

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

March 20, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

To say we live in extraordinary times might be putting it mildly. Covid 19 (Coronavirus) has changed the way we live and the way we interact with others. We have a choice, to let Covid19 rule our lives or we can choose to live the love Christ spoke of when he gave us the two Great Commandments, Love God above all and your Neighbor as yourself.

When we choose love, we realize that we are not alone at this time or ever, God is always with us. As Christ Ascended into heaven, He promised to be with us until the end of time. Even in the most difficult of circumstances, Christ is with us. That thought leads me to emphasize the need for prayer at this time. Prayer for all those who have contracted Covid 19, for the doctors and nurses who treat them, for all the personnel manning ambulances, hospitals, nursing homes and those taking care of people at home. We also pray that soon a vaccine will be found and that the coming warmer weather will lessen the threat of this virus.

Closer to home, we need to look for ways to "Love our Neighbor." Are there people in your neighborhood who are shut-ins? Have you called them to see if they need any help? Just going to the store for someone who can not get out is great help. Are there people you know who are alone? They might appreciate a phone call just for some contact. Those who are watching children might appreciate time to go shopping. I'm sure you can find many more ways to help.

I find myself wishing we had set up a parish phone network, by which we could contact all our parishioners to see if any are in need. If you are in need, please call the rectory. There may be a way we can help. If you are able and willing to help others, please call the rectory and leave your name and phone number. Maybe we can play match-maker and find someone to help parishioners in need.

In many ways, it comes down to Faith, Hope and Love. Faith that God is with us and will bring us through this very trying time. Hope that with God, anything is possible, the weather changing and this virus abating, or a vaccine will be found. Love that reaches out to others to help them in their time of need, the same Love Christ showed as He gave His life for us on the cross.

Each day I will be saying private Masses. If there is an intention for the Mass, I will offer Mass for that intention. If there is no intention, Mass will be offered for the people of our parish. Church will be open weekdays for private prayer 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Sunday 10:00AM-1:00 PM. Hours can be adjusted if need be. Please do not exceed 50 persons in the church at any given time and maintain social distancing.

One last thought, if there is anyone in our parish who is technically savvy and can show us how to live stream Mass, please let us know. It is my hope that through technology, we will soon celebrate Mass together again.

God Bless and Keep you in His Care.



"Serving the Lakeshore Community"