

**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**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**AND THEN**  
**EVERYTHING**  
**CHANGED**

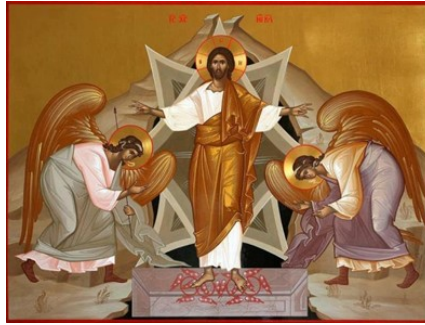


**Easter Sunday**

**April 20, 2025**



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



**Christos Anesti! (Christ is risen!)**  
**Alithos Anesti! (He has risen indeed!)**

In the liturgical and social lives of the early Christians, the Easter greeting above was given and responded to repeatedly because Easter is everything for a Christian. Without Easter, there is no life and there is no faith. There is no salvation without Easter. The joy of Easter is received and lived in the measure that we received and lived the virtues of Lent. That is, we allowed the Lord to convert our lives, purify our hearts and elevate our souls through His suffering and death. Then, we are exalted with Him in His resurrection. Easter is characterized, above all, by the joy of the glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Church: **Alleluia!** Because of this gift of God, we proudly and loudly say **“we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.”** Easter gives meaning to our faith and sets Christians apart from all other religions, philosophies and ideologies. Saint Paul, writing in his first letter to the Corinthians, says “but if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead? **If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith**” (1 Corinthians 15:12-14). Our Christian faith is not simply about gathering in love or taking care of the poor or receiving blessings from God, great as these are. Christianity is primarily about faith in Christ Jesus our Lord who rose again from the death so that we might have life. It is this faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus that enriches our live and makes us ready and able to do great things for the kingdom of God.

The word “Easter” comes from Old English, meaning simply the “East” or “towards the East.” The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the Risen Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle which is blessed at the Easter Vigil and used throughout the Easter Season is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time and is also lit at liturgical celebrations such as baptisms and funerals throughout the year.

The Easter Vigil is the “Mother of All Vigils” and Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays. Every Sunday is, therefore, called a **“little Easter”** because we gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. It is also for this reason that we have the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days. Easter Sunday is such a great reality that it is celebrated for eight days, which we call the **Easter Octave**. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the day. It ends on the Second Sunday of Easter, also called Divine Mercy Sunday. The season of Easter, which is the most important of all liturgical times, is celebrated from Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection from the dead, through His Ascension to the Father and ends with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Church on Pentecost Sunday. In all, there are fifty days in the Easter Season.

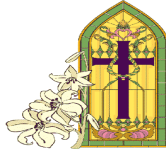
The reality of our faith is that even after the great Resurrection has occurred, we continue to live in a sort of spiritual tension. We believe that Jesus rose from the dead and that we, too, will one day be resurrected. Nevertheless, life continues, people suffer, the answers we seek do not come, and Jesus our Lord and savior seems nowhere to be found. Sometimes it feels as if God has abandoned us. It is in moments like this that we remember that Christ died and rose again for us. **Because He lives, we can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone. Because we know He holds our future. Our lives are worth living, because He lives.** Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!!

A very Happy Easter to you all.





## *An Easter Prayer*



Glory and praise to You, Risen Savior, for you bring light to our darkness, joy to our sorrow, and the fullness of love to our reluctant hearts.

Once and for all You have conquered sin and evil. In the glory of Your Resurrection we have been set free from all that keeps us from following You.

On this Easter Day, fill our hearts with Your Light and Grace that we might joyfully echo the words of Your Holy angels:

*He is not here in the tomb:*

*He is risen!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Amen



## **PASCHAL CANDLE**

at

### **Saint Anthony of Padua**

*In loving memory of our Nana,  
Eleanor Pagliuca*

and

*God's continued blessings of health  
for our Grandy, Theresa Seibert*

*Love, great grandchildren  
Nico, Olivia, and Giovanni*



Saint Anthony's parish confirmation candidates and other parish children perform the Living Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 4.

Thank you to Mary Balint and Carol Fischer for coordinating the event.  
Photos taken by Jay Barcellona and Chris Mazzarella.



## 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.

## Mass Intentions

### at Saint Anthony of Padua Church

**Morning Prayer** - begins 20 minutes before weekday Mass

<b>Monday</b> 9:00AM	<b>April 21</b> Claire Curran Miloscia on her birthday in Heaven Requested by daughter, Colleen and Jay Barcellona
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:30AM	<b>April 22</b> Respect Life
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:30AM	<b>April 23</b> Vincent R. Martino on his 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary in Heaven Requested by his loving wife, Rose
<b>Thursday</b> 7:30AM	<b>April 24</b> The Imbistone family Requested by Loretta Napoli
<b>Friday</b> 7:30AM	<b>April 25</b> Viola Mayer Requested by her loving daughter, Amy Krapf
<b>Saturday</b> 4:00PM	<b>April 26</b> In Thanksgiving for our 57 <sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary - Larry and Gail Golden Requested their loving family
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30AM 11:30AM	<b>April 27</b> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i> People of the parish family Alfred Russo 4 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Requested by his loving wife, Pat and children

### at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

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

<b>Saturday</b> 8:30AM	<b>April 26</b> Glen Bernabe Requested by Rowena Bernabe and family
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00AM	<b>April 27</b> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i> John Moricz Requested by Sandor and Margit Csigo



April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday

## This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Psalms 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 OR 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 John 20:1-9 OR 41: Luke 24:1-12
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Psalms 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41 Psalms 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 John 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10 Psalms 105:1-4, 6-9 Luke 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26 Psalms 8:2a, 5-9 Luke 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12 Psalms 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a John 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21 Psalms 118:1, 14-15b, 16-21 Mark 16:9-15
Sunday:	Acts 5:12-16 Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 John 20:19-31



## Parish Office Hours

Monday	8:30AM - 3:00PM
Tuesday	8:30AM - 3:00PM
Wednesday	8:30AM - 3:00PM
Thursday	8:30AM - 3:00PM

**Office is CLOSED on Fridays**

## LIVESTREAM EVENTS from SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH

**Weekend Mass** Sunday: 11:30AM

**Daily Mass** Monday through Friday: 7:30AM

Visit [www.saintanthonyofpadua.org](http://www.saintanthonyofpadua.org)

Click on the YouTube link



**CONTACTS:** [www.saintanthonyofpadua.org](http://www.saintanthonyofpadua.org)  
We're on FACEBOOK, come and check us out!

<b>Pastor:</b>	<a href="mailto:pastorofstAnthonypr@gmail.com">pastorofstAnthonypr@gmail.com</a>
<b>Office:</b>	<a href="mailto:info.StAnthony1@gmail.com">info.StAnthony1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Religious Education:</b>	<a href="mailto:religioused.StAnthony1@gmail.com">religioused.StAnthony1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bulletin:</b>	<a href="mailto:bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com">bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com</a>
<b>Food Pantry:</b>	<a href="mailto:info.StAnthony1@gmail.com">info.StAnthony1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Study Hall:</b>	<a href="mailto:studyhalloffice@gmail.com">studyhalloffice@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:studyhalldirector@gmail.com">studyhalldirector@gmail.com</a>





## 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 Vincent R. Martino  
Requested by his brother, Marty and Patricia Martino

### GOOD SHEPHERD

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

In loving memory of my husband, Harmon Bensco  
on our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
Requested by his loving wife,  
Catherine LaRocca Bensco

### CROSS OF SAN DOMIANO

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

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

## ***Celebration of Divine Mercy***

*The Second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday, and the Church celebrates the Mercy of God that has been given to us through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Our Lord appeared to the Polish nun, Saint Faustina, and asked her to share with the whole church the devotion to His Divine Mercy.*

*Please join us next Sunday  
to celebrate God's mercy.*

*The blessed Sacrament will be exposed  
for adoration after the 11:30am Mass.*

*At 3:00pm, the Hour of Mercy,  
we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet  
and end with Benediction.*

*Jesus, I trust in You.*



## **Pope Francis' Intention for April:**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



## ***PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS***

April 21	Reverend Ariel Bautista, Jr. Reverend John Primich
April 22	Reverend John Fredy Triana-Beltran Reverend Paul Michalowski
April 23	Reverend Edward Czarcinski Very Reverend Ronald Jandemoa
April 24	Reverend Abraham Lotha Reverend Peter Akanath Chakkunny
April 25	Monsignor Charles Cicerale Reverend Robert Gorman
April 26	Reverend Timothy Eck Reverend James Considine
April 27	Reverend Deniskingsley Nwagwu Reverend James Hagerman



## ***Pray ...***

**for our parishioners residing in nursing homes and care centers, the sick and homebound, especially:**

Anonymous request, Rhonda Baumann, John Carpenito, Lucille Carpenito, Alyssa Dohanyos, John Dohanyos, Mark Emanuele, Frank Fernandez, Larry Golden, Kim Hickman, Keeba Johnson, Lynn Killmurray, Heather Marrone Fabio, Robert Joseph Meade IV, Millie Sutphen

***Pray for Peace!***



## SPRING CLEANING?

Saint Anthony's will be conducting our annual Spring Clothing Drive



We are collecting:  
Wearable and Useable Clothing,  
Shoes, Belts, Hats, Scarves,  
Gloves, Handbags,  
Linens (bedding, curtains, towels),  
Stuffed animals

**Place ALL ITEMS in TIGHTLY TIED  
PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS  
ready for pick-up.**

### **DROP-OFF DATES:**

You may drop-off bags at the  
parish office (during office hours)  
or in the narthex from

**Monday, April 28  
through  
Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

## *In Our Diocese*

### Surviving Divorce Program

For men and women seeking healing from separation or divorce. This 8-week program, while based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel, and clarity after a divorce. Meetings will be held on:

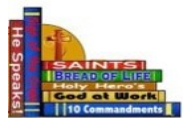
Wednesdays 6:30PM – 8:00PM  
beginning April 23, 2025

at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center  
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ.

For more information or to register contact  
Rachelle Hanna at [rachelle.hanna@gmail.com](mailto:rachelle.hanna@gmail.com).

*The parish office and Study Hall  
will be closed Monday, April 21.*

*We wish you a Blessed  
and  
Happy Easter.*



**FAITH FORMATION  
G.I.F.T. and Sacramental Preparation  
Programs for 2024-2025**

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**LEVEL ONE and Level Two  
FIRST CONFIRMATION  
Monday, April 28 at 6:30PM**

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**FIRST PENANCE  
Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30PM**

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**First Communion Rehearsals  
Tuesday, April 29 at 5:45PM  
Thursday, May 1 at 6:30PM**

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**G.I.F.T. Monday, May 5**

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

*Due to earlier submission of the bulletin, the weekly  
donations will be posted at a later date.*

## *Stewardship*

*"...He went about doing good and healing all those  
oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."  
Acts 10:38*

We can't give what we don't have. Open your heart to receive God's love, mercy, and forgiveness. Then, show the same to others. As God's adopted sons and daughters, we are made in His image and likeness. As Pope Benedict XVI says, "we are made for greatness." Let our lives reflect His light to others. Pray to live a grateful and generous life. Strive for greatness! We are made for more! We are made for God!

## *This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua*

### Monday, April 21

Study Hall	CLOSED	
Parish Office	CLOSED	
<b>Mass</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Bingo	12:00PM	Father Milos Hall
(Doors open at 10:30AM)		

### Tuesday, April 22

Study Hall	6:30AM	Father Milos Hall
<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
AA	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

### Wednesday, April 23

Study Hall	6:30AM	Father Milos Hall
<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>

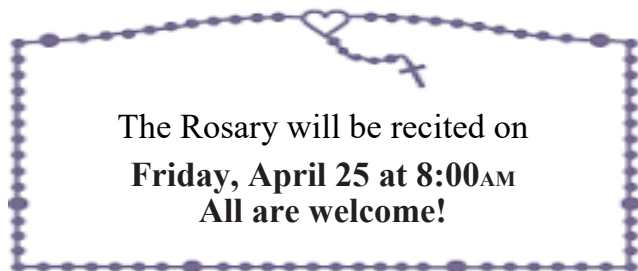
### Thursday, April 24

Study Hall	6:30AM	Father Milos Hall
<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
Eucharistic Adoration	2:30PM	Chapel
Chaplet/Rosary	3:00PM	Chapel
AA	8:00PM	Father Milos Hall



### Friday, April 25

Study Hall	6:30AM	Father Milos Hall
<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
Rosary	8:00AM	Church



### Saturday, April 26

Confession	3:00PM	Church
<b>Mass</b>	<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>Church</b>
NA	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

### Sunday, April 27 Divine Mercy Sunday

<b>Mass</b>	<b>8:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Mass/Baptism</b>	<b>11:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament following 11:30 Mass</b>		
<b>Hour of Mercy—Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction</b>		
	<b>3:00PM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
AA	7:00PM	Father Milos Hall

## Rice Bowl



As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. **Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl in the Narthex, or bring to the parish office before May 1 or donate online at [crsricebowl.org/donate](http://crsricebowl.org/donate).**

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

### Monday, April 21

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Tuesday, April 22

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Wednesday, April 23

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Thursday, April 24

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Friday, April 25

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Saturday, April 26

<b>Mass</b>	<b>8:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
Confession	9:00AM	Church

### Sunday, April 27 Divine Mercy Sunday

<b>Mass</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
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## *Liturgical Minister Schedule*

### *at Saint Anthony of Padua*

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday	April 26	4:00PM	J. Barcellona R. Masters D. Scharff
Sunday	April 27	8:30AM	C. and E. Weiman D. Mazzarella
		11:30AM	B. Cuzzo G. Grispart B. McCauley

#### READERS

Saturday	April 26	4:00PM	C. Barcellona
Sunday	April 27	8:30AM	C. Mazzarella
		11:30AM	J. Baszak

#### SERVERS

Sunday	April 27	8:30AM	A. and A. Weiman
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### *at Our Lady of Mount Carmel*

#### READER

Sunday	April 27	10:00AM	C. Torres
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## FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

### **The next Food Pantry Collection May 3 and 4**

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.**