

Advent New Beginnings: Mercy and Conversion

Advent starts the new Liturgical Year and can be seen as another opportunity to spiritually begin anew. Holy Mother Church knows how many times we need to start again, because we are all sinners making a pilgrim journey that hopefully will bring us to Christ in His Kingdom. Therefore, there are particular themes in the Liturgy throughout Advent: a spirit of waiting, of conversion and joyful hope. These liturgical themes should inspire what we do within our families during Advent.

The Year of Mercy may have ended at the end of 2016, but truthfully, it was just a beginning. The attitude of conversion within the heart of a disciple should continue to grow every day. The parable of the Loving Father to his Prodigal Son was used often during the Year of Mercy as an example of a spirit of conversion, which also applies to beginning again in Advent. St. Josemaría Escrivá sums up this Advent theme of conversion and mercy:

“Human life is in some way a constant returning to our Father’s house. We return through contrition, through the conversion of heart which means a desire to change, a firm decision to improve our life and which, therefore, is expressed in sacrifice and self-giving. We return to our Father’s house by means of that sacrament of pardon in which, by confessing our sins, we put on Jesus Christ again and become his brothers, members of God’s family.

God is waiting for us, like the father in the parable, with open arms, even though we don’t deserve it. It doesn’t matter how great our debt is. Just like the prodigal son, all we have to do is

open our heart, to be homesick for our Father’s house, to wonder at and rejoice in the gift which God makes us of being able to call ourselves his children, of really being his children, even though our response to him has been so poor.” (*Christ is Passing By*, no. 64)

My favorite quote from St. Josemaría continues this thought (emphasis is mine):

“If you should stray from him for any reason, react with the humility that will lead you to begin again and again; **to play the role of the prodigal son every day**, and even repeatedly during the twenty-four hours of the same day...” (*Friends of God*, no. 214).

We are trying to live in Advent what we learned throughout the Year of Mercy. “Playing the role of the prodigal son” means pushing the restart button not just for this new liturgical year but every day, maybe even multiple times a day. The Advent season helps us hone this daily habit of conversion to keep us working for the ultimate purpose of our lives: eternity in our Father’s Heavenly Kingdom.

The Rev. Edward J. Smith

Cooked Pierogi Sale

Wednesday, November 22nd

10:00 am - 6:00 pm



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

Financial Updates

St Anthony of Padua is blessed in so many ways. This is evident in the many ministries, programs and events that take place here. It is most evident in you, the people of the Parish. You are the ones who give so willingly of your time, talent and treasure.

One of the greatest challenges we face is dealing with rising costs. In the last few years our Parish offertory has steadily decreased, therefore there is no question that our income needs to increase if we are to meet ongoing expenses. Although we do our very best to spend money wisely and monitor our spending carefully, there are many costs and obligations over which we have little control (insurance, diocesan assessment, building maintenance, elevator repair/upkeep, equipment repair, parking lot maintenance, payroll taxes, snow removal, heating & cooling, and utility costs).

The present economic situation is difficult for many. We are aware that a number of you are doing your best to give sacrificially to the Parish. However, we must also ask that those who can afford to increase their weekly offering do so for the continued financial security of the Parish. The weekly offertory collection is a vital source of income. We depend heavily on this collection to pay the ordinary expenses of the Parish.

You can assist in this important initiative in a couple of ways. First, a modest increase in your weekly donation will help us to meet our expenses, stabilize our finances and build a firm foundation for the future. Second, the regular use of Parish envelopes will help us maintain a regular cash flow. Many are unaware that the Parish pays for Parishioners to be able to use their envelopes.

Those who receive envelopes and don't use them squander Parish income. In addition to that, the use of your envelopes are the only way we can track your attendance at Mass. If you ever need a sponsor letter for a baptism or confirmation, the Pastor's signature is dependent on your attendance at Mass. The only way to judge this is through the use of your envelopes.

Please prayerfully consider what you are able to do to help in the growth of the Parish ministries and programs. If you find that you are not able to increase your weekly contribution at this time, please continue to assist the Parish as you can through your prayers and charitable acts. Thank you for your continued support of St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

SAVE THE DATE

"A Night in Paris"

Hosted by the St. Anthony School Endowment Committee

Saturday, March 3, 2018

At Chez Francois in Vermillion

*All monies raised will go to our
St. Anthony of Padua School Endowment Fund
for the purpose of operating and maintaining
our school for the future*



Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Church pay taxes or utilities?

Just like all businesses, the Church must pay payroll taxes for its employees. The amount varies depending on pay schedules, but each pay they are over \$1,500.00.

Just as at your house, the Church also must pay utilities. To give you an idea of what the utility bill looks like, for Church buildings in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the gas bill was \$6,316.99. The electric bill was \$11,754.06. The water bill was \$3,028.38.

I have heard the term “Parish Assessment”, what is it?

The Parish Assessment is the amount that a Parish must contribute to the Diocese each month in order to pay for Diocesan expenses (i.e. administrative expenses, programs, parish assistance, etc.). In a way, you can think of it as a tax the Diocese places on the Parishes in order to help fund it. The amount is calculated as a percentage of the yearly offertory collection. For a Parish with a school the Diocese takes 11.5%. For a Parish without a school, it is 16.5%. St. Anthony’s paid the Diocese \$28,368.00 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

What are some bills the Church pays that a Parishioner might not consider?

For the Fiscal Year 2016-2017:

- Catholic Magazine: \$503.00
 - Parishioner Envelopes: \$1,494.14
 - Missalettes & Hymnals: \$3,962.41
 - Replace approximately 50 slate tiles on Church roof: \$3,675.00
 - New LED Parking Lot Lighting: \$2,650.00
 - Snow Plowing: \$1,555.85
 - Lawn Maintenance: \$1,690.12
 - Trash Removal: \$834.97
 - Plumbing Repair: \$608.75
 - Heating/Air Repair/Maintenance: \$1,055.95
 - Candles: \$462.31
 - Property Insurance: \$14,654.20
 - Priest Retirement Fund: \$5,000.00 (\$10,000 expense shared with St Teresa)
- ***This is a required payment for all Parishes to assist sick and retired priests. Priests in the Diocese are not allowed to retire until the age of 75 or if there are serious medical issues that necessitate their early retirement.****



Thank You, LORD!

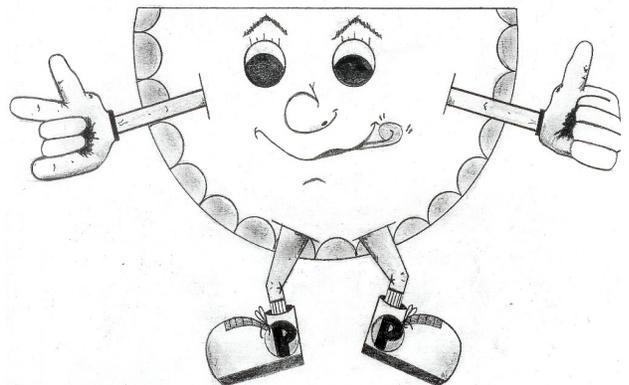
Pierogi News

During the 2017 Lenten Pierogi Sales, we profited over \$28,000. **WOW!!**

We couldn’t do it without everyone's help “pitching” in. This is a big source of income for the parish and we thank you for your continued support. We have Pierogi Production every Tuesday starting at 9 am. We would love for you to come down and help us.

Also, with Pierogi Production running throughout the year, we are now able to add in some additional sales that we never had before like the International Festival, 4th of July, and other holiday sales. For the first time, we will have a Cooked Pierogi Sale before Thanksgiving. These additional sales help us generate more income for the parish.

Thank you again for your continued support! We are truly blessed!



ST. ANTHONY
OF PADUA + LORAIN

PLEASE CALL TO PRE-ORDER!
440.934.4482

Pierogi Sale

NOVEMBER 22
10AM-6PM

Let us cook for you while
you are cooking for others
this Thanksgiving!

COST

Pierogi

Frozen \$7/dz Cooked \$8/dz

Cabbage & Noodles

Small \$3 Large \$6

Now Offering Macaroni & Cheese!

Small \$3 Large \$6

NEW!! Pierogi To Go Dinner

6 pierogi, cabbage & noodles
and macaroni & cheese
\$10

NEW!! Dessert Pierogi

Apple or Cherry
3/\$2 6/\$4 12/\$8



Advent & Christmas

The joyous Christmas Season is quickly approaching. **Advent** begins Sunday, December 3rd. As we prepare for the birth of our Savoir, there are many events and opportunities to get involved. *The giving trees are up!* There are many less fortunate that rely on our generosity with this program. All gifts should be returned by December 3rd.

The Annual School Christmas Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 pm in the Church. All are welcome to come hear the sounds of the Christmas Season from our band and school children.

All ladies of the parish are cordially invited to *the Annual Marian Guild Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 18th at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall.* Dinner will be prepared by Fligner's. You will be able to sample a variety of cakes for dessert. Entertainment by TruTec Dance Studio of Avon. Cost will be \$15. Look for more info in the bulletin.

Also, don't miss the *The Senior Sociables Christmas lunch on Thursday, December 21st.* It will be a great time to relax and enjoy each others company right before the business of Christmas .

Keep an eye on the bulletin and sign for these and many more events this Joyous Season. May the birth of Jesus our Savior bring joy and happiness to you and yours.



Merry Christmas

Holy Day of Obligation **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**



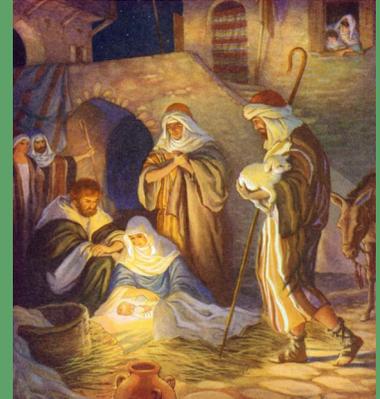
Thursday, 12/7
7 pm Vigil

Friday, 12/8
9:00 am

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve,
Sunday, 12/24
4 pm
8 pm

Christmas Day,
Monday, 12/25
10 am



Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year!

New Year's Day
Mass

Monday, 1/1/18
8:30 am



School News

I want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you have not had a chance to visit the school lately, you are really missing out! So many upgrades have taken place in the last few years. From new fire safety doors and air conditioning, to new courses to accelerated learning. All of our teachers create hands-on STEM lessons using Next Generation Science Standards. Students have even learned to use computer-aided design (CAD) programs to



Kindergarten showing the 303 pairs of socks they collected for the new St. Elizabeth Homeless Shelter!

create 3D objects, and then print their designs on our 3D printer!

January is a very important month at St. Anthony School! **We will begin enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year.** If you know any families interested in St. Anthony of Padua Parish School, spread the word. Our classroom spaces are very limited. Please have them contact the school's office to set up a tour at 440-288-2155. I hope this year is blessed and prosperous for all our St. Anthony families.

- Mr. Joseph M. Akasi

Catholic School's Week

Catholic School's Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Here at St. Anthony School, we will observe the week with Masses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, we will focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation. **In 2018, Catholic School's Week runs from January 29th through February 2nd.** Here is a look at the importance of each day:

Mon., January 29 - Celebrating Our Parish

Please help us kick off Catholic School's Week by attending Mass at 8:30 am as we come together with you to pray and live the Gospel message.

Tues., January 30 - Celebrating our Community

A central aspect of Catholic education is learning the importance of service to others. When students take part in service activities—both local and beyond—they demonstrate the values and faith they gain through their Catholic education and learn how to make the world a better place. Our service project will benefit the American Heart Association.

Wed., January 31 - Celebrating our Students

We celebrate students during National Catholic School's Week by planning enjoyable and meaningful activities for them and recognizing their accomplishments. This en-

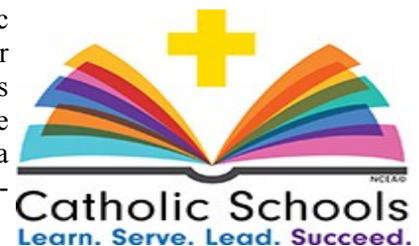
courages our students to reflect on the benefits of Catholic education and how the grounding in faith, knowledge and service it provides will help them throughout their lives. **Please join us to see our students' accomplishments at our Science, Art & Technology Fair 6 - 7 pm in the Social Hall.**

Thurs., February 1 - Celebrating our Nation

We thank our students, families, educators and other Catholic school supporters that communicate the value of Catholic education to government leaders by sharing information with these individuals on the significant contributions Catholic schools make to the nation and their role in preparing students to be good citizens. On this day students will dress in Red, White and Blue and honor one of these Community leaders.

Fri., February 2 - Celebrating Teachers, Staff, and Family

Teachers are the backbone of Catholic schools. On this day, schools honor teachers, as well as administrators and staff who support teachers in their important work, and thank the parents, grandparents, alumni, parishioners and those who provide volunteer service. What would our Catholic schools be without our students, their families and our Parish? We celebrate today with a Family Pizza Luncheon.



Breakwall Update

We have contracted with South-shore Dredge and Dock to reinforce the breakwall with 100 ton of stone. The work will be completed off of a barge from the lake, preventing any damage and/or wear to our parking lot, lawn, and bank from heavy machinery. We have scheduled the work to be done in conjunction with the work on the neighboring property to the west. By having the work completed at the same time, both properties will benefit from one continuous reinforced breakwall. Completing the work

as two separate projects would result in a weak point in the breakwall at the property line. Although the work has been contracted, not all of the necessary funds have been raised to date. This decision of scheduling now was due to gaining added strength to the breakwall and the overwhelming support for the project, demonstrated by your donations. We are still requesting donations toward the remaining balance for this breakwall project. Thank you to all who have made donations thus far.



200 Club Dinner April 14, 2018 Social Hall

Get your ticket today!
Only 200 will be sold!

Call Eddie at 440-670-3779,
Eric at 440-320-7902 or
Kim in the Parish Office at
440-288-0106.

Don't miss out!

What is 200 Club?

200 Club was started 40 years ago by the St. Anthony's Men's Club, and has become a tradition. We believe it is important to keep this tradition going. Twice a year, up to 200 tickets are sold as a fun way to raise money for the parish. All profits remain at St Anthony. The cost of a ticket is \$30 and that enters you in 33 raffle drawings and includes a dinner. \$1,950 is given away in prizes and no more that 200 raffle tickets will be sold. Those are fantastic odds, good food, and an evening of fun with a cash bar. At the catered dinner there are even more opportunities to win through tip boards, instants and other games of chance. Joining 200 Club is as simple as buying a ticket. You do not need to be present at the dinner to win any of the 33 drawings; however, you will miss out on the fun, so please join us!

Gift Cards

Our St. Anthony Gift Card Program is going strong. We thank the many of you that are coming in each month to purchase gift cards for your everyday purchases like groceries, gas, prescriptions and gifts. Each card purchased gives a percentage right back to St. Anthony's. We are very blessed by your continued support!

Get ready for Black Friday and Christmas Shopping or prepare for upcoming Holiday meals and help St. Anthony's at the same time.

We have 100's of gift cards in stock at the Parish Office.



We also have Gift Cards for airlines, hotels, Disney, car rentals, retail stores, restaurants, and so much more.

Stop in the Parish Office anytime Monday through Friday from 10 am to 2 pm, or call, 440-288-0106 for more details.

ST. ANTHONY

OF PADUA + LORAIN

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Fax: 440-288-0143

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Mark Your Calendars!

Wednesday, November 22nd - 10 am to 6 pm
Cooked Pierogi Sale
featuring our new Dessert Pierogi

November 22nd-24th
Parish & School Offices Closed
Happy Thanksgiving!

Saturday, December 2nd
First Saturday of the Month Dinner
after the 4 pm Mass

Sunday, December 3rd
First Week of Advent
Please return your Giving Tree Gifts

Friday, December 8th
Holy Day of Obligation
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 13th
School Christmas Concert
6:30 pm in the Church

Friday, December 15th
Last Day of School

Monday, December 18th
Marian Guild Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 21st
Senior Sociables Luncheon

December 25th-26th
Parish Office Closed
Merry Christmas!!

December 29th - January 1st, 2018
Parish Office Closed!
Happy New Year!



If you would like to receive this newsletter via email instead of mail, please send your email address to obermillerk@stanthonylorain.com.