

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 Salvatore Tantillo
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 978-342-4706

Parish Office

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 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, October 21st

Vigil: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM St. Bernard's Alumni Class of 1978
both Deceased and Living

Sunday, October 22nd

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM June Roy

by Ed & Sue Cronin

10:30 AM Fr. Jerry Orsini, O.M.I. (Month's Mind)

by friends John, Maryann & Elena

11:45 AM BAPTISM: Francesca June Tramontozzi

12:00 PM Parishioners

Monday, October 23rd

St. John of Capistrano, Priest

8:00 AM Deceased of the Revolti & Sasano Families

by Joyce Moretto

Tuesday, October 24th

St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

8:00 AM Open Intention

by

Wednesday, October 25th

8:00 AM James & Marianne DiConza (54th Wedding Anniv.)

by their daughter Suzanne & son-in-law Jared

Thursday, October 26th

8:00 AM James Babineau

by his sister

Friday, October 27th

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, October 28th

Vigil: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM Nicholas Macchio (16th Anniversary)

by his Family

Helen O'Connor

by her daughter Diane

Sunday, October 29th

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Dec. of the Blackwelder & Banahan Families

by Don & Teresa Pierce

In Thanksgiving

by the Nogueira Family

10:30 AM Deceased of the Emanuel Morizzo Family

by Mary Morizzo

Paula Kraszyk

by the Panagiotidis Family

12:30 PM Parishioners



St. Anthony Candle Intention:

IMO Janet McCue

by Ellen Valeri

October 21 - 22, 2023

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21) Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second, especially our money.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE - Classes have begun. If you still haven't been contacted by a teacher, please call the office immediately. Thank you!



World Mission Sunday is this

weekend, October 21 & 22. Pope

Pius XI instituted this back in 1926.

It is an effort of the entire Church to help over 1,100 dioceses that cannot sustain themselves

because they are too poor, young, or actively persecuted. With our daily prayer and our generous donation of World Mission Sunday, we all bear witness to the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ, making Him present in every continent, country, city, family and heart.

Annual Mass for the Faithful Departed - Fr. Juan has invited the family members of those who have died this past year to join him for a celebration of Mass for The Faithful Departed to be held at the **4pm Mass on Saturday, November 4th.** This Mass is to remember ALL our loved ones but in a special way, the individuals who have died this year. If you received a letter from Fr. Juan (they were mailed this week) and have not returned your reply, we urge you to do so today so that Father will know approximately how many to expect. Thank you.

Attention St. Bernard's High Graduates! - The Bernardian Association is having a complimentary luncheon for the **Classes of 1936 to 1963 on Friday, Nov. 10** at St. Bernard's Elementary School. This venue is handicap accessible. Reconnect and celebrate being part of the Bernardian Community while enjoying a light lunch and entertainment. We will also be celebrating our school's veterans as part of the festivities. **To RSVP by October 27** or find out more, please contact Kathy Krysiak '90 at 781-718-0390 or BernardianAssociation@stbernardshsc. Please do not wait as space is limited and you must register to attend! You can also find out more, RSVP for this event, and update your contact information on the school website in the "Alumni and Friends" section.

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
Who is chosen by the Lord?

Perhaps too often we think that only those faithful to their religious obligations are chosen by the Lord. The Scriptures keep telling us over and over that this is not so. God chooses anyone and everyone. God will the salvation of every person who has ever lived. God makes us of His chosen people and those who belong to the pagans and the Gentiles. It is important for us to realize this so that we don't think that just because we are Christians, we have a special right to God's divine life.

In today's first reading, from the Prophet Isaiah, we see God using Cyrus and calling Cyrus his anointed one. Yet Cyrus was not one of the chosen people. We also know that in the genealogy of Christ, there are present some women who did not come from the chosen people. God works where God wants to work and uses whatever person He chooses.

Today's Gospel from Saint Matthew teaches the same kind of reality. The Pharisees are trying to trip Jesus up with their way of thinking so that they can show others that Jesus is not anyone special. Jesus outwits them, as usual. God's presence and love do not depend on keeping all the rules that the Pharisees had found in order to protect the Law. We should not ridicule all of these Laws because they really did help keep a strong practice of faith. The problem is when the small laws become more important than the enormous values they are supposed to be protecting.

We Christians should listen to the words of the First Letter to the Thessalonians today, wherein we are told: For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction. Living the Gospel is not just knowing the words, but living in its power by our daily actions, living in the power of the Holy Spirit, both with actions and with conviction.

Christianity is not a philosophy so much as a way of living daily life. We want to be followers of Jesus Christ, living as He lived and striving to love all others as He did. May our listening to the Word of God today move us from attentiveness to strong living actions of faith.

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.

St. Bernard Cemetery Lot & Columbarium Sale – No one really like to think about death, but it is a reality. Do you have your final resting place reserved? St. Bernard Cemetery is in the process of a sale on grave lots in the new Calvary section which has been plotted with updated regulations pertaining to monument lot layouts. In addition, our Columbarium with niches will also have reduced prices. Please contact the Cemetery Superintendent, Jason Baldini at the office 978-342-4820 for questions or an appointment. Weekend and after-hours appointments are available for your convenience as well.

Christian Job Search - Are you a Christian job seeker seeking a career that aligns with your faith? We've curated a resource page just for you! Discover specialized job boards, Christian-owned companies, and transition support resources to help you find a career that resonates with your beliefs. Read more about it here: <https://www.resumebuilder.com/christian-job-search-and-resume-resources/>.

Mass Intentions

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.

Christmas Craft Fair in Leominster - St. Anna Society at St. Anna Church in Leominster is sponsoring its Annual Christmas Fair in Leominster on **Friday, November 3 from 4 to 8 pm** and **Saturday, November 4 from 9 am to 5:30 pm**. Features Chinese Auction, lottery scratch ticket frame, instant Lucky Scratch Off game, crafts, designer baskets & delicious baked goods. Nonnie's Attic filled with treasures. Nonnie's Café features soup, pasta, meatball subs, sausage, pepper & onion subs, hot dogs, brownie sundaes & more. Located at 194 Lancaster St. Leominster. Come join the fun!

Fall Events at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Baldwinville

Annual Meat Raffle will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 21 at 6:00 pm** at the Baldwinville American Legion, 3 Central St.. Plan to attend and you could win your holiday roasts and meats! Free snacks and a cash bar will be available.

Harvest Festival on **Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm** in the parish hall at 1 Forest St. Featuring Theme Baskets, Chinese Auction, lunch, jar deals, country store, a 50-ticket book of \$50 Scratch Tickets, raffles & our major CASH raffle.

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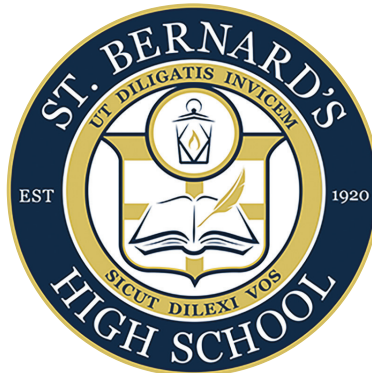
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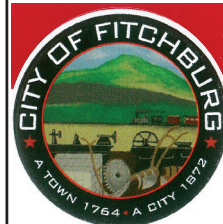
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Pray for Us*

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"Do Unto Others..."

Luke 6:31

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