

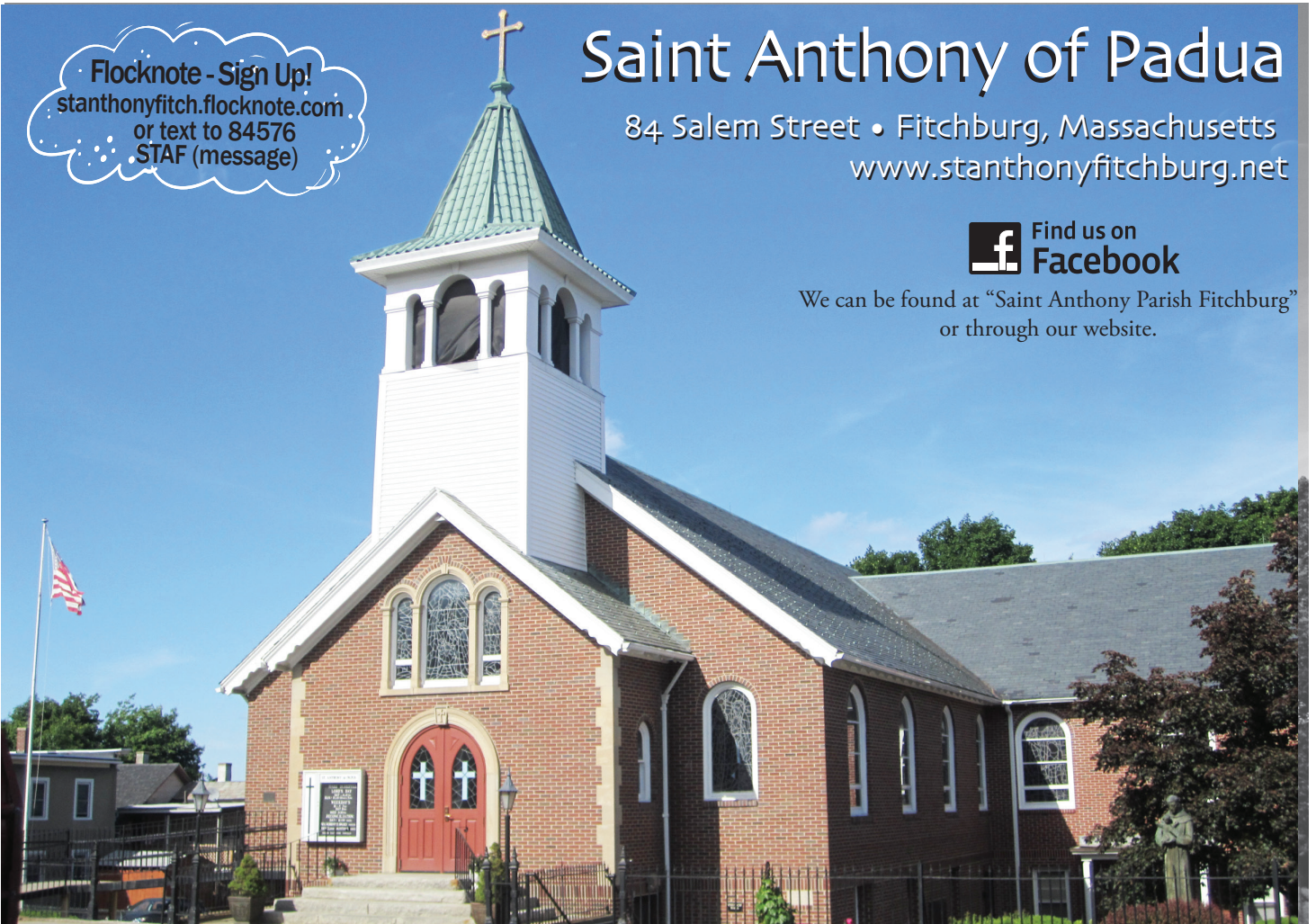
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# Saint Anthony of Padua

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



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

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## WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

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### 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.

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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, December 6<sup>th</sup>

*Vigil: First Sunday of Advent*

4:00 PM Agnes Clear (99<sup>th</sup> Birthday remembrance)  
by Peter & Linda Allaire  
Deceased of the Marrella Family  
by Diane Garipey

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

*First Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM Thersa LeBlanc  
by Debra & John Waters

10:30 AM Deceased of Lomaglio & Leger Family  
by their family  
Margaret Pancare  
by her daughter Monica & Family

12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM Open Intentions  
by

Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM Open Intentions  
by

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM Marianne Celona (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
by her family

Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM Michael Vincent Addorisio (84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
by his nieces

Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

*Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent*

4:00 PM Joseph Altieri Sr. & Family  
and the Salvatore Greco Family  
by Mary Altieri & Family

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

*Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM Open Intention  
by

10:30 AM James Bouchard (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
by Sarah DiGeronimo  
Deceased of the Lomaglio & Tata Families  
by their Family

12:30 PM Parishioners

St. Anthony Candle Intention



# December 6 - 7, 2025

## Second Sunday of Advent

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10) Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer, or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church, or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?*

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  
Second Reading James 5:7-10  
Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 (7)

## PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Holy Day of Obligation – Monday December 8 @ 8AM only

### December Collections

Building & Maintenance (Second Collection) 1<sup>st</sup> weekend  
Christmas Flowers (anytime during the month)  
Retirement Fund for Religious December 14, 2025  
Christmas (anytime during the month)



The Annual Giving Tree has had wonderful outpouring from you all. As of this printing, there are only 20 tags remaining on the tree. Thank you for your generosity and compassion in helping these children and seniors to have a smile on their faces. Gifts

for all agencies need to be returned with the tag. Deadline for returning all gifts is Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Any **Catholic Charity gifts** not received by December 15 will need to be brought directly to Catholic Charities, 196 Mechanic Street, Leominster. Please call them to arrange to drop off (978-840-0696). The Seminarian gift cards **should be mailed back directly in the envelope provided**. Do not bring them to church! Thank you.



Calling all Young Actors/Actresses! We begin our rehearsal this Sunday December 14. Children must be available for a weekly 20-minute practice at 10:00 am each Sunday leading up to the pageant. The pageant will be 15-20-minutes including short scripts and songs based on the Nativity scene. If you think your child would like to participate, you need to enroll them by the of the day, Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.



Dear Friends,

As we gather on this Second Sunday of Advent, the Church invites us to reflect on one of the most challenging and grace-filled virtues of this season: **patience**. Advent is, at its very heart, a school of patient waiting—a gentle reminder that God’s promises unfold not according to our schedules, but according to His perfect time.

Today’s Scriptures speak to us with a tender, consoling voice. Isaiah offers a breathtaking vision of new life springing forth from what once seemed lifeless: *“A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.”* This is a promise that God is always doing something new, even when we cannot yet see it. It is a call to be patient with the quiet work of grace happening beneath the surface of our lives.

St. James encourages us to be “patient, like the farmer who waits for the precious fruit of the earth.” Advent teaches us that spiritual growth, healing, forgiveness, and transformation often happen slowly—one step, one prayer, one act of kindness at a time. God’s work within us is steady and sure, even when it feels hidden.

And then we hear the powerful voice of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness: *“Prepare the way of the Lord!”* His message reminds us that preparing our hearts for Christ requires patience with ourselves and patience with others. Conversion is a journey, not a moment. Advent invites us to breathe deeply, slow down, and trust that God is guiding us gently toward renewal.

In a world that demands instant answers, quick solutions, and fast results, Advent stands as a sacred pause. It teaches us that **waiting is not wasting time**—it is opening space for God. Patience allows us to recognize the small signs of God’s presence that we might otherwise overlook: the smile of a friend, the faithfulness of family, a quiet moment of prayer, an unexpected grace.

As a parish community, let us walk these weeks together with patient hearts. Let us support one another, encourage one another, and hold each other in prayer as we wait for the coming of the Lord. May our patience bear fruit in compassion, peace, and deeper trust.

**This Advent, may we learn to wait with hope, to trust with confidence, and to prepare our hearts with love. Come, Lord Jesus... teach us Your patience, and renew our spirits with Your peace.**

Blessings,  
*Fr. Juan*

**Don't forget. 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.



**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 consider it. The collection bin is located at the entrance of the church.

**FREE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR ALL VETERANS AND ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS** – Cauley's Garden Center along with Operation Service [www.operationsservice.net](http://www.operationsservice.net) is providing trees to thank our service members for all they have done. Starting November 28, pick up your FREE tree at Cauley's Garden Center, 649 South St. Fitchburg MA. While supplies last.

**National Retirement Fund for Religious.** On the weekend of December 13-14 our parishes will be conducting the collection for our communities of women and men who were devoted to establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Escalating healthcare costs and a lack of traditional retirement plans have created financial challenges for many religious communities. This national collection assists these communities to provide for their aging members.

**Holiday Fair** –Come join us on **Sunday, December 14, from 9-3:00 at the Eastwood Club**, 389 Townsend St. Fitchburg. Holiday shopping made easy! Refreshments and food, full bar at noon, auction and 50/50 raffle. Our hospitality committee will be there selling their delicious, traditional Italian pastries in tins and boxes – perfect for hostess gifts. All proceeds from their sale go directly to our parish! Stop by and take a look!

**The Father Peyton Center** will host a special weekday event on Monday, Dec. 8 for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, from 12pm – 2pm. It will include Mass, followed by A reflection, activity for children, and a light reception. Free event: donations welcome. The Father Peyton Center is at 518 Washington St. in N. Easton. Registration is not required but very appreciated at: <https://hcfm.info/ic-2025>. Questions? Contact [mission@HCFM.org](mailto:mission@HCFM.org) or 508-238-4095.

**Don't Forget** Our Father's Table, an all-volunteer ministry using the kitchen and dining facilities at **Faith Christian Church**. Their ministry originally began at Christ Episcopal Church in Fitchburg in 1983 and has continued since 2008 at Faith Christian Church. They have been serving meals to those in need in Fitchburg for over 42 years. They serve approximately 200 meals each week, serving every **Tuesday and Thursday**. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to them at 978-345-6950.

**Snow Policy** – For weekday Masses, (Monday – Thursday) if Fitchburg Public Schools are cancelled or delayed there will be NO Mass celebrated. We do this to keep all our parishioners safe and off the roads. Please check your local listings. Thank you.

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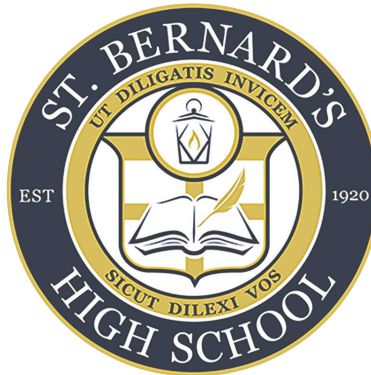
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