



Saint Anthony of Padua

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



We can be found at "Saint Anthony Parish Fitchburg"
or through our website.

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Juan Ramirez, Pastor
frijuan@stanthonyfitchburg.net

Deacon Salvatore Tantillo

Saltantillo1@gmail.com
978-870-4167

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, February 18th

Vigil: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM Pellegrino DePiano
by the DiVito Family
Gillian Lambert (9th Anniversary)
by her Family

Sunday, February 19th

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Marriage Day

8:00 AM Open Intention
by
10:30 AM Alfred Zarrella, Sr.
by his son Dominic & family
Lillian Robertson
by her Family
12:30 PM All Parishioners

Monday, February 20th

President's Day

8:00 AM Arthur Thomas (2nd Anniversary)
by his wife Teresa & daughter Ann

Tuesday, February 21st

St. Peter Damien, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Wednesday, February 22nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM Jane Lawler
by her daughter Jean
12:25 PM Prayer Service with distribution of Ashes
6:00 PM Suzanne Cioffi
by her goddaughter Nancy Gagnon-Isabelle

Thursday, February 23rd

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

8:00 AM Santina Bramante
by Rose Anne Addorisio

Friday, February 24th

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, February 25th

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

12 Noon African Community Baptism
4:00 PM Pat DiNardo
by MaryAnn Michaelian
Dottie Giadone-Poirier (2nd Anniversary)
by her friend Theresa LeBlanc

Sunday, February 26th

First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving
by the Nogueira Family
10:30 AM 20th Wedding Anniversary of
Irene & Rafael Rojas
12:30 PM Parishioners

February 18 - 19, 2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (MATTHEW 5:44) Love your enemies, easier said than done. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It changes my heart and actions, allowing for a little more empathy for "my enemy." When we pray for others, even our enemies, it may soften their hearts as well.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Second Reading Romans 5:12-19
Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

Lenten News:

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday

7:00 am Mass with distribution of ashes
12:15 pm Prayer service with distribution of ashes
6:00 pm Mass with distribution of ashes
Due to the church painting, we will not be offering Stations of the Cross. Confessions will be heard every Saturday from 3-3:00 before the 4:00 Mass or anytime by appointment.

ATTENTION: Beginning Monday, February 27th, the painting of the walls & ceilings in the church will begin. **Please make a note that ALL Masses will be held in the church hall beginning Monday, February 27th.** It is projected that the work will be complete before the end of March. We will keep you updated while the work is in progress. The church hall has steps leading down into it and therefore is not handicapped accessible. We are sorry for any disruption this may cause you while painting is in progress.

ATTENTION! – Church Budget Envelope Company, our weekly church donation envelope company, has informed us that **you will NOT be receiving any February or March envelopes** due to their paper shortage. Please place your check/cash in a marked envelope. We are sorry for this inconvenience, but it is out of our control. Below is a list of all the envelopes that would have been in your mail packet. We hope this is helpful for those of you who give monthly or bi-monthly. Thank you for your understanding.

February Envelopes

4 weekends
Building & Maintenance
Catholic Free Press \$39
Priest Retirement
Anytime February
February 22

March Envelopes

4 Weekends
Building & Maintenance
Catholic Relief
Easter Flowers
March 26
March 26 or anytime in March

Dear Friends,

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with the love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek takes us to court or demands service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depends. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

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.



Tax Contribution Statements have been mailed out to all who requested them thus far. If you would like one, please don’t forget to call or email the office.

22nd Annual Catholic Men's Conference - Come and join us on **Saturday, March 25** at Assumption University, Worcester. For information check the new website: **catholicmenworc.com**. Looking forward to seeing you in person this year!



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

The Catholic Free Press



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FEBRUARY IS CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

Please submit your renewal or new subscription now. If your renewal is not received by the end of February, your name will have to be removed from the subscriber list.

Reminder: our subscriber list will be turned in to the Free Press on Monday, March 6th.

February Prize-a-Day Cash Calendar

The lucky winners for this week’s cash prize are as follows.

February 13	Donna Lucci \$25
February 14	Maureen Wright \$50
February 15	Gabriele DiVito \$25
February 16	Michael Dupuis \$50
February 17	Mary Shaw \$25
February 18	Norman & Carol Boudreau \$100
February 19	Mark Clark \$100

Congratulations! You may pick up your prize money at the church office. Please call ahead Monday – Wednesday 978-342-4706.

Good luck to all entries received! Fr. Juan will draw more names on Monday.

Thank you for your generosity!



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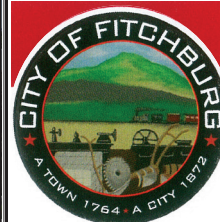
If you are a Catholic man interested in
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check us out!

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
115th Anniversary
April 26, 1908 – April 26, 2023



Stephen L. DiNatale
Mayor

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"Do Unto Others..."

Luke 6:31

"Praying Simply"
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

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