

# ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

2530 Garner Rd, Ray City Ga 31645

Phone (229)455-5554  
santonyga@gmail.com

## Second Sunday of *Advent*

December 9, 2018



### Pastoral Team

Rev. Fr. Fredy Angel

Pastor

Deacon Ray Brown

Deacon Steven Mancuso

### Sunday Masses

English: 10:00AM

Spanish: 11:30AM

### Daily Mass

Monday-Wednesday: 9:30AM

### Confessions

Sunday before Masses or by appointment

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00AM - 3:00PM

### HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS

John the Baptist preached from the desert. The desert not far from Jerusalem is extremely rugged, where steep hills and deep valleys are common across a barren landscape. When John quoted Isaiah in today's Gospel, this rough terrain stirred the imagination of John's listeners. John proclaimed that these hills and valleys are to be made level, to provide a smooth path for God to enter.

John's listeners recognized that the height of hills and the depth of valleys are similar to human attitudes and relationships: heights of personal pride and depths of discouragement and fear. Hills and valleys evoked how people treat each other, with some people raised high and others brought low. They suggested how social structures embody and harden these tendencies with large-scale systems of military, political, or economic oppression. John proclaimed that God was about to alter this social landscape through the work of Jesus.

### EARTH-MOVING

Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous undertaking, truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God's work, and to begin with repentance. We the Church respond to this call today, and acknowledge our ongoing need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God's forgiveness, so that Jesus might come to take residence there.

We join in God's earth-moving project by repenting of how we block God's path with resentments and fears. When we are brought low in our lives, we seek God's help, and God will enlist the help of others. When we realize that we reside on mountains of advantage or privilege that place others in valleys, we are to repent and to change how we live. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God's earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God.

Today's Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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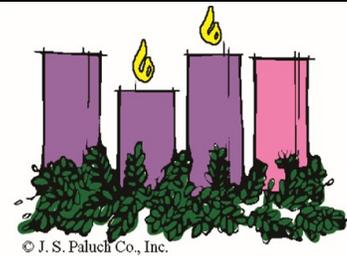
Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;  
look to the east and see your children gathered  
from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Baruch 5:5

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITIONS

Look around most Catholic churches, and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistery, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth, and the other his death. There are only three nativities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John's birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke's Gospel of the angel's announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist's birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ's birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.

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**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**BILINGUAL MASS  
DECEMBER 24 AT 6:00PM**  
**ENGLISH MASS  
DECEMBER 25 AT 10:00AM**  
**BILINGUAL MASS  
DECEMBER 31 AT 6:00PM**



#### St. Anthony of Padua Prayer Garden

Support us by ordering a memorial brick for our prayer garden. The cost is \$100 we do offer *payment plan*.

To order a brick or if you have any question about our engraved bricks, please feel free to contact the Parish Office.



**MAÑANITAS  
DECEMBER 12  
5:00AM**



**Adult Faith Formation Classes**  
Meet every Sunday at 11:15 in church conference room. For more information please contact our office or Mrs. Lukens (229) 794-9140



**NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES IN DECEMBER**

**Knights of Columbus**  
Round table meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm.  
**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**Registration**  
We will be working on updating our Parish files and will ask that everyone fill a church registration form again. This will help fix all incorrect and missing information.

**Please Update!**



**December 2, 2018 Collections**

**Let us pray for the health of:**

Eva de Angel, Sara B,  
L C Martin, Phyllis Fletcher  
Maureen Remick, Raymond Moore



**For the Eternal rest of:**

Fr. Marvin LeFrois, Bill Register  
All Faithful Departed

<b>Regular Collection</b>	<b>\$ 2,221.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 3,836.00</b>
<b>Bishop Annual Appeal</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>