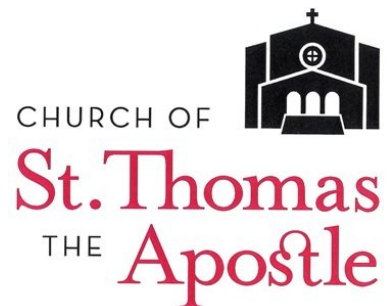


CHURCH OF
St. Thomas
THE Apostle



Parish Ministry Opportunities
2009-2010



Worship Witness Welcome Wisdom

2914 West 44th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55410
612/922-0041
www.sta-mpls.org

New Ministry Opportunities

History Archiver

Interested in history? 100 years of community life has produced stacks of photos and documents that need cataloging and filing. Our archives are housed in the Parish Center, lower level. Very flexible time commitment.

Hot Dish Helpers

Do you love to cook? Want to help a parishioner in need? Prepare a hot dish (your recipe or ours) and deliver to a neighbor in need (recovering from surgery, death of a loved one, family in the hospital).

Contact Terry Ruttger: truttger@sta-mpls.org

Maintenance Helper

Get to know your Plant Manager. Help with parish maintenance by weeding, dusting and cleaning and other assorted tasks. Monthly help can be broken into groups of individuals.

Contact James Larson: jl Larson@sta-mpls.org

Welcome

Guest Bulletin Editor

This volunteer has a working knowledge of Publisher and is available to edit the weekly bulletin. Bulletin deadlines are Monday and upload is Wednesday. Items are provided by the staff and final proofing is done by the office.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee schedules and organizes between four and six social activities annually that give parish members the opportunity to meet and interact. Events include both family and adult activities. Members attend one meeting monthly and are asked to participate in some way at each event. Committee members should be genuinely interested in the social development of the parish and feel comfortable mixing and introducing people.

New Member Welcome

Members of the Welcoming Ministry greet and answer questions from people interested in St. Thomas the Apostle parish. They also serve as welcoming sponsors.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee assists the parish staff in engaging parishioners of all ages in their beliefs and in their contributions of time, talent and treasure to the parish community. Committee members help maintain a thoughtful stewardship program through continual research and evaluation. The committee plans, organizes and implements the stewardship drive that addresses both financial and volunteer needs. Time commitment includes a monthly meeting and additional time for special projects.

Garden Club

The Garden Club is responsible for care and nurturing of the green and flowering plants in the Worship space and on the church grounds. Duties include the general seasonal care of plants, preparing, planting and weeding flower beds, and seasonal clean-up. Green thumbs are not required.

Short Term Special Event Helper

Want to help our parish community celebrate special events? Parishioners will help on an as-needed basis for a variety of projects.

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All parishioners who work with children and/or vulnerable adults in any parish program will need to pass a parish-paid background check. Details of this process are available from the parish office at any time and will also be provided to those who sign up for these ministry areas. Forms are also found on the parish website: www.sta-mpls.org

Worship

Lectors

The ministry of lector is to bring God's Word to life in the midst of the assembly. A lector must love, pray and study the scriptures. Beyond having a strong, clear voice, an ability to speak with ease and conviction, and good interpretive skills, a lector must make deliberate and careful preparation of the scriptures. A workshop for new lectors and a follow up coaching session are required.

Table Ministers

The communion rite is the heart and center of the Eucharistic liturgy. It is the moment when we many are made one in the Lord. Those who minister Christ's body and blood to the body of Christ, the church, must be personally present to each and every person who comes to the table of the Lord. A training session is required.

Ministry of Hospitality: Ushers

The ushers greet God's people as they assemble for prayer. In addition, they seat latecomers, take up the collection, facilitate the communion procession and see to the needs of the community. Men, women, youth and seniors—all are welcome. "On the job training" is provided.

Ministers of Hospitality: Greeters

The ministry of hospitality works to promote a welcoming environment for all who come to the liturgy. Hospitality ministers are friendly and outgoing, open to strangers, and willing to extend themselves to others. They are scheduled one or two times per month and need to arrive at least twenty minutes before the start of the liturgy.

Altar Servers

The altar server assists the presider and enables the liturgy to proceed smoothly. Young people, grades 5 and up, as well as adults, may volunteer. Servers must have respect for the liturgy and reverence for the holy things used at Mass and for the holy actions in which the assembly participates. One training session begins this ministry, with extra rehearsals required for special celebrations. A training session is required.

Contact Mary Werner: mwerner@sta-mpls.org

Welcome

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is the consultative body of the parish. Its primary responsibilities are to advise the Pastor on the parish's spiritual growth and community involvement. The Council meets on the first Monday of each month for two to three hours. Council members are expected to attend monthly meetings, to prepare for these meetings by studying agendas and other materials, to serve on ad hoc committees when necessary, and to welcome and encourage communication and participation from all parishioners. The term of a Parish Council member is three years.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee advises the Pastor on all financial issues, including budget and asset management. A background in finance, accounting, banking, or investment is desirable. Estimated time commitment for this committee is two to three hours per month. The Finance Committee also assists with the annual financial stewardship campaign, which raises operating funds for the parish. Volunteers for the campaign should be prepared to commit 12 to 20 hours per year, with most of the work occurring in the late fall.

Coffee and Donuts

Volunteers serve coffee, juice, rolls, and donuts to parishioners on selected weekends after the Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses, and cookies and juice after the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Volunteers may sign up for as many or as few weekends as they wish.

Money Counters

Money counters are responsible for tallying the proceeds of the weekend Mass collections. They work on Monday mornings for four months of the year; time commitment is one and a half to two hours each week. All money counters must have a credit check, per Archdiocesan rules.

Nursery

A Sunday morning nursery is available during masses in the St. Thomas the Apostle school building. Sunday volunteers for the nursery are scheduled on a weekly basis.

Office Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities at the Parish Center involve a variety of office and clerical tasks, including help with mailings and assembling worship aids. If you are occasionally available for an hour or two (especially on short notice) and enjoy working with others, please consider this opportunity.

Contact Terry Ruttger: truttger@sta-mpls.org

Witness

Simpson Housing Ministry

For the past two years we have a partnership relationship with Simpson Housing Services to provide items families need as they move into transitional housing, as well as opportunities to volunteer with Simpson, get involved in advocacy work to help end homelessness, and provide follow-up assistance with families' ongoing needs. Most Simpson Housing families have exhausted their personal resources and have already utilized many community services. A group of parishioners also works at Simpson's Womens Shelter preparing and serving meals once a month. For more information on our partnership with Simpson Housing Services, visit our web site www.sta-mpls.org or **Simpson Housing at www.simpsonhousing.org**.

JustGiving Fair

This annual fair, usually held the first weekend of December, provides education on the issues and concerns regarding globalization and fair trade through materials, presentations and a gift fair featuring fair-trade goods from around the world. Opportunities include planning, logistics, setup, cleanup and communication/publicity.

Contact Bill Nolan: bnolan@sta-mpls.org

Funeral Lunch

The funeral lunch committee prepares and serves meals to families after the funeral of a loved one. Committee members may spend from two to six hours on setup, serving, and cleanup, and may work during all or part of the meal. Periodic food donations are also needed.

STARS—St. Thomas Active Retired Seniors

STARS offers an opportunity for seniors in the parish to be in contact with each other and to participate together in the parish community. Join us in re-forming this important ministry.

Knitting Ministry

Members of the knitting ministry gather to make prayer shawls. The prayer shawls are given to people who are in need of healing in their lives. The group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at the Parish Center.

Prayer Line

The Prayer Line is an opportunity to unite the parish community in prayer during times of need. Members inform each other by telephone of prayer requests related to death, illness, or other crises. Any parishioner willing to pray for others and to call and be called is invited to this ministry.

Worship

Lay Presiders

A lay presider is first and foremost a person of prayer. Lay presiders need leadership skills, good public-speaking experience, and a strong sense of presence. Training is required.

Art and Environment

Members of the art and environment ministry provide appropriate seasonal decorations throughout the liturgical year. Help with everything related to the decorations is needed—from ironing to designing. There are no “regular” meetings; this ministry gathers and works seasonally.

Flag Sewers

The outside flags need to be replaced regularly because of damage from sun, wind, and rain. It takes approximately one half-hour to make one flag. Fabric, thread, and instructions are provided.

Contact Mary Werner: mwerner@sta-mpls.org

Liturgy of the Word with Children: Presider or Assistant Minister

Using the Children's Lectionary and materials provided, the presider presents prayers and scripture readings of the day and facilitates age-appropriate discussions for children ages 6 and older during Sunday Mass. A training session at the beginning of this ministry is provided as well as yearly 'renewal' sessions. The assistant minister helps the children to pray by overseeing the group and seeing to individual needs as they arise. The time commitment for both ministries is once monthly depending upon schedules.

Contact Cheryl Taylor: ctaylor@sta-mpls.org

Worship

Music Ministry

The music ministry leads and supports the assembly's participation in the sung prayer of the liturgy. There are many volunteer opportunities for parishioners of all ages. This is an intergenerational ministry.

Parish Choir

The choir is a dedicated group of parishioners that supports the singing of the assembly at the 9:00 Sunday liturgy from September through May. Members represent diverse ages, from high-school students through senior citizens. Regular Wednesday evening rehearsals develop the sense of a small community within the larger parish. All who love to sing are welcome—from the best to the most remedial musician. There is a place for you in this group!

Parish Ensemble

This small group sings regularly at the 11:00 liturgy. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings. An ability to read music and practice on one's own is helpful.

Instrumentalists

Musical art in all its forms serves God's people at prayer. Instrumentalists are welcome to play regularly or occasionally at any or all of the liturgies. An "audition" to assess skill is necessary. Sight-reading and at-home rehearsal is required.

Percussionists

The parish owns a variety of quality percussion instruments appropriate for the liturgy. Training is provided and rehearsals are required.

Bell Ringers

Those who are interested must be in 6th grade or older. Adults and seniors are welcome. An ability to read music and keep time is a must. Regular rehearsals are required.

Children's Choir

This ministry helps to form children in ritual prayer while at the same time enhancing the worship experience of the entire assembly. This choir is open to all parish children in grades 2 through 8. Rehearsals are required.

Contact Mary Werner: mwerner@sta-mpls.org

Witness

Outreach

St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners have a variety of ways to get involved in community outreach. Opportunities include:

Branch Lunch

Branch Lunch teams provide warm meals to the homeless in our community on the fourth Friday of each month. Each team serves at one of the Branch locations on four Fridays per year; members may belong to one or all of the teams. Whether shopping for food, cooking, or serving, the time commitment is about two hours per lunch.

Joyce Food Shelf

Parishioners may donate food to the Joyce Food Shelf by leaving it in the designated area at the back of the church. Volunteers are also needed at the food shelf.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is an active group of parishioners who meet once every six weeks and deliver lunches to elderly and infirm area residences. Up to 10 meals can be delivered between 11:30 and 1:00. Volunteers must have an insured car and a drivers license.

Personal Care Products

Personal care products may be left in the designated place in the Gathering Space and are taken to local Branch facilities when St. Thomas the Apostle volunteers serve the monthly Branch lunch. These products are distributed by the Branch staff to the poor and homeless. Items appropriate for donation include soap, shampoo, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, combs, hairbrushes, nail clippers, and deodorants.

Habitat for Humanity

Each summer St. Thomas the Apostle parish joins the broader community to work together for Habitat for Humanity. For one or two weeks, parishioners and other volunteers donate their time and skills to make affordable housing a reality for a family in our community. Many people are needed for a great variety of tasks, including fund raising, food preparation and serving, scheduling and coordination of the project, and construction of the house itself. Information about each year's Habitat project-along with a call for volunteers-is printed in the parish bulletin in the spring.

Contact Bill Nolan: bnolan@sta-mpls.org

Wisdom

Venture – ven'cher, verb. [Abbreviation of *adventure*, old form of adventure.] **1)** To dare or have the courage or boldness to advance. **2)** To search and find meaning. **3)** To embark on a journey of adventure. **4)** The shared Youth Ministry program at Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle.

Venture Youth Ministry is about searching and finding meaning in your world. It's about discovering who you are and how you relate to those around you. It's about discovering your special role in creation and sharing your life journey with friends and caring adults, who will listen, challenge and support you along the way. Venture programs are sometimes serious, always fun, and a great way to stay in touch with friends, and meet new ones. The groups listed below are Venture groups that you can be a part of that offer ways to serve, be social, and grow in your faith for you and your friends in a setting that will respect and appreciate your place on the journey.

Service Sunday: Service Sunday invites all 7th – 12th graders to be a part of a service team that meets once a month to help make our community and world a better place through service and to model our faith in action.

Peer Ministry:

Sr. High Peer Ministry: Peer Ministry is for 10th – 12th graders and challenges participants to discover and develop their gifts of leadership and ministry.

Jv. Peer Ministry: Jv. Peer Ministry is for 8th graders that desire to grow their leadership and gifts for ministry through this training program. .

Venture Jr. High (7th & 8th grade)

After school drop-in: Tuesdays during the school year Venture invites 7th & 8th graders to hang out at Down Under from 4-6pm

Venture Jr. High Events: Once a month 7th & 8th graders have a special social event. Some events include; Fall Hayride & Bonfire, Winter All Night Lock-in

Retreats: Each year our Jr. High spends a weekend during the school year at Camp Castaway and a week in the summer at Summer Festival. These retreats are about getting away and having a blast, while exploring our faith.

Venture Sr. High (9th – 12th grade)

Ignite: Ignite is about fun, friends, and faith. Ignite is open to all Sr. High youth in grades 9 – 12 and meets each Sunday during the school year.

Please visit: www.ventureym.org for more information

Contact Matt Meyers: msmeyers@ctkmpls.org

Wisdom

Seeds: Prayer Leader

Using the Lectionary-based *Seeds* materials, prayer leaders serve in teams of 2 ministering to preschool-aged children during Sunday Mass. The leaders present age-appropriate activities based on the week's reading that include stories, music and art. An initial training session is provided as well as yearly 'renewal' sessions. The time commitment is approximately once a month, depending upon schedules and number of prayer leaders.

Contact Cheryl Taylor: ctaylor@sta-mpls.org

Generations of Faith

Generations of Faith is a program of life-long faith formation for all ages. We share our faith in God, in Jesus Christ and in one another as Church. We tell our story; we form relationships based on the theological virtues of faith, hope and love; we commit ourselves to share our gifts with one another in spirit of charity and understanding. Volunteer opportunities include catechists and assistant catechists for grades K-8, and meal helpers. The time commitment is approximately 2-1/2 hours most Wednesday evenings from September to May, as well as two or three summer gatherings for evaluations and group discussions.

Contact Anne Gaskill: agaskill@sta-mpls.org

Wisdom

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

The Baptism Team consists of catechists who share the Church's teachings on Baptism with parents and godparents. Training materials are provided and the time commitment is approximately three Wednesday evening family meetings (lasting about 1-1/2 hours) and the corresponding Sunday celebration per year.

First Eucharist

This sacrament is celebrated soon after Easter Sunday for children 7 years and older. Seven sessions, several of which require parental participation, precede it. The time commitment for this ministry includes the training sessions, the seven prep sessions, and the celebration liturgies.

First Reconciliation

This sacrament is held in the fall for children in fourth grade and older. We offer six weeks of preparatory sessions, which require some parental participation. Time commitment for volunteers of this ministry includes the training sessions, the six prep classes, and the evening liturgy.

Confirmation

Confirmation is celebrated annually during the Easter Season and takes place at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Preparation sessions are offered to high school age parishioners and are incorporated into the Wednesday Generations of Faith sessions. Volunteer opportunities include support roles, retreat preparation, small group facilitation and faith-sharing. Time commitments include training sessions and weekly gatherings from September to May.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process for adults who are considering the possibility of becoming Catholic. Parishioners can serve as sponsors, hospitality providers, or catechists. Sponsors serve as companions to those inquiring about the Catholic tradition, welcoming inquirers on behalf of the whole parish community and helping them become familiar with parish life. Sponsorship is not a teaching ministry. Adult initiation sessions meet along with adult faith formation on Wednesday evenings. During Lent, special sessions are arranged. The length of a volunteer's commitment is from mid-September through the Easter season.

Contact Bill Nolan: bnolan@sta-mpls.org

Wisdom

Carondelet Catholic School

Carondelet Catholic School is governed by a Board of Directors. The directors are drawn primarily from Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes, with the majority of its members being parents or guardians of school students. The Canonical Administrator, appointed by the Archbishop, also serves on the Board of Directors. The pastors of Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes, and the School Principal, are the ex-officio members of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors Responsibilities with respect to the school can include: policy development, financing, and long-term development and planning. The Board of Directors generally meets on a monthly basis during the school year, with the exception of December and June. The Board of Directors uses a consensus model for decision making.

Other school volunteer opportunities include alumni researchers; health aides; Board of Directors action team members (focusing on marketing, facilities, and endowment); parish bulletin news writers; computer technicians; library aides; judges for student fairs (such as inventors and history fairs); Junior Achievement teachers; playground and lunchroom monitors; coaches (for soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball); and classroom presenters (based on volunteer's area of expertise).

www.carondeletcatholicsschool.com