



SAINT ANDREW CATHOLIC PARISH

OUR VISION

By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15:8

UNDERSTANDING OUR VISION

According to John's Gospel, "Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, 'We have found the Messiah'. Then he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:40-41). Inherent in our patron's vision was a desire to introduce souls to the Savior.

Our Parish Values of **DISCIPLESHIP, COMMUNITY OF FAITH, WORSHIP, ONGOING FAITH FORMATION** and **EVANGELIZATION** are consistent with the vision of Saint Andrew and set the foundation for **OUR VISION**.

We envision becoming a parish where...

DISCIPLESHIP

- We are faithful to the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church as taught by Jesus and His apostles.
- People are engaged, openly alive with the Holy Spirit, excited by their faith and worshiping, and serving with joy.
- People experience the real presence of Jesus in conversion to discipleship.
- Parishioners generously give time, treasure and talents to the parish.
- Parishioners eagerly step forward to assume lay responsibilities for the well being of the parish.
- The parish is known for formation of intentional disciples of Christ and true conversions.
- The parish is known for service to those in need in the larger community.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

- The parish is known for diversity and welcoming; everyone feels comfortable regardless of experience, background, race, age, etc.
- The staff are welcoming and patient ambassadors of the Faith.
- Age and cultural diversity are celebrated as one community.
- There is calm camaraderie among parishioners.
- The parish is alive with an energy, warmth and fellowship that draws people to the parish.
- The parish campus is vibrant with various activities that draw people here for reasons other than worship.
- Parish events are conducted that attract parishioners as well as visitors who are seeking a relationship with Christ.

- Events are conducted which become tradition for full parish and school participation.
- Parishioners and the community are connected through a parish-wide integrated communications plan.
- Parishioners, staff and visitors know what activities are on-going and where they are located.
- Facilities enable the entire parish to come together outside of worship for community activities, to support parish ministries, to support education / formation of all parish age groups and to enable families with young children who may become disruptive to fully participate in the Mass.
- The sanctuary has a welcoming entrance with a large gathering space in which parishioners and visitors can meet before and after Mass so that people want to come early and stay late just to be there.

WORSHIP

- There is a dedication by parishioners to celebrating the marvelous presence of Christ and spiritual communion with Him through Eucharistic Adoration.
- There is a renewed and continual focus on the Eucharist at Mass.
- All are mindful that worship is for us to worship God who made us, to praise Him and to thank Him for all he has done for us, not for our entertainment.
- The sanctuary is recognized as the heart of the parish campus.
- Our worship inspires us to be more like Christ everywhere we go after worship.

ONGOING FAITH FORMATION

- Provide opportunities for worship and faith formation on Sundays with a schedule that accommodates many/most and provides options for Mass times, in particular for families with children participating in Religious Education.
- Programs and retreat opportunities are available to all age groups.
- Proven programs and retreat experiences create an environment for true conversion and produce intentional disciples.
- Programs are designed to provide a religious experience, not just knowledge.
- Evangelization instruction on apologetics (e.g. how to live in the Bible Belt as a Catholic, how to answer “Are you saved?”)
- Advice to make evangelization less scary.

EVANGELIZATION

- The parish is known in the larger community for evangelizing through action (e.g., people identify our parishioners as “they go to St. Andrew”).
- Opportunities exist for parishioners to witness and to share their personal testimony at parish events.
- Parishioners are comfortable sharing and defending the Faith to others.
- An organized parish evangelization effort takes place annually around Christmas and Easter to reach the influx of seasonal attendees at Masses.
- External signs of parish identity are proudly displayed by parishioners (e.g., vehicle stickers and t-shirts).

Through the intercession of Saint Andrew, Let us pray that the Lord will lead us toward our Vision.