

# St. Anthony of Padua

Feast Day June 13



**Patron Saint** of Lost Items, the Poor, Barrenness but also pregnant women, Travelers, the Elderly, Harvests, Amputees, and so much more!

Saint Anthony, called "Saint Anthony of Padua" on account of his long residence in that city, was a native of Lisbon in Portugal, where he was

born in 1195, receiving the name of Ferdinand at his Baptism. At an early age his parents placed him in the community of the Canons of the Cathedral of Lisbon, by whom he was educated. At 15 he entered the Order of Regular Canons of Saint Augustine near Lisbon. After two years he was sent to the convent of the Holy Cross of the same Order at Coimbra.

He had lived in this house eight years, intent on his studies, when the relics of five Franciscan martyrs were brought from Morocco to Portugal. This event inspired him to follow in the footsteps of these heroes of the Faith. When this became known, his brethren offered extreme opposition, but he finally obtained permission and passed over to the Franciscan Order.

After some time he obtained leave to go to Africa to preach to the Moors, but a severe illness obliged him to return to Spain. However, the vessel was driven to Sicily by contrary winds, and the desire to see Saint Francis took him to Assisi, where a general chapter of the Order was in progress. At first he was entirely ignored in the Order, and he purposely kept himself in obscurity; but providence soon revealed to the Franciscans what a treasure they had acquired and Saint Anthony was made professor of theology, which subject he later taught successively at Bologna, Toulouse, Montpellier, and Padua.

He gave up teaching to devote himself to preaching, for he was an accomplished orator, being at the same time filled with zeal for souls. In this work he traveled through France, Spain, and Italy. He was invested with several important dignities in his Order and labored hard to preserve monastic discipline, boldly opposing the famous General Elias, who sought to introduce relaxations. By 1231, the many journeys he had made and the many illnesses he had suffered had taken their toll.

Anthony was suffering from dropsy, and his strength had all but failed him. All throughout Lent of 1231 he preached to ever increasing crowds in Padua, but his preaching and the endless hours of confessions left him prostrate. Around this time, Anthony had a premonition of his approaching death. The friars and Count Tiso invited Anthony to go to a hermitage in Camposampiero, a town not far from Padua, so that he might recover his strength. Tiso had been an unscrupulous politician, but after hearing Anthony preach, he had converted and had donated the plot of land to the friars upon which the hermitage at Camposampiero was built.

The ground was damp at this time of year, and it aggravated Anthony's illness. This problem was solved when the friars noticed Anthony admire an immense walnut tree on the property. They told Tiso about it, and he had a small tree house built in the walnut tree for Anthony.

One night Count Tiso was passing by Anthony's room when he was attracted by a powerful light. At first he thought that it must be a fire, and so he burst into the room. There he saw Anthony in ecstasy embracing the Baby Jesus. Anthony begged Tiso not to tell anyone about what he had seen, and Tiso respected the Saint's wishes until after his death. He died June 13, 1231 and was canonized the following year by Pope Gregory IX.

Even during his lifetime, he was regarded as a legendary hero and striking miracles were related about him:

**Preaching to the Fish:** One day Anthony went to Rimini where there were a lot of heretics. He started to preach, but they did not want to listen to him, and they even mocked him. In a dramatic gesture, Anthony went to the seashore, saying, "Because you show yourself unworthy of God's word, behold, I turn to the fishes so that your unbelief may be shown up more clearly". As he spoke of God's care for those creatures that live in the waters, a shoal of fish swam near to the bank, partly thrusting themselves out of the water and appearing to listen carefully. At the end of his sermon, the Saint blessed them and they swam away. In the meantime, so deep was the impression made upon the onlookers that many hurried back to the city imploring their friends to come and see the miracle, while others burst into tears asking forgiveness. Soon after a great multitude gathered around the Saint, who exhorted them to turn back to God. So through this sermon, the city of Rimini was purged of heresy.

**The Blessed Sacrament and the Mule:** One of the reasons why Anthony worked so hard to convert heretics was because he genuinely felt sorry for them. He saw that they were depriving themselves of the most precious gift of the Eucharist, and he believed that no one could long survive

without this spiritual nourishment. One day, a heretic told Anthony that he would believe that Christ was truly present in the Eucharist only if his mule bowed down to it. They established that the test should take place in three days. The heretic starved his mule for the next three days. When the appointed time had arrived, Anthony stood off to one side with the consecrated host in his hands, while the heretic stood to the other holding some fodder for the mule to eat. The mule, ignoring its own extreme hunger, went before the Eucharist and knelt down to adore the Blessed Sacrament.

<https://www.blessedbeadsrosaries.com/saint-anthony>

<https://www.santantonio.org/en/miracles>

### HOW TO PRAY HIS CHAPLET



The Chaplet of St. Anthony consists of thirteen sets of three beads, usually attached to this chaplet is a medal of St. Anthony and the Child Jesus.

Begin by making the Sign of The Cross..." On each set of three beads pray one "our Father" (OF) on the first bead, one "Hail Mary" (HM) on the second bead, and one "Glory Be" (GB) on the third bead.

During each of the thirteen sets of three beads meditate on the following themes:

1. St. Anthony, who raised the dead, pray for those Christians now in their agony, and for our dear departed. *OF, HM, GB*
2. St. Anthony, zealous preacher of the Gospel, fortify us against the errors of the enemies of God, and pray for the Holy Father and the Church. *OF, HM, GB*
3. St. Anthony, powerful with the Heart of Jesus, preserve us from the calamities which threaten us on account of our sins. *OF, HM, GB*
4. St. Anthony, who drove away devils, make us triumph over their snares. *OF, HM, GB*
5. St. Anthony, lily of heavenly purity, purify us from the stains of the soul and preserve our bodies from all dangers. *OF, HM, GB*
6. St. Anthony, healer of the sick, cure our diseases and preserve us in health. *OF, HM, GB*
7. St. Anthony, guide of travelers, bring to safe harbor

those who are in danger of perishing and calm the troubled waves of passion which agitate our souls. *OF, HM, GB*

8. St. Anthony, liberator of captives, deliver us from the captivity of evil. *OF, HM, GB*

9. St. Anthony, who restores to young and old the use of their limbs, obtain for us the perfect use of the senses of our body and the faculties of our soul. *OF, HM, GB*

10. St. Anthony, finder of lost things, help us to find all that we have lost in the spiritual and temporal order. *OF, HM, GB*

11. St. Anthony, protected by Mary, avert the dangers which threaten our body and our soul. *OF, HM, GB*

12. St. Anthony, helper of the poor, help us in our needs and give bread and work to those who ask. *OF, HM, GB*

13. St. Anthony, we thankfully proclaim thy miraculous power, and we beseech thee to protect us all the days of our life. *OF, HM, GB*

To complete this chaplet pray the Miraculous Repository by Saint Bonaventure

#### *The Miraculous Repository*

If miracles thou fain would see, Lo, error, death, calamity. The leprous stain, the demon flies, from beds of pain the sick arise. (The hungry seas forgo their prey, The prisoner's cruel chains give way; While palsied limbs and chattels lost Both young and old recovered boast.)

And perils perish, plenty's hoard, Is heaped on hunger's famished board; Let those relate who know it well, Let Padua on her patron tell. (The hungry seas forgo their prey, the prisoner's cruel chains give way; While palsied limbs and chattels lost Both young and old recovered boast.)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world with out end. Amen.

(The hungry seas forgo their prey, The prisoner's cruel chains give way; While palsied limbs and chattels lost Both young and old recovered boast.)

V - Pray for us, blessed Anthony;

R - That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O God, let the votive commendation of Blessed Anthony, Thy Confessor, be a source of joy to Thy Church, that she may always be fortified with spiritual assistance, and may deserve to possess eternal joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://www.stanthony.org/how-to-pray-the-chaplet-of-st-anthony-of-padua/>