



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!*

October 5, 2025
12:30 PM Outdoor Mass
Blessing
of Pets



All pets are welcome: alive, stuffed, & photos!



SAINT ANTHONY of PADUA
Catholic Community



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.*

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS & BLESSING OF ANIMALS

On **Sunday, October 5th** we will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a special solemn liturgy held outdoors (weather permitting) where we will host our annual Blessing of Animals. The mass will take place on the grass where we traditionally begin our Palm Sunday liturgy. All pets should be contained or on a leash. Stuffed animals and pictures of animals will also be blessed. Mark your calendars!

✠ Exaltation of the Holy Cross

THE CROSS could have become a symbol of shame for Christians. It brought about the death of Jesus Christ. However, faith in the Resurrection made the Cross a symbol of pride. The worst weapon of Jesus' enemies could not overpower him. Through the Cross, Jesus triumphs over death.

Pride in the Cross soon turned to veneration of the Cross. Since no record from the time of the apostles indicates that the Cross of Christ was preserved, zealous Christians later searched for its remains. They had already honored the general location of Calvary and the Sepulcher, so new basilicas were built over those sites under the reign of Constantine in the early fourth century. Around this same time, people believed they had identified relics of the Cross of Christ, and these diffused throughout the Christian world. John Calvin sarcastically noted that if all the splinters of the Cross were gathered together, they would fill a ship— three hundred people could not carry the Cross which one person carried up to Calvary.

It is difficult to verify splinters of the true Cross of Christ. However, legend has it that in 322, Helena, the mother of Constantine, uncovered three Crosses in the excavations for the new basilicas in Jerusalem. She assumed them to be the Crosses of Jesus and the two wrongdoers. Macarius, the bishop of Jerusalem, brought in a dying woman and had her touch the Crosses. The third one cured her, and that Cross was proclaimed the Cross of Christ. It became an object of veneration in Jerusalem until it was stolen in the seventh century, but Heraclius of Constantinople captured and returned it in 629, bringing it into the city, where it was lifted up for all to venerate again. This "exaltation" of the Holy Cross gave us a feast day on September 14 every year.

In recent decades, our calendar changed its title from the Exaltation of the Holy Cross to the Triumph of the Cross and back to Exaltation again. It is still celebrated on September 14 to commemorate both the victory of Christ and the dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem in 335. As a feast of Christ, when it falls on Sunday, it replaces the regular liturgy for Ordinary Time.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Our next gathering for Fellowship will be after mass on **September 28th**. 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.



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. There is no fee to participate.

Talk To Us...

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