



# 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!*

## Altar de los Muertos

**MANY HISPANIC** families and communities observe All Souls' Day by erecting an Altar de los Muertos—or an Altar of the Dead. It commemorates the faithful departed through a variety of symbols.

Inside a home or a church, a table or altar is set aside where photographs for the deceased are arranged together with items that remind the living of the ones they have lost. Altar decorations may include mementos of the work, activities, and favorite foods that the dead. There may also be images of the saints who served as inspirations, as well as symbols of life and death, ranging from flowers to skeletons. Incense may be lighted at the altar to add a delightful scent to the presentation, in hopes that it will please the spirits of the dead. Some altars have simple decorations; others become a work of art.

The custom celebrates the belief that death is a part of life. Death is embraced, not removed from one's vision. Some of the images on an Altar de los Muertos may be comical—they show one's ability to accept death, to laugh in spite of it, and to look beyond it in hope.

Placing these articles on a piece of furniture called an altar both honors and prays for the dead. An altar is a place for offering sacrifice. Placing images of the dead on an altar is a way of entrusting their memory to God. And setting the altar in a place of respect gives honor to the dead.

Although All Souls' Day is observed on November 2, the altar may be erected a little in advance and remain in place for some time afterward.



### 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**

This year's theme is Journey with the Saints and Seasons. Classes are held during the 12:30pm mass on the first Sunday of each month. Our remaining schedule is as follows:

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** topic: All Saints / All Souls Day

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** topic: Our Lady of Guadalupe

**January 4<sup>th</sup>:** *Epiphany Sunday, No Class*

**February 1<sup>st</sup>:** topic: St. Valentine of Rome

**March 1<sup>st</sup>:** topic: St. Patrick

**April 5<sup>th</sup>:** *Easter Sunday, No Class*

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** topic: St. Joan of Arc

**June 7<sup>th</sup>:** topic: The Eucharist

**BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD**

Beginning November 2nd and lasting until Advent, we will have available and on display the *Book of the Names of the Dead*. You will be able to inscribe the names of loved ones who have died and at each mass leading up to Advent, we will pray for all those whose names are listed in this special book. You may inscribe names any time before or after mass and the memory of your loved one will be honored.

**FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY**

Our next gathering for Fellowship will be after mass on **October 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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. Thank you, in advance, for your support of our brothers and sisters in need - an act of mercy and compassion.

**HOME FAITH FORMATION 2025-2026**

In keeping with our cherished annual parish tradition, we are pleased to offer one copy of *At Home with the Word* to each family and household within our community. Copies are now available for use starting on November 30th, coinciding with the beginning of the new liturgical year and the first Sunday of Advent. You may grab your copy from the table nearest the hymnal cart.

**Talk To Us...**

703-665-9730 - Parish Cell

**Fr. Jason Lody, FCM**

jlody@mysaintanthonys.org

**Fr. Julian Garcia**

jgarcia@mysaintanthonys.org

**Facebook & Instagram**

@MySaintAnthonys