



## 2024 Advent Week 4



Dear Parishioners,

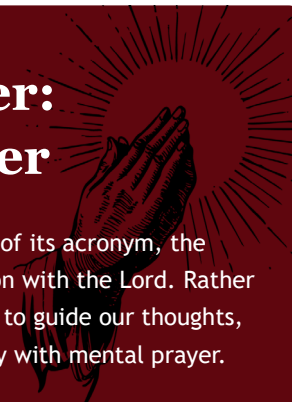
With Christmas almost upon us, we celebrate the theme of Love this Sunday. If you've been praying along with us everyday, you'll

notice that we've already covered today's Gospel reading, Luke 1:39-45, multiple times. This reading has appeared to celebrate Marian feast days through the month, but on this final week of Advent, I ask that we reflect on Elizabeth and John the Baptist: "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." The fullness of Love, Christ incarnate, was born into the world at the Nativity, and each Christmas is a chance for the Lord to be born into our hearts with love. We've been praying through Advent for just this occasion, and like Elizabeth we should behold the Lord's coming with loving wonder, and like John we should leap for joy.

For the last few days of Advent, we're going to continue with a similar form of relational prayer; but whereas we previously grounded ourselves with rosary beads, scripture, and the written word, this last week is a chance to sit in silence and challenge yourself to focus all of your will on the Lord.

In Christ,  
Fr. David Reamsnyder

## This Week's Prayer: ARRR Silent Prayer



Sometimes called "pirate prayer" because of its acronym, the ARRR method helps facilitate a conversation with the Lord. Rather than using scripture or a devotional prayer to guide our thoughts, this method directs us to engage God solely with mental prayer. Here are the steps:

- **Acknowledge:** Begin with this beautiful reality: In this moment, God is with you. Acknowledge His presence. Slowly acknowledge your thoughts, feelings, and desires. Be completely honest with yourself—there is no need to justify, hide, or make excuses.
- **Relate:** Just as if you were confiding in a close friend or family member, tell God everything you acknowledged. Relate your thoughts, feelings, and desire to Him who loves you.
- **Receive:** Sit in silence and listen to the Lord. Notice what moves in you: new thoughts, fresh desires, memories, lines from Scripture, etc. How is God inviting you to come closer to Him? If you receive or hear nothing, be patient and trust in Him.
- **Respond:** What you receive from God is a gift. Respond to that gift and finish by thanking God, asking for needed graces, or sharing any resolutions from prayer. Show God your love for him.

Spend 20-30 minutes each day (preferably first thing in the morning) to pray with the ARRR method. Please include the following intentions in your prayers:

- » **Monday 12/23:** For the staff and leadership of St. Anthony's.
- » **Tuesday 12/24:** For our parish to achieve our vision, values, and priorities for the next 5-10 years.
- » **Wednesday 12/25:** For all of our parishioners and everyone within our parish boundaries.

# The Future of St. Anthony's

In 2023, members of our parish leadership completed strategic planning with the diocese and consultants. We set the following vision, values, and priorities for the next 5-10 years.

**Vision** (Where the parish is going in the next 5-10 years)

By cooperating with God, we will see the following fruit:

- » Reverent worship in a transcendent space
- » Growth in personal holiness, our local member size, and vocations
- » Parishioners commonly experiencing the healing power of the Holy Spirit
- » A unified parish family

**Values** (How we get to the vision above)

- » **Holy:** spiritual growth individually, within families, and within the greater community; orthodox, reverent, Christ-centered
- » **Familial:** welcoming, united, serving of each other
- » **Evangelistic:** a missionary impulse, a desire to generate new disciples, a burning desire to share “the treasure I have found” with another

**Priorities** (What we're focusing on to achieve our vision)

1. Shared leadership
2. Growth in personal holiness within the Domestic Church
3. Strengthen the parish community by increasing all parishioners' sense of belonging to the parish family

# Thank you

Below are the staff and volunteers who make up the leadership and administration of St. Anthony's.

**Staff:** Fr. David Reamsnyder, Fr. Paul Xavier, Rose Stommel, Ryan Servold, Anne Schmitt, Diana McCosh, Alexandra Lauby, Lawrence Peter, Katy Caspar, Ben and Shelby Hufford, John Biscaro, Jacob Coonradt, Dcn. Aaron Petersen, Dcn. Don Michael, Dcn. Jon Crowley.

**Parish Council:** Jonathan Smith, Mark Maier, Chris Finch, Susan Shirk, Pat Bart, Palmer Giron, Jordan Adams, Shadrach Strehle, Douglas Dobroszi, Rich Moeggenberg.

**Finance Council:** Ken Cole, Tim Galloway, Michelle Bianchi, Tim Sullivan, Eric Leutheuser, Ben Clark, Marlene Miller, Matt Raffin, Howie Kesselring, Courtney Murnen, Matt Granata.

