



# 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



## THE HOLY FAMILY

“Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” - Mt 2:20

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: [pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofstanthonypr@gmail.com)  
Office / Food Pantry: EMAIL: [info.StAnthony1@gmail.com](mailto:info.StAnthony1@gmail.com)  
Religious Education: EMAIL: [religioused.stanthony1@gmail.com](mailto:religioused.stanthony1@gmail.com)  
Bulletin: EMAIL: [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	

The Feast of the Holy Family

December 28, 2025



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

## THE FAMILY AS DOMESTIC CHURCH

### The need for strong Christian families in today's world

Dear brothers and sisters,

as we continue to celebrate the joy of Christmas, I pray that all of you may experience the joy of this Holy Season. On this Sunday after Christmas Day, the Church celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Since the Second Vatican Council, the church has given much emphasis on **the Family as the Domestic Church, that is a “little Church” where the faith is lived out**. The Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth invites us to see our own homes as holy ground, where God dwells among us. In our family prayers, we imitate the larger church in worship. In our sacrifices for each other, we imitate the larger church in offering sacrifice to God. In our love for one another and for our neighbors, we imitate the larger church in charity to the world. I am always encouraged by those parents who make great effort to bring up their children in the faith. Despite the challenges of our modern culture, they continue to walk in the ways of the Lord.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is a true model for us. **God did not spare the Holy Family the pains of family life**, betrayal, death threat, anxiety about their lost child, grief, hunger, and all other sorrows of life. As the Holy Family faced trials and uncertainties with trust in God, so too are we called to anchor our own families firmly in faith. More than ever before, our world needs the witness of good, strong, vibrant, and convinced Christian families. As the great Saint John Paul II said, **when our families are strong, the Church will be strong. When the Church is strong, the world will be strong**. Our families must be places where faith is nurtured and grows.

Dear friends, let us consider three elements of a vibrant Christian Family. First of all, **prayer** must be an important part of our family life. Attend Mass together on Sundays and on Holy Days and even on some weekdays, as your schedule permits. Go to confession together and set aside a space in your homes for prayer. The famous words of the Holy Cross Father Patrick Payton continues to inspire us, **“the family that prays together, stays together.”** United in prayer and service, families will encounter the love and mercy of God and will be able to withstand the pressures and struggles of our world. Secondly, **forgiveness** must be readily given and received. In letter to the Church in Ephesus, Saint Paul says ‘**be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil**’ (Ephesians 4:26-27). When we learn to forgive the little offenses, we will have the courage to forgive bigger offenses. If we cannot forgive our loved ones, will we have the strength to forgive our enemies? Thirdly, **learn about your faith** and be willing to share it with others. We cannot love what we do not know. The faith formation of the family deepens their love of Christ. As scripture tells us, ‘**sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence**, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame’ (1 Peter 3:15-16).

**We bless Your name, O Lord, for sending Your Son to become part of a family, sharing, and experiencing its worries and its joys. We ask You, O Lord, to protect and watch over the families of our parish, so that in the strength of Your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of Your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, they may bear witness in this world to Your glory.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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

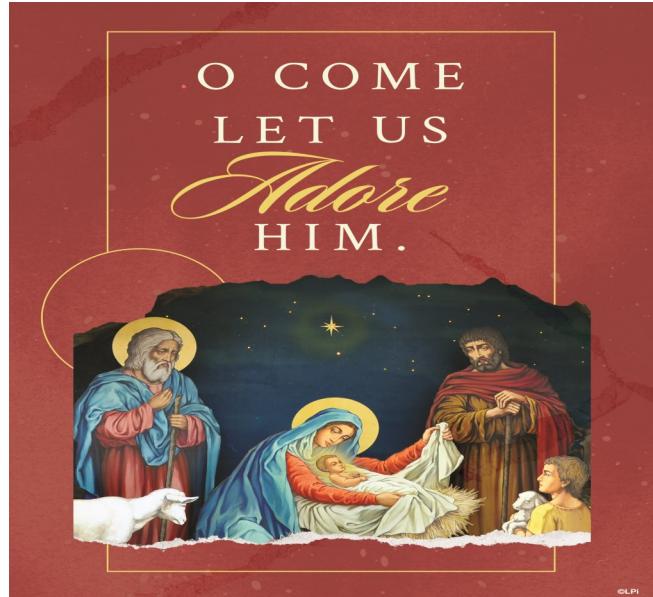
at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

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

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 27</b>	<i>Saint John the Apostle</i>
4:00PM	John Romeo	Requested by his sister, Ann
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 28</b>	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>
8:30AM	People of the parish family	
11:30AM	Frank and Olga Iacovone	Requested by the Kondrk and McQueeney families
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 29</b>	<i>Saint Thomas Becket</i>
7:30AM	Elizabeth Herczesh	Requested by Anna Czum
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 30</b>	
7:30AM	Patricia Borischak	Requested by Elizabeth Farrell and family
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 31</b>	<i>Saint Sylvester I, Pope</i>
7:30AM	Velma Walker	Requested by her sister, Cheri and Ray Gumpac
4:00PM	People of the parish family	<i>Vigil Mary Mother of God</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 1</b>	<i>Mary Mother of God Octave of Christmas</i>
8:30AM	People of the parish family	
11:30AM	People of the parish family	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<i>Saint Basil</i>
7:30AM	<i>Saint Gregory Nazianzen</i>	Pray for Vocations
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 3</b>	
4:00PM	Linda Gonzalez	Requested by Debbie and Stash Znamierowski and family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>
8:30AM	People of the parish family	
11:30AM	Susan Ringwood	Requested by Joanne Kisielewski

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

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 27</b>	<i>Saint John</i>
8:30AM	Jaime Bernabe	Requested by Rowena Bernabe and family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 28</b>	
10:00AM	Father Vincent Cornejo	Requested by the Dizon family
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 1</b>	<i>The Octave day of the Nativity of the Lord</i>
10:00AM	People of the parish family	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 3</b>	
8:30AM	Deceased members of the former Altar Rosary Society	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>
10:00AM	Eileen and George T. Miller	Requested by son, George T. Miller, Jr.



### This Week's Scripture Readings

Sunday:	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday:	1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35

Tuesday:	1 John 2:2-17 Luke 2:36-40
Wednesday:	1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-1-18
Thursday:	Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

Friday:	1 John 2:22-28 John 1:19-28
Saturday:	1 John 2:29-3:6 John 1:29-34
Sunday:	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3:5-6 Matthew 2:1-12





## 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 our mother Clara Camilleri and sister, MichaelaAnn in Heaven  
Love, Janet, Mildred, and Mary Dee

## 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 Claudia Trotto

*Beginning February 6, 2026  
the parish office will be open  
from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
on Fridays*

## Stewardship

*“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*  
Colossians 3:17

Giving thanks to God and using our words and actions to give all glory to God is the foundation of living a stewardship lifestyle. We were made in God's image and likeness, gratitude and generosity is in our DNA. As beloved sons and daughters of God, we are all part of God's family. Using our gifts to help others is our gift back to God and helps grow the Body of Christ here on earth and establishes a pathway to Heaven for each of us.

Parish Office is closed  
Thursday, January 1 and  
Friday, January 2



*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 Carpenito, Lucille Carpenito, John Campion, Justin Carpentieri, Steven DeNoyelles, Beth Dispoto, Alyssa Dohanyos, John Dohanyos, Mark Emanuele, Frank Fernandez, Larry Golden, Kim Hickman, Keeba Johnson, Lynn Killmurray, Alfred Leone, James G. Lockheed, Jonathan Marcela, Heather Marrone Fabio, Robert Joseph Meade IV, David Russell, Janet Strunak, Millie Sutphen, Maryann Vyszwany, Matthew Woods



*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!*

## Stewardship: God's Plan for Giving

**Due to early submission of the bulletin,  
weekly donations will be published  
in an upcoming issue.**

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

## FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

### FOOD COLLECTION is January 3 and 4

In preparation for Christmas  
ITEMS MOST DESPERATELY 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

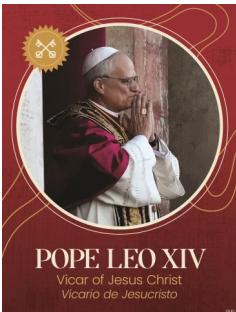
We will always accept toiletry and household items such as bodywash, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, laundry detergent, and dish detergent.

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.*

*On Wednesday, December 17 we were able to serve 39 families which included 96 people.*

**Merry Christmas and God Bless!**



#### Pope's Intention for January:

For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

#### 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.

January Masses are available.



### 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 Communion Monday, January 5 at 6:20PM

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**G.I.F.T. SESSION WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 7 at 6:00PM**  
Please return your December  
Home Session and Lap blanket

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#### Level One and Level Two Confirmation Monday, January 12 at 6:30PM

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**G.I.F.T. Mass Weekend  
January 24 at 4:00PM  
January 25 at 8:30AM and 11:30AM**

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#### Level One and Level Two Communion Monday, January 26 at 6:20PM

#### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

December 29 Reverend Michael Saharic  
Reverend Louis F. Stingel

December 30 Reverend John Gloss  
Reverend John Hillier

December 31 Monsignor William Benwell  
All Priests 

January 1 Our Holy Father

January 2 Reverend Chester Carina  
Reverend Edmund Shallow

January 3 Reverend Wladyslaw Wiktorek  
Very Reverend Ronald Jandernoa

January 4 Bishop James Checchio

## Collection Funding for 2026

Dear Parishioners:

If you use the envelopes provided to you bi-monthly or you donate on-line, we thought it might be helpful to provide you with a one page reference for 2026. All collections noted with an \* are funds sent directly to the Diocese of Metuchen and not retained for use by Saint Anthony of Padua or Our Lady of Mount Carmel; while collections noted with an \*\* are designated for the Social Ministries in our parish.

If you are not aware Saint Anthony of Padua Church provides on-line giving. You have the option to manage your contributions on-line. It helps you maintain your giving even if you cannot be here at Mass (vacation, weather, illness). You can start, stop, and change your contributions at any time. This service is safe and secure and convenient for you.

### To register:

1. Go to our website:  
[www.saintanthonypadua.org](http://www.saintanthonypadua.org)
2. Click on the on-line giving registration.
3. Complete the on-line registration form.
4. If you have any questions, contact the OSV support center at 1-800-348-2886 option 2.

They will be happy to assist you.

Fund	Collection Date
Weekly Offertory	All year
Property & Liability	monthly
Mission Coop	to be scheduled
Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day)	1/01/2026
Together in Charity*	1/04/2026
Parish Maintenance & Repair	1/18/2026
Foundation Catholic Education*	1/25/2026
Catholic Spirit*	2/08/2026
Ash Wednesday**	2/18/2026
Parish Maintenance & Repair	2/22/2026
Parish Debt Reduction	3/08/2026
Easter Flowers	3/15/2026
Retired Diocesan Clergy*	3/29/2026
Holy Thursday**	4/02/2026
Good Friday/Holy Land*	4/03/2026
Easter Sunday	4/05/2026
Catholic Relief Services*	4/26/2026
Mother's Day Novena	5/03/2026
Development of the People*	5/17/2026
Parish Maintenance & Repair	5/24/2026
Catholic Communication Campaign*	5/31/2026
Father's Day Novena	6/14/2026
Parish Maintenance & Repair	6/21/2026
Peter Pence*	6/28/2026
Parish Debt Reduction	7/19/2026
Assumption of Mary (Holy Day)	8/15/2026
Parish Maintenance & Repair	8/30/2026
Vocationist Seminarian Fund	9/20/2026
Parish Maintenance & Repair	9/27/2026
Parish Debt Reduction	10/04/2026
All Souls Novena	10/11/2026
World Mission Sunday*	10/18/2026
Parish Maintenance & Repair	10/25/2026
All Saints (Holy Day)	11/01/2026
Archdiocese for Military (every 3 years)*	
Works of Mercy*	11/15/2026
Christmas Flowers	11/29/2026
Immaculate Conception	12/08/2026
Retirement for Religious*	12/13/2026
Christmas	12/25/2026

### Parish Debt Reduction –

*Assists with parish assessments owed to Diocese of Metuchen.*

### Property & Liability –

*Assists with the property & liability owed to Diocese of Metuchen*

### Vocationist Seminarian Fund –

*Supports the training of the Vocationist Fathers' students.*

## Liturgical Minister Schedule

### SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers  
announcement schedule for  
Saturday, January 3, 2026 and  
Sunday, January 4, 2026  
will be communicated using email.



The sign-up link for this event is:  
<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/Br1QoQ?vid=1ni9zd>

## This Week at Saint Anthony of Padua

### Monday, December 29

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

### Tuesday, December 30

Mass	7:30AM	Chapel
AA	7:30PM	Father Milos Hall

### Wednesday, December 31

Mass	7:30AM	Church
Vigil Mary Mother of God	4:00PM	Church

### Thursday, January 1

Mary, Mother of God	<u>Happy New Year</u>
<u>Parish Office is Closed</u>	

Mass	8:30AM	Church
Mass	11:30AM	Church
AA	8:00PM	Father Milos Hall

### Friday, January 2

<u>Parish Office is Closed</u>		
Mass	7:30AM	Church

### Saturday, January 3

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

### Sunday, January 4

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

## This Week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

### Monday, December 29

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Tuesday, December 30

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Wednesday, December 31

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Thursday, January 1

Mass	10:00AM	Church
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NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Friday, January 2

NA	11:00AM	Basement
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### Saturday, January 3

Mass	8:30AM	Church
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### Sunday, January 4

Mass	9:45AM	Church
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## ALL PARISHIONERS

are invited and encouraged  
to share



the first Sunday of the month,  
**SUNDAY, January 13**

in Father Milos Hall following the 8:30AM Mass