



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



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

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

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

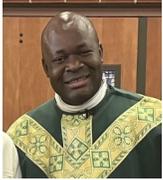
Pastor: pastorofstanthonypa@gmail.com
Office / Food Pantry: info.stanthony1@gmail.com
Religious Education: religious.ed.stanthony1@gmail.com
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Parish Office Hours

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 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) |

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

JESUS THE WELL THAT NEVER RUNS DRY

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water” (John 4:15).

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are already three weeks into our Lenten pilgrimage. How is the journey going so far? Are we still fervent and resolute or have we lost some steam? With the three Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving, we began this journey on Ash Wednesday humbly asking the Lord God to renew us. On the First Sunday of Lent, we reflected on the reality of temptations in our lives and how the evil one seeks to turn us away from God. On the Second Sunday we heard the voice of the Father, calling us to listen to His Beloved Son. The listening to the word of God is an antidote to the temptations that we face in life. On this Third Sunday of Lent, the Church turns our attention towards Jesus, the living water. The one who quenches the thirst of our souls. One important goal of our Lenten journey is to seek rest for our weary souls. In our work, study, and relationships, we are often weighed down by life’s struggles. We become thirsty, dry, and weak and we year for what can quench our and bring us rest. After his wandering and searching for love and meaning in his life, Saint Augustine encountered Christ and his life was changed. In his famous book, *The Confessions*, he says, “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” There is a hole, a space, a thirst in each one of us which can only be filled, sealed, and satisfied by God. We may seek this comfort in other people, places or things, but only in Christ can we find our ultimate satisfaction.

In today’s Gospel, our Lord and Savior Jesus meets the “woman at the well.” This encounter speaks to the deep thirst of our hearts, the joy of encountering Christ the living water and the mission to bring our brothers and sisters and neighbors to encounter the joy that we have received. The story of the Woman at the Well is a powerful reminder of God’s transformative mercy. The fact that she, a woman of her time went to the well alone, in the middle of the day, is a sign that her life was not in the right path and so she could not associate with the other women. As Saint Augustine tells us, She is a symbol of the Church not yet made righteous. Righteousness follows from the conversation. She came in ignorance but found Christ. Our Lord Jesus meets her at a moment of vulnerability and offered her a chance for renewal and hope. Despite her past, He engages her with compassion and honesty, revealing that God’s grace is available to everyone who seeks it, regardless of their circumstances.

In this encounter, we see the invitation to come as we are, trusting that God knows our hearts and longs to fill us with His love. The woman’s openness to Jesus leads to a profound change, inspiring her to share the good news with others. As we reflect on her story, may we recognize our own thirst for grace and respond to God’s invitation with courage and faith, knowing He meets us where we are and offers us new life. God wants us to come to Him just the way we are. But He wants us to go forth changed and renewed.

May Christ our living water quenches the thirst of our souls, renew our lives and make us ready for mission; the mission to bring this same renewal to our brothers and sisters and neighbors.

As I always do, let me share with you a beautiful song I learned as a child.

Like the woman at the well, I was seeking For things that could not satisfy.
And then I heard my Savior speaking, “Draw from My well that never shall run dry.”

Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up Lord; Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more. Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

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 **March 7** *Saint Perpetua and Felicity*
4:00PM 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*
8:30AM George Seibert
Requested by his loving family

Sunday **March 8** *Third Sunday of Lent*
10:00AM Laszlo Harangozo
Requested Margaret Moricz

11:30AM Irene and James DeJoy
Requested by their daughters, Mary, Anne,
Eileen, and Karen

Saturday **March 14**
8:30AM Helen Harangozo
Requested by the Harangozo family

Monday **March 9** *Saint Francis of Rom*
7:30AM George Seibert
Requested daughter, Holly and John

Sunday **March 15** *Fourth Sunday of Lent*
10:00AM Faustino Lansand, Sr.
Requested Mina Torres

Tuesday **March 10**
7:30AM Richie Simeone
Requested by his loving wife, Adrienne

Wednesday **March 11**
7:30AM Thomas J. Farrell
Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke

Thursday **March 12**
7:30AM Valerie Feeney
Requested by Maureen and Bill Walliser

Friday **March 13**
7:30AM Jeanette Pauswinski
Requested by her loving daughter,
Beverly Cuzzo

Saturday **March 14**
4:00PM The Cafararo family
Requested by Barbara DeFilippo

Sunday **March 15** *Fourth Sunday of Lent*
8:30AM People of the parish family

11:30AM Harold Cedeno
Requested by his loving wife, Lenny

This Week's Scripture Readings

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

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab
Psalms 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday: Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Psalms 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Psalms 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Luke 11:14-23

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10
Psalms 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14, 17
Matthew 12:28-34

Saturday: Hosea 6:4-6
Psalms 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab
Luke 18:9-14

Sunday: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



3rd Sunday OF LENT

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."
- Jn 4:9a, 10

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



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 Geraldine Nobes on her first anniversary in Heaven - March 11
Requested by Adrienne

In loving memory of our "Pops", George Seibert on your 6th anniversary in Heaven
Requested by Holly, John, and family

GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Continued good health for Matthew and Gloria Yacovino
Requested by sister, Josie Yacovino

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 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 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 DISTRIBUTION is
March 18**

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.

Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

Sunday, March 1, 2026

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| In-person donations..... | \$3,827.00 |
| On-line donations..... | <u>\$1,386.00</u> |
| Total..... | \$5,213.00 |

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

CRS RICE BOWL

Nourishing Futures in Guatemala

In Guatemala, nutrition classes and savings programs give mothers and families better opportunities to improve their health, nutrition and financial well-being. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-3 to read how your support of CRS Rice Bowl is helping the Guatemala community thrive.



If you are interested in donating a palm arrangement to adorn the Church. One is available for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The donation is \$60. Please contact the parish office.



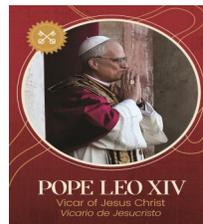
2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal
ONE IN CHRIST: Called to Love and Serve

This weekend, parishes throughout the Diocese of Metuchen are celebrating Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend. Our goal is for every family to participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Together, we are keeping Christ's presence alive in the world today. Thank you for actively participating in this mission by your financial support.

Stewardship

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." JOHN 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."



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 9 | Reverend Eugeniusz Fasuga Monsignor Joseph Curry |
| March 10 | Monsignor Raymond Cole Reverend Nalaka Silva |
| March 11 | Monsignor Randall Vashon Reverend John Barbella |
| March 12 | Reverend Joseph A. Krajewski Reverend Kenneth Kolibas |
| March 13 | Reverend Yong Bum Lee Reverend Joseph Kabali |
| March 14 | Reverend Jojappa Thippabathini Reverend Ariel Bautista, Jr. |
| March 15 | Reverend John Alvarado Reverend William Smith |



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.



Birthday Blessing for March



As a parish family we rejoice and celebrate the gifts of life and love that God has given to us all. We offer to all those celebrating their birthdays this month our best wishes and prayers that God many continue to bless them abundantly in the years ahead.





2026 Mass Book

As of March 3, here are upcoming Masses that are available if you would like to request a Mass intention:

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|----|--------------|
| 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 |
| Saturday | April | 25 | 8:30am OLMC |
| Tuesday | April | 28 | 7:30am |
| Wednesday | April | 29 | 7:30am |
| Thursday | April | 30 | 7:30am |

Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403



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, March 14

4:00pm A. and F. Fowler, R. Masters

Sunday, March 15

8:30am V. Clarke, C. and E. Weiman

11:30am J. Kondrk, B. McCauley, L. Palasits

Readers

Saturday, March 14

4:00pm T. Casey

Sunday, March 15

8:30am C. and G.C Onukwugha

11:30am J. Ramos

Altar Servers

Sunday, March 15

8:30am C. and C. Onukwugha

11:30am A. Boelhower, F. Calabrese

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

Coffee and Conversation
Sunday, March 8 following 8:30am Mass



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, Bob Glatt, 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 Vyszwany, 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!

Daylight Saving Time begins on
Sunday, March 8 at 2:00am

The clocks “spring forward” by one hour!

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, March 9

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| Mass | 7:30AM | Chapel |
| Bingo | 12:00PM | Father Milos Hall (Doors open at 10:30AM) |
| Level One First Penance and Level 2 Communion | | |
| Walk with Jesus - Students and Parents | | |
| | 6:00PM | |

Tuesday, March 10

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Mass | 7:30AM | Chapel |
| Food Pantry Sorting | 9:30AM | Father Milos Hall |
| Youth Choir | 4:30PM | Church |
| Adult Choir | 6:30PM | Church |
| AA | 7:30PM | Father Milos Hall |

Wednesday, March 11

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Mass | 7:30AM | Church |
| G.I.F.T. | 6:00PM | Father Milos Hall |
| Parish Penitential Service | 6:30PM | Church |

Thursday, March 12

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Mass | 7:30AM | Church |
| Eucharistic Adoration | 8:00AM | Chapel |
| Chaplet/Rosary | 3:00PM | Chapel |
| Benediction | 6:00PM | Chapel |
| AA | 8:00PM | Father Milos Hall |



During Lent, Eucharistic Adoration is held on
Thursdays from 8:00AM to 6:00PM
and from 2:00PM - 6:00PM the rest of the year.
in the Chapel of Saint Anthony

Friday, March 13

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mass | 7:30AM | Church |
| Stations of the Cross | 7:00PM | Church |
| Lenten Reflection follows | | |

Saturday, March 14

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Level 1 and Level 2 Confirmation Stations Rehearsal | | |
| | 9:00AM to 12:00PM | |
| Confessions | 3:00PM | Chapel |
| Mass | 4:00PM | Church |
| NA | 7:30PM | Father Milos Hall |

Sunday, March 15

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| Mass | 8:30AM | Church |
| Mass | 11:30AM | Church |

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Monday, March 9 | NA | 11:00AM | Basement |
| Tuesday, March 10 | NA | 11:00AM | Basement |
| Wednesday, March 11 | NA | 11:00AM | Basement |
| Thursday, March 12 | NA | 11:00AM | Basement |
| Friday, March 13 | NA | 11:00AM | Basement |
| Stations of the Cross | 12:00PM | Church | |
| Holy Family Prayer Group | 6:00PM | Church | |
| Saturday, March 14 | Mass | 8:30AM | Church |
| | Confession | 9:00AM | Church |
| Sunday, March 15 | Mass | 10:00AM | Church |
| | Reader: J. Dizon | | |



St. Anthony of Padua's
28th Annual
Easter Celebration Meal



On Saturday, April 4, 2026, an Easter Meal will be available for you to pick up or have delivered to your home.

(Deliveries to Woodbridge Township, Carteret and Perth Amboy ONLY. All other locations are welcome to pick up the meal at the parish center.)



There is **NO CHARGE** for this meal!

The meal will consist of ham, potatoes, a vegetable, a dinner roll, applesauce, kielbasa with sauerkraut, and a small dessert. A vegetarian meal is available, upon request.

If you would like to request a meal, a call is required by Saturday, March 28th, by noon,



at **732-634-1419**.

We will begin taking calls on Saturday, March 14th. You **MUST** leave your name and phone number and someone will return your call beginning on Monday, March 16th.



EASTER CELEBRATION MEAL

Planning has begun for our *28th Annual Easter Celebration Meal* to be prepared in Father Milos Hall on Saturday morning, **April 4th**. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners through donations and volunteers who helped prepare the meals, we were able to provide 260 meals to people within Woodbridge Township, Perth Amboy and Carteret.

For anyone who is not familiar with this ministry - a meal of ham, kielbasa and all the trimmings is prepared and then either picked up or delivered to those who have called and expressed their interest in receiving this meal. This meal is provided at no charge.

We are so thankful for all the generosity we receive each year and are asking for help, once again. Any help is greatly appreciated. If you are interested, please fill out the form below and return it to the parish office, or drop it in the basket during Mass, by *Wednesday, March 25th*. You will receive a phone call to confirm your donation and provide additional information.

Thank you, in advance, for your ongoing support and generosity.

"WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME." - MATTHEW 25:40



EASTER CELEBRATION MEAL

Yes, I would like to help out in the following ways.

Driver _____

Prepare servings _____

Donate kielbasa _____ lbs
(please specify lbs)

Donate 5 lb. *canned* ham _____

Applesauce (6 pk.) _____

hard-boiled eggs _____
(please specify how many dozen)

Monetary and/or supermarket gift cards welcome _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

In order to prepare accordingly, please drop off no later than Wednesday, March 25th, at the parish office or place in the collection basket at Mass. Thank you.