

2019 SUMMER EDITION

MORE ABOUT US

A SUFFERING CHURCH

Submitted by Fr. Bill Wagner, Pastor

We are all painfully aware of the Church's abuse crisis which continues to disappoint and shock us even to the present day with the incidents surrounding St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Ignatius Loyola parishes. The Archdiocese finds itself in an embarrassing and challenging situation which must be addressed in a way to restore some confidence in its administration.



Priests and parishioners are dismayed and heartbroken; morale is low. Parishioners are angry and demanding more transparency from the Archdiocese. What should be our response? To help us with the answer to this very important question we are having a Saturday session to deal with the issues. Bishop Robert Barron has written a book entitled *Letter to a Suffering Church* which is only 105 pages long. It is more than just a collection of news reports but is a reflection on the issues and a recommendation on how to respond for each of us. We had scheduled this for late September or early October but scheduling problems have arisen and we will be presenting this in November. There will be information in the bulletin and our website at a later date.

The **Word on Fire** organization has produced some videos to accompany this book but I have not yet seen them. The book itself has five chapters and a Conclusion. Looking over the chapter headings will give you an idea of the structure for the presentation to be made.

- Chapter 1. The Devil's Masterpiece. A brief review of the situation
- Chapter 2. Light From Scripture. Insights gained from the Bible
- Chapter 3. We Have Been Here Before. Historical perspective and context.
- Chapter 4. Why Should We Stay. Self-explanatory
- Chapter 5. The Way Forward. What has been and is being done.

So many rumors crop up around events like this and the rumors only add to the crisis while solving nothing. Rumors are usually based on snippets of the truth without any context or verification. Some people thrive on rumors. Those who traffic in rumors reveal some kind of hidden, deep down hatred or resentment. Let us hope we can get past the inevitable rumors already circulating and try to deal only with what is factual.

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL FOR PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH

O glorious St. Michael, guardian and defender of the Church of Jesus Christ, come to the assistance of this Church; guard with especial care her august Head, and obtain that for him and for us the hour of triumph may speedily arrive. O glorious Archangel St. Michael, watch over us during life, defend us against the assaults of the demon, assist us especially at the hour of death; obtain for us a favorable judgment and the happiness of beholding God face to face for endless ages.

Amen

Growing Together in Faith



Faith Formation

Register Now!

- ◆ Visit our parish website: <https://sttm.org>
- ◆ Click on Faith Formation
- ◆ Under Children's Faith Formation, click on
- ◆ Parish School of Religion
- ◆ Download and complete the Registration Forms
- ◆ Send forms to Kate in the parish office

Let us help you teach your children the Beauty of the Catholic Faith!

In St. Thomas More's Sunday School, Parish School of Religion (PSR)
September 8, 2019 - May 3, 2020

We Welcome All Your Children!!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS/CHILDREN (RCIA)

St. Thomas More Church

- Baptized Catholic, but never received the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation?
- Not baptized or baptized in another faith and would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith?



RCIA IS FOR YOU!!

WHAT IS IT?

- RCIA is for non-Catholics and uncatechized Catholics in a no pressure environment
- RCIA is for adults and children/youth (ages 9-17) who have been baptized and want to be received into the Catholic Church
- RCIA is also for those already baptized Catholic who have not yet received First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and who are uncatechized

WHEN AND WHERE IS IT?

- RCIA for 2019-20 begins September 8th and meets weekly each Sunday from 10:00 am until Noon.
- Participants attend other special activities and a retreat throughout the year.
- Classes are held at St. Thomas More in the Faith Formation Room located in Heider Hall.
- Together with catechists and sponsors, participants explore elements of the Catholic faith and prepare to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

HOW CAN YOU GET STARTED?

Contact Becky Ready, The RCIA Director

Call 513-753-2548 or send email to bready@sttm.org

RCIA is an excellent way to learn what the Church teaches and why Catholics believe what they believe!



INTERESTED IN SPONSORING? It's a wonderful way to renew your own faith & knowledge of the church while journeying with someone interested in joining the Church!

Do you remember?



The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The Gospels record many incidents, actually miracles, of Jesus healing people who are sick. It is obvious to anyone who reads the Gospels that Jesus was very attentive to people suffering from a variety of illnesses. His healings were a sign of the coming kingdom which He preached and inaugurated. His healing work continued in the works of the Apostles as attested to in the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus gave them the Spirit and empowered them to continue this work. The Church continues this healing work today through this special sacrament. We read in the Letter to James: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reads at no. 1527 "The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick has as its purpose the conferral of a special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age." The time to be anointed is before a serious operation or when someone is growing weaker from old age or is in the danger of death. But let me emphasize that it is not proper to wait to call for the sacrament just hours

before imminent death. This remains an issue for many Catholics who do not seem to appreciate the graces available to the sick person. Another problem that may arise is that if families wait until the very last hours of life there may not be a priest available to administer the sacrament on such short notice.



Sacrament of Anointing

Please be aware that hospitals no longer inform the parishes when parishioners enter the hospital because of the federal privacy laws enacted a few years ago. Also, it is **not** a good idea to tell the priest after Sunday Mass that you or a family member may be going into the hospital. **PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH THIS KIND OF INFORMATION.**

If a person enters hospice care it is beneficial to alert the parish sooner than later. The special grace of the sacrament can strengthen the peace and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of an illness. It unites the sick person to the passion and suffering of Christ for the good of one's eternal soul.

Article Submitted by Fr. William Wagner, Pastor

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH

To: All St Thomas More Parishioners

August 2019

From: The Parish Finance Commission: Fr Bill Wagner, Chris White (chair), Chris Braun, Dick Schuler, Sam DeBonis and Dick Berish.

Our parish operating results are included in this report:

1. The combined parish, school and cafeteria had a profit for the year of \$84,687 which includes proceeds from the AOC capital campaign rebate and a bequest.
2. The Sunday collection was down 4.0% from prior year.
3. During the year, we made payments on the principal of our debt of \$67,456. Our bank debt continues to fall through collections from the debt envelope and our return from the AOC capital campaign. We ended the year with \$599,154.00 in debt.
4. The 2019 JulyFest (just completed) generated approximately \$65,000 for the parish. Many thanks to Jim Rivard, Linda Caskey and all the volunteers for all their hard work on the festival just concluded. The numbers in the attached financial statement are from the 2018 JulyFest. Thanks again to last year's volunteers.
5. There was \$5484.38 of uncollected tuition at the end of the year
6. All financial obligations were met over the course of the year and there were no unpaid bills on June 30, 2018.

We continue to maintain and improve our property. The annual highlights include:

1. Through a very generous donation by a parishioner, we were able to upgrade the HVAC system in Heider Hall.
2. We extended the sidewalk on the west side of the church to the gym parking lot
3. A new amplifier and speaker system were installed for the bell system
4. The electric panel and electric service were upgraded in Heider Hall
5. A new furnace was installed in More Martyr Hall.

Our budget for 2019-2020 is finalized and was developed as a breakeven budget. The budget includes funds to maintain and improve the property. Some highlights include:

- 1) For the upcoming fiscal year we plan to replace the fire alarm panel in the school
- 2) We also plan to work on the railing in the church entryway.
- 3) Through parishioner support of the tuition assistance program (either through the envelope or direct donation), support provided by the PTO and the Pete Tekulve scholarship fund; we were able to fully fund our tuition assistance requirements for 2019-2020.

Lastly, we cannot successfully offer a full service parish without you: our parishioners. In the words of an anonymous stewardship prayer:

The parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly if I am friendly

It will be holy if I am holy.

It's pews will be filled if I help fill them.

It will do great work if I work.

It will be prayerful if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver.

It will be a place of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my parish to be.

Please give some consideration as to what you can do to support your parish.

May God Continue to Bless our Parish!

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH OPERATING RESULTS *
FISCAL 2018-2019

Account	Jul '18- Jun '19 Actual	Jul '18 - Jun '19 Budget	\$ Over or Under Budget
<u>PARISH INCOME:</u>			
<i>Ministry & Liturgy Income:</i>			
Sunday & Holyday	\$ 788,276.00	\$ 835,000.00	\$ (46,724.00)
Votive Lights	\$ 4,772.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ (1,228.00)
Mass Stipends	\$ 6,425.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ (2,575.00)
Interest & Dividends	\$ 16,652.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,652.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 46,587.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ (33,413.00)
Capital Donations	\$ 33,332.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 18,332.00
Flowers, Bequests, Misc.	\$ 20,866.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ (24,634.00)
Total General:	\$ 916,910.00	\$ 1,005,500.00	\$ (88,590.00)
Religious Formation	\$ 6,132.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (3,868.00)
Fundraising-Fiscal Year Net	\$ 63,416.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 13,416.00
AOC Campaign & Sale of Property	\$ 35,299.00	\$ -	\$ 35,299.00
PARISH INCOME TOTALS	\$ 1,021,757.00	\$ 1,065,500.00	\$ (43,743.00)
<i>(Does not include designated collections)</i>			
<u>SCHOOL INCOME:</u>			
Total Student Tuition, Reg Fees, OH Aid	\$ 1,086,585.00	\$ 1,004,545.00	\$ 82,040.00
Total Income: Cafeteria & Latch Key	\$ 177,315.00	\$ 124,646.00	\$ 52,669.00
TOTAL SCHOOL INCOME:	\$ 1,263,900.00	\$ 1,129,191.00	\$ 134,709.00
TOTAL PARISH & SCHOOL INCOME:	\$ 2,285,657.00	\$ 2,194,691.00	\$ 90,966.00

Parishioners also gave an additional \$105,038 through the second collections (not including the monthly debt collection) during 2018-2019. Most notably, \$24,479 was donated to our St. Vincent de Paul ministry and \$36,424 to the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

**This is a condensed operating statement that highlights parish income and expenditures.
A detailed operating statement was reviewed by the Parish Finance Committee*

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH OPERATING RESULTS *
FISCAL 2018-2019

Account	Jul '18- Jun '19 Actual	Jul '18 - Jun '19 Budget	\$ Over or Under Budget
<u>PARISH EXPENSES:</u>			
Priests, Visitors	\$ 66,391.00	\$ 67,000.00	\$ (609.00)
Lay Parish Salaries	\$ 230,768.00	\$ 244,000.00	\$ (13,232.00)
General & Administrative	\$ 11,973.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ (527.00)
Parish Benefits	\$ 119,419.00	\$ 142,282.00	\$ (22,863.00)
Service Charges	\$ 8,487.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 487.00
Ministry and Liturgy	\$ 24,166.00	\$ 21,800.00	\$ 2,366.00
Religious Formation	\$ 14,031.00	\$ 17,700.00	\$ (3,669.00)
Facilities	\$ 153,558.00	\$ 154,650.00	\$ (1,092.00)
Archdiocese Assessment	\$ 102,044.00	\$ 104,000.00	\$ (1,956.00)
Interest Payments on Parish Debt	\$ 28,669.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ (1,331.00)
TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES:	\$ 759,506.00	\$ 801,932.00	\$ (42,426.00)
<u>SCHOOL EXPENSES:</u>			
School General and Administrative	\$ 212,473.00	\$ 211,750.00	\$ 723.00
Teacher Salaries	\$ 558,164.00	\$ 522,000.00	\$ 36,164.00
Instructional Expense	\$ 11,919.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (81.00)
Preschool expenses	\$ 72,198.00	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 3,198.00
Latchkey expenses	\$ 52,331.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 20,331.00
Religion Instructional Expenditures	\$ 12,332.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 4,832.00
Library Expenses	\$ 192.00	\$ -	\$ 192.00
Cafeteria Salaries & Expenses	\$ 60,301.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 6,301.00
School Facilities	\$ 152,587.00	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 9,587.00
Fundraising expenses	\$ 9,847.00	\$ -	\$ 9,847.00
School Benefits	\$ 299,120.00	\$ 283,748.00	
TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES:	\$ 1,441,464.00	\$ 1,334,998.00	\$ 106,466.00
TOTAL PARISH & SCHOOL EXPENSE:	\$ 2,200,970.00	\$ 2,136,930.00	\$ 64,040.00
GRAND TOTALS-Surplus/Deficit	\$ 84,687.00	\$ 57,761.00	
Principal Payments on Parish Debt	\$ 67,456.00		
Other Changes in liabilities and assets	\$ (1,083.00)	(contributed to decrease in cash)	
Capital projects	\$ 152,772.00		
Checking account balance			
June 30 2018	\$ 365,102.00		
June 30 2019	\$ 228,478.00		



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Submitted by Deacon Bob Brazier

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) who take Communion to the sick and homebound have a role in sharing the Church's total ministry to the sick after the manner of Jesus. In bringing Communion to the sick and homebound, the EMHC represents Christ and manifests faith and charity on behalf of the whole community toward those who cannot be present at Sunday Mass. This ministry is a sign of support and concern shown by the community for its members.

The EMHC becomes a vital link between the parish community, family and the member who is sick or homebound. By allowing us take care of your loved ones when they are not able to come to church, helps them feel connected. It is beneficial for visits to the sick and homebound to occur after Sunday Mass so that the link between the parish liturgical celebration and the parishioner is maintained. Taking a parish bulletin to them also helps maintain that link. The parish may also have a special blessing and dismissal for EMHCs after Communion; the assembly is sending them forth to do their ministry on the behalf of the whole parish community.

According to the document Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass, "The Eucharist for Communion outside of church is to be carried in a pyx or other covered vessel; the vesture of the minister and the manner of carrying the Eucharist should be appropriate and in accord with local circumstances." Consecrated hosts are usually taken from the EMHC's home parish, following the procedures of that parish.

When you need to receive the host for the people that you are taking Communion to, please either bring your pyx to the sanctuary and place it on the tray before Mass or wait until after Mass to see the deacon or sacristan to receive the Holy Eucharist. When receiving Communion at Mass, is not the time to pick up hosts for your Homebound parishioners. If you need the body of Christ please refrain from getting this while in the Communion procession line during Mass and come to the Sacristy and ask for it.

The church asks that you sign the name of the people you are taking Communion to in the Book of the Homebound found in the sacristy. This lets the parish community know these parishioners are in need of prayer and gives other parishioners the opportunity to visit the sick or homebound.

Important Notice

If you have left the parish and are still receiving St. Thomas More publications or information by mail, would you be so kind as to call the Parish Office at 753-2541 to let us know that you are no longer attending and would like to be marked inactive. This would help defray some of the cost to the parish to send out these publications and church information.

Thank You!



Notes from the Music Director

Submitted by Doug Stegeman, Music Director

As we move into the busier seasons of the liturgical year, we are still looking for more people to join our music ministry! We have been very blessed with an abundance of growth over the last year, and I am hoping to continue that trend. Here are the programs we have, and the particular needs we have:

4:00 PM GUITAR ENSEMBLE. This group is comprised of guitar, bass, piano, flute, saxophone, violin and a few singers. We are always looking for more instrumentalists, particularly anyone who plays a wind or string instrument. Someone who is able to play Conga drums and auxiliary percussion on

select songs during the Mass would also be a very nice addition. Most importantly, this group needs more singers, particularly female voices. This group is open to anyone from 6th grade to adult.

10:00 AM TEEN-ADULT CHOIR. The 10:00 am choir is the longest running program within our music ministry department, comprised of both men and women singing music in up to 5 part harmony. Anyone who likes to sing, regardless of ability or experience, is welcome to join. Our greatest need at this point is men, as well as lower female voices. However, we are really looking for as many people to join as possible, regardless of what part you sing! This group is open to anyone from 6th grade to adult.

12:00 PM GOSPEL CHOIR. The Gospel choir is one of our newest programs at St. Thomas More. In addition to singing a prelude before Mass, the Gospel choir also sings more spiritual influenced arrangements of our existing music repertoire. The music at this Mass is the most challenging to sing, particularly since almost all members sing harmonies rather than the melody (the part of the song that the congregation sings). This group is open to anyone 18 and older, with the ability and willingness to sing harmony. We are looking for both men and women to join this group.

Our biggest needs overall are for singers at both the 10:00 am Mass and the 4:00 pm Saturday vigil Mass. If you like to sing, even if you don't think you are that great of a singer, please e-mail your music director! We have a spot for everyone!

E-mail Doug Stegeman at dstegeman@sttm.org or call the music ministry office at (513)753-2546.



Submitted by Candace Hurley, Principal

Opening Day, August 21, was a great start for the new school year. Faculty and staff greeted our students wearing our new shirts provided by our PTO as our 8th graders cheered the students arriving in the morning.

STM welcomed many new families and several new staff members. Mr. Andy Baker joined our faculty as Music teacher, Miss Amanda Dreyer is our new Junior High Religion teacher, and Ms. Amber Ruehlman has taken the reins as cafeteria manager. In addition, we have several new teacher aides: Mrs. Dolores Berish, Mrs. Lisa Nelson, Mrs. Molly Yoshida, Miss Kayla Bredernitz, and Mrs. Kristy Petri. They will join aides Mrs. Kelly Koch, Mrs. Michelle Schoolfield, Mrs. Liz Hart, and Mrs. Sharon Treinen in working with our teachers to better

meet the needs of all of our students.

New curriculum this year includes the *Rooted Theology of the Body*. This new curriculum, mandated by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, provides age appropriate lessons derived from the original teachings of Pope St. John Paul II and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Theology of the Body conveys the inestimable worth and dignity of the human person and the road to happiness which involves the gift of self, communion with others and with the Blessed Trinity. This new curriculum will be a supplement to our current religion program.

Come tour our school to see first-hand the exciting learning that takes place each and every day. Call the school office at 513-753-2540 to arrange for a personal tour. It's not too early to be thinking of next year! Next year EdChoice scholarships will be open to students in grades K-8. These scholarships are income based and families can begin applying for these on February 1, 2020.

We're Going Back To School



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