

# 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 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 9-1  
*(closed Thursday & Friday)*

**Vicky Zarrella**, Office Manager  
[church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net](mailto:church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net)

**Louie Bellabarba**, Custodian

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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, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM Frank & Letizia Pennetti  
by the DiVito Family  
Francesco Pennetti  
by his Family

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Gillian Lambert  
by her Parents  
Diane Lomaglio  
by her Mom, Dad & Brother

10:30 AM Louis Perla (Anniversary)  
by his Family  
Roger & Shirley Therrien  
by their friend Elena

12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM Peter Gravelle  
by MaryAnn Michaelian

Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM J. Peter & Gerald Frances Regan  
by George & Patricia Carpenter

Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Ann Lemmo  
by Louise Lemmo

Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 AM Raymond & Mary Descoteaux  
by their Family

Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Vigil: CHRISTMAS – The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 PM All Parishioners Deceased & Living

9:00 PM All Parishioners Deceased & Living

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS – The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM All Parishioners Deceased & Living

10:30 AM All Parishioners Deceased & Living

12:30 PM Parishioners



St. Anthony Candle Intention:  
IMO Gary Sicard  
by his wife Kathy

# December 17 - 18, 2022

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

***"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."*** (MATTHEW 1:24) Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10  
Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6  
Gospel John 1:1-18

## PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS



**Parish Christmas Open House** – Please stop by the church hall for a Christmas Open House this Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 2:00 pm. Great food and fellowship. Come, slow down for a while and celebrate the Christmas Season with your parish family!



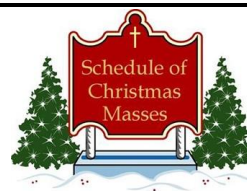
**TO OUR CENTENARIAN!**

Anna Pacetti turned 100 on September 2, 2022. How did we miss that?! Please join us in wishing her a belated Happy Birthday. Anna, may you feel the Lord's loving presence every day! God Bless You!

If you'd like to send Anna a card or note you can send it to, 188 South Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420



We are still waiting on **7 gifts for Catholic Charities** and **4 for ASNCM**. If you are someone that perhaps forgot, please return the gift to the office no later than Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> so it will not miss delivery to the individuals. Thank you.



Saturday, December 24  
**Christmas Eve:** 4 & 9 PM  
4 PM Livestreamed on FB

Sunday, December 25  
**Christmas Day:** 8 & 10:30 AM

Dear Friends,

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about"

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel, and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke.

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first-century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with a child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "...The virgin shall be with child...and shall name him Emmanuel, God with us."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

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.

**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. Thank you.



Please pray for the soul of  
**J.P. Raymond Goguen**  
May God grant his family peace.

Fr. Juan sent out a letter to parishioners this past week. If you do not receive it by mid-week, please pick one up at the entrance of the church next weekend and contact the office so we can be sure we have your correct address.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

**Tax Information - Attention:** Any donations to the parish, including December weekly envelopes, that you want counted towards your 2022 contributions must be received by us **BEFORE or on January 1<sup>st</sup>** (it falls on a weekend). Anything received from January 2<sup>nd</sup> on will be counted towards 2023. Thank you.





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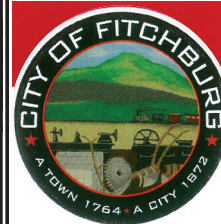
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St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
Celebrating Our  
**113<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
April 26, 1908 — April 26, 2021



Stephen L. DiNatale  
Mayor

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If you are a Catholic man interested in  
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Please contact Dave Poles at davidpoles137@  
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**St. Anthony  
Pray for Us**

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**"Do Unto Others..."**  
Luke 6:31

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**"Praying Simply"**  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Matthew 6:10



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