



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!

✠ Adoration of the Cross

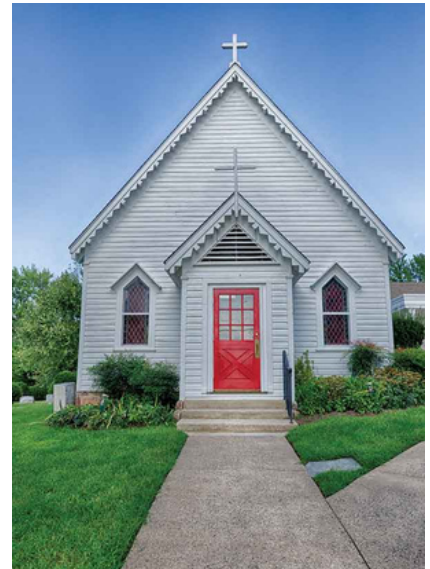
ONE OF the most impressive parts of the Good Friday liturgy is when the faithful come forward to show their respect for the Cross of Christ. For years, this has been called an act of veneration, but the revised English translation now calls it adoration.

Adoration is a word we reserve for God. Catholics do not adore the Virgin Mary. We do not adore saints. We do not adore statues. We offer degrees of veneration to show our respect for the saints who dwell with God and the images that invite us to imitate their lives.

However, the Cross holds a special place of honor on Good Friday. It is an image of the wood upon which the limbs of Christ were stretched, and upon which his Precious Blood was spilled. The original Cross, therefore, was the instrument of our salvation, and, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, it is "worshiped with the same adoration as Christ" (*Summa Theologica* III, q. 25, a. 4).

The practice of kissing the Cross on Good Friday dates back to the fourth century, where the faithful in Jerusalem had in their possession what they believed to be the true Cross of Christ. Not every church has the true Cross, of course. But as Amalarius wrote in the ninth century, "the power of the holy cross is not absent in those crosses that were made in the likeness of the Lord's cross."

The faithful may adore the Cross on Good Friday in any way they choose: with a kiss, a bow, a genuflection, or standing in silence, with or without their shoes. Upon leaving the church on Good Friday, it is appropriate to genuflect in the direction of the Cross.



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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Virtual Triduum

--Holy Thursday: Video Posted Online

--Good Friday: Video Posted Online

--Holy Saturday: Video Posted Online

Easter Sunday

12:00pm Egg Hunt

12:30pm Solemn Mass of the Resurrection



THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Fasting and abstinence during Lent are meaningful practices—they discipline the body, sharpen spiritual awareness, and create space for prayer. But Lent is fundamentally about conversion of heart—repentance, deeper communion with Christ, and renewal of our love for God and neighbor. If fasting does not lead to greater humility, charity, and dependence on God, it becomes an empty exercise. The focus of Lent is transformation; fasting is simply one of the tools that helps us get there. So eat meat on Friday and work to become a better person this season!

PALM SUNDAY - March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and invites us to reflect on the Passion of the Lord. During Mass, the Passion Gospel is proclaimed with multiple readers. Volunteers are needed to help with the reading of the second Gospel. Please consider participating as a special reader this year.

EASTER SUNDAY LOGISTICS

Easter Sunday will bring visitors to our parish. With the Easter Egg Hunt taking place at 12pm, parking will be available around the entire church building. Please allow extra time to arrive, and help us keep traffic flowing smoothly for everyone on this special day. Mass will begin promptly at 12:30pm.

MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

We have updated the list of most needed items for our partners at WFCM. The next collection date will be **March 29th**. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity in support of our brothers and sisters in need.

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:

April 5th: *Easter Sunday, No Class*

May 3rd: topic: St. Joan of Arc

June 7th: topic: The Eucharist

A special shout-out to **Tina** and **Adriana** for taking the lead on supporting the faith development of our youngest parishioners.

Talk To Us...

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