# The Parish Family 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





**CONTACTS:** www.saintanthonypadua.org

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

Pastor: Faith Formation: **Bulletin:** 

pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com Office and Food Pantry: info.stanthony1@gmail.com religioused.stanthony1@gmail.com bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com

## Parish Office Hours

Monday 8:30AM - 3:00PM Tuesday 8:30AM - 3:00PM Wednesday 8:30AM - 3:00PM Thursday 8:30AM - 3:00PM Office is CLOSED on Fridays

## From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV



# The Immaculate Conception Patroness of the United States

Dear brothers and sisters,

Monday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. We Catholics have an obligation of love to attend Mass on this Day. In the month of October, I reflected on the Four Marian Dogmas, which are the divinely revealed truths concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary. One of these dogmas is the Immaculate Conception. This is the teaching that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, was conceived without original sin. It is important to clarify that the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary's own conception by Saint Anne, and not her miraculous conception of our Lord Jesus. This dogma recognizes Mary's purity and her singular role in God's plan for salvation. By preserving her from the stain of original sin, God prepared Mary to be a worthy vessel to bring Christ, God incarnate, into the world. Although the Church has long honored Mary as the Immaculate Conception, it was not until December 8, 1854, that Pope Pius IX formally defined this teaching as a dogma to be believed by all the faithful. This solemn declaration provided clarity and unity for Catholics worldwide in their devotion to Mary.

The truth of the Immaculate Conception was further affirmed in 1858 in Lourdes, France, through the life of Saint Bernadette Soubirous. Bernadette, a humble and uneducated peasant girl, experienced apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. When asked by her local bishop to identify the lady who appeared to her, Bernadette responded, 'the lady said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Most clergy were unfamiliar with this title and it was certainly unheard of among the laity, especially just four years after its formal definition. This surprising detail gave credibility to Bernadette's story. The Church soon recognized the apparition, now celebrate as Our Lady of Lourdes (the name of the town in which our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette).

In the United States, devotion to Mary under this title has deep historical roots. In 1584, one of the first Catholic churches dedicated in what is now the United States, is the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, in Jacksonville, Florida. In 1792, Bishop John Carroll, American's first bishop, consecrated the Diocese of Baltimore to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. At the time, the Diocese of Baltimore encompassed all thirteen of the original colonies, This act placed the newly formed nation under Mary's protection and established a spiritual foundation for American Catholics. Decades later, in 1847, the bishops of the United States petitioned Pope Pius IX to declare Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, as the patroness of the United States.

Today, the Immaculate Conception remains a powerful symbol for American Catholics and all people of goodwill. Her sinlessness is not merely an abstract theological concept, but a sign of hope and a reminder that through God's grace, new beginnings are always possible. In a nation often described as a "melting pot," facing social divisions and uncertainty, the example of our blessed mother Mary calls us to unity, humility, and a renewed pursuit of virtue and compassion. Many Churches, schools and other institutions in the United Sates have been names after the Immaculate Conception. Famous among them is the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.,** which stands as a beacon of faith and devotion.

The Immaculate Conception, as patroness of the United States, is more than a title. It is a spiritual heritage that invites all to aspire to holiness and unity. As we reflect on Mary's "yes" to God and her ongoing care for all people, we also ask for her intercession that we will always say yes to God in all that well do.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

#### **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

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

December 6 Saturday Saint Nicholas

4:00<sub>PM</sub> Dominick A. Rossetti, Jr.

Requested by the Banko family

Dane, Michael, Brandon, Bill, and Lisamarie

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent Sunday

8:30AM Jeffrey Pagliuca

Requested by Adrienne

People of the parish family 11:30am

Monday December 8 **Immaculate Conception** 

of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00am **Brian Fee** 

Requested by Joe and Danielle Vitaliano

7:00<sub>PM</sub> Jeffrey Pagliuca

Requested by Frank and Grace Dispoto

and family

December 9 Saint Juan Diego Tuesday

7:30AM **Richie Simeone** 

Requested by his loving wife, Adrienne

Wednesday December 10

Joseph Schneider 7:30am

Requested by Frank and Ginny Clarke

December 11 Thursday

7:30am Joanne Haffer

Requested by Stash and Debbie Znamierowski

and family

Friday December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30AM **Jeff Huber** (Birthday) Requested by Mom, Dad,

Stacy, Kerri, and Karly

December 13 Saturday Saint Lucy

4:00<sub>PM</sub> Maria Rotili

Requested by daughter,

Jean and Charles Cheddar

Sunday December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Diana Quaglia

Requested by the Children's Choir

11:30ам People of the parish family Morning Prayer begins 20 minutes before Saturday Mass

Saturday December 6

8:30am **Deceased members of the former** 

**Rosary Altar Society** 

Sunday December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

10:00<sub>AM</sub> **Anthony and Eleanor Poos** 

Requested by Gary & Maria Poos and family

Monday **December 8** Immaculate Conception

of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12:15<sub>PM</sub> **Dominick Valenzano** 

Requested by Amy Krapf

**Saturday** December 13 Saint Lucy

John Moricz 8:30am

First anniversary in Heaven

Requested by Margaret, his loving Mother

Sunday December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00AM **Michael Czum** 

Requested by Anna Czum and family

**December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent** 





#### This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122:1-9 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

Monday: Isaiah 4:2-6 Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday:

Our Lady of Loreto

Saint Damasus I

Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6 Matthew 7:21, 24-27 Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24

Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: Isaiah 30:1-21, 23-26

Matthew 9:35-10:1, 45a, 6-8

Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

#### **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 Joan Martino Duffy Requested by brother Marty and Patricia Martino

In loving memory of Jeffrey Pagliuca Requested by Adrienne

In memory of Mom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and Dad's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, as they are together in Heaven 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 our sister Michaele Ann Camilleri on her 78<sup>th</sup> birthday in Heaven Requested by her loving sisters, Mildred, Janet, and MaryDee

#### 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

#### MEMORIAL WALL

In loving memory of Lorraine Brenner Love, Karen Brenner

## Stewardship

"therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more thangs that go unused? Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

### ADVENT HEALING MASS

### Come and experience the Goodness of God

## ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

436 Port Reading Avenue Port Reading, NJ 07064

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17TH, 2025

6:00 pm - Eucharistic Adoration / Confession

7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist and Anointing with Oil

FR. IGNATIUS OKOROJI, SDV

Celebrant

## SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND HEALING

Physical, Spiritual, Emotional and Family Healings

Individual prayer by with the Prayer Teams from The NJ Chapter of

ENC UNTER

## Did you know...?

The Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States of America. This Solemnity is celebrated on December 8 and is a Holy Day of obligation.

Masses will be celebrated at
Saint Anthony of Padua Church
at 7:00AM and 7:00PM
and at
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site
at 12:15PM



## Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

#### Sunday, November 30, 2025

In-person donations	\$4,291
On-line donations	
Total	.\$5,654

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

#### FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY



FOOD DISTRIBUTION is Wednesday, December 17

# In preparation for Christmas ITEMS MOST NEEDED ARE:

Canned fruit Canned meat Canned sweet potatoes Canned tuna

Canned vegetables Cereal
Chili Jelly
Mac and Cheese Oatmeal

Pancake mix Pancake syrup
Pasta sauce Peanut butter

Potatoes - instant, canned, fresh

Rice Tomato Sauce



#### TURKEYS and HAMS WELCOMED



We will always accept toiletry and household items such as bodywash, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, laundry detergent, and dish detergent.

If you know someone who needs assistance, contact the parish office or email: info.StAnthony1@gmail.com.

On Wednesday, November 19, with your assistance, we were able to provide food for 43 families. Thank you.

#### 2026 Mass Book

You may reserve additional Masses (one for Saturday or Sunday, and one for a weekday). Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403.



The Feast of Saint Nicholas raffle was held Saturday, December 6 at 6:00pm

Due to early submission of the bulletin, winners will be announced in an upcoming bulletin.







# FAITH FORMATION G.I.F.T. and Sacramental Preparation Programs for 2024-2025

\*\*\* REMINDER: \*\*\*

Bulletins must be signed and placed in the yellow container after Mass!

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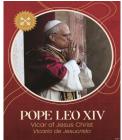
G.I.F.T. SESSION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 at 6:00<sub>PM</sub>
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Level One and Level Two First Penance Wednesday, December 15 at 6:20<sub>PM</sub>

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G.I.F.T. MASSES
WEEKEND of DECEMBER 20 and 21

Level One and Level Two Confirmation Monday, December 22 at 6:30<sub>PM</sub>



#### **Pope's Intention for December:**

For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

#### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

December 8 All Priests

December 9 Monsignor Sylvester Cronin
Reverend Jason Pavich

December 10 Monsignor Joseph Celano Monsignor John Fell

December 11 Reverend Pauly Thekkan Reverend Thomas Walsh

December 12 Reverend James DeFillipps Reverend John Morley

December 13 Reverend Ariel Bautista, Jr. Reverend John Primich

December 14 Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski

# Breakfast with Santa

Join us for our pancake breakfast!

Saturday, December 13 from 9:30am - 11:30am Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Pastries, and More!

Basket Raffles, Crafts, Games, Face Painting, Photos with Santa

Tickets will be \$5—sold after Mass or by calling the church office

Saint Anthony of Padua Church 436 Port Reading Ave. Port Reading, NJ 07064 732-634-1403

If you have any questions, please email Julianna Baszak at barcellonaj1@gmail.com.

Children's Christmas Pageant Friday, December 19 at 6:30pm

#### **Practice:**

Thursday, December 11 at 6:00pm Thursday, December 18 at 6:00pm

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# THE JESSE TREE

In order to meet our commitment to our beneficiary agencies, all gifts must be wrapped and returned to:

## Saint Anthony of Padua Church no later than the 11:30<sub>AM</sub> Mass on Sunday, December 14.

In this way, the gifts may be sorted and packed to be picked up and distributed in time for Christmas.

If you took a Jesse Tree tag and for whatever reason are not able to obtain the gift designated on it, please return the tag to the tree.

Each recipient has only one tag, and if your tag and/or gift is not returned, we do not have a gift for that person.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Joy of Friendship

Remember and pray for a living or deceased family member or friend by:

- A. Selecting a star
- B. Writing the person's name, message, prayer on the card.
- C. Placing the finished ornament in the basket or on the narthex Christmas tree.



# CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER

Don't Be Alone This Christmas... Come meet your neighbors!!!

ALL ARE WELCOME (Families, Couples, Singles)

TO SHARE DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS AND A LARGE PORTION OF FRIENDSHIP AT:

Saint Anthony of Padua Church Father Milos Parish Hall 436 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading

DATE: Thursday, December 25, 2025 TIME: 1:00pm- 3:00pm

There is NO CHARGE for the dinner, however, a call by Thursday, December 18 would be appreciated to properly plan the meals.

PLEASE CALL 732-634-1419: SAINT ANTHONY'S CHURCH beginning December 1 to make a reservation.

LEAVE A MESSAGE AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU



## Liturgical Míníster Schedule

#### SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

Saturday December 13 4:00pm C. and R. Marney

R. Masters

Sunday December 14 8:30<sub>AM</sub> D. Anderson

S. Gadomski

D. Mazzarella

11:30<sub>AM</sub> M. Amuzie

B. Cuozzo

B. McCauley

**READERS** 

Saturday December 13 4:00pm M. Trebour

Sunday December 14 8:30 AM C. Mazzarella

11:30AM C. Amuzie

**SERVERS** 

Saturday December 13 4:00pm B. Banko

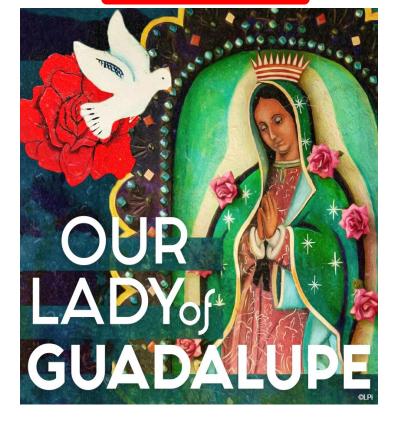
Sunday December 14 8:30 AM C. C. C. Onukwugha

11:30<sub>AM</sub> F. Calabrese

#### **COUNTING TEAM**

Monday December 15 E. and S. Gurney

## Feast day—December 12



#### This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

Monday, December 8
Mass
Bingo
(Doors open at 10:30AM)

7:00AM
12:00PM
Father Milos Hall

**Tuesday, December 9** 

Mass7:30AMChapelYouth Choir4:30PMChurchAdult Choir6:30PMChurchAA7:30PMFather Milos Hall

Wednesday, December 10

Mass7:30AMChapelG.I.F.T.6:00PMFather Milos Hall

Thursday, December 11

Mass 7:30<sub>AM</sub> Church

AA 8:00<sub>PM</sub> Father Milos Hall

Friday, December 12

Mass 7:30AM Church

Saturday, December 13 Jesse Tree continues
Confessions 3:00PM Chapel

Mass 4:00pm Church

NA 7:30<sub>PM</sub> Father Milos Hall

Sunday, December 14 Jesse Tree DUE back

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



#### This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Monday, December 8 NA 11:00am Basement Mass 12:15<sub>PM</sub> Church Tuesday, December 9 NA 11:00am Basement Wednesday, December 10 NA 11:00AM Basement Thursday, December 11 NA 11:00am Basement Friday, December 12 NA 11:00<sub>AM</sub> Basement Saturday, December 13 **Jesse Tree continues** Mass 8:30AM Church

Sunday, December 14 Jesse Tree DUE back
Mass 10:00am Church

Reader: J. Dizon