

# FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP 2025



ST·THOMAS  
THE APOSTLE



## SAY A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

FATHER ERICH RUTTEN

*Pastor*

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”*

– MATTHEW 28: 19-20

In our changing and challenging times, we need the Church more than ever. The Church is the place where we find welcome, worship, wisdom, and witness. The Church and the Eucharist are our harbor in the storm and deep nourishment in our hunger for connectedness, justice, and peace.

It is important to remember that the Church doesn't so much have a mission as the Mission of Jesus has a Church. It is Jesus himself who instituted the Church and gave us its purpose: to make disciples. Why? So that, as disciples, we can be salt, leaven, and light for the world. With faith in Jesus, we are given the grace to be people of hope when so many may be tempted to despair.

Pope Francis emphasized this point in his 2013 encyclical “The Joy of the Gospel”. In this letter to the entire Church, he encourages us to take up a “missionary option” that prioritizes evangelization over institutional preservation, urging the Church to transform its customs, schedules, and structures to reach the world with the Gospel (#27). Pope Francis believes that, for too long, the Church has been in “self-preservation mode,” and now is the time to choose the missionary path in all that we do.

I invite us to commit ourselves anew to the greatest adventure there is... to be Jesus' missionary disciples.

I invite us to offer, once again, our prayer, our gifts, and our engagement for the life of the Church.

As you look through this stewardship report, I invite you to say a prayer of thanksgiving for all the great people and great things we are doing at St. Thomas the Apostle. Please reflect in your heart how God might be calling you to be a missionary disciple in these challenging times. I hope you will also take a moment to consider how God has blessed you and how you might make a return of those blessings.

May God continue to bless us and guide us.



*Erich Rutten*

*Father Erich Rutten*



A MESSAGE FROM

## ABBY BOSWAY

*Youth Ministry and Confirmation Coordinator*

I began my role as the Youth Ministry and Confirmation Coordinator for our clustered parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle and Christ the King in September 2024. As a mom of three young kids – 2nd grade, kindergarten and a 21-month old – I felt called to step into this role in the hopes of contributing to a welcoming place for students to explore their faith, foster relationships outside of school/sports, and experience connection and service within our church community. As I raise my own children in the digital age, I am hyper-aware of the challenges this generation faces. My goal is to build a robust Youth Ministry where elementary through high school age students can grow in their faith and in positive, supportive, authentic relationships.

As my own children are still in elementary school and younger, this first year as the Confirmation Coordinator has been challenging and enlightening! I am blessed with extremely talented and experienced catechists who have helped me tremendously as I learn the nuances of connecting with teenagers in faith. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know the youth and their families and have many ideas for experiences and exercises to implement in the years to come. The early teenage years are such a precious and vulnerable time, and I feel honored to connect with the Confirmation candidates and help them deepen their faith during their high school years.

My vision for the future of both Youth Ministry and Confirmation is to create an exciting and engaging environment for our youth to connect with our church community and feel inspired to explore their faith. I realize this is a steep challenge and I am grateful for the community members and parents who have stepped up to help this first year. I am eager to include many more members of both parishes in my mission and I believe we can, as a community, greatly influence the trajectory of these young lives. I am hopeful for the future, wholeheartedly committed to doing my part, and very welcoming of all input, suggestions and help from everyone who feels called to serve!

*Abby Bosway*  
Abby Bosway

A MESSAGE FROM

## CHRISTINA MAAS

*Director of Liturgy and Music*



### SUSCIPE PRAYER

Take, Lord, receive all my liberty,  
my memory, my understanding,  
and my entire will,

All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.

To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours;

do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and your grace,

that is enough for me.

~ *Saint Ignatius of Loyola*

The prayer (shown at left), known as the *Suscipe Prayer* by Saint Ignatius, is sung by our choir and is one of my favorite texts. It is a radical prayer of self-giving and openness to God's love. And it illustrates well the stewardship we are all called to in participation of the liturgy.

You have heard many times that liturgy is not a 'spectator's sport'. Liturgy is not done for us. It is us doing for God. The word 'liturgy' or 'leitourgia' comes from two Greek words meaning 'people' and 'work'. Simply understood, liturgy is our shared work, and we are stewards of that work.

What I cherish most about the community of St. Thomas the Apostle, is your wholehearted participation in the work God has called you to. You sing at this parish! Really sing! You are fully active in the rituals of our faith. Our liturgies are life-giving because you give them life.

The celebration of liturgy is a beautiful model for stewardship. As Saint Ignatius reminds us, we are called to empty ourselves of our own wants and needs to enter into something bigger and better. We are called to the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. As Paschal People, we are called to bring our unique talents and treasures, that together create the beauty of our communal experience.

This work requires the love and labor of everyone. It takes the talents of musicians, lectors, preachers, artists, gardeners, and sewers. It takes the time of ushers, greeters, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, gift bearers, cross bearers, servers, and many laborers to prepare our spaces inside and out seasonally. It takes the treasure of those able to financially sustain our liturgical needs. Above all, it takes the commitment of all of us, the ministry of the assembly. Without you, there would be no celebration of the Mass. From the newborn to the aged, regardless of status, struggles, health, or doubting faith, you are part of us. You have much to offer and when you are away, you are missed. This Lent and throughout this year, consider what has been given to you and what you can return to God.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Maas". The script is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the 'i' in Christina.

*Christina Maas*

Remembering St. Thomas the Apostle in your

# ESTATE PLANNING

Traditional stewardship within many faith traditions  
relies on the three legs of stewardship:



## ANNUAL GIVING

During our once-a-year stewardship drive, we ask that you reflect on your blessings that you have received this year and that you return a portion of those blessings.

## PLANNED GIVING

These donations are one-time gifts, and we ask you to consider St. Thomas the Apostle as part of your estate planning.

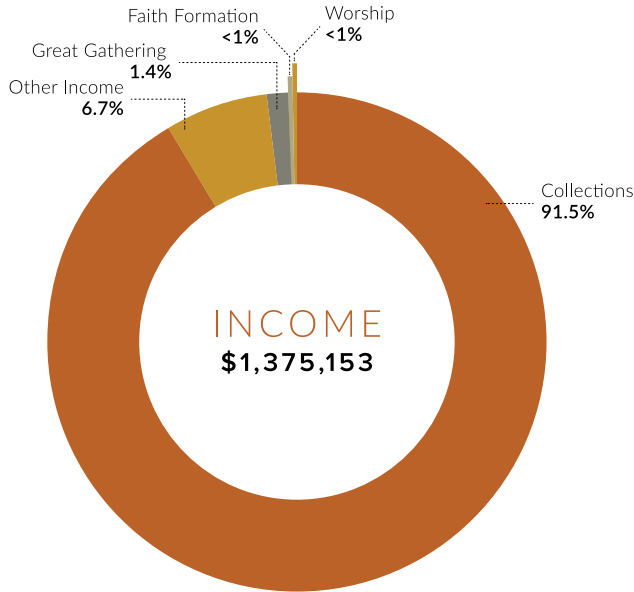
## CAPITAL GIVING

This is giving that happens as a result of careful strategic planning and a case study presentation on areas of need and/or facility improvements.  
i.e., *Mission Critical* in 2018

Please consider remembering St. Thomas the Apostle in your estate planning. For more information, contact Barbara Staats at the parish office, 612-922-0041, or [bstaats@stthomasmpls.org](mailto:bstaats@stthomasmpls.org).

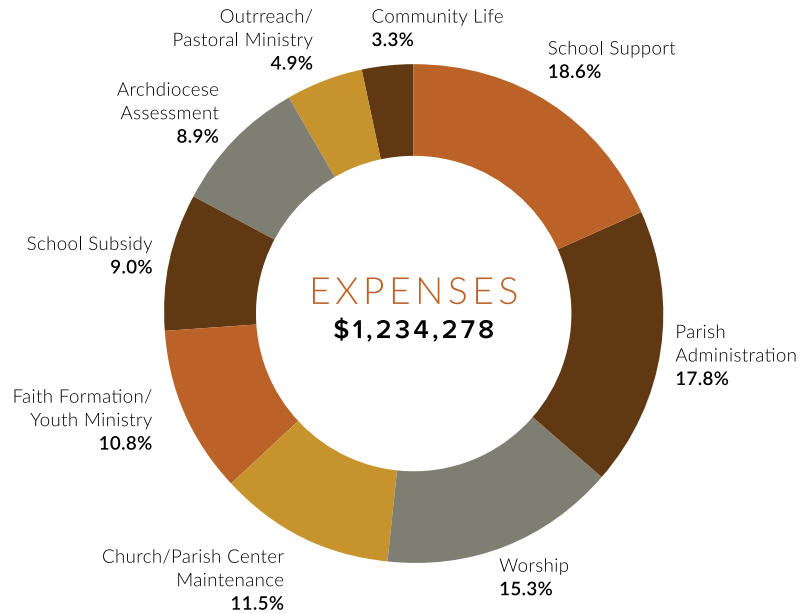
# OPERATIONS

## Income and Expenses 2023-24



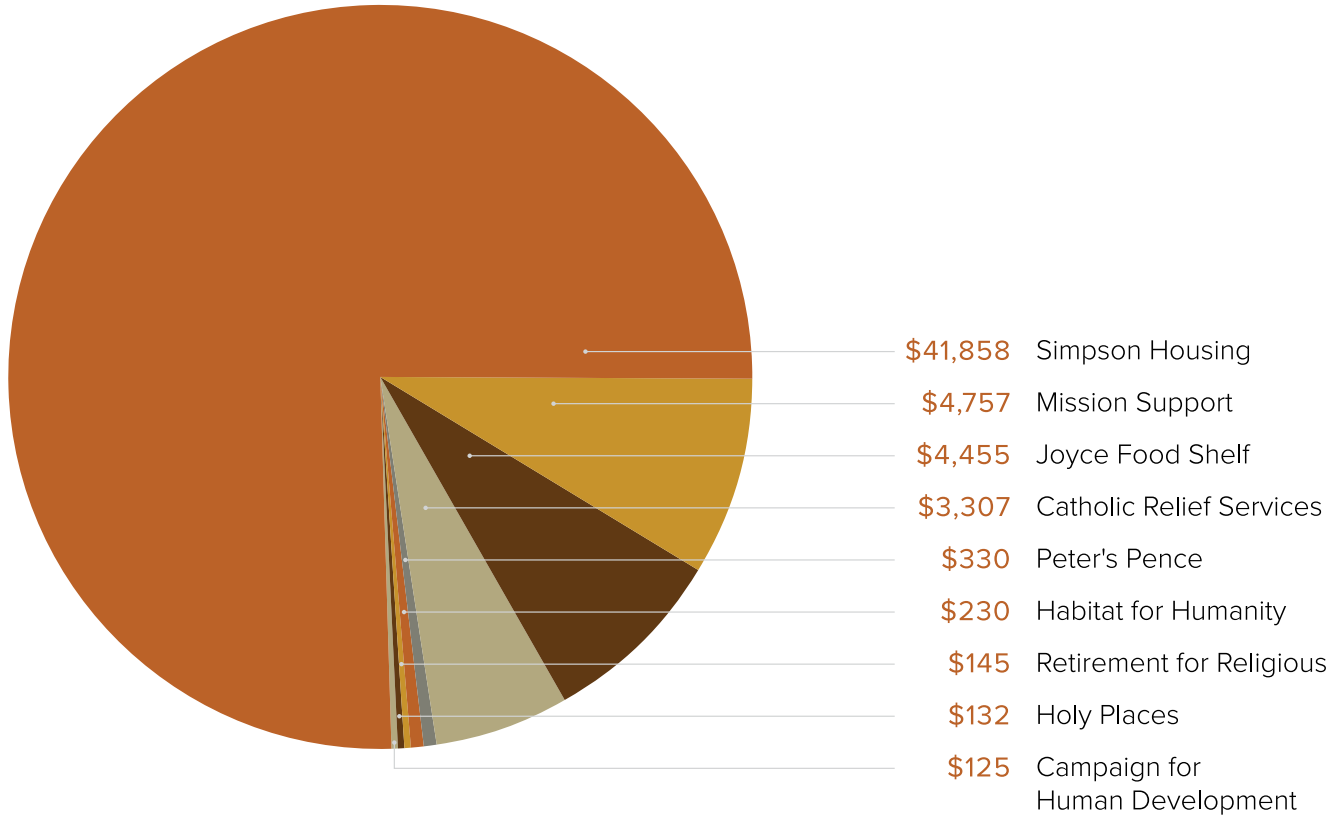
|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Collection Income</b> .....  | \$1,258,109 |
| Sundays, Holy Days; includes electronic contributions                             |             |
| <b>Other</b> .....  | \$91,571    |
| Cell tower rental, parking lot rental, mass stipends, stole fees, interest, misc. |             |
| <b>Great Gathering</b> .....  | \$19,131    |
| Proceeds from our annual fundraising/ social event in October                     |             |
| <b>Faith Formation</b> .....  | \$4,904     |
| Fees for faith formation  |             |
| <b>Worship</b> .....  | \$1,438     |
| Christmas and Easter flowers, vigil lights (net income after expenses)            |             |

Note: Special collections (Simpson Housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) not included.



|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>School Support</b> .....  | \$228,965 |
| Staff wages and benefits, school-related share of utilities, repairs, maintenance costs, equipment, insurance      |           |
| <b>Parish Administration</b> .....   | \$220,304 |
| Staff wages and benefits, office supplies and equipment, postage, insurance, street assessments                    |           |
| <b>Worship</b> .....   | \$188,533 |
| Staff wages and benefits, supplies for liturgy, music, musicians, decorations, instrument maintenance              |           |
| <b>Church/Parish Center Maintenance</b> .....  | \$142,084 |
| Staff wages and benefits, utilities, repairs, boiler and other maintenance costs, grounds, snow removal, equipment |           |
| <b>Faith Formation/Youth Ministry</b> .....  | \$133,104 |
| Staff wages and benefits, books, meals, materials, supplies, youth ministry  |           |
| <b>School Subsidy</b> .....  | \$111,037 |
| <b>Archdiocese Assessment</b> .....  | \$110,030 |
| <b>Outreach/Pastoral Ministry</b> .....  | \$59,905  |
| Staff wages and benefits, pastoral care ministry, Branch Lunch, funeral lunches, Simpson meals, Meals on Wheels    |           |
| <b>Community life</b> .....  | \$40,315  |
| Hospitality, stewardship, supplies, background checks  |           |

## ***DONATIONS*** To Special Funds



## ***COLLECTION INCOME*** 2013-24



# What is a Financial Stewardship PLEDGE?

Each of us has the opportunity again to renew our commitment to one another and the mission of St. Thomas the Apostle by making a financial commitment – a pledge, which is a solemn promise.



## *Why are annual stewardship pledges important?*

Annual pledges support what we do at St. Thomas the Apostle and beyond our doors. Our yearly budget is driven by the generosity of our annual pledges. Each and every pledge makes a difference and works toward the building of our faith community. Knowing what funding to expect, we can plan for the costs of our ministries for the coming year.



## *How much should I give with an annual stewardship pledge?*

Christian stewardship is grounded in the understanding that our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. The Bible tells us that we should contribute 10% of our income. If this seems unmanageable for you, we suggest you choose another percentage and challenge yourself to grow in your practice of sacrificial stewardship over time.



## *Do I have to pay at the time I make my stewardship pledge?*

Returning your pledge card is a promise to pay. You make your pledge and then fulfill this pledge over as many payments as you wish throughout the year, using offering envelopes or electronic fund transfers.



## CONSIDER AUTOMATIC GIVING

More than ever before, the disruptions over the past few years have affirmed the benefits of **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** – for the parish and for our members.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- It will allow you to plan your giving, in the same way you budget other financial considerations.
- You will no longer have to be concerned about catching up on donations when you miss a Mass.
- You will be able to easily adjust the amount of your automated contribution (up and down).
- You will no longer need to write a check or bring cash every week.
- At Mass, you may drop the provided EFT card into the collection basket to represent your contribution.

You may sign up and easily manage your electronic giving (recurring or one-time) through our secure website: [stthomasmpls.org](http://stthomasmpls.org) or you may complete the form below and return it to the parish office.

### EFT AUTHORIZATION FORM (Electronic Fund Transfer)

#### FOR ALL USERS

I am a CURRENT user.  
Please update my enrollment account

I am a CURRENT user.  
Please keep my amount the same

This is a NEW EFT enrollment

#### CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Contribution Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Date contributions are to begin \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly

Monthly ( 1st or 15th, circle one)

Semi-monthly on the 1st and the 15th

Quarterly

Name (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### FOR NEW EFT ENROLLMENT ONLY

Checking Account  
(attach a voided check)

Savings Account  
(attach a savings deposit slip)

I authorize the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle to process debit entries from my account. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

You may also go to our website: [stthomasmpls.org/faithful-stewardship](http://stthomasmpls.org/faithful-stewardship) and enroll for EFT. Enrolling online will also give you an option to use a credit card. If you need assistance in enrolling, please call the parish office and we are happy to assist you.



**Return this enrollment form in the attached envelope, along with a voided check or savings deposit slip.**

A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM PRINCIPAL



*Dear Parish Community,*

As we celebrate our 100 years of Catholic education, it is my joy to share the blessings that your generous stewardship makes possible for our students, families, and staff. Your unwavering support allows us to provide a nurturing, faith-filled environment where our PreK-8 students feel supported and loved.

At Carondelet, we are committed to forming the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. Through rigorous academics, vibrant faith experiences, and opportunities for service, we strive to instill in each student a deep love for God, a passion for learning, and a heart for serving others. These are values that shape young minds to become future leaders, ready to live out their faith in the world.

We are profoundly grateful for your prayers, time, and financial gifts that sustain our mission. Every investment you make in our school community is an investment in the future of the Church and greater community. Thank you for being such an essential part of this ministry and for helping us build a strong foundation of faith and learning for generations to come.

Please know that our school family remembers you in our daily prayers. May God continue to bless our community for another 100 years. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and commitment to Catholic education.

In Christ's Love,



*Rebecca Harris, Interim Principal*





# I ASK FOR A FAVOR

BILL NOLAN

*Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation and Social Outreach*

I have “gone to church” my entire life. I have “worked for the church” in some capacity since I was 16 years old and sat on my first Parish Council. And I have “taught church,” in schools and in parishes, for the better part of 38 years. But when I joined the staff of St. Thomas the Apostle in 2005, I started a different kind of faith journey. I still went to church, I worked for the church, and I taught church, but what 20 years of ministry with this faith community brought to my life is a sense of what it means to “*be Church*,” to “*be the Gospel*,” to “*be Christ*,” and to experience the beauty of others being Christ to me. That has been the most profound, most humbling, fullest expression of *Church* that I have ever had, and one for which I am eternally grateful to each of you.

You have shown me my strengths as well as my limitations and weaknesses; you have played an indispensable role in my being a father; and the impact you have had on both Abby’s and Meghan’s lives cannot be expressed in words. You have been church to me so profoundly that it was here, at an early Great Gathering, that I met and fell in love with Kristine. God has blessed me through this community, and I would not be the person I am today were it not for you.

*“My days of formal Church work are coming to an end.”*

But this is the stewardship brochure, so I really should be talking about contributions, shouldn’t I...?

I am. Being Church to and for and with each other – being responsible and accountable to and for each other is the essence of stewardship. Your financial contributions are more than just an envelope in a basket or an automatic deduction from your checking account. They are a powerful statement of commitment to a community, to this community of St. Thomas the Apostle, to be there for each other, *to be Church, be the Gospel, be Christ*. And in being those realities, we receive them back one hundred-fold. I know I have.

My days of formal Church work are coming to an end. It is time to listen to where else God may be leading me. I have tried to be a good steward of the gifts I’ve received – time, talent, and treasure. Through your continued stewardship, I ask for a favor – continue to *be Church, be the Gospel, be Christ* to and for one another as you have been to me. Then St. Thomas the Apostle will continue to grow in holiness and minister for generations to come.

*Bill Nolan*



ST·THOMAS  
THE APOSTLE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED