

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Directory



**Together we build
St. Anthony's.
The missing piece is you!**

**259 FOREST AVENUE
AMBLER, PA**

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Feast Day June 13th

St. Anthony was born Ferdinand de Bulhoses, in Lisbon, Portugal, most likely in 1195. He entered Religious life at the age of 15 and became renowned for sanctity and learning as a Religious of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine. After he was ordained a priest, Anthony met some Franciscans who visited his monastery. He was inspired by the simplicity, zeal, and joyous example of some of their Franciscan martyrs and so desired to join the Order of Friars Minor. He too wanted to give his life as a martyr for Christ by spreading the Gospel in North Africa (Morocco). Anthony sailed for Africa, but because of a serious illness was forced to return to Italy. Gradually he became known for his holiness and his gift of preaching as he traveled throughout Italy and into France. He is most often associated with the northern Italian city of Padua where he spent the last years of his life. Anthony died at the age of 36, after just 10 years as a Franciscan.

St. Anthony is often pictured holding a lily, the symbol of a pure life. He is also associated with the Child Jesus which symbolizes his profound devotion to the Incarnation. St. Anthony's reputation as a finder of lost things began in his own lifetime and was rooted in his own faith and conviction about the power of prayer. It is a testimony to his love for Christ, the Good Shepherd who always seeks out what is lost.

Through the preaching of the gospel, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Saint Anthony may any who have lost their way in life be welcomed here to the parish which bears his name so as to find Christ – and their way – again.

PARISH HISTORY

St. Anthony Parish was founded as a mission church by Father Henry Stommel, a German priest originally from the Archdiocese of Cologne. Fr. Stommel, known as the "Church Builder," was a tremendous force in the development of the Catholic community in the Philadelphia area, founding eight churches in the Diocese between 1872 and 1896. In March 1886, Father Stommel purchased two acres of ground from Mr. Joseph Ambler. The cornerstone for St. Anthony's was laid on April 26, 1886 and the first mass was celebrated in the partially completed church on July 16, 1886. St. Anthony's was dedicated on September 21, 1886. The tradition of generosity that has long characterized the St. Anthony parishioner was evident from the first. The church building was completed in just 5 months and opened its doors debt free and fully decorated.

The original community consisted of 30 families with only 3 living in Ambler proper. Parishioners were predominantly farmers, laborers, and railroad workers. A school was also founded in 1886 under the care of the Franciscan Sisters, but was forced to close its doors four years later for lack of students.

St. Anthony Parish grew as the influx of industrial workers joined the agricultural workers in the 1920s. The school reopened in 1923 staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The two large classrooms

housed 100 students. The post war years brought another wave of growth. St. Anthony's now had over 600 families. Expansion of the facilities was critical. Under Fr. Alexander Sawers, pastor from 1948 until 1971, the number of classrooms was tripled. A new Church was built incorporating the original Church. The axis of the nave was rotated so that the congregational area of the old St. Anthony's became the sanctuary of the new structure. The old sanctuary became of the Chapel of the Blessed Mother.

Monsignor Eugene Sullivan served as Pastor from 1972 until 1991. The Church was repaired and redecorated several times during that period. Project '76 remodeled the Mary Chapel and the main altar. The organ and steeple were restored in 1984. The addition of the Pre-Kindergarten was completed in 1990.

In 1991 Msgr. Stephen P. McHenry was assigned as the new Pastor upon the retirement of Msgr. Sullivan.

On Christmas Eve 1999 the parish dedicated new Jubilee Doors to commemorate the millennium celebration.

On Christmas Eve 2000 in the early, frigid morning hours, the Church fell victim to an electrical fire. The fire was devastating and the Church could not be saved. Plans were formulated to rebuild, which included a new Church and a Parish Education Center. Ground was broken for the new Church on November 3, 2002 and construction of the Church was completed in the spring of 2004. The dedication of the new St. Anthony Church was celebrated on April 28, 2004.

Construction of the new Parish Education Center began in the late spring of 2004. The facility would house parish education and formation programs, as well as St. Anthony-St. Joseph Elementary School. The original school structure, including the 1923 building, was renovated and eight new classrooms, plus multipurpose facilities were added. Construction was completed in August 2005.

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parishioners of Saint Anthony of Padua parish, believe that here the merciful heart of Christ speaks a loving word to our hearts, forging a communion of love. It is this grace which draws us to gather on the Lord's Day for Eucharist, proclaim his Good News and give ourselves in service to those in need.

We commit ourselves to share our faith in the Lord Jesus with all we meet and to hand on our Catholic faith to the next generation. In the spirit of Saint Anthony, we welcome any who have lost their way in life so that together we may hear Christ speak to our hearts.

PARISH BOUNDARIES

From the intersection of the Route 309 Expressway and Bethlehem Pike south on Route 309 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike (overpass); west to Bethlehem Pike; north on Bethlehem Pike to Bannockburn Avenue (but only the homes on the East side of Bethlehem Pike up to Bannockburn); go west on Bannockburn Avenue to Church Street; northeast on Church Street to Rosemary Avenue (the homes on Rosemary Avenue are not in the parish: go west on Rosemary Avenue to South Spring Garden Street; north on Spring Garden St. to Forest Avenue.

(Spring Garden Street households are excluded between Rosemary Avenue and Forest Avenue); go west to the SEPTA Railroad tracks and north to the Penllyn Train Station and on to the Wissahickon Creek; go east to Bethlehem Pike and north to the Route 309 Expressway.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

The Sacrament of Baptism

Faith in Jesus Christ opens the very kingdom of God to those who believe. The Sacrament of Baptism bestows and celebrates the new life of grace won for us by Christ. Baptism is the foundation of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which provides access to the other sacraments.

Through Baptism we are freed from original sin and reborn as brothers and sisters of Christ, members of His Body, incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the Word."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213

All arrangements for Baptism are made by contacting the Parish Center during daytime office (9:00AM until 4:00PM) hours. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 12:00 PM. Other arrangements can be made by speaking with one of the priests or the deacon.

There are Pre-Baptismal (Pre Jordan) instructions for the parents of children to be baptized. Pre Jordan classes are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Holy Child Crying Room. Both parents are required to attend. Sponsors are not required to attend, but are invited to do so. Sponsors are required to obtain a Letter of Eligibility to stand as a Sponsor. These letters of eligibility are obtained from the parish in which they are registered members. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and living up to the practice of their Catholic faith. Only a Catholic can sponsor a person into the Catholic faith, but other baptized Christians may stand as a Christian witness to the Baptism of the child along with a Catholic Sponsor.

Eucharistic Celebrations

Daily Morning Mass	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:15 AM
Sunday	9:00 & 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM
Holy Days of Obligation	8:15 AM AM
Spanish Language Mass	1st Sunday of the month 2:00 PM

First Holy Communion

The Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. In Baptism the believer is raised to the dignity of the royal priesthood and in the Sacrament of Confirmation is strengthened by Christ and configured more deeply to Christ. By means of the Eucharist, Christians are able to participate with the whole community in the Lord's own sacrifice.

"At the Last Supper, on the night He was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of His Body and Blood. This He did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout all ages until He should come again...."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1322 - 1323

First Eucharist is received by parochial and public school children in the second grade usually in late April.

Confirmation

Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation together constitute the "Sacraments of Christian Initiation." The reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. It is the bishop who is ordinarily the one to 'confirm' the faith of the person in this sacrament. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

Catechism of the Catholic Church - 1285

The sacrament of confirmation is usually administered to children of St. Anthony's in the sixth or seventh grade of parochial, private, and public school.

The Sacraments of Healing

The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies...has willed that his Church continue in the power of the Holy Spirit, His work of healing and salvation, even among her own members. This is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: the sacrament of Penance and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Catechism of the Catholic Church - 1421

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at St. Joseph Parish 2:45 PM
By appointment Please call the rectory

First Reconciliation

The sacrament of Reconciliation is normally received by parochial and public school children in the second grade prior to receiving First Eucharist.

Anointing of the Sick and Communion Calls

The priest should be called for any serious illness or hospital stay. The sacrament of anointing is the proper sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age.

The Eucharist is brought to those at home or in a nursing facility once a month by the priest and twice a month by the Eucharistic Ministers.

Matrimony

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

"Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1601"

Philadelphia Archdiocesan policy states that couples contemplating marriage should inform the priest of their intention to do so six months prior to the marriage date. This allows time for the necessary prenuptial instructions and various other arrangements to be made. Please call the rectory to make arrangements with the priest and the music director.

DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration

Continuous in the Adoration Chapel. Please contact the parish office for a code.

WORSHIP

Altar Linens

Altar linens are washed, ironed, and mended at home by volunteers who serve for a week at a time.

Altar and Flower Committee

The committee beautifies the Sanctuary and deepens prayers through the gifts of nature. Volunteers come together as a group or work independently, to create an atmosphere of visual focus for Church Services. It is helpful to have an eye for color, balance, proportion, and a love for growing things. Flowers are arranged on Saturday mornings and prior to holy days. Flowers are maintained daily.

Baptismal Gowns

Each child baptized receives a white garment to symbolize their new life in Christ. These simple gowns are sewn at home by volunteers with materials provided by the Parish.

Prayer Groups

The Spanish prayer group meets every Friday at 7:00pm in The Mary Chapel. All are welcome.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Altar Servers

Assist the priest at Sunday and Weekday Mass. Any boy or girl in the 4th grade or older is eligible. Volunteers are needed to help with the training of servers.

Lectors – Ministers of the Word

Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Saturday Vigil Masses, and on Sundays, Weekdays, and Holy Days. They provide a thoughtful and prayerful reading of the Scriptures during the Liturgy. Lectors must be willing and able to learn how to proclaim the Scriptures, and not simply read in public.

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and bring the Blessed Sacrament to the homebound, ill, and nursing home residents. They are appointed upon the recommendation of the pastor.

Ushers

Ushers establish an atmosphere of order for those present to worship. In addition, they distribute the Paduan, assist in the offertory collection, and insure the orderly reception of the Eucharist.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Cantors

Cantors lead the worshipping community in Song at Sunday and Saturday Vigil celebrations of the Eucharist. Cantors must be able to read music and appropriately lead the congregation in song.

Choir

The Choir adds to the beauty of the Sunday liturgy with its gifts of music and voice. Choir meets Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary for practice.

PASTORAL

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is an advisory body which gathers information and examines it, makes recommendations to the pastor, and helps to develop plans concerning the ongoing life and mission of the Parish. Nominations are accepted and elections are held annually.

Parish Core Team & Commissions

Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation

The purpose of this commission flows from our awareness of our being baptized and confirmed believers in Jesus Christ, called to put our faith into word and action. We seek ways that will invite, welcome and involve parishioners in ministries for the parish and the larger community through outreach, service and witness.

The scriptural admonition reminds us that what we have received as a gift (our faith) we are to give as a gift. Thus the purpose of this commission is to provide occasions for adults, parents and extended family to gather, grow spiritually, and share their faith and deepen their bonds as part of the St. Anthony Parish Family.

Worship and Liturgy

The purpose of this commission is to concentrate our attention on our personal and communal worship of Jesus Christ, to revitalize the practice of the faith, strengthen commitment to Sunday worship and deepen the understanding and level of participation in the Eucharist.

Faith Formation: Youth and Families

The scriptural admonition reminds us that what we have received as a gift (our faith) we are to give as a gift. Thus the purpose of this commission is to invite children to grow in their love for Christ, grow in enthusiasm for their Catholic Faith and help them develop a life long commitment to Mass, prayer, service, and fellowship. Also in the Planning Area, we will provide appropriate opportunities for our teenage and young adult members to deepen their relationship with the Lord in prayer, encourage them to seek the truth revealed by Jesus Christ, teach them how to share their faith with their friends and to offer service to those in need.

Finance and Advancement

The purpose of this commission flows from our responsibility as stewards of all God's gifts, especially those entrusted to our care. Accordingly, our purpose is to come to an appropriate understanding of the present and future financial operational and capital needs of the parish, make sure that the entire parish has a more informed grasp of the parish's financial situation and seek alternative resources to fund parish ministries and services.

Buildings and Grounds

The purpose of the Buildings and Grounds commission flows from our responsibility as stewards of all God's gifts, especially those entrusted to our care. We seek ways that will help us maintain a well ordered, safe, clean and esthetically pleasing campus through dedicated facility management and maintenance while being financially responsible.

Parish Events and Hospitality

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Mt 18:20

Christ is truly present when we gather as a community of His disciples. The tasks of our gathering can be myriad but the essential binding of the group comes by virtue of our membership in the Body of Christ. With that in mind, St. Anthony's Parish Events & Hospitality commission will always have at its core the understanding that everything they do is in service to the Lord and leads back to him.

Tasks for the group;

1.) Suggest, plan and implement social activities that will foster community and participation in St. Anthony parish

2.) Establish a subcommittee of interested parishioners who would be called upon on an ad hoc basis to help with the hospitality dimensions of certain parish events organized by staff or other commissions.

Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs". They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is the responsibility of the Parish to provide formal religious instruction for the children and young people of the Parish to assist their parents in their primary roles as “the first teachers of your children in the ways of faith.” For those children attending public or private schools, the Parish through Children’s Faith Formation (CFF) provides instruction on Tuesday afternoons and evenings, as well as Wednesday afternoons.

It is also the responsibility of the parish to provide opportunities for the adults of our Parish to learn more about their faith. Bible study, RCIA, as well as other lectures and prayer experiences are offered throughout the year.

CFF – Children’s Faith Formation

Interested parents and caring adults share the gifts of time and faith by providing instruction in the beliefs of the Catholic faith to school age children grades K through sixth who attend public or non-Catholic private schools. Teachers assist the parents with preparation for the sacraments.

Reading Group -meets monthly September through May. A new topic is covered each year.

OCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is the process by which:

Non-Catholic adults become Catholic;

Catholic adults who have not yet received the Eucharist and/or Confirmation prepare for these sacraments;

Those who are already Catholic come to a deeper understanding of their faith from an adult perspective.

The group meets from September through May

Grandfather’s Gather

The group of grandfathers meet every Friday morning to engage in the ministry of prayer and mutual spiritual assistance.

Father’s Gather

This group meets each Saturday morning in the Rectory for prayer and to enrich the role of fathers in the spiritual growth of their families.

SERVICE & EVANGELIZATION

Blood Mobile

The Red Cross Blood Mobile visits St. Anthony’s in the spring and fall. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and contact blood donors.

Baking Committee

Members prepare food items for parish events.

Casseroles for St. John’s Hospice

Casseroles for the homeless of St. John’s Hospice in Philadelphia are prepared at home and placed in the freezers in the narthex. Plans and recipe suggestions are provided.

Aid For Friends

Aid for Friends is an interfaith nonprofit service organization whose target group is the isolated, handicapped, and frail elderly. Volunteer parishioners prepare individual trays at home, freeze them, and bring them to the freezer in the garage. Other volunteer parishioners visit homebound individuals with a week supply of food, and spend some time socializing.

Widow & Widowers Support Group

Supported by our faith and prayer, widows and widowers are invited to join others that understand a similar journey of loss and grief. Together you can help one another. A discussion topic and facilitator will support each meeting. Your needs and input are encouraged as we establish this welcoming and supportive environment. The group meets at St. Alphonsus Parish, Maple Glenn.

Bereavement Ministry

Provides spiritual support and Liturgy for those in the Parish who have lost a loved one.

Respect Life Committee

Plans, coordinates, and implements activities for the benefit of life at all stages.

Scouting

Scouting offers an opportunity for children to grown in self reliance, to develop a positive self image, and a genuine concern for others. St. Anthony's sponsors Cub Pack 164.

Family Promise of Montgomery County

St. Anthony Parish joins with other local faith communities in providing housing and services for the homeless of our area.

International Outreach

St. Anthony Parish is committed to providing aid and support to our brothers and sisters around the world. We are currently active in the Middle East.

Tech Team

The tech team operates the sound system for weekend Masses, funerals, weddings and Holy Day.

Altar Linens

Volunteers are assigned on a rotating basis to wash and iron the small linens each week.

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Brings a great cultural and spiritual richness to our parish family. The Hispanic Ministry supports and nurtures our Spanish speaking community, building up all the beautiful and rich cultural qualities which express and celebrate their culture and faith in Christ Jesus.

Part of the ministry's services include:

Holy Mass 1st Sunday of each Month

RCIA in Spanish

Prayer Group every Friday at 7pm

Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Live Stations of the Cross

EDUCATION

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School

Founded in Service ~ Committed to Excellence

Our Lady of Mercy will be established in September of 2012, part of a new chapter for Catholic Elementary Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. to serve not one, but three vibrant parishes in the Eastern Montgomery County area, OLM for grades K through grade 8 will be housed on the current campus of

St. Alphonsus School in Maple Glen.

St. Anthony Preschool and Child Care

St. Anthony of Padua had a special devotion to the Child Jesus. Under his patronage, St. Anthony Parish Day Care and Preschool offers a safe and nurturing place for our children. Our facility will accept children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age with a range of options from full day care to half day and extended day programs.

St. Anthony Youth - StAY

StAY provides appropriate opportunities for our children and teenage members to deepen their relationship with the Lord in prayer, grow in enthusiasm for their Catholic faith, and help them develop a life-long commitment to Mass, Prayer, Service and Fellowship.

StAY (St. Anthony Youth) provides various programs for the youth of our Parish at different age levels. We seek to develop the social, spiritual, and physical well being of our students through our programming. We encourage our students to engage many different activities throughout the year.

STEWARDSHIP

Finance Committee

This advisory committee assists the pastor in the sound financial running of the Parish. They are involved in the preparation of the budget, the examination and evaluation of the quarterly and end-of-the-year financial reports, as well as making recommendations concerning sound financial procedures, Parish investments, and fund raising.

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish Montgomery County Vicariate

Parish Center

Phone: 215-646-4742, 215-646-4743

Fax: 215-646-4864

Visit us on the web: www.saintanthonyparish.org

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School

29 Conwell Drive

Maple Glen, PA 19002

Phone: 215-646-0150

Visit us at: www.olmcatholicsschool.com

www.facebook.com/OLMCS

Saint Anthony Preschool & Child Care

Christy Cincotta, Director

260 Forest Avenue

Ambler, Pa 19002

Phone: 215-646-6150

Visit us on the web: ccincotta@saintanthonyparish.org

Parish Religious Education Program

Children's Faith Formation (CFF)

Little Peoples Sunday Worship (LPSW)

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Maria Stumpf, Director of Religious Education
260 Forest Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002
Phone: 215-646-6150
Visit us on the web: mstumpf@saintanthonyparish.org

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