



CALLED TO MINISTRY

church of saint thomas the apostle

2011-2012

Welcome

Parish Pastoral Council

Is the consultative body of the parish. Its primary responsibilities are to advise the Pastor on the parish's spiritual growth and community involvement. The Council meets one Monday of each month for two to three hours. Council members are expected to attend the meetings, to serve on ad hoc committees when necessary and to welcome and encourage communication and participation from all parishioners. The term of a Parish Council member is three years.

Finance Council

Advises the Pastor on all financial issues, including budget and asset management. A background in finance, accounting, banking, business, or investment is desirable. Estimated time commitment for this committee is one meeting per month.

New Member Welcome

Members of the Welcoming Ministry are available in the gathering space after each Mass to answer questions and provide information about St. Thomas the Apostle parish, including how to become a member. Calling Committee members phone newly-registered parishioners to welcome them and answer any questions they may have. New Member Committee members organize and invite our newest families to the New Member Blessing weekends.

Hospitality Committee

Schedules and organizes between four and six social activities that give parish members the opportunity to meet and interact. Events include both family and adult activities. Members attend a yearly planning meeting and are asked to participate in some way at each event. Committee members should be genuinely interested in the social life of the parish and feel comfortable mixing and welcoming others.

Coffee and Donuts

Serve coffee, juice and donuts to parishioners on selected weekends after the Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses, and cookies and juice after the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Volunteers may sign up for as many or as few weekends as they wish.

Steak and Salmon Grill

Volunteer workers are needed for all aspects of this fun yearly event which typically takes place the first weekend of June in the backyard.

Contact Terry Ruttger: truttger@sta-mpls.org

Welcome

Nursery Helper

The nursery is available during Sunday Mass in the school building. Volunteers for the nursery are scheduled on a weekly basis.

Short-Term Special Event Helper

Want to help our parish community celebrate special events? Parishioners will help on an as-needed basis for a variety of projects.

Office Volunteer

Opportunities at the Parish Center include a variety of office tasks and answering the phone. If you are occasionally available for an hour or two and enjoy working with others, please consider this opportunity.

Money Counter

They are responsible for tallying the proceeds of the weekend Mass collections. They work on Monday mornings for four months of the year; time commitment is around an hour each week. All money counters must have a credit check, per Archdiocesan rules.

Thomas's Garden Angels

This ministry is responsible for care and nurturing of the green and flowering plants in the Worship space and on the church grounds. Duties include the general seasonal care of plants, preparing, planting and weeding flower beds, and seasonal clean-up. Green thumbs are not required.

Contact Terry Ruttger: truttger@sta-mpls.org

Worship

Minister of Hospitality: Greeter

The ministry of hospitality works to promote a welcoming environment for all who come to the liturgy. Greeters are friendly and outgoing, open to strangers, and willing to extend themselves to others. They are scheduled one or two times per month and need to arrive at least twenty minutes before the start of the liturgy.

Ministr of Hospitality: Usher

The ushers greet God's people as they assemble for prayer. In addition, they seat latecomers, take up the collection, facilitate the communion procession and see to the needs of the community. Men, women, youth and seniors—all are welcome. "On the job training" is provided.

Altar Server

The altar server assists the presider and enables the liturgy to proceed smoothly. Young people, grades 5 and up, as well as adults, may volunteer. Servers must have respect for the liturgy and reverence for the holy things used at Mass and for the holy actions in which the assembly participates. One training session begins this ministry, with extra rehearsals required for special celebrations.

Table Minister

The communion rite is the heart and center of the Eucharistic liturgy. It is the moment when we many are made one in the Lord. Those who minister Christ's body and blood to the body of Christ, the church, must be personally present to each and every person who comes to the table of the Lord.

A training session is required.

Lector

The ministry of lector is to proclaim God's Word in the midst of the assembly. A lector must love, pray and study the scriptures. Beyond having a strong, clear voice, an ability to speak with ease and conviction, and good interpretive skills, a lector must make deliberate and careful preparation of the scriptures. A workshop for new lectors and a follow up coaching session are required.

Contact Mary Werner: mwerner@sta-mpls.org

Worship

Lay Presider

A lay presider is first and foremost a person of prayer. Lay presiders need leadership skills, good public-speaking experience, and a strong sense of presence. Training is required.

Art and Environment

Members of the art and environment ministry provide appropriate seasonal decorations throughout the liturgical year. Help with everything related to the decorations is needed—from ironing to designing. There are no “regular” meetings; this ministry gathers and works seasonally.

Flag Sewer

The outside flags need to be replaced regularly because of damage from sun, wind, and rain. It takes approximately one half-hour to make one flag. Fabric, thread, and instructions are provided.

Contact Mary Werner: mwerner@sta-mpls.org

Liturgy of the Word with Children: Presider or Assistant Minister

Using the Children’s Lectionary and materials provided, the presider presents prayers and scripture readings of the day and facilitates age-appropriate discussions for children ages six and older during Sunday Mass. A training session at the beginning of this ministry is provided as well as yearly renewal sessions. The assistant minister helps the children to pray by overseeing the group and seeing to individual needs as they arise. The time commitment for both ministries is once monthly depending upon schedules.

Contact Cheryl Taylor: ctaylor@sta-mpls.org

Worship

Music Ministry

The music ministry leads and supports the assembly's participation in the sung prayer of the liturgy. There are many volunteer opportunities for parishioners of all ages. This is an

Parish Choir

The choir is a dedicated group of parishioners that supports the singing of the assembly at the Sunday morning liturgies from September through May. Members represent diverse ages, from high-school students through senior citizens. Regular Wednesday evening rehearsals develop the sense of a small community within the larger parish. All who love to sing are welcome—from the best to the most remedial musician. There is a place for you in this group!

Children's Choir

This ministry helps to form children in ritual prayer while at the same time enhancing the worship experience of the entire assembly. This choir is open to all parish children in grades 2 through 8. Rehearsals are required.

Instrumentalist

Musical art in all its forms serves God's people at prayer. Instrumentalists are welcome to play regularly or occasionally at any or all of the liturgies. An "audition" to assess skill is necessary. Sight-reading and at-home rehearsal is required.

Percussionist

The parish owns a variety of quality percussion instruments appropriate for the liturgy. Training is provided and rehearsals are required.

Bell Ringer

Those who are interested must be in 6th grade or older. Adults and seniors are welcome. An ability to read music and keep time is a must. Regular rehearsals are required.

Contact Mary Werner: mwerner@sta-mpls.org

Wisdom

Seeds: Prayer Leader

Using the Lectionary-based *Seeds* materials, prayer leaders serve in teams of 2 and minister to a group of 3,4 and 5 year olds during Sunday Mass. The leaders present age-appropriate activities based on the week's reading that include stories, music and art. An initial training session is provided as well as yearly renewal sessions. The time commitment is approximately once a month, depending upon schedules and number of prayer leaders.

Contact Cheryl Taylor: ctaylor@sta-mpls.org

Faith Formation for All

Faith Formation for All is a program of life-long faith formation for all ages. We share our faith in God, in Jesus Christ and in one another as Church. We tell our story; we form relationships based on the theological virtues of faith, hope and love; we commit ourselves to share our gifts with one another in spirit of charity and understanding. Volunteer opportunities include catechists and assistant catechists for grades K-8. The time commitment is approximately two hours most Wednesday evenings from September to May.

Contact Bill Nolan: bnolan@sta-mpls.org

Wisdom

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

The Baptism Team consists of catechists who share the Church's teachings on Baptism with parents and godparents. Training materials are provided and the time commitment is approximately three Wednesday evening family meetings (lasting about 1-1/2 hours) and the corresponding Sunday celebration per year.

First Eucharist

This sacrament is celebrated soon after Easter Sunday for children 7 years and older. Seven sessions, several of which require parental participation, precede it. The time commitment for this ministry includes the training sessions, the seven prep sessions, and the celebration liturgies.

First Reconciliation

Sacramental preparation is held in the fall and offered for children in second and third grade. We offer six weeks of preparatory sessions, which require some parental participation. Time commitment for volunteers of this ministry includes the training sessions, the six prep classes, and the evening liturgy.

Confirmation

The Confirmation program begins in the fall for 9th grade and older and extends into the following academic year. The sacrament is received in January for 10th grade and older. The celebration of this sacrament takes place at either the Basilica of St. Mary's in Minneapolis or the Cathedral of St. Paul. Preparation for Confirmation includes both sessions incorporated into the Wednesday Faith Formation for All Program as well as a mandatory day retreat. Volunteer opportunities include large and small group facilitation, retreat support roles and sharing one's faith experience with the group. Time commitments depend on the nature of the volunteer role undertaken. Both large group and small group leaders do receive training and materials and are asked to commit to weekly gatherings from September to May.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a personalized process for adults who are considering the possibility of joining the Catholic Church. Parishioners can serve as sponsors, hospitality providers, or catechists. Adult initiation sessions meet along with adult faith formation on Wednesday evenings.

Marriage

Individuals or couples are trained to administer the PREPARE Inventory to engaged couples and review the results with them. Meetings are arranged at times convenient for the participants. Time commitment is roughly 3-4 hours with each couple.

Wisdom

Carondelet Catholic School

Carondelet Catholic School is the parish school of St. Thomas the Apostle and Christ the King. This year we celebrate our 20th year as a consolidated school, still fulfilling the vision of high-quality Catholic education in Southwest Minneapolis which began with our two parish schools. Carondelet has become known for academic excellence, service to others, and our wonderful partnership between school, parish and home. Our children receive a whole education which engages them in spiritual as well as intellectual and physical growth.

Carondelet is your school. As one of the ministries of your parish, we want you to know that your children are welcome here. We are happy to work with you on an educational plan to meet the individual learning needs of your children and on a financial assistance plan to make the tuition work in your budget.

Please feel free to stop in, call or check out our website at carondeletcatholicsschool.com to learn more about becoming part of your parish school. We would love to get to know you whether you have young children, or just want to be involved with this exciting ministry.

Contact Principal Sue Kerr at 612-927-8673

Wisdom

Venture Youth Ministry

ADULT LEADERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL THESE ACTIVITIES:

Sr. High Ignite

Ignite is Venture Youth Ministry's Sr. High Youth Ministry program and is open to all youth in grades 9-12 from both parishes. Ignite meets on Sunday evenings during the academic year from 7 – 8:30pm in the Auditorium at CTK.

Social Events and Service Projects

Occur on a regular basis throughout the year. Past social and service opportunities have included: Castaway retreats, lock-in, hayride, ski trip, dances, skating, snow tubing, bowling, Feed My Starving Children, Edina Care Center, Waite House, Salvation Army.

Peer Ministry

Peer Ministry requires a special commitment of time and of yourself. Involvement includes attendance at small-group meetings on a weekly basis. There is a fall session for 8th grade youth and a winter/spring session for high school youth. In addition to faith and life issues, we focus our time together on peer counseling and communication skills that we put into action.

After School Drop-in

Tuesdays during the academic year from 4:00-6:00 p.m. for youth in grades 7-8. **Down Under** is the parish youth space located in the basement of the Christ the King office building.

Summer Activities

Tuesday Night Drop-in at Down Under 7-9pm (open gym, movies, pizza, board games), Summer Festival camp for junior and senior high youth (two separate weeks), and our Summer Sr. High Mission Trip.

Go to the Venture website: www.ventureym.org

Witness

Outreach

St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners have a variety of ways to become involved in community outreach. Opportunities include:

Simpson Housing Ministry

For many years, we have partnered with Simpson Housing Services to provide items families need as they move into transitional housing, as well as opportunities to volunteer with Simpson, get involved in advocacy work to help end homelessness, and provide follow-up assistance with families' ongoing needs. Most Simpson Housing families have exhausted their personal resources and have already utilized many community services.

Simpson Shelter Meal Ministry

A group of parishioners work at Simpson's Shelter preparing and serving meals once a month. For more information on our partnership with Simpson Housing Services, visit our web site www.sta-mpls.org.

Habitat for Humanity

Each summer, St. Thomas the Apostle and Christ the King parishes work together for Habitat for Humanity. For one or two weeks, parishioners and other volunteers donate their time and skills to make affordable housing a reality for a family in our community. Many people are needed for a great variety of tasks, including fund raising, food preparation and serving, scheduling and coordination of the project, and construction of the house itself.

JustGiving Fair

This annual fair, usually held the first weekend of December, provides education on the issues and concerns regarding globalization and fair trade through materials, presentations and a gift fair featuring fair-trade goods from around the world. Opportunities include planning, logistics, setup, cleanup and communication/publicity.

Green Team

This new ministry was created out of the belief that we are stewards of the Earth and it is our duty to take care of God's creation. Join parishioners in working to conserve our natural and parish resources through education and action.

Witness

Branch Lunch

Provide warm meals to the homeless in our community on the fourth Friday of each month. Each team serves at one of the Branch locations on four Fridays per year; members may belong to one or all of the teams. Whether shopping for food, cooking, or serving, the time commitment is about two hours per lunch.

Meals on Wheels

They are an active group of parishioners who meet once every six weeks and deliver lunches to elderly and infirm area residences. Up to 10 meals can be delivered between 11:30 and 1:00. Volunteers must have an insured car and a drivers license.

Funeral Lunch

Prepares and serves meals to families after the funeral of a loved one. Committee members may spend from two to six hours on setup, serving, and cleanup, and may work during all or part of the meal. Periodic food donations are also needed.

Prayer Line

Unite with the parish community in prayer during times of need. Members inform each other by telephone of prayer requests related to death, illness, or other crises. Any parishioner willing to pray for others and to call and be called is invited to this ministry. An e-mail prayer line is also available for those who unable to call due to work schedules or out of town travel.

Knitting Ministry

Gather to make prayer shawls for the sick, hats for the homeless and other charitable knitting. The group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at the Parish Center.

Pastoral Care Minister

These specially trained ministers visit our elderly, homebound and those recovering from illness or accidents. They may be called to bring communion to those unable to attend Mass. We are in need of men interested in this confidential, much-needed ministry.

Hotdish Helper

Do you love to cook? Want to help a parishioner in need? Prepare a hot dish (your recipe or ours) and deliver to a neighbor in need (recovering from surgery, death of a loved one, family in the hospital).

Witness

Donation Opportunities

There are designated collection baskets in the O’Gara Gathering Space for these types of donations:

Personal Care Products

Personal care products may be left in the designated place in the Gathering Space and are taken to local Branch facilities when St.

Thomas the Apostle volunteers serve the monthly Branch lunch. These products are distributed by the Branch staff to the poor and homeless. Items appropriate for donation include soap, shampoo, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, combs, hairbrushes, nail clippers, and deodorants.

Joyce Food Shelf

Parishioners may donate food to the Joyce Food Shelf by leaving it in the designated area at the back of the church. Volunteers are also needed at the food shelf.

Tapestry (*formerly Southside Life Care Center*)

New and gently-used baby clothing and items including equipment, books and toys, are needed to help support children and parents in crisis.

Pop Tabs

Recycling proceeds from collected pop tabs are used by Ronald McDonald House Charities to support their mission of providing a caring community for families with seriously ill children.

Eye Glasses

The Lions Club collects prescription and reading glasses and sunglasses to distribute to people in need in developing countries. They especially need children’s glasses.



CHURCH OF

St. Thomas
THE **Apostle**

Welcome Worship Wisdom Witness

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