

# Summa

Fall/Winter 2018-19

St. Thomas Aquinas & St. Mary *Cluster* Newsletter

## Hospitality



## Prayer



## Formation



## Service



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## Pastor's Corner

As I write this the autumn season has arrived and the weather has finally turned cooler and we've been having plenty of rain. Farmers are impatiently waiting and complaining about getting out into the fields to bring in the harvest.

Today I signed up for my annual priest retreat at American Martyrs Retreat House. I need that time away and find it helpful, a time away to focus more on spiritual matters. It begins October 21st.

I was reading a book called *He Leadeth Me* by Walter Ciszek. Toward the end he writes: "No one can achieve a greater sense of fulfillment in his life than the man who believes in the truth of the faith and strives daily to put it into practice. For what can ultimately trouble the soul that accepts every moment of every day as a gift from the hands of God and strives always to do his will?" If God is for us, who can stand against us! How true.

I attended the Christ Our Life Conference for our searching souls in Des Moines. I heard and saw Bishop Robert Barron in person. He's a great scholar and theologian and apologist, a defender of our Catholic faith, in the American Catholic Church. After his key note address, he was on his way to the Synod on the Vocations of the Youth in Rome along with 300 other bishops.

I'm grateful for the generosity and charity you continue to show here in our parish. It takes many sacrifices on your part to keep everything together in working order, your gifts in harmony with the grace of God. With more of our older generation passing away and with people moving away because of changes in their life, we continue to struggle with our finances. Who steps up to fill in the gap? God can't be outdone in generosity. We need to make a return to God to be spiritually healthy.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School celebrated their 65th anniversary on October 6th, a milestone. The list for the positives for our school is long. Excellent education, experienced staff, great students, Catholic values, top notch technology, a true family atmosphere, all of these exist. Future economic growth in the area should give us more students in the future. Last year St. Thomas Aquinas Parish cut the school subsidy \$50,000 and did so again in this year's budget because we are struggling also. We might have to supplement the school more if need be. The school can't borrow money but the parish can. Like in your life, sometimes it gets harder to pay all the bills. So far we're managing to do so.

We do have a survey coming out soon to get your input on some issues to see what direction we need to go with the parish, school, and some improvements and how you feel about these things. We need a plan to get everything started. We hope you will fill out the survey and have a voice in all these matters.

Keep in mind we do have a development director on staff to help you with your planned giving. We hope you will treat the parish and school like one of your children.

God bless us everyone.

*Fr. Stephen Moyer*



## Music of the Mass How Can I Keep from Singing

by Marty Doerning, Director of Liturgy & Music

How Can I Keep From Singing.....” Sing to the Lord a new song; his praise is in the assembly of the saints.”

The first verse of the hymn, “How Can I Keep From Singing?” as found in our Breaking Bread Issue sings: “My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentation. I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.” The refrain sings, “No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I’m clinging. Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?”

We live in what one writer calls our “connected world.” That is the technological age, a “virtual cloud” which dominates our every waking hour. Psychologists see ever more increasingly depressive symptoms, anxiety disorders, hyperactivity, and psychosis. We are learning that beyond medical treatment for the body, and behavioral therapies, the spirit or soul must be treated also.

“The impact of music for the soul is similar to the warmth experienced from chicken soup on a cold day. Music is one of the most powerful and beautiful mediums of self-expression.” (Today’s Liturgy, Dodson) So, for those of us living in this time, we might ask in the words of Pope Saint John Paul II, “What is that joy we know in our singing; that beauty which moves hearts? Can it be anything other than love?” That joy that lifts our spirits is referred to by Saint Augustine (424-426 A.D.) in a homily, “Let us sing to the Lord a song of love.”

The primary music minister at Mass is the gathered faithful, the assembly. The choir, cantor, accompanist are all there to support and help us to sing our song to the Lord. Celebrating the liturgy, the Mass, is at the core of our life as Catholics. The celebration of the Eucharist is the summit and source of all of our Church activity. The term liturgy means, the work of the people.

The Second Vatican Council says that through music in



the liturgy: prayer is given a more graceful expression; the mystery of the liturgy is more openly shown; the unity of hearts is achieved by the union of voices; minds are raised to heavenly things by the beauty of the liturgy and the whole celebration prefigures the heavenly liturgy.

From our hearts we sing just as Jesus himself did in the psalms in his home and with the apostles. We fulfill the purpose of liturgy, which is the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful. The song of God’s people sings of the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Saint Augustine says: “You desire to sing of him whom you love, but you ask me how to sing his praises.... you wish to know what praises to sing. The answer is: His praise is in the assembly of the saints; it is in the singers themselves. If you desire to praise him, then live what you express. Live good lives, and you yourselves will be his praise.”

The last verse of the hymn, “How Can I Keep From Singing” is: “The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing. All things are mine since I am his; How can I keep from singing?” Take care of your soul in whatever is your everyday “connected world.” Sing to the Lord!

*The Second Vatican Council says that through music in the liturgy: prayer is given a more graceful expression...*

# Faith Formation & Family Enrichment

By Dan Hurt, Director of Religious Education

## Nights & Activities 2018-19

September 19 - In-service for all Catechists  
 September 26 - Faith Formation/  
 Family Enrichment  
 Registration/refreshments (6:00-7:30 PM),  
 Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)

October 03 - **Family Enrichment (6:00 - 8:00 PM)**  
 - Paul the Apostle of Christ, Dinner served  
 at 6:00 PM - Movie begins at 6:15 PM  
 October 10 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 October 17 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 October 24 - High School to Southfield and  
 Crestview/Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 October 31 - **No Faith Formation (Halloween)**

November 07 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 November 14 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 November 21 - **No Faith Formation**  
**(Thanksgiving Break)**  
 November 28 - 7-8 Grade to Southfield  
 and 4-6 Grade to Crestview/Youth  
 Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)

December 05 - **Family Enrichment (6:00-8:00)**  
 - Stockings for Children  
 December 12 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 December 19 - All students Caroling to  
 Southfield and Crestview/Youth  
 December 26 - **No Faith Formation**  
**(Christmas Break)**

January 02 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 January 09 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 January 16 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 January 23 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)

January 30 - High School to Southfield and  
 Crestview/Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)

February 06 - **Family Enrichment (6:00-  
 8:00)** - Family Activity Night  
 February 13 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 February 20 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 February 27 - 4-6 Grade to Southfield, 7-8 Grade  
 Crestview/Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)

March 06 - **Ash Wednesday Mass** - 6:30 PM  
 Faith Formation - Mass follows at 7:00 PM  
 March 13 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 March 20 - **No Faith Formation (Spring Break)**  
 March 27 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)

April 03 - **Family Enrichment (6:00 - 8:00)**  
 - Prayer Stations/Liturgy and Adoration  
 April 10 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)  
 April 17 - **No Faith Formation (Holy Week)**  
 April 24 - Youth Faith Formation (6:30-7:30)

May 01 - Last Family Enrichment/RE - Picnic  
 and Games at Twin Parks (6:00-8:00)

In addition to these RE activities, each teacher will create a community building activity for their class during each month they are not scheduled for a nursing home visit. All parishioners are invited to Family Enrichment nights.

# St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Youth Group

## Seek & Serve

By Dan Hurt, Director of Religious Education

This past summer, the teens of St. Thomas Aquinas gathered together for a week-long pilgrimage/mission trip called Seek and Serve. This was a week of prayer, faith sharing, spiritual growth, and service. For the pilgrimage part of the trip, the teens who attended visited Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, WI, Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, WI, the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, WI, the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary on Holy Hill in Hubertus, WI, and St. Francis Monastery south of Milwaukee. For the Service part of the trip, the teens worked at St. Joseph Homeless Shelter in Green Bay, WI, Point Beach State Park in Two Rivers, WI, and St. Joseph Monastery gardens. Through all of this, the teens still had several opportunities for fun.

The teens stayed in a cabin in Two Rivers for the majority of the trip. The first stop at Our Lady of Guadalupe gave



Other projects the youth worked on inside the shelter include some minor construction projects, sorting supplies that need handed out to each resident, moving furniture, painting, cleaning, and going through donations. The teens also got a tour of the homeless shelter where they learned about the history and how it operates.

After the homeless shelter, we went to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. This is the only site in the United States to be approved by the bishops as a place where Mary appeared in this country. While here, we learned about the history of the site, learned about the apparition to a young girl, spent time praying the Stations of the Cross together, and spent time praying at the shrine.

During day three of the trip, the youth worked at Point Beach State Park laying gravel and picking up trash on the beach and through the campground. The students finished around noon, so they got to enjoy the rest of the day. Some



everyone a chance to stretch their legs. While here, we celebrated Mass, walked the rosary and Stations of the Cross walk, spent time in prayer at the candle chapel, and visited the memorial to the unborn. After this, we continued our trip to Two Rivers where we stayed in a cabin overlooking Lake Michigan.

On the next day of the trip, we all spent time working in a homeless shelter in Green Bay. This is a seasonal homeless shelter, so we spent time preparing it for the upcoming season. Some of the youth spread a trailer full of mulch around the gardens and the foundation of the property.



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of the group went to the beach, and some of the group went miniature golfing. It was a nice little break in the middle of the busyness.

On day four, we started the day by driving to Milwaukee and visiting the Basilica of St. Josaphat. The tour guide greeted us upon our arrival and gave us a fantastic tour. The Basilica, built in 1901, has a Romanesque style architecture, patterned after the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome. After learning about the basilica, the teens got a tour of a chapel that contains several relics of Saints. We then continued our drive to Saint Francis Monastery. While here, one of the priests celebrated Mass with the teens and gave them a tour of the friary.

After their tour of the inside, the teens got together with a farmer named AJ. AJ showed us how to make an organic garden and had the teens begin another using old billboard signs. After they dug holes and covered the ground, AJ had them pull weeds in a cornfield. All the food grown



in the organic gardens goes to a Catholic Nursing Home in Milwaukee to provide the residents with fresh fruits and vegetables each day. AJ also gave us a tour of the outside of the monastery where we saw several gardens and a beautiful grotto. We finished this day visiting the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary on Holy Hill.



After all of this, the teens got to enjoy a day of fun at the Wisconsin Dells. We enjoyed Noah's Ark Water Park, played laser tag, attempted to navigate a laser maze, played 3-D miniature golf, and walked the strip. Each morning began with Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, and each night ended with Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. Besides Liturgy of the Hours, several opportunities were offered for prayer. During these type of trips, it is always a great thing to see so many teens growing in faith and love for Jesus Christ and His Church.



Fun at the Dells!

# St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

## From the desk of the principal...

By Duane Siepker, Principal, St. Thomas Aquinas School

*Since 1952, with the prayers and financial support of parishioners, our parish school has been able to carry out its mission*

Since 1952, with the prayers and financial support of parishioners, our parish school has been able to carry out its mission. There can be no doubt that our totally awesome God is pleased with our past and present endeavors and will be pleased and bless us on future endeavors. And why not? After all, what's more important than our children and our faith? As I stated in my spring Summa article, our parish school is worth every penny!

As the time has come for me to shift into something more in line with my age as I travel down my life's pathway, I ask God's blessings on all who have attended and who are currently attending, promoting, and/or supporting our parish school - alumni, students and their families, staff, pastor, parishioners, and members of the wider community. Because of you all, our parish school has provided and continues to provide a Catholic values-based education to those families in the community and surrounding area who choose to do so and the benefits reaped are priceless. Since 1952, you, our faith-filled parishioners, have invested in its school and families and over the years have been willing to sacrifice financially so others can send their children here. Fortunately, all families, parish and non-parish, who meet guidelines established by the legislature are able to apply for scholarships from the Archdiocesan Student Tuition Organization "Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future" to help pay tuition costs. In addition, the St. Thomas Foundation provides yearly tuition assistance for parish families. Yes, our parish school offers what every faith-filled parent wants for their children, knowledge enlightened by faith for seven hours a day, 180 days a year.

My fellow, parishioners, know that everyone on the school staff is united in the belief that every child is a treasure, created by a loving God, in God's own image, a little less than the angels and crowned with glory and honor. Every teacher is united in the belief that each child has been endowed by God with varied gifts and talents and works

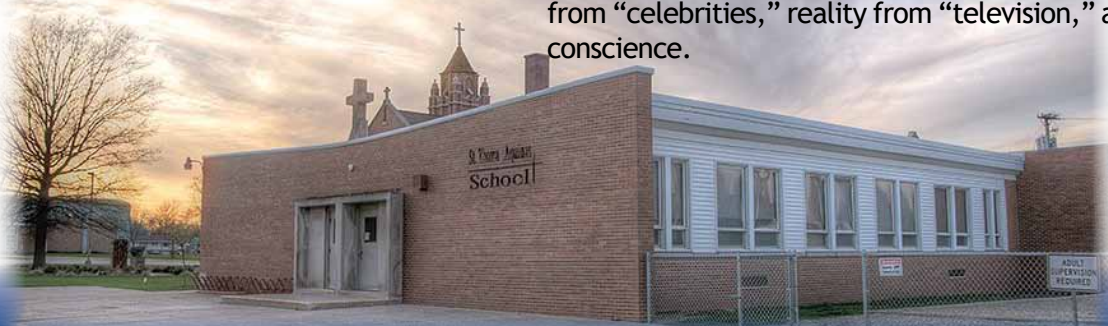
tirelessly to maximize these God-given talents with a philosophy of continuous progress. And every child is encouraged to do his/her part so as to feel God's pleasure in doing so.

Know that we are united by faith, our belief in God and in all that He has revealed about Himself and humankind. It includes a deep understanding of who we are (beloved children of God), where we are ultimately headed (heaven, we pray), and what we are called to carry out here on Earth (service to Him by service to others, starting with our family and friends). In a real sense, faith is a matter of seeing every aspect of our life as God sees it, to be conscious of always living in His presence. It is a sense of priorities in life, seeing that faithfulness to God's will comes first.

We, as parishioners and school families, are united by hope. This is the confidence that God will give us the means for our salvation, and that He watches over all our affairs with loving Providence. It is the confidence in God's all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful protection. For a person with supernatural strength of hope, no hardship or setback or calamity is totally overwhelming.

We, as parishioners and school families, are united by love. This is the love for God, shown by our love for others. We grow up not when we can take care of ourselves, but rather when we can take care of others – and want to, for the sake of God.

For 65 years our parish school enriched one's God-given talents and the gifts of faith, hope, and love. It gives us the ability to make the important distinctions in life – truth from falsehood, good from evil, fact from opinion, heroes from "celebrities," reality from "television," a well-formed conscience.



Our parish school gives us a sense of justice - giving others what is due to them as a matter of right. It implies respect for others' God-given dignity, freedom, and feelings.

For 65 proud years our parish school has brought the good news of Catholic moral and social teaching to the minds and hearts of all the young people who chose to attend. It is in faith, hope, and love that we celebrate our parish school. As we look ahead to the future I call upon those who are not yet part of the parish school family to come in and reap the benefits described above for the here-and-now and the hereafter. We can be proud of what our parish school has accomplished and I pray that we have the wherewithal to continue well into the future. To all those who attend, have attended, promote, and/or support our parish school, God's special blessings and my personal gratitude and prayers.

**Important Dates:**

- Blessing of Pets - Friday, October 5, 2:45 p.m.  
All are welcome to bring a pet to be blessed by Father Meyer in observance of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Come to the east parking lot by 2:45 p.m. on the 5th.
- Wednesday, November 7 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - 3:30...
- Friday, November 16th  
- Prayer Partner Mass at 8:30 a.m. with social in the gym following Mass



**2019-2020 STO Application**

The online application for STO Tuition Assistance program opens on January 1, 2019 and can be found at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid> The deadline for round #1 awards is March 29, 2019. During the 2018-2019 school year, over \$55,000 in scholarships were awarded to school families whose total income did not exceed an amount equal to three times the federal poverty guideline.

**Catholic Schools Week 2019  
January 27-February 2, 2019**



Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2019 is January 27 - February 2. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2019 is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

**New Parishioners**

**St. Thomas Aquinas**  
Jamie & Danielle Brockhohn,  
Landon, Henry & ?? (in the fall)

Albertina Cyrus, Andrew Valere & Maria Doricent

Daniel Frederick

Joe & Suzy Gail

Megan & Cory Ginther, Riley & Myla

Maria Lopez & Onosimo Hipolito,  
Jose, Gema & Santy

Dan & Lisa Oliver-Brown,  
Elias & Elora

Jeremy & Leah Rachu, Macklin

**Welcome back to:**

Ramiro Nunez & Veronica Garcia  
Jose Garcia, Valerie & Naomi Nunez

We are glad to have you as members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church family.

**We welcome all to our Parish Family!**

**St. Thomas Aquinas Financial Update**

	August	YTD
<b>Income</b>	\$52,044.30	\$98,273.29
<b>Expenses</b>	\$63,423.46	\$118,340.09
<b>Long/(Short)</b>	(\$11,379.16)	(\$20,066.80)

**St. Marys Financial Update**

	August	YTD
<b>Income</b>	\$4,208.76	\$8,999.31
<b>Expenses</b>	\$4,270.81	\$8,332.63
<b>Long/(Short)</b>	(\$62.05)	(\$666.68)

# St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

1000 Des Moines Street  
Webster City IA 50595  
515-832-1190  
www.stthomaswc.org

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## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

- October 3 - 6 pm Family Enrichment
- October 6 - 65th Anniversary of STA School
- October 16 - Pastoral Study Day in Waterloo  
OFFICE CLOSED, 4-6 pm Iowa Food Bank in gym
- October 21 - World Mission Sunday, KC's Omelet  
Breakfast
- October 21 - 25 Priest Convocation NO MASS  
Tues, Wed or Thurs
- October 27 6:30 pm New Member Social

### NOVEMBER

- November 4 - St Mary's famous Fall Festival
- November 11 - STA Harvest Raffle & Dinner  
served at 11:30 am

### DECEMBER

- December 5 - 6 pm Family Enrichment
- December 9 - 4 pm First Reconciliation and  
Communal Penance
- December 11 - 6:30 pm Preschool Christmas  
Concert
- December 18 - 4-6 pm Iowa Food Bank in gym
- December 20 - 6:30 pm K-6 Christmas Program

### JANUARY

- January 26 - Feb 1 Catholic Schools Week  
Events to be announced

### FEBRUARY

- February 6 - 6 pm Family Enrichment to be  
announced

### MARCH

- March 18 - 22 Spring Break

### APRIL

- April 3 - 6 pm Family Enrichment