

# St. Anthony of Padua Parish

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

*December 14, 2025*

**Pastor**

Rev. Vincent A. Kumar, OSFS

**In Residence**

Bro. Joseph G. Schodowski, OSFS



## ***Masses***

Sunday .....9:00, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

Monday - Friday .....6:45 am

Saturday ..... 5:00 pm

Holidays & Holy Days.....Consult the bulletin

## ***Sacrament of Reconciliation***

Saturday .....4:00 - 4:45 pm

*Any time by appointment at the rectory.*

For guidance with respect to Baptisms and weddings, please contact the rectory at 302-421-3700 / parish@stanthonynet.org.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Weddings must be booked at least one year in advance of planned wedding date.

## ***Contacts***

**Rectory** .....302-421-3700; Fax 302-421-3705  
901 N. DuPont St., Wilmington, DE 19805

**St. Anthony Grade School**..... 302-421-3743  
9th & Scott Sts., Wilmington, DE 19805  
Judith Jakotowicz White, *Principal*

**Padua Academy**.....302-421-3739  
905 N. Broom St., Wilmington, DE 19806  
Dr. Mary McClory, *Principal*

**Coordinator of Liturgy & Music**  
Stephen Adams.....302-421-3700

***Registration:*** New parishioners are requested to contact the rectory and schedule an appointment with the Parish Secretary.

### **Italian Festival**

festival@stanthonynet.org

### **Knights of Columbus-St. Pius X Council**

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**Instagram:** www.instagram.com/stanthonyswilmde

**St. Anthony of Padua Grade School:** www.sapgs.org

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/stanthonysgs

**Instagram:** www.instagram.com/sapgs.de

**Padua Academy Website:** www.paduaacademy.org

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/paduaacademy

**St. Anthony's Italian Festival:** www.sapde.org/italianfestival

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/stanthonysfestival



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025



Indeed, because the Eternal Father willed His only-begotten Son to be the Head and absolute Lord of all creatures (Col. 1:15-18), He willed that the most holy Virgin should be the most excellent of all creatures, since He had chosen her from all eternity to be the Mother of His Divine Son.

In truth, Mary's sacred womb was a mystical hive in which the Holy Spirit formed this honeycomb wither most pure blood.

Further, the Word created Mary and was born of her, just as the bee makes honey and honey the bee, for one never sees a bee without honey nor honey without a bee.

At His birth we have very clear proofs of Our Lord's Divinity. Angels descend from Heaven and announce to the shepherds that a Savior is born (Luke 2:8-14) to them. Magi come to adore Him (Matt. 2:1-11).

This clearly shows us that He was more than man, just as, on the contrary, His moaning as He lies in His manger shivering from the cold shows us that He was truly man.

Let us consider the Eternal Father's goodness. Had He so desired He could have created His Son's humanity as He did that of our first parents, or even given Him an angelic nature, for it was in His power to do so.

Had he willed to do so Our Lord would not have been of our nature. We would not then have had any alliance with Him.

But His goodness was such that He made Himself our brother in order that He might both give us an example (Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:11-17) and render us sharers in His glory.

It was for this reason that He willed to be of Abraham's seed, for the most holy Virgin was indeed of Abraham's race, for it is said of her: Abraham and his seed (Lk. 1:55; Rom. 1:3; Gal. 3:16).

I leave you at the feet of this blessed Mother and Child so that, like little bees, you may gather the milk and honey that flow from these holy mysteries and her chaste breasts, while waiting for me to continue, if God grants us the grace and gives us the time.

*St. Francis de Sales*

*From his sermon, December 25, 1622*



In your charity, please pray for  
**Camillo R. DiNicola**

**Ann R. Patton**

and all the deceased of St. Anthony's.

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>12/15</b> NEVIO MARINI, JR.	FAMILY
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>12/16</b> SOULS IN PURGATORY	DONOR
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>12/17</b> SOULS IN PURGATORY	DONOR
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>12/18</b> ANTHONY DE ROBERTIS	LINDA ESPOSITO
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>12/19</b> NICHOLAS SALVATORE	DAUGHTER MARIE FIDANCE & FAMILY
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>12/20</b> MICHAEL J. KIRLIN, JR.	DONOR
<b>Sunday,</b> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>12/21</b> SADIE COFRANCESCO PAULINE SELVAGGIO	CAROL & ANTHONY FAMILY



## Next Sunday's Readings

### 1st Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-14

### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

### 2nd Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

### Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-24

## "God's Plan for Giving"

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 12/07/25

TOTAL OFFERTORY COLLECTION: \$11,547.80

Avg. Collection Last Fiscal Year: \$ 8,155.95

Actual vs. Last F/Y: +\$3,391.85

Percent Difference This Week: + 41.6%

Total Difference Fiscal Year to Date: +\$2,041.91

*Thank you for your sacrifice of tithing!*



## Your Prayers and Support Requested

Dina Casale	Buzzy Cooke	William Crook
Bruce DiBiaso	Ann Marie DiBiaso	Florence Dilks
Amber Dawn Ford	Mary Jo Ganey	Bill Giles
Mia Gravino	David Juliano	Irene Lawhorn
Edward Mackey	Cindy O'Neil	Kelly Panella
Marlene Papillo	Fr. Francis J. Pileggi	Ann Marie Russo
Betty Rybinski	Rami Shehadeh	Starobynski Family
Robin Swanson	Angelo Tiberi	LuAnn Tiberi
Tobias Weaver	Barbara White	Rev. Mark J. Wrightson, OSFS

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

## Christmas Flowers



You may wish to help St. Anthony's with our Christmas flower expenses. If you want to donate poinsettias for our sanctuary decorations, each memorial is \$15. Just put your gift in an envelope and mark it, "Christmas Flowers." Include your name and the name of the person(s) in whose memory you are giving it. **Deadline is Thursday, December 18th.** After New Year's, we will publish a list of donors. Thank you!

## Catholic Forum

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, local author, Mike McGrew will discuss his picture book titled, "The Boy Who Would Be Santa." The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum) and FaceBook.com/CatholicForum.

## Advent Reconciliation Opportunities

In addition to our regular weekly Confessions at 4:00 PM every Saturday, we will offer the Sacrament Friday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

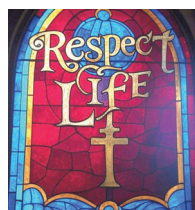
On Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be **two** opportunities for Confessions. The first session runs from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. A second session will follow from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

Prepare your heart and soul for the Nativity of The Lord!

## VIA CRUCIS 2026

To be a part of the 2026 presentation of the Via Crucis, virtual sign up begins on **December 28<sup>th</sup>**, with your name and contact information at: [stanthony.viacrucis@gmail.com](mailto:stanthony.viacrucis@gmail.com).

IN PERSON SIGN UP -- January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 in Church. Bring your friends, all are welcome.



"You are called to stand up for life! You are called to work and pray against abortion."

~ John Paul II



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Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, Catholic country music singer and songwriter, Bradley Banning will be the guest and perform his Christmas song. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum) and FaceBook.com/CatholicForum.

### Dear Santa Claus:

*I will be three years old on Christmas Day.*

*I have been very good to everybody; to old people and young people; to little boys and little girls. I help them to say their prayers. When they have been bad, I help them to make up with the Infant Jesus. I put Him in their hearts.*

*Since last Christmas, I baptized 206 babies. I taught Catechism every week to over six hundred little boys and girls. I took 1100 little boys and girls to Shellpot Park. I had a Bunny Party at Easter and a Halloween Party for all these little children. I kept my eye on the big boys while they played baseball and football, and I helped them to play good and to be good. I taught 60 little girls to sing pretty songs in church, and I taught a lot of big girls how to love the Blessed Mother in the Sodality. I helped the mothers of all these boys and girls in the Holy Rosary Society and I helped their fathers in the Holy Name Society.*

*Since last Christmas, I helped 69 people to die good and then I gave them a nice funeral; some were old people and some were young, and some were babies.*

*Since last Christmas, I had weddings for 62 people, but they were all young, and the brides were all pretty, and the grooms all looked scared.*

*Since last Christmas, I worked for, and got, and put in the bank \$41,951.13, but I took it all out again to help pay for the pretty House I built for the Infant Jesus so He would not have to stay in a stable all His life.*

*Now there are a lot of nice things I would like to have for this Christmas. I would like to have a big tower on the outside of my church and a ceiling on the inside. I need a big ciborium for Holy Communion and some cassocks for the big altar boys who grew out of the little ones, and I need a lot of other things. But I can wait for these. What I need the most, and want you to bring me this Christmas, is just some money to pay the bills I owe on the Church and the notes that are out against it and to help me keep up my good work. Won't you send some to Father Tucker at Ninth and DuPont Streets who is my guardian in Wilmington?*

*And then I shall do a lot more good next year and shall tell the Infant Jesus to bless you.*

*With love from heaven, I am, dear Santa Claus,*

*Your friend,  
Saint Anthony's  
(per J. F. T.)*



## Parish Calendar

### Monday

Confessions:  
12:00 – 2:00 PM  
5:00 – 7:00 PM

### Sunday

12:00 PM, Baptism



Monday, Dec. 15

through

Sunday, Dec. 21

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

## Grade School Calendar

### Monday

8:00 AM, Advent Prayer Service

### Friday

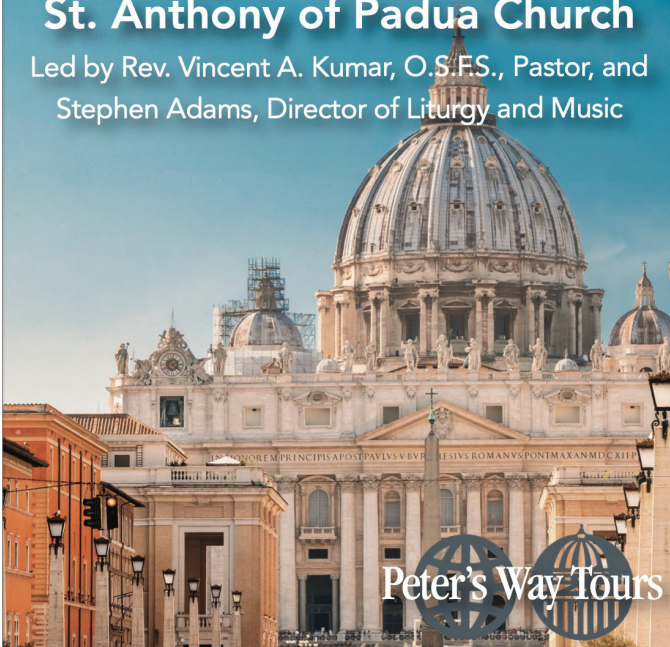
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM,  
Christmas Show  
12:00 PM, Dismissal

Classes resume Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!*

## 12-Day Pilgrimage to France and Italy Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Anthony of Padua Church

Led by Rev. Vincent A. Kumar, O.S.F.S., Pastor, and  
Stephen Adams, Director of Liturgy and Music



July 13–24, 2026

[www.petersway.com/1369.html](http://www.petersway.com/1369.html)

If you are interested in signing up or have  
further questions, please email Stephen at  
[sadams@stanthonynet.org](mailto:sadams@stanthonynet.org).



## CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE OF THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND MASSES

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday, December 13, 20, & 27, 2025

4:00 PM to 4:45 PM

Friday, December 12, 2025

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday, December 24, 2025: Vigil of Christmas

4:00, 7:00, & 12:00 Midnight

Thursday, December 25, 2025:

The Nativity of the Lord

11:00 AM

Saturday, December 27, 2025

5:00 PM

Sunday, December 28, 2025: Holy Family

9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday, December 31

8:00 AM

5:30 PM Vigil Mass

Thursday, January 1, 2026 – Mary, Mother of God

(Holyday of Obligation)

11:00 AM

Saturday, January 3, 2026

5:00 PM

Confessions 4:00 – 4:45 PM

Sunday, January 4, 2026: Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 & 11:00 AM

Note: The only weekday (Monday-Friday) morning Masses  
Friday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, through Wednesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, will be  
held at 8:00 AM daily.



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