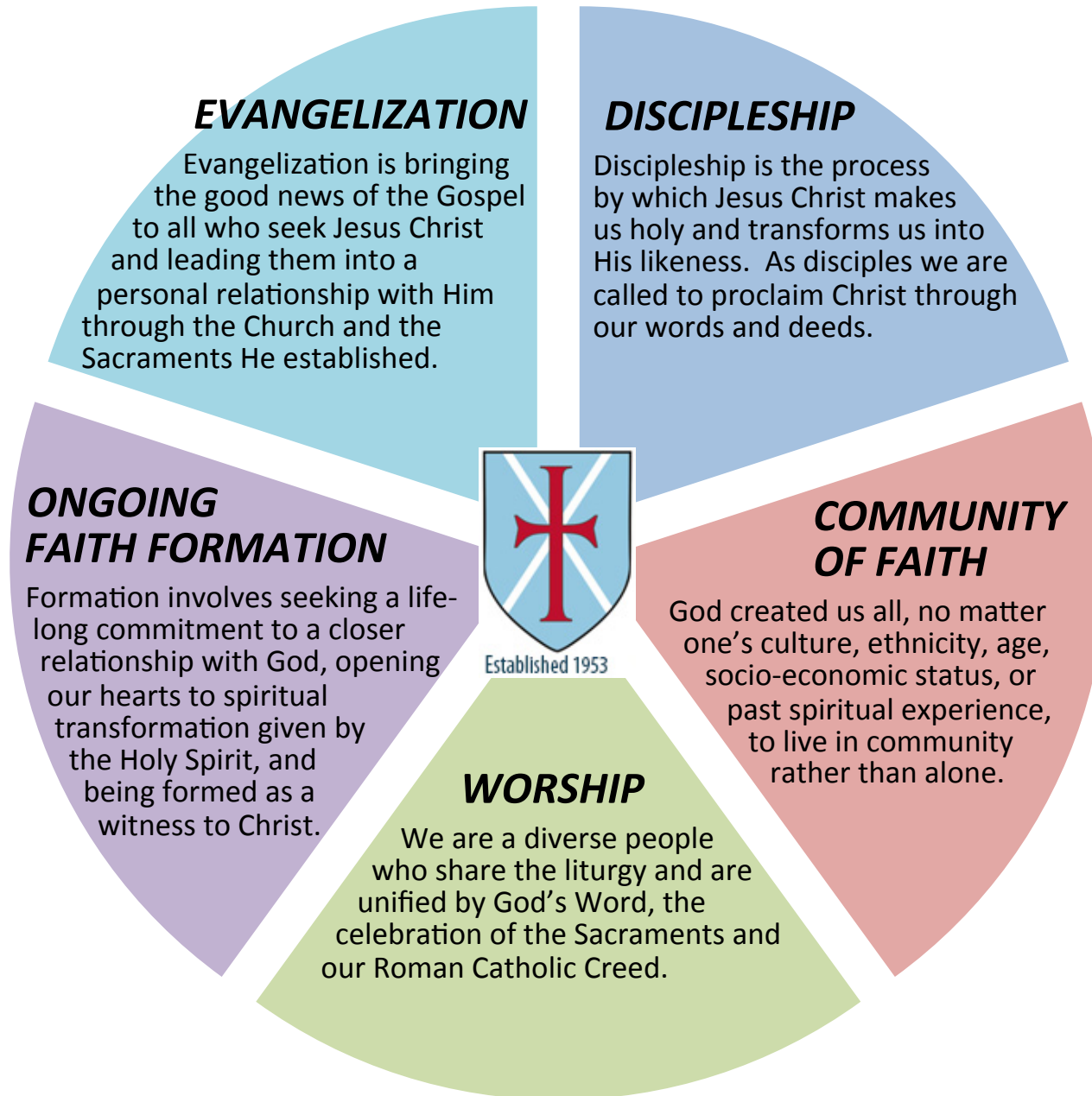


SAINT ANDREW CATHOLIC PARISH VALUES



Saint Andrew Parish Values

DISCIPLESHIP

Definition

Discipleship is the process by which Jesus Christ makes us holy and transforms us into His likeness. As disciples we are called to proclaim Christ through our words and deeds.

A disciple follows a master. Jesus' disciples followed Him, listened to Him and applied His teachings. Discipleship today is the life of those who are eager listeners to the Church and constantly near to God in prayer and sacrament.

In response to God's free and unmerited gift of grace poured out on us in our Baptism, we are called by Christ to become His disciples. The path to holiness involves allowing Christ to shape our inner person in such a way that the words and actions of Jesus Christ naturally flow from us. Along the path we are called to respond to God's love and express our gratitude to Him by willing service within our parish and beyond, by sacrificial giving of our time, talent and treasure in justice and love to others, and by acting on our responsibility to help the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable in our society. Growing in holiness as a disciple is an ongoing daily process that requires our patience, humility and perseverance.

Church Teaching

"In all of his life Jesus presents himself as our model. He is 'the perfect man,' who invites us to become his disciples and follow him" [Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC: 520]

Biblical References

"Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, 'If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" [John 8:31-32]

"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." [John 15:8]

"Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." [Luke 8:9-10]

Some Ways to Express This Value

- Live the Greatest Commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [Mark 12:31]
- Set aside time each day for prayer and Bible reading
- Actively participate in parish life through regular attendance at Mass
- Participate in a parish ministry,
- Adopt a Social Ministry family for Christmas
- Give to Holiday Outreach
- Practice sacrificial giving to support the Church
- Volunteer in a ministry for the "poor"
- Adopt an older parishioner and assist them with daily tasks

Saint Andrew Parish Values

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Definition

God created us all, no matter one's culture, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, or past spiritual experience, to live in community rather than alone.

Our parish is the home of our community of faith. It is where the Church lives, where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. It is the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life.

Church Teaching

"The human person needs to live in society. Society is not for him an extraneous addition but a requirement of his nature. Through the exchange with others, mutual service and dialogue with his brethren, man develops his potential; he thus responds to his vocation." [Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC: 1879]

"... All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers in the Lord by the children of the Catholic Church." [Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC: 818]

Biblical Reference

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." [Matthew 18:20]

"And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry. For the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature adulthood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ." [Ephesians 4:11-13]

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [Matthew 22:39]

Some Ways to Express This Value

- Make a new parish friend
- Introduce yourself to someone after Mass
- Join a parish small faith community
- Participate in parish religious and social events
- Participate in a parish ministry benefiting other members of our parish or the broader community such as Social Ministry
- Participate in or financially support a community service organization such as Catholic Charities, Tarrant Area Food Bank, American Cancer Society, etc.
- Join Knights of Columbus, Women of Saint Andrew, Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts and become involved in their service projects
- Learn about the culture of other ethnic groups in our parish
- Greet a fellow parishioner in their native language

Saint Andrew Parish Values

WORSHIP

Definition

We are a diverse people who share the liturgy and are unified by God's Word, the celebration of the Sacraments and our Roman Catholic Creed.

We are a Sacramental Church formed and fashioned in the faithful celebration of the Sacraments handed on to us by Jesus Christ. Through actively and reverently participating in worship of God, we affirm, respect and preserve the sacred, especially the celebration of the Eucharist. Through the holy sacrifice of the Mass we are brought closer to God, binding ourselves to one another in faith. It always been intended in our tradition that worship leads to action and action brings us back to prayer.

Church Teaching

"The mission of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church is to prepare the assembly to encounter Christ; to recall and manifest Christ to the faith of the assembly; to make the saving work of Christ present and active by his transforming power; and to make the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church." [Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC: 1112]

"Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy, and to which the Christian people "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people" have a right and obligation by reason of their Baptism." [Sacrosanctum Concilium - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy SC: 14]

Biblical Reference

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." [John 4:23-24]

"Jesus said to him in reply, 'It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'" [Luke 4:8]

Some Ways to Express This Value

- Pray daily, alone and with your family
- Attend Mass regularly
- Prepare for Mass before arriving; wear respectful attire to Mass; arrive on time for Mass; do not leave Mass before dismissal
- Sing at Mass
- Participate in a music or liturgy ministry such as choir, Altar Server, Cantor, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, Lector, or Hospitality Minister
- Participate in Stations of the Cross and Benediction during Lent
- Attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Volunteer to help prepare children and families for receiving the Sacraments

Saint Andrew Parish Values

ONGOING FAITH FORMATION

Definition

Formation involves seeking a life-long commitment to a closer relationship with God, opening our hearts to spiritual transformation given by the Holy Spirit, and being formed as a witness to Christ.

It is facilitated from childhood through adulthood by way of education and opportunities for encounters with Christ.

Church Teaching

“Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him. Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.” [Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC: 153]

“By the saving word of God, faith... is nourished in the hearts of believers. By this faith then the congregation of the faithful begins and grows. The proclamation does not stop with a teaching; it elicits the response of faith as consent and commitment, directed at the covenant between God and his people. Once again it is the Holy Spirit who gives the grace of faith, strengthens it and makes it grow in the community. The liturgical assembly is first of all a communion in faith.” [Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC: 1102]

Biblical Reference

“Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” [John 14:21]

Some Ways to Express This Value

- Read the Scriptures daily, alone and with your family
- Attend parish retreats or annual men’s and women’s retreats
- Listen to Catholic radio, podcasts or television, or read Catholic websites for daily education and inspiration
- Subscribe to a daily devotions or meditations via email
- Participate in Men’s or Women’s Bible Study
- Participate in adult formation offerings such as Why Catholic or Small Faith Community
- Ensure your children participate in Religious Education and/or Vacation Bible School
- Serve as a Religious Education teacher or aide
- Serve as a sponsor for a participant in RCIA or RCIA Adapted for Children
- Enroll your children in Saint Andrew School

Saint Andrew Parish Values

EVANGELIZATION

Definition

Evangelization is bringing the good news of the Gospel to all who seek Jesus Christ and leading them into a personal relationship with Him through the Church and the Sacraments He established.

Christ commands us to share in the mission of being His witnesses to the ends of the earth and making disciples of all nations. It is a call to each person to deepen his or her own faith, have confidence in the Gospel, and possess a willingness to share the Good News to all people, everywhere and at all times. It is the experience of Christ that motivates us to evangelize, not the obligation to share Him. While not everyone is equipped to make disciples, everyone should be able to witness to Christ at work, at home, in public and in all aspects of their life, and to invite others to receive Him themselves.

Church Teaching

“God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, that is, of Christ Jesus. Christ must be proclaimed to all nations and individuals, so that this revelation may reach to the ends of the earth...” [Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC: 74]

“For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new...” [Evangelii Nuntiandi - Evangelization in the Modern World EN: 18]

Biblical Reference

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” [Matthew 28:19-20]

Some Ways to Express This Value

- Live the Greatest Commandment: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” [Mark 12:31]
- Invite a friend to Mass
- Greet a visitor or stranger at Mass
- Serve as a sponsor for an adult participant in RCIA
- Serve as a Sponsor Couple for a couple undergoing marriage preparation
- Invite acquaintances with children to consider Saint Andrew School
- Assist with Religious Education for Youth
- Participate in an outreach ministry such as Come Home Ministry, Divorce & Beyond/Rebuilding, Helping Hands, Peace & Justice Task Force or Prison Ministry
- Get involved in an International Mission Outreach
- Participate in interfaith activities and events
- Volunteer at Social Ministry