



Annual Report

2017

Father Philip Reifenberg...
Pastor

Mission Statement

St. Thomas Aquinas, a parish family united in the Eucharist, continues the mission of Jesus Christ. Through the varied talents found in our Christian community, we encourage lifelong spiritual and social growth committed to living our faith through service to others.

Membership Statistics

January 2017—Current

Registered Catholics ~ 1,135

Registered Households ~ 476

Newly Registered Households ~ 9

Households Moving from the Parish ~ 7



Sacramental Statistics

January 2017—Current

Baptisms ~ 6

First Reconciliations ~ 4

First Holy Communions ~ 4

Confirmations ~ 7

Marriages ~ 5

Funerals ~ 9



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Leadership

Trustees

Red Platz ~ Treasurer

Ron Nielsen ~ Secretary

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council is a consultative and planning body in regards to pastoral activity. It strives to fulfill the pastoral mission of the parish. It does this by developing Catholic identity, promoting evangelization, and fostering stewardship. The council engages in a continuous process of pastoral planning, taking into account the needs and priorities of its parishioners, the Archdiocese, the broader community, and the world.

Fr. Philip Reifenberg ~ Pastor

Red Platz ~ Trustee * Ron Nielsen ~ Trustee

Matt O'Connor ~ Chair * Lynn Kulow ~ Vice

Mary Jo Jetzer ~ Secretary

Lynette Fiebrink * Christopher Donlon * Kerry Gigot

Finance Council

Finance Council is a consultative body in parish financial matters. The council provides advise and guidance to the Pastor in the administration of parish assets, monitors the financial condition of the parish and prepares the annual budget and reports.

Fr. Philip Reifenberg ~ Pastor* Red Platz ~ Chair

Ron Nielsen ~ Trustee * David Bardon * Chris Merklein

** Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. .*

St. Thomas Aquinas Faith Formation Report 2017/2018

The goal of our Faith Formation program is to share our knowledge and experiences with our students, to provide them with a better understanding of our Faith along with the tools and desire to connect their Faith to life.

Lisa Gross ~ Religious Education Coordinator, Gr. 1-11

Faith Formation Year Highlights

Enrollment

Grades K-5 : 21 students

Grades 6-11 : 46 students



Catechists

Grades K-5: 5 catechists

Grades 6-11 : 3 catechists

The **Faith Formation Program** is into its **ninth session** and going well. We are again using the Pflaum Gospel weeklies which is a weekly resource using the past Sundays Gospel to teach the students how to apply their Faith to daily life while engaging in meaningful activities based on their grade level.

Bev Verhulst is teaching 3rd and 4th graders and doing a fantastic job. Bev continues to be well prepared to teach, planning her activities with detail to fill the 90 minutes while keeping the children engaged. Bev also does a great job encouraging the family piece of the curriculum.

Lisa Stephan and Ellen Cary team up with the 5th and 6th graders with Ellen teaching the bible portion and Lisa facilitates the Gospel activity pages. The two are a great team and this group needs two volunteers as there are a few behavior concerns in the group. Only a total of 7 students in the class however the second pair of hands is able to keep the energetic boys from disrupting the entire group.

I am currently teaching 7th and 8th grade using Theology of the Body which is a great mix of videos activities and prayer with the content being extremely relevant to middle school students. The sessions are going well. We spend the last 15 minutes doing basic Catholic trivia as a review each week. After the Holidays this group will be separated into their grade levels as the 8th grade will be doing a pre-confirmation prep curriculum.

The Sunday program has completed 2 weeks and will be meeting this Sunday for the 3rd time. I was fortunate enough to have Lynn Kulow join us. Lynn facilitates the adult discussions which allows me to focus on other aspects of the program. We currently have 3 grade levels. K-1st, 2nd Sacramental prep and 4th – 6th. Currently have one teacher per group. We initially did not plan for the 4th – 6th however two of our volunteers have children in this age group and requested that their children attend on Sunday. We have received positive feedback from adults involved and also had 2 families return to the program. One of the families had not been involved for 2 years as they had Wednesday conflicts. Our Archdiocese has a plan in place that is encouraging over 50 % of Parishes to implement the family program. They are offering a great deal of support and workshops to aide in building a great program. I have been to 3 of the workshops and have been given a variety of resources which have been extremely helpful. I am thrilled that STA is one of the Parishes to have been able to implement the Family Program so quickly following the Archdiocese encouragement. It is a proven fact that a child will be much more likely to continue their Faith Practice after Confirmation if they see their parents practice their Faith on a regular basis. Knowing their parents are involved while they are being educated and also allowing parents to do a portion of the teaching is a bonus for the students. I'm certain you can imagine the difference in outcomes of a parent involved program versus a drop off program. With the positive feedback from our current group of parents I have reason to believe that the program will continue to evolve.

Our 9th and 10th grade students continue to attend the Sunday Evening program which begins with Mass. We have a good number of small group leaders which allows us to keep the group to 6 students allowing for good discussion/ involvement. Confirmation students continue with the online program and also attend 2 mini Retreats along with the weekend retreat. Supplemental activities are also completed with 5 projects/assignments to be completed independently.

If you have comments or concerns I can be reached at 920-980-9591 or sta.ff@frontier.com

Thank you, Lisa Gross

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

2017 Building and Grounds Report

The Building & Grounds Committee evaluates the current needs of our parish properties and plans for current and future requirements. They study project and maintenance bids and make recommendations through the Finance Council. The committee monitors on-going building and grounds maintenance and provides business and/or trade knowledge and support.

Building and Grounds Committee Members

Fr. Philip Reifenberg ~ Pastor * Marlow Schubert

Steve Holzmann *Bradley Heim *Mike Wilmas

Major Repair, Maintenance and Capital Improvement Projects Completed

- * Repair Steeple in Glenbeulah (\$11,190.00)
- * Rebuild outside planter in front of Chapel (\$645.00).
- * Concrete back of Rectory (\$765.00).
- * Remove Tree, grind stump and topsoil in front of Church (\$890.00).
- * Remove Tree, grind stump and topsoil by parking lot entrance (\$300.00).

2016/2017 Cemetery Committee Report

The Parish Cemetery Committee oversees the operations and maintenance of St. Thomas Aquinas Cemetery. Committee members manage records, sale of lots and insure ongoing, long-term viability of the parish cemetery.

Cemetery Committee Members

Fr. Phil Reifenberg * Red Platz * Bill Neils * Al Gross

Income: \$5,683.00

Expenses: \$2,492.04

Statistics 2017: 3 Burial~St. Fridolin's & 2 Burials~Rhine Cemetery

No Lots Sold ~ St. Fridolin's & 2 Lots Sold ~ Rhine Cemetery

Major Repair and Maintenance and Capital Improvement Projects Completed

- * Repair Monument at Rhine Cemetery

St. Thomas Aquinas Financial Statement 2016-2017

<u>INCOME</u>	2016-2017 <u>Actuals</u>	2017-2018 <u>Budget</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$134,207.00	\$145,000.00
Offertory Collections	\$42,178.00	\$46,000.00
Donations	\$3,002.00	\$3,000.00
Special Parish Collections	\$41,412.00	\$39,550.00
CF Tuition/Fees	\$4,316.00	\$5,200.00
Other Revenue	<u>\$18,403.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$243,518.00	\$248,750.00
<u>EXPENSE</u>		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 106,192.00	\$ 136,693.00
Supplies/Purchased Services	\$ 39,863.00	\$ 24,950.00
Building & Grounds	\$ 36,296.00	\$ 30,700.00
Other Expense	<u>\$ 38,176.00</u>	<u>\$ 53,410.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 220,527.00	\$ 245,753.00
 NET INCOME	 \$22,991.00	 \$2,997.00