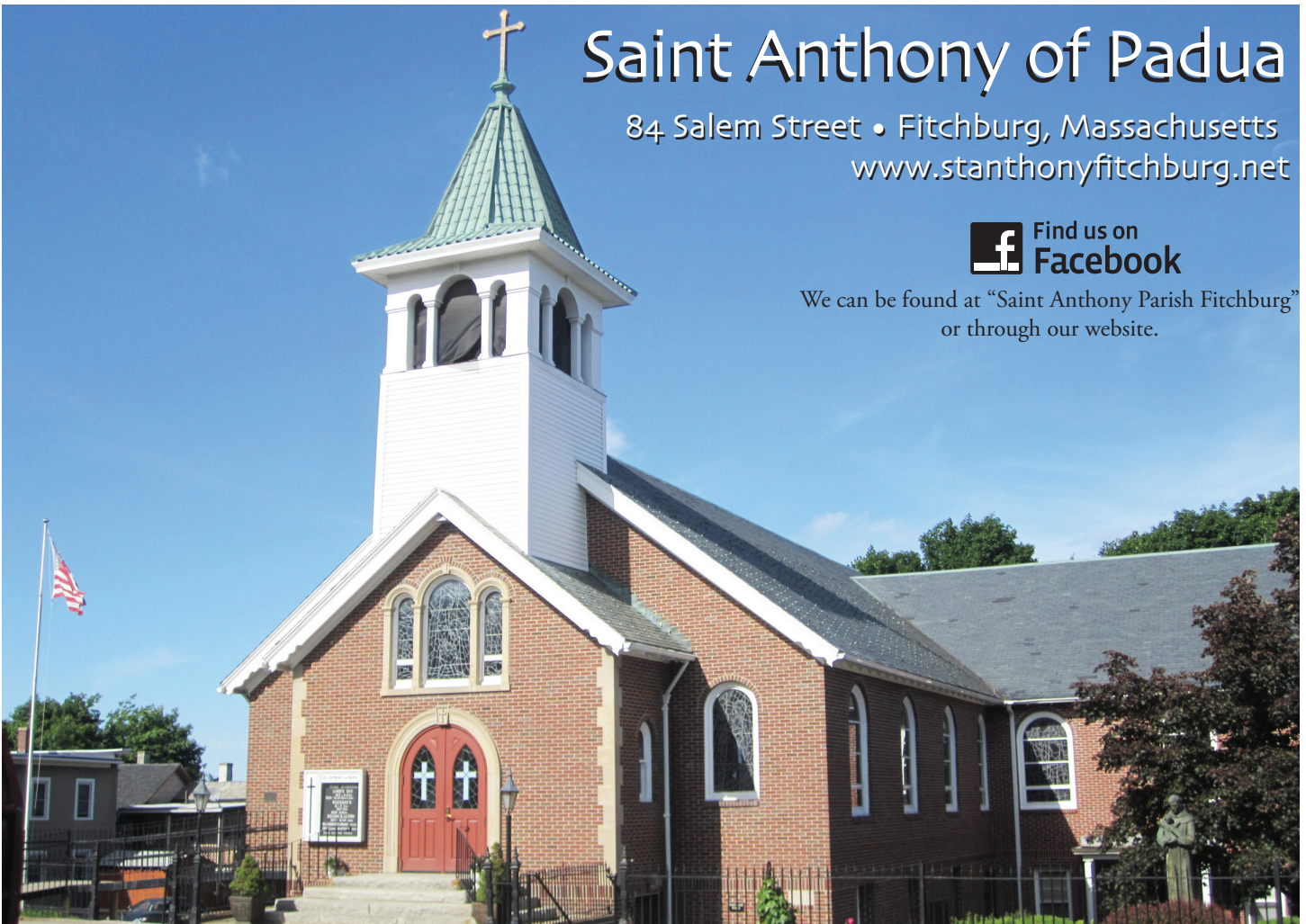




Saint Anthony of Padua

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



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

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Juan Ramirez, Pastor
frjuanstanthony@gmail.com

Deacon Mark Carrier
deacon120801@gmail.com

Prayer Line Requests
church.officestanthony@gmail.com
978-342-4706

Parish Office

978-342-4706
978-342-8160 fax
church.officestanthony@gmail.com

Hours:
Monday – Wednesday 9-3
(closed Thursday & Friday)

Vicky Zarrella, Office Manager

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM (livestream on FB)
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 anytime 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, April 5th

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM Chris Bellabarba (2nd Anniversary)
by her son Mike, Donna & family
Emanuel & Louise Pagnotto
by their daughters

Sunday, April 6th

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Fr. Ted Laperle
by his dear friend Carol
Paula Gaudet (5th Anniversary)
by her husband Bob

10:30 AM Joseph R. Amico
by his uncle & aunt
Rita & Joseph Morizzo
by their children Mary, Elena & Willy

12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, April 7th

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Tuesday, April 8th

8:00 AM 64th Wedding Anniversary
Tom & Clarice Lomaglio
by family

Wednesday, April 9th

8:00 AM Mary Theresa Salafia
by a friend

Thursday, April 10th

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Friday, April 11th

St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, April 12th

Vigil: Palm Sunday

4:00 PM Alphonse DiNardo (Anniversary)
by his wife Linda & family
Angelo Femino (100th Birthday remembrance)
by his wife Anna & family

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday

8:00 AM Bernard & Rita (Fasano) Butler
by their daughter Jean Williams
Jane Austin
by Tony & Debbie Mercadante

10:30 AM Raymond & Mary Descoteaux
by their family
Tony Tessi
by the Salamone family

12:30 PM Parishioners

April 5 - 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"...For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things, and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." (Philippians 3:8) The first commandment says that we should not put other gods before the Lord. Sharing all of our gifts - our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to support the Church helps us keep God first in everything. It helps us from putting other gods before God. It helps us from becoming a slave to our possessions. It helps us to use our gifts for the glory of God and not for the glory of ourselves.

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

Catholic Relief Services Collection this weekend, April 6.

CRS supports Catholic organizations that carry out international relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor and much more. 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 CRS can't do this lifesaving work without your help. During this Jubilee Year of Hope, I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can offer hope to those struggling to stay alive by supporting the Catholic Relief Services Collection this year. If you want to learn more about the collection and the people who are assisted, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

**Lenten
Schedule**

Stations of the Cross Friday's at 6:00 PM during Lent. Booklets are provided.

Confessions will be heard every **Saturday** from 3-3:00 (before the 4:00 Mass) or

anytime by appointment.

Lenten Series "Sacrament Formation" led by Fr. Juan & Deacon Mark, in the church hall, continue **Tuesday @ 6:00 until April 15th**. This week's theme is **Holy Orders/Anointing**.

This is a great opportunity to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the sacraments. You don't need to attend them all.

April Collections

Building & Maintenance - 1st weekend of every month
Easter Flowers - Any time during April
Catholic Relief Services - April 6th
Holy Land (Good Friday) - April 18th
Easter - April 20th
Venerini Sisters Collection - April 27

CCD Lenten Service Project - LAST CALL - Join our mission by donating new or CLEAN, gently used socks for men, women, and children. Donations can be dropped off in the collection bin at the entrance of the Church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We thank you for your support.



St. Anthony Candle Intention:
**For all RCIA
& First Communion Candidates
Preparing for their sacraments**

Dear Friends,

On this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, our Gospel is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign or miracle found in John's Gospel: the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to celebrating their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the Life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism, we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism, we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

Blessings,

Fr. Juan

Annual Partner's in Charity Appeal - Our parish has begun conducting the 2025 Partners in Charity Appeal. As you may know, this appeal is a lifeline for more than two dozen agencies and ministries which provide charitable, pastoral and educational services. We help those in need, regardless of race, creed or circumstance, to find hope. Please consider making a pledge or gift to this year's Appeal. Visit partners-charity.net and you can make your donation securely online and note your parish so that it is counted towards our target. You can even make your gift from a Smartphone by texting DONATE to 84576! Thank you! We couldn't do it without you! **Please, if you received a pledge envelope in the mail, complete your pledge and mail it directly back to the diocese in the envelope provided.** Thank you!

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, women's personal hygiene items, toilet paper, diapers, baby wash, baby lotion.

FREE Kimball Upright Piano - Gently used and looking for a home. If you play piano or have always wanted to learn, now is a good time to try! The only cost to you would be for moving. If interested, please call 978-621-8310 for more info.

Food Pantry Collection for St. Francis chapter of St. Vincent de Paul is ongoing. Please bring any non-perishable items when you can. If this is something that you have never done before, please consider it. The collection bin is at the entrance of the church.



Italian Pastry for Easter! - Patty Vacca Martin, along with the members of the Hospitality Committee are taking orders for assorted Italian cookies, pies, cannoli, cream puffs & Zeppole. For a full selection please see the St. Anthony FB page or Patty's or call her 978-407-9385 to discuss and order. **The deadline to order is THIS Friday, April 11th.** Don't be left out! These make nice gifts! All proceeds go to St. Anthony Church.

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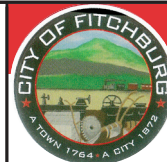
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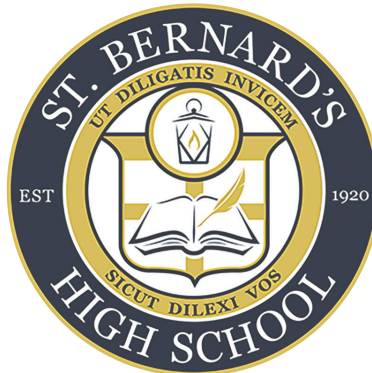
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