

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Anthony of Padua Parish
Church: Second & Ohio
Parish Office: 1214 E. Second
Office Phone: (316) 269-4101
Wichita, Kansas 67214

Mass Intentions

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:05 p.m. Intentions of Tim & Heather Hessman

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

NO 12:05 MASS TODAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

12:05 +Jerry Warrell

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

12:05 p.m. +Bob Walterscheid

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

4:00 p.m. +Jim Powell

5:30 a.m.. Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:30 a.m. St. Anthony Parish Family

11:00 a.m. VN Mass

Liturgical Roles for Saturday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m.:

Lector: C. Claycomb

E. Minister: C. Hartman

Ushers: J. & K. Cordell, B. Buhrman

Liturgical Roles for Sunday, December 21, at 9:30 a.m.:

Lector: N. Baird

E. Minister: S. Walcher

PARISH PRAYER LINE

Johnny Todd Nguyen +Shirley Mendenhall
Ukraine and its Citizens Julie Munoz
Dee Francis Deb Anton +Bob Walterscheid
Manny Godsey +Mary Staab
Elizabeth Mulhell Jennifer Glass

Good News!

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

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OFFERING

December 7, 2025

English: \$ 2,892.00

Vietnamese \$ 7,107.00

3,251.00 (Im. Conc.)

Total: \$ 13,250.00

THIS WEEK 
IN OUR PARISH

PLEASE NOTE there will be no 12:05 Mass this Wednesday, December 17, due to a funeral in the VN community.

Our faithful Debbie W. in the Parish Office has now completed the Stewardship information packet as well as the 2026 envelopes for parishioners.

They can be picked up in the back of church.

Hopefully by now you have seen the Angel Tree in the back of church (unless it was during the time someone moved it behind the wall over by the restroom). This is the parish social justice effort to support the children of clients of the Center of Hope, a homeless Prevention Program. Presents for children (boys and girls, ages 1-16) can be left UNwrapped and placed in the box in the back of church.

"In the past four months, the COH prevented 770 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,052 persons. \$308,385 was dispensed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deseve of \$93,121 was provided for 508 households across the state of Kansas." [Center of Hope , Holiday 2025 Newsletter]

For those of you already familiar with Center of Hope, long-time Executive Director George Dinkel is retiring this month and the new Director will be Keaton Holmes. Mr. Holmes was brought on to the Center of Hope staff six months ago to be under the tutelage of George Dinkel.

Remember that the monthly birthday party for parishioners will be taking place after the 9:30 Mass in St. Elizabeth's Hall next Sunday, December 21. This is a potluck affair (purely voluntary), so mark the date on your calendar.

WELCOME

We are delighted to announce that George Spurlock has newly registered at St. Anthony's. Welcome to our parish family, George!

Advent Confessions: Saturday, Dec. 20, at church 3:00 p.m.-3:50 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 22 at Pastoral Center 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 23 at church 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.; at Pastoral Center 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Masses; *Christmas Vigil*, Wednesday, December 24: 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm, English Mass in Church; 7:00-9:00 p.m., VN Mass at VN Pastoral Center. *Christmas Day*, Thursday, December 25: 9:30 a.m. English Mass in church; 11:00 a.m. VN Mass at VN Pastoral Center.

Our St. Anthony choir is practicing diligently for Christmas services, and have chosen some less well known Christmas carols to enhance our worship. Some of the hymns may also be in the standard green Journey Songs volume used during Mass. Hopefully, that will allow parishioners to participate with the choir in singing the less familiar carols.

Christmas Call to Sharing: One of the greatest blessings in the Diocese of Wichita is that a young man is free to enter seminary without worrying about the cost of his education.

Please consider a gift this year for Christmas Call to Sharing to support our 51 Seminarians and 21 retired priests.
