



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!*

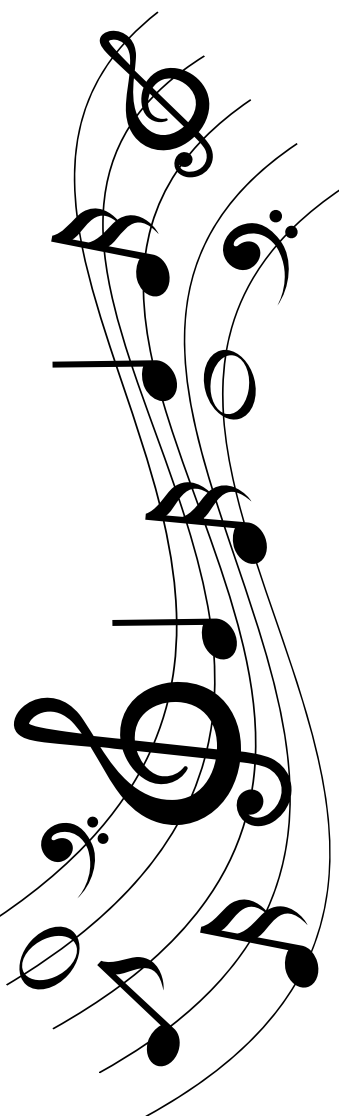
Closing Hymn

JUST AFTER the deacon or priest tells us that Mass is over, the musicians often have another idea. We usually close Mass with a hymn.

Actually, the Order of the Mass never mentions the Recessional Song. It is optional. By contrast, the Gathering Hymn and Communion Song are so necessary to the Mass that the liturgy provides recited texts for the undesirable circumstance when they are not sung. Their purpose is to draw the community together to begin common prayer or to symbolize the sacrament of our union. But the ritual shows complete disinterest about the closing hymn. If it's omitted, it's no big deal.

Mass need not end with a congregational hymn. A choir piece, an instrumental, or silence may close the celebration. The closing song is optional precisely because of the Dismissal. Leaving the church is an action with a purpose. The Dismissal sends the united community out, carrying the Gospel to the world. Just like the instruction to offer the Sign of Peace, the Dismissal invites the assembly to do something. No hymn needs to intervene. ["Go" does not simply announce that Mass is over; it commands that witness has begun.

However, most assemblies like the final hymn because it seems to round off the celebration. Before we end our time together, we sing one last song. It provides a more boffo finish than the terse "Thanks be to God" that responds to the Dismissal. Since we begin Mass with a song, a closing hymn places a psychological bookend on the other side of our prayer. Still, because its function is so different—part of our sending as opposed to our gathering—the closing hymn remains optional. With thanks to God upon our lips we may direct our steps without delay to the work of the week.



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.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION 2025-2026

We are approaching that time of year! Youth Faith Formation is open to children up to age 12 and registration will begin in August and classes begin on October 5th. You can register on the parish website or follow the link that will be shared on social media. If you have a child that will be receiving a sacrament this year (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation) then participation is required. Classes are held during the 12:30pm mass on the first Sunday of each month. This year there will be no fee to participate.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

We are excited to offer a special Back to School blessing during mass on **August 17th**. All students, teachers, caregivers, administrators, support staff, and anyone embarking on another year of teaching and learning will receive a blessing. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to kick off the new school year!

RERUM NOVARUM ZOOM VIDEOS

Thank you to all who registered for our Adult Faith Formation summer session on Rerum Novarum. The recordings of each session will be made available through a link sent to the email used to register for the sessions. We had 73 registered participants!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION 2025-2026

Given the popularity of the Rerum Novarum registrations, we will be hosting a virtual faith formation study group for the 2025-2026 school year. Look for information on the topic and materials for this opportunity to deepen your understanding of faith through the convenience of online and group conversation. Classes will be held once a month via Zoom from October until May.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Our next gathering for Fellowship will be after mass on **August 31st**. This is also the monthly food collection date - so it's an opportunity to support our community's needs by donating a food item to WFCM and celebrate the joys of being part of a parish family. It's a twofold blessing to gather and share. Mark your calendar and join us!

SUNDAY MASS IN THE SUMMER

While you are traveling or taking some much needed time to relax, join us online, keep us in prayers, and we will see you soon! Donations can be made online via the parish website or you can schedule recurring donations so you can set it and forget it! While you're gone we are still here and appreciate your support.

FR. JASON'S VACATION

Fr. Jason will be out of the office from August 8 until August 18th. If you have any pastoral emergency or need, please contact Fr. Julian. Any emails or calls to Fr. Jason will be returned the week of August 18th.

**Talk To Us...**

703-665-9730 - Parish Cell

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Fr. Julian Garcia
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Facebook & Instagram
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