

Saint Anthony of Padua

84 Salem Street • Fitchburg, Massachusetts
www.stanthonyfitchburg.net



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

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Juan Ramirez, Pastor
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Deacon Mark Carrier
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Deacon Salvatore Tantillo
Saltantillo1@gmail.com

Prayer Line Requests
prayers@stanthonyfitchburg.net
 978-342-4706

Parish Office

978-342-4706
 978-342-8160 fax
church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net

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

Vicky Zarrella, Office Manager
church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

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 2nd

Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

Guy & Nancy Badagliacca & son Paul
by Badagliacca & Marabello families
Patrick & son David Papa
by their family

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Felipe Nogueira
by his family
Gail (Celuzza) Anderson (Month's Mind)
by her cousin Rose Ann
10:30 AM Fr. Jerry Orsino
by his friends
12:00 PM Parishioners

Monday, December 4th

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Tuesday, December 5th

8:00 AM Frank Catalfamo
by Prayer Shawl Ministry Members

Wednesday, December 6th

St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:00 AM Diane Christian (Month's Mind)
by her friend Ann Parisi

Thursday, December 7th

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Josephine Bevilaqua Lacascio
by the Kymalainen Trust

Friday, December 8th

The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, December 9th

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 10th

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Gillian Lambert
by her parents & family
Louie Marrella
by his daughter Diane
10:30 AM Ron Bouchard (8th Anniversary)
by his family
Angelo Femino
by his wife Anna & family
12:30 PM Parishioners



St. Anthony Candle Intention:
IMO Anna Amoroso
by Elena Valeri

December 2 - 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33) We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel Mark 1:1-8

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS collection to be taken up at all Masses next weekend, December 9-10th.

Lector Workbooks have arrived. There are several copies remaining. If you have not done so, please pick up your copy in the sacristy after Mass today. New readings began this weekend!



Annual Giving Tree has begun for **Catholic Charities** (100+ children) and **ASNCM** or Aging Services of North Central Mass (30 elders) as well as 17 **Seminarians**. The Seminarian gift cards should be mailed back directly through the envelope

provided.

If you are not comfortable going to the store you can make a monetary donation for a child or elder and drop it off at Mass.

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 or directly to the agencies **no later than Monday, December 11th.** Please call them if you want to drop off directly.

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).

Aging Services of North Central Mass or **ASNCM**. provides quality services to individuals 60+ and those with disabilities. They are requesting only gift cards be purchased. If possible, from places like Walmart or Target where the recipients can purchase groceries or other goods in one place. They are not providing names this year.



Italian Cookies for Christmas! – Patty Vacca Martin, along with the members of the Hospitality Committee are taking orders for assorted Italian cookies. The orders will be dressed in cellophane and decorated to be brought home or gifted! More info to follow or call Patty at 978-407-9385 to hear the selections and place your order. You can also see some selections on her FB page. All proceeds go to St. Anthony Church!

Dear Friends,

We are at that time of year again when our part of the world is getting darker. Then, of course, we have the cold weather too. Although we may not love the darkness, the cold, and the snow, we love the message they bring to us each year. The darkness itself reminds us of the light that entered into the darkness.

God Himself is going to visit our world.

The Advent season is a time for us to prepare and take this message to heart: a message of joyful expectation. We rejoice that God is planning to save us, and we eagerly await the day when it will happen.

The three primary actions we should take in Advent are preparing, celebrating, and spreading the news about Jesus.

First, we prepare, as we do so for an important visit. Just think about all the preparations we made to welcome our loved ones for Thanksgiving days ago. We should prepare for Christmas with the same eagerness: We have set up an Advent Wreath in the Church and you could set up one at home too and light the proper number of candles each week. Reading an Advent reflection book, for example, can help us stay focused with a special prayer or meditation for each day. Music that actually mentions Jesus and Christmas helps to get us in the Advent mood, and decorations like lights, Christmas trees, and Nativity sets are a beautiful way to remember Christ the true light who came into the darkness of this world. Again, we do not need to over-extend ourselves. Even simple changes in our homes and offices can have a big effect.

After we prepare, we celebrate. We do not need to wait until Christmas to rejoice. We can start celebrating as we get ready for it by coming to Mass every Sunday or every day and by making a good confession. Also, the Advent season has several special feast days when we can rejoice. We remember St. Nicholas on December 6th. The Immaculate Conception of Mary is December 8th and Our Lady of Guadalupe is on December 12th. Two days to celebrate all that Mary has done for us, two perfect days to pray the rosary.

Finally, while preparing and celebrating, we need to spread the news about Jesus. We can do so passively by using those postage stamps with Mary and Jesus on them, sending Christmas cards with holy images, or just using the word "Christmas" instead of "holiday." We also need to actively spread the news. Helping the needy with food, clothing, donations, and toys must be a part of our witness. Giving Christmas presents is good, as long as we give to those most in need.

The spirit of joyful expectation in Advent must lead us to prepare, celebrate, and spread the news about Jesus. At the same time, when we prepare ourselves, celebrate, and spread the news, our joy and expectation increase.

May we await him with joy this Advent season.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

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.

NOTE OF THANKS – "We thank you for your help in keeping our pantry well stocked. We will keep you in our prayers. Happy Thanksgiving." St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Francis of Assisi Pantry.



The Mass Intention Book is open for the months of January – June 2024. You may call in with your requests. **It is not necessary for you to come to the office.** Any messages received will be returned promptly. Reminder: The office is closed on Thursday and Friday.

March for Life Registration deadline approaching!

- There's still time to register for the bus trip to the **51st 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, or call the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311 or email 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!

FREE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR ALL VETERANS AND ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS – Cauley's Garden Center along with Operation Service 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.

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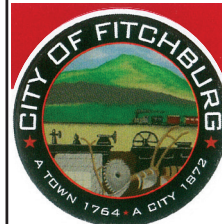
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"Do Unto Others..."

Luke 6:31

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