

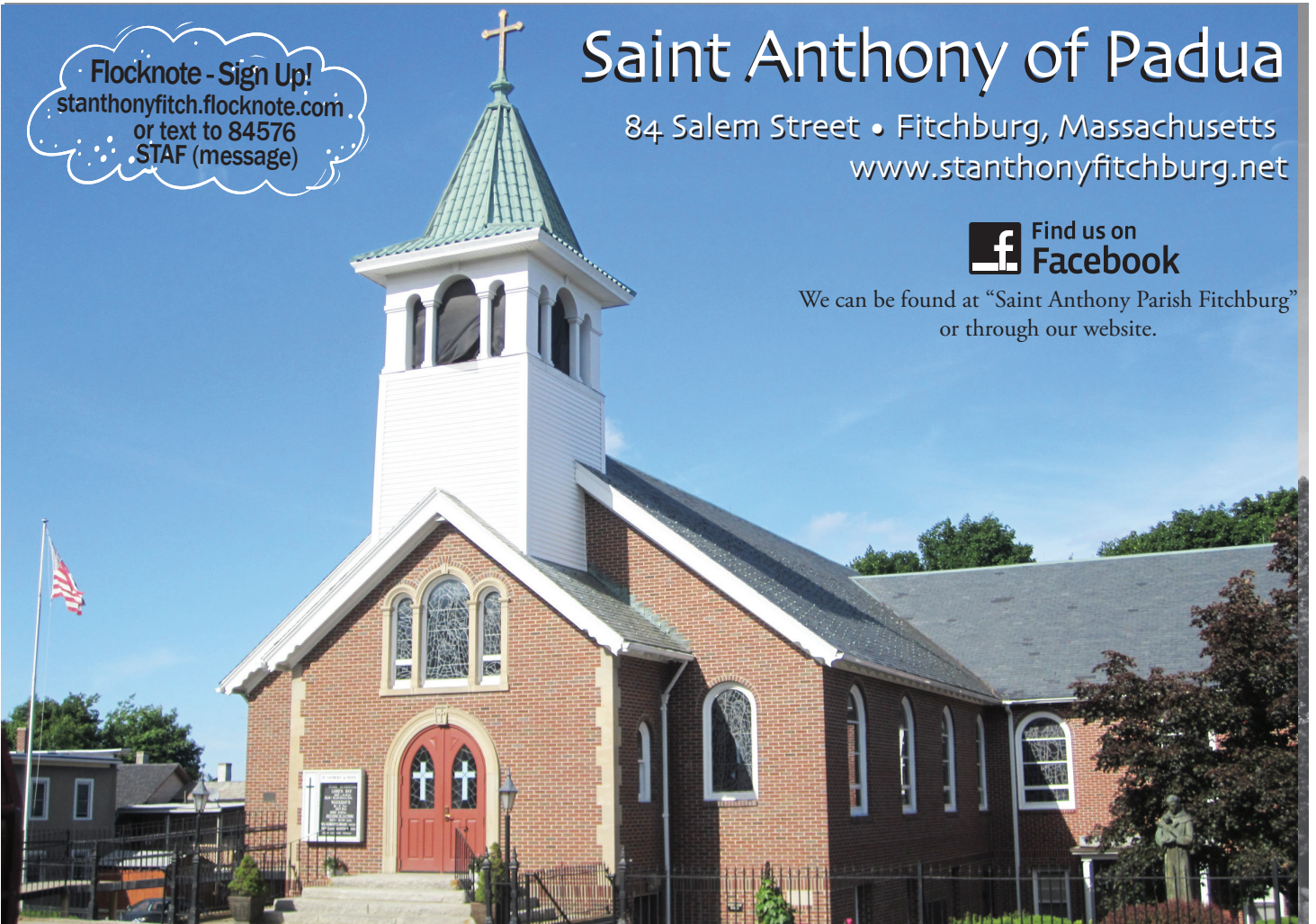
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Saint Anthony of Padua

84 Salem Street • Fitchburg, Massachusetts
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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, September 6th

Vigil: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM Ken & Maryann Smith
by their family
Lena Gallant (4th Anniversary)
by her friend Mary Flemming

Sunday, September 7th

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Peter & Marianne Celona
by their niece Angela
All the Souls in Purgatory
by Irene Rojas
10:30 AM Dr. Mark Rollo
by his siblings
Mary Morizzo (Month's Mind)
by her family
12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, September 8th

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Tuesday, September 9th

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Wednesday, September 10th

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Thursday, September 11th

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

Friday, September 12th

The Most Holy Name of Mary

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, September 13th

Vigil: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

4:00 PM Open Intention
by

Sunday, September 14th

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 AM Michael & Rose Champa
by their family
10:30 AM Fr. Jerry Orsino, OMI
by his friends, Elena & Maryann
Leo & Annette Richard (14th Anniversary)
by Ed & Sue Cronin & family
12:30 PM Parishioners



St. Anthony Candle Intention:

IMO Gary Sicard
by his family & friends

September 6 - 7, 2025

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33) When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Numbers 21:4b-9
Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel John 3:13-17

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

September Collections

Building & Maintenance – 1st weekend of every month
Parish Religious Education – September 21st
Annual Catholic School Appeal – September 28th

Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday, 9:00 – 1:00.

Catechetical Sunday, Sunday, September 21st 10:30 Mass.

Please join us as the catechists (religious education teachers) are formally recognized and commissioned for their ministry. These teachers help to pass along the faith to our parish children. Please keep them and the students in your prayers.

RCIA News

RCIA – A Journey in Faith. Classes will begin soon.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Fr. Juan ASAP at frjuanstanthony@gmail.com.

Religious Education News – Parents of all registered children, please join us on **Sunday, September 21st at the 10:30 Mass for Catechetical Sunday.**

Classes for all grade school students begin on Sunday, September 28th at 9:00 AM. Please plan to arrive each week at 8:45 and report to the church hall. In the coming weeks, your student's teacher will reach out to you to answer any questions or concerns. Grade 8 and above. Stay tuned for more information regarding confirmation classes!



Newly Baptized

Elouise Mae Friend

was welcomed into our Christian community through baptism.
May she, along with her parents, grow in faith,
love and service to Jesus Christ.

Dear Friends,

The Gospel this Sunday is one of the most demanding teachings of Jesus: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Jesus reminds us that discipleship is not a hobby, not something we fit into our schedule when convenient, but a whole way of life. It asks for courage, sacrifice, and a willingness to put Christ first above all else.

At first, this may sound harsh. Jesus even says that to follow Him, we must "hate" father, mother, spouse, children, even our own life. He is not calling us to despise our loved ones, but rather to love Him above all—and by doing so, to love our family, friends, and even ourselves more authentically.

When Christ is at the center, all other relationships are purified, strengthened, and ordered toward what is good.

We all carry crosses: illness, grief, financial burdens, struggles in family life, questions about the future. Jesus is not telling us to pretend these crosses do not exist, but to carry them with Him. The cross is not meant to crush us; it is meant to transform us. When we embrace our cross with faith, it becomes the very path by which we grow in holiness and discover deeper peace.

Discipleship also means planning wisely. In the Gospel, Jesus gives the image of a builder calculating the cost before starting construction, or a king considering whether he can win the battle. To follow Christ, we must be intentional. We cannot live on "half-commitments." Faith must guide our choices, our use of time, our priorities.

So how can we live this teaching in daily life?

- **Put Christ first:** Begin your day with prayer, even a short one, asking the Lord to guide your steps.
- **Carry your cross with trust:** Instead of asking "Why me?" try asking, "Lord, how can I walk with You through this?"
- **Plan with faith:** In decisions—about family, work, finances, or leisure—ask first, "Does this help me grow closer to God?"
- **Be a witness:** Our community needs disciples who show by their words and actions that following Jesus is worth everything.

My friends, Jesus is not asking us to give up joy, but to discover true joy that cannot be shaken. The cross always leads to resurrection. If we trust Him, the cost of discipleship becomes the greatest investment of our lives—the path to eternal life.

Let us pray this week for the courage to be intentional disciples, carrying our crosses with hope, and placing Christ at the very center of our lives.

In Christ's love,

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, all women's feminine products.



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. The collection bin is located at the entrance of the church.

Fall Festival in Westminster - St. Edward the Confessor Parish

will hold its annual Fall Festival on **Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**. It is held on church grounds at 10 Church St. Westminster; the festival has something for everyone! Come and check out locally made and handcrafted goods, raffles, games, jewelry & holiday rooms, and more! Early Bird access to Attic Treasures begins at 9:30 for \$5/person. BBQ Chicken dinners are served starting at noon **by pre-order**. Call the parish office to place your order - 978.874.2362. We hope to see you there.

Register for Worcester Catholic Women's Conference - All

women are invited to this exciting Conference, "I Thirst for the Salvation of Souls", to be held at St. Joseph School in Webster on **Saturday, Sept. 27**. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders, Noelle Mering, Dr. Madeline Colon-Usowicz, Tim Francis, and Adam Janke. Diocesan and religious priests will hear confessions and there will be many interesting exhibitors. Bishop McManus will celebrate Mass. For more information and to register, visit our website at www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register today!

Holy Hour of Prayer - The folks of Serra Worcester North

cordially invite you to pray with us at a Holy Hour for Vocations on **Tuesday, September 23rd from 7:00 – 8:00 PM**, St. Cecilia's Church, 170 Mechanic St., Leominster.

Save the Date for a Spaghetti Supper – Members of the Serra

North invite you to join them for a spaghetti supper on **Saturday, October 4th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall, Leominster**. The supper includes salad, pasta with sauce, meatballs, bread, desserts and beverage. Tickets, \$15 adults and \$8 children (ten & under). Tickets available at St. Cecilia Rectory (Mon-Fri, 10 – 2PM) or St. Leo's Rectory (M-W, 9-4PM; T-F, 9-noon).

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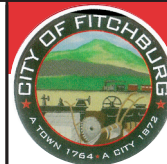
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