



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
ALL ARE WELCOME

February 7, 2023

Dear Friends,

I want to share a decision that I have made with the incredible guidance and support of Bishop David Walkowiak and the team of physicians who have worked with me on my health challenges that began in April 2020 when I first contracted COVID. I am no longer capable of sustaining the responsibilities of my ministry as Pastor, so I will retire from my appointment effective July 1, 2023. Our plans for a seamless transition include continued support from many of you in the parish, retired priests in the area and an incredible staff in place to ensure the plans move forward.

As many of you are aware, I battled COVID in the early phases of the pandemic, then in March 2022, I experienced a “widow-maker” heart attack. COVID returned to me once again and through all it has been determined that I have what is known as the “long-hauler” symptom. This situation is leaving me with ongoing shortness of breath, daily chest pains, which cause tremendous anxiety and an important reminder that I must deal with this fatigue so that I don’t have another heart attack.

Bishop Walkowiak has been very understanding throughout this discernment. I will remain a priest, but will specifically retire from official pastoral duties. To support this transition beginning in July, I will relocate to live with my mother and remain a parishioner here.

I see a great future for St. Anthony’s parish and our growing school. I feel I am continually blessed to have the Holy Spirit at my side throughout my work as a pastor and beyond. It has been, and will continue to be a gift to gather as a community of prayer here at St. Anthony. And most of all I know that God continues to support and guide me as I will be called upon and support new areas of service.

I ask for your prayers during this transition and in particular for the full support of the many religious and lay people who will work alongside me and the Diocese throughout the upcoming changes. Pray for a cure of long-haulers and make certain you are up-to-date on all of your vaccines and boosters, so that no one has to endure the health situation that is changing my life.

In the Peace of Jesus,

Rev. Mark Przybysz,

Pastor