

316 North Sherwood Avenue ~ Clarksville Indiana 47129 812-282-2290 ~ stanthony-clarksville.org

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish

Mission Statement

To learn, live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church History

The bricks and mortar of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Clarksville, Indiana house a rich history written by generations of men and women whose love of Christ and the Catholic Church helped build the strong tradition of faith that continues today. For more than 150 years St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church has served parishioners throughout Southern Indiana through its mission to unite in faith and to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1850 - The first documented celebration of a Mass in Jeffersonville is offered by Rev. Daniel Maloney of the Vincennes diocese at the Hensley House hotel, located on Front Street (now Riverside Drive) between Pearl and Mulberry.

1851 - Local Catholics, under the leadership of Rev. Leopold Zapf, raised funds for the construction of a new church in Jeffersonville, Indiana to be located at the corner of Canal Street (now Meigs Avenue) and Maple Street. Measuring only twenty-five by fifty feet, the "mere chapel" was blessed and dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua by Rev. Otto Jair, O.S.F., a Franciscan from St. Boniface Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

1854 - Rev. Augustine Bessonies, a pastor from Fort Wayne, Indiana becomes St. Anthony's first resident pastor. Rev. Bessonies resides with parishioner John Burke, one of Jeffersonville's leading merchants, until he completes a small residence for priests consisting of two rooms attached to the church. Observing the area's growing population, Rev. Bessonies also provides for the parish by purchasing, with his own funds, two large lots on the corner of Chestnut and Locust Streets for a larger church that would eventually become St. Augustine Church.

1860 - St. Anthony's first school is opened by Rev. Phillip Doyle. The two small rooms previously used as the residence for priest serve as classrooms.

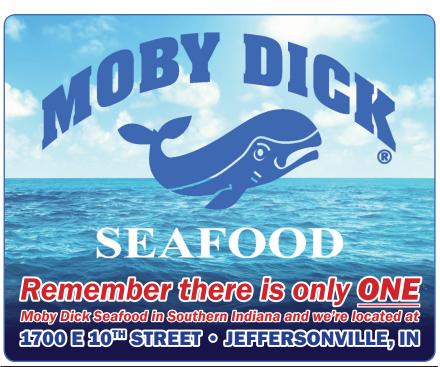
1862 - Rev. Gasper Henry Ostlangenberg gives the children of St. Anthony their First Holy Communion (the church's earliest recording).

- 1863 Due to the area's growing Catholic population, much of it from German and Irish immigration, and ethnic pressures, the church's congregation splits. Rev. Ostlangenberg begins the construction of a new church on the two lots purchased by Rev. Bessonies. As the nation is divided by civil war, Jeffersonville thrives as a hub for military activity. Unfortunately, St. Anthony parish suffers when the diocese calls Ostlangenberg away to other duties. The congregation is without a resident pastor for the next three years.
- 1867 Rev. Bonaventure Keller, O.M.C. (a designation changed to O.F.M. Conv. in 1945) becomes St. Anthony's new resident pastor.
- 1868 Formal dedication of the new church takes place on March 17, by Bishop de St. Paulis. However, not everyone moves to Chestnut and Locust. While the majority of the parish, those of mostly Irish origin, occupies the new church, St. Augustine (named in honor of Rev. Augustine Bessonies), the remainder, those of mostly German origin, receive permission to retain the old church at Canal and Maple.
- Rev. Joseph Lesen, O.M.C., purchased a lot for \$3,686 at the corner of Maple and Wall Streets on which he hoped the St. Anthony congregation could one day build a larger church. He also purchased, with the help of parishioner Henry Nagel, a lot for St. Anthony Cemetery. The parish continues its jurisdiction over the cemetery at 8th Avenue and Main Streets in Jeffersonville.
- 1871 Rev. Avelin Szabo, O.M.C., obtains the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville to teach the girls classes at the school. He also clears the parish of all debts and leaves the sizable sum of \$2,116.53 in the treasury when he is transferred.
- 1874 Rev. Leopold Moczygemba, O.M.C., organizes a church building committee, made up of parishioners Henry Nagle, Ferdinand Voigt, George Unser, Michael Rectenwald, Engelbert Spinner and Theobold Manny, who plan the construction and financing of the project.
- 1876 The Catholic community of St. Anthony plans activities and events to mark the laying of the church cornerstone on May 21, but are delayed until the following weekend because of a massive thunderstorm. The new cornerstone ceremonies on May 28 exceeded all expectations. Jeffersonville's *Evening News* described that the event "far eclipsed anything of the kind ever witnessed in Jeffersonville," judging it "the grandest and most imposing religious display ever seen in this city."
- 1878 The St. Anthony congregation finally moves to its new facilities at Maple and Wall Streets.
- 1883 St. Anthony's falls victim to its first disaster a flood which causes extensive damage to Jeffersonville and the new church.
- 1884 The congregation had just repaired the flood damage when disaster strikes again. Steady rain throughout early February swells the mighty Ohio at the rate of three to eleven inches an hour.

Water begins rising up Maple, Walnut and the surrounding streets. The river crests at 47.4 feet on February 16. (Rev. Audran of St. Augustine's offers Mass on the second floor of that parish's school house.)

- 1911 After the setbacks of the 1880's, the church settled into a period of steady progress. Rev. Louis Hammer, O.M.C. constructs a new rectory. Several years later, the parish spends \$15,000 on many alterations and improvements under the leadership of Rev. Oderic Auer, O.M.C.
- 1929 St. Anthony parish "deteriorated in every way" according to the parish chronicle. "Affairs were found to be in a very sad plight." Rev. Edmund Kaiser, O.M.C., becomes pastor that year and immediately calls a parish meeting to formulate a plan for recovery. And then the stock market crashed. The Great Depression throttles the nation's heady expansion and jeopardizes the parish's restoration.
- 1932 The people of St. Anthony show "an extraordinary willingness and spirit of cooperation," according to the parish chronicle. Those unable to contribute financially gave their time and labor to the church. Floors in the school that had become dangerous to tread are made safe again by parishioners who worked at night so as to not disrupt classes. The rectory receives new plumbing, plaster, wiring and paint. Parishioners even construct a much needed meeting hall by excavating the space beneath the church. Day and night shifts work without interruption from January through October.
- 1937 The Great Flood almost wipes out the sacrifices and work of the previous eight years. The frigid, muddy water in January and February caused great damage to all parish buildings, particularly to the church where the flood crested at sixteen feet. Flood water so damaged the school that Bishop Joseph E. Ritter announced that St. Anthony School be closed.
- 1940 Rev. Mathias Schnieders, O.F.M. Conv., personally intercedes to the bishop on behalf of his parishioners. The school reopens in the fall under the tutelage of the Benedictine sisters of Ferdinand, Indiana.
- 1949 Many Kentuckians find it desirable to relocate across the river, particularly in Clarksville's newly constructed developments. A visionary, Fr. Mathias observed the trend and, with the permission of Archbishop Schulte, purchased seven acres of land in Clarksville for an entirely new parish campus. Parishioners William and Mary Burke purchased the property on behalf of the parish. Construction of the school, church and convent begin in April at a cost of \$200,000. The school opened that fall but the church portion of the main building and detached convent open a few weeks later. The parish adapted an old farm house on the south end of the property (site of the former Credit Union), as a friary or residence for the Franciscan Friars.
- 1954 Fire breaks out in the sisters' convent from what was thought to have started in a laundry chute. The building suffers extensive damage at an estimated cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000. No one is hurt.





- 1957 The school adds an eight-classroom annex under Fr. Ignatius Hanley, O.E.M. Conv.
- 1969 Under the pastorate of Fr. Benjamin Knopp, O.F.M. Conv., construction begins on a new friary to replace the farm house the priests had used for twenty years.
- 1970 A lightning bolt strikes the church engulfing it in flames. The school's fire alarm sounds and students evacuate the building within 45 seconds. The church smoldered in complete ruin. The attached school was waterlogged and smoke-damaged. Under the advice of Archbishop George Biskup; pastor, Fr. Gerard Herman, O.F.M. Conv. and the building committee decide to construct a separate church building and to renovate the former church wing as an activity center. An architect is selected. The parish approves the plans in January 1971.
- 1972 Archbishop Biskup joins Fr. Gerard Herman and St. Anthony parishioners for the formal dedication of the new church.
- 1975 The parish dedicates the newly constructed bell tower. The three bells, originally cast in 1898, were a gift from St. Peter's Church in Louisville, Kentucky (the same church that provided St. Anthony's first pastor) that had been forced to close. St. Anthony pastor, Fr. Hilary Gottbrath, O.F.M. Conv. obtains permission to have the bells removed and secures the necessary funding through a generous donation from the Hughes and Schmid families to construct a bell tower. In October, a Mass and formal dedication is held. The three bells are baptized and given the names: St. John the Baptist for the largest, Santa Anna Maria for the middle, and St. Catherine for the smallest.
- 1992 The church receives new lighting. The Credit union moves out of the annex to its new quarters located next to the church.
- 1994 Parish offices move to the remodeled convent.
- 2003 Under the leadership of its pastor, Fr. Dismas J. Veeneman, O.F.M. Conv., St. Anthony Parish conducts a "Faith and Community" capital Campaign to provide funds for much needed improvements and additions to both the parish and school. A one-story addition is constructed for school office; the library is expanded as well as the computer lab and classroom space. The school also receives new energy-efficient windows and air conditioning throughout. A new multipurpose activity center is constructed adjacent to the church that offers a full-sized gymnasium, flexible meeting rooms, and a fully-equipped kitchen.
- 2009 The \$150,000 total roof replacement project of the school buildings is completed in early September. Because of parishioners' generous donations to the "Who'll Stop the Rain?" roof fund, the long-delayed and much needed project is finally a reality.
- 2013 The building located next to the Church and at the end of Sherwood Avenue was purchased to house our expanding Preschool. The Little Apple building was converted into a Scout Lodge for use of both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.







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Pastors

Fr. Bonaventure Keller, OFMConv.	1868
Fr. Joseph Lesen, OFMConv.	1868-1871
Fr. Avelin Szabo, OFMConv.	1871-1874
Fr. Clement Luitz, OFMConv.	1874-1875
Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, OFMConv.	1875-1877
Fr. Casper Cucciarini, OFMConv.	1877-1878
Fr. Joseph Lesen, OFMConv.	1878-1879
Fr. Pius Kotterer, OFMConv.	1879-1881
Fr. Anthony Gehring, OFMConv.	1881-1883
Fr. Bernard Effensperger, OFMConv.	1883-1887
Fr. Avelin Szabo, OFMConv.	1887-1896
Fr. Francis Neubauer, OFMConv.	1896
Fr. Lucius Matt, OFMConv.	1896-1900
Fr. Leonard Reich, OFMConv.	1900-1903
Fr. Camillus Eickenlaub, OFMConv.	1903-1905
Fr. Charles Oppenheim, OFMConv.	1905
Fr. Edmund Kaiser, OFMConv.	1905-1906
Fr. Lucius Matt, OFMConv.	1906-1908
Fr. William Peberl, OFMConv.	1908-1910
Fr. Lucius Matt, OFMConv.	1910
Fr. Louis Hammer, OFMConv.	1910-1914
Fr. Oderic Auer, OFMConv.	1914-1929
Fr. Edmund Kaiser, OFMConv.	1929-1939
Fr. Mathias Schnieders, OFMConv.	1939-1951
Fr. Ignatius Hanley, OFMConv.	1951-1957
Fr. Theodore Eickholtz, OFMConv.	1957-1960
Fr. Maurus Hauer, OFMConv.	1960-1966
Fr. Benjamin Knopp, OFMConv.	1966-1970
Fr. Gerard Herman, OFMConv.	1970-1973
Fr. Hilary Gottbrath, OFMConv.	1973-1976
Fr. Daniel Emerine OFMConv.	1976-1977
Fr. David Hutt, OFMConv.	1977-1985
Fr. Victor Waller, OFMConv.	1985-1991
Fr. Richard Kaley, OFMConv.	1991-1994
Fr. David Lenz, OFMConv.	1994-1996
Fr. Dismas Veeneman, OFMConv.	1996-2005
Fr. Regis Schlagheck, OFMConv.	2005-2010
Fr. Joseph West, OFMConv.	2010-



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Parish Staff

Fr. Joseph West	Pastor	282	2290	ext.	16
Stephany Tucker	School Principal	282	2144	ext.	24
Melissa Berghausen	Director of Youth Ministry	282-	2290	ext.	17
	Business Manager				
Amy Macaluso	Administrative Assistant	282	2290	ext.	10
Barbara Morra	Director of Communications	282	2290	ext.	18
Dr. Tim Glasscock	Director of Music	282	2290	ext.	00

MINISTRIES, COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Call the Parish Office for more information

ALTAR SERVERS

ART & ENVIRONMENT (church decor)

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

BUILDING, GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY-SUNDAY MORNING

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

FRIENDSHIP/FUNERAL MEALS

GREETERS/USHERS-MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

HEAVENLY DUSTERS

LECTORS

MEN'S CLUB

MUSIC MINISTERS

PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PICNIC/CHICKEN DINNER

PIECEMAKERS (Quilters)

PRIMETIMERS (Senior Citizens)

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

RESPECT LIFE

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

SACRISTANS

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

SAINT ANTHONY SCHOOL

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

SCHOOL COMMISSION

SCOUTS (BOY'S PACK 48)

STEWARDSHIP FRIDAY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PLANNING TEAM

YOUNG ADULTS (21-39)

YOUTH MINISTRY (Junior & Senior High)

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ST. ANTHONY MINISTRIES

To be a vibrant parish community requires parishioners to be fully engaged in our parish life. The variety of ministry opportunities available at St. Anthony allows you to match your individual talents and passions with a ministry that is the best fit for you. Our parish community will benefit by having you doing what you naturally do best and in a ministry that you are passionate about. As a parishioner, having a good match makes your service a more rewarding experience. This provides a win for both our parish community and you!

Please review this list of ministries as you consider how you can best share your time and talents to enhance our parish. If you have a question about any of these ministries, please contact the Parish Office and we will have someone on the parish staff or a parishioner involved in that ministry contact you to provide more information.

LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of representatives from St. Anthony of Padua Parish, who advise and work with the pastor and parish staff in establishing policies, goals, pastoral direction, and strategic planning for the future of the parish. The Parish Council also reviews and approves the annual budget presented by the Finance Council.

Finance Council

The Finance Council monitors the accounting and stewardship of parish resources which include the church, school and cemetery. This council also prepares the annual budget and reviews monthly and annual financial reports.

Corporate Board

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Clarksville, Inc. has a corporate board made up of the Parish Council chairperson and the Finance Council chairperson and the pastor.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

Buildings, Grounds & Maintenance Committee

Committee identifies needed maintenance and recruits volunteers or oversees the selection of outside contractors to implement needed maintenance to the parish physical plant and grounds.

Heavenly Dusters (Church Cleaning)

Teams of parishioners who work to clean the church on Friday or Saturday of each week.

Parish Office Volunteer

Adult volunteers assist with preparing mailings a few times a year and answering the phones.



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Picnic/Chicken Dinner Booth Chair

Chairs set up booths and recruit volunteers to assist in working their booth.

Picnic/Chicken Dinner Committee

Committee plans all aspects of this event and recruits booth chairs and workers to assist in the implementation of the event.

Picnic/Chicken Dinner Workers

Parishioners who volunteer to work the various jobs at the summer event, from set up to tear down.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Friendship Committee (Funeral Meals)

Parishioners provide food for families of deceased parishioners by making, ordering, delivering and/or serving food as requested.

Communion to Homebound

Parishioners deliver Eucharist to nursing homes, hospitals and the homebound.

Men's Club

Club provides community-building among all men of the Parish and provide service to the Parish.

Padua Perks

Provides community-building and social opportunity for the Parish on the first Sunday of the month after the 11:00 am Mass.

Piecemakers (Quilting Group)

Group makes quilts for the Parish Picnic and provides instruction on quilting to interested members.

PrimeTimers (Senior Citizens)

Provides community-building and social opportunities for senior citizens.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Parishioners assist with blood drives at St. Anthony in March, June, September, and December.

Respect Life Committee

Group works to bring awareness of issues related to all facets of human life from natural conception to natural death.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Society offers assistance with food and utilities to the needy.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Adult Religious Education

Group that plans and/or assists in the implementation of programs for adult learning and faith formation.

Children's Ministry-Sunday Morning

Trained volunteers help with the *Play Station* or *First Church* children's programs during Sunday Mass at 11:00 am.

Children's Religious Education

Catechists assist in implementing children's faith formation in grades 1-8.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Group that plans and/or assists in a program offered to Adults who are beginning the process to join the Catholic Church.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children

Catechists teach children who are beginning the process to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Sacramental Preparation

Group that plans and/or assists in a program preparing parents and children to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation and/or Confirmation.

Vacation Bible School

Group that plans and/or assists in the implementation of Vacation Bible School.

SCHOOL MINISTRIES

School Commission

Committee that develops policies, reviews the strategic plan to implement annual and long-range goals, helps with enrollment and marketing, and establishes a plan to maintain and upgrade technology.

Cafeteria Volunteers

Adult volunteers assist in the cafeteria.

Enrollment/Recruitment Committee

Committee that develops and implements marketing programs to recruit new students to attend St. Anthony School.

School Activity Volunteers

Adult volunteers that help with school activities taking place throughout the year. Activities may include but are not limited to Trunk or Treat, Secret Santa, Reverse Raffle, etc.

Stewardship Friday

Parent and Grandparent volunteers who plan and implement stewardship focused program in school.

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRIES

Adult Choir

Choir that provides music ministry for Sunday Mass, holy day Masses, seasonal celebrations, and miscellaneous parish gatherings.

Altar Servers

Children trained to assist the Presider, so that the ceremonies proceed smoothly.

Art & Environment

Group that plans and/or assists in the implementation of the decorations for the various liturgical celebrations during the church year.

Cantors

Responsible for songs or hymns that require solo passages, leading the assembly in a recurring refrain and inviting parishioners to join voices in hymns used throughout the Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers

Parishioners trained to distribute Eucharist at Mass.

Greeters/Ministers of Hospitality

Parishioners stationed at the entrances to greet and welcome parishioners and guests to Saint Anthony Church.

Instrumentalists

Musicians willing to share talent by playing their instrument at Mass or other events as requested.

Lectors

Parishioners trained to proclaim the Word of God in the Scripture and lead the congregation in the Prayer of the Faithful during Mass.

'One Voice' Music Group

Choir that provides music ministry for Sunday Mass, holy day Masses, seasonal celebrations, and miscellaneous parish gatherings.

Resurrection Choir

Choir that provides music ministry at funerals as requested.

Sacristans

Parishioners who ensure that prior to Mass clean linens are available, that altar vessels are kept clean and safe, that consumables like altar wine and altar bread are in adequate supply.

Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality

Parishioners trained to assist in greeting parishioners and guests, help with seating as necessary, collect the offering and distribute bulletins.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Athletic Committee

Parishioners that plan, recruit and screen coaches, schedule games and practices, coordinate concessions, approve expenditures for parish athletic teams.

Coaching

Parishioners willing to coach a school or deanery athletic team.

Scouts & Leaders

Parishioners interested in joining parish sponsored scouts or to become a Scout Leader.

Youth Leadership Planning Team

High School Youth plan the programs and activities for our parish youth ministry.

Young Adult Group

Parishioners interested in participating in young adult activities (ages 21 to 39).