



OFFICE HOURS

M-TH: 9 AM - 4PM

Friday: 9 AM—2 PM

Saturdays: By Appointment

MAILING ADDRESS

145 Amesbury Street
Lawrence, MA 01841

Phone: 978.685.7233

Fax: 978.688.4475

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

www.stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR PRIESTS & DEACONS

Pastor

Fr. Elie Mikhael 305.807.9087

pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Jebrael Moussallem... 412.616.4144

pv@stanthonylawrence.org

Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Visiting Deacon

Michael Charchaflian

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*You are welcomed and loved
by St Anthony Community.
We are transformed through
prayer, acts of love,
forgiveness, service and
stewardship.*

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

Daily Liturgies

M & W: 9 AM

T & TH: 7 PM

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday: 4 PM Vigil

Sunday Liturgies:

8:15 AM - Arabic

9:30 AM - English

11:30 AM - English & Arabic

Holy days of obligation

Vigil Liturgy @ 7 PM

Feast Day @ 9 AM

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation

1 month in advance with the
Pastor

Matrimony

Couples should make arrange-
ments six months prior to the
wedding date

Reconciliation

One hour Before Thursday &
Saturday Liturgies, or by
appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Rectory if a
member of your family is ill,
hospitalized, or unable to
come to Church and would
like to receive communion at
home

*Please refer to our website for
more Sacrament Celebrations
Guidelines*

PARISH SECRETARY

Pat McKeever

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

PARISH MINISTRIES

Religious Education

ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

Knights of Mary

kom@stanthonylawrence.org

Maronite Youth : MYO

myo@stanthonylawrence.org

Publishing: Bulletin

bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org

Choirs (English, Arabic & Syriac)

Kids Choir

Knights of the Altar

Maronite Young Adults

Bereavement Ministry

Cenacle of the Rosary

(Tuesdays @ 6PM before Liturgy)

Cenacle of Divine Mercy

(Sundays Before the Liturgies)

“Sacristan (s)

RESOURCES

AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stanthonylawrence.org

Membership Registration

Under Welcome

Baptism & Confirmation:

Guidelines & Registration

Under Sacraments –Baptism

Sacrament of Marriage:

Guidelines , Foccus & Pre-Cana

Under Sacraments-Marriage

Banquet Hall Guidelines:

Contract Form & Donations

Under Events

Burial Guidelines:

Charges , Fees & Lot Sales

Under Cemetery

Visitation to Elizabeth

زيارة العذراء لإليصابات

Saturday, December 1 @ 4:00 PM

• For: +Millerd & Josephine Touma,

By their children & family

Sunday, December 2 @ 8:15 AM

• For: Special Intentions.

Sunday, December 2 @ 9:30 AM

• For: + 1st Anniversary-Dora Maria Pereira

By her mother, Dora and her Sister, Lisa.

Sunday, December 2 @ 11:30 AM

• For: +Said Boutros, Chafica, Joseph & Nancy Azzi,

By Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Azzi and Family.

• For: +40 Day Anniversary-Milad Abi Moussa By His wife Eugenie, Children: Henry and Joseph & their Families

Week of the Visitation to Elizabeth أسبوع زيارة العذراء لإليصابات

Monday, December 3 @ 9 AM

For: + Mary, Naim, Antoine, Souad, George & Adma By the Pastor.

Tuesday, December 4 @ 7 PM

For: + Faride, Michael, & Hares By the Pastor

Wednesday, December 5 @ 9 AM

For: + Special Intentions By Fr. Jebrael Moussallem

Thursday, December 6 @ 7 PM

For: + Special Intentions By Fr. Jebrael Moussallem

Friday, December 7 @ 7PM

Rosary and Litany @ 6:30PM

Vigil Liturgy : Feast of The Immaculate Conception

Birth of John the Baptist

أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان

Saturday, December 8 @ 4:00 PM

• For: +Thomas and Victoria Kattar, Frances Cocozza,

By Donna and Christine Kattar.

Sunday, December 9 @ 8:15 AM

• For: In Honor of Monica Abou Ezzi (Birthday)

• Sunday, December 9 @ 9:30 AM

• For: 1st Anniversary - Helen Blanchard & In loving Memory of Bernard Hassan By the Hassan Family.

Sunday, December 9 @ 11:30 AM

• For: Special Intentions, By the Pastor.

CHRISTMAS @

ST ANTHONY CHURCH

A Celebration of Christmas

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

St Anthony Maronite Church

Followed by a Reception- Parish Hall

FEATURING

St Anthony choirs and guests

Merry Christmas

ANNUAL Christmas GIVING TREE

Do NOT wrap your Gifts!!



Drop them no later than December 9

Christmas FOOD DRIVE

EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donate a Meal

**Dropping them at the Rectory
no later than December 20**

Children's CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday December 16 @ 9:30AM Liturgy

Adorn St Anthony's Altar
With a Christmas Poinsettias

Donated By

In Honor of

In Honor of

In Honor of

In Memory of

In Memory of

In Memory of

Donation \$10 per Poinsettia. Make Check payable to St Anthony Church.

Please submit your donation and your list no later than **December 16** either by mailing or emailing them to the parish office.

CHRISTMAS AT ST ANTHONY

◇ Christmas Novena: December 16th - 24th

◇ CCD Pageant: December 16th @ 9:30 AM

Christmas Eve Liturgies

Vigil Liturgy: Monday December 24 @ 4PM

Midnight Liturgy December 25 @ 12AM

Christmas Day Liturgies

Christmas Liturgy -Arabic @ 10 AM

Christmas Liturgy-Arabic & English @ 11:30AM

KNIGHTS OF MARY

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15 @ 5:30pm

PARISH

MINISTRIES , ORGANIZATIONS & NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Susan Veilleux ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

Religious Education resumes this week. Classes will be held on December 2, 9 and 16.

The break for Christmas will be December 23 & 30.

Children are working on posters for the Knights of Columbus "Keeping Christ in Christmas" poster contest. Deadline for this contest is December 9.

Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16, during the 9:30 liturgy. Children in Religious Ed are working hard to prepare for this annual performance. Please practice the Christmas Carols sent home with your child.

Annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 15 at 5:00 p.m., during Knights of Mary. All children in Religious Education are invited to participate.

DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

Elaine Ferris

Christmas Party: Monday December 3

At Sand Trap Restaurant @ Merrimack Gulf Course

No words can express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Abouna Elie, to the parish community of St Anthony Church, and to everyone who contributed in any way to prepare an amazing hospitality to our beloved Shepherd, Bishop Gregory Mansour and to all the guests who traveled for my Diaconate Ordination.



I promise to keep each and everyone in my prayers, as I ask you to keep me in your prayers to do God's will in serving our parish community and the Church.

God Bless you all.

Deacon Nadim Daou

Becoming an MYO Advisor?

Christian Hbaiter myo@stanthonylawrence.org

We are looking for a committed and motivated **parishioner**, **aged 25+** that is interested in becoming a MYO Advisor.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Christian at myo@stanthonylawrence.org or call the Church Office.

Friday, Nov. 30th - Sunday, Dec. 2nd: MYO Regional Christmas Retreat (*for those that are registered to attend*)

Friday, Dec. 14th: Faith Formation, Community Service

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Marie Charabati komp@stanthonylawrence.org

Changes to the Schedule!!!!

- ◇ December 8 (Regular Session)
- ◇ December 15 (Christmas Party)
- ◇ January 5 (Regular Session)

All sessions are 5:00pm to 7pm unless otherwise noted.

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Subdeacon James Demers

Meeting: Saturday, December 8th @ 11AM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Meeting: Tuesday, December 11th @ 7 PM

Congratulations to: (from left) Matthew Matta, Nabil Daher, Father Jebrael Moussallem, John El Helou, and Raymond Nammour for receiving the Honors of the 2nd and 3rd Degree, and achieving full Knighthood. We, your brother Knights, are proud of your achievements and dedication

PARISH

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

**MATTHEW:
THE KING & HIS KINGDOM**

Holy Adult Mind
Follow Soul Faith Spirit Believe
Heart Catholic Formation Prayer Christ
Love of God Understand Relationship

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday

December 11 @ 10:30AM

English Session

December 11 @ 7:00PM

Arabic Session

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday at 7:30 PM



Pope Prayer Intentions -November 2018

In Service of Peace: *That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict*

FAMILY OF ST SHARBEL

Thursday, December 20th

- ◇ **6:30 PM** - Rosary of Saint Charbel
- ◇ **7:00 PM** - Divine Liturgy & Novena
- ◇ **7:30 PM - 8:30 PM** - Eucharistic Adoration

عائلة مار شربل: الخميس 20 كانون الأول:

6:30 مساء: صلاة المسبحة

7:00 مساء: أقدس ألهي



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BAPTISM

We offer our congratulations to the family of:

♦ **Sophia Georges**, Child of Dr. Peter & Gisele Georges

who received the Blessed Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. May Christ continue to bless this child, whom we welcome into the flock.

**Congratulations to Jacob Godfrey on
achieving the honor of Eagle Scout!**

LECTORS

Saturday, December 1 - 4:00 PM Joel Habib

Sunday, December 2 - 8:15 AM Hitaf Nammour

Sunday, December 2 - 9:30 AM Elizabeth Frias

Sunday, December 2 - 11:30 AM

English: George Saab **Arabic:** Ajia Elia

Saturday, December 8 - 4:00 PM Nancy Bistany

Sunday, December 9 - 8:15 AM Maroun Nassar

Sunday, December 9 - 9:30 AM Maria Nammour

Sunday, December 9 - 11:30 AM

English: Marie Charabati **Arabic:** Layla Merheb

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 1 - 4:00 PM

Elias Saab Sharbel Saab

Sunday, December 2 - 8:15 AM Volunteers

Sunday, December 2 - 9:30 AM

Anthony Hassan Joseph Safi

Sunday, December 2 - 11:30 AM

*Anthony Sadek Charbel Sadek
Jonathan Merheb Michael Merheb*

Saturday, December 8 - 4:00 PM

Elias Saab Sharbel Saab

Sunday, December 9 - 8:15 AM Volunteers

Sunday, December 9 - 9:30 AM

Jason Demers Ryan Naamani

Sunday, December 9 - 11:30 AM

*Anthony El Hachem Charbel Yamine
Elias Azzi Michael Lalo*

READINGS

Sunday of the Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Ephesians 1:1-14: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Luke 1:39-45 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 18

Sunday Collection (Online)	\$3,221.40
Candles & Sanctuary Lamp	\$ 92.00
Fundraiser - Mark Bejjani	\$2,625.83
Patriarchal Charities,	\$ 70.00
Christmas Decorations	
Fuel	\$ 225.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 317.00
Total Deposit	\$ 6,551.23

TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 25

Sunday Collection (Online)	\$2,765.00
Candles	\$ 106.00
Christmas Poinsettias	\$ 30.00
Donations	\$ 1,600.00
Fuel	\$ 30.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 5.00
Total Deposit	\$ 4,536.00

Conventional wisdom is to publish this information for transparency purposes and to show parishioners what is needed to keep the operation running. In plain terms the following is at play:

- 1. We can see the parish administration is stewarding resources well. No secrets.*
- 2. If the income falls near or below expenses we may say "holy smokes, we are running in the red, time to up my weekly gift".*

أحد زيارة العذراء لإليصابات

مَنْ بُولُس، رَسُولِ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ بِمَشِيئَةِ اللَّهِ، إِلَى الْقَدِيسِينَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي أَفْسُسَ وَالْأَمْنَاءِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ: الْنِعْمَةُ لَكُمْ وَالسَّلَامُ مِنَ اللَّهِ أَبِيْنَا وَالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ! تَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَبُو رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بَارَكَنَا بِكُلِّ بَرَكَاتٍ رُوحِيَّةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ؛ فَإِنَّهُ اخْتَارَنَا فِيهِ قَبْلَ إِنْشَاءِ الْعَالَمِ، لِنَكُونَ فِي حَضْرَتِهِ قَدِيسِينَ، لَا عَيْبَ فِيْنَا؛ وَقَدْ سَبَقَ بِمَحَبَّتِهِ فَحَدَدْنَا أَنْ نَكُونَ لَهُ أَبْنَاءَ بِالتَّبَنِّي بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، بِحَسَبِ رِضَى مَشِيئَتِهِ، لِمَدَحِ مَجْدِ نِعْمَتِهِ الَّتِي أَنْعَمَ بِهَا عَلَيْنَا فِي الْحَبِيبِ؛ وَفِيهِ لَنَا الْفِدَاءُ بِدَمِهِ، أَيْ مَغْفِرَةُ الزَّلَّاتِ، بِحَسَبِ غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ، الَّتِي أَفَاضَهَا عَلَيْنَا فِي كُلِّ حِكْمَةٍ وَفَهْمٍ؛ وَقَدْ عَرَّفْنَا سِرَّ مَشِيئَتِهِ، بِحَسَبِ رِضَاهُ الَّذِي سَبَقَ فَجَعَلَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ، لِيُحَقِّقَ تَدْبِيرَ مِلءِ الْأَزْمِنَةِ، فَيَجْمَعَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ تَحْتَ رَأْسٍ وَاحِدٍ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ؛ وَفِيهِ أَيْضًا اخْتَارَنَا مِيرَاثًا لَهُ، وَقَدْ سَبَقَ فَحَدَدْنَا بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ، هُوَ الَّذِي يَعْمَلُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ بِقَضَاءِ مَشِيئَتِهِ، لِنَكُونَ مَدْحًا لِمَجْدِهِ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ سَبَقْنَا فَجَعَلْنَا فِي الْمَسِيحِ رَجَاءَنَا؛ وَفِيهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا، بَعْدَ أَنْ سَمِعْتُمْ كَلِمَةَ الْحَقِّ، أَيْ إِنْجِيلَ خَلَاصِكُمْ، وَأَمَنْتُمْ، خُتِمْتُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ الْمَوْعُودِ بِهِ، وَهُوَ عُرْبُونُ مِيرَاثِنَا، لِفِدَاءٍ شَعْبِهِ الَّذِي أَقْتَنَاهُ، وَلِمَدَحِ مَجْدِهِ.

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، قَامَتْ مَرْيَمُ وَذَهَبَتْ مُسْرِعَةً إِلَى الْجَبَلِ، إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ فِي يَهُودَا. وَدَخَلَتْ بَيْتَ زَكَرِيَّا، وَسَلَّمَتْ عَلَى الْيَصَابَاتِ. وَلَمَّا سَمِعَتْ الْيَصَابَاتِ سَلَامَ مَرْيَمَ، ارْتَكُضَ الْجَنِينُ فِي بَطْنِهَا، وَأَمْتَلَتْ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. فَهَتَفَتْ بِأَعْلَى صَوْتِهَا وَقَالَتْ: «مُبَارَكَةٌ أَنْتِ فِي النِّسَاءِ، وَمُبَارَكَةٌ ثَمَرَةٌ بَطْنِكَ! وَمِنْ أَيْنَ لِي هَذَا، أَنْ تَأْتِيَ إِلَيَّ أُمُّ رَبِّي؟ فَهَذَا مُنْذُ وَقَعَ صَوْتُ سَلَامِكَ فِي أُذُنِي، ارْتَكُضَ الْجَنِينُ أَبْتِهَاجًا فِي بَطْنِي! فَطُوبَى لِّلَّتِي آمَنْتُ أَنَّهُ سَيَتِمُّ مَا قِيلَ لَهَا مِنْ قِبَلِ الرَّبِّ!». »

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

Right Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn

In Loving Memory of

Millerd and Josephine Touma

Offered by their family.

Left Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn

In Loving Memory of

Millerd and Josephine Touma

Offered by their family.

What does your Church's Financial Statements say about YOUR Church?

What does your church's financial statements (Balance Sheet, Income Statements, Cash Flow, Ministry Budget, etc.) tell you about the following:

- Are we **giving**? (Core, Missions, Giving Streams, Child Care, Community, other)
- Are we **saving**? (3-6 months operating \$\$)
- Are we **avoiding debt**? (conserving energy, recycling, redundant programs)
- Are we being **accountable**? (keeping track of funds? Large 'misc.'?)
- Are we **spending** in the areas of our vision? (Ministry Map)
- Are we **communicating** this? (Is the budget accessible/easy to understand?)
- Are people **supporting** our vision? (Why or why not?)



"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.**" 2 Corinthians 9:7

Ronald Rolheiser

Our Lack of Welcome

"Widows, orphans, and strangers", that's code in scripture for the three most vulnerable groups within a society at any given time. And both the great Jewish prophets and Jesus, himself, assure us that ultimately we will be judged by how we treated these while we were alive.

It's interesting to look at any given book in the bible ask this question: "What did the author of this book consider as the very essence of religion? You'll get different answers. For example, if you had asked that question to the authors of *Exodus*, *Deuteronomy*, or *Numbers*, they would have answered that what was central to their faith was proper religious practice, keeping the Commandments and being faithful to the other prescribed codes of religious practice of their time.

However when the great prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Joel) came along they painted a different picture. For them, true religiosity was not identified simply with fidelity to religious practice; it was judged rather on how one treated the poor. For them, *the quality of your faith is to be judged by the quality of justice in the land; and the quality of justice in the land is always to be judged by how "widows, orphans, and strangers" fare while you are alive.* For the prophets, the practice of justice took priority over proper religious belonging and fidelity to religious practice.

We see numerous sayings by the prophets that warn us that what God wants from us is not sacrifice on altars but fair wages for the poor, not the recitation of prescribed prayers but justice for widows, and not the honoring of religious festivals but the giving of hospitality to strangers.

It should be noted, of course, that, after the prophets, we have the great wisdom figures in Jewish history. For them, the essence of religion was neither faithful religious practice nor simple outreach to the poor, but having a wise and compassionate heart, out of which you would then be faithful to both proper religious practice and outreach to the poor.

This is the tradition that Jesus inherits. What does he do with it? He ratifies all three. For Jesus, true religiosity asks for all of these: faithful religious practice, outreach to the poor, and a wise and compassionate heart. For Jesus, you don't pick between these, you do them all. He tells us clearly: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14); but he also tells us that we will ultimately be judged on the basis of how we treat the poor (Matthew 25); even as he tells us that what God really wants from us is a wise, compassionate heart. (Luke 6 & 15)

For Jesus, we are true disciples when we have compassionate hearts out of which we keep the commandments, humbly worship our God, but make it a religious priority to reach out to the most vulnerable groups in our society. Indeed, on this latter point, Jesus' warnings are much stronger even than those of the great Jewish prophets. The prophets affirmed that God favors the poor; Jesus affirmed that God is in the poor ("whatsoever you do to the least, you do to me"). How we treat the poor is how we are treating God.

Moreover (and I doubt we've ever taken this seriously) Jesus tells us that, at the final judgment, we will be judged for heaven or hell on the basis of how we treated the poor, particularly on how we treated the most vulnerable among them ("widows, orphans, and strangers"). In Matthew 25, he lays out the criteria upon which we will be judged, for heaven or for hell. Notice that in these particular criteria there aren't any questions about whether we kept the commandments, about whether we went to church or not, or even whether our sexual lives were in order. Here we're to be judged solely on how we treated the poor. It can be rather frightening and confusing to take this at face value, namely, that we will go to heaven or hell solely on the basis of how we treated the poor.

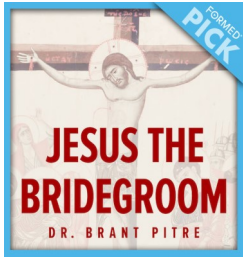
I highlight this because today so many of us, sincere, church-going, Christians do not seem to have either an eye or a heart for the "widows, orphans, and strangers" around us. Who are the most vulnerable groups on our world today? Who today, as Gustavo Gutierrez defines the poor, does not have a right to have rights?

Let me risk stating the obvious: Among the "widows, orphans, and strangers" in our world today are the unborn, the refugees, and the immigrants. Happily, most sincere Christians are not blind to the plight of the unborn. Less happily, too many of us are religiously blind to the plight of millions of refugees looking for someone to welcome them. Every newscast we watch tells us that we're not much welcoming the stranger.

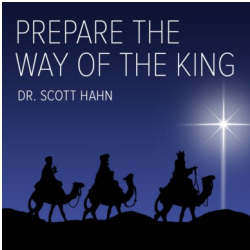
How soon we forget God's warning: "You are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners." (Deuteronomy 10, 18-19)

FORMED

Stanthonychurch.formed.org- Parish Code: N3CCNK

The Greatest Love Story Ever Told

Dr. Brant Pitre is an enthusiastic and engaging speaker who regularly lectures throughout the country. In this stunning talk, Dr. Pitre applies his knowledge of the Jewish roots of Christianity to the very heart of the Gospel: the love of Christ. You will learn what it really means to have a “personal relationship” with Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior, and Bridegroom.

Ready your Heart this Advent

Dr. Scott Hahn, one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today, reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.

A Spiritual Christmas Crib: Preparing our Hearts for Christ's Coming

By: Catherine McManamon

December 1: The Stable

Frequently during the day offer your heart to the little Infant Jesus. Ask Him to make it His home.

Prayer: Sweet Jesus, take my heart and make it meek and pure.

December 2: The Roof

See that the roof of the stable is in good condition, so that the Infant Jesus is protected from rain and snow. This you will do by carefully avoiding every uncharitable remark.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to love my neighbor as myself.

December 3: Crevices

Carefully stop every crevice in the walls of the stable, so that the wind and cold may not enter there. Guard your senses against temptations. Guard especially your ears against sinful conversations.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to keep temptations out of my heart.

December 4: Cobwebs

Clean the cobwebs from your spiritual crib. Diligently remove from your heart every inordinate desire of being praised. Renew this intention at least three times today.

Prayer: My Jesus, I want to please You in all I do today.

December 5: Fence

Build a fence about the crib of your heart by keeping a strict watch over your eyes, especially at prayer.

Prayer: Sweet Jesus, I long to see You.

December 6: Manger

Fix the best and warmest corner of your heart for the manger of Jesus. You will do so by abstaining from what you like most in the line of comfort and amusement.

Prayer: Mary, use these sacrifices to prepare my heart for Jesus in Holy Communion.

December 7: Hay

Supply the manger of your heart with hay, by overcoming all feelings of pride, anger or envy.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to know and correct my greatest sins.