



**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**



**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

*"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him." - Mt 17:5b*

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

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

**EMAIL:**

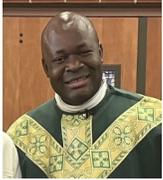
**Pastor:** [pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com)  
**Office / Food Pantry:** [info.stanthony1@gmail.com](mailto:info.stanthony1@gmail.com)  
**Religious Education:** [religious.ed.stanthony1@gmail.com](mailto:religious.ed.stanthony1@gmail.com)  
**Bulletin:** [bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com](mailto:bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com)

***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 (except July and August)

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**March 1, 2026**



*From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV*

## LISTENING TO CHRIST THE SON OF GOD: ANTIDOTE TO TEMPTATIONS OF THE DEVIL

Dear brothers and sisters,

on this Second Sunday of Lent, our Lenten journey continues from the experience of temptation by the devil in the garden (for Adam and Eve) and the desert (for Lord Jesus), to the mountain, where the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to His apostles Peter, James, and John. **In the scriptures, the mountain is always a symbol of union and encounter with God, just as the desert is a symbol of the dryness, trials, and temptation of the soul.**

In the First Reading for this Sunday's Mass, God calls Abraham to leave his own land and people and set out to a land that He the Lord God will show him. God does not tell Abraham the distance nor the location of this land. Unlike Adam and Eve who listened to the Devil and disobeyed God, Abraham listened, trusted, and obeyed God and went on the journey. **Listening to and trust in God's providence is the antidote to the temptation of the devil.** Lent offers us the opportunity to deepen our trust in God's Divine Providence.

The Gospel Reading for this Sunday is the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus on Mount Tabor. God the Father's voice is heard with the simple message to listen to His Beloved Son. We often begin Lent with enthusiasm; ashes on our foreheads, resolutions made, things given up for Lent, prayer intensified, charity doubled, and then...? Before the ashes are cleared from our foreheads, the busyness of life, work, school, relationships, family obligations, social attractions, and other things begin to take center stage again. The Church gives us this encounter with the glory of our Lord on this Second Sunday of Lent as a foretaste of the goal we seek and to refocus our hearts and minds again to what we are preparing for; that is, the glory of the resurrected Christ at Easter.

In this transfiguration, the voice of the Father is heard saying, "this is my Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." There are so many competing voices and ideologies which tempt us on a daily basis. Sometimes, even faithful Christians are unable to discern the truth. How can we ever stay true to God? Our Loving Father Himself, gives us the remedy. It is important to note that God does not say, "hear my Son." Rather, He says, "listen to my Son." Listening to the Beloved Son of God, who is also the Word of the Father, means opening our hearts to His voice, not just hearing His words, but truly allowing them to shape our lives. With the distractions and confusion of our modern society, authentic listening requires stillness, patience, and intentional focus on Christ. **When we listen to Jesus, we receive not only guidance but also the strength to face temptation and the reassurance that God deeply loves us.** By making space in our daily routines for scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection, we invite His transformative presence into our journey, drawing us closer to the glory for which we hope.

During this Lenten Season, we must deepen our ability and practice of listening to God. At the transfiguration, our Lord Jesus was flanked by Moses, who represents the Law of God (Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai) and the prophet Elijah, who represents the prophecies of God. While God certainly speaks to us in many different ways; in the scriptures, in prayers, in the beauty of nature, in conversation with fellow sons and daughters of God, it is in the scriptures that we encounter the law and prophecies of God. The Bible is affectionately called, **"God's love letter to His people."** Many of us Catholics are, sadly, not familiar with the Word of God. As a result, we fall for the evil one. There are many Catholic devotional materials that help us to read the scriptures. We can begin with the daily Mass readings and reflections. We can start reading one chapter of the Gospels every day. I also recommend Fr. Mike Schmitz's Bible in a year podcast, which offers simple, short, and easy reading of the scriptures and reflections. There are many other resources that can help us listen to the Son and Word of God. **When we familiarize ourselves with the Word of God and when we allow His word to fill us, we will have the strength to resist the temptations and the falsehood of the devil.**

Here is a beautiful song I learned as a child.

LORD, Thy Word abideth,  
And our footsteps guideth;  
Who its truth believeth  
Light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,  
then Thy Word doth cheer us,  
Word of consolation,  
Message of salvation.

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 28**  
4:00PM Palma DiMeo  
Requested by the DiMeo family
- Sunday** **March 1** *Second Sunday of Lent*  
8:30AM Diana Quaglia  
Requested by her loving husband, Luigi and family
- 11:30AM Jules Weber  
Requested by Donna and Mark Babak
- Monday** **March 2**  
7:30AM Michael Angelo "GiGi" Cuozzo  
Requested by his loving family
- Tuesday** **March 3** *Saint Katharine Drexel*  
7:30AM Deceased Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament  
Saint Katherine Drexel Order  
Requested by the Rucando family
- Wednesday** **March 4** *Saint Casimir*  
7:30AM Purgatorial Society
- Thursday** **March 5**  
7:30AM Jack Krapf - Happy Birthday in Heaven  
Requested by his loving wife, Amy
- Friday** **March 6** *World Day of Prayer*  
7:30AM Terri Heil  
Requested by her family
- Saturday** **March 7** *Saint Perpetua and Felicity*  
4:00PM People of the parish family
- Sunday** **March 8** *Third Sunday of Lent*  
8:30AM George Seibert  
Requested by his loving family
- 11:30AM Irene and James DeJoy  
Requested by their daughters, Mary, Anne, Eileen, and Karen

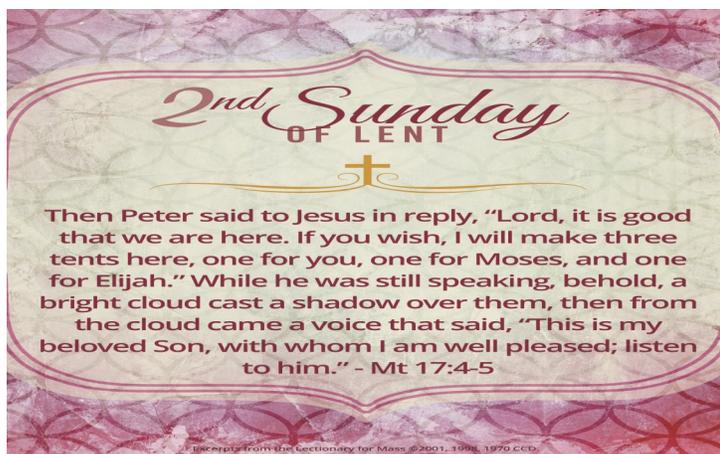
### at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

**Morning Prayer** begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

- Saturday** **February 28**  
8:30AM People of the parish family
- Sunday** **March 1** *Second Sunday of Lent*  
10:00AM People of the parish family
- Saturday** **March 7** *Saint Perpetua and Felicity*  
8:30AM Deceased Members of the former  
Altar Rosary Society
- Sunday** **March 8** *Third Sunday of Lent*  
10:00AM Laszlo Harangozo  
Requested Margaret Moricz

### This Week's Scripture Readings

- Sunday: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22  
2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
Matthew 17:1-9
- Monday: Daniel 9:4b-10 Psalms 79:8, 9, 11, 13  
Luke 6:36-38
- Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 Psalms 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23  
Matthew 23:1-12
- Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20 Psalms 31:5-6, 14, 15-16  
Matthew 20:17-28
- Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6  
Luke 16:19-31
- Friday: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a  
Psalms 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21  
Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20  
Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
- Sunday: Exodus 17:3-7 Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



The parish family of Saint Anthony of Padua  
welcomes

*Liana June Sullivan*

who received the Sacrament of Baptism,  
a sacrament of promise and welcome on  
Sunday, February 22, 2026

We thank her parents, Michael and Laura Sullivan  
for choosing life.



## 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 Lynn Haley  
Requested by MaryAnn Marrone

In loving memory of Lynn Haley  
Requested by Frank and Nora Rombardo

### GOOD SHEPHERD

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

### 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 - March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7:00pm**



*PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE  
WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK*  
*(Celebrating the Sacraments of Healing)*  
**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 - March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 12:00pm**



THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH  
AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL WORSHIP SITE

## CELEBRATES



IN ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH

436 PORT READING AVE. PORT READING, NJ 07064

ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2026

AT 6:30PM

**COME LET US SEEK GOD'S MERCY TOGETHER**

**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](mailto:info.StAnthony1@gmail.com).

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

**Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving**

**Sunday, February 15, 2026**

In-person donations.....	\$3,647.00
On-line donations.....	<u>\$1,138.00</u>
Total.....	\$4,785.00

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

In-person donations.....	\$3,497.00
On-line donations.....	<u>\$2,338.50</u>
Total.....	\$5,835.50

*Thank you for your continued support of the parish.*

**CRS RICE BOWL**

**Empowering Growth in Ghana**

By supporting CRS Rice Bowl, you help parents and caregivers in Ghana to receive training in health, nutrition, and early childhood development. That means, young children in these communities are better able to thrive and meet critical milestones in their growth. Visit [crsricebowl.org/week-2](http://crsricebowl.org/week-2) to read this week's Story of Hope.



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



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

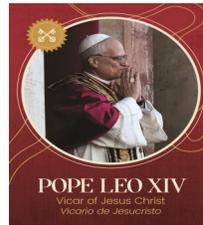
If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so next weekend, March 7/8, which has been designated as Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend. Please prayerfully consider a gift to help our parish reach its goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form of a parish rebate. Just as important as our financial goal is our goal of reaching 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

**Stewardship**

*"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you."*  
*Genesis 12:1*

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness, and greed. Yet, God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."



**Pope's Intention for March:**

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| March 2 | Reverend Dawid Malik<br>Reverend Kenneth Brighenti          |
| March 3 | Reverend J. Philip Vadakkekara<br>Reverend Alexander Carles |
| March 4 | Reverend Peter Tran<br>Reverend Gustavo Rodriguez-Perez     |
| March 5 | Reverend Roy Quesa<br>Reverend Leopoldo Sylvania            |
| March 6 | Monsignor John Gordon<br>Reverend Krystain Burdzy           |
| March 7 | Reverend Edward Czarcinski<br>Reverend Slawomir Romanoski   |
| March 8 | Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski                           |



# 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 on the Easter tree in the Narthex.



Please **wrap your basket, attach the tag** and return to our Easter Tree located in the narthex on or before 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.

## Blizzard of February 23, 2026

Approximately 24" of snow fell in our area. Here are a few photos of clean-up efforts at Saint Anthony of Padua Church.



## Rest in Peace

Remember in your prayers the soul of  
Laszlo Harangozo, Sr. - January 26  
Lynn Haley - January 28

## One Year Anniversary

Keep in your prayers the parishioners who died a year ago in 2025:  
Helen Harangozo (OLMC) - March 6  
Geraldine A. Nobes - March 11  
Patricia Borischak - March 27  
Grace Riccardi - March 29



## Purgatorial Mass Society

The souls of: requested by:  
Laszlo Harangoso, Sr. The Parish family of OLMC and  
Lynn Haley Saint Anthony of Padua  
Saint Anthony of Padua parish family



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

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### 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.

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### 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, March 7**

4:00pm C. and R. Marney, D. Scharff

#### **Sunday, March 8**

8:30am V. Clarke, S. Gadomski, H. Pagliuca

11:30am M. Amuzie, M. Balint, G. Grispart

### *Readers*

#### **Saturday, March 7**

4:00pm M. Trebour

#### **Sunday, March 8**

8:30am D. Vitaliano

11:30am C. Amuzie

### *Altar Servers*

#### **Saturday, March 7**

4:00pm B. Banko

#### **Sunday, March 8**

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

11:30am A. Boelhower, F. Calabrese

**Counting Team—Monday, March 9**  
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, 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, March 2**

**Mass** 7:30AM **Chapel**  
Bingo 12:00PM Father Milos Hall  
(Doors open at 10:30AM)  
Level 1 and Level 2 Confirmation  
(rescheduled from February 23) 6:30pm Father Milos Hall

### **Tuesday, March 3**

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

### **Wednesday, March 4**

**Mass** 7:30AM **Church**

### **Thursday, March 5**

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



Eucharistic Adoration is held on Thursdays from 8:00AM to 6:00PM in the Chapel of Saint Anthony

### **Friday, March 6**

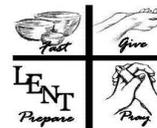
**Mass** 7:30AM **Church**  
**Stations of the Cross** 7:00PM **Church**

### **Saturday, March 7**

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

### **Sunday, March 8**

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



## *This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel*

**Monday, March 2** NA 11:00AM **Basement**

**Tuesday, March 3** NA 11:00AM **Basement**

**Wednesday, March 4**  
NA 11:00AM **Basement**

**Thursday, March 5** NA 11:00AM **Basement**

**Friday, March 6** NA 11:00AM **Basement**  
**Stations of the Cross** 12:00PM **Church**

**Saturday, March 7** **Mass** 8:30AM **Church**  
**Confession** 9:00AM **Church**

**Sunday, March 8** **Mass** 10:00AM **Church**  
**Reader: V. Ruskai**