



## St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Community

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July 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Anthony,

As we move into these hazy, hot and humid days of summer, and as we continue in these days of Covid-19 with its ongoing effects on everything, we wish you grace and peace. Our world looks very different right now, but we continue to gradually open up. This is being made possible because so many of you have followed safety protocols in a responsible and diligent fashion. In this unique time of social distancing, we can still walk together in our faithful journey.

How can we keep our faith strong during times like this? Do not be afraid! We must remember that throughout history, God never abandoned His people: When the Jewish people were enslaved in Egypt – God rescued them. When Israel was devastated by Babylon. When Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed and the people were exiled in a foreign country, God never abandoned them. When external signs of God's presence (like the temple) were gone and the people felt alone, God upheld them. At the Cross, when all seemed lost, Jesus died ... but three days later he rose from the dead! When the disciples were ridiculed, tortured and put to death, a new Church was being born on the faith of those early martyrs. Throughout our history, the Catholic Church has survived persecution, disease, famine, and abuse.

God is with us! Do not be afraid. We are all in this together!

During this temporary suspension of large gatherings, we cannot forget to take care of our spiritual home; a home that has been there for us during times of need, celebration, and to offer a path for the future when life returns to normal.

As you know our Church Picnic scheduled for June 27 was cancelled. Because the picnic is a major source of revenue, this loss of funds places a tremendous strain on our parish's finances. We come to you in the hope that you will answer God's most challenging call during this time in need. We understand this is a difficult time to ask for support, as you face personal hardships. We ask you to reflect on the family we have created at St. Anthony of Padua in Beckemeyer and hope you can share your blessings with us.

Now more than ever, please consider giving generously to support our mission and our ministry. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed and can be mailed or put in the collection basket at Mass. If paying by check, please make your check payable to: **St. Anthony Church Picnic**. Our five-year average of net income from our Picnic is **\$33,955**. Please support this fundraising appeal to subsidize what we would have made at this year's picnic. We ask that you kindly respond by August 23, 2020.

God never ceases to remind us that when we trust in Him, life is better. Through the uncertainty of it all we're seeing God work in extraordinary ways.

Finally, we request prayers for all who are suffering because of the COVID-19, and that the financial needs of our parish and parishioners be met. May God bless you and your family during this uncertain and challenging time.

Sincerely in Christ

Picnic Committee  
St. Anthony, Beckemeyer

Finance Council Members  
St. Anthony, Beckemeyer

Fr. Chuck Tuttle  
Pastor, with full approval