

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
frijuan@stanthonyfitchburg.net

Deacon Mark Carrier
deacon120801@gmail.com

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, January 6th

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 PM Natalie Lombardy
by her cousins, Mary & Elena
Clemence Merlin
by Margaret

Sunday, January 7th

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM Felipe Nogueira
by his family
10:30 AM Mary Lanza and Theresa Leger
by Elena Valeri
Domenica (Buratti) Perla (6th Anniversary)
by her family
12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, January 8th

The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan is away

Tuesday, January 9th

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan is away

Wednesday, January 10th

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan is away

Thursday, January 11th

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan is away

Friday, January 12th

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, (OBL)

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, January 13th

Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM Dick McDonough
by his sister Carol
Ralph DiGeronimo
by his daughter Sarah

Sunday, January 14th

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Mario, Grace & daughter Anne Zarrella
by their family
10:30 AM Domenica (Buratti) Perla (6th Anniversary)
by her family
9:00 PM Parishioners

January 6 - 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11) Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 3b-10, 19
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:13c-15a, 17-20
Gospel John 1:35-42

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

The office will be closed next Monday, January 15th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

****Father Juan is away on vacation through Thursday, January 18th.** In Father's absence there will be no weekday Masses. Please plan accordingly for your morning Masses. Weekend Masses, Saturday & Sunday, will be celebrated as usual. Please keep Father in your prayers.

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 will be ready next week! Please consider taking one home. Ask your friends, relatives, neighbors, and if you work, please, ask your co-workers!

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!

St. Anthony Candle Intention:
IMO Peter Michaelian
by his wife MaryAnn



Tax Contribution Statements will be sent out beginning January 22nd 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.

Dear Friends,

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

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!

Parish Census: If you have moved recently or even in the last year or two, or the numbers of members in your family household has decreased due to children moving out or other reasons, please contact us via email or phone so that we can stay current with you and maintain our records. 😊 Have you been attending St. Anthony's but have not formally registered? Please consider registering so that you can be an "official" member of our family and included when any mailings go out. Registration cards are at the entrances of the church or you can download one from our website.



Please pray for the soul of
James Wironen
May God grant his family comfort.

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 (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.



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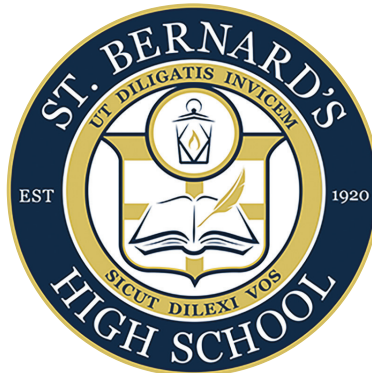
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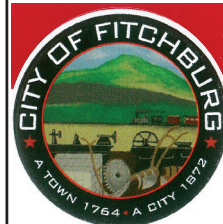
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Pray for Us

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Anthony J. Mercadante, C.P.A.

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"Do Unto Others..."

Luke 6:31

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Directors

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