

BY THE WAY . . .

- The **weekend schedule** of Masses at Saint Anthony's is now back to "normal," namely 5:30 PM on Saturday, and Sunday at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 and 12:00 Noon. Last weekend approximately 250 parishioners were present at one of the five Masses. All attendees (over the age of 2) must wear face masks, and observe social distanced seating in the church. I think, after two weeks, we are slowly getting the hang of how that works. In general, there has been a great, and at times, tearful sign of relief at the ability to get "back to church," "back to Mass," and "back to the Eucharist."

For the last two weekends we have had Saturday Confessions in the Jubilee Garden between the rectory and the school. Surprisingly, so far, that has worked out all right, despite the noise from the street traffic and the rectory air conditioning units.

At least for the time being, the weekday Mass (Monday through Saturday) will remain at 10:30 A.M. It is being live streamed (as is also the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday) but is also open to the public. There are a number of issues involved in the discussion about the time of the daily Mass, and I will have to weigh those issues before we come to a permanent time.

During weekday Mass I ask everyone to please sit in the front half of the church. If we can keep from using the back half (beyond the Baptismal font) it cuts down on the sanitizing we have to do after every Mass.

Holy Communion is received in the hand at the present time, and no gloves may be worn for Holy Communion.

Social distancing applies to any service which takes place in the church, including funerals. Only those people who are "isolating (living) together" may sit together in the same pew.

- This Friday, **Saint Anthony School's 108th Graduating Class** will finally graduate with a Baccalaureate Mass with their parents in the church. This will mark the first time the class has been physically all together since March. They are not the first Saint Anthony's Class to experience this situation. The 5th Graduating Class of 1919 also sat out two months of their eighth grade year due to the Spanish Influenza Pandemic in October 1918.

Congratulations to all our graduates, and thank you to the parents, faculty, staff and parishioners whose sacrifices have made all this possible.

- Our CYO Director of Athletics, **Brian Tousignant**, is relinquishing his post after thirteen successful basketball seasons. You would think that CYO basketball would be a relatively quiet area of parish life. However during Brian's tenure there has in fact been a lot of change in the parochial basketball world regarding realignment of leagues, distinctions between school and CYO teams, parish and town demographics, and the popularity of the sport itself. Brian has handled all these areas with dignity, grace and absolute reliability – all in the interest of Saint Anthony's young people. Thank you, Brian, for a job very well done.

- This past June 22 was the liturgical feast of **Saint Thomas More** (1478-1535), Lord Chancellor of England, who was beheaded under King Henry VIII at the Tower of London for holding to his conscience and refusing to countenance the King's plans for his marriage and for the Church in England. Saint Thomas is the only saint to win an Oscar. Paul Scofield won the 1961 Tony Award and the 1966 Academy Award for best actor portraying More in both the play and the film, "A Man for all Seasons."

This is Saint Thomas More's "Prayer for Good Humour" which is prayed each day by Pope Francis.

*Grant me, O Lord, good digestion,
and also something to digest.
Grant me a healthy body, and
The necessary good humour to maintain it.
Grant me a simple souls that knows
to treasure all that is good
and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil,
but rather finds the means to put things back
in their place.
Give me a soul that knows not boredom,
grumbles, sighs, laments,
nor excess of stress, because of that
obstructing thing called "I."
Grant me, O Lord, a good sense of humour,
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke
to discover in life a bit of joy,
and to be able to share it with others.
Amen.*

God bless you all,

Father Ray