

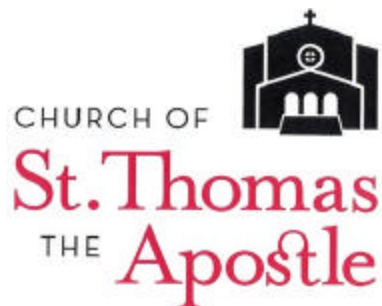
Church of St. Thomas the Apostle

We Welcome
both stranger and friend among us.

We Worship
to praise God, experiencing God's
presence through ritual, music,
environment and spoken word.

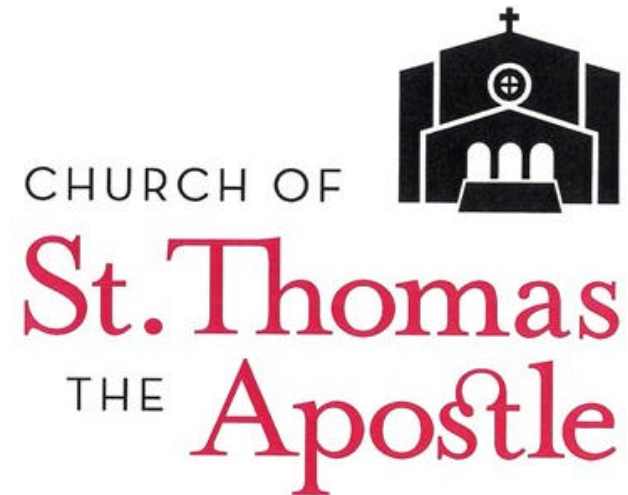
We seek Wisdom
to better understand and
follow Christ's teachings.

We bear Witness
to God's love, sharing our time,
talents and treasures with others.



Worship Witness Welcome Wisdom

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Worship Witness Welcome Wisdom

2008-2009
Parish Ministry
Opportunities

New Ministry Opportunity

Simpson Housing Ministry

During the past year, St. Thomas parishioners have assisted five families in making the journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency. We have now established a partnership relationship with Simpson Housing Services to continue 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. For more information on our partnership with Simpson Housing Services, visit our web site www.sta-mpls.org or Simpson Housing at www.simpsonhousing.org.

Administration

Guest Bulletin Editor

This volunteer has a working knowledge of Publisher and is available to edit the weekly bulletin. Bulletin deadlines are Monday and upload is Wednesday. Items are provided by the staff and final proofing is done by the office.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee schedules and organizes between four and six social activities annually that give parish members the opportunity to meet and interact. Events include both family and adult activities. Members attend one meeting monthly and are asked to participate in some way at each event. Committee members should be genuinely interested in the social development of the parish and feel comfortable mixing and introducing people.

Welcoming Ministry

Members of the Welcoming Ministry greet and answer questions from people interested in St. Thomas the Apostle parish. They also serve as welcoming sponsors.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee assists the parish staff in engaging parishioners of all ages in their beliefs and in their contributions of time, talent and treasure to the parish community. Committee members help maintain a thoughtful stewardship program through continual research and evaluation. The committee plans, organizes and implements the stewardship drive that addresses both financial and volunteer needs. Time commitment includes a monthly meeting and additional time for special projects.

Garden Club

The Garden Club 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.

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.

Table of Contents

Liturgy.....	2
Faith Formation.....	5
Social Transformation.....	9
Pastoral Care.....	10
Administration.....	11
New Ministry Opportunity.....	13

All parishioners who work with children and/or vulnerable adults in any parish program will need to pass a parish-paid background check. Details of this process are available from the parish office at any time and will also be provided to those who sign up for these ministry areas. Forms are also found on the parish website: www.sta-mpls.org

Liturgy

Lectors

The ministry of lector is to bring God's Word to life 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.

Table Ministers

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.

Ministry of Hospitality: Ushers

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.

Ministers of Hospitality: Greeters

The ministry of hospitality works to promote a welcoming environment for all who come to the liturgy. Hospitality ministers 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.

Altar Servers

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. A training session is required.

Administration

Parish Pastoral Council

The 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 on the first Monday of each month for two to three hours. Council members are expected to attend monthly meetings, to prepare for these meetings by studying agendas and other materials, 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 Committee

The Finance Committee advises the Pastor on all financial issues, including budget and asset management. A background in finance, accounting, banking, or investment is desirable. Estimated time commitment for this committee is two to three hours per month. The Finance Committee also assists with the annual financial stewardship campaign, which raises operating funds for the parish. Volunteers for the campaign should be prepared to commit 12 to 20 hours per year, with most of the work occurring in the late fall.

Coffee and Donuts

Volunteers serve coffee, juice, rolls, 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.

Money Counters

Money counters 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 one and a half to two hours each week. All money counters must have a credit check, per Archdiocesan rules.

Office Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities at the Parish Center involve a variety of office and clerical tasks, including help with mailings and assembling worship aids. If you are occasionally available for an hour or two (especially on short notice) and enjoy working with others, please consider this opportunity. Treats are usually served.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Ministers

Pastoral Care is a one-on-one ministry that gives a listening, caring, confidential and supportive presence to parishioners who are dealing with varying life situations. Those who do this ministry receive skills training and meet monthly for continuing education and support. The ministry includes visiting homebound parishioners and residents of care facilities; giving spiritual support in the form of prayer and sacrament; providing grief support after the death of a loved one. Time commitment is four to six hours monthly.

Funeral Lunch

The funeral lunch committee 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.

STARS—St. Thomas Active Retired Seniors

STARS offers an opportunity for seniors in the parish to be in contact with each other and to participate together in the parish community. Join us in re-forming this important ministry.

Knitting Ministry

Members of the knitting ministry gather to make prayer shawls. The prayer shawls are given to people who are in need of healing in their lives. The group meets monthly in the evenings.

Prayer Line

The Prayer Line is an opportunity to unit 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.

Liturgy

Lay Presiders

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 Sewers

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.

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. 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.

Liturgy

Music Ministry

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

Parish Choir

The choir is a dedicated group of parishioners that supports the singing of the assembly at the 9:00 Sunday liturgy from September through May. Members represent diverse ages, from high-school students through senior citizens. Regular 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!

Parish Ensemble

This small group sings regularly at the 11:00 liturgy. They rehearse on Thursday evenings. An ability to read music and practice on one's own is helpful.

Instrumentalists

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.

Percussionists

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

Bell Ringers

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.

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.

Social Transformation

Outreach

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

Branch Lunch

Branch Lunch teams 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.

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.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is 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.

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.

Habitat for Humanity

Each summer St. Thomas the Apostle parish joins the broader community to 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. Information about each year's Habitat project-along with a call for volunteers-is printed in the parish bulletin in the spring.

Faith Formation

Venture Youth Ministry—A Shared Ministry of St. Thomas the Apostle and Christ the King

St. Thomas the Apostle and Christ the King parishes have joined together in ministering to the youth of our community and grades 7-12. Youth Ministry has three goals: To empower young people to live as disciples of participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. We recognize the unique nature and needs of the adolescent years and minister accordingly.

Adult Leaders

Adult leaders volunteer to be a part of a dynamic team of adults that serves the young people of our parishes in a variety of programs such as; Service Sundays, Mission Trips, Castaway weekend Retreats, Summer Festival, Peer Ministry, Community Building activities like Hayrides and Lock-ins, and After school drop-in. Our adults commit to providing a safe and affirming place for our young people to explore and discover their faith, they commit to being a part of that journey with young people, and they commit to being a caring and encouraging presence in the lives of young people.

Youth in Grades 7-12

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to take part in youth ministry. All of our programs have been created to assist young people in their spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth and to allow young people an opportunity to hear and share their stories with other youth and adults. Youth have the opportunity to volunteer in our Service Sunday program, and go on a week long Mission Trip in the Summer, go on retreats like Castaway and Summer Festival to getaway and hear about faith in a new way, to develop their leadership abilities with Peer Ministry Training, and hang out with friends and meet new people their age with events like hayrides and lock-ins.

Youth Ministry Coordinating Team

This team is made up of adults and youth from both STA and CTK. They are the steering committee for Youth Ministry. This team sets goals and does the strategic planning for our youth ministry. For more program information check: www.ventureym.org

Faith Formation

Seeds and Liturgy of the Word with Children

Prayer leaders serve in teams ministering to pre-school aged children (Seeds) or children ages six and up (Liturgy of the Word with Children). The time commitment depends on the number of volunteer prayer leaders, but should be approximately once each month. In addition, two Saturday training sessions are required.

Generations of Faith

Generations of Faith 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 (open to anyone who has been confirmed). The time commitment is approximately 2-1/2 hours most Wednesday evenings from September to May, as well as two or three summer gatherings for evaluations and group discussions.

Just Giving 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.

Nursery

A Sunday morning nursery is available during masses in the St. Thomas the Apostle school building. Sunday volunteers for the nursery are scheduled on a weekly basis.

Faith Formation

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

This sacrament is held in the fall for children in fourth grade and older. 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

Confirmation is celebrated annually during the Easter Season and takes place at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Preparation sessions are offered to high school age parishioners and are incorporated into the Wednesday Generations of Faith sessions. Volunteer opportunities include support roles, retreat preparation, small group facilitation and faith-sharing. Time commitments include training sessions and weekly gatherings from September to May.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process for adults who are considering the possibility of becoming Catholic. Parishioners can serve as sponsors, hospitality providers, or catechists. Sponsors serve as companions to those inquiring about the Catholic tradition, welcoming inquirers on behalf of the whole parish community and helping them become familiar with parish life. Sponsorship is not a teaching ministry. Adult initiation sessions meet weekly for an hour and a half; the length of a volunteer's commitment is from mid-September through the Easter season.

Faith Formation

Carondelet Catholic School

Carondelet Catholic School is governed by a Board of Directors. The directors are drawn primarily from Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes, with the majority of its members being parents or guardians of school students. The Canonical Administrator, appointed by the Archbishop, also serves on the Board of Directors. The pastors of Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes, and the School Principal, are the ex-officio members of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors Responsibilities with respect to the school can include: policy development, financing, and long-term development and planning. The Board of Directors generally meets on a monthly basis during the school year, with the exception of December and June. The Board of Directors uses a consensus model for decision making.

Other school volunteer opportunities include alumni researchers; health aides; Board of Directors action team members (focusing on marketing, facilities, and endowment); parish bulletin news writers; computer technicians; library aides; judges for student fairs (such as inventors and history fairs); Junior Achievement teachers; playground and lunchroom monitors; coaches (for soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball); and classroom presenters (based on volunteer's area of expertise).