




ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † **Sunday, December 15th:** St. Anthony's Guild will be meeting after Mass. **Donations for all December service projects at both Churches are due today.**
- † **Tuesday, December 17th:** St. Anthony's will pray the Rosary for the "unborn" before 12 (N) Mass.
- † **Thursday, December 19th:** Reconciliation at 6:00 PM before 6:30 PM Mass
- † **Saturday, December 21st:** Reconciliation at AOOL at 4:00 PM before 4:30 PM Mass
- † **Sunday, December 22nd:** Faith Formation Children's Christmas play after Mass at AOOL
- † **Monday, December 23rd:** No CEOS meeting this month

Women and men religious offer gratitude. "Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81 of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

 **ST. ANTHONY'S** will be decorating for Christmas following Sunday Mass on **December 22nd.** Please stay and help make the Church even more beautiful for the Season.

 A wonderful time was had by ALL at the Joint Parish Christmas Party. So many varieties of food and deserts, also the jingle gift was a fun little addition. Thank you to everyone who made it a successful event. The winner of the 50/50 was Chuck Eberly. May you all have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

 A candle has been lit for the month of December in loving memory of Larry Wolfe, requested by Judy Wolfe.

CHRISTMAS PLAY at AOOL
Join us immediately after Mass on Sunday, December 22nd for a Christmas Play directed by Jenn Tupa and performed by AOOL Faith Formation Children.

Knights of Columbus Council #15610 2025 Membership Dues
\$25 = Regular member
\$10.50 = Honorary members & members under 26 yrs. old
\$0.00 = Honorary Life Members & Fr. Dan

St. Anthony's Parish would like to **thank everyone** for their participation in the various Service Projects that have been going on. With the help of so many, giving a little, they are able to provide for many. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



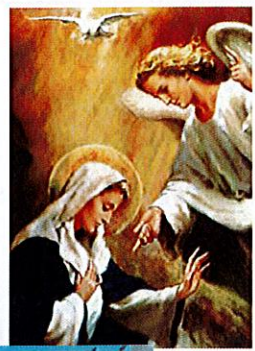
Spiritual Adoption - The Second Trimester starts around week 14 of pregnancy and lasts through about the end of week 27 or months 4 to 6 of pregnancy. Your baby is very busy in the second trimester when fetal development really takes off. The nerves and muscles work together, and the fetus can make a fist. The eyelids have formed and will remain closed until around week 28 to protect the eyes.
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com>

For God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6



AOOL has reached it's CSA goal of \$10,090 with the support of 21 gifts for a total of \$ 14,670. SA has raised \$ 2,990 of their goal of \$ 4,060 from 10 donors. Thank you for your generosity!

Please Pray for: Pam Adams, Dena Albright, Walter Aumuller, Alex Balice, Paul & Barb Biser, Grayson Bishop, Nathan Blubaugh, Barbara Bonat, Darlene Bridges, Mary Kay Britt, Ron Brockett, Vicky Brown, Cathy Case, Carla Clark, Julia Codire, Marsha Combs, Robert Dayton, Nick Dearingelis, Richard Delaney, Logan Duncan, Jenny Emerick, John & Eileen Engel, Jan Evans, Father Bob, Jamie Fazzalore, Lily Fletcher, Patricia Folk, Leia Gallen, Aaron Glinke, Dawn Green, Dale Hankinson, Roy Harsh, Lucy Haywood, Jim Hymes, Jim Howard, Janet Jack, Marc Jedlowski, Kenneth Jenkins, Todd Jones, Wanda Kirk, Doris Klipstein, Michael Knotts, Margritt Krams, Stacy Kobe, Liz Lantz, Ernest Lease, Bob Lewis, Ed Lindner, Ty Linthicum, Catherine & Kierstin Lippold, Doug Long, Bob Maiers, Galen Markley, Jim Martin, Janice McBride, Tom McCoy, Greyson McCullough, Marty Medovic, Maddox Mervinsky, Joey & Heather Miltenberger, Adrienne Monroe, Steve Morgan, Robin Patch, Colleen Patton, Steve Pelaez, George Perry, Heather Peters, Bonnie Price, Mary Susan Resser, Jeanie Rigney, Jacob Robey, Kira Robey, Bertha Romine, Malea Rugg, Cody & Jenny Saville, Debbie Seward, Samantha Shank, Shawnee Simmons, Luke Sites, Destinee Smith, Barry Steed, Harper Struntz, Donna Struntz, Christine Thibault, Lu Thibault, Adam Watts, Reva Waybright, Carl Welch, Mark Wilbourne, Joe Wolfe, Judy Wolfe and Family, Bob Wolford, Mary Margaret Wollan, Harlow Wooton



The Catholic Parishes of
**ANNUNCIATION
of OUR LORD
&
SAINT ANTHONY**

Rejoice!



December 15, 2024



*3rd Sunday
of Advent*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring
glad tidings to the poor.*

Isaiah 61:1

	<p>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays 4:00-4:15 PM (AOOL) Thursdays 6:00-6:15 PM (SA) or by appointment</p>		<p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Thursday 5:30 PM (SA) 1ST Friday of the month 4 PM—6 PM (AOOL)</p>
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<p>Pastor: Rev. Daniel Price Email: dprice@dwc.org K of C #15610 Grand Knight: Brian Crist Directors of Religious Education Michele Schultz (St. Anthony) Matt Sisk (Annunciation) Sacristan (SA): Fran McFarland Sacristan (AOOL): Mike Weaver/Volunteers Organist (SA): Becky Wolfe Organist (AOOL): Jenn Tupa Nursing Home Coordinator: Linda Ward OCIA Coordinator (AOOL): Armando Herrera</p>	<p>E-mail: annunciationchurch@atlanticbbn.net Website: aolsa.org www.facebook.com/groups/147125069949301 Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8 AM -1 PM Tammy Collett, Parish Secretary Kathy Brockett, Bookkeeper/Secretary Physical Address: 8819 Frankfort Hwy. AOOL - Fort Ashby, WV 26719 SA - 176 Main St., Ridgeley, WV 26753 Mailing Address (both parishes): P.O. Box 1560, Fort Ashby, WV 26719-1560 Phone: (304) 298-3392 Fax: (304) 298-3419</p>
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Devotional Prayers (25 minutes prior to Sunday Mass times):
Divine Chaplet - Every First Sunday of the Month
Holy Rosary - On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the Month

Schedule of Masses

Saturday, December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Dr. of the Church Third Sunday of Advent (Vigil)</i>	9:00 AM (SA)	No Mass
	4:30 PM (AOOL)	Barb Linthicum (Birthday) Req. by People of the Parish
Sunday, December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday</i>	9:00 AM (AOOL)	For the People
	11:00 AM (SA)	Roger Powers Req. by St. Anthony's Guild
Tuesday, December 17	12:00 (N) (SA)	Edward W. Taylor Sr. † Req. by Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization
Wednesday, December 18	8:00 AM (AOOL)	Rick Linthicum (Birthday) Req. by People of the Parish
Thursday, December 19	6:30 PM (SA)	John Demeduk Req. by Judy Wolfe
Friday, December 20	8:00 AM (AOOL)	Linda & Ron Ward Req. by People of the Parish
Saturday, December 21 <i>St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Dr. of the Church Fourth Sunday of Advent (Vigil)</i>	9:00 AM (SA)	No Mass
	4:30 PM (AOOL)	For the People
Sunday, December 22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9:00 AM (AOOL)	Joe Dodrill & Family Req. by People of the Parish
	11:00 AM (SA)	Janet Jack Req. by St. Anthony's Guild

Weekly Readings



Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a / Mt 21:23-27

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10, Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45



We open and prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the Joy and anticipation of Christ coming, so that we may experience him even before we actually encounter him on Christmas morning. Just as we anticipate Christ's arrival, he eagerly anticipates ours. The Advent road is a pilgrimage toward the same manger where Jesus enters our lives. What will it take to bring us to that?

Weekly Collections December 7th - 9th, 2024

Attendance AOOL - 53 / 81 / 43 Weekly: \$ 1,889.00 Debt. \$ 202.00 Poor Box: \$ 107.00
Rel. Retirement: \$ 1,186.00 Christmas Flowers: \$ 10.00 Imm. Conc.: \$ 652.00
Attendance SA - 53 / 27 Weekly: \$ 903.00 Rel. Retirement: \$ 323.00 Poor Box: \$ 53.50



BIBLE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Sad...John 14
 Betrayed...Psalm 27
 Worried... Matthew 6:19-34
 Scared...Psalm 91
 Lack of Faith...Hebrews 11
 Lonely...Psalm 23
 Low...Romans 8:31-37
 Stressed...Matthew 11:25-30
 Selfish...Psalm 67
 Afraid...Joshua 1
 Broke...Psalm 37
 Hurt...John 15
 Small...Psalm 19
 Untrusting ...1 Cor. 13
 Unfruitful...John 15

In every thought & every feeling...GOD IS WITH YOU

From the Desk of Fr. Dan

Greetings everyone. Hope you're having a wonderful start to the Advent/Christmas season. I first want to thank all who came out to the Christmas party last Sunday afternoon. It went over very well; we had about 65-70 people come out to eat and socialize. Also, a big shout out to those who set up the hall at Annunciation. Especially to those who helped clean up afterwards, many, many thanks. Another huge thanks to the Annunciation volunteers who did a deep cleaning of the church. Two thumbs up to you.

Something else I want to talk about is the issue of security. I have addressed it here in this column before; I think it was not that long ago. However, it has come to my attention that some people are questioning why we need security cameras at church. The topic was raised since we had a 50/50 at Annunciation to raise money for security cameras for the church and rectory. I am addressing the issue again. Even though we live in a small town/rural area, crime of all kinds does happen - vandalism, assaults, thefts, violence of every sort, etc. Although it doesn't happen on the scale that it would if this was a suburban or even an urban location, it still happens. With the way things are in the world, churches are in the bullseye of many who would like to see us suffer or be destroyed.

Let's look at a few points and hopefully this will enlighten us as to the growing threat we are under from certain segments of society. Let me say this first, since we are a house of worship, we are considered a soft target to those who would do us harm. So, I think, cameras are a proactive approach to attempt to thwart any crimes against us. I would rather be proactive than reactionary.

MSN.com earlier this year reported statistics from the FRC (Family Research Council) that there were about 430 hostile incidents against churches, just in 2023. This is an 800% increase since 2018! These incidents included: vandalism, arson, thefts, bomb threats, assaults, interruption of worship services, etc. There is a growing hatred for Christians, so their places of worship are going to be targets. Even if the reason for the crime isn't religiously focused, churches are considered soft/easy targets.

Even the White House (8-15-22) put out a statement on the issue. "Tragically, threats and acts of violence against places of worship have increased over the past ten years in both the United States and abroad." The FBI has issued warnings about threats against houses of worship and have gone to Congress to discuss the issue. One such meeting took place March 16, 2022. The transcript of the hearing was titled, "Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Examining the Threat to Houses of Worship and Public Places."

That's another avenue I haven't addressed yet - the idea of extremists of any kind targeting churches - but it does happen. Are we under threat of a terrorist attack here? Maybe not since I doubt Fort Ashby or Ridgeley are high value targets for terrorists/extremists, but we can't let our guard down.

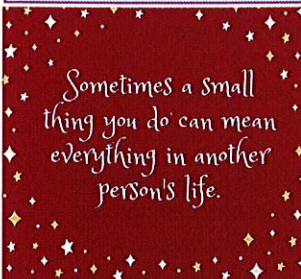
The USCCB even addressed the issue of attacks, breaking it down to just Catholic churches. Since 2020, at least 360 incidents have occurred at Catholic churches, schools, and cemeteries. Arson, vandalizing statues, defacing gravestones are some of the incidents the USCCB report mentions. This is just for incidents directly related to the Catholic faith. It excludes those incidents and motives that are not related to the Catholic faith. Earlier this year, a Catholic priest outside Kansas City was murdered in the rectory after someone broke in to steal items of worth. The priest woke up in the early morning hours by noises in the house, was confronted by the subject and was killed.

I could go on about the subject, but you get the idea of why we need some level of security at our churches, including cameras. If we had the budget, I'd like to see an infrared security system like in museums and some banks whereby if the infrared is tripped, it sets off the alarm. If we had it at each entrance, we could also have flash-bangs to go along with it. Nothing that would injure the person, just scare the *bejeebies* out of them so they run off and never think about doing nefarious things to us again. Just thinking out loud. Anyway, that might be out of our budget. Seriously, security, even of churches, is an important issue. Hopefully, by giving you some information on the subject, you can begin to understand why I feel it is necessary to at least have security cameras at the rectory and AOOL's church. We will address St. Anthony's situation at some point in the future. Thank you.

To lighten it up a bit:

- "My friend in Quebec is a heavy drinker. In fact, he drank Canada dry."
 - "If you rarely drive on snow, just pretend you're taking your grandma to church. There's a platter of biscuits and 2 gallons of sweet tea in the back seat, and grandma is wearing a new dress holding a crock pot full of gravy."
 - "I think as you grow older, your Christmas list gets shorter, because the things you want can't be bought."

Have a great week.



Thank you to everyone at AOOL who was able to participate in our Giving Tree Project. Helping to provide Christmas Gifts to local children.