

FATHER SCOTT'S THOUGHTS

CHRIST BY THE SEA COLLABORATIVE



St. Anthony Of Padua Parish
10 Summer Street, Cohasset



St. Mary of the Assumption Parish/St. Ann Church
208 Samoset Avenue, Hull

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The stay-at-home advisory and suspension of the public celebration of Masses and most parish ministries caused by the pandemic forced us to get creative in finding ways to provide opportunities and resources for you to remain connected to the Church and your parish and to deepen your faith, religious, and spiritual lives while you were at home. Most, but not all, of this creativity involved the use of technology - email, websites, and social media (primarily Facebook). I understand that technology, in general, and social media, in particular, may not be possible or desirable for some people, but it would not be wise for us to leave these tools unused in our tool box as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and do our part to form disciples for Him.

It was Pope Saint John Paul II who first used the expression New Evangelization. The word "new" implies that there was an old evangelization! Indeed! The Church has always been about the work of evangelization - sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pope Saint John Paul II would identify what was "new" about the evangelization of which he spoke when talking to all the bishops of Latin America in 1983: "Today evangelization must be new in ardor, new in method, and new in means of expression."

When advisors to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI suggested starting a YouTube channel, he responded, "I want to be where the people are." He would later go on to use a term, perhaps being the first to use it, - the digital continent. If that's where people are living, we should be there to learn the language and the culture of the digital continent so to make Christ present there.

Though Facebook is not everyone's "cup of tea", the reach of each parish's Facebook page increased greatly during the stay-at-home advisory. During this time, the St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Facebook page went from 516 to 668 "likes" as of May 25, 2020. During that same time, the St. Anthony Parish page went from 359 to 554 "likes". That means that between the two parishes, 357 more people are receiving faith-based messages today than

were receiving them about ten weeks ago and that, in total, over 1,200 people are receiving faith-based Facebook messages from these parishes.

Even when the pandemic is over, the use of technology and digital media will remain an important tools for our mission. Because of that, each parish in the collaborative is working with Pro Sound Service of Braintree to install cameras and technology in the respective church buildings to allow for easier and more professional livestreaming of Masses, celebrations of other Sacraments, and prayer services. Think beyond the pandemic. The family member or friend who wants to be present for a Funeral, Wedding, Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion, or any other prayer service in the church, but can't because of age, health, distance, or any other reason, will be able to watch it live. Each parish has generous donors who are funding the equipment and installation for the livestreaming.

In addition, our parishes will be adding texting to our communication tools when we switch from Constant Contact to Flocknote. Flocknote is an email and texting communication tool created by faith-filled people for churches. Flocknote can help us reach more people at a moment's notice, often resulting in higher attendance, increased stewardship, and more connected parishes.

I look forward to taking our next steps together as we continue the gradual and incremental return to a full schedule of public Masses and ministries in our parishes.

Christ By the Sea Collaborative Virtual Mass Schedule for Pentacost, May30th/31st, 2020:

- St. Anthony of Padua livestreamed Masses may be viewed on the St Anthony's Parish/Rectory Facebook page. This weekend's Masses at St. Anthony of Padua are:
 - Saturday, May 30th at 5:30 pm.
 - Sunday, May 31st at 8:30 am.

- St. Mary of the Assumption livestreamed Masses may be viewed on the St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Facebook page. This weekend's Masses at St. Mary of the Assumption are:
 - Saturday, May 30th at 4:00 pm.
 - Sunday, May 31st at 10:00 am.

Upcoming Open Hours for The Churches:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday, May 25, 27 & 29
St. Anthony: 7:00-8:00 a.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday, May 26 & 28 St.
Mary: 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Please use the following doors when accessing the churches when they are open:

- **St. Anthony:** The only door open will be the side door closest to the parish center.
- **St. Mary:** The only door open will be the right side door on the Samoset Avenue side of the church. Handicap door accessibility can be arranged by contacting the parish office.

When visiting either church, please use these doors only, follow instructions for social distancing and sanitizing, and observe directions for confession. Please consider wearing a mask and gloves when coming to church. Confessions will be in the "cry" room at Saint Anthony Parish and in the hall at Saint Mary Parish. The confession area will be set up to preserve the confidentiality of the sacrament, practice social distancing, and allow each person to choose to remain anonymous or not.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Scott

Rev. Scott A. Euvrard

Pastor: St. Anthony Parish/Cohasset & St. Mary of the Assumption Parish/Hull

Twitter: @John410Catholic

"Hold fast to the rudder of faith, that you may not be shaken by the heavy storms of this world." St. Ambrose