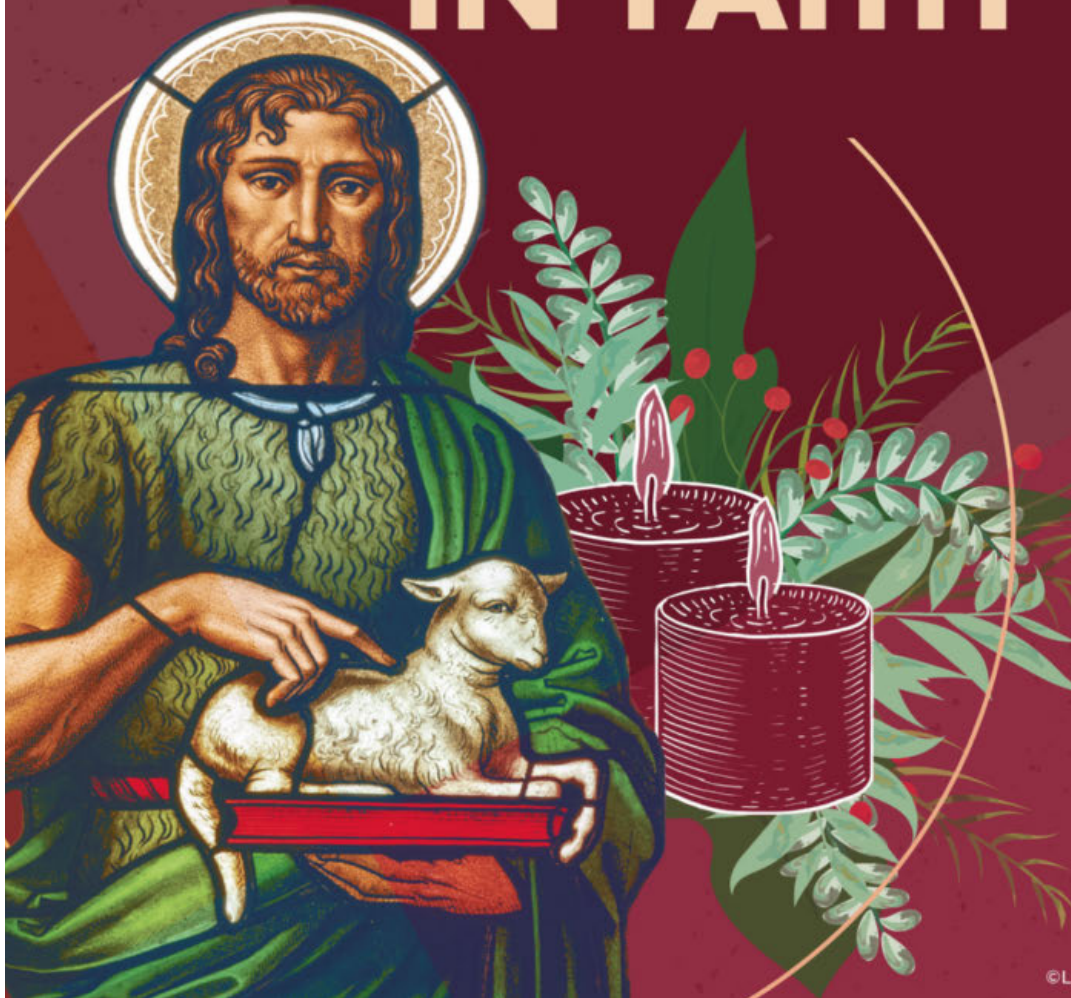


ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | DECEMBER 10, 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**HOLD ON
IN FAITH**



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

WEEKDAYS

Monday & Tuesday:

8:30 am

HOLY DAY MASSES

Consult the bulletin

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Lorain, OH 44052

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Fax: 440-288-0143

www.stanthonylorain.org

Monday-Friday:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL

Monday-Friday:

8 am - 3 pm

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Mondays 6:15-7:30pm

psr@stanthonylorain.com

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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www.stanthonylorain.org

Julio Alarcon, Principal
alarconj@stanthonylorain.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

On August 24, 1981, twelve children from Saranac Lake, led by two adults, began to descend from the crest of wooded Ampersand Mountain, which they had just climbed. Ten-year-old Kathryn Dekkers, the last in line, stopped for a minute to tie her shoestrings. When she tried to catch up with the strung-out party she unfortunately took the wrong turn of the trail. In moments she was lost in the depths of the great Adirondack Forest.

As soon as the leaders noticed that she was not with them, they wisely completed the trip and reported her missing. Everybody was deeply concerned. The last time a hiker had gone astray in that area was in 1896, and he had never been found.

Kathryn's father and brothers quickly assembled a search party of 200 to comb the woods. They fanned out from the trail and kept looking for three days. Finally, thanks to a hunch of one of the hunters in the posse they discovered the little wanderer. Kate was hungry and a little scratched-up but otherwise sound in body and mind. In fact, her only real fear was facing her mother. She had lost her socks and was afraid of a big scolding.

Now somebody might ask: Why should 200 people take three days off and go traipsing through the woods in search of one small child only ten years of age?

Anybody with a heart could answer. **All the living things of earth that God has created are precious. Most precious among his creatures is the human being, no matter how small. He made us lovingly in his own image and likeness. He made sparrows, too; but we are worth more to him, and to our fellow men, than many sparrows.**

"... Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care." (Isaiah, 40: 10-11. Today's first reading).

~Rev. Edward J. Smith

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DECEMBER 10, 2023

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
3rd 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 • ext. 248

Father Thomas Sanders, OSB,
Weekend Associate

Deacon Paul Heise

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nadyacole243@gmail.com

Altar Servers • Alan Brailer
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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion • Marybeth Brailer
ajmeakm@gmail.com

Ushers • Fran Stack
fstack@roadrunner.com

SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING: A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! (*Is 40:3*)

PSALM: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (*Ps 85*)

SECOND READING: We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (*1 Pt 1:13*)

GOSPEL: John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (*Mk 16:4*)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 10, 2023

Sunday: *Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8*

Monday: *Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26*

Tuesday: *Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47*

Wednesday: *Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30*

Thursday: *Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15*

Friday: *Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19*

Saturday: *Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13*

Next Sunday: *Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28*



Sunday - Dec. 10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 am - †Mick Bainbridge
Requested by: Carol Bainbridge

Monday - Dec. 11th - St. Damasus I, Pope

8:30 am - †For the Living & Deceased of the Parish

Tuesday - Dec. 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am - †For the Darabi & Sobocinski Families
Requested by: Michael Darby

Saturday - Dec. 16th - Sunday Vigil Mass

4:00 pm - †The Deceased Members of the Concheck Family
Requested by: Dan & Georgianna Concheck

Sunday - Dec. 17th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:00 am - †Sheila Strauser
Requested by: The John Strauser Family

4TH WEEK OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23 @ 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 24 @ 10:00 am

Christmas Holy Day

Nativity of the Lord:

Sunday, December 24 @ 4:00 pm

Monday, December 25 @ 10:00 am

To fulfill the Sunday obligation & the Christmas Holy Day obligation, you need to attend two Masses, one for Sunday, and one for Christmas.



Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 16th at 4:00 pm

Lector: Marybeth B.

Eucharistic Ministers: Pam W., Patty R.

Sunday, December 17th at 10:00 am

Lector: Celia F.

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

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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OFFERTORY REPORT

Amount Budgeted Weekly..... \$6,240.00
 Sunday Collection (11/19/2023)..... \$4,941.00
 7/1/2023 to Date +/- Budget..... - (\$4,227.53)

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.



2ND WEEK OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 10TH

Scripture Reflection:

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:4-7

Advent Wreath Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.



PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Gloria Badillo	Janet Baxter	Joanne Bilancini	Maryann Boylan	Tim "Swampy" Burton	Lynn Coscho
Pat Costello II	Ann DiFrancesco	Jerry Donovan	Anna Mae Ebinger	Denise Ellis	Deacon Jose Flores
Norma Jean Flores	Scott Friges	Bea Giacobbe	Virginia Glass	Barbara Glick	Brian Grace
Dan George	Renee Golowenski	D' Arie Gonzalez	Delores Gonzalez	Jose Gonzalez	Jose Gonzalez Jr.
Juan Gonzalez	Vicky Herrmann	Clara Hodorowski	Kevin Holley	Phyllis Holomuzki	Jennifer Humphrey
Baby Jackson	Al Jacobs	Devin Jarvis	Sylvia Johnston	Johnna Kuhar	Deacon Luis Maldonado
Dean Martin III	Rita McConley	Dolores Melley	Sandra Merkly	Jen Mitterholzer	Ellen Morgan
Mary Nazario	Luci Payne	Elizabeth Raddell	Emily Raddell	Joe Rizzo	Amy Schmidt
Patricia Smith	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

ADORATION CHAPEL

Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception. "Mary was made immaculate, conceived without any trace of sin because she was going to be the co-creator of the humanity of Christ. She was going to be, as God the Father was the Creator, the re-creator of the human race with Christ. She was going to be the tabernacle in which Christ would be conceived." ~John Cardinal O'Connor

"The woman clothed with the sun, bearing the Infant Savior, the Anointed, in her womb, appeared . . . in order that a chapel be built in which she might manifest the all-generous and never-failing merciful love of God for us, incarnate in her womb and alive for us in the Church, above all, in the Sacrament of the Real Presence, the Holy Eucharist . . . She inspired her sons and daughters to abandon the horror of human sacrifice and to respect the inviolable dignity of every man the Native American and European, so now she inspires us to be tireless disciples of the Gospel of Life working to end the horror of procuring abortion and so-called 'mercy killing.'" ~Cardinal Raymond Burke



St. John of the Cross, Carmelite Priest and Doctor, 1542-1591, was devoted to the Holy Eucharist that during Mass he was oblivious to everything else going on around him. His greatest consolation as superior was to have the cell closest to the chapel.



Divine Mercy Meditation - This Vale of Tears

When I met with the Lord, I said to Him, "You are fooling me, Jesus; You show me the open gate of heaven, and again You leave me on earth."

The Lord said to me, **When, in heaven, you see these present days, you will rejoice and will want to see as many of them as possible. I am not surprised, My daughter, that you cannot understand this now, because your heart is overflowing with pain and longing for Me. Your vigilance pleases Me. Let My word be enough for you; it will not be long now** (Diary, 1787).

**The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, I long to see Your face and rejoice in Your presence as I live in this vale of tears. Give me courage, Lord, to persevere in serving You until You call me home to be with You forever. Amen.

PRO-LIFE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK - VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKES & ABORTIONS

It is heartening to see so many countries and people worldwide opening their hearts and their pocketbooks to help the victims of terrible earthquakes. It shows that when a disaster strikes, we can come together to help our fellow man with love and compassion. It shows that some of us believe in the preciousness of life.

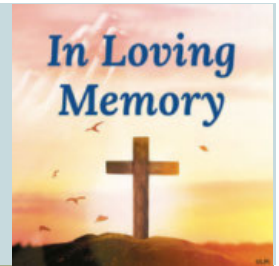
We even show compassion for beached whales and porpoises and are incensed about how animals are slaughtered by various means.

What I don't understand is our lack of compassion toward our own unborn babies! Millions have been killed by abortion. If the people who lost their lives in earthquakes had time to pray before they died, I believe it would have been to beg God for help - to let them live. If the babies in the womb could pray, they too would say "Let me live." But no, we turn a deaf ear to their cries and they are the most vulnerable of us all.

Abortion is the murder of innocent persons whatever the reason behind it. It is genocide of a terrible magnitude. It is an act of violence, an atrocity and has no place in civilized society. It seems even nature cannot stand the stench of the sin of abortion.

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

in memory of
Andy Butti
from *George & Terri George*



CALLING ALL CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

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

On Sunday, 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!

GIVING TREES - RETURN BY 12/13

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. *Please choose an ornament form one of the Giving Trees located in the Church vestibules. DO NOT WRAP the gifts. Please use an open gift bag & attach the ornament tag. If you forgot your gifts this weekend, please drop them off at the school office by Wednesday, December 13th.* The gifts will 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.

CHORAL SPECTRUM WINTER CONCERT - 12/15, 12/16 & 12/17

Choral Spectrum invites you to join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season with our winter concert: "A Merry Choral Spectrum Christmas." This concert will feature heartwarming & festive Christmas music that is sure to put you in the Holiday spirit! Performances are: **Friday, December 15th at 7:30 pm at St. Peter Parish in Lorain; Saturday, December 16th at 7:30 pm at St. Joseph Parish in Avon Lake; and Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 pm at St. Mary Parish in Sandusky.** The concerts are free & open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected. Choral Spectrum is an auditioned choir under the direction of Anthony Trifiletti.

Visit us at choralspectrum.org for more information!



MARIAN GUILD HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

The Marian Guild 3rd Annual Holiday Bake Sale and Gift Basket Raffle will be held on the weekend of Saturday, December 16th & Sunday, December 17th in the main vestibule of the church after both Masses.

If you would like to bake for the bake sale, you can drop your cookies off at the church on Fri., 12/15 or Sat., 12/16 from 10 am until Noon. Drop them off at the first door as you enter the driveway. If you need someone to pick up your cookies, call Linda, 440-667-9050.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE AT ST. TERESA - 12/19

All are invited to come pray before our Eucharistic Lord on **Tuesday, December 19th at 7 pm at St. Teresa of Avila Church.** The Holy Hour will include Scripture Reading, Litanies & the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Anthony of Padua Organ Fund

The sound of a beautiful organ elevates worship at a Mass like nothing else. The current organ was installed in 1979 and is experiencing increasing deterioration and inconsistencies. We have started an organ fund to replace and install a new Italian made digital pipe organ with new amplifiers and speaker cabinets.

The new organ will provide the sounds of a variety of pipe organs from across Europe and even some orchestral sounds. It will render reliability and longevity for future generations.



If you would like to contribute to this endeavor, please drop-off your donation at the parish office during regular hours or place your financial gift in an envelope marked "ORGAN FUND" and put it in the weekend collection basket. All donors will be recognized on a plaque unless they wish to remain anonymous.

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