

# ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

2530 Garner Rd, Ray City Ga 31645

Phone (229)455-5554

church@anthonyofpaduaga.org

## Pastoral Team

Reverend Juan Carlos Castillo  
Parochial Administrator  
Deacon Ray Brown  
Deacon Steven Mancuso

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Sunday 11:15am to 12:15pm

## Sunday Masses

English: 8:15am - 10:00am  
Spanish: 12:30PM

## Daily Mass

Monday-Thursday 9:30AM

## Confessions Sundays

9:15am - 9:45am

11:45am - 12:15pm

or by appointment



FIRST

Sunday  
OF

Advent

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

## A NEW BEGINNING

Today, whether at evening, morning, or midday, in many communities of different churches around the world, the first candle lighted in each Advent wreath silently but beautifully announces the beginning of a new liturgical year. This new beginning presents a grace-filled opportunity for us to resolve to live not simply according to the secular calendar of our commercialized society, but according to the spirit of the liturgy. There's nothing wrong—indeed there can be something quite holy—about planning to celebrate God's surprising gift of the Son by surprising our loved ones with thoughtful gifts at Christmas. But how important, amid the rush of holiday preparations, to take the time and to make the effort to appreciate Advent's early twilights and later sunrises, awash in the purples, deep blues, and even the dusky rose colors we associate with Advent. Thus we let nature's own "Advent" prompt reflections on the "Advent" that Jeremiah saw coming.

## IMAGES OF THE END-TIMES

How forcefully today's scriptures challenge us to attend to the ominous nature of the Kingdom's definitive in-breaking! The call echoes through Jeremiah's prophecy: "In those days, in that time" and in Paul's letter: "at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen." The theme intensifies toward a crescendo in Luke: "there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth . . . dismay and perplexity." People will be scared to death—literally—"in anticipation of what is coming upon the world," as "seas and waves roar" and "the powers of heaven will be shaken." And all of this will be just a prelude to "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." In the face of this "awful" (that is, filled-with-awe) ending, Jesus warns his disciples to guard against two equally debilitating extremes, both of which seem to be trademarks of our contemporary culture: deadening diversion on one hand, and frantic anxiety on the other.

## PREPARATION FOR THE END-TIMES

In light of these predictions of frightening end-times, Jesus advises us to embrace his three-fold "Preparation for the End Program": (1) "Beware!" that is, be aware of what really matters, life's true priorities. (2) "Be vigilant at all times," that is, watchful for Christ's coming not only at the end but in the meantime, in family and neighbor, friend and stranger. (3) Above all, "pray." Prayer, communion with God, will help us to remember that for faithful disciples, The End of this world—or our own lives, whichever comes first—will be The Beginning of a joy no one can take from us, fullness of life that will never end. How lovely if this Advent's renewal prepared us to look forward to the moment of Jesus' coming—in his glory or our death—not as a cataclysmic disaster, but as a reason for which to "stand erect and raise (our) heads (in joyful expectation) because (our) redemption is at hand."

## TODAY'S READINGS

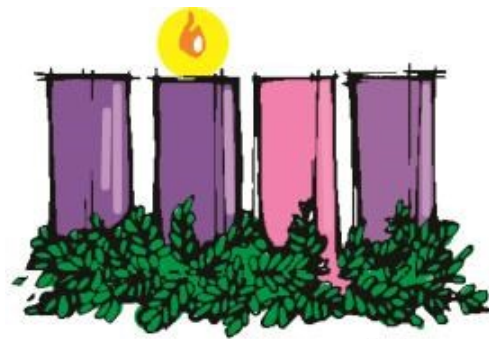
Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14  
1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2  
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.  
When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads  
because your redemption is at hand.

Luke 21:25, 28

## First Sunday of Advent

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.



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### Let us pray for the health of:

Ray O'Keefe, Eva de Angel, Tony Christiano, Nestor Beroch,  
Robert Beier, Monica Moore, Don Christiano, Manuel Arias,  
Alice Essling, Linda Christiano, Michael Kunai, Erika Lloyd, Nayar Prado,  
Rosa Duarte, Pat Costello, Kathryn Giddens, Nina Waters, Phylli Fletcher,  
Francis Zubricky, Beatriz Agudelo, Toni Leigl, Daniel Riddle, Lisa Salomon,  
Jeanne Han, Yina Green, Josefina Di Domenico, Valerie Vargas, Dennis Zubricky,  
Grace Mack, Segrid Mack, Barkeia McBride, Barry White, Raymond Moore  
Patricia Hunter, Tripp Lasseter, Ruby Green, Pat Murphy, Skyler Deyarmin.

### For the Eternal rest of:

Alfonso Angel, Sheila Maxwell, Saul Muñoz, Mary Malehorn,  
Angi Christiano, Brittany Felts, Tom Turner, Frank Hunter, Linnet Crump  
John Folsom, Lois Adkins, Rene Lopez, Eugene Faborito, Julisa Aguilar,  
Francisco Mayorga, Carroll Waters, Juana Perez, Edgardo Arias,  
Maria Gallegos, Judy Plantier, David Dennis, Shawn Murphy,  
Fran LaRock, Bill Raczkowski, Consuelo Borrero, Jim Murphy.  
Dennis David, Melisa Green, Estela de Santacruz, Rufina Fernandez  
Kevin Ward, Louis Adkins, Baby Robert Wesley, All faithful Departed

### Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament

First Saturday

7:00PM to 10:00PM

Wednesday 10AM - 12PM



RCIA STUDENTS  
Sundays  
11:15am—12:15pm  
Conference Room



Our generous donations are important for the  
Church Building Fund



Carol Moore  
Angelica Santos  
Consuelo Varn  
Simon Quintana  
Liliana Acree  
Juliana Bautista  
Rubicella Hernandez  
Rita Henkles  
Araceli Schade  
Brian MacFarlane  
Anthony Herrera  
Kenneth Marin

### Donations for St. Francis Center:

Food to restock their pantry  
and  
Men's shoes.

Sr. Nuala is extremely  
grateful for your generosity.

### ATTENTION PARENTS

Children under 12 years must be  
accompanied by an adult to use the  
Restroom, and inside and outside  
the building.

The safety of your child is very  
important to us.



### Knights of Columbus

Round table meeting  
Parish Hall

Second Sunday of the month.  
Next Meeting December 12  
at 11:15AM



Our Rosary makers meet  
every 3rd Saturday of the month  
at 11:30am.

For more information  
please contact

Kathryn Giddens at  
(229)482-2364

Next Meeting December 18



### THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SANCTUARY LIGHT



In reverence and petition  
Pray this week for  
this Special Intention:

Special Intention for Lamas-Bravo Family



November 21, 2021

Collections

Regular Collection

\$1,956

Building Fund

\$2,670

Annual Catholic  
Appeal

\$