



Saint Anthony of Padua

84 Salem Street • Fitchburg, Massachusetts • www.stanthonyfitchburg.net

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24th

Vigil: CHRISTMAS – The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 PM All Parishioners

9:00 PM All Parishioners

Sunday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS – The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM All Parishioners

10:30 AM All Parishioners

12:30 PM All Parishioners

Monday, December 26th

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:00 AM James Chase

by his sister-in-law

Salvatore & Maria Grazia Salamone Family

by their daughter Grace & Family

Tuesday, December 27th

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:00 AM Open Intention

by

Wednesday, December 28th

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00 AM Jack Saball

by his brother Al

Thursday, December 29th

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 AM Ernest Secino

by the Secino Trust

Anthony "Duke" Cali (4th Anniversary)

by his wife Greta & Children

Friday, December 30th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, December 31st

Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

4:00 PM Patrick Papa (2nd Anniversary)

by his wife Anna & Family

All Deceased of the Rollo Family

by Annette & Family

Sunday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:00 AM Mario (2nd Anniversary) & Grace Zarrella

by their daughter Angela & Family

To Holy Mother Mary,
for Comfort & Prayers

by the Nogueira Family

10:30 AM Pat DiNardo

by his wife Carol

Jessica McLaughlin

by Rossi & Jose

12:30 PM Parishioners

December 24 – 25th, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord Christmas

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." (John 1:14) God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Numbers 6:22-27

Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Luke 2:16-21

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

A Christmas Blessing

On this day illumined by the gospel hope which springs from the humble stable of Bethlehem, I invoke the Christmas gift of joy and peace upon all:

Upon children and the elderly, upon young people and families, the poor and the marginalized.

May Jesus, who was born for us, console all those afflicted by illness and suffering. May he sustain those who devote themselves to serving our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

Happy Christmas to all! – Pope Francis-

Fr. Juan sent his Christmas letter to you last week. If you did not receive it, please pick up a copy at the entrance of the church and contact the office to 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 1st** (it falls on a weekend). Anything received from January 2nd on will be counted towards 2023. Thank you.

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!



St. Anthony Candle Intention:
IMO Elaine Celona
by her husband Frank & Family

Christmas 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What did Mary and Joseph have that first Christmas? By some measures, not much. Far from home, they were without a place to stay. Distant from relatives, they had no one to welcome them. Alone against Herod's soldiers, they fled to Egypt.

What Mary and Joseph had plenty of was hardship, uncertainty, and humility. They faced a ninety mile journey from Nazareth, no room at the inn and a cold cave with ox and ass. Yes, by some measures Mary and Joseph did not have much. However, by another, truer measure, Mary and Joseph had everything. They had everything they needed to fill their hearts with love, their spirits with courage and their minds with peace. They had Jesus. That was the essence of Christmas for Mary and Joseph. That is the essence of Christmas for us - Emmanuel, God with us.

Mary carried Jesus in her womb on the way to Bethlehem. She carried Him in her arms to Egypt. Always and everywhere, in every circumstance, she reflected on Him in her mind and did His will in her life.

Christ came to us at Christmas. When He ascended to Heaven He promised to remain with us always. May the commemoration of His birth bring you great joy. If you are struggling, experiencing grief and disappointment, or feeling overwhelmed by the challenges of life, may His continued presence give you courage, hope and peace. Mary and Joseph were not alone. You are not alone. God's Son remains with us. God doesn't insulate us from life's ups, downs and disappointments but He gave us his Son who will get us through them all. Nothing else and no one else can give us such consolation and hope. May we stay faithful to Him, give thanks for His life and love and draw upon that hope, confidence and peace throughout the new year.

With every prayerful best wish for a Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Christmas Tree Origins

Though Christmas trees play no part in scripture and have only in the last few hundred years become a Christian Christmas tradition, the evergreen reminds us that God's love is constant or "ever green" through all the seasons of our lives. The lights on our tree both welcome and reflect the one who comes as Light of the World. Treetop stars recall the guiding light of the star of Bethlehem. Our tree ornaments – precious symbols of fond memories and relationships – wordlessly chronicle our own family histories.

It is fitting, then, that our homes are adorned with beautiful trees during the holidays, for they are sacred signs of God's life-giving presence among us. Indeed, the Christmas tree encapsulates the central truths of our salvation like few other symbols. We see it in the Tree of Life, first offered to Adam & Eve; the Branch of Jesse, promising the Messiah; the tree from which Jesus's cross was shaped, pointing to salvation; and Jesus, the Light of the World, bringing light even now into the darkness of our world. – All Saints Press -

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.

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St. Anthony of Padua Parish
Celebrating Our
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"Do Unto Others..."
Luke 6:31

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



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