



ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

NOVEMBER IS A TIME
FOR THANKSGIVING [PAGE 3](#)

RECENT EVENTS
AND ACTIVITIES
AT ST. ANTHONY [PAGE 4](#)

THE REAL MESSAGE
OF THANKSGIVING [PAGE 6](#)

MAKING THE BEST FIRST
IMPRESSION: STEWARDSHIP
OF OUR ST. ANTHONY
SOCIAL MEDIA [PAGE 7](#)

Parish Advent Mission

“Embracing a Better Way” with Deacon Peter O’Toole

As a husband and the father of 14, Deacon Patrick O’Toole is certainly familiar with how busy life can get, especially during this time. Modern-day living is hectic, often leaving us feeling frantic and out of breath. Amidst the continuously growing to-do lists and increasingly crammed schedules, it can seem impossible to set time aside for God and ourselves. Yet, this is an important part of our stewardship calling, refreshing our souls and allowing us to grow more fully into the men and women we were created to be.

“I love that quote which I credit to Scott Hahn, ‘God loves you just the way you are, but He loves you too much to let you stay that way,’” Deacon Patrick says. “In His love for us, God continually challenges us to take a step closer, to keep climbing the mountain rather than just settling in the valley. As a parent, I’ve found that, oftentimes, the first thing in the schedule that’s given up is my personal time – my prayer, my exercise, my ‘me’ time. We cast those things to the side because we want to serve our kids. But what we have to realize is that if we don’t make time for these things, then we can’t give properly to those we love.”

St. Anthony of Padua’s Advent Mission provides us each with a special opportunity to break free from the hustle and bustle of life, centering our hearts and minds once again on our true purpose. Taking place Dec. 3-5, the Mission will center on God’s plan for oneness and what that means for us.

“This seems like a pretty appropriate topic in a time when our culture seems to become less and less unified each day,” Deacon Patrick says. “The overarching theme will be that God’s plan is that we should be one, leading us into what that means for us as His disciples and how we can live that out practically.”



Deacon Patrick O’Toole

continued on page 2

Parish Advent Mission

continued from front cover

"I love that quote which I credit to Scott Hahn, 'God loves you just the way you are, but He loves you too much to let you stay that way.' In His love for us, God continually challenges us to take a step closer, to keep climbing the mountain rather than just settling in the valley."
– Deacon Patrick O'Toole

Since his ordination to the permanent diaconate of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois in 2009, Deacon Patrick has spent five years serving as the director of Marriage and Family Life and is currently the director of the Villa Maria Catholic Life Conference and Retreat Center, while also serving as part of the pastoral unit at St. Maurice Parish in Morrisonville, Ill. Additionally, Deacon Patrick spends substantial amounts of time hosting parish missions across the country, viewing this as a concrete way to "go before the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke 1:76).

"As a lay person, I always appreciated the parish missions and was consequently always drawn to them – they were a place for me to draw a bit deeper into the faith," Deacon Patrick says. "I've been ordained about 10 years now, and from the beginning, I've been someone who has done parish missions as part of my personal ministry. I've done a lot of public speaking in my business career, and so this just seemed like a natural fit."

Having already put on a mission here at St. Anthony several years ago, Deacon Patrick is excited to return once again, walking with us in our faith journey. His hope is to help parishioners see and embrace the "better way," allowing us to more fully become Christ's disciples and emissaries to the world.

"People are often so busy that they can't even think, but God says that there is a better way to live," Deacon Patrick says. "And He invites us all to it through this Mission."

Our upcoming Parish Mission will take place on Dec. 3-5. For a more detailed schedule of the Parish Mission, please see the parish bulletin.



The O'Toole family

• Please come join us for a •

SOUP

SUPPER

MONDAY, NOV. 20TH • 4:30-7:00

• St. Dominic School Gym •

Come join us at the St. Dominic Soup Supper! We will be serving chili, chicken noodle, ham & bean and corn chowder - all homemade!

Soup, breadstick or cornbread, applesauce and drink: \$6.00
Kid's meal - PB&J, chips, applesauce and drink: \$3.00
..... There will also be a bake sale!

ALL PROFITS WILL BE DONATED TO THE JASON RICE FAMILY.

Sponsored by the
St. Dominic PTO

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



November is a Time for Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,

November seems to automatically bring us to thoughts of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving – it is both a time of year when we tend to think in terms of gratitude to God, and a time when we also formally celebrate our American holiday. My memories of Thanksgiving are filled with food, of course, but they are also filled with thoughts of family and a sense of togetherness and a sense of my faith.

But this is also a significant month in the Church from a number of perspectives. Nov. 1 is a Holy Day, the Solemnity of All Saints. The next day is All Souls Day, a day devoted to all the saints in our lives – living, not living, known, and unknown.

Most of us have people in our lives who have had a profound impact on us – people we can consider our own personal saints. This month is a wonderful reminder to think of them, thank them, and thank God for making them a part of our lives.

Our Thanksgiving holiday falls on Nov. 23, and is a time for families and gratitude. Thanksgiving became official in the United States in 1863, and in his proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln made very clear Whom we needed to thank. “To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to

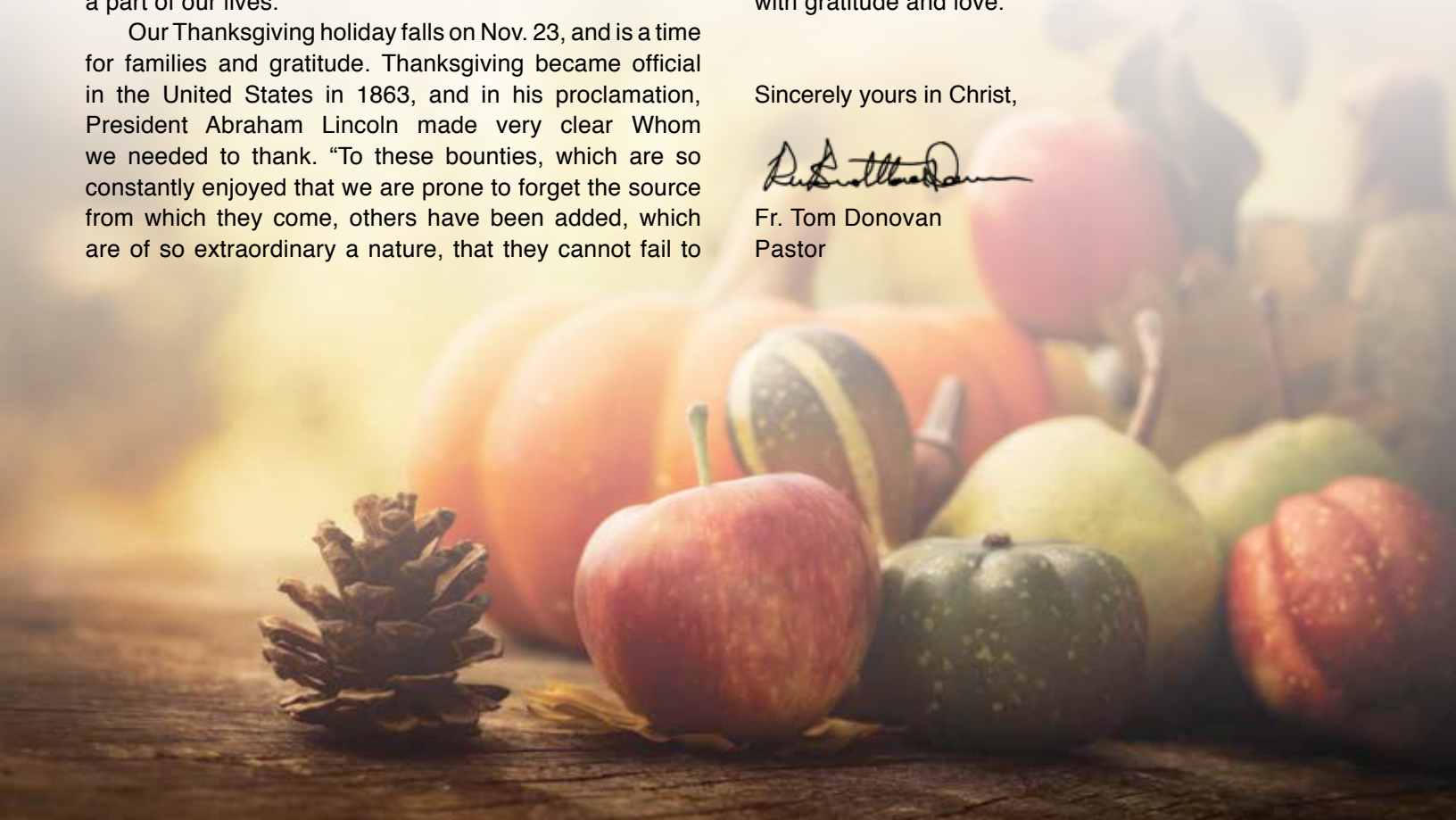
penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God,” Lincoln said. In other words, we all need to thank Almighty God for our many blessings.

Finally, November also brings us to the end of one Church year and the beginning of a new one. The Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 26 officially begins the final week of our liturgical year, and the First Sunday of Advent is on Dec. 3. From the beginning of the month when we thank God for the example of the saints and the saintly people in our lives, to the end of the month when we thank God for everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship truly is all about – about approaching God, about approaching each day, and about approaching all those with whom we come in contact, with hearts filled with gratitude and love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. Tom Donovan".

Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastor



Recent Events and Activities at St. Anthony

This autumn has certainly been a busy time for our parishioners and parish families! From our Feast of St. Francis Pet Blessing and Trunk-or-Treat, to other family-oriented activities like Grandparents' Day, Donuts with Moms and Donuts with Dads.

We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, and we look forward to many more opportunities for fellowship as we enter into the Advent and Christmas Seasons!



ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY IS
MISSING ONE OF OUR
ANIMAL FRIENDS!
FR. DONOVAN'S CAT,
SHADOW, IS LOST
BUT HAS RECENTLY
BEEN SPOTTED IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD. IF
YOU SEE SHADOW,
PLEASE BE SURE TO CALL
THE PARISH OFFICE
AT 217-222-5996. WE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
HELP IN BRINGING OUR
FRIEND HOME!



The Real Message of Thanksgiving

We must never lose sight of the real message of Thanksgiving. God has blessed us and we must offer thanks to the Lord. There are so many ways we as Catholics can assure that our Thanksgivings are filled with faith and appreciation to our Lord.

The mere mention of Thanksgiving brings many images to one's mind. Different families and multicultural societies like ours in the United States may celebrate in unique ways, but the basis is often the same. Families gather, they share time together, and they are treated to a meal, which is beyond the norm. Not everyone eats turkey and dressing, pumpkin pie, cranberries, and all those other food items we seem to associate with the holiday. However, there is always an element of thanksgiving and gratitude in the air.

In the midst of all the traveling, celebrating and camaraderie associated with Thanksgiving, we sometimes miss the real significance of this holiday. Regardless of what you may identify or accept as the beginnings of our Thanksgiving celebration, that idea of appreciation does pervade it all. Historically, it was President Abraham Lincoln who is given credit for making Thanksgiving "official" here in the United States in 1863. Nevertheless, President George Washington issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation on Oct. 3, 1789, 74 years to the day prior to Lincoln's.

Washington began his proclamation with these words: "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, and to be grateful for His benefits..." For those who embrace and practice our idea of Catholic stewardship, this is the heart of our stewardship philosophy – that is, God needs to be at the center of our lives. God has gifted each of us, and we need to respond to God in gratitude for those many gifts. That message was the same message we hear in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. It is certainly the message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Just as we as Catholics know it is important "to keep Christ in Christmas," it is equally imperative to keep God in Thanksgiving. Our recent presidents, whether Democrats or Republicans, men of faith or

not, have used these phrases in their own proclamations: "...grateful for the God-given bounty that enriches our lives"; "...to give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives"; "Let us give our own thanks to God and reaffirm our love of family, neighbor and community"; "We offer praise to God for His goodness and generosity."

As much as we may enjoy the way our own families celebrate Thanksgiving – whether it includes turkey, goose or oysters – we must never lose sight of the real message of Thanksgiving. God has blessed us and we must offer thanks to the Lord. There are so many ways we as Catholics can assure that our Thanksgivings are filled with faith and appreciation to our Lord.

In spite of the preparations for whatever feast is planned, we can try to attend Mass as a family. Many parishes bless bread and other items so that the direct connection among our faith, our faith family and the Lord is made. Prayer should be a part of the beginning and the end of our celebration, and that prayer needs to reflect our gratitude to God. We are truly blessed, and it is no accident that in this country, Thanksgiving often immediately precedes Advent. Christ should be a part of our lives now and throughout the year.



ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



Making the Best First Impression: Stewardship of Our St. Anthony Social Media

With the valuable tools of modern social media at our fingertips, why not use them to help spread the news about St. Anthony Parish – both right here at home, and to those looking for a place to call home?

Billy Schaffer is on it!

Billy has been working for nearly a year to manage our St. Anthony Facebook page and to rework our parish website.

"I'm on the Parish Council, and this is one of the ways I can give back," Billy says.

So often, the first impression one receives about an entity is from its website, and Billy wants our website to show us off in the best way possible when someone is searching for a church. And with the work Billy is doing on the Facebook page, it can serve as a backup to our website.

"With our changes to our website, we're getting a brand new one," Billy says. "We're working with Visule Web Media who are working with parishes in Quincy. It's going to be eye-catching and easy to use. There will be a master

calendar of events, and you can go to the website and see upcoming events, Mass times here at St. Anthony."

The revamped website also will be a way we can practice stewardship by finding ways on the site to become involved with our time, talent, and treasure.

"The website will be mobile-friendly," Billy says. "You can bring it up on your phone and see it with the modified version. So, hopefully this will help with search engines so it will come up higher in search engines."

While the Facebook page and new website will be helpful to us at St. Anthony by helping us stay active and engaged in parish life, Billy sees these media platforms as a powerful way to bring people into our church and to the Catholic faith itself. As Director of Admissions at John Wood Community College, he has been able to draw on his experience there in attracting and retaining students through marketing and Internet technology, to enhance his work on the Parish Council and on the website.

"It will give a means outside our parish for people to see all that is going on at St. Anthony," Billy says. "Now, they wouldn't get the right feeling for what is going on and the energy and enthusiasm in our parish. This will give us the best first impression. We want to attract the younger generation, as well as maintain connections with parish members, by having all their needs and wants on there, as well."

Billy is looking forward to being able to highlight parish events, whether it's St. Dominic School activities or



The St. Anthony Facebook page

continued on back cover

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 58040
PERMIT NO. 3

2223 St. Anthony Rd.
Quincy, IL 62305
217-222-5996

Return Service Requested

WWW.STANTHONYPADUA.ORG

DAILY MASS: MON, TUE, & THU - 7:30 A.M.

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

Making the Best First Impression: Stewardship of Our St. Anthony Social Media *continued from page 7*

Stewardship Committee meetings, fish fries – everything!

“I’m there to support all of them through social media,” Billy says. “This has been me trying to follow our stewardship example. It’s easier when you can lead by example, and this is one way I can dedicate my time and talent to St. Anthony.”

If all goes as planned, the new website will be rolled out close to Thanksgiving.



The new St. Anthony parish website

The website currently can be viewed at https://invis.io/SVDKE804Z#/254224648_St-Anthony-Home-V1.

The Facebook page link is <https://www.facebook.com/stanthonyquincy>.

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com.