

St. Anthony
of Padua
Catholic Church

Temperance,
Michigan



Fourth Sunday
Of
Advent

December 23,
2018

ST. ANTHONY'S DIRECTORY

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Father Robert Slaton.....734-854-1143
frslaton@stanthonytemperance.org

Rectory.....734-854-1143 4605 St. Anthony Road, Temperance, MI 48182

Fax.....734-854-4622

Parish E-mail.....stanthony@bex.net

Web site: stanthonytemperance.org

OFFICE STAFF:

Michelle Lindsey, Parish Secretary: 734-854-1143 stanthony@bex.net
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:00am - 4:30pm; Friday: 9am - 1:00pm

Linda Moeltner, Business Office: 734-854-8445 busadmin@stanthonytemperance.org
Office Hours: Tuesday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

Eric Hite.....419-266-0571.....ehite820@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Ginny Stout, RE Coordinator.....734-854-1160 dredu@stanthonytemperance.org
Office Hours: Monday - 10:30am - 5:00pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 5:00pm (OF-MC)

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am (OF-MC); 12:00pm (EF-MC)

Holy Days: Check Bulletin & Website

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 3:30-4:30pm;

Thursday: 6:00 - 6:30pm

Devotions

First Friday: 9:00am & 7:00pm Mass (OF-LM)

First Saturday: 9:00am Mass (EF-MC)

O. L. of Perpetual Help & Prayer - Wednesday @ 6:15pm

Prayer Blankets

Sandy Maenle.....734-847-7813

Prayer Chain

Miriam Dressel.....734-888-1192

† Our Sacramental Policy †

Six-month Parish registration and participation are required for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made in advance and parents must attend a baptism class. The Church requires that at least one of the parents be a practicing Catholic, and the Godparents must be active, practicing, fully initiated Catholics at least 16 years of age. If two Godparents: must be 1 male & 1 female; if one Godparent: may be male or female.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least nine months in advance. Please call the rectory office. Officiate at the ceremony must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Funerals: Officiate must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Please note: The services of the Parish Organist are used for all sacramental liturgies.



For more details regarding our Sacramental policies and procedures,
please refer to the Sacrament link on our Parish web-site.

Advent Challenge:
Week # 4
Become Familiar
with the Kerygma

Prepare
the Way of the Lord!

Church Decorating for Christmas
Sunday, December 23,
1:30pm (Following the 12pm Mass)

Christmas Masses
Monday, December 24,
4:00pm (OF-MC, English)

Tuesday, December 25
12:00am, Midnight (EF-MC, Latin)
(The Choir will begin at 11:30pm)

Tuesday, December 25
10:00am (OF-MC, English)

All Parish Offices will be closed
December 24 until
Wednesday, January 2.
(exception: Thursday, December 27
Office Open 11am - 1pm)

Have a Blessed Christmas!

St. Anthony of Padua,
Our Patron and Intercessor,
Pray for Us!



Let Him
Light the Way!

Traveling Vocation Chalice

December 23 The Hajdu Family

December 30 The Browns

January 6

**Host Family Needed

January 13

**Host Family Needed



† MASS SCHEDULE †

Key to Abbreviations:

- EF - Extra-ordinary Form (Trad. Latin Mass)
- OF - Ordinary Form (New Rite; Novus Ordo)
- LM - Low Mass; MC - Missa Cantata (Sung)

Monday, December 24, 2018

No Morning Mass

Sts. Adam & Eve (First Age of the World) (Hist.)

Vigil of Christmas (Trad.)

4:00am † Paul Dusseau

(OF-MC) (3rd Anniversary of Death)

by Sharon Dusseau

St. Anastasia (304), M. (Trad.)

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Christmas - The Birth of Our Lord

Jesus Christ (Holy Day of Obligation)

(New, Trad.)

12:00am † Susan Cable by Ron Oehlers

(Midnight) (EF-MC)

10:00am The People of St. Anthony

(OF-MC)

St. Anastasia (304), M. (Trad.)

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

9:00am † Betty Sedlar by Mike Sedlar

(OF-mc) on Behalf of the Family

St. Stephen (35), the First Martyr, Pt. of stonemasons

(New, Trad.)

Thursday, December 27, 2018

9:00am † Robert Shade by Carol Fuelling

(OF-mc)

7:00pm † Holy Souls in Purgatory

(EF-LM)

by Marta Toma

St. John (100), Ap., Evangelist, Pt. of Theologians &

Asia Minor (New, Trad.)

Friday, December 28, 2018

No Mass

The Holy Innocents (c. 1A.D.), Ms. (New, Trad.)

Saturday, December 29, 2018

St. Thomas Becket (Thomas of Canterbury) (1170), B.,

M. (New, Trad.)

St. David the King (973 B.C.) (Hist.)

Sunday Vigil Mass

5:00pm Living and Deceases Members

(OF-MC) of the St. Anthony Knights of Columbus and Their Families

Sunday, December 30, 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &

Joseph (New)

Sunday in the Octave of the Nativity (Trad.)

8:00am The People of St. Anthony

(OF-MC)

10:00am † Robert & Lorraine Tyson

(OF-MC)

by Mary Tyson,

on Behalf of the Tyson Family

12:00pm Vocations to the Priesthood

(EF-MC)

and Consecrated Life

St. Anysius (410), B. of Thessalonica (Hist.)

St. Sabinus (303), B., M. (Hist.)

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 24:

2Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;

Luke 1:67-79

Christmas Vigil:

Isaiah 62:1-5;

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Matthew 1:1-25

Christmas Day,

Tuesday, December 25:

Midnight Mass:

Isaiah 9:1-6

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day,

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

Luke 2:15-20

Wednesday, December 26:

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

Thursday, December 27:

1John 1:1-14; John 20:1a, 2-8

Friday, December 28:

1John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Saturday, December 29:

1John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Sunday, December 30:

1Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

1John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52

This Week's Calendar



Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24, 2018

No Morning Mass

Offices Closed

4:00pm - Christmas Eve Mass (OF-MC)

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

12:00am, Midnight - Mass (EF-MC)

10:00am - Mass (OF-MC)

Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

9:00am - Mass

Offices Closed

6:15 - 7pm- Perpetual Help & Prayers

6pm - God Works Dinner @ OL Mt. Carmel

Thursday, December 27, 2018

9:00am - Mass

11am - 1pm - Office Open

6-6:30 - Confessions

7:00pm - Mass

Friday, December 28, 2018

No Mass; Offices Closed

Saturday, December 29, 2018

3:30-4:30pm - Confessions

5:00pm - Sunday Vigil Mass

K of C Corporate Communion

Sunday, December 23, 2018

8:00am; 10:00am; 12:00pm - Mass



God Works Dinners

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Temperance
Wednesdays, 6-7pm (Doors open at 5:30pm)

St. Anthony will be the host on

Wednesday, December 26.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this ministry, please contact Ron Oehlers 419-377-8952.

CSA Update

In order to receive credit for CSA 2018, donations/pledges need to be received in the CSA Office no later than December 28, 2018. Donors may make donations on line at <https://give.aod.org/> Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Prayer cards are available in our Adoration Chapel that can be used to offer an hour spent in Eucharistic Adoration for a special intention. Cards are printed on regular card stock and are suitable to send to those you choose. The inside of the card reads, "A Gift of Prayer for You... A Holy Hour of Adoration has been made for your intentions". What a beautiful gift: an hour spent before our Eucharistic Lord.

Check out the front page "Eucharistic Adoration" slider on our Website.



Did you know there is a book under the sign-in sheet outside the Chapel door that you are invited to write-in your prayer requests to be brought before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Upcoming Parish Events:

- **K of C Breakfast - January 13**

Directory Update

The photography phase of our 2018 Parish Directory has been completed.

If you were not able to make one of our photo sessions, submitted photos will be accepted. We will need either an original photo (not a copy), preferred size: wallet or 4"x6"; or a digital image: jpg, pdf, or tif files; resolution 600x900 minimum.

All submitted photos must be received in the Parish Office by

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Please contact the Parish Office with

We've had parishioners looking for websites that provide information regarding charitable organizations and the percentage that their donations actually go toward the charity (as opposed to administrative costs, etc.). Below is one of the websites that provide this information. Another website we've included will help you find the status of a charitable organization regarding support of pro-life issues or groups:

www.charitynavigator.org

www.all.org (American Life League)
Life Decisions International

We are called to share our treasure with those in need; with a little diligence, hopefully, we can do so wisely.



Check out Our Web site!

There are many features to browse through, as well as links to the *Archdiocese of Detroit* and *Monroe Vicariate* websites and to our *St. Anthony Facebook* page.

Also included are weekly bulletins, monthly liturgical assignments, and current events.

The *Latest News* feature gives the most current information, including the current weekday Mass schedule.

Check it out!

....Let us Pray for....

All the Recipients of the Prayer Blankets and Prayer Squares

- Maria Baer
- Sherry Bailey
- Jennifer Bellamy
- John Bordine
- Fred Borowski
- Nancy Brancheau
- Toni Breininger
- Jan Brissette
- Jack Burns
- James Callahan
- Michael Callahan
- Bob Carey
- Karen Cornwell
- Dcn. George Cousino
- Prudy Cousino
- Sarah Cousino
- Elaine Esper
- Jeanne Fenton
- Scott Ferguson
- Ed Fish
- Jordon Frye
- Jim Fuelling
- Joe Gouin, Jr.
- Ken Grycza
- Olivia Haley

- Eric Hall
- Janet Harrell
- Gloria Hartman
- Fr. John Hedges
- Barbara Hite
- Nicholas Hochrein
- JoAnn Huntwork
- Bill Hurley
- Heather Hyden
- Rosemary Jacobs
- Gloria Knaggs
- Wayne Langscheid
- Audrey Lawrence
- Jim Lemble
- Judy & Gary Lowen
- Sister Bernard Lynch
- Dick MacAdams
- John Maenle
- Sandy Maenle
- Edward Malik
- Barbara Mata
- Hudson Joseph Mata
- Cameron Minney
- Diane Miscannon
- Robert Moeltner
- Eugene Molnar
- Steve Murzynski
- Sue Meyers
- Josh Nolan

- Julia Nusbaum
- Tim O'Brien
- Tyler & Jen Oehlers
- Austin Oehlers
- Jenny Pam
- Bob Quinell
- Judy Raabe
- Rakebrand Family
- Harriet Rochowiak
- Carol Romero
- Rick Schneider
- Jean Schroeder
- Margaret Scott
- Robert Shute
- Alexander, Andrew & Tanner Skeldon
- Linda Slaton
- MaryLou Steiger
- Randy Stowell
- Tom Townsend
- Carole VanBrandt
- Virginia VanKirk
- Aaron Vyse
- David Wahr
- Devin Watkins
- Rebecca Williams
- Casie Yeager
- Judy Zimmerman

Calendars for 2019 are now available in the Narthex. One per family, please.

Oplatki Christmas breads are also available in the Narthex. \$1.00 suggested donation.



Liturgical Assignments for Christmas, December 24 & 25

Mass	Priest	Lector	Altar Servers
Monday, December 24 <i>Christmas Eve - 4:00pm</i>	Fr. Rohen	J. Rawski	J. Clark; T. Dietrich; L. Rawski
Sunday, December 25 <i>Christmas Day - 12:00am</i> <i>(Midnight) (EF-MC)</i>	Fr. Slaton	--	J. Hajdu; R. Oehlers; T. Peterson; T. Walker
Sunday, December 25 <i>Christmas Day - 10:00am</i>	Fr. Slaton	D. Strzelewicz	C., J. & M. Torio

Liturgical Assignments for December 29 & 30, 2018

Mass	Priest	Lector	Altar Servers
Saturday, 5:00pm Mass	Fr. Slaton	G. Ingersoll	L. Rawski
Sunday, 8:00am Mass	Fr. Slaton	M. Faunt	A. Vaughn
Sunday, 10:00am Mass	Fr. Slaton	M. Lindsey	J. & T. Dollison
Sunday, 12:00pm (EF-LM)	Fr. Slaton	--	J. Hajdu; R. Oehlers; T. Walker

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Temperance, Michigan

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

My name is Daniel Mikolajewski. I come from Poland, and I am a seminarian studying for the Holy Priesthood at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI. Thanks to your Pastor's great generosity, I am spending my Christmas break here in Temperance. This week, Fr. Slaton asked me to share with you all a short Advent reflection.

This Sunday, as we see that all of the candles of the Advent Wreath have already been lit, we realize that the time when we will be commemorating Our Savior's arrival on earth is close at hand. Most houses are already decorated with lights and Christmas ornaments, and as it happens each year, our stores and markets are overflowing with people enthusiastically searching for a last-minute gift to put under their Christmas tree.

Yet what should a Christian really be thinking about at this time? Is it cooking, cleaning, and shopping? Certainly, these activities are unavoidable to us. Still, the Nativity sets we see all around also remind us of the true 'reason for the season'. Christ is on His way! That is the real good news which fills this cold, dark winter time with gladness and light.

The Archdiocese of Detroit, in its efforts to 'Unleash the Gospel', wishes to aid us in our meditations by reminding us of something very important- kerygma. That is not just another fancy Greek word we Catholics like to use in church. Kerygma is preaching the Gospel message - an apostolic proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The words of a popular hymn we often hear during Advent say - "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh". Advent is a special time of kerygma. For over two millennia now the Church has been proclaiming the same message, constantly inviting all to accept it and be saved. For centuries now, this message has consisted of the same basic elements. Thanks to our human perception and reason, it firstly touches us when we realize the goodness of creation. In these sad times, human life seems to have lost its value, and even animals seem to be in higher esteem. Certainly, animals are our friends, but we have to remember one thing - when we open the book of Genesis and take a look at Adam in the garden of Eden, we see him surrounded by all kinds of living creatures. And even in spite of that, the first human is lonely. He cannot find a suitable companion until the Lord gives him Eve - the woman who, just like him, is created in God's own image. This is the truth many often forget - that we are all children of God. The life of each and every one of us has an immeasurable value. And even if others hold human life in contempt, God continues to love all of His sons and daughters, desiring to love them, be loved by them, and be with them forever.

That is the first element of Kerygma, the message of salvation - you are a child of God. Yet the second element is also undeniable, and that is the reality of sin. We see its consequences everywhere, and at times they may fill us with feelings of doubt. It becomes clear that our reality is no garden of Eden. We have left it a long time ago. Right now, the world seems lost in its search for ways to repair itself. But, as Fr. Slaton had mentioned in his reflection two days ago, this cannot be obtained by means of revolution within human society. Mankind cannot repair itself, much like a church ceiling cannot paint itself. All of us are incomplete, in need of a thorough restoration. These are the consequences of the sad reality of sin. Only when we realize this, in humility, we can be made whole - elevated to heaven.

But not by ourselves. The third message of Christian Kerygma is that God is here for us, bringing exactly what we lack - the means of salvation. Throughout the Advent season, again and again we hear the prophecy of the coming Messiah - the One who will be called Emmanuel, 'God with us'. This is the very reason for the Son of God's appearance on Earth - "to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3, 8). Just imagine. Christ, as God, existed with the Father and the Holy Ghost in perfect happiness, self-sufficient. Yet seeing that, through sin, we here on earth have forfeited our salvation, effectively separating ourselves from union with Him, He decided to make an ultimate sacrifice and abandon heaven for the sake of coming to live with us in what we call our 'valley of tears'. The King leaves behind His throne and ermine cloak to take up the lowly garment of human flesh. To feel as we feel, cry as we cry. He has hands to lift us up, He has lips to comfort us, He has blood to spill for us.

We are all born to live. Jesus Christ was the only Man born to die. To die for us, so that we would not have to die anymore. To fill up the chasm of sin, separating man from God, which no one could fill but the One who was both Man and God.

This is the Good News. This is the Kerygma, the message of Advent. The Savior is coming, "as a conqueror bent on conquest" (Revelation 6, 2). Yet even this message, so unique and so full of hope, would be for nothing if it fell on deaf ears. The Christian Kerygma requires a response. Jesus will not force Himself into anyone's life. He must be accepted freely. Like carolers at your door, you can either ignore Him, or invite Him in.

I ask each of you to reflect on this message of creation, sin and salvation this week. And when you do, ask yourself - what will be my response? What will I do when I once again see Mary's Son lying in the manger? He has given me everything. What will I give to Him?

In one of many beautiful Polish carols, we sing: "My Lord, whose throne was in a stable! I do not know if my poor soul is better for you than it was. But have mercy on me, I humbly beg, and since you have not rejected the stable, do not also reject my heart!" That is all that He desires - our love.

I wish that all of us will be able to fully receive Jesus' message this Christmas, and that He will make His home in our hearts, purging them from all sin and filling them with His light.

God love you,

Daniel J. Mikolajewski

Copies of *The Word Among Us* for **January** are available in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one; free-will donations may be made in an envelope in the Sunday collection marked, **"The Word Among Us"**.
 There are still **calendars** available for 2019 in the Narthex as well. Please be sure to pick one up.

Rummage Sale pick-ups
 Our Rummage Sales continue to be great successes. Much of our income is from pick-ups from estate sales. We can always use a few more volunteers for these pick-ups through the year.
 Please call Carol Fuelling (419) 350-5900 if you are interested in helping or if you have questions.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS, SELF-EMPLOYED AND FAMILIES!

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Available ADVERTISING SPACE



Sherril Fischhaber from LPI, our bulletin printer, can be reached to place an Advertisement. Please consider purchasing an ad to promote your business. Your participation makes our bulletin successful, you attract customers and your support for the church is so appreciated! *Please ask about our Holiday Promotion!*

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING

- Look, targeted community advertising for one full year, at one low price.
- A FREE ad listing on parishwebsites.com.
- FREE, professional ad design, and 4 free ad changes per year.

Sherril Fischhaber
 419-430-5475 | sfischhaber@LPI.com

LPI LOCAL PRINTING INDUSTRIES

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests
Would You Pray for a Priest each Day?
 Before each Holy Mass, parishioners pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary. We include the names of the priests for the day, with our intentions. Please join us.

Our Prayer List is a beautiful way to ask for prayers for family, friends, loved ones and acquaintances. Anyone may be included on our list. Call the Parish Office to include a name; please let us know also when a name can be removed.
Our Prayer Chain is an invaluable way of requesting **immediate** prayers for a special intention. Each person on the chain calls the next person, and so on until everyone on the chain has been contacted. Any names or intentions submitted remain on the chain for two weeks, unless a longer time is specifically requested.
 Miriam Dressel is the main call-person and coordinator for the Prayer chain.

God Works Dinner - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish
Please note:
 We have been informed that there will **not** be a *God Works Dinner* at our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish this Wednesday as published elsewhere in today's bulletin. The bulletin had already gone to press at the time of the notification. We apologize for any confusion.

PRAYER FOR THE RETURN OF NON-PRACTICING CATHOLICS

Good Shepherd, You never cease to seek out the lost, to call home the stray, to comfort the frightened, and to bind up the wounded.

I ask You to bring the people I hold in my heart back to the practice of the Faith, and to remove all obstacles that prevent them from receiving Your abundant mercy, which flows sacramentally through the heart of Your holy Church.

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, their Guardian Angels, their Patron Saints, and the ever-prayerful St. Monica, may You pardon their sins and unshackle them from whatever hinders their freedom to come Home.

For You, O Good Shepherd, have loved us to the end and offered Yourself to the Father for the salvation of all.

Amen.

Visitation Monastery
 1745 Parkside Blvd., Toledo Ohio
Holy Hour
Sunday, December 9 at 4:00pm
 All are welcome!
 Evening prayers (Vespers), the Rosary, Homily and Benediction

The devotions are held each month on the Sunday following the First Friday.

Advent Challenge

On the front of today's bulletin is a small box containing an *"Advent Challenge"*. Each week, we have offered suggestions for personal preparation for the coming of our Blessed Lord, as we anticipate the celebration of His birth.

This week's challenge is to Learn the Kerygma.

The **Kerygma** is the New Testament word for the simple, radical, countercultural and joyful message of the Gospel - that initial ardent proclamation by which a person is one day overwhelmed and brought to the decision to entrust himself to **Jesus Christ by faith."**

Fr. Slaton's homilies for these 4 Sundays of Advent have been based on the 4 points of the Kerygma.

- 1. The Goodness of Creation**
I am made in God's image and likeness and loved beyond all measure.
- 2. The Consequences of Sin**
 The consequences are separation from God and enslavement to powers I cannot compete against. On my own, there is no way to break free from it. Heaven is a place without sin.
- 3. God's Response to Sin**
 God becomes man to invade one kingdom by a stronger kingdom. The result of this is deliverance from a tyrant I cannot compete against. Jesus atones for my sins and makes it possible for me to reach the destiny for which He created me.
- 4. My Response**
 To entrust myself to the One who has demonstrated His love and His power for me personally.

Our visiting Seminarian, Daniel J. Mikolajewski has written a beautiful reflection on the Kerygma. This reflection may be found on the reverse side of this page.

Come, Lord Jesus!



Take My Son... **by Joe Sixpack**

I got the following in an email from a Joe Sixpack reader the other day, and I liked it so much I thought it should be shared with all of you.

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood **at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art."** The young man held out this package. **"I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."**

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture.

"Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the auction platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. “We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?”

There was silence...

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, “We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.”

But the auctioneer persisted. “Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100? \$200?”

Another voice angrily shouted, “We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandt's. Get on with the real bids!”

But still the auctioneer continued, “The son! The son! Who'll take the son?”

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. “I'll give \$10 for the painting.” Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

“We have \$10. Who will bid \$20?”

“Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.”

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. “Going once, twice, **SOLD** for \$10!”

A man sitting on the second row shouted, “Now let's get on with the collection!”

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. “I'm sorry, the auction is over.”

“What about the other paintings?”

“I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. **The man who took the son gets everything!**”

God gave His son over 2,000 years ago to die on a cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: “**The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?**”

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!

“**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life**” (John 3:16).

Although this isn't a true story, it's a fitting reminder of what God has done for us. And it reminds us of What We Believe... Why We Believe It.

Got questions? Ask me directly at JoeSixpackAnswers.com.