



Fourth Sunday of Advent
"THE ANTONIAN" † December 24, 2023
St. Anthony of Padua,
Our Patron and Intercessor,



Christmas 2023

Venite Adorémus - DOMINUM

For A Child is Born to us, a Son is given us;
Upon His shoulder dominion rests.
They name Him Wonder -Counselor,
God -Hero, Father-Forever,
Prince of Peace



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Temperance, Michigan

† MASS SCHEDULE †

Christmas Day Mass Intentions

Monday, December 25, 2023

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Holy Day of Obligation (New, Trad.)

12:00am *The People of St. Anthony (Midnight)

10:00am †Clarence (Bud) Henry (English) by Marie-Lynn T. Henry

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

No Mass

St. Stephen (35), the First Martyr, Pt. of stonemasons (New, Trad.)

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

No Mass

St. John (100), Ab., Evangelist, Pt. of theologians, editors, publishing, & Asia (New, Trad.)

Thursday, December 28, 2023

9:00am †Linda Slaton

by Michael & Cheryl Scott

The Holy Innocents (c. 1 A.D.), Ms. (New, Trad.)

Friday, December 29, 2023

No Mass

St. Thomas Becket (St. Thomas of Canterbury) (1170), B., M. (New, Trad.)

St. David the King (973 B.C.) (Hist.)

Saturday, December 30, 2023

St. Anysius (410), B. of Thessalonica (Hist.)

St. Sabinus (303), B., M. (Hist.)

No Sunday Vigil Mass

Intention moved to Sunday

Sunday, December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph (New)

Sunday in the Octave of the Nativity (Trad.)

9:00am †Peter Woronec

(English) by Jim Woronec

†Pamela Tilk Wojtowicz

by Mark Tilk

12:00pm †People of St. Anthony

St. Sylvester I (335), P. (New, Trad.)

Readings for the Week

Today, Sunday, December 24:

For English Mass:

2 Samuel 7:2-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

For Latin Mass

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Monday, December 25 - Christmas:

Vigil - Isaiah 62:1-5 /

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;

Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night - Isaiah 9:1-6

Timothy 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Dawn - Isaiah 62:11-12

Timothy 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

Day - Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6,

John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday, December 26:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;

Matthew 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27:

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1, 2-8

Thursday, December 28:

1 John 1:5--2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Friday, December 29:

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30:

1 John 2:21-17; Luke 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31:

For English Mass:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

For Latin Mass

Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7

Gospel: Luke 2:33-40

This Week's Calendar

Monday, December 25, 2023

12:00Midnight - Holy Mass

10:00am - Holy Mass

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

No Mass

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

No Mass

Thursday, December 28, 2023

9:00am - Holy Mass

Exposition until Noon

Friday, December 29, 2023

No Mass

Saturday, December 30, 2023

No Evening Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2023

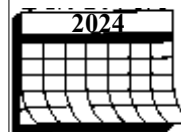
9:00am - Holy Mass

12:00pm - Holy Mass



The Mass with Jubilarians for 2024 will be Sunday, February 11 At the 9:00am Mass. Parishioners who will be celebrating a milestone anniversary (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, +) in 2023, please contact the Parish Office with your information: names, # of years, & date of marriage. All Couples will receive a certificate from the Parish. Following the Mass will be a reception in the Narthex.

Complimentary Calendars for 2024 are now available in the Narthex.



Limit one per family, please, to be sure there are enough to go around.

† Days for Blessing items may vary.

Please be sure to leave your name and phone number on the items; we will call you once the items are blessed.

St. Anthony Parish Offices will be closed for Christmas December 25 - January 1 We will re-open Tuesday, January 2 Have a Blessed Christmas and Joy-filled New Year!

Christmas Blessings From Father Slaton and the Staff of St. Anthony Catholic Church. Grace Michelle Eric, Ginny Caeli Robert. Image of the Holy Family.

- List of names and military service: Wes Brown, Army Reserve; Kodie Burtscher, USAF; Jed Clark, USMC; Kay Clark Thompson, USAF; AB Aaron Ford, USAF; Eric Hite, Jr. USAF; SSGT Alexa Long, USAF; A.J. Ondrus, USN; Joseph Pilrose, USAF; Alexander Strang USAF; Kenneth Lee Ziegler, Jr., Army.

ST. ANTHONY'S DIRECTORY

PASTOR

Father Robert Slaton.....734-854-1143
frslaton.stanthony@gmail.com

Rectory.....734-854-1143

4605 St. Anthony Rd., Temperance, MI 48182

Fax.....734-854-4622

Web site.....stanthonytemperance.org

E-mail.....stanthony@bex.net

OFFICE STAFF:

Caeli McCutchen, Michelle Lindsey,

Parish Secretaries: 734-854-1143

Grace Ledbetter, Business Office: 734-854-8445

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am-4:30pm

Friday: 9am - 1pm

Padua Hall.....734-854-9120

Kenna Hall.....734-854-9162

4635 St. Anthony Road

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

Eric Hite 419-266-0571 ehite820@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ginny Stout, RE Coordinator....734-854-1160

Email.....Stanthonytemperancere@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, 10:30am - 5:00pm

Sacrament of Penance

Thursday: 5:30-6:30pm;

By Appointment, please call the Rectory

Prayer Blankets

Sandy Maenle.....847-7813

Prayer Chain

Miriam Dressel.....734-888-1192

† Our Sacramental Policy †

Six-month Parish registration and participation are required for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made in advance and parents must attend a baptism class. The Church requires that at least one of the parents be a practicing Catholic, and the Godparents must be active, practicing, fully initiated Catholics at least 16 years of age. If two Godparents: must be 1 male & 1 female; if one Godparent: may be male or female.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least nine months in advance. Please call the rectory office. Officiate at the ceremony must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Funerals: Officiate must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Please note: The services of the Parish Organist are used for all sacramental liturgies.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:

Please Call the Rectory.



For more details regarding our Sacramental policies and procedures, please refer to the Sacrament link on our Parish web-site.

Norb Abel
Easton Aitson
Baby George
Pete Grundy
Paul Bazydlo
Mike Bunge
Charley Bussey
Caleb
Bob Carey
Gerald Carto
Lowell Cousino
Rosemary Cox
Marcus Demorest
Caleb Dershem
Elaine Esper
Joe Evener
Bruce Fondren
Geoff Fondren
Barbara Francis
Julie Fuzinski
Sheila Greisinger
Janet Harrell

....Let us Pray for....

Gloria Hartman
Nicole Hartman
Diane Heidelberg
Phyllis Heyse
Sonya Hill
Gene & Phyllis
Hinkelman
Richard Hiszak
Fr. Jim Holup
Devin Kacher
Kathy Kapela
Jonah Kornberg
RoseMarie Komorowski
Bill Lane
Aggie Langscheid
Patrick Lyndsay
Heather Maenle
Sandy Maenle
Peg Mallin
Bridget Marie

Gary Martin
Lois Martin
Jodi Miller
Adelaide Munk
Steve Murzynski
Nusbaum Family
Ken Nusbaum
Ella Mae Nusbaum
Fran O'Connor
Tyler & Jen Oehlers
Austin Oehlers
Armando Ortiz
Homero Ortiz
Sister Mary Paulina
Karen & Tom Penney
Dianne Petrilla
Cliff Renn
Fr. Patrick Rohen
Midge Sherman
John & Marge Scott

Alexander, Andrew & Tanner Skelton
Patty Smith
Cheryl Stanford
Cherryl Stout
Audrey Tavares
Delores Thorn
Katie Tomaszewski
Flossie Townsend
Alicia Trejo
Lily Tussey
Murl Waidelich
Christopher Warner
Kristine Wells
Mary Beth Wise
Rick Wolneiwicz
Jim Woronec
Dawn Wyse
Charlie Yacuone
Amy Yates
Rita Zeller

Christmas Blessings to All!

Many people come to St. Anthony Catholic Church to worship during the Christmas Season.

What a blessing to celebrate this holy day with the familiar faces of those who join us throughout the year, who have enriched our lives through Worship, Christian Charity, and self-giving love: We Give Thanks to God for You!

In this past year, we have been blessed with new acquaintances, whether joining us at Holy Mass, or registering to become members of our family.

Or, maybe today is your first time at St. Anthony's.

To all of you we offer a sincere:

“Hello and Welcome.”

Maybe you've been away for a while and have chosen this time to re-connect; To you we offer a heartfelt,

“Welcome Home!”



**O Come,
Let Us Adore Him!**



Merry CHRISTMAS

Liturgical Assignments for
December 31, 2023 & January 1, 2024

	Priest	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers
Sunday, December 31 9:00am Christmas Eve	Fr. Slaton	K. Shade	C., J., M. Torio	G. Ingersoll; A. Hajdu
Sunday, December 31 12:00pm	Fr. Slaton	--	MC: J. McCutchen	M. Peterson; M. Scott
Monday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God Holy Day - Not Obligated	Fr. Slaton	M. Lindsey	R. Oehlers	--

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Notes of Moderation - Fourth Sunday of Advent

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my last article we examined the historical hesitation that many felt in regards to approaching the blessed Sacrament in Holy Communion. The comparison was drawn between the medieval reluctance to receive Holy Communion which was rooted in an exaggerated 'fear of the Lord' and the contemporary sense of entitlement in which everyone seems to feel that receiving the Sacred Species is a "right and requirement" in Mass attendance. It should not be shocking to learn that the truth lies somewhere between these two extreme positions. The authoritative Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St. Paul urges us to examine our conscience: *'Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself* (1 Cor. 11: 27-29)'. **Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion** (C.C.C. 1385)." We also find such an understanding in the earliest practices of the Church. Around the year 155 A.D. St. Justin Martyr wrote: "We call this food 'Eucharist' and no one else is permitted to partake of it, except one who believes our teaching to be true and who has been washed in the washing which is for the remission of sins and for regeneration and is thereby living as Christ enjoined." Therefore, we find both the biblical account and the Church Fathers warning us not to approach the sacred mysteries lightly or unprepared! So, how are we to understand this teaching and put it into practice?

St. Justin's account speaks of a required faith (one who believes our teaching to be true) and the reception of baptism (and who has been washed in the washing). Admittedly, such distinctions were much clearer in the age of antiquity. When the distinction was largely between Christians and pagans the issue was clear. Now we have many who claim the title "Christian", many who have been baptized outside of the Catholic Church, many who claim to have faith that agrees with the apostolic teaching. How do we sort through all of this? While there may be exceptions in certain cases and situations (e.g. Orthodox Christians), the general rule is that reception of Holy Communion is restricted to members of the Catholic Church. The reasoning is simple, if a person 'believes our teaching to be true' then they would enter into the Church that we teach to be the Church established by Christ. This law establishes a baseline of expectation. The concept of "closed communion" may seem harsh to modern sensibilities. In our current culture and our Church's emphasis on 'radical hospitality' as a practice of evangelization and welcome, it may even seem off putting and elitist. Nevertheless, if we understand the sacred treasure of our Lord's Body and Blood, we must conclude that we must practice caution regarding before whom we present our pearls (cf. Mt. 7:6). Consider your own family structure. We all have friends and neighbors that we invite and welcome into events, movie nights, and family dinners. Nevertheless, there are (and should be) certain aspects of our family life that are restricted to immediate family members. Certain intimate events retain their sacredness because they are restricted. Reception of Holy Communion is the most intimate encounter between our Blessed Lord and the members of His mystical body, the principle is applied.

While it is easy to understand that membership in the Church would bring certain privileges, St. Paul's warning to carefully discern oneself before approaching the Body and Blood of Christ was not written to those outside of the Church. It was written to baptized members of the faithful. Our next article will discuss the proper disposition of the faithful in approaching Holy Communion.

God love you,

Fr. Slaton

Notes of Moderation - Christmas

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Lumen Christi Family of Parishes,

Looking back at the last few months, I think that we must acknowledge that it has been a difficult year. We have all experienced loss, frustration, sickness, and the difficulties that come inevitably with change. However, we are still here. Our parishes are still open. St. Joseph school is still functional. The gospel message is still being proclaimed and the sacraments are still being celebrated. Now, we are called to set aside the disappointments of the previous month and rejoice. We rejoice as members of our parish! We rejoice in common with our fellow parishes within Lumen Christi! We rejoice with all believing Christians in the Archdiocese and throughout the world! We rejoice because the very light of the world has come to us. We rejoice because God has fulfilled the promises of old. We rejoice for the liberator of the shackles of sin and death has come into the world! We rejoice at the babe in the manger! We rejoice at the birth of our Lord and King! We rejoice because it is Christmas and God is with us! The future remains an uncertain question. Nevertheless, we rejoice today and we move forward together into the uncertain future with confidence and hope. For the Christ has come and has promised to remain with us until the end.

Merry Christmas and God love you,

Fr. Slaton



The Christmas Story

According to St. Luke

In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph, too, went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

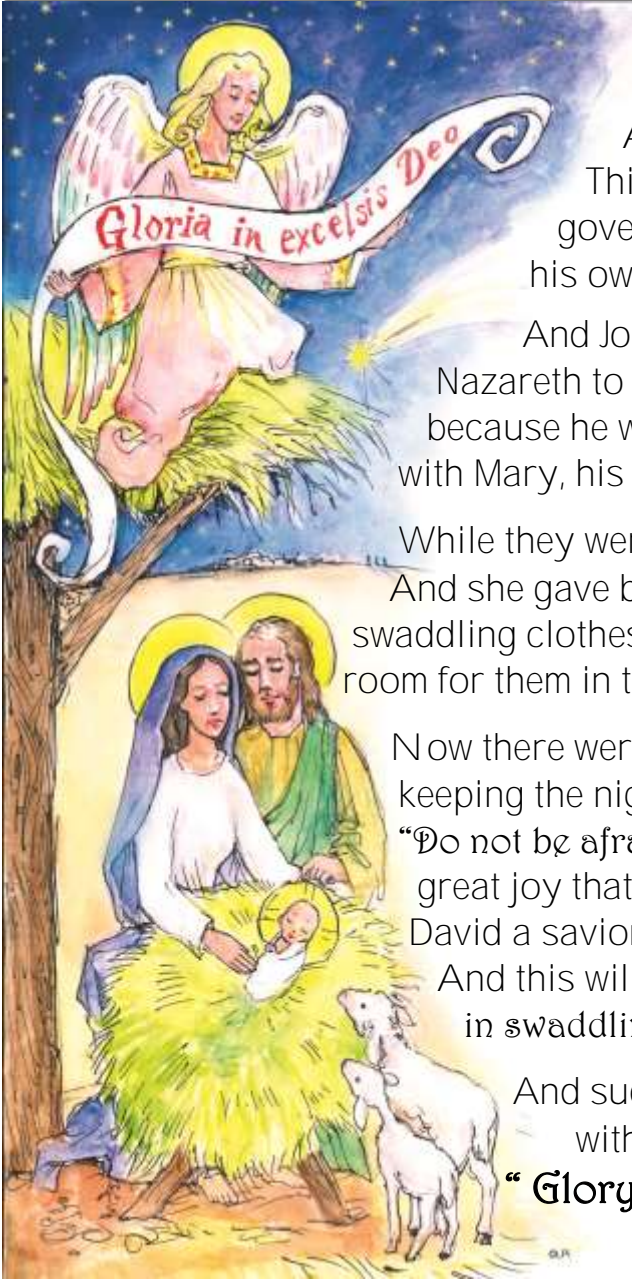
While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, And she gave birth to her first born son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
Peace to those on whom His favor rests."**



Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season.

We have lighted four candles these past four weeks
and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends.

Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

O God, you became human through the obedience
of a simple young woman named Mary.

Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to Your word as Mary was.

Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to You.

We ask this through the incarnate God,

Who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Leonine Prayers after Mass

These are the prayers prayed at St. Anthony following the final hymn. They can also be found on the inside cover of the Vatican II Hymnal. They are optional; but all are welcome to stay and pray with us.

(Following are the Prayers after Low Mass which were prescribed by **Pope Leo XIII** who composed the *Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel*, and were reinforced by **Pope Pius XI** and **Pope Pius XII** to pray for the conversion of Russia. These prayers were in effect until after Vatican II. A decade later **Paul VI** said, "*satan has entered the sanctuary.*" Could the elimination of these powerful prayers with a ten year indulgence have played a huge part in allowing the devil such easy access? The answer is obvious.)

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (*Said 3 times*)

Leader: Hail, Holy Queen,

All: Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee to we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile, show unto us the blessed Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Leader: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, our refuge and our strength, look down with mercy upon the people who cry to Thee; and by the intercession of the glorious and immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of Saint Joseph her spouse, of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the saints, in Thy mercy and goodness hear our prayers for the conversion of sinners, and for the liberty and exaltation of the Holy Mother the Church. Through the same Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Saint Michael the Archangel,

All: defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Leader: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, **All:** Have mercy on us.

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This prayer was added at the request of one of our Pro-life Parishioners:

Leader: Prayer for The Little Ones Unborn

Our Father, we thank You for letting us share the gift of life. We know that all Your children are precious to You. We pray that You may give special protection to the little ones not yet born. Guard them from those who would do them harm. Permit them to enter the world safely, to live in the light of day, and to make their way to the place You have prepared for them. Grant that every mother would welcome her child with love as Mary welcomed her Divine Son. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 24, 2023

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA



REVEREND FATHER ROBERT SLATON, MODERATOR

At this time, due to a shortage of priests, the *Lumen Christi Family of Parishes* (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Anthony, & St. Joseph) now has only one priest – Fr. Slaton. And so, under the direction of Bishop Battersby we are now limited to only six (6) weekend Masses between the three parishes. Together with the Lumen Christi staffs, Fr. Slaton has developed the following schedule for Mass and Confessions.

Please continue to keep Fr. Slaton in your prayers.

Mass Times

Day	St. Anthony	St. Joseph	OLMC
Sunday	9:00am Mass (<i>English</i>); 12:00pm Mass	7:30am Mass 10:30am Mass	10:00am Mass
Monday	No Mass	--	9:00am Mass
Tuesday	9:00am Mass (<i>English</i>)	--	--
Wednesday	No Mass	9:00am Mass	--
Thursday	7:00pm Mass	--	--
Friday	No Mass	8:30am Mass	--
First Friday	7:00pm Mass	8:30am Mass	--
First Saturday	9:00am Mass	--	--
Saturday	No Sunday Vigil Mass	No Sunday Vigil Mass	4:30pm Sunday Vigil Mass

Confessions

Day/Time	St. Anthony	St. Joseph	OLMC
Thursday	5:30-6:30pm	--	--
Saturday	No Saturday Confessions	10:30 – 11:30am	2:30-3:30pm

Catholic Services Appeal - 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit embark upon the CSA (Catholic Services Appeal) Drive. The CSA is a required collection taken up for the general operational expenses of the Archdiocese of Detroit. It helps to subsidize Catholic institutions that may not necessarily be connected to or funded by a particular parish. Among these special services are Campus Ministry, Telecommunications, Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies, Central Service Offices, which provide direct assistance to individual parishes, the Marriage Tribunal, and the like. Since the CSA provides for 62% of the operating budget of the Archdiocese, we are assessed or taxed a specific amount we are asked to meet. Our assessment is based upon many factors, including parish registration, Sunday collections, and financial status of the area within our parish boundaries. The detail of how our assessment is calculated, as well as how the money is used may be found on the insert included with today's bulletin.

The amount assessed to St. Anthony Parish this year is **\$38,555**. In order to reach our goal, the recommended pledge amount will be **\$250** from each family.

For your convenience, pledge forms can be found at the bottom of this page. Please complete the form and designate the amount of your pledge and the payment plan you prefer and return to the Parish Office. Pledges may also be made by calling the Parish Office 734-854-1143; sending your pledge via email (stanthony@bex.net) or by stopping by the Parish Office during regular business hours.

Your pledge can be made in several ways: paid in full and returned with your pledge form; a down payment returned with your pledge form, with the balance divided into quarterly payments, or divided evenly among 9 monthly payments. Credit card and automatic withdrawal payments and electronic funds transfers (EFT) will also be accepted. If you wish to contribute this way, please go to: give.aodcsa.org. Please select "St. Anthony, Temperance" on the online form where indicated. Donors may also call (888) 331-8695 to make an online or EFT request.

Please note: If you sign up to make payments on your pledge, the payment schedule will not begin until July 2023.

Please remember that we are required to make an accounting of all CSA cards for our Parish, so even if you are unable to pledge, we ask that you indicate that to the Parish Office as well.

I am grateful for your continued stewardship and prayers.

God Love you!

Father Robert J. Slaton
St. Anthony Parish

CSA - 2023

Name _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

Amount of total Pledge \$ _____ Amount paid today \$ _____

Balance due \$ _____. Please bill me quarterly _____ or monthly (9 monthly payments) _____

____ I will pay by credit card (or) by automatic withdrawal payments per the information above.

Please make checks Payable to: St. Anthony - CSA