

St. Anthony Catholic Church

825 Klevin Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-2656

Main Office — 907-333-5544
Email — saparish.office@gmail.com

Fax — 888-571-0966
Website — www.stanthonyak.org

First Sunday of Advent December 2, 2018

Our mission:
To express faith in action,
welcome and celebrate diversity and be
alive in prayer and worship!

All are welcome!



Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday—9:00 AM
Saturday—5:30 PM
Sunday—8:30 AM—10:30 AM—5:30 PM

Healing Mass—First Friday
Native Mass—Third Saturday—5:30 PM
Filipino Mass—Second Sunday—5:30 PM
Samoan Mass—Last Sunday—10:30 AM
Youth Mass—Second and Fourth Saturday—5:30 PM

Adoration

Friday—7:00—8:00 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday—4:00—5:00 PM

Baptism

Call Parish Office to register for Parent's class
held the First Sunday of each month

Marriage

Meet with Pastor at least 6 months
prior to wedding

Funerals

Contact the Parish Office immediately
after a death

Parish Staff

Pastor

Fr. Vincent Blanco
907-333-5379
saparishfrvince@gmail.com

Faith Formation Director

Jill Popoalii
907-333-5287
stanthonysfaithformation@gmail.com

Music and Liturgy Director

Mary Jo Cunniff
stanthonysliturgy@gmail.com

Office Manager

John White
907-333-5544
saparish.office@gmail.com

Facility Engineer

Jose "Mario" Alfaro

Bulletin Editor

Chris Dalsfoist
sapbulletin@gmail.com

Webmaster

Peggy Bergsrud

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 8:00 AM — 4:00 PM

Reflection for the Week

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the season when we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time of anticipation, expectation, dreams and wishes.

We celebrate in many ways - special Masses and liturgies, beautiful Christmas music, festive decorations, parties and gatherings with family and friends. And of course - gifts! We all like gifts, both giving and receiving and waiting for the gifts is a big part of the anticipation and excitement of the season. Many of us recall that magical moment on Christmas morning, when all our waiting is ended with the gifts we find.

In the Old Testament, the Jews waited, longing for the promised Savior, believing God's promise - the greatest gift. Yet when He came at that first Christmas, this was not the gift they had expected, they were disappointed. Most did not recognize Him as the greatest gift God could give, His own Son, the Redeemer and King of the Universe, for all peoples, Jew and Gentile alike.

Let's all take a moment to step back from all the excitement and activity to recognize the real gift of the season, the gift we receive not just at Christmas but every day, salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps we can focus a little less on the worldly gifts we cannot hope to keep and think a little more about the gift we cannot lose.

Blessings
John

Readings for Next Week's Mass

Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING—The Book of Prophet Baruch
Baruch — 5:1 — 9 (6C)

**SECOND READING—The Letter of St. Paul
to the Philippians**
Phillipians — 1:4—6, 8—11

GOSPEL—The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
Luke — 3:1—6

Question of the Week

What have been the strengths of your prayer life?
What habit of prayer could you strengthen
during this Advent season?

Parish News and Events

Do you remember the Sisters, Brothers, or Religious Order Priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today, many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Next week, we will have a second collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Please consider supporting this important work. This collection is for retired religious, not retired archdiocesan priests. If you are interested in learning more about how to support retired Archdiocesan Priests by contributing to the Priest Pension Fund please contact Nathan McCabe, Director of Stewardship and Development, at nmccabe@caa-ak.org or 297-7789.

The mission of **St. Anthony's Local Organizing Ministry (LOM)** is to listen to fellow parishioners and neighbors in one-to-one conversations in order to build long-term personal relationships and to develop community leaders. Through these relationships, we identify common concerns, research issues and look for concrete, workable solutions. The St. Anthony LOM will meet **this Monday, December 3, 6:30-7:30 PM** in the parish office. **All are welcome!**

We will again be selling **beautiful poinsettias from Bell's Nursery** to decorate the altar at Christmas. They will be on sale the weekends of **December 1-2 and 8-9 after all the Masses**. The poinsettias are \$15.00 each. You have a choice of red, pink or white. If you purchase to donate for altar decoration, we will deliver them to the Church. You can also buy for yourself or as a wonderful gift - you will need to pick them up yourself at Bell's.

It's that time of year to gather the Youth and Children to begin rehearsals for the Christmas Play! This is a tradition at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve, 6 PM and a key part of the liturgy. **Rehearsals are every Sunday at Noon until Christmas**. For more information, contact Jill Popoalii, 333-5287.

Lector workbooks for the new Liturgical Year are available now. Current lectors can pick up their new book in the sacristy. **Thank you for your service!**

Youth Choir rehearsals are Thursdays, 6:30 PM in the Church. The Youth Mass is now twice a month! **The next Youth Mass will be celebrated this Saturday, December 8, 5:30 PM Mass.** For more information, call Mary Jo, 317-3187. We will see you there!

It's not too late for Faith Formation! You can still register for the new school year, including for Sacramental Preparation classes (First Communion and Confirmation.) **All children hoping to receive these sacraments must be enrolled in Faith Formation!** For more details, please contact Jill Popoalii, 333-5287 or email stanthonyfaithformation@gmail.com.



RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the formation process for adults who wish to be baptized or for those already baptized in another Christian denomination to make a Profession of Faith to be in full communion with the Catholic Church. **Classes are held every Wednesday, 7 PM.** For more details, please contact Jill Popoalii, 333-5287 or email stanthonysfaithformation@gmail.com

Let's all respect our beautiful Church Home! We are blessed by God with a wonderful place to gather and worship. **We are all Family at St. Anthony, Brothers and Sisters in Christ and the Church is our Home.** Sometimes, our younger members are tempted to eat or drink in the Sanctuary where we celebrate Mass, honor God and **this is not appropriate.** When this happens, bits of food and trash are left and this does not show the respect we owe our Creator. **Please keep any food, drink and trash out of the sanctuary!** The Parish Hall is available and the proper place for refreshments and snacks. Your cooperation and assistance are greatly appreciated.

Copies of **The WORD Among Us for December** are available in the entryway. These booklets offer the complete Catholic mass and daily meditations and are available for anyone who would like a copy. A \$1 donation is requested.

FREE STUFF. St. Anthony has two round dining tables and one industrial-size fan looking for a good home - free! All need some repair. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Peggy Bergsrud, 329e@gci.net or call the Parish Office, 333-5544.

Sanctuary Lighting Project — the Sanctuary Lighting Project is complete! Except for some minor fine-tuning, which will be accomplished soon. This improves the lighting in the Church, reduce energy usage, help to ensure electrical safety, reduce heat buildup, and reduce the need for frequent lamp replacement. The work was accomplished by Raven Electric. **Generous anonymous donors stepped forward and funded this project, our sincere gratitude and blessings go to them for making it possible.** Thanks to Mary Jo once again for planning and managing this project.

Pathway to Renovation update as of 11/28 — The new crucifix has been installed! Mario and a team of Contractors and Parishioner Volunteers carefully mounted it on the wall Tuesday evening under the watchful eye of Mary Jo, who managed the project. Our thanks and praise to God who has given us this beautiful addition to our Church, to His greater glory and to all of the generous donors and volunteers who help to do His work on earth.

The Archdiocese of Anchorage would like to thank you for supporting #GivingTuesday. Every gift has an important impact right here in the Archdiocese of Anchorage! Haven't made a commitment yet? It is never too late to give! Make your gift today at <https://www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/donate/>

Parent Discussion Group - Ninety percent (90%) of our kids are no longer practicing their Faith by age 22. Join us for our parent discussion group on how we can beat those statistics in our families! Bob McMorrow, Elise Martinez and Liz Loeffler will be facilitating a parent discussion group and sharing the most recent research on how to pass down our Faith effectively. **We will meet at 4 PM at Lumen Christi in the Library. The next meeting is Sunday, December 9.** For more details, contact Elizabeth Loeffler - eloeffler@lumenchristiak.com.

Marriage Help – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. The next program in the Anchorage area begins with a weekend on February 22 - 24, 2019. For confidential information or to register, call 863-8000 or email: anchorage@helpourmarriage.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.org

Understanding the true meaning of marriage is one thing, living it out is another. **Beloved: Living Marriage** examines the day-to-day challenges of being united as husband and wife, while maintaining individuality. Learning to effectively communicate, turning conflict into understanding, avoiding the pitfalls that wreck relationships and understanding sex in the context of authentic love are among the topics presented for helping relationships to thrive. Six sessions from trusted experts work for both marriage preparation and marriage enrichment opportunities. **Join us at 6-8 PM Saturday evenings in the upper room at Lumen Christi High School on December 1, January 12, February 23, March 16, April 6 and May 4.** Gather for a potluck meal followed by open gym for the kids (childcare provided) and parent discussion on the Beloved video series. For more information, contact James Kvidera, james.p.kvidera@gmail.com

Catholic Engaged Encounter is an in-depth, private, personal, marriage preparation experience within the context of Catholic faith and values. **Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat** away with other engaged couples with plenty of time alone together to dialogue honestly and intensively about their prospective lives together—their strengths and weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals, their attitudes about money, sex, children, family, their role in the Church and Society—in a face to face way. The weekend is open to any engaged couple wanting to prepare for a deeper, more meaningful life together in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church according to its Church Law. Weekends in the Archdiocese of Anchorage are conducted at the Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Anchorage. **The dates for the 2019 Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekends are January 25—27 and May 31—June 2.** For more information please contact Deacon Mick Fornelli, 297-7770 or mfornelli@caaak.org.

Liturgical Ministers — December 8/9

Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday—5:30 PM		
Melissa van Haastert	F. Bolewicz M. LoKanin E. Ramirez	Paul Fruen Yvonne Lafaele Mary Lafaele Tanimu Mafuao Henryetta Talo
Sunday—8:30 AM		
Kelly Auer	P. Petrivelli D. Braudis N. Nickarz	Ken Young Kristopher Anaruk Samantha Anaruk James Anaruk Winter Anaruk
Sunday—10:30 AM		
Jill Popoalii Noah Mafuao	A. Bol U. Tafune M. Alefosio V. Afuvai K. Toluono J. Peters T. Ulofoshio	Mariah Afuvai Melesete Afuvai Rjandro Parungao Lyndon Savelio Kolio Savelio Nifae Valai
Sunday—5:30 PM		
Ruben Palugod Connie Mast	N. VanHoey D. Hess A. Advincula	Ryon Yamat Emmanuel Mast Anastasia Mast Antonio Rivera Nicole Rivera Rafael Rivera
Home Ministry		
	Mike Bartz Brenda Bergsrud	

Week at a Glance

Monday	Samoan Community Youth Practice—7:00 PM
Tuesday	Creative Circle—9:30 AM
Wednesday	<u>Bulletin Deadline—5:00 PM</u> Filipino Gospel Choir Practice—6:00 PM Bringing Catholics Home—7:00 PM Samoan Choir Practice—8 :00 PM
Thursday	Kateri Circle—11:00 AM Youth Choir Rehearsals—6:30 PM
Friday	Adoration—7:00 PM
Saturday	Samoan Divine Mercy Group—10:00 AM

Parishioners with any **concerns about child or vulnerable adult safety, or who need information about safe environment compliance** at St. Anthony, should contact our **Safe Environment Coordinator, Jill Popoalii, 333-5287** or via email at stanthonysfaithformation@gmail.com

Question of the Week for KIDS

What prayers will you say each day and week during Advent?

Prayer List for Our Sick and Suffering

If you have a name you wish to have added to the listing, please contact the Parish Office or send it to the bulletin editor, sapbulletin@gmail.com.

Please Pray for our Sick and Suffering

Pacita Agron Vic Algoso Audey Algoso Kristin Bozarth Keith Brown Ed Cordova Agnes Coyle Josie Duenas Ed Grantier Maricel Juan Jerome Karella Joshua Kutzgar	Sam Kutzgar Joyce Lightner Teresita Lolesio Kendrick Matthews Duane Morfield Christopher Nickarz Dominador Ochoa Elmer Pagalilauan Margie Quinn Josephine Skeete Ann Whalen Kareem Waugh
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Collection from November 24—25, 2018

Regular Collection — \$6,301.00
Thanksgiving Day — \$442.00
Building and Maintenance — \$38.00
Online Giving — \$1,005.00
All Saints' Day — \$25.00
All Souls' Day — \$20.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development — \$65.00

Parishioners of St. Anthony donated 510 lbs. of food to St. Francis House during the month of November.

Thank you for your generosity!

Are you new to our Parish?

Do you have questions about our Faith Community?

Have you been attending St. Anthony and you would like to register as a member of our Parish? Do you need to update your contact information? Call the Parish Office, 333-5544 or via email—saparish.office@gmail.com.

Would you like to receive the bulletin by email? You may not be aware that the bulletin can be emailed directly to you, or anyone with an interest, every week. If you would like the current bulletin in your inbox on a weekly basis, please contact the Parish Office. We will gladly add you to our mailing list.

The St. Anthony Parish Hall and Conference Rooms are available for use for Parish Ministry or Private Events. Please contact the Parish Office for scheduling availability and details.

Parish Website Changes – Due to technical difficulties, the stanthonyak.com website is not currently being maintained and is not functional. **Please use the stanthonyak.org** website until further notice.