

**The Parish Family  
of  
Saint Anthony of Padua**

**Parish Office: 436 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading, New Jersey 07064**

**Phone: 732-634-1403 • [www.saintanthonypadua.org](http://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**



**We're on FACEBOOK. Come and check us out!**

**EMAILS:**

**Pastor:** [pastorofstanthonyp@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofstanthonyp@gmail.com)  
**Office / Food Pantry:** [info.stanthony1@gmail.com](mailto:info.stanthony1@gmail.com)  
**Faith Formation:** [religioused.stanthony1@gmail.com](mailto:religioused.stanthony1@gmail.com)  
**Bulletin:** [bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com](mailto: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
<b>Office is CLOSED on Fridays</b>	

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 14, 2025**



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

## GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (REJOICE AND BE GLAD)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Can you believe it? We are more than halfway through our Advent journey. On this Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate what we call “Gaudete Sunday.” The Church invites us to contemplate the gift of joy. The word “Gaudete” means “rejoice” in Latin. It is an imperative. We are commanded to rejoice. This theme is taken from the entrance antiphon of this Sunday’s Mass from Saint Paul’s exhortation: **“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4).** Our rose-colored candle and vestments this Sunday are visible reminders that joy is already among us even as we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ.

In the midst of our preparations, busy schedules, and even our anxieties, Gaudete Sunday calls us to recognize the nearness of God’s love. As we know, Advent is a season of anticipation and a time of waiting. We wait to celebrate the mystery of the First Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into our world, and we also look forward to His promise to return again in glory to judge the living and the dead. This waiting for the Lord can become a daunting task and we can easily give in to gloom and despair. On the First Sunday of Advent, we were reminded to wait in Hope. On the Second Sunday, we were reminded to wait in peace. **On this Third Sunday of Advent, we wait with hearts full of joy because, the coming of Emmanuel – God is with us – is near at hand.**

There are some among us whose situation in life makes it difficult to see any reason to rejoice. One this day, we lift up those who are burdened with any kind of sorrow or sadness, and we ask the Lord to dispel from our hearts the darkness that comes with sorrow and grief. We should remember that Joy is not simply a soft emotion or a momentary burst of happiness; it is the deep disposition of our heart and soul to the comfort of the Lord. This arises from faith and trust in God’s promises. Our Christian journey is filled with both challenges and blessings. Our modern society is afflicted with radical individualism and widespread pessimism. As a result, many people experience severe depression, anxiety, and loss of hope. However, true Christian joy persists even in hardship because it is rooted in the unchanging presence and faithfulness of God. When we allow our hearts to be anchored in God’s divine love, joy becomes a sustaining force, carrying us through life’s uncertainties and sorrows. Joy is not the absence of pain, hardship, or suffering. **Holy joy is the sense of contentment that God is with us and that He will see us through all our troubles.**

Like most great spiritual gifts, joy must be practiced. We can deepen joy in our lives by embracing a spirit of gratitude. Saint Paul tells us ‘rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus’ (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). As we continue our journey as disciples of the Lord, not only during this Advent Season, but throughout our lives, may we remain grateful to God for all that we have and are. **Gratitude deepens hope in us and hope fills us with joy.** As we light the rose candle this week, may our hearts be opened to gratitude and joy. May we also share this joy of the Lord with others, reaching out to those in need, offering kindness and encouragement wherever we go.

**Rejoice, for the Lord is near!**



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

**Morning Prayer** - begins 20 minutes before weekday Mass

**Saturday** **December 13** *Saint Lucy*  
4:00PM 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

11:30AM People of the parish family

**Monday** **December 15**  
7:30AM Mary Carnevale  
Anniversary in Heaven  
Requested by daughter,  
Ginny and Frank Clarke

**Tuesday** **December 16**  
7:30AM Joan Anderson  
Requested by son,  
Douglas and Angela Anderson

**Wednesday** **December 17**  
7:30AM Douglas Anderson  
Requested by son,  
Douglas and Angela Anderson

**Thursday** **December 18**  
7:30AM Joseph and Angeline Hayko  
Happy 95<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Heaven  
Requested by daughter, Eileen and Stanley

**Friday** **December 19**  
7:30AM Michael Allen Cuzzo  
Requested by Beverly and Christina

**Saturday** **December 20**  
4:00PM Andrea and Patrick Pacifico  
Requested by Jo and Nick Cinelli

**Sunday** **December 21** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
8:30AM Claire Curran Miloscia  
Anniversary in Heaven  
Requested by daughter

11:30AM Dorothy and Nazareth Barcellona  
Requested by Deacon Peter and family

**Morning Prayer** begins 20 minutes before Mass on Saturday

**Saturday** **December 13** *Saint Lucy*  
8:30AM John Moricz  
First anniversary in Heaven  
Requested by his loving Mother, Margaret

**Sunday** **December 14** *Third Sunday of Advent*  
10:00AM Michael Czum  
Requested by Anna Czum and family

**Saturday** **December 20**  
8:30AM Luisito Flores  
Anniversary in Heaven  
Requested by his wife, Doris and family

**Sunday** **December 21** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
10:00AM People of the parish family

**December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



### This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  
Psalms 146:6-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11



Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13  
Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10  
Matthew 1:1-17

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Matthew 21:23-27

Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5-8  
Matthew 1:18-25

Friday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Luke 1:5-25

Saturday: Isaiah 7:10-14  
Luke 1:216-38

Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalms 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24



## 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 Louise Hamilton  
 Love, Marie Pagliuca

In loving memory of Angeline Hayko  
 on her birthday in Heaven  
 Love, daughter, Eileen and son-in-law Stanley Gurney

In loving memory of Renee Griffin  
 Requested by Holly and John Pagliuca

### GOOD SHEPHERD

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

In loving memory of Luba DelMonte  
 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, December 7, 2025**

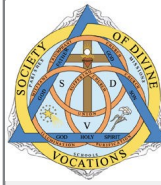
In-person donations.....\$5,254  
 On-line donations.....\$1,208  
**Total.....\$6,462**

*Thank you for your continued support of the parish.*

## *Stewardship*

*"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm,  
 because the coming of the Lord is at hand."  
 James 5:8*

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.



The drawing for the Vocationist's  
**50/50 Raffle** which supports the training of  
 their Seminarians was held on Saturday  
 November 8, 2025, at Birchwood Manor,  
 Whippany, NJ

**Total of \$60,000 from ticket sale**  
**The Vocationist Fathers received 50% = \$30,000**

**1st. Prize / 35% = \$21,000 / Ticket No. 36558**  
**D. Perez / Woodbridge, NJ**

**2nd. Prize / 10% = \$6,000 / Ticket No. 30620**  
**St. Clement Church / Queens, NY**

**3rd. Prize / 5% = \$3,000 / Ticket No.**  
**C. Marney / Port Reading, NJ**

**Fr. Cyril and the Vocationists appreciate your support**



**Happy**  
**ST. NICHOLAS**  
**Day**

**The Saint Nicholas raffle was held**  
**Saturday, December 6 at 6:00PM**  
**In St. Anthony of Padua Church**

**385 Tickets were purchased**

**1st. Prize \$1,000 Gift Card Ticket No. 572**  
**A. Simeone**

**2nd. Prize \$500 Gift Card Ticket No. 865**  
**B. Rajadnya**

**3rd. Prize \$250 Gift Card Ticket No. 332**  
**E. Petti**

**4th. Prize \$250 Gift Card Ticket No. 801**  
**M. Sandrik**

**5th. Prize \$250 Gift Card Ticket No. 982**  
**D. Dragotta**

**6th. Prize \$250 Gift Card Ticket No. 138**  
**A Carnevale**

**Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser**

## FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY



**FOOD DISTRIBUTION is  
Wednesday, December 17**

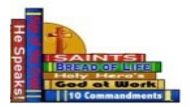
**In preparation for Christmas  
ITEMS MOST NEEDED ARE:**

Canned carrots	Canned fruit
Canned meat	Canned pasta, ravioli
Canned peas	Canned sweet potatoes
Canned white potatoes	Canned tuna
Canned mixed vegetables	Cereal
Chili	Cranberry Sauce
Jelly	Mac and Cheese
Oatmeal	Pancake mix
Pancake syrup	Pasta sauce
Peanut butter	Rice
Stuffing mix	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](mailto:info.StAnthony1@gmail.com).



## **FAITH FORMATION G.I.F.T. and Sacramental Preparation Sessions for December 2025**

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Level One First Penance and Level Two  
First Communion  
Monday, December, 15 at 6:20pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

**G.I.F.T. MASS WEEKEND  
DECEMBER 20 AND 21**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Level One and Level Two Confirmation  
Monday, December, 22 at 6:30pm.**

## ***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

**ENCOUNTER**  
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

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

December 15	Reverend John Fredy Triana-Beltran Reverend Paul Michalowski
December 16	Reverend Edward Czarcinski Reverend Ronald Jandernoa
December 17	Reverend Abraham Lotha Reverend Peter Akanath Chakkunny
December 18	Monsignor Charles Cicerale Reverend Robert Gorman
December 19	Reverend Timothy Eck Reverend James Considine
December 20	Reverend Deniskingsley Nwagwu Reverend James Hagerman
December 21	Reverend Mhonchan Ezung Reverend Piotr Grzeskiewicz



# CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER

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

ALL ARE WELCOME (Families, Couples, Singles)  
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 : beginning December 1 to make a reservation

*LEAVE A MESSAGE AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU*

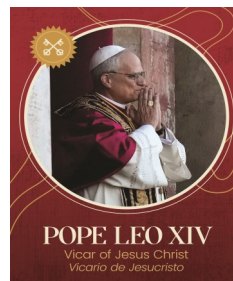


## **ADVENT DAY OF PREPARATION**

**6PM - Eucharistic Adoration with  
Individual Confession**

**7PM - Advent Healing Mass with  
Anointing of the Sick with Oil**

*If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and  
just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us  
from every wrongdoing (1John 1:9)*



### **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.

## **SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**



**Practice with Costumes is  
Thursday, December 18 at 6:00PM**

**Pageant Date:  
Friday, December 19 at 6:30PM**

## ***This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua***

### **Monday, December 15**

<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Bingo	12:00PM	Father Milos Hall
(Doors open at 10:30AM)		
Level One (Penance) and	Level Two (Communion)	
	6:20PM	Father Milos Hall

### **Tuesday, December 16**

<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Youth Choir	4:30PM	Church
Adult Choir	6:30PM	Church
AA	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

### **Wednesday, December 17**

<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
-------------	---------------	---------------

### **Thursday, December 18**

<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
Children's Christmas Pageant Practice		
	6:00PM	Church
AA	8:00PM	Father Milos Hall

### **Friday, December 19**

<b>Mass</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
Children's Christmas Pageant		
	6:30PM	Church

### **Saturday, December 20**

<b>Confessions</b>	<b>3:00PM</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
<b>Mass</b>	<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>Church</b>
NA	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

### **Sunday, December 21**

<b>Mass</b>	<b>8:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Mass</b>	<b>11:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>

## ***Liturgical Minister Schedule***

### **SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA**

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

Saturday December 20 4:00PM  
J. Barcellona, C. and E. Weiman

Sunday December 21 8:30AM  
V. Clarke, M. Martino, D. Mazzarella

December 21 11:30AM  
J. Kondrk, B. McCauley, L. Palasits

#### **READERS**

Saturday December 20 4:00PM G.I.F.T. Mass

Sunday December 21 8:30AM G.I.F.T. Mass  
11:30AM G.I.F.T. Mass

#### **SERVERS**

Saturday December 20 4:00PM A. Weiman

Sunday December 21 8:30AM C.C. Onukwugha  
Q. Valdez

December 21 11:30AM A. Boelhower

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

<u><b>Monday, December 15</b></u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement
-----------------------------------	----	---------	----------

<u><b>Tuesday, December 16</b></u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement
------------------------------------	----	---------	----------

<u><b>Wednesday, December 17</b></u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement
--------------------------------------	----	---------	----------

<u><b>Thursday, December 18</b></u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement
-------------------------------------	----	---------	----------

<u><b>Friday, December 19</b></u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement
-----------------------------------	----	---------	----------

<u><b>Saturday, December 20</b></u>	<b>Mass 8:30AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
-------------------------------------	--------------------	---------------

<u><b>Sunday, December 21</b></u>	<b>Mass 10:00AM</b>	<b>Church</b>
	Reader: E. Bonus	

### **COUNTING TEAM**

Monday	December 22	N. Cinelli, L. Huber
--------	-------------	----------------------



### **Church Decoration**

We will be decorating  
the church for  
Christmas with  
poinsettias on  
**Tuesday December 23,**  
**at 10am.**

**Your assistance would be appreciated.**

### **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.**