



# SAINT ANTHONY of PADUA

*Catholic Community*

**SUNDAY MASS**

**12:30pm**

5649 Mount Gilead Road  
Centreville, VA

*Also streamed live on Facebook*

**YOUTH FAITH FORMATION**

**1st Sunday of Each Month**

*class is held during the 12:30pm mass and supplemental materials are made available on the parish website.*

**FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY**

**Last Sunday of Each Month**

*contact a member of the hospitality team if you'd like to bring a treat to share!*

**Baptism of the Lord**

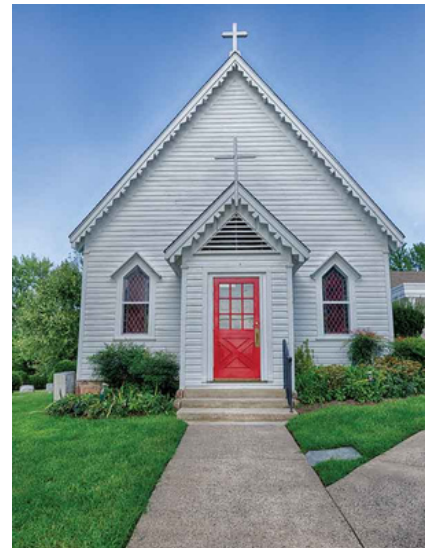
CHRISTMAS TIME comes to its close when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, an event recorded in all four Gospels. To begin his public ministry, Jesus presented himself to be baptized by John the Baptist, and God manifested Jesus as the Divine Son.

Because we associate baptism with the forgiveness of sins, the idea that the sinless Jesus would undergo baptism seems out of place. The evangelists must have thought the same; as a whole, they downplay the incident. But the baptism of Jesus had nothing to do with forgiveness; it had everything to do with manifestation. It was a new beginning because it publicly revealed Jesus' identity, and that testimony came not from just any witness but from God.

Three incidents in the Bible are traditionally called the "epiphany" events or the "manifestations" of Jesus, newly arrived on the biblical scene: the visit of the Magi, the baptism, and the miracle at the wedding in Cana. Prior to 1969, we heard all three of these Scriptures in successive weeks: January 6, January 13, and on the following Sunday. All three stories form a unit because they progressively reveal the identity, the authority, and the power of Jesus.

In today's liturgical calendar, the Sunday readings spread over a three-year cycle. On the Baptism of the Lord, we hear a different evangelist's account each year. Only in year C does the following Sunday feature the Gospel of the Wedding Feast at Cana to unify the three celebrations.

In the United States, we celebrate Epiphany on a Sunday. But in countries where the Epiphany is a holyday of obligation, it is celebrated on January 6. In the United States, the Baptism of the Lord is usually the Sunday after the Epiphany, but if Epiphany comes late, falling on January 6 or 7, the Baptism of the Lord goes to the next day, January 7 or 8, a Monday, in order to make room for the weeks of Ordinary Time.



**YOUR PASTORAL TEAM**

Fr. Julian, Fr. Jason, and Fr. David are honored to walk with you on your journey of faith and to support your spiritual needs.

## MOST NEEDED ITEMS FOR WFCM

### Food & Beverages

- Flour
- Sugar (1 or 2 lb. bags)
- Vegetable Oil
- Pasta Sauce
- Pasta
- Cereal (low sugar preferred)
- Pancake Mix
- Family Sized Snacks (pretzels, crackers, etc.)
- Canned Chicken

## MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

As part of our outreach to support individuals and families in need, we have committed to collection food items throughout the month for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM). This outreach helps us reach a far wider community of those in need as we pool together our collections and resources with other faith communities in our region. You can find the most needed items in the parish bulletin. Donations will be collected the last Sunday of each month. A special thank you to Lourdes who has volunteered to be the drop-off ambassador for the parish with all of our donated items from the month. Gracias, Lourdes!

## TAKING DOWN DECORATIONS

Although the Christmas Season ends this weekend and decorations will start to come down, in medieval England, Candlemas (February 2) was the official end of Christmas and decorations would stay up until then. The National Fire Protection Association recommends taking down Christmas lights after 90 days to avoid electrical issues and save money on your electric bill. *The more you know!*

## FAITH FORMATION

Please note that there will be **no** Youth Faith Formation classes during January in observance of Winter Break. Classes will resume on **Sunday, February 2nd**. We are looking forward to seeing you then!

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We continue to celebrate the Christmas Season at St. A's. Remember that Christmas is not a day, but an entire Church Season that begins on December 25th and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which this year falls on January 12th. During this Season we continue to rejoice in the joy of the incarnation and reflect on the gift of heaven's connection to earth through our Lord, Jesus.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of severe weather that could affect mass, updates will be posted on the parish Facebook page and website. Should there be an unexpected occurrence of extreme weather leading to the cancellation of in-person mass, we will do our best to livestream the mass from one of our priests' homes. It will be our goal to make cancellation notices the evening before if possible.



**Talk To Us...**

703-665-9730 - Parish Cell

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**Facebook & Instagram**  
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