



# 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!*

### CALLED TO MINISTRY

Do you feel a call to serve as a reader, server, musician/singer, or in hospitality at our parish? Let one of our priests know you are interested and we will welcome you to our team with open arms. No experience necessary and folks of all ages are called to accept the invitation to ministry. You can also send us an email at: [info@mysaintanthony.org](mailto:info@mysaintanthony.org).

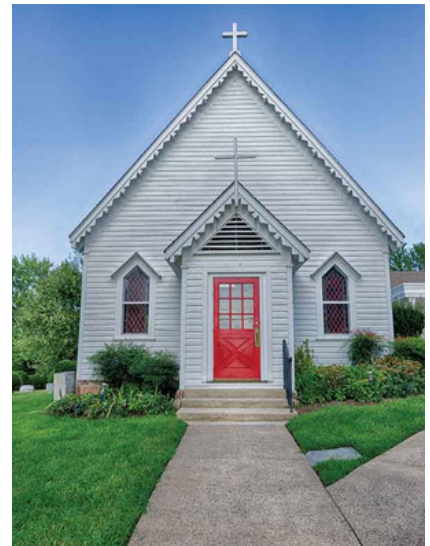
### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Although we have just begun our Lenten Journey, it is important to look ahead and plan for upcoming parish celebrations.

**Palm Sunday: April 13th.** Weather permitting, we will begin outdoors with the blessing of palms and reading of the first gospel, followed by a procession into the church. This Sunday is also when the Passion is read, and we are looking for volunteers to help with this dramatic reading. Fr. Julian, presiding.

**Holy Thursday & Good Friday: April 17th and 18th.** Daily reflection videos will be posted on the parish Facebook page at 9am.

**Easter Sunday: April 19th.** Easter Egg hunt at 12pm, followed by a Solemn Mass of the Resurrection at 12:30pm with all the "smells and bells." Early arrival is recommended.



### 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.

## Palms

**THE CATHOLIC** faithful use palm branches at Mass on Palm Sunday and bring them home for devotional purposes. Palm Sunday is the popular name for the Sunday before Easter, though its full title is Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. Two Gospel passages are proclaimed at Mass that day: One tells of people waving branches or spreading cloaks to welcome Jesus in triumph to Jerusalem, and the other tells of his passion and death.

Any branches may be used in the liturgy, but parishes usually provide palm branches, as mentioned in John's Gospel (12:13). The faithful hold them at the beginning of the Mass for the blessing and procession.

After Mass, people may bring the branches home as a sacramental. Various customs have developed. Some place branches behind a wall-mounted crucifix or other religious image. Others cleverly fold them into crosses. Still others incorporate blessed branches into improvised prayers for protection during harmful weather.

Used palm branches are burned the following year, and the ashes are placed on the heads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday. Some parishes burn their own ashes. People who wish to dispose of old palm branches may offer them back for burning or dispose of them at home in some reverent manner.

Palm branches appear in religious art as a symbol of martyrdom. In the Book of Revelation (7:9), a great multitude praises God with palm branches in hand. In the apocryphal gospel of pseudo-Matthew (20–21), a palm tree miraculously bends over to nourish the Holy Family on the flight into Egypt, and an angel plants one of its branches in paradise, making the palm a sign of victory in any contest.



## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Our next gathering after mass for Fellowship will be on ***This Weekend***. Remember that this month there are **5** Sundays and our parish tradition is to celebrate the last Sunday of each month. If you are interested in contributing to our smorgasbord of treats and drinks, please contact a member of our Hospitality Ministry:

**Tina:** tinamarie2044@gmail.com

**Polly:** pdredge@gmail.com

**Anne:** agawalt@mac.com

## PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY

Every month, on the last Sunday, we gather food items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. In February, we collected and donated a total of 66 pounds of food, bringing our total donations to over 200 pounds since the beginning of the year.

## 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

