



The Cornerstone Ministry Conference 2026

Branch Inquiries/Visitor Session Review



Nick Melnyk and Jamie LaBelle



Who are we?

Nick Melnyk

- Saint Anthony of Padua (PM) in The Woodlands, TX
- Member since 2021 (Genesis)
- SGF, Focus Minister, MarTech Committee
- Fun fact: 77 cruises since 2016

Jamie LaBelle

- St Joseph in St. Louis, MO
- Member since 2015
- Branch Facilitator, Reflector
- Fun fact: in 2012 I built a trail in the Mason Neck State Park



Goals of this Presentation:

1. Understand how potential members might contact a Branch
2. Review the 'Visitor Session' and ensure that Branches have the information they need to onboard new members



Why?

- We expect (a lot) more visitors to visit our website



How someone might contact a Branch

- 'Contact a Branch' form on the website
- Available on each Branch webpage

thecornerstonescripturestudy.org

2026 Cornerstone Ministry Conference - The Cornerstone | Lessons & Resources - The Cornerstone | Branch Page - St. Anthony PM - The Woodlands, TX - The Cornerstone

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Catholic Scripture Study

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Member Login

DATE	LESSON	SPECIAL NOTES
	Join us in the Fall 2026	

About St. Anthony of Padua PM Branch

Location: The Woodlands, St. Anthony of Padua Church

Year Branch Began: 2010

Current Number of Members: 15

In Person/Zoom: Both In Person and Zoom Hybrid

Number of Small groups: 2

Share something new you did this past year: Our Branch had many more Focus' given by our members than in years' past.

Share a unique or special "Best Practice" at your Branch: This year's Retreat was given by a Priest in Pittsburgh using Zoom.

What do you enjoy most about your Branch? The cohesiveness of the members, and the vulnerability of sharing on how God is working in their lives.

Contact the Branch

More Information
About The Cornerstone

Our Groups
In Person

Member Resources
Member Login

Connect With Us
Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube



'Contact a Branch' Form

- First name
- Last name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Branch name to contact
- Preferred method of contact
- Message

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Contact a Branch

Your Name (Required)

First Last

Your Phone Number (Required) Your Email (Required)

What are you contacting us about? (Required)

☐ Online Study

☐ In Person Study

☐ Technical Question

Preferred method of contact (Required)

☐ Email

☐ Text

☐ Phone Call

Message



Where does the form go?

1. Person fills the form out and hits 'submit'
2. Our website sends an email (from web-help) to the **Branch Email Address** which includes all the information on the form



The Cornerstone

May 16, 2026 at 12:15 PM

New submission from Contact a Branch

To: StAnthonyPM@thecornerstonescripturestudy.org

Your Name

Nick Melnyk

Your Phone Number

Spam

Your Email

melnyk@yahoo.com

What are you contacting us about?

In Person Study

Select In Person Study Branch to Contact

St. Anthony of Padua (PM) - The Woodlands, TX

Preferred method of contact

Email

Message

Just want to test if someone replies to the email if it also sends to my email address or web-help only.



Why didn't I receive it? I don't want it!

- Every Branch has an email address (usually is Branch@thecornerstonescripturestudy.org)
- When an email is sent to your Branch email address, it is **FORWARDED** to other email addresses. When we set these up, we used BFs
- Contact MarTech (web-help@thecornerstonescripturestudy.org) if you need to Add/Remove yourself from receiving these emails



What do I do with the Inquirer's Email?

- Respond via the person's preferred method of contact
 - If it is an email, make sure the person's email address is in the 'To' line
- Invite them to a Visitor's Session!





The Visitor's Session - Goals

- Why is it important?
- What is it for?
- What happens at the Visitor's Session?
- Best practices/suggestions
- Where can I find more information?



The Visitor's Session – Why it is Important

- To help a prospective new member understand both the process and the culture of The Cornerstone
- To give the prospective new member information on how to get their lessons, access the website, register with the Branch, and receive Branch communications
- There is no 'wrong way' to hold a Visitor's session



The Process of The Cornerstone

- A four-part method
 - Daily independent study guide with individual lessons
 - Small group sessions at the weekly meeting
 - Spiritual Reflections at the weekly meeting connect the scripture to everyday life and historical significance
 - Commentaries written by a Catholic Theologian
- The cornerstone of The Cornerstone is prayer



The Culture of The Cornerstone

- Open and Welcoming
 - No judgement
 - No gossip
- Small Group Sharing vs Discussion/Debate
- No Politics
- Confidentiality is a must



Rules of the Road – St Joseph Branch

Confidentiality

What is said at The Cornerstone stays at The Cornerstone. No exceptions, unless given permission by the one sharing

Prayer

Pray for each other

Time Management

Participate but give everyone a chance

Mindfulness

Avoid politics, controversy and debate

Logistics

Attendance is a priority, but let SGF know if you need to miss

Socials

Same *code-of-silence* applies

Evangelization

Invite others to join

Culture – confidential, no judgement, no gossip

Practice The Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control



The Visitor's Session – St Joseph Branch

- Visitor's only go into separate room
- This year's study
- Study is based on xx translation, but any Bible should be fine.
- Recommend getting Bible tabs to assist with the lessons

+ The Visitor's Session – St Joseph Branch

Calendar

Note breaks

Registration Cards

Separate card for children

Member registration on website

How to download lessons

Website registration code: XX

Child care:

Sign up on the app

Drop off and pick up

Notify Child Care Minister when absent



The Visitor's Session ~ St Anthony of Padua (PM)

- No official Visitor's Session ~ visitor's welcome anytime!
- First day of the year is a review of the guidelines and logistics
- When a visitor contacts the Branch, the BF will send the Visitor's talk to the individual and call him/her to go over the logistics and guidelines of the Cornerstone
- A visitor can join a small group at the first meeting if they have watched the Visitor Session, even if they don't have the lesson done but want to just 'sit in' ~ confidentiality is stressed again by the SGF



The Visitor's Session – Where can I find more information?

- The [Branch Admin Help Center](#)
- Two visitor videos (1 2:22 version and 5:52 version)
- Handouts including:
 - Branch calendar information
 - Rules of the road
 - Website download information
 - Sample lesson
 - Mission statement
 - Members guide for the study questions
 - Small group guidelines
 - Sharing versus discussion
 - The Cornerstone prayer card
 - Photo release
 - Name tag
 - And more!



The Visitor's Session ~ Questions?

- Contact us at [web-help](#)

