

Loitering / Vagrancy Policy

STA welcomes all into our building. The parish community offers Catholic worship, a place for quiet prayer, hospitality, a listening ear, information about community resources for help, spiritual guidance, a comfortable place to sit and have a cup of coffee, read, study or interact with others.

We ask that people use the building in appropriate ways. If individuals only use the building as a place to loiter with no obvious purpose related to the parish/university community, make others feel unsafe, or are potentially illegal, the parish will offer to help these people, including referrals to social service agencies where appropriate. Sometimes, such offers of help will be refused and the concerning behaviors continue. This policy is meant to deal with these latter situations. The policy has two categories.

Unacceptable Behavior subject to an automatic ban from the building

1. Fighting, violence, sexual or other types of harassment
2. Intoxication from drugs or alcohol
3. Possession and display or any type of weapon
4. Being in the building during "Closed" hours
5. Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing church property
6. Disrespect or hostility upon being asked to modify objectionable behaviors

Unacceptable Behavior subject to a warning

1. Smoking in the building
2. Obscene or vulgar language
3. Creating a disturbance by making noise, talking loudly, or engaging in other disruptive conduct
4. Misuse of the restrooms
5. Offensive body odor so as to constitute a nuisance where other persons may be required to leave the room
6. Panhandling or unapproved selling items for money
7. Inappropriate clothing
8. Inappropriate displays of affection
9. Unattended children
10. Inappropriate attention directed at minors or college students
11. Habitual sleeping in the building
12. Being in areas of the building where there is no legitimate purpose to be
13. Preventing others for entering or using any area of the building

1st offense—Individual is told that he/she is in violation of the policy and how to correct behavior. Visitor is warned that if behavior continues, they will be asked to leave.

2nd offense—Individual is asked to leave and informed that any further inappropriate behavior they will be asked not to return.

3rd offense (or if individual refuses to leave) -- Parish staff contacts Ames Police and asks someone to come escort visitor out of the building. Once police have arrived, a staff member gets the name of the individual and informs him/her that he/she is no longer welcome in the building, except for religious services.

If Visitor Returns – Police are called and a "No Trespass Order" is obtained.