

# St. Anthony of Padua Church

149 South Pine Creek Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

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The Fairfield Jesuit Community  
Sacramental and Liturgical Partners

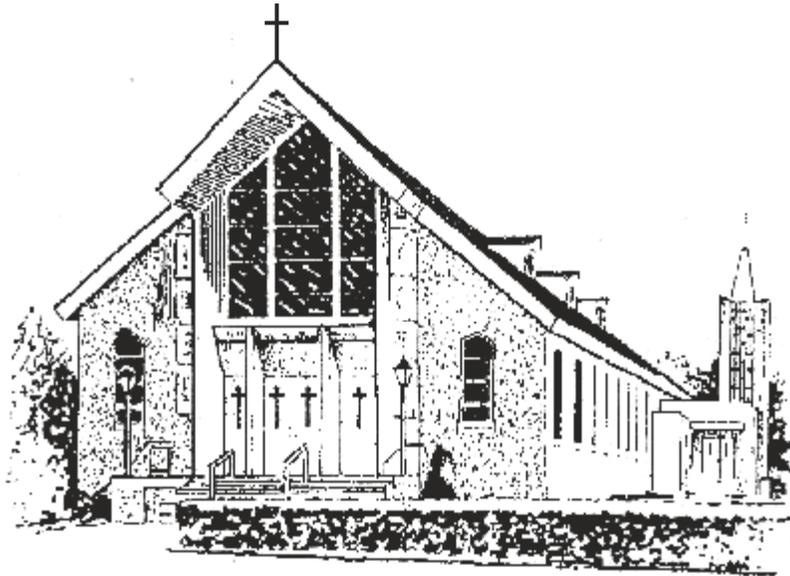
Parish Office: (203) 259-0358

Office hours:

The office is closed.

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

[office@stanthonyffld.org](mailto:office@stanthonyffld.org)



## ☞ 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.

Join us in celebrating the Mass  
on Sundays at  
10:00am and 12:00pm

**RESERVATIONS ARE  
REQUIRED.**

**All are welcome.**

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

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](mailto:office@stanthonyffld.org)

website: [www.stanthonyffld.org](http://www.stanthonyffld.org)

# Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2, 2020

**Indoor Masses were prohibited on March 17 and resumed on June 28. 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.stanthonyffd.org](http://www.stanthonyffd.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 27 through August 2, 2020:

Bernard Bensey, Leo Waters, and Irene Iwanicki

**Previously scheduled for Sunday, August 2, 2020:**

10:00 - Raymundo Erauda, Sr. requested by the Erauda Family  
12:00 - Walter and Wanda Messick requested by their daughter, Pamela Norman

Please remember them in your prayers. May they rest in peace.

Consult our parish website ([www.stanthonyffd.org](http://www.stanthonyffd.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\***

**Please Note:** The St. Anthony Sunday 10 a.m. Mass will be **live-streamed** to our website ([www.stanthonyffd.org](http://www.stanthonyffd.org)) and Face Book page every week. Tune in at 9:58 a.m. The Mass will be recorded so you can view it at another time.

The 12:10pm daily Mass of the Fairfield Jesuit Community is available to stream Monday through Friday; 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.)

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](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.org)

## **Prayer of Spiritual Communion—**

When you are watching a Mass online and cannot receive the Eucharist in person, 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

**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! **If you are an on-line contributor, please let us know if you would like to discontinue receiving envelopes. Thank you!**

**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!*

The Fairfield Housing Authority will open its **Housing Choice Voucher** program waitlist on July 31, 2020, and close it at midnight on August 13, 2020. Call Carol J. Martin at 203-366-6578 to obtain the mandatory Pre-Application form or to ask questions about it. The maximum number of applications to be placed on the waitlist is 200.

Dear Parishioners,

Does anyone else feel like they are living the movie "Groundhog Day?" You know, the 1993 Harold Ramis film starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell. These past several months sometimes seem like one very long day or a year of the same day.

The movie depicts the story of a TV weather forecaster who is sent to Punxsutawney, PA. to report on the goings on of Punxsutawney Phil (the groundhog) and the inhabitants of that town, one February 2nd.

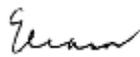
Bill Murray plays a curmudgeon, a moody, self-centered man who suffers from undiagnosed depression. He lashes out at people, even those who are nice to him, and is generally a miserable human being. As the story unfolds, Murray's character, Phil Connors, is doomed to repeat the worst day of his life, again, and again. It isn't until Phil learns that he isn't the center of the universe, that he *can change*, that he is able to finally break out of the interminable bad day and show his vulnerability. Phil ends up showing kindness and compassion to others, and learns to be content with his life.

What was touted to be (and is) a comedy, ends up containing some valuable lessons about life and about redemption. Phil learns to be present to others, to take their needs and feelings seriously.

It reminds me a bit of the disciples in this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus sees that it was getting late and the crowds were probably hungry. The disciples' solution was to send the crowds away, into the nearest town, so they could buy their own food. Jesus, moved with compassion, is present to the gathering, understanding their needs and feelings, and offers another, more loving response. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus blessed them and gave them to the disciples to distribute. The people, over 5,000, were fed and satisfied, leaving twelve wicker baskets of leftovers.

The Gospel doesn't say this, but we can employ our religious imaginations to infer that the disciples, feeding the people out of what can only be called meager resources, must have experienced no small cognitive dissonance. After all, Jesus asked *them* to feed the people...and somehow they did.

I imagine that the disciples were more astounded by the miracle, the miracle in which they themselves participated, than the crowd. As a result, perhaps they became more present to others, more aware of the needs and feelings of others; maybe they became more compassionate, more like Jesus. And just maybe that is what the Master intended for them, as they moved along their journey toward redemption.



**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 Group. Wednesdays, 9:00 –11: a.m. Newcomers are always welcome. So, please join us!

**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](http://www.sacredspace.ie)

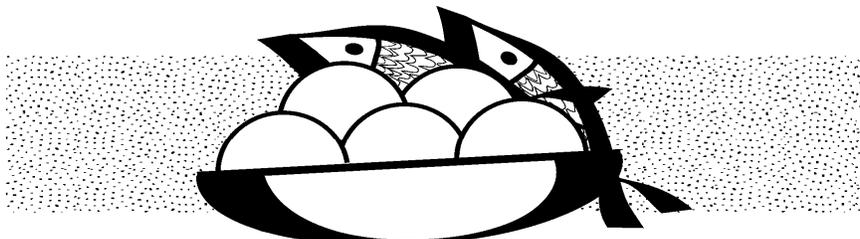
**Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality.** The Center offers a variety of prayer opportunities, including daily prayer. See [www.jesuitprayer.org](http://www.jesuitprayer.org) or [www.fairfield.edu/murphycenterforignatianspirituality](http://www.fairfield.edu/murphycenterforignatianspirituality)

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.** [www.usccb.org/prayerandworship](http://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. Please all pray to rid the world of the virus.

**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.cccb.org](http://www.cccb.org)

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



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