



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



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." - Mt 4:8-9

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

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

EMAIL:

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

Parish Office Hours

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

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

WEEK 1: TEMPTATIONS WILL COME BUT DO NOT ENGAGE THE DEVIL

Dear brothers and sisters,
on this journey of Lent, the church offers us the three pillars of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving as our weapon in this battle for our faith and soul. Each week of Lent we will reflect on a particular theme for our Christian journey. In the first week of Lent, we reflect on the reality of temptation. The Gospel for this Sunday recounts the temptation of our Lord Jesus by the devil. If our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, subjected Himself to temptation, we too must expect temptations as we make our pilgrimage through life. Temptation in itself is not a sin. The sin comes when we allow temptations to linger in our hearts and influence our will and passion. We learn from our Lord Jesus that **the key to dealing with temptation is not to engage them at all**. We must reject the suggestions and bargains of the devil. We acknowledge the temptations that we experience and immediately turn to the Lord for strength.

We can sum up all our temptations in the three temptations that our Lord Jesus encountered. In response to these temptations, our Lord does not engage the devil in a debate, nor does He try to prove any point. Instead, at each temptation, He turns to the scriptures. We too must turn to God's word as we fight against our temptations.

The first is the temptation of pleasure and security – turn the stone into bread and satisfy your hunger, you do not have to depend on anyone, not even God. Our Lord responds to this temptation saying, 'man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Deuteronomy 8:3). There is more to life than satisfying one's desires and passions.

The second is the temptation of power – throw yourself down from this cliff and you will be fine, display your might and strength and do not be vulnerable. To this temptation, our Lord says, 'you shall not put the Lord your God to the test' (Deuteronomy 6:16). The desire to prove a point and to show others our power often leads us to sin. The end does not justify the means.

The third is the temptation of greed and idolatry – fall down and worship the devil and you can have all you want. Do whatever makes you happy, even if it displeases God. Our Lord responds by quoting the first commandment 'the Lord, your God, shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve' (Exodus 20:3). The love of earthly goods often turns us away from God and into the hands of the evil one.

Our temptations may come as the lure of materialism, pressures to compromise our Christian values, or the day-to-day distractions that turn our hearts away from God. As faithful Catholics, if we truly desire to resist the temptations that we face, we must respond with prayer, self-discipline, and reliance on the sacraments. This is the meaning and purpose of the Lenten season. Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by fostering a habit of regular confession and Eucharist, nourishing ourselves with the word of God, and seeking guidance from trusted spiritual directors, we develop the spiritual strength needed to resist the devil and grow stronger with each temptation. Above all, let us remember the words of the Lord, **'my grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Corinthians 12:9)**.

Let us pray in the words of this well-known Lenten song.

Forty days and forty nights	Then if Satan, on us press,
You were fasting in the wild;	Flesh or spirit to assail,
Forty days and forty nights	Victor in the wilderness,
Tempted, and yet undefiled.	Grant we may not faint nor fail.

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

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer - begins 20 minutes before weekday Mass

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

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

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

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

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

11:30AM People of the parish family

Saturday **February 28**
8:30AM People of the parish family

Monday **February 23** *Saint Polycarp*
7:30AM Respect for Life at all stages

Sunday **March 1**
10:00AM People of the parish family

Tuesday **February 24**
7:30AM Richie Simeone
Requested by his dear friend, Sal Ciardiello

Wednesday **February 25**
7:30AM People of the parish family

Thursday **February 26**
7:30AM For Vocations in the Church

Friday **February 27** *Saint Gregory of Narek*
7:30AM People of the parish family

Saturday **February 28**
4:00PM Palma DiMeo
Requested by the Dimeo family

Sunday **March 1**
8:30AM Diana Quaglia
Requested by her loving husband, Luigi and family

11:30AM Jules Weber
Requested by Donna and Mark Babak

This Week's Scripture Readings

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

Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15
Matthew 25:31-36

Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalms 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19
Matthew 6:7-15

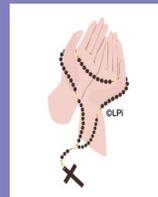
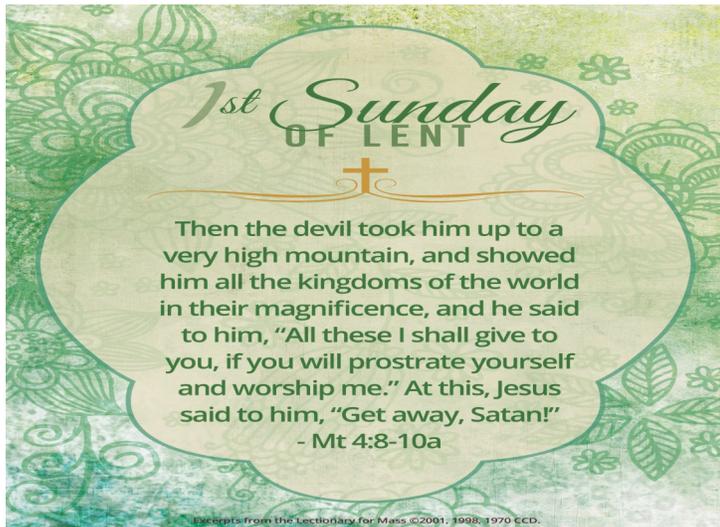
Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10
Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: Ester C:12, 14-16, 23-25
Psalms 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8
Matthew 7:7-12

Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28
Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-78
Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday: Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9



The Rosary will be prayed
on Friday, February 27
at 8:00am



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 my loving husband Richie
Requested by his loving wife, Adrienne

In loving memory of Ted Surick
Requested by MaryAnn Marrone

In loving memory of Ted Surick
Requested by Nora Rombardo

GOOD SHEPHERD

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

In loving memory of my dear friend and pal
Richie Simeone
Requested by his dear friend and pal, Sal

CROSS OF SAN DOMIANO

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

In loving memory of William and Gertrude Leahy
Requested by Karen and Kevin Barnes

Lenten Schedule 2026

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CAMPAIGN



Make an appointment with Our Lord
Thursday 8:00am – 6:00pm
Chaplet/Rosary 3:00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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



RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

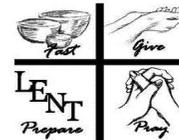
Saturday
3:00pm – 3:30pm



PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE
WITH ANNOINTING OF THE SICK
(Celebrating the Sacraments of Healing)
Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 6:30pm

ROSARY

Friday, February 27 following 7:30am Mass



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

STATION OF THE CROSS

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

RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSION

Saturday 9:00 – 9:30am

CRS RICE BOWL

Lent: A Time of Preparation

CRS Rice Bowl brings Catholics across the United States together each Lent to respond to global hunger and poverty through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope.

2026 Mass Book

As of February 17, here are upcoming Masses that are available if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Friday	March	6	7:30am
Monday	April	6	7:30am
Friday	April	10	7:30am
Sunday	April	12	10:00am OLMC
Monday	April	13	7:30am
Tuesday	April	14	7:30am
Thursday	April	16	7:30am
Friday	April	17	7:30am
Sunday	April	19	10:00am OLMC
Monday	April	20	7:30am
Thursday	April	23	7:30am
Friday	April	24	7:30am
Saturday	April	25	8:30am OLMC
Monday	April	27	7:30am

Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

**FOOD Collection is
March 7 and 8**

ITEMS MOST NEEDED ARE:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Canned beans | Canned fruit |
| Canned potatoes | Cereal |
| Chili | Instant Potatoes |
| Jelly | Pancake mix |
| Pancake syrup | Pasta sauce |
| Peanut butter | Rice |
| Soup | Tuna fish |

We will always accept toiletry and household items such as bodywash, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, laundry detergent, and dish detergent.

If you know someone who needs assistance, contact the parish office or email: info.StAnthony1@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued generosity to Saint Anthony's Food Pantry.



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

Shaping the hearts and minds of our youth is a priority in the Diocese of Metuchen. The young need our attention and care. Every day they are confronted with a secular culture that constantly pulls at them and threatens their faith and morals at this vulnerable period in their spiritual formation. Through the work of the Offices of Schools, Catechesis, Youth and Young Adult ministry and Campus Ministry at Rutgers University, our children, teens, and young adults grow to understand the roots of their faith and their responsibilities as Christians. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal will help to preserve our faith for future generations.

Stewardship

Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

Sunday, February 8, 2026

In-person donations.....	\$4,337.00
On-line donations.....	<u>\$1,135.50</u>
Total.....	\$5,472.50

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

"It is written: "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Matthew 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

Following morning Mass on Tuesday, February 17, Father Cyril burned last year's palms in preparation of Ash Wednesday services.



If you are interested in donating a palm arrangement to adorn the Church. The donation is \$60.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

- February 23 Reverend Czeslaw Zalubski
Reverend Joseph Illes
- February 24 Reverend Roberto Coruna
Monsignor Edward Puleo
- February 25 Reverend Matthew Marinelli
Reverend Nicolas Norena
- February 26 Reverend Timothy A. Christy
Monsignor James Moran
- February 27 Reverend James Kyrpczak
Reverend Francis Hilton
- February 28 Reverend Vicente Montiel
Reverend Andrzej Kielkowski
- March 1 Bishop James Checchio



Mass for Family Healing - March 14, 2026
10:00 a.m. at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center

For all feeling alone or grieving due to divorce, severe marital difficulties, as well as for children of any age who are affected by these facets of family brokenness, please join us for a special Mass and Resource Fair. Representatives from the "Surviving Divorce," "Retrouvaille" and "Life-Giving Wounds" ministries will be present. There will also be activities for younger children while adults are looking into the resources. To register, please visit: diometuchen.org/events/family-brokenness-mass. Contact Rachelle Hanna for details at rachelle.hanna@gmail.com.

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.



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.



FAITH FORMATION G.I.F.T. and Sacramental Preparation Programs

G.I.F.T.

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00pm

Please return your February home session and Mass reflection

G.I.F.T. Mass Weekend

March 21 at 4:00pm

March 22 at 8:30am and 11:30am

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

Level One First Penance and Level 2 Communion

Monday, March 9 at 6:20pm

Walk with Jesus

Students and Parents

(Students Mass reflections are due)

Monday, March 30 session at 6:20pm

Level 2 Communion Retreat

Saturday, March 21 at 10:00am

Students and Parents

Level One and Level Two Confirmation

Reminder: return signed bulletins

Living Stations Rehearsal

Saturday, March 14 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Monday, March 16 at 6:30pm

Friday, March 20

Presentation of Living Stations at 7:00pm

Monday, March 23 6:30pm Session

Reminder: Students **MUST** attend two additional stations of the Cross on Friday besides the Living Stations

Liturgical *Minister Schedule*

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Extraordinary Ministers

Saturday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 1

8:30am D. Mazzarella, C. and E. Weiman

11:30am B. McCauley, L. Palasits, B. Sorbanelli

Readers

Saturday, February 28

4:00pm T. Casey

Sunday, March 1

8:30am C. Mazzarella

11:30am G. Grispart

Altar Servers

Sunday, March 1

8:30am A. and A. Weiman

11:30am A. Boelhower, F. Calabrese

Counting Team—Monday, March 1
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 23

Mass 7:30AM **Chapel**
Bingo 12:00PM Father Milos Hall
(Doors open at 10:30AM)
Level 1 and 2 Confirmation 6:30PM Father Milos Hall

Tuesday, February 24

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

Wednesday, February 25

Mass 7:30AM **Church**

Thursday, February 26

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



Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
Thursdays 2:30PM - 6:00pm
(8:00AM - 6:00PM during Lent)

The Chapel is also open for private prayer time.

Friday, February 27

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

Saturday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 1

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

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Monday, February 23 NA 11:00AM Basement

Tuesday, February 24 NA 11:00AM Basement

Wednesday, February 25 NA 11:00AM Basement

Thursday, February 26 NA 11:00AM Basement

Friday, February 27 NA 11:00AM Basement
Stations of the Cross 12:00PM **Church**

Saturday, February 28 **Mass** 8:30AM **Church**
Confession 9:00AM **Church**

Sunday, March 1 **Mass** 10:00AM **Church**
Reader: M. Poos