

St. Anne's Church

Profile Template

Position Title: Priest in Charge

Full/Part-time: Half time

Receiving Names until the position is filled

Church Address: Location: 14 Treble Cove Rd.
North Billerica, MA 01862

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PARISH STORY– History

1. Tell us about when your church was founded and how have your parish and community changed over the years?

St. Anne's Mission, North Billerica was organized in 1886, and in 1890 a cornerstone ceremony was held for the new church building. Rev. Warren Bixby was assigned to St. Anne's on a part time basis in 1937. Rev. Stephen Austill became the first full-time rector 1956 and in 1959 St. Anne's Mission was given full Parish status. St. Anne's hosted a refugee family from Indonesia (via Holland) in 1960. The church school building was completed and dedicated in 1966. In 1977 St Anne's opened a Thrift Shop in the original Parish House Building which is still open today. In 1979 St Anne's along with other local parishes sponsored 3 Cambodian refugee families. St. Anne's celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1986. A Memorial Garden with columbarium was consecrated in 1989.



As with many other churches, St. Anne's has experienced a decline in attendance and an aging population, however, we continue to remain active. Presently about 70 parishioners support St. Anne's with regular financial donations and many of those unable to do that still contribute significantly in labor and goods. The parish list is about 130.

Our Thrift Shop is thriving and contributes significantly to the parish and community at large. Additionally, we contribute to the Billerica Food Pantry, participate in community activities and are active with the Billerica Inter-faith organization. We have two bible study groups and an active social group. Currently we rent space in our school building for a private pre-school and several outside groups such as AA, NA, Al-Anon and others. St. Anne's is also hosting a Youth Talk Out program sponsored by the Diocese.

2. Tell about one significant event that stands out in your history.

There have been many significant events in our history beginning with our establishment of a Thrift Shop in the 1970's which remains an important outreach program in the community. In recent years our involvement with the community has increased and become more of a focus at St. Anne's.

PARISH STORY – Present life

3. Tell about a time in your church life which you recognize as success and a time of failure.

As our attendance declined and our Church School program ended, we had some success with Take Home Sunday School packages that were developed to reach young family members not attending church. To help with financial struggles, some parishioners have stepped up to run fundraises, such as dinners and game nights.

We are seeing what seems to be the trend in churches today . reduced attendance, financial issues and other struggles that result, but we have a good active core group within the church that manages to keep up going and we are constantly looking for ways to improve.

4. Share your worship style and special worship moments you like.

We currently have two services, an 8AM service using Rite I (no music) and a 10AM service using Rite II with music. Attendance at the earlier service averages about 14 and the later service averages 28. We are very fortunate to have an excellent organist/pianist on payroll who over time, has become a full member of the parish and has contributed considerably to introducing new music where appropriate.

We have also been fortunate in having a rector and other priests capable of presenting the gospels and other texts with context of the times and meaning for own lives.

5. What brings people back week after week?

The social aspects of worship, good music and participation in the eucharist. Fellowship is the key and it takes place in several ways at St. Anne's.

We have a coffee hour following the 10am service, and many parishioners stay and mingle after the service for an hour or so. Additionally, several groups are meeting on a regular basis that include: St. Elizabeth's Guild that sponsors the Ecumenical luncheon during lent, the Gardening Angels who keep our grounds in good condition with flowers, shrubs the Craft Group and St. Anne's Social Group that sponsor events each month that include dinners, a play or movie, an outing or short Saturday trip and a yearly picnic in June.



6. How do you care for each other?

Prayer, personal interaction and communication. We maintain a prayer list for those in need and the names are read during Prayers for the People. If someone becomes ill, it may be appropriate to help with food, transportation or other needs and there are always more than enough volunteers. When help is needed, a request might be sent out by email to the parish list and If we know someone doesn't use email, a telephone call will be made.



We have several parishioners that are shut-ins and we have three people licensed to take communion to them. Some on a regular basis and some when a priest isn't available.

7. Tell us about outreach in your community?

Our primary outreach is through our Thrift Shop, providing good clothing and other items at extremely low prices. We take in much more than we can sell, and the excess goes to Goodwill or the Epilepsy Foundation. If there is a specific need for clothing, jackets or something else items may be provided at no cost. On occasion, we have been contacted by police or fire to help with clothing in the event of a fire or other emergency. We also provide Thrift Shop vouchers worth a free bag of clothes to the Billerica Interfaith Association, who in turn, distribute those vouchers as needed. St. Anne's participates actively with the Billerica Food Pantry and every month or so we'll be asked if to provide specific items such as shampoo, toilet paper, or canned items. We set a target amount and generally meet or exceed these requests. People from St. Anne's also give their time to assist in distribution. During Advent, we have an Angel Tree decorated from which ornaments represent needed toys, clothes or other items which parishioners will take and donate the item. These items are provided to organizations to be distributed prior to Christmas.



St. Anne's has for the last few years, participated with a booth at the annual Billerica Yankee Doodle Homecoming event in September. Our former rector provided ashes to go+at the local train station the morning of Ash Wednesday and during lent, we participate in interfaith services in town by providing a speaker and lunch one week. With our former rector, we were involved with the Middlesex County House of Correction in Billerica leading a religious class.



8. What gifts and skills would you like your new leader to bring and what gifts and skill can you offer?

We are looking for a half-time priest for St. Anne's Church open to accepting all beliefs and social viewpoints and be able to help us with our struggles. This person must be able to support our current committed congregation and work with us to grow and add new members to insure our continued presence in the community. Pro-active pastoral care is important for those attending and active in the church as well as for the shut-ins and those in need. Additionally, we would like to find a priest that will continue teaching and providing context for the Gospel readings that will help us to relate the messages to our daily lives. We have two active bible study groups led by lay persons and would like a priest who would see continuing education as an important part of their ministry.

Warden Name: Ed Giroux
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COMPENSATION & HOUSING

Compensation available for new position: \$45,676
Negotiable? (y/n): TCC set by the diocese
Housing Allowance or Rectory: Allowance
SECA reimbursement options (n/a, Full, Half, Other):
SECA reimbursement details: Pension plan (in compliance?):
Healthcare options: negotiable
Dental: Part of healthcare
Housing Equity Allowance in Budget:
Annual Equity amount:
Vacation weeks: Negotiable
Continuing education weeks: Negotiable
Continuing education funding in budget: \$ 500

Additional compensation comments