

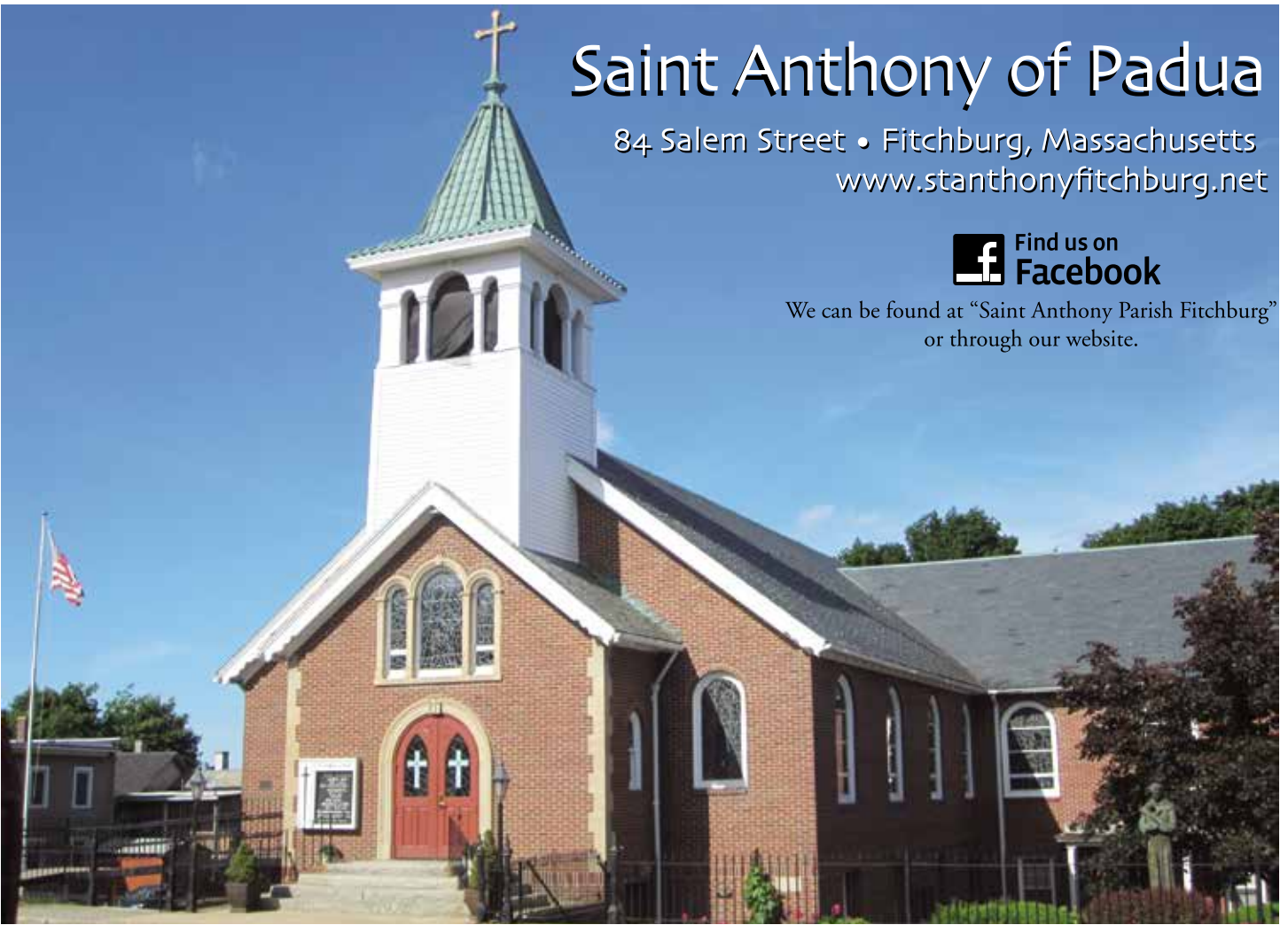
Saint Anthony of Padua

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



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or through our website.



Pastoral Staff

Fr. Juan Ramirez, Pastor
frjuan@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, March 11th

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM Gillian Smith
by her parents
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Sunday, March 12th

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Katy Downing – for health
by her friend Adriane McDonald
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

10:30 AM Michael Quinn
by his Children
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

12:30 PM Parishioners
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Monday, March 13th

8:00 AM Dr. Mark Rollo
by his St. Anthony School Family
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Tuesday, March 14th

8:00 AM Frank Catalfamo
by the St. Anthony Hospitality Committee
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Wednesday, March 15th

7:00 AM Sr. Angelina Panetti, MPV
by a Friend
Francesco Celona
by his Family
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Thursday, March 16th

8:00 AM Marie McCormack
by Ann Parisi
Tony Parisi (3rd Anniversary)
by his wife Ann
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Friday, March 17th

St. Patrick, Bishop

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, March 18th

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM Paul Fleming (28th Anniversary)
by his wife & family
Eva DiNardo
by her Family
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Sunday, March 19th

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM George Pendleton
by his friend Dottie Ledger
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

10:30 AM Open Intention
by
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

12:30 PM Parishioners
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

March 11 - 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." (John 4:13) Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel John 9:1-41

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

ATTENTION: Effective immediately, ALL Masses are now being held in the church hall until the painting is complete. Please tell friends or neighbors that may not have attended the last few weeks so that everyone is made aware. It is projected that the work will be complete before the end of March. Father 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 you now know, **you did not receive any February or March envelopes** due to our supplier's 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. Thank you for your understanding.
Last call for Catholic Free Press \$39

March Envelopes

4 Weekends

Building & Maintenance

Church in Latin America

Catholic Relief

Easter Flowers

March 5

March 26

March 26 or anytime in March



Italian Pastry for Easter! – Patty Vacca Martin, along with the members of the Hospitality Committee are taking orders for assorted Italian cookies, pies & cannoli. Some of the coolie choices include anise, lemon, pistachio, mostaccioli (dark chocolate with walnuts); filled: fig, raspberry, apricot; almond biscotti. Cannoli, cream puffs & Zeppole. Pies: ricotta & ham. Pizza Rustica (Italian Easter Pizza) & Pizzagaina (Italian Easter meat with ricotta cheese) any size! Easter egg baskets, individual or multiple. The choices are dizzying! **Deadline to order is Thursday, March 30.** Don't be left out, call Patty at 978-407-9385 to discuss selections and place your order. You can also see some selections on her FB page. Thank you for your continued support. All proceeds go to St. Anthony Church!



St. Anthony Candle Intention:

Dear Friends,

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, but he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the community's women was paramount. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included the worship of Yahweh but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to believe in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Blessings,

Fr. Juan

Fish Fry in Fitchburg - St. Joseph Parish at Madonna of the Holy Rosary Church, 118 Theresa St., will hold a Fish Fry weekly, **Fridays of Lent (Feb. 24- March 31) starting at 4:30 pm**, eat-in or take-out Dinner/\$12 and chowder or mac & cheese is \$5.

Fish Fry in Gardner - A Traditional Fish Fry will be held weekly on **Fridays from 5-7 pm at Holy Spirit in the Hall**. Eat in or take out. Meals will be \$12.50 for adults and \$ 6 for kids. Menu includes

baked or fried fish, baked potato or French fries, clam chowder, dessert and a drink.

Chowder Fest in Leominster - Join us for our annual Chowder Fest on **Friday, March 10 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.



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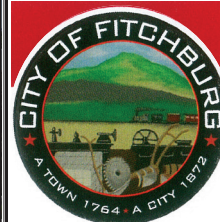
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Please contact Dave Poles at davidpoles137@
yahoo.com or call at 617-981-1186.

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St. Anthony of Padua Parish
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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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