



St. Anthony of Padua Church

Bulletin for December 2008

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
- 5 St. Sabbas / First Friday
- 6 St. Nicholas / First Saturday
- 7 2nd Sunday of Advent / St. Ambrose
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (holy day)
- 10 St. Melchiades
- 11 St. Damasus
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 St. Lucy
- 14 3rd (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent
- 14 *Good Samaritan Fund Gift/Bake Sale & Fundraiser*
- 15-20 *Men's 5-Day Retreat (Ridgefield, Ct.)*
- 16 St. Eusebius
- 17 Ember Wednesday (fast)
- 19 Ember Friday (fast)
- 20 Ember Saturday (fast)
- 21 4th Sunday of Advent / St. Thomas, Apostle
- 24 Vigil of the Nativity
- 25 The Nativity of Our Lord (holy day) /
St. Anastasia (Comm.)
- 26 St. Stephen
- 27 St. John, Apostle
- 28 The Holy Innocents
- 29 St. Thomas of Canterbury
- 31 St. Sylvester I

The Son of God was made the Son of man, that the sons of men might be made the sons of God.

—St. Augustine

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Jean de l'Estourbeillon

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

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, & 11:30 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. de l'Estourbeillon 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**..... 10 AM and 7:30 PM
- Dec. 24** Midnight Mass
- Dec. 25** 8 AM (*Low Mass; no sermon*)
..... 10 AM (*High Mass*)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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 after Mass — December 2008

1st Saturday (3:30 PM) – Third Order Carmelites

2nd Sunday – Holy Name Society / Sodality of Our Lady of Sorrows / Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers

3rd Sunday – Altar Servers practice

Planning Outlook

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

Jan. 1: Feast of the Circumcision (holy day)

Jan. 6: Feast of the Epiphany

Jan. 19-24: Men's Ignatian Retreat (*Ridgefield, Ct.*)

Feb. 8: Septuagesima Sunday

Feb. 25: Ash Wednesday (fast, abstinence)

Mar. 1: 1st Sunday of Lent

Mar. 19: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin

Mar. 25: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mar. 29: Passion Sunday

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 after the 9:30 AM Mass and commence after the thanksgiving silence.

Catechism and Apologetics classes are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Sundays, following the 9:30 AM Mass. Remaining classes for 2008 are **December 7 and 21.**

From the Pastor's Desk Advent Message (December 2008)

My dear faithful,

"... And you yourselves like servants waiting for their master's return." —St. Luke 12:36

This sentence of Our Lord summarizes the dispositions that Holy Mother Church wants to see in our souls during this time of Advent. There are the dispositions of servants waiting for their master's return.

First of all, one expects, in a good servant, a good will — to accomplish all the desires of his master. Our dear Lord expects from us this good will, to which He gives His peace according to the *Gloria*: "Peace to men of good will." However, good will is acquired by struggling against our own wills, which, without ceasing, pull us away from God's desires.

One expects a good servant to be humble and obedient — to do exactly what his master will order. Our God particularly loves these two virtues; He attaches extraordinary gifts to them. We see this especially in Our Lady and in St. John the Baptist. In her *Magnificat*, the Blessed Virgin Mary shows us the wonderful consequence of her humility: "Because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." (St. Luke 1:48)

In his preaching, St. John the Baptist effaces himself ceaselessly in the presence of the greatness of the Messiah.

Let us endeavor to acquire these beautiful virtues of the saints of Advent. Then we will be able, in our turn at Christmas, like the shepherds of the manger, to truly sing the glories of the Divine Savior of our souls, and to participate somewhat in the joys of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Father Jean de l'Estaveuilhou

Fundraiser for Good Samaritan Fund

On Sunday, December 14, the Sodality of Our Lady of Sorrows will host a Gift/Bake Sale & Fundraiser for the benefit of St. Anthony's parish's Good Samaritan Fund. **All are encouraged to participate, to the greatest extent that your means allow.** You can help in three ways:

1. Donate baked goods or new gift items for sale.
2. Purchase items for sale.
3. Make a donation by cash or by check.

The Good Samaritan Fund was established to provide timely assistance to needy families in our parish. During these difficult times, more of our parishioners are in need than ever before. Your charitable generosity during this fundraiser will be instrumental in providing help to your brothers and sisters this winter.

The Good Samaritan Fund 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.

When thou dost an almsdeed, sound not a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do ... when thou dost alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doth: that thy alms may be in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret will repay thee.

—St. Matthew 6:2-4

The Three Festival Days After Christmas

Excerpted from Repertorium Oratoris Sacri (1886)

The Holy Church celebrates, immediately after Christmas, the days of St. Stephen, Protomartyr, of St. John, apostle, and of the Holy Innocents. St. Stephen was the first to shed, voluntarily, his blood for Jesus Christ. St. John was the disciple whom Jesus loved, to whose care He entrusted his own Mother, and who wrote about the Son of God in the sublimest manner. The Bethlehemite children were the first to shed their blood, although unknowingly, for Jesus Christ. It is with reason, therefore, that we celebrate the birthdays of St. Stephen, St. John, and of the Innocents immediately after the birthday of Jesus Christ. Let us meditate on that which is most worthy of admiration and imitation in these saints.

St. Stephen, Protomartyr

St. Stephen commands our admiration and imitation on account of his zeal in fulfilling the duties of his calling.

He took good care of the widows and orphans, and of all the people, so that whilst he administered the temporal affairs of the Church, no complaints were heard. Besides, he endeavored to gain immortal souls for Christ and heaven. He is specially praised as a man "full of grace and fortitude," as "a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost." With great courage he upbraided the chief priests with their hard-hearted resistance to the Holy Ghost, and with the murder of the "Just One."

The fiercest persecutions by the Jews were unable to deter him from performing his apostolic work. Would that you, Christian parents, might be moved by a similar zeal for the salvation of souls to guard the innocence of your own children! This is your stern duty; for "you watch as being to render an account of their souls" (Heb. 8:17). Heli died a sudden death because of his overindulgence of his sons. "If any man have not care of his own, and especially of those of his house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5:8).

No less worthy of our admiration is his love of his enemies. In imitation of the example of his Divine Master, St. Stephen, while being stoned, "kneeling down cried out with a loud voice, saying: Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:50). Thus he complied with the command of the Lord: "Love your enemies; do good to them that hate you: and pray for them that persecute and calumniate you" (Matt. 5:44).

May we never forget our dignity as Christians on whom the stern duty is imposed to forgive those who have offended us. Let us remember the promise of our Savior: "If you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you your offenses. But if you will not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive you your sins" (Matt. 6:14).

St. John, Apostle

After the Ascension, St. John lived first at Jerusalem, and then at Ephesus. He was thrown by Domitian into a caldron of boiling oil, and is thus reckoned a martyr, although he

was miraculously preserved from harm. Afterwards, he was banished to the isle of Patmos, where he received the heavenly visions described in the Apocalypse. He died at a great age, in peace, at Ephesus, in the year 100. His tomb, on a mountain near the city, was glorified by many miracles.

St. John is to us a model of all virtues, especially of chastity and charity.

On account of his chastity, John was "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Our Lord loves, above all things, virginal purity; and it was this grace which endeared St. John to the Sacred Heart. Virginal souls sing, as it were, a new canticle before the throne, and follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth (Apoc. 14:3,4). Never contaminate this great treasure in thought, word, or deed. Pray incessantly to your Jesus to preserve a pure heart in you.

As St. John loved tenderly and sincerely his fellow-men, so he endeavored to enkindle this heavenly flame in the hearts of his disciples. When, on account of his old age, he could no longer address the faithful, he would repeat again and again: "Little children, have love for one another." When questioned why he ever repeated the same exhortation, he replied: "Because it is the command of the Lord: and he who keeps it does enough." For no one can love his neighbor, *as he ought to*, unless he loves God above all things: and whoever loves God, will keep his commandments. Charity is the distinguishing mark by which Jesus will recognize his disciples. "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another" (John 13:35). Let us therefore endeavor to show sincere charity towards everyone.

The Holy Innocents

The children of Bethlehem were baptized in their own blood, because they were slain for the name of Jesus. Jesus elevated them to the dignity of saints, and the Holy Church venerates them on her altars. Their persecutor, Herod, died a dreadful death, and was buried in hell. Incomprehensible are the judgments of God.

Sadness was turned into joy. The day of death was to those children the beginning of life everlasting. "No chastisement for the present seemeth to bring with it joy, but sorrow; but afterwards it will yield to them that are exercised by it, the most peaceable fruit of justice" (Heb. 12:11).

The Church reminds us in the above festival days of the truth that there is no other way of salvation than in the Son of God made man. He is "the Author of life"; "nor is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 3:15; 4:11). We cannot be saved, however, in this glorious name, unless we are willing, if necessary, to shed our blood for our holy faith, and to give testimony to our faith by a holy life.

*Jesu, sweetest Child,
born in Bethlehem of Mary ever Virgin,
swathed in rags, laid in the manger,
announced by angels, visited by shepherds;
have mercy upon us.*

Nothing was more necessary for elevating our hope than that God should show the greatness of His infinite love. Now, what could proclaim His love more strikingly than His taking our nature to be His own?

—St. Augustine

The Immaculate Conception and Christmas, Applied to the Catholic Life

Excerpted from Catholic Life (1908)

The Immaculate Conception

On this day we commemorate the fact of our Lady's conception without the stain of original sin. When we consider her eminent destiny — to be mother of God Incarnate — we are not surprised that she should be made the exception of the human race. God having taken entire possession of her from the moment that He created her soul and united it to her body, she was freed from concupiscence, and ever after exempt from the least fault, being always careful, not only to preserve this grace, but to merit an increase thereof, by faithfully corresponding with it.

We ought, in like manner, to use all possible care to preserve in our souls the sanctifying grace which we received in Baptism, or recovered by the Sacrament of Penance, that we may imitate the Blessed Virgin in the esteem she had of Divine grace. If Christians could only realize what it is to lose the grace of God, what it is to be His enemy, they would not so easily commit or remain in mortal sin.

Often, then, let us ask ourselves if we, like Mary, have a horror of deliberate sin. Do we, like her, dread it above all evils, and value purity of conscience above all treasures, glories, and gratifications?

Another thought that this feast suggests is, that if the Divine Goodness was pleased to bestow so many and such great privileges upon Mary because she was to become the mother of Jesus, because she was to conceive and bear in her chaste womb the Immaculate Lamb, what ought to be our sanctity, our innocence, our purity, when we approach the Holy Table, and there receive into our hearts the same Body and Blood, now no longer capable of suffering, but glorious and immortal!

A suitable and profitable practice of piety is to say three *Hail Marys* every morning, followed by the ejaculation "O Mary! through thy Immaculate Conception obtain for me purity and sanctity of soul and body" or "O Mary! conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Christmas

The circumstances of our Divine Lord's birth are told in St. Luke's Gospel (ii, 1-20). By this we see that our Lord teaches us from His very infancy to be humble and obedient, not to set our hearts on the perishable goods and pleasures of this world, and to bear trials and sufferings with submission to the holy will of God.

Three Masses — one of which is at midnight — may be said by every priest today to honour (1) Christ's birth from all eternity as God; (2) His birth as man in the stable; (3) His birth by grace in the hearts of the faithful. While assisting at Mass on this great feast, we ought to imagine the altar to be the manger, and in union with the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph adore the Word made flesh, come to enlighten and save the world. We may, too, at the *Gloria in excelsis*, join with the angels in their song of joy, and beg for that good-will to which peace was promised; and finally, like the shepherds, offer our hearts as a homage due to Him. These prayers may be repeated with great advantage when we visit the crib erected in the church.

Remembering that our Lord says that what ever we do to His least brethren we do to Himself, we ought at this trying season to clothe some poor persons in honour of the Divine Child's poverty in the stable. There are many cast-off garments, laid aside through want of thought, which would be a luxury to the needy, especially those ashamed to beg.

While enjoying the many good things usually provided in abundance on this feast, we must take care not to exceed the bounds of moderation, especially in drink.

Christmas Poinsettia Sale

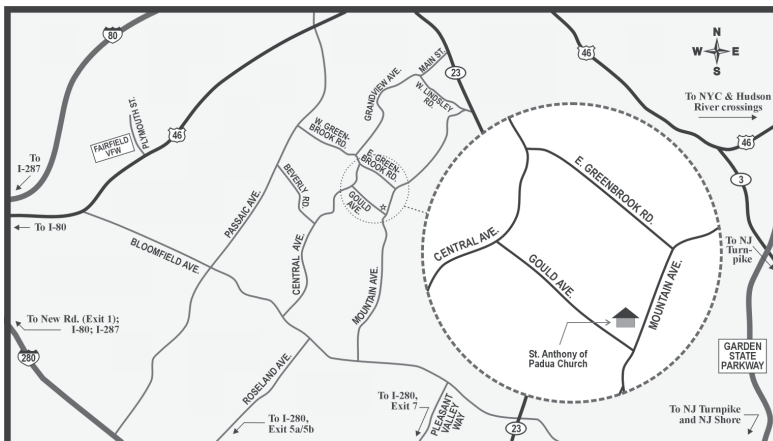
On December 7, St. Anthony's will host a poinsettia sale before and after all Masses. Poinsettias, wreaths, and garlands will be available for purchase (by cash or check). Orders may be placed on Sunday, November 30.

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. Those on the e-mail list will also receive periodic messages containing parish news, such as schedule changes, prayer requests, etc.

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.