



# SAINT ANTHONY of PADUA

*Catholic Community*

### SUNDAY MASS

12:30pm

5649 Mount Gilead Road  
Centreville, VA

Also streamed live on Facebook

### YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

1st Sunday of Each Month

class is held during the 12:30pm mass and supplemental materials are made available on the parish website.

### FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Last Sunday of Each Month

contact a member of the hospitality team if you'd like to bring a treat to share!

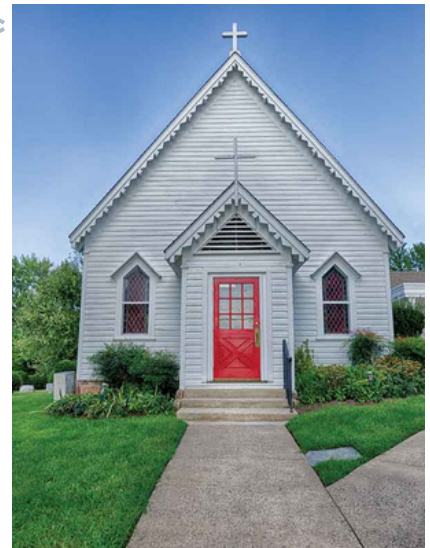
## ❖ The Baptismal Garment

EASTER BONNETS and other finery perk us all up for the feast, but the most significant article of clothing in Easter Time is the white garment worn by the newly baptized. "May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring it unstained into eternal life" (*Order of Baptism for Children*, 63). Those words accompany the giving of the white garment, after the flowing of Baptismal water.

This custom dates back to the earliest days of our Church. Adults and children who presented themselves for Baptism were led naked into a pool of water. Rising up, they were rubbed with the sweet-smelling oil of Chrism and then clothed with a white garment, a sign of their new life in Christ. They wore that garment to church like a uniform, every day for a week. On the Sunday after Easter (which used to be called *Dominica in albis*, or the Sunday of the white garments), they wore them until Pentecost, or "Whitsunday," when they closed the Easter season by wearing them one last time. Today the custom is more ceremonial than pragmatic. The white garment used to serve two practical purposes: It re-clothed the naked body coming up out of the font, and it identified the newly baptized for the sake of the community.

Today's white garment is often minimized to a simple ceremonial bib or stole, placed on the fully clothed child or adult after pouring water. Only when the child or adult is immersed for Baptism does a new, dry, ample, pure white garment fully play its role.

Ironically, in the case of infants, our custom is to dress the baby in white before coming to church for the Baptism. The garment identifies the child to be baptized, but we lose the symbolism of receiving a garment during the ritual as a sign of new life.



### YOUR PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Julian, Fr. Jason, and Fr. David are honored to walk with you on your journey of faith and to support your spiritual needs.

## MOST NEEDED ITEMS FOR WFCM

### Food & Beverages

- Flour
- Sugar (1 or 2 lb. bags)
- Vegetable Oil
- Pasta Sauce
- Pasta
- Cereal (low sugar preferred)
- Pancake Mix
- Family Sized Snacks (pretzels, crackers, etc.)
- Canned Chicken

## MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

Above you can find the most needed items in the parish bulletin. Donations will be collected the last Sunday of each month. In January we collected and donated **118 pounds** of food!

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Here are some important dates to mark on your calendar:

**Adult Sacraments: Easter Sunday, April 20th**

**First Holy Communion: May 4, 2025**

**Confirmation: June 8, 2025**

If you have a child preparing for First Communion or Confirmation, you will receive an email with additional steps and a project connected to the specific sacrament you are exploring. These activities are meant to deepen a child's understanding of their faith while recognizing that faith formation is a lifelong process.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of severe weather that could affect mass, updates will be posted on the parish Facebook page and website. We will make every attempt to hold mass in person otherwise the announcement will be made the night prior.

## SAINT VALENTINE

St. Valentine was a 3rd-century priest in Rome. He is remembered for defying the Roman Emperor Claudius II, who had outlawed marriages for young soldiers. Valentine secretly performed marriages for these couples, promoting the sanctity of love. St. Valentine was arrested for his actions and, according to tradition, was executed on February 14th. His dedication to faith and love made him a martyr for the Christian cause. Over time, St. Valentine became known as the patron saint of lovers, as well as beekeepers, epileptics, and greetings. His feast day on February 14th became a celebration of love and devotion. The use of hearts, roses, and doves in Valentine's Day celebrations can trace their origins back to Christian symbolism: the heart represents God's love, the rose symbolizes sacrifice, and doves reflect peace.

## SIGN OF PEACE

The Sign of Peace tradition is returning at our parish, with the priests sharing it through the congregation. After a pause since 2019, this cherished practice will resume. Casual greetings like a wave, bow, or fist bump are also perfectly acceptable.

