



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA ALERT**

**St. Anthony's Dining Room Reopens  
for Indoor Service and Community Connection**

SAN FRANCISCO (May 24, 2021) – After 15 months of serving COVID-safe to-go meals, the St. Anthony's Dining Room is reopening its doors for sit-down service starting today, Monday, May 24. The day marks a return to our usual service — with several key improvements — and the recovery of a cultural space that has brought San Franciscans together for over 70 years.

"The Dining Room has always served more than a meal," says Tim Costigan, assistant manager of volunteers and events. "It's about being in community with our neighbors and creating a space for people to connect."

Last year, the St. Anthony's Dining Room served an average of 2,400 meals a day to San Franciscans in need. Pre-pandemic, it also hosted a wide variety of groups and activities, including a chess club, writing workshops, and chair yoga. Staff look forward to bringing back these community-led programs as soon as it is safe to do so. There are already plans to start a Bingo night before the end of the month!

Staff are also excited to offer an improved Dining Room experience. To provide as much choice as possible and cut down on food waste, guests will be able to choose what they want from a buffet. To-go meals will continue to be provided for anyone who wants one, and food will also be available after meal service ends, kept fresh in a new warmer that staff can access throughout the day. A new breakfast service will be offered each morning from 7:00 am.

"By providing people with choice, you respect their dignity as human beings," says Darren McGee, senior dining room community manager. "Too many of our



guests don't have enough choice in the most important matters in their lives."

Visitors to the Dining Room will also notice new artwork gracing the walls. Created by local artist Sylvester "Slick" Guard, the installation celebrates key figures in St. Anthony's history and the values that guide our work.

"I wanted to do something that people need these days — and faith and hope and humanity is what we need," says Slick. For Slick, the piece is also personal; as a teenager, he ate in the St. Anthony's Dining Room. Having his art on the walls today "feels full circle."

St. Anthony's invites all interested press to join us this week as we gather together to break bread and be in community with our neighbors once more. The Dining Room will be open for indoor service everyday from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

### **St. Anthony's Dining Room Reopens**

**Date:** Starting Monday, May 24, 2021

**Time:** 11:30 AM - 1 PM

**Where:** St. Anthony's  
121 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

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### **About St. Anthony's**

Founded in 1950, St. Anthony's is the most comprehensive safety net service center in San Francisco, directly providing food, clothing, medical care, addiction recovery services, access to technology, job training, and other critical resources to the community. Every day we support and are supported by thousands of San Franciscans. Everyone who comes through our doors joins the St. Anthony's family and helps us create a future where all people flourish.

Learn more at: <http://www.stanthonysf.org/impact-report-20/>.