

St. Thomas Aquinas

2021 Annual Report



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Letter from Fr. Matthew Codd

Dear Friends,

I am thankful to God every day for the gift of this parish. St. Thomas Aquinas is filled with such a vibrant and faithful people, and we are all blessed to be here! I want to let you all know that our church has done remarkably well in the past year, even in the midst of much change. We had to say goodbye to Fr. Bean, Sr. Edeva, Sr. Zeny, as well as my assistant Marie Aymar and our Director of Sacred Music Tom Savoy, and our prayers are with them; but we graciously welcomed Fr. Raymond Ekosse, Sr. Donabel Cumpas, Sr. Jessica Jurado, and my new assistant Rosa Jimenez. As of this writing, we are still searching for a new Director of Sacred Music so please keep that intention in your prayers!

Financially we have weathered difficult times very well thanks to the generosity of all of you, and even managed to finish paying off our Diocesan loan. We completed the new flooring in Aquinas hall, as well, and I think it looks great! We have had a number of great speakers, too, with a great talk by Jason Evert on chastity and many great priests of the Diocese enlightening us about Our Lady at Mary Days, and Fr. David Miller at our Advent mission. We have more great speakers to come, and I hope you will all continue to take advantage of all of these great opportunities!



I cannot forget how great World Feast was, as well! So many people attended and it was edifying to see it so lively compared to the previous year. Thank you again to all who helped make it such a success!

I will be praying for another year filled with graces and I will continue to ask for your prayers, too. Take care of your souls and continue

growing in love for Christ!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Matthew Codd

Events at STA in 2021

- **Book drive for the prison ministry:** Jan 23rd – Feb 7th
- **Friday Lenten Dinners:** Feb 19th – April 2nd
- **Diocesan Men's Conference:** March 20th
- **Elephant Sale:** May 29th and June 12th
- **Totus Tuus:** July 20th – 23rd
- **Mary Days:** Aug 15th – 22nd
- **Movie Night:** Sep 5th
- **Eucharistic Congress:** Sep 17th – 18th
- **Spiritual Maternity Retreat with Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM:** Sep 27th – 29th
- **Our Lady of the Rosary Orchestral Latin Mass:** Oct 7th
- **World Feast:** Oct 16th – 17th
- **Red Cross Blood Drive:** Oct 23rd
- **Clothing Drive:** Oct 23rd – 24th
- **All Saints Trick or Treating:** Oct 31st
- **All Saint City Wide Pilgrimage:** Nov 1st
- **Cookie Walk:** Dec 5th – 6th
- **Advent Parish Mission with Fr. David Miller:** Dec 5th – 7th

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2022 & 2023

- **Charlotte Diocese Catholic Mens' Conference:** Saturday, March 5, 2022
- **Parish Lenten Mission with Fr. Joseph Matlak:** March 14-17, 2022
- **Diocesan 50th Anniversary Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue & Prayer Service:** Saturday, March 26, 2022
- **Annual Diocesan Eucharistic Congress:** August 5 & 6, 2022
- **2nd Annual Mary Days:** August 15 - August 22, 2022, with guest preachers Msgr. Patrick Winslow, Fr. Matthew Kauth, Fr. Brian Becker, Fr. Alfonso Gamez, Fr. Ephrem Reese OP, and more!
- **Crossing the Tiber with Former Methodist Pastor and Catholic Convert Shane Page:** Monday, September 12, 2022
- **The Temperament God Gave You, with Art & Laraine Bennett:** Saturday, September 24, 2022
- **World Feast:** Saturday, October 15, 2022
- **Conference and Holy Hour with Deacon Matt Newsome; "Beauty, the Language of the Soul, a conference on the importance of beauty in our lives:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022 **All Saints City-Wide Pilgrimage & Relic Veneration:** November 1, 2022
- **"Restoring Eucharistic Reverence in an Age of Impiety," with Dr. Peter Kwasniewski:** Saturday, November 5, 2022
- **Crossing the Tiber with Catholic Converts Fr. John Putnam & Fr. Timothy Reid:** Monday, November 14, 2022
- **Crossing the Tiber - Speaker TBD:** Monday, January 9, 2023
- **Crossing the Tiber with Catholic Converts from Southern Theological Seminary:** Monday, February 13, 2023
- **Conference with Exorcist Fr. Chad Ripperger, SMD:** Saturday, March 4, 2023

STA Fellowship and Campus News

We are very blessed to have such wonderful parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas. Throughout this pandemic, we have held up together with the help and grace of God and through the guidance and leadership of our Pastor, Fr. Matthew Codd. We have been blessed to have 65 new families join our parish in 2021, which brings us to 2,820 families.



"Turn Me Over, I'm Done On This Side"
- St. Lawrence

We have also begun having family and group hall rentals again this year and combined there have been 25 events and private functions including a Diocesan Men's Conference, our annual Knights of Columbus BBQ and Elephant Sale, our annual Red Cross Blood Drive and The Charlotte

Latin Mass Community, who hosted renowned guest speaker and author, Dr. Peter Kwasniewski.

We also endured some transitions and changes as we held a few farewell receptions to our beloved Sr. Edeva and Fr. Bean and were happy to welcome our new parochial Vicar, Fr. Raymond Ekosse from Cameroon and also Sisters Donabel and Jessica from the Philippines to officially form a convent here in Charlotte. We bid a retirement farewell to two long-time staff member, Marie A. Watkinson and Director of Sacred Music Tom Savoy and were happy to welcome our new staff member, Rosa Jimenez. We are currently actively looking for a replacement for Tom.

Our UNCC students are back this year, and we currently have 60 students that park here on our campus and we are truly grateful to have them. Our Catholic Campus Ministry here at STA, run by Fr. Innocent, reaches out and serves the Catholic students who attend the university.



A Note from the Finance Council

During this past year the Finance Council focused on drawing down our debt, ways to increase offertory, and on our aging plant and equipment. We have faced many repairs especially to our HVAC system. We have asked our parish community to make contributions to build a reserve for eventual replacement of the various HVAC units and repairs to the campus. Thanks to the generosity of our parish, we have a great start. We were also able to pay off our Diocesan loan.

In the upcoming year the Finance Council will continue to focus on building our repair and replacement reserves to lessen the impact when they arise. Another focus of the Council in 2022 is to reach the parts of our community who have not come back to the church physically, but rather continue to share in the Eucharist virtually, and find ways to get them to continue to support our community.

Ron Sanders

Finance Council Members:

- *Ron Sanders*
- *Michael Bailey*
- *Nennette and Richard Costes*
- *Michael Boykin*

Financial Highlights

Note: This report covers calendar year 2021

- Revenues of \$1,229,468 exceeded expenses by approx. \$91,450, primarily due to PPP loan and forgiveness of \$100,957, as well as rental income and unexpected endowment income of \$31,214
- Offertory made of 77.9% of revenue, excluding PPP loan.
- Religious Education enrollment was down, primarily due to in-person learning declines due to Covid 19, however, religious education supplies were also down
- DSA - our parish fulfilled and exceeded last year's DSA obligation. A check in the amount of \$11,192 was returned to the parish! Thank you all so much, it also looks like we will exceed our obligation again in 2021/2022.

We successfully and finally paid off our loans for the construction of our Parish Center!!

Revenue:

Offertory		\$ 914,291
PPP		\$ 100,957
Liturgical/FF/Special Events/Rents		\$ 208,000
Cemetery/Columbarium		\$ 6,400

Expenses:

Payroll and Benefits		\$ 476,112
Liturgical and Formation		\$ 175,090
MACS (school subsidies)		\$ 99,351
Technology, Facilities and Utilities		\$ 280,423
Diocesan Assessments		\$ 107,703

Net Revenue:

\$91,450

Expense notes:

Extra expenses for janitorial due to covid 19 cleaning protocols, new computers, and new IT contract.

Diocesan Assessments are based on the number of registered family units in the parish.

Balance Sheet

Assets:	
Cash, unrestricted	\$ 122,644
Cash, restricted	\$ 104,303
Total	\$ 226,947
Endowments	\$ 285,901
Receivables	\$ 6,001
Property & Equipment	\$ 8,321,916
Total Assets	\$ 8,840,705
Liabilities:	
Payables	\$ 11,053
Custodial Obligations	\$ 37,096
Unearned Income	\$ 11,300
Total Liabilities	\$ 161,492
Net Position:	\$ 8,906,160

Balance sheet notes:

Restricted cash consists of monies to be spent on upcoming projects.

Endowment was created and donated by Mary Isabel Goettl and we are entitled to any interest made

Restricted Accounts and Funds

The following are the balances of the extra contributions our parish gave to, which will be used for either future or ongoing projects on our campus:

HVAC	\$33,380
AH Renovations	\$19,668
Choir Loft Rebuild	\$ 9,255
Guest Speaker Fees	\$ 2,841

New online givers in 2021 = 91, total as of now is 1,414

**to give online go to:*

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-thomas-aquinas-rc-church/funds/sunday-offering>

Religious Education 21'

Grade:	In person:	Independent Study:	Catholic Home School:	Total Students:
First	14	0	4	18
Second	18	2	6	26
Third	3	8	3	14
Fourth	15	7	0	22
Fifth	9	3	0	12
Sixth	12	11	0	23
Seventh	21	11	1	33
Eighth	23	10	2	35
Ninth	59	0	0	59
Catechists				45

Sister Donabel is so thrilled that STA has begun in person Religious Education. We look forward to getting back to full steam next school year

Youth Group

STA youth ministry welcomed Sister Jessica this year. Sister Jessica had big shoes to fill from Sister Edeva, but we all think she has done just that by helping with service hours and events here at STA.



Youth Night at the Baseball Game

June 2021



A THANK YOU TO FATHER MATTHEW FROM THE STAFF

During the past couple of years, we have all seen our share of heartache and pain, and frankly, not knowing what could be upcoming. Through all of this, Fr Matthew hung in there with us – all of us, and showed true leadership. We all feel extremely grateful and lucky that it was Father Matthew here leading us through all the challenges. He never wavered, he never closed the church, and he even found a way to bring the Eucharist to our parishioners for as long as was possible. We are truly blessed to have him. Thank you Father.

GINA TIM VALERIE MONICA

ROSA JOSE

SR JECCA SR DONABEL