



The Parish Family of
Saint Anthony of Padua
celebrates

The Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi



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



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” - Mt 13:43a

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

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

Pastor:

EMAIL:

pastorofstanthonypa@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	CLOSED during July and August

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

WHY IS EVIL IN THE WORLD?

My dear brothers and sisters,

In the Gospel reading for this Sunday our Lord Jesus tells a parable about God's plan for the world and our human experience. He says that 'the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat and then went off' (Matthew 11:24-25). As I reflected on this parable, I thought about the reality of evil and suffering in our world. At some point, every believer has asked, or will ask: **Why does an all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-good God allow evil in the world?** In philosophy and theology, this is often called "the problem of evil," but it is not merely an academic question. We ask it when we encounter extreme violence, acute poverty, terminal illness, attacks on human life, natural disasters, and many other wounds in our world. The struggle with this question is a reason why many people have abandoned the faith and no longer walk with our Lord Jesus. The Church does not offer any easy answer. Instead, she invites us to bring our sorrow and hope to our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sacred Scripture begins by proclaiming the goodness of creation. The Book of Genesis says that 'God looked at everything He had made and found it very good' (Genesis 1:31). This is what our Lord Jesus points to in the parable when the farmer plants good seed. **Where, then, does evil come from?** Genesis tells us that the devil tempted Adam and Eve to sin against God (Genesis 3:1-7). By turning away from God's will, humanity lost its original harmony with God, and sin and evil entered the world (Romans 5:12). In the parable, the servants ask their master, 'did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answers, 'An enemy has done this' (Matthew 11:27-28). St. Augustine of Hippo teaches that **evil is not a "thing" God created. It is a privation of good. It is a wound, a lack, or a disorder in something meant to be good.** As darkness is the absence of light, evil is the absence or corruption of the good God intends.

In my ministry, I have encountered many people who struggle to believe or have walked away from God altogether. Some of us know this struggle personally, or through loved ones. Why should a little child suffer and die of bone cancer? How can we make sense of innocent people being massacred by a gunman? What about those who have suffered abuse in the Church, in schools, or in other institutions? Therefore, if God does not know, cannot or will not stop these evils, then He is not worthy of worship.

When the servants, in the parable, ask if they should pull up the weeds, the master replies, 'no, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest' (Matthew 11:28-30). We cannot claim to know the mind of God. Still, this passage reminds us that while God does not create or cause evil, He can permit it in ways bound up with His greater plan. God created us for love, and love requires freewill. Freedom can become generosity, mercy, and holiness, but it can also be misused. Sin enters when we turn away from God's will, and wounded freedom affects individuals and the whole human family. **The fullest Catholic answer to evil is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Him, God does not explain suffering from a distance; He comes near. Our Lord Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:35), He knows betrayal and injustice and gives His life on the Cross. From the greatest evil, the crucifixion of His Son, God brings the greatest good: our redemption.**

My dear friends, when we face evil and suffering, may we not despair. Let us try to walk together as disciples of the Lord: to pray, repent, forgive, serve the vulnerable, work for justice, speak with charity, defend life, welcome the stranger, and bring Christ's mercy to wounded places. For those seeking deeper reflection, I recommend **Arise from Darkness by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., and Making Sense Out of Suffering by Dr. Peter Kreeft.**

Lord Jesus, when we see evil and suffering in our world, our nation, our communities, and our own hearts, hold us close to Your Sacred Heart. Help us to believe that Your light shines in the darkness and that the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5). Heal what is divided, comfort those who suffer, convert our sinful hearts, and mold us into instruments of Your love. Amen.

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	July 18 Patricia Sierminski Requested by her loving husband, Ray and family	<i>Saint Camillus de Lellis</i>
Sunday 8:30AM	July 19 Donald and Doris Miller Requested by their family	
11:30AM	People of the parish family	
Monday 7:30AM	July 20 Our mother, Margaret Pannone and sister, Janet Pannone Petrow Requested by Pat Russo and Lorri Casasbianca	<i>Saint Appollinaris</i>
Tuesday 7:30AM	July 21 John Leshko Requested by Stacy Huber	<i>Saint Lawrence of Brindisi</i>
Wednesday 7:30AM	July 22 Respect for life at all stages	<i>Saint Mary Magdalene</i>
Thursday 7:30AM	July 23 Benjamin Dispoto Requested by Lew and Carol Huber	<i>Saint Bridget</i>
Friday 7:30AM	July 24 Donald Keats, Jr. Requested Arlene and Michael Carnevale	<i>Saint Sharbel Makhluf</i>
Saturday 4:00PM	July 25 ChiChi Amuzie Happy birthday and living intention Requested her loving family	<i>Saint James the Apostle</i>
Sunday 8:30AM	July 26 Diana Quaglia Requested by her loving husband and family	
11:30AM	William and Arlene Smith Requested by their loving daughters, Cheryl and Linda	

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

Saturday 8:30AM	July 18 Frank Zoffranierit Requested by Deacon Joey and Beth Perlas and family	<i>Saint</i>
Sunday 10:00AM	July 19 Victor Rabago (Living Mass intention for good health) Requested by the Rabago family	
Saturday 8:30AM	July 25 Frank Zoffanieri Requested by Mina and Edwin Torres	<i>Saint James the Apostle</i>
Sunday 10:00AM	July 26 Victoria R. Decibus (20 th anniversary) Requested by her loving children	

This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Psalms 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Monday: Micah 6:1-4, 6-8
Psalms 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23
Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20
Psalms 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8
Matthew 12:46-50

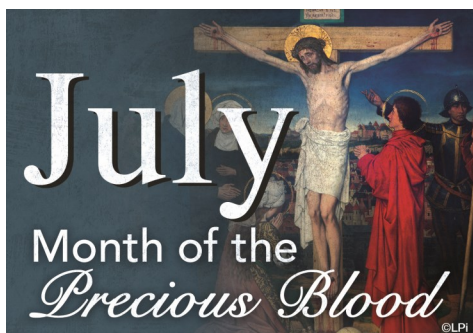
Wednesday: Song of Song 3:1-4b or
2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
John 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday: Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13
Psalms 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11
Matthew 13:10-17

Friday: Jeremiah 3:14-17
Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13
Matthew 13:18-23

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
Psalms 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6
Matthew 20:20-28

Sunday: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46





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 Elly Arneiter on her first birthday in Heaven

Requested by her dear friends,
Cathy Bensco and Sebastian

GOOD SHEPHERD

In loving memory of Gordon and Ann Ur,
John Patrick and Owen

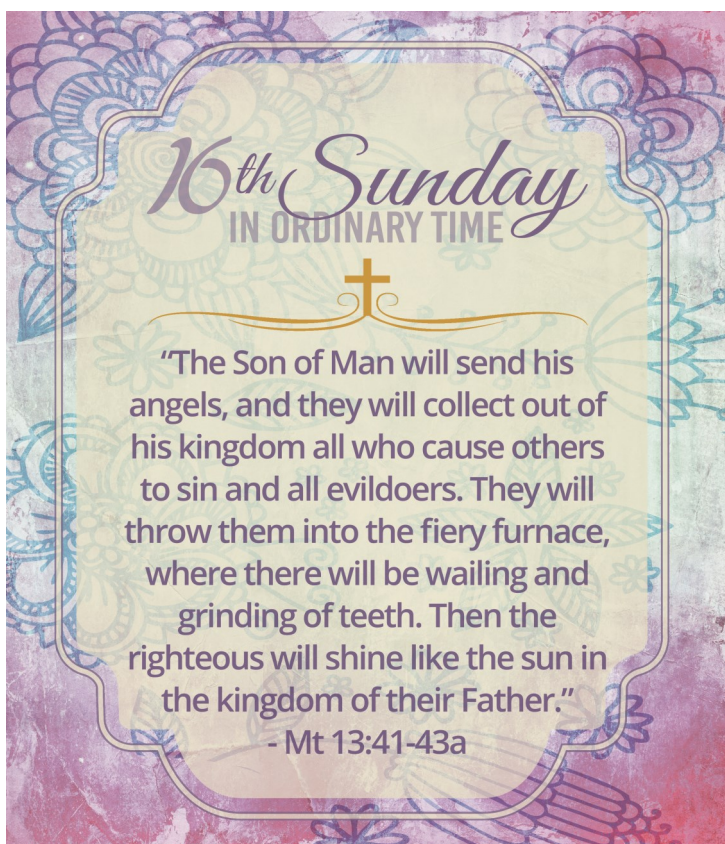
Requested by their loving family

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



Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

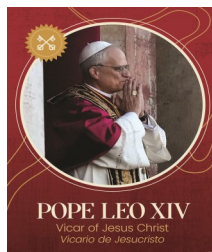
Sunday, July 12, 2026

In-person donations.....\$4,544.00

On-line donations.....\$1,395.00

Total.....\$5,939.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.



For respect for human life.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

July 20	Reverend Charles Sabella Reverend Randy Gamboa-Espinoza
July 21	Reverend Robert Pinnisi Reverend Stanley Gromadzki
July 22	Reverend Damien Breen Reverend James DeFillipps
July 23	Reverend Waldemar Wieladek Reverend Deniskingsley Nwagwu
July 24	Reverend Jose Lim Reverend Jose Lorente
July 25	Reverend David E. Keyes Reverend Michael Crumm
July 26	Monsignor Charles Cicerale Monsignor Eugene Prus



Stewardship

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when fully grown it is the largest of plants." Isaiah 55:10-11

You should never be discouraged by a seeming lack of resources. Your smallest gifts and acts of kindness joined with God can have a great impact.



Summer Service Project

Adopt a "backpack"



During the month of August the parish family is invited to participate in our annual **"Adopt a Backpack Project"**.

This program assists families in preparing their children with school supplies and backpacks as they begin a new school year in September.

The backpacks will be distributed to families of our parish community, Food Pantry, and to the St. Vincent DePaul Society.



Here is how you can help???

In order to get the items needed for each backpack, we are asking you

to purchase one of the suggested items:

Backpack, color (markers or pencils), construction paper, crayons (8 jumbo or 24 count), erasers, gift card (5 Below), glue sticks, highlighters, notebooks (one subject), pencils, pocket folders, ruler, soft pencil case.



This process should allow for a variety of items to fill the



backpacks. Monetary donations will be accepted to purchase these supplies.

Donations may be placed in the narthex from **Monday, July 27 to Sunday, August 16**

Thank you for your generosity and support of our

ADOPT A BACKPACK PROJECT!

2026 Mass Book

As of July 13, the following days are open if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Thursday	August	27	7:30am
Friday	August	28	7:30am
Monday	August	31	7:30am
Tuesday	September	1	7:30am
Wednesday	September	9	7:30am
Thursday	September	10	7:30am
Friday	September	11	7:30am
Saturday	September	12	8:30am (OLMC)
Monday	September	14	7:30am
Thursday	September	17	7:30am
Monday	September	21	7:30am
Saturday	September	26	8:30am (OLMC)



Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403

ST. JAMES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AND CHILD CARE CENTER

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Woodbridge, NJ 07095
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sj-school.org

WE ARE FAMILY!

Educating hearts and minds for over a century in the Sisters of Mercy and Society of Divine Vocations traditions.

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Focused on Excellence.
Guided by Service.

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8TH GRADE
Pre-Algebra Curriculum

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THE MOST ACTIVE HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
in NJ

OPEN ENROLLMENT

PREK TO 8TH GRADE
A Christ-centered education preparing students for high school and beyond.

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18 MONTHS TO 3 YEAR OLDS
Nurturing. Safe. Faith-filled.

OUR COURSE OF STUDY PROVIDES A STRONG EMPHASIS ON LITERACY WHILE MAINTAINING CORE CONTENT EXPOSURE WITH CHRISTIAN ALIGNMENT.

FAITH FORMATION
 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
 COMMUNITY AND SERVICE
 CATHOLIC TRADITION
 CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

Forming Minds. Inspiring Hearts. Building Futures.



In our Diocese and Community

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer is hosting the following events, contact: www.msmhope.org or Nancy Elkin at 908-753-2091

Tuesday, July 28 from 7-8:30pm MAN TO MAN Men have unique roles in life...husbands, fathers, grandfathers, the single life, and religious life. We're pushed and pulled in a thousand directions by responsibilities, stress, loss, and by joys. Where can we find time to reflect on the loss and gain of our lives?

Saturday, August 1 from 10am-3pm CHOOSING HOPE: THE COMFORT OF A COMPASSIONATE HEART presented by Joan Doherty and Donna McCabe. A heart filled with compassion radiates hope, illuminating within us and shining outward on our shared journey. Like the beacon of a Divine Lighthouse, we become aware of the gentleness of empathy, compassion, and peace-filled calm: guided to our life's daily thresholds with safety and protection.

Wednesday, August 5 from 2-3pm HOUSE OF PRAYER STITCHERS OF HOPE Join us as we stitch for hope and create blankets, hats, and more for our partners helping cancer patients, veterans, and young mothers with babies: Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, Lyons VA, and The Center for Great Expectations.

Friday, August 7-14 SILENT DIRECTED WEEKLONG RETREATS An atmosphere of prayerful quiet. Light supper on Friday (or Monday) evening at 6pm and ends by 11am on Friday (or Monday). In Person Program.



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Registration for NEW and returning families is underway for our Faith Formation programs, Growing in Faith Together - G.I.F.T., and Sacramental Preparation Programs - Level 1 Penance Level 2 Communion and Level 1 and Level 2 Confirmation

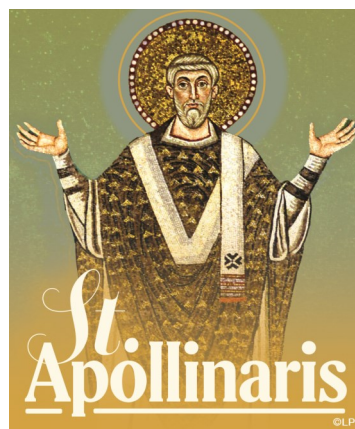
Information and registration is available in the parish office, or on the information table in the narthex, or it can be downloaded from the parish website at

<http://www.saintanthonypadua.org>

Please note: registration forms are due back no later than August 3.

A late fee of \$25.00 will be incurred after that date.

Did you know special days for this week are...



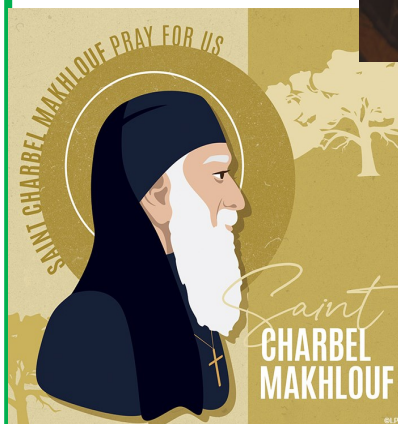
July 20



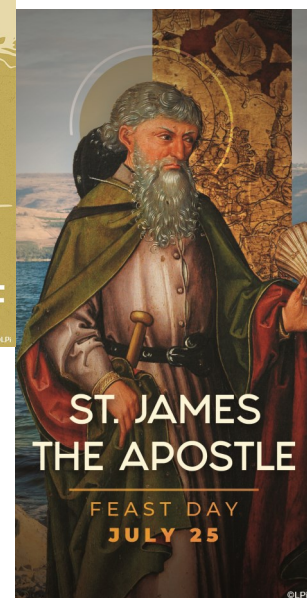
July 22



July 23



July 24



This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, July 20

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Bingo	12:00PM	Father Milos Hall
	(Doors open at 10:30AM)	

Tuesday, July 21

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
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Wednesday, July 22

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Knights of Columbus	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

Thursday, July 23

Mass	7:30AM	Church
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Friday, July 24 **Parish Office Closed**

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Rosary	8:00AM	Chapel

Saturday, July 25

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

Sunday, July 26

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

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saturday, July 25

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

Sunday, July 26

Mass	10:00AM	Church
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Continuing with our past practice, we will not have Eucharist Adoration during July and August. Adoration will resume on September 10. Thank you all for your continuing devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Have a wonderful summer!

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 Campion, Justin Carpentieri, Allison Cohen, Jean Dean, Steven DeNoyelles, Beth Disposito, Alyssa Dohanyos, John Dohanyos, Mark Emanuele, Frank Fernandez, Bob Glatt, Larry Golden, Kim Hickman, Keeba Johnson, Lynn Killmurray, Kathryn Korin, Alfred Leone, Jonathan Marcela, Heather Marrone Fabio, Robert Joseph Meade IV, David Russell, Rami Shehadek, Janet Strunak, Millie Sutphen, Maryann Vyszwan, Matthew Woods, Donna Zeoli



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.

Liturgical Minister Schedule

at Saint Anthony of Padua

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday	July 25	4:00PM	M. Amuzie J. Barcellona D. Scharff
Sunday	July 26	8:30AM	S. Gadowski C. and E. Weiman
		11:30AM	B. Cuzzo G. Grispart L. Palasits

READERS

Saturday	July 25	4:00PM	C. Amuzie
Sunday	July 26	8:30AM	G. Clarke
		11:30AM	C. Smith

SERVERS

Saturday	July 25	4:00PM	B. Banko
Sunday	July 26	8:30AM	A. and A. Weiman
		11:30AM	A. Boelhower F. Calabrese

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

READER

Sunday	July 26	10:00AM	G. Clarke
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FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Food Collection is August 1 and 2

ITEMS MOST NEEDED ARE:

CANNED CARROTS
CANNED CORN
CANNED GREEN BEANS
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED MEATS
CANNED MIXED VEGETABLES
CEREAL
JELLY
PANCAKE MIX
PANCAKE SYRUP
PEANUT BUTTER
PORK & BEANS
RICE
TOMATO SAUCE

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.