



# 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..”

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

**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\*

**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) .

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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



Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, 2023

“The angel Gabriel from Heaven came...”

When God's plan was made clear to Mary, she had questions but ultimately answered with a confident YES. If you have questions about how God is calling you to serve His Church, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org)

December 24, 2023

## DAILY MASSES & INTENTION

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 Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM People of the Parish  
 10:00 PM Mother's Day Intentions  
 Mon. 12/25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Anthony Paternostro  
 By Katie and family  
 Tues. 12/26 9:00 AM Jane & Barney O'Donnell By  
 O'Donnell Family  
 Wed. 12/27 8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis & Most Precious  
 Blood  
 Thurs. 12/28 9:00 AM All Soul's Day Intentions by Most  
 Precious Blood  
 Fri. 12/29 8:00 AM Mass at Most Precious Blood,  
 8:30 AM Mass at St. John Paul II  
 Sat. 12/30 5:30 PM People of the Parish  
 Sun. 12/31 10:30 AM Father's Day Intentions

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

\*December 23/24: WINE~HOST~CANDLES – In Loving  
 Memory of Angelo Orlando donated by Nicholas & Alyssa  
 Orlando.

### NEXT WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 30, 2023</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>LECTOR</b>		
<b>MINISTERS</b>	Eileen Brittain	
<b>ALTAR SERVER</b>		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 31, 2023</b>	<b>10:30AM</b>
<b>LECTOR</b>		
<b>MINISTERS</b>	Sarah Kief	
<b>MINISTERS</b>	Steve Smith, Kathy Brachmann	
<b>ALTAR SERVER</b>	Ryan Kief, Jonathan Pilski	

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

December 17, 2023	Weekly Offertory	\$ 1,620.00
	Christmas Flowers	\$ 456.00

*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.stanthonysfarnham.org](http://www.stanthonysfarnham.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.*

### 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**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. ANTHONY'S

Saturday Dec. 23	5:30 PM Mass <i>St. John of Kanty</i>
Sunday Dec 24	10:30 AM Mass <i>4th Sunday or Advent</i> 4:00 PM Mass <i>Christmas Eve</i> 10:00 PM Mass <i>Christmas Eve</i>
Monday Dec. 25	10:00 AM Mass <i>Christmas Day!</i>
Tuesday Dec. 26	9:00 AM Mass <i>St. Stephen</i> Legion of Mary 9:30 AM
Wednesday Dec. 27	AA Meeting 8:00 PM <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
Thursday Dec. 28	9:00 AM Mass <i>The Holy Innocents</i>
Friday Dec. 29	<i>St. Thomas Becket</i>
Saturday Dec. 30	5:30 PM Mass <i>St. Timon the Apostle</i>
Sunday Dec. 31	10:30 AM Mass <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bryan Ahl, Sharon Ames, Wayne Ames, Andrea Battaglia, Katelyn Bogdan, Verna Bogdan, Michael Bolistriero, Zane Bolkman, John Brackett, Sheri Buczkowski, Nicholas Byer, Jared Canto, Diane Catalfu, Lucille Chiapparro, Florence Conover, Joe Cook, Callan Cooke, Eleanor Cox, Glenn Cummings, Joyce Cureo, Jennifer Cxyz, 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, Nina Reghetti, Rev. Dr. James Reidling, Eugene & Mary Rigby, Jessie Rinehart, Joyce Rogers, Jim Ross, Jean Marie Sadowy, Robert S. Sciadra, 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

**CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 MASS:** Any children that will be attending this mass with their family, please arrive at church at 3:30 PM to participate in our procession of shepherds and angels. Please meet in the church hall as we will provide the necessary outfits for the procession.

**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.

## PARISH NEWS

**FAITH FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY: Classes will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**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!**

### FROM THE PASTOR



#### *Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Mystery Kept Secret*

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Second Reading, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world. Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David. And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the "daughter Jerusalem," called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior.

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High" - an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history.

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man, His kingdom will have no end. He is to rule over the house of Jacob - the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai, and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob.

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience - that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word. Thus, Jesus

was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

Choicest Blessings, Fr. Tim

### ROAD TO RENEWAL

The late Pope Benedict XVI wrote the following, "Jesus gave this act of oblation an enduring presence through his institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. He anticipated his death and resurrection by giving his disciples, in the bread and wine, his very self, his body and blood as the new manna. The ancient world had dimly perceived that man's real food, what truly nourishes him as man, is ultimately the Logos, eternal wisdom: this same Logos now truly becomes food for us—as love. The Eucharist draws us into Jesus' act of self-oblation. More than just statically receiving the incarnate Logos, we enter into the very dynamic of his self-giving. The imagery of marriage between God and Israel is now realized in a way previously inconceivable: it had meant standing in God's presence, but now it becomes union with God through sharing in Jesus' self-gift, sharing in his body and blood. The sacramental "mysticism", grounded in God's condescension towards us, operates at a radically different level and lifts us to far greater heights than anything that any human mystical elevation could ever accomplish." (Deus Caritas Est paragraph 13)

The fourth week of Advent this year is going to become quickly overshadowed by the celebration of vigil Masses for Christmas. Yet, its theme may be the most important, love. As Pope Benedict XVI reflected upon Jesus' self-giving love, made manifest and present in the Blessed Sacrament, it should leave us to ponder have we aimed to achieve that level of self-giving love? Most of us at Mass this weekend will approach the altar of the Lord and enter "union with God..." but have we truly taken advantage of this gift? Have we allowed the graces to flow openly through us?

The Road to Renewal has given us some ups and downs this year. Many people lament changes, losing Mass times, and other familiar parish events. Some of you have been put out of your comfort zone, worshipping God with new brothers and sisters in Christ. Some have given countless hours to our pillar groups, taking the burden of your peers on your shoulders to try to preserve what was and imagine the new. Through all of this, we continue to enter the greatest form of love, the most abundant grace-filled action one can partake in, Holy Communion. Let that be the light in our darkness to continue to move forward, to fall into deeper love with our Lord as he arrives this most holy Christmas night. To live that Love in all we do. **Merry Christmas!**

Choicest Blessings, Fr. Tim



**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.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.

" 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><b>LAKESHORE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY</b></p> <p><b>St. Anthony's, Farnham</b> <b>Most Precious Blood, Angola</b> <b>St. Francis of Assisi, Athol Springs</b> <b>St. Mary of the Lake, Hamburg</b> <b>St. John Paul II, Lake View</b></p>
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<p><b>LATIMORE - SCHIAVONE</b> <b>FUNERAL HOME, INC.</b> John A. Latimore ... Joseph S. Schiavone 549-3311 Plan Today for Peace of Mind Tomorrow "Personalized Service" ANGOLA, NEW YORK 14006</p>	<p><b>BARONE LIQUOR STORE</b> Mike &amp; Karyl Lyn Kreuter <i>Local Wine and Liquor Store</i> 364 Central Avenue Silver Creek, NY 14136 716-934-3533</p>	 <p><b>VILLAGE OF FARNHAM</b> <b>NEW WEBSITE:</b> <a href="http://VillageofFarnham.com">VillageofFarnham.com</a></p>
<p><b>TIMM HEATING &amp; AIR CONDITIONING PLUMBING HEATING COOLING</b> SINCE 1953 <b>716-549-5113</b></p> <p><b>BILL TIMM</b> Owner</p> <p>458 SYCAMORE AVENUE ANGOLA, NY 14006</p>	<p><b>ADDISON FUNERAL HOME</b> Randolph J. Addison &amp; Scott J. Addison 262 North Main Street, Angola, NY 14006 716-549-1100</p> <p><a href="http://www.addisonfuneralhome.com">www.addisonfuneralhome.com</a></p> <p><i>"Pre planning today will relieve loved ones the stressful decisions of tomorrow - Guaranteed Price Pre Need Contract"</i></p>	<p><b>THE BRANT-FARNHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Located in Brant Town Hall</i></p> <p><i>189 Modern Brant 1 school erected on land donated by Sam Butts (Brant-Angola Road). Town of Brant Historian, Patty Friend</i></p> <p><i>Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month, 9:30 AM - Noon. Everyone is welcome!</i></p>