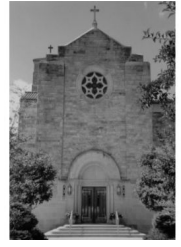


SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA
A MEMBER OF ST. GEORGE DEANERY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2017



Pastor: Father Tom Extejt ~ Office: 419-659-2263 or 419-659-4190 e-mail: tjextejt@sa.noacsc.org
Deacon: Mr. James Dunn: 419-659-2707 e-mail: jdunn9@woh.rr.com
Deacon Donald Siefker: 419-659-5891 e-mail: dsiefker1@gmail.com
Principal: Mr. Scott Hummel: 659-2103 Fax: 659-4194 e-mail: hummels@sa.noacsc.org
Parish Office: Mrs. Marilyn Siefker: 419-659-2263 Office Fax: 419-659-5202 e-mail: siefkem@sa.noacsc.org
CCD Program Leader, Judy Schroeder : 419-659-5498 e-mail: judyfhc@yahoo.com
Youth Minister: Hannah Warren: 419-303-5476 e-mail: lifeteen@sa.noacsc.org
Parish Office Hours: Monday Thru Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St. Anthony Parish Website: www.cgstanthony.org
St. Anthony School Website: www.stanthonyschool.info
Parish ~ www.facebook.com/cgstanthony/
School ~ www.facebook.com/StAnthonyofPaduaColumbusGrove/

Merry Christmas!

Mass Schedule

December 24	Sunday	4:00 p.m. Mass	Christmas Eve ~ {Ralph & Marie Ricker ~ Norman & Evelyn Utrup ~ Urban Warnecke ~ Dick Schroeder ~ Ryan Gerding ~ Laverne & LaDonna Siefker ~ Nathan Siefker ~ Deceased Members of the Miller & Knott Families}
December 24	Sunday	6:00 p.m. Mass	Christmas Eve ~ {Norm Maag ~ Joe & Gladys Verhoff}
December 24	Sunday	10:00 p.m. Mass	Christmas Eve ~ {Virgil Heitmeyer ~ Ronald Pitson ~ Deceased Members of the Edward F. & Elizabeth Morman Family ~ Deceased Members of the Ralph & Beatrice Schroeder Family}
December 25	Monday	9:00 a.m. Mass	Christmas Day ~ {Norm Kohls ~ Virgil & Virginia Hoffman ~ Leroy & Mary Fischer ~ John Schroeder}
December 26	Tuesday		No Morning Mass
December 27	Wednesday		No Morning Mass
December 28	Thursday		No Morning Mass
December 29	Friday	8:00 a.m. Mass	5th Day ~ The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord ~ {For The Parish}
December 30	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Rosary
December 30	Saturday	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Confessions, Exposition & Benediction
December 30	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Vigil ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph ~ {Betty Niese ~ Kathleen Beckman ~ Wilfred & Margaret Warnecke}
December 31	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph ~ {Jeanette Morman ~ Nathan Siefker}
December 31	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph ~ {Deceased Members of the Robert Kohls Family}

Servers

December 24	Sunday	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass	~ Hunter Sudlow, Jevin Langhals, Tayte Langhals, Caleb Stechschulte, Logan Stechschulte, Ty Meyer, Levi Burkholder
December 24	Sunday	6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass	~ Audrey Keehn, Abby Buescher, Brandon Buescher, Josh Buescher
December 24	Sunday	10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass	~ Kirsten McCauley, Evan Dunbar, Nathan Dunbar, Steven Dunbar, Garrett Nemire
December 25	Monday	9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass	~ Chadd Martin, Hallie Hermiller & 2 Volunteers
December 29	Friday	8:00 a.m. Mass	Judy Schroeder
December 30	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Kaitlyn Herman, Lauryn Wischmeyer, Amy Vorst
December 31	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Elizabeth Morman, Valerie Morman, Renee Schroeder
December 31	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Alyssa Ellerbrock, Luke Ellerbrock, Emma Wenzinger

Lectors

December 24	Sunday	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass ~ Special ~ Children's Mass
December 24	Sunday	6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass ~ Geddy Davis
December 24	Sunday	10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass ~ Judy Schroeder
December 25	Monday	9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass ~ Gary Hermiller

Lectors ~ cont'd

December 30 Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass Amy Tabler
December 31 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass Sarah Schroeder
December 31 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass Vonda Nemire

Eucharistic Ministers

December 24 Sunday **4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass** ~ Don Siefker, Norm Schnipke, Doug Langhals,
Pat Birnesser, Erica Siefker, Lisa Langhals - (Choir)
December 24 Sunday **6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass**~Stephanie Moore, Dave & Christie Tabler, Bob & Bev Baxter
December 24 Sunday **10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass** ~ Don Siefker, Rose Schnipke, Sarah Schroeder,
Marilyn Hoffman, Faith Oglesbee
December 25 Monday **9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass** ~ Mary Kay Koch, Rose Ellerbrock, Mary Ann Schroeder,
Teresa Brubaker & 1 Volunteer
December 30 Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass Norm Schnipke, Beth Birkemeier, Bruce Stephens,
Jim Tabler, Teresa Brubaker
December 31 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass Charlie Schmiesing, Marilyn Hoffman, Diana Kaufman,
John & Mary Kay Koch
December 31 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass Sue Schroeder, Anne Schroeder, Jennifer Siefker,
Cheryl Ellerbrock, Lisa Meuleman

January Eucharistic Minister Coordinators

4:30 p.m. ~ Pat Birnesser - 931-267-2357 **8:30 a.m.** ~ John Koch - 419-890-2370
11:00 a.m. ~ Shirley Goedde - 419-236-9825

December 25 **Hilty Home ~ 419-384-3218** ~ Anne Duval ~ (List can be picked up in the Sacristy)
December 31 **Hilty Home ~ 419-384-3218** ~ Pat Birnesser ~ (List can be picked up in the Sacristy)

~ Hilty Home Residents ~

*Jean Stechschulte-Room 101; Jim Fischbach-Room 104A; Wilbert Roof-Room 105B;
Agnes Friedel-Room 109; Bill Alt-Room 121; Mary Margaret Bockrath-Room 125;
Dolores Daniels-Room 209B; Rita Wenger-Room 300;
Jeanne Schulte-Room 401; Kathy Sager-Room 403; Margaret Stechschulte-Room 511*

Ushers

December 24 Sunday **4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass** Gene Siefker, Mike Kohls, & 2 Volunteers
December 24 Sunday **6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass** Dave Moore & 3 Volunteers
December 24 Sunday **10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass** Tom Dunlap, John Siefker, Ron Hoffman, Matt McCauley
December 25 Sunday **9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass** Joyce Seyer, Bonnie Doty & 2 Volunteers
December 30 Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass Denny Meuleman, Doug Roof, Bill Roth, Nick Schroeder
December 31 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass Ron Hoffman, Tom Dunlap, Eric Dunn, Gene Siefker
December 31 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass Kevin Siefker, Terry Giesige, Matt McCauley, Nathan Schroeder

Greeter Schedule

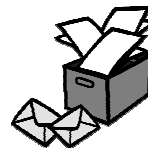
December 30 Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass **M**-Pat Birnesser, **J**-Chris & Jackie Herman, **S**-Jay & Sherri Wischmeyer
December 31 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass **M**-Dan Maag, **J**-Karl/Sue Schroeder, **S**-Vince & Amy Morman
December 31 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass **M**-Kyle Meyer, **J**-Lori Giesige, **S**-Roger & Wendi Wenzinger

St. Rita's Medical Center ~ Jerry Fortman

For The Week of December 17th

Adult ~ 219 \$ 8,185.95
Children's ~ 33 57.35
8,243.30
Other Income 18,458.81
Total Income \$ 26,702.11

Total Expenses \$ 24,085.88



Total Donated Toward 21st Century Fix-Up Campaign To-Date ~267 Donors ~ \$ 238,342.81

300 Club Winner ~ December 23rd ~ Karl & Rosie Hoffman ~ Ticket #58 ~ \$100.00
Special 300 Club Christmas Drawing ~ December 23rd ~ Tom & Janet Dunlap ~ Ticket #21 ~ \$100.00
300 Club Winner ~ December 25th ~ Gary & Kate Morman ~ Ticket #158 ~ \$100.00
Special 300 Club Christmas Drawing ~ December 25th ~ Paul & Sandy Langhals ~ Ticket #171 ~ \$250.00

These are the final 300 Club drawings. Thanks to everyone for supporting our 300 Club!



The St. Anthony Parish family extends our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Joe Koch who died Tuesday, December 12th. Mass of Resurrection was celebrated for Joe on Friday, December 15th. May our prayers and the grace of God see you through this difficult time.



Jack Lee, son of Justin & Alicia Thornton, and Kayla Jane, daughter of Neil & Faith Stechsulte, who were baptized this past weekend here at St. Anthony's. May the new gift of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

"Why do Catholics....."

Why do Catholics celebrate Christmas on Dec 25? This is rooted in tradition to celebrate Christ's birth, the *Incarnation*, not as a memorial of a specific day since the exact date is unknown. The Catholic Church used this date to reform a pagan holiday of the winter solstice and make it holy. After the winter solstice, the sun appears to regain its strength, is "born again" as it were, as the days become longer. Consequently, December 25th was the "birthday" of the Persian sun-god known as Mithras. Over 2000 years ago, Christ entered this pagan world and reformed and sanctified it by His presence. The word Christmas means "the Mass of Christ". It is the central event as it marks the arrival of Immanuel, "God With Us", the Word became Flesh, the promised Savior of the World, marking the most significant birth ever. It is an occasion to spread the Good News of the Gospel at a time when many unbelievers pause to consider Christ. Share Christ with someone this Christmas, as our gift back to God!

I wish to thank all the families of St. Anthony's who sent cards and helped during my stay at home and also to the carolers that came by.

Lauretta Foughty

Scrip ~ The next Scrip weekend will be **January 6th & January 7th, 2018**. The helpers are: Ken & Connie Kruse, Joy Stechsulte, Shirley Goedde, Mary Langhals, Christie Tabler and Carla Kohls.

Christian Formation Classes ~ The next CCD classes will be held on **Sunday, January 7th, 2018**.

Mass Ministry Schedules ~ For January & February can be picked up in the back of church. Thank you for serving.

Three Ushers Needed ~ We are in need of three more ushers for the 11:00 a.m. Mass. If you could help us out, please contact Pat Birnesser at 931-267-2357 or the parish office at 419-659-2263. Thank you!

Attention 4th Degree Knights ~ The 4th Degree K of C members will be marching at the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Meet in the church basement at 9:30 p.m.

2018 Contribution Envelopes ~ The contribution envelopes for the adults and the high school students for 2018 are in the church basement. Please pick up at your convenience.

St. George Deanery Proudly Presents...Mystery Theater ~ All 6th, 7th & 8th graders are invited to the Junior High Gathering hosted in Miller City on January 28, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. This is a chance to meet new people from all over the county, to celebrate our faith and have fun. (This event was hosted at our parish last year.) The day includes workshops, a dynamic speaker, supper and Mass. The cost if preregistered by January 20th is \$8.00. Cost after that is \$10.00. All are welcome and can join us the day of the event. Please turn in the form, emergency medical form, and payment at the same time. Direct any questions to Hannah Warren @419-303-5476.

Mystery Theater Needs Volunteers! ~ Calling all high school teens to help at the Junior High Gathering in Miller City. Set up starts at 10:00 a.m. with clean up finishing by 7:30 p.m. If willing to help, please turn in your form, emergency medical form, and \$5.00 to Hannah Warren by January 15, 2018.

Winter Fun Day ~ For high school teens will be Wednesday, December 27th. We will start out at the Ottawa YMCA from 5:00-8:00 p.m. After that we will gather here at St Anthony's for the Lock In until 8:00 a.m. on December 28th. The cost is \$10 for activities at the YMCA, and \$5 for the Lock In. For more information, contact Hannah Warren @ 419-303-5476.

Life Teen @ CG CONNECT ~ Will start on Tuesdays from 730-830 p.m. On January 2nd, all high school gals are invited to a small group discussion titled Ground Rules, a topic about "Does God Exist?" All high school guys are invited on January 9th for the same topic.

We are still looking for a few adults willing to help with CG CONNECT discussion group. If interested please contact Hannah Warren @ 419-303-5476.

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections will be held during the weekend Masses, January 6th and January 7th, 2018. All Council members serve three-year terms. Our current Parish Council members are: Gary Kohls, Amy Brinkman, Brian Schroeder, Doug Langhals, Jill Glass, Jerry Schroeder, Pat Birnesser, Jerry Dickman, Tom Kamphaus, Lisa Langhals, Kathy Rieman and Bruce Stephens. We will be voting in four new members. Thank you to Doug, Gary, Amy and Brian for their years of service to St. Anthony's.

Mike Brodewolf ~ My wife Megan and I have three children: Hannah (age 6), Jacob (age 4), and Hailey (age 2). Hannah is currently a first-grade student at St. Anthony's. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's Degree in Gifted and Talented Education. I am currently in my eleventh-year teaching at Columbus Grove Schools. I have been the Junior High Cross-Country coach there for ten years and a Track coach for ten years as well. I moved to Columbus Grove in 2007 and have been a member of St. Anthony's Parish ever since.

Darrick Doseck ~ Darrick is married to Tina (Bogart) and has two children, Makena, a sophomore at CGHS and AJ in 2nd grade at St. Anthony's. Darrick joined the Catholic faith through the RCIA program in Marysville, OH in 2002 and became a member of St. Anthony's in 2004. Darrick has been in the Information Technology field for over 20 years in various roles and is currently employed at Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine, Ohio as an IT analyst.

Charles Schmiesing ~ Charles and his wife, Kathy, have been members of St. Anthony of Padua parish since 1991. Charles & Kathy have three children: Tyler, Alicia, and Nick. Charles serves as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, and Greeter at St. Anthony's. He grew up in Minster and graduated from UNOH and Tiffin University.

Pat Langhals ~ Pat has been married to Darren for 24 years. They have ten children ages 2 - 20 years old. She is a life-long Catholic and has been a member of St Anthony for 18 years. She has college degrees from the U of Dayton and Ohio State University. Pat has devoted the last 18 years to being a domestic engineer. She has previously been a bible school teacher and CCD teacher.

Mike Birkemeier ~ I have been a member of St. Anthony parish since 1985 when Marilyn and I moved here from Glandorf. We have 5 children, Scott, Amy, Kristy, Ryan, and Adam. I am a member of the K of C and choir. I have served on the building committee for the Family Life Center and was on Parish Council during its construction. For the past 11 years I have been a chairman for the vehicle raffle at the festival. I have been part of the technology committee and assist with various technology needs of the parish. Also, I have been involved with the TMIY program. I work for Watch Communications in Lima as a microwave radio engineer. Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Martin ~ My name is Karen Martin and I have been a member of St. Anthony's since moving to Columbus Grove in 1998. I am married to Al Martin and we have 4 adult children who attended St. Anthony's School. I have been a nurse for 29 years, the last 11 as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. I am currently employed at Health Partners of Western Ohio in Lima and Dayton Children's ER. I am a member of Walking with Purpose women's group and have participated in CRHP. I recently attended and participated in the Beatification Celebration for Father Solanus Casey at Ford Field in Detroit. Thank You for considering me a candidate for Parish Council.

Mustard Seed Gift Shop ~ Visit Mustard Seed Gift Shop to Save 30% on ALL Advent and Christmas items through Saturday, January 6, 2018 (excluding Lighted Rosaries and Indoor/Outdoor Nativities). Mustard Seed Gift Shop is located behind St John Baptist Church in Glandorf. Normal business hours are Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. They will be closed on Tuesday, December 26, 2017.

Putnam County Right to Life ~ The Putnam County Right to Life will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 2, 2018**, at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mary Jane Stechschulte, next to the Kalida fire station. All our welcome. Join us!

K of C Beef, Chicken & Ground Beef ~ If you are planning to use beef, chicken for your family parties this holiday season, consider purchasing your supplies from our K of C. Below are the prices of the items available.

	<u>Beef</u>	<u>Chicken</u>
Case of 24 cans ~ 28 ozs.	\$ 174.00	\$ 142.00
1/2 Case (12 Cans) ~ 28 ozs.	88.00	73.00
Price Per 28 oz. Can	7.50	6.25
Case of 24 Cans ~ 14.5 ozs.	105.00	90.00
1/2 Case (12 Cans) ~ 14.5 ozs.	53.00	47.00
Price Per 14.5 oz. can	4.50	4.00

Call Gene Heitmeyer at 419-659-5574, Dave Ellerbrock at 419-659-5833, Dan Maag at 419-659-2969, Gary Hermiller at 419-642-2645 or Len Kaufman at 419-659-6153 to place your order.

St. Anthony Athletic Boosters Aluminum Can Drive ~ Aluminum collection will be January 4th – 7th. There will be a trailer in the church parking lot for you to drop off any aluminum to be recycled. Thank you, 5 Angle Construction, for the use of the trailer!

Cemetery Notice ~ The price of a standard footer for headstones at the Cemetery will be increasing from \$400.00 to \$500.00 as of **February 1, 2018**. Footers will be poured again next spring. If you would like to put an order in to have your footer poured next spring at this year's price, contact Dan Maag at 419-659-2969.

Christmas Flower Fund ~ If you would like to make a donation to our *Christmas Flower Fund* in memory of your deceased loved ones, feel free to put their names on the envelope you will find in your contribution packet. We will publish the list after Christmas, Thank you.

Save the Date ~ **Sunday, January 14th at 5 :30 p.m. in the parish hall.** Join in food, fellowship and prayer with fellow parishioners and others that you are encouraged to invite to join us. Bring a dish to share (entree, salad/veg, or dessert) - signups will begin next weekend at the church entrances. Deacon Don Siefker will give a short talk on "Liturgy of the Hours". This will be our last event before the church painting begins on Jan 15, as we will thereafter be celebrating mass in the parish hall. Call Pat Birnesser with any questions 931-267-2357.

A Wish for the New Year ~ The New Year is often a time of reflection, re-examining, setting goals, and looking ahead. It is the perfect time to reflect on your marriage relationship as well. If one of your goals is to deepen your love and enhance your marriage, a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend may be just what you're looking for. Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are for married couples with good, great, and even so-so marriages who want to enrich their marriages, and are designed to expand and deepen the joys of married life. Weekends are a time to concentrate exclusively on one another, giving you the opportunity to enhance your communication, develop a deeper appreciation of each other and strengthen your bond. The next weekend being offered within the Diocese is scheduled for January 12-14, 2018 in Perrysburg, OH. For more information or to register for an upcoming weekend, please contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or bschroeder@bright.net.

Red Cross Blood Drive ~ St. Anthony's will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Thursday, January 4th**, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the church hall. All donors will receive a long sleeved t-shirt. Please consider donating a pint of blood that could possibly save three lives. Call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome!

Ireland & Scotland ~ Jerry Bunn and Vicki Doty are organizing a tour of Ireland & Scotland, October 15-27, 2018, through GoAhead Tours. The trip will be 11 nights. We fly into Shannon and head to Limerick. Then it's on to Killarney via Muckross House, the Ring of Killarney, and Killarney National Park. From there we travel to Dublin via Blarney Castle. We will see St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, and end the day in the Temple Bar District. On to Belfast, viewing the copper-domed City Hall, passing the ship building docks, Titanic Museum, and the Grand Opera House. From Belfast, we ferry over to Scotland, heading to the legendary Loch Ness Lake and Urquhart Castle. Finally, we end our tour in Edinburgh, passing the Blair Castle along the way. In Edinburgh, we will visit the Royal Mile and the Edinburgh Castle. Cost of the trip will be around \$3,900 based on 30 people signing. There is an early \$100 discount bonus for signing before January, 2018. For more information contact either Jerry Bunn at 419-957-3430.

New Year's Eve Reverse Raffle ~ The Ottawa K of C is sponsoring a New Year's Eve Reverse Raffle. Evening includes a wedding style meal, drinks and entertainment. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner at 6:30 p.m. Top prize is \$3,000. Winner need not be present to win. Cost per ticket is \$50.00. Auction proceeds will be used to sponsor the Scholarship Fund and to help our seminarians. For tickets or for more information, call Pat Gerten at 419-235-1991. Deadline to purchase tickets is **December 23rd**. Come out and enjoy!!!

A Note from Fr. Tom

MARCH FOR LIFE – DEADLINE IN ONE WEEK: Interested in attending the 2018 March for Life in Washington D.C. on January 20, 2018? Join the College and Young Adult bus trip sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Toledo! The trip is only \$159, but for college students there is a special discounted price of \$119!

The trip includes two nights in the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Washington, D.C., as well as free time to tour the city. We depart Thursday, January 18, at 3 p.m. and will return Saturday evening, January 20. Payments by check can be made out and mailed to Catholic Charities, 1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo with “March for Life” in the memo line. Be sure to include name, email, cell phone and rooming preferences.

If you have any questions, contact Peter Range, Director of the Office for Life and Justice, at prange@toledodiocese.org or call 419-214-4933. Deadline to register is Monday, January 1.

POST-ABORTION RETREATS FOR MEN AND WOMEN: Suffering from a past abortion? You’re not alone. Connect with local support and resources and explore other women’s and men’s experiences. Begin your healing journey and experience God’s mercy.

“Entering Canaan” Day of Prayer and Healing Retreats for Women will be held Saturday, January 27, 2018 and April 21, 2018. An “Entering Canaan” Day of Prayer and Healing Retreat for Men will be held Saturday, February 10, 2018.

Project Rachel, a ministry of Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo, hosts the day. For more information and confidential reservations, please call 1-888-456-HOPE or 419-260-5811. Or email projectrachel@toledodiocese.org. Visit hopeafterabortion.com for more information on Project Rachel. God bless you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! I read in Wednesday’s news that the government of North Korea has just passed a law forbidding loud, raucous parties with singing and/or alcohol consumption during late December. It makes me wonder if they’re afraid of Christmas. Would Ebenezer Scrooge have felt at home in North Korea? Or how about King Herod?

Christmas is the ultimate celebration of life and freedom. Jesus coming as a baby says that each human life is precious to God and must be revered. I’m grateful that most Americans stand for that. I’m grateful that the First Amendment allows us to gather in awe and wonder of the Christ-Event. I’m grateful that we are allowed to let our faith spill over into our political opinions and our political speech. And I’m grateful for the people I celebrate with. Maybe Scrooge, Herod and the rulers of North Korea are afraid of people gathering to celebrate Christmas, and then upholding reverence for human life. When the Son of God became one of the least ones, His example shouted loudly the message of the infinite value of each human life. So after Mass, enjoy family and friends, be loud and raucous with them, sing Christmas carols together, and enjoy a glass of “whatever” to increase your joy (in moderation, of course).

Father Tom