# MASS TIMES Saturday Vigil - 4:30 pm Sunday Mass - 7:30 am, 9:30 am,11:15 am Daily Mass - 8 am First Friday Daily Mass - 12:15 pm (no 8 am) Confession - Saturday 3:00 pm or by appointment

December 26, 2021—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



# THE HOLY FAMILY

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He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

service from the Lecturiory for Mean (2001, 1996, 1970 CCD.

#### **Parish Mission Statement**

St. Anthony Church is a parish where God's love nourishes the soul to actively minister to people and share the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to the Community of St. Anthony Church. Regardless of your present religious affiliation or status in the Catholic Church, your marital situation, personal history or struggles, disability, age, background, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, you are invited, welcomed, respected, loved and encouraged to be a part of our faith community.

#### Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Christmas is the season for being thankful and joyful and it is my hope that the miracle of this day peacefully and lovingly fills your hearts.

I feel blessed to be a member of our St. Anthony family and I would like to personally thank each one of you for being an integral part of our faith-filled community. My heart is full of gratitude to God for all the blessings and help we received during this challenging year. I humbly appreciate your generous cooperation and the offering of your valuable prayers, energy, time and talents you give to our Church community. I am particularly proud of all the work our parish has been able to accomplish during the pandemic and the help we offer through so many ministries.

In my daily prayer, I always pray for our parish family and for those who ask me to pray for them. I ask that God bless you and that the light of Christ replace any darkness you may experience.

As you gather with family and friends, allow the light of Jesus to penetrate deep into your hearts and souls so that you will truly have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

It is my wish that the Infant Child Jesus and His most Blessed Mother grant you the joy and peace of this holy season and keep you and your loved ones safe.

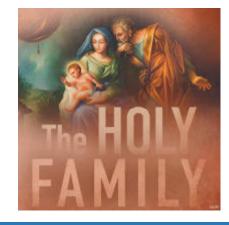
On behalf of Deacon Domenic and the parish staff we wish you a blessed Christmas.

In Christ,

Fr. Gregory



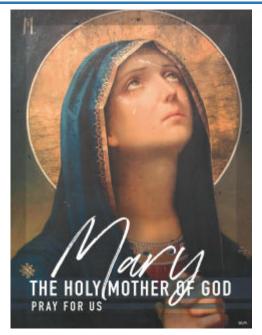
PROSPECT, CT



#### MASS INTENTIONS

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Saturday	December 25—The Nativity of the Lord			
9:00 AM	Tom, Mike, Agnes & Charlie Beard and Louise & John Schieffer, req. by Family			
Sunday	December 26—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph			
7:30 AM	Magdalena Spongberg, req. by Joanne & Dan Spongberg			
9:30 AM 11:15 AM	Carmella Eterginio, req. by Family Samuel LaPio, Sr., req. by Daughters			
Monday	December 27— Saint John			
8:00 AM	Stephen Noble, req. by Brian and Christine Sardinskas			
Tuesday	December 28—The Holy Innocents			
8:00 AM	Etelvina DeAlmeida, req. by the Carlos Family			
Wednesday	December 29—5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord			
8:00 AM	Deli Munes, req. by the Carlos Family			
Thursday	December 30—6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord			
8:00 AM	St. Anthony Parish Family			
Friday	December 31—7th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord			
8:00 AM	Joe Bakstis, req. by Wife and Family			
Saturday	January 1—The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God			
4:30 PM	Dick S. and son Brian S.			
Sunday	January 2—Epiphany of the Lord			
7:30 AM 9:30 AM	Claire Sardinskas, req. by Nana			

11:15 AM Gloria Ferraro, req. by St. Anthony Parish Community



Parish Office Phone Number: 203-758-4056
CLERGY:
Rev. Grzegorz (Gregory) Jaworowski
Deacon Domenic Stolfi
OFFICE STAFF:
Lisa White, ext. 10, Administrative Assistant to Fr. Gregory
email: stanthonyadmin@comcast.net Charlene Carriero, ext. 12, Bulletin Editor/Parish Registrations email: stanthonyadmin2@comcast.net
Edwin Kotchian ext 15 Director of Music
email: stanthonymusic@comcast.net Leanna Hinger, Cantor—email: leannarpizzo@gmail.com
Leanna Hinger, Cantor—email: leannarpizzo@gmail.com
Leanna Hinger, ext. 14, Communications Coordinator Tuesdays & Thursdays email: stanthonychurchcc@gmail.com
email: stanthonychurchcc@gmail.com
David Byrne, ext. 17, Volunteer Coordinator email: stanthonyvc@gmail.com
FAITH FORMATION: 203-758-4848
Andrea Brown, ext. 19, Director of Youth Formation
email: stanthonyyf@comcast.net STEWARDSHIP Committee
STEWARDSHIP Committee
Diana Veneri, 203-758-6404 Email: stanthonyprospectstewardship@gmail.com
Binan. stantionyprospectstewardsinp@ginan.com

PARISH COLLECTIONS 12/12/2021				
Weekly	\$	4,694.00		
Weekly on-line:		1,621.50		
Monthly on-line:		<u>1,215.00</u>		
Total:	\$	7,530.50		
<b>Retired Religious:</b>	\$	1,497.00		
Immaculate Conception		704.00		

#### **Counting Ministry**



The Counting Ministry is looking for new volunteers. If you have ever considered assisting with counting the collections, please call the office for further details. The counters are on a rotating schedule, volunteering their time once a month for a few hours. Confidentiality is essential in this

ministry.

#### THE EUCHARISTIC CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK FOR THE SAINT ANTHONY PARISH FAMILY

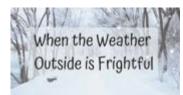


Thank you to Marianne Byrne for assisting with the replacement of the shade over the St. Anthony stained glass window

in the choir loft. This new shade will keep the sun our of Edwin's eyes and allow us to still see the image of St. Anthony and the texture of the glass pains.

It is a beautiful improvement!





Please note that when Region 16 dismisses school early due to bad weather, or cancels school for the day, we will NOT have any classes that day here at Saint Anthony's. We will also alert on Channel 3 if we choose to

cancel; it will also be posted on our website, as well as our many social media pages.

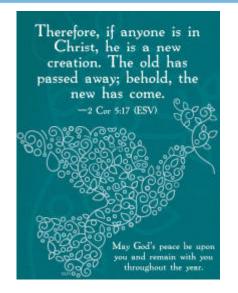
# Adult and Children's Choirs—Please Join Us! Children's Choir: Rehearses weekly on

Sunday from 10:30 am-11:00 am. Sings on selected Sundays at the 11:15 Mass.



Adult Choir: Rehearses weekly on Sunday from 8:45 am—9:15 am. Sings weekly at the 9:30 Mass.

Please email the Music Director, Edwin Kotchian, if you plan on joining at stanthonymusic@comcast.net



**Monday Night Bingo** 

Doors open at 5:30, games start at 7:00. If you would like to volunteer one night a month to help with bingo, please call the office.

December 27th—NO BINGO Check the website for Jackpots

#### **NOTICE:**

- In keeping with the policy of St. Anthony Bingo to observe all State of Connecticut bingo regulations, our \$20 admission fee is required of everyone in attendance including children, relatives or friends of admitted players. Volunteers and administrative guests are exempt from this requirement.
- Connecticut state statutes allow players under the age of 18 to be admitted to play when accompanied and monitored by an adult. Our admission fee includes eight game sheets in all. Purchases of special game sheets are optional.
- In consideration of the health & safety of everyone involved we ask that you attend bingo only if you are feeling well.
- As per the Archdiocese: Those who are fully vaccinated, wearing masks will now be optional; those who remain unvaccinated should continue to wear masks.



An anonymous donor has made a donation of a framed photo of Jesus for our church hall in loving memory of her late husband.

#### Seminarians

An updated poster of the seminarians in the Archdiocese of Hartford can be found on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Please pray that these men become true missionary disciples and for more vocations to the priesthood.

You may jot down a seminarian's name to pray for or send them a card in care of the Office of the Director of Seminarians





# OFFICE OF SEMINARIANS AND VOCATIONS 860 - 761 - 7456

is Michael Case



#### **Knights of Columbus News**



The Knights of Columbus Basket for Babies Collection begins on Sunday, December 26th and will end on Sunday, January 23rd. New and unwrapped items can be placed in collection baskets which will be in the rear

vestibule of the church. Items collected will be brought to Carolyn's Place in Waterbury and the Hope Pregnancy Center in Cheshire.

#### Wish List

Baby Bath **Baby** Lotion Baby Shampoo Baby Wipes Bibs Blanket Sleepers Booties

**Bottles** Comb & Brush Set Outfits Crib Sheets Desitin Ointment Diapers (size 4-6) **Diaper Bags** Hats & Sweaters

Onesies Pacifiers Rattles Sleepers Socks Strollers Stuffed Animals

#### **Good Will to All**

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Matthew 25:35-36 Something stirs at Christmastime that makes most of us want to do more for others. It could be the more generous love we notice in our community and culture. It could be the change of weather.

It could be the obligation to give back to those who serve us. Whatever starts that feeling in you doesn't matter as much as what you do with it.

- You could ignore it and play the Scrooge. You won't be alone in this attitude, but you also won't find support in the Bible.
- You could make sure everything is perfect, on sale, and pictures are taken for maximum social media display, but you might be missing the point of being generous.
- You could pray and ask God to show you opportunities and give you the means for being generous, and then go about your day, ready for something to happen.

God does want us to be intentional about how we serve others, but he also wants us to be ready to give even when we didn't plan on it. He wants us to see people in need, people he puts in our path. Keep your eyes open to the opportunities this Christmas season. Share Jesus through your money, your time, and your heart.

Family Discussion: Talk about ways you can be ready to serve others, like making sure you have extra time in your schedule, extra change in your pockets, and the willingness to see what people actually need.

Family Activity: Make a plan for an intentional service opportunity in your church or community and work together as a family.

Prayer Starter: Lord, help our family to see which people need things that we can give. Help us this week as we ....



SoulCore Classes Saint Anthony Church 4 Union City Rd, Prospect, C In the Hope Room

Schedule: Tuesday mornings at 9:15 am and

Thursday mornings at 8:45 am in the Hope Room. In warmer weather we will have class outdoors in the St. Anthony Meditation Garden (not by the Our Lady of Fatima Statue).

The focus of Soul Core is the prayers of the Rosary with the "invitation" to integrate exercises and periods of meditative rest at each mystery.

Please call, text, or email Barbara to let her know if you will be attending class by 6:00 pm the day prior at 203-605-8354. There is a "SoulCore" suggested \$10.00 participant donation per class, if able.

\*\*Please note: the First Saturday 9:15 a.m. class has been eliminated.



This may be your last chance to help the Archbishop's Annual Appeal achieve the goal of \$10 million for the 2021 tax year! ANNUAL APPEAL Please visit the Appeal website at

www.archdioceseofhartford.org and follow the link *Reaching Out, Healing Together*, to learn more and make your gift today. All pledges can be paid through December 31, 2021 toward this year's Appeal.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at

https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/.

No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

#### St. Anthony's Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee will be hosting a Ministry Meeting following the 11:15 Mass on Sunday, January 23rd. We will share news and talk about the needs and goals of our minis-



tries moving forward in 2022! All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to David Byrne at

stanthonyvc@gmail.com or call the Parish Center at 203-758-4056, ext. 17.

## Milford Knights of Columbus Motorcoach Trips 2022

# Lancaster PA Show Trip & the Dutch Country

Monday—Wednesday April 11—13 \$365.00 per person, based on double occupancy (add \$75 for single occupancy). \$75 due upon signing. Final payment due 2/4/2002.

#### Chicago

7 days, 6 nights: Sunday—Saturday; May 15—21 \$685 per person, based on double occupancy (add \$225 for single occupancy). \$75 due upon signing. Final payment due 3/8/2002.

#### **Myrtle Beach Show Trip**

6 days, 5 nights: Monday-Saturday; Sept. 12-17 \$655 per person, based on double occupancy (add \$199 for single occupancy). \$75 due upon signing. Final payment due 7/5/2002.

Call John Benard at 203-877-2737 for fliers and information. Mail checks to: 36 Beverly Rd., Milford, CT 06461-1621





If you're like me, this time of year is perfect for a warm beverage. Coffee and tea are popular year round, and many of us have invested in Keurig machines for their variety and convenience. What we sometimes don't realize is the mountain of trash that piles up from using those little plastic cups. It is estimated that over 10 billion plastic cups

are made every year, the vast majority of which end up in a landfill. So, what can one do? K-cups can't go in the recycling bin, so some options include reusable K-cup baskets (find them in local stores or Amazon) or reducing the amount you use. And if you use a traditional coffee pot or drink tea, remember that both coffee grounds and tea leaves can be used as compost in the garden! We'd love to share more tips with you ... search for "Prospect-Reduce Reuse Recycle" on Facebook!

Merry Christmas!

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

#### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

THOSE WHO ARE ILL: We welcome the opportunity to be informed of any of our parishioners who are ill or hospitalized. Contact the Parish Center at 203-758-4056, or email at stanthonyadmin2@comcast.net.: Robert Allegrini, Marshall Anderson, Mary Becker, Tigerlily Bentley, Gayle Boudreau, Melissa Burgett, Richard Calabro, Sr., Evelyn Campion, Theresa Ciuccoli Carley, Margaret Colangelo, Patricia Corbin, Adam Cronin, Eleanor Dana, Dawn Flohr, Rita Fried, Dolores Fusco, Donald Guerrera, Kristien Hertel, "Jim," Tracy Kearcher, Dalton Kelly, Eva Grace Kelly, Shirley Krawczyk, Zachery LaChance, Louise Lestage, Mary Macker, Madeline Mancini, Tracy Marquit, Sophie Marton, Barbara Moorcroft, Brianna Pereira, Ann Rasch, Charles Rowland, Christine Saunders, Meghan Shields, Mary Tanguay, Margaret Tentoni, Brian Weisner, and Michael Zwack. IF SOMEONE YOU PLACED ON THE PRAYER LIST CAN BE REMOVED, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE.

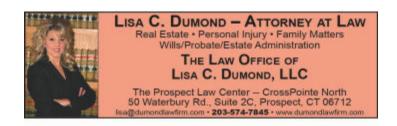
Please remember in your prayers, all active military members who are away from their families while serving around the world. "God please keep watch over all those who are serving in the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corp., National Guard, and Navy.

LaBonne's Cash for Charities **Rebate Program** 



- To date, we have received over 26,000 receipts!
- Please continue saving your receipts.
- Every couple of months submit them to the church via mail at 4 Union City Rd., drop them into the offertory basket or at the parish center. We will receive 1/2%back.
- Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their receipts, keep them coming!

### **ADVERTISER SPOTLIGHT**



#### PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS THEY MAKE THIS BULLETIN POSSIBLE

### **Pope Francis' Praver Intention for December**

Intention for evangelization—*Catechists:* Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-

giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi



#### Questions of the Week

**First Reading:** Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

Second Reading: John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family? Gospel: Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family?

# LIVE THE LITURGY

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In



all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love. ©LPi



#### Everyday Stewardship Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.-*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* 



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St. Anthony, Prospect, CT

