



SAINT ANTHONY of PADUA

Catholic Community

SUNDAY MASS

12:30pm

5649 Mount Gilead Road
Centreville, VA

Also streamed live on Facebook

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

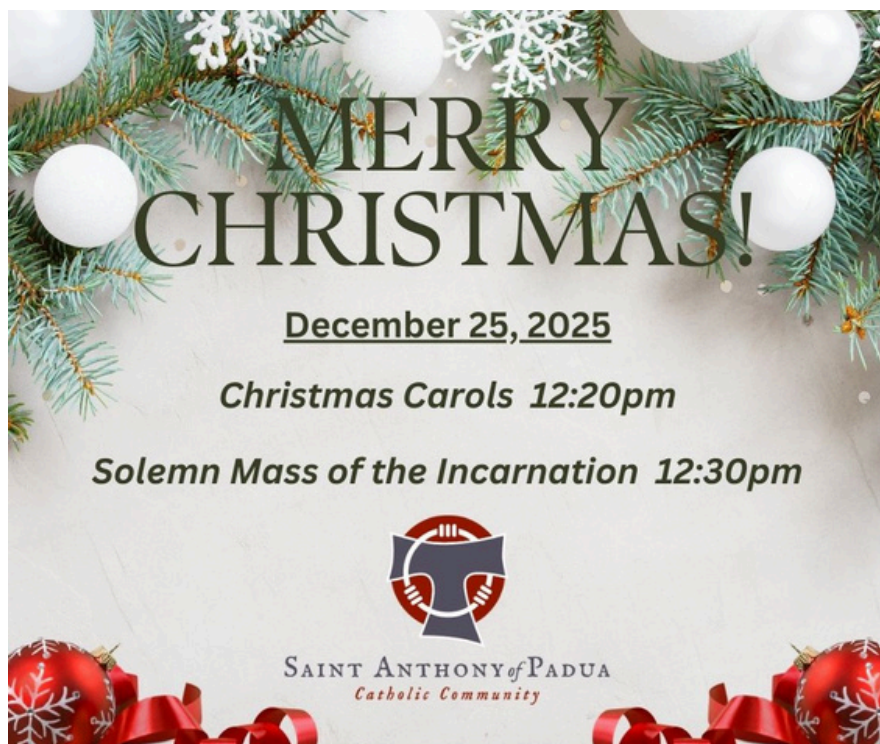
1st Sunday of Each Month

*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!*



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.

ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE

Get those family recipe cards out and start thinking about your contribution to our cookie exchange. Participants are asked to make 2 dozen cookies for sharing on **January 25, 2026**. Those bakers who sign up in advance will be able to participate in the cookie exchange after mass.



Birth Date of Jesus

THE OPENING of the third millennium harmonized with the traditional date for the first Christmas. Without a doubt, the birth of Jesus is the most important event to celebrate in a new millennium. But there is plenty of doubt about when that birth took place.

There is no clear historical record of the date and year of Jesus' birth. Although two of the Gospels record incidents pertaining to the event, neither assigns a date.

Two main theories surround the choice of December 25 to commemorate the Nativity. The first theory looks to a third-century Roman pagan celebration coinciding with the winter solstice. As the days began to lengthen each year, December 25 became a festival for the rebirth of the unconquered sun. Christians, who believed Christ was the real unconquered source of light, put his birth date on the same day.

The second theory looks to the passion of Jesus. According to early conjectures, the actual day of Christ's passion fell on March 25 in the year Jesus died. Some Christians believed that Jesus died on the anniversary of his conception. For this reason, March 25 became also the celebration of the Annunciation. Looking forward nine months, the birth of Jesus was placed on December 25.

The traditional year of Jesus' birth was fixed in the mid-sixth century by Dionysius Exiguus, a monk and scholar who set the calendar according to the system we now know as AD. (*anno domini*, "in the year of the Lord"). However, Matthew and Luke both say Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, which scholars now calculate from 37 to 4 BC. Oddly then, Jesus was probably born "before Christ."

Although the actual birth date of Jesus cannot be known, he was born, and we continue to commemorate his birth by recognizing that all of time hinges on his life.

CONFIRMATION & RCIA

Anyone interested in beginning preparation for Confirmation or any adult interested in receiving sacraments through the process of RCIA, classes will begin in January. Please contact Fr. Jason in person or via email to start the process or express interest.

MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

We have updated the list of most needed items for our partners at WFCM. The next collection date will be **December 28th**.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION 2025-2026

This year's theme is Journey with the Saints and Seasons. Classes are held during the 12:30pm mass on the first Sunday of each month. Our remaining schedule is as follows:

January 4th: Epiphany Sunday, No Class

February 1st: topic: St. Valentine of Rome

March 1st: topic: St. Patrick

April 5th: Easter Sunday, No Class

May 3rd: topic: St. Joan of Arc

June 7th: topic: The Eucharist



Talk To Us...

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