



The Parish Family of Saint Anthony of Padua



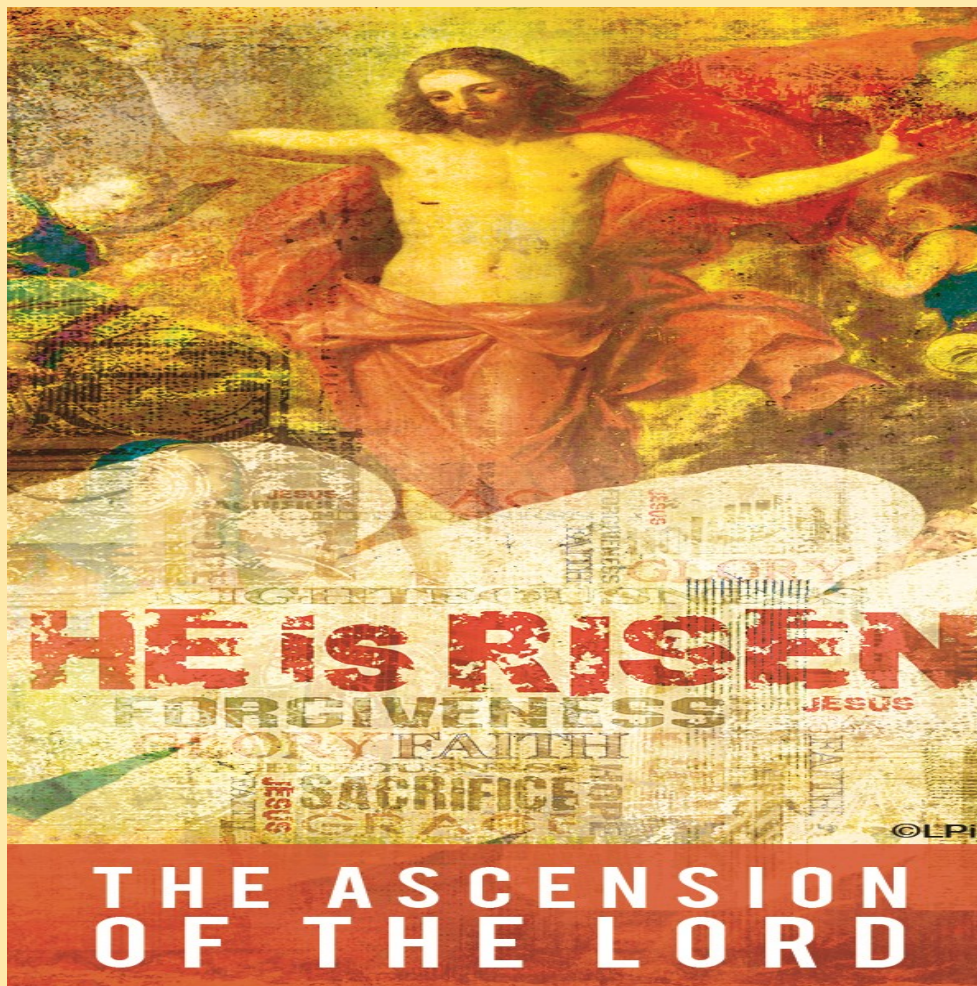
Parish Office: 436 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading, New Jersey 07064
Phone: 732-634-1403 • www.saintanthonypadua.org

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



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

Pastor: EMAIL: pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com
Office / Food Pantry: info.stanthony1@gmail.com
Religious Education: religious.ed.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)

Ascension of the Lord

May 17, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

WHERE THE HEAD HAS GONE, THE BODY HOPE TO FOLLOW

‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God’ (John 20:17)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Six weeks ago, we celebrated the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from the dead. This is the most singular event that changed the world and human destiny. This Sunday, we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord back to the Father. **The Ascension of the Lord is not simply His departure from this world. It is His enthronement back to the right hand of the Father.** Our Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh, ascended back to heaven and united our human nature with the Divine Godhead. There, He makes intercession for us (See Romans 8:34). Because of His Ascension, we are confident that our prayers can and do reach the heart of God. The Ascension completes the mission and redemptive work of our Lord Jesus.

St. Matthew’s Gospel does not have the actual account of the Ascension of the Lord. We only find a hint with our Lord Jesus summoning His apostles to a mountain, signifying an elevation from the regular level ground. From there He commissioned them to go and preach the Goodnews (see Matthew 28:16-20). The Gospel of St. Mark says that ‘the Lord Jesus, after He spoke to them, was **taken up into heaven** and took His seat at the right hand of God’ (Mark 16:19). St. Luke’s Gospel reads that ‘as He blessed them **He parted from them and was taken up to heaven**’ (Luke 24:51). The Acts of the Apostles (ALSO written by St. Luke) says that ‘when He had said this, as they were looking on, **He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight**’ (Acts 1:9). All these accounts give a directional description of the Ascension of our Lord, with the language of **up and above**. Over the years, this has evoked the idea that heaven is **up, beyond the sky**, and most of us have grown up with the understanding of heaven as a physical structural place.

The images of “up” or “above,” is to be understood in a metaphorical or spiritual sense. This means that heaven is a reality that is higher, exalted, and separate from our earthly existence. Heaven is not a specific physical location in the sky. Heaven, God’s dwelling place, is beyond and above space, time, and matter. In other words, it is not a place, it has no origin and it has no structure. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, teaches that **‘heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. To live in heaven is “to be with Christ”** (CCC 1024-1025). A proper understanding of heaven, helps us to desire to live spiritual, righteous, and holy lives, so that, having lived in union with Christ here on earth, we will be united with Him in heaven.

Every year, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord as a reminder that where Christ our head has gone, we the members of His Body, the Church hope to be. We are also reminded that the mission of Christ in the world, now continues in us, as we carry His message forward, not only in words, but in action. The Ascension of the Lord lifts up our hearts and minds above our earthly joys and sorrows, our concerns and affections, our desires and disappointments. **Having ascended back to heaven, our Lord Jesus still remains with us always, in the scriptures, in the sacraments and in the joy of the Holy Spirit.** He will return again and take us to Himself. As we await the glorious coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, may He find us worthy of His heavenly kingdom.

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

Sunday 8:30AM **May 17** *Ascension of the Lord*
Tyke G. Mojica
Requested by his loving family

11:30AM Olena Rusyn
Requested by Kathie and Chuck Rusyn

Monday 7:30AM **May 18** *Saint John I, Pope*
John T. Carpenito
Requested by Michelle and Ashley Dispoto

Tuesday 7:30AM **May 19**
Richie Simeone
Requested by his loving wife, Adrienne

Wednesday 7:30AM **May 20** *Saint Bernadine of Siena*
Thomas J. Farrell
Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke

Thursday 7:30AM **May 21** *Saint Christopher Magallanes*
Respect for Life at all stages

Friday 7:30AM **May 22** *Saint Rita of Cascia*
George Seibert
Requested by daughter, Holly and John

Saturday 4:00PM **May 23**
Palma DiMeo
Requested by the DiMeo family

Sunday 8:30AM **May 24** *Pentecost Sunday*
People of the parish family

11:30AM Lynn Roth
Requested by her best friend, Lori Tulko

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

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

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

Saturday 8:30AM **May 23**
Agnes Cagayan
Requested by Ray and Cherie Gumapac

Sunday 10:00AM **May 24** *Pentecost Sunday*
Mauricio and Amparo Canada
Requested by Cheri and Ray Gumapac

This Week's Scripture Readings

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

Monday: Acts 19:1-8
Psalms 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab
John 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27
Psalms 68:10-11, 20-21
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38
Psalms 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab
John 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Psalms 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
John 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21
Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab
John 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Psalms 11:4, 5, 7
John 21:20-25

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11
Psalms 104:1, 24, 229-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23



Altar Flowers
at Saint Anthony of Padua Church
are donated in loving memory of my husband,
George Marrone

Requested by
his loving wife, MaryAnn





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 Tyke G. Mojica
Requested by his loving family

In loving memory of my loving husband,
George Marrone Happy birthday in Heaven
Requested by MaryAnn Marrone

Happy Heavenly Dad, George Seibert
Requested by his loving family

GOOD SHEPHERD

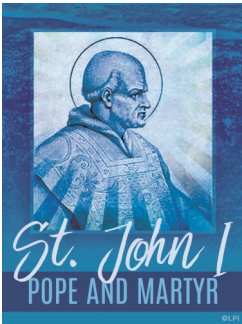
In loving memory of Gordon and Ann Ur,
John Patrick and Owen
Requested by their loving family

CROSS OF SAN DOMIANO

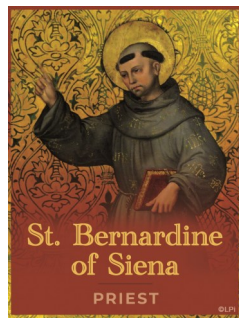
In loving memory of Carmen, Eleanor,
and Jeffrey Pagliuca
Requested by their loving family

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

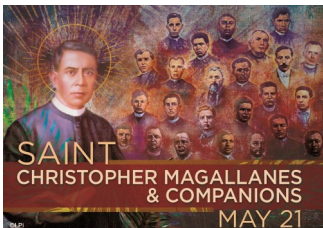
Did you know the feast days for this week are...



May 18



May 20



May 17



World Communications Day

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

May 18	Reverend John O’Kane Reverend John Kattattu Chacko
May 19	Reverend Thomas Ryan Reverend Alvaro Palacios Arregui
May 20	Monsignor William Benwell Reverend Michael J. Bihuniak
May 21	Reverend John Sicheloff Monsignor Andrew Szaroleta
May 22	Reverend Charles O’Connor Reverend Lancelot McGrath
May 23	Reverend Tholitho Very Reverend Brian Nolan
May 24	Reverend Edward Struzik Reverend Robert Lynam

Stewardship

“I am praying for them...” John 17:9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don’t treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.



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.



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

Our goal is \$24,000. As of May 8, we have received a total donation of \$20,650.25.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FEAST DAY 50/50 RAFFLE

Supports the small Parish Projects

NEW FOR THIS YEAR!



\$10.00 A TICKET

\$40.00 A BOOK (5 TICKETS)

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 will be notified by phone and published in parish bulletin.
Winners need not be present. 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

Please contact the parish office at 732-634-1403 for questions or additional tickets.

RL# 2026-37

Federal Identification #22-3075617

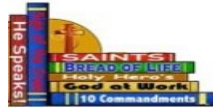
SAVE THE DATE

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 Confirmation
Monday, May 18 at 6:30pm - Regular 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**

FAITH FORMATION

Registration and Family Meeting

On Wednesday, June 10, at 6:30pm, we will have a parent/guardian Faith Formation meeting. Fr. Cyril will review the guidelines and expectations for the 2026-2027 Growing In Faith Together and Sacramental Preparation Process to assist families in making decisions for the coming catechetical year.

The meeting is for families with children entering first grade in September and those with children beginning grades 2 – 8. New families who wish to enroll in our Faith Formation process are also welcome to attend the meeting.

Registration forms will be distributed at this time.



Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

Sunday, May 10, 2026

In-person donations.....\$4,850.00
On-line donations.....\$1,500.00
Total..... \$6,350.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

2026 Mass Book

As of May 12, the following upcoming Masses are available if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Monday	June	15	7:30am
Tuesday	June	23	7:30am
Thursday	June	25	7:30am
Friday	June	26	7:30am
Monday	July	6	7:30am
Thursday	July	9	7:30am
Saturday	July	11	8:30am (OLMC)
Sunday	July	12	10:00am (OLMC)
Monday	July	13	7:30am
Tuesday	July	14	7:30am
Wednesday	July	15	7:30am
Thursday	July	16	7:30am
Friday	July	17	7:30am
Saturday	July	18	8:30am (OLMC)
Monday	July	20	7:30am
Thursday	July	23	7:30am

Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403



**St. Anthony is hosting a
Baby Bottle Blessings**

Campaign for Life Choices RC
Weekend of May 30 & 31



Serving Families since 1985

ALL Services are FREE and Confidential



"Walking with Mom's in Need"

Through your support of our Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign,

Hearts are touched
Lives are changed
and Christ's love is shared

Please scan our QR code or take a bottle or envelope home and return it with your donation by June 7th

Our Babies THANK YOU for your Love and Support!

503 Main Street, Metuchen



This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

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

Wednesday, May 20

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Food Pantry Distribution	10:00AM—12:00PM	Hall
Knights of Columbus	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

Thursday, May 21

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

Friday, May 22

Mass	7:30AM	Church
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Saturday, May 23

Confession	3:00PM	Church
Mass	4:00PM	Church

Sunday, May 24

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

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saturday, May 23

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

Sunday, May 24

Mass	10:00AM	Church
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FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Food 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

at Saint Anthony of Padua

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday	May 23	4:00PM	C. and R. Marney D. Scharff
Sunday	May 24	8:30AM	A. and D. Anderson H. Pagliuca M. Amuzie B. Cuzzo B. Sorbanelli
		11:30AM	

READERS

Saturday	May 23	4:00PM	T. Casey
Sunday	May 24	8:30AM	D. Vitaliano
		11:30AM	C. Amuzie

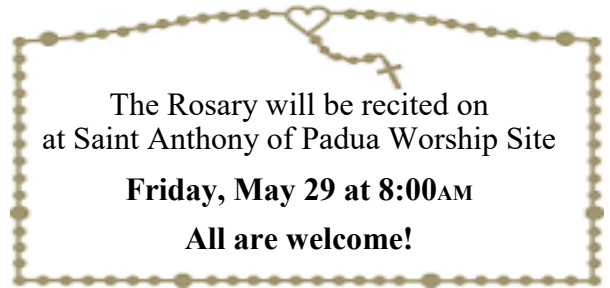
SERVERS

Sunday	May 24	8:30AM	A. and Al. Weiman
		11:30AM	A. Boelhower F. Calabrese

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

READER

Sunday	May 24	10:00AM	E. Bonus
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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 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, 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.