



The Parish Family of Saint Anthony of Padua



Parish Office: 436 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading, New Jersey 07064
Phone: 732-634-1403 • www.saintanthonypadua.org

Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV, Administrator
Fr. Bill Smith, K.C.H.S. Pastor Emeritus

MSGR. PAFNOUTI WASSEF, PAROCHIAL VICAR

MICHAEL BRUCATO, DEACON JOEY PERLAS, DEACON PETER BARCELLONA, DEACON



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,
 Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all
 that you vow.” - Mt 5:33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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We're on FACEBOOK, come and check us out!

Pastor: pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com
Office / Food Pantry: info.stanthony1@gmail.com
Religious Education: religious.ed.stanthony1@gmail.com
Bulletin: bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours

Monday	8:30AM - 3:00PM
Tuesday	8:30AM - 3:00PM
Wednesday	8:30AM - 3:00PM
Thursday	8:30AM - 3:00PM
Friday	8:30AM - 12:00PM

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

LENT: A JOURNEY OF GRACE, RENEWAL AND MISSION

'Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God, For he is gracious and merciful' (Joel 2:12-13)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Ash Wednesday, together with the whole Church, we will impose ashes on ourselves as a symbol of humility, penance, and self-restraint and begin the sacred journey of the forty days of Lent. It is my deepest desire that, as a parish family, we will all live this Lent actively, not passively, by engaging in the spirit, activities, and rituals of this season. Lent is truly a **Season of Grace as we allow the mercy of God and our humility to draw us deeper into the heart of God.** For us Catholics, Lent can often become a mere annual ritual that we subject ourselves to. When approached in this way, miss the grace and renewal that should come with Lent. And so, the Church offers us the **Three Pillars of Lent** to guide us on this journey. They are:

Prayer: the raising of the mind and heart to God, deepens and increases our relationship with God. One of my favorite descriptions of **prayer is "the breathing of a Christian."** As a human body survives on breath, so a Christian Soul survives on prayer. The Holy Mass, the greatest and highest form of prayer and worship, Eucharistic Adoration and stations of the Cross are important ways to deepen our prayer life.

Fasting: by denying ourselves food and other bodily nourishment, we increase and deepen our yearning for God. While all are encouraged to fast, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 have an obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This traditionally means having one full meal a day and two smaller meals that may add up to a full meal. Along with fasting, Catholics who are 14 years and older are encouraged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and on all Fridays of Lent. **Fasting is not limited to merely skipping of meals.** We can and should fast from other things and activities that have the potential of weakening our relationship with God. We offer up these small sacrifices to strengthen our souls and focus our hearts on the Lord.

Almsgiving: I can certainly testify to the generosity of many of you our parishioners, with the food and donations for the poor that you contribute every month. During this Lent, I encourage everyone to consider **the generosity of time and presence.** Let us also give alms by volunteering our time within the Church, in the community and for our neighbors.

During Lent, we often speak about **"giving up something for Lent."** When done with purpose and intention, helps us grow in our faith and life with God. I want to renew my call, last Lent, to also practice the way of **"taking up something for Lent"** such as adding one or more weekday Masses to your schedule or any other practice that can help your spiritual growth. In this way, these forty-days of Lent will not simply be a time of restriction, but a privileged and transformative journey toward Easter.

My fellow pilgrims on this Lenten journey, let us remember that we do not make this journey alone. We walk together as a community, supporting one another through shared prayer and fellowship. I encourage you to check our parish calendar for opportunities for spiritual growth, including our **Eucharistic Adoration Campaign** from 8am – 6pm, every Thursday of Lent (Come Let us Adore the Lord Together), the **Stations of the Cross** every Friday of Lent at 7pm (Come let us walk the way of the Cross together) and our **Communal Penitential Service** on Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 6:30pm (Come let us seek God's mercy together).

May this Lent be a time of deep spiritual renewal for us as a parish family.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, race, or color, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at the Parish Family of Saint Anthony of Padua. There are no Strangers at Saint Anthony's - Only Friends We Haven't Met.



Mass Intentions



at Saint Anthony of Padua Church

Morning Prayer - begins 20 minutes before weekday Mass

Saturday February 14 *Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius*
Saint Valentine's Day
4:00PM Lenin Alava
Requested by Lenny Cedeno

Sunday February 15
8:30AM Carmen Pagliuca
Requested by Marie Pagliuca
11:30AM People of the parish family

Monday February 16 *President's Day*
8:30AM Richie Simeone
Requested by his loving wife, Adrienne

Tuesday February 17 *The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*
7:30AM Carmen Pagliuca (8th anniversary in Heaven)
Requested by son, John and Holly

Wednesday February 18 *Ash Wednesday*
7:00AM Margaret and Anthony Romano
Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke
12:15PM Distribution of Ashes
4:00PM Distribution of Ashes
7:00AM People of the parish family

Thursday February 19
7:30AM Mary Zuccaro Russo
(30th anniversary in Heaven)
Requested by her loving daughter,
Pat Russo and family

Friday February 20
7:30AM People of the parish family

Saturday February 21 *Saint Peter Damian*
4:00PM John Burns
Requested by Jay and Colleen Barcellona
and family

Sunday February 22 *First Sunday of Lent*
8:30AM Michael J. Barbato
Requested by his loving wife and family
11:30AM People of the parish family

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

Saturday February 14 *Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius*
Saint Valentine's Day
8:30AM Cristino and Violeta Abasolo, Jr.
Requested by their loving daughters,
Alice Abasolo and Carmela Abasolo

Sunday February 15
10:00AM Jozsef Wellner
Requested by Magola Mikos

Wednesday February 18 *Ash Wednesday*
10:00AM Richard Rockosi (living intention)
Requested by Joann Kisielewski

Saturday February 21 *Saint Peter Damian*
8:30AM Thomas O'Connor
Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke

Sunday February 22 *First Sunday of Lent*
10:00AM Virginia and Eugene Ferretti
Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke

This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday: Sirach 15:15-20
Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Monday: James 1:1-11
Psalms 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76
Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: James 1:12-18
Psalms 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19
Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6
Luke 9:22-25

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19
Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalms 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Luke 5:27-32

Sunday: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19
Matthew 4:1-11



*Flowers devoted to Mary, our Blessed Mother,
are dedicated in loving memory of my husband,
George Arway, Jr. on his 15th anniversary in Heaven*

Requested by his loving wife and sons



VOTIVE CANDLES

Votive candles burn constantly as a form of prayer and adoration. The candles burning this weekend are dedicated

at Saint Anthony of Padua Church

TABERNACLE

In loving memory of our "Champ" Carmen Pagliuca on your 8th anniversary in Heaven
Requested by John and Holly Pagliuca and family

In loving memory of my brother, Richie Simeone
Requested by his sister, Rosemarie and brother-in-law Ray Palinkas

GOOD SHEPHERD

In loving memory of Gordon and Ann Ur,
John Patrick and Owen
Requested by their loving family

In loving memory of our parents
Frank and Phyllis Matchko
Requested by their daughters, Angela and Michelle

CROSS OF SAN DOMIANO

In loving memory of Carmen, Eleanor,
and Jeffrey Pagliuca
Requested by their loving family

2026 Mass Book

As of February 12, here are upcoming Masses that are available if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Friday	February	20	7:30am
Wednesday	February	25	7:30am
Thursday	February	26	7:30am
Friday	February	27	7:30am
Saturday	February	28	8:30am OLMC
Monday	March	2	7:30am
Tuesday	March	3	7:30am
Friday	March	6	7:30am
Monday	March	9	7:30am
Friday	March	13	7:30am
Thursday	March	26	7:30am
Friday	March	27	7:30am

Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403

Lenten Schedule 2026

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday - February 20, 27,
March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Saturday
3:00pm – 3:30pm



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
at 7:30am
Saturday: 4:00pm Sunday...8:30am and 11:30am



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Make an appointment with Our Lord

Thursday 8:00am – 6:00pm
Chaplet/Rosary 3:00pm

COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 6:30pm

ROSARY

Friday, March 27 following 7:30am Mass

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

STATION OF THE CROSS

Friday - February 20, 27
March 6, 13, 20, 27
at 12:00pm

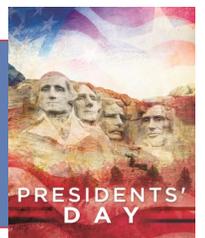
RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSION

Saturday 9:00 – 9:30am

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 8:30am Sunday 10:00am

Parish office is **CLOSED**
Monday, February 16
for President's Day



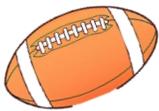
FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

**FOOD Distribution is
Wednesday, February 18
Time 10:00am to 11:30am**

A BIG

SUPERBOWL OF CARING 2026

THANK YOU for helping to **TACKLE HUNGER** in our **COMMUNITY** by donating to our **FOOD PANTRY** on **SUPERBOWL WEEKEND**



Your GENEROSITY is greatly appreciated!!!



2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal
ONE IN CHRIST: Called to Love and Serve

By now you have received a letter from Father Jonathan Toborowsky, our Diocesan Administrator, inviting you to participate in the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in Saint Anthony of Padua church. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. In the coming days, you will be receiving a letter from your administrator, Father Cyril encouraging your participation. If you are yet to make your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by either returning your pledge card in the mail or going to the secure website: <https://diometuchen.org>.

Stewardship

Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

Sunday, February 1, 2026

In-person donations.....	\$5,094.00
On-line donations.....	\$1,431.00
Total.....	\$6,525.00

Special Collections for January

Property & Liability	\$1,387.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$1,863.00
Together in Charity	\$1,299.00
Maintenance and Repair	\$1,269.00
Catholic Education	\$ 713.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20

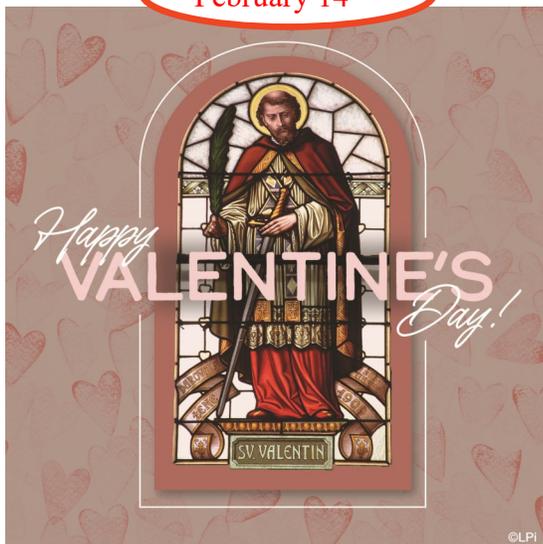
The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people, Jesus is clear—it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner in the parking lot is an example of being a modern-day Pharisee.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

- February 15 Reverend Robert Meyers
Reverend Mark Kehoe
- February 16 Reverend David J. Pekola
Monsignor Richard Lyons
- February 17 Reverend Louis F. Stingel
Reverend Vincent P. Chen
- February 18 Reverend Michael Gromadzki
Reverend Arlindo Da Silva
- February 19 Reverend Maurice Carlton
Reverend John Hillier
- February 20 Reverend Gerardo Paderon
Reverend John J. Morley
- February 21 All Deceased Priests
- February 22 Reverend John Gloss
Reverend J. Michael Venditti



February 14



Paschal Tree of Joy

The Paschal Tree of Joy Ministry, with the help and generosity of our parish family, will enable Saint Anthony's Church and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site to extend the **Joy of the Risen Christ** to children between the ages of 3 through 10 years, by providing them with little tokens of pleasure in the form of Easter Baskets.



We are asking you to make up your own Easter Basket filled with appropriate items. You can also purchase a pre-made one.

Tags are available next weekend on the Easter tree in the narthex for boys and girls ranging from ages 3 – 10.

Please wrap your basket, attach the tag and return to our Easter Tree located in the narthex on or before the weekend of March 21/22.

The baskets will be distributed the week of March 22.

If you have any questions, or are interested in assisting with this important ministry, please call the parish office 732-634-1403.



FAITH FORMATION G.I.F.T. and Sacramental Preparation Programs for 2024-2025

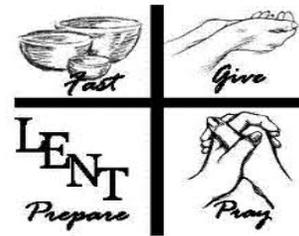
G.I.F.T. Mass weekend

February 21 at 4:00PM
February 22 and 8:30AM and 11:30AM

Please sign in, fill out your prayer intention and pick up your mass reflection sheet

Level One and Level Two Confirmation

Monday, February 23 at 6:30PM



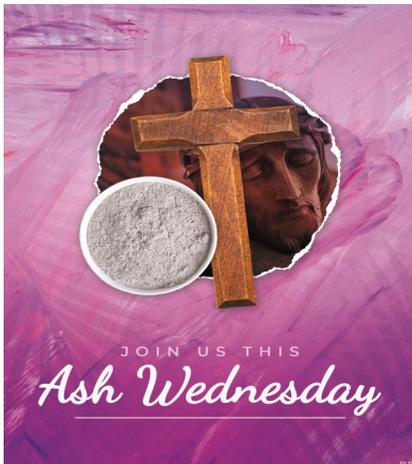
Lenten Obligations

Days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday (February 18) and Good Friday (April 3)

All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14 and traditionally means abstaining from eating meat.

Fasting applies to Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59 and traditionally means limiting oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals which together does not equal one full meal.



1. Many Christian denominations celebrate Ash Wednesday. It is an ecumenical observance.



2. The ashes used are made from burning the palms blessed in the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.



3. Ash Wednesday was officially instituted by Pope Urban II in 1091.

Liturgical *Minister Schedule*

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Extraordinary Ministers

Saturday, February 21

4:00pm M. Balint, A. and F. Fowler

Sunday, February 22

8:30am S. Gadowski, M. Martino, D. Mazzarella

11:30am B. Cuzzo, G. Grispart, J. Kondrk

Readers

Saturday, February 21

4:00pm G.I.F.T.

Sunday, February 22

8:30am G.I.F.T.

11:30am G.I.F.T.

Altar Servers

Saturday, February 21

4:00pm B. Banko

Sunday, February 22

8:30am C. and C. Onukwugha, Q. Valdez

11:30am A. Boelhower

Counting Team—Monday, February 16
will be contacted by telephone



Pray ...

for our parishioners residing in nursing homes and care centers, the sick and homebound, especially:

Cristino E. Abasolo III, Anonymous, Nancy C. Bunavage, John Carpenito, Lucille Carpenito, John Campion, Justin Carpentieri, Steven DeNoyelles, Beth Dispoto, Alyssa Dohanyos, John Dohanyos, Mark Emanuele, Frank Fernandez, Larry Golden, Kim Hickman, Keeba Johnson, Lynn Killmurray, Alfred Leone, James G. Lockheed, Jonathan Marcela, Heather Marrone Fabio, Robert Joseph Meade IV, David Russell, Janet Strunak, Millie Sutphen, Maryann Vyszwan, Matthew Woods



Pray ...

for all the brave military personnel, especially the men and women in uniform of our parish family who are serving our country at home or abroad. We also pray for their family members.

Pray for Peace!



SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS ...
for our ongoing fundraiser

Please consider helping Saint Anthony's the next time you shop. For each gift card purchased, our parish receives 5% of the proceeds. Gift cards are available in a variety of denominations and can be purchased in the parish office.

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, February 16 **Parish Office CLOSED**

Mass 8:30AM **Chapel**
Bingo 12:00PM **Father Milos Hall**
(Doors open at 10:30AM)

Tuesday, February 17

Mass 7:30AM **Chapel**
Youth Choir 4:30PM **Church**
Adult Choir 6:30PM **Church**
AA 7:30PM **Father Milos Hall**

Wednesday, February 18 **Ash Wednesday**

Mass 7:30AM **Church**
Food Pantry Distribution 10:00AM **Father Milos Hall**
Distribution of Ashes 12:15PM **Church**
Distribution of Ashes 4:00PM **Church**
Mass 7:00PM **Church**

Thursday, February 19

Mass 7:30AM **Church**
Eucharistic Adoration 2:30PM **Chapel**
Chaplet/Rosary 3:00PM **Chapel**
AA 8:00PM **Father Milos Hall**



Eucharistic Adoration is held on Thursdays from 2:30PM to 6:00PM in the Chapel of Saint Anthony

Friday, February 20

Mass 7:30AM **Church**
Stations of the Cross 7:00PM **Church**

Saturday, February 21

Confessions 3:00PM **Chapel**
Mass 4:00PM **Church**
NA 7:30PM **Father Milos Hall**

Sunday, February 22

Mass 8:30AM **Church**
Mass 11:30AM **Church**

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Monday, February 16 NA 11:00AM **Basement**

Tuesday, February 17 NA 11:00AM **Basement**

Wednesday, February 18 NA 11:00AM **Basement**

Mass 10:00AM Church

Thursday, February 19 NA 11:00AM **Basement**

Friday, February 20 NA 11:00AM **Basement**

Stations of the Cross 12:00PM Church

Saturday, February 21 **Mass 8:30AM Church**

Confession 9:00AM Church

Sunday, February 22 **Mass 10:00AM Church**
Reader: G. Clarke