



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

Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV, Administrator

MSGR. PAFNOUTI WASSEF, PAROCHIAL VICAR

MICHAEL BRUCATO, DEACON JOEY PERLAS, DEACON PETER BARCELLONA, DEACON

4th Sunday OF ADVENT



©LPI



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

Pastor:

EMAIL:

pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com

Office and Food Pantry: info.stanthony1@gmail.com

Religious Education: religioused.stanthony1@gmail.com

Bulletin: 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



From the desk of Fr. Cyril Offiong, SDV

EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US

‘Therefore, the Lord God shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call Him Emmanuel’ (Isaiah 7:14)

Dear brothers and sisters,

with reverence and joyful anticipation, we draw ever closer to the celebration of the mystery of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, all four candles of our Advent Wreath have been lit, evoking the virtues of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love respectively. Christ, who is our light, draws nearer to us. We are also drawn to Mary and Joseph, who, **although uncertain about the words of the angel concerning the birth of the Son of God, nevertheless accepted God’s will and paved the way for our redemption.** We, believers, are also called to receive Christ into our lives and to place our trust in God’s promises, even when the future remains uncertain. Many of our families are experiencing uncertainties at this time, in their relationships, health, finances, addictions and other struggles. God did not spare His own Son the difficulties and anxieties of life. We, therefore, have the confidence to ask God for help as we face our own uncertainties. As we enter this final week of Advent, let us pause and reflect on the mystery that we are about to celebrate.

As Christmas approaches, the readings begin to speak of the coming of Emmanuel, the name given by the prophet Isaiah for the messiah. Emanuel means “God with us. In Christ Jesus our Lord, God, our loving Father reminds us that in all circumstances, whether joyful or challenging, He is with us and shares our human experience in all things except sin. This is the uniqueness of the Christian Faith. ‘For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him?’ (Deuteronomy 4:7). **Only in the Christian faith do we speak of a relationship with God, for our God is not distant. He is in us, with us, and for us.** As we welcome Emmanuel, we are invited to recognize the presence of God’s divine love in our daily lives, transforming ordinary moments into sacred encounters.

Advent is not merely a countdown to the Christmas celebration. It is a journey of deep trust in God’s love made manifest for us. As we have prepared our earthly homes and beautified them with lights and gifts, may we also prepare our hearts with the light and gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we may worthily welcome Emmanuel, God with us. May the peace and joy of this holy season accompany us into the coming year, confident that the enduring love of God, Emmanuel, who is always with us, will continue to guide and sustain us.

Lord, in this final week of Advent, prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son, Jesus, into our lives. Help us to trust in Your plan, even when it seems unclear or difficult. Like Mary and Joseph, give us the courage to say “yes” to Your call and to live in the hope of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

I wish you all dear family, a very Merry Christ Mass.

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 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
Monday	December 22 Respect for Life
Tuesday	December 23 Saint John of Kenty Attilio Rotili Requested by daughter, Jean and Charles Cheddar
Wednesday	December 24



4:00PM	People of the parish family
10:00PM	People of the parish family
Thursday	December 25 The Nativity of the Lord
8:30AM	People of the parish family
11:30AM	People of the parish family
Friday	December 26 Saint Stephen Ann Ur Requested by her loving family
Saturday	December 27 Saint John the Apostle John Romeo Requested by his sister, Ann
Sunday	December 28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph People of the parish family
8:30AM	Frank and Olga Iacovone Requested by the Kondrk and McQueeney families
11:30AM	

This Week's Scripture Readings

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

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

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

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

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 Michael Allen Cuozzo
Requested by his loving family

In loving memory of the Camilleri and Hickman
families in Heaven on Christmas

Love, Janet and Kim

In loving memory of my husband, Richie Simeone
Requested by his loving wife, Adrienne

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

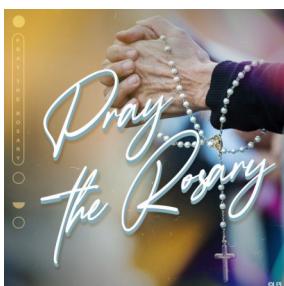
In loving memory of William and Gertrude Leahy
Requested by Karen and Kevin Barnes

MEMORIAL WALL

In loving memory of Irene Vernillo
Requested by MaryAnn Marrone

SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL

In loving memory of Irene Vernillo
Requested by Nora Rombardo



Friday, December 26,
2025

following the 7:30AM Mass

All are welcome!

Stewardship

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." Matthew 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

The Parish office

will be closed

December 25 and 26



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.

2026 Mass Book

The Mass intention book for 2026 is now open.
You are welcome to request Holy Mass
to be said for the intentions of your loved ones
both living and deceased

Contact the parish office at 732-634-1403.

Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

*Due to early submission of the bulletin,
the December 14 donations will be published in
the bulletin next week, December 28.*

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

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY



**FOOD COLLECTION IS
January 3 and 4**

ITEMS MOST NEEDED FOR THE NEW YEAR FOOD DISTRIBUTION ARE:

Canned fruit
Canned sweet potatoes
Canned vegetables
Chili Jelly
Mac and Cheese
Pasta sauce
Peanut butter
Potatoes (instant or canned)

Canned meat
Canned tuna
Cereal
Oatmeal
Pancake syrup
Pancake mix
Tomato Sauce
Rice

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.

Thank you for making this year a nourishing one for so many people that our food pantry assists.
Merry Christmas and God Bless!



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.

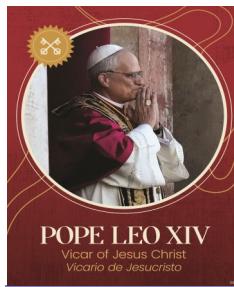
PLEASE CALL 732-634-1419: SAINT ANTHONY'S CHURCH beginning December 1 to make a reservation.
LEAVE A MESSAGE AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU



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!

**Level One and Level Two Confirmation
Monday, December 22 @6:30PM**



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 22	Reverend Lauro Sedlmayer Monsignor David Fulton
December 23	Monsignor Randall Vashon Reverend Gilles Nijobam
December 24	Reverend Sean Broderick Reverend Robert Meyers
December 25	Our Holy Father
December 26	Reverend Czeslaw Zalubski Reverend Abraham Orapankal
December 27	Reverend Thomassiah Mallavarapu Reverend Arlindo Da Silva
December 28	Reverend John Alvarado Reverend Gilbert Z. Starcher



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

3:40PM - Christmas Carols (St. Anthony)

4:00PM - Holy Mass (St. Anthony)

9:30PM - Christmas Carols (St. Anthony)

10:00PM - Holy Mass (St. Anthony)



CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30AM - Holy Mass (St. Anthony)

10:00AM - Holy Mass (Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

11:30AM - Holy MASS (St. Anthony)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

4:00PM - Holy Mass (St. Anthony)

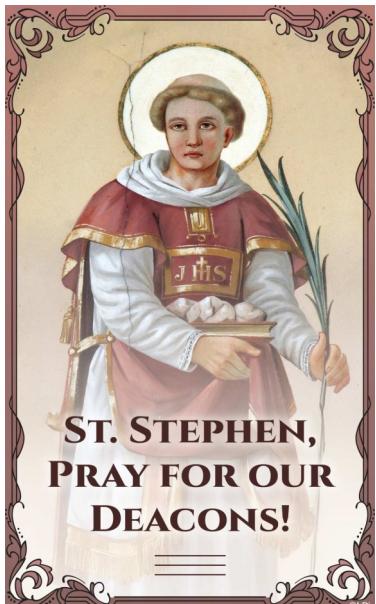
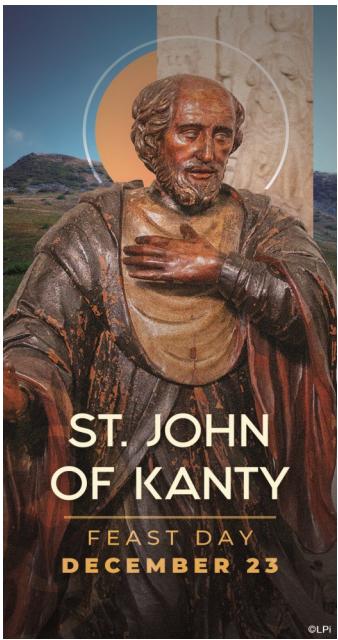
NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30AM - Holy Mass (St. Anthony)

10:00AM - Holy Mass (Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

11:30AM - Holy Mass (St. Anthony)

Did you know this week's feast days are:



December 26

"GOD IS LOVE.
WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD AND GOD IN HIM."

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE



December 27

This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

<u>Monday, December 22</u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement
<u>Tuesday, December 23</u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement
<u>Wednesday, December 24</u>	NA	11:00AM	Basement

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Mass	10:00AM	Church
NA	11:00AM	Basement



Friday, December 26 NA 11:00AM Basement

Saturday, December 27 Mass 8:30AM Church

Sunday, December 28 Mass 10:00AM Church
Reader: G. Clarke

Liturgical Minister Schedule

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday December 27 4:00PM
A. and F. Fowler, R. Masters

Sunday December 28 8:30AM
S. Gadomski, C. and E. Weiman
11:30AM
M. Amuzie, B. Cuozzo, B. Sorbanelli

READERS

Saturday December 27 4:00PM T. Casey

Sunday December 28 8:30AM
G. and G.C. Onukwuga
11:30AM C. Amuzie

SERVERS

Saturday December 27 4:00PM B. Banko

Sunday December 28 8:30AM
C. and C. Onukwuga, A. and A. Weiman
December 28 11:30AM
A. Boelhower, F. Calabrese

COUNTING TEAM

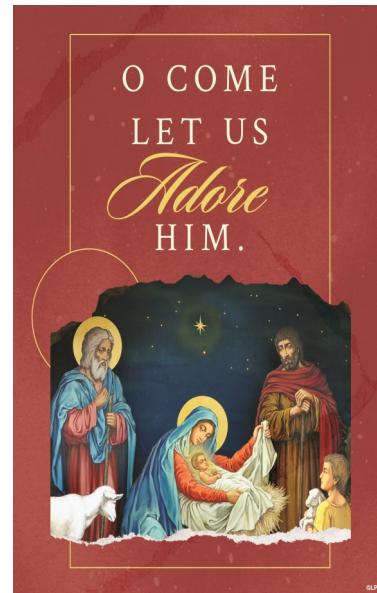
Monday December 29 B. Neveil, A. Simeone.

This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

<u>Monday, December 22</u>	Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
Bingo			CANCELLED
<u>Tuesday, December 23</u>			
Mass			7:30AM Chapel
AA			7:30PM Father Milos Hall
<u>Wednesday, December 24</u>			Parish Office Closed
No 7:30am Mass			



Mass	4:00PM	Church
Mass	10:00PM	Church
<u>Thursday, December 25</u>		Merry Christmas
Mass		8:30AM Church
Mass		11:30AM Church
Christmas Friendship Dinner		1:00PM Father Milos Hall
AA		8:00PM Father Milos Hall



Friday, December 26

Mass 7:30AM Church
Rosary Following 8:00AM Mass

Saturday, December 27

Confessions 3:00PM Chapel
Mass 4:00PM Church
NA 7:30PM Father Milos Hall

Sunday, December 28

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