



Church of Saint Anne Garden City, New York Case for Support



Our Parish

Since our establishment in 1929, the Church of Saint Anne has continued its mission of Jesus by welcoming, supporting, and guiding God's family through prayer, sacramental celebration, education, faith formation, and service. Today, we serve over 3,300 households from more than eight towns. Many of our parishioners come from Garden City, Stewart Manor, Franklin Square, New Hyde Park, and Floral Park.

The parishioners of Saint Anne's have grown and nurtured their faith through our nearly 60 parish ministries, including Loaves and Fishes, Families in Service, the Special Needs Ministry, Senior Ministry, bible study, faith formation, and many other ministries and school programs that provide support and serve the needs of our parish families. Through all that we do, Saint Anne's is committed to addressing the spiritual, physical, and social needs of all people through service to individuals, families, and the greater community.

With nearly 1,700 individuals attending weekend Mass and an active daily Mass attendance, our faith community is rooted in prayer, service, and devotion. Our work extends far beyond our parish walls, and many of our ministry groups seek to assist those in need, including the sick and disabled, seniors and homebound individuals, and those facing poverty, unemployment, mental illness, or marital or familial difficulties.

- Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry provides food, clothing, and other necessities throughout the year to hundreds of people in need, working with five parish outreach centers and sponsoring over 330 families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Our Special Needs Ministry includes the Respite Care program for 50 children and young adults who have special needs, meeting on Friday evenings for recreation and dinner.
- Our Share a Meal program involves over 50 volunteer cooks preparing and delivering dinners to individuals in need, with volunteer drivers helping seniors get to Sunday Mass and doctor appointments.
- Our Senior Ministry cares for over 105 senior parishioners, with visits to the homebound, assistance from nurses, notes from our students, and our bi-weekly Senior Scene gathering at the parish.
- Our Families in Service activities involve over 60 young families in feeding the hungry and visiting the elderly.
- Saint Anne's Middle Years and the MOMs groups provide social activities for their members, who in turn volunteer their time in service to our veterans and to young mothers in need.
- Saint Anne's Professional Networking Group helps to develop professional connections among people, offering support, sharing information, and discovering resources.

These ministries of service and support involve more than 400 volunteer parishioners. Through all that we do, we are committed to expanding our reach and serving those in need in our community.

In addition to a vibrant and supportive parish, we have also been blessed with one of the largest schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. With 525 students, our school community brings young life and enthusiasm on a daily basis to our parish campus. The student body includes a diverse population as our children come from many different parishes and school districts. Our students excel academically, and our rate of acceptance into Catholic high schools was 100% last year.

Our Faith Formation ministry addresses the religious education needs of more than 1,000 students. Guided by a leadership team, our 75 catechists meet, pray, and teach our students on a weekly basis. We have included many revisions to the program in recent years and continue to explore how we might more effectively meet the needs of our Faith Formation families.

Our Needs

Because we have been blessed with such an active parish and school community, we are frequently challenged by the lack of available space for staff offices, ministry meetings, school events, and recreational activities. We are seeking to expand our facilities to create additional space with easy accessibility for all, especially those with physical needs. Furthermore, some of our meetings require anonymity, which can pose even more of a challenge when there is a lack of private rooms available. We try to accommodate all requests for space, but have had to decline requests when all rooms are booked to capacity.

With new ministries established annually and an increasing number of volunteers, we receive hundreds of requests for space each year. Facilities in the school are challenging for those with physical limitations. Improvements have been made, but it remains a difficult situation for those in wheelchairs, walkers, and for the elderly. Our rectory, designed and intended to accommodate four priests, now houses up to 13 staff at any given time. The vitality of our parish begs for a more contemporary, user-friendly, technological, and pastoral space.

To better serve our children and parishioners, we have explored and begun planning the addition of a new building to serve as a ministry and meeting space. This space will be fully accessible, hold up to 250 people, and will be equipped with technology and a full service kitchen. The lower level will be a large meeting space, specially designed for youth activities, including Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Youth Ministry, faith formation, and service projects. The first floor and lower level will both include a number of small conference rooms, capable of holding 10-20 people, which will be utilized by RCIA, Respect for Life, Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, and School Board meetings, and other small group meetings, as needed. Our ministry offices, including Parish Social Ministry, Faith Formation, and other parish programs, will also be housed in the new building.

Our Parish Building Committee, comprised of parishioners with expertise in engineering, construction, legal affairs, real estate, financial management, and village affairs, has spent the last year assessing our need for additional space, developing plans, and contracting an architect to design conceptual drawings. These designs have been shared and approved by our various parish leadership bodies, and were shared with parishioners earlier this year. The next phase of our work includes revising concepts, given the feedback we have received; preparing more detailed architectural plans; seeking village and diocesan permissions; and examining fundraising feasibility.

The estimated cost of this new building is \$3.5 million. Our goal through the construction of this new ministry and meeting space is to make our parish community as welcoming, accessible, and inviting as possible and to allow all of our incredible programs, ministries, and services to continue to grow and serve the needs of all of our brothers and sisters in our community. This planning study will assess our ability to raise the necessary funds and invite feedback from all of our parish families. As Saint Anne's current parishioners, it is our responsibility to carry on our 90-year legacy of faith and sacrifice so that future generations may benefit as we have from previous efforts of support.



Ministry and meeting space - front exterior