

CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 25, 2022

Announced Masses

December 24th, Saturday,

4 PM Vigil Mass

Samson Fluck & Dennis O. Faik by Ben and Kathleen Johnson

Midnight Mass For Peace in our World

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25th,

9:00AM James V. Paolini by Roseann Paolini

11:15AM Gabriella F. M. Paolini by Roseann Paolini

Monday, December 26th, St. Stephen

9:00AM John Bretone, Sr.

Tuesday, December 27th,

9:00AM Baby John Sheridan

Wednesday, December 28th, Holy Innocents

9:00AM NO MASS

Thursday, December 29th,

9:00AM James & Macy Fay by Jane Fay

Friday, December 30th,

9:00AM Joseph & Patricia Muenzen Anna & Ron Meyer

Saturday, December 31st, New Years Eve

4:00 PM Annette Colabella by Jim and Nancy Rizzi

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25th

9 AM Franz Maier by Ron and Anna Meyer

11AM Vincent Donnelly by Jim and Nancy Rizzi

CANDLES for the Month of DECEMBER

For Andrew Kisela by Lucille Kisela

200 Club

#138 Rick Morgan

THE NEW MASS BOOK FOR 2023 IS OPEN

Special date that you would like to remember or have Mass said for? Reserve it now!

The perfect prayer is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Why not offer this most special prayer to someone living who is in need of special graces, or those who are deceased in need of special mercy. (Please fill out the form kept at the back of the Church and return it by Mail, or put it in the collection basket.) **The donation is \$15 for each Mass.**

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Jeanine Poth, Barbara & Vinny Donnelly and Mary Ann, Melita Braun, Betty Ford, Jane Fay, Abigail, David, Jennifer, Shane Kelsey, Anne Suppa, Michele Griesbaum, Lisa Donohue, James Valenti, Kathleen Quinn, Vincent Russo, Aliya Rachlin, Tara Byrne, Bob Einterz, Andrea Fedoruk, Nicky Castagna, Michael and Matthew Mclean, and Samantha. For Our Military Personnel: Vaughn Schlott, Ana Lucia Teran-Stasilli, Arianar Severf, Larry Weiss, Martin Kamen, Peggy Connolly, Mary Ann, Kimberly Chatfield, Isabella Marchese, Ira Glickler, Rose Infantino, Cathy Gerrard, Linda Bozza, Stephanie Freer Greyden Freer, Karen Fullone, Carol Scott, Eileen Hoynes Hope Traver, Louise Smith, Stephen Scognamiglio, Pam Kocher, Gabriella Francesca Maria Paolini, Janice Mutia, Rose Ann Donnadio, Steven & Kelly Spencer, Pastor Linda Bohs, Jeanne Boyar Arniery, Lee VanSaaders, , Grace Garufi, Joe Garufi, Cheryl Novak, Melaina Elms, Neil R. Stasilli III, Michael Jaszczak and Anthony Horecky.

CONTACT THE RECTORY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES NAMES TO BE ADDED IN PRAYER LIST

The Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle: be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

PRAYER UPON A MANGER SCENE

**God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary,
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy and love.**

**Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

from The Catholic Book of Blessings

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION @ OUR CHURCH

Our religious education program began on Thursday, November 17th. Classes are held from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the Parish Center. The grades being taught are from 2nd to 9th grade. If there are children needing to receive their sacraments, please contact Anna Meyer, our Coordinator.

TODAY'S READINGS (by Fr. RJB)

FIRST READING (from Mass During the Day)

Ah, to be restored to your best self—the time when you were at your personal pinnacle, perhaps socially, physically, spiritually and financially. Remember those days, then things happen and you slide down. Well, that was the feeling, but 100 times worse, for the people of Israel who lost everything and lived as slaves in a foreign country. Can you imagine their joy at having their former greatness restored?

SECOND READING (from the Mass at Midnight)

St. Paul in his letter to Titus speaks of the effects of Jesus' coming into the world. He came to save us by "training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires." During this Christmas Season we can take inventory of Jesus's training and how it has taken hold in our lives.

THE GOSPEL (from the Vigil Mass)

In today's gospel, we hear of the genealogy of St Joseph to show that he was descended from the house of David and showing that Jesus was of royal lineage. This was important for St. Matthew to show this in order to fulfill the Jewish expectation that the messiah would be related to King David. The other part of the gospel speaks about Joseph's dream and how he was instructed to take Mary as his wife. Do you follow your dreams? Do you allow your deep prayer experiences to change your life?

SUNDAY COLLECTION: December 18, \$1,774.00

WHAT A GREAT GIFT TO BE HERE AT ST ANTHONY...

What a great gift to be here at St. Anthony of Padua & St. Thomas Aquinas Church. It is my second Christmas with you and I feel so incredibly lucky to be here. I often think that if I had stayed retired, there would have been so much I would have missed in my life.

I would have missed meeting a dynamic and vibrant community that takes so much pride and ownership in their country church. So many people have donated their skills and talents to making this parish not only survive but, rather, really thrive. The unique thing that makes our parish buzz is our spirit of volunteerism.

So many people pitch in to help keep our place going. Our ushers, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans and lectors help make our liturgies run smoothly. We have a great blend of traditional church societies that keep us functioning on the spiritual and communal level. Our Knights of Columbus just hosted a wonderful dinner for our Christmas Pageant with joyful theatrical volunteers putting on a beautiful reenactment of The Visitation. Santa also made a special guest appearance and about 90 people had a glorious evening! Kudos to the director, actors and musical talent! What a show, what unity, what a step forward for our community!

We are not only blessed by the theatrical, we are equally helped by the practical. We have hard workers in our Food Pantry who help people supplement the food for their household. This is so important in the current economy where the price of food has increased so rapidly and dramatically—dare I mention the price of a dozen eggs?

Our worker bees also help so much in keeping our physical plant, that is, our building and grounds maintained and beautiful. They cut grass, shovel walks, build stairs, repair roofs, BBQ chicken, make baskets, shop at stores, decorate for the holidays and the list goes on and on.

Then there are the spiritual societies like the Rosary and Altar Cloth Society, our Men's Prayer Group and The A.A. group that meet here. All of these organizations help people in their spirits, and to round it out we are blessed by the educational component of our parish: our Religious Education Program for youngsters that is just getting restarted after Covid, and our Cardinal Egan Library that has a lot to offer in scriptural studies for our adults.

Put all these elements together, along with Eucharistic Adoration on first Fridays, and the ability to visit our Lord to pray when we need to because of our open doors, **AND WE HAVE ONE AMAZING CHURCH!**

The only thing we need to do is share our great church with others. People don't know what they are missing! This year let us go out of our way to ask people to be part of our very gifted and special Parish. In this way they can receive the blessings we receive by being part of our community. Thank you one and all for gifting my priesthood with your goodness, generosity and talent!

Merry Christmas with love & prayers,

Fr. Richard Bretone