

WELCOME FR. ANTHONY NARAPAMU



Please join us in welcoming Fr. Anthony Mahesh Narapamu as our new Parochial Vicar for Parish Family 52.

Fr. Anthony was asked to share a little about himself, his vocation story, and what he looks forward to as he begins serving our parish family.

We think you will find his journey both inspiring and a powerful reminder that God's plans are often greater than our own.

Where are you from?

I am originally from Chintalapudi, a small town in Andhra Pradesh, India. I was born on November 11, 1989, and am the oldest of four children, with two brothers and one sister. I come from a traditional Catholic family.

When did you begin seminary?

I entered the seminary at the age of fifteen after completing the 10th grade. Although becoming a priest was not part of my original plan, God patiently guided me through years of formation and discernment. My path to priesthood was both challenging and grace-filled. Looking back, I can clearly see His hand leading me every step of the way.

When were you ordained?

I was ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 2018, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Chintalapudi, in the Diocese of Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, India. It was a joyful and grace-filled day that marked the fulfillment of God's loving plan for my life.

What religious community do you belong to?

I belong to the Society of the Holy Spirit, a religious community serving in India and Europe. Our charism is "By the Word Anoint the World," and our mission is to serve God's people through pastoral ministry, evangelization, education, and missionary service wherever priests are needed.

When did you come to the United States?

I moved to the United States in August 2025 after several years of ministry in India and Italy.

When were you assigned to the Archdiocese of Seattle?

I was assigned to the Archdiocese of Seattle in August 2025 and began serving as Parochial Vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Burien. It has been a blessing to experience the warmth, faith, and diversity of the Catholic community in Western Washington.

What compelled you to become a priest?

A Vocation Story of God's Patience

My journey to priesthood is a story of God's patience and mercy. It was not a sudden decision, but a long journey of resistance, struggle, and eventually surrender to God's will.

When I was fourteen years old, I was involved in a serious bicycle accident. I suffered a severe head injury, received fourteen stitches, and remained unconscious for nearly three days. During that time, my mother prayed before Our Lady of Perpetual Help and promised that if I survived, she would offer me in service to the Lord.

When I recovered, my mother never forgot that promise.

The challenge was that I had very different plans for my future. My dream was to become a doctor—specifically a neurologist. I wanted to heal people and serve humanity through medicine. So when my parents sent me to the seminary, I went to make my mother happy, not because I felt called to be a priest.

In my early years of seminary, I tried many times to leave. Just two months after entering, I asked the rector to send me home. Later, I even wrote a letter saying I wanted to leave and study medicine. The rector simply smiled, tore up the letter, and told me, "Go and pray."

On another occasion, I packed my bags and was ready to leave. Again, the rector asked me to spend one hour in the chapel before making my final decision.

Even after several years in formation, I still hoped to study medicine. During a summer break, I completed the entrance examination for medical school and earned admission with a strong ranking and free tuition. I thought this was finally my opportunity. However, my parents and pastor encouraged me to continue my priestly formation.

The real turning point came during a year of pastoral ministry in Northeast India, near the border of China.

On February 11, 2012—the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—the pastor and I traveled to a remote village to celebrate Mass. On our way back, our vehicle was stopped by seven armed men. Mistaking us for military agents, they blindfolded us and took us to another location for interrogation.

Only a week earlier, a priest and religious sister had been murdered in that region.

Terrified and believing we might die, I prayed a simple prayer: "Lord, if You have truly chosen me, save me from the hands of these people, and I will become a faithful priest."

After a lengthy interrogation, one of the men recognized us as priests and we were released unharmed.

That experience changed my life.

Later, I shared the story with my spiritual director. He told me something I have never forgotten:

"You wanted to become a doctor to save bodies that will perish one day. But God wanted you to become a doctor for souls that never perish. Your life is like the Prophet Jonah. You kept running away from God, but He never stopped calling you."

Those words touched my heart deeply. For the first time, I freely and wholeheartedly said yes to God's call. From that moment on, I never looked back.

Following my ordination, I served as secretary and administrator to the bishop, later as pastor of St. Joseph's Church and diocesan youth director in India. From 2022 to 2025, I served as Parochial Administrator at Santi Giusto e Clemente Church in Siena, Italy.

What do you enjoy most about being a priest?

The greatest joy of being a priest is leading people closer to Jesus. I especially love celebrating the Eucharist, administering the sacraments, preaching God's Word, and accompanying people through every stage of life as they encounter Christ and experience His love and mercy.

I also enjoy sports, especially soccer, cricket, basketball, and chess. In my free time, I enjoy reading, listening to music, and cooking. I am very outgoing and enjoy traveling, meeting people, and building friendships.

What are you looking forward to in Parish Family 52?

I look forward to growing together in faith, supporting young people, encouraging vocations, visiting families, and serving our communities as one family in Christ.

I hope to bring hope to the broken, comfort to those who suffer, and the light of God's love to everyone I encounter. Every parish has its own unique gifts, traditions, and history, and I am excited to learn from the people I serve while sharing my own experiences.

Together, let us deepen our relationship with Jesus, strengthen our parish communities, support one another in faith, and continue sharing Christ's love with everyone.

My own life is a testimony that God's plans are always greater than our plans. If He can guide a young man who spent years trying to run away from the seminary, He can surely lead each one of us according to His beautiful purpose.

Thank you for welcoming me. Please keep me in your prayers, as I will keep all of you in mine.

God bless you.

Scheduling & Welcoming Celebrations

Wow! That was our reaction too after hearing Fr. Anthony's remarkable vocation story. We can already tell you that he is eager to meet our parishioners and begin serving Parish Family 52.

As exciting as that is, we also ask for a little patience as he settles into his new home, a new country, and a new archdiocese.

For the month of July, Fr. Anthony will celebrate daily Masses at St. Gabriel and Prince of Peace, with weekend Masses primarily at St. Nicholas. During this time, Fr. Mark will preside at the weekend Masses at St. Gabriel. As Fr. Anthony becomes more familiar with our parish family, you'll begin seeing him at all of our campuses.

And here's some good news for our Prince of Peace community—while it's been many years since he has regularly used it, Fr. Anthony does speak some Spanish. As he settles in, we hope to gradually weave him into the Sunday Mass rotation at Prince of Peace as schedules allow.

For those hoping to welcome him personally, you can obviously catch him for daily Masses at St. Gabriel or Prince of Peace or on the weekends at St. Nicholas.

St. Gabriel will officially welcome Fr. Anthony at our Annual Church Picnic on August 9th and once Fr. Mark, Fr. Anthony, and Fr. Jose finalize schedules, we will announce a welcome celebrations at Prince of Peace and St. Nicholas.

In the meantime, please keep Fr. Anthony in your prayers. Outside of celebrating Mass, he has already jumped right into ministry—beginning with two anointing calls on his very first day right after saying his first Mass. I'd say he's off to a good start!

