



# Saint Anthony of Padua

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

---

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: First Sunday of Lent**

12:00 Noon African Community Baptism

4:00 PM Pat DiNardo

by MaryAnn Michaelian

**Dottie Giadone-Poirier (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)**

by her friend Theresa LeBlanc

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

**First Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving

by the Nogueira Family

10:30 AM Irene & Rafael Rojas

20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of

Jean Walters (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

by her Family

12:30 PM All Parishioners

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

St. George of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Open Intention

by

MASS IN CHURCH HALL

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM Open Intention

by

MASS IN CHURCH HALL

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

7:00 AM Philip Madonia, Jr.

by the Family of Bob & Gen Gagnon

MASS IN CHURCH HALL

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 AM Open Intention

by

MASS IN CHURCH HALL

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent**

4:00 PM Craig Madigan

by his Family

MASS IN CHURCH HALL

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

**Second Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM Marianne DiConza

by her daughter Suzanne & son-in-law Jared

MASS IN CHURCH HALL

10:30 AM Open Intention

by

MASS IN CHURCH HALL

12:30 PM Parishioners

MASS IN CHURCH HALL



St. Anthony Candle Intention:

**Gillian Smith (9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**

by her parents

## February 25 - 26, 2023

### First Sunday of Lent

**"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" (Matthew 4:10)** Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things, and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4a

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

## PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

### Lenten News:

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: THIS Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>,** 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, until the work is complete.** It is projected that the work will be complete before the end of March. We will keep you updated on the 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!** – As many of you now know, **you will NOT be receiving any February or March envelopes** due to our suppliers paper shortage. Please place your check/cash in a marked envelope. We are sorry for this inconvenience. Below is a list of 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.

Catholic Free Press \$39

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

Priest Retirement

February 22

### March Envelopes

4 Weekends

Building & Maintenance

Church in Latin America

March 5

Catholic Relief

March 26

Easter Flowers

March 26 or anytime in March

Dear Friends,

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is 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.

#### **No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion**

Annunciation Parish in Gardner will be offering a series by Ascension Press and Dr. Edward Sri reflecting on the mystery of Christ's passion and death, on **Wednesdays beginning Mar. 1, from 6:30 to 8 pm**, in the Parish Center on the Holy Rosary Campus, located at 142 Regan St. in Gardner. To register, visit our parish website at [annunciationgardner.org](http://annunciationgardner.org) or call Maura Sweeney at 978-632-0253.

**Chowder Fest in Leominster** - Join us for our annual Chowder Fest on **Friday, March 20 from 5 - 7:30 pm at Our Lady of the Lake**, 1400 Main Street, Leominster. Menu includes Clam, Fish, or Corn Chowder, Macaroni & Cheese, corn bread, crackers, bread, water, soda, coffee, tea, and desserts. Tickets: Adults \$10, Children (6-12) \$5. Take out is available.

#### **February Prize-a-Day Cash Calendar**

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

February 20	Abigail MacKinnon \$25
February 21	Connor Hartman \$50
February 22	Brenda Schluter \$25
February 23	Phil & Nicole Madonia \$50
February 24	Susan Faiola \$25
February 25	Bonnie Guertin \$75
February 26	Anna Testa \$75

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

Fr. Juan will draw the last two winners' names on Monday.

Good luck to all of you!

Thank you for your generosity!

**22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://catholicmenworc.com). Looking forward to seeing you in person this year!

**ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** will be held on **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-12:00 noon**. If you are in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or above, please plan to stop by to explore the many benefits of a Bernardian education! We are located at 45 Harvard St., Fitchburg. "Since 1920, St. Bernard's has prepared students to be life-long learners and leaders who embrace the world with courage, compassion, and a dedication to service." For more information, please call 978-342-3212



# ISABELLE & ANDERSON

## FUNERAL HOME

Brian T. Anderson  
Michael Masciarelli  
Joshua D. Hunt

316 Clarendon Street, Fitchburg  
www.andersonfuneral.com • 978.343.4407

Expanded Parking

Also Serving You  
in Townsend  
& Ayer



www.champarealty.com

915 South Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

(978) 343-4414

Steven Champa  
Anthony Champa

### PROTECTIVE SERVICES, INC.

"The Alarm Professionals"

Lunenburg, MA 01462

David A. Duval

Ph. 978-582-7455 Fax 978-582-6697  
info@protectiveservicesalarm.com

### BELANGER HARDWARE

284 WATER STREET, FITCHBURG

Serving the people of St. Anthony's  
for many years.

342-2912



Plumbing since 1957 Heating

(978) 342-3029

381 SUMMER STREET  
FITCHBURG, MA 01420



professional graphic design, web design and commercial printing  
OVER 40 YEARS experience in the print industry  
kmorse@designsinprint.com

Kimberly Morse  
800-350-4945



Contemporary  
Design & Construction, Inc.

Computer Aided Landscape Design  
Installation • Hardscape

www.contemporarydesignandconstruction.com

DAVID BROOKS  
President

Cell: 978-815-4121  
davebrooks@contemporarydc.com



**Rollstone  
Bank & Trust®**  
Where you matter most.™

800.640.1166 • rollstonebank.com  
Member FDIC • Member DIF



**CAULEY'S  
FLORIST & GARDEN CENTER**  
A Full Service Florist

649 South St., Fitchburg, MA 01420  
Garden Center 978-342-2239  
Floral Department 978-342-2300

Fresh Flowers • Quality Plants • Garden Supplies/Gifts



Consider joining the Knights of Columbus

Fr. Bob Bruso Council # 15962

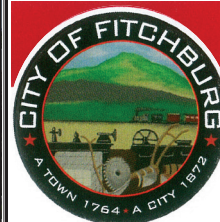
If you are a Catholic man interested in  
fellowship and being of service, come  
check us out!

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

Find us on  
Facebook  
facebook.com/fitchburgkofc



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



Stephen L. DiNatale  
Mayor

718 Main St., Ste. 304  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
T: 978-829-1801

www.fitchburgma.gov  
sdinatale@fitchburgma.gov

### MERCADANTE & MERCADANTE, PC

Certified Public Accountants

Anthony J. Mercadante, C.P.A.

29 Mechanic Street, P.O. Box 2125, Fitchburg, MA 01420  
www.mercadante.com Tel: 978-342-0647

Contact the church office  
to advertise  
your business here.

**St. Anthony  
Pray for Us**

**Brandon  
Funeral Home**



(978) 343-4444

305 Wanoosnoc Road Fitchburg, MA 01420

"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

**Please Patronize Our Advertisers**