



ST. ANTHONY
—DE PADUA—
CATHOLIC PARISH

November 8, 2018

Dear St. Anthony de Padua Parishioner & Parent,

Catholic education is a great gift and a blessing to our community. Pope Benedict XVI said that our Catholic Schools are the *jewel in the crown of the Church in America*. I could not agree more, and I would like to thank you for the sacrifices you have made to send your children to our school.

We at St. Anthony believe in Catholic education so much that our parish actively invests in your child's education at St. Anthony de Padua Catholic School. In fact, this year the parish is investing more than \$1,940 per student. Additionally, the parish grants a \$1,300 tuition allowance to families who maintain *Active Parishioner* status. My purpose in sharing this information is for you to know how strongly we believe in our school and in your family being a part of this community.

As you know, families who are considered *Active Parishioners* receive a reduced rate of tuition because they commit to contributing to the parish regularly. It is in this spirit that I am initiating the following policy for those who receive the Active Parishioner rate for school tuition:

An active parishioner of St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Parish is one whose family is registered, attends Holy Mass every Sunday, and proactively contributes to the life of the parish in giving of their time, talent, and treasure.

Weekly Mass Attendance

The primary mission of St. Anthony de Padua Catholic School is to get your child to heaven. With this in mind it is important that you know that my first priority, as your pastor, is to encourage you in the practice of the faith - most especially in attending Holy Mass every Sunday. Keeping this commandment allows us to abide in full communion with the Church, receive from the storehouse of the Lord's graces, and teach our children by example that God comes before all else.

To maintain Active Parishioner status, **families must attend Mass every Sunday**. I ask that the family regularly attend Mass at St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. (Some Sundays, of course, you may be attending other places because of vacation or otherwise being out of town, etc.) Although, even when we are out of town, we still are required to attend Holy Mass.

Family Stewardship

In addition to weekly Mass attendance, it is expected that families participate in the life of the parish by giving of their time, talent, and treasure. Family members can serve in a ministry or

volunteer in parish service opportunities. Please visit our website to learn how you can get involved at stasb.org/ParishLife.

Families should also support the Church and our parish through offertory collections at Mass. Financial support of the parish is also an important part of being an active parishioner. Using offering envelopes or eGiving allows the pastor to know of your support. *The Parish community realizes families may experience hardship in making monetary offerings on a regular basis.* For those that are unable, your intention to give is made evident by the simple placement of the offering envelope in the collection basket each week, even if the offering envelope is empty or contains only a small amount.

Finally, please dedicate time to pray for our parish and school community: that we serve our parishioners, students, and wider community well; that the sacramental and liturgical life of our parish remains vibrant; and that all who enter here come to know and love the Lord in a deeper way.

If there is sickness or a personal issue, I will offer my assistance and prayers; if it is simply a case of falling out of the habit of attending Mass, I encourage greater attention to God. Again, my goal is for our families to be with one another in Heaven, and it is my responsibility to help you fulfill God's command to honor the Sabbath.

Thank you again for choosing to give your children the gift of a Catholic Education, which will not only prepare them well for their lives in the world but will most importantly guide them on the path to Eternal Salvation. May Our Lady keep your families under her protecting mantle and may we all strive to be like our patron, Saint Anthony de Padua.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Robert Garrow
Pastor