



The Parish Family of Saint Anthony of Padua



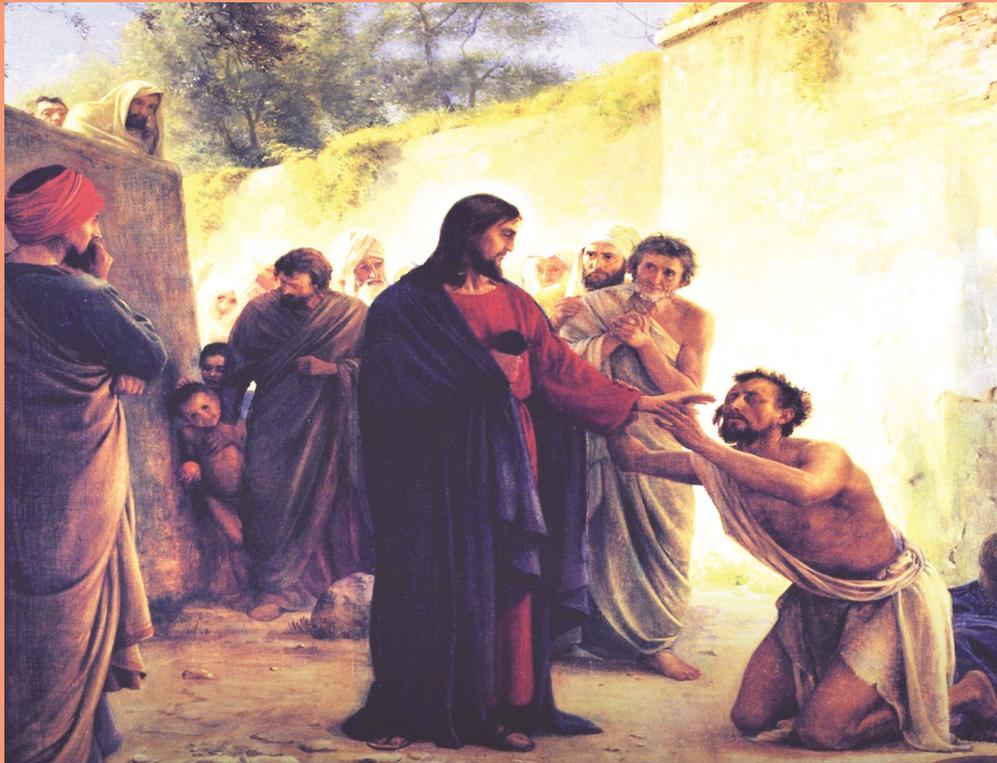
Parish Office: 436 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading, New Jersey 07064
Phone: 732-634-1403 • www.saintanthonypadua.org

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



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
 he found him and said, "Do you believe in the
 Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

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

EMAIL:

Pastor: pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com
Office / Food Pantry: info.stanthony1@gmail.com
Religious Education: religioused.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 (except July & August)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

THEY HAVE EYES BUT CANNOT SEE

*“If he (Jesus) is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.”
(John 9:25)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have reached the midpoint of our Lenten journey. Soon, the focus of Lent will move from personal renewal to the journey with our Lord to the Cross. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Church turns our attention to the challenging reality of **Spiritual Blindness**, which lies at the root of many of the struggles we face in our journey of faith. It is the inability, and at times the unwillingness, to see and recognize the will of God and His plans for our lives. When our spiritual vision is clouded, we are unable to perceive God's presence, His invitations, and His saving work within and around us.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, we encounter our Lord Jesus Christ healing and restoring sight to a man born blind. The Pharisees, who can see with their eyes, remain spiritually blind. Consumed by anger and their opposition to Jesus, they failed to recognize the extraordinary gift God bestowed upon this man. They tried to discredit the miracle by labeling Jesus a sinner. In contrast, the man who was healed offers a simple yet profound testimony: *“one thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.”* His encounter with Christ changed his life and gave him physical sight and spiritual sight as well.

The Church gives this Gospel to us during Lent to remind us of the necessity of spiritual vision. **Without clear spiritual sight, it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to recognize God's hand at work.** As a result, we risk missing the blessings and renewal God desires to give us. Too often, we move through life blind and unaware of the deeper truths and meanings of things and events in the world. Spiritual blindness is not merely a lack of physical sight; it is a condition of the heart and mind; an inability to perceive, accept, or embrace the Holy Spirit who wants to sanctify and transform us.

One of the central rituals at Baptism is the presentation of a lighted candle. The words of this ritual say: ***“Receive the light of Christ. May this light be kept burning brightly, so that when the Lord Jesus comes, you may see clearly and go out to meet Him.”*** As we journey through life, this light can grow dim. Our vision becomes distorted by the pressures of daily life, struggles with personal sin, neglect of the Word of God and the sacraments, an inconsistent prayer life, and many other distractions. Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel, we can become so caught up in arguments, politics, and socially acceptable lifestyles that we fail to recognize the power of God at work within us and around us.

Lent invites us to see ourselves in the man born blind. We, too, need to have our eyes opened so that we may recognize the wonders that God is accomplishing in our lives. When the Lord opens our eyes, everything changes. Spiritual sight brings humility, as we acknowledge how much we once failed to see, and gratitude for the clarity we have received. Psalm 119 verse 105 says, *“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path. We will strengthen our spiritual sight by reading the word of God daily. Our eyes will be opened to a whole new spiritual reality that we never knew existed.*

As we continue our Lenten journey, we pray,

***“Be kind to your servant that I may live, that I may keep your word.
Open my eyes to see clearly the wonders of your law.
I am a sojourner in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.”
(Psalm 119:17-19)***

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

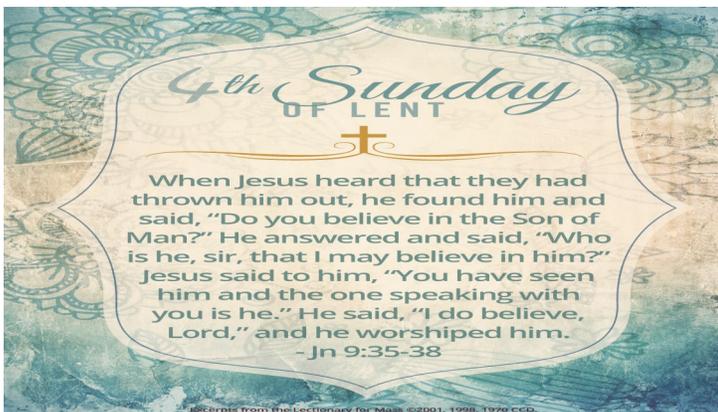
- Saturday March 14**
4:00PM The Cafararo family
Requested by Barbara DeFilippo
- Sunday March 15** *Fourth Sunday of Lent*
8:30AM People of the parish family
11:30AM Harold Cedeno
Requested by his loving wife, Lenny
- Monday March 16**
7:30AM Francis Clarke, Sr.
Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke
- Tuesday March 17** *Saint Patrick*
7:30AM John Patrick
Requested by his loving family
- Wednesday March 18** *Saint Cyril of Jerusalem*
7:30AM Janice Ciardiello
Requested by her loving husband, Sal Ciardiello
- Thursday March 19** *Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
7:30AM George Seibert
Requested by his wife, Teri
- Friday March 20**
7:30AM Michael Allen Cuozzo
Requested by his loving family
- Saturday March 21**
4:00PM James DeFilippo
Happy 92nd birthday and 10th anniversary in Heaven
Requested by his loving wife, Barbara and family
- Sunday March 22** *Fifth Sunday of Lent*
8:30AM Arlene F. Smith
Requested by the Futey family
11:30AM People of the parish family

- Saturday March 14**
8:30AM Helen Harangozo
Requested by the Harangozo family
- Sunday March 15** *Fourth Sunday of Lent*
10:00AM Faustino Lansang, Sr.
Requested Mina Torres
- Saturday March 21**
8:30AM Noel Pineda
Requested by Mina Torres
- Sunday March 22** *Fifth Sunday of Lent*
10:00AM Dominick Valenzano
Requested Deacon Joey and Beth Perlas



This Week's Scripture Readings

- 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
- Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b
John 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
John 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Isaiah 49:8-15
Psalms 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18
John 5:17-30
- Thursday: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a
- Friday: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
Psalms 34:17-18, 19-20, 21, 23
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalms 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12
John 7:40-53
- Sunday: Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



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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 wife, Janice Ciardiello
Happy Saint Patrick's Day in Heaven
Requested by her loving husband, Sal

In loving memory of Tyke G. Mojica
Requested by his loving family

GOOD SHEPHERD

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

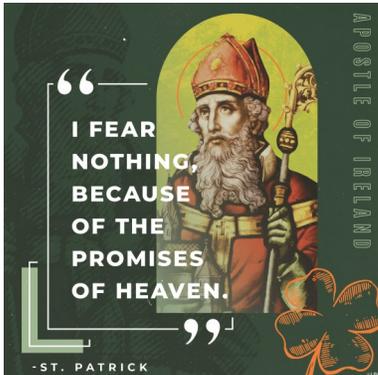
In loving memory of Edward Lagomarsino
6 years in Heaven
Requested by his wife, Vera and family

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

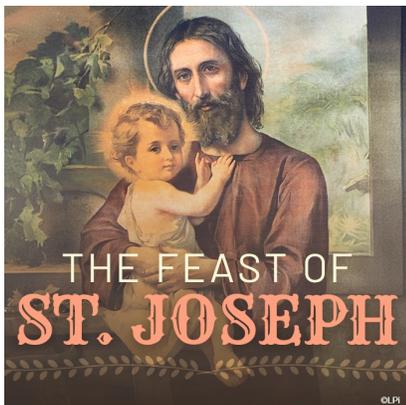
Did you know this week's feast days are:



March 17



March 18



March 19



FAITH FORMATION

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

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 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

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

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 20, 27 at 7:00pm

ROSARY

Friday, March 27 following 7:30am Mass

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

STATION OF THE CROSS

Friday - March 20, 27 at 12:00pm



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

February Special Collections

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Catholic Spirit | \$ 928.00 |
| Ash Wednesday | \$1,631.00 |
| Parish Maintenance and Repair | \$1,776.00 |

Sunday, March 8, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| In-person donations..... | \$4,885 |
| On-line donations..... | \$1,135.50 |
| Total..... | \$6,020.50.00 |

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

CRS RICE BOWL

Feeding Dreams in Timor-Leste

By participating in CRS Rice Bowl, we're helping young people in Timor-Leste find opportunities and support to fulfill their dreams of becoming leaders in their communities. Visit crsrice-bowl.org/week-4 to read about Adriana's dream of becoming a doctor in this week's Story of Hope.



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.



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

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, there is still time to participate.

Mail your gift to: Diocese of Metuchen
Bishop's Annual Appeal
PO Box 4000
Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000 or give online at <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>.

Our goal is \$24,000. As of March 8, total pledged and received was \$11,687.

Stewardship

*"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart."
1 Samuel 16:7*

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 16 | Reverend John Fredy Triana-Beltran
Reverend David Skoblow |
| March 17 | Reverend Damian Tomiczek
Reverend Glenn Comandini |
| March 18 | Reverend James McGuffey
Reverend Mhonchan Ezung |
| March 19 | Our Holy Father |
| March 20 | Reverend Vincente Salas
Reverend Timothy Eck |
| March 21 | Reverend John Primich
Reverend .Luke Mary Fletcher |
| March 22 | Reverend Charles Sabella
Reverend Randy Gamboa-Espinoza |



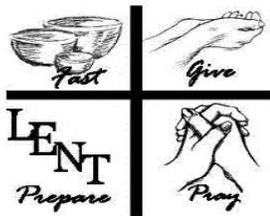
Paschal Tree of Joy

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.



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.



2026 Mass Book

As of March 10, here are upcoming Masses that are available if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Monday	April	13	7:30am
Friday	April	17	7:30am
Sunday	April	19	10:00am OLMC
Monday	April	20	7:30am
Saturday	April	25	8:30am OLMC
Thursday	April	30	7:30am
Thursday	May	7	7:30am
Friday	May	8	7:30am
Monday	May	11	7:30am
Tuesday	May	12	7:30am
Wednesday	May	13	7:30am
Friday	May	15	7:30am

Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403

EASTER CELEBRATION MEAL

Planning has begun for our 28th Annual Easter Celebration Meal for distribution on Saturday morning, April 4. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners through donations and volunteers, 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 interest in receiving this meal. **This meal is provided at no charge.** If you are interested in helping, please fill out the below form and return it to the parish office, or drop it in the collection basket during Mass by Wednesday, March 25. You will receive a phone call to confirm your donation and provide additional information.

Thank you 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:

Drive _____ Prepare servings _____
 Donate kielbasa _____ lbs. 5 lb. canned ham _____
 Applesauce (6 pk.) _____ hard-boiled eggs _____
 amount _____
 Monetary and/or supermarket gift cards are welcome _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

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

Liturgical *Minister Schedule*

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Extraordinary Ministers

Saturday, March 21

4:00pm M. Balint, J. Barcellona, D. Scharff

Sunday, March 22

8:30am A. and D. Anderson, D. Mazzarella
11:30am B. Cuzzo, G. Grispart, B. Sorbanelli

Readers

Saturday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 22

8:30am G.I.F.T.
11:30am G.I.F.T.

Altar Servers

Saturday, March 21

4:00pm B. Banko

Sunday, March 22

8:30am C., C., and C. Onukwugha
11:30am A. Boelhower

Counting Team—Monday, March 23
will be contacted by telephone

On December 1, 2025, Saint Anthony of Padua parish family welcomed our new Parish Office Administrative Assistant, Juliann Reveillac. Please join the office staff in wishing her all the best as she becomes accustomed to her new surroundings and job opportunities.



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 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!

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, March 16

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Bingo	12:00PM	Father Milos Hall (Doors open at 10:30AM)
Living Stations Rehearsal	6:30PM	Church

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18 **Food Pantry Distribution**

Mass	7:30AM	Church
Food Pantry Distribution	10:00AM	Father Milos Hall
Knights of Columbus	6:30PM	Father Milos Hall

Thursday, March 19

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 2:30PM to 6:00PM the rest of the year. in the Chapel of Saint Anthony

Friday, March 20

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

NOTE: Level 1 and Level 2 Confirmation - Presentation of Living Stations

Saturday, March 21 **Paschal Tree of Joy baskets due**

Confessions	3:00PM	Chapel
Mass	4:00PM	Church
NA	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall
Level 2 Communion Parent/Student Retreat	10:00AM	

Sunday, March 22 **Paschal Tree of Joy baskets due**

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

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Monday, March 16

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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Tuesday, March 17

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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Wednesday, March 18

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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Thursday, March 19

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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Friday, March 20

NA	11:00AM	Basement
Stations of the Cross	12:00PM	Church

Saturday, March 21

Mass	8:30AM	Church
Confession	9:00AM	Church

Sunday, March 22

Mass	10:00AM	Church
Reader: E. Bonus		