



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



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth." - Jn 14:16-17a

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

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

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 and August)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

LOVE GOD AND DO AS YOU WILL FREEDOM AND COMMANDMENTS

Dear brothers and sisters,

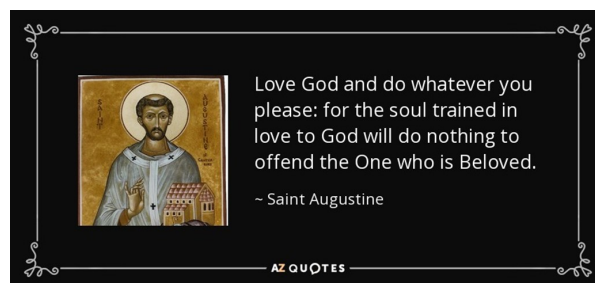
The Paschal Mystery (that is, the suffering, death and resurrection) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ freed us from sin and death. **Freedom is God's perfect gift to all who are baptized in Christ.** In the Gospel for this Sixth Sunday of Easter our Lord Jesus says, 'if you love me, keep my commandments' (John 14:15). Our modern western culture often struggles to reconcile freedom and commandments. The law is seen as a limit or restriction on personal freedom. We want to do whatever we want, whenever we want and wherever we want. Freedom is often exaggerated to the point that it becomes a vice. The result is that we are unable to acquire the humility and dependence on the will of God that helps us to grow in the fruits of the Holy Spirit. For us Christians, especially in our Catholic theology, **there is a difference between freedom and license.** God created us with freewill. But freedom is not about self-autonomy. It is about detachment from the "world." The important questions for us are, **"am I free to do God's will? Am I free to be a saint?"**

The Book of Exodus, chapter twenty, tells us that after God freed His people from slavery in Egypt, He gave them the Ten Commandments. This was not to restrict their newly gained freedom, but to ensure their well-being. Now that they were out there on their own, God was giving them the Way of Life that would govern their lives. **The Law of God, the Commandments of Christ and the Teachings of the Church are not meant to restrict our freedom. They give us the freedom to live as God's sons and daughters.** Walking always according to the will of our heavenly Father.

Reflecting on this theme, we consider St. Augustine's famous statement, "Love and do as you will." At first glance, this statement might seem like an endorsement of an unrestrained way of life. Indeed, some people have misunderstood and misinterpreted this statement. However, St. Augustine's wisdom means that, if we truly love God as His sons and daughters, we will never want to disobey or offend the one we love and who loves us even more. We will "do as we will," because our actions will always be to the glory of our loving and merciful Father. When our hearts are guided by authentic love, our choices will align with God's will. Our freedom will not be about self-indulgence, but about harmony with God's law and the well-being of others. **"Love and do as you will" is, therefore, an invitation to an interior transformation, where love becomes the guiding principle of all our decisions, ensuring that our freedom leads us closer to true happiness and away from selfishness or harm.**

How do we come to know God's Commandments and how will we have the strength to keep them? After inviting His disciples to keep His Commandments, our Lord Jesus says, "and I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always" (John 14:16). Here is another important spiritual principle of our Christian life. Relying on our strength alone, we cannot keep God's Commandments. Our Lord Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will lead His Church in the way of truth. The hardest part about keeping God's Commandments is the humility required. **The Law of God, the Commandments of our Lord Jesus and the Teachings of His Church help to humble our selfish pride, build up our virtue and perfect our Love of God and our neighbors.** The more we know the law of God and His Church and the more we seek to conform our life to it, the freer and happier we will be.

Let us constantly seek the help of the Holy Spirit so that we will live in the freedom of the children of God.



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 May 9
4:00PM Living and deceased mothers

Sunday May 10 *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
8:30AM Living and deceased mothers
11:30AM Living and deceased mothers



Monday May 11
7:30AM In Thanksgiving (living Mass)
Father Cyril Offiong, S.D.V.
Requested by Linda Marie Marmora

Tuesday May 12 *Saint Nereus, Saint Achilleus, Saint Pancras*
7:30AM John T. Carpenito
Requested by Frank and Grace Despoto

Wednesday May 13 *Our Lady of Fatima*
7:30AM Bernard Curran
Happy 92nd birthday in Heaven
Requested by his loving daughter, Colleen Barcellona and family

Thursday May 14 *Ascension of the Lord, Saint Matthias*
7:30AM Attilio and Maria Rotili
Requested by Jean and Charlie

Friday May 15 *Saint Isidore*
7:30AM Bill Cleary (healing Mass)
Requested by Kathryn Korin

Saturday May 16 *Armed Forces Day*
4:00PM Jeff Huber
Requested by Mom, Dad, Stacy, Kerri, and Karli

Sunday May 17 *Ascension of the Lord*
8:30AM Tyke G. Mojica (birthday)
Requested by his loving family
11:30AM Olena Rusyn
Requested by Kathie and Chuck Rusyn

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

Saturday May 9
8:30AM Imre Jim Herzeg, Jr.
Requested by his loving mother, Maria and family

Sunday May 10 *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
10:00AM Living and deceased mothers

Saturday May 16 *Armed Forces Day*
8:30AM Angelica Bonus (living)
birthday blessings
Requested by Mom, Ermy Bonus

Sunday May 17 *Ascension of the Lord*
10:00AM People of the parish family

This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20
1Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

Monday: Acts 16:11-15
Psalms 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b
John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34
Psalms 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8
John 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Psalms 148:1-2, 11-12, 13-14
John 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Psalms 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
John 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 18:9-18
Psalms 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
John 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28
Psalms 47:2-3, 8-9, 10
John 16:23b-28

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11
Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20





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 wife, Janice Ciardiello
Requested by her loving husband, Sal

In loving memory of my father Bernard Curran
on his 92nd birthday in Heaven - Happy Birthday
Requested by his loving daughter,
Colleen Barcellona and family

In loving memory of my husband, Herb Sullivan on his
7th anniversary in Heaven, May 11
Requested by his loving wife, Bette and his children,
Kim, Kathy, and Neil

GOOD SHEPHERD

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

In loving memory of my mother, Phyllis Matchko
Requested by her loving daughters, Angela and Michelle

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



During the month of May, in addition to altar flowers, donations are also accepted in honor of the Blessed Mother (church) and Mary, Mother of Comfort (narthex).

If you have a special intention and would like to donate a flower arrangement, contact the parish office.



PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

May 10	Our Holy Father
May 11	Monsignor Joseph Kerrigan Reverend Jeffrey Calia
May 12	Reverend Keith Cervine Reverend Zenon Bochnak
May 13	All Priests Reverend John Zec
May 14	Our Holy Father Monsignor Sylvester Cronin
May 15	Reverend James Hagerman Reverend Leon Aniszczyk
May 16	Monsignor John Fell Reverend Pauly Thekkan
May 17	Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkowski

Stewardship

“For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.” 1 Peter 3:17

The old line says “If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don’t get the result that was intended or an unforeseen problems arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, “Why me? I did everything right!” Here’s the thing—adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you. .

*6th Sunday
OF EASTER*



“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you.”

-Jn 14:15-17



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

Our goal is \$24,000. As of May 1, we have received a total donation of \$19,815.25.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FEAST DAY 50/50 RAFFLE

Supports the small Parish Projects

\$10.00 A TICKET

OR

\$40.00 A BOOK (5 TICKETS)

NEW FOR THIS YEAR!



FIRST PRIZE 25%
SECOND PRIZE 15%
THIRD PRIZE 10%
OF TOTAL PROCEEDS



The more tickets sold, the bigger the prize!!!
Your support is appreciated in any way.

DRAWING - SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026 - 5:30PM

Winners need not be present. Winners will be notified by phone and published in parish bulletin.
Winners are responsible for all taxes.

Make Checks Payable: St. Anthony of Padua Church

Mail with payment: St. Anthony of Padua Church
436 Port Reading Avenue
Port Reading, NJ, 07064

For additional tickets or for any questions,
Please contact the parish office 732-634-1403.

RL# 2026-37

Federal Identification #22-3075617

SAVE THE DATE

CORPUS CHRISTI 2026 PROCESSION

SUNDAY JUNE 7, 12:30PM

(AFTER THE 11:30AM MASS)





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

Level One First Penance

Monday, May 11 at 6:20pm - Session

Saturday, May 16 at 10:00am - First Penance

Level Two First Communion

Monday, May 11 at 6:20pm

Get-together the journey continues

Level One Confirmation

Monday, May 18 at 6:30pm - Session

Level Two Confirmation

Monday, May 18 at 6:30pm

Final Review/Pastor's interview

Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30pm

Confirmation Rehearsal

Thursday, May 28 at 5:00pm Confirmation Mass

2026 Mass Book

As of May 1, the following upcoming Masses are available if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Friday	June	5	7:30am
Wednesday	June	10	7:30am
Thursday	June	11	7:30am
Saturday	June	13	8:30am OLMC
Monday	June	15	7:30am
Tuesday	June	23	7:30am
Thursday	June	25	7:30am
Friday	June	26	7:30am
Saturday	June	27	8:30am OLMC
Monday	July	6	7:30am
Thursday	July	9	7:30am

Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403



Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

Sunday, May 3, 2026

In-person donations.....	\$4,869.00
On-line donations.....	\$1,535.00
Total.....	\$6,404.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

BABY

in Bloom

A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO CELEBRATE MOTHERHOOD AND NEW LIFE

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Join us for a joyful day of support, community, and celebration for you and your little one!

SAINT FRANCIS CATHEDRAL
548 Main Street
Metuchen, New Jersey

MAY 30TH
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

EVERY ATTENDEE WILL RECEIVE
Baby Essentials!

SPONSORED BY THE PIONEER VOLUNTEER

FREE EVENT

Limited to 100 Women
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND

This event is for:

- PREGNANT MOMS
- MOMS WITH BABIES 0 TO 2 YEARS OLD
- FREE RAFFLE Great prizes!
- DELICIOUS FOOD Will be served
- SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT & COMMUNITY You are not alone!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Life Choices RC, Metuchen

Registration is required. Limited to 100 women. Scan the QR code or email ThePioneerVolunteer@gmail.com

Reserve Your Spot Today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL ThePioneerVolunteer@gmail.com

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MARY IS THE MOTHER WHO WATCHES OVER US, HER CHILDREN, ON OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE, OFTEN WEARY AND IN NEED, ANXIOUS THAT THE LIGHT OF HOPE NOT FAIL.

CHRISTUS VIVIT, NO. 48

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, May 11

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

Tuesday, May 12

Mass 7:30AM Chapel
 Youth Choir 4:30PM Church
 Adult Choir 6:30PM Church

Wednesday, May 13

Mass 7:30AM Chapel

Thursday, May 14

Mass 7:30AM Church
 Eucharist Adoration 2:30PM - 6:00PM Chapel
 Chaplet/Rosary 3:00PM Chapel

Friday, May 15

Mass 7:30AM Church

Saturday, May 16

First Penance 10:00AM Church
 Confession 3:00PM Church
Mass 4:00PM Church

Sunday, May 17

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

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saturday, May 16

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

Sunday, May 17

Mass 10:00AM Church

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

The next Food Pantry Distribution May 20

ITEMS MOST NEEDED ARE:

CANNED CARROTS RICE
 PEANUT BUTTER JELLY
 CANNED MEATS PORK & BEANS
 CANNED FRUITS TOMATO SAUCE
 PANCAKE SYRUP PANCAKE MIX

We will always accept toiletry and household items such as bodywash, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, laundry detergent, and dish detergent. Monetary donations are also accepted.

If you know someone who needs assistance, contact the parish office 732-634-1403 or email:

info.StAnthony1@gmail.com.

Liturgical Minister Schedule

Saint Anthony of Padua

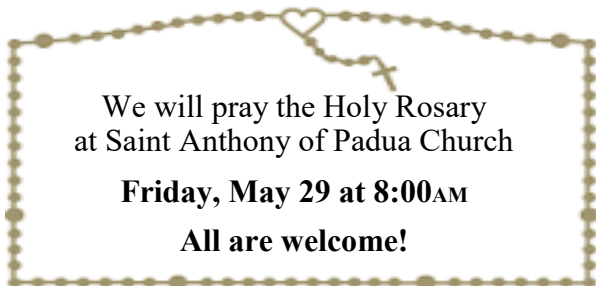
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday	May 16	4:00PM	M. Balian R. Masters D. Scharff
Sunday	May 17	8:30AM	A. and D. Anderson D. Mazzarella
		11:30AM	M. Amuzie B. Cuzzo L. Palasits
<u>READERS</u>			
Saturday	May 16	4:00PM	C. Smith
Sunday	May 17	8:30AM	C. Mazzarella
		11:30AM	J. Baszak
<u>SERVERS</u>			
Saturday	May 16	4:00PM	B. Banko
Sunday	May 17	8:30AM	C. C. and C. Onukwugha
		11:30AM	A. Boelhower

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

READER

Sunday May 17 10:00AM G. Clarke



Pray ...

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

Cristino E. Abasolo III, Anonymous, Nancy C. Bunavage, Lucille Carpenito, John Campion, Justin Carpentieri, Jean Dean, Steven DeNoyelles, Beth Dispo, 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, Rami Shehadek, 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.