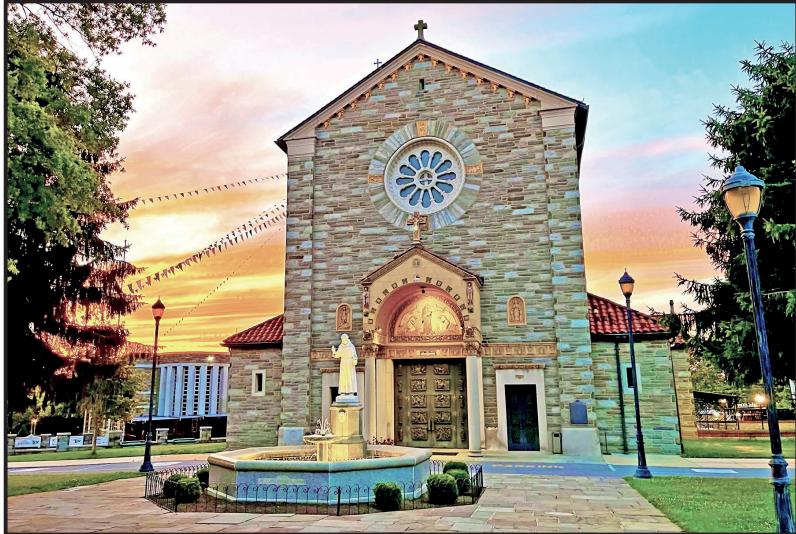


# St. Anthony of Padua Parish

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



February 22, 2026

**Pastor**

Rev. Vincent A. Kumar, OSFS



**In Residence**

Bro. Joseph G. Schodowski, OSFS

## Masses

Sunday ..... 9:00, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm  
Monday - Friday ..... 6:45 am  
Saturday ..... 5:00 pm  
Holidays & Holy Days.....Consult the bulletin

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday ..... 4:00 - 4:45 pm  
Any time by appointment at the rectory.

For guidance with respect to Baptisms and weddings, please contact the rectory at 302-421-3700 / [parish@stanthony.net.org](mailto:parish@stanthony.net.org).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Weddings must be booked at least one year in advance of planned wedding date.

## Contacts

Rectory ..... 302-421-3700; Fax 302-421-3705  
901 N. DuPont St., Wilmington, DE 19805

St. Anthony Grade School ..... 302-421-3743  
9th & Scott Sts., Wilmington, DE 19805  
Judith Jakotowicz White, *Principal*

Padua Academy ..... 302-421-3739  
905 N. Broom St., Wilmington, DE 19806  
Dr. Mary McClory, *Principal*

Coordinator of Liturgy & Music  
Stephen Adams ..... 302-421-3700

**Registration:** New parishioners are requested to contact the rectory and schedule an appointment with the Parish Secretary.

**Italian Festival**

[festival@stanthony.net.org](mailto:festival@stanthony.net.org)

**Knights of Columbus-St. Pius X Council**

Felix Spitel, Grand Knight  
302-743-8748

**St. Anthony's Lodge /**

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Email: [StAlodge@outlook.com](mailto:StAlodge@outlook.com)

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**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/stanthonywilmde](http://www.instagram.com/stanthonywilmde)



**St. Anthony of Padua Grade School:** [www.sapgs.org](http://www.sapgs.org)

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**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/sapgs.de](http://www.instagram.com/sapgs.de)

**Padua Academy Website:** [www.paduaacademy.org](http://www.paduaacademy.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/paduaacademy](http://www.facebook.com/paduaacademy)

**St. Anthony's Italian Festival:** [www.sapde.org/italianfestival](http://www.sapde.org/italianfestival)

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# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>2/23</b> RALPH SIANNI	WIFE, SONS, HALLIE
<b>Tuesday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>2/24</b>	
<b>Wednesday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>2/25</b> SOULS IN PURGATORY	DONOR
<b>Thursday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>2/26</b> ROSE PERROTTI	JOE
<b>Friday,</b> 6:45 AM	<b>2/27</b>	
<b>Saturday,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>2/28</b> NANCY BESTWICK	AL
<b>Sunday,</b> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>3/1</b> STANLEY F. PLASTEK	FAMILY



### Next Sunday's Readings

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Genesis 12:1-4a

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

#### Gospel:

Matthew 17:1-9

### Holiday Masses

Please note that Masses on federal holidays (usually occurring on Mondays) will no longer be celebrated at 8:00 AM, but rather at the usual 6:45 AM daily Mass time.

### Weekly Offertory

Due to the Presidents' Day holiday, collection figures for February 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> will be presented next weekend.



St. Matthew's Gospel provides details of the nature of the test that Jesus experienced in the desert: to be a different kind of Messiah, to find a quicker or more spectacular way to win people over, to employ a one-shot way of doing God's Will that would make everybody happy.

In other words, Jesus was tempted to be someone other than who God called him to be.

All of us are tempted to be someone other than who God calls us to be. Voices around us, voices within us attempt to convince us that we would be happier, healthier, more successful, powerful and persuasive if we were someone - anyone - other than who we are.

We are most like Jesus when we strive to be faithful to God's plan for us. We are most like Jesus when we are faithful to our unique role in God's plan of salvation for others. We are most like Jesus when we refuse the temptation to settle for less, to sell ourselves short, to look for a short cut. We flirt with the easier, the more convenient, or the more popular way of trying to do what is right, of trying to do what is good, of trying to do what is just.

St. Francis de Sales' advice is on point: "Don't sow your desires in some else's garden; cultivate your own as best you can. Don't try to be someone other than who you are; rather, desire to be thoroughly who you are."

With God's help, and the encouragement of others, let us be who we are...and be that well. In the midst of the challenges of life, let us be true to ourselves...and give glory and praise to the God who made us.

*The Oblates*

"Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life with fear; rather, look upon them with strong hope that, as they arise, God, whose child you are, will deliver you from them."

*St. Francis de Sales*



In your charity, please pray for all the deceased of St. Anthony's.

## Your Prayers and Support Requested

Dina Casale	Buzzy Cooke	William Crook
Bruce DiBiaso	Ann Marie DiBiaso	Florence Dilks
Amber Dawn Ford	Jean Forlano	Mary Jo Ganey
Bill Giles	Mia Gravino	Irene Lawhorn
Paige Lucas	Edward Mackey	John McGee
Cindy O'Neil	Kelly Panella	Marlene Papillo
Fr. Francis J. Pileggi	Ann Marie Russo	Betty Rybinski
Rami Shehadeh	Alexandra Sparco	Starobynski Family
Robin Swanson	Angelo Tiberi	LuAnn Tiberi
Tobias Weaver	Barbara White	Rev. Mark J. Wrightson, OSFS

*...and all the sick of St. Anthony's Parish.*

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. On the February 25th episode of Catholic Forum, Sheila McGirl, Director of Development for the Diocese of Wilmington joins the show to discuss Commitment Weekend for the 2026 Faith and Charity Appeal. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum) and FaceBook.com/CatholicForum.

## **Easter Flowers Memorials**

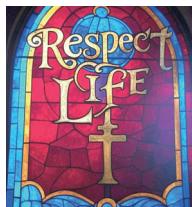




Once again, we are presenting our Easter Flowers program. This effort helps to fund the Easter Flower church decorations. As in years past, we ask \$15.00 per memorial. Send your memorials marked "Easter Flowers" to the rectory **no later than Friday, March 27th**. A booklet listing all the memorials will be available in church in the weeks following Easter.

# Padua Academy's 2026 Spring Soirée

You're invited to celebrate the mission of Padua Academy on March 14 from 6-10pm at the Deerfield Golf Club! Stakeholders of Padua Academy will gather for our 2026 Spring Soirée: an evening of good company, good food and live music -- all in support of increased access to Catholic education. Support Padua's Endowment and the need-based tuition assistance it offers as we honor two exceptional stakeholders: alumna and legendary Philly journalist Pat Ciarrocchi, and bariatric surgeon and mentor Dr. Gail Wynn. Tickets and information can be found at <https://paduasoiree2026.givesmart.com>



"I think we have deluded ourselves into believing that people don't know that abortion is killing. So any pretense that abortion is not killing is a signal of our ambivalence, a signal that we cannot say yes, it kills a fetus."

Faye Wattleton

## **Lenten Fish Fry at St. John the Beloved**

**LENTEN**  
**FISH**  
**FRY**

Bake Sale  
Too!

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21<sup>ST</sup>  
Year

Fish Fry in a Bag, too!  
February 20, March 6 and March 20.  
Go to SJBKofCde.org to per-order!

**ST. JOHN THE BELOVED**  
**PARISH HALL**

**FEBRUARY 27 AND**  
**MARCH 13 & 27**

**5:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

**Baked or Fried Flounder Fillet,  
Baked Potato or Fries or Mac & Cheese,  
Cole Slaw, Green Beans, or Applesauce, & Roll**

**\$15/Adult, \$8/Child**

**No Reservations Required, Take-out Available**

For More Information: Contact Jon Koskola at (302) 470-8172 or okumajev@gmail.com  
or Bill Harris at (302) 998-7271 or SJBFishFry@gmail.com

The St. John the Beloved Knights of Columbus will be holding Lenten Fish Fry dinners on February 27, March 13, and March 27 at the Church Hall located on 907 Milltown Road, Wilmington 19808. Dinners will be served from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and include a choice of fried or baked flounder along with two side dishes plus a dinner roll. Dinners are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Take-out is available. The council is also offering Fish Sandwich To-Go meals from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm on February 20, March 6 and March 20. Each bag includes a breaded fish sandwich, a bag of potato chips, a cookie and a beverage. Meals are \$10 each. A pint of Vegetable Lentil soup is also available for \$5. Pre-orders only. See <https://sjbkofcde.org/fish/> for more details on both events.



## Parish Calendar

Friday

5:00 PM, Wedding Rehearsal  
7:30 PM, Via Crucis

Saturday

2:00 PM, Wedding



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

### Sacrament of Penance

**Saturday, March 28**

4:00 to 4:45 PM

**No Confessions on Holy Saturday, April 4**

### Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

**Saturday, March 28**

Blessing of Palm and Procession  
at 5:00 PM Mass

**Sunday, March 29**

Masses: 9:00, & 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM  
9:00 Mass *livestreamed*

### Holy Week: March 30, 31 & April 1

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday**

Daily Masses: 6:45 AM

### Holy Thursday, April 2

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 PM  
Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 10:00 PM  
7:00 Mass *livestreamed*

### Good Friday, April 3

Church open for prayer & reflection:  
12:00 Noon through Lord's Passion  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion: 3:00 PM  
3:00 Liturgy *livestreamed*

### Holy Saturday, April 4

Solemn Easter Vigil: 7:30 PM  
*Livestreamed*

### Easter Sunday, April 5

Masses: 9:00, & 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM  
9:00 Mass *livestreamed*.

Monday, Feb. 23

through

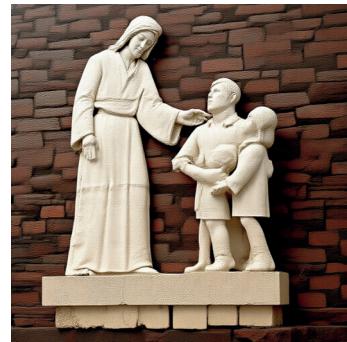
Sunday, Mar. 1

*(All events listed in the Parish Calendar are in church unless otherwise noted.)*

## Grade School Calendar

Friday

2:00 PM, Basket Raffle in  
School Meeting Room



## LENTEN GUIDELINES

### Penitential Fast and Abstinence

The current discipline of penance for the United States, in addition to the general character of the Lenten season may thus be summed up:

- **Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18th) and Good Friday (Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>)** are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. With regard to Good Friday, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council should be recalled: "Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind" (Constitution on the Liturgy, no. 110).

- The other **Fridays of the season of Lent** are days of abstinence from meat.

- The **Fridays of the year outside Lent** remain days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance: this may be physical mortification or temperance or acts of religion, charity, or Christian witness.

- All those who are fourteen years old are bound to the law of abstinence. The law of fast binds all who are eighteen years old and not yet fifty-nine years old.

## Grade School Open House Rescheduled for Spring

We were really looking forward to welcoming families on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and then, due to the snowstorm, February 1st, but with roads still in poor condition & temperatures not rising above freezing, we have made the decision to reschedule our Open House for the spring. Instead, we are excited to invite families to "**Walk Through Wednesdays**" throughout February & March. Stop by for a drop-in tour from 3:00 – 6:00 PM to see the school and speak with our administration. Tours during the day may be scheduled at your convenience.



### **Many Hands, One Mission: A 50-Year Legacy**

For 50 years, the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal has united our Diocese in service, hope, and generosity. This anniversary year invites every parishioner to reflect on our shared legacy, and to join us in shaping the next 50 years of ministry, mercy, and mission.

#### **Social and Community Care Services**

For half a century, your heartfelt generosity has enabled Catholic Charities to bring Christ's compassion to the most vulnerable. Through your support of the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal, families in crisis find stability, the hungry find nourishment, and the elderly and disabled find dignity and care.

Together, through many hands and one mission, we transform lives every day.

#### **Evangelization and Faith Formation**

For 50 years, the ministries supported by the Faith and Charity Appeal have carried the Gospel into homes, parishes, and communities across Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Your support strengthens lay leadership, enriches adult faith formation, and nurtures vibrant intercultural ministries that reflect the diversity of our Diocese.

Together, we continue the mission entrusted to us by Christ.

#### **Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries**

For generations, the Faith and Charity Appeal has helped guide our young people into a deeper relationship with Christ. From youth ministry and young adult outreach to campus ministry at colleges throughout our Diocese, your gift forms the next generation of Catholic leaders.

Together, we hand on the legacy of faith to the Church of tomorrow.

### **Permanent Diaconate Formation**

For 50 years, deacons have served as visible signs of Christ the Servant in our parishes, hospitals, schools, and communities. Your generosity supports their formation and ongoing ministry, ensuring that every parish has the blessing of their witness, compassion, and dedication.

Together, we strengthen the heart of parish life.

### **Catholic Education**

Since the earliest days of the Appeal, Catholic schools have been at the core of our mission.

Your support helps sustain strong academics, character formation, and faith-centered learning for thousands of children.

Together, we ensure that Catholic education thrives for the next 50 years.

### **Office of Vocations**

Throughout the fifty years of the Appeal we have supported the discernment and formation of countless priests and religious. Your gift helps young men answer God's call, sustains seminarians in their formation, and encourages a culture of vocations throughout our Diocese.

Together, we invest in the future shepherds of our Church.

### **Parish Incentives: Strengthening Our Local Mission**

As we celebrate 50 years of shared mission, parishes that reach their goal will receive a portion of funds raised above their target to support local ministries and outreach.

Together, we build strong parishes, strong families, and a strong Church.

### **Our Parish Goal**

Our goal here at St. Anthony of Padua Parish is \$41,000.00.

This historic 50th anniversary year invites all of us—every household, every family, every parishioner—to take our place in the legacy of the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal.

*During Appeal Weekend, please prayerfully make your sacrificial gift and join thousands across our Diocese in strengthening the ministries that sustain our faith, our communities, and our future.*

Many hands. One mission. A 50-year legacy—now ours to continue.

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