

# Saint Anthony of Padua

84 Salem Street • Fitchburg, Massachusetts  
[www.stanthonyfitchburg.net](http://www.stanthonyfitchburg.net)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

We can be found at "Saint Anthony Parish Fitchburg"  
or through our website.

## Pastoral Staff

**Fr. Juan Ramirez**, Pastor  
[frjuan@stanthonyfitchburg.net](mailto:frjuan@stanthonyfitchburg.net)

**Deacon Mark Carrier**  
[deacon120801@gmail.com](mailto:deacon120801@gmail.com)

**Deacon Salvatore Tantillo**  
[Saltantillo1@gmail.com](mailto:Saltantillo1@gmail.com)

**Prayer Line Requests**  
[prayers@stanthonyfitchburg.net](mailto:prayers@stanthonyfitchburg.net)  
978-342-4706

## Parish Office

978-342-4706  
978-342-8160 fax  
[church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net](mailto:church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net)

### Hours:

Monday – Wednesday 9-3  
*(closed Thursday & Friday)*

**Vicky Zarrella**, Office Manager  
[church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net](mailto:church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net)

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## WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

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### LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM  
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 12:30 PM (African)

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 8:00 AM

### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Vigil at 5:30 PM, 8:00 AM day of

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday afternoon 3:00-3:30 PM, or by appointment.

### BAPTISM OF INFANTS

All are welcome! Please call the church office to schedule an appointment.

### SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA welcomes all those interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith.  
Please contact Fr. Juan with questions.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY** Please contact us at least ONE YEAR in advance to begin preparation.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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As members of the Roman Catholic Church, we believe that God is alive and head of our parish family. We endeavor to be a welcoming, inclusive, charitable and socially responsible faith community. We offer our hearts, our gifts and our time, as we strive to give witness to Jesus' command to love one another. Through the example of our patron Saint Anthony of Padua, we desire to be peacemakers, living the gospel in word and action.

# MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent**

4:00 PM Deceased of the Joseph Altieri, Sr. Family  
& the Salvatore Greco Family  
by Mary Altieri & family

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Gillian Lambert  
by her parents & family  
Louie Marrella  
by his daughter Diane

10:30 AM Ron Bouchard (8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
by his family  
Angelo Femino  
by his wife Anna & family

12:00 PM Parishioners

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

*St. Damasus I, Pope*

8:00 AM Michael Vincent Addorisio  
by his nieces

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

*St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

*St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM Open Intention

Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent**

4:00 PM Agnes Clear  
by her daughter Linda & Peter Allaire  
Joseph Altieri Jr. & sons Joseph III & David  
by Mary Altieri & Jo-Ann

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

**Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Louis J. Perla  
by his family  
Mario & Grace Zarrella  
by their family

10:30 AM Paula Kraszyk  
by the Panagiotidis family  
Tess (Beauvais) Delke  
by Ed & Sue Cronin

12:30 PM Parishioners



**St. Anthony Candle Intention:**  
**Special Intention**

## December 9 - 10, 2023

### Second Sunday of Advent

**"Prepare the way of the Lord..."** (MARK 1:3) We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

READ AND PREPARE

**Next Week's Scripture readings**

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

## PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS



There are still tags remaining. If you have not taken a tag, please consider one this year. **The deadline for returning gifts has been extended to Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you to all who have already taken one or more tags and returned your gift(s)!

The 100+ children from **Catholic Charities**; the 30 elders from **ASNCM** (Aging Services of North Central Mass) and the 17 **Seminarians** will have added joy because of your generosity. Remainder: The Seminarian gift cards should be mailed back **directly through the envelope provided ASAP.**

All others, **please include the "tag" with your gift/donation.** If you can help, we ask you to return your gifts for both agencies to the church **no later than Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.** If you choose, you may drop off your gifts directly to the agencies but please call ahead.

**Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities of Worcester County, 196 Mechanic Street, Leominster, MA 01453 (978-840-0696).

**ASNCM,** 680 Mechanic Street, Leominster, MA 01453 (978-537-7411).



**Italian Cookies for Christmas!** – Patty Vacca Martin, along with the members of the Hospitality Committee are taking orders for assorted Italian cookies; plain \$16 dozen, filled \$18 dozen. Wide assortment including anise, limoncello, chocolate, spice, S cookies, filled cookies with fig, date, raspberry, apricot or blueberry. Cannoli plain, \$2.50 each, with chocolate chips or pistachios, \$3 each. Biscotti selections of cranberry almond, almond, pumpkin. Ask about Gluten Free Cookies!

The cookies will be dressed in cellophane and decorated to be brought home or gifted!

To place your order or for more info call Patty at 978-407-9385. You can also see some selections on her FB page. All proceeds go to St. Anthony Church! **Order deadline is Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.** Don't be left out. Order through FB or call today!



Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead, Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation he would bring us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized.

Mark's Gospel is clear on John the Baptist's role in preparing the way for another who will come, one who is greater than himself. JESUS!

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and the disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists reports on John's preaching and baptizing, emphasizing the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has been baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

Blessings,

*Fr. Juan*

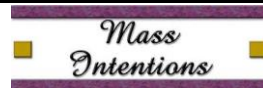
#### **Personal Hygiene Collection for Catholic Charities is Ongoing.**

Please bring one or two items and place them in the collection bins at the entrances of the church. Suggested Items Needed: Shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, soap, body wash, small packs of tissues, deodorant (men & woman's), toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, hand sanitizer, lotion, toilet paper, diapers, baby wash, baby lotion.



**Food Pantry Collection** for St. Francis chapter of St. Vincent de Paul is ongoing. Please bring any nonperishable items when you can. If this is something that you have never done before, please strongly consider it. The collection bin is located at the entrance of the church.

**March for Life Registration deadline approaching!** - There's still time to register for the bus trip to the 51<sup>st</sup> annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024! Buses will leave from St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, Jan. 18 following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m., and will travel to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC in time for Friday morning Mass followed by the March for Life at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March, arriving back at St. Paul at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20. Cost is \$125 per seat. **Registration deadline is December 15.** Registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For more details and registration forms, visit [worcesterdioocese.org/respect-life](http://worcesterdioocese.org/respect-life), or call the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311 or email [aledoux@worcesterdioce.org](mailto:aledoux@worcesterdioce.org). Can't attend this year but want to help? Consider making a donation that will help defray expenses for our students who want to attend but might otherwise find it difficult to do so. Thank you!



**The Mass Intention Book** is open for the months of January – June 2024.

**FREE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR ALL VETERANS AND ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS** - Cauley's Garden Center along with Operation Service [www.operationsservice.net](http://www.operationsservice.net) is providing trees to thank our service members for all they have done. **Starting November 24**, pick up your FREE tree at Cauley's Garden Center, 649 South St. While supplies last.

**Rorate Caeli Mass in W. Boylston** - A Rorate Caeli Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on **Saturday, December 16 at 6:30 AM** at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 111 Worcester St., West Boylston. The Mass is celebrated by candlelight before dawn. The interplay of light and darkness speaks to the meaning of Advent and the coming of the Light of the World. This year, the liturgy will include prayers for peace, and for the overcoming of the darkness of violence which shrouds nations and peoples. All are welcome.

**Invite someone to Mass this Christmas Season!** - So many messages during the Christmas Season are about coming home, being with family and friends. Consider inviting someone with you and your family to Mass this Christmas and experience the joys of the Christmas Season. It could be the greatest gift you give this year!



## Newly Baptized

**Lucia Ann Hurget**

*was welcomed into our Christian community through baptism.  
May she, along with her parents, grow in faith,  
love and service to Jesus Christ.*

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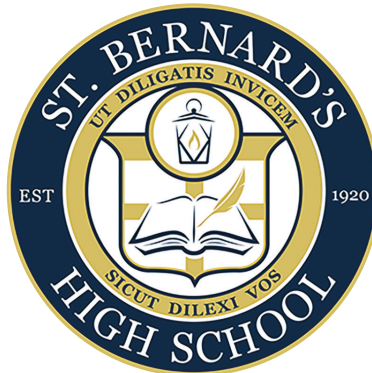
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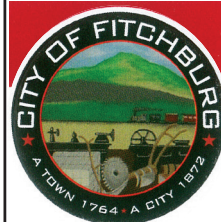
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*"Do Unto Others..."*

Luke 6:31

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