



Parish Plan

2011 - 2012

St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church

Canton, Michigan

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Welcome

Dear Parishioner,

As the newly elected Chair of the St. Thomas a'Becket Parish Pastoral Council, I am proud to present the 2011-2012 Parish Plan which last year's council worked hard to develop and refine. This plan is an extension of our parish's Mission statement which states in part, "We strive to become a more inviting, welcoming and evangelizing parish through ministries driven by His Word, the Sacraments, and the power of the Holy Spirit."

Now in its 34th year, St. Thomas a'Becket has made great strides since our first Pastor, Fr. Ernest Porcari, celebrated the inaugural Mass at Mildred Field Elementary School. Back then, we didn't even have an official name for the parish. Today, we have over 3,600 families that call us their home.

The Parish Plan is a joint effort of our current Pastor, Fr. Pat Casey, the Parish Pastoral Council, the four commissions (Worship, Faith Formation, Christian Service, and Stewardship), the various sub-committees that make up each commission, the Evangelization committee, and the St. Thomas staff. Starting with the Parish Mission Statement, the Pastor's Vision, and the Parish Goals, each organization develops their Objectives for the year which then provide direction for the group. In all, this plan involves the dedicated efforts of over 150 of your fellow parishioners.

This plan says who we are, why we are, where we are going, and how we intend to get there. It is a living document for all members of St. Thomas a'Becket. It invites all to be active participants in the plan.

In closing, I ask all to pray for the success of this plan and for the community of St. Thomas a'Becket.

May God bless you and your family,

Claudia Gering
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council
St. Thomas a'Becket

Parish Mission Statement

We, as a Catholic community of brothers and sisters, are called by God to be one in Christ Jesus. We strive to become a more inviting, welcoming and evangelizing parish through ministries driven by His Word, the Sacraments, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We reach out to serve all people, to share Christ's message of salvation, and thus spread the kingdom of God. We invite all those who search for Christ to feel at home at St. Thomas A' Becket.

Pastor's Vision for the Parish

My vision is that we become fully engaged as a parish community with a missionary spirit. We need to appreciate and live the tension between being and doing as Christians. We must foster personal spiritual growth. We must acknowledge and build upon our relationship to the greater Church. We must create an environment wherein the People of God are all seeking the Kingdom of God.

To do this, we will continue our journey toward a commission-driven parish. I envision a Worship Program with well-educated liturgists and musicians. I see an Education Program that strengthens our adult education possibilities, and inspires us all towards a life of holiness. I see a robust Christian Service Program reaching out to those in need. I see a Stewardship Commission caring for the God-given resources of our parish.

We should understand that, in fulfilling the goals of our programs, we reflect Christ to all we meet. We should understand that, in our volunteerism, we are fulfilling our baptismal promise, heeding the Church's call for special care of the poor.

We must rely on the profound teachings of the Church and the grace of the Sacraments to strengthen us for these tasks. I look forward to leading you as a fellow missionary.

I continue to learn every day of the depth and the challenge of Vatican II Council. I believe with all my heart that the Holy Spirit has guided the Church through all these times of change, and that St. Thomas a' Becket Parish has been prepared for, and is well on the road toward, being a herald of the Vatican II movement toward a Missionary Church. We are in a special place and time. I look forward to walking the road with you.

God Bless,

Fr. Patrick Casey

Parish Goals

Our goals are to:

1. Deepen our commitment to evangelization as the mission of our parish.
2. Continue to be more inviting and welcoming to all who desire Christ.
3. Encourage Parishioners to answer God's call to holiness and ongoing conversion through prayer, community, and ministry opportunities that are supported by the sacraments and will help us grow in faith.
4. Provide Parishioners with programs which reflect personal faith formation, love of God and commitment to being a disciple of Jesus.
5. Grow in our understanding of the work of mercy, peace, compassion and justice in support of the poor.
6. Encourage Parishioners to share their time and talents in our various ministries.

Worship Commission Objectives

1. Deepen our commitment to evangelization as the mission of our parish.
 - a. Support the parish mission in November 2011.
 - b. Conduct/support Taize and/or other para-liturgical prayer services on a quarterly basis.
2. Continue to be more inviting and welcoming to all who desire Christ.
 - a. Produce a prayer card for distribution at Christmas and Easter liturgies.
 - b. Introduce regular prelude music to the Mass to enhance the spiritual environment.
3. Encourage parishioners to answer God's call to holiness and ongoing conversion through prayer, community and ministry opportunities that are supported by the sacraments and will help us grow in faith.
 - a. Pursue avenues of education and promotion of Eucharistic Adoration for the parish.
 - b. Develop and schedule a Children-focused Mass for a monthly celebration.
4. Provide parishioners with programs which reflect personal faith formation, love of God and commitment to being disciples of Jesus.
 - a. Implement programs to provide aid in understanding the revised texts of the Roman Missal.
 - b. Implement programs of continuing education and spiritual renewal for liturgical ministers.
 - c. Periodically conduct small, random surveys of Mass attendees.
5. Grow in our understanding of the work of mercy, peace, compassion and justice in support of the poor.
 - a. Provide a focus during Lent 2012 towards the works of mercy, peace, compassion and justice in support of the poor.
6. Encourage parishioners to share their time and talents in our various ministries.
 - a. Encourage liturgical ministers to participate in the *Living in Christ* retreats of the parish, as well as participating in parish missions.
 - b. Address issues concerning the Greeter program.

Faith Formation Commission Objectives

1. Deepen our commitment to evangelization as the mission of our parish.
 - a. By the third meeting (Nov 2011) of the various committees under this commission, have each committee present report on how they intend to keep evangelization in the forefront of their ministry efforts.
2. Continue to be more inviting and welcoming to all who desire Christ.
 - a. The Catholic School rep will be asked to report, no less than, quarterly, on the situation with Catholic Schools to help us determine if there is any way we can integrate further and be of service to them.
3. Encourage parishioners to answer God's call to holiness and ongoing conversion through prayer, community, and ministry opportunities that are supported by the sacraments and will help us grow in faith.
 - a. Continue parish retreats every other month through the fall and winter months
 - b. By September/Oct. through a letter from Fr. Pat all parish groups will be invited to consider making one of the retreat days as a group effort. And also by this time we will begin to make them part of sacramental prep.
 - c. The Evangelization Committee, AFF committee and this commission will collaborate for the parish mission October 17, 18, 19 Parish Mission (and the preceding October 15, 16 Liturgies as required).
 - d. With a rep from the commission on the new Family BFF, will be regularly monitored and supported. Since it is yet in the planning stages, how we can help to reach and stir parents to become more serious about their faith is yet to be determined.
4. Provide parishioners with programs which reflect personal faith formation, love of God and commitment to being a disciple of Jesus.
 - a. We, as a commission, will charge the AFF committee, working with Debbie Miller, that by Jan 2012, they should create or provide formational programs for the homebound or institutional bound of our parish through online or written sources.
 - b. By making use of where people are gathered, once a month beginning Sept and through fall and winter, the Tuesday evening Mass will be a base for offering additional formation opportunities (guest speakers/presiders). Various other formation opportunities will be offered throughout the year, paying particular attention to addressing the top areas of interest reflect on the AFF survey results. Because it is difficult to ascertain ahead of time exactly when these can be offered, it will be asked that at least offer one or two formation opportunities be offered during the various *seasons* of the year.
 - c. Strive to encourage more people to form Small Christian Communities within like minded parishioners in the parish, beginning with a women's bible/faith sharing group by fall of 2011.
5. Grow in our understanding of the work of mercy, peace, compassion and justice in support of the poor.
 - a. Work with the Peace and Justice Committee to ensure they have a component in Family Based Faith Formation before the final curriculum is set.
6. Encourage parishioners to share their time and talents in our various ministries by taking part in a yearly time and talent Sunday.

Christian Service Commission Objectives

1. Host a Christian Service Retreat Day in the Fall of 2011 for all Christian Service volunteers. The purpose of the day will be to build enthusiasm and cohesion amongst the volunteers and groups within CSC as well as highlight our common purpose within the parish.
2. Create and implement a parish wide “40 Days of Service” program during Lent.
3. Collect self-evaluations from each CSC group by June 2012.
4. To restructure the grief program and transfer its leadership.

Stewardship Commission Objectives

1. Continue to be more inviting and welcoming to all who desire Christ.
 - a. The CC will work with appropriate commissions to review Welcome Packets and other information packets given to our Parishioners, with implementation by Spring 2012.
 - b. The CC will develop and record a Welcome video for the website by Spring 2012.
2. Encourage Parishioners to share their time and talents in our various ministries.
 - a. The CC will continue to work on the “volunteer opportunity” page for the website, with implementation by Spring 2012.
3. Other Objectives:
 - a. The Finance Committee/Council with the Business Manager will develop an annual balanced budget to be approved and signed for submittal to the AoD by May 15, 2012.
 - b. The Finance Committee will develop a long term financial revenue plan for the parish by June 30, 2012. This plan will review and address financial items such as parishioner giving, Religious Education Tuition, activity fees, fundraising, the yearly Catholic Services Appeal drive and an endowment fund.
 - c. By Spring 2012, the Information Technology Committee (ITC) will report to Stewardship and Parish Council regarding the feasibility of purchasing and permanently installing a high quality web cam in the church that will be controlled via the computer in the Music Director’s Office, as well as a handheld web cam that could be used to record other church functions such as:
 - a. Record and/or stream weddings, funerals, First Communions, etc.
 - b. Shoot welcome videos and other information videos of each group.
 - c. Stream one of Sunday Masses so that our homebound can maintain their connection with our community.
 - d. The ITC will prepare and implement a program to replace workstations using Windows XP by June 2012. This is due to Microsoft’s plan to discontinue support.

Evangelization Committee Objectives

1. The Evangelization Committee will identify a program to be used to welcome back Catholics who have been away from the Church. We will present our recommendation to the Parish Pastoral Council by October 2011.
2. The Evangelization Committee to have weekly informational articles in the Chancellor regarding Catholic evangelization, during 2011--2012.
3. The Evangelization Committee will continue to work with the Living In Christ Retreats as team members throughout the 2011-2012 season, supporting the message of encouraging every parishioner to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
4. The Evangelization Committee will help the Disabilities Concerns Committee find a new home within the Christian Services Commission by September of 2011.
5. The Evangelization Committee will provide assistance with the Parish Mission in November 2011.
6. The Evangelization Committee will integrate its members into the Parish Commissions during 2011-2012 both as workers and as representation of the evangelistic viewpoint.
7. The Evangelization Committee will support existing Welcoming Programs at St. Thomas a Becket and share new ideas that they believe are worth implementing for 2011-2012.

Parish Pastoral Council and Commission Leadership

St. Thomas a' Becket Church Parish Pastoral Council and Commission Leadership October 2011	
Parish Pastoral Council	
Pastor	Fr. Patrick P. Casey
Associate Pastor	Fr. James Arwady
Chair	Claudia Gering
Vice Chair & Vicariate Representative	Harry Doyle
Secretary	Jessica Gaderick
Teen Representative	Mitch Pepper
At Large Representatives:	
Term Ending June 30, 2012	Maria Granados Steve Richter David Darkowski
Term Ending June 30, 2013	Jessica Gaderick Claudia Gering Dave Carravallah
Term Ending June 30, 2014	Harry Doyle Joe Porcari Don Bauman
Commission Representatives	
Christian Service	Mari Ellis
Faith Formation	Charlie Sheffieck
Stewardship	Tim Kiernan
Worship	Paul Slavin
Evangelization Committee	Toni O'Farrell

Commission and Evangelization Committee Chairs	
Christian Service	Cheryl Rendell
Faith Formation	Elaine Taro
Stewardship	Tim Kiernan
Worship	Nancy Davidson
Evangelization Committee	Toni O'Farrell

Parish Organizations and Services

St. Thomas a' Becket Church Parish Organizations and Services Oct. 2011	
Adoration	Barb Schmid
Adult Faith Formation Director & RCIA	Laura Broyles
Advent Tree	Amy Studenka
Altar Servers	Sue Miller
Baptisms	Debbie Miller
"Be a Buddy" Coat Drive	Mary Grady / Mary Albus
Bible Study	Laura Broyles
Building, Maintenance, & Landscape	Rick St. Peter
Bunny Bags	Nancy Spencer
Bunny Bonanza	Kirste Moline
Capuchin Soup Kitchen Committee	Mari Ellis
Catechists	Joan Kijek
Catholic Services Appeal	Cathy Hulett
Career Connections	Camille Atkinson
Chancellor	Barb Palazzolo
Children's Faith Formation Program	Joan Kijek
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Cathy Buchele
Christian Service Commission	Cheryl Rendell
Church Environment Preparation	Sue Miller
Communications Committee	Sarah Yoder
Confirmations - Adults	Laura Broyles
Confirmations - Youths	Joan Kijek
Craft Show	Dave Nowicki
Disability Concerns Committee	Charlie Craven
Disaster Relief Committee	Colleen McDermott
Engaged Couples Retreat	Dr. Patricia Danks
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Miller
Evangelization Committee	Toni O'Farrell
Faith Formation Commission	Elaine Taro
Family Counseling	Dr. Patricia Danks
Family Home Study	Betsy Crapps
Finance Budget & Planning Committees	Mike Chizuk
First Communions	Joan Kijek
Funeral Luncheons	Donna Whittaker
Funerals	Fr. Pat Casey/Fr James Arwady
Greeters	Sue Miller
Homebound Assistance	Debbie Miller
Information Technology & Computers	James Rumao
Knights of Columbus	Ed Harkins
Lectors	Sue Miller
Liturgical Planning	
Marriage Preparation	Fr. Pat Casey
Meal Ministry	Denise Zinkivach
Men's Fellowship	Dennis O'Beirne
MOM's Group	Mindy Watson
Music Director	Brandon Gauvin

Parish Organizations and Services

Continued

St. Thomas a' Becket Church Parish Organizations and Services- Continued Oct. 2011	
Music Director	Brandon Gauvin
Children's Choirs	Janine Grady-Creedon
Bell Choir	Jim Lenz
Folk Group Choir	Brandon Gauvin
Ministry in Motion	Brandon Gauvin
Teen Choir	Brandon Gauvin
Natural Family Planning	John & Claire Mueller
Nursery	Cathy Buscaglia
Parish Missions / Retreats	Laura Broyles
Parish Nurses	Penny Rhein
Parish Pastoral Council	Claudia Gering
Parish Picnic	Parish Pastoral Council
Peace and Justice Committee	Nancy Blasch
Personnel, Time & Talent Committee	Jim Guth
Poke-n-STAB Quilters	Ruth Ann Wickham
Prison Ministry	Deacon Jim Ward
Pro Life Committee	Christine Billecke
RCIA	Laura Broyles
Relay for Life (STAB)	Charina Hansen
Relay for Life (Youth)	Stephanie Tierney
Sacristans	Sue Miller
School Supplies Drive	Stephanie Tierney
SCRIP Program	Stephanie Tierney
Small Christian Communities	Toni O'Farrell
Social Sunday	Kim Witten
Sound System	Bill Cimmerer
STA-50 Seniors Group	Peter Slazinski
Stewardship Commission	Jim Guth
St. Pat's Bridging	Betty Socia
St. Vincent de Paul	Sue White
Summer Vacation Bible School	Cherly Rendell
TOPS	Debbie Kezilian
Ushers	Paul Slavin
Wayne County Shelter Meals	Joanne Erpelding
Website	Kirste Moline
Welcoming Ministry	Barb Weber
Women Blessing Women	Debbie Miller
Worship Commission	Paul Slavin
Young Adult "Ignite" Club (Vicariate)	Dan Garnell
Youth Adult Ministry - Y.A.C.H.T. (STAB)	
Youth Ministry / Youth Sports Program	Stephanie Tierney

Amendments

- I. STAB - Commission Organization Chart, Dated August 2011
- II. STAB - Staff Organization Chart, Dated August 2011