

St. Anthony of Padua Church

149 South Pine Creek Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

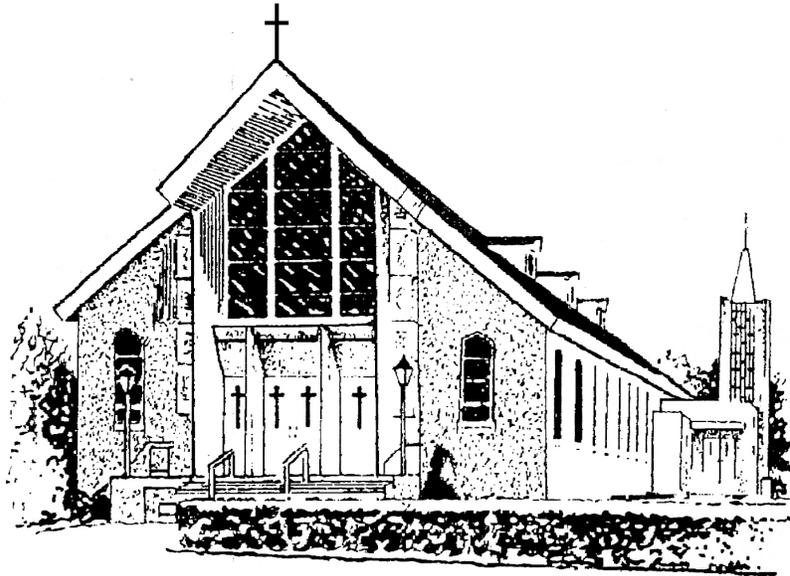
Eleanor W. Sauers Ph.D.
Parish Life Coordinator

Frank A. Macari
Director of Music

Beth Paris
Pastoral Minister

Anthony DeMartino
Finance Committee Chair
203-984-1934

The Fairfield Jesuit Community
Sacramental and Liturgical Partners



Parish Office: (203) 259-0358

Office hours:

Office is Closed

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

office@stanthonyffld.org

☞ Schedule of Masses ☞

Saturday Vigil ~~ 6:00 p.m.

Sunday ~~ 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday ~~ 7:30 a.m.

☞ Prayer Service ☞

Thursday ~~ 7:30 a.m.

☞ Devotions ☞

Prayer of the Rosary

Daily: 7:00 a.m.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m.

Novenas

Mondays (after Mass): Miraculous Medal

Tuesdays (after Mass): St. Anthony of Padua

☞ 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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

Per Bishop Frank Caggiano, all Masses are cancelled through Friday, April 3.

This weekend's bulletin is dedicated to the memory of those who would have been remembered at our Masses this past week, and this coming week.

Mary, George and Catherine Colbert; Patrick Kelly; Eleanor Weldon; Claude Violette; Casey Cilio; Deceased Members of the Choromanski and Vidoli Families; William Greenwood; Dolly Rushe; Rev. John P. Baran; Caitlin McEnery; Michele Thomas; John J. Geiger; Helma Paetzold; Istvan Burany.

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

The church (side entrance) will be open for private prayer daily from 9 am until 2 pm. until further notice.

The bulletin will be available on our parish website and in the church.

NOTE: The office is closed, per the bishop's request.

Please call and leave a message or email if you need to reach the office.

**St. Anthony Youth Group
and all religious ed classes
are cancelled until further notice.**

Religious Education Resources—During this time of being home with our children, questions arise about how to continue to keep them interested in things religious. There are many websites that offer quality lessons, stories and videos that can serve to keep your child interested and informed. Several are listed below:

<https://www.catechist.com/free-online-resources-use-home-covid-19-outbreak/>

<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/>

<https://youtu.be/KmuPUrnoyEg>

<https://religion.sadlierconnect.com/anonymous/resources.html>

We will continue to bring you opportunities to continue your child's religious education during this hiatus from regular classes.

**Hot off the press: The 12:10pm daily Mass of the Fairfield Jesuits will be available for us to stream beginning Wednesday, March 18. Stay tuned for more news on this. The link is:
<https://Fairfield.zoom.us/j/448025617>**

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

During this time of no Masses, please consult our parish website (www.stanthonyffd.org) and our Facebook page often as we will be posting information as soon as we receive it from the diocese or when we need to make certain decisions. Pray for the victims. Thank you.

E-Giving—Did you misplace your envelopes? Can't get to Mass? Have you not received envelopes in the past but would like to now? Is it easier to make a contribution when paying all your bills after hours on a Friday? This is for you! Electronic Giving for supporting St. Anthony's is now set up. Go to **Givecentral.org**, create your account, log in, and the rest is simple! Thank you, Michelle DeMartino, for facilitating this project.

As you will note below, the Offertory Collection is significantly down, as was attendance at Mass this past weekend (understandably!). This collection is essential to the running of the parish, most expenses of which continue even when we are not open for Mass. Please consider giving electronically as explained above. If that is not a comfortable or possible thing to do, please consider mailing your contributions to the parish office. We look forward to worshipping together again as soon as this health crisis makes that possible.

Collections from ...

March 15, 2020: \$ 3,690.00

March 17, 2019: \$ 9,017.00

Thank you for your continued generous support!

Dear Parishioners,

During Lent, we generally commit to increasing our prayer, fasting and alms-giving. We might attend daily Mass more frequently, or the Stations of the Cross. Taizé Prayer might be our go to Lenten practice, or the rosary, or any number of methods of contemplation or meditation.

In the uncertain days of this Lent, when we cannot avail ourselves of the usual comfort of the Mass, or our public spiritual practice of choice, there are still many ways we can continue to enrich our spirituality and prayer life on our own.

St Rose of Lima Church in Newtown is offering a Mass online; actually they stream their Mass at 6:45 am (M-F); 4 pm on Saturday and 10:30 am on Sunday. <https://Strosechurch.com>.

The readings for Masses can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' page, either in written or audio form:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/031720.cfm>

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm>

Pray as you go is an excellent choice for daily readings and appropriate music. Check it out at www.pray-as-you-go.org. Another multi-dimensional site for daily prayer offerings is www.Sacredspace.ie.

Fasting takes on a new meaning for us this Lent. We might still be fasting from TV, chocolate, wine, or what have you, but we also are finding ourselves being asked to forego many of our usual Lenten practices and outward symbols of our faith. I am thinking of the many spiritual and social activities our parish traditionally offered, of course ; but I am also thinking about the absence of holy water in the fonts in church, the abstinence from reception of the Eucharist in the form of the Precious Blood, the change in the physical nature of offering the Sign of Peace. These symbols, and there are others, reflect who we are as Catholics, and give meaning and depth to our identity and our sense of the incarnational nature of Catholicism.

In a very real sense, this Lent is about giving up more than the usual. But perhaps, it is also about having to slow down and reflect on the way we live today. The coronavirus is a terrible reason to put our regular lives on hold, but "in all things, God works to the good of those who love him." (Romans 8:28) . If there is to be a bright spot in all the upheaval, perhaps it can be that we begin to pay more attention to what is most important in our lives, and begin to let go of (fast from?) what does not truly matter in the long run. Let us, as a parish, as a people of faith and of hope, commit to using this time to stay in touch with loved ones, electronically, to keep spirits up and family close. Let us use this time to reflect on our faith and how that faith keeps us connected to the Lord and to one another. And let us use this time to pray for an end to this virus.

Uran

LENTEN CORNER

All Masses through Friday, April 3: Cancelled

Stations of the Cross: Cancelled

Taizé Prayer Service: Cancelled

Saturday Soup Suppers: Cancelled

Sr. Maryann Cantlon, CSJ: *Cancelled.*

Parish Reconciliation Service: Cancelled

While you are home wondering what to do next-

There is an excellent article on the National Catholic Reporter website with containing numerous suggestions about movies that are easily available to view as a family.

Check out the following link, choose a movie, make some popcorn and relax!

<https://www.ncronline.org/print/news/opinion/diy-edifying-film-festival-social-distanced-and-quarantined>



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!

Save the date—The Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Fairfield University is honoring Fr. Charles Allen, S.J., at its annual Benefit Dinner on **April 25**, at 7 p.m. To learn more call 203-254-4000, ext. 3468 or email mcis@fairfield.edu.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue."
Pope Francis

Awakening the Dreamer workshop is postponed.

Watch this space for the rescheduled date.
Sponsored by St. Anthony's Social Justice Committee