



# 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](http://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**



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." - Mt 21:9

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

©LPI



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

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

**EMAIL:**

### *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)

**Palm Sunday**

**March 29, 2026**



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

## HOLY WEEK IS HERE! WHAT IS HOLY ABOUT HOLY WEEK?

Dear brothers and sisters,

This week, with the celebration of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, that is, the commemoration of the Triumphant entry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the city of Jerusalem, we come to the most important week in the life of the Church. We call this week Holy because of the sanctifying and life-giving mysteries of our faith which we celebrate. **We will notice that the focus of the Liturgies of this week is more on the rituals and actions than on the words.** This is because, the liturgies are meant to evoke or make present today, the saving mysteries which our Lord Jesus worked for us when He came among us over two thousand years ago.

With palm branches, the people ushered our Lord Jesus into the city, singing Hosanna to the Son of David and chanting Psalm 118 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God and has enlightened us. Join in procession with leafy branches up to the horns of the altar (Psalm 118:26-27). Like the people of Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, we also use palm branches in our procession in commemoration of this event. The palms received on this day are returned back to the church the following year and they are burnt and used for ashes on Ash Wednesday.

The high point of Holy Week, is the celebration of the Easter Triduum (a Latin word which means Three Days). **The Triduum is actually one single liturgical celebration that is spread over three days.** It begins with the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** on Holy Thursday evening. After Holy Communion, the final blessing is not given. Instead, the Church spends some time keeping vigil with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and afterwards, *we depart in silence.* The Church gathers again in silence on Good Friday for the **Celebration of the Lord's Passion** and after the adoration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion, *we depart again in silence.* The Church returns again on Holy Saturday evening to celebrate the **Great Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection.** At the end of this liturgy, the final Blessing is given.

Dear friends, as we know, our Christian faith is not simply about rules and regulations or obligations and requirements. **The liturgies of Holy Week are meant, hopefully, to bring us into a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** through the mysteries that we celebrate. By joining in these liturgies, we recall and experience the events of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, which are the means of our salvation. Participating in these sacred rites strengthens our relationship with Jesus and unites us as a community, helping us to live out the hope and grace of the resurrection of the Lord in our daily lives.

When I ask people why they do not participate in the liturgies of the Easter Triduum. The most common, and I should add, the saddest response is always, **"Father, the liturgies are too long."** Yes, of course, some of the Liturgies, especially the Easter Vigil, are longer than our regular Sunday Masses. **These liturgies recall the history of our salvation, which is a pretty long history. Rather than focusing on the length of the liturgy, it is more beneficial to focus on the graces that we receive from them.**

I encourage everyone to participate faithfully in these liturgical celebrations. Reschedule your calendar if you can, take these days off if you are able to do so, and make plans to participate fully in the Sacred Triduum. May the graces, won for us through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, renew us and bring us closer to our redeemer.

**Happy Holy Week.**

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

<b>Saturday</b> 4:00PM	<b>March 28</b> Debbie Grispart Requested by husband, Gerry and family	
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30AM	<b>March 29</b> People of the parish family	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
11:30AM	The Meek family Requested by son and brother, Gary	
<b>Monday</b> 7:30AM	<b>March 30</b> Debbie Grispart Requested by husband, Gerry and family	
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:30AM	<b>March 31</b> Alyce Capelli Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke	
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:30AM	<b>April 1</b> Purgatorial Mass Society	
<b>Thursday</b> 7:00PM	<b>April 2</b> People of the parish family	<i>Holy Thursday</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 3</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00PM	<b>April 4</b> People of the parish family	<i>Holy Saturday</i> <i>Easter Vigil</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30AM	<b>April 5</b> People of the parish family	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
11:30AM	People of the parish family	

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

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

<b>Saturday</b> 8:30AM	<b>March 28</b> Peter and Margaret Nagy Requested by Margaret Moricz	
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00AM	<b>March 29</b> Grace Riccardi Requested by her children	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00AM	<b>April 5</b> People of the parish family	<i>Easter Sunday</i>

## This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday:	Matthew 21:1-11 (37) Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Isaiah 50:4-7 Philippians 2:6-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54 John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday:	Isaiah 42:1-7 Psalms 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 John 12:1-11
Tuesday:	Isaiah 49:1-6 Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17 John 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday:	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalms 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34 Matthew 26:14-25
Thursday:	Exodus 12:-18, 11-14 Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-15
Friday:	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42
Saturday:	Easter Vigil Genesis 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b) Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11(1) Exodus 14:15-15:1, 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b) Isaiah 54:5-14 Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a) Isaiah 55:1-11, 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3) Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4 Psalms 19:8,9, 10, 11 John 6:68c Ezekiel 36:16-17a,18-28 Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2) Romans 6:3-11 Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Matthew 28:1-10
Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24) Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10 or Luke 24:13-35



## Lenten Obligations

Day of fast and abstinence is on Good Friday (April 3)

## PALM ARRANGEMENTS

at Saint Anthony of Padua



*In loving memory of  
John and Ethel Osag*

*Love, daughters,  
Arlene Pedersen and Karen Brenner*



*In loving memory of  
Eleanor, Carmen, and Jeffrey Pagliuca  
and God's Blessing on the newest family  
member, Luca Jeffrey Pagliuca*

*Love, daughter, sister, and Aunt  
Marie Pagliuca*



*In loving memory of my husband,  
Richie Simeone*

*Requested by  
His loving wife, Adrienne*

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

March 30	Reverend Edgar Madarang Reverend James King'ori
March 31	Reverend Monsignor Daniel Herlihy Reverend Charles Kelly
April 1	Reverend Anthony Sirianni Reverend Pafnouti Wassef
April 2	Our Holy Father
April 3	Reverend Kenneth Murphy Reverend Bede Kim
April 4	Reverend Jun Joseph Alquiros Reverend Alphonsus Kariuki
April 5	Bishop James Checchio

### Chrism Mass

*Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the Cathedral of  
Saint Francis of Assisi, Metuchen at 4:00pm*

On Tuesday, March 31, the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese will be celebrated. At the Mass, all priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support.

The Bishop will also bless and consecrate the Holy Oils, which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick; and the Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of *confirmandi*, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches.

All are encouraged to join in-person (or watch via livestream), the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00pm.

To watch the Chrism Mass livestream, visit <https://diometuchen.org/chrism-mass>

### PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION Friday, April 3, 2026

Pope Leo has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war and now the Iranian conflict have made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit [www.myfranciscan.org](http://www.myfranciscan.org) or [www.custodia.org](http://www.custodia.org)

The parish office will be closed:  
Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday,  
Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday-April 6  
in preparation for and observance of Easter.



## 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 Mrs. Arlene Smith  
Requested Eileen and Stan Gurney

In loving memory Arlene Smith on her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Requested by her loving daughters, Cheryl and Linda

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

### GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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

### CROSS OF SAN DOMIANO

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

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

### *Rest in Peace*

Remember in your prayers the souls of:  
Andrew Rambajan, Sr.- February 6, 2026  
Gloria Sabol - February 20, 2026  
Bela Geczo-February 22, 2026



### *One Year Anniversary*

Keep in your prayers the  
parishioners who died a year ago in 2025:  
Margaret Kopelack - April 4  
Nicholas DeCibus- April 9  
Margaret Mastorio - April 13  
Nicholas Prencipe- April 13  
Phyllis Matchko - April 17

### *Purgatorial Mass Society*

The souls of:	requested by:
Ann M. Bonaccorso	Carmen and Peggie Margiotto
Diana Quaglia	Luigi Quaglia and family
Andrew Rambajan, Sr.	Saint Anthony of Padua and OLMC parish family
Gloria Sabol	Saint Anthony of Padua parish family
Bela J. Geczo	Saint Anthony of Padua and OLMC parish family
Angelo L. Ramos, Jr.	Serrano and Smalley families
Angelo L. Ramos, Jr.	Aponte and Collago families
Angelo L. Ramos, Jr.	Rodriquey and Tapia families



## FAITH FORMATION

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

#### Growing In Faith Together

**Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00pm**

Please return your Rice Bowl boxes, March home session, and March Mass reflection.

#### G.I.F.T. Mass Weekend

**PLEASE NOTE THE G.I.F.T. MASS  
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED for April 25 and 26**

**has been rescheduled for:**

**April 18 at 4:00pm**

**April 19 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

**Monday, April 13 session at 6:20pm**

**Monday, April 27 session at 6:20pm**

#### Level 2 Communion

**Holy Thursday Mass, April 2 at 7:00pm**

**Monday, April 13 - Session at 6:20pm**

#### Communion Rehearsal

**Tuesday, April 28 - 6:00pm**

**Thursday, April 30 - 6:00pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Level One and Level Two Confirmation

**Reminder: return signed bulletins**

**Holy Thursday Mass, April 2 at 7:00pm**

**Good Friday, April 3 at 3:00pm**

**Easter Vigil - Level 2 Candidate Election at 8:00pm**

**Monday, April 20 at 6:30pm Session**

**Saturday, April 25 - Confirmation Retreat at  
9:00am (Florham Park)**

**ALL FAMILIES ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND  
HOLY WEEK LITURGIES**



**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!**

**Good Friday Fish Dinners**



**April 3rd, 2026, 4:30 – 6:30pm**  
Woodbridge Knights of Columbus Council 857  
130 Main Street, Woodbridge



**TAKE OUT**  
\$15.00 Adults, \$8.00 Kids' Meal  
Fried or Baked Fish  
Fries – Cole Slaw – Roll & Butter  
Kids' Meal: Fish Sticks & Fries

**SIT DOWN**  
\$20.00 Adults \$8.00 Kids' Meal  
Baked or Fried Fish  
Mac & Cheese – Cavatelli & Broccoli  
Tossed Salad – Fries – Cole slaw – Roll & Butter  
Coffee -Tea – Dessert  
Kids' Meal: Fish Sticks & Fries  
Soda - Wine – Beer available for purchase



**RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!**

Call or text Gerry 908-239-0514  
Text only to Ed 908-380-3279

**Tri-Parish Easter Triduum Morning Prayer**

**The Liturgy of the Hours, the Divine Office, is the official public prayer of the Catholic Church that sanctifies the day with set times of prayer. We invite you to join our Woodbridge Tri-Parish for Solemn Morning Prayer each day of the Easter Triduum.**

**Holy Thursday**  
**April 2, 2026**  
**9:00am**



**St. James,**  
**369 Amboy Ave,**  
**Woodbridge, NJ**

**Good Friday**  
**April 3, 2026**  
**8:30am**



**St. Anthony of Padua,**  
**436 Port Reading Ave.**  
**Port Reading, NJ**

**Holy Saturday**  
**April 4, 2026**  
**8:00am**



**St. Cecelia,**  
**45 Wilus Way,**  
**Iselin, NJ**

**2026 Mass Book**

**As of March 24, the following upcoming Masses that are available if you would like to request a Mass intention:**

Saturday	April	25	8:30am OLMC
Thursday	May	7	7:30am
Friday	May	8	7:30am
Tuesday	May	12	7:30am
Friday	May	15	7:30am
Monday	May	18	7:30am
Saturday	May	23	8:30am OLMC
Tuesday	May	26	7:30am
Thursday	May	28	7:30am
Friday	May	29	7:30am
Saturday	May	30	8:30am OLMC

**Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403**

If you would like to help decorate for Easter, that opportunity is available on Holy Saturday, April 4 at 9:00am at Saint Anthony of Padua Church Your help is greatly appreciated.

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

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

In-person donations.....	\$4,111.00
On-line donations.....	\$1,503.00
Total.....	\$5,614.00

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

# Liturgical *Minister Schedule*

## SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

### NOTE:

**\*\* Please be in Church no later than 6:20PM**

**## Please be in Church no later than 7:20PM**

**@@ Altar Servers, please be in Church 20 minutes before Mass**



### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Thursday	April 2	7:00PM	B. Cuozzo	M. Torres
##Saturday	April 4	8:00PM	M. Balint	D. Mazzarella
Sunday	April 5	8:30AM	A. and D. Anderson S. Gadowski	
		11:30AM	M. Amuzie B. Sorbanelli	L. Palasits



### READERS

Thursday	April 2	7:00PM	J. Baszak	E. Perlas
Friday	April 3	3:00PM	V. Clarke	V. Ruskai
##Saturday	April 4	8:00PM	J. Dizon A. Kripaitis G. Onukwugha L. Quiray	M. Dotegowski C. Mazzarella G. C. Onukwugha M. Trebour
Sunday	April 5	8:30AM	V. Clarke	
		11:30AM	C. Amuzie	

### ALTAR SERVERS

**Thursday	April 2	7:00PM	A. Boelhower Q. Valdez Al. Weiman C., C., and C. Onukwugha	B. Banko A. Weiman
Friday	April 3	3:00PM	B. Banko A. Weiman	Q. Valdez
##Saturday	April 4	8:00PM	B. Banko C., C., and C. Onukwugha	Al. Weiman
@@Sunday	April 5	8:30AM	Q. Valdez	
		11:30AM	F. Calabrese	



## This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

### Monday, March 30

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Bingo	12:00PM	Father Milos Hall (Doors open at 10:30AM)
Level 1 First Penance and Level 2 Communion	6:20PM	Church

### Tuesday, March 31

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Chrism Mass	4:00PM	St. Francis Cathedral
Youth Choir	4:30PM	Church
Adult Choir	6:30PM	Church
AA	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

### Wednesday, April 1

Mass	7:30AM	Church
Confession	8:00AM	Church

### Thursday, April 2

Morning Prayer	9:00AM	St. James Church
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00PM	Church
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00PM		

### Holy Thursday

### Friday, April 3

Morning Prayer	8:30AM	St. Anthony Church
Stations of the Cross	2:30PM	Church
Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3:00PM	Church

### Good Friday

### Saturday, April 4

Morning Prayer	8:00AM	St. Cecelia Church
Decorating Church	9:00AM	Church
Confessions	9:00 - 10:00AM	Church
Blessing of Food	11:00AM	Father Milos Hall

### Holy Saturday

The Great Easter Vigil	8:00PM	Church
------------------------	--------	--------

### Sunday, April 5

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

### Easter Sunday

## This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

### Monday, March 30

NA 11:00AM Basement

### Tuesday, March 31

NA 11:00AM Basement

### Wednesday, April 1

NA 11:00AM Basement

### Thursday, April 2

NA 11:00AM Basement

### Friday, April 3

NA 11:00AM Basement

### Saturday, April 4

Blessing of Food 12:00AM Church

### Sunday, April 5

Mass 10:00AM Church  
Reader: M. Poos

