

# **St. Anthony of Padua Parish: 2026 Survey Results and Goals for Parish Growth**

**Dear St. Anthony of Padua Parishioners,**

This report summarizes the feedback from our recent community-wide survey. We had responses from all age groups and marital statuses, so this summary provides a clear picture of our strengths as well as opportunities for growth.

Our most notable strengths are that a majority of parishioners say both our church and school are friendly, welcoming, and have a “family feel”, and that St. Dominic School provides both moral and academic excellence.

Our opportunities for growth are included and are listed as five separate goals. Some of these include ways to better engage current parishioners and/or school families, welcome newcomers, and modernize our communication and community outreach.

We look forward to working together with all of you to truly fulfill our mission of proclaiming the Good News and making disciples of Christ in our church and beyond.

If you have any questions, call Tera at the church office at 217-222-5996.

Blessings,

St. Anthony Parish Discipleship Ministry Team

Rev. Thomas Donovan

Mrs. Elise Sutter

Mrs. Jackie Dreyer

Mrs. Paula Thoele

Mrs. Carol Frericks

Mrs. Morgan Venvertloh

Mr. Jordan Genenbacher

Mr. Matt Welding

Miss Hope Glidewell

Mrs. Renita Welding

Mrs. Tera Smith

Mrs. Vicki Wittland

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## Goal 1 – Bringing Everyone Together

- **The feedback:** Families that are not connected to St. Dominic School, some single adults, and other members sometimes feel like they aren't as much a part of the parish family.
- **The plan:** Start hosting "Unified Fellowship" events that focus on including singles, seniors, and non-St. Dominic School families so everyone knows they belong.

## Goal 2 – Catching Up Digitally

- **The feedback:** Most people said they'd love to get updates via text or email about Mass and volunteering.
- **The plan:** Get a digital notification system up and running. We'll also make a simple Ministry guidebook so people know exactly how to get involved.

## Goal 3 – Better Sunday Experience

- **The feedback:** Parishioners want homilies that connect to everyday life and they also want our parish to build upon our music ministry.
- **The plan:** Put more resources into our music and work on homilies that give people practical ways to live out their faith.

## Goal 4 – Community Outreach

- **The feedback:** We're great at taking care of our own parishioners, but we need to do more for people visiting our church, the poor in our local community, and those who have stopped coming to church.
- **The plan:** Foster a culture of evangelization by challenging parishioners to be more welcoming to newcomers and to do outreach ministry in the community.

## Goal 5 – Being Open About Money

- **The feedback:** Many parishioners feel like we're barely generating enough revenue to pay the bills.
- **The plan:** Switch to quarterly "Mission Reports" that show exactly how donations are helping our ministries grow, instead of just showing expenses. Educate parishioners on the benefits of monetary giving and highlight how well our parishioners give.

**Closing:** These five goals are a roadmap for the future of our parish. The goals prioritize connection, communication, and community. We look forward to working together with all of you to truly fulfill our mission of proclaiming the Good News and making disciples of Christ in our church and beyond.