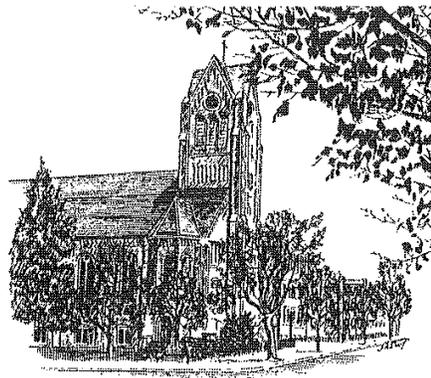


# st. anthony of padua church

501 East Orange Street    Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602  
Phone (717) 394-0669



May 29, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As it was announced that Lancaster County will transition to the Yellow Phase on June 5, priests of the Lancaster Deaneries were instructed by Bishop Gainer to prepare their parishes for reopening. Following is a condensed version of the directives which all churches received from the Harrisburg Diocesan officials.

Keep in mind that as a community we should remember “We are all in this together.” During this period of trial and error, I will determine where adjustments and revisions will need to be made.

If the answer to your question doesn't appear below, feel free to ask me – [frdobrien@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:frdobrien@hbgdiocese.org) – or contact the parish office – [info@stanthonylancaster.com](mailto:info@stanthonylancaster.com)

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Don O'Brien". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Pastor

Bishop Gainer's May 8, 2020 Dispensation from the Sunday Obligation and Holy Days of Obligations hereby continues to be granted and remains in effect until further notice.  
(cf. c.87,1247)

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Masses will resume the weekend of June 6, 2020:

Saturday, June 6 at 4:30 p.m. (Entrance opening at 4:10 p.m.)

Sunday, June 7 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (Entrance opening at 8:10 and 10:10 a.m.)

Confessions: Until further notice – there will be no scheduled Saturday afternoon confessions. Call the rectory to schedule an appointment, (717) 394-0669.

Facial coverings or masks must be worn and the 6-foot social distancing guideline must be respected upon entering the church.

Those who are sick or are experiencing symptoms of illness should not attend.

## THE CHURCH BUILDING

*Church Entrances:* For the time being there will be no handicapped accessible entrance. Due to the confined and limited space, the elevator will not be in use.

*Entrance Doors:* Only the center glass doors facing Orange Street will be standing open throughout the entire Mass. Likewise, only the vestibule center doors will be used for entrance into the nave of the church, and also will remain open during the Mass. All doors within the Church will be used for exiting at the end of the Mass.

*Windows:* The guidelines from the Diocese indicate that all functioning windows be open throughout the occupancy of the building for proper ventilation. This includes during the time that the air conditioning system is running.

**GATHERING BEFORE/AFTER MASS:** All formal and informal gatherings before or after Mass are strictly prohibited in the church and the entrances. Please exit as quickly, quietly, and respectfully as possible at the conclusion of the liturgy. No fundraising campaigns, flyer distribution, or any other assembly may take place anywhere in the church without the explicit permission of the pastor.

**SPACE DELINEATION AND PEWS:** The prescribed 6-foot spacing between individuals has been indicated with signage, roping, and tape. We ask that you respect your space and the space of others, as we do our best to comply with Diocesan policy. In following these policies, the result is that in our otherwise space that seats up to 400 people we now provide 69 individual seating spots. We were instructed "In order to provide social distancing, fewer than 1/3 of total church occupancy may occupy the church at any given time."

As instructed in the Diocesan guidelines: ". . . indications should be made for sitting in every third pew with six feet between individuals. Families may sit together. Spacing should take into account the size of families attending together."

**SANITIZATION REQUIREMENTS:** Sanitization of public spaces is to occur after each gathering. Door handles, doors, railings, and the cleaning of bathrooms will follow CDC guidelines for sanitizing.

Both restrooms (in upper church vestibule and downstairs on the west side) will be available for use. The restrooms will be cleaned before each liturgy. A disinfectant spray will be in place for your peace of mind. *Remember:* the restroom will be as clean as the last person left it.

Stations with hand sanitizer will be in the vestibule; the celebrant will have hand sanitizer in the sanctuary for his use.

**HOLY WATER:** All holy water fonts will remain empty. Access to holy water will be made available during regular office hours at the rectory.

**VOTIVE CANDLES AND VENERATION OF RELICS AND IMAGES:** Public veneration by making physical contact with relics and images is prohibited. Access to lighting votive candles is prohibited.

**HYMNALS AND OTHER BOOKS:** All hymnals, missals, missalettes, and Bibles have been removed from the Church. Congregational singing will not take place during any Mass or liturgy. Any provided printed worship aides will be used once and discarded by the user in the receptacles in the vestibule.

**BOOK RACKS, TABLES, AND RADIATOR COVERS IN THE VESTIBULE:** All book and pamphlet racks, as well as the tables in the vestibule have been removed. All collections for postage stamps, aluminum tabs, milk bottle caps, and coupons for RCS have been suspended. Please do not leave anything on the radiator covers or anywhere else in the church or vestibule.

**SACRISTY:** As carried over from the red phase the sacristy is closed to the public. Any special requests can be made by calling the church office. Only the celebrant will have access to the sacristy. The sacristan will only have access before and after Mass, and should not remain in the sacristy during the Mass.

**USE OF DAILY MASS CHAPEL:** Only the main Church will be used for any liturgy. The Lower Church and meeting room are off limits to the public.

**ADORATION, NOVENAS, OFF-SITE MASSES, COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND PERSONAL VISITS TO THE CHURCH:** Presently all of the above are canceled. At the discretion of the pastor all will be able to resume.

**ENVIRONMENT AND ARTS:** While the visual expressions of the church's liturgical seasons are important and appreciated, the seasons will be indicated through the color of the altar linens only. The offerings of the Environment and Arts Committee will resume when appropriate.

## **PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE**

**FACE MASKS:** *Clergy:* Face masks are not to be worn by clergy during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, but will be worn during the distribution of Holy Communion.

*Laity:* Face masks are to be worn by all laity faithful who attend Mass. The communicant will remove the mask for the reception of Holy Communion.

A lector (when used) will remove the face mask when proclaiming the readings.

A cantor (when used), separated by a good distance from the assembly, may participate without a face mask.

**GLOVES:** Gloves will not be worn by the celebrant at anytime during the Sacred Liturgy nor while distributing Holy Communion.

**ALTAR SERVERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS, AND LECTORS:** None of the above may serve at this time. They will be reintroduced to the Mass at the pastor's discretion.

**CHOIR:** Choirs are not permitted; choir practices are not to take place. There will be no access to the choir loft.

**CANTOR AND MUSICIANS:** None will be used at this time; all will be reintroduced at the discretion of the pastor.

## **MASS SCHEDULES**

**SUNDAY MASS:** It is at the discretion of the pastor, as mandated by Bishop Gainer, that Mass frequencies and schedules have been established. Entering the yellow phase we will resume our regular Saturday Vigil (4:30 p.m.) and Sunday Masses (8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.). The pastor may determine that a change in the Mass times is necessary. Following the conclusion of the Mass and distribution of Holy Communion, please exit the building promptly.

► *Important note regarding your arrival time at church:* The Orange Street entrance will be opened 20 minutes before scheduled start time of Mass, i.e., Saturday 4:10 p.m., Sunday 8:10 a.m. and 10:10 a.m. Upon entering the Church place your offering in a basket as explained below, find and take your seat.

**WEEKDAY MASS:** The weekday Mass schedule begins with daily Mass Monday, July 6 through Saturday, July 11 at 8:00 a.m. in the Upper Church. Like the weekend Masses, only the center glass doors at the Orange St. entrance will be open. The doors will be opened at 7:45 a.m. on these days. The group Rosary and the Legion of Mary prayers are not to be recited in this 15 minute period before Mass. Make this the time for your individual prayers. Following the conclusion of the Mass and distribution of Holy Communion, please exit the building promptly.

A commitment for a daily Mass schedule after July 11 cannot be made at this time. Check the weekly bulletin, parish website, bulletin boards, or call the office for the dates that Mass will be celebrated here.

**YOUR OFFERING COLLECTION:** No offering may be taken up by pew.

Before taking your seat, locate one of the four collection baskets which will be placed at the aisle end of a long center pew. Please place your offering in the basket. An usher can help you with this. Perhaps now is the time to consider online giving. See the homepage of the parish website.

**SIGN OF PEACE:** Omitted.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Clergy During the Liturgy:* Only the priest or deacon will receive Holy Communion during the public celebration of Mass.

*Holy Communion by the Faithful:* Following the closing and dismissal of the Mass, the celebrant will remove his chasuble and put on a face mask before distributing Communion to the faithful. Those who desire to receive Holy Communion will step into the center aisle, **single file** observing the 6-foot social distancing tapes on the floor.

Since this is the reception of Holy Communion out of Mass, the priest addresses the congregation by stating "Behold, the Lamb of God . . .," and the people respond "Lord I am Not Worthy."

Each communicant approaches to receive Holy Communion with their mask down. While either way of receiving remains acceptable, the faithful are encouraged to receive in the hand. If you are not able to go to the priest, ask an usher or someone around you to tell the priest to bring the sacrament to you in the pew.

► *Important note to Extraordinary Ministers:* At this time Holy Communion is not to be taken to shut-ins, nursing homes, or hospitals. At the discretion of the pastor you will be notified when you can resume Communion Calls.

**CONFESSIONS:** Confessions will be heard outside the confessional. Until further notice – there will be no scheduled Saturday afternoon confessions. Call the rectory to schedule an appointment, (717) 394-0669.

We are all very eager to be back in our spiritual home. Everyone has to get used to new styles of dressing (masks), those who are yearning for a visit to the barber or hair salon, the new ways of greeting one another – who won't miss the hug of a life-long friend? None of it seems right . . . but we're all here, in the same boat, on a very restless and stormy voyage with few answers to many questions.

The leaders and advisers of our faith community have the same common goal: the safety of each and every one of us. It is quite a leap for each of us into these new color phases and the rules and directives which are very unfamiliar to all. We will try: keep the ideas that seem to work, adapt or perhaps remove those that don't. One thing is certain: *Changes!* Just like each new day and every season, there will be changes.

Let us all do our best to respect each other, respect each other's space, pray for one another and foremost for our church.

**Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help; Saint Anthony of Padua: Pray for us all!**

*See you in church!*