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Evangelization

We've been hearing a lot about evangelization these days. If you're like me, the word conjures up images of revivals and crusades held in huge stadiums back in the 1960s and 70s. But I don't think that's what Archbishop Zinkula has in mind when he identifies evangelization as the first priority in fully living out the mission and values of our church. The Journey in Faith website clarifies:

EVANGELIZATION:

To share the Gospel with those yet to know Jesus, with those who feel disconnected from their faith, and with those seeking a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church.

www.dbqjourneyinfaith.org

How do we at St. Anthony evangelize? This issue of The Voice recognizes some of our various forms of fulfilling that mission, and may prompt us to consider how we are further called to prioritize evangelization, both personally and as a parish.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

STA Book Club: Lenten reading to be announced at a later date.

JANUARY

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass, 9:00 a.m.
- 14 1st Reconciliation, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Community Sunday

FEBRUARY.....

- 8 Knights of Columbus Omelet Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.-Noon
- 15 Community Sunday
- 17 Mardi Gras Party/Goodbye Alleluia
- 18 Ash Wednesday Masses, 7:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.
- 20,27 Stations of the Cross, Every Friday during Lent @ 5:15 p.m.

MARCH.....

- 6-27 Stations of the Cross, Every Friday during Lent @ 5:15 p.m.
- 15 Community Sunday
- 29-30 Parish Mission

Questions? Check the bulletin or website for more information, or call the Faith Formation Office.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

By Carol and John Balong

We all evangelize every minute of every day as we live our faith as Catholic Christians. We need not use words. Our actions are what speak for us in the world. But there are other times when evangelization is a bit more formal. Think of religious education classes or sacramental preparation. One other, more formal, time for evangelization is the program called OCIA.

This program is a set of meeting times when people explore the idea of learning about, and possibly joining, the Catholic Church. They are led through information sessions based on scripture that show them the richness of the faith. Sessions are based on the four pillars of the Catholic faith as listed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

1. Participants learn about the beliefs of our faith as stated in the creed;
2. They learn about liturgy and the sacraments, and the wonderful traditions that enliven our faith;
3. They explore what the church describes as the "moral life," and the fact that Catholic Social Teaching guides our lives as Catholics; and, finally,
4. Prayer life is described and explored in as many forms as possible. Jesus told us to pray always, so exposure to different forms of prayer leads people to find ways to deepen their relationships to our beloved creator and our savior Jesus.

OCIA is a wonderful example of evangelization in the modern world.

Our OCIA Journey

By Mark and Stephanie Fuehrer

Our names are Mark and Stephanie Fuehrer, we have been happily married for six years. We are blessed with two sons, and our family also includes four dogs and a cat. We've owned a painting business in town called Fuehrer Painting LLC for about six years now, and Stephanie has dedicated 14 years to working as a caregiver with the Sisters of St. Francis, and is also recently employed at YoungUns Child Care Center and Preschool.

We were not raised in very religious households, nor did we attend church every week. Mark recalls having friends who were unable to play on Wednesdays due to their CCD classes, which made him feel as though he was missing something, and Stephanie attended small Bible studies when she was younger, as it was



The Fuehrer family: (L-R) Elijah, Stephanie, Isaiah and Mark

something she enjoyed. As we started our own family, we decided to have our children baptized. Stephanie had been baptized Catholic but had never received Holy Eucharist or had been confirmed. Mark was baptized into what he was told was an "Open Bible" congregation, though to this day, no one we have spoken with seems to recognize that denomination. This is something we feel a need to address.

In 2019 we began exploring various parishes in which to have our sons baptized. As mentioned, we do not come from an extremely religious background and many people these days do not attend church or pursue the sacraments, so we encountered some difficulty in finding godparents for our boys. Then along came COVID, so things were pushed back even further than we wanted. We eventually discovered St. Anthony's thanks to Stephanie's brother, the boys' godfather, and after setting up a meeting, it immediately felt like home. We were warmly welcomed, our questions were thoroughly answered, and we felt no pressure whatsoever. We did not feel as though we had been doing anything wrong for the past 30 years.

While managing our lives, careers and the process of baptizing our sons, our eldest son, who is seven, began

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preparing for Reconciliation and First Communion and attending his classes, we felt a strong desire to participate in the same journey, as we wanted to do this as a family. We found ourselves unable to adequately answer his questions, and as parents, this was a concern for us. We realized we had many of the same questions and also sought answers. So, we inquired, and once again, our questions were answered, marking the beginning of our own spiritual journey.

When it was time to begin the OCIA classes, we initially had some reservations as we had no idea what to expect or how this was going to go.

The books utilized have been quite beneficial to our faith journey. We particularly appreciate the way everyday metaphors have been incorporated into the teachings and so much enjoyed the conversations and discussions in class. We found ourselves looking forward to class each week and to see our fellow teachers and classmates.

As mentioned previously, we encountered some difficulty in finding godparents for our children. Similarly, when we began searching for a sponsor, it felt like an arduous task. Interestingly, later we realized we had been meeting with them every Tuesday for the past four months (I'm not sure if this is accurate, but I believe close). We subsequently asked John and Carol to be our sponsors and they happily and readily accepted with nothing short of support and guidance through it all. We firmly believe they are an excellent fit for us and our family, and we are confident that they will continue to provide all we may need in the years to come. Not only have they been great teachers but a wonderful support system. Even the most uncomfortable questions, conversations and doubts we may have had ended up being not uncomfortable at all.



(L-R) John Balong (sponsor) and Mark Fuehrer

We intend to continue our faith journey and attend Mass as frequently as possible. Regarding further involvement, we anticipate seeing where this path leads us, trusting that divine guidance will illuminate our way. We are considering volunteering at a soup kitchen as a starting point, to contribute to the community. We hope this account is helpful to anyone seeking to explore their faith. If you are exploring, our advice to you is to simply take the next step. You never know where it may lead you and there is likely a reason you are contemplating it or have been presented with this opportunity. Even if you explore and find it's not the right fit for you, we are confident you will at least learn something about yourself.



Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors—Front: (L-R) Kirk Anderson, Adela Anderson, Diane Kopp, Crystal Anderson and Hillary Atkinson. Back: (L-R) Chad Schockemoehl, Ricci Giambruno, Mark Fuehrer, Stephanie Fuehrer, Carol Balong, Mark Hennessy, John Balong, Noah Johnson and Fr. Steve.



Catechumens and Candidates—Front: (L-R) Adela Anderson, Crystal Anderson and Hillary Atkinson. Back: (L-R) Ricci Giambruno, Mark Fuehrer, Kirk Anderson, Stephanie Fuehrer and Noah Johnson.

Done on This Side Videos Weave Networks of Relationships

By Kyle and Stephanie Klapatauskas

In July of 2025, Pope Leo addressed a gathering of Catholic digital missionaries and influencers where he challenged them to not simply be focused on “generating content” but to create “an encounter of hearts.” For the past three-and-a-half years, Stephanie and I have been trying to follow the Pope’s message through our YouTube channel Done on This Side (which is named after Saint Lawrence—the patron saint of comedians—who said “Turn me over, I’m done on this side” while being martyred on a burning grill.)

Since Stephanie and I posted our first videos on April 1, 2022 the most fulfilling part has truly been the encountering of hearts. While we certainly appreciate people who watch and share our videos and subscribe to our channel, we have especially enjoyed the encounters. Sometimes this encounter occurs in public when someone stops to tell us they enjoyed a recent video, which often turns into a larger conversation. At other times the encounter is when a group is talking and someone suggests a particular story would make a good video. Perhaps the most enjoyable encounters, though, are in the filming of our videos. In addition to other friends, family and community members, we’ve especially been blessed to have had several St. Anthony parishioners say “yes” to being in one of our videos. A special connection and bond is formed with every actor. While filming doesn’t take long, there’s always small talk where we get to learn a little more about each other, and of course there is laughter as we



“play” and act silly. St. Thomas Aquinas argued that leisure—when rightly ordered—is not only necessary, but that it’s virtuous, and while we attach a scripture verse to each video we create, one of our prayers before filming is to make something beautiful for God.

On one of the Sundays leading up to when we posted our first video, the Gospel reading was Jesus telling the apostles to cast their nets which has been a focus of our prayers ever since. In the same address to influencers back in July, Pope Leo reflected on how “Jesus called his first apostles while they were mending their fishing nets” and that we should use our talents to weave “networks of relationships” and “love”. While Done on This Side highlights the humor in family life, living in Dubuque, and our Catholic faith, one of our goals is to show that our joy does not simply come from humor, but rather, from God.



Check it out now:

Watch Fr. Steve in one of our recent episodes:
<https://tinyurl.com/DoneOnTheSideHolyOdors>



Book Sale as Evangelization

By Jamie Easley

Could it be that simple? We gather books, open the doors and invite the community in, and we’re evangelizing? When many Catholics hear the

word “evangelization,” they imagine door-to-door canvassing with pamphlets and preaching on street corners. Not really our style.

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I've walked into the annual book sale at O'Malley Hall countless times, drawn by the promise of hidden treasures. And there she is—Bev Rech—stationed at the sales table with a welcoming smile and kind eyes. She greets each person as if they belong. Other volunteers join her, offering the same spirit of generosity. For some visitors, stepping into this space may be the first time they've entered a church building in years.

We know the book sale functions as community outreach. Painted signs and online posts bring neighbors and strangers alike. But could it also function as a form of evangelization? I initially thought comparing the two was a weak stretch.

Then I remember the moment I met Deacon Jim Luksetich in the hallway of the school where he served as counselor. He wore a large, very visible crucifix. My immediate thought was, *"Hey, he's my people!"* In that moment, in that public space, I felt at home. Inspired, I began wearing a crucifix every day also in a highly visible way. It has inspired conversations many times. Such a small act—but it brings Jesus into the mainstream.

As our archdiocese reminds us, evangelization is giving witness to the Gospel through our words and deeds. The world needs that witness now more than ever. We live in a time of deep division—even within our own

faith communities. What can heal division? Encounters of grace. Sometimes that means creating opportunities for encounter—like a book sale in a church hall.

Visitors to the book sale may come looking for bargains, but what they find is something more—a warm smile, the joy of community. Church is a place of worship, but those within are also a family that welcomes and cares for all who enter. That small encounter with volunteers at the sales table can plant the seed of faith.

Can we grow stronger in evangelization? Always. I envision the three sales days with a coffee corner and a box where folks can submit prayer requests or requests for more information. And perhaps signs posted about the room encouraging folks to join us at Mass and listings of our available ministries and other opportunities for involvement. Would it be worth it for the potential one or two souls that respond? As Mother Teresa said, "God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful."

Next year, when people see the sale announcements, they might not remember the books they purchased. But they will remember how they felt—welcomed and loved. And that memory is the beginning of evangelization.

Digital Tools for Evangelization

Evangelization is the act of spreading the Christian gospel through preaching, sharing one's faith and living as an example. It involves inviting others to know and love Jesus Christ by sharing the faith through words and actions. Today we live in a digital world, so reaching the masses looks a little different than in years past. We have various social media outlets, websites and livestreaming channels with which to share the message of Jesus with others. St. Anthony Parish has a Facebook page, a website, a YouTube channel and Flocknote just to name a few.

FACEBOOK

St. Anthony's Facebook page has 622 followers and



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on average we receive over 4,000 views per week. That is 4,000 opportunities to share Jesus' message. We currently follow 15 groups and organizations such as the Archdiocese of Dubuque, the Dubuque Rescue Mission and Mary's Inn, just to name a few.

We like to stay connected to update and share with our parishioners/followers what is happening in our community. We also like to share what is happening at St. Anthony's Parish. We post parish and Faith Formation events such as Lenten opportunities, Emmaus Day, the Parish Mission, OCIA and the sacraments that help us grow in faith as individuals as well as a parish community.

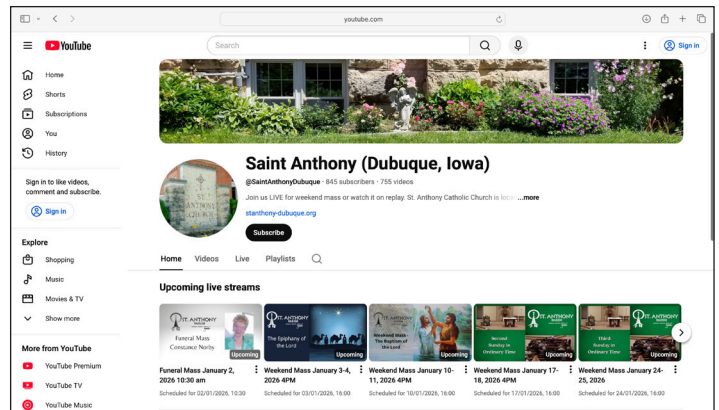
Catholic social media is a great resource we use to help us share about the day's scripture readings, to note special holy days, to celebrate the saints, provide encouraging words and help us grow in faith. If you would like to view and follow our Facebook page, please go to www.facebook.com/stanthonydbq. You can also find it on our website.



CHURCH WEBSITE

Are you unsure what events are happening at St. Anthony's? You can go on our website to find out all there is to know. We post all parish and faith formation events to help us grow in faith, grow as a community and to share Jesus' love with others. Our website is easy to navigate and divided into tabs such as Ministries, Faith Formation and even a calendar of events. Mass times are also easy to find.

To get involved, check out Parish Involvement and fill out the Time and Talent Survey under the Ministries tab. To join the Thursday book group, go to the Faith Formation tab to see what they are reading and sign up. If you are unable to attend Mass in person you can go on our website and click the YouTube button on our home page. Our website keeps you connected to the opportunities to share Jesus with others. To check out our website go to www.stanthony-dubuque.org.



YOUTUBE

YouTube is a valuable tool we use to help keep others connected to Christ and our parish community. We have 835 subscribers and 752 videos to share. We livestream a Mass each weekend (Saturday Mass at 4 p.m.), special Masses, prayer services, music events, special parish events, weddings and funerals. On average we have 148 views for a weekend Mass, 102 views for a funeral Mass, and for prayers services or special events we average around 48 views per event.

We want to share the love of God with the home bound, those who are out of town and those who may have missed Mass or events due to prior obligations. If you would like to check out our YouTube channel go to www.youtube.com/c/SaintAnthonyDubuque. You may also find it on the home page of our website.

FLOCKNOTE

Flocknote is a communication tool primarily used by churches and ministries to send emails and text messages to their members. St. Anthony's Flocknote has 735 members. We primarily use Flocknote to share news and events via a monthly newsletter, religious education communication, sacramental preparation communication and parish announcements and updates. If you would like to sign up for Flocknote go to Stanthony7.flocknote.com or text SANTHONY to 84576. You may also find it on our website under Publications.

Check out any of these digital communications for opportunities to share the faith and Jesus' love with others.

 **Facebook.com/stanthonydbq**

Website: **Stanthony-dubuque.org/**

 **Youtube.com/c/SaintAnthonyDubuque**

 **flocknote** **Stanthony7.flocknote.com**



When You Sing, You Pray Twice

- St. Augustine

By Dave McDermott

Music serves a much more important function at St. Anthony's than just getting the priest up the aisle or as fill for when other functions of the Mass take place. Music serves as a powerful vehicle for evangelization because it transcends cultural and social barriers, allowing the message of the gospels to reach hearts in a unique way. Unlike most spoken words, music engages emotions and imagination, creating an environment where spiritual truths can be experienced rather than merely understood intellectually. Through melody and rhythm, the Gospel can be communicated in a manner that resonates deeply, fostering a sense of connection and openness to God's presence. Sacred music, for example, has historically played a central role in worship and missionary efforts. Hymns and liturgical songs not only teach doctrine but also invite participation, making the faith accessible to both believers and seekers. More recently, contemporary Christian music extends this reach beyond church walls, using modern styles to speak to younger generations in a language they understand. By blending art with theology, music becomes a bridge between the divine and the human experience.



Music Ministers—(L-R) Dave McDermott, Nancy Spalla, Sandra Gaul and Bob Bildstein

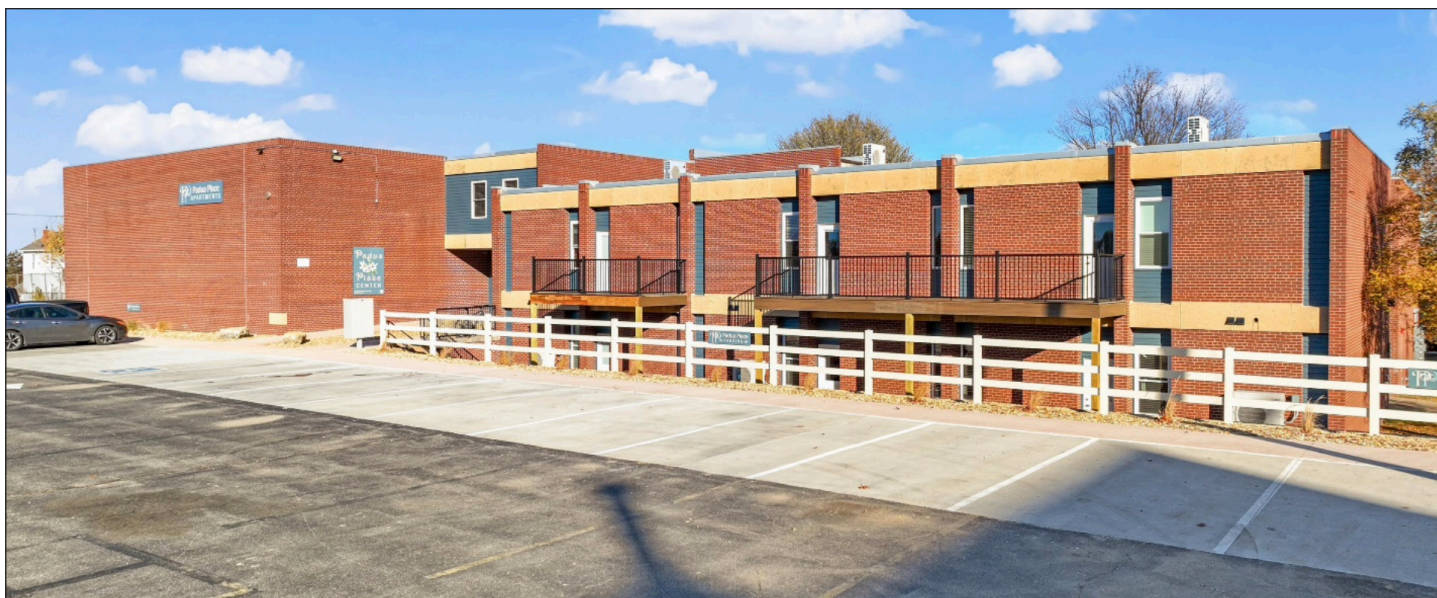
The next time you leave St. Anthony's and hum the music that you heard at Mass, use it as a reminder that music plays an important part in how the church evangelizes.

Padua Place

When Logan and Jeff Manders of Manders Properties purchased St. Anthony Parish's Steinmetz building from the previous owner in June 2025, they had a clear vision of how they would shape its future. Once a school building housing classrooms, an office area, gymnasium and cafeteria, it's now Padua Place, a dwelling comprised of 14 apartments. The original classrooms have been styled into 12 two-bedroom apartments, and two one-bedroom apartments occupy the space of the previous office area.

More notable than the physical transformation of an aging school into an attractive apartment building, however, is the principle that has guided the Manders throughout the process. Once a thriving parish school, they understood that the school closing and sale of the building was a difficult and somewhat painful decision. Intent on making the most out of an unfortunate situation, Logan said that he wanted to "honor the heritage of the property." His vision for the future? "One

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hundred years from now I want people to continue to see Catholicism when they look at the building.”

Named after the patron of our parish, St. Anthony of Padua, “Padua Place” clearly speaks of our Catholic heritage. But Logan felt called to infuse our Catholic faith even deeper than in name only. In his commitment to authenticity, he called upon the expertise of Magdalene Grace Deane, master iconographer and owner of “Katholikon Art Studio and Gallery,” to incorporate more into his design. He explains, “The key color tone of blue that you see is based on the color of the interior of St. Anthony Basilica in Padua, Italy. The ornate ‘P’ in the name is in the style of the cast iron ‘P’ on the gates of St. Anthony’s crypt.”

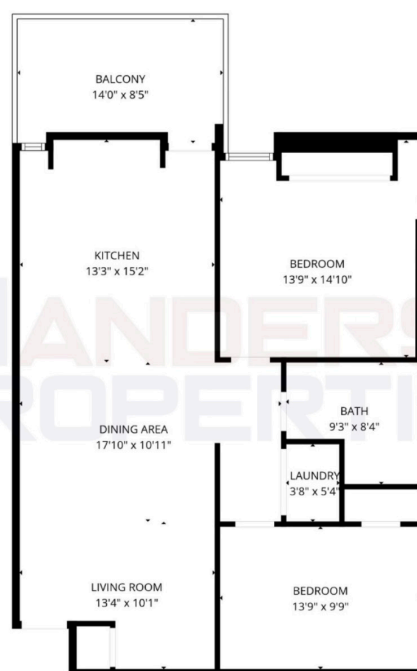
Honoring the more recent past of the school building was also important to Logan. He pushed himself to “be creative in keeping the old, historic cabinetry and cinderblocks.” These can be seen in the apartments and hallways of Padua Place.

Although there have not yet been renovations to the gymnasium, plans are underway. When completed, that area of the building, named “Padua Place Center,” will be an event center. The Center will maintain its capabilities as a gymnasium, and will be ideal for a wide range of activities from youth basketball clinics, to seminars and receptions. Work on upgraded exterior doors, ADA compliant restrooms and city approvals will begin this winter with hopes for the space being active in six-to-12 months.

Manders Properties has also acquired the land which was home to the parish playground and ball diamond. In the next two years, the Manders team hopes to develop additional apartment homes at *Padua Place 2*. While plans are in the early stages, this could include 30

residences between either one or two new buildings. Their team will draw further inspiration from Padua, Italy by harmonizing traditional architectural cues with the Steinmetz Building.

Our parish owes a debt of gratitude to Logan and Jeff for their commitment to honoring our patron saint, St. Anthony of Padua. We thank them as well for preserving some remnants of the classrooms in which the children of our parish learned to know and love our Catholic faith. We are grateful that the evangelization begun there in 1967 in the form of teaching continues today and into the future in the form of a visual statement of our Catholic identity.



Measurements deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Copyright © 2025 Hawkinson Aerial Photography, LLC

Padua Place two-bedroom apartments layout



St. Anthony Family Golf Outing

By Wayne Schumacher

The 8th annual St. Anthony Family Golf Outing was held on September 21 at Bunker Hill Golf Course. This event is a social gathering promoting fellowship that happens to be on a golf course and inside in a clubhouse. The main event is a golf tournament where scores ranged from 28 to a high of enjoying the outdoors and the camaraderie.

This event is also a fundraiser for the parish and other organizations that help the needy.

Thanks to the generosity of the participants and donors, \$11,750 was raised. The recipients of this year's outing were the St. Anthony Capital Improvement Fund and the Dubuque Rescue Mission. The Dubuque Rescue Mission received \$1,000 of the proceeds, and St. Anthony Capital Improvement received \$10,750, which is earmarked to help pay for two new furnaces and two new air conditioners in the Faith Formation/Power of Prayer building.

One hundred golfers and another 53 dinner-only persons enjoyed a delicious Kalmes catered meal. After dinner the program proceeded with "lively" live and silent auctions and golf awards. Once again, a huge

thank-you goes to the 31 generous hole sponsors, their donations ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, to the 28 entities that donated prizes to the outing and the generous participants who bid at the auctions.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped make this event run smoothly and achieve a record setting performance.

Hope to see you next year.

St. Anthony Family Golf Outing Committee

Ted Borelli
Jim Brimeyer
Dave McDermott
Gary Gansemer

Bob Kalb
Dan Mulligan
Pat O'Neill
Wayne Schumacher



Annual Pet Blessing

Our annual pet blessing took place on Monday, September 29. Thank you to everyone that attended the event to have Fr. Steve bless their animal family members.



Prayer Service of Remembrance

Thank you to each of you who attended and made our Prayer Service of Remembrance, held on Sunday, November 2 a special memorable Mass.



Giving Tree Touches Many Lives

Each year our parishioners go above and beyond to fulfill many Christmas wishes listed on the tags from our St. Anthony Giving Tree. A sincere thank you to all of our generous gift givers and know that individuals and groups greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness every year. At right are photos of two recipients of your generosity. A big thanks to everyone who helps organize and coordinate the gift deliveries!



Sunnycrest—(L-R) Nancy Knipper, Beth Houselog and Michelle Watters



Catholic Charities—(L-R) Nancy Knipper, Brenda Hostager and Michelle Watters



Kyle Klapatauskas, Maci Helle, Mia Clark, Angelina Steinlage, Josephine Steinlage, Michelle Hartmann, Jonathan Klapatauskas, Calvin Welter, Peter Klapatauskas, Michael Hartmann and Eli Mulligan

National Catholic Youth Conference

By Maci Helle and
Angelina Steinlage

"Thank you for all the support and prayers for the youth and adults who attended NCYC 2025, November 20-22. We had such a great experience! From good music and great speakers to livestreaming with Pope Leo, the youth had such a fun time at NCYC. Through the conference, they were able to see how important they are in the Catholic Church and that they are a crucial part of the Church. Please continue to share your faith with the youth and keep them in your prayers."

- Maci Helle, St. Anthony Youth Faith Formation Coordinator

"This was my first experience at NCYC, and it exceeded my expectations by far. Every activity throughout the conference connected back to our Creator. We explored how our lives can truly glorify Him and be lived entirely for Him. There were so many memorable moments, but my absolute favorite would have to be our conference-wide Mass. This Mass was an incredible celebration of our faith, including 20 bishops, 260 priests, countless consecrated religious, and 16,000 Catholic youth. Witnessing the reverence other high schoolers demonstrated towards the Eucharist and the passion behind their worship was powerful. It helped me realize just how many other people want the same depth and connection to their faith as I do. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to our St. Anthony community. Your financial support and prayers funded and protected our trip, making this entire experience possible. Your generosity and encouragement mean the world to us."

- Angelina Steinlage, St. Anthony high school student



Maci Helle, Aalijah Smothers, Sr. Elfie (NCYC Emcee), Mia Clarke, Alena Welter, Angelina Steinlage and Josephine Steinlage



Kyle Klapatauskas, Michelle Hartman, Maci Helle, Becky Oberfoell, Grace Burke and Michael Hartmann

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WANT TO GET INVOLVED? We welcome additional assistance. If you are interested in contributing to our quarterly newsletter, from writing articles to donating photos, please contact Valorie Woerdehoff at: vawoerdehoff@gmail.com