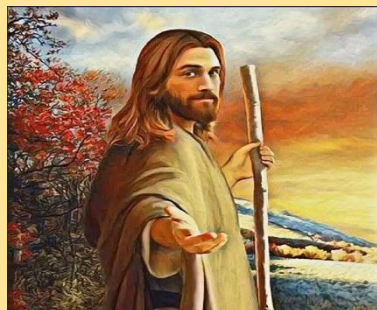


ST. ANTHONY COUGAR CONNECTION

Issue 3 – September 2, 2025

FROM the desk of MRS. SCHWEITZER



Welcome to a new school year! With a new year comes a new theme! For the 2025-2026 school year, our theme will be “Come Follow Me.” In the Gospel of John 10: 27-29, Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.”

What do these words mean to us as disciples of Jesus? During this Jubilee year in our church, we are called to be “Pilgrims of Hope.” We are supposed to contribute to our Church’s mission of unity and charity. John 10: 27-29 shows that Jesus knows us inside and out; He knows everything about us, and He loves us deeply. Jesus is our “Good Shepherd”, and we are “His flock” who are called to listen to His will for us and follow Him. In order to do this, we must try to learn and understand scripture and the traditions of the Catholic church.

This school year, we will spend time focusing on the Sunday Gospel readings and what they tell us about how we, as Pilgrims of Hope, are to follow Jesus, so that when our Good Shepherd says to us, “COME FOLLOW ME”, we listen, follow, and become a more unified Church.

Gospel Reading: Luke 14: 25-33

Word of the Week: renounce

Prayer for the week: Jesus, Our Teacher (Matthew 8:19), open our hearts that we may learn your ways and follow you.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Anthony Catholic School accepts the responsibility, along with the parents, to educate students spiritually, morally, and academically in a safe & caring Christian atmosphere. Each individual is assured academic achievement and develops social and emotional growth while embracing the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

VISION STATEMENT

St. Anthony Catholic School’s vision is to work together as a team composed of students, parents, teachers and staff in a positive manner to build strong, spiritual children who give witness to their faith.

MAP TESTING -- Three times a year, the diocesan schools are required to administer a standardized test to students in order to determine academic achievement and growth. The fall test session opens Wednesday, September 3rd and will remain open until Friday, September 26th. During this time, teachers in grades K-8 will administer Math, Reading, and Language (Gr. 2-8) tests. These tests are taken online through NWEA. For information you can visit: <https://www.nwea.org/family-toolkit/>

Please encourage your child to do his/her best on the tests so that we can have a good indication of his/her achievement and growth.

FALL FUNDRAISER – Our World’s Finest Chocolate sale is underway! This fundraiser will end on Friday, September 19th. This year the price for each chocolate bar is \$2, and there are 30 chocolate bars in each box. This is a very important fundraiser for our school, so we are asking ALL families to help buying selling these chocolate bars.

IMPORTANT NEW YEAR PAPERWORK – An envelope with 2025/2026 school paperwork was sent home with students. Please return the envelopes with ALL COMPLETED paperwork completed ASAP.

FAMILY FEE – If you have not already done so, please be sure to pay the \$50 family fee as soon as possible.

USDA SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM - At this time, all students will receive a Grab-N-Go snack in the morning and a Hot Lunch with a drink at no cost to parents as part of the Community Eligibility Provision (“CEP”) under the National School Lunch Program.

As a reminder, when packing your child’s lunch, please refrain from packing fast food items, soft drinks/sodas, coffee/iced coffee. Gatorade, water, Powerade, etc. are better choices for packing in lunches.

COMMUNICATION – This school year, the Diocesan schools will once again be using Sycamore Education for online grading. For assistance logging in, please contact the school office.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT - NEXT Friday September 12! EVERYONE is invited to join us for a fun family movie night! A movie will be shown in Fleming Hall (the church basement). **Bring your own camp chairs and/or blankets and pillows to sit on!** Come as early as 6:30 to get a good seat! The movie will begin approximately at 7:00! Drinks, popcorn, chips and candy bars will be available for \$1.00 each. Our movie title will be announced next week! Come join us for a fun night!

PE SHIRTS – Last week students were given a PE t-shirt that may be worn to school on MONDAYS when the students will have PE. Black gym shorts, sweatpants, or uniform bottoms may be worn with the t-shirt. The sponsorships on the back of the shirt covered the cost for one shirt per student. A few extra shirts are available for \$10 each – contact the office if you would like to purchase one. Checks made out to St. Anthony PTO or cash should be sent in with this form.

DISMISSAL – Please be sure to arrive at school to pick up your students ON TIME and in the designated area that you have been instructed to park in. Traffic tends to become a problem if cars arrive once dismissal has occurred. Students line up in the school based on the area they will be dismissed to. The bus should depart BEFORE any cars leave the parking lot. If you have questions, please contact the office.

SCHOOL ABSENCES – Please be sure to contact the school office by 7:30AM if your student will be absent on a given day. Completion of the St. Anthony Reentry After Absence Form or a note will be required upon the student’s return to school. A copy of the form is attached to this newsletter. After 3 days, a physician’s note / release is required to accompany the form or note.

NOTRE DAME URBAN EDUCATION CENTER: The Homework PLUS program is a comprehensive program that offers one-on-one tutoring for students, supported by 300+ adult and high school volunteers. The program is designed with three core components: personalized homework tutoring, enrichment activities, and academic skill development. Our goal is to create a safe and supportive environment where students can thrive. Caring adults guide them in becoming responsible for completing their homework on time. The enrichment sessions are diverse and engaging, covering activities such as art, writing, current events, fun trivia, physical activities, critical thinking, STEM garden activities, and more. For registration information, please go to the website nduec.org.

--	--

PLANNING AHEAD

- SEPTEMBER 3rd - MAP TESTING WINDOW OPENS
- SEPTEMBER 6th & 7th - PARISH FESTIVAL
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th - MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY, SEPT. 12TH
- TUESDAY, SEPT 16th & 17th – PTO MEETING

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **VIRTUS** - *VIRTUS is the brand name that identifies best practice programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote right-doing within religious organizations. The VIRTUS programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church. “Protecting God's Children® for Adults” is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The training makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. The Diocese requires all adults who enter the school building or are around school children in any capacity, must be in full compliance with the charter. This requires completed paperwork on file with the Diocese, attendance at a one-time Virtus Live Training session and maintenance of monthly online bulletins. More information can be found at www.virtus.org. In summary, ALL ADULTS who would like to be involved with our school children must be Virtus certified and in compliance with the National Charter, “Protecting God’s Children” program. This means that all volunteers are required to be VIRTUS trained -- this includes classroom volunteers, field trip sponsors, room mothers, cafeteria workers, coaches, and substitutes, etc. New parents wishing to be VIRTUS trained should register online at www.virtus.org. If you are transferring from another parochial school, please make sure you add St. Anthony School to your VIRTUS account. If you already have an account with VIRTUS and it has been suspended or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bottom.*
- *There are no water fountains available in the building. Water refilling stations are available. Each student should bring their own water bottle.*

WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

- Wednesday – Chili Spaghetti
- Thursday – Chicken Tenders
- Friday – Grilled Cheese
- Monday – Chicken Patty Sandwich
- Tuesday – Tacos – hard or soft

