

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

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frijuan@stanthonyfitchburg.net

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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, November 4th

Vigil: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS FOR ALL FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Sunday, November 5th

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM June Roy
by Kathy Catalfamo
Leo Roderick
by his Friends
10:30 AM Rose Champa
by Elena Valeri
Lynne Romano Martignetti
by her brother Doug & Family
12:00 PM Parishioners

Monday, November 6th

8:00 AM Paul Thibodeau
by Joyce Moretto

Tuesday, November 7th

8:00 AM John Carbone
by his Family

Wednesday, November 8th

8:00 AM Anna Celona
by her son Frank

Thursday, November 9th

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

8:00 AM Frank Catalfamo
by members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Friday, November 10th

St. Leo the Great, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, November 11th

Vigil: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM David Wood
by Joan Horgan

Sunday, November 5th

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Domenica A. (Buratti) Perla
by her Family
Marianne DiConza (2nd Anniversary)
by her daughter Suzanne & son-in-law Jared
10:30 AM Margaret & Nicholas Pandiscio
and their son Nicholas
by the Macchio Family
Lou Morizzo
by his wife Mary
12:30 PM Parishioners



St. Anthony Candle Intention:
Peace in the Middle East
and in the World

November 4 - 5, 2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12) The world celebrates people in the spotlight and those who have the most of everything. We think celebrity, money and possessions are the key to happiness. Yet, our world is filled with more loneliness, anxiety, and depression than ever before. The key to a happy life is relationship. Relationship with God and each other. Trust is the foundation of any good relationship and humility is the seed of trust.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Wisdom 6:12-16
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

The office will be closed all day on Tuesday, November 7th.

Thanksgiving Collection NEXT WEEKEND –Last year we tried a



new method of donating for the food baskets that Catholic Charities supplies to those in need around our communities. It worked great so they are asking us to continue in this way.

Catholic Charities is asking us to donate **\$20 Market Basket or Hannaford gift cards** (so families can purchase their own turkeys) **and/or cash** (in any amount), to supplement the purchase of food to round out the meals for baskets given to the families they serve.

To that end, we are taking up a special collection of cash/checks or \$20 gift cards **next weekend, November 11-12th**. 100% of all donations will go to Catholic Charities to help them in their efforts. We ask that you please give in relation to the gifts you have received. Place your cash/check donation in a marked envelope if you want it to be counted toward your charitable giving for the year. Thank you!



4th Annual Pie Fundraiser! St. Anthony Hospitality Committee is again offering a selection of boxed homemade pies for purchase just in time for Thanksgiving! Order one for you, a neighbor or friend.

Pie Choices include Apple, Dutch Apple, Blueberry, Pumpkin, Ricotta. Sugar free & gluten free are also available! **Cost:** \$20 each. **Deadline to order:** Wednesday, November 15th! To order call: Gail Lassila 978-342-6910 or Patty Vacca-Martin 978-407-9385. **Please plan to pick up your pies on Tuesday, November 21 from 12-4pm or Wednesday, November 22 from 10-2pm.** Please call the numbers listed to give an estimate of when you will arrive so they will have your pies waiting for a quick delivery! **All proceeds go directly to the church. Don't be left out. Plan accordingly to get your order placed before the November 15th deadline.**

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "David's son." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honored and exalted. Thus, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. **Phylacteries** are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. **Tassels** refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honor in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

Blessings,

Fr. Juan

Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center of Fitchburg cordially invites you to their **21st Annual Fundraising Banquet** to be held on **Thursday, November 9th beginning at 6:00 PM** at the Double Tree by Hilton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster. Adults only. Reservations are required, RSVP to 978-342-4244 or online at friendsofcarenetchurch.org. They are happy to seat parishioners together. If you plan to go, please contact the church office to give your name as well as registering with them.

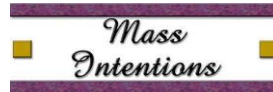
Care Net has been serving communities in North Central Mass and beyond since 1976. Being a medical clinic is costly. All the services we provide are free. We do not receive government funding, so it is our hope that you will consider attending this **free will offering event** or send a donation directly to us at PO Box 511, 515 Main Street, Fitchburg. Thank you!

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.



The Mass Intention Book will open on Wednesday, November 8th beginning at 10:00 for the months of January – June 2024. You may call in your requests after November 8th. **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.

Local Christmas Fairs

"Christmas in Acadia" Fair in Leominster - St. Cecilia's "Christmas in Acadia" Fair will take place on **Friday, November 10 from 5-8pm and Saturday, November 11 from Noon-6 pm**. Featuring Traditional French-Canadian foods including Poutines, Rapee, and Fricot. Or choose from our extensive kitchen menu and end your meal at the pie booth or the baked goods table. Acadian Auction, \$4,000 Major Raffle, Theme Baskets, variety of handmade Craft items and a large Flea Market available for your enjoyment. There will be face painting and a variety of game booths for children of all ages! **On Saturday free picture with Santa from 2:30-4:30pm**. Live entertainment on Saturday includes **LouAnn's Christmas Line Dancers at 1pm and a Christmas Concert featuring Claire Neas accompanied by Elizabeth Fiedler from 5-6 pm**. Take the weekend off from cooking. Come enjoy the food and festivities! Located at 188 Mechanic St. in Leominster.

HOLIDAY FAIR - St. Bernard's Elementary School, 245 Summer St., - **Saturday, November 18th from 8:00 to 3:00 PM**. Vendors, raffles, class baskets, baked goods, crafts and games for children...and Santa! Stop by and enjoy the fun!

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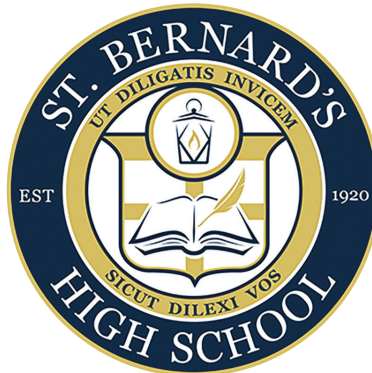
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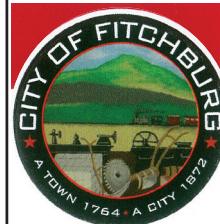
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*St. Anthony
Pray for Us*

"Do Unto Others..."

Luke 6:31

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