



St. Anthony de Padua
Catholic Parish · Established 1948

August 11, 2019
19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Parish Family,

It is hard to believe we are already starting another school year. I would like to welcome our returning families to another great year, and, on behalf of our entire school community, I welcome all the new families that will be joining St. Anthony de Padua Catholic School. Welcome to our Panther family! If you ever have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to reach out. I look forward to meeting you and your children!

Parents, I ask your children to grow in faith, I ask you to accompany them on their journey towards the sacraments, a journey which continues beyond that day, and to keep accompanying them as they make their way to Jesus and with Jesus. Please, go with your children to Church and take part in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration! You will see that this is not time lost; rather, it is the very thing that can keep your family truly united and centered. Sunday becomes more beautiful, the whole week becomes more beautiful, when you go to Sunday Mass together. And please, pray together at home too: at meals and before going to bed. Prayer does not only bring us nearer to God but also nearer to one another. It is a powerful source of peace and joy. Family life becomes more joyful and expansive whenever God is there, and his closeness is experienced in prayer.

Teachers, I urge you to keep alive in the school the search for God, for that God who in Jesus Christ has made himself visible to us. I know that in our diverse world it is no easy thing in schools to bring up the subject of faith. But it is hardly enough for our children and young people to learn technical knowledge and skills alone, and not the criteria that give knowledge and skill their direction and meaning. Encourage your students not only to raise questions about particular things—something good in itself—but, above all, to ask about the why and the wherefore of life as a whole. Help them to realize that any answers that do not finally lead to God are insufficient.

Parishioners, I urge you to do everything possible to make the parish a "spiritual community" for people - a great family where we also experience the even greater family of the universal Church, and learn through the liturgy, through catechesis and through all the events of the parish life to walk together on the way of true life.

Finally, please let us all dedicate time to pray for our parish 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. 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, St. Anthony de Padua.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Robert Garrow
Pastor