



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

...be the Light of Christ...

PARISH ACTIVITY UPDATE: With great sadness, I remind you that the pandemic restrictions continue to come; 1) The Adoration Chapel has been closed, and Adoration of the Exposed Blessed Sacrament is NOT allowed in Church. 2) The Parish Office has been closed, although our Office Staff will continue to check our Voice Mail Boxes - as well as any messages that you might want to send our way via Email or Facebook.

FASTING FROM MASS: During this time of forced separation from the Holy Eucharist, all who choose to do so are encouraged to add an Act of Spiritual Communion to your time of daily prayer: “My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.” (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

LIVE STREAMED MASS: By popular request, we will attempt to share our first “Live Streamed Liturgy” (via Facebook) on Sunday, March 29th at 9:00 a.m.

CHURCH OPEN: The Church will be continue to be opened each day of the week - EXCEPT SUNDAY - at 6:00 a.m. and closed at 6:00 p.m. During this time, all are invited to to spend some time in prayer before our Eucharistic Lord in the Tabernacle.

CONFESSION: For the time being, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will continue to be shared in our Roomy New Confessional (formally the Cry Room) on Mondays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. - and on Saturdays from 4:00 til 5:00 p.m (NOT on Sunday). Please maintain a healthy distance from each other during these times, especially as you are waiting to receive the Sacrament of Penance.

STEWARDSHIP: I offer my sincere gratitude to ALL who have continued to support our parish financially during these troubled times. Just a reminder that you can continue your generous giving by sending your contributions to us via the U.S. Postal Service (310 W. Vine Ave. • Eunice, LA • 70535), or by dropping your donation in our mailbox on the front porch of the Parish Office, or by utilizing our “Online Giving” program described on our website (www.stanthonyeunice.org).

FR. MATTHEW HEBERT: As mentioned, Fr. Hebert will be taking a break from active ministry in order to connect with the help he needs to find healing and peace. As he waits for his travel plans to be finalized, which is a great challenge during this time of quarantine, I’m pleased to announce that Fr. Hebert will be here at HOME with us! Please continue to lift him up in prayer as he waits for the details of his departure date - and please continue to Thank God for Father’s homecoming, and for the valuable Pastoral Care that he will continue to share with our Parish Community.

HUMOR: Like you, I have found myself laughing at the Crazy & Hilarious insights of folks around the world. Here are a few funnies that might make you smile: “If you want the South to take the coronavirus

seriously, then you need Jim Cantore reporting it!” • “Day 3 without sports . . . Found a lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently she’s my wife. She seems nice.” • “AND just like that, Spankings and Prayer is back in school! From homeschool2020” • “So what are you wearing ‘Jake from State Farm?’ Ummmmm, A Hazmat Suit!” • “If you bought 30 rolls of toilet paper, you owe 3 to the Church. Tithing is not cancelled!” • “Pray for the huggers . . . we are NOT okay. Do you know how hard it is not to hug when you’re a hugger at heart?!?! The struggle is REAL!” • “For the FIRST TIME IN HISTORY - we can save the Human Race by laying in front of the T.V. and doing nothing - LET’S NOT SCREW THIS UP!” • “No reason for the golf courses to be closed. The Clubhouse...maybe. But you can’t get much safer than playing a round of golf in the wide open outside, with a max of 3 buddies.. And we all suck at golf so there won’t be any hi-fives or handshakes!” • “The truth is, it’s not boring at home. But it’s interesting how one bag of rice has 7,456 grains and another bag - 7,489.” • “I used to spin that toilet paper roll like I was on the Wheel of Fortune . . . Now I’m turning it like I’m cracking a safe!” • “Homeschooling is going well. Two students suspended for fighting, and one teacher fired for drinking on the job!” • “They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the Grocery Store - They lied, everybody else had clothes on!”

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS: Like you, I have been inspired by MANY moments of Grace & Mercy during these challenging days - and by some of the reflections and devotions that so many people of good will have shared with us via the world wide web. Here are just a few of my recent favorites. I hope they speak to your heart in the wonderful ways that they have spoken to mine.

This reflection has given many of us a different perspective on the pandemic’s effect on our lives:

“Lockdown: Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death. But, they say that in Wuhan (China) after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again. They say that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer filled with fumes - but with blue and grey and clear. They say that in the streets of Assisi (Italy) people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping the windows open so that those who are alone may hear the the sounds of family around them. They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the homebound. Today a young woman that I know is busy spreading flyers with her number through the neighborhood so that the elderly may have someone to call on. Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary. All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting. All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way. All over the world people are waking up to a new reality: To how big we really are - To how little control we have - To what really matters - To Love. So we pray and remember that: Yes, there is fear - but there does not have to be hate. Yes there is isolation - but there does not have to be loneliness. Yes there is sickness - but there does not have to be disease of the soul. Yes there is even death - but there can always be a rebirth of Love. Wake up to the choices you make as to how to live now. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic - the birds are singing again, the sky is clearing, Spring is coming . . . and we are always encompassed by Love. Open the windows of your soul, and though you may not be able to touch across the empty square - SING!” (Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM)

From Italy: Father Giuseppe Bernardeli, a 72 year old priest, who gave his ventilator to a younger patient, has died from coronavirus. Father Giuseppe Bernardeli, pray for us!

From Ireland: Priest calls for the spiritual adoption of victims dying alone from coronavirus, by encouraging people to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day with this intention in mind.

From Louisiana: Governor says his state has the fastest growth of coronavirus cases in the world - and urges a day of prayer and fasting in honor of those who have died or lost loved ones to the Coronavirus.

Prayer for a Pandemic: “May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors, remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close, remember those that have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips, remember those who have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for quarantine at home, remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country, let us choose to love during this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other - let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor. Amen.” (Cameron Wiggins Bellm)

This next reflection comes from a faithful parishioner of St. Anthony’s, and was sent to our Office Staff before we had to discontinue Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Church. I share it with you because it fills me with a gentle joy to know that our plan to invite people to pray in the Church has already born so much fruit!

“I did my holy hour in church at 3 today.... and wow! It was so moving.... being in the presence of the Holy Eucharist in our big beautiful church.... in quiet and stillness.... recognizing how little I am.... but feeling so blessed to go before our Lord.... moving! I walked the stations and, each station spoke to me.... In the midst of the storm - He’s with us! I did approach the altar and knelt before Him - I pray others are as comfortable to do so - with reverence of course - kneeling beneath Him on the altar where the Holy Sacrifice is made in the mass which I miss - was moving.... “

Loving God, please continue to bless our Parish Family of St. Anthony of Padua, as well as our Sisters & Brothers in Christ at the Parish of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in “Downtown Duralde”, during this time of turmoil. May our Beautiful Churches continue to be safe harbors for your hurting people in the midst of this horrific storm. Fill all who might be afraid with your Peace, Hope & Love . . . and we make this prayer through the powerful intercession of Our Blessed Mother, Mary, and in the Most Holy Name of her Son and our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ - Amen!

Blessing and Hope; Fr. Hampton Davis, Fr. Matthew Hebert, Dcn. Gary Gaudin, Dcn. Chuck Ortego (Duralde) - and all of the members of your dedicated Parish Staff.