

# ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | DECEMBER 14, 2025



## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

### 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  
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StAnthonyLorain.com](mailto: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  
[StAnthonyLorain.org](http://StAnthonyLorain.org)

Julio Alarcon, Principal

WEBSITE: [WWW.STANTHONYLORAIN.ORG/OUR-PARISH](http://WWW.STANTHONYLORAIN.ORG/OUR-PARISH)

# MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

The Readings for the Third Sunday in Advent refer to the eventual triumph of God over evil of all kinds. Our role in all of this is to do our part and then to be patient and wait for the Lord God to come and act on our behalf. This, as we all know, is difficult to do. How often have you said, or thought, or heard someone else say "Where was God when we needed Him?" in this or that situation? When life seems hopeless, we yearn for God to intervene; but we must also remember that "All things work together for those who wait and trust in the Lord." (Romans 8:28)

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-6a, 10), the prophet is describing the joy that will come over the people of Israel who have been patient and didn't give up hope while waiting for deliverance from captivity in Babylon. In the same way the faithful, who are waiting for deliverance from this life on earth to enter heaven, "we shall enter singing, crowned with everlasting joy."

In the Responsorial Psalm (146:6-10), the psalmist extols the goodness and generosity of God who, in His own good time, provides all the necessities of mankind. However, it is often difficult for us to see this during life's struggles. Therefore, we must constantly call upon God in prayer to renew our faith and grant us the virtues of hope and patience.

In the Second Reading from the Letter of St. James (5:7-10), we hear the apostle encourage his flock by advising them to be patient. This letter was written during a period of severe persecution when all seemed doomed; but James suggests that the people look to the prophets of old who were despised by their own people yet never gave up hope. Or consider Job, who lost everything; yet because of his faith and hope in God, he regained everything and more.

In the Gospel Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (11:2-11), we hear the familiar story of John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, who was in prison at this time. He must have been very discouraged knowing that his end was near. He sends friends to Jesus to learn if He, Jesus, is the "One who is to come?" This is another phrase meaning "Messiah." Jesus, rather than answering with a subjective or abstract "Yes," points out the things that He has accomplished---the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, deaf hear, etc. This must have encouraged John the Baptist because it was for just this very reason that he had worked so hard at preaching a baptism of repentance. Now he can rest in peace. But listen to the last sentence! It should cause one to sit up and take notice. Jesus says "...the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (John the Baptist).

Advent is a time of soul-searching and preparing, of waiting and hoping; but we should not let this be the only time we think about the "coming of the Lord." Each time we approach the altar to receive the Blessed Eucharist, we are approaching Jesus Christ. A prayer beforehand to prepare our mind and heart is very much in order and then, when we do receive Him, we will be greater than John the Baptist who never had the opportunity to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Something to think about during your Prayer Time this week.

*Rev. Edward J. Smith*

2

DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 3RD WEEK 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.

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

*Couples need to make arrangements at least 6 months in advance*

### 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

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 - Alan Brailer

## PARISH COUNCIL

Carol Jancsura

Joe Smith

Amy Rottman

David Zientarski

## SUNDAY READINGS

**FIRST READING:** Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee. (*Isa 35:10*)

**PSALM:** Lord, come and save us. (*Ps 146*)

**SECOND READING:** Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. (*Jas 5:7*)

**GOSPEL:** Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." (*Mt 11:4-5*)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.*



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 14, 2025

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

**Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



# ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

## Sunday - December 14th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

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

## Monday - December 15th - Advent Weekday Mass

8:30 am - †Nathan & Joseph Bublik  
*Requested by: St. Anthony Classmates*

## Tuesday - December 16th - Advent Weekday Mass

8:30 am - †Connie Malicki (Birthday)  
*Requested by: Linda Mathewson*

## Saturday - December 20th - 4th Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass

4:00 pm - †Steve Nemeth  
*Requested by: Stephen & Ed Nemeth*

## Sunday - December 21st - 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 am - †Ellie Shulsky-DiLuciano  
*Requested by: Our Faith Prayer Group*

## PRAYER FOR ADVENT - NEW GROWTH!

Dear God, Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates.  
Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts"  
and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted."  
You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. Amen.

## Calendar of **EVENTS**

### December 20th - Catholicism 101 - All Welcome!

Join Fr. Smith & Fr. Ken from 2-3 pm, prior to Confessions,  
Saturdays of Advent in the Church Meeting Room.  
*(See page 6 for more info.)*

### December 14th - Parish Events Team Meeting after Mass

### December 24th - Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 pm

All children are invited to join us at our Christmas Eve Mass.  
All children please meet in the main vestibule of the church at  
3:50 pm to process up with Father at the beginning of Mass.  
*A stocking stuffer will be given to each child in attendance.*

### December 25th - Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 am



## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, December 20th at 4:00 pm

*Lectors: Marybeth B.  
Eucharistic Ministers: Pam W., Patty R., Jessica S.*

### Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 am

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

**3**

# OFFERTORY REPORT

## NEW FISCIAL YEAR & BUDGET (7/1/25-6/30/26)

AMOUNT BUDGETED WEEKLY..... \$ 6,347.00  
 SUNDAY COLLECTION (11/16/2025) ..... \$ 4,732.00  
 7/1/2025 TO DATE +/- NEW BUDGET..... - (\$22,133.12)



Advent Week 3

### 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.*



## THE PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER

### DECEMBER 2025

### FOR CHRISTIANS IN AREAS OF CONFLICT

*Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope. Amen.*



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Gloria Badillo	Scott Barnes	Janet Baxter	Tim "Swampy" Burton	Pete Cetovich	Lynn Coscho
Ann DiFrancesco	Jerry Donovan	Dominic Doré	Denise Ellis	Diane Fate	Leonard Findish
Deacon Jose Flores	Norma Jean Flores	Scott Friges	Virginia Glass	Barbara Glick	Joe Gluvna
Brian Grace	Dan George	Renee Golowenski	Carol Gonzales	Jillian Gonzalez	Clara Hodorowski
Kevin Holley	Phyllis Holomuzki	Bob Humphrey	Jennifer Humphrey	Boston Lee Jackson	Iris Pearl Jackson
Al Jacobs	Sylvia Johnston	Johnna Kuhar	Tina Lascko	Amanda Jacobs-Leadbetter	Dean Martin III
Alan McCartney	Rita McConley	Sandra Merkly	Jen Mitterholzer	Father Christian Moore	Frank Murphy
Jim "Daddy-o" Naugle	Mary Nazario	Joan Paterniti	Raul, Maria & Leti Patino	Luci Payne	Elizabeth Raddell
Emily Raddell	Joe Rizzo	Judy Smith	Mother & Dad Spanos	Emily Stefan	Jace Tokarczyk
Nevaeh Torres	Peter Uies	Stacie Velasquez	Nick Vivens	Linda Vrbancic	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 or Terri, 440-320-3272**

# ADORATION CHAPEL

*Third Sunday of Advent: O Come Let Us Adore Him in the Holy Eucharist*

**St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, Consecrated Virgin, Patroness of Eye Patients, Italy (d. 304)**

**- Feast Day: December 13th**

St. Lucy shows us that we are called to not only receive the Holy Eucharist, but to offer our lives to Christ in return.

Saint Lucy was brutally tortured and her eyes gouged out for refusing to marry.

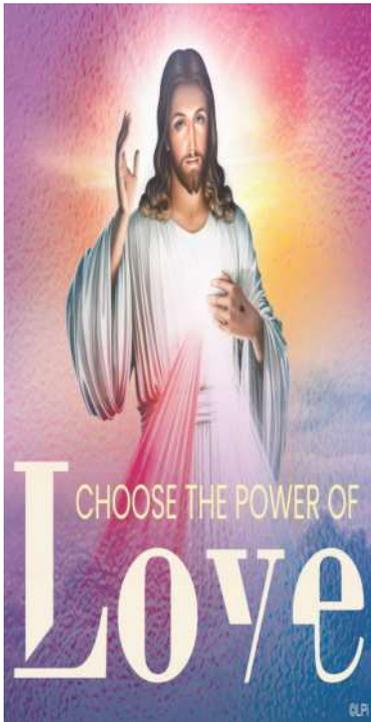
**St. John of the Cross, Carmelite Priest and Doctor, Spain (c. 1542-1591) -**

**Feast Day: December 14th**

*“Seventy-eight primary sources offered approximately one hundred seventy-five different testimonies, and twenty-six different passages from John’s works declaring that John of the Cross has a Eucharistic spirituality.*

*It can be stated with confidence and irrefutable certainty, and in John’s own words: the Mystical Doctor found his Eternal Bridegroom ‘within this living bread.’ “*

*~Dr. John D. Love*



## DIVINE MERCY MEDITATION - DAY OF MERCY

Today I heard the words: **In the Old Covenant I sent prophets wielding thunderbolts to My people. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world.**

**I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart. I use punishment when they themselves force Me to do so;**

**My hand is reluctant to take hold of the sword of justice.**

**Before the Day of Justice I am sending the Day of Mercy. I replied, “O my Jesus, speak to souls Yourself, because my words are insignificant” (Diary, 1588).**

*\*The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

### My Prayer Response:

Thank You, Jesus, for the “Day of Mercy” You announced to St. Faustina. As apostles of Divine Mercy, may we announce to the fearful people of the world Your mercy and Your desire to heal them and press them to Your Merciful Heart.

Get daily meditations emailed to you at [forms.thedivinemercy.org/dmdsignup/](http://forms.thedivinemercy.org/dmdsignup/).

## JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

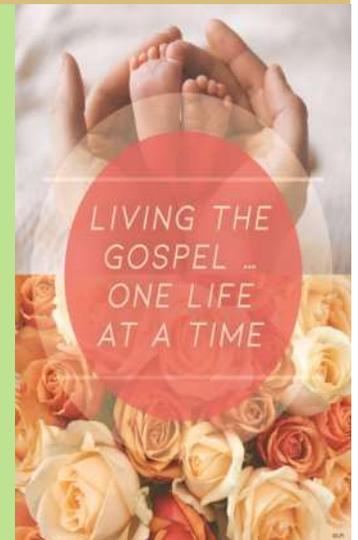
## PRO-LIFE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK FROM [PROLIFECORNER.COM](http://PROLIFECORNER.COM)

Even though Roe v Wade is no longer a federal law, we still face abortions every day. However, due to the individual states deciding their own abortion regulations, abortions have thankfully decreased somewhat. We must continue to work and pray diligently to end abortion in our nation and save God’s beautiful unborn babies. It is our hope that these quotes will inspire you to share them and to join pro-life. **Continue to pray to end abortion.**

### Think about this:

*“God’s love does not distinguish between the infant in the mother’s womb or the child or the youth or the adult or the older person. In each one God sees His image and likeness. Human life is a manifestation of God and His glory.” ~Pope Benedict XVI*

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



# ST. ANTHONY GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The season of giving just got more rewarding. *Scan the QR code to enroll now.*

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Find great gifting brands, use the holiday shopping list, and much more.

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OR SCAN THE CODE

## Giving Tree Donations

The students of the St. Anthony of Padua Pre-School class & Birthright of Lorain are thankful for your support in living in the way of St. Nicholas and supporting our Giving Tree Program.

Gifts should be returned to the church this weekend & placed in front of the St. Anthony altar.

If you forgot your donations, please bring them to the school office on Monday, December 15th. Please **DO NOT WRAP** the gifts. Instead use an open gift bag & attach the ornament tag. *Thank you for your generosity.*



## NOVEMBER SCHOOL UPDATES!

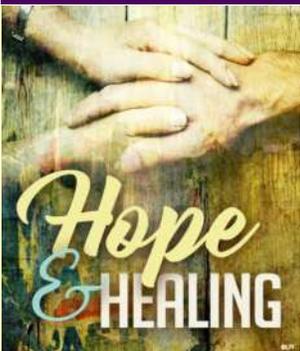
We began the month with our 1st Quarter Awards Ceremony, recognizing students for their hard work and achievements. During our food drive week, families generously contributed food & toiletry items to be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio. Our 4th graders enjoyed an enriching field trip to the Cleveland History Center, while our pre-school students launched their annual Giving Tree project, collecting items to be donated to Birthright of Lorain. The last day before Thanksgiving break, students attended an assembly where they learned about growth mindset through the NED show, a program that uses storytelling & yo-yo tricks to teach kids character-building lessons about Never giving up, Encouraging others, & Doing their best.



## ADVENT LESSONS: CATHOLICISM 101

During Saturdays of Advent, Fr. Smith & Fr. Ken will be offering a brief refresher on our faith entitled: **Catholicism 101** - covering topics ranging from Jesus, the Church, and the Sacraments.

The gatherings will take place from 2 - 3 pm, prior to Confessions, on the Saturdays of Advent. The last date is **December 20th** in the Church Meeting Room. *All parishioners are welcome to attend!*



## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - 12/21

Catholic Cemeteries Association walks with you along your grief journey.

Please join us at our **FREE** monthly grief support meetings on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Six convenient locations & a virtual meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

In a welcoming and supportive setting, find fellowship among others who share their experiences.

Our next meeting is **Sunday, December 21st at 3 pm for our in-person or 5 pm via Zoom.**

Please join us for an hour of listening, healing and finding comfort with others who understand.

For details, visit: <https://www.clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>.

You can view our local Grief Resources & our monthly Bereavement e-newsletter there as well.

For more information or questions, call Renee at 216-930-4866. *You are not alone.*

# PREPARE *the* Way

## CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

An Advent Retreat

Celebrate the season with us! As winter nights grow long, let's gather in joy and anticipation of the Light that fills our lives with hope. Join our community for prayer, reflection, and fellowship as we rejoice in Christ—past, present, and future—and prepare our hearts for His coming this Christmas.



Join Deacon Bill on Saturday, December 20th from 8:30 am to Noon in the Family Center. To register call the rectory at 440-366-5711.

## COMMUNAL PENCE SERVICE

St. Jude \* St. Mary \* St. Agnes

Join us at St. Jude Church for an Elyria Catholic Cluster Communal Penance Service

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00-6:00 PM

Many priests will be available to hear confessions.

St. Jude Church, 590 Poplar St., Elyria

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