

**Saint Ann Parish  
Message from Father Newns  
March 20, 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ,

*"You do not need to know precisely what is happening or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope." (Thomas Merton)*

**As of Today**

Archbishop Perez has suspended the public celebration of all daily and weekend Masses within the archdiocese until further notice.

At this point I am planning to use our parish Flocknote program to stay in touch with our members during this fluid situation. If you are not one of our 700 households who are already enrolled in Flocknote, I urge you to do so now by subscribing online at [flocknote.com/StAnnPhx](https://flocknote.com/StAnnPhx) or Text Stannphx to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.

We will livestream Mass at 10:00 AM this Sunday on St. Ann's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StAnnPXV/> . This Mass will be available later in the day on our website and via Flocknote.

Chapel and church are closed and all scheduled parish activities, meetings and devotions (eg. Stations of the Cross; Eucharistic Adoration; Visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament) are suspended for the duration of this public health emergency.

Until this crisis passes, the Sacrament of Penance (Confessions) will not be scheduled. Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings will take place as we are able taking into account the covid-19 cautions.

Holy Communion will not be brought to the sick in their homes or in institutions by our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In fact, our local health care institutions are not allowing such visits.

Although the parish office is closed, the staff is working remotely to the extent possible so as to be of service to our parishioners. You can reach the staff via phone (610-933-3732) or email.

I can be reached by phone (610-933-3732) or email [fathernewns@gmail.com](mailto:fathernewns@gmail.com) and I will get back to you as I am able. I am praying for you and I ask you to pray for me as together we pray for an end to this pandemic and the suffering connected with it.

"We don't know what the future holds but we know who holds the future." These words from one of the many holy people I've met on my journey come to mind as we learn how to be Church in these new and uncharted waters.

### **Saint Ann Pantry**

Our Parish Pantry helps families with such items as: diapers (especially sizes 3, 4, & 5); laundry detergent; baby wipes; toilet paper; paper towels; cooking oil; juice; bagged dry black beans; white rice; canned tuna; pancake mix and syrup. Donations can be placed in the bin on the front porch of the parish office (502 S. Main St). For information contact Michelle Giffroy-Rossi (610-283-1515) or Jack McKeon (610-283-1311)

### **Aid For Friends – Caring For Friends**

Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends) is a wonderfully simple program connecting meal providers with those suffering from food insecurity. Our Caring For Friends freezer will be available as it always had been in the back room of 602 S. Main Street on Saturdays from 4:00 to 6:00 PM and on Sundays from 7:00 AM through 1:00 PM. For information contact Kate Commiskey at call (610) 955-4918 or [katecommiskey@msn.com](mailto:katecommiskey@msn.com)

### **PACS**

Please consider supporting Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS), our local food pantry as they are in desperate need of assistance. For more information contact [melissa.threadgill@pacsphx.org](mailto:melissa.threadgill@pacsphx.org) or phone (610) 933-1105. To volunteer with PACS go here: [VOLUNTEER SIGN UP](#)

### **St. Ann Memorial Church**

In case you have not yet heard, on March 11<sup>th</sup> we were told to close down St. Ann Church and Church Hall until a structural issue had been remediated. We are working with engineers and our insurance carrier at this time and we will keep you posted about the condition of our original parish church.

### **Thank You**

Thank you for your continued and faithful financial support of our parish at this challenging time. For the duration of this crisis, I ask you to consider mailing your church envelopes to the parish (502 S. Main ST).

Also this occasion is an opportunity for our members to consider our Direct Debit program for regular church support. Almost 100 of our families are already using Direct Debit and it helps us maintain a predictable income stream. The “Giving” form may be found on the parish website under the heading Calendars & More.

### **“Star of the Sea”**

Historically, when we Catholics have found ourselves in uncharted waters, unmoored, adrift or at sea, we have prayed to Mary under her title, Star of the Sea or in Latin *Stella Maris*. She did not know what the future held, but she trusted in the One who held the future. “Mary, Star of the Sea, draw us to you and your Son and accompany us to safe shores.”