

# Saint Anthony of Padua

84 Salem Street • Fitchburg, Massachusetts  
[www.stanthonyfitchburg.net](http://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  
[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, January 20<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 PM Dottie Giadone-Poirier  
& Rev. Raphael Posco  
by Amy & Marty Walsh

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Joseph M. & Rose G. Secino  
by the Ernest Secino Trust  
Felipe Nogueira  
by the Nogueira family

10:30 AM Nancy Ray (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
& Sr. Janet Badagliacca  
by the Marabello & Badagliacca Families

12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

**St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr, St. Marianne Cope, Virgin**

8:00 AM Ellen Gifford  
by her daughter

Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

**St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Religious Founder & Doctor**

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

**The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle**

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

**St. Timothy & St. Titus, Bishops**

8:00 AM NO MASS  
5:00 PM BAPTISM: Edward Joseph Persson

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 PM Dick Hautala (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)  
by his wife Bonnie  
Kathy Hawkins (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)  
by the Hawkins & Fleming families

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Paul & Mary Morin  
by their family  
Leo & Kathryn McManus  
by their family

10:30 AM Open Intention  
by

9:00 PM Parishioners



**St. Anthony Candle Intention:**

## January 20 - 21, 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'"** (John 1:38) When we recognize who we are, it's easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves, and others, as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how He wants you to live the life He intended for you.

READ AND PREPARE

**Next Week's Scripture readings**

First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
Gospel Mark 1:21-28

### PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

#### **February Prize-a-Day Cash Calendar**

##### **Fun Fundraiser for the Parish**

Help us with our heating/cooling bills by purchasing a **\$20 Prize-a-Day Calendar** and for less than \$1 a day you get 29 chances to win a cash prize including \$30, \$50, \$75, \$100 or \$150.

The best part is – **if your name is picked, it will go BACK INTO the drawing up to two more times**, so, multiple chances to win for less than \$1 a day!

We don't have a special collection for heating and air conditioning like most parishes. Please help us with this fun way to raise money to defray these costs.

**The calendars are here!** If you need additional calendars, kindly take them from the entrances of the church or call the office. Ask your friends, relatives, neighbors, and if you work, please, ask your co-workers! **Please return the entry with your \$20 promptly so you will not miss any days of the drawing.**

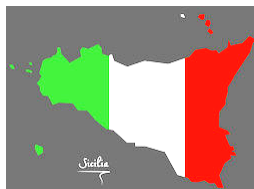
Winners for the week will be drawn every Monday and announced in the bulletin the following weekend.

You can submit your donation & ticket in a marked envelope via the collection baskets, the postal service or drop them in the secure mailbox just outside the church office door.

Give it a try and spread the word, it will be a tremendous help!



**Tax Contribution Statements** will be sent out beginning January 22<sup>nd</sup> for all who request them. If you contributed to Partners in Charity or Legacy of Hope, those statements will be sent directly **from the Diocese** at the end of January.



**Picture it... Sicily 2024!** You are invited to an informational meeting conducted by Durgan Travel on **Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm in the church hall.** This is for information only on a planned **10-day trip to Sicily leaving on October 4<sup>th</sup>.** A full itinerary and associated costs will be

available at the meeting. Please come and consider if this trip is in your future! Bring friends along! (More information will be posted after this meeting).



Dear Friends,

Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Remember that in Cycle B of the Lectionary, most of the Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead, Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

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.

**Snow Policy** – For weekday Masses, (Monday – Thursday) if Fitchburg Public Schools are cancelled or delayed there will be NO Mass celebrated. This is done to keep all our parishioners safe and off the roads. Please check your local listings. If school is not in session – please use your judgement. Be Safe!

**Online Giving** – As we begin a new year, did you know that you can set up your church donations for the coming year using our online donation site? We currently have 41 parishioners who contribute in this manner and another 12 that use their local bank (bill pay) to send their donations in.

Online you can select our weekly collection as well as building & maintenance and other collections (available for either weekly or monthly donations). All the diocesan collections are listed as well for you to decide if and when you would like to donate. Once set up, you can have peace of mind that you don't

have to remember a checkbook or envelope while in church. You can always change or stop a payment at any time. If you haven't tried it out yet, log on to our website (listed on the front of this bulletin) and from there follow the easy prompts to see what it's all about. No commitment is necessary while you navigate through the site. Consider if this might be an option for you. If you have questions, please call the office during regular office hours or call the number listed on the site to get help. Thank you.



**FREE HOME PICK-UP!** - The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Worcester and Hampden Counties is now offering free curbside pick-up of clothing, shoes, books, and household items. The funds

received go to help our neighbors in need with (but not limited to) food, clothing, rent, and utilities.

If you can't get to the blue clothing bin located in the school parking lot, why not schedule a free home pick-up, visit the website at <https://svdpworcester.org> and click on the "How You Can Help" tab, then choose "Schedule a Home Pick-Up." Complete the form, and you're done! You may also contact their partner (CMRK) at 508-474-8966 or scan the QR code below which will direct you to their website.



# St. Anthony of Padua Church

## PRIZE-A-DAY CASH CALENDAR

A Fun Fundraiser to help defray our heating and A/C costs.

### FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <b>\$30</b>	2 <b>\$50</b>	3 <b>\$75</b>
4 <b>\$75</b>	5 <b>\$30</b>	6 <b>\$50</b>	7 <b>\$30</b>	8 <b>\$50</b>	9 <b>\$30</b>	10 <b>\$100</b>
11 <b>\$100</b>	12 <b>\$30</b>	13 <b>\$50</b>	14 <b>\$30</b>	15 <b>\$50</b>	16 <b>\$30</b>	17 <b>\$75</b>
18 <b>\$100</b>	19 <b>\$30</b>	20 <b>\$50</b>	21 <b>\$30</b>	22 <b>\$50</b>	23 <b>\$30</b>	24 <b>\$100</b>
25 <b>\$75</b>	26 <b>\$50</b>	27 <b>\$50</b>	28 <b>\$100</b>	29 <b>\$150</b>	<b>\$20/CALENDAR with 29 days = 29 chances to win ( less than \$1/day!)</b>	

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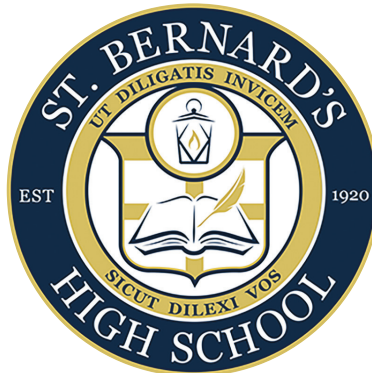
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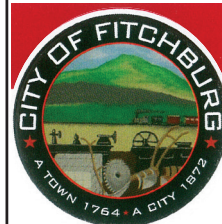
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*St. Anthony  
Pray for Us*

*"Do Unto Others..."*

Luke 6:31

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