

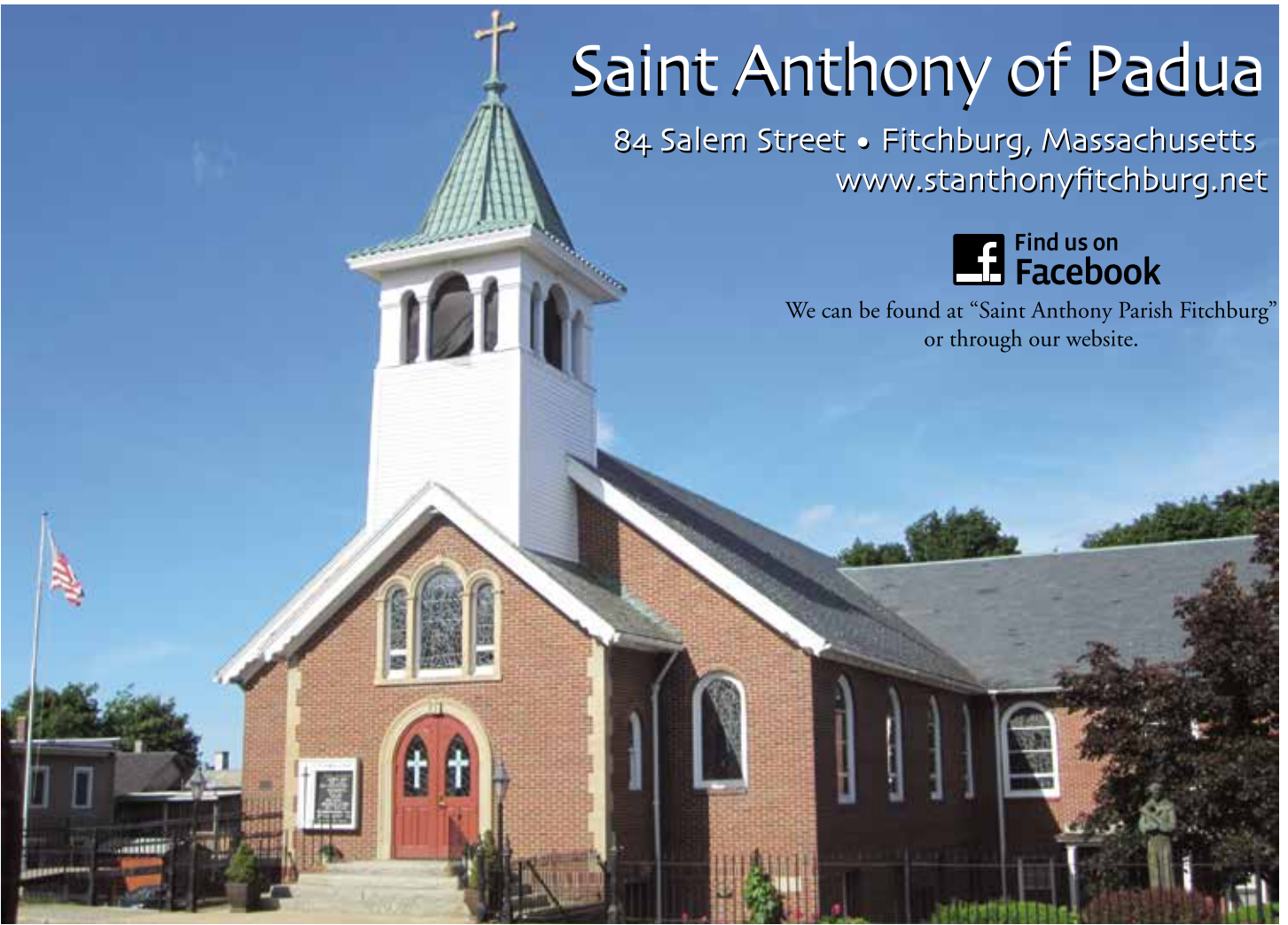
# Saint Anthony of Padua

84 Salem Street • Fitchburg, Massachusetts  
[www.stanthonyfitchburg.net](http://www.stanthonyfitchburg.net)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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 Salvatore Tantillo

[Saltantillo1@gmail.com](mailto:Saltantillo1@gmail.com)  
978-870-4167

## 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, April 29<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

4:00 PM Edward DeCosta (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
by Patty Martin

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

8:00 AM All Venerini Sister Living & Deceased  
by a Grateful Community

10:30 AM Salvatore & Lorraine M. Infantino  
Memorial of their Wedding Anniversary  
by Sheila Graham  
Angelo Femino  
by his wife Ann & Family

12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

*St. Joseph the Worker*

8:00 AM Deceased of Perla & DiNatale Families  
by the Macchio Family

Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

*St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

7:00 PM St. Anthony Novena – Fr. Cleber DiPaula

Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Saints Philip & James, Apostles*

8:00 AM Donald Cormier  
by Jim & Delphyn  
Roland Gagne  
by Jim & Delphyn

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

4:00 PM Orazio & Immacolata DePiano  
by the DiVito Family  
Craig Madigan  
by his Family

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8:00 AM Elaine Celona  
by Marty & Amy Walsh

10:30 AM Open Intention  
by

11:45 AM BAPTISM: Lucy Rose Terrell

12:30 PM Parishioners

## April 29 - 30, 2023

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

**"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...'"** (Acts 2:38) The word "repent" means to turn from sin - to change our thoughts, words and actions. Change that is permanent comes from within - a transformation or conversion of heart. This requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is hard. The first step is recognizing that we are broken and that we need God's help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

#### READ AND PREPARE

##### Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Acts 6:1-7  
Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9  
Gospel John 14:1-12

## PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

**The Hospitality Committee** will hold a meeting on **Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** in the church hall beginning at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

**Venerini Sisters Annual Collection** -The collection took place today. For those who may not have had the chance to contribute, we ask you to kindly give what you can (in a marked envelope) next week. There are still members of the Venerini Sisters, working & living in Rutland & Worcester. We will present them with a check to show our gratitude for their continued service and ministry. Thank you!

#### ST. ANTHONY NOVENA CONTINUES

All novena nights begin at 7pm on Tuesday evenings here at St. Anthony Church. Novena prayers, sermon, and Benediction with veneration of the relic of St. Anthony of Padua. Spread the word! Come and bring a friend. List of preachers is as follows:

May 2	Fr. Cleber DiPaula Holy Family, Worcester
May 9	Fr. Richard Lewandowski Retired
May 16	Fr. Daniel Mulcahy St. Brigid, Millbury
May 23	Fr. Javier Julio St. Louis, Webster
May 30	Fr. Enoch Kyeremateng Chaplain, African Ministry
June 15	Deacon Salvatore Tantillo St. Anthony Parish, Fitchburg
June 13	St. Anthony Mass



St. Anthony Candle Intention:

Dear Friends,

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is also called “Good Shepherd Sunday” because, in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle, the reading is from the tenth chapter of John’s Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus’ teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today’s reading falls between the stories of Jesus’ healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year’s season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

The Pharisees fail to accept Jesus’ ministry and teaching throughout John’s Gospel. They show themselves to be “robbers and thieves” because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus tells his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus’ disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. Shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to the pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today’s Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus’ words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known for their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus’ allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good Shepherd.

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. **Even one or two items a month makes a huge difference to the people the pantry serves.** The collection bin is

located at the entrance of the church. The Food Pantry is open every week to the public so there is always much needed.



## Newly Baptized

***Lydia Deneen Herget***

*was welcomed into our Christian community through baptism.*

*May she, along with her parents, grow in faith,  
love and service to Jesus Christ.*

**Mark your calendars for the return of St. Anthony Fair/Festa**  
**Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 11AM – 6 PM.** If you can help in any way, please refer to the insert in the bulletin for contact information. With all of you, we can make this a successful parish and community event!

**Partners in Charity in Pew Collection** took place last weekend. We only received 4 envelopes.

If you haven’t yet contributed to this year’s appeal, please prayerfully consider it.

Please mail your donation directly to Worcester in the envelope provided. Or bring it with you to Mass. You can even make your gift from a Smartphone by texting DONATE to 84576! We receive weekly updated lists from the Diocese of all who have donated.

As you may know, this appeal is a lifeline for more than two dozen agencies and ministries which provide charitable, pastoral and educational services that complement what we can provide at the parish level.

We will have an update on how many gifts have been received and the amount in next week’s bulletin.

If you made a gift to the 2023 appeal, we thank you!

# St. Antony Festa – June 10, 2023

11:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m.

How can you participate in making our Festa a big success? Here are a few things we will be doing to raise monies for St. Anthony's and to make the Festa FUN!

Along with the Food, Pastries, Music, and Kid's activities, we are going to invite vendors and crafters to join us. If you have signed up on the volunteer sheets earlier this month, thank you. The committee heads will be contacting their volunteers and meeting to get things happening.

**Included here are three ways you may want to help in the fund raising.**

1. The Festa's Grand Raffle. There will be 300 tickets sold for \$100 per ticket. The prizes will be:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$5,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$2,500

Once the 300 tickets are sold, the raffle closes. Bob Lemay will have more to tell us in the next week or so. But, until then, if you can help in the selling of the tickets, or, if you want to make sure you can get in on this raffle, contact Bob at 978-764-6938.

2. Festa's Sponsor Booklet. We will be selling advertising to sponsors and creating a booklet to give to parishioners. It is our hope that you will use local, St. Anthony sponsors when looking for services or products. This Booklet will have advertisements and business cards as follows:

- \$250 Full Page (plus signage at the Festa)
- \$125 ½ Page
- \$50 ¼ Page Business Card
- Other \$\$ Donation: *Friends of Saint Anthony Line Listing*

3. Family Raffle Baskets. We have had a great response to this raffle in the past and are off to a good start for the Festa. If you haven't already signed up to donate, please consider doing so. Gina, Lorna & Courtney will be pleased to talk with you if you need suggestions on themes.

-----clip and put in basket or send to office-----

☐ I will want to help with The Festa's Grand Raffle

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFO (cell phone/email): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to be included in the Festa's Sponsor Booklet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFO (cell phone/email): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to donate a Family Basket to the Raffle

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFO (cell phone/email): \_\_\_\_\_





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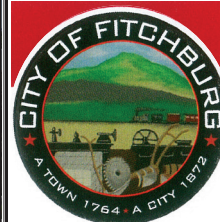
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Please contact Dave Poles at davidpoles137@  
yahoo.com or call at 617-981-1186.

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St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
Celebrating Our  
**115<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary  
April 26, 1908 – April 26, 2023



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Luke 6:31

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on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

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