



Saint Anthony Church

15 Church Street

White River Jct. Vermont 05001

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2019

Father Charles R. Danielson, Pastor

Deacon John P. Guarino

Bishop of Burlington: Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne

Parish Office

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Closed on Wednesday

Secretary: Ms. Joanne Collins

Telephone: 802-295-2225, ext. 3

Office e-mail: Info@SaintAnthonyChurchWRJ.org

Website: www.stanthonyvt.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 PM

Sunday 8:30 AM

Weekday: Monday & Friday 9:00 AM

Holy Days: Consult the parish bulletin

Rectory Chapel

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Religious Education

Coordinator: Mrs. Julie Hamilton, 295-3989, juliehamilton130@comcast.net

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday from 3:15 – 3:45 PM

Baptism: Parents must come to the rectory to get the necessary forms at least one month in advance.

Marriage: Couples must contact the parish at least six months in advance.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 21 4:00 P.M. Lena Romano 24th anniversary by Herb & Patty Castellini
Sunday, December 22 8:30 A.M. The People of Saint Anthony Parish

Monday, December 23 9:00 A.M. **Gladys White** by daughter

*Christmas Eve,
Tuesday, December 24 4:00 P.M. All those in whose memory
Christmas flower offerings have been made
Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25 8:30 A.M. are remembered in the celebration
of these Christmas Masses*

Friday, December 27 No Daily Mass

Saturday, December 28 4:00 P.M. The People of Saint Anthony Parish
Sunday, December 29 8:30 A.M. Jeannette Albanese birthday remembrance by Pauline



Frank Klymn
Martha Brock
Catherine McKenney
Patrick Kendall
Theresa Lund
Dianne Hopkins
Liz Wheeler
Lorraine Drolet

Please also remember others who are in need of our prayers.

Names will be published in our bulletin for one month. If you would like to renew your prayer request after one month, please contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamps
will burn for:

Saint Anthony
Parishioners
& friends



Sacrificial Giving Report

To meet our expenses we need:	\$ 3,700.00
Offertory collection December 14-15:	\$ 3,698.00

**Thank You for Your Support
of Saint Anthony Church!**

Low Gluten Altar Bread: If you require a low gluten host for communion, come to the altar with the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The celebrant will give you the consecrated low gluten host from a separate paten.

At our celebration of joy for the birth of our Savior, let us keep in our prayers all those who grieve for deceased family members, especially those who mourn the loss of children.

Advent Reflections: Take a moment to visit our website where you will find Bishop Barron's daily Advent Reflections. Every-day meditations at your fingertips. Check it out!

Message from Fr. Rick:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“The Sign of Emmanuel”

The scriptures for this fourth and final Sunday of Advent (especially the first reading and the Gospel) are filled with hints, clues, if you will, of what is coming.

Or, more accurately, **who** is coming.

In a way no one saw coming, no one expected, God comes to be with His people to be with them as their Savior and Lord. Hence the names, rich with meaning Emmanuel “God with us.”

Jesus “God saves.”

Amid all the glitz and glitter, amid all the lights, the tinsel, the presents let us strive always to remember above all what all of it means:

God has come to save us!

Fr. Rick

Daily Mass This Week: Daily Mass will be offered as usual on Monday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m. There will be no daily Mass Friday, December 27.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Masses will be celebrated at St. Anthony Church Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, December 25 at 8:30 a.m. Incense will **not** be used during St. Anthony’s Christmas Masses this year.

Parish Office Hours: The parish office will be closed Christmas week, December 23-27. The chapel will also be closed. We will re-open Monday, December 30 at 11:00 AM. We wish you all a blessed Christmas!

First Reconciliation: The following young people of our parish recently received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation: *Bailey Ogden, Sophia Demers, Isabelle Demers, Delanee Newton, Douglas Kussius*. Let us keep them in our prayers as they continue their journey toward their First Eucharist in the spring.

PINS Thanks You: It is with great appreciation that I thank all of you who provided PINS gifts this year! Your tremendous generosity has helped to make a special Christmas for over 100 children whose families are impacted by child maltreatment. It is heartwarming to see your continued support of this program and it shows how strong our caring spirit is here at Saint Anthony Parish! Thank you for taking the time to shop and wrap your gifts so beautifully. May you all enjoy the Peace and Love that only this Holy Season can bring! - *Linda James, DCF-Family Services*



Christmas Flower Offerings: Our Christmas Masses are offered for all those in whose memory Christmas Flower Offerings have been made. A listing appears in this bulletin. Additional names will be included in our bulletin next weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

Knights Rosary: A Rosary will be prayed for The Blessing of the Holy Family for our Homes in the coming New Year. The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them in praying the rosary before the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Please meet forty-five minutes before each Mass in the pews nearest the tabernacle at the front of the church. The Rosary will be prayed at 3:15 p.m. Saturday, December 28 and 7:45 a.m. Sunday, December 29. We hope to end the Rosary so participants will have 15 minutes to reflect on the mysteries before Mass.”

Christmas Festival of Lights: Visit the display of Christmas Lights at La Salette Shrine, Route 4A, Enfield every evening through December 31st starting at 5:00 PM until 9 PM. Free admission; offerings gratefully accepted. ***Reconciliation opportunities*** Saturdays, 5:45-6:15 PM or upon request. ***Mass*** Saturdays at 6:30 PM. ***Religious Articles & Book Store*** open until 8:30 PM each night that the lights are on (closed December 25). Refreshments available in the cafeteria nightly until 8:30 PM (closed December 25). ***Nativity display***, over 450 creches, open daily 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM. ***The Cog Railroad*** is sponsoring a model train display for children and adults alike, set up on the upper level of the cafeteria by ***The Connecticut Valley Model Railroad Club***.

Impact of the Advent Appeal: Thanks to the generosity of parishioners throughout the state, 2000 adults and 1500 children were helped through the 2018 Advent Appeal and Emergency Aid Program. One of the recipients was a family with a four month old and a two year old. The parents were grateful for the support they received. *"This has been a very happy Christmas for us. Our hearts open just thinking about your gift. It gives our family hope and faith in our community. Thank you!"*

Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass: Will be celebrated Saturday, January 18, 2020, 9:30AM at St. Augustine Parish in Montpelier with Diocesan Vicar General, Monsignor John McDermott. Reception to follow. Vermont Right to Life will then sponsor a prayerful walk to the State House with program to follow inside.

Respect Life: “God's love is generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and forever. As humans made in God's image, we are called to imitate the eternal giving and receiving of love that is the Holy Trinity.” **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities**, *“Another Look at Contraception”*

Haven: Needed items this week are canned fruit, soup, fresh milk and shelf-stable milk, cheese, cream cheese, tuna and canned vegetables. Other needs include small bottles of hand sanitizer, toilet paper, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste and hand soap. Non-perishable items may be left in the basket at the top of the stairs. Thank you!

St. Anthony Parish would like to welcome all those who are visiting with us this weekend.





*Christmas Flower Offerings have been made
in memory of:*



*Rosina Forster
Deceased family members of the
James & Uliva families
Lou Simon
Chet & Hazel Miller
Jeff Hazelton
Ray Miller
Mike & Ray Courtemanche
Simon & Beaulieu Families
Ray Cherenzia
Landry & Scherer Families
Gray & Camp Families
Benjamin, Lena & David Smith
Joseph & Jeannette Albanese
Deceased members of the Claude
George, Sr. family
Deceased members of the George
Viens, Sr. family
Lou Simon
Malcolm & Frances Gibbs
Ruth & Bill Voorhis
Billy Klymn & Saul Solomon
Robert (Frog) Fournier
Randy Hurlbert
Wilbur & Lucy McAllister
Elizabeth Paradis
Francis Garand
John LaMountain
Marie & Warren Wurtz
Allen Wheeler
Delbert & Eleda Scribner
Bill & Ethel Bryfogle
Frank & Ann Simon
Jenna Carroll
Gerry Baker
Paul Maier
Edwin McKenney*

*Bud & Shirley Muzzey
Deceased members of the Montuori
family
William R. & Vivian Bement
Linda S. Bement
Kelley & Plante Family
Ossie Cumby
Edward Patriquin
Michael E. Cooney
John & Mary Howland
John & Theresa Moynihan
John & Erma Heavisides
Steve Heavisides
Dustin Calevro
Marcel Larose
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Larose
The McArthur Family
Remigio & Domingo Barcena
Diana Talania
Federico & Rebecca Denisa
Gerard & Isabelle Cormier & family
members
Morris & Eva Martin
Deceased family members of Norm &
Ann Campbell
the Jackson & Lambert Families
Pat & Charles Terry
Urban & Shirley Bates
Deceased members of Shaw Family
Roger & Rosanna Gillies
Cleon & Joyce Chapman
"Aunt" Maggie Scelza
Toni-Ann (T.A.G.) Gour
Ernie Gour
Richard Murphy
Ara Murphy
Phyllis Shambo*



*Christmas Flower Offerings have been made
in memory of:*



*Christian & Keanan Thompson
John Jarvis, Jr.
Albert & Lena Romano
Annette & Wendall Mayette
Pauli & Bob McCarthy
Richard McCarthy
William Pippin
Buster & Catherine Pippin
Pat, Betty & Terry Romano
Tina Romano
Robert Taylor
Olga Wronoski
Stanley Wronoski
William Wronoski
Jeanne Bender
Jack Bender
McKenney & Blanchard Families
Clarence & Elnora Smith
Elizabeth Belgarde
Winston & Marie DeCoste
Susan & Heith Lashway
Jaros & Emery Families
Angelo & Millie Penardi
Paul Penardi
Herb & Lucy Milman
Family & Friends of Tim & Nancy
Dyke
Deceased members of Curran &
Campbell families
Russel & Kathleen Voltz
Grove & Ruth Hamilton
Phil & Alice Junot
Patty Iannotti
Lefty Junot
William & Dorothy Coker
Leon & Opeal Couture
Florine M. Lucot*

*Paul, Karen, & Scott Rench
Deborah Reed
Norman Thibodeau, husband
Helen Parmenter, daughter
June Richardson, sister
Joe & Winnie Krontz
Dan & Dody Symancyk
Kathy Geratowski
Steve Geratowski
Sandy Geratowski
Greg Blood
Gladys Blood
Everett Cleveland
Gen Cleveland
Frederick & Muriel Gee
Wendy Fay Le Duc
Armand & Pauline Le Duc
Harold & Jackie Gour
Toni Ann Gour
Ernie & Sandy Gour
Maggie Scelza
Rev. Joseph Lagor
Rev. Forrest Rouelle
The Gour Family
The Scelza Family
Campbell Family
Lagor & Beaudoin family
Ralph Harkins
Pete Trottier
Ruth & Reginald Ploof
Arthur & Leda Trottier
Charles & Ada Ross
Irving & Julia Fountain*



NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 21–27, 2019

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

St. Joseph — in the face of mystery

At one point in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program each year I ask participants: “Is it possible to know God?” There is usually discussion and then concern that it is an impossible question to answer.

In truth, it is meant as a trick question. On one hand, God is a God of self-revelation. If you read the Scriptures, God gives messages to Abraham and his descendants. God speaks through the burning bush or in the pillar of cloud. God’s presence is proclaimed powerfully through the words of the prophets. God is not unknown.

On the other hand, some members of the group come to a different response: To truly know God would require each of us to be equal to God. Therefore, God cannot be fully known. As in any loving relationship, the depth of God’s being can never fully be fathomed.

At this point our conversation addresses questions about how to know God more fully and how to respond to the unknown part. I introduce God as mystery. A fully faithful life is lived in the mystery of God even as the faithful come to know God more and more.

As the Church contemplates the role of Joseph in the Nativity event, encountering mystery is a great place to start.

Matthew’s Gospel provides the image of Joseph facing crucial questions but ultimately entrusting himself to the plan of God, which he totally and completely cannot understand. By faith, however, he allows himself to be drawn into the tremendous mystery of Incarnation.

Encountering God as mystery admits that God is beyond human ability to know fully. Yet God as mystery invited Joseph to accept what was happening, namely the ultimate revelation of God, God as human!

The use of dreams in Matthew’s Gospel is a great way to convey God’s plan that intercepts human understanding. Joseph surrenders himself to the mystery. He does not understand but he trusts.

That leads to another aspect of this account, one of discernment. This is the process by which humans attempt to understand God’s will in their lives.

Over the years I have known many people who spend a great



amount of time “discerning” a big decision that must be made.

Often they go into overdrive trying to find out God’s plan for them regarding vocation choice, use of personal wealth or even how to vote. These can be major decisions, but the real process of discernment must start way before one is confronted with big decisions.

Discernment, simply stated, is an awareness of God already active in our lives each day. As such, people become conscious of their strengths and weaknesses.

It is not simply what someone wants to do but also what that person is called to do. If a person is faithful to prayer of listening and is surrounded by honest support, God’s plan becomes clear much more easily.

Joseph simply could not have decided to accept pregnant Mary because of a dream alone. There was a context for this, and that context was that Joseph was already, according to Scripture, a just and compassionate man.

He had already been allowing God to direct his life. In the New Testament he proclaims no great canticles as Mary did in Luke’s Gospel. Instead, there is quiet certitude and commitment.

In Joseph’s own prayer life, there likely already had been some sense of trust in the mystery of God. He was well versed in the Torah and would have known God to be both immanent and transcendent.

His experience would have included daily prayer and a great expectation of the promise of salvation. For this to unfold in his own married life would have been beyond comprehension, but not beyond his sense of God’s commitment to the Israelites.

All this leads us to the final meditation on Joseph and the Incarnation. Once he had accepted the power of this mystery, he had to face a life of great commitment. There would be challenges and misunderstandings (Lk 2:41-52), no doubt.

But in the face of all this, precisely because of his willingness to live in the mystery of God, his life became one of peacefulness and gentle humility. Those are gifts given to all who trust in the power of God working in their lives.

— **Father Herb Weber, Catholic News Service**

Father Weber is founding pastor of St. John XXIII Church in Perrysburg, Ohio. His weekly podcast can be found at 23.church.

Sunday, Dec 22, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Finding our place in Joseph's story

You had every intention of doing it. You'd thought it all out, weighed pros and cons, and made your decision. It was reasonable, practical. Family and friends were behind you all the way. But then something happened. A dream, a phone call, a look from a stranger on the bus—something that maybe wasn't even related to your decision, but it spoke to you. It said: Don't do that, do this instead. And all these years later, you can't even explain it to yourself. Only that you trusted your intuition, and you'd do the same thing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). *"Joseph her husband . . . decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream."*

Monday, Dec 23, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST

Rising above sin and division

Today is the memorial of John of Kanty. A 15th-century Polish scholar and priest, he was known for his simple lifestyle and generosity to the poor. He had enemies, however, who schemed to have him demoted from professor at the University of Krakow to parish priest (a job he felt unprepared for). It took him years to win over his flock, but eventually he did, and eventually he was reinstated as a professor. Sin and division within the church caused harm to John of Kanty, yet he persisted in living a good life. Take a moment to draw hope from people you know who persist in living generously and lovingly in today's imperfect church.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). *"O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: Come to save us, Lord our God!"*

Tuesday, Dec 24, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Light it up!

The longest night of the year took place on the winter solstice, December 21, and just a few days later, we await the coming of the Light of the World. Tonight the anticipation reaches its peak as people gather to celebrate—in some cases with very bright festivities indeed! Take Las Parrandas de Remedios, Cuba's famous fireworks festival on Christmas Eve. *Parranda* is a street party, and travel guides will tell you this is one not to miss. Make your own fireworks of joy—in your church, home, and heart—because your Savior is born.

TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). *"The dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness."*

Wednesday, Dec 25, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Hope is born!

Saint Augustine wrote these beautiful words describing the Incarnation of Jesus: "God so loved us that for our sakes he, through whom time was made, was made in time. Older by eternity than the world itself, he became younger in age than many of his servants in the world. God, who made man, was made man. He was given existence by a mother whom he

brought into existence. He was carried in hands which he formed; he was nursed at breasts which he filled. He cried like a baby in the manger in speechless infancy—this Word without which human eloquence is speechless." Let us rejoice in a God who loves to use what's small and meek to accomplish great things. Merry Christmas!

TODAY'S READINGS: Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"Let all the angels of God worship him."*

Thursday, Dec 26, 2019

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Let the children lead the way

In religious art, Saint Stephen, first martyr and one of the first seven deacons in the church, is pictured as a very young man. He must have taken to the new Christian faith in a big way, because despite his youth he was already said to be filled with the Holy Spirit and a miracle worker. Look around our world today. Once again we find deeply committed young people, not only animating the church through events such as World Youth Day, but taking the lead on many of the most pressing issues of global concern, such as climate change. Lend an ear to what young people in your life are saying—you may find some ageless wisdom there!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."*

Friday, Dec 27, 2019

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

Testify with your life

Sometimes a platoon of veterans will get together every five years, until their numbers dwindle to a few lone survivors. Or a group of college girlfriends will have an annual reunion—until one is left with no one else to reunite with. John the evangelist, a.k.a., the beloved disciple, was said to have outlived all the other apostles. Perhaps it felt lonely—or perhaps it drove him to spend every last day recounting and recording for posterity the incredible events that he witnessed firsthand. Keep your eyes open and pen at hand—God is at work in your own life and you are the living testament!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"We have seen it and testify to it."*

Saturday, Dec 28, 2019

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Children first

The Holy Innocents' only crime was that they were the same age as the baby Jesus. The local king, Herod, was a jealous man who had few scruples about killing people. When he heard that wise men from the east were en route to honor a newborn king, Herod was beside himself. He demanded that they tell him where he also could "honor" this baby king. When they ignored him, Herod did the unthinkable and ordered that all of Bethlehem's male babies and toddlers be put to death. Say a prayer today for the children of our world who have had their innocence robbed from them through war, grinding poverty, or abuse. Let their protection be our highest priority.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation: Rachel bewailing her children."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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