



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
The coming of the new law

As we move closer to Christmas, the O Antiphons in the Liturgy of the Hours highlight the prophecy that foretold Jesus' coming. Today, we pray, "O Leader of Israel, giver of the law to Moses: rescue us with your mighty power!" Time and again, God has rescued his people. Faith and divine law go hand-in-hand. Just as the Israelites tried to hold fast to the law of Moses, we are called to embrace Jesus as a new embodiment of that law. He is coming to renew the face of the earth, may his birth at Christmas renew the law in our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10).* "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 ADVENT WEEKDAY
Hope starts early

A child is born, and a surge of hope arrives with it. Truthfully, we have no idea who this stranger will be. The color of a baby's eyes may change; this tiny being may grow to be seven feet tall. She might be president of her own company. He may be a priest, a plumber, a playwright. So much potential lies hidden in each new person. Why not support our children with every possible resource? We pray in thanksgiving for the hope new life brings: "O Root of Jesse's stem, come save us without delay!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195).* "For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 ADVENT WEEKDAY
Be free

Freedom is talked about, legislated, protested for. But what is freedom? Some definitions seem watery: We want to do as we like without restrictions. We want Mom or the government or the church off our backs. A better sense of liberty is the capacity to become more than the sum of our givens. The imprint of divine nature distinguishes us: makes us self-creators, re-inventors, transcendents of present circumstances. We pray for the right key to unlock our best selves: "O Key of David, come and free the prisoners of darkness!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196).* "Elizabeth has conceived a son in her old age... for nothing will be impossible for God."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

© 2016 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and App available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Contributors: Alice Camille, Peg Ekerdt, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Jennifer Tomshack, Patrice J. Tuohy

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

May calmer minds prevail

Saint Peter Canisius is remembered for being the calm voice in the midst of a storm. For Catholics in 16th-century northern Europe, the storm was the Protestant Reformation. While most partisans on both sides of the divide used strident words and sometimes violent actions, Peter called for reason. Rejecting the inflamed rhetoric against Protestants that was coming from his associates, he said, "With words like these, we don't cure patients, we make them incurable." Think twice before you criticize those who see things differently. Keep the dialogue open.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197).* "O Radiant Dawn, shine on those in darkness and the shadow of death."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 ADVENT WEEKDAY

Kinship with all

In today's antiphon for vespers we pray, "O King of all nations: save us, whom you formed from the dust!" That is a reminder that all people come from the same source and have been formed by the same God. Each one of us is made in God's image and likeness. The kingdom of God is one of kinship. If we take the time to truly come to know one another, we will find the glimpses of God all around us. We just need to look!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198).* "He remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 ADVENT WEEKDAY

O come, O come Emmanuel!

"O Emmanuel: come to save us, Lord our God." Every day for the past seven days, the church has prayed the O Antiphons, using the ancient words and divine images found in the Old Testament. In these prayers, people of faith asked God to come and free us, to rescue us, and to shine on us. Today, the divine word is *Emmanuel*, which means "God-with-us." As today unfolds, remember that God is with you right now and will be with you through thick and thin, stress and peace, sorrow and joy. It is your job to pay attention and notice God's presence in the insights, conversations, and events of your days—and then to act accordingly.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199).* "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 ADVENT WEEKDAY

God is with you always

What's in a name? In the case of Emmanuel, it's *all* in that name. "God-with-us" in the infant whose birth we celebrate; "God-with-us" in Jesus' forgiving sinners; "God-with-us" in Jesus weeping over a friend's death; "God-with-us" in feeding thousands with bread and countless people with his word; "God-with-us" carrying the cross; "God-with-us" on Christmas morning and in his last words, "I am with you always." God is with you today and always because Jesus has lived up to his name. Is there someone you ought to be with tonight?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200).* "I have been with you wherever you went."



Saint Anthony Church

15 Church Street

White River Jct. Vermont

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2016

Father Charles R. Danielson, Pastor

Deacon John P. Guarino

Bishop of Burlington: Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne

Parish Office

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM
 Closed on Wednesday

Secretary: Mrs. Joanne Collins
Telephone: 802-295-2225
Office e-mail: Info@SaintAnthonyChurchWRJ.org
Website: www.stanthonysvt.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 PM
 Sunday 8:30 AM
Weekday: Monday & Friday 9:00 AM
Holy Days: Consult the parish bulletin

Rectory Chapel

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Religious Education

Coordinator: Mrs. Julie Hamilton, 295-3989, juliehamilton130@comcast.net

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday from 3:15 – 3:45 PM
Baptism: Parents must come to the rectory to get the necessary forms at least a month in advance.
Marriage: Couples must contact the parish at least 6 months in advance.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17	4:00 P.M.	Lena Romano anniversary by Herb & Pat Castellini
Sunday, December 18	8:30 A.M.	The People of Saint Anthony Parish
Monday, December 19	9:00 A.M.	Thanksgiving to Saint Anthony by JLD
Friday, December 23	9:00 A.M.	In Thanksgiving by Larry & Marilyn White
Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24	4:00 P.M.	<i>All those in whose memory Christmas flower offerings have been made</i>
Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25	8:30 A.M.	<i>are remembered in the celebration of these Christmas Masses</i>



Fourth Sunday of Advent



Mary Mayette	Connie Cole
Nancy Parkerson	John Delap
Vicky Chambers	Theresa Baribeau
Beverly Wilson	Gerard Tellier
James Dubuque	Sue Lashway
Anne Schelewa	Frank Klymn
Linda West	Richard Temple
Rose Temple	Michael Temple
Fr. Adrien Pelletier, S.M.	Sean Hamilton

Please also remember others who are in need of our prayers.

Names will be published in our bulletin for one month. If you would like to renew your prayer request after one month, please contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamps will burn for:

Saint Anthony
Parishioners
& friends



Sacrificial Giving Report

To meet our expenses we need:	\$ 3,750.00
Offertory collection December 10-11:	\$ 2,870.00
Retirement Fund for Religious:	\$ 702.28

**Thank You for Your Support
of Saint Anthony Church!**

Low Gluten Altar Bread: If you require a low gluten host for communion, come to the altar with the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The celebrant will give you the consecrated low gluten host from a separate paten.

Haven: This week's top five needs are tuna, canned beans, canned fruit, soup, and pasta sauce. All non-perishable items may be left in the basket at the top of the stairs. **Wish List Items** include and gift cards to local grocery stores and gift cards to Walmart or K-mart. Thank you!

4th Sunday of Advent - December 18, 2016 –

The season of Advent is divided into two parts; each part has its own focus. The first part of the Season runs from the 1st Sunday of Advent through December 16th. The prayers of the Mass and the Scripture readings are focused on the Lord's glorious second coming at the end of the world. Beginning December 17th each year the focus shifts to help us prepare more directly for the Lord's birth. In the Church's tradition these later days of Advent feature the "O" antiphons images, or titles or attributes of the Lord drawn from the Scriptures. They form a wonderful reflection on the mystery of the Lord.

The "O" Antiphons are:

December 17, "O, Wisdom!"
December 18, "O, Sacred Lord!"
December 19, "O, Flower of Jesse's Stem!"
December 20, "O, Key of David!"
December 21, "O, Radiant Dawn!"
December 22, "O, King of All Nations!"
December 23, "O, Emmanuel!"

The Scriptures for this weekend, especially the First reading and the Gospel reading bring into focus the remarkable couple at the heart of the Nativity Our Blessed Lady, Mary and her spouse, St. Joseph. I once heard them described this way: They were the first people to welcome Jesus on his own terms. Whatever their own plans for the future; they set them aside and placed their lives at the service of God's plan. Too often we want Jesus to fit into our plans. Our Lady and St. Joseph in contrast had the faith, the humility to allow God's plans to unfold in their lives according to His plan..... And so the wonder of the incarnation was allowed to unfold as God willed it.

Advent Penance Service - Sunday, December 18th, 4:00 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Windsor. Opportunity for individual confessions. Come and celebrate God's love and mercy and prepare the way of the Lord for Christmas.

Christmas Masses: The Christmas Mass schedule for Saint Anthony Church will follow the times of our regular weekend Masses. There will be one Mass Christmas Eve at 4:00 P.M. There will be one Mass Christmas Day at 8:30 A.M.

First Reconciliation: The children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for their first time last Saturday are: *Jayce Bailey, Aidan Culbertson, Isaiah Newton, Paul Toutain.*

PINS Giving Tree: Thank you to all of you who took part in our PINS Christmas project! 124 gift tags were taken this year, which is a tremendous feat! I am always touched by your generous and caring spirit. I truly appreciate your support and can assure you that you have brightened Christmas for many children. God Bless, *Linda James, Hartford DCF-Family Services*

Second Collection: Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Lights @ La Salette: Visit the display of Christmas Lights at La Salette Shrine in Enfield, NH, every evening through New Year's Eve starting at 5:00 PM until 9 PM. **Confession opportunities** Saturdays, 5:45-6:15 PM. **Santa Program** on Saturday, December 17th at 7:30 PM. Geared for children 3-8. Santa will invite the children to be part of the crib scene. A gift for each child. Photo opportunities. Fun for all! (Also on Friday, December 23rd.) Gift shop open during Festival of Lights, noon to 8 PM. Refreshments available. **Nativity display**, over 450 creches, open 4:00-8:45 PM. Donations gratefully accepted.

St. Anthony Parish would like to welcome all those who are visiting with us this weekend.