



St. Anthony de Padua
Catholic Parish · Established 1948

March 17, 2020 (Commemoration of St. Patrick)

Dear St. Anthony de Padua Parish Family,

This morning, Bishop Rhoades, along with the other bishops of Indiana, made the difficult decision to suspend the celebration of public Masses in our diocese due to the escalation of the virus and to help prevent its spread. What does this mean for St. Anthony de Padua Parish? Masses will still be offered by me every day, but it will be in private. At this time you are encouraged to make use of the TV Mass on WNDU, Channel 16 (Cable: Comcast Ch. 8) at 10:30 on Sundays, or EWTN, to read and meditate upon the readings of the day (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/>), to pray together as a family, and to make a spiritual communion. I will be posting my weekend homilies on our parish website. Let us also use this time to build the Domestic Churches that are our families, our remote, St. Anthony's apart from our St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Parish, you can find this letter on our parish website.

Adoration and confession times have also been suspended. I know that this time can be very difficult, especially without the Holy Eucharist, since it is the source and summit of the Christian life. But I am happy to announce that our church will be open for you at this present time for private prayer and adoration of the Lord in the tabernacle, daily from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Please use the Northeast doors. The others will be locked. Additionally, our parish office hours will remain in normal operation.

It is a deep truth of the spiritual life that the best penances are those we do not choose but rather those we must simply accept with patience and offer to the Lord. These next few weeks may be for us the most radical introduction to the heart of Lent we have ever lived. Christ asks us to follow Him unreservedly through His suffering---and that of ourselves and our brothers and sisters---tenaciously and creatively looking for the good that we can bring from these circumstances. The antidote to panic is not calm but rather courage---the power to pursue difficult goods and resist attractive evils. We will have a lot more time on our hands this month. We must invest it in things that deepen our spiritual life and charity for one another, rather than being hypnotized and unhinged by the endless drama of the 24-hour news cycle. Even as we stay reasonably informed, we must spend more time and energy investing in being formed and transformed by Jesus Christ, from the power of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We are in it for Easter this year as never before!

Please keep checking our website - STASB.ORG - for more parish updates and resources. In and for Christ, we are in this to win this. As the hymn *O God Beyond All Praise* sings, "We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless him still!" Let us continue to pray at this time for the sick, for doctors, nurses, and health-care workers, and for an end to this illness. May we ask the intercession of St. Damien of Molokai, St. Rocco, and St. Anthony de Padua to intercede for us before the throne of our Lord in heaven.

God bless,

Fr. Bob Garrow