



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



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24b-25

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-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30, 2026



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

IN CRUCE SALUS (IN THE CROSS IS SALVATION) Christ without the Cross?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first West African bishop was the late Cardinal Ignatius Ekandem, who, like me, was also from Southeastern Nigeria. His episcopal motto was ***In Cruce Salus (In the Cross is Salvation)***. As a child, I found those words to be fascinating. They sounded exotic to me because they were in Latin. Later on, as I studied Latin in school, I came to appreciate their full meaning, most likely inspired by St. Paul: “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14). Reflecting on these words, our instinct may be to question them: How can salvation come from the Cross, a tool of suffering, humiliation, and death? We would rather flee pain and seek comfort. The Cross seems like a contradiction. Yet this is precisely the invitation our Lord gives us in this Sunday’s Gospel.

The Gospel readings from last Sunday and this Sunday (Matthew 16:13–27), taken together, offer a profound insight into the demands of Christian discipleship. Last week, we heard Peter’s bold profession of faith and our Lord Jesus’ affirmation: “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father... you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church... I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.” But only a few verses later, in this Sunday’s Gospel, Peter is rebuked.

After revealing His identity, our Lord Jesus also reveals His mission: the Son of Man must suffer, be killed, and rise on the third day. This shocks the disciples. Peter, who had just spoken with such clarity of faith, now stumbles: “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you” (Matthew 16:22). **He wants a Messiah without sacrifice, glory without suffering, and victory without the Cross.** Our Lord’s response is quick and sharp: “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do” (Matthew 16:23). In fairness to Peter, most of us would react the same way. No one wakes up in the morning hoping for suffering for themselves or their loved ones. But this is the reality of our lives.

Our Lord Jesus tells His disciples, as He says to us today, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). The ancient Christian motto *In Cruce Salus* reminds us that the Cross is not merely a historical event or a religious symbol. It is the place where God’s saving love is revealed. Authentic Christian discipleship often means embracing the crosses that the Good Lord allows to come our way.

We all have crosses in our lives. We carry crosses of illness, loneliness, and interior battles with sin. We also carry the cross of caring for aging parents, broken relationships, and the pain of raising children in a culture increasingly hostile to the Gospel. Some of us struggle with faith itself, wondering how God could allow such suffering. People often walk away from the faith and the Church because their pain feels incompatible with belief in a good God.

Our Lord Jesus ends this Sunday’s Gospel with a seeming contradiction that actually defines the Christian life: “Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 16:25). In other words, the very crosses we resist are the means of our salvation. This is why the saints often encouraged the simple but profound practice of “offering it up.” This is not a sentimental phrase. **When we unite our crosses to the Passion of Christ, they become instruments of grace. They draw us closer to His Sacred Heart and become part of His redeeming work.**

We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

Because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world!

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 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	
Monday	August 31	
7:30AM	Theresa "Terri" Seibert Requested by Karen Brenner	
Tuesday	September 1	
7:30AM	Theresa "Terri" Seibert Requested by Rose Martino	
Wednesday	September 2	
7:30AM	Purgatorial Mass	
Thursday	September 3	<i>Saint Gregory the Great, Pope</i>
7:30AM	Carmen Pagliuca (Happy Birthday) Requested by his loving daughter, Marie	
Friday	September 4	
7:30AM	Michael Velasco Requested by Cassie and Kenny Brid	
Saturday	September 5	
4:00PM	Benjamin Dispoto Requested by Lorraine DeMarino	
Sunday	September 6	
8:30AM	Stanley J. and Elisa Gurney Requested by the Gurney family	
11:30AM	Lucille Carpenito Requested by the Huber family	

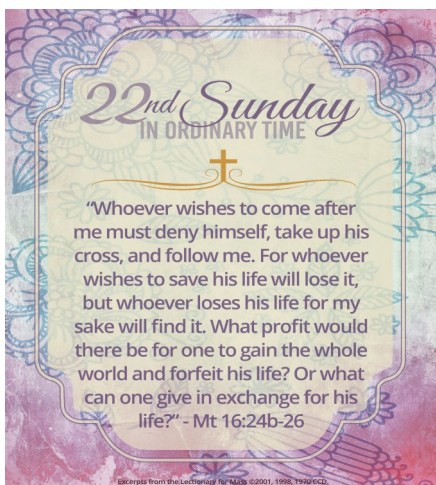
at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

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	
Saturday	September 5	
8:30AM	Deceased members of the former Altar Rosary Society	
Sunday	September 6	
10:00AM	People of the Parish family	

This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday:	Jeremiah 20:7-9 Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Romans 12:2-2 Matthew 16:21-27
Monday:	1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Psalms 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 1021 Luke 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Corinthians 2:10b-16 Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 Luke 4:31-37
Wednesday:	1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Psalms 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 Luke 4:38-44
Thursday:	1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Psalms 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Luke 5:-11
Friday:	1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Psalms 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 Luke 5:33-39
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 4:6b-15 Psalms 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 Luke 6:1-5
Sunday:	Ezekiel 33:7-9 Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9 Romans 13:8-10 Matthew 18:15-20





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 Terri Seibert
Requested by MaryAnn Marrone

In loving memory of Terri Seibert
Requested by Frank and Nora Rombardo

GOOD SHEPHERD

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

In loving memory of Theresa "Terri" Seibert
Requested by Karen Brenner

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, August 23, 2026

In-person donations.....\$3,779.00

On-line donations.....\$1,080.00

Total.....\$4,859.00

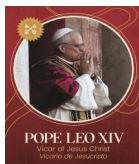
Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Stewardship

"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

Romans 12:2

The bishops in their pastoral letter on stewardship warn us about conforming to the destructive "isms" at work in our culture - materialism, individualism, and consumerism. Stewardship calls us to generously share what we have with others. Stewardship focuses on our dependence on God. This focus goes against our culture's focus on independence and individualism.



For the care of water.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

August 30	Reverend Piotr Grzeskiewicz Reverend Sean Kenney
August 31	Reverend Gilbert Z. Starcher Reverend Frank Fellrath
September 1	Reverend John Polyak Reverend Edmund Luciano III
September 2	Reverend Jan Carlos Gaviria Reverend A. Gregory Uhrig
September 3	Our Holy Father
September 4	Reverend Joseph Desmond Monsignor Joseph Celano
September 5	Reverend Paul Michalowski Reverend Abraham Lotha

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**



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.



Rest in Peace

Remember in your prayers the soul of:
Vito and Mary Colletti– July 27
Edward A. Corbett– July 28

One Year Anniversary

Keep in your prayers the
parishioners who died a year ago in 2025 
Neil Panariello, Sr.– September 13

Purgatorial Mass Society

The souls of: requested by:

Pedro Martinez	Angelo and Anna Ramos and family
Vito & Mary Colletti	Saint Anthony of Padua parish family
Edward A. Corbett	Saint Anthony of Padua parish family
Theresa "Terri" Seibert	Deacon Michael & Roni Bracato
Theresa "Terri" Seibert	St Anthony of Padua parish family
Jeffrey Pagliuca	John and Holly Pagliuca
Miquel Diaz	The Serrano & Smalley families
Theresa "Terri" Seibert	The Scarpelli family
Theresa "Terri" Seibert	Deacon Micki & Colleen Coppola
Theresa "Terri" Seibert	Michele & Douglas Cooper

Birthday Blessing for SEPTEMBER



As a parish family we rejoice and celebrate the gifts of life and love that God has given to us all. We offer to all those celebrating their birthdays this month our best wishes and prayers that God many continue to bless them abundantly in the years ahead.



Altar Server TRAINING

We are encouraging parents, grandparents, and family members to guide their children (who have received First Communion) to consider becoming a part of the Altar Server ministry.

The next training session is scheduled for new Altar Servers on
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 20, the following days are open if you would like to request a Mass intention:

Monday	October	19	7:30am
Friday	October	23	7:30am
Monday	October	26	7:30am
Friday	October	30	7:30am
Friday	November	13	7:30am
Saturday	November	14	8:30am (OLMC)
Monday	November	16	7:30am
Friday	November	20	7:30am
Saturday	November	21	8:30am (OLMC)
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
Monday	December	14	7:30am
Wednesday	December	16	7:30am
Monday	December	21	7:30am
Wednesday	December	23	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, Bob Glatt, Larry Golden, Kim Hickman, Keeba Johnson, Lynn Killmurray, Kathryn Korin, Alfred Leone, Jonathan Marcela, Heather Marrone Fabio, Robert Joseph Meade IV, Richard J. Palasits, Sr., 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

CONTACT:

Cherie Gumapac
732-485-6006

Ching Mangalili
732-804-8055

Doris Flores
732-947-0960

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

FREE REGISTRATION, FREE MEAL
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Food Collection is
September 12 and 13



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, 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

**During our August distribution, we were able to
assist 31 families (included 75 people) with
pantry items.**

Thank you for your donations.



Save the
Date!



ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

• **25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS***



*Come Holy Spirit, fill the
hearts of your faithful and
kindle in them the fire of
your love. Send forth your
Spirit and they shall be
created. And You shall
renew the face of the earth.*

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, August 31

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

Tuesday, September 1

Mass 7:30AM Chapel

Wednesday, September 2

Mass 7:30AM Chapel

Thursday, September 3

Mass 7:30AM Chapel

Friday, September 4

Mass 7:30AM Chapel
Holy Family Prayer Group 6:00pm

Saturday, September 5

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

Sunday, September 6

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

**Eucharistic Adoration will resume
on Thursday, September 10.**

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Friday, September 4

Holy Family Prayer Group 6:00pm Church

Saturday, September 5

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

Sunday, September 6

Mass 10:00AM Church

Liturgical Minister Schedule

at Saint Anthony of Padua

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday September 5 4:00PM J. Barcellona
C. and R. Marney

Sunday September 6 8:30AM S. Gadowski
D. Mazzarella
H. Pagliuca

11:30AM G. Grispart
B. McCauley
B. Sorbanelli

READERS

Saturday September 5 4:00PM J. Schultz

Sunday September 6 8:30AM G.&G.C. Onukwugha
11:30AM L. Casabianca

SERVERS

Sunday September 6 8:30AM C. C.&C. Onukwugha

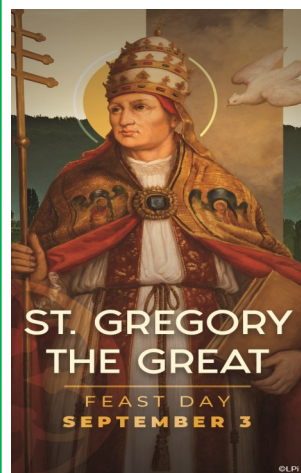
11:30AM A. Boelhower
F. Calabrese

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

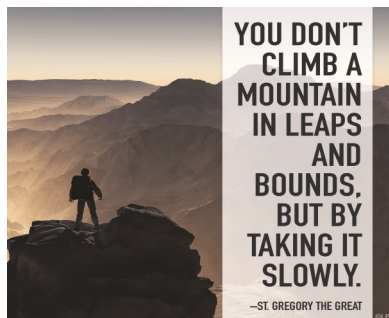
READER

Sunday September 6 10:00AM M. Poos

**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
IN CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY**



*Did you know the feast
day for this week is...*



Summer Service Project
Adopt a "backpack"



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

70 children received the benefits
of your donations.

Thank you!