

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor
Aloysius Chan, Organist



prepare the way...

Mass  for Intentions  Week

**** No 8:15 a.m. Masses December 23-26**

Friday, December 27th, 8:15 a.m.
For the Deceased Members of the Aust Family

Saturday, December 28th, 9:00 a.m.
Doris & Ernest Ashmeade & Francis Ford
Requested by Barbara Ford and Family

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH THROUGH OFFERTORY DONATIONS




Assigned boxed sets of envelopes for 2020 are in the Millwood lobby. If you currently have a boxed set, please note the envelopes will be displayed in alphabetical order by SURNAME.

Please do NOT use your 2020 envelopes until January 1st. Even if your donor number remains the same, please write your name and address on the first FOUR envelopes you use in the new year, to ensure proper crediting of donations.

The deadline for contributions to be credited to 2019 is 4:00pm on Tuesday, December 31st. Donations received in the collection basket during the New Year's Eve Mass on December 31st will be credited toward your 2020 contributions.

Parishioners on PAG will receive their 2020 bundles in the mail this week.

Thank you for supporting St. Anselm's.

 **Group "B" casseroles are due THIS WEEKEND, December 21/22. Please bring your frozen casserole to the parish hall kitchen before Mass.**



Monday, December 23 - 1:00 - 4:00p.m.
Tuesday, December 24 - 9:00am - noon
Tuesday, December 31 - 9am - 12 noon

The parish office will be closed December 25th-27th, 30th and January 1st - 3^d. We will re-open at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6th. Voice mail will be checked regularly for emergencies. All other inquiries as well as all email messages will be answered during the second week of January.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve

**Tuesday, December 24th
Mass
5:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Carols
7:30 p.m.**

**Mass
8:00 p.m.**

Christmas Day

**Wednesday, December 25th
Mass
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 28th
Mass
5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 29th
Mass
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Tuesday, December 31st
Mass
5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, January 1st
Mass
11:00 a.m.**





**Guide for an Eco-Christmas
“ the gift of a sustainable future”**



Focussing on the true meaning of Christmas will help keep this festive season merry and *green.

**Reduce, Reuse, Repair,
Re-cycle, Repurpose, RETHINK.
Make by hand & give from the heart.
Be creative; have fun; think *GREEN!**

**Mindfully & intentionally REDUCE
your Christmas eco-footprint.**

**CHOOSE a joyous, peaceful,
filled-with-gratitude-for-the-birth
-of-Jesus-on-earth celebration.**



**EcoAnselm
wishes
you a
very
Merry
Green
Christmas**

LOVE



Lots of people like making plans. For some, the best part of travel, or any new venture, is in the planning. Likewise, there is nothing so frustrating as the disruption of our plans for the day or the weekend or ... our lives. A child gets sick, the weather doesn't cooperate, the car breaks down, the flight is

canceled and ... poof! There go our plans.

Many of us have known brides (or a bride's mother — and let's be honest, it is seldom the groom or anyone's father) who has planned a wedding down to the last millisecond, only to get really, *really* bent out of shape when something foils those plans. And

something always does because there is just so much we humans can control, and by “something” read “almost nothing.” Sometimes our plans are relatively trivial and the disruption thereof merely frustrating: a day's outing gone awry, an interrupted vacation, and, yes, a wedding that doesn't happen as we imagined it. But sometimes the disruption of our plans is more than frustrating; it's heartbreaking. The marriage that fails. The couple who desperately want children who never come. The child who is born, the fulfillment of prayer and longing, but who isn't the child we imagined. The much-loved child who grows up, but also grows away and becomes a stranger to us. The work that remains drudgery. Unemployment. Cancer. The death of a dear one. The hopes and desires that are never fulfilled. It's at the moment of foiled plans that we might want to say a prayer to St. Joseph. Chapter titles in a book about him might include “Adapt and Adjust.” Or “Got Plans, God Laughs.” Today's Gospel tells us of Joseph's plan to marry and his plan disrupted by what appears to be Mary's infidelity. Joseph adjusts his plans — and a generous adjustment it is. He isn't going to bring shame upon Mary, but divorce her quietly. Then comes a dream and his plans are altered again, this time beyond his imagining. Next week, on the Feast of the Holy Family, we'll hear about more dreams and more radically altered plans as Joseph takes his family and flees to Egypt. Christmastime often involves a lot of planning: decorations, presents, meals, travel or overnight guests. Just as on the first Christmas, those plans may have to give way. Maybe this is the first Christmas when our adult child goes to the in-laws for the holidays. Maybe someone is sick or in the hospital. Maybe the weather doesn't cooperate or the meal burns in the oven. What can we do? We can't control most things, but there is one thing we can learn to control - our attitude. Viktor Frankl writes in *Man's Search for Meaning*: “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms — to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances.” Can't travel because of the snow? Make snow angels. Lonely at Christmas? So are others. Find them and share your day with them. Can't be with the ones you love? Love the ones you're with. And isn't that the message — not only of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, but the Gospel? Jesus taught that we are to love those on our path today. Maybe that should be our plan, for Christmas and for life. Whoever you send me, God; whatever the circumstances — these I cannot control. But, like Joseph and Mary and all the saints, I can choose to love. And it is love that was born at Christmas. Love, come be born in us.

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