

What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:

To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace. Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

"The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

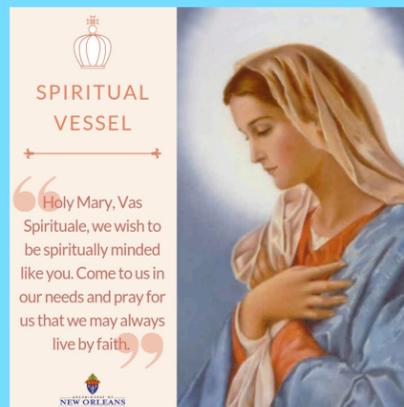
Does this mean Mary never sinned?

Yes. Because of the way redemption was applied to Mary at the moment of her conception, she not only was protected from contracting original sin but also personal sin. The Catechism explains:

The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (Panagia), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature". By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long. "Let it be done to me according to your word..."

How does this make Mary an icon of our own destiny?

Those who die in God's friendship and thus go to heaven will be freed from all sin and stain of sin. We will thus all be rendered "immaculate" (Latin, immaculatus = "stainless") if we remain faithful to God. Even in this life, God purifies us and trains us in holiness and, if we die in his friendship but imperfectly purified, he will purify us in purgatory and render us immaculate.



National Catholic Register

St. Anthony Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a Catholic Church Family, we respond to Christ's call, evangelize, and welcome all generations to the Holy Eucharist

MASS SCHEDULE

- Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m
- Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday Masses: 9:00a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- First Saturday Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tuesdays in St. Anthony Church Chapel following Mass and the rosary @ 8:00 a.m.

RCIA: Parish Hall - Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Confessions:

30 minutes before each of the Sunday Weekend Masses (Sat. 4pm Vigil, Sun. 9am and 11am) or by appointment.

Baptism:

Second Sunday of the month. The Seminar is the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the rectory for forms prior to seminar.

Marriage:

Please contact Fr. Jude six months prior to desired ceremony date.

Funeral:

Please contact Fr. Jude before final arrangements of funeral.

Anointing of the Sick:

Call the rectory in case of emergency.

C.C.D. Classes:

Grades K - 11 Tuesdays at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Parish Hall.

Ministry to the Sick and Shut In:

Parishioners unable to attend mass and receive communion, please call the rectory.

Second Sunday of Advent



The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
- Psalm 126



Advent

"In Advent we await an event which occurs in history and at the same time transcends it. As it does every year, this event will take place on the night of the Lord's Birth. The shepherds will hasten to the stable in Bethlehem; later the Magi will arrive from the East. Both the one and the other in a certain sense symbolize the entire human family. The exhortation that rings out in today's liturgy: 'Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord' spreads to all countries, to all continents, among every people and nation."

Pope Saint John Paul II



The Second Collection for the weekend of, **December 8th** will be for the **Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal**. Please, let's be reminded.

Mass Intention Envelopes are located for your convenience at the entrance of the church. The cost is \$5 per mass intention. Simply drop the envelope in the collection basket, mailbox or the office located at the parish hall.



Second Harvest Food Bank will be held on Friday, **December 19th**, at St. Anthony Parish Hall, 8:00a.m.

Reflection for 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C...

“...MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT”

In today’s Gospel, we hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness, urging us to “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” This is not just the voice of a prophet, but the voice of God Himself calling us to repentance, especially during this Advent season. Advent is a time for us to reflect on how we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. It is a call to spiritual renewal, a time to clear away the obstacles that prevent Christ from entering our lives fully. John the Baptist’s cry in the desert is directed at the very desert of our own hearts—desolate and barren due to sin. Sin makes our hearts like a desert, hostile to life and growth. Just as the desert is a harsh environment for plants and animals, so too is sin a harsh environment for our souls. It brings spiritual dryness, robbing us of peace, joy, and grace.

But the Good News is that God does not leave us in this wilderness. Just as the prophet Isaiah foretold in the first reading, God promises to restore His people. He will lead them out of captivity, filling in the valleys and leveling the mountains, to prepare a path for His coming. But first, He calls us to prepare ourselves—to repent and make straight the paths in our hearts. As we prepare for Christmas, we are reminded that Jesus is not coming to dwell in a physical house, but in our hearts. The question is: are we ready to make room for Him? Are we willing to clear out the obstacles of sin, pride, and selfishness that keep our hearts from being a worthy place for the Lord to dwell?

John the Baptist challenges us to make the crooked paths straight. This means we must fill the valleys of sin in our hearts with repentance and humility. We must bring low the mountains of pride in our hearts and make them humble. We must straighten the winding roads of our lives by embracing honesty, sincerity, and justice. And we must remove the rough ways of wickedness, hatred, and impatience, replacing them with the virtues of love, compassion, and kindness. If we fail to convert our hearts, the promised gift of salvation that Christ offers will remain out of reach. Conversion is essential. It’s not enough to simply wait for Christmas; we must prepare spiritually for the coming of the Lord by turning away from sin and embracing the new life Christ offers.

In today’s second reading, St. Paul prays for the Philippians, expressing his gratitude for their partnership in the gospel. He prays that their love may grow “...ever more and more...” and that they may be filled with the “...fruit of righteousness” (cf. Philippians 1:9-11). This is a prayer we can make for ourselves, too. It is only through love and the fruits of righteousness that our hearts are made pure and blameless before God. Love, which is the foundation of righteousness, is what makes us capable of receiving Christ. During this Advent, let us strive to increase in love and knowledge of God. Let us seek to bear fruit in our lives—fruit that is pleasing to God. This means living lives marked by justice, truth, and mercy. When we align our hearts with God’s will, we prepare ourselves for His coming and become instruments of His peace in the world.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch speaks to Israel, promising them that God will restore their fortunes. Despite their sin and exile, God is determined to bring them back into communion with Himself. This is the promise of Advent: that God, in His mercy, is leading us back to Himself, if we turn to Him in repentance. The Psalmist echoes this promise: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing" (Psalm 126:1-2). Just as God restored Israel, He is ready to restore us—if we make room for Him in our hearts.

God is always leading us back to Himself. The question is: are we ready to listen to His call? Are we willing to make the choice to give up our sins and open our hearts to His grace? As we await the coming of Christ at Christmas, let us surrender our hearts to Him. Let us ask Him to renew us, to give us the grace to acknowledge our sins, and to fill us with the gift of His divine life. In this Advent season, let us prepare the way of the Lord by allowing His love to transform us. As we reflect on the message of John the Baptist, let us remember that Advent is not only a time of waiting but a time of preparation. Let us make straight the paths of our hearts, so that Christ may enter and dwell within us. And let us look forward to the joy and rejoicing that will come when we welcome the Lord into our lives.

Reflection by:

Rev. Fr. Jude Ochuko Emunemu



STEWARDSHIP

We gratefully acknowledge all that God has given to us. In gratitude, we have returned to Him.

Collections for November 30th & December 1st

1st Collection	2nd Collection
\$ 1,463.30	\$ 702.27

Children’s Collection \$ 31.00

Online Giving \$ 640.00

Online Giving Rebuilding Fund \$ 33.00

Thanksgiving Day Collections \$ 414.24

Total Weekly Offering \$ 2,869.57

MASS ATTENDANCE

4:00pm	9:00am	11:00am
30	60	52

ST. ANTHONY	ST. PIUS X
Electric Bill (Nov.)	Electric Bill (Nov.)
\$ 1,884.87	\$ 143.97



Sanctuary Lamps are in memory of

Caleb Favalaro



PARISH EVENTS

DECEMBER 19TH (FRIDAY)

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

ST. ANTHONY PARISH HALL 8:00A.M.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Parishioners and Father John Ryan, Caleb Favalaro, Simon Hingle, Belvina Kuhn Bundy, Roy Rogers, Arthur Matherne, Clavin Wade, Jr., Marie Sevin, Shirley Prestenbach, Eddie Sapia, Jr., Bobby Hale, Jr., Madeline Rojas, Theresa Wiseman, Raymond Griffin, Sr., Shelby Deselle, Joseph Rogers, Jr., Allyn Rogers, Evan Whipple, Nick Dinet, Jerry Lynch, Keith “Ike” Madison, Judith Ann Verdin, Dwight Rudolph, Faye Rae Guidry, Dale Boudreaux McWhorter, Edward Cantrelle, Sr. Lloyd Kraemer, Sr. Rosebud Kraemer, Gareth Ross Leblanc, Sr., Earline Perrin, and Martha Pizani.

MASS INTENTIONS

4:00 p.m.	Faye Ray Guidry Chris Dufrene, Jr. Tommy Robeaux, Jr. Teddy Johanson, Jr. Ulrick Johanson Caleb Favalaro Erline Cheramie Perrin Martha Pizani Most Abandoned Souls in Purgatory
9:00 a.m.	Angelina LeBlanc Steven Hymel Calvin Wade, Jr. Earline Cheramie Perrin Tommy Ory, Jr. Ms. Flossy Wildy All Souls in Purgatory Especially our Deceased Members Conversion of Family and Friends Repose Souls of Unborn Babies
11:00 a.m.	All Parishioners

