



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



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and
sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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:

pastorofstanthonyp@gmail.com

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info.stanthony1@gmail.com

Religious Education:

religiousest.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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

THE TREASURE THAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Dear Family,

For three consecutive Sundays, we have been reading from the thirteenth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel. This section is often called **the Kingdom Parables** because our Lord Jesus uses a series of stories to reveal the mystery of God's reign. A parable is more than a simple illustration; it is a story through which our Lord Jesus teaches a truth meant to shape our lives. In Matthew chapter 13, He teaches us not merely about heaven as a place or final destination, but about God's authority and His desire to reign in our hearts here and now.

This Sunday, Jesus offers four brief parables, each highlighting the immense value of God's Kingdom and the lengths to which we should be willing to go to attain it. The first compares the Kingdom to a treasure hidden in a field. It is so precious that a man sells everything he owns to buy the land. The second likens it to a merchant searching for fine pearls; upon finding one of high value, he too gives up all he has to possess it. The third parable describes the Kingdom as a net gathering fish of every kind. They are later sorted so that the good are kept and the bad are discarded. Finally, our Lord Jesus speaks of a master who brings forth things both old and new from his storeroom.

During a youth ministry fundraising event, in my previous assignment, we organized a yard sale. I learned that there are apps dedicated to tracking garage sales. Some people drive from neighborhood to neighborhood hoping to find valuable items sold cheaply. For some, it is a hobby; for others, a business. They invest time, energy, and resources because they believe the treasure is worth the effort. I also think of parents who sacrifice so much so their children can participate in sports, dance, or art programs. **Even though most children will not pursue these activities professionally, families willingly endure stress, spend money, and rearrange schedules because they see value in these pursuits.**

These examples help us understand the parables. When we truly value the Kingdom of God, when our deepest desire is to live under His authority and to please Him, we will spare nothing to attain it. Our Lord Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is the greatest treasure we can ever discover. **When we encounter Christ authentically, He reorders our priorities.** When we recognize the worth of His love, everything else becomes secondary.

Our Lord Jesus also reminds us that God's Kingdom is offered to all. Like the fisherman's net, God casts His love widely, for He "wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Yet He desires that we receive His love and allow His word to transform us into fitting temples of His glory; men and women willing and able to live according to His Commandments.

These parables also reveal that people come to faith in different ways. Some stumble upon grace unexpectedly; others search for years. What matters is our willingness to respond when God reveals what is truly valuable.

Dear family, in a world filled with distractions and competing "treasures," Our Lord Jesus invites us to examine our hearts. What are we truly pursuing? What desires shape our choices? What are we willing to give up for God? **Our faith is not simply one commitment among many. It is the treasure that gives meaning to all the rest.** When our hearts are anchored in Christ, we find freedom, joy, and purpose that endure unto eternity. May we seek and hold fast to the treasure of God's Kingdom today and always.

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 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	
Monday 7:30AM	July 27 Angeline Hayko on her fifth anniversary with the Lord Requested by daughter, Eileen and Stanley	
Tuesday 7:30AM	July 28 Janice Ciardiello Requested by her loving husband, Sal	
Wednesday 7:30AM	July 29 Thomas Stuppiello Requested by his friend, Lourdes Rodriquez	<i>Saint Martha, Mary, and Lazarus</i>
Thursday 7:30AM	July 30 Benjamin Dispoto Requested by Denise and Alan Marek	<i>Saint Peter Chrysologus</i>
Friday 7:30AM	July 31 Leticia and Elmer Torres Requested Edwin Torres	<i>Saint Ignatius of Loyola</i>
Saturday 4:00PM	August 1 Robert Yackavitch Requested by Joan Calabrese	<i>Saint Alphonsus Liguori</i>
Sunday 8:30AM	August 2 Donald and Doris Miller Requested by their family	
11:30AM	Adele Tortoriello Requested by Mary and Tom Balint	

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

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	
Saturday 8:30AM	August 1 Deceased members of the former Altar Rosary Society	<i>Saint Alphonsus Liguori</i>
Sunday 10:00AM	August 2 People of the parish family	

This Week's Scripture Readings

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
Monday:	Jeremiah 13:1-11 Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21 Matthew 13:31-35
Tuesday:	Jeremiah 14:17-22 Psalms 79:8, 9, 11, 13 Matthew 13:36-43
Wednesday:	Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21 Psalms 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18 John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42
Thursday:	Jeremiah 18:1-6 Psalms 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab Matthew 13:47-53
Friday:	Jeremiah 26:1-9 Psalms 69:5, 8-10, 14 Matthew 13:54-58
Saturday:	Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24 Psalms 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 Matthew 14:1-12
Sunday:	Isaiah 55:13 Psalms 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 Romans 8:35, 37-39 Matthew 14:13-21



Friday, July 31
following
7:30am Mass



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 Angeline Hayko on her 5th anniversary with the Lord
Love, daughter, Eileen and son-in-law, Stanley

GOOD SHEPHERD

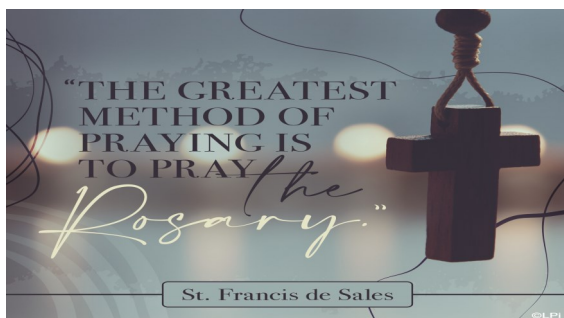
In loving memory of Gordon and Ann Ur,
John Patrick and Owen
Requested by their loving family

In loving memory of my wife, Janice Ciardiello
Requested by her loving husband, Sal

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

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Matthew 13:44

Many times we conceal treasure within ourselves. To what extent will we go to develop the treasure buried within us?

Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

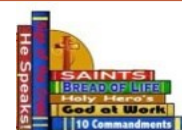
Sunday, July 19, 2026

In-person donations.....	\$3,133.00
On-line donations.....	\$1,270.00
Total.....	\$4,403.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

July 27	Reverend Edgar Madarang Reverend James King'ori
July 28	Reverend Monsignor Daniel Herlihy Reverend Charles Kelly
July 29	Reverend Anthony Sirianni Monsignor Pafnouti Wassef
July 30	Reverend Kenneth Murphy Reverend Bede Kim
July 31	Reverend Jun Joseph Alquiros Reverend Alphonsus Kariuki
August 1	Reverend Pervaiz Indrias Very Reverend Robert Kolakowski
August 2	Bishop James Checchio



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 narthex information table, or it can be downloaded from the parish website at

<http://www.saintanthonypadua.org>

NOTE:

Registration forms are due back **no later than August 3.**

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



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 21, 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
Monday	September	14	7:30am
Thursday	September	17	7:30am
Monday	September	21	7:30am
Saturday	September	26	8:30am (OLMC)
Friday	October	9	7:30am
Monday	October	12	7:30am
Wednesday	October	14	7:30am
Friday	October	16	7:30am
Saturday	October	17	8:30am (OLMC)
Monday	October	19	7:30am
Friday	October	23	7:30am



Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403

ST. JAMES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AND CHILD CARE CENTER

341 Amboy Ave.,
Woodbridge, NJ 07095
732-634-0500
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.

Rooted in Faith.
Focused on Excellence.
Guided by Service.

STEM CONCENTRATION
in Architecture and Drafting

8TH GRADE
Pre-Algebra Curriculum

NJ CLEAN COMMUNITIES
Grant Recipient

TUITION DISCOUNTS
for Multiple Children

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.

CHILD CARE CENTER
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

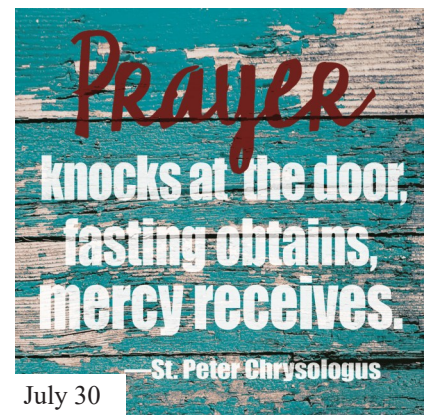
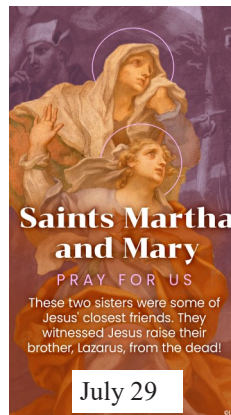
Wednesday, August 5 from 2-3pm

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.

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

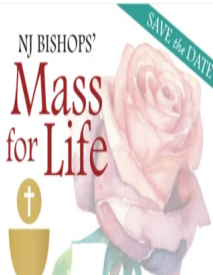


St. Alphonsus Liguori, (1696-1787) was a prolific theologian and founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (The Redemptorists). Renowned for his profound devotion to the Eucharist and insightful theological teachings, he is the patron saint of moral theologians.

PERFECT LOVE OF GOD MEANS THE COMPLETE UNION OF OUR WILL WITH GOD'S.

ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

August 1



NJ BISHOPS' Mass for Life

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026

Location: Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption (Diocese of Trenton) 151 N. Warren St. Trenton, NJ

Time: Mass will begin at 9:30am

The NJ Rally & March for Life will begin at 11:00am at the Statehouse Annex, a short walk from the Cathedral.

The Diocese of Metuchen will be running a bus trip from the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center departing at 7:15am. Registration is required as space is limited.

For more information visit:

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/nj-march-for-life>



Come join us *in person* in Mantoloking - October 9-11

(one virtual session (Friday evening) and two full days in person (Saturday/Sunday))

Get away to the shore together this fall!

St Joseph By the Sea, Mantoloking, NJ

A Non-Residential Experience for married couples (commute from home or stay nearby in a hotel)

Apply at: www.me.org



Questions? Contact Tom and Ruth: (732) 904-9636

NATIONAL BLUE ARMY SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA



Join us on our First Saturday Virtual Pilgrimage on August 1, as Father Luke Mary Fletcher, CFR, our own shrine chaplain will be our First Saturday celebrant and homilist.

For more information visit our website: <https://www.bluearmyshrine.com> or call: 908-689-1700, x234.

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, July 27			Backpack donations begin
Mass	7:30AM	Chapel	
Memorial Mass	10:30AM	Church	
Bingo	12:00PM	Father Milos Hall	
			(Doors open at 10:30AM)
Tuesday, July 28			
Mass	7:30AM	Chapel	
Wednesday, July 29			
Mass	7:30AM	Chapel	
Thursday, July 30			
Mass	7:30AM	Church	
Friday, July 31			Parish Office Closed
Mass	7:30AM	Chapel	
Rosary	8:00AM	Chapel	
Saturday, August 1			Food Pantry Collection
Confession	3:00PM	Church	
Mass	4:00PM	Church	
Sunday, August 2			Food Pantry Collection
Mass	8:30AM	Church	
Mass	11:30AM	Church	

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saturday, August 1		
Mass	8:30AM	Church
Confession	9:00AM - 9:30AM	Church
Sunday, August 2		
Mass	10:00AM	Church

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	August 1	4:00PM	A. and F. Fowler D. Scharff
Sunday	August 2	8:30AM	A. and D. Anderson H. Pagliuca
		11:30AM	M. Balint G. Grispart L. Palasits

READERS

Saturday	August 1	4:00PM	T. Casey
Sunday	August 2	8:30AM	V. Clarke
		11:30AM	J. Ramos

SERVERS

Saturday	August 1	4:00PM	B. Banko
Sunday	August 2	8:30AM	C.C.&C. Onukwugha
		11:30AM	A. Boelhower

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

READER

Sunday	August 2	10:00AM	M. Poos
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FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Food Collection is August 1 and 2

With your dedication to and continued support to our Food Pantry, on Wednesday, July 15 our volunteers were able to assist 24 families which included 55 people. Thank you!

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.