



St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church

May 14, 2020

Dear

As you may already know, the Archbishop recently did a flyover of San Antonio and announced the re-opening of parishes in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

I would ask you to please review the documents he has since posted on the Archdiocese website, regarding re-openings, by going to archsa.org. This will give you all of the details of what is expected for parishes, church attendees, ministries, etc. It will also give the guidelines for the state of Texas and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Please know that if you're uncomfortable with returning to regular parish Masses, the Archbishop continues to offer us his dispensation, most especially for the vulnerable or compromised among us. We, at St. Anthony de Padua, will continue to livestream our Masses as well.

After meeting with several of my staff members and in adhering to these guidelines and mandates, the following important pieces of information listed below will apply to our parish in the reopening of St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church:

1. **We will reopen our church for Public Masses as follows:**

Monday-Friday Daily Mass, beginning Tuesday, May 19th.

Weekend-Saturday and Sunday Masses, beginning Saturday May 30th and Sunday, May 31st.

2. **Changes in PARISH MASS SCHEDULE for current reopening of the church:**

M-F will remain at 9:00am daily Mass.

Weekend Masses will be Saturday at 5:00pm-English Mass

and Sunday at 8:30am-Spanish Mass and 11:00am-English Mass.

Weekday Masses, The Saturday, 5pm (English) and Sunday, 8:30am (Spanish) will be **livestreamed on FACEBOOK** and available on the **WEBSITE** for those parishioners and friends of our parish that remain at home for the time being.

3. **Social Distancing will be enforced for ALL MASSES.** Ushers will meet people at the door, escort them to a seat (not of their choice or picking, but in order of those who arrive), seating people from the front of the church to the back of the church, in order to ensure distancing in each pew. There will be spacing between pews (every other pew will be blocked off). Ushers will escort people up to the communion line, enforcing 6 feet distance between each communicant. Ushers will also escort all people in the exiting process at the end of Mass.
4. **Because we will be recording Masses and because of strict enforcement of social distancing and mandates of the Archdiocese, as well as guidelines from the city and the state, all those wishing to attend Mass will need to be seated and ready to go 15 minutes before Mass is to start.** The congregation will be directed as to when to be silent for recording purposes, other than the normal Mass participation and responses. We will not be able to allow people to enter the church late and will limit the movement and exiting of the building during the recording and Mass times.
5. **ALL MASS ATTENDEES will be required to wear a facemask for the entire Mass.** It can only be lowered at the time of reception of communion and then placed back over the face once the Eucharist is received. The Eucharist can only be received in the hand, not the mouth.
6. **Collection Baskets will be at the doors at the end of Mass,** not passed around in the pews, as was previously our custom.

7. **Bulletins will be available on a table**, outside the church at the end of Masses, not distributed by the ushers to parishioners, as was previously done.
8. **Missalettes will not be used at this time.** Mass Attendees will be encouraged to bring their own resource or to follow along with our Mass ministers.
9. **The Priest or Deacon** will be the only persons to distribute the Eucharist at this time.
10. **The church capacity for any Mass at this time will be 70 people** (plus up to 4 people serving on the altar-priest, music, sacristan, etc.). There will be **no overflow availability** in the parish hall at this time.
11. Once all Mass attendees have been escorted from the church, **at the end of Mass**, there will be a **team** of 6 people who will **disinfect the church** and prepare for the next Mass or the next day.
12. There are other Mass related mandates that will be adhered to that are in the guidelines from the Archbishop – i.e.-ushers will wear gloves and masks, bring personal size hand sanitizer, etc.
13. **NO PARISH Meetings, classes, workshops and ministry gatherings will take place at the parish facilities through the end of August.** We will review changes in this policy in August, and determine when we can resume regular “in person” meetings. We encourage all ministry groups to either continue to have (or begin to have) meetings, classes, workshops and creative gatherings via Zoom or other social media platforms during this time.
14. **SACRAMENTS:** We are currently working with the appropriate individuals/staff members to schedule or reschedule Baptisms, Adult Confirmations, Weddings, 1st Holy Communions, Journey in Faith Sacraments. As soon as these are arranged, we notify those who have been patiently awaiting the gift of these Sacraments. We will then put out our projected schedule for upcoming classes and Sacraments. Some of the upcoming classes will have to take place via a social media platform (Baptisms, Adult Confirmation, etc.). Again, we will keep you informed of the schedules once those are confirmed.
15. **NOVENA CHANGES:** We will have the St. Anthony de Padua Novena from June 5th-June 13th. The schedule will be as follows:

Friday, June 5 th	- 9:00am
Saturday, June 6 th	- 5:00pm
Sunday, June 7 th	- 11:00am
Monday, June 8 th	- 9:00am
Tuesday, June 9 th	- 9:00am
Wednesday, June 10 th	- 9:00am
Thursday, June 11 th	- 9:00am
Friday, June 12 th	- 9:00am
Saturday, June 13 th	- 5:00pm FEAST DAY

This is a lot of information and a lot of changes for all of us! There will be questions and concerns that you are welcome to address with either myself or our parish staff, as we all work together to move forward –safely, smartly and carefully in reopening our parish and bringing community together “in person” for worship, for learning, for fun and for love and support of each other and praise and thanksgiving to our God!

Thank you for all of the support, the kind words and the generous spirit that is so exemplary within our community, especially during this ever changing and challenging time! We look forward to being together next week to begin the next phase of parish life ministry!! As we navigate through the next few months, let us remember to continue to “check in” on each other and to help each other, truly being what Christ calls us to be, most especially in times like we are presently living and experiencing.

Your friend and your Pastor,



Fr. Kevin Shanahan, M.S.C.