



St. Anthony de Padua
Catholic Parish · Established 1948

May 8, 2020
Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter

Dear St. Anthony de Padua Parish Family,

May the peace of the Risen Christ dwell in your homes! I am writing to give you an initial update on how we will gradually be resuming our ordinary life at St. Anthony de Padua Parish, in light of the latest directives of Governor Holcomb and Bishop Rhoades. Public Masses will resume at St. Anthony's beginning with the 8:15am Saturday morning Mass on May 23rd. Our first weekend Mass will be that same evening with our 4:15pm Vigil Mass, the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Ascension.

As the first public Masses on the weekend of May 23-24 approaches, I am sharing with you the necessary safety protocols and directives for the reopening of the parish. For now, anyone with specific questions about Baptisms, weddings, or other special liturgies should contact our Parish office (574-282-2308) to be put in touch with the appropriate staff member who can be of best help.

Our St. Anthony de Padua staff have been heroic in working through the myriad logistical details of adapting to these extraordinary circumstances to serve the families of our Parish. From my heart, thank you for your love of the Lord, His Church, our parish home, and one another. The Risen Lord will not be outdone in the mercies poured out on us in these times!

I am so grateful for your patience and hope in the weeks ahead as we resume to a more normalized schedule. I will begin offering confessions and adoration at our regular scheduled times starting next week (May 12th.) Additionally, we are still looking to record Mass, particularly to assist the prayer of those who cannot for health reasons return to church in the next months. But until we have the necessary equipment, I recommend the various resources available on our parish website (www.stasb.org).

In addition to the directives, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been extended for all Catholics in the diocese through August 15, 2020, at which point it will be reevaluated by Bishop Rhoades. As we know, Communion is not a right or a duty, but a gift that we receive freely from God and that we must welcome with veneration and love. What joy it will be to be able to come back together to show our veneration and love to God.

Please know of my continued prayers for each one of you and please keep me in your prayers. May Our Lady keep our families under her protecting mantle and may we all strive to be like our patron, St. Anthony de Padua.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Robert Garrow
Pastor



**DIRECTIVES FOR RESUMING PUBLIC LITURGIES AT
ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CATHOLIC PARISH**

- 1) **Social Distancing:**
 - a. According to the state, this means ensuring “6 feet between individuals or family units of the same households during services.”
 - b. Every other pew will be marked off
- 2) **Who should attend?**
 - a. Anyone who is healthy.
 - b. Those with a cough or fever, or who may otherwise be feeling sick, **should not come** to church for Mass or even for a visit.
 - c. Indiana’s health protocols for places of worship advise that “all individuals who are 65 and above or who have an underlying at-risk health condition to stay home.” While our more vulnerable brothers and sisters cannot be prevented from attending, we do recommend that you continue to participate in Mass remotely at this stage of the pandemic if you so choose.
- 3) **Mass Schedule**
 - a. We will maintain the same Mass schedule at this present time
 - b. We will review weekly and make adjustments as needed.
- 4) **Liturgical Changes** (*May be changed at a later time*)
 - a. There will be no servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, or sacristans.
 - b. There will be only 1 lector – without their face mask on when proclaiming the readings and the psalm. (They will also not carry in the book of the Gospel at this time.) Being in the sanctuary and 6 feet apart from one another should mean there is no substantial risk for infection.
 - c. There will be no cantors/choirs at this time for Weekend Masses (Funerals and Weddings there may be one cantor, but they must wear a mask.) There are indications (including suspected examples involving choirs in other states) that vigorous singing, especially in close proximity to others, may increase the risk of viral spread by aerosoling respiratory particles in a manner more akin to coughing or sneezing than mere talking. As such, the choirs will be suspended until this danger has passed.
 - d. There will be prelude, postlude, and music accompaniment for communion. This is due to sections C above and since the worship hymnals are not in the pews and since they cannot be effectively cleaned between Masses. The hymnals will remain from the pews until this danger has passed.
 - e. The gift and offertory procession will not be utilized; rather, the vessels will all be placed on the credence table. With all vessels covered until they are brought to the altar.
 - i. Collection baskets that are passed from person to person will not be utilized. A collection basket or locked “poor box” will be placed at the entrance(s) of the church.



- ii. Baskets with handles will be used when they arrive (in which case ministers of hospitality are to wear gloves and immediately wash their hands after the collection).
 - f. The Priest will be the only one to distribute Holy Communion
 - g. During distribution of Communion, a distance of 6 feet must be maintained between individuals or family units in the Communion procession. Parallel Communion lines will not be formed in aisles. Father will distribute to one side and then alternate to the other side.
 - h. The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended.
 - i. Gloves should not be worn by anyone receiving Holy Communion.
 - j. After the final blessing, please stay in your pew until the minister of hospitality/usher dismisses each row and directs you to an exit door.
- 5) **Health Protocols**
- a. **Masks:** Stage 2 of the “*Back on Track Indiana*” plan recommends wearing masks or other face coverings in public settings, including religious services. As noted by health authorities, the use of masks is not primarily for our own protection, but for those around us.
 - b. All congregants (except for little children and those who would have trouble breathing) must wear such face coverings out of concern for fellow parishioners.
 - c. During the celebration of the liturgy itself, clergy should not wear masks. Nor should other actively assisting ministers (e.g., a lector while reading). Being in the sanctuary and 6 feet apart from one another should mean there is no substantial risk for infection.
 - d. High-contact surfaces (such as door handles and crash bars, as well as pew tops, backs, and ends) will be cleaned and disinfected between every Mass or other events in the church. We could use help with a team of parishioners who assist after Masses.
<https://signup.com/go/yMcOhpU>
If you have any questions, please contact Karla Donlan or the parish office.
- 6) **Sacrament and other liturgical rites**
- a. Baptisms, weddings, and funerals may continue, incorporating all the applicable social distancing, health protocols, and liturgical measures noted above. At weddings, the bride and groom are not required to wear masks or face coverings.
 - b. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will resume on our normal schedule, while also following applicable stipulations noted above.
 - c. Confession: Are once again held at our scheduled times.
 - d. Baptisms: are now resuming but following the stipulations noted above
- 7) **Video** - at this time we will not be able to provide a recording of the Masses. We are hoping to.