

# Saint Anthony Catholic Church

825 Klevin Street, Anchorage, AK 99508-2656

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Website - [www.stanthonyak.org](http://www.stanthonyak.org)

## First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

### Our Mission

To provide a safe place, equally inviting to all people – of all ages, races and cultures – to grow, share, develop and deepen our personal relationship with God and with our neighbors.



### Mass Schedule

Tuesdays - Fridays: 9 AM

Saturdays: 5:30 PM

Sundays: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:30 PM

Healing Mass - First Friday

Filipino Mass: Second Sunday, 5:30 PM

Native Mass: Third Saturday, 5:30 PM

Samoan Mass: Last Sunday, 10:30 AM

Youth Mass: Second Saturday, 5:30 PM

### Adoration

Fridays: 7-8 PM

### Reconciliation

Saturdays: 4-5 PM

### Baptism

Baptism Parents Class: First Sunday  
of month: 9:45 AM, Parish Office

### Marriage

Meet with Pastor at least six (6) months  
prior to wedding

### Funerals

Contact the Parish Office  
immediately after a death

### Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday By Appointment

### Parish Staff

#### Pastor

Father Vince Blanco  
[vblanco@stanthonyak.org](mailto:vblanco@stanthonyak.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

Mary Jo Cunniff  
[office@stanthonyak.org](mailto:office@stanthonyak.org)

#### RCIA Director / Bookkeeper

Darcy Steger  
[office@stanthonyak.org](mailto:office@stanthonyak.org)

#### Religious Education Director

Jill Popoalii  
[office@stanthonyak.org](mailto:office@stanthonyak.org)

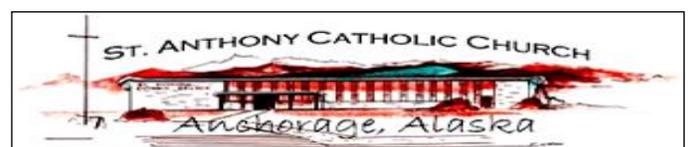
#### Facility Engineer

Jose "Mario" Alfaro

#### Bulletin Editor

Chris Dalsfoist  
[sapbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sapbulletin@gmail.com)

## All are welcome!



## Reflection for the Week

On this First Sunday of Advent, we celebrate the beginning of a new Liturgical Season in the Church. We now prepare to officially remember and give thanks for the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

This is no surprise to anyone. For some time now, all the stores and TV commercials have told us that Christmas is coming. But, of course, their focus is more on buying gifts rather than on adoration of the Christ Child. Those Three Wise Men had no idea the trend they would put into motion.

Our focus is on God's gift of the divine presence incarnate in Jesus. He was born of humble origins and destined to fulfill the promises made in the Hebrew scriptures, like the passage in today's First Reading. In today's Gospel Reading, Jesus talks of His second coming and tells us to be always vigilant and to pray.

So, Advent has a double meaning. We celebrate the birth of Christ, and we wait in hope for His return at the end of time.

As a child, I remember asking my father if he thought that the end of the world would come soon. He told me, "Do not worry about the end of the world, worry about when you die. That is the end of the world for you."

I have since learned that we are called to give an account of our life every day. In the Seminary, we had an evening exercise called "the examination of conscience." We were asked to review the activities of our day in light of the commandments. I still find this an excellent time to thank God for the day's blessings and ask for ways to improve.

God's incarnation, or presence in Jesus, is a beautiful mystery to contemplate at this time of the year. Jesus's experience of God, His unity with the Creator, is part of the message He wanted to share with all of us, not just in words but in our own experience. Jesus invites us to experience that oneness, that unity of spirit, He had with God.

He saw this divine spark in the people He met. It did not matter if they were male or female, Jew or Gentile; all have God in them and are worthy of love and respect. In India, Hindus greet each other with the expression "Namaste." I am told that means "the God in me greets the God in you." Advent is a time to celebrate in a particular way the God present in each of us. Celebrating Christmas is also a reminder of God's presence in each of us and in all of creation.

Maybe the stores and commercials have got it right to some extent. It is all about the gift; not what we buy for one another; rather how we acknowledge one another as gifts from God. We are called to give ourselves to others as Jesus has done and continues to do through us and all people of goodwill.

To be vigilant and to pray means to be aware of the gifts all around us and be that gift for others. So, with the Psalmist, we pray: "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me Your paths."

Father Rosendo Urrabazo, C.M.F.  
Claretian Provincial Superior, USA  
Province of the Claretian Missionaries  
Taken from usatholic.org

## Parish News and Events

Archbishop Andrew Bellisario, CM has **reinstated** the **obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation**. This obligation reinforces our need for essential celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which is "the source and summit of Christian Life" Thanks to be God. Please consult Father Vince, if you have any questions about the obligation to attend Mass.

Due to the current status of COVID-19 cases and for the safety and well-being of other Parishioners, **it is now mandatory that all attendees wear masks during the Mass.**

### Youth Calendar of Events

First Reconciliation Retreat, December 4  
Youth Mass, December 11, 5:30 PM  
Youth Christmas Play, December 17, 6 PM  
Youth Decoration of Christmas Trees,  
December 22/23, 6 PM  
Children's Christmas Mass, December 24, 6 PM

### Advent Events

Parish Reconciliation Services, December 7, 6 PM  
Immaculate Conception Mass, December 8, 10 AM  
Christmas Eve Mass, December 24, 9 PM  
Christmas Day Mass, December 25, 10 AM  
Holy Family Mass, December 25, 5:30 PM  
Holy Family Mass, December 26,  
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

**Significance of the Advent Wreath and Candles.** The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas Season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. 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 we find in Christ.

The Candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one is lit each Sunday. Three of the Candles are purple because the color violet is the liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and one is pink because it is the liturgical color for joy

The **First Candle**, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "**Prophecy Candle**" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

**Advent Candles, Wreaths, and Calendars** will be available **for sale** after all Masses starting this weekend in the Church vestibule.

The traditional **Angel Tree** will be set up with **Angels for Clare House, Brother Francis Shelter, Catholic Social Services - Refugee Program, and Covenant House.** Please take an angel home and return it to the Church before **Sunday, December 19.** All the collected gifts

will be delivered before Christmas Day. Thanks for your support.

With the onset of the new **2022 Liturgical Season**, Lectors can pick up their new **Lector Workbooks** at the Sacristy during the weekend Masses.

The **Saint Anthony Parish Council** will have an in-person meeting next **Sunday, December 5, Noon** at the **Parish Hall**. All are welcome to attend. Masks and social distancing are required.

The **Saint Anthony Knights of Columbus Council** will hold their **Regular Monthly Business Meeting**, next **Monday, December 6, 7 PM**, in the **Parish Hall**. The Meeting is preceded by a Rosary in the Sanctuary, 6:30 PM. All Knights are encouraged to attend.

**United in Mission Annual Catholic Appeal 2021.** Saint Anthony's Parish goal is **\$47,799.20**. Through **Week 28**, Saint Anthony Parish has pledged **\$47,399.20**, which is **99.16%** of our goal. Brochures and additional information are available on the tables at the Church Entry. Donations can also be made through the Archdiocese website, [www.aoaj.org/donate](http://www.aoaj.org/donate). Thank you for your support.

For those Parishioners who would like to continue **online giving**, here is the link to the online giving site - **Sign In | OSV Hub**.

The **Archdiocese Synod Committee** has provided additional information about the **Synodality 2021 - 2023** that Pope Francis initiated. The pamphlet contains information about the Synod, which includes the purpose, the process, and the theme is available at the tables in the back of the Church. The Parish Council will be holding several **Group Discussion Sessions** to discuss and provide information to the Archdiocese Working Group assigned to consolidate responses for the Archbishop. Bulletin announcements will be made regarding the scheduling of these group discussion sessions.

Help us **beautify our worship space** for **Christmas** by purchasing a poinsettia, or two, or even more! **Vouchers** will be **sold** following all the Masses during Advent for **\$15 each**. You may choose to pick up your poinsettia at Bell's Nursery for your personal enjoyment. If you choose to donate the plant to the Church in memory or honor of a loved one, we will label those plants with their names when we decorate the Church. This is a **Fundraiser for the Parish**. We have purchased a hundred (100) plants, but we need to sell at least sixty (60) vouchers to break even. We are also looking for **help in picking up the plants** at Bell's and **delivering them to the Church** the week before Christmas, as well as folks to **help decorate** for this **Blessed Season**. If you are available for any of these tasks, please contact **Annette Alleva, 907.441.9239**.

The **Knights of Columbus** are once again selling their **Pot' O' Gold Raffle Tickets!** Grand prize is **\$15,000 cash**, and there are **ten (10) prizes of \$1,000 cash** each. Only **4,000** tickets are sold. Tickets are **\$25** each. This

is a major Fundraiser for the Knights and Saint Anthony, where \$10 from every ticket sold comes back to our local Knight's Council. Proceeds are used by our Knights to support our Parish and many worthy projects and causes. See one of the Knights in the back of the Church for details or to purchase tickets.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program (RCIA)** meets every **Sunday, 9:30 AM** in the **Faith Formation Center**. Sessions focuses on Scripture, Prayer and Introduction to the Church's teachings and beliefs to prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter Season. **Darcy Steger** will be leading the Program this year. If you have any questions about RCIA, please contact **Darcy, [darcysteger@gmail.com](mailto:darcysteger@gmail.com)** or the **Parish Office**.

**Faith Formation.** Parents, we invite you to register and bring your children to Faith Formation. As parents, you are the first and primary religious educators of your children. Our Parish Faith Formation Programs are here to assist and support you in fulfilling your obligation to educate your children to love, know and serve the Lord. So please, register your children today. May you share the joy of the Gospel with your children, your life of faith.

There will be a **Recitation of the Rosary** in the **Chapel, Tuesday through Saturday Mornings, 8:30 AM**. All are welcome to come and pray. For details, please contact **John Nicely**.

**Do you have extra rosaries to share?** We would like to have some rosaries to give to those without when they ask, we frequently get requests. If you have any extra rosaries you are not using and would like to share them with others, please contact **John Nicely**.

**Catholic Social Services (CSS)** needs the following items: **hand warmers, winter gloves, laundry detergent, twin and queen comforters, and can openers**. The listing above are the needs of the following Programs - **Saint Francis Food Pantry, Homeless Family Services, and Supportive Family Services**. You can bring these items to the Main Office, 3710 E20<sup>th</sup>. Avenue.

**Clare House (CH)** needs a variety of different donations. Currently, **CH** needs the following items: **body soap, shampoo/conditioner, lotion, baby lotion, shampoo, wash, oil, diaper rash cream, baby bottles, pacifiers, bottle cleaners, kids-sized mittens and waterproof gloves**. **CH** provides a safe home environment for women and children in crisis, keeping the families together. Thank you for your support.

**Afghan Relief.** Our hearts are with all those who are affected by the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, people fleeing their homes. The **Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) Program** will be welcoming **50 - 100 Afghan evacuees** to Alaska. Some are already in Alaska and will continue to arrive through **March**. The Afghan evacuees have an **urgent need** for **small to large rugs, tables and chairs, tea kettles, ice cleats, and Costco packs of long johns for men, women, and children**. To find out how you can help, please visit [www.cssalaska.org/afghanrelief](http://www.cssalaska.org/afghanrelief) for additional details.

Liturgical Ministers - December 4/5	
Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday – 5:30 PM	
Melissa van Haastert	Carol Lyons
Sunday – 8:30 AM	
Annette Alleva	Norma Nickarz
Sunday – 10:30 AM	
Jon Agosti	Ulalia Tafune Jacinta Peters Darcy Steger
Sunday – 5:30 PM	
Victoria Rahm	Darrel Hess



**Readings for Next Week's Masses**  
**December 5, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**FIRST READING**  
 Book of the Prophet Baruch  
 Baruch 5:1 - 9 (6c)

**SECOND READING**  
 Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians  
 Philippians 1:4 - 6, 8-11

**GOSPEL**  
 The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke  
 Luke 3:1-6



Week at a Glance	
Tuesday	Creative Circle – 1 PM
Wednesday	<b><u>BULLETIN DEADLINE – 5 PM</u></b>
Thursday	Kateri Circle – 1 PM
Friday	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 7 PM
Saturday	Reconciliation - 4-5 PM Filipino Choir Practice - 5 PM Samoan Choir Practice - 7 PM



**Question of the Week**  
 Do we acknowledge one another  
 as gifts from God?

**Prayer List for Our Sick and Suffering**

If you have a name you wish to be added to the listing, please contact the **Parish Office** or send it to the **Bulletin Editor**, [sapbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sapbulletin@gmail.com).

Pray for our Sick and Suffering	
Anjie Aspiras Robert Beans Wes Bergsrud Robert Branch Daniel Brooks Neddie Canete Tess Copeland Nan Dietz Robert L. Edwards Ina Emmett Father Luz Flores Patricia Garrett Donna Gum Frank Javier Jerome Karella Erika Kelly Joshua Kutzgar Sam Kutzgar Alexine Leach Sophia Lee	Joyce Lightner Teresita Lolesio Darlene Lord Bobby Nickarz Christopher Nickarz Dee Olin Aurora Paiste Paul Palinski Mary Patania Augustine Randt-Reidell Amy Reidell Randy Ribble Loc Silvers Angie Sipin Josephine Skeete Josefina Torio Elizabeth Varee Richard Varee Marisa Villanueva Chris White

**Collection - November 20/21**

Offertory - \$3,648  
 Building and Maintenance - \$20  
 Holy Day - All Souls Day - \$5  
 Campaign for Human Development - \$325  
 PFD Appeal Offering - \$650  
 Thanksgiving Turkey Donations - \$629  
 Online Offering - \$1,495  
 Online Building Maintenance - \$100

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Are you new to Our Parish?**

Do you have questions about our Faith Community? Have you been attending Saint Anthony and would like to register as a member of our Parish? Do you need to update your contact information? Call the **Parish Office**, 907.333.5544 or via email [office@stanthonyak.org](mailto:office@stanthonyak.org).

**Would you like to receive the Bulletin by email?** You may not be aware that the Bulletin can be emailed directly to you or anyone with an interest every week. If you would like the current Bulletin in your inbox on a weekly basis, please contact the **Parish Office**. We will gladly add you to our Mailing List.

**The Saint Anthony Parish Hall and Conference Rooms are unavailable** until further notice. Please contact the **Parish Office** for details.