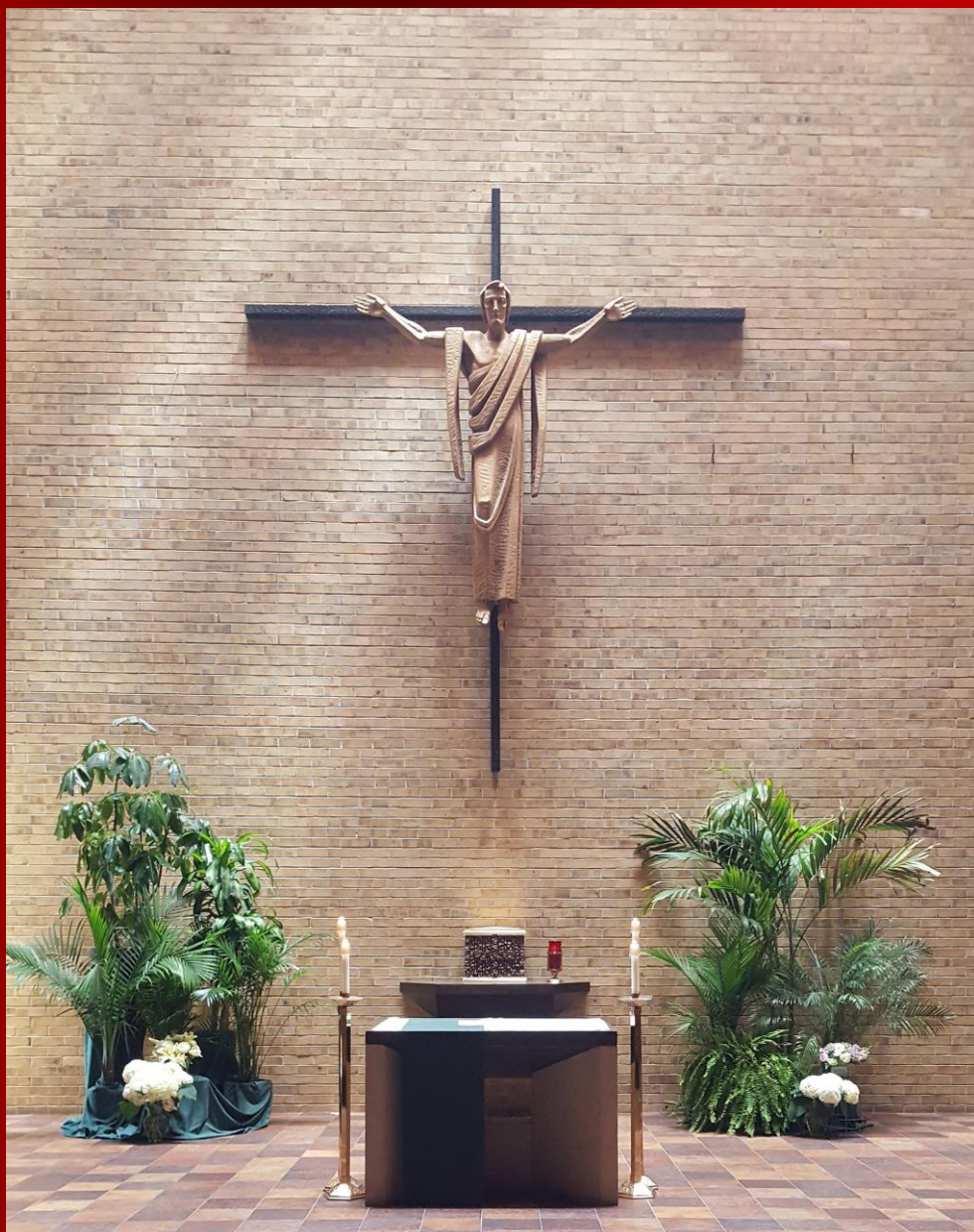
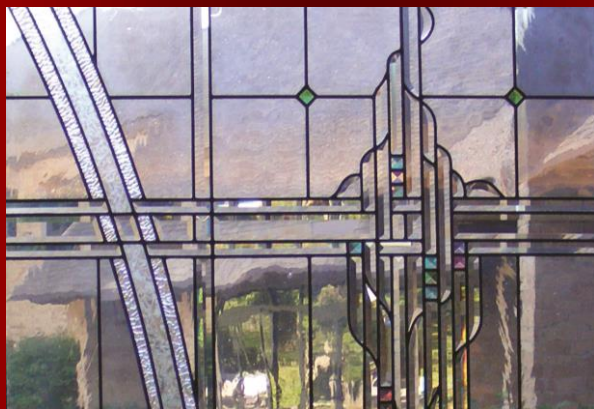




Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish
602 Everglade Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53717



Getting to Know Our Parish

Prayer & Worship

Building Hours

Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Before weekend Masses and Confession

Administrative Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

<p>Mass Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 4:30 PM • Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM 1:00 PM – Mass in Spanish • Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 AM • Tuesday 5:30 PM • Thursday 7:30 AM <p>Reconciliation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 3:15 – 4:10 PM <p>Eucharistic Adoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 2:00 - 4:00 PM • Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 PM • Friday 9:00 - 10:00 AM 	<p>Devotions and Morning Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Lady of Perpetual Help Monday after Mass • Chaplet of Divine Mercy Wednesday after Mass • Rosary for the Unborn Monday 8:05 AM • Rosary for World Peace Friday 8:05 AM
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Holy Days, Advent, Lent, & Feasts

Holy Day Schedule

6:30am, 12:10pm, 6:30pm Bilingual

Lessons & Carols

Celebrated on Epiphany Sunday
1:00pm with Choirs and Brass

Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

Patron of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
Feast Day – January 28

Our Lady of Coromoto

Nuestra Señora de Coromoto
Patroness of Venezuela
Feast Day – September 11

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Patroness of Mexico

Feast Day – December 12

Bilingual Mass, Aztec Dancing, Fiesta

Stations of the Cross

Celebrated during the Season of Lent
Tuesdays at 6:00pm (following 5:30pm Mass)

Fridays at 6:00pm, followed by a Simple Supper

Welcome to St. Thomas Aquinas

We are a Catholic parish where people experience Jesus Christ in a way that changes how they live.

Somos una parroquia Católica donde las personas presencian a Jesucristo de una manera que cambia como viven.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is a place of God's mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live out the Good News. Our doors are wide open so that all may enter. These same doors are also wide open so we can go out and share that good news with others.

Together may we grow to love God, love others, and make disciples!

Welcome from Fr. Brian

Thank you for choosing our parish for your place of worship! Our St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Staff and all our parishioners are glad you are here and look forward to having you as a member of our faith community. I hope that even though you are new, you will get involved in our parish life.

The information in this handbook will help you get familiar with:

- Our STA Parish Staff and Councils, and the roles we each play in Parish Ministry
- Our Worship, Liturgical, and Sacramental Life
- Our Pastoral Care and Outreach Ministry
- Our Community Life
- Our Faith Formation Programs
- And many other facets of our parish

Our parish has many opportunities for involvement and participation on so many levels and in so many ways. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can grow in your faith with our parish community and how you might get involved.

After reviewing the materials in this handbook, please fill out two important forms:

1. The Parishioner Profile form on pages 25 and 26. We look forward to learning more about you!
2. After reading about our Bannan Offertory Program on pages 28 and 29, please fill out the Offertory Pledge Card on page 30. Your financial support is greatly needed in order to meet our financial goals of annual budgeting, maintaining our buildings and property, as well as continuing our pastoral, outreach, and catechetical ministries. Thank you for your generosity. Whatever you are able to share is greatly received and appreciated!

At this time, I would like to invite you to consider supporting our Make Disciples Capital Campaign. Currently our Parish is in the midst of raising \$3.5M. to make our facility effective in serving our mission of forming disciples who are fully engaged and alive in their faith. For more information about our campaign and how to contribute, please contact **Holly Irving** 833-2600, **holly@stamadison.org**.

After filling out the forms, please mail them to Holly Irving, Director of Discipleship and Development, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 602 Everglade Dr., Madison, WI 53717. Or place them in an envelope with Holly's name on it and drop it in the Sunday offertory collection.





Again, we are grateful to have you as part of our parish family. If you have any questions about our parish, please call our office and we will be happy to assist you.

Yours in Christ,

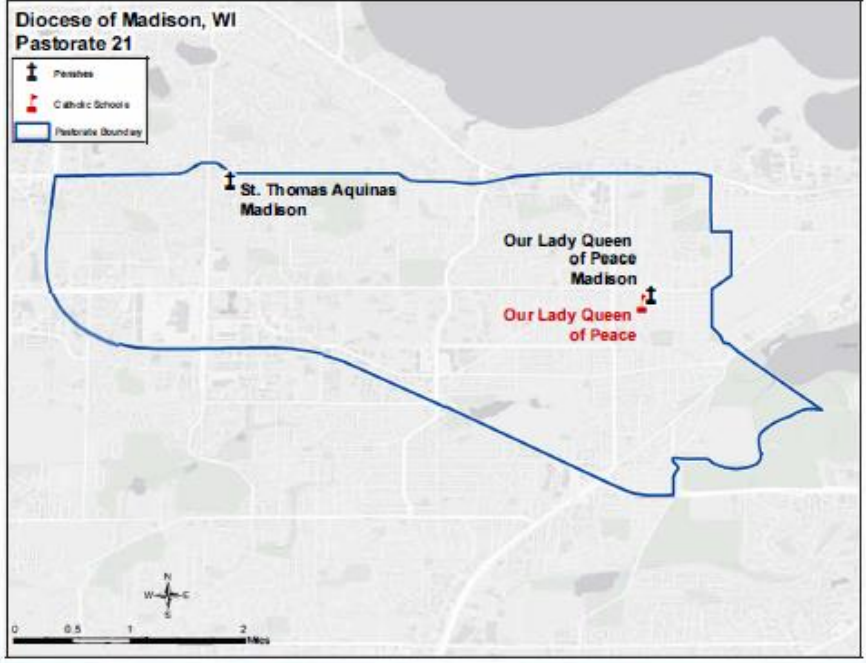


Fr. Brian Wilk
Pastor

Pastorate 21



Diocese of Madison, WI
Pastorate 21



St. Thomas Aquinas
Madison

Our Lady Queen
of Peace
Madison

Our Lady Queen
of Peace

PASTORATE 21

PARISHES

- Madison - Our Lady Queen of Peace
- Madison - St. Thomas Aquinas

PARISH SCHOOLS

- Madison - Our Lady Queen of Peace

PRIESTS

- Fr. Brian Wilk - Parochial Administrator
- Msgr. Jim Gunn - Parochial Vicar
- Fr. Jay Poster - Parochial Vicar
- Fr. Miro Szynal - Priest in Residence
- *Fr. Brian Dulli - Hispanic Ministry*

Into the Deep seeks to realign our resources so that our parishes and other Catholic institutions might move from "maintenance to mission" for the sake of the Gospel. All changes will go into effect July 1, 2023. For a complete list of pastorates and priest assignments, please visit: INTOTHEDEEPMADISON.ORG

Pastorate 21



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH



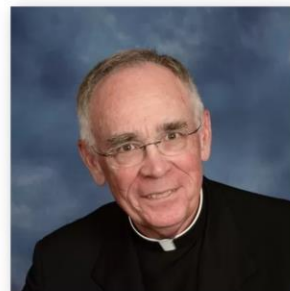
OUR LADY
QUEEN OF PEACE
Parish



Fr. Brian Wilk,
Parochial Administrator



Msgr. James Gunn



Fr. Jay Poster

PASTORATE 21:

Diocese of Madison

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish & Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

St. Thomas Aquinas

Church Address

602 Everglade Drive
Madison, WI 53717

Parish Office

608.833.2600

parish@stamadison.org

Business Office

608.821.4867

business@stamadison.org

Faith Formation & Enrichment Office

608.833.2606

Our Lady Queen of Peace

Church Address

401 S. Owen Drive
Madison, WI 53711

Church Office

608.231.4600

qpmail@qopc.org

School Address

418 Holly Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

School Office

608.231.4580

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Staff

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Staff 608.833.2600

St. Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Parish
602 Everglade Dr.
Madison, WI 53717
Parish@stamadison.org



Greg Buchberger x869
Director of Music Ministries
greg@stamadison.org
Habla español



Dcn. Jerome Buhman x877
Deacon
Baptism, Marriage Prep, RCIA
Dcn.jerome@stamadison.org



Guillermo Godoy Medina
x865
Director of Maintenance
Guillermo@stamadison.org
Habla español



Erik Gyr x866
Pastoral Associate
Bereavement
erik@stamadison.org



Clarice Hinrichs x876
Administrative Assistant
clarice@stamadison.org



Julia Hix x867
Business Manager
business@stamadison.org



Holly Irving x861
Director of Discipleship and
Development
holly@stamadison.org



Terri Kopplin x862
Administrative Assistant
terri@stamadison.org
Habla español



Jennifer Ludtke x863
Director of Evangelization
and Parish Outreach
jennifer@stamadison.org
Habla español



Maira Rivera x868
Coordinator of Hispanic
Ministry & Faith Formation
maira@stamadison.org
Habla español



Robert Rosa-Cruz x879
Youth & Young Adult Ministry
robert@stamadison.org
Habla español



Dcn. Dick Martin
Deacon
Dcn.dick@stamadison.org



Judy Moder x864
Administrative Assistant
judy@stamadison.org



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC PARISH

Councils and Commissions

Parish Pastoral Council

This is an elected and appointed collaborative body, which serves as the chief advisors to the pastor. The council works on a consensus basis that involves all members in deliberations. The Council is called to vision the future of the parish and recommend areas of development. It serves as the primary body of lay leadership, and all other councils, commissions, and ministries flow from it.



Erik Gyr 833-2600, erik@stamadison.org

Finance Council

This is an appointed, collaborative body which serves as chief advisors to the pastor on parish financial matters and works on a consensus basis that involves all members in its work. Areas of responsibility are parish budget, education endowment, and the yearly review of parish finances.

Julia Hix 833-2600, julia@stamadison.org

Evangelization Commission

Formed in 2019, the three main tasks of the Evangelization Commission are to evaluate the efforts of STA so far, recommend specific actions to staff and parish leadership, and discern the tools for achieving the “Go Make Disciples” Evangelization Initiative as presented by Bishop Donald Hying.

Jennifer Ludtke 833-2606, jennifer@stamadison.org

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick and Pastoral Care

When people are seriously ill or hospitalized, the Sacrament of Anointing is celebrated individually. We urge you to contact us prior to hospitalization for elective surgery if you would like to be anointed. Also let us know if someone is hospitalized, seriously ill, or homebound and would like to receive the Sacraments or a home visit. Twice a year, a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing is offered.

Erik Gyr 833-2600, erik@stamadison.org
Holly Irving 833-2600, holly@stamadison.org

Baptism

Parents preparing for the Baptism of their first child are required to attend a Baptism Preparation session. They do not need to repeat the class for each child. Classes are normally held on the second Saturday of the month from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM.

Baptism Preparation Volunteer

These volunteers moderate monthly baptism preparation groups via Zoom. Training provided!

In English: Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org
In Spanish: Maira Rivera 833-2606, maira@stamadison.org



First Eucharist and First Reconciliation

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are usually celebrated for the first time during the second grade or second year of faith formation for the child. Orientation sessions for parents which detail the specific preparation process for these sacraments are usually held in the Fall and Winter. There is a two year minimum of preparation prior to these sacraments.

Maira Rivera 833-2606, maira@stamadison.org

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org



Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian Initiation which completes baptismal grace and strengthens the individual with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish youth are ordinarily confirmed in the spring of their freshman year of high school. Adults who have not celebrated the sacrament are encouraged to prepare for the sacrament during the Lenten Season and celebrate the sacrament in the Easter Season.

Youth Confirmation: Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Adult Confirmation: Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process of formation for adults, whether unbaptized or coming from another Christian denomination, who wish to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church.

Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org

Matrimony

Preparing for marriage at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish is much more than arranging your wedding. The primary goal is to prepare the couple to enter into a life-long, sacramental union. Couples need to arrange the date with the parish at least six months prior to their desired wedding date. The wedding season often gets quite busy, so the earlier the parish receives the request, the more likely it is that the date will be available.

Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org

FOCCUS Couples (Volunteers)

These couples work with engaged couples to complete and discuss the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communion Understanding & Study) inventory. Training provided!

Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org

Funeral Planning and Last Rites

If you or a family member are at the end of life and would like a Pastoral Visit to celebrate the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation, and/or Eucharist (Viaticum), please contact the parish office and provide detailed information to our receptionist. For “after hours” calls and/or emergencies, please leave a detailed message on the voice mail of the Pastor and/or Erik Gyr.

After a loved one dies, the family calls the Funeral Home. The Funeral Director alerts our parish and informs us of the day and time of the family meeting. Either the Pastor or Erik Gyr, or both, will join the family at the Funeral Home and help with making arrangements and planning the Funeral Liturgy.

For advanced Funeral Planning or Grief Support, please contact Erik Gyr.

We encourage all parish members to consider pre-planning their funeral liturgy. Making your wishes known to your loved ones is a real gift in the time of need. Planning materials are available in the parish office. Contact Erik Gyr to discuss the various considerations or for assistance.

Erik Gyr 833-2600, erik@stamadison.org

We give them back to you, O Lord,
Who first gave them to us.
And as you did not lose them in the giving
So we do not lose them in the return.
Not as the world gives do you give, O Lover of Souls!
For what is yours is ours also, if we belong to you.

Life is unending because love is undying,
And the boundaries of this mortal life are but an horizon,
And a horizon is but the limit of our sight.

Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further!
Strengthen us in faith, that we may see beyond the horizon!
And while you prepare a place for us, as you promised,
Prepare us also for that happy place,
That where you are we may be also,
With those we have loved, forever.

- Fr. Bede Jarrett, O.P.



Memorial gifts to the parish in remembrance of your lost loved ones and friends are greatly appreciated. Please consider supporting our parish mission as we remember and pray for those who have gone before us. For more information, contact **Julia Hix** at **833-2600, julia@stamadison.org**.

Liturgical Ministries

Liturgical Roles

There are many opportunities for parishioners to participate in our liturgies. Parishioners can serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, Commentators, Altar Servers, Gift Presenters, Sacristans, Ministers of Hospitality, Greeters, Altar Linen Stewards, Robe Care Stewards, and Art & Environment.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, and Commentators must have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist must be in good standing with the Church, be at least 16 years of age, able to fully comprehend the ministry they are undertaking, and properly trained through parish and diocesan training. Schedules will accommodate your availability.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion distribute Holy Communion at Mass when there are not enough clergy present.

Readers proclaim the first and second readings during Mass. A Reader's workbook and training are provided.

Commentators begin the Mass with a greeting and lead/pray the intercessions after the Creed.

Altar Servers assist the priest in the celebration of Mass. Servers must be at least 10 years of age and attend training sessions.

Gift Presenters take up the gifts of bread and wine during the Preparation of the Gifts.

Sacristans get everything ready for Mass, i.e., unconsecrated hosts, wine, water, Father's chalice, patens, etc. After Mass, they purify the sacred vessels used during Mass.

Ministers of Hospitality have several roles.

- **Greeters** welcome people as they enter the church, answer any questions they may have, and after Mass thank parishioners for praying with us.
- **Ushers** assist people in finding seats, lock the doors 10 minutes after Mass begins, let people into the building after the doors are locked, take up the offertory collections, open the doors after Communion time, hand out bulletins, straighten up pews after Mass, as well as be ready to contact First Responders in case of emergency.
- **Emergency Responders** sit in a designated, reserved pew so they are easily accessible for emergencies.

Livestreaming: AV Team livestreams each Mass and funerals, and other special events. This allows people to pray with our parish family even if not here in person. No experience needed! Training available.

Altar Linen Stewards wash and iron the linens used during Mass. Stewards are scheduled for a month at a time.

Robe Care Stewards wash the servers' albs. This is done once a month, except during the summer when they may need more attention. Stewards are scheduled for a month at a time.

Holly Irving 833-2600, holly@stamadison.org
Para español: Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Art & Environment

This new team of individuals will help to craft and oversee specifically, the Liturgical Environment and Décor in the church. This team will work together with our staff. Here are some specific areas and skills which we are hoping to find among our parishioners:

Liturgical Art & Church Documents: The care and decoration of Altar and the church environment requires a working knowledge of some of the documents of the Church. There are specific requirements, guidelines, and restrictions that we follow throughout the year, working to highlight our liturgical seasons and the Holy Mass, which is our primary celebration as Catholics.

Decorators/Designers: Along with knowledge of liturgical art and Church documents, those who are skilled at designing and arranging our environment are extremely important. This is more than just arranging flowers, although that skill is helpful. With an eye to what we celebrate, those who can envision and help to create a welcoming space that draws the assembly into the action of the Mass, are a must in this area. We strive for our whole community to come together in prayer, and our environment helps us to do this in a beautiful and meaningful way.

Fabric Care: We have a lot of fabric and materials that we use in the church, from Altar Cloths, to banners, to fabric to place around flowers, etc. All this material needs to be laundered, ironed, and organized. Many of the fabric pieces have unhemmed edges which will need some attention to clean them up as well. In addition, we are looking for folks whose sewing skills are top-notch and will be able to help us create new Altar Cloths, banners, etc. in the future.

Flower/Plant Care: We also use a lot of plants and flowers throughout the year in our decorations. Some plants are purchased seasonally, like Poinsettias and Easter Lilies. These need regular watering during those seasons. Other plants we keep throughout the year, introducing them into the liturgical environment seasonally or for special events, which need weekly watering and care throughout the entire year.

Heavy Lifters: We are always in need of those who can assist to move flowers and plants, but also for special occasions, those who can do some heavy lifting are essential. This might include climbing ladders to hang fabric banners, carrying in and putting up the Christmas trees and lights, setting up the crèche or the baptismal font, and adjusting lights, etc.

We are grateful to all our parishioners for their support of our parish community, especially during these past months! If you may be able to assist in any of these areas, please let us know. Many hands make light work. And as we continue to develop this new need and ministry, we pray that our prayer as a community of faith will be strengthened by your generosity and goodness.

Greg Buchberger 833-2600, greg@stamadison.org

Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer is the ultimate form of discipleship. Join us for a prayerful hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. This is a perfect time to pray the Rosary, study the Gospels, and just be in the presence of the Lord. Adorers are needed to expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament.

Monday 2:00-4:00 PM • Tuesday 4:15-5:15 PM • Friday 9:00-10:00 AM
Holly Irving 833-2600, holly@stamadison.org

To volunteer to expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament, please contact:
Terri Kopplin 833-2606, terri@stamadison.org

Music Ministry

The mission of music ministry during the Celebration of the Eucharist is to foster the active participation of the faithful, by encouraging and supporting the sung prayer of all gathered, as well as by providing music for contemplative prayer and reflection.



Cantors & Psalmists – All Masses

The cantor's function is to lead and encourage the congregation in singing. Cantors lead the music at every celebration at St. Thomas Aquinas, by leading the antiphons, acclamations, and litanies. In addition, cantors sing with the assembly and draw them into a deeper experience of our sung prayer. One of the cantors serves as the Psalmist, who has the special task of drawing all present into the proclamation of the Holy Scripture by proclaiming the Psalm. Cantors and Psalmists must be articulate and well-prepared to lead our sung prayer.

Singers/Small Groups/Ensembles – All Masses

In addition to those who serve as cantor and psalmist, additional singers and instrumentalists help to form our small groups/ensembles who assist in leading our sung prayer. These members sing together and play to enhance our worship and bring joy and passion to our Masses. Small group members rehearse once a month throughout the year and serve at our various Masses.

STA Parish Choir - Sunday 10:00 AM Mass

The STA Parish Choir sings weekly at the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. In addition, this group sings for evening Holy Day Masses, Midnight Mass, Triduum, Confirmation, and other Liturgical Celebrations during the Church Year. This SATB choir sings from September through May each year and sings a wide variety of congregational music as well as a varied repertoire of well-composed choral music. This choir is open to students (grade 7 and up) and adults. No audition required. If you love to sing, this group is for you! Rehearsals are every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

STA Choristers - Saturday at 4:30 PM Mass and Sunday at 10:00 AM Mass, Once or Twice a Month

The STA Choristers sing once or twice a month at the 4:30 PM Saturday Mass and the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. In addition, this group has the opportunity to sing for other celebrations, including Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve Masses. This choir sings from September through May each year and is open to students (grades 4-8) as well as high school students. Rehearsals are most often on Wednesday from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

STA Spanish Choir – Saturday at 6:30 PM Mass

The STA Spanish Choir sings weekly at the 6:30 PM Saturday Mass. This choir joins the STA Parish Choir for bilingual celebrations throughout the Liturgical Year. This choir sings year-round and is open to students (grade 7 and up) and adults. Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 5:30 PM before the 6:30 PM Spanish Mass.

Instrumentalists and Accompanists - All Masses

Instrumentalists and accompanists (piano and/or organ) are encouraged to join our music ministry, depending upon experience. Audition required.

Greg Buchberger 833-2600 greg@stamadison.org

Human Concerns

Justice and Peace Committee (Respect Life and Care for Creation Teams)

This committee facilitates learning about, advocating for, and responding to a wide range of social justice issues. Currently there are two very active teams.

The **Respect Life Team** raises awareness of life issues from conception to natural death and promotes a culture of life by witnessing to the value of each person. The Respect Life Team is engaged in activities defending the right to life---including the unborn, the disabled, the elderly and the terminally ill, as well as those members of the human family impacted by the tragedy of abortion. Contact: Greg Chesmore, gchesmore@yahoo.com

The **Care for Creation Team** promotes care for God's creation. Inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the team has spearheaded parish energy audits and our solar panel installation, encouraged energy efficiency at home and at the parish, and offered educational opportunities for all parishioners, particularly around Earth Day and during the Season of Creation. Contact: Trudi Jenny, trudijenny@yahoo.com

The **Justice and Peace Committee** also addresses issues such as hunger, immigration, poverty, racism and sex trafficking. All of the Committee's work is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. Contact Trudi Jenny, trudijenny@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Conference of St. Vincent de Paul participate in many activities intended to recognize the face of Christ in those in our community who are in need. These activities include stocking the Society's food pantry, preparing lunches for the residents of Port St. Vincent, and collecting school supplies for the children of homeless and low-income families who have requested our help. Furniture, clothing, bedding, and household items are provided when needed. Financial assistance is given to get utilities turned back on and for rent assistance.

Community Meal Program

Parishioners provide and serve a noon meal to those in need at Luke House on Ingersoll Street on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You can help by preparing food for the meal and/or volunteering to help serve the meal.

Catholic Multicultural Center Meal Program (CMC)

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish hosts the evening meal on the third Sunday of every month. Three-four cooks arrive at 9:30 AM to make the meal. Four other volunteers provide help from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM with setting tables, serving the clients, and cleaning up. Older children (ages about 12+) with their parents are welcome to participate in serving the guests. All food is provided by the CMC.

Food Collection Weekend

On the third weekend of each month, parishioners bring non-perishable food items to Mass. These food items are given to the St. Vincent de Paul and Lussier Community Education Center food pantries, as well as to neighbors in need. You can help by bringing in food or transporting the donated items to food pantries on third Sundays.



Christmas Food Baskets

Parishioners provide residents of Wexford Village apartments and others in our parish neighborhood a basket of grocery staples to help them celebrate Christmas. A few days before Christmas, you can help assemble and distribute over 100 baskets of non-perishable and fresh foods.

“Gifts from the Heart”

During Advent, donated unwrapped Christmas gifts are placed in the Parish Gathering Area. Some of these gifts are given to parish and neighborhood families who need assistance. St. Vincent de Paul receives the rest of the Christmas gifts to distribute.

Waspam, Nicaragua

The purpose of this outreach effort is to provide financial support to the people who live along the Rio Coco in the northeast part of Nicaragua by assisting the school and parish community of St. Rafael in Waspam.

Jenny Ludtke 833-2606, jennifer@stamadison.org

Seminary in Venezuela

Our parish has donated a variety of liturgical items for the Seminarians and Priests of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Carúpano, Venezuela. If you wish to make any contributions toward this Seminary, please contact the Parish Office.

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Crocheting and Knitting for Love

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish Crocheting and Knitting for Love (STACKS) is made up of women and children who crochet and knit or who would like to learn. Yarn donated by parishioners is used to make prayer shawls, baby blankets, afghans, lap blankets, etc. The items made by this group are donated to various local organizations that help others in need. This group gets together on the second and third Saturday of each month from 1–3 PM.



For information about this program, contact:

Holly Irving 833-2600, holly@stamadison.org

Pastoral Care

Care Center Ministries

- **Oakwood Village Care Center**

Mass is celebrated on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 10:00 AM. The Rosary is prayed the first and third Fridays of the month. Help is needed to move residents to and from the Chapel. Communion Visitors are needed for the first and third Sundays of the month.

- **Sebring Assisted Living Center**

A Word and Communion Service is led by parish members on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:00 AM.

- **Brookdale West Assisted Living Center**

A Word and Communion Service is led by parish members on the first, third, and first Fridays of the month at 11:00 AM.

- **Other Facilities**

There are other facilities in need, but we do not yet have the personnel to offer ministries.

Erik Gyr 833-2600, erik@stamadison.org

Home Communion Visitors

Our parish homebound population is growing. Many cannot participate in parish life on a regular basis. Homebound visitors bring the care and compassion of the parish to help the homebound stay connected to the life and prayer of the parish, which may include bringing Holy Communion to share.



Holly Irving 833-2600, holly@stamadison.org

Erik Gyr 833-2600, erik@stamadison.org

Parish Care Team

Our Parish Care Team seeks to aid those who are homebound or living alone to preserve a rich and independent lifestyle. We offer friendly visits and phone contacts, assistance with shopping, errands and household tasks, and emotional support, prayer and Home Communion visits. We also offer respite, relief and support to family caregivers so they may rest and relax while their loved one has a friendly visitor from our parish. Care Team volunteers are background checked, Safe Environment approved, and receive ongoing training through Catholic Charities.

A partner (client) or caregiver calls team members when they are needed, or they can make weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly arrangements. Team members' typical service times last about two hours. Every other month our team members get together for some spiritual renewal, sharing, and education.

Erik Gyr 833-2600, erik@stamadison.org

Funeral Luncheon Volunteers

This ministry provides support to families who are grieving by offering hospitality on behalf of the parish. Volunteers can bring prepared food for funeral luncheons, help set the tables, serve the food, and/or assist with clean-up.

Judy Moder 833-2600, judy@stamadison.org

Ministry of Consolation

Parish members offer the care and concern of the parish community through notes, conversation, and our bi-annual Bereavement Series. Parish members help those grieving to remember that they are not alone in their journey to healing. Members pray for the dead and all those who mourn them.

Erik Gyr 833-2600, erik@stamadison.org

Prayer Network

E-mails are sent to prayer chain participants on behalf of people needing prayers, having surgeries, or tests on the day of their procedures. Anyone interested can ask to have people put on the prayer chain or become an active person of prayer.

Holly Irving 833-2600, prayer@stamadison.org

Healing Team

Our God is a God of love, and out of that love flows the salvation and wholeness that He longs to bring to all creation. One aspect of the redemptive work of God is the healing of individuals from various forms of physical, emotional, spiritual and relational brokenness. The Prayer Team prayerfully intercedes for people by calling on the Holy Spirit and asking Jesus to grant them wholeness, peace, healing, and reconciliation, according to their needs.

Jenny Ludtke 833-2606, jennifer@stamadison.org



Parish and Community Life

Parish Life Community

Hospitality is happening all the time here at our parish. Sometimes it happens in an organized fashion at an event! It continues to be an important way of making people feel comfortable and open to the possibility of experiencing Jesus in a way that changes how they live. Hospitality looks a bit different at each event. Sometimes there are opportunities to greet guests and fellow parishioners, while other events need food donations and people to do the practical work of set up, serving and clean up. Would you like to help us be more responsive to the changing and expanding needs of the parish, and to make things warm and welcoming for fellow parishioners and guests? We welcome your help!

Judy Moder 833-2600, parish@stamadison.org

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

December 12th is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a popular Mexican feast day. Join us for evening Mass, Aztec dancing and a fiesta.

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Other Parish Events

FUN(d) Raiser

Twice a year, our parish holds a FUN(d) raiser to raise funds for the parish and have FUN! The evening begins with a delicious meal followed by many fun activities. One example is our Trivia Evening. This event offers fun, laughter, teamwork, and a chance to get to know some of your fellow parishioners! You don't have to be good at Trivia. It is a team effort! One of our newer parishioners wrote: "Everyone was welcomed and fed well. The joy and playfulness were evident. To me that was the most important part of the STA family – they can play together! They like to be around each other. I was filled with a wonderful appreciation of my new family. I was so impressed I volunteered to be a part of the group that puts this event on. I want to continue to be a member of the team that brings joy and laughter to the congregation!" We always need help in planning and running these events.

Holly Irving 833-2600, holly@stamadison.org

Spaghetti Dinner

This is our annual celebration of St. Thomas Aquinas our patron saint. A group of volunteers set up the Social Hall with decorations and tables on Saturday morning (end of January or beginning of February). Then more volunteers come to cook, serve, and clean up.

Judy Moder 833-2600, parish@stamadison.org

Chalice Program

We are fervently praying for an increase in vocations for the priesthood, religious life and consecrated life. You can help through prayer and participating in the Traveling Chalice and Traveling Crucifix Program. This is how the program works:

- A beautiful chalice and paten or crucifix will be given to a person/family during Faith Formation.
- Take the Chalice or crucifix home and put it in a visible place to pray for vocations.
- The chalice or crucifix should be returned to the parish the following week.

When our prayers are answered and one of our parishioners becomes a priest, he will receive a chalice and a paten. When one of our parishioners becomes a member of a religious community, she/he will receive a crucifix.

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org



Pictured above, Fr. Bart Timmerman presenting Fr. Lawrence Oparaji with a Chalice from our Chalice Program March 2020

Parish Facilities and Administration

Grounds and Gardens Committee

Members assist the parish maintenance staff in establishing and maintaining seasonal gardens and planters. Members help in the layout and planting of garden annuals, provide routine weeding and deadheading, and assist with fall cleanup. Members are also needed to care for potted plants that are wintered indoors and with seasonal plants used in the church.

Guillermo Godoy Medina 833-2606, Guillermo@stamadison.org



Buildings and Grounds

This committee reviews all parish facilities and the physical plant to recommend major improvements and manages long-range planning for maintenance.

Guillermo Godoy Medina 833-2606, Guillermo@stamadison.org

Mailing Assistants

These assistants help stuff bulk mailings and staple inserts into bulletins. Most of the time an email will go out on Wednesday for help with the bulletin on Friday morning at 9:00 AM. Stuffing bulk mailings only happen once or twice a year and can be any day and time of the week depending on the size and when the mailing is going out.

Clarice Hinrichs 833-2600, clarice@stamadison.org

Contribution Stewards

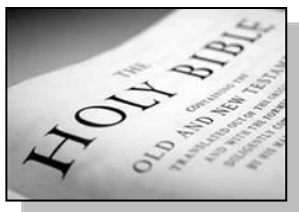
Stewards are responsible for counting the weekend collections on Monday mornings.

Julia Hix 833-2600, julia@stamadison.org

Faith Formation

Mission Statement

Rooted in the mission of Christ and His Church, Faith Formation works to promote and provide diverse opportunities for continuing conversion and growth toward mature discipleship for all members of the parish community.



Alpha

Alpha is a series of 10 sessions. Each Alpha gathering begins with good food. Following refreshments, there is a video of a short talk exploring various basic aspects of the Christian faith. We consider things like, Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? Why did he die? Why and how do I pray? Why and how should I read the Bible? After the video, guests break into small groups where everyone is welcome to share thoughts and ask questions in a nonjudgmental and relaxed setting.

Anyone who wants to get to know Jesus and their faith better, or perhaps get to know about these things for the first time, will find Alpha an easy way to begin. Those who have family members who have stepped away from the Catholic faith will find that Alpha gives them new, more accessible ways of talking about why Jesus and the Church are important to them, while at that same time, strengthening their personal faith life. Alpha is not intended to teach the depth of Catholic knowledge; instead, it is a starting point.

Jenny Ludtke 833-2606, jennifer@stamadison.org

Alpha en español

Este programa de una serie de 10 sesiones provee un ambiente seguro y tranquilo en el cual se comparte una comida con los participantes y se ven videos profesionales donde se explica la fe cristiana de una manera sencilla y abierta. Luego de cada video, los participantes forman grupos pequeños para reflexionar y discutir lo aprendido. Esto ocurre en un ambiente donde nadie es juzgado por sus opiniones y todos comparten una misma jornada. Este programa ayuda a los participantes a aprender sobre Dios, Jesús, y la fe cristiana y a cómo compartirla con los demás.

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Faith Formation - Adults

The journey toward holiness is a lifelong process of growing deeper in faith. All parishioners are urged to foster their own growth. The parish offers many opportunities. Regular celebration of the Eucharist and personal prayer are essential for everyone. Communal prayer outside of the Eucharist, as well as socializing and community building, are also important. Seasonal materials for home study and a variety of events and programs are available for adults of all ages to grow in faith. Offerings include scripture study groups, social justice education, preparation for ministries, topical presentations, and Bereavement Support series.

Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org

Jenny Ludtke 833-2606, jennifer@stamadison.org

Young Adult Group

Young adult ministry provides not just social opportunities, but a discipleship process that takes place through formative teaching, the sacramental life of the Church, and within relationships of accountability. YASTA (Young Adults of STA) seeks to provide opportunities for young adults (20/30's, either married or single) to encounter Jesus Christ, hear His call, and decide to follow Him. The group meets weekly on Thursday evenings and curriculum content changes seasonally. Small groups are being formed in an ongoing fashion as well. To learn more, contact Robert in the parish office.

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Small Faith Groups

At St. Thomas Aquinas parish, people experience Jesus in a way that changes how they live. All are encouraged to continue deepening that experience of Jesus by learning more about the Catholic faith, and by developing friendships with others who love God. It is in community that we deepen our faith as well as develop the tools we need to share that faith with others. Groups typically begin in fall, and new groups launch in January. Groups may focus on prayer, study or deepening one's relationship with Jesus.

Jenny Ludtke 833-2606, jennifer@stamadison.org

Parish Library

The parish library provides learning resources to all parish members for continuing study, enrichment, and growth in our Catholic Faith. A printed list of the library inventory is available in the library. Books in the library are grouped by category marked with different colors. In addition to books, the library has magazines, CDs, DVDs, and movies for your enjoyment.

Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org

Library Committee

The Library Committee meets throughout the year to evaluate, acquire books and media, and to improve the library's effectiveness.

Dcn. Jerome Buhman 833-2606, dcn.jerome@stamadison.org

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

Our Religious Education Program provides a comprehensive and systematic presentation of Catholic beliefs to help students become knowledgeable about their faith, grow in intimacy with Jesus, and integrate these beliefs and traditions into their personal lives. Classes for preschoolers through grade nine meet on a weekly basis beginning in September according to the following schedule.

Elementary (Grades 1-5) and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Ages 3-5 up to 3rd grade)

Tuesdays: 4:00-5:30PM & 6:00-7:30PM and Wednesdays: 4:00-5:30PM & 6:00-7:30PM

Adaptive Catechesis: Students with special needs of any age

Totus Tuus: Summer Bible Camp for Children Grades 1-5

Middle School: Grades 6-8, Wednesday 6:00-7:30PM

Youth Group: Grades 9-12 Sundays 5:00-7:00PM

Confirmation: Grade 9+, Sundays (in the Spring) 3:00-4:30PM

Elementary: Maira Rivera 833-2606, maira@stamadison.org

Youth: Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Mission Trips for Youth

Middle and high school youth have the opportunity each summer to participate in various service retreats and conferences. Each opportunity is directed towards helping the youth to understand the importance of witnessing to Christ in their ordinary Christian living.

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Faith Formation Volunteers

It takes many dedicated individuals to assist with the Education Ministry. Below are some of the volunteer roles needed to make our programs successful.

- **Childcare Volunteers NEEDED** care for the younger children of our catechists and other program assistants during religious education sessions and other related events.
- **Small Group Facilitators** primarily share their faith with our children and youth. They support the ministry by facilitating small groups and directing activities.
- **Substitute Facilitators** assume the teaching of a session when the primary catechist is absent.



Terri Kopplin 833-2606, terri@stamadison.org

Chaperones

Chaperones supervise retreats, social activities, and other special events held throughout the year.

Robert Rosa-Cruz 833-2606, robert@stamadison.org

Safe Environment for All

Protection of Children and Young People

In November of 2002, the Bishops of the United States issued the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. In that document, the Bishops reaffirmed the obligation of all involved with the Church to “protect young people and to prevent sexual abuse.”

Protection for All

Although the Protecting God’s Children program was primarily designed to address the issue of creating safe environments for children and young people, it was also extended to encompass those adults considered to be vulnerable. This includes adults with a physical, mental, or emotional condition that renders them unable to defend, protect, or get help for themselves when injured or emotionally abused. It also includes the elderly.

Requirements

In order to ensure the safety and well-being of all persons, anyone who wishes to serve as a volunteer on behalf of the parish must first complete the corresponding Safe Environment requirements before being placed in a particular ministry role. These components vary based on the volunteer position, but may include a criminal background check, and completion of a VirtusOnline Session. The coordinator for ministries of interest to you will advise you of any training you need.

Terri Kopplin 833-2606, terri@stamadison.org



Parishioner Profile

The information you share about your interests, activities, and talents will help us better serve your needs as a member of our parish. We look forward to helping you grow in your faith.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip _____ E-mail _____

I prefer to be contacted by:

- ☐ E-mail
- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Mail

Mass Preferences – Please check two.

1st 2nd

- ☐ ☐ Saturday 4:30 PM
- ☐ ☐ Sunday 8:00 AM
- ☐ ☐ Sunday 10:00 AM
- ☐ ☐ Sunday 1:00 PM - Spanish Mass

Please check all that are of interest to you.

Liturgy and Music

- ☐ Commentator
- ☐ Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
- ☐ Gift Presenter
- ☐ Reader
- ☐ Minister of Hospitality:
 - ☐ Greeters
 - ☐ Ushers
 - ☐ Security
- ☐ Sacristan
- ☐ Altar Server
- ☐ Linen and Robe Care
- ☐ Eucharistic Adoration
- ☐ Chalice Program
- ☐ Instrumentalist: _____
- ☐ Parish Choir - 7th Grade and Up
- ☐ Choristers - 4th to High School
- ☐ Cantor/Small Group

Art & Environment

- ☐ Sewing
- ☐ Ironing & Washing
- ☐ Candles
- ☐ Seasonal Decorating
- ☐ Plants/Flower Care

Human Concerns

- ☐ Christmas Food Baskets
- ☐ Meal Program: Luke House
- ☐ Justice & Peace Committee/Respect Life and Care for Creation Teams
- ☐ St. Vincent de Paul
- ☐ Delivery of Monthly Food Collection
Lussier Center or St. Vincent de Paul
- ☐ STACKS for Love (Crocheting & Knitting)

Parish Facilities

- ☐ Contribution Steward
- ☐ Mailings
- ☐ Grounds and Garden Committee

Please check all that are of interest to you. (continued)

Pastoral Care

- ☐ Communion Visits to the Homebound
- ☐ Word and Communion at Oakwood, Sebring, and/or Brookdale
- ☐ Oakwood Mass Assistant
- ☐ Prayer Network
- ☐ Parish Care Team
- ☐ Funeral Meals
- ☐ Ministry of Consolation

Parish Life

- ☐ New Member Welcome
- ☐ Parish Life Committee
- ☐ Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
- ☐ Hispanic Ministry

Education

- ☐ Children's Discipleship
- ☐ Catechist
- ☐ Classroom Aide
- ☐ Caller
- ☐ Chaperone
- ☐ Bible Study Leader
- ☐ Library Committee

Sacraments

- ☐ Baptism Preparation Facilitator
- ☐ Assist with RCIA
- ☐ Marriage Preparation Couple (FOCCUS)

Care to Share?

Do you have talents or interests you would like to share?

Hobby

Career

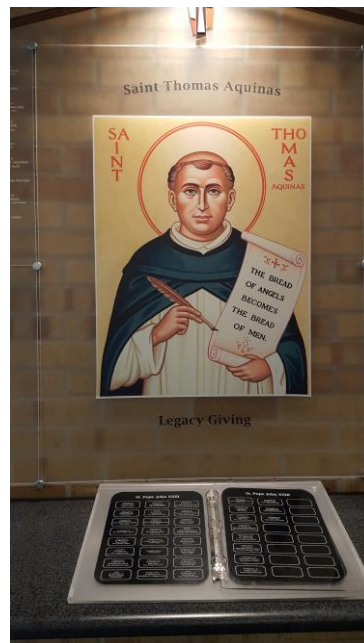
Interest

Legacy Giving

The U.S. Catholic Bishops stated in their pastoral letter titled, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, that good disciples and stewards do the following:

“As Christian stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them loving in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.”

Planned Giving or Legacy Giving is a wonderful opportunity to live out this statement. Legacy Giving is a financial gift made in the lifetime or death of the donor. It offers you, the donor, the opportunity to support the mission of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish by leaving a monetary gift.



St. Thomas Aquinas would like to honor those who have given a legacy/memorial gift to the parish. Name(s) of the person who donated the funds will be engraved on the Legacy Wall or Memorial book according to the monetary donation.

St. Thomas Aquinas Legacy Wall: \$10,000 and up

St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta: \$5,000 to \$9,999

St. Pope John Paul II: \$2,000 to \$4,999

St. Pope John XIII: \$500 - \$1,999

Julia Hix 833-2600, julia@stamadison.org

Financial Support Opportunities

Offertory Program

Think about Our Gifts

Think about the gifts God has given you. What can you return to Him?

- Think about the amount you spend on fast food, movie tickets or rentals, going out to dinner, buying coffee daily, etc.
- Think about the ratio of these expenditures to the support of our parish.
- Ask yourself if the portion of your income that you give to the work of the Lord is enough, too much, or not enough.

Carefully review the chart below. Consider the gifts that God has given you and respond accordingly.

How Much Should We Give?

Many people wonder whether there is a standard for giving. Parishioners must look at their own situation and arrive at that conclusion independently. However, the following scale is provided in order to serve as a guide for your reflection.

Suggested Weekly Offering

Household Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
\$25,000	\$5	\$10	\$14	\$19	\$24	\$48
\$40,000	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$77
\$55,000	\$11	\$21	\$32	\$42	\$53	\$106
\$70,000	\$13	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67	\$135
\$85,000	\$16	\$33	\$49	\$65	\$82	\$163
\$100,000	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$192

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish Offers Several Easy Ways to Contribute to the Support of the Parish:

- Automatic Transfer Program - allows you to make monthly (4th Tuesday of every month) support contributions without having to write a check.
- Credit/Debit Card Payment Program - allows you to make monthly (4th Tuesday of every month) support contributions without having to write a check or stop in.
- PayPal Payments - set up a one-time or recurring gift and donate through our website. First visit <https://stamadison.org/donate/> then, tap “donate via PayPal.
- Envelope Packets for Regular Giving - We can mail envelope packets to your house to bring in weekly, monthly, or quarterly and drop in the offertory basket during mass.

Financial Support Opportunities

Pledge & Contribute

To begin supporting St. Thomas Aquinas Parish through financial contribution, complete the form below and complete the following page (if giving electronically) or contact the parish Business Office with questions: 608-833-2600x867, business@stamadison.org

Offertory Pledge Card

"...and what shall we return to the Lord for all that He has given us."

As a new member or new/updated payee, my/our commitment is:

___\$100 ___\$75 ___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$15 \$_____ **per** week/month/year (circle one)

Method of payment: (check one)

- ☐ **ACH (Automatic Transfer Program monthly via Bank)**
- ☐ **Credit/Debit Card Payment (Auto payment monthly)**
- ☐ **PayPal (Note: you must visit the [PayPal website](#) to set up reoccurring payments yourself)**
- ☐ **Envelope Packets for Regular Giving (Envelopes will be mailed to you)**

Name (print): _____

Date signed: _____

Signature: _____

I understand that St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish asks all parishioners to annually review the amount they give to the parish offertory and determine whether that amount is enough, too much, or not enough.

Office use:

Parishioner envelope number: _____

Date entered in ParishSOFT: _____

Authorizations - Offertory Program

Electronic Contribution Options

ACH Withdraw (via Bank Account):

I authorize St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish to draft my checking account on the fourth Tuesday of each month for the TOTAL amount of \$ _____/per month.

Attach a voided check or savings deposit slip to provide confirmation of account and routing numbers.

Account Number: _____

Routing Number: _____

Checking or Savings? _____

Effective Date:

Please begin drafting my bank account in (month) _____ of (year) 20____ and continue until I notify you otherwise.

OR

Credit /Debit Card Payment:

I authorize St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish to make payment via my credit card on the fourth Tuesday of each month for the TOTAL amount of \$ _____/per month.

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-Digit Security Code: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Effective Date:

Please begin processing my credit card payment in (month) _____ of (year) 20____ and continue until I notify you otherwise.

Giving Allocations/Designated Fund(s):

General Offertory: \$ _____

Make Disciples Capital Campaign
(Construction Loan): \$ _____

MDCC Endowment: \$ _____

Other _____: \$ _____

Other _____: \$ _____

Other _____: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____/per MONTH

Authorization for ACH or Credit/Debit Card Payment:

Name (print) _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____

(Attach VOIDED Check Here if enrolling in ACH)

Submit form to: Julia Hix, Parish Business Manager: 608-833-2600 x867, julia@stamadison.org

Electronic Contribution

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish offers several easy ways to contribute to the support of the parish.

- **Automatic Transfer (Bank Direct Deposit) Program** - allows you to make monthly (4th Tuesday of every month) support contributions without having to write a check. Just fill out the authorization form, attach a check and required account information.
- **Credit Card Payment Program** - allows you to make monthly (4th Tuesday of every month) support contributions without having to write a check or stop in. Just fill out the authorization form including the credit card information (no check copy needed).

Benefits

Electronic contribution:

- Saves you time and simplifies your life
- Helps the parish stabilize our budget and income stream
- Costs you nothing
- Has a high rate of accuracy
- Is less risky than check contribution
- Cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed in the mail

Procedures

- Cancel your authorization at any time by notifying the business manager in writing.
- Once you authorize the transfer, your specific contribution is electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the church's account.
- We try to have all the deductions take effect on the fourth Tuesday of each month. However, occasionally it may post to your account a day or two later depending on your bank.
- You keep your checkbook balance correct by recording the deduction in your check register on the same date each month
- Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transfers. You also receive a statement-of-giving from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish each January for the preceding calendar year.

For questions, contact:

Julia Hix, Business Manager, 833-2600, julia@stamadison.org

Envelope Packets

Choices for Envelope Packets

We provide two choices for receiving your envelope packet.

- **Once A Month**

This packet includes weekly envelopes for the month, plus one envelope for the Building Fund - Mortgage, one for the Make Disciples Capital Campaign, and one for each Special Collection.

- **Once a Quarter**

This packet includes one envelope per month, plus one envelope for the Building Fund - Mortgage, one for the Make Disciples Capital Campaign, and one for each Special Collection.

Unless you request quarterly envelopes, you will receive the monthly packet.

If you prefer once a quarter, please contact:

Judy Moder at 608-833-2600 or email judy@stamadison.org.



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC PARISH**