

St. Anthony's R.C. Church
417 Commercial Street
Farnham, New York 14061
716-549-1159

June 9, 2020

My Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I bring you good news of great joy, WE WILL BEGIN CELEBRATING MASSES THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 13 AND 14. I believe this is only fitting since it is the Feast of St. Anthony.

There are a number of changes we must make according to Diocesan and Governmental regulations. The first of which is, masks are to be worn by everyone over the age of 2 years old, no exceptions. Hand sanitizer will be available at the doors of the church and we ask you to use it or bring your own. We are limiting the entrance to the church to the front door, so that we may keep a count of the number of people and for seating purposes. Seating will be from the front of the church to the back. Social distancing is a necessity. Families can sit together, but others must sit 6 feet apart.

During the Mass there will be no communal singing since singing has a tendency to spread more particulate matter. There will be no handshaking at the sign of peace. For Communion, going up to receive we ask you to remain 6 feet apart. Also you must wear your mask on the way up to receive, remove it to receive and put the mask back on before returning to your pew. Gloves are not allowed for the reception of Communion. Communion will be only received in the hand. The Ministers will be instructed to drop the Host into your cupped hands to avoid touching.

Other changes in the church include markings for social distancing on the floor and the pews. Missalettes will not be left in the pews since it would lead to the spreading of germs. If you wish to have a missalette, we will hand them out one per family. The crying room will become an overflow area. The diocese asks that crying rooms not be used as crying rooms because it encourages the mixing of families in a small area. There will be no Holy Water in the fonts, it could spread germs. Because it would put people in close contact, the Folk Group will not be playing for the near future. Of course there will be no gatherings after Mass until further notice. Bulletins will be handed out by the ushers at the end of Mass. We are directed not to leave them in piles where people could touch them and cross contamination could occur.

Confessions will be moved to the Crying Room until further notice. The confessional is just too small for social distancing. Confessions will start the weekend of June 20 and 21.

The weekend of June 13 and 14, we will begin with 2 Masses, one on Saturday at 4:00 pm and one on Sunday at 9:00 am. We must determine if there is sufficient time to clean and sanitize the church before the 11:00 am Mass. If not, we will remain with our regular schedule of 9:00 and 11:30 on Sunday morning.

I hope and pray to see you soon. Until then stay well and stay safe.

God Bless you.

Fr Jim