



# St. Anthony's of Farnham

“Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community”

417 Commercial Street / PO Box A9

Farnham, NY 14061

Rectory: 549-1159 / Fax: 549-7742 / Parish Hall 549-2867

Email: [stanthonyfarnham@aol.com](mailto:stanthonyfarnham@aol.com)

Website: [stanthonyfarnham.org](http://stanthonyfarnham.org)

FAMILY PASTOR: REV. TIMOTHY KOESTER

PAROCHIAL VICARS: Fr. Ross Syracuse, Fr. Johnson Machado, Fr. Michael Johnson

DEACONS: Deacon Joe Gray, Deacon Neal Linnan, Deacon Steve Schumer, Deacon Bill Walkowiak

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM effective December 26th

Contact Most Precious Blood at 716-549-0420 if you are in need of assistance.



Regular Mass Schedule Saturday 5:30 PM and Sunday 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule: Tuesday's and Thursday's 9:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation: 9:00 AM

(All Saints Day 9AM, Thanksgiving Day 9AM, Ash Wednesday 7PM)



**“Come To Me, Always”**

**Deacons:** Deacon Joe Gray,  
Deacon Neal Linnan

**Trustees:** Sandra Hooge, Frank Zeffiro, Jr.  
**Business Manager** ..... Eleanor Cox  
**Parish Council President..** Theresa White  
**Director of Faith Formation....** .....

..... Kathleen Brachmann

**Youth Ministry** ..... Keith Dash  
**RCIA**..... Scott Schaefer  
**Sacramental Program**..... Kris Dash  
**Liturgy** ..... Donna Roof

**Music Ministry** ..... Mike Cerabone  
**Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors**  
**Coordinator**..... Steve Smith  
**Parish Advocate for the Sick &**  
**Disabled**.....

**Children's Liturgy of the**  
**Word**..... Michelle Baumgarten  
**Renewal & Development:** Stephen (Bud)  
Brachmann & Theresa White

**Parish Vocation Coordinator**..... Kris Dash  
**Respect Life**..... Legion of Mary  
**Buildings & Grounds**..... Larry Leonard  
**Custodian** ..... George Cordia  
**Cemetery Sexton**..... Frank Zeffiro  
& Charles Walker  
**Scout Troop #421** ..... Wayne Ames  
**Marriage Preparation**..... Keith & Kris Dash

## SACRAMENTAL MINISTRIES

**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST** “Do this in memory of me..”

**RECONCILIATION** “Peace is my gift to you...”

Confessions – Advent / Lent Penance Service at St. Anthony's and St. Francis. Most Precious Blood Tuesday's 5-6PM, St. Mary's Thursday's 6:30-7:30 PM, St. John Paul II Saturday's 3-4PM

\*Always available for confession via appointment\*

**BAPTISM** “Unless you are born again...”

Arrangements can be made with the parish priest. Parents should be registered in our parish. Baptismal classes are held for parents. Call the rectory one week in advance.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY** “What God has joined...”

Engaged couples should phone the rectory to make an appointment with the parish priest to set the date and time for their wedding at least six months in advance. Attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference is also required.

**CARE OF THE SICK** “Come to me you who are weary...” Please

notify the rectory office for a pastoral visit to any family member who is sick, confined at home, hospitalized or in a nursing home. Arrangements for the reception of sacraments of the Eucharist

can be made through the rectory office. Ministers of the sick are available to bring communion to shut-ins on a weekly basis.

**ADULT INSTRUCTION AND RCIA** “Go and teach all nations..”

Adults interested in the Catholic faith are cordially invited to contact the rectory office for information about Adult Inquiry Classes, the Catechumenate, and preparation for adult reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (RCIA) .

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** “By their fruits you will know them...”

For those who have been asked to be sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation, we gladly issue recommendations for parishioners who: (1) are baptized and confirmed; (2) are at least 16 years old; (3) are registered for at least 6 months; (4) attend Mass regularly; (5) if married, have done so in conformity with the laws of the Church; (6) if they are parents, are sending their children to Catholic School or Religious Instructions; (7) if they are students, are attending Catholic School or Religious Instructions.

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP** “That they may all be one...”

We always welcome new members to our parish family. Please contact the parish priest or the rectory.



Third Sunday of Advent – December 17, 2023

John the Baptist urged his followers to turn away from sin and renounce anything that was keeping them from doing God's will.

What can you turn away from in order to hear God's call more clearly and answer more readily?

If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org)

December 17, 2023

**DAILY MASSES & INTENTION**

Sat. 12/16 5:30 PM William and Virginia Cummings by Family

Sun. 12/17 10:30 AM Francis Deppeler by Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hall

Mon. 12/18 8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis & Most Precious Blood

Tues. 12/19 9:00 AM Don Magovero by Fran Strozyk

Wed. 12/20 8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis & Most Precious Blood

Thurs. 12/21 9:00 AM All Soul's Day Intentions by Most Precious Blood

Fri. 12/22 8:00 AM Mass at Most Precious Blood, 8:30 AM Mass at St. John Paul II

Sat. 12/23 5:30 PM Mary Ann Jordan by Mother, Lori Dunkel

Sun. 12/24 10:30 AM Fr. Walter Matuszak by Michael Parker

Sun. 12/24 4:00 PM People of the Parish 10:00 PM Mother's Day Intentions

Mon. 12/25 10:00 AM Anthony Paternostro by Katie & Family

Mass Intentions are \$ 15, and a Mass card is available please call the office or stop by the rectory.

**NEXT WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 23, 2023 5:30 PM**  
LECTOR Donna Roof  
MINISTERS Sue Cummings  
ALTAR SERVER

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 2023 10:30AM**  
LECTOR Brain English  
MINISTERS Steve Smith, Kathy Brachmann  
ALTAR SERVER Ryan Kief, Jonathan Pilski

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT**

December 10, 2023 Weekly Offertory \$ 2,765.00  
Holy Day \$ 413.00  
Retirement Fund \$ 378.00

If you are able to make a Church donation, please mail to the Church, or donate electronically by the following ways: A donation can be made through our website: [www.stanthonyvsfarnham.org](http://www.stanthonyvsfarnham.org). Smartphone: You can Text to Donate: Text to \*716-215-2401 (Simply text amount to the \*number and follow prompts to complete) "Give+ Mobile App: Download "GivePlus Church" to set up donation. Search zip code 14061 for our church.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

December 16 – Youth Ministry at Columban's Retirement Home 2:00 -4:00 PM

December 17 – Faith Formation Classes 9:15 AM Decorating of the Church following 10:30 Mass



**THIS WEEK AT ST. ANTHONY'S**

*Sat. Dec. 16	Youth Ministry Advent Event at St. Columban's Retirement Home 2:00 – 4:00 PM 5:30 PM Mass
*Sunday Dec 17	Faith Formation Classes 9:15 AM 10:30 AM Mass Decorating of the Church for Christmas after 10:30 mass 3rd Sunday or Advent Gaudete Sunday
Monday Dec. 18	St. Michael, the Confessor
Tuesday Dec. 19	9:00 AM Mass St. Anastasius Legion of Mary 9:30 AM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM
Wed. Dec. 20	Penance Service 7:00 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM St. Dominic of Silos
Thursday Dec. 21	9:00 AM St. Peter Canisius First Day of Winter
Friday Dec. 22	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
*Sat. Dec. 23	5:30 PM Mass St. John of Kanty
*Sunday Dec 24	10:30 AM Mass 4th Sunday or Advent

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM Mass**

**10:00 PM Mass**

**Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM Mass**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Bryan Ahl, Sharon Ames, Wayne Ames, Andrea Battaglia, Katelyn Bogdan, Verna Bogdan, Michael Bolistrieri, Zane Bolkman, John Brackett, Sheri Buczkowski, Nicholas Byer, Jared Canto, Diane Catalfu, Lucille Chiapparo, Florence Conover, Joe Cook, Callan Cooke, Eleanor Cox, Glenn Cummings, Joyce Cureo, Jennifer Cysz, Mark DeCarlo, Jonah, Eric DeLang, Katlin DeMaria, Carol A. Doino, Lorraine Dotterel, Dave Dudek, Lorraine Dunkel, John Durusky, Tami Faraci, Jack Fescio, Joe Haak, Rose Haak, Inez Hacker, Sue Hall, Carol Hoppa, Darlean Jewell-Morales, Kerry, Kristen Kielbasa-Cummings, Stanley Kowal, Don Kraft, Dayle Kuest, Gunar & Trish Kuest, Marke Lantry, Kathy Leiker, Joanne Leone, Barbra Lewellen, Dan Lewellen Sue Licht, Troy Little, Judy Lohr, Collin Lyford, Rebecca Hall-Marshall, Renee' McMullen, Barbara Morin, Linda Muscato, Sheri Niedermeier, Kira Palermo, Alicia Parisio, Michael Pawelek, Rylee Pierce, Mark(Norm) Postle, Meagan Postle, Carol Privitera, Marge Puntillo, Vinnie Puntillo, Nina Reghetti, Rev. Dr. James Reidling, Eugene & Mary Rigby, Jessie Rinehart, Joyce Rogers, Jim Ross, Jean Marie Sadowy, Robert S. Sciandra, Evan Scholl, Matt Scholl, Ralph Schweers, Lynn Sellick, Joe Siciliano, Jim Smith, Kathy Solly, James Spano, LouAnn Stevenson, Elisabeth Stoklosa, Ruth Taggart, Elizabeth Valvo, BethAnne Van Horn, Dottie & Thomas Van Wie, Don Waite, Cheryl Waterman, Laure Weidner, Gene Welty, Marian Wesolowski, Gregory Winger Jr., Matthew Young, Chris Zgoda, Judith Zielinski.

We are happy to honor requests for prayers for the sick especially when they are in the hospital, in rehabilitation, in hospice or in a post op recovery. When they are improved we remove their names to make room for others. Those of you who call in requests should notify us when they are better.

**PARISH NEWS**

**PLEASE HELP:** We will be decorating the church following the 10:30 AM mass on Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. *Many hands make light work!* Please join in and help get St. Anthony's ready for the birth of our Savior!

## **PARISH NEWS CONTINUED**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Effective December 26<sup>th</sup>, St. Anthony's office hours will be Tuesday's and Thursday's, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

**PENANCE SERVICE:** This Wednesday there will be a Penance Service at St. Anthony's at 7:00 PM.

**WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR HELP:** If you attend daily mass on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings, we are looking for people to volunteer to lector. Please see Deacon Neal prior to mass if interested. Thank you!

**TEDDY BEAR SUNDAY IS BACK!** As in years past, we will be accepting your donations of teddy bears until December 19<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please contact Kathie Barreca 716-549-2402.

### **FROM THE PASTOR**

#### ***Third Sunday of Advent B, We are God's Children***

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. We depart from the Gospel of Mark and read from the Gospel of John. Today's Gospel combines a passage from the prologue with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark, John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Among the first philosophical principles I learned in school are the principle of identity and the principle of non-contradiction. "Identity" states that a thing is what it is and nothing else; while "non-contradiction" states that something cannot be and not be at the same time. One might imagine why are we looking at these philosophical principles today. The reason is that unless we accept the veracity of these statements, we may find it difficult accepting who we are or what we are at any moment. John the Baptist humbly demonstrated this for us.

Notice how the Jews sent the message to John the Baptist to reveal his identity to them. For want of respect, John could have presented himself as the Messiah or Elijah – those the Jews were longing to see. But instead, we are told he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' People live inauthentic lives just to have respect accorded them. But there is great joy in accepting the person you are. It is better for people to despise you because of who you are, than for them to honor you because of what you are not, or what you have claimed to be. The truth remains, to claim that you are what you are not cannot make you become that which you are not. There is a great rewarding humility in accepting who we are.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering that question, John announces that the Savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus

has already come into the world as our Savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

For John the Baptist, the reward was that Jesus Himself proclaimed him (John) the greatest: "of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen... ." Perhaps, John's greatness also included his ability to willingly accept who he was. Do you accept the fact that you are a baptized Christian and not a native doctor? Are you ashamed of what you are or who you are? The earlier we stop claiming what we are not, the better for us. Let us first accept who and what God has made us to be and then pray to God to take us up from there.

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's Second Reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. And we are God's Children. Choicest Blessings,  
Fr. Tim

### **ROAD TO RENEWAL**

As the procession for Mass began today, you may have noticed the priest and deacon wearing rose vestments. That is because today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete Sunday makes a breaker like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season, which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. Of the "stations" kept in Rome the four Sundays of Advent that at the Vatican Basilica is assigned to Gaudete, as being the most important and imposing of the four. In both Office and Mass throughout Advent, continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasized on the Third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness offered on that day. Gaudete Sunday is further marked by a new Invitatory, the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come," but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand."

We may all be busy with our Advent traditions and Christmas preparations, but that shall not stop us from moving forward [n our Renewal. The Family Pastoral Council and the Clergy have been meeting regularly trying to implement the Family Action Plan. We are trying to weave them in to our Christmas Festivities. These include open office hours, devotional schedules, and Lent.

Please remember, if you have any questions or want to offer any thoughts or concerns, call your parish office so you can consult with or schedule a meeting for you. More clarification is coming, but let us continue to pray for one another and our journey together. God for all of eternity will reign victorious, robed in splendor and glory; keep your eyes set on Him and the promise of the coming of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Choicest Blessings, Fr. Tim

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

**RURAL TRANSIT SERVICE** is currently looking for volunteers by driving, dispatching or becoming a driver aide. We will work with your schedule; call today to find out how you can begin your new adventure volunteering with us! **NEED A RIDE?** We are a non-profit transportation organization servicing seniors, disabled and income eligible residents in selected areas of Erie County. 716-549-5098; [www.ruraltransitservice.org](http://www.ruraltransitservice.org)

**STAY CONNECTED** with all the latest information and events in our parish by signing up on our Facebook page. We share bulletin announcements, pictures of events that happen at St. Anthony's, and meditations to enhance spiritual growth.




**FEED THE HUNGRY:** Please remember to support those in need in our community by donating **NON-PERISHABLE** food OR clothing to Operation Good Neighbor. Collection boxes are at the entrances of our church. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE FRESH FOOD IN THE COLLECTIONS BINS AT CHURCH.** Your support helps fight hunger 365 days a year! **OPERATION GOOD NEIGHBOR:** Operation Good Neighbor in Evans at 2030 South Creek Rd., Evans NY 14112, Food Pantry 12:30-5:30PM. 716-627-5194

**ABORTION EXPANSION BILL:** Contact your state legislator and express your view of their vote on the abortion expansion bill. <https://www.nyscatholic.org> and click on Action Center **OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES - TELEPHONE HOTLINE NUMBERS.** **Unplanned Pregnancy, Abortion Alternatives & Healing:** 716-847-2205. St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Centers, helping mothers and fathers in need: 716-842-BABY (2229) Buffalo, 716-203-7593 Chautauqua County, 716-284-BABY (2229) Niagara County. Project Rachel, post-abortion reconciliation: 716-847-2211

**DONATE ELECTRONICALLY:** Online you can make a donation on our website: [www.stanthonyvsnarnham.org](http://www.stanthonyvsnarnham.org). Smartphone: You can Text to Donate: Text to \*716-215-2401 (Simply text amount to the \*number and follow prompts to complete) " Give+ Mobile **App:** Download "GivePlus Church" to set up donation. Search zip code 14061 for our church.

" QR Code: Download QR Code reader **App,** Scan the code with your smartphone.....as seen here...→ follow prompts to complete transaction

**PLEASE NOTE: Any articles to be published must be submitted by Wednesday 10:00 AM to be included in the weekend bulletin Pulpit announcements will be limited to emergency announcements only. Please plan ahead. Thank you.**

	<p><b>THOMAS "TOM" VAN WIE</b> Licensed Real Estate Salesperson</p> <p><b>The Certo Team</b> "Helping you find your way HOME" CELL: 716-984-8661 <a href="mailto:TVWAMBIT@gmail.com">TVWAMBIT@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.TheCertoTeam.com">www.TheCertoTeam.com</a></p> <p>4779 Transit Rd., Ste. 17 Depew, NY 14043 716-668-7000 Fax:716-668-6804</p>  	<p align="center"><b><u>LAKESHORE CATHOLIC FAITH</u></b> <b><u>COMMUNITY</u></b></p> <p align="center">St. Anthony's, Farnham Most Precious Blood, Angola St. Francis of Assisi, Athol Springs St. Mary of the Lake, Hamburg St. John Paul II, Lake View</p>
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**THE BRANT-FARNHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*Located in Brant Town Hall*

*1892 Farnham incorporated as a Village. Named in honor of Leroy Farnham; Frist Merchant of the Village and one time Sheriff of Erie County. The village of Farnham, was originally called Mill Branch.*

*Town of Brant Historian, Patty Friend*

*Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month, 9:30 AM - Noon. Everyone is welcome!*