

St. Anthony Parish
Handbook & Welcoming Guide



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ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH

WELCOME!

We are happy to have you with us. St. Anthony is an active parish with many persons sharing their special gifts and talents in a variety of ways, all serving the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Each person brings his/her own unique experiences, faith, enthusiasm and ideas to help meet the needs of God's people in this parish and in the wider church.

We invite and encourage you to become involved in parish life and activities. We are here to serve one another. Please call the rectory if there is anything you do not understand. We hope that you find St. Anthony a place of spiritual growth, nourishment, and excitement as we worship together, work together and celebrate together God's life in us. We are glad that you have joined the St. Anthony Parish family.

Please keep this Parish Handbook for future reference. Review it periodically and prayerfully consider how you might become more involved in our parish. Your participation in the life of St. Anthony is essential in making our parish a real community and it is very much appreciated.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, as disciples of Jesus Christ, gather together as an inclusive Eucharistic community to praise and worship God.

We commit ourselves to be good stewards in sharing our time, talent, and treasure in service to God and others.

We commit ourselves to lifelong faith formation so that we can live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world.

HISTORY

The beginning of St. Anthony Parish is interwoven with the history of St. Anthony School. A small frame one room building was apparently constructed in 1868. The new parish evolved from the school and was known as St. Malachi until the year 1880. The first pastor was assigned in late 1875. In 1900, during the pastorate of Father O'Malley (1898 – 1952) the present church dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua was constructed. Up until that time, the parish had been known by four different names: St. Malachi, St. Aidan, St. Ambrose, and St. Anthony. Eleven pastors have administered to the spiritual needs of the parish in more than 100 years of existence. The Sisters of Charity, BVM were associated with the school program from 1917 to 1992.

The church structure is an example of the Gothic style of architecture. Like many of the beautiful cathedrals constructed in the Gothic style, one of the key design elements of our church is the beauty of the stained glass windows. These windows tell the story of the life of Christ and the establishment of the church. Another interesting feature of the church is the series of paintings adorning the walls. In the 1930s, Fr. O'Malley contracted with two artists from Italy. The painters came to Dubuque and lived in the homes of parishioners while

creating the paintings. They worked in the old school building where they painted on canvases spread out on the floor. Once the paintings were completed, the canvases were hung on the walls of the church. During renovation of our church in 1996, the canvases were carefully removed, cleaned, and re-hung after the walls were painted.

The Second Vatican Council directed that the altar for the sacrifice of the Mass should face the people. St. Anthony Church, like many Catholic churches of the time, underwent a renovation in the 1960s to conform to this directive. The original altars and the main altar, along with the communion rail, were removed. A new altar, facing the people, was installed. In 1982, the church was redecorated and this altar was replaced. In 1988, the Parish Improvement Committee was established with the goal of assessing and prioritizing the needs of the parish, as they pertained to a major renovation of the church. The Church Improvement Committee was established in 1990, and in 1991 an architect was hired to plan the renovations. The church renovations were to reflect the history and profile of St. Anthony parish, follow the vision of the Church renewal liturgy, and make the church accessible for all people. Construction began on April 18, 1996. On September 1, a Transition Liturgy was held. Parishioners carried liturgical objects and the Blessed Sacrament to a temporary worship space in the school gym. On December 14, 1996, Archbishop Jerome Hanus rededicated the renovated church.

The renovated St. Anthony church was awarded the Archdiocesan Special Needs Award on April 25, 2000 in recognition of ministries to persons with disabilities in the area of properly providing greater accessibility to all.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Church Bulletin

Our bulletin is published weekly and contains the current happenings and information of importance to our parishioners. Should you fail to receive one on the weekend, extra copies are available in the church vestibule, at the rectory, or online at <http://stanthony-dubuque.org>.

Parish Calendar

The calendar lists the Mass schedule, important phone numbers, activities and organizational meetings and names of our parish leaders and staff. The calendar also lists many of the daily activities in the parish.

The Voice of St. Anthony

Our Newsletter is published four times a year and contains articles on the different events, happenings, activities, and personalities of the parish and its organizations.

St. Anthony Parish Website

The website contains all the useful information about St. Anthony and its ministries and activities in the above publications and much more. We encourage you to visit the website to get current parish information at a click of a button. The website address is <http://stanthony-dubuque.org>.

PARISH COMMITTEES

Parish Council

A policy-making body whose decisions are binding when ratified by the Pastor in all matters except where explicitly limited by the church or civil law. It was established in 1968 and reorganized in 1985. The Council is composed of 12 elected members and the Education and Faith Formation Committee president. The Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except June and July, at 7:00 P.M. in the Conference room. Meetings are open to all.

Liturgy Committee

Concerned with the liturgical needs of the parish. Its foremost responsibilities are the planning and coordinating of liturgies. The Liturgy committee includes the coordinators of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Ministers of the Word, Ushers, Greeters (Ministers of Hospitality), Environment, Music, Mass servers/candle bearers and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The **function** of the committee is to *prepare liturgies* that engage the full, active and conscious participation of the entire community, *enhance the celebration* of the various liturgical seasons through means such as environment and music, and *educate, train, and form parishioners* to serve in various liturgical ministries. The **membership** of the Liturgy Committee consists of the ministry coordinators, a parish council member and any other interested persons.

Spiritual Growth Committee

Provides prayer, devotional, educational and spiritual growth opportunities to awaken and nurture our spiritual hunger and enriches our faith walk with Jesus in and through the Catholic Church, thus encouraging commitment to lifelong faith formation. The **function** of the Spiritual Growth Committee is to

help implement the Parish Mission Statement, *reach out* to current and former members of St. Anthony parish and to the un-churched in the area, *provide prayer and devotional opportunities* for adults and families, *develop and promote opportunities* for spiritual growth through *small faith sharing groups, renewal events, special programs and a parish library*. The Spiritual Growth Committee also *evaluates current programs* to ensure they are serving the goals of the committee and parish mission statement.

The *membership* of the Spiritual Growth Committee includes the Director of Adult Faith Formation, at least one member of the Parish Council, at least one member of the Education and Faith Formation Committee, and any other interested adult parishioner. Efforts are made to have a diverse committee and to attract members from other parish ministries.

Social and Human Concerns Committee

Has the purpose of promoting and coordinating programs that bring about justice and charity in the world-wide community. This committee specifies a special 2nd collection each month for charities and missions beyond the parish.

Finance and Administration Committee

Responsible for planning, providing for and supervising the financial affairs and the physical properties of the parish. It is concerned with the budget, stewardship and church support, and the effective utilization and maintenance of the parish plant. This committee thus provides the necessary administrative and financial skills needed to sustain the mission and ongoing development of the parish community. Financial Review and Building & Grounds are subcommittees of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Parish Advocacy Committee

Their mission is to respond to persons with all types of disabilities and to continually research how it can best meet the spiritual and physical needs of persons with disabilities,

enabling them to fully participate in the life of the church community. The parish encourages people with disabilities to participate and be involved as active contributors in our community of faith using their God-given talents and capacity. St. Anthony has wheelchair accessibility, a monthly signed Mass, and provides hearing assistance devices for those who are in need of them.

Parish Life Committee

Has the responsibility for enabling the parish to participate in the ministry of Jesus Christ in building a Christian community. The Parish Life Committee encourages participation through programs and social interaction that strengthen Christian community. Its scope of activity includes those parish activities which foster the community life of the parish.

Bereavement Support Group is designed to help grieving members of our parish, especially those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Some members attend wakes, funerals, and keep contact with the bereaved as a means of support. This group meets the *third Monday* of the month.

Homebound Ministry at St. Anthony provides several opportunities for communion to the elderly and disabled of the parish. Our pastoral associate takes communion each month and St. Anthony Eucharistic Ministers take communion each week. We also have a group of ministers who take communion to Luther Manor every week.

Community Sunday is an event open to all members of the parish, *especially* for *new parishioners*. It is held on the *third Sunday* of each month from September through May, unless otherwise specified. This event takes place in O'Malley Hall after each of the Sunday Masses. The purpose is to foster community in the parish.

Religious Education & Faith Formation Committee

(formally known as the Board of Education and Faith Formation) is the policy-making body for the life-long faith formation of all parish members. It is the voice of the parish community in catechetical planning, goal setting and program development in accord with the intent and spirit of the parish mission statement. The committee is composed of ten elected members, one of whom is the parish representative on the Holy Family School Board, and the pastor. The committee meets each month, except July, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:15 P.M. in the Parish Conference Room. Meetings are open to all parishioners.

Haiti Committee

Their mission is to serve those people in need at *St. Montfort Parish in Port de Paix, Haiti* by: *encouraging* linkages between Catholic parishioners at St. Montfort Parish and at St. Anthony Parish, *providing* resources and support in educational, medical, and economic areas, *developing* models for parish action that may be shared with other twinning parishes, *encouraging* prayerful solidarity with our sisters and brothers at St. Montfort Parish, and *promoting* awareness among Catholics of the injustices present in Haiti, and our gospel call to respond.

OTHER PARISH GROUPS/SERVICES

St. Anthony School

The school is currently part of the Holy Family Catholic School System as a grade K-8 primary school. Junior High students are in a shared time, half day program at Jones Junior High. Qualified teachers instruct students in all basic subjects plus music, computers, physical education and TAG (Talent and Gifted) programs for the gifted as well as for special needs students. The school also provides guidance and counseling, with support services from Keystone Area Educational Agency. Our Media Centers are well equipped and professionally staffed. In addition to our K-8 program, we have a Pre-school program which meets two to three days a week in the morning and the afternoon. Minimum weekly church support in addition to tuition is expected of all families with children in St. Anthony School. For more information, call the school office. This school has been approved by the Holy Family Board of Education as one of the two Dubuque Catholic Middle Schools starting in 2005/2006 school year.

Wahlert High School

Since 1959, Wahlert has been the central high school for the Catholic parishes in Dubuque and the nearby Catholic communities.

Religious Education Program

A program for children and youth who attend one of our public schools. There is a full religious education curriculum for K through High School. Classes meet from 6:30 to 7:45 P.M. on Wednesday evenings. The curriculum focuses on growth in faith through the areas of message, community, worship, and service. Catechists are committed to their ministry of sharing the Good News with children and youth. They participate in on-going formation and training.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Worship for children ages 5 – grade three. It is offered during the 9:15 mass each Sunday, with the exception of Easter Sunday. This worship is designed to include children in the Liturgy of the Word that is a part of every Mass. Children come to Mass with their families. After the Opening Prayer, they are sent forth to celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word in the Kutsch Conference Room, which is located in O'Malley Hall (church basement). The children rejoin the assembly for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. No registration is necessary.

Little Christian Preschool

For 3, 4, and 5-year olds who have not yet begun kindergarten. Classes are held on Sunday mornings during the 9:15 A.M. Mass. Little Christian Preschool encourages children to learn about their relationships with themselves, God, parents, friends, and the world around them. Catechists provide basic lessons which are based on the Sunday Gospel and include storytelling, arts, crafts, and games.

Youth Ministry

A program for all high school aged youth of St Anthony Parish and is designed to foster the spiritual and personal growth of these young Catholics. The youth minister on staff coordinates and facilitates programming and is assisted by a team of other adults from the parish. There are regularly scheduled gatherings for youth on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month as well as other special events and projects are also made available. These activities include retreats, youth rallies, service projects and trips, social events, prayer experiences, and fund-raising as needed. Youth are encouraged to participate in programs offered by youth ministry but are also encouraged to participate fully in the life of the parish and especially Sunday Mass.

St. Anthony Parents Organization

Composed of parents who have children enrolled in St. Anthony School. Its purposes are to increase parental understanding and

involvement in their children's education and to augment the educational resources of the school program.

Parish Library

Located in the conference room which is entered to the left of the altar or from the Sacristy. It is self-service and available any time the church is open. Binder is provided to check items in and out.

Small Faith Sharing Groups

An opportunity to sift and sort the things that count, explore our faith and connect it to the situations and questions of our lives. They are a large part of our parish commitment to lifelong faith formation. They help us develop an adult faith that seeks understanding through questioning, probing, and critically reflecting on the meaning of God's revelation in our lives. The *Director of Adult Faith Formation* is available for more information on how you can participate.

Prayer Line

A ministry in which about thirty parishioners are committed to regular prayer for the needs that are phoned in each day. The prayer line can be accessed by calling the phone numbers listed on the front of the bulletin.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Baptism I

A program for new parents or soon to be new parents who will be bringing their child to the St. Anthony Community for initiation into the Church. The meaning and symbols of the sacrament are discussed along with expectations for parents and sponsors. Sessions usually meet the first Monday of August, November, February, and May.

Baptism II/Christian Parenting

A program for parents who are having their second child baptized at St. Anthony. The session focuses on developing healthy self esteem and faith growth in young children. Sessions meet on the second Thursday of February, May, August, and November.

Family Sacramental Program

Offers support and information to families who are preparing a child for the sacraments of **First Reconciliation and First Communion**. Parent meetings and a family meeting for each sacrament are held in the fall and early spring. The parish **Director of Religious Education** coordinates sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Confirmation

Ordinarily occurs during the sophomore year of high school and is another sacramental step in our on-going Christian journey of faith. Facilitators lead youth in general sessions and “sharing” groups that seek to enable youth to develop a deeper, richer understanding of their baptismal commitment.

Confirmation Core Team

A group of parishioners who work with the **Youth Catechesis Coordinator** to provide a program of preparation for youth who will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. Together, they plan and carry out the components of the candidate interviews, a retreat, and the celebration of Confirmation.

Sponsor Couples

A program open to married couples who would like to have the opportunity to share their experiences and prepare engaged couples for married life. This is done in the married couple's home and requires 3-4 meetings with an engaged couple. Materials are provided.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CLASSES

Pre-Cana Classes

Sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese and are held on a Saturday and Sunday five times a year at Loras College. Leader couples and professional personnel discuss spiritual and material aspects of marriage.

Engaged Encounters

Held Friday through Sunday about ten times a year at the American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls for engaged couples. Engaged Encounter focuses on communication and sharing between the spouses to be.

Marriage Encounter

Provides an opportunity for couples to pause and examine their lives together and rediscover each other so that the hurry and hassles of modern life do not threaten the love in marriage. It is a structured, Christian, marriage enrichment program guided by a team. It is for couples who wish to deepen and enrich their marriage relationships. Other programs are available for troubled marriages.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is the liturgical and formational process of Christian initiation that takes place within the parish community. It is the process by which adults may become full members of the Catholic Church. It consists of periods of inquiry, catechesis, and Lenten preparation with special rites that lead to the Easter sacraments of initiation. The period following Easter is a time for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth and for entering fully into the life of the community.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ACTIVITIES

Emmaus

Emmaus is a Christian experience weekend. St. Anthony has both a men's and women's Emmaus Weekend each year. The weekends are usually held in March and are open to all St. Anthony parishioners. Members of other parishes also often participate. The Core Group is comprised of rectors from the last three years. This group meets regularly for prayer and makes decisions and addresses concerns regarding Emmaus.

Bible Study Groups

This group meets to share knowledge, ideas and insights on a particular gospel or book of the Bible that the group chooses to study. Bible study groups meet at various times of the year and are announced in the Bulletin. Groups that meet during Lent and Fall meet weekly. The other times of the year may vary in the frequency of meetings.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Parish Picnic

Held annually on the third Sunday of September. It features many games for all ages, a delicious dinner, and helps to build community among our parishioners.

Community Sunday

An event open to all members of the parish, *especially* for *new parishioners*. It is held on the *third Sunday* of each month from September through May, unless otherwise specified. This event takes place in O'Malley Hall after each of the Sunday Masses. This is an excellent way for us to experience community as a parish. Coffee, donuts and milk are served amidst good conversation. Various groups act as guest servers.

Vocation Committee

Open to all parishioners. It seeks out members who will pray daily for an increase of vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. A Mass is celebrated on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:45 A.M. for religious vocations. A Recognition Night is usually held in the spring of the year for the Altar Servers and Candlebearers.

St. Vincent De Paul Society

A group of people who visit the hospitals and nursing homes and assist the needy with food, fuel, etc. when requested. The District Conference, of which St. Anthony is a member, operates the St. Vincent de Paul store and also sends a semi-truck full of food, clothing, etc. to Mexico every other month and to the Indian missions in the Dakotas.

Vestment and Altar Linen Committee

Responsible for the care of the purificators, finger towels, albs, altar cloths, credence table covers, and altar server cassocks.

Right to Life Committee

Open to all people committed to praying for and working to preserve the right and dignity of all human persons, from the moment of conception to natural death. The committee members attempt to keep abreast of the legislation on respect-life issues and contact legislators regarding these issues. Prayer for the protection and sanctity of all human persons is strongly encouraged.

Knights of Columbus #8384

A local Council of the international Catholic, lay organization and is open to all men, ages 18 and older who are practicing Catholics. Fundraisers are held throughout the year such as the Omelet Breakfasts, with the proceeds going to the St. Anthony Endowment Fund. The local Council also sponsors events for *Church, Community, and Youth* (Family picnics, canoe outings, couples golf, and couples moonlighting bowling).

Rosary Society

Open to all women of the parish. It sponsors and directs many activities for the parish. General meetings are held in September, November, and March. Many activities are carried out by the Circles, which are smaller groups of women who meet either in the parish hall, or in the homes of members. The Circle names are **Agape, Holy Family, St. Anne, St. Bernadette, St. Joan of Arc, St Joseph,** and **St. Peter.** For meeting times refer to the parish calendar or the weekly church bulletin. Projects include assisting at the Parish Picnic, sponsoring a Craft and Bake sale, pre-Easter bake sale, serving funeral dinners, hosting the Holy Thursday potluck and the annual church cleaning, and receptions for staff members. Dues are \$3.00 per year and new members are always welcome.

Candlebearers & Mass Servers

St. Anthony Church has an active program to encourage the youth of the parish to participate in masses as candlebearers and mass servers. This *participation* creates a respect for the *liturgy* and the *Eucharist* that will grow with them as they grow

as individuals. It is our hope that this experience will help them to *develop a strong faith* and the *desire* and *courage* to *practice* that faith as they mature and approach the beginning of their adult lives. All girls and boys who are members of St. Anthony parish in grades 5-12 are encouraged to participate. New servers are provided with training and then are scheduled as Mass servers for daily Masses and as candlebearers for Sunday Masses. Because of their schedules eighth grade and high school students are scheduled only for Sunday Masses.

Girl Scouts

Open to girls in the parish ages 5-18. The girls are divided into troops according to grades and are classified as Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes or Seniors. Activities include arts and crafts, field trips, service projects, and work on patches and Catholic awards.

Cub Scouts

Open to all boys in grades 1-5. Boys are divided according to grades into dens of Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos. Activities include arts, crafts, field trips, service projects, and work on patches and medals.

Boy Scouts

Open to all boys from 11-18 years old. The Advancement Program consists of Tenderfoot, First Class, Second Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Troop 7 meets every Monday night from 7:00-9:00 P.M. in the school cafeteria. The program includes camp outs, hikes, canoe trips, service projects, week long summer camp, sight seeing trips, as well as the National World Jamboree.