

St. Anthony of Padua Church

149 South Pine Creek Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

Eleanor W. Sauers Ph.D.
Parish Life Coordinator

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Finance Committee Chair
203-984-1934

The Fairfield Jesuit Community
Sacramental and Liturgical Partners

Parish Office: (203) 259-0358

Office hours:

The office is closed.

If you need to contact the office,
please call and leave a message
or email:

office@stanthonyffld.org



Sunday Mass resumes
with two Masses:
10:00am and 12:00pm.

RESERVATIONS ARE
REQUIRED.

During this time, the church is
open each day for private
prayer from 9 am until 2 pm.

✠ Sacramental Life ✠

Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact the parish office for an appointment as early as possible to arrange for pre-baptismal instruction and to set a date for the sacrament.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements must be made at least eight months in advance of the wedding date. Participation in Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter is a requirement.

Care of the Sick

Please advise us of parishioners who are sick or in the hospital that we might keep them in our prayers, and if possible, visit them. The Sacrament of the Sick is offered to any who are seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or homebound. Anyone who is unable to celebrate Mass with us in church is urged to advise us that we might share Communion with them at home.

We welcome new parishioners. Please introduce yourself after Mass and at your convenience you may register at the parish office. We invite you to become an active member of our parish community.

email: office@stanthonyffld.org

website: www.stanthonyffld.org

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2020

Indoor Masses were prohibited on March 16 and resumed on June 28. However, due to the pandemic Mass will be celebrated only on Sundays until further notice. There are many precautions in place to ensure a healthy environment, and only two Masses will be celebrated —10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Please be sure to read the letter or email notice sent several weeks ago. You can also find it on our website (www.stanthonyffld.org). It includes the list of accommodations for Mass attendance, and procedures for making reservations to attend Mass.

Previously scheduled intentions unable to be fulfilled due to our abbreviated Mass schedule will be rescheduled. Those include the following for July 11 through July 19, 2020:

Jane V. Banta, Ron Clayton, Elizabeth Magyar, and Richard Petite

Previously scheduled for Sunday, July 12, 2020:

Peter McMahan requested by Elaine McCorry—10:00

Anthony Baldino requested by Michele, John, and Jay Sullivan—12:00

Previously scheduled for Sunday, July 19, 2020:

Lorraine DiPietro requested by Ray and Barbara Hageney—10:00

Jim McGuinness requested by Anne Guchek—12:00

Consult our parish website (www.stanthonyffld.org) and Facebook page often as we will post information as soon as we receive it from the diocese or when we need to make certain decisions.

Please pray for the victims.

Masses online

Daily and Sunday -

The 12:10pm daily Mass of the Fairfield Jesuit Community is available for us to stream Monday through Friday; their Saturday and Sunday Masses are at 11 am. The link for all Masses: <https://Fairfield.zoom.us/j/448025617> (Download the zoom application from the App Store first.)

Our Bishop Frank Caggiano celebrates Mass on Sundays, posted on the website at 8am. <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org>.

Checkout the website of the diocese for more information on the bishop's and all available Masses: www.bridgeportdiocese.org

Prayer of Spiritual Communion—

When you are watching a Mass online and cannot receive the Eucharist in person, you can say this prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you are already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Thank you—to the many parishioners who have been mailing or dropping off their envelopes to the rectory office. We know that you will give as generously as you are able and we so appreciate your support! We look forward to worshipping together again as our community soon as is safely possible. Be well!

E-Giving—Electronic Giving for supporting St. Anthony's is now being used by many parish families. The word is that setting up an account is easier than expected, and that doing so connects these families to our St. Anthony community in support and prayer. Interested in contributing in this way? Go to **Give-central.org**, create your account, log in, and the rest is simple! To those who have already contributed electronically, please let the office know if you no longer need/want to receive envelopes. **Thank you**, Michelle DeMartino, for facilitating this project. And **thank you** to the many parishioners who have taken advantage of this new way to contribute to your parish.

Please continue your generous support!

Mercy by The Sea Newsletter: For a list of retreats and diverse programs (i.e. *Socially Distanced Tai Chi by the Sea*; *How shall We Live Beyond the Pandemic* with Dr. John Philip Newell; *Continuing the Conversation of Race*; *Reverencing the Dignity of Each Person*, and more) go to **Mercybythesea.org**. Located in Madison, CT, the compound has been managed by the Sisters of Mercy since 1972 as a conference center with programs "challenging participants to holistic growth"

Dear Parishioners,

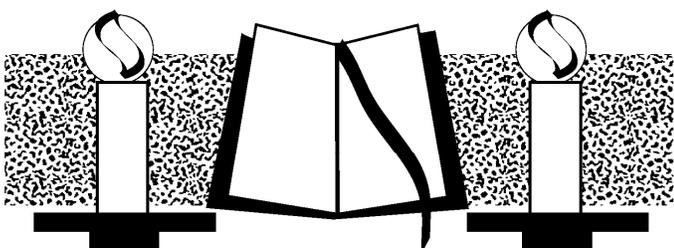
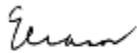
The church has been open for Masses for two Sundays now, and this Sunday will be our third experience. In order to prepare the church for Masses there is much organization and sanitizing to be accomplished. Thankfully, many hands make light work and we have had many hands! From marking the pews, the main aisle and the deck, to roping off those pews we cannot use (social distancing), many people were involved. Volunteers have also registered attendees, shepherded them through the entry process, ushered them to their seats, helped them with the Communion and dismissal processes, and stayed to clean the church afterwards. I won't list the names here out of respect for their wishes, but they know who they are, and we are grateful.

The numbers have been small, and we have limited capacity with the 6 foot social distancing requirement. I know that many of you are taking your time coming back to church, a decision I respect. Whether because of age, or underlying conditions, fear of being with people other than your family, or just feeling that it is too early to be inside the church at this time, you remain with us in spirit as we begin to celebrate Mass as a community once again.

We are in the process of making accommodations to stream the Mass on Facebook and the website. That should happen within the next week or so. There will be an announcement on the website when we are up and running, as well as an email. If you have not been receiving our periodic emails, please call (203-259-0358) or email the office (office@stanthonyffld.org) with your information and we will be happy to include you on the email list. In the meantime, the Fairfield Jesuit Community will continue to be zooming their Masses - Weekdays at 12:10 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 am. They will continue to do so even when we are able to stream our Mass.

Until we are able to gather again as a whole community, we need to have courage to endure the "in-between" time in which we are living. Reliance on the Lord will help us through these times. A passage from Philippians 4 comes to mind: "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Frank, Beth and I wish you peace as together we weather this storm.



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Centering Prayer—The Centering Prayer group will meet electronically! Please contact **Susan Lenahan at 203-858-8367** for details. Centering Prayer is a simple and powerful way to access a deeper relationship with

God which expands one's receptivity to the presence and activity of God in one's life. Develop a contemplative meditation practice by exploring centering prayer with St. Anthony's Centering Prayer

Prayer Resources online—There are many resources available online as we try to keep our prayer lives in good order! Some to consider are:

Daily Faith Sharing with Fr. James Martin. Each day Fr. Martin gives a lesson about the Gospel of the day, from his room at the Jesuit House in New York. It is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/FrJamesMartin/>

Pray as you go. This is a site sponsored by the Irish Jesuits and consists of a visual aid, appropriate music, the gospel, prayers and reflection. This is a convenient way to daily prayer, designed as much to be listened to in your car as at your computer.

Sacred Space. Daily Ignatian Prayer online. www.sacredspace.ie

Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality. The Center offers a variety of prayer opportunities, including daily prayer. See www.jesuitprayer.org or www.fairfield.edu/murphycenterforignatianspirituality

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. www.usccb.org/prayerandworship
There are many other resources both online and in print that can begin or supplement your daily prayer. This is an opportune time to "tune up" your daily practice, as we all pray to rid the world of the novel corona virus.

Coronavirus—Please keep informed of the updates on the virus through the Center for Disease Control and follow their Guidelines.

Just a word—is now online. Check it out, along with other information, on the website... www.stanthonyffld.org

Visit The Council of Churches' website for information about their Summer Series "On Becoming Anti-Racist" as well as news about the FEED Center and other programs and initiatives to fight racism, feed the hungry and engage youth in wholesome activities. www.ccgb.org

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