

St. Anthony of Padua Founded 1909

900 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042

Rev. Stanley M. Moczydlowski, M.B.A., M.Div., Pastor
Deacon Charles A. DeBellis
Deacon Kenneth Weiland

PARISH OFFICE & RECTORY

Rectory Office Hours:

Fax Number:

Email:

Website:

Notre Dame High School:

Angelic Sisters of St. Paul:

Diocese of Allentown:

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sister Meg Cole S.S.J., M.S., LMFT

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Friday Closed

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(610) 332-0442 ext. 19

SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY AND DEVOTIONS

Masses: Saturday: 4:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - 6:30pm

Tuesday - Thursday - 8:00am

ADORATION - Monday evening following the 6:30 pm Mass until 7:30 pm in St. Anthony's Church

RECONCILIATION: Saturday - 3:00pm - 3:50pm
or anytime by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE - Arrangements should be made with the pastor one year prior to the wedding.

Holy Eucharist will be brought to the seriously ill and aged monthly and Sundays by a Special Minister of the Eucharist, if requested. Please call the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month. Parents should be attending Mass regularly and are expected to attend a pre-baptism class. Classes are held the last Sunday of each month in the Parish Center. Sponsor certificates must be received by the parish center before the Baptism is scheduled. Contact the Parish Center to register.

Parish Registration: New members are always welcome. Please call or stop by the Parish Center to register.

Change of Address and Phone Numbers or Parish Departures - Please notify the parish secretary so our records can be updated.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Jeremiah 23 Matthew 1	5-8 18-25
Tuesday	Judges 13 Luke 1	2-7, 24-25a 5-25
Wednesday	Isaiah 7 Luke 1	10-14 26-38
Thursday	Song of Songs 2 Luke 1	8-14 39-45
Friday	1 Samuel 1 Luke 1	24-28 46-56
Saturday	Malachi 3 Luke 1	1-4, 23-24 57-66
Sunday	2 Samuel 7 Romans 16 Luke 1	1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 25-27 26-38

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Budgeted Sunday Offering	\$ 7,000.00
Offering for Sunday, December 10th	\$ 6,526.00
24 Week Average	\$ 6,767.72

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17TH

SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLE
In loving memory of **Cirino Triscari** requested by wife **Angela** and Children

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE
In loving memory of **Virginia Roscioli** requested by **Jim** and Family

ST. JOSEPH CANDLE
In loving memory of **Aki Kubo** requested by daughter **Yuki DeFrancesco** and Family

ST. ANTHONY CANDLE
In loving memory of **Adeline and Jack Gregorio** requested by daughter **Marilyn Prekopa**

ST. JUDE CANDLE
In loving memory of **Ignazio Franco** requested by wife **Marian**

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE (GROTTO)
In loving memory of **Cirino Triscari** requested by wife **Angela**

PARISH CENTER OFFICES

In observance of Christmas, the Parish Center will be closed **Thursday, December 21st and Friday, December 22nd.**

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR PRIESTS

This week we pray for the following: *Rev. Anthony Nyari, AJ, Very Rev. Bernard F. O'Connor, OSFS, Rev. Msgr. Edward J. O'Connor, Rev. John M. O'Neill, OSFS, Rev. Richard O. O'Nyamwaro, AJ, Rev. Cletus S. Onyegbule, Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Orsulak, Rev. Luigi Palmieri, Rev. Marian Paskowicz*



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 18	8:00 AM	Parish Center
Francesco LaDuca		
Tuesday, December 19	8:00 AM	Parish Center
Connie Drago		
Wednesday, December 20	8:00 AM	Parish Center
Aki Kubo		
Thursday, December 21	8:00 AM	Parish Center
<i>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>		
Millie and Dominick Murgia		
Friday, December 22	No Scheduled Liturgies	
Saturday, December 23	4:00 PM	Church
Vincent Nicolosi, First Anniversary People of the Parish		
Sunday, December 24	8:00 AM	Church
Lucille and Ralph Henshaw		
	10:30 AM	Church
Melina Gerbino		

Sunday, 24th Christmas Eve Masses

People of the Parish	4:00 PM	Church
People of the Parish	6:30 PM	Church
People of the Parish	10:00 PM	Church

Monday, 25th Christmas Day Mass

People of the Parish	9:00 AM	Church
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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday	December 23	4:00 PM	
Sacristan	J. Kavcak		
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Nicolosi	J. Schinstine	M. Miller
Lector	J. Piagesi		
Servers	K. Flavelle	H. Flavelle	
Cantor	V. Hollingsworth		

Sunday	December 24	8:00 AM	
Sacristan	J. Donofrio		
Extraordinary Ministers	P. Titus	J. Mowad	M. Azzalina
Lector	J. Azzalina		
Servers	M. Vacaro	J. Delpino	
Cantor	B. Vacaro		

Sunday	December 24	10:30 AM	
Sacristan	C. Minotti		
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Martin	T. Martin	P. Smith
Lector	J. Reidda		
Servers	S. Strevralia	A. Whitener	
Cantor	M. Gano		

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Anthony's Parish is a Roman Catholic Family of Faith, rooted in tradition, centered on the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church's teaching, bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our community.

The Third Sunday of Advent

From the Pastor's Desk

The Scripture readings from the past two weeks have provided "coupons" of sorts for us to redeem in return for various goods that God offers. Two weeks ago, on the First Sunday of Advent, we heard Jesus' admonition to be watchful and alert, a metaphorical coupon that helps us to be faithful to God in response to God's perfect faithfulness toward us. And last week, on the Second Week of Advent, we heard both Peter and John the Baptist remind us of the justice that puts us right with God so that we might help overcome the world's injustice. So, the Scripture readings contained "coupons" for a couple of great Advent deals - faithfulness and justice.



It is quite clear what we are being offered through God's coupon on this Third Sunday of Advent; we are offered joy. When we accept and redeem this God-given coupon, our hearts are filled with the joy that comes from the heart of God.

This is the joy Pope Francis celebrated when he says that "The church is not a refuge for sad people; the church is a house of joy." Christian joy is found in Christ's faithful and boundless love for all people, a joy that accompanies the justice and praise that God makes spring up in human hearts.

We find the love of Christ most powerfully when we worship together here. By our praise and petition, we come to share God's joy and become a source of joy for each other, in the words and songs and sacred food we share. And because God shares God's joy so abundantly and generously with us in the Eucharist, we cannot do otherwise than share that joy abundantly and generously outside it. That joy becomes the heart of our prayer for others in need. "Rejoice always. Pray unceasingly," Saint Paul encourages us. Pope Francis reminds us that such prayer can spring from joy when he said, "When a Christian becomes sad, it means that he has strayed from Jesus. However, it is necessary then not to leave him alone! We must pray for him and make him feel the warmth of the community."

It seems that sometimes our communities of faith are not warmed by joy but left cold in our divisions. We need the Holy Spirit's fire to warm us up. "Do not quench the Spirit," Saint Paul tells us. The first fruit of the Holy Spirit is joy. Unselfish joy was at the heart of the Messiah's saving words and deeds when at last He came. Unselfish joy can be ours on this Third Sunday of Advent as we welcome God's abundant and everlasting love in Jesus Christ. "Here, take my coupon for joy," God is saying to each of us today. "It has your name on it." Please share that joy with all we will "welcome home" for Christmas this year.

God bless you, *Fr. Stan*

THE ADVENT GIVING TREE



The Advent Giving Tree is in the vestibule of the church. Please select a slip from the tree, purchase a gift, and place it under the Advent Tree during this Advent season as a birthday gift to the Infant Jesus.

These gifts help local Pregnancy Support programs.

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God." - *Isaiah 61:1*

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Baptism Class <i>Parish Center</i>	Sunday, December 31st After 10:30am Mass
Holy Name Society <i>Gathering Place</i>	Tuesday, January 2nd 7:00pm
Sacred Heart Sodality <i>Parish Center Mass</i>	Friday, January 5th 12:15
Golden Age Club <i>Easton Community Center</i>	Monday, January 8th 1:00pm
Holy Name Rosary <i>Prior to Mass</i>	Sunday, January 14th 10:30am
Pro Life Committee <i>Mass</i>	Saturday, January 20th 8:00am
Sacred Heart Sodality Mass	Sunday, January 21st 10:30am

ADVENT VESPERS



You are invited to rejoice at Advent Vespers in Saint Anthony's Church **tonight, December 17th at 6:00pm**. Our vespers will highlight the talent of our choir and our children. The Youth Group and PREP students will recreate the Nativity, and the choir will offer a selection of seasonal hymns. *Gaudete* is Latin for "rejoice" and comes from the opening intonation of the Mass, "Rejoice in the Lord, always."

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



St. Anthony's Parish offers the following opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday, December 23rd | 3:00 - 3:50pm

COMMUNITY PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, December 18th	7:00pm	Our Lady of Mercy
Tuesday, December 19th	4:00pm	Saint Anthony's
Tuesday, December 19th	7:00pm	Saint Jane's

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th	4:00pm
	6:30pm
Christmas Preludes	9:30pm
	10:00pm
Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th	9:00am



PRAYER REQUESTS



If you would like to have someone included in the parish prayers, contact Rose: jimrose2@ptd.net

PASTORAL REMINDER

Please notify the Parish Center (610-253-7188) when a loved one is admitted to the hospital or nursing home. Upon admission, please state that the one admitted is from St. Anthony's Church in Easton, PA.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



PREP NEWS

There will be no PREP classes on **Sunday, December 24th, 31st, and January 7th.** PREP classes will resume on **Sunday, January 14th.** There will be a PREP teachers' meeting on

Sunday, January 7th.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Advent Vespers: Tonight, Sunday, December 17th at 6:00pm. All PREP students are invited to participate in the Advent Vespers Live Nativity. There will be a special role for 2nd and 3rd graders in the Live Nativity. Confirmation service hours are available if you help with



Advent Vespers.

Youth Group Christmas Party: Mark your calendar: **Thursday, December 28th from 6:30 - 9:00pm** at Saint Jane's Church, and join us for our Christmas party. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring cookies to share. There is an optional gift exchange. Bring a wrapped present (\$5.00 value) that could be enjoyed by a girl or a boy.



MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Anthony Gambino

Mary L. Bronico

In Memory of Christy Amato

Charlene Minotti and Family Pat Smith

In Memory of Josephine Giglio

Marilyn and Barry Bevacqua Pat Smith

THE FOOD PANTRY DATE CHANGE



The Food Pantry will be open on **Wednesday, December 20th** rather than Tuesday, December 19th.

COFFEE AND THE WORD



Coffee and the Word will not meet on **Tuesday, December 26th.** The group will resume in the new year.

BAPTISM CLASS



Baptism Class will be held in the Parish Center on **Sunday, December 31st** after the 10:30am Mass. To register or for more information, call the Parish Center at 610-253-7188.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

This week we thank **Strunk Funeral Home** for placing an ad in our bulletin.

THE O ANTIPHONS

The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. (U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops)



December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. **The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church.**

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