

Saint Thomas More University Parish
1200 Oakland Avenue
Indiana, PA 15701

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Dear Parishioners,

I am grateful for the warm welcome that you extended to the Capuchin Friars and the encouragement and support we continue to receive from you. Much has happened in these past 15 months for our parish facilities, finances, staff and parish life. Some of these are highlighted below:

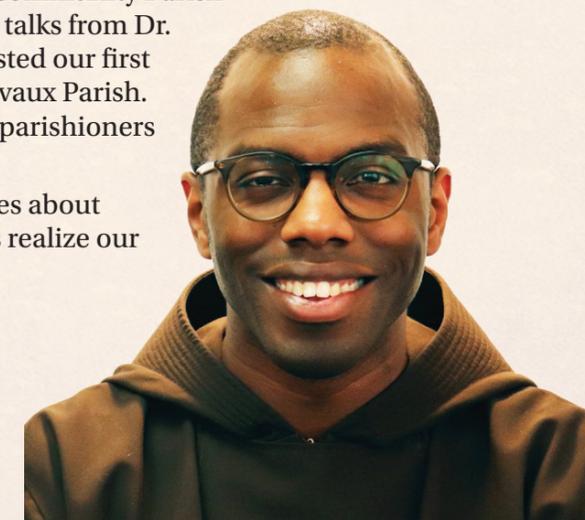
FACILITIES: We purchased a new piano, improved handicapped seating in the rear of the church, installed new storm drain/catch basin, sealed the church parking lot, installed a new sign in front of the church, purchased a new tractor for cutting the lawn and snow removal, refinished the pews, and installed two large televisions in the lounge for parish presentations.

STAFF: With an easing of COVID protocols, all staff members returned to work in person. In light of recent departures, we are currently restructuring job descriptions for staff positions. We hired a Director of Youth Ministry and Young Adults to be shared with Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish. We also created a shared financial secretary position for Saint Thomas More University Parish and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish.

PARISH LIFE: We were blessed to host our first Indiana Catholic Community Parish Mission last year. The parish was inspired with spiritually enriching talks from Dr. Timothy Muldoon and the Damascus Praise Band. This year, we hosted our first Oldies Dance and a combined Fall Festival with St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish. The parish also started a new Bereavement Ministry to support our parishioners and neighbors who are mourning the death of a loved one.

I invite you to review the information presented in the next few pages about our parish, and then to make a prayerful commitment to helping us realize our hopes and vision for the parish.

Saint Thomas More, pray for us!



Peace and All Good,
Father Richard Owens, O.F.M. Cap.



Uplift Our
FAITH
Community

**Saint Thomas More University Parish
Annual Report 2022**



Sources of Hope:

The generosity of our parishioners helped to uplift our parish this year. We have returned to weekly Communion calls at local nursing homes, initiated a Bereavement Ministry for the Indiana Catholic Community and increased our Campus Ministry Outreach (Men and Women's Bible Study, Cookies and Catechesis, Small Group Faith Sharing). We are planning to continue the long tradition of the Saint Thomas More University Parish Epiphany Party and Mardi Gras Party.

I am happy to report that this year we saw a slight increase in the Sunday collection! While our monthly expenses continue to exceed our offertory, many thanks for your generous support in helping our parish move in the right direction.

The bottom line is that Saint Thomas More University Parish continues to need your help. I am asking you to prayerfully consider your weekly commitment to Saint Thomas More University Parish:

- Has your contribution grown over the past several years, or is it still the same amount?
- As you reflect upon God's blessings in your life, are you able to show your gratitude by increasing your weekly contribution?
- Considering that we need a 3-5% increase in revenue each year, are you in a financial position to help us meet this goal?
- Do you use the We Share option for electronic giving to ensure that your support reaches the parish, even when you are away or not able to attend?
- Are you willing to share your talents (outdoor gardening, sponsoring Donut Sunday, liturgical minister, hospitality ministry, visiting the sick and homebound, volunteering at the food pantry)? If so, please contact me via email at rowens@DioceseofGreensburg.org

As stewards of Saint Thomas More University Parish, we need to rebuild our savings in order to maintain the physical plant and property that makes up our church. As you recall, the Saint Thomas More Book Sale was our primary fundraiser. With the loss of the book sale, we need to discern alternative fundraisers for our parish community.

Your increased offertory, combined with careful planning and financial management, will help us meet our day-to-day expenses, plan for capital improvements, and ensure that our community of faith continues to grow and thrive well into the future.

Finally, in order to leave a legacy for the future, I ask you to prayerfully consider including Saint Thomas More University Parish as a part of your legacy in your will or estate plan.

Parish Financials

	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Offertory	\$ 432,387	\$ 398,663	\$ 400,076
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	1,585	11,340	7,661
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	89,110	41,744	56,327
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	24,179	13,751	21,966
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)</i>	118,958	96,658	54,901
Special Collections	38,092	15,662	24,273
Total Income	\$ 704,310	\$ 577,818	\$ 565,204
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 131,973	\$ 131,630	\$ 145,631
Church	74,286	63,692	58,149
Rectory	16,240	14,454	7,656
Education and Ministry	95,247	74,436	77,383
General Expenses	220,788	210,530	227,669
Special Collections	38,082	15,662	25,537
Extraordinary Expenses	183,227	53,878	63,460
Total Expenditures	759,843	564,282	605,485
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (55,533)	\$ 13,536	\$ (40,281)

Our Parish by the Numbers:



Registered Households

2022: 654
2021: 659
2020: 681

Current Single Member Households

181



Baptisms

2022: 10
2021: 8
2020: 15

Weddings

2022: 2
2021: 3
2020: 2



Funerals

2022: 8
2021: 10
2020: 8



Our Ministries:

- **Altar Servers** - Assist the priest in preparing for and during the Mass.
- **Music Ministry** - Choirs and cantors provide musical support of full and active participation in the liturgy.
- **Catechists and Youth Ministry Leaders** - Individuals echoing God's Word, who together with the children and youth seek to foster and nurture the spiritual needs of their religious potential as they form their own faith communities to build the Kingdom.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist** - Assist the priest by distributing the Eucharist at Mass.
- **Prayer Chain/Prayer Shawl** - Volunteers receive a list of prayer requests each week and then they in turn offer their prayers for them.
- **Lectors** - Proclaim the word of God during Mass or other liturgical functions. Lectors devote time to preparation and understanding of sacred Scripture.
- **Greeters** - Welcome parishioners to our faith community.
- **Ushers** - Take up the offertory and distribute bulletins after Mass. They also assist as needed with emergencies or other necessary concerns.
- **Groundskeepers** - Those who enjoy gardening help to maintain beauty to the landscape of the church grounds.
- **Emergency Food Assistance** - Collections are taken up to provide meals and non-perishable items for those in need.
- **Ministry of Care** - These volunteers provide pastoral care to the sick and homebound of the parish. The ministers take the Eucharist to the sick whether they are at home, a personal care home or a nursing home.
- **RCIA** - Adult faith formation journey into the Catholic Church.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society** - Members strive to meet both the spiritual and physical necessities of those in the community helping them in their time of need.
- **Visiting Support** - Parishioners visit with those who are homebound, living in nursing homes or personal care homes keeping them in touch with our faith community
- **Bereavement Ministry** - The Bereavement Ministry provides a loving, compassionate and caring presence for those who have lost a loved one through death.
- **Campus Ministry** - The Catholic Student Association (CSA) is the student group at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where students can grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and enjoy fellowship with one another. Priests and staff from Saint Thomas More University Parish minister to the students, who hold their meetings on campus.
- **Campus Ministry Sunday Night Communal Meal** - Every Sunday of the month, volunteers are needed to cook a communal dinner for the IUP students after the 7 p.m. IUP campus Mass.

You are invited to be a Christian steward of your God-given gifts of time and talent. Listed above are many opportunities for your consideration. We ask you to prayerfully reflect over these opportunities and ask yourself, "How will I give back to God this coming year by serving others in His name?"

Capital Improvements:

- Purchased a new piano
- Replaced the handicapped seating in the rear of the church
- Installed new storm drain/catch basin
- Sealed the church parking lot
- Installed a new sign in the front of the church
- Updated the audiovisual equipment in the parish lounge
- Refinished the pews
- Purchased a new tractor (lawn care and snow removal)



Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:
Saint Thomas More University Parish
1200 Oakland Avenue
Indiana, PA 15701



IN PERSON:
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM



ONLINE:
stmup.weshareonline.org/index.aspx