



# 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  
[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 9-3  
*(closed Thursday & Friday)*

## Vicky Zarrella, Office Manager

[church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net](mailto:church.office@stanthonyfitchburg.net)

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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, March 18<sup>th</sup>

**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 19<sup>th</sup>

**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)

Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

*St. Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

8:00 AM Frank Catalfamo  
by Anthony & Joan Catalfamo  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 AM Sr. Clara Cerasia, MPV  
by a Friend  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

*St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop*

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent**

4:00 PM Mike Orlando  
by a Friend  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)  
10:30 AM Mary & John Manning  
by their Family  
Oreste & Carmela Guglielmi & Their Family  
by Mary Morizzo  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)  
12:30 PM Parishioners  
(MASS IN CHURCH HALL)

# March 18 - 19, 2023

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

**"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."** (1 Samuel 16:7) How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

READ AND PREPARE

**Next Week's Scripture readings**

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14  
Second Reading Romans 8:8-11  
Gospel John 11:1-45

## PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

**ATTENTION:** ALL Masses are still being held in the church hall until the painting is complete. 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) & Pizzagina (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,

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John.

In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the results of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents. Jesus does not answer directly but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment come when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. At this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding of who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

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.

**Special Lenten Service at Immaculate Heart of Mary**. Spruce Street, Winchendon on **Wednesday evening, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm**. We will have Mass, Rosary, Adoration and Confessions. All are welcome to please join us for this Lenten service.

**Opportunity for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** - Fr. Nelson Rivera & Deacon Patrick Stewart (St. Denis, Douglas) Fr. Juan Herrera (St. Edward the Confessor, Westminster) and Fr. Javier Julio (St. Louis, Webster) are planning a pilgrimage to Holy Land & Jordan **November 5-18, 2023**. Fr. Nelson and Deacon Patrick are planning an INFORMATIONAL MEETING at St. Denis in Douglas on **Sunday, Mar. 19 at 11:30 AM**. Come and find out more and meet some of the people who will be joining us.

**Catholic Relief Collection weekend of March 24-25<sup>th</sup>**

Through the various Catholic agencies assisted by CRS, you are promoting the dignity of the human person in so many ways.

- Food assistance is provided in emergency field kitchens that provide hot meals and snacks.
- Reception services are offered at Caritas offices, train stations and other locations for displaced people with clothing, information, referrals, food, water, hygiene items, and counseling.
- Transportation is arranged for displaced families to friends, families, and local social services.

For more than 75 years, CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries. But we can't do this lifesaving work without your help. Prayerfully consider how you can support the Catholic Relief Services Collection this year.

**Rice Bowls** – If you took a Rice Bowl home, please remember to return it Palm Sunday weekend. All money collected goes to the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). If you didn't take one, please consider giving to the diocesan collection next weekend. Remember that a little goes a very long way to the poorest of the poor.





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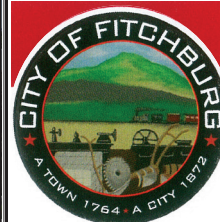
If you are a Catholic man interested in  
fellowship and being of service, come  
check us out!

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

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St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
Celebrating Our  
**115<sup>th</sup>** 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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