



St. Anthony of Padua Mission

Bulletin for December 2006

SOCIETY OF ST. PIUS X

The Home of
Traditional
Catholicism
in North Jersey™

103 Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

December Calendar

- 1 First Friday
- 2 St. Bibiana / First Saturday
- 3 1st Sunday of Advent / St. Francis Xavier
- 4 St. Peter Chrysologus / St. Barbara
- 5 St. Sabbas
- 6 St. Nicholas
- 7 St. Ambrose
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (holy day)
- 10 2nd Sunday of Advent / St. Melchiades
- 11 St. Damasus
- 11-16 *Men's 5-Day Retreat (Ridgefield, Ct.)*
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 St. Lucy
- 16 St. Eusebius
- 17 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- 20 Ember Wednesday
- 21 St. Thomas the Apostle
- 22 Ember Friday
- 23 Ember Saturday
- 24 Vigil of the Nativity
- 25 The Nativity of Our Lord (holy day) / St. Anastasia
- 26 St. Stephen
- 27 St. John the Apostle
- 28 The Holy Innocents
- 29 St. Thomas of Canterbury
- 31 St. Sylvester I

Arise, be enlightened, O Jerusalem: for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
—Isaias 60:1

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Kevin Robinson

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

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 7:15 AM, 9:15 AM, & 11:15 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. Robinson 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>

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 10 AM and 7 PM
- Dec. 24 Midnight Mass
- Dec. 25 10 AM

Please note that these 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 Mission-SSPX."

Envelopes for Cash Donations

If you are making a cash donation, please use a donation envelope and fill in the lines for name, address, date of contribution, and donation amount. This will allow 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 after Mass — December 2006

1st Sunday – Eucharistic Crusaders

2nd Sunday – Holy Name Society

3rd Sunday – Altar Servers practice

4th Sunday – Women's Sodality of Our Lady of Sorrows / Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers

Eucharistic Crusade — Monthly Intentions

December For the heads of states

Please remember these holy intentions in your daily prayers and at every Mass.

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 the TrueCatholic e-mail group.

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.



Sunday Catechism Classes

Religious education classes are divided by age as follows: pre-First Communion; First Communion; post-First Communion; Confirmation; and Apologetics for older children and adults. Classes are scheduled after the 9:15 Mass.

The remaining dates on the Fall/Winter schedule are **December 3 & 17.**

Planning Outlook

The following events are "on the horizon" — things to keep in mind as you plan your calendars. Detailed announcements will be promulgated as events grow closer.

January 1, 2007: The Circumcision of Our Lord (holy day)

January 6: Feast of the Epiphany

February 2: Candlemas Day / Feast of the Purification

February 4: Septuagesima Sunday

February 11: Sexagesima Sunday

February 18: Quinquagesima Sunday

February 21: Ash Wednesday

February 25: 1st Sunday of Lent

"Work & Pray" Days

Work & Pray for December 2 begins at 1:00 PM.

Work & Pray Days, sponsored by the Holy Name Society and the Sodality of Our Lady of Sorrows, are held each First Saturday. This is an opportunity to serve St. Anthony's through work and prayer. Once a month on First Saturday, men and women volunteers will meet in the afternoon (time to be determined each month) to work at a prioritized task list prepared by the pastor and parish coordinator. The list may include such tasks as painting, cleaning, grounds work, repairs, polishing liturgical brass, and so on.

Work & Pray Days will conclude in time for volunteers to have the opportunity to attend 6:00 PM First Saturday Mass. Membership in the Holy Name Society or the Sodality is not required — all are welcome!

Mary's Flowers

Mary's Flowers (girls aged 8–12) will have a meeting on December 2 at 4:00 PM. Additionally, the group will host a bake sale on Sunday, December 10.

Please see the parish coordinator for information about your daughter joining the Mary's Flowers group.

Children's Christmas Play

We are planning a children's Christmas play for Sunday, January 7, 2007 (time to be determined). Please see Mr. McDonald for information about signing up your children for the play, and check the homeschooling bulletin board for periodic updates.

Bookstore/Thrift Shop News

St. Anthony's Bookstore & Thrift Shop has stocked a number of spiritual and gift items for Christmas. Please be sure to stop by to view all of the new selections. Remember, your support of the bookstore & thrift shop supports our chapel!

As in the Trinity there is a plurality of persons subsisting in one nature, so in the mystery of the Incarnation there is one person subsisting in a plurality of natures.

—St. Thomas Aquinas

Meditation on the Immaculate Conception

excerpted from Divine Intimacy by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is in perfect harmony with the spirit of Advent; while the soul is preparing for the coming of the Redeemer, it is fitting to think of her, the all-pure one, who was His Mother.

The very promise of a Savior was joined to, or rather, was included in the promise of this peerless Virgin. After having cursed the insidious serpent, God proclaimed: "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head" (Gen. 3,15). And behold, the Virgin whose coming was foretold, approaches, "white as snow, more beautiful than the sun, full of grace, and blessed above all women."

Precisely in view of the sublime privilege which would make her the Mother of the Incarnate Word, Mary alone, among all creatures, was preserved from original sin. Yet in Mary Immaculate we see not only her preservation from original sin, and the complete absence of the slightest shadow of an imperfection, but we also see the positive side of this mystery which made her, from the very first moment of her existence, "full of grace."

Theologians teach that the Most Blessed Virgin Mary began her spiritual life with grace much more abundant and perfect than that which the greatest saints have acquired at the end of their lives. When we consider also that during her whole life, the Blessed Virgin corresponded fully and most perfectly to every movement of grace, to every invitation from God, we can understand how charity and grace increased in her with incessant and most rapid progress, making her the holiest of creatures, the one most completely united to God and transformed in Him.

St. John of the Cross, in describing the marvels of the state of perfect union with God, presents Mary Immaculate to us as the prototype and model. "Such were those [works and prayers] of the most glorious Virgin our Lady, who, being raised to this high estate of union from the beginning, never had the form of any creature imprinted in her soul, neither was she moved by such, but was invariably guided by the Holy Spirit."

"The heavens were made honey-sweet"

Indeed, under the reign of Caesar Augustus, the quiet silence of universal peace brought such serenity to an age previously so distressed that through his decree a census of the whole world could be taken.

The solicitude of divine providence brought it about that Joseph, the Virgin's husband, took to the city of Bethlehem the maiden of royal lineage who was with child.

And when nine months had passed since his conception, the King of Peace, like a spouse from his bridal chamber, came forth from the virginal womb.

Although he was great and rich, he made himself small for us. He chose to be born not in a house but in a lowly dwelling, to be wrapped in swaddling clothes, to be fed by virginal milk, and to be lain in a manger between an ox and an ass.

Then "there shone for us a day of a new redemption, a restoration of past ages and the happiness of eternity. Then through the whole world the heavens were made honey-sweet."

—St. Bonaventure (1221–1274), *Lignum Vitae* I, 4

The two essential conditions for achieving divine union are found in their fullness in Mary. The first condition, which is a negative one, is that there be nothing in the soul's will which is contrary to the divine will; that is, no attachment which would cause it to be subject to a creature, so that this creature would rule in its heart in any way, or impel it to act for love of this same creature; all such attachments must be eliminated. The second condition, which is positive and constructive, and is the consequence of the first, is that the human will be moved in all and through all, only by the will of God. This was realized so perfectly in the most pure soul of Mary Immaculate that she never had even the faintest shadow of an attachment to a creature; in her soul there was never any impression of a creature which could move her to act; she was so completely seized by divine love that she could act only under the inspiration and "motion of the Holy Spirit."

Thus we see Mary as the most pure spouse of the Holy Spirit, not only in relation to her divine maternity, but also in relation to her whole life in which she was moved only by His impulse.

Divine Intimacy is available from TAN Books and Publishers, PO Box 424, Rockford, IL 61105 (toll-free 1-800-437-5876).

*Læténtur cæli, et exsultet terra ante
fáciem Dómini: quóniam venit*



Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth
be glad before the face of the Lord,
because He cometh

This Extraordinary Child (excerpted from The Catholic Hearth)

Not just because the Christ-Child was heaven here on earth, we would look for an extraordinary setting at His birth; but this we will not find, or perhaps, if anything, we will find the extraordinary nature of the ordinary. This extraordinary Child, who was the King of creation should have been born in a palace; but He was born in an open stable. This extraordinary Child should have been warm and comfortable; but He was warmed by the breath of beasts and hardly comfortable in the primitive animal manger. This extraordinary Child, sighed for by the nations as the promised Messiah, should have received a whole-hearted welcome from a world that needed Him so much; but instead He was rebuffed from door to door and there was no room for Him in the public inn. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." This extraordinary Child who was to be the light of all peoples, was not visited by distinguished guests, but humble shepherds who came to salute the Shepherd of the world. Things were so extraordinarily ordinary for so extraordinary a Child. His birth should have been the greatest news our world ever heard. But instead of newsboys shouting it on the street corners, angels sang it in the skies. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

Finally, the purpose of Christ's coming was so extraordinary, though it would be the ordinary thing for a God of love, whose ordinary nature was to love. "For God so loved the world as to give His only Son, so that those who believe in Him, may not perish but have life everlasting." God in the person of Christ shared our human nature; He became one of us; we call Him Brother and we love Him. And because our Brother Jesus is also God, we call Him Lord and we adore Him. That is the most extraordinary thing of all: for Christmas means the arrival of the God-Man and His name is Jesus, Who has saved us from our sins.

The final wonder of Christmas is that the extraordinariness of Christ and His Mother does not make us fear. The awesomeness of it wins our love. We are not repelled but attracted by Mary's Child who was really God. The Psalmist expresses these sentiments in this verse: "The Lord is great and exceedingly to be praised; the Lord is a little one and exceedingly to be loved."

The Christ-Child, once born in Bethlehem, is still our Friend and Saviour on our altars, and soon to be present again in our hearts on Christmas night. No doubt, as Christ suffered in the manger on that first Christmas night, His

mind saw the happy scenes of every succeeding Christmas; He viewed at that distance our fervent acts of love and He was satisfied, because we spend Christmas first and always with the little Christ-Child, Who is our God. For Christmas is the Feast extraordinary of God's love for us and our love for God.



On the Nativity by St. John of the Cross

The time now having finally come
When his birth was due,
Like a husband newly wed
From his chamber he withdrew

Embracing his beloved spouse
With outstretched arms so deep.
Him the gracious mother then
In a manger lay to sleep,

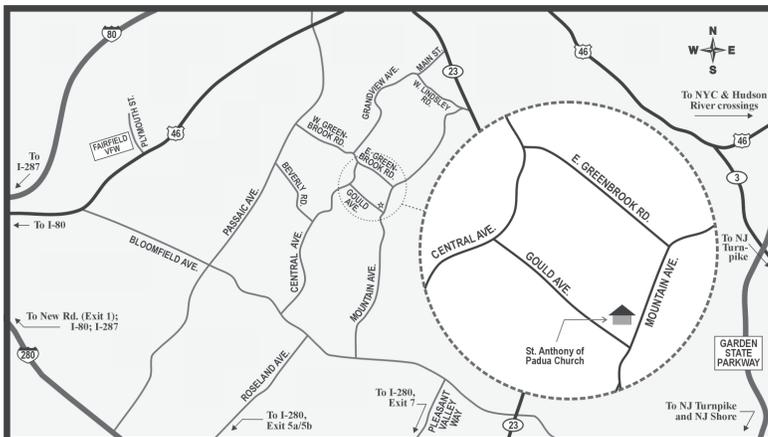
Amid the stable's animals
Who there resided at their ease.
Men entoned their canticles
Angels sang their melodies,

Rejoicing in the wedding feast
Of two such spouses side by side.
But God as tiny infant now
In the manger wept and cried.

Tears were the only bridal gems
To adorn this espousal strange.
The mother watched in wonderment
To see such marvelous exchange:

For God was bound to human grief;
In humans boundless joy had grown,
Which to one and to the other
Before this time was never known.

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):

Right on Lindsley Rd. Left on Mountain Ave. Left 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.