



March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church



Address: 2530 Garner Rd Ray City, GA 31645

Phone: (229)455-5554

E-mail: santonyga@outlook.com

Facebook: St. Anthony of Padua Catholic

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 8:45am-2:45pm

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Fredy Angel

Pastor

Deacon Ray Brown

Mass Schedule Sunday

English 10:00am

Spanish 12:30am

Classes 11:15am

Monday-Wednesday 12:00pm

First Communions

May 6, 2018

Confirmations

May 27, 2018

Confessions

Sundays 8:45-9:45 AM

Mon-Wed. by appointment

Adoration

April 7, 2018 from 5pm to midnight.

Rosary Ministry

Our Rosary makers meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. For more information please contact Kathy Giddens at (229)482-2364

Knight of Columbus

Round table meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Next: March 13, 2018

Today is the fourth Sunday of our Lenten preparation. The first reading is a bleak reminder of our sinfulness, our deafness to those who warn us, and the consequences of our continuing arrogance and destructiveness. The psalm tells us what it is like to be separated from the love of God. We weep and we remember. Ephesians offers us hope. God is merciful even though our sins have destroyed our lives. God saves us, not because of who we are but because of who God is. God's love raises us up from our sinful despair. John reminds us that although we deserve condemnation because of our repeated sinfulness, God so loved the world that God did what Abraham was asked to do. God sacrificed Jesus, the beloved Son, that we might be saved.

EARLY AND OFTEN

We are not an easy people to love. As Chronicles reminds us, we prefer sinfulness over goodness time and time again. Infidelity, abomination, pollution, mocking prophets--we do it all. And still God loves us. The psalm offers a beautiful image of the price we pay for living in the darkness of sin and evil when we know the beauty of living in the light. Alone, isolated, still we remember the beauty of life with God and we weep. God is rich in mercy. Time and time again God brings us back to life. Jesus' life was sacrificed to save ours. We are saved not by our works but by the gift of God. What more powerful words are there than those found in John: "For God so loved the world the he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."



COME TO THE LIGHT

If our works cannot save us, then why are we doing all this hard work and sacrifice during Lent? Traditionally we were asked to give up something during Lent so that we might experience the loss and deprivation that the Old Testament talks about when we are estranged from God. More recently we have been asked to do something affirmative, to add something good to our lives instead of taking something bad away. Either way works because both are just means of waking us up to the way we live our lives, sometimes thoughtlessly indulgent, sometimes indifferent, but all too often isolated from what is at the center of God's life, i.e., love and sacrifice. Lent is a chance to live our lives as Jesus lived his. Jesus lived in the light of love, truth, and sacrifice. Lent is a chance to find that light in our own lives.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITIONS

Year B of the Lectionary has the Letter to the Ephesians today. Ephesus, today in Turkey, was in the first century a great Greek city, the center for the worship of Diana, the goddess of the hunt. It was a vast city even by modern standards, having nearly half a million people in the time of Paul. Yet that was a time of economic recession and moral decay. No wonder Saint Paul stayed here the longest. It gave him an enormous and religiously curious audience. His preaching stirred up the artisans who depended on the pilgrims who came to honor (and buy mementos of) seventeen gods and goddesses enshrined in the city's temples. You can still see the open-air theater where Paul's homily triggered a riot. Paul did have success here, and many conversions among Jews and Gentiles. They seem to have struggled with hope, perhaps because of their suffering from economic woes and isolation. Some old traditions say that the Apostle John lived out his days here, and that the Blessed Mother was cared for by him. There's no biblical basis for this, but it is certain that a small house just outside the city has been treasured by Christians and Muslims for centuries as the last dwelling of Mary. Long ago, the harbor silted up and the city was nearly abandoned, becoming a small village. As is so often the case, that accident of history preserved the ancient city, so that archeologists have been very successful in revealing ancient Christian sites. One such site is the Church of Mary, probably the first church to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and the site of the Council of Ephesus in 431. Today, a visit to Ephesus is one of the most rewarding journeys for any pilgrim. -Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



Stations of The Cross

Every Friday at
7:00 PM Bilingual.



“ASK FATHER”

March 21 at 6:00 PM we will be having supper followed by a reunion of *Ask Father* directed by Father Fredy Angel.



Spring Cleaning

We will be doing spring cleaning for the whole church. There will be two days available Saturday March 17 beginning at 2 PM or Sunday March 18 after Mass. Please bring weed eaters, machetes, and chain-saws. This will be mandatory activity for Confirmation students for social service.

Teenagers Gathering

We will be hosting a teenagers gathering to speak openly about drugs and sex, which as we know is everywhere around our loved ones. It will be Saturday March 24 from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. Your \$10 donations will cover all day events including lunch.



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.



Adult Faith Formation Classes

We will be meeting in the Church Conference Room at 11:30am on Sundays. It is open to any adults interested in learning about the Church and our Catholic Faith. For further information, contact our office or Mrs. Lukens at: **229-794-9140**.



Let us pray for the health of:

Fr. Marvin LeFrois, Nathan,
Reyna Soto, Olivia Ursrey,
Eva De Angel,
Andrew & Mary Carrell Morrison.



For the Eternal rest of:

All Souls

February 25, 2018

Blessed

Collections

Regular Collection	\$2465.00
Building Fund	\$4132.00
Bishop Annual Appeal	\$3975.00