



St. Anthony of Padua Church

Bulletin for December 2009

SOCIETY OF ST. PIUS X

The Home of
Traditional
Catholicism
in North Jersey™

103 Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

December Calendar

- 2 St. Bibiana
- 3 St. Francis Xavier
- 4 St. Peter Chrysologus / St. Barbara / First Friday
- 5 St. Sabbas / First Saturday
- 6 2nd Sunday of Advent / St. Nicholas
- 7 St. Ambrose
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (**holy day**)
- 10 St. Melchiades
- 11 St. Damasus
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 12 *Advent Adult Day of Recollection*
- 13 3rd (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent
- 13 *Christmas Gift & Bake Sale Fundraiser*
- 14-19 *Women's 5-Day Retreat (Ridgefield, Ct.)*
- 16 St. Eusebius / Ember Wednesday (fast)
- 18 Ember Friday (fast)
- 19 Ember Saturday (fast)
- 20 4th Sunday of Advent
- 21 St. Thomas the Apostle
- 24 Vigil of the Nativity
- 25 The Nativity of Our Lord (**holy day**) /
St. Anastasia (comm.)
- 26 St. Stephen
- 27 St. John the Apostle
- 28 The Holy Innocents
- 29 St. Thomas of Canterbury
- 31 St. Sylvester I

December Mass Schedule Exceptions

Please note the following:

- Dec. 8 no 10:00 AM Mass
- Dec. 12 no 6:00 PM Mass (10:00 AM Mass instead)
- Dec. 25 no 8:00 AM Mass

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Jordan Fahnestock

(in residence at: St. Ignatius Retreat House, 209 Tackora Trail, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Telephone: **203-431-0201**)

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Holy Days: 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM
Saturday Mass: 6:00 PM / First Friday: 6:00 PM

Confession

Confessions are heard prior to every Mass.

Other Sacraments, Sick Calls, & Pastoral Visits

Please contact Fr. Fahnestock at the Ridgefield retreat house (203-431-0201) for information regarding Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation, Extreme Unction, Sick Calls, and possible priestly vocations.

Contact Us:

Parish phone: (973) 228-1230
Web: <http://www.latin-mass.net> SSPX: <http://sspax.org>

Holy Days of Obligation

Mary's Immaculate Conception was the foundation of all her graces. The absence of any stain or spot of sin distinguished her from all the rest of mankind. It distinguished her from the holiest of the saints, since they, one and all, were sinners. Her perfect sinlessness was the source of all her glory and all her majesty; it was this which opened the door to the unlimited graces that she received from God; it was this that qualified her for her divine maternity, and raised her to her throne as Queen of Heaven. Thus, on December 8, we celebrate the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*. The present form of this feast dates from December 8, 1854, when Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

The second Holy Day in December is, of course, *Christmas*. During the season of Advent we long for the coming of Christ. In Christmastide we experience the joy of His coming into the world. The Church is full of the Mystery of the Incarnation of Christ. Jesus as God, begotten of the substance of the Father before all the ages and born of the substance of His Mother in the world, is given to us. During Christmastide, the liturgy shows us the Messiah as the Son of God, clothed with humanity, glorified by the humble, surprised shepherds, and adored by the Magi from the East. Let us fall down before the Child and bless God, for the birth of Jesus is the beginning of our Redemption through grace to the supernatural life.

Christmas is the only day of the year which keeps the old custom of celebrating its feast at midnight. It was at this hour that Mary in her spotless virginity gave to the world its Savior. In the midst of darkness, the Light was born. Therefore, the Church celebrates Christmas (since at least the year 354) on December 25, the time of the year when the days begin to lengthen. The custom of having three Masses originated in Jerusalem. A Mass was said in Bethlehem at a very early hour in the morning. Later, a second Mass was celebrated in the Church of the Redemption in Jerusalem. About midday, a third Mass was celebrated. Each of the three Masses has its identifying characteristic. The midnight Mass celebrates particularly the birth of Jesus; the Mass at dawn commemorates the adoration of the shepherds; the daytime Mass celebrates the eternal generation of the Word and the dignity of the Son of God.

The Feasts of the Immaculate Conception and the Nativity of Our Lord are *holy days of obligation*. Masses will be celebrated as follows:

Schedule for December Holy Days

- Dec. 8** 7:30 PM
- Dec. 24** Midnight Mass
- Dec. 25** 10:00 AM

Please note that Christmas Mass times are special for December and differ from the usual schedule.

Administrative Notes

Bookstore & Thrift Shop

St. Anthony's Bookstore & Thrift Shop will be open on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Please support our chapel as your source for Catholic books, religious items, and gifts. All proceeds benefit our parish!

Mass Intentions & Stipends

To have Masses offered for the intentions of living or deceased persons, the requestor must contact and contract with the desired priest personally. (The USA District set Mass stipend is \$15 per Mass request, which is only a suggested offering for the priest; more can be given if desired, or if one cannot legitimately afford the set offering, a lesser amount/service can be arranged with the priest.)

Donation Checks

You may make out your donation checks to "St. Anthony of Padua Church-SSPX."

Envelopes for Cash Donations

When using a cash donation envelope, please fill in the lines for name, address, date of contribution, and donation amount. This allows the accountant to retain your envelope as a "receipt" for the donor records. **NOTE:** you do not need to use an envelope when making a donation by check.

Choir

New voices are always welcome in the choir! Boys and girls are encouraged to offer their voices to the praise of God in the children's choir. Please see the choir director if you are interested in lending your voice.

Pastoral Meetings — December 2009

1st Saturday – Third Order Carmelites / Mary's Flowers / Maidens of the Immaculate Heart / St. Anthony's Chapter of the Eucharistic Crusaders (Groups I, II)

2nd Sunday – Holy Name Society / Sodality of Our Lady of Sorrows (9:30 AM) / Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers (9:30 AM)

3rd Sunday – Altar Servers practice

First Friday Homeschool Gathering

The monthly Homeschool Gathering will be conducted on First Friday, December 4. Holy Mass will be at 10 AM; confessions will be heard before Mass. Afterward, the children will work on crafts and continue their choral lessons with Father. Lunch will be provided.

Winter Weather / Phone Tree

In the event of Mass cancellation or postponement because of severe winter weather, the pastor and parish coordinator will activate the Phone Tree to notify parishioners as soon as possible. Notification is also sent simultaneously via e-mail. To be alerted in this event, you must ensure that your telephone information is updated in the current listing. Parishioners are encouraged to verify their listings; please see the coordinator to review your contact information.

Parishioners with e-mail addresses are encouraged to leave that information also. Those on the e-mail list will also receive periodic messages containing parish news, such as schedule updates, announcements, prayer requests, etc.

Christmas Adult Day of Recollection

On Saturday, December 12, an adult day of recollection will be conducted at St. Anthony's. Confessions will begin at 9:00 AM, followed by Holy Mass at 10:00 AM with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 3:30 PM.

The day of recollection will include conferences and benediction. Lunch will be provided. Those wishing to attend should sign up in the church social hall.

Please note: there will be **no** 6:00 PM Saturday evening Mass on the day of recollection.

Christmas Gift & Bake Sale

On December 13, the Sodality of Our Lady of Sorrows ladies and the Mary's Flowers girls will sponsor a joint Christmas Gift & Bake Sale for the benefit of the Good Samaritan Fund, which benefits the needy of St. Anthony's. This fundraiser will be conducted after both Masses.

As you consider other worthwhile causes this Christmas, please remember your fellow parishioners who may be struggling. We encourage all members of the parish to participate in this fundraiser, either by donating *new* Christmas gift items for sale, bringing *homemade* baked goods on the day of the sale, purchasing gifts or baked goods from the sale, or contributing with a monetary donation. May God bless you for your anticipated generosity.

Sunday Catechism Classes

Religious education classes are divided into the following categories: pre-First Communion; First Communion; post-First Communion; pre-Confirmation; Confirmation & post-Confirmation; and Apologetics (adults and older children).

Classes are scheduled at 9:30 AM, between the two Sunday Masses, and commence after the thanksgiving silence. Remaining Fall classes are **Dec. 6 and 20**.

Christmas Poinsettia Sale

On December 12 and 13, St. Anthony's will host a poinsettia sale before and after all Masses. Poinsettias, wreaths, and garlands will be available for purchase (by cash or check). Proceeds will benefit the Knights of the Eucharistic Crusaders and the Maidens of the Immaculate Heart.

Orders may be placed on Sunday, December 6, for pick-up the following weekend.

Planning Outlook

The following events are "on the horizon." Details will be announced as event dates grow nearer.

Jan. 1, 2010: The Circumcision of Our Lord (holy day)

Jan. 6: Feast of the Epiphany

Jan. 31: Septuagesima Sunday

Jan. 18-23: Men's 5-Day Retreat (*Ridgefield, Ct.*)

Feb. 15-20: Women's 5-Day Retreat (*Ridgefield, Ct.*)

Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday (*fast, abstinence*)

Mar. 8-13: Men's 5-Day Retreat (*Ridgefield, Ct.*)

Mar. 21: Passion Sunday

Poor Box (Good Samaritan Fund)

The ongoing Good Samaritan Fund, a fund for the relief of the needy our parish, is separate from church collections. Donations by cash or check (made out to the church) may be placed in the white box located at the chapel entrance. If you are (or someone you know is) in need of assistance, contact the pastor or coordinator, either in person or by a note in the Good Samaritan box. Recipients' names and relief given will be known only to the pastor and coordinator.

Christmas Greeting: From the Pastor's Desk

*"A star shall rise out of Jacob
and a scepter shall spring up from Israel."*

It is with real joy that I share with you a serene happiness in recollection of our Savior's coming.

The peace of Christmas, which has become proverbial for the world, is a reality for us who recognize His coming and expect His return. The appeal of this historical moment, when Heaven itself came to earth, continues to exercise a fascination which can never be replaced with the world's straw, a world whose uncommitted view is expressed as usual in the most inane and superficial of all greetings, those empty substitutes for the message of Christmas: "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings." Let us be sure that such nonsense does not cross our consecrated lips, and that if it is used to acknowledge the season by others, let us gently correct their error with the joy and faith expressed in a "Merry Christmas." There is an essential difference in our celebration of Christmas and their celebration in a change of weather and possession of material happiness: while worldlings fantasize and immerse themselves in a thousand and one purchased pleasures, whose cheap satisfaction lasts about as long as the sales that heralded them, we, bearing the name of the King Who comes to our hearts, not our chimneys, must be able to see the truth and communicate its peace to those of good will.

Christmas is and ever will be, in its meaning, a sign of contradiction. The Incarnation of the Eternal Word is an event in history that cannot be passed over in silence, or masked with a pagan significance. As the Christian sees history, this coming of the Creator and Redeemer into the

world is central to the destiny of mankind. Our history is dramatically altered by the birth of the Infant-King in Bethlehem. There is a Divine Plan, and Christ's coming is a turning point, a "fullness of time," for it marks the Divine intervention in a world which falls under the weight of its own perversity, but whose peoples can rise to the perfection of their calling with the spiritual vision of Faith. All else in history is nothing more than a footnote to this page of Divine Revelation, and we find our own existence written there, invested with a new significance because we do believe in this Incarnation. Here lies the concrete reality of Christian Hope, and it has a universal appeal, as do all the doctrines of our Faith, because it is not constructed of transitory gifts and possessions, but of the permanence of transcendence.

The coming of Jesus Christ is Revelation itself, but this revelation is not an equivocal message. He comes not to bring a superficial "peace" or an absence of conflict, but the sword of the Gospel, a dividing line between those who accept or reject His message. "Coexistence" and tolerance without principle is not a part of the Gospel. It is no coincidence that the Church will celebrate the feast of the Protomartyr, Saint Stephen, on the following day, or that soon afterwards Herod's soldiers will massacre the Innocents. We recognize here that the Infant-King's scepter, which represents the Kingdom of God, is in fact a call to arms and a sign of victory over the powers of darkness, both in the world and within the hidden recesses of our own nature. And, as in any real victory, it is not to be a bloodless conquest, a gain without price. The Truth Incarnate, Whom we love to represent in the chaste contemplation of Bethlehem's poverty, is a beginning of a Restoration in which His cause will win not by majorities, but by martyrs and in the victory of the Cross. The victory that overcomes the world is not success, but Faith.

Yet while we may be tempted to consider the true meaning of Christmas as something that will speak only to those of the household of the Faith — as though the world cannot see this monumental event clearly enough to realize its significance — it is not really so. Even in denial, the world acknowledges Christ's coming, and His is a Presence that cannot be disregarded. It is acknowledged in the ancient prophecy of Balaam — the Ammonite soothsayer who lived several millennia before Christ and whose words open this greeting — down to the very system of dating we use today, for we live in the 2009th Year of the Lord: *Anno Domini*. This King Who changes all history is no weakling, for even in His Infancy He is stronger than any other influence yet known. All — in particular, our own aspirations and joy and Faith — revolves around the birth and life of the God-Man.

It is in this sense that I wish to all a very Joyful Christmas.

Fr. Jordan Fahnestock



The Adoration of the Shepherds (The Nativity)
by Albrecht Dürer. Woodcut, 1504-05

Let all the children of the Catholic Church ... continue to venerate, invoke and pray to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, conceived without original sin. Let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless.

—Pope Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus* (Dec. 8, 1854)

The Place, the Time, and Other Circumstances of Our Lord's Nativity

by St. Bernard

Christ was born in winter. He was born in the night. And are we to believe that His coming into the world in such an inclement season and in the darkness of night are mere casual events, matters simply fortuitous? From Whom come winter and summer, day and night? Other children that as yet have hardly begun to live do not choose the time of their birth; they have not the use of reason, nor liberty of choice, nor faculty of deliberation. But Christ, though man, was nevertheless God. He was in the beginning with God. He was God, the same of Whom He is the Power and the Wisdom, for He is "the Power and the Wisdom of God." Therefore, the Son of God, in Whose power it remained to do whatever He willed, when about to be born, chose His own time, and chose, too, what was most specially burdensome to a little child and to the son of a poor mother who had hardly sufficient linen wherewith to swathe Him and no cradle wherein to place Him. And though so great was His necessity, and He God, we hear no mention of a rich and warm coverlet for His Divine and royal members. The first Adam was clothed in a tunic of skins; the second Adam was swathed in rags. Such things are not according to the judgment of this world. Either Christ is deceived, or the world errs. But that the Divine Wisdom could be deceived is impossible. Justly, therefore, is the prudence of the flesh an enemy of God; for the prudence of the flesh is death, and the prudence of the world is folly. What follows? Christ, Who could not be deceived, chose what was painful and troublesome; therefore it is the best, the most profitable choice, that which is to be preferred to all others, and whoever teaches or persuades to the contrary is to be avoided as a tempter and deceiver.

Our Blessed Lord willed to be born in the obscurity of night. Where are they who so shamelessly and studiously display themselves and their actions in the blaze of day? Christ chose what He judged to be most salutary; they choose what He rejected. Which of the two is the more prudent choice? Whose judgment the more just? Whose sentence the more reasonable?

Christ is born in a stable, and lies in a manger. Yet is He not the same that said, "The earth is mine and the fullness thereof"? Why, then, need He choose a stable? Plainly that He might reprove the glory of the world, that He might condemn its empty pride. The Infant Jesus is silent.

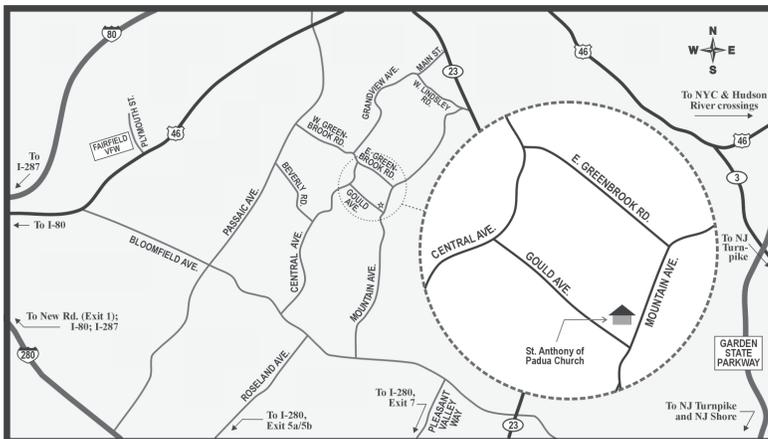
He does not extol Himself; He does not proclaim His own power and greatness, and behold, an angel announces His birth, a multitude of the heavenly host praise and glorify the new-born King. You that would follow Christ do in like manner imitate His example. Hide the gifts and graces you have received. Love to be unknown. Let the mouths of others praise you, but keep your own lips closed.

His tongue has not spoken, and, behold, everywhere He is proclaimed, preached, made known. These infantine members will not be silent; they have another kind of language: in all of them the judgment of the world is reprov'd, subverted, and set at naught. What man with intelligence, being free to choose, would not prefer a full-grown, robust body rather than that of an infant? O Divine Wisdom! Thou art manifested by Thy preference for what was hidden and abject. O truly Incarnate Wisdom, veiled in the flesh! This is nevertheless what was long ago prophesied by Isaias: "The child will know how to refuse evil and choose good." The pleasures of the body are the evil which He refuses; affliction is the good He selects. And assuredly, He that makes His choice is a wise Child, a wise Infant. He is the eternal Word of God, for the Word was made flesh infirm flesh, tender flesh, the feeble, helpless flesh of an Infant, incapable of its own nature of any good work, feeling a repugnance to labour and hardships. Truly the Word was made flesh, and in flesh dwelt amongst us.

When in the beginning the Word was with God, He dwelt in light inaccessible, and there was none that could bear that light. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, or who hath been His counsellor? The carnal man of His own nature perceives not those things which are of the Spirit of God; but now he can perceive them though still carnal, for the Word was made flesh. Since man, on account of the flesh, could understand nothing but what was of the flesh, behold, the Word was made flesh that man might be able even by the flesh to hear and understand the things of the Spirit. O man, behold that wisdom which was heretofore hidden is shown forth to you! It is now drawn forth from its hiding-place, and is laid open to you, and it penetrates into the very perceptions of your nature.

ET VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST
ET HABITAVIT IN NOBIS

Map & Directions to St. Anthony of Padua Church (intersection of Gould Avenue and Mountain Avenue)



From US-46 (east of Willowbrook Mall):
US-46W to NJ-23S. Right on Lindsley Rd.
Left on Mountain Ave. Right to 103 Gould Ave.

From US-46 (west of Willowbrook Mall, #1):
US-46E to NJ-23S. Right on Lindsley Rd. Left
on Mountain Ave. Right to 103 Gould Ave.

From US-46 (west of Willowbrook Mall, #2):
US-46E to Bloomfield Ave. Right on
Bloomfield Ave. Left on Mountain Ave.
Left to 103 Gould Ave.

From I-280 (option #1):
Exit 5a or 5b to Livingston Ave (northbound).
Right on Eagle Rock Ave. Left on Roseland Ave.
Right on Bloomfield Ave. Left on Mountain Ave.
Left to 103 Gould Ave.

From I-280 (option #2):
Exit 7 to Pleasant Valley Way (northbound).
Left on Bloomfield Ave. Right on Mountain
Ave. Left to 103 Gould Ave.

From NJ-23 (southbound):
NJ-23S, past Willowbrook Mall and Wayne
Towne Center. Right on Lindsley Rd. Left
on Mountain Ave. Right to 103 Gould Ave.

From NJ-23 (northbound):
Left on Lindsley Rd. Left on Mountain Ave.
Right to 103 Gould Ave.

From I-80 (eastbound):
Exit 47B (The Caldwells/Montclair) to
US-46E. Right on Bloomfield Ave. Left
on Mountain Ave. Left to 103 Gould Ave.

From I-80 (westbound):
Exit 53 to NJ-23S. Right on Lindsley Rd.
Left on Mountain Ave. Right to 103
Gould Ave.

From I-287:
I-287 to NJ-23 or I-80, whichever is
closer. Follow directions as above for
NJ-23 southbound or I-80 eastbound.