

# 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

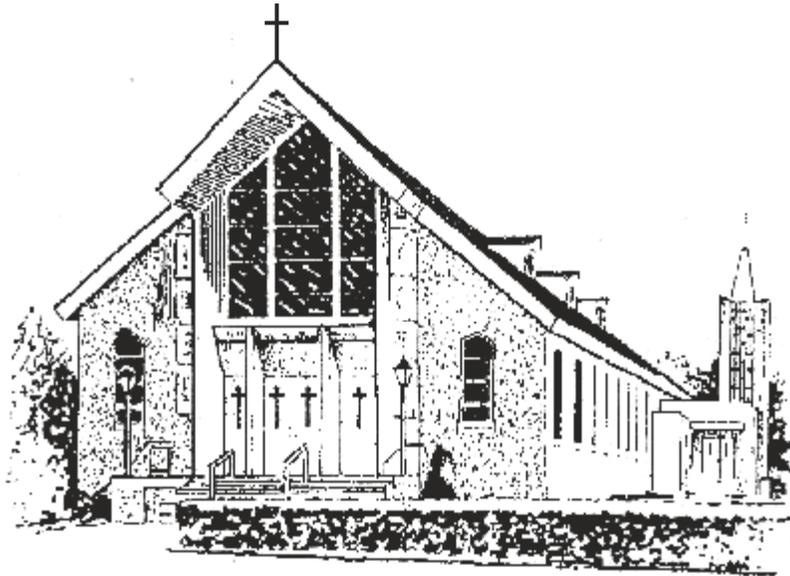
Parish Office: (203) 259-0358

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)

# Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2020

**Due to the pandemic Mass will be celebrated only on Sundays until further notice. Two Masses will be celebrated (10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon). Many precautions have been put into place so that a healthy environment is maintained.**

**If you haven't already, go to [www.stanthonyffd.org](http://www.stanthonyffd.org) and find Mass Protocols on page 2 under News.**

**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 15 through August 22, 2020:

Patricia Rose Kadar, Pat Lago, Frank and Mary Cieplinski, Donald Iodice, Joan Fortuna, Carol Schwab and Anthony Incerto

### **Previously scheduled for Sunday, August 16, 2020:**

10:00 - Kathy Esquilin requested by Joseph and Susan Gerics  
12:00 - Robert Striebe requested by his family

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)

**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!*

#### **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.

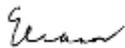
Dear Parishioners,

What a week last week was! So many of us were without power and the internet for so many days. The tropical storm that visited our area, for a relatively short period of time, left our town devastated. Trees of gigantic diameter were tossed as so many dice. People were in literal darkness for days, and nights. It was hot and humid, and there was no ice. We needed gas to go anywhere, and the stations with gas had no power to pump, and those that had power, had run out of gas. Some cars were held captive in our garages that wouldn't open without power. Many of our restaurants that normally would have fed us were closed themselves.

The expected rain came, albeit briefly, so that we did not have the flooding normally associated with such a storm...that was a blessing. But the wind made up for the paucity of rain, and with a vengeance visited its strength on shore and hilltop alike. Storms are indiscriminate scourges, like the virus. They do not respect zip code or neighborhood, income or ethnicity. They are equal opportunity destroyers.

However, in thinking back on the past week, having had some time to reflect on the problems that we all encountered, I realized that there were a few bright spots that perhaps might redeem the week. For instance, many families were able to spend a good amount of time together, time that under normal circumstances might have been spent apart at work, shopping or playing with friends. The nature of a storm and its aftermath pulls us closer to those we love. If we could not physically be with our family and friends, we were able to call/text/email (once the internet came back!). Neighbors came out of their houses not to jump in their cars and be off to the next "thing," but to help one another move the limbs and branches that littered their yards, or to chat about how each spent the duration of the storm, and how each other's families were managing. Neighbors ran errands for each other, fed one another, cared for one another. Having survived the darkness, people searched for the light...of electricity, yes, but also and perhaps more meaningfully, of one another's company.

One of the most powerful lessons of surviving any of the storms that life can throw our way is the realization of how much we need one another. The presence of family and friends, the warmth of community, is a balm for the soul and helps us to recognize that we are all connected. Relationships give our lives meaning. After all, we are made that way, in the image and likeness of God, who as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in loving relationship, gives us the example of how we are to live.



**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.

### **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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**Peter M. Ferrara, D.D.S.**  
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