

St. Anselm Catholic Church

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent



Saint John the Baptizer in Prison—Jan Luyken, 1703

97 Shady Lane, PO Box 1061, Ross, CA 94957

Parish office phone: (415) 453-2342

Parish office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am--4:00pm

Parish email: Info@SaintAnselm.org

Parish website: www.SaintAnselm.org

Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
SaintAnselmChurchRossCalifornia](https://www.facebook.com/SaintAnselmChurchRossCalifornia)

Clergy: Fr. Gabriel Wankar, Pastor
ext. 103; wankar.gabriel@sfarch.org
Fr. Gabriel Achiaga -In Residence
Deacon Ed Cunningham
Deacon Robert Meave

Admin Assist: Mark Wilson
AdminAssistant@saintanselm.org

Religious Education: Dan Veto D.R.E (415) 874-7465
Dre@saintanselm.org

Sacred Music Director: Rebekah Wu
musicdirector@saintanselm.org

Family Life & Outreach: Jessica Gonzalez
jgonzalez@saintanselmschool.com

St. Anselm School: Kim Orendorff, Principal
School Office: (415) 454-8667

School Website: www.StAnselmSchool.com

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm,

Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:00pm

Weekday Mass: Monday-Friday 8:30am, Rosary 8:00am

Holy Day Masses: 8:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Adoration: with Rosary, weekdays from 7:25—8:25 am
and First Fridays from 9 am—12 noon

Eucharist for Homebound: (415) 453-2342

Reconciliation: Before 8:30am weekday Mass, Saturday
4:00pm-4:45pm, during Adoration on First Fridays 9:00am-
12:00pm or by Appointment

Baptism: Preparation Class required. Please email
dre@saintanselm.org or call the Parish Office ext.105

Anointing of the Sick: Anytime upon request.
Contact Pastor.

Matrimony: Six months notification required prior to
desired date. Contact Pastor.

St. Vincent de Paul Help Desk: (415) 454-3303 ext. 11

Cursillo Information: Cathy Cunningham
(415) 453-7174

St. Anselm's Parish is a Catholic community formed by families, individuals and clergy that worship together, celebrate the sacramental life of the Church, and seek to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ everyday. We welcome, serve, and educate according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Pastor's Reflection: Third Sunday of Advent 2025

The Gospel opens with John (who is in prison) sending his disciples to Jesus with a strange question: "Are you he who is to come, or should we look for another?" This odd question, coming from the one who pointed Jesus out and spoke so powerfully of Him, is indeed an invitation to make a journey from puzzlement, through purification, to perfection; a journey to understand that *the perfect gift* is not one of our own imaginings but of God's genuine offer.

Puzzlement –With delight, John had pointed out Christ, saying, *Behold, the Lamb of God* (John 1:29). John worked hard calling people to repentance to get them ready for the day of the Lord. Hence, the puzzlement is thus understandable from him or his disciples; Jesus goes about healing and preaching, and instead of slaying the wicked, endures scorn and ridicule from those in power. The "perfect gift" for John or his followers would be to see all injustice rooted out, to see the wicked burned with fire and the righteous shine like the firmament. Of itself, this is a good and biblical vision that will one day be accomplished. But at this point, this is not the gift that Jesus wants to offer.

Purification –Jesus gives an answer to John's disciples that draws from a different tradition of Messiah texts than those John had emphasized. While some Old Testament texts spoke of His wrath toward the wicked and unjust, others spoke of His healing and mercy. The differences in the description of the Messiah had a lot to do with the context, the audience, and the possibility that the Messiah's ministry might be accomplished in stages. Jesus thus gives the following answer to those sent by John: *Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.* Here, then, is the necessary purification in our thinking: God's greatest gift is not the crushing of our enemies; it is His Son, Jesus. *He* is the Perfect Gift. Further, it is not Jesus' wrath that is His greatest gift; it is His grace and mercy. Without Jesus and a whole lot of His grace and mercy, we don't stand a chance.

Perfection – And thus we see that the perfect gift is not the destruction of our enemies nor a swift ushering in of justice before God's chosen time. The perfect gift is the grace and mercy of Jesus, which all of us, without exception, desperately need. Without these gifts of God, we don't stand a chance. John the Baptist needed grace and mercy; Mother Teresa needed grace and mercy. Grace and mercy are perfect and necessary gifts. If you are looking for the ideal gift this Christmas, look to Jesus. If you want to give the perfect gift to others, bring them to Jesus; bring them to Mass. Find the perfect gift this Christmas; find Jesus.

A special welcome to any visitors or those worshipping with us for the first time or those returning home. Please know that you are warmly welcomed and deeply valued in this faith community. Kindly take a moment to leave your contact information in the back of the Church or register at www.saintanselm.org/register so we can stay in touch.

We're so glad you're here—Welcome home!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	Dec. 15	8:30am	Cecilia Zeitz (INT)
Tues	Dec. 16	8:30am	Kevin Gallagher (INT)
Wed	Dec. 17	8:30am	Michael Kern (INT)
Thur	Dec. 18	8:30am	Patricia Reilly Burke (D)
Fri	Dec. 19	8:30am	Kelly Cullen (INT)
Sat	Dec. 20	5:00pm	Benedict Zeitz (INT)
Sun	Dec. 21	8:00am	People of the Parish
		10:00am	Alfonso Martino (D)
		5:00pm	Spike Bighorn D)

Sick Relatives & Friends

Note: please call parish office to update names

As a community we ask God's blessing for the ill: Stan & Donna Pechalonis, Mark Gardner, Terese Marklinger, Karen Poligono, Marilyn Marklinger, Don Orlandi, Fr. Neil Healy, Jordan Roggenbuck, Matt Hansen, Jim Sweeney, Bob Hoffman, John Alkazin, Lorraine Matteucci, Deidra Carson, Fr. Bill Brown, Bryan Green, Chris Ryan, Elaine Innes, Arlene Hansen, Rose Michelle D'Haiti, John Peterson, Erin Granucci, Bruce Hubal, Charles Cavagnetto, J.R. Maricich, Isabella O'Brien, Dorothy Laddish, Penny Maioli, Gretchen Libby, Murhal Orendorff, Dennis O'Keefe

For the Repose of the Soul: Pauline O'Brien-DeLury, Susan Catinella, Sal Catinella, Linda Biesheuvel, Pat Daly, Katherine Elizabeth Devcich, Catherine Ward, Theresa Sullivan, Michael Killelea, Gary McPartlin

For Our Military: Matthew Kerry O'Brien, Robert Gebhardt, Tyler Lopez, Alex Boatwright, Elizabeth Baumsteiger, Christian Miller, Robert Kent, Shane Morgan, Daniel Lowe, and Rob Manifold

The Pope's Monthly Intentions

December—For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

SAVE THE DATE AND COMMUNITY NOTES

- **Adopt-a-Family** have set up their annual Christmas Giving Tree in the back of the Church. Please take a tag and help bring joy to the children of our community. Return wrapped gifts with tags attached to the church no later than 12/15-16. **THANK YOU** for your generous support. Questions? Call Paulette (415)-453-9596
- **School Children's Advent Confessions** will take place **one class per day from December 9-16.**
- Our **Parish Advent Reconciliation Service** will be held this **Wednesday, 12/17 from 7pm-8pm.** This service will be facilitated by the Sisters of Charity—the St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta group.
- Within the Mass on **Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 8:30am**, school children will be receiving Baptisms and First Holy Communion.
- **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule**
12/24—4:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
12/25—8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm
- **Religious Education for Children**
The Religious Education program is still accepting new students. Classes for Pre-K to 7th meet Sunday mornings at 9am and conclude in time to attend the 10am Mass. The Confirmation classes for 8th+ grade meet on Sunday evenings and include attending the 5pm Mass. Visit SaintAnselm.org to learn more.



One time donation



Recurring donation



Registration

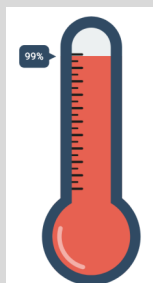
St. Anselm Planned Giving

Consider listing St. Anselm's as beneficiary in your Will (advisable to have one). It preserves the mission and values of the church in its ministry.

Contact Steve Easley for Information
415-272-6147

Upcoming second collection
12/21—Building and Maintenance

2025 Annual Appeal



\$71,409
\$71,108

99%

The Family Ministry at St. Anselm

Beloved St. Anselm Family,

Our Church and School Community is starting a new ministry focused on relationships and family health. This is in sync with my original pastoral plan, which continues to focus on the Eucharist as the fulfillment of all the sacraments, including the sacraments of healing (Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation). As we strive for the salvation of our souls, we will direct our efforts to enhance a fundamental unity of society: the family.

Our new family outreach ministry will be supported by *Communio*, a nonprofit ministry that trains and equips churches to share the Gospel through the renewal of healthy relationships, marriages, and the family.

This initiative is not exclusive to marriages or troubled families. It will help single men and women to establish healthy dating habits and discern when to consider marriage. Those preparing to be married will work with mentors before and after their wedding. Married couples will learn skills to strengthen their relationship. Couples facing challenges will have access to coaching resources to help them get back on track.

We are currently administering a short, anonymous survey developed by Harvard's Human Flourishing Program to better understand and appreciate our parish's marriage, family, and relationship needs. The results of this effort will highlight our Church and School community's strengths as well as identify areas for encouragement and support.

Please, keep this initiative in your prayers, and stay tuned!



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