<u>Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th at 10:00 am</u> Eucharistic Ministers: Patty R., Anna S.

Saturday, December 28th at 4:00 pm Lectors: Marybeth B. Eucharistic Ministers: Pam W., Patty R., Marybeth B. Server: Lucy K.

#### Sunday, December 29th at 10:00 am

*Lectors:* Celia F. *Eucharistic Ministers:* Hilaire T., Dan L., Karen L.

# **OFFERTORY REPORT**

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

AMOUNT BUDGETED WEEKLY	5,779.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION (12/1/2024)	6,148.00
7/1/2024 TO DATE +/(-) BUDGET + \$	

#### 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.

# **2024 CONTRIBUTIONS**

The cutoff date for 2024 Mass contributions is <u>Tuesday</u>, December 31, 2024.

All Mass Contributions made the last weekend, December 28th & 29th, will be recorded as a 2024 contribution. If you mail your envelopes, we will go by the postmark date. Any questions, please call Diana, 440-434-2068.



## THE 4TH WEEK OF ADVENT - 12/22 LIGHTING ALL 4 CANDLES

Scripture Reflection: "And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus,* may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. *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 Golowenski	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.* 

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

OURTH SUNDAT OF ADVENT

> The Lord has not forgotten us

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, LORAIN | DECEMBER 15, 2024 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# **ADORATION CHAPEL**

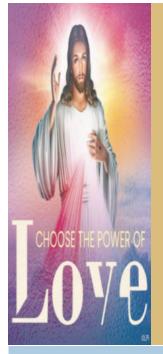
#### Merry Christmas, O Come Let Us Adore Him, our Eucharistic Savior

"In this midnight Mass...I shall see a crib on the altar and the sweet Babe with His two eyes filling with tears more precious than pearls. I will offer Him to God, His Father with His Mother's approval and will ask Him for you that He may ever be heart of your heart and the sole Beloved of your soul." ~St. Francis de Sales

The pangs of hunger, the parched thirst, the shivering cold, the damp wetness, the frightening darkness, the cry of the Babe in the manger of Bethlehem; in the manger of the Monstrance, in the manger of the Paten.

He says "Come to Me, It is really I. I can feed you, all of you, I can give you drink that you may never thirst again. I can warm the inner recesses of your soul. I can dry your tears and quell your fears. I can do anything and everything, I am who Am, your Lord and Savior and your Best Friend. I am the One who loves you, who died for you, who heals you, who binds you up and holds you in My arms. I am Wonderful, Counselor, Messiah, Christ the Lord. I desire to spend time with you. There are so many gifts that I yearn to give to you my dearest one. Come, come, come to Me." ~ The Christmas Yearning', Linda Bracy





# DIVINE MERCY MEDITATION -PART 2: CONVENTS & CHURCHES

How can they sit on the promised throne of judgment to judge the world, when their guilt is greater than the guilt of the world? There is neither penance nor atonement. O heart, which received Me in the morning and at noon are all ablaze with hatred against Me, hatred of all sorts! O heart specially chosen by Me, were you chosen for this, to give Me more pain? (*Diary*, 1702).

When I tried to intercede for them, I could find nothing with which to excuse them and, being at the time unable to think of anything in their defense, my heart was seized with pain, and I wept bitterly. Then the Lord looked at me kindly and comforted me with these words: Do not cry. There are still a great number of souls who love Me very much, but My Heart desires to be loved by all and, because My love is great, that is why I warn and chastise them (Diary, 1703). \*The words of Jesus appear in boldface type

#### My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, raise up many faithful people who love You with a great fervor! Set many hearts on fire! Amen.

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

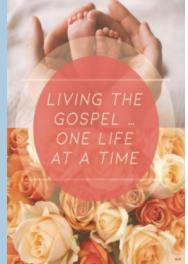
# PRO-LIFE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK FROM <u>PROLIFECORNER.COM</u>

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

#### Think about this:

Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years...Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.

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



# PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**Today the world celebrates one of the most important Holy Days and Holidays of the year.** For weeks, everyone has been looking forward to this day with all kinds of emotions ranging from high expectations to deep depression. Even our church is highly decorated, with more people attending than almost any other day; but rather than commenting on the individual readings for this great day, which everyone should already know, I would like to offer the following:

"Are you ready for Christmas?" is an often heard greeting these days and many of us will immediately think about the gifts we have forgotten to buy, or the cards we should have sent and didn't or the invitations that we had to turn down because of other conflicts; but are you really ready for the visit of the Christ Child?

#### Remember:

"C" is for Christ! Without Him there would be no reason to celebrate.
"H" is for Holy! Are we prepared to meet and greet the Holy One of God?
"R" is for Royalty! After all, He is the "King of kings and the Lord of Lords."
"I" is for Incarnation! God's becoming Man to show us the way back home.
"S" is for Savior! The gift He holds out to us is Eternal Salvation.
"T" is for Time! Have you taken the time to see what Gift Jesus wants from you?
"M" is for Mary! How could we celebrate a divine birth without a Holy Mother?
"A" is for Sacred! Let's keep this day holy, sacred, and sane.

Remember, God's gift to you is your life, your very being. Your gift to Him is what you do with it. Just something to think about during your prayer time this week!

# Merry Christmas, Everyone! ~ Rev. Edward J. Smith & Staff

# **CHRISTMAS HYMNS**

Join us in singing Christmas hymns from the Missal 25 minutes before both Christmas Masses.

Tuesday, December 24th at 3:35 pm & Wednesday, December 25th at 9:35 am.

"Let the word of Christ <u>dwell</u> in your richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish on another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." Col 3:16



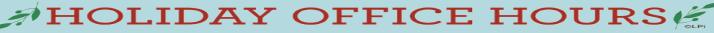
# **CALLING ALL CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - 12/24**

We are asking all children of the parish and school to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus!

On Tuesday, December 24th during the 4 pm Christmas Vigil Mass, we will have a procession with all our children. Please arrive at the main vestibule of the church by 3:50 pm to join us in the procession.

All the children will process up the aisle with Fr. Ken to the Nativity Manger where Baby Jesus will be placed and the manger will be blessed. When the blessing is over, the children will return to their seats with their families to enjoy the Christmas Service.

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS VIGIL SO SPECIAL!



School will be closed until Monday, January 6th, 2025. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 7th, 2025.

**The Parish Office & entire St. Anthony Campus will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th though Friday, December 27th for Christmas.** *We will reopen on Monday, December 30th for regular hours, 9 am - 2 pm.* 

We will then be closed for the New Year from Tuesday, December 31st through Friday, January 3rd, 2025. Everything will be open as normal on Monday, January 6th, 2025.

# **MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**



# "LET'S GET ACQUAINTED" CARDS IN PEWS

With the New Year approaching, we would like to take the opportunity to update your information in our systems. We are asking for <u>ALL</u> parishioners and visitors to complete a "*Let's Get Acquainted*" card in your pew. If you know someone who is homebound or in a care facility, please fill out a card for them or take one to them so they can complete it. Once your card is complete, place it in one of the designated drop boxes located at all exit doors. Thank you!

### MAKE A DONATION TO ST. ANTHONY'S



## BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit an article for an upcoming Bulletin, please send requests to <u>obermillerk@stanthonylorain.com</u> by Monday at 10 am.

Matthew A. Stempowski, DDS

Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

1936 Cooper Foster Park Rd. W Lorain, Ohio 44053

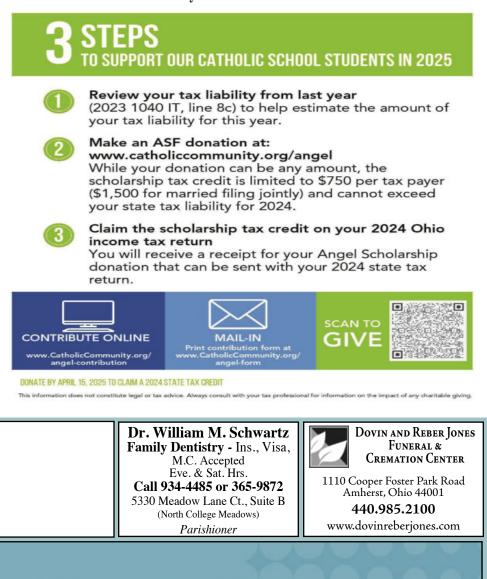
Phone: (440) 233-4155

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# **ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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