

# St. Anthony's Catholic Church

1009 NW Virginia Ave. Norton, VA 24273

[www.HolyTrinityCluster.org](http://www.HolyTrinityCluster.org) | 276-679-2336

Administrator: Father Eric Baffour Asamoah Phone: (O) 276-679-2336

Lectors: 12/15 Elsa Miranda | 12/22 Jane Slater | 12/29 Lucy America

EMEs: 12/15 Tony Willis & Deb Clisso | 12/22 Joan Dozier & Beth Palabrica | 12/29 Bob Marshall & Anita Marshall

Collection Sunday, December 8: \$985

Today is The Third Sunday of Advent. Readings can be found on page 40.

Today's Mass Intention: For the poor, especially those without adequate heat during this winter season.

Please Pray for the Sick: Mike Gervacio, Judy Bates, Connor Clisso, Libby Bowman, Nikki Nichols, Walter Aguirre, Virgie Baluyot, Delaney Hartranft, Don Nauss, LeeAnn Howell, Tyler Howell, Spencer Gonzales, Linda Crawford, Rachael Rule, Gary Hensley

Prayers for our Military: Andrew Scott Harlow, Colby Sandt, Michael Durham, Greg Chester, Anthony Capalad, John Paul America, Justin McAfee, Benjamin Conway

## Community Happenings:

Father Eric's Weekly Schedule:

Sun 12/15	Mon 12/16	Tues 12/17	Wed 12/18	Thurs 12/19	Fri 12/20	Sat 12/21
Mass, 8am, HS Mass, 10am SA Mass, 11:30 SH			Mass, 12:15pm SA			Mass, 5pm SJ

**\*\*Weekly Schedule:** *Father Eric's weekly schedule may change. Please refer to the bulletin board in the hall to the left as you enter the sanctuary and to the side door as you enter from the parking lot for any changes. Thank you.*

Gentle Reminder: Please keep in mind that the Sanctuary is for quiet prayer and reflection. Please do not gather socially in the Sanctuary as you may interfere with others' conversations with God. Thank you.

Maintenance Issues: Contact Jeff Cochran at [jcochran@thelanegroupinc.co](mailto:jcochran@thelanegroupinc.co).

Support Family Crisis Support Services: Please bring in personal hygiene items (children & adults) & household items (such as paper towels, laundry detergent, toilet paper, trash bags, etc) & place them in the buggy in the parish hall.

What's going on in the area? 12/19, 7pm: Monthly Outdoor Chat on Edible Plants.

## From AdventConspiracy.org: Spend Less.

**SPEND LESS:** Spend less is an ambiguous goal. Spend less than last year? Spend less than my neighbor? The truth is there is no formula. The challenge of this tenet is to be willing to ask more questions and then be open to hearing what God says in return.

- *Is this something I want or something I need?*
- *Why do I want to buy this?*
- *What kind of company am I supporting if I purchase this product?*
- *Can I afford to spend this amount?*
- *How many presents do we actually need?*
- *What did we do with the presents from last year?*

You see, spending less requires us to plan. Instead of mindlessly shopping online and ordering more than we know what to do with, we take the time to think about each purchase. We strive to **thoughtfully evaluate** what we support with our spending, and we allow our spending to support products, people, and causes worthy of being supported. By spending a little less on ourselves we are able to more joyfully give to others in need.

It is not enough to say *no* to the way Christmas is celebrated by many; we need to say *yes* to a different way of celebrating.

It's important to remember that when we choose to spend less on Christmas presents, it doesn't mean that we love our friends and family any less. In fact, for many of us, we've found that the creative, **intentional gifts** we give showcase our love – and perhaps God's – more clearly than ever before.

More than just an invitation to say *no* to overspending, this is an invitation to a new way of celebrating. This year start a new tradition of spending compassionately and responsibly.

Some ideas to help you Spend Less this Christmas:

- Make a Christmas budget and then stick to it. Don't compare yourself to others, pray and do what is best for your family.
- Research companies that are **Fair Trade**.
- Pray for the people on your Christmas list before purchasing anything. Make spending a conscious decision that engages your heart.
- It's not just about the presents. Notice how much you're spending on other Christmas activities (going out to eat, new outfits, wrapping paper, decorations, etc.). Find one area where you can cut back this year.
- Write down five things you're thankful for. Take inventory of how blessed you already are.
- Set a spending limit as a family. Let everyone have the same amount to spend on each other. You'll be surprised at how creative your kids will get!
- Donate old and unused clothes, toys, and books to a local organization. Notice how much *stuff* you actually don't use or need.

*Stay tuned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> tenet of Advent Conspiracy next week: GIVE MORE.*