



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

Website: stanthonysfarnham.org

REV. TIMOTHY KOESTER, FAMILY PASTOR

PAROCHIAL VICARS: FR. ROSS SYRACUSE,
FR. JOHNSON MACHADO, FR. MICHAEL JOHNSON



Parish Office Hours are currently limited at this time.

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"



*Trustees: Sandra Hooge, Frank Zeffiro, Jr.
Family Administrator....MaryLou McEvoy
Business ManagerEleanor Cox
Parish Council President..Theresa White
Director of Faith Formation.... ..
.....Kathleen Brachmann
Youth MinistryKeith Dash
RCIA.....Scott Schaefer
Sacramental Program.....Kris Dash
LiturgyDonna Roof*

*Music MinistryMike Cerabone
Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors
Coordinator.....Steve Smith
Parish Advocate for the Disabled.....
Robin Sarvas
Children's Liturgy of the
Word.....Michelle Baumgarden
Renewal & Development: Stephen (Bud)
Brachmann & Theresa White*

*Parish Vocation Coordinator.....Kris Dash
Respect Life.....Legion of Mary
Buildings & Grounds.....Larry Leonard
CustodianGeorge 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.



First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 2023

A VOCATION VIEW "Be watchful, be alert!" Signs of God's will for your life are everywhere: in nature, literature, conversations with friends. Most of all in prayer. Let's spend a quiet Advent asking Jesus to reveal our life's vocation to us. If it turns out to be priesthood or religious life, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

December 3, 2023

PARISH NEWS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Friday, December 8th we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of obligation in the United States. The Lakeshore Faith Community invites you to join us for the Holy Mass at the following times: 6:00 PM (Vigil) Most Precious Blood; 7:00 PM (Vigil) St. Mary of the Lake; 8:30AM St. John Paul II; 9:00 AM St. Anthony's; 12:00 PM (noon) St. Francis

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Classes will meet on December 3rd at 9:15 AM.

YOUTH MINISTRY: St. Anthony's Youth Ministry is holding a toy drive during the weeks of November 26th and December 3rd. Please consider donating a new unwrapped toy for those children who are unable to experience the joy of Christmas.

ROAD TO BETHLEHEM: Our Youth Ministry and Faith Formation classes will perform this presentation on Friday, December 8th at 7:00 PM in the Church. Please support St. Anthony's students as they celebrate the journey of Mary and Joseph with the narrating of Youth Ministry students and mime of the Faith Formation students. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for "Toys for Tots". Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

FROM THE PASTOR

Watch for Him

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel: Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading. In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne; to save and shepherd His people. Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today; as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him?

God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Second Reading. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for

Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father. The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift, especially the Eucharist and penance, to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end; if we let Him.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning, repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel, to be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

Choicest Blessings, Fr. Tim

ROAD TO RENEWAL

Welcome to Advent! Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent by lighting the first purple candle in our Advent wreath. The first candle represents hope. The Oxford dictionary defines hope as, "a belief that something you want will happen." Hope is all about perspective, how we look at things. Saint John of the Cross says, "Live in faith and hope, though it be in darkness, for in this darkness God protects the soul. Cast your care upon God for you are His and He will not forget you. Do not think that He is leaving you alone, for that would be to wrong Him."

Hope is not just found in the light, or in good times; hope begins in the darkness. The darkness that leads our minds astray and causes us to doubt, to become less trusting and optimistic. We must never forget that God does not abandon us especially in the darkness. God's presence in our lives and souls must be recognized in this darkness in order to give us the grace needed to come into the light. How do we look at hope and darkness?

The present times for the church could seem like a blanket of darkness. The bankruptcy and lawsuits are stirring up anger and frustration, the Road to Renewal can invoke fear and discouragement, the Synod on Synodality is raising questions and some confusion. How we look at the truth and seek the light makes us grow. All of this may seem dark, but what remains true is God's presence among us. God's Way and our (faith) dedication to it. Go before the Lord this day in prayer, asking God to reveal Himself to you in the darkness, for only then will you find the hope to carry on with your mission in the light. 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

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.stanthonyfarnham.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.



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**THE BRANT-FARNHAM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Located in Brant Town Hall

*1889 The Union Hotel Opened in Brant.
Town of Brant Historian, Patty Friend*

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