

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



✿ 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.**

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

website: www.stanthonyffld.org

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 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). 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 August 10 through August 16, 2020:

Bernard and Virginia Bensey, Rose and Michael Matis, Patricia Rose Kadar, and Pat Lago

Previously scheduled for Sunday, August 9, 2020:

10:00 - Kathy Esquilin requested by Joseph and Susan Gerics

12:00 - Robert Striebe requested by his family

Consult our parish website (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) 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

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 con-

Please continue your generous support!

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 from you.

Amen.

Dear Parishioners,

We have held Sunday Masses in the church for the last six weeks, and for the most part they have unfolded smoothly. Our 10 am Mass is now live-streamed as well as archived for later viewing. Attendance at the 10 am Mass has been creeping up. This past Sunday we were almost at our maximum, while the 12 noon Mass attracts a smaller crowd.

People who attend either Mass are generally happy to be back, and completely understand and cooperate with registering, checking in at the tent, sanitizing their hands before entering the church, and wearing their masks. After all, they know that they must wear a mask to enter any place of business these days. It is simply what we do to keep ourselves and others safe from the virus.

That is why we were taken aback by the conduct of one worshipper who appeared for Mass last Sunday. He was not a parishioner, was not happy about signing in and gave the volunteers a hard time. He balked at having to wear his mask (which he had in his hand) and again at being asked to use hand sanitizer before entering the church. The comment expressed was, "I just got out of a chlorinated pool; why should I have to do this?" When staff members explained that we were following state and diocesan guidelines, he muttered "that's a fine way to get people back to church."

The conduct of our visitor prompted me to write this column. We are literally all in this pandemic together. The virus does not respect age, gender, faith, education, home address, political persuasion or any other factor, but is an equal opportunity scourge. Wearing a mask is not a political statement; it is a life statement, in fact, a pro-life issue. We wear masks to protect ourselves and others. With over 155,000. dead in our country alone, and with medical experts agreeing that mask-wearing is a critical step in slowing the transmission of the virus, why any thinking individual would balk at wearing a mask in an enclosed building boggles my mind.

Remember that Jesus said that the greatest commandments are these two: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind **AND** Love your neighbor as yourself. Sadly, it seems that the second greatest commandment is under siege these days.

Stay safe!



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

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.

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

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

WHY RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS—

If you would like to come to Mass on a Sunday, **PLEASE** call the office to reserve a space. If you come without a reservation and the church has reached capacity with those who have registered, we will be forced to ask you to come another time. WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO DO THIS. That would be uncomfortable for you and for us. Checking in with the volunteers before Mass is necessary for contact tracing purposes should anyone who attended Mass become ill, in spite of our rigorous disinfecting. Thank you for your cooperation!

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