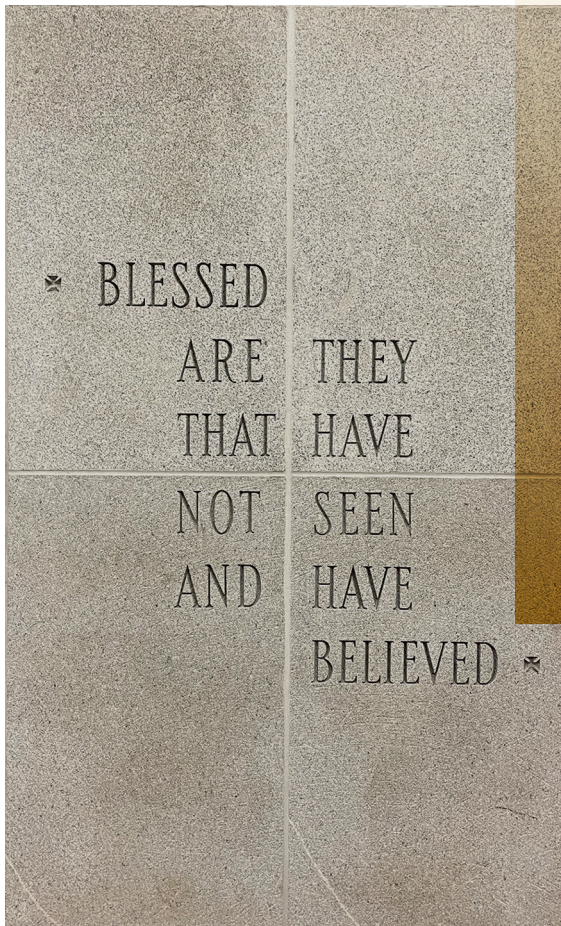




ST·THOMAS
THE APOSTLE



Faithful

STEWARDSHIP 2024



FORWARD IN FAITH, GRATITUDE AND JOY

FATHER ERICH RUTTEN

Pastor

“It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere, to give you thanks.”

– PREFACE TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We have all gone through profound changes and challenges in the last several years. Many things we thought were so solid became uncertain during the pandemic. Then came the news of a new pastor and a new cluster relationship with Christ the King. As a parish, Saint Thomas the Apostle has accomplished so much in the past few years. A *Mission Critical Campaign*, the updates in our Worship space, parish center and school building. We have also been nurturing the ongoing sacramental preparation, faith formation for all, pastoral care, as well as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. And yes...we are all still trying to respond to the many ways COVID has changed our world.

There is much to look back on, lots to be thankful for, and an abundance of grace to celebrate. The Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle is indeed a vibrant community of deep faith and a spirit of generous stewardship. Yet, we know that God always invites us forward in faith into something new.

Stewardship is not only about looking back and acknowledging all the gifts. It is also about looking forward and being willing to invest our blessings back into the community with gratitude and joy. It is giving back for the good of all with our prayer, participation, hospitality, and generosity.

We continue to ask, “What return can I make? (*Psalm 116*), How can I build up our parish? What area of leadership needs me here at St. Thomas? What ministry is God calling me into now? How can I make a difference in our parish and in the world?”

I invite you to enjoy this stewardship report. As you look through it, I invite you to say a prayer of thanksgiving for all the great people and great things we are doing here at Saint Thomas the Apostle. Then, please reflect on how God has provided for you this past year, and then make your stewardship pledge for the coming year.

May God continue to bless us and guide us all,



Erich Rutten

Father Erich Rutten



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

BILL NOLAN

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation and Social Outreach

In 1987, the American Express Company introduced a new ad campaign featuring this new signature slogan. It was a shift in focus from seeing people as *customers* to seeing people as *members*. Your American Express card would now indicate a “member since” date right on the front. You were understood now as being a part of something bigger than yourself, more than simply a consumer of goods and services. And with that came rewards of various kinds. Membership had its privileges.

How much truer is this of us at St. Thomas the Apostle! Parishioners (and I count myself as a parishioner as well as a staff member) are not *customers* – the parish is not a store where we pay for and then consume spiritual goods and services. Your and my financial stewardship is not a fee which entitles us to receive things in return.

As *members*, we are investing in ourselves as spiritual homeowners.

We welcome others to join us – not

simply to shop here, but to become part of us, to enrich us with their own time, talent, and treasure. We grow as members of one body, we struggle as members of one body. When one member falls, another is there to uplift and to carry. When one member doubts, another is there to console and to reassure.

In a culture that leans more and more toward consumerism, such an image may be difficult to grasp, but grasp it we must if we are to continue to preach and to build up the reign of God. Our liturgical ministries, our faith formation and spiritual growth ministries, our pastoral care and outreach ministries, not to mention everyday things like keeping the lights on and the air conditioning working, all depend on us taking seriously our role as *members* of St. Thomas the Apostle. We do more than show up for Mass – we *participate*. We do more than learn about our faith, we *share* it. We do more than contribute to a cause, we *live* the Beatitudes.

Membership has its privileges indeed – but it also has its *responsibilities*. If we are to be something other than a spiritual goods and services store, we must be good *stewards*, not merely good customers. Your stewardship to St. Thomas the Apostle is both a privilege and a responsibility of membership. Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means taking both seriously. Please prayerfully consider what your membership means and respond as you are able. The privileges are more than worth it!

Bill Nolan



BEING THE CHURCH TO ONE ANOTHER

BARBARA STAATS
Pastoral Administrator

As we reflect on how we return our blessings this year, I wanted to share an overview of the ongoing pastoral care here at St. Thomas the Apostle. During the Pandemic there was a practical and pastoral need to assist families in taking care of their loved ones while they were at home. As a result, there was a cultivation and outward movement of empowering people “to be church to one another” through the Eucharist and prayer in their homes. So, although St. Thomas the Apostle still serves as the central point of support and resources for pastoral care, we have broadened the circle of pastoral ministers overall. Following are just some of our Pastoral Care ministries:



Communion in the home

If you or someone you love is homebound or sick, we can bring communion to them at home. This ministry is also carried out by family members bringing the eucharist to their loved ones who are homebound.

Card Ministry

Parishioners 80 years and older receive cards on their birthdays and many other occasions like Christmas and Easter. There is a deep appreciation for these personal cards from those who receive them. I want to say a special thank you to Lois Newell who served in this ministry for many years and just last year passed the torch to others.



Prayer Line

If you would like the parish community as a whole to pray for someone you love who is in need of prayers, please contact the parish office to have someone placed on the prayer line.

Continued next page



Funeral Ministry

Walking a family through the Rite of Catholic Funerals is such an important part of the sacramental life here at St. Thomas the Apostle. From the initial meeting to talk about readings and music, to the visitation before the funeral, followed by the funeral Mass, and culminating with a meal and social afterward. We walk with each family through this journey toward their final farewell home.

Liturgy of Remembrance

This moving ritual takes place each year during the first week in November to commemorate the feast of All Souls. We gather to recall and commemorate those who have died during the past year. We gather in song, scripture and blessings in this powerful evening of remembrance.



Hospital and Care Centers

We typically hear about our parishioners who are hospitalized or sick from fellow parishioners. We can provide a loving presence and support for those who are hospitalized or in transitional care by bringing communion or just a visit.

Prayer Shawls

About 25 years ago, the Prayer Shawl Ministry was born and since then, has been sustaining in their efforts to provide a symbol of warmth and comfort to those in need of prayer. This group of women have been knitting prayer shawls with loving hands and caring hearts, dedicated to providing these shawls to those in need. Each prayer shawl also contains a loving message from the community of St. Thomas the Apostle. The students of Carondelet have been joining this group of women to share in this meaningful ministry.



A Special Thank You...

...to our volunteer pastoral ministers here at St. Thomas the Apostle. They are: Heather Frary, Lorna Bjorkman, Kathy Cahill, Susan Jepsen, Becky Rooney, Jim Martin, Tom McGuire and Meg Mannix.

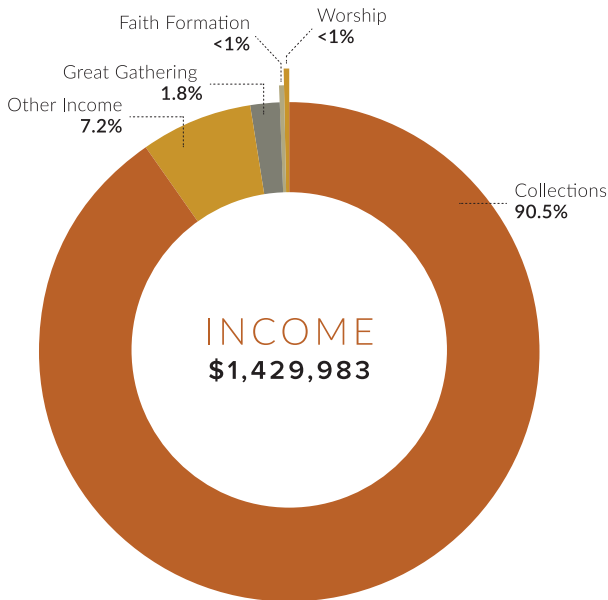
My deepest gratitude for all of you!

Barbara Staats

Barbara Staats

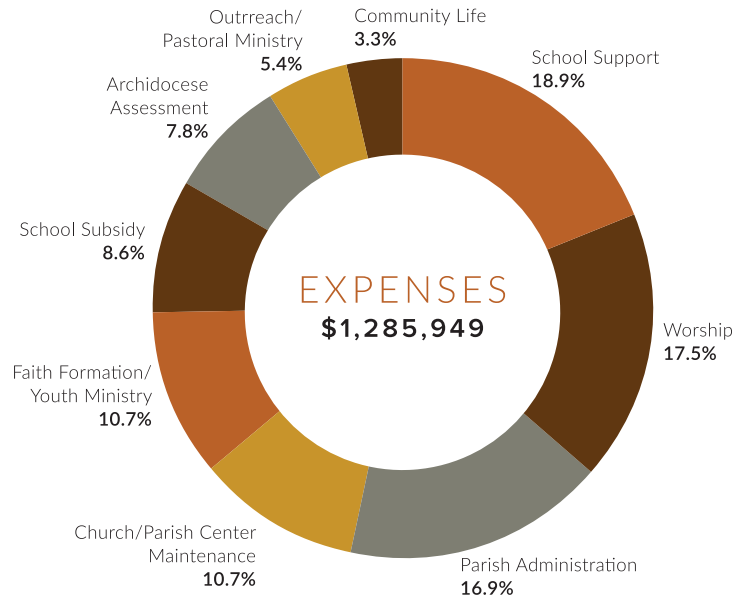
OPERATIONS

Income and Expenses 2022-23



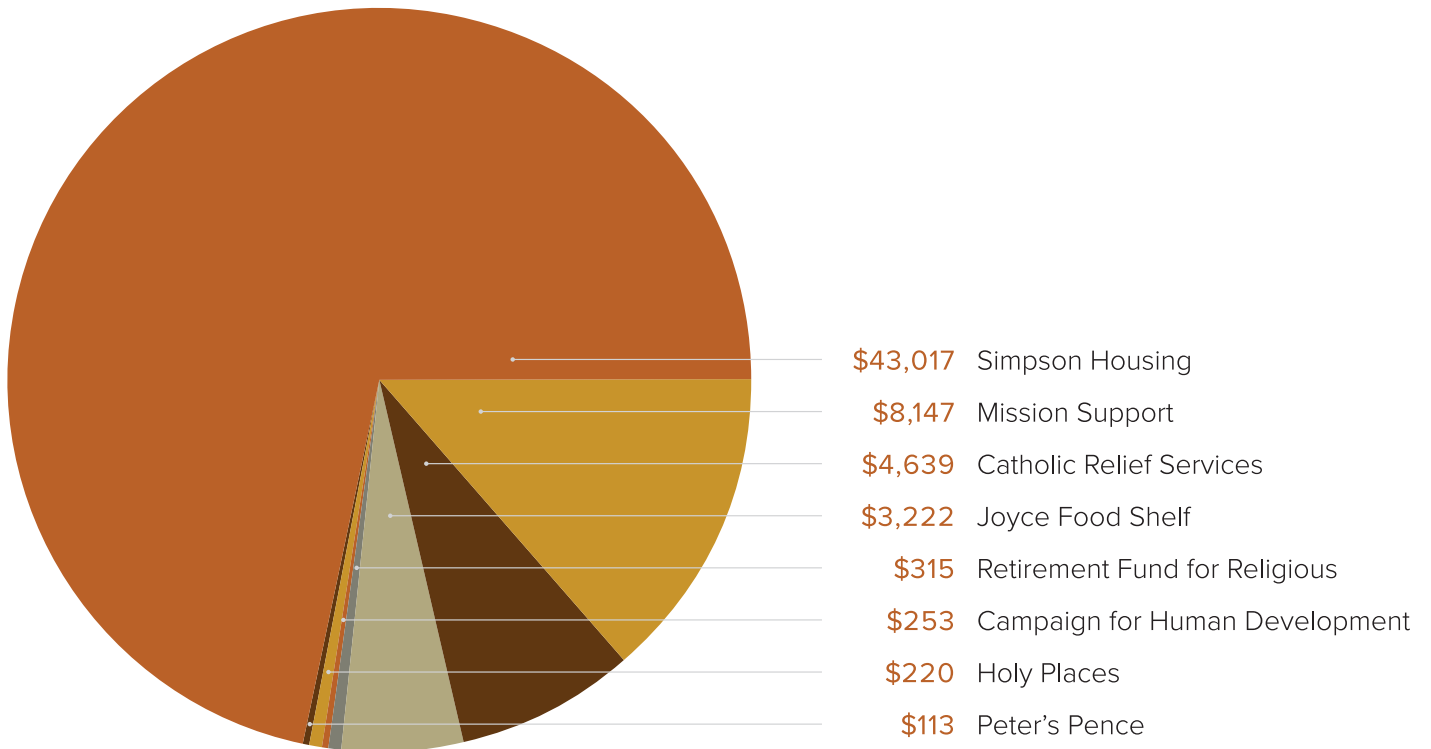
Collection Income	\$1,293,943
Sundays, Holy Days; includes electronic contributions	
Other	\$102,807
Cell tower rental, parking lot rental, mass stipends, stole fees, interest, misc.	
Great Gathering	\$25,329
Proceeds from our annual fundraising/ social event in October	
Faith Formation	\$5,485
Fees for faith formation	
Worship	\$2,420
Christmas and Easter flowers, vigil lights (net income after expenses)	

Note: Special collections (Simpson Housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) not included.

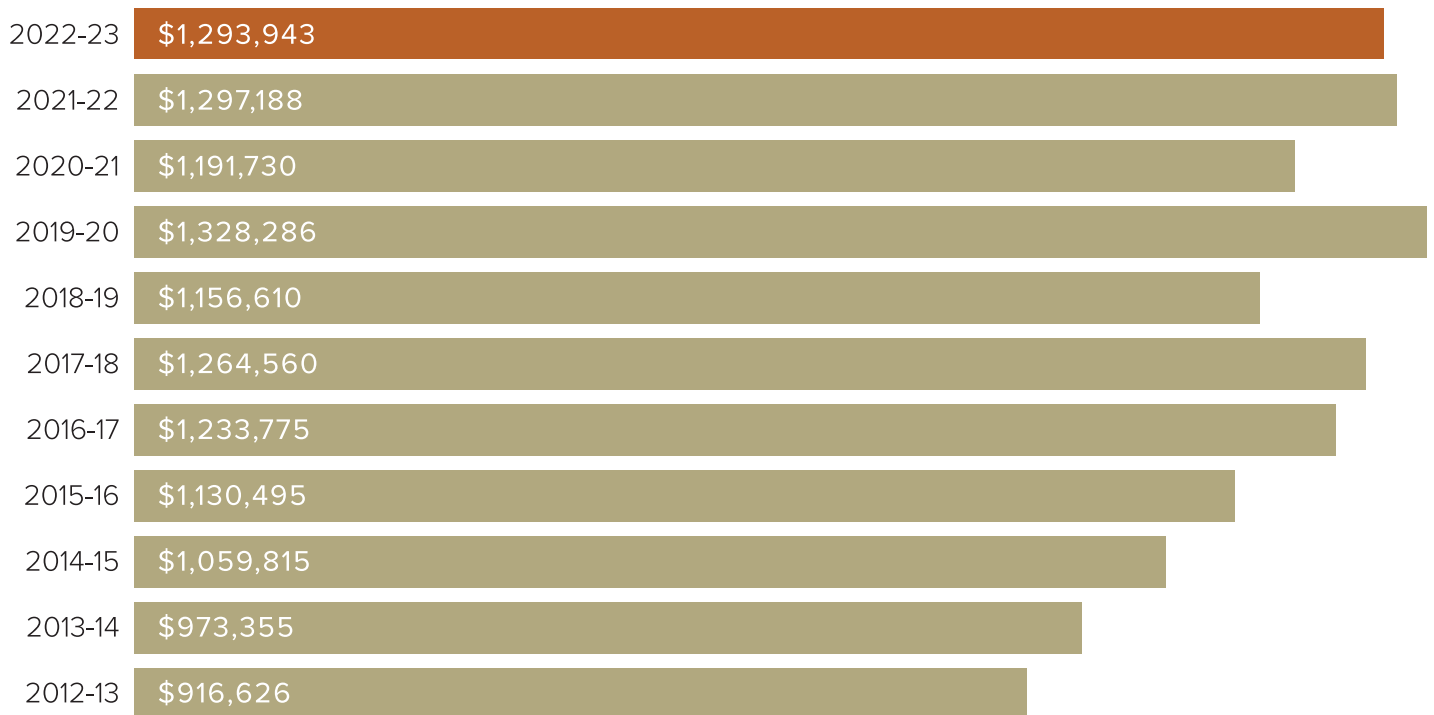


School Support	\$243,097
Staff wages and benefits, school-related share of utilities, repairs, maintenance costs, equipment, insurance	
Worship	\$225,515
Staff wages and benefits, supplies for liturgy, music, musicians, decorations, instrument maintenance	
Parish Administration	\$217,496
Staff wages and benefits, office supplies and equipment, postage, insurance, street assessments	
Church/Parish Center Maintenance	\$138,092
Staff wages and benefits, utilities, repairs, boiler and other maintenance costs, grounds, snow removal, equipment	
Faith Formation/ Youth Ministry	\$138,084
Staff wages and benefits, books, meals, materials, supplies, youth ministry	
School Subsidy	\$111,037
Archdiocese Assessment	\$100,806
Outreach/ Pastoral Ministry	\$68,899
Staff wages and benefits, pastoral care ministry, Branch Lunch, funeral lunches, Simpson meals, Meals on Wheels	
Community life	\$42,924
Hospitality, stewardship, supplies, background checks	

DONATIONS To Special Funds



COLLECTION INCOME 2012-23



What is a Financial Stewardship PLEDGE?

Each of us has the opportunity again to renew our commitment to one another and the mission of St. Thomas the Apostle by making a financial commitment – a pledge, which is *a solemn promise*.



Why are annual stewardship pledges important?

Annual pledges support what we do at St. Thomas the Apostle and beyond our doors. Our yearly budget is driven by the generosity of our annual pledges. Each and every pledge makes a difference and works toward the building of our faith community. Knowing what funding to expect, we can plan for the costs of our ministries for the coming year.



How much should I give with an annual stewardship pledge?

Christian stewardship is grounded in the understanding that our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. The Bible tells us that we should contribute 10% of our income. If this seems unmanageable for you, we suggest you choose another percentage and challenge yourself to grow in your practice of sacrificial stewardship over time.



Do I have to pay at the time I make my stewardship pledge?

Returning your pledge card is a promise to pay. You make your pledge and then fulfill this pledge over as many payments as you wish throughout the year, using offering envelopes or electronic fund transfers.

CONSIDER AUTOMATIC GIVING

More than ever before, the disruptions over the past few years have affirmed the benefits of **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** – for the parish and for our members.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- It will allow you to plan your giving, in the same way you budget other financial considerations.
- You will no longer have to be concerned about catching up on donations when you miss a Mass.
- You will be able to easily adjust the amount of your automated contribution (up and down).
- You will no longer need to write a check or bring cash every week.
- At Mass, you may drop the provided EFT card into the collection basket to represent your contribution.

You may sign up and easily manage your electronic giving (recurring or one-time) through our secure website: stthomasmpls.org or you may complete the form below and return it to the parish office.

EFT AUTHORIZATION FORM (Electronic Fund Transfer)

FOR ALL USERS

I am a CURRENT user.
Please update my enrollment account

I am a CURRENT user.
Please keep my amount the same

This is a NEW EFT enrollment

CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Contribution Amount _____

Date contributions are to begin _____

Weekly

Monthly (1st or 15th, circle one)

Semi-monthly on the 1st and the 15th

Quarterly

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

FOR NEW EFT ENROLLMENT ONLY

Checking Account
(attach a voided check)

Savings Account
(attach a savings deposit slip)

I authorize the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle to process debit entries from my account. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip.

Date _____

Signature _____

You may also go to our website: stthomasmpls.org/faithful-stewardship and enroll for EFT. Enrolling online will also give you an option to use a credit card. If you need assistance in enrolling, please call the parish office and we are happy to assist you.



Return this enrollment form in the attached envelope, along with a voided check or savings deposit slip.



A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners,

In 1925, St. Thomas the Apostle, in collaboration with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, began its dedication to Catholic education, focusing on the values of love, peace, service and excellence. For 99 years, students have walked the halls of St. Thomas the Apostle, learning and growing in their faith, academics and service. Carondelet Catholic School has carried on the traditions of our parishes and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Carondelet Catholic School continues to provide an exceptional Catholic education to 414 students, representing 265 families through the dedication of over forty faculty and staff and through focusing on the values of love, peace, service and excellence. Our enrollment has grown by nearly ten percent in the last two years, largely through the support of our parishes. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure have enabled us to offer unique programming that promotes growth in academics and in faith.

Our students have outperformed our neighboring schools in academic achievement, character development, sports and fine arts activities, like band, choir and theater. They have advanced in local competitions such as Science Fair, History Day, MN Zoo competition, sports tournaments, and even to state in Robotics.

But what we are most proud of is the way our students demonstrate their faith through service to others in our community, a tradition established long ago within the parish. The example of walking with Christ through service set by parishioners at St. Thomas the Apostle has shaped every student who crosses the thresholds of our schools.

As we near the beginning of our 100th year of Catholic education at St. Thomas the Apostle, we look forward to continuing this deep partnership with both parishes as we seek to continue to walk our faith through word and deed. We are especially excited to celebrate the rich history and deep impact of this incredible community over the past 100 years!

We are grateful for the continued support of parishioners at St. Thomas the Apostle and Christ the King. Your support, especially through prayer, enables each student to thrive and grow in Christ side by side with you.

May God continue to bless our joint mission and ministry in Catholic education.

Blessings,



Paula Leider, Principal



A MESSAGE FROM

BRIAN OCHOCKI

Chair of the Parish Finance Council

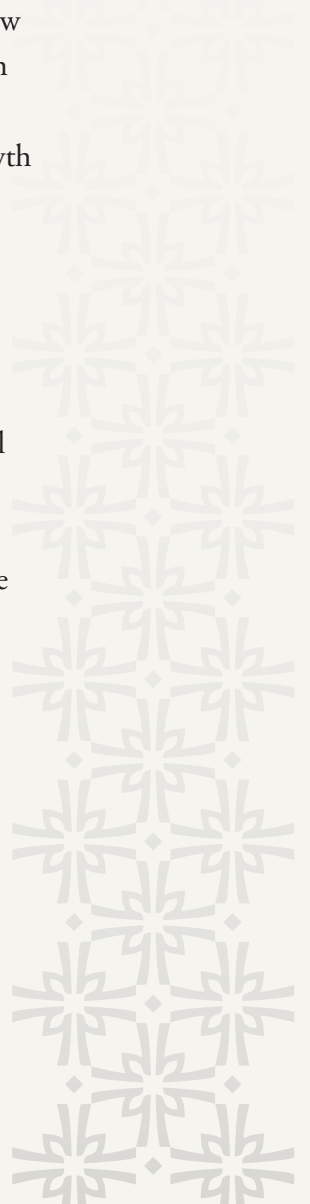
Over the past several years, our parish has accomplished a great deal and has seen a lot of change: A successful capital campaign and reinvestment in our parish facilities. Meeting the challenge of COVID head-on, to name just a couple. And now we are starting a new journey with Father Erich and building a new relationship with Christ the King. I believe the unique culture we've built and nurtured (starting long before the capital campaign and the pandemic) has been essential to enable this growth and change, all while staying faithful to our core vision of *Worship, Wisdom, Witness* and *Welcome*.

As Chair of the Finance Council, I see first-hand how your generosity over the years has also been an important factor contributing to the success of St. Thomas the Apostle in serving the mission of Christ. And not just the challenges noted above: your stewardship is also essential for the accomplishments that are described in detail throughout this report. I can confidently say we would not be where we are today without your generosity. And being part of the team that thoughtfully discerns the best uses of the gifts that all of us entrust to the church gives me a unique perspective to know that our gifts are being shared in a thoughtful manner.

And, as has been the custom at St. Thomas the Apostle for several years now, the season of Lent is the perfect time for all of us to set aside time to discernment and reflection on our continued stewardship. Together, let's work to keep St. Thomas the Apostle the special place we've all built together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Ochocki". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian Ochocki





ST·THOMAS
THE APOSTLE

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Minneapolis, MN 55410

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED