



**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**

**MSGR. PAFNOUTI WASSEF, PAROCHIAL VICAR**

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

# *4th* **Sunday** **OF ADVENT**



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

**EMAIL:**

**[pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com)**

**Pastor:**

**Office and Food Pantry: [info.stanthony1@gmail.com](mailto:info.stanthony1@gmail.com)**

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**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**

**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

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

**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**  
7:30AM Respect for Life

**Tuesday December 23 Saint John of Kanty**  
7:30AM Attilio Rotili  
Requested by daughter,  
Jean and Charles Cheddar

**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

**Thursday December 25 The Nativity of the Lord**  
10:00AM People of the parish family

**Saturday December 27 Saint John the Apostle**  
8:30AM Jaime Bernabe  
Requested by Rowena Bernabe and family

**Sunday December 28**  
10:00AM Father Vincent Cornejo  
Requested by the Dizon family

**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**  
9:00AM Ann Ur  
Requested by her loving family

**Saturday December 27 Saint John the Apostle**  
4:00PM John Romeo  
Requested by his sister, Ann

**Sunday December 28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
8:30AM People of the parish family

11:30AM Frank and Olga Iacovone  
Requested by the Kondrk and McQueeney families

**December 21, 2025**  
Fourth 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

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

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

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





## 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 11<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL

In loving memory of Irene Vernillo  
Requested by Nora Rombardo



Friday, December 26,  
2025

following the 7:30<sup>AM</sup> 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**

## 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.

### 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 meat
Canned sweet potatoes	Canned tuna
Canned vegetables	Cereal
Chili Jelly	Oatmeal
Mac and Cheese	Pancake syrup
Pasta sauce	Pancake mix
Peanut butter	Tomato Sauce
Potatoes (instant or canned)	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](mailto: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!



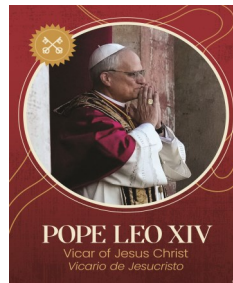
## FAITH FORMATION G.I.F.T. and Sacramental Preparation Programs for 2024-2025

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

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

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**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 Njjobam
December 24	Reverend Sean Broderick Reverend Robert Meyers
December 25	Our Holy Father
December 26	Reverend Czeslaw Zalubski Reverend Abraham Orapankal
December 27	Reverend Thomassaiah Mallavarapu Reverend Arlindo Da Silva
December 28	Reverend John Alvarado Reverend Gilbert Z. Starcher

## 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





# 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)**

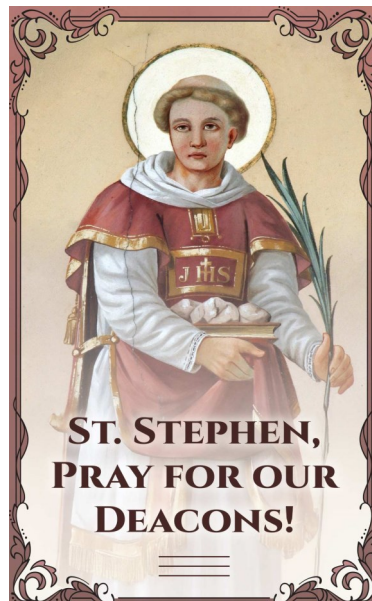
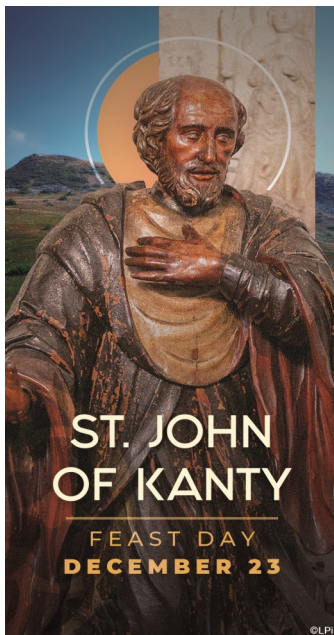
## NEW YEAR'S DAY

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

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

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

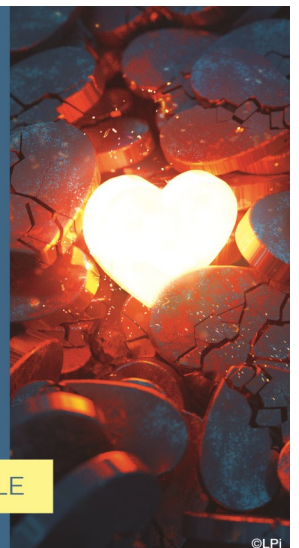
*Did you know this week's feast days are:*



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*

**Monday, December 22** NA 11:00AM Basement  
**Tuesday, December 23** NA 11:00AM Basement  
**Wednesday, December 24** 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. Gadowski, C. and E. Weiman  
 11:30AM  
 M. Amuzie, B. Cuzzo, B. Sorbanelli

#### **READERS**

**Saturday** December 27 4:00PM T. Casey

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

#### **SERVERS**

**Saturday** December 27 4:00PM B. Banko

**Sunday** December 28 8:30AM  
 C. and C. Onukwugha, 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*

**Monday, December 22**  
**Mass** **7:30AM** **Chapel**  
**Bingo** **CANCELLED**

**Tuesday, December 23**  
**Mass** **7:30AM** **Chapel**  
 AA 7:30PM Father Milos Hall

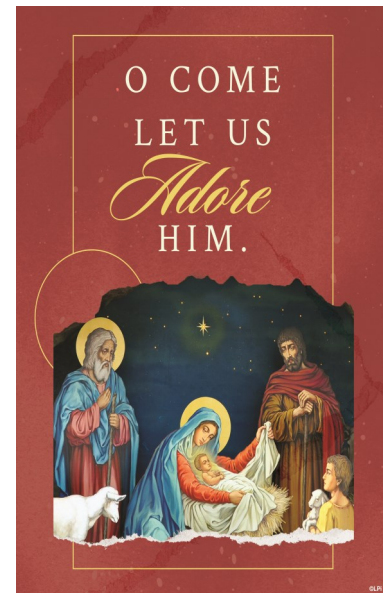
**Wednesday, December 24** **Parish Office Closed**  
**No 7:30am Mass**



**Mass** **4:00PM** **Church**  
**Mass** **10:00PM** **Church**

**Thursday, December 25** **Merry Christmas**

**Mass** **8:30AM** **Church**  
**Mass** **11:30AM** **Church**  
**Christmas Friendship** **1:00PM** **Father Milos Hall**  
**Dinner**  
 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**