



Meet the Pastoral Council

What We Do

The Parish Pastoral Council: Faith in Action The mission of our Pastoral Council is to engage and inspire our community to do the work of Christ. As a consultative group of volunteers led by our Pastor, we prayerfully discern parish needs and set priorities that empower us all to live as disciples. Whether through evangelization or social justice, we work to ensure St. Anthony's remains a wellspring of hope—a place where we joyfully welcome all, worship vibrantly, and ensure our community flourishes in Christ. We are honored to serve you as we work to make our vision a reality: a society where the lost are found and the hungry are fed.



Christopher Taylor

Number of Years in Parish: 2

Hello, my name is Chris Taylor. My wife, Nadra, and I joined St. Anthony of Padua a little over two years ago after relocating from North Carolina with our children, Chloe and Cameron. Our parish quickly became a second home for our family, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve this community.

I joined the Parish Council to help connect our parish's rich traditions with its future growth and to extend to others the same warm welcome our family received. It has been a privilege to witness the parish's transformation, and I remain committed to supporting the evolving needs of our church family while strengthening our shared faith.



Brian Gaerke

Number of Years in Parish: 9

Brian and his wife Morgan joined SAP in 2017, when they moved to Travelers Rest. Brian was involved with the 20-Somethings and served as the 20-Somethings Parish Council liaison. Since then he has been a substitute usher, served on the Stewardship Council, and has been serving on the Parish Council intermittently since 2020. Brian joined the Parish Council to aid in aligning SAP with the strategic initiatives set forth by the dioceses.





Emily Smoot

Number of Years in Parish: 10

My husband, Zach, and I got married at St. Anthony's of Padua Church in 2014 and then moved to Greenville and became parishioners in 2016. Since then, we had two girls, Malrena and Addie, who were both baptized at St. Anthony's. We live in Greenville and bike to church on most Sundays. I work as a pediatric physical therapist and have had the privilege to be involved with the St. Anthony's Families Group. We love St. Anthony's welcoming and diverse community and the focus on service and social justice.

I joined the Parish Council to continue to help find ways to strengthen our SAP community, reach out to those in need, and be a voice for families and children in the parish.



Gwen Whitner

Number of Years in Parish: Lifelong

I am a lifelong parishioner of St. Anthony, following in the footsteps of my parents and grandmother who were among the first members of our parish. My foundation in faith and education began at St. Anthony Catholic School—a legacy that continued as my children and one of my grandchildren attended as well. Professionally, I served Greenville County Schools for 36 years as a Project Director and Licensed Social Worker after earning my M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling.

Over the decades, I have been honored to serve as Parish Council President under four priests, a Catechist for 50 years, and currently as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and Chair of our Prison Ministry. I was recently widowed after 51 years of marriage and am a proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. I remain dedicated to our mission of social justice and vibrant worship, continuing the work of Christ in the community that has nurtured my family for generations.



Joe Lomotey

Number of Years in Parish: 2

My wife, Daphne, and I moved to South Carolina from Cleveland, Ohio in 2018. A couple of years ago, we visited St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Greenville and instantly felt a sense of belonging, which affirmed that this is the right community for us to worship and grow as we continue our spiritual journey.

Being on the Parish Council gives me an opportunity to be involved in the process of attracting and retaining a diverse congregation that shares a common faith, and to support the spiritual, social, and educational needs of the broader church community.

I work as a financial auditor and am excited to contribute my skills and talents in serving our parishioners.



Ruth Walters

Number of Years in Parish: 30+

A member of St. Anthony's Church for over 30 years with my husband Michael — celebrating 50 years of marriage this September 11th. I serve in Card Ministry, Parish Council, and Teen Ministry. My granddaughter Naomi and I serve in the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Vacation Bible School.

Mission Statement:

To nurture the next generation in faith by teaching children God's Word, modeling Christ's love, and equipping them to live His way in their daily lives.





Ruth Robertson

Number of Years in Parish: 6

I have been a parishioner at St. Anthony's since 2020, but my relationship with St. Anthony's dates back to 2012 when my husband and I were married here. We were living in Wheaton, IL where we met, became Catholic, and did all of our marriage prep - but Father Pat and the community at St. Anthony's welcomed us to have our wedding here since my family lived in Greenville! Once we moved to Greenville permanently I became very involved in the parish, from teaching Religious Education classes for junior high students, Natural Family Planning courses for women and couples, and helping with the Families Ministry. In 2022 my husband and I started the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10 am Mass, which is now run by a volunteer committee.

I have a B.A. in Philosophy from Wheaton College, and am a certified AMI Montessori teacher for ages 3-5. From 2014-2018 I taught preschool at a local nonprofit in Greenville that provided a free education to underserved children in Greenville. I helped transition that program to a Montessori approach and I just loved my time there.

After a 5 year journey of infertility, we welcomed our first child in 2018, and as you all know - the children have kept coming! We currently have four children and enjoy biking, hiking, camping, and just generally being outdoors.

