

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2017



Oh those proverbial “New Year’s Resolutions”! You know, the ones many people make on January 1st and lose sight of by January 31st. Personally, I don’t subscribe to them. They are often too limited, too specific, and of a corrective nature. They just don’t seem to have much of a foundation to support their long-term sustainability in our busy, multifaceted lifestyles. Instead, I opt for a personal “mission statement” or guiding motto that shapes all that I hope to accomplish in the fuller context of my life. We, here at St. Anthony’s, often hear the Salesian axiom, “Be who you are and be that well.” That’s what I mean by a personal guiding motto that helps to form the “resolutions” that are made at New Year, but which change so quickly due to so many circumstances, including something as simple and real as a diminishing enthusiasm for New Year’s exhilaration. My own personal mission statement, formed back in 2005 on the occasion of my 25th Ordination anniversary, has been “to strive to live as a man of peace, to live in the present moment, and to trust in the Providence of God.” It has helped me to live each day’s resolutions better as they evolve with the verities of life, although I have to admit that I have not always been in line with it because of my own personal weaknesses. Nevertheless, it has worked better for me than well-intentioned, but short-lived, New Year’s resolutions.

Tomorrow, January 1st, we celebrate the Solemn Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. On the day she was told that she was selected by God to be the Mother of the Savior, she formulated her own personal mission statement in these words: “I am the servant of the Lord, be it done unto me according to his will.” This was the foundation of her life from that day on – her “fiat” (life-time yes) to the plan set forth for her from the moment of her Conception – the response that helped her to make the faith-filled resolutions that guided her life from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and beyond, and which she continues to live by as she intercedes for us in the glory of God’s Kingdom.

A happy and blessed New Year to all, and a sincere prayer that 2018 will be a year of prosperity, health and peace to all the parishioners and friends of St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

Fr. Nick

“Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them.”

St. Francis de Sales



In your charity, please pray for
Marie Fortunato
and all the deceased of St. Anthony’s.

Monday, 8:00 AM	1/1		
Tuesday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	1/2	TERESA PILEGGI MARINO COFRANCESCO	PILEGGI FAMILY FAMILY
Wednesday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	1/3	MARY LENZ	ELAINE SERPE
Thursday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	1/4		
Friday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	1/5	MARINO COFRANCESCO	FAMILY
Saturday, 6:45 AM 5:30 PM	1/6	MICHAEL ANDREOLI	FAMILY
Sunday, 7:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	1/7	PARISHIONERS JOHN & JENNIE MIRTO PAUL CALLAHAN	DAUGHTER WIFE & FAMILY



Next Sunday’s Readings

1st Reading:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

2nd Reading:

Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40

Offertory Report

Due to the extra early publishing deadlines made necessary because of Christmas and New Year’s, collection figures for December 24th were not available at the time this issue was submitted. The figures will be shown in next week’s edition.

Your Prayers and Support Requested

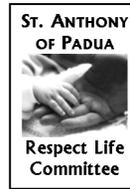
Mateo Ahumada
Roger Chao
Judi DiFrancesco
Christopher Ganey
Richard Jakotowicz
Grace Marie Mataleno
Patricia Ogonowski
Nicky Rotundo
Larry Silvestri
Annmarie White

Karen Berman
Anita Dauphin
Thomas DiGuglielmo
James Ganey
Bonita Della Rocca Jodz
Bill McNabb
Kelly Panella
Lucretia Serio
Albert Vietri

Marianne Calvarese
Mary T. DiBiao
Tommy DiVirgilio
John Giorgi
Mark Johnson
William J. Nardo, Jr.
Charles Rosenberg, Sr.
Jimmy Silicato
Robert Walton

...and all the sick of St. Anthony's Parish.

Respect Life: Fact of Life



"Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible...."

Forming Consciences for Faithful
Citizenship, USCCB

Second Collection

For the remainder of December, there are no scheduled second collections.

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Once again on the Feast of the Epiphany, our music department with professional soloists and dancers will present our annual 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' a charming one act operetta by Gian Carlo Menotti. Amahl is the story of a 12 year old cripple boy who is visited by the Three Kings who are on their way to visit the Christ Child. It's full of fun and frolic and let's just say Amahl has a wee bit of a problem always telling the truth. The role of the mother is sung by our own Andrea Arean and Amahl is sung by David Goodall. The shepherds are sung by our own choir and soloists and we perform in full costume. At the conclusion King Khasper will hand out candy canes to all the children in attendance. We ask a simple 10.00 donation from adults to help us pay for the production. This a FAMILY event and we encourage you to bring your children and grandchildren. The date is Sunday, Jan. 7 and the performance is 4 PM and lasts under an hour. We invite you to join us.

Souper Bowl Food Collection Drive

The Knights of Columbus will conduct their annual food drive at the beginning of the new year up through Super Bowl Sunday on February 4th, 2018. Any non-perishable food items are acceptable and all donations will be delivered to the St. Patrick's Center Food Bank. May God bless our parishioners for their continued generosity.

Catholic Forum

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, January 7th, tune in to hear an interview with Deacon Hal Jopp, recently retired Director of the Office for Deacons for the Diocese of Wilmington. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at cdow.org/communications, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

Where Did You Go??!

Six times a year, our offertory envelopes go out, and Christmas and Easter add another two times to that. With each mailout, we get a handful of packets returned to the rectory because families have moved and neglected to inform us of their change of address. Re-addressing and reshipping these envelopes is an additional - but unnecessary - cost to the parish. When you move, please remember to contact the parish office with your new address. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND MASSES



January 1, 2018: Mary, Mother of God
Not a Holyday of Obligation This Year
8:00 AM (only Mass of the day)

January 7, 2018: The Epiphany of the Lord
5:30 PM - Vigil Mass – January 6, 2018
7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM
Epiphany Pageant at 11:00 AM Mass
followed by refreshments in the Ballad Room

New Year's Business Hours

Our parish office will be closed on Monday, January 1st, in observance of New Year's Day. Additionally, the only Mass of the day will be held at 8:00 AM. The Oblates and parish lay employees wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Via Crucis Sign-Up



To be a part of the 2018 presentation of the Via Crucis, come to the sign-up in the Church at 1:30 PM on January 7th, 2018. Join students from over 30 schools in the cast and choir. Bring your friends, all are welcome. There will also be a short rehearsal from 2:00 PM to 3:00PM. REMEMBER ALL ARE WELCOME

ESPECIALLY SINGERS FOR THE CHOIR.



Parish Calendar

Monday, New Year's Day

Parish Office Closed

8:00 AM, Only Mass of the Day

Thursday

7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal

Sunday

10:00 AM, PREP (Grade School)

10:00 AM & 12:00 PM, First

Sunday Social (Ballad Room)

1:30 PM, Via Crucis Signups

Monday, Jan. 1

through

Sunday, Jan. 7

(All events listed in the Parish Calendar are in church unless otherwise noted.)

Grade School Calendar

Monday, New Year's Day

School Closed

Tuesday

Classes resume

Friday

8:00 AM, School Mass

Mass of Remembrance Photos

Those who provided the church with photos of their deceased loved ones for display in November may reclaim their photos by visiting the rectory between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Additionally, there are evening hours from 5:30 to 8:00, Monday through Thursday.

March for Life

St. Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus has chartered a bus for people of all ages, weather permitting, for the **March for Life** held on Friday, January 19th. There will be a stop at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for those unable to make the March. Seats will be available on a first come basis. The only cost to the individual passenger is a tip for the bus driver. Please contact Theresa Collurafici at 12374Columbiettes@gmail.com or 302-322-2929 to sign up.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

We have so much to learn from the Holy Family: Mary allows God's will to change her life; Joseph pays close attention to and follows the prompting of the angel; Jesus says to the Father "not my will, but Thine be done." What is the Father's will for *you*? Are you taking steps to find out? If you think God might be calling you to live out a religious vocation, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations!

Parish Monthly Social-Epiphany Sunday

Our next parish social will be held on Epiphany Sunday, 1/7/2018, in the Ballad Room of the Grade School, following the 9AM & 11AM Masses. Stop by for food, fun, and socializing with fellow parishioners and friends. The social, as always, will feature a variety of great treats from Serpe's Bakery, delicious breakfast pizzas from Degners Greenhill Deli, and a variety of foods. **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:** We will feature our traditional Epiphany Pageant at the 11AM Mass on Epiphany Sunday, & later in the day, at 4PM, the parish Music Ministry will present *Amahl*, a captivating mini-opera celebrating the travels of the *Magi* & the story of Epiphany. Hope you can make it for a day of great events.

Grade School Open House

St. Anthony of Padua Grade School's Open House will be on January 21, 2018, from noon to 3:00 p.m. Please stop by to take a tour and meet our teachers from preschool through 8th grade who will be on hand to answer questions about our academic and extracurricular programs. We especially invite you to talk with us about our Special Education Program! Get an advanced look at the progress on our new 21st Century Learning Space! Please feel free to inquire about our family-friendly single-rate tuition program. Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school will begin at the Open House! For additional information please contact our office at 302-421-3743, or visit our website: sapgs.org.

GET THE WORD OUT!

Our Parish Bulletin is an excellent & affordable way to advertise your business. Each week, we reach over 600 families in 4 States. Call 1-800-883-4343 and ask for the Advertising Department.