



# ST. ANSELM

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

**CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY**



**December 3, 2023**

## **PARISH OFFICE**

Web Site: [stanselm.org](http://stanselm.org)  
email: [office@stanselm.org](mailto:office@stanselm.org)  
Phone: 440-729-9575

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## *FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

**"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,  
WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE  
I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."**

**—JEREMIAH 33:14**

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

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## **SCHOOL OFFICE**

Web Site: [stanselmschool.org](http://stanselmschool.org)  
email: [office@stanselmschool.org](mailto:office@stanselmschool.org)  
Phone: 440-729-7806

## **PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

Grades 1-8 440-729-9575  
[psroffice@stanselm.org](mailto:psroffice@stanselm.org)

## From the Desk of Fr. Chris

*"Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong." (Psalm 80: 15-16)*



Happy New Year! This weekend we begin Advent Week 1. Whilst it is a short liturgical season, Advent is a great time of preparation for all of us. Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season of anticipation. We anticipate the celebration of Christmas at the end of Advent and our waiting is marked by the lighting of a new Advent candle each week on our Advent wreath. Like preparing for a trip or an event, we also prepare ourselves for celebration of Christmas. This seems to be increasingly more difficult year after year as commercialism truly takes over this time. It is difficult to avoid advertisements and consumerism while also trying to prepare our homes for Christmas. As many of you heard me say this past weekend, the Church has become one of the few havens away from culture's attitude for this time of year. At Church, we get a chance to slow down, reflect, and communicate with God. Perhaps consider taking one of the Advent prayer book companions for you and your family this weekend. Let's make this Advent a time that we reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas story.

One of the upcoming opportunities for prayer will be happening this Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We'll have an Advent XLT – Eucharistic Adoration with communal music as our community's prayer. We last did an XLT in Lent, which attracted people of all ages. Consider joining me and many others. This Thursday we celebrate the vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 7pm and we have Mass the next morning at 8:30AM (Friday). Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation and a beautiful opportunity to enter more fully into the season of Advent. I look forward to praying with many of you at these extra prayer opportunities.

This year we're blessed to have had the help of many people to help us get ready for Advent. A special thank you to our parish staff and art & environment committee for brightening up our parish campus with beautiful decorations. This year we have additional trees not just in the Church, but also in the parish center. There are extra lights on the outside of the Church. And new for this year, a very generous parish family donated a new Church Nativity set! Thank you to so many of you! Also a special thank you to many of you who helped to augment our space by donating a nativity set for display in the Church Baptistry and hallway.

May God Bless You Abundantly,

Fr. Chris

## † FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9;  
Mk 13:33-37  
DECEMBER 3, 2023



### READINGS AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2023

**Monday, December 4, 2023 @ 8:30am ~ Ernest Zieknka**  
**St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**  
Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 8:30am ~ Madeleine Dautartas**  
Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023 @ 7pm ~ Barbara Zeolla**  
**St. Nicholas, Bishop**  
Is 25:6-10; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday, December 7, 2023 @ 8:30am ~ Marie Sabetta**  
**St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**  
**7:00pm Vigil ~ Natalie Fabe**  
Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday, December 8, 2023 @ 8:30am ~ People of St. Anselm Parish**  
**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 4pm ~ Francis & Catherine Fabian**

### READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8



### WEEKLY OFFERING THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**November 19, 2023**

**Offertory.....\$6,697.62**

**Online.....\$2,676.25**

**November 26, 2023**

**Offertory.....\$5,765.00**

**Online.....\$2,491.25**

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Please consider supporting our parish.





# Encounter Church

## The Advent Wreath

As Christmas draws nearer and Advent begins, a familiar household object that we see around this time is the Advent Wreath.

The Advent Wreath is more than simply a decoration; it is highly symbolic and purposeful. The actual origins of the Advent Wreath are unknown, but there is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic people using wreaths with lighted candles in the winter months as a sign of hope in the future of warmth and longer days.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

## Notes from Sister Noel

We are having an Advent Event for ages 4-7 who have been a part of our Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) each week. Our CLOW Program was redesigned after COVID open to age 4 to 9 year olds. It was my hope it would grow and in time split into a younger and older group.



It has grown. We range from 10-20 on a weekend. Mrs. Seel, a parishioner moving back to Geauga County, offered to start a Sunday School Program. We are experimenting on creating one for next year by checking out the interest level of children/parents.

Our **Advent Event** will focus on Advent Wreath (Dec.3), Annunciation (Dec. 10 ) and Nativity of Jesus (Dec. 17). The children will meet in our present Kindergarten Room which is right next to the south door of the school. Parents will be able to go to church for the 9:00 Mass. After Mass, they will return to pick up their child(ren) either to head home or to Coffee and Donuts.

Mrs. Smith, K teacher in St Anselm School, will be present along with one of our Catechists as well as our junior helper. We are excited to present the lessons for them. The older children or those who have not already registered will be with me on Dec. 3 at CLOW. CLOW will take place also the following 2 weeks of Advent at 9:00 Mass as usual.

Pictures will be taken. We will share later. A full hour session will be an adjustment for children but we hope that what we have planned will carry them through the hour.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> the Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors will gather for 11:00 Mass, Lunch and their 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in our Confirmation Preparation Program. The top is Jesus Christ. We look forward to our time together.

*Sister Noel Marra OSU*

## Confirmation Mini-Retreat

Sunday, December 3  
For Sponsors & Students



11:00 Mass,  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Presentation on Prayer  
2:00 Dismissal



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

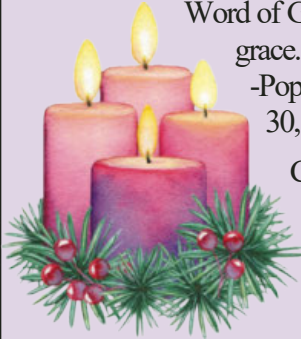
### Advent Praying with Scripture

**December 5 at 7 PM**

“The liturgical Season of Advent ... invites us to go to the encounter with the Lord who comes through prayer, penitence and works of charity. Prepare yourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus with assiduous listening to the Word of God and a generous response to his grace.”

-Pope Francis, Audience, November 30, 2022.

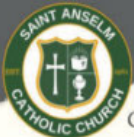
Come join us as we pray with scriptures of Advent to encounter Christ, His presence, and His grace in our lives in a deeper and more significant way.



### Youth Group Event: The Eucharist

**Friday, December 8th**

Join us for snacks/drinks and a discussion about the Eucharist from 5-6:30 PM in the Hospitality Room of the Parish Office. We will then move to the Church for XLT from 6:30-8PM.



Questions? Contact Brandon: [bbizzi@stanselm.org](mailto:bbizzi@stanselm.org)

Grades 6-8 from any school

**Calling all instrumentalists** - Do you play an instrument? Would you like to add to the beauty of our liturgies on Sundays and/or on Holy Days? All ages and skill levels are welcome! We are looking for musicians for Christmas, and for regular Sundays in general. Stop by after mass or email [kmccoll@stanselm.org](mailto:kmccoll@stanselm.org)

-Karen McColl, organist

**Children's Christmas Eve Choir** - The parish Children's Choir has been steadily growing this autumn. This winter is an excellent opportunity for newcomers to join us to sing Christmas carols at the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve. All ages welcome! Please contact Rosemary Heredos to sign up and receive the practice schedule at [rheredos@stanselm.org](mailto:rheredos@stanselm.org)

- Rosemary Heredos, Music Director



### Calendar of **EVENTS**

#### Sunday, December 3

\*\*\*NO COFFEE SOCIAL\*\*\*

9:00 a.m.	RCIA	
11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Retreat/Mass	Church
12:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Practice	Church
7:00 p.m.	PSR Grades 6 & 7	School
	<b>No PSR Grade 8</b>	

#### Tuesday, December 5

9:00 a.m.	Adoration	Church
11:30 a.m.	Benediction	Church
7:00 p.m.	Advent Praying with Scripture	Hospitality Rm.

#### Wednesday, December 6

7:30 p.m.	Anointing of the Sick	Church
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#### Thursday, December 7

6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Pentecost Rm.
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#### Friday, December 8

5:00 p.m.	Youth Group Mtg.	Hospitality Rm.
6:30 p.m.	Advent XLT	Church

#### Saturday, December 9

9:00 a.m.	PSR Grades 1-5	School
2:30 p.m.	Confession	Church

### 2023 Christmas Schedule

#### Christmas Eve - December 24th

4:00 p.m. in Church & Kelly Hall  
6:00 p.m. in Church

#### Christmas Day - December 25th

12 Midnight in Church  
9:00 a.m. in Church  
11:00 a.m. in Church



### The Saint Anselm Tolkien Society

The next meeting of the Saint Anselm Tolkien Society will be on Monday, December 11th from 7-8:30pm in the parish offices. We will be reading *The Tombs of Atuan*, by Ursula K. Le Guin. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please reach out at [sean.e.cogan@gmail.com](mailto:sean.e.cogan@gmail.com). Anyone is welcome to come and bring snacks or treats to share!





## Holiday Helps for the Divorced and Separated

*Divorced or Separated and struggling with the holidays?*

Join us for a special 3-week program for those having difficulty facing the holidays as a result of separation and divorce.

This program is intended to offer practical advice, support, and the skills to get through the holidays and move forward. It will help to identify and manage the emotions brought on by the stress of the holidays, provide encouragement to build new holiday traditions, and provide opportunities for growth. Attend one session, two or all three in the comfort of your home, thus avoiding the cold and bad weather.

We will meet Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm, on **December 12, and 19, 2023 and January 9, 2024 via Zoom.** To register or for more info: call Karen @ 440-352-8282 or email: [kjubeck@st-gabriel.org](mailto:kjubeck@st-gabriel.org)



Lake/Geauga  
Divorced & Separated  
Catholic Ministry

## Parish Advent Giving Tree

The Parish Advent Giving Tree will be in the baptistry starting the weekend of December 2 and 3. We are asking that gifts be returned by the weekend of December 16 and 17.



## Baptisms

**Sunday November 19th, 2023**

Sienna Elise Ramos  
Emilio Nathon Ramos  
Raelyn Irene Pocsics  
Lisa Catalona  
Leo Catalona

**Sunday November 26th, 2023**

Nicolas Michael Hackett  
Zuri Ophelia Gongola  
Nesta Robert Gongola



#weGIVECATHOLIC

Thank you  
for your  
support

Ages 18-39

## Young Adult Christmas Party

Join us for our very first St. Anselm  
Young Adult Ministry Meeting!

Wednesday, December 20th from 6-7:30PM  
in the Hospitality Room of the Parish Offices



We will be having pizza, Christmas goodies, and refreshments while playing board games - Feel free to bring a game and a snack to share!

Grades 6-8

YOU ARE INVITED  
TO OUR

Youth Group  
Christmas Party

DECEMBER

22

5:00PM TO  
6:30PM

Feel Free to Bring a Snack &  
Board Game to Share!

Hospitality Room, Parish Office

Questions? Contact: Brandon

(440) 729-9575 or [bbizzi@stanselm.org](mailto:bbizzi@stanselm.org)



## Eucharistic Adoration

**Tuesdays following  
8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Benediction at 11:30  
a.m.  
All Are Welcome!**



TAKE TIME TO PREPARE

## "PROMISES"

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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023**

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

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## Catholic Cemeteries Association

The Catholic Cemeteries Association offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings and Memorial events throughout the year. The next Grief Support meeting is Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for in-person support (at 6 locations), and 5:00pm for virtual support and the topic is "The Gift of God's Presence: You Never Walk Alone".

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

For more information or questions, call Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Cleveland's "Protecting God's Children" program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999 or email at [response\\_services@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org). You are also asked to immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior.

Articles for the **December 17<sup>th</sup>** bulletin must be received by **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Email to Rebecca at [bulletin@stanselm.org](mailto:bulletin@stanselm.org)

## The Fullness of Time

The **Franciscan Sisters, TOR** invite you to their Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at their Motherhouse in Toronto, OH.



SR. MARY GEMMA

The morning will include a talk by Sister Mary Gemma, T.O.R., Adoration and Mass. There will also be an opportunity for prayer ministry and small group discussion lead by the Sisters after the retreat. This year's theme: The Fullness of Time.

If unable to attend in person the event will also be Live Streamed. Virtual small groups are also available for those who sign up by Wed., Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

Registration for the retreat is encouraged beforehand on their website or by scanning the QR code. For more information and to register go to:

<https://www.franciscansisterstor.org/events/advent-retreat-2023>



## WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE SAINT ANSELM FAMILY

If you would like to be a member of our parish, please complete this form, and place it in the collection basket or send it to the parish office and someone from the parish will contact you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in the marriage annulment process. E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We beg you to have compassion on all those mentioned below. Amen**

U.S. Active Military U.S. Veterans Patricia Adamik Peter Amato David & LuAnn Anderson Mark Andres Tina Arnold Kevin Austin Daniel Ayala, Sr. George Bates Don Bear Agnes Blackley Julian Blaha Thomas Bolt Barb Borelle Nancy Boutellier Sally Bovineing Karen Bowlus Dancan Brickmann Bridgette Bright Fran & Charlie Brooks Charlene Brown James Buehner Haley Burgman Kellie Burt Bob Carlson Amy Caprez Children/St.Jude's Hosp.	Mark Chambers William Cierebiej Karen Cleland Tom Colitto Lenny Cosentino, Jr. Katie Cuthbert Giuseppe D'Alessandro Leslie (Hubbell) Davis Kathy Debevits Jackie DeCaro Joan DiCillo Nick DiCillo Dorothy DiLillo Ken DiLillo Doreen Dipple Chris Drost Debbie Edelman Mark Farley Greg Ferencz Gaston Fernandez Connie Fox Dorothy Fromhercz Kim Frost Ellen Gambrell Mike Ganim Barrett Gates Frank Gigliotti	Danny Gliha Jim Golias Jason Graham Gumto Family Robert & Geneva Hamilton Rose Hanois Deborah Hartshorn Susan Swan Heiss Jim Head Gail Herbert Adam Hess Steve Horvath Michael & Jeanette Hrisko Louis Hrusch Emily Hun Tiffany Hutchinson Incarcerated people Lynn Janovski Kay Johnson Mike Johnson Katie Kane Marval Kear Mike & Diane Keefe Lara Kitko Scott Kistler Dave Kluk William Knauer Cesira Koning	Jack Kotheimer Lucas Kovacs Brett Kratochvil Joseph Lanckiewicz Paula Lanese Patrick Lazar Anthony Leonard Chris Livers Lucchese Family Isabela Maiewski Lauren Makuh Jutta Manherz Michael Marinko Rosemary Mariola Joe Marotta Jim & Marilyn Martines Marcia Mayer Bill McNally Donald Mihelcic Eli Mihelcic John Monaco Lisa Morek Vincent Nastasi Laurie Novak Marilyn Novak	Kevin O'Brien Bobbie O'Connell Saul Obelenis Betty Omerza Lulu Pawlowski John Peck Deborah Penksa Carol Piper Kelly Pipiti George & Dee Pitko Tony Pizzino Carol Pongonis Abby Prikockis Carolyn Prikockis Jim Podojil Melissa Razayeski Marchia Razayeski Bill Reagan Kathleen Roddy Clare Ronnebaum Jack Roznik Mark Ruppe Joyce Russo Marc Sabransky Frank Sak Tina Sapanaro Jack Seem Willow Elizabeth Simpkins Becky Slusarz Frances Snitzky	Shawn Spenze Margherita Spina Ellie Spitz Clara Stenson Rosa Studniarz Beckham Thompson Amelia Tishaus Mike Topazio Don & MaryAnn Trask Anthony Trivisonno Cindy Trivisonno Sally & Bruce Turner Gordon Turske Christopher Tyers Barb Ulizzi Bob Velotta Kelly Boyd Viezer Sr. Denise Marie Vlana Larry Vlana Leona Vokas Becky Vura Kathy Wanamaker Frank & Jason Wardega Kelsey Watts Jackie Weller Cathleen Wilson Alex Wojowicz Bob Wright Sue Wrobel Ray Zeitz
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If you have requested a name to be added above for the Prayers for the Sick **and that person is no longer in need of these prayers**, please inform Kim in the Parish Office so she can remove the name. email: [bulletin@stanselm.org](mailto:bulletin@stanselm.org); phone: 440-729-9575



**Please remember in your daily prayers these individuals, who have been and are called to the priesthood.**

Sunday, Sunday, December 3 ~ Pray for All Parish Priests Seminarians at Borromeo/St. Mary Monday, December 4 ~ Daniel LaPolla Tuesday, December 5 ~ Bill Reed	Wednesday, December 6 ~ Joseph Rohan Thursday, December 7 ~ Joshua Stecz Friday, December 8 ~ Craig Ziobert Saturday, December 9 ~ Johannes Benninghoff
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