

St. Anthony Church

2021 - 2023

PARISH VISION PLAN

Prayer, Hospitality, Discipleship, Evangelization





First Grade Spanish Immersion Class

Dear parishioners of St. Anthony Parish,

Over the past few months, I've gathered with other parish leaders to discern goals and milestones, as well as specific activities, for our parish to engage in over the course of the next three years to help our parish grow and transform. Our focus is on the pillars of Prayer, Hospitality, Discipleship, and Evangelization.

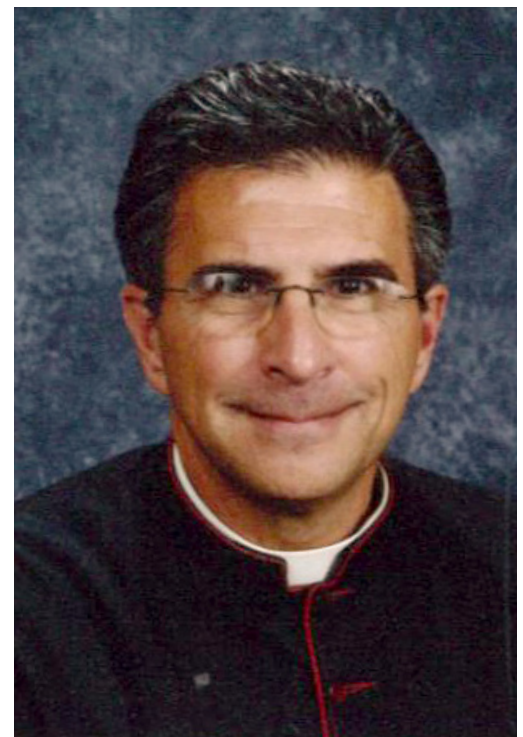
This three-year plan will be the guiding document for decisions made at the parish, and it also will guide our Business Office and the Finance and Pastoral Councils in their work. Our path forward includes something for everyone at the parish — from those who are new to those who have been part of our community for years.

There is much to be done, and this plan will give us clear direction. Please read this plan carefully so that you know the next steps our parish is taking and how you can be part of our future. I encourage you to visit our website at stanthonydsm.org to see how you can become involved.

As we chart this next course together, may God continue to bless you, your family, and our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. Frank Chiodo



You Are About To Enter Missionary Territory

MISSION & VALUES

Our Sacred Mission

Our sacred mission is to “Go and Make Disciples.” We live our mission by celebrating God’s presence in the Sacraments, fellowship, and prayer; welcoming all into our community; growing as Holy Disciples in formation; and being a witness to the Gospel to all we meet.

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The Values that Guide our Community

Prayer:

- We will deepen our personal relationship with Christ through intentional times of prayer each day.
- We will greet and acknowledge the presence of those around us at Masses and other parish events.
- We will promote an inviting environment to increase parishioner participation in the life of the parish.
- We will commit our time in the presence of the Lord in Adoration.

Hospitality:

- We will foster a “Culture of Belonging” where those in our parish family, all newcomers, all who visit our church, and all who just inquire about our parish will know of our hospitality and that we are a parish family that cares.
- We will be recognized as a Christ-centered, continuously growing, and loving community dedicated to compassionate outreach to anyone in need of spiritual, physical, and emotional comfort.

Discipleship:

- We will inspire faith by providing a variety of formation opportunities so all can fully participate in the life of the parish.
- We will walk with the youth and young adults of our parish to help them grow deep roots of faith.
- We will collectively continue to learn, grow, and teach each other the wisdom of the Gospel and celebrate our faith with joy.

Evangelization:

- We will witness to our personal relationship with Jesus Christ with all those we meet.
- We will strive to serve all of those in need in our parish, our community, and our world.
- We will develop outreach to Catholics who are not active in our parish.

PRAYER



Patriotic Rosary at the Grotto

*He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." **Luke 11:1***

As disciples of Jesus Christ, prayer must be ever on our lips. Through prayer, we adore God and make our requests known to Him. We offer Him thanks and praise, and we seek the intercession of Jesus and the saints. The community of St. Anthony Parish desires to grow in a deeper relationship with the Trinity by fostering an active prayer life that begins first and foremost with the highest act of prayer: the Mass. But prayer is not just meant to happen at church. To be true disciples of Christ, we are committed to deepening our relationship with Him through daily, personal prayer — an act that will only strengthen our parish community as a whole.

GOAL: Increase Mass attendance from the official Diocese October 2019 Mass Counts (pre-pandemic Mass Attendance) by 20%, by October 2022.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Members of the Parish Vision Committee will develop a survey to be sent to parishioners seeking to identify strengths, needs, and opportunities for improvement. Deliver survey starting at Easter Masses 2021.
- Create a Parish Marketing Committee in April 2021 to review survey results and develop a marketing plan targeting Southside and Downtown residents by July 2021.
- Reconvene committee every two months to review progress of the ministry and make recommendations to the Pastor.

GOAL: Increase opportunities for prayer as a community to include Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and a Daily Rosary through December 2023.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Increase the attendance of Confession by 25% from February 2021 to February 2022.
 - Evaluate if confession times are properly aligned (available on desirable days and times) by February 2021.
 - Develop a communication plan and training for parishioners about the Sacrament, a how-to, and integration into homilies.
- Grow our existing Adoration program to become a full Perpetual Adoration program (24-hour, Mon-Sat.) that is fully operational by December 2023. Currently Adoration begins at 9:15AM Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. Here is the plan to move toward a Perpetual program:
 - Add Monday (9 am to 8 pm) by June 2021.
 - Add Friday (9 am to 8 pm) by September 2021.
 - Add Saturday (6 am to 10 pm) by March 2022.
 - Add Friday over night through Sunday 10 pm by September 2022.
 - Expand all weekday hours 6 am to 10 pm by March 2023.
 - Expand hours on Monday 8:00 pm-Tuesday 9:00 am by May 2023.
 - Expand hours on Tuesday 8:00 pm-Wednesday 9:00 am by June 2023.
 - Expand hours on Wednesday 8:00 pm-Thursday 9:00 am by August 2023.
 - Expand hours on Thursday 8:00 pm-Friday 9:00 am by October 2023.
 - Expand hours on Friday 8:00 pm-Saturday 9:00 am by December 2023.
- Have a designated parishioner attend every weekday Mass to pray the Mission Prayer by June 2021.
 - Contact parish groups and have them provide members for all daily Masses by May 2021.
- Increase Parish participation in the existing daily Rosary (Currently said at 5:30PM M-S, and 3PM on Sunday both in person and online, 12:30 Spanish) by 10% from Feb. 1 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021, and each year thereafter.
 - Increase the number of parishioners willing to sign up to lead the daily Rosary one time each month – goal of adding 25 new people to lead the Rosary from May 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.

HOSPITALITY

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.
Romans 12:13

St. Anthony Parish desires to develop a culture of hospitality in which Jesus Christ is encountered by all those who approach our doors — be it physically or virtually. As a community of disciples of the One who counseled, “I was ... a stranger, and you welcomed me” (Mt 25:35), we seek to foster a culture where all are welcome, and where faith is ignited and strengthened. In all that we do, we seek to invite all people to Christ by leading with charity, humility and kindness.

GOAL: *Promote a welcoming culture by enhancing the Sunday Mass experience.*

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create a paid part-time position that is responsible for the “Sunday Mass experience” which includes organizing and training ushers and hospitality ministers.
 - Send out parish-wide announcement for hiring by the end of April 2021.
 - Have position filled by the end of June 2021.
 - Create Hospitality Committee by the end of May 2021 to develop a training program and a manual for those responsible for our parishioners and guest’s weekend Mass experience.
 - Will assist in the selection of the ministry leader and provide oversight of the program. Begin implementation in August 2021.
- Begin each Mass with a welcoming statement read from the pulpit.
 - Have the Parish Vision Committee draft a suggested script that is submitted to Msgr. for approval in February 2021.
 - Implement at Sunday Masses in March 2021.

GOAL: *Create opportunities to engage new parishioners and provide opportunities for fellowship weekly for our community.*

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create a Social/Fellowship Ministry that is responsible for engagement of parishioners by creating social oriented events. Some events, both large and small, will include opportunities for the entire parish to come together, and other events will celebrate the unique traditions and customs of our parishioners.
 - Send out parish wide announcement asking for volunteers in April 2021.
 - Have first meeting in May 2021.
 - Develop and finalize calendar of social events through December 2022 and required budget by the end of July 2021.
 - Reconvene committee every three months to review progress of the ministry and make recommendations to the Pastor.
 - Implement a monthly “Saturday After Mass” program where parishioners leave together after Mass on Saturday to socialize, and child-care is provided at St Anthony’s.
 - Social/Fellowship Committee will define program scope and program details by May 2021.
 - Business Office will organize staffing and logistical concerns by the end of June 2021.
 - Begin promotion in August 2021.
 - Implement in September 2021.
- Under the direction of the Pastoral Council, create an orientation process for newly registered parishioners and integrate them into parish life.
 - Have first meeting in October 2021.
 - Develop and finalize plans by the end of December 2021.
 - Begin implementation for all new parishioners that enroll beginning in March 2022.



Family Fest

DISCIPLESHIP

*Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:2***

From the time we are born until the time we die, we are called into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and through Him, God the Father. We were created to become saints, and St. Anthony Parish is committed to helping each and every parishioner walk in the footsteps of Christ, thereby also walking the path to heaven. Through prayer, scripture and the sacraments (especially the Eucharist), St. Anthony Parish is committed to forming intentional disciples who love and serve the Lord. Once on that path of lifelong conversion, our disciples are then emboldened to share Jesus' message of love and service with the world.

GOAL: *Implement a structured developed youth ministry program for students in grades 9-12 that allows them to develop their faith in a peer focused setting.*

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create a Youth/Young Adult Committee to research and select a program and make recommendations on how to best implement which may lead to hiring a leader. Recommendations to be completed by the end of June 2021.
- Begin implementation in September 2021.

GOAL: *Implement a young adult program for parishioners age 18-35 that allows them to develop their faith in a peer-focused setting.*

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Have Youth/Young Adult Committee develop ministry vision and goals and make recommendations which may lead to hiring a leader. Recommendations to be completed by the end of April 2022.
- Begin implementation in May 2022.

GOAL: *Develop an Adult Faith Formation program that meets the spiritual and non-spiritual needs of our parishioners (i.e., individual spiritual growth, marriage enrichment, singles, divorced, bereavement, financial, physical health, etc.).*

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Develop a survey asking parishioners what type of faith formation program interests them by April 2021.
- Create an Adult Faith Formation Committee in May 2021 to review results from survey and develop a calendar of programs beginning July 2021 through December 2022.
- Send out parish-wide announcement for an Adult Faith Formation Leader by end of March 2022.
- Have the position filled by the end of April 2022.

Stations of the Cross



EVANGELIZATION

*As each one has received a gift,
use it to serve one another as good
stewards of God's varied grace.*

1 Peter 4:10

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are not meant to keep our love for him to ourselves. On the contrary, we are called to "go ... and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). Jesus was sent by the Father into the world to save us, and St. Anthony Parish is committed to equipping and inspiring our parishioners to share this salvific message with those who do not yet believe. As Jesus himself said, He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no one goes to the Father except through Him (Jn 14:6)!



Corpus Christi

GOAL: Increase online interactions related to St. Anthony Parish by 100% from December 2020 to December 2021.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Develop new content for our social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Stream Spot, etc.) focusing on evangelization and faith renewal by June 2021.

GOAL: Identify opportunities in the Des Moines metro community where parishioners can practice the faith by serving those in most need and serve as witnesses to our faith.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Develop a working relationship with local Neighborhood Association(s) by having a parish representative attend at least nine meetings per year beginning in May 2021.
- Form a Community Evangelization team by April 2021 who is responsible to identify opportunities in the community where our parishioners can practice our faith.
- Present plan to the parish by June 2021.
- Implement plan by August 2021.

GOAL: Select an international parish and/or community to establish a long-term relationship with, where parishioners can practice the faith by serving those in most need and serve as witnesses to our faith.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Form an International Evangelization team responsible for selecting an international parish and/or community to establish a long-term support relationship with by June 2022.
- Present plan to the parish by October 2022.
- Implement plan by January 2023.

St Anthony Church
15 Indianola Rd
Des Moines, IA 50315



PARISH VISION PLAN

St. Anthony Church

Loving God,

We thank You for the many gifts and blessings You have given us. Help us remember that every good gift comes from You and is given for the good of all people. With Your grace, teach us to pattern our lives after Your Son, Jesus Christ. Living as His disciples, help us to imitate His generosity so that, in all that we say and all that we do, we may advance the Kingdom.

Enable us to live out this mission by spreading the Gospel, and by making use of our time, talent and treasure to form our parishes into vibrant sources of love and service.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.