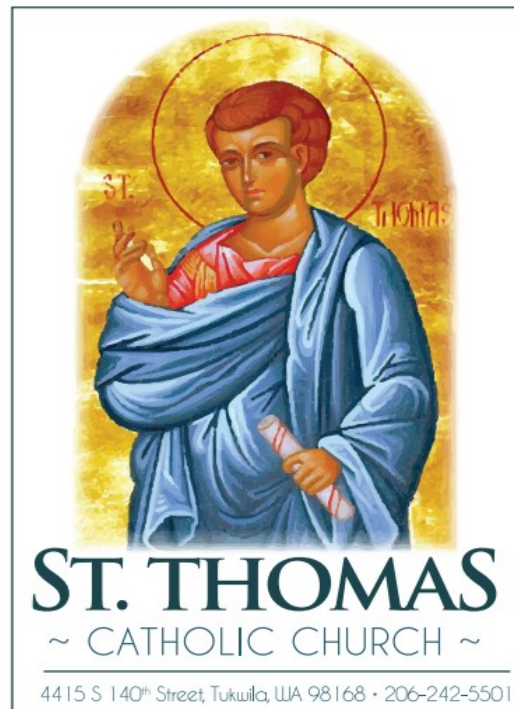


St. Thomas Tukwila Catholic Church

Pastor's Annual Report

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021



Dear St. Thomas Parishioners,

This year was a year of new challenges for our parish. Because of the COVID pandemic, along with Catholic churches worldwide, we had to deal with governmental restrictions that affected the way we worship and the way we help our community. There were certainly hassles that we will remember for a long time—having to participate in Mass and parish meetings via Zoom, decreased attendance and decreased revenue, reduced participation in the Sacraments, and the daily adjustment to masks and sanitation procedures. But of course, the big positive, that we can all feel good about, is how many lives were saved as we followed the leadership of Archbishop Etienne who interpreted and cooperated with the changing mandates of our state government.

Still, we lost several members of our parish to COVID or COVID related illnesses and the suffering brought on by the pandemic has been tremendous. We give thanks to God for our faith and the grace He has provided to shoulder the challenges. So many people remained engaged and involved at our parish to help us through. Thank you for your faithfulness. St. James reminds us that “Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

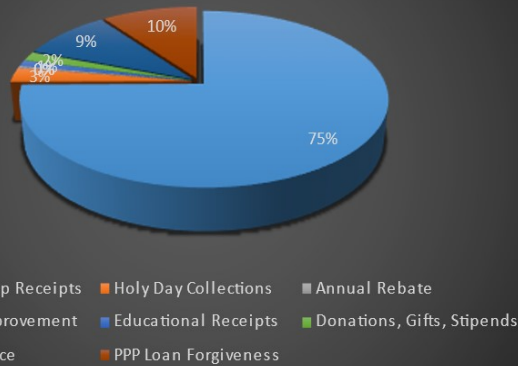
Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. James Northrop

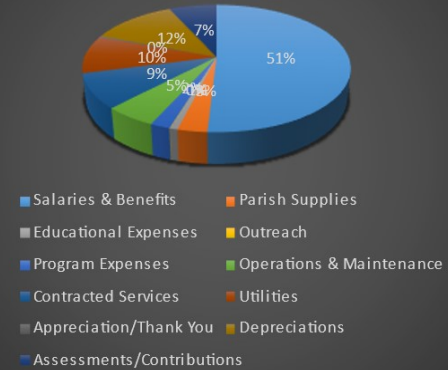
This report takes you through some of the highlights of St. Thomas activities this year.

FINANCIAL

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Income



Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Expenses



Income	
Stewardship Receipts	\$ 236,300.09
Holy Day Collections	\$ 8,451.00
Annual Rebate	\$ 1,104.42
Capital Improvement	\$ -
Educational Receipts	\$ 3,554.08
Donations, Gifts, Stipends	\$ 5,351.75
Maintenance	\$ 29,365.49
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$ 31,600.00
Fundraising	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 1,601.10
Rental and Lease	\$ 300.00
Outreach	\$ 5,919.00
Total Revenues	\$ 323,546.93

Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 160,203.03
Parish Supplies	\$ 9,477.71
Educational Expenses	\$ 2,506.04
Outreach	\$ 138.00
Program Expenses	\$ 6,425.19
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 16,864.14
Contracted Services	\$ 27,639.77
Utilities	\$ 30,153.93
Appreciation/Thank You	\$ 1,160.25
Depreciations	\$ 38,588.04
Assessments/Contributions	\$ 21,540.40
Other Business Expenses	\$ 39,751.74
Total Expenses	\$ 354,448.24

Total Revenues	\$ 323,546.93
Total Expenses	\$ 354,448.24
Income	\$ (30,901.31)

Fundraising activities with large crowds were not possible during the pandemic and with Mass attendance down put a negative impact on our balance sheet. Paid staff were all part time with no benefits, including Jadelyn Manuel, Michelle Miller, Noemi Torres, and Andrea Flores. Andrea will be retiring at the end of August, replaced by Coordinator for English Faith Formation Mona Fonseca. Jadelyn will be working remotely as bookkeeper. Michelle will be the office manager, and Noemi will continue as Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry.



FACILITY

Facilities projects included removal of the Holy Family statue that had collapsed, repair of the sound system, beautifully detailed landscaping, keeping lawns mowed, and continuing repairs to all our buildings. Security was enhanced by putting up barriers at the driveway entrances for weekdays. We are in the process of installing water backflow protection for the church, which is a requirement of the water district in the City of Tukwila. We are anticipating a large cost for repairing the electrical power from the street to the church.

MASS REPORT

We began the fiscal year (July 1, 2020) with mandatory masks, social distancing and pre-registration for Mass attendance. By the end of the year, more people were attending Mass and even though things were not back to “normal,” we did have water in the font and easier access to the Mass at church, although the video streaming continued. We started the year with a Saturday Mass in English, a Sunday Mass in Spanish, and no announced daily Masses. We ended the year with 2 English Masses on the weekend, 2 Spanish Masses (Sunday and Tuesday) and 3 English Masses at 9:00 am on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday with confession and Tuesday and Friday Adoration.

In the English-speaking community, we have 5 altar servers, 7 lectors, 3 extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, and 3 cantors and musicians. In the Spanish-speaking community we have 12 altar servers, 16 lectors, 8 hospitality ministers, and 6 extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. Other liturgical ministers include cantors, choirs (beginning to come back), sacristans, and environment ministers. This year we started a collection for flowers arranged by volunteers.

MUSIC

Choirs were severely limited at the start of the year. Only one masked musician was allowed, or one singer and an accompanist. However, by the close of the fiscal year our choir members were returning, maintaining social distancing, and still wearing face coverings.



OUTREACH

There is still an Outreach Fund, and the distribution of outreach funds is by our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Current donations for outreach should be made out to the St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Donation checks for St. Vincent de Paul should be made out directly to St. Vincent and do not appear on our online giving. St. Vincent helps with rent, utility bills, gas vouchers, and items for children such as diapers and backpacks. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference has 8 members. Storage is beneath the church in the old Outreach food bank area. We continue to support our community garden.

FAITH FORMATION

A review of Faith Formation highlights the limitations that were common to all Catholic churches during the pandemic. For example, we could not hold nursery and preschool classes during the Mass. However, by waiting until the beginning of 2021 we were able to start our Faith Formation classes. We did not offer zoom classes since we felt that our children and families were somewhat overwhelmed by the virtual classes they had to keep up with in school.



We opened in-person classes in January with very strict health protocols mandated by the Archdiocese. All the children's classes (grades 1-7) met on Tuesdays—71 in Spanish with 15 receiving their First Communion, and 20 in English with 2 receiving their First Communion during the late summer of 2021.

12 teens in the English group (grades 8-12) began their 1st year of preparation for first Communion.

RCIA is for people over the age of 7 who have never been baptized, or for people who were baptized in a different tradition and want to become Catholic. 2 teenagers started the process in classes on Monday nights. This class also included 10 baptized teens who had not yet received their First Communion.

We were not able to do much with the Year of St. Joseph or with Adult Bible Study, but we are ready to start classes again as soon as we can. Also, we will be planning a leadership retreat.



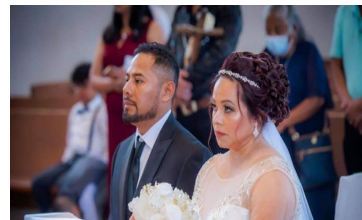
SACRAMENTAL REPORT

There were 38 baptisms, 15 1st Reconciliations and 1st Communions, and 45 Confirmations. There were 6 weddings and 7 funerals. This year there were no Quinceañeras or 3 year old blessings in the Hispanic community.

SPECIAL LITURGIES



Special liturgies includes 7 memorial services and funerals, 6 weddings, Friday Adoration, and 3rd Thursday Rosaries. Working within Archdiocesan guidelines during the pandemic we could not gather large crowds but instead highlighted these celebrations during Sunday Mass: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Simbang Gabi, Christmas, Lent and Holy Week, Divine Mercy, and Thanksgiving.



SAINT THOMAS COMMUNITY

We have 400 families including 14 new families who joined in 2021, comprising 1080 members. We have approximately 90 volunteers. There are 90 members of the Knights of Columbus and 20 members of the Obreros of San Jose (St. Joseph Workers).

St. Thomas has a strongly multicultural community, but this year because of COVID we were unable to host some of our traditional events. Next year we look forward to possibly resuming our multicultural dinners, fundraisers, and events such as Simbang Gabi and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Communities active at St. Thomas include Burmese, English-speaking, Filipino, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, and Vietnamese.