



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**  
◆ CATHOLIC CHURCH ◆

*Vision*

To unite and lead all disciples to Christ to eternal life through the Eucharist, love, and service

*Mission*

To help parishioners grow in holiness by providing opportunities to serve God and our community through hospitality, prayer and worship, formation and service



## Pastoral Plan 2016

**Strategy 1: Hospitality:** To build an interconnected and engaged community through cultivating an environment of *hospitality*.

- *Immediately engage new parishioners.*
  - Continue to focus on new parishioner welcoming and engagement efforts.
  - Develop and implement a six- and nine-month follow-up procedure for new parishioners
- *Infuse a mentality of hospitality within all parishioners and parish Apostolates.*
  - Establish a process to regularly share hospitality ideas with parishioners
  - Continue to provide opportunities for fellowship at all appropriate parish events
  - Begin to evaluate the hospitality mentality that exists within each parish group
  - Evaluate the feasibility of adding-on a gathering space to the Cloister
  - Recruit, secure and begin utilizing parishioner “connectors” at appropriate events
- *Provide regular opportunities for fellowship between and among parishioners of all ages.*
  - Establish a weekly gathering time for middle and/or high school youth to join together for fellowship and utilize the STA facilities
  - Host a summer social function for parishioners whose youngest children are of high school age or older
  - Continue to provide regular opportunities for older parishioners to enjoy fellowship through the Over 60's group
  - Host the annual parish dinner
  - Host the annual St. Paddy's Day Bash
  - Continue the efforts of the re-invigorated Altar Society
  - Enhance and expand efforts of the Young Adult Apostolate
- *Maintain connections with parishioners who can no longer attend parish events.*
  - Continue with college care packages
  - Host a summer ad/or Christmas event for college students that will include the opportunity for them to connect with younger parish youth
  - Enhance the efforts of the Military Apostolate

**Strategy 2: Prayer & Worship:** To enable parishioners to grow in their personal and shared spiritual journeys through developing their *prayer* lives and enhancing their liturgical *worship* experiences.

- *Provide parishioners opportunities which will allow them to grow closer to Christ through the Mass*
  - Host a learning session on Mass rituals
  - Regularly publish “did you know” information about Mass rituals in the Sunday bulletin
- *Increase participation in Eucharistic Adoration.*
  - Host a Eucharistic Adoration speaker
  - Develop a process for continual promotion of Eucharistic Adoration

- *Provide parishioners opportunities and resources to enhance their personal prayer lives.*
  - Recruit and train a new leader to coordinate a program through which parishioners have the opportunity to pray with the suffering
  - Develop a process to ask parishioners to pray for fellow parishioners serving the parish and community
  - Design, publish and distribute a quarterly prayer resource newsletter
  - Distribute small religious articles related to the Year of Mercy
- *Ensure parishioners the opportunity of reverent liturgical worship.*
  - Host a Lectors training facilitated by Fr. Matt
  - Host an Usher training and BBQ
  - Recruit and train a new leader for the Gift Bearers Apostolate

**Strategy 3: Faith Formation:** To inspire a life-long *faith* journey for parishioners of all ages.

- *Ensure that parish youth are provided quality religious education and formation programs.*
  - Develop and implement a process for the continual improvement of the PSR program
  - Develop and implement a strategic plan for the middle and high school youth groups
  - Develop and implement a process for the continual improvement of the Confirmation program
- *Provide on-going, quality faith enrichment programs and activities for adult parishioners.*
  - Incorporate a faith formation component within the Young Adults group
  - Develop a process to regularly solicit and share faith formation resources from/with parishioners
  - Host a learning session regarding the Year of Mercy
  - Host a parish mini-mission
  - Develop a 5- to 7-year outlook plan for Parish Missions
  - Develop a 4-year strategic plan for Adult Faith Formation programs
  - Distribute and promote a Lenten studies book
  - Distribute and promote an Advent studies book
  - Establish a Married Mentor Couples Apostolate
- *Foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*
  - Support Andres Vall-Serra as he is ordained priest
  - Support Adam Grelinger as he is ordained deacon

**Strategy 4: Service:** To support parishioners in fulfilling God's calling to be of *service* to the parish and the community.

- *Provide parishioners opportunities to participate in community service activities*
  - Plan and coordinate a parish-wide community service event
  - Continue with the efforts of Mission Outreach
  - Continue with the efforts of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- *Engage parishioners in parish and community service through a more proactive approach.*
  - Continue to promote existing parish service opportunities to broad audiences
  - Change Apostolate messaging so that parishioners are more apt to utilize services
  - Streamline the objectives of the Good Samaritans Apostolate
  - Develop and execute a marketing plan aimed at educating and inspiring parishioners to take advantage of opportunities to serve
  - Explore the opportunity for children of our parish school to connect with older parishioners through a pen-pal or like program
  - Develop and execute a promotional plan for the SO Board

**Strategy 5: Stewardship:** To inspire parishioners to recognize, receive and share their God-given gifts and live *stewardship* as a way of life.

- *Develop and implement a continuous stewardship formation process for parishioners of all ages.*
  - Schedule personal stewardship education meetings with all parents of preschool kids (of the parish) who do not have older children at STA or KMC
  - Host Stewardship Education Sessions for current school parents regarding their stewardship responsibilities and the cost of education
  - Incorporate a weekly stewardship challenge at the parish school
  - Develop and implement a process to begin stewardship education with young parishioner families who have very young children or no children
  - Finalize and implement Stewardship Touchpoints
  
- *Inspire parishioners to live stewardship as a way of life*
  - Develop and implement a process to regularly communicate how stewardship helps fellow parishioners
  - Continue to utilize stewardship lay witness talks as inspiration for participation
  - Incorporate personal invitations to participate within all Apostolate groups and for all activities
  - Continue to utilize social media as an avenue for stewardship education and communication
  - Begin utilizing the Spiritual Gifts Inventory as a way to match parishioners with the opportunity to serve
  
- *Continue to refine and enhance the annual Stewardship Commitment process.*
  - Enhance and expand the RSVP campaign
  - Encourage parishioners to make pledges which they can fulfill
  - Continue to provide prompt and effective follow-up to annual pledging
  
- *Continue to develop extraordinary giving.*
  - Continue with the “planning for the future” strategy
  - Market the GO Board
  - Continue to host The STARlight Gala, per the three-year rotation schedule

**Strategy 6: Parish Support:** To provide *support* from the parish for the achievement of all goals and strategies outlined in the Pastoral Plan.

- *Ensure parish leaders are effective and efficient in their roles.*
  - Develop and implement a policy regarding the training and transition process for all parish leaders and volunteers
  
- *Ensure official policies and procedures are in place for all parish organizations.*
  - Begin to develop and implement official policies and procedures for all parish organizations, events, and activities
  
- *Ensure parish resources are accounted for and prioritized appropriately.*
  - Continue with the annual budgeting process
  - Continue to utilize the Finance Council in an advisory capacity
  
- *Enhance and improve parish communications.*
  - Redesign the parish website
  - Develop a comprehensive communications strategic plan for the parish which will incorporate all communication platforms, especially digital, with a focus on community parish news and evangelization