



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



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

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

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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 16:13-20) brings us to Caesarea Philippi, a region filled with shrines, idols, and monuments to worldly power. It was not a traditional Jewish town; many of its inhabitants were Gentiles who did not believe in or worship the one true God. Yet people recognized that our Lord Jesus spoke with an authority unlike that of the prophets or rabbis. The prophets spoke the word of God by declaring, "Thus says the Lord." The rabbis taught by referring to the words of the prophets. But our Lord Jesus spoke according to His own authority. Naturally, people wondered about His identity and mission.

Our Lord Jesus asked His disciples about the popular opinions of Him. Some people said that He was John the Baptist; others said He was Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. This is an important point for reflection. Our society is filled with many popular opinions about God, faith, the Church, and spirituality. Social media, TV, opinion columns, etc. have "experts" who present their ideas as enlightened or well researched. Faithful Christians can sometimes fall for these opinions. We must always reflect on what we believe and measure these modern ideas against the faith that we have received: "What did the apostles, the Fathers of the Church, and the saints believe on this or that issue?" Authentic Christian faith is received, not reinvented.

After hearing these opinions, our Lord Jesus turns to His disciples and asks the essential question that defines every believer: **"But who do you say that I am?"** St. Peter responds, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** Our Lord Jesus affirms that Peter's confession of faith was not the result of human reasoning. It was Divine Revelation, given to Peter by God the Father. Our Lord Jesus asks us this same question every day.

Brothers and sisters, who is Jesus for you? How is your relationship with God? Do you understand your role in the Church, the Body of Christ? A living faith requires us to answer these questions personally and honestly. Yes, our Lord Jesus is our friend, helper, comforter, and brother. Above all, He is the Christos (Christ in Greek), the Anointed One, who comes to save us from our sins and unite us with God. We must not only know what others say about Him. Sacred Scripture, the lives of the saints, the teaching of the Church, and the sacraments must lead us into a living relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. When Christ is truly at the center of our lives, our priorities change. We begin to see our work, our relationships, our struggles, and our hopes in the light of the Gospel. Our faith is no longer one commitment among many. It is what gives meaning to our life.

After Peter's confession of faith, our Lord Jesus confirms him in his mission. He changes his name from Simon to Peter Petros (meaning rock) and gives him the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood this moment as the foundation of our understanding of the papacy. The pope, who is the successor of St. Peter, is the visible shepherd who safeguards the faith and guides the Church in unity. The Church is not built on Peter's human strength but on the Father's revelation working through him. The Church has endured to our day, not because of human perfection, but because Christ our Lord Himself sustains it. Our Lord's promise that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" against the Church is a source of hope as we see the evils among us. The Church has endured persecution, scandal, division, and cultural upheaval, yet it remains because Christ remains faithful.

As we continue our Christian journey, may each of us continue to meditate on our Lord's question to each of us: **Who do you say that I am?**

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	August 22	<i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
4:00PM	Charlotte Polhamus	Requested by her friends
Sunday	August 23	
8:30AM	People of the Parish family	
11:30AM	John T. and Lucille Carpenito	Requested by Margaret Gill
Monday	August 24	<i>Saint Bartholomew</i>
7:30AM	Donald Keats, Jr.	Requested by Denise and Alan Marek
Tuesday	August 25	<i>Saint Louis, Saint Joseph Calasanz</i>
7:30AM	Frank and Ginney Clarke	Living Mass intention for their 35 th wedding anniversary
Wednesday	August 26	
7:30AM	Alfred Russo (59 th wedding anniversary)	Requested by his loving wife, Pat
Thursday	August 27	<i>Saint Monica</i>
7:30AM	Theresa "Terri" Seibert	Requested by Catherine Adams
Friday	August 28	<i>Saint Augustine</i>
7:30AM	Theresa "Terri" Seibert	Requested by Mary and Tom Balint
Saturday	August 29	<i>The Passion of Saint John the Baptist</i>
4:00PM	Dominick A. Rossetti, Jr.	Requested by the Banko family
	Diane, Michael, Brandon, Bill, and Lisamarie	
Sunday	August 30	
8:30AM	Joan Anderson (Happy birthday with the Lord)	Requested by Douglas and Angela Anderson
11:30AM	People of the Parish family	



at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

Saturday	August 22	
8:30AM	Respect Life at all stages	
		
Sunday	August 23	
10:00AM	Diane Natividad	Requested by Ray and Cherie Gumapac
Saturday	August 29	<i>The Passion of Saint John the Baptist</i>
8:30AM	Adele O. Johnson	Living Mass - Happy birthday blessing
	Requested by her loving sister, Emry Bonus	
Sunday	August 30	
10:00AM	Clare Cayce	Requested by Ken and Nancy Venutolo

This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday:	Isaiah 22:19-23 Psalms 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6, 8 Romans 11:33-36 Matthew 16:13-20
Monday:	Revelation 21:9b-14 Psalms 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 John 1:45-51
Tuesday:	2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17 Psalms 96:10, 11-12, 13 Matthew 23:23-26
Wednesday:	2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18 Psalms 128:1-2, 4-5 Matthew 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Psalms 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Matthew 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Corinthians 1:17-25 Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 Matthew 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Psalms 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21 Mark 6:17-29
Sunday:	Jeremiah 20:7-9 Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Romans 12:2-2 Matthew 16:21-27





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 Tonia Marrone on her 30th anniversary with the Lord

Requested by MaryAnn Marrone

In loving memory Koda Farina

Requested by Aunt Adrienne

In loving memory of Terri Seibert

Requested by Claudia Trotto

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

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY- THURSDAY 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

FRIDAY 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12:30 PM-1:00 PM

SUMMER HOURS AS ABOVE

CLOSED ON FRIDAYS JULY AND AUGUST

PARISH OFFICE PHONE #732-634-1403

Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

Sunday, August 16, 2026

In-person donations.....\$3,090.00

On-line donations.....\$1,555.00

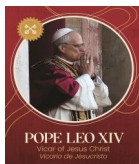
Total.....\$4,645.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Stewardship

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
Matthew 16:13

The answers the disciples gave to Jesus' question varied because they recognized some of the attributes of individual prophets in Jesus. Peter saw what the Messiah was supposed to be because Jesus reflected who he was. A steward reflects generosity and this is immediately recognizable to all that he meets.



For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

August 23	Reverend Dawid Wejnerowski Reverend Ronald Machado
August 24	Reverend Stanley Walega Reverend Abraham Orapankal
August 25	All Priests
August 26	Reverend Leo Bagenda Reverend Joseph Kannampally
August 27	Reverend Sean Winters Reverend Peter Akanath Chakkunny
August 28	Reverend Chester Carina Reverend Edmund Shallow
August 29	Reverend Wladyslaw Wiktorek Reverend Ronald Jandernoa

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!



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 were due back by August 3.

A late fee of \$25.00 will now be incurred.



The Parish Family of
St. Anthony of Padua

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA & OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL • DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

*Donations
Appreciated!*

JOIN US FOR OUR CAR WASH!



**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 29TH**



9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



St. Anthony of Padua Church

436 Port Reading Avenue
Port Reading, NJ

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

*The St. Anthony Youth Pilgrimage to
World Youth Day in South Korea*



**Refreshments & Snacks
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!**

♥ **HELP THE CHILDREN OF ST. ANTHONY GET TO WORLD YOUTH DAY!**



**Altar Server
TRAINING**

We are encouraging parents, grandparents, and family members to guide their children (who have received First Communion) to consider becoming Altar Servers.

Two training sessions are scheduled for new Altar Servers on

**Saturday, August 29
and
Saturday, September 26
at 10:00am.**

New Altar Servers will be installed on

**Sunday, October 25 at the
11:30am Mass.**

2026 Mass Book

As of August 18, the following days are open if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Friday	September	11	7:30am
Thursday	September	17	7:30am
Friday	October	9	7:30am
Friday	October	16	7:30am
Monday	October	19	7:30am
Friday	October	23	7:30am
Monday	October	26	7:30am
Friday	October	30	7:30am
Saturday	October	31	8:30am (OLMC)
Thursday	November	5	7:30am
Friday	November	13	7:30am
Saturday	November	14	8:30am (OLMC)
Monday	November	16	7:30am
Friday	November	20	7:30am
Wednesday	November	25	7:30am
Friday	November	27	8:30am
Monday	November	30	7:30am
Tuesday	December	1	7:30am
Thursday	December	3	7:30am
Monday	December	7	7:30am
Thursday	December	10	7:30am
Friday	December	11	7:30am



Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403

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 Dispoto, 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.

Pray for Peace!



In our Diocese and Community



If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart
HEB3:15

HOLY FAMILY PRAYER GROUP

CORDIALLY INVITES EVERYONE TO ATTEND
CATHOLIC LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
(a Parish Renewal Weekend Experience)

Saturday September 12, 2026
Sunday September 13, 2026

Registration starts
Saturday, at 8:00AM

Our Lady of Peace
(Parish center)

25 Jackson Ave. Edison, NJ

Includes:

Baptism of the Holy Spirit
(A Renewal of the Sacraments of
Baptism and Confirmation)
Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament
Faith Sharing
Confession

Celebration of the Eucharist
Celebrant and Spiritual Adviser:
Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

Conducted by: KFI-LSS ministry
Moderator: James Sadhoo
Music: People's Praise Band
(visit us at kfiministry.org)



CONTACT:

Cherie Gumapac
732-485-6006

Ching Mangalili
732-804-8055

Doris Flores
732-947-0960

FREE REGISTRATION, FREE MEAL
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!



DIOCESE OF
METUCHEN

OFFICE OF
ONGOING FAITH FORMATION

POPE LEO XIV MAGNIFICENT HUMANITY

ON SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN PERSON
IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

13 week Adult Faith Formation course
with Fr. Glenn Comandini, STD

Pope Leo's first encyclical examines how
digitalization, AI and robotics
challenge humanity.

The Holy Father proposes a path
which safeguards human dignity
and the common good.

Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 AM

Sept. 10 - Dec. 10, 2026

omitting Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving

Registration is \$25

for all 13 classes and includes a
printed copy of *Magnificent*
Humanity. Books will be picked up
on the first day of class.

Learn more at www.diometuchen.org/events/magnificent-humanity

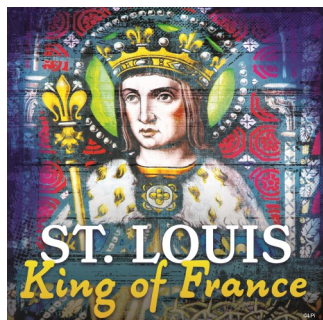
St. John Neumann Pastoral Center
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854

For questions, contact magnese@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543

Scan QR Code
to Register



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



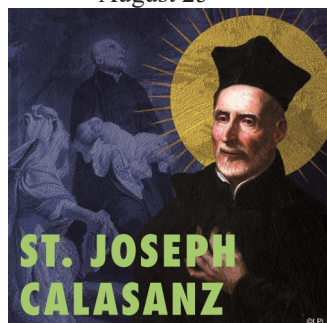
August 25



ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE
AUGUST 24



August 27



ST. JOSEPH
CALASANZ



FEAST OF
SAINT
AUGUSTINE
OF HIPPO

AUGUST 28



August 29

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

Mass 7:30AM Chapel
Backpack distribution 9:30AM-12:00PM
Father Milos Hall

Wednesday, August 26

Mass 7:30AM Chapel

Thursday, August 27

Mass 7:30AM Chapel

Friday, August 28 Parish Office Closed

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

Saturday, August 29

Altar Server Training 10:00AM Church
Confession 3:00PM Church
Mass 4:00PM Church

Sunday, August 30

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

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saturday, August 29

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

Sunday, August 30

Mass 10:00AM Church



The Food Pantry Ministry staff

THANK YOU

the parishioners for all your
food and monetary donations.

We are looking for **volunteers for the**
3rd Wednesday of every month
from 10am to 11am or
from 10am to 12pm to assist our clients.
If you are interested, contact the parish
office at 732-634-1403.

Liturgical Minister Schedule

at Saint Anthony of Padua

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday	August 29	4:00PM	M. Balint A. and F. Fowler
Sunday	August 30	8:30AM	A. and D. Anderson D. Mazzarella
		11:30AM	B. Cuzzo B. McCauley B. Sorbanelli

READERS

Saturday	August 29	4:00PM	C. Smith
Sunday	August 30	8:30AM	C. Mazzarella
		11:30AM	M. Trebour

SERVERS

Sunday	August 30	8:30AM	C. and C. Onukwugha Q. Valdez
		11:30AM	A. Boelhower

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

READER

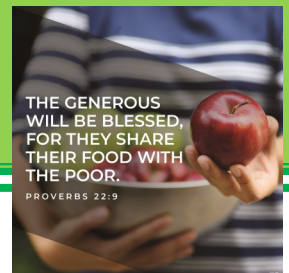
Sunday	August 30	10:00AM	L. Quiray
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**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR MONTHLY
"PRAYING OF THE ROSARY" ON THE LAST
FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT SAINT ANTHONY
OF PADUA CHURCH. SEE YOU AT 8:00AM.**

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

**Food Distribution is
Wednesday, August 19**



ITEMS MOST NEEDED:

CANNED GOODS:

BEANS, CARROTS, CORN,
FRUIT, GREEN BEANS, MEATS,
MIXED VEGETABLES, PORK & BEANS

CEREAL

JELLY
PANCAKE MIX
PANCAKE SYRUP
PEANUT BUTTER
RICE
TOMATO SAUCE

We will always accept toiletry and household items such
as bodywash, soap, toilet paper, tooth