



Saint Anthony of Padua Church

1359 Acushnet Ave | New Bedford | MA 02746

Tel: 508-993-1691 | Fax: 508 -999-4775 | www.saintanthonybn.org



4TH

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Matthew 1:23

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

6:30 am *English*
8:00 am *Spanish*
9:30 am *English*
11:00 am *Spanish*

Monday - Thursday

7:00 am *English*

Thursday

7:30 pm *Spanish*

Friday

5:15 pm *English*

Saturday

4:00 pm *English (Sunday Vigil Mass)*

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm *Chapel*
Thursday 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm *Church*
Friday 4:15 pm – 5:00 pm *Chapel*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

BAPTISM

Saturday at 12:00 pm | Every third in English | Every fourth in Spanish

MARRIAGE

Diocesan rules require registered parishioners to contact the Pastor at least 8 months in advance. *Classes are required.*

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please notify the Parish Office at 508-993-1691 for a Minister of Care to bring communion to those who are in nursing homes, hospitals or confined to their homes. This can be arranged on a regular basis. Anointing of the Sick (performed by a priest) can be received at any time during a serious illness.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm *Chapel*; Thursday 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm *Church*
Friday 4:15 pm – 5:00 pm *Chapel*.

FAITH FORMATION *(For youth and children)*

Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm at Immaculate Conception School - 136 Earl Street New Bedford, MA.

OCIA *(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)*

If you or anyone is interested in the Catholic Faith or in becoming a Catholic, please call the parish Office at 508-993-1691.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, 2025

Welcome to Saint Anthony's

If you are new to St. Anthony of Padua Parish, please know how welcome you are to worship God with us. The motto of our parish is written in Latin over the front entrance: "The hardworking people of St. Anthony have built this Temple to the Lord." We know that we have been blessed with one of the most beautiful church most people have ever seen and that the Lord demands more of those who have been given more. Our goal is to allow the Lord to build with us a parish community of "living Stones" even more beautiful than the physical edifice in which we have the awesome privilege to worship Him. We would love you to become part of that building project!



Parish Staff

PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER, MA

Staffed by the priests of the "Institute of the Incarnate Word" (IVE)

Pastor

Fr. Mariano Varela, IVE | Ext. 102

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Mario Rojas, IVE

Deacons

Deacon Leo Racine (*retire*)

Deacon Eduardo Borges

Deacon Jeremias Carranza

Secretary

Reina McCarty (508) 993-1691 Ext. | 101
office@saintanthonybn.org

Organist & Music Director

Daniel Marshall (401) 288-7172
music@saintanthonybn.org

Maintenance

Luis Sicajau | Ext. 113

Religious Education Director

Mother Maria Aeiparthenos Berry, SSVM | 774 849 0986
ccd@saintanthonybn.org

Sacristan Sr. Annette Brassard | Ext. 112

Remember them in your prayers!

Eternal Rest

*We are asked to pray for the sick, especially for
Grace Gonsalves, Henrique Trindade, Lucille Connolly,
Diane Barksdale, Hunt Barksdale, Rob Jardin, Adrien
Aube, Jose Soares, Loretta Hevey, Thomas Sargent, Sandra
& Family, Alan Edwards and Jose M. Carcamo, Nataly
Alvarado, Madaleine Mendoza, Nick Dagenais.*

That the Lord may give them health and strength

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY

4:00pm

DECEMBER 20

Int. Fr. Andre Feain

†Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY

6:30am *English*

8:00am *Español*

9:30am *English*

11:00am *Español*

DECEMBER 21

†Ernest & Dolores Oliveira

†Souls in Purgatory

†Manuel & Ernestina Macedo

Int. Paola Mejia

MONDAY

7:00am

DECEMBER 22

†Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY

7:00am

DECEMBER 23

†Raul Marzetti

WEDNESDAY

7:00am

4:00pm

12 Midnight

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Int. Mari & Clarence Ites

Pastor's intention

Pro Populo

THURSDAY

9:30am

11:00am

NOVEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Priest's intentions

Priest's Intentions

FRIDAY

5:15pm

DECEMBER 26

†Fernando do Couto

SATURDAY

4:00pm

DECEMBER 27

†Maria & Armindo Demelo

†Rachel Demello

SUNDAY

6:30am *English*

8:00am *Español*

9:30am *English*

11:00am *Español*

DECEMBER 28

†Ethan & Bernadeth Mejia

†Guillermo Costantini, IVE

†Wilfred H. Fauteux (Bday)

Int. Inocencia de Castro (Bday)

Sanctuary Lamp

Will burn the month of December in memory of

†Nancy Paiva

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2025

SUNDAY Dec 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6./Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
MONDAY Dec 22	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
TUESDAY Dec 23	Saint John of Kanty, Priest Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10+14/Lk 1:57-66
WEDNESDAY Dec 24	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27+29/Lk 1:67-79
NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) Dec 25	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
THURSDAY Dec 25 <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/ Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
FRIDAY Dec 26	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6ab+8a, 16bc+17/ Mt 10:17-22
SATURDAY Dec 27	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
SUNDAY Dec 28	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Pastor Message

Dear parishioners, as we gather once more to celebrate the blessed season of Christmas, my heart is filled with gratitude and joy for each and every one of you. This special time of year invites us to pause amidst the busyness of life and

This year, we have journeyed together through moments of challenge and triumph, laughter and tears. Through it all, our faith community has remained a source of strength and encouragement for one another. The love, generosity, and compassion you have shown to your neighbors, friends, and even strangers have truly embodied the spirit of Christ. Thank you for being a living testament to our Lord's teachings not only during the holidays, but throughout the entire year.

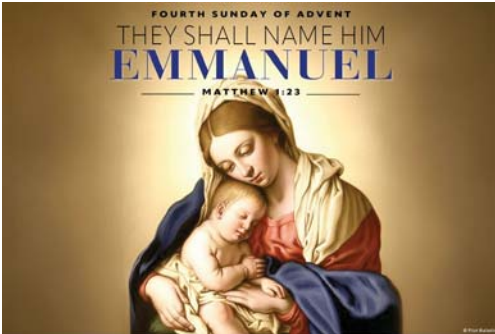
Christmas reminds us that we are not alone. Emmanuel—God with us—is the message of hope that resonates in our hearts. No matter where we find ourselves this season, may we open our hearts to receive God's peace and share it with those around us. Let us remember, especially, the lonely, the sick, and those in need. A simple act of kindness, a word of encouragement, or a heartfelt

prayer can make the love of Christ known in powerful ways.

As we celebrate with our families and friends, may we also make space for quiet reflection and gratitude. Let us keep Christ at the center of our celebrations, for He is the greatest gift of all. Together, may we look forward to the coming year with renewed faith, hope, and love, trusting that God will continue to guide our parish and each of our lives with wisdom and grace.

On behalf of the parish staff and myself, I wish you and your loved ones a most joyful, peaceful, and blessed Christmas. May the light of Christ shine in your hearts and homes now and always. With prayers and warmest wishes,

Fr. Mariano Varela, IVE



reflect on the miracle of Christ's birth—a moment that changed the world forever. In a humble manger in Bethlehem, God's love was made manifest to humanity, bringing light and hope to all corners of the earth.



Nativity Crèche

In its present form, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on Christmas Eve or at another time:

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

The Nativity of our Lord



Christmas Mass Schedule 2025



Christmas Eve | Wednesday December 24
7am; 4pm; 12 midnight



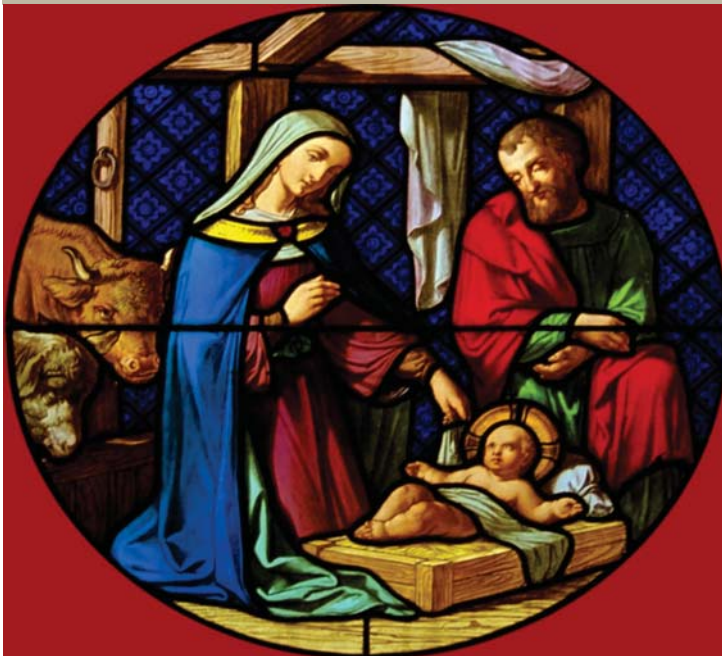
Christmas Day | Thursday December 25
9:30am English
11:00am Spanish



New Year Eve | Wednesday December 31
7am; 7pm Spanish Mass



New Year Day | Thursday January 1, 2026
9:30am English
11:00am Spanish



MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you and your families a wonderful day of rejoicing in the birth of Christ.

Christmas Giving Tree For the Holy Family Parish in Gaza



Support our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ in Gaza this Christmas. The Holy Family Parish in Gaza is an IVE mission that cares for hundreds who have been left destitute by the ongoing conflicts. The children and families there are in desperate need of basic supplies and are dependent on the charity of others.

Help Today in 3 Easy Steps:

- 1) Take an envelope from the tree.
- 2) Place your donation inside it.
- 3) Return the envelope in the collection box or the donation box near the tree



DONATE

St. Anthony of Padua Church

Thank You

A special Thank You to Tremblay's Bus for donating the school bus for the trip to La Salette Shrine.

To the parishioners and friends from both the Spanish and English Community who signed up and collaborated to the raising of funds for the Grand Annual Parish Appeal.

From the bus trip the amount raised \$1000. An anonymous benefactor match the money raised by the bus trip and total given to the parish is \$2000.

Please include all in your prayers.

GREETERS AND USHERS NEEDED

We invite you to practice your stewardship by greeting and handing out the Sunday Booklets at the 9:30am Mass. Please talk to Edwin Aldarondo for information and guidance. Thank you.



Announcements and Events

You're invited to a special

Christmas Party

Celebrate the joy of Jesus and thank Sister Transfiguration for her service in New Bedford. Please come for a farewell and send off to her new mission in Harlem, NY!

Sat. Jan. 3rd
6 PM Rosary in IC Church
6:30 PM Celebration in Parish Center
Please bring a dish to share!

Immaculate Conception
 136 Earle Street NB




Saint John, the Apostle

The Call of the First Disciples

Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

John and his brother, James, Galilean fishermen called the "sons of thunder," were chosen to be among the Twelve Apostles. John was with Jesus at the Transfiguration, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on Calvary. It was to this "beloved disciple" that Jesus entrusted his mother's care. John evangelized in Ephesus (Turkey), was exiled to the island of Patmos, and according to tradition lived to be 100 years. John and his community of followers are credited with writing the fourth Gospel, three epistles, and the Book of Revelation.



FIRST CENTURY

FEAST DAY — DECEMBER 27

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Sacrificial Giving and Stewardship

Weekly Collections

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025

Weekly Collection	\$ 5,279.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,297.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 1,793.00
Grand Annual Appeal	\$ 2,200.00
To Date	\$45,460.00
Giving Tree	\$ 820.00
To date	\$ 1,920.00
Candle Shrines	\$ 177.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY Upcoming Second Collections

12/25/2025 Christmas Offering
 01/01/2026 Solemnity of Mary

Announcement

HOLY ROSARY

Please join us to pray the Holy Rosary in English at 6:00am, every Sunday Before Holy Mass, and at 7:30am In Spanish.



THANK YOU FOR THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS

The front doors of the Church are decorated and invites us to live the spirit of Advent & Christmas. Thank you to Erick James for his volunteer work in beautifying the parish. Mr. James is friends of St. Anthony's and well known in the community.

UPDATE FROM SSVM SISTERS

Sister Transfiguration has received a new mission assignment, and she will move to New York in January. All are invited for a farewell *Christmas Party on Saturday, January 3rd. Join for the Rosary at 6 PM in Immaculate Conception Church, then 6:30 PM Celebration in the Immaculate Conception parish hall (136 Earle Street).* Please bring a dish of food to share. Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, we thank God for her generous service. Later in January, we will welcome another sister who will arrive to serve in our parishes!

OFFICE CLOSED

Due to Christmas Season the office will be closed on Wednesday December 24th at 12pm, All day on Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Thursday and Friday January 1st and 2nd 2026. Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to all our parishioners.

GIVING TREE

To date \$1,920.00 (21 Envelopes) last year collected \$6,811.00.

Can we reach \$5,000.00 at least! Last weekend for collecting will be Epiphany Sunday January 4th, 2026. Thank you!

Noticias & Eventos



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Behold, the virgin shall
conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him
Emmanuel.

Matthew 1:23



NAVIDAD

He aquí que la virgen
concebirá y dará a luz un hijo,
a quien pondrán el nombre
de Emmanuel,
que quiere decir Dios-con-
nosotros.

Mt 1,23



Horario de Misas de Navidad 2025

Noche Buena | Miércoles 24 de Diciembre
7 am; 4 pm; 12 medianoche



Día de Navidad | Jueves 25 de Diciembre
9:30am English
11:00am Español



Año Nuevo | Miércoles 31 de Diciembre
7am; 7pm Misa en español



Año nuevo | Miércoles 1 de Enero 2025
9:30am Ingles
11:00am Español

Noticias & Eventos



Fiesta de Navidad

Celebren la alegría de Jesús y agradezcan a la
Hermana Transfiguración por su servicio en
New Bedford.

¡Vengan a despedirnos y a enviarnos a su nueva
misión en Harlem, Nueva York!

Sábado 3 de enero

Rosario de las 6 p. m. en la Iglesia IC
6:30 PM Celebración en el Centro Parroquial
¡Por favor trae un plato para compartir!

Inmaculada Concepción
136 Earle Street
New Bedford



OFICINA CERRADA

La oficina estará cerrada el día Miércoles 24 de Diciembre desde
las 12pm También el Jueves 25 y Viernes 26 de Diciembre, Feliz
Navidad para todos y que Dios los bendiga.

ARBOL GENEROSO

Hasta la fecha hemos colectado \$1,920.00 (21 sobres) para Gaza
El año pasado se colectó \$6,811.00. Podemos alcanzar este año
\$5,000.00 al menos!

La ultima semana para coleccionar es el Domingo 4 de Enero 2026

Rosario de Los Jueves

Comunidad San Kilian: 12/11/2025

Comunidad Maria Sede de la Sabiduria: 01/08/2026

Comunidad Maria Puerta del Cielo: 01/15/20256

Comunidad San Kilian: 01/22/2026

Comunidad Maria Sede de La Sabiduria: 01/29/2026

Grupos de Limpieza

Comunidad Maria Puerta del Cielo: 12/06/2025

Comunidad Maria Sede de La Sabiduria: 12/13/2025

Comunidad San Kilian: 12/20/2025

Comunidad Maria Puerta del Cielo: 12/27/2025

Comunidad Maria Sede de La Sabiduria: 01/03/2026

Anuncios

NUEVA COMITIVA EN MARIA SEDE

El grupo kerigmatico Maria Sede de la Sabiduría ha elegido su nueva comitiva. Ellos son: Dominga (Mingui) Cardoza como coordinadora; Antonio & Maritza Tino como Subcoordinadores; Mariana Moreno, secretaria general; subsecretaria Rosa Elena de la Cruz; Omar Alvarado y Melvy Castro en la tesorería; Feliz Tino & Martina Vicente Subtesoreros; Manuel & Candelaria Mateo, vocales junto con el joven Socorro. Le deseamos lo mejor y muchas bendiciones a la junta coordinadora de Maria Sede.



LAS POSADAS NAVIDEÑAS

Desde el 15 al 23 de Diciembre 2025 a las 7pm cada grupo de oración tendrá tres días para celebrar las posadas. El Jueves 18 de diciembre la santa Misa será a las 6:30pm.

PROXIMAS CHARLAS DE BAUTIZO:

Charlas: 2 de Enero a las 7:30pm en el Salón Parroquial
Bautizos: Sábado 24 de Enero a las 12:00pm en la Iglesia Principal.

SANTO ROSARIO

Por favor únete a nosotros todos los Domingos a las 7:30am a recitar el Santo Rosario en Español, antes de la Misa de las 8am. El Rosario es el arma que nos defiende de los ataques del maligno.



¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!

¡Feliz Navidad! Todos nosotros les deseamos a ustedes y a sus familias un maravilloso día de regocijo por el nacimiento de Cristo.

Del Padre Mariano

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo: En esta época tan especial del año, cuando celebramos el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador, os quiero enviar un mensaje de esperanza, alegría y unidad. La Navidad es el momento perfecto para abrir nuestro corazón a la bondad, la generosidad y el amor. Que el Niño Jesús renueve nuestra fe y nos ayude a vivir con humildad y gratitud.



Aprovechemos estos días para acercarnos a los que más nos necesitan, compartiendo palabras de ánimo, y gestos sencillos. Que el espíritu navideño transforme nuestros hogares en lugares de paz y armonía.

Demos gracias por las bendiciones recibidas durante el año y pidamos por aquellos que atraviesan dificultades.

Os deseo una Navidad llena de luz, esperanza y fraternidad, y que el nuevo año nos encuentre unidos en oración y en servicio a los demás. ¡Que Dios os bendiga abundantemente a vosotros y a vuestras familias!

¡Feliz Navidad y próspero Año Nuevo!
P. Mariano



Apoyemos a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo que sufren en Gaza esta Navidad. La parroquia de la Sagrada Familia en Gaza es una misión del IVE que atiende a cientos de personas que han quedado en la indigencia a causa del conflicto. Los niños y las familias de allí necesitan urgentemente artículos de primera necesidad y dependen de la caridad.

Obtén ayuda hoy en 3 sencillos pasos:

- 1) Toma un sobre del árbol.
- 2) Coloca tu donación dentro.
- 3) Devuelva el sobre en la caja de recogida o en la caja de donaciones que



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