



ST THOMAS AQUINAS
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

STA Parish Council - Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Draft as of April 8, 2026

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish is a diverse and welcoming community, seeking to serve the will of God and striving to live the gospel of Jesus Christ through prayer, vibrant liturgy, educational excellence, personal sharing and social action. All are welcome to join us for liturgy and events.

AREA: Spiritual Growth

GOAL 1: STA will build effective faith formation resources, from the Catholic faith, for all ages and stages.

Why Statement: Catholic faith formation nurtures conversion that is directed not only toward service of the believing community, but also to society at large. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops suggests that Catholic faith formation should be guided by the following three goals:

- 1 Invite and Enable Ongoing Conversion to Jesus in Holiness of Life.
- 2 Promote and Support Active Membership in the Christian Community.
- 3 Call and Prepare Adults to Act as Disciples in Mission to the World.

2026-29 Objectives

- 1.1. Offer a parish wide “book club” opportunity, twice a year.
- 1.2. Do a needs assessment of parishioners.
- 1.3. Evaluate needs for faith formation and liturgy to foster growth in faith and vibrant liturgy.
- 1.4. Effectively communicate faith formation resources to the parish.
- 1.5. At least quarterly, offer an evening of prayer and silent reflection.
- 1.6. Develop series around Vatican II documents

AREA: Stewardship

GOAL 2: STA will recruit potential, new and existing parishioners to engage their time, talent and treasure.

Why Statement: "To grow the level of parishioner engagement by promoting, educating, encouraging and empowering the STA community to give of their time, talents and treasure in ways which are meaningful to them on an individual and family level."



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2026-29 Objectives

2.1. Promote existing ministry opportunities through various mechanisms, both in-person and via means of technology.

Action steps:

- Continue STA Ministry Fair
- Enhance Ministry of the Month marketing efforts via monitor, e-newsletter, bulletin, social media and in-narthex "marketing"

2.2. Actively support an updated Giving/Stewardship communications plan, in conjunction with school and parish leadership.

Action steps:

- Advertise and socialize various giving methods beyond weekly giving (Donor-advised funds, estate planning, tax strategies, appreciated stock) as the parish continues to look to the future.
- Responsibly communicate updates to recommended giving levels and church finances (initial 2026 six-month goal, followed by sustaining communication efforts on financial matters with parishioners). Work with the Welcoming Committee on intentional efforts with our newest parishioners.

AREA: Community Engagement

GOAL 3: STA will promote and strive to increase participation in our ministries and their programs.

Why statement: Ministries offer a way to fulfill our commitment to each other and the communities we minister to through outreach, raising awareness, social justice, and compassionate action.

2026-29 Objectives

- 3.1. Increase parishioner awareness of, and involvement in, STA ministries with special focus on the use of social media.
- 3.2. Identify and offer additional opportunities for action, guided by the Race and Culture Committee 2025 survey, the STA Laudato Si' action plan, and parishioner feedback.
- 3.3. Identify barriers to ministry involvement/program attendance and create strategies for removing those barriers.
- 3.4. Increase ministry involvement of youth.
- 3.5. Increase opportunities for community members to share their faith publicly and participate in activities to grow faith and insight.
- 3.6. Organize annual town hall meetings to give parishioners updates on our progress in meeting Parish Council goals and to get feedback from parishioners on their ideas and concerns.



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AREA: STA School

GOAL 4: Ensure School Operations a) deliver a high-quality education for our STA community and b) are consistent with our Catholic Faith

Why Statement: A parish school is an effective ministry for the faith-full development of children/youth and families.

2026-2029 Objectives

- Priority 1: Educate the Whole Child – Community of Practice and Belonging
 - Domains: Mission and Catholic Identity; Academic Excellence
 - Commitment: St. Thomas Aquinas School will develop and enhance academic, co-curricular, faith-formation, and service/ ministry programs to educate the whole child, guided by the School's Mission Statement.
- Priority 2: Enhance the Spirit of Community Between School and Parish
 - Domains: Mission and Catholic Identity; Operational Vitality
 - Commitment: St. Thomas Aquinas School will lead efforts to deepen the spirit of community, cooperation, dialogue, support, and celebration between the School and Parish.
- Priority 3: Adopt Best Practices for Operational
 - Sustainability Domains: Operational Vitality; Governance and Leadership
 - Commitment: St. Thomas Aquinas School will adopt modernized best practices that improve efficiency and streamline administrative tasks.
- Priority 4: Improve School Assets for Increased Vitality
 - Domains: Operational Vitality; Mission and Catholic Identity
 - Commitment: St. Thomas Aquinas School will develop plans to care for, maintain, and improve school facilities and campus-based assets (in conjunction with Parish Council and Parish Finance).
- Priority 5: Deliver a Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum
 - Domains: Catholic Identity; Academic Excellence
 - Commitment: St. Thomas Aquinas School will provide students with an excellent education rooted in the Gospel and driven by proven teaching science.



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AREA: Dialogue, Truth, Faith

GOAL 5: STA will create opportunities for parishioners to express their faith with the community.

Why Statement: Conversation and programming around the Catholic faith and identity of the community is integral to further developing that faith and provides opportunities to support each other as complex individuals.

2026-2029 Objectives

- 5.1. Continue to develop "After the Masses" talks. After the Masses speakers reveal very personal aspects of their faith in a public forum.
- 5.2. STA Speaker series – noted authority/author/church leader delivering an evening address on a relevant topic.

Goal 6: STA will foster relationships with interfaith and interreligious communities in our neighborhood.

Why Statement: As a community that recognizes and celebrates all of God's creation, engaging with other religious communities in our neighborhood allows us to learn more about our neighbors and work together to problem solve.

2026-2029 Objectives

- 6.1 Map out existing relationships.
- 6.2 Develop new relationships as needed.

Goal Area Task Forces as of April 2026

<u>Spiritual Growth</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>Community Engagement</u>	<u>STA School</u>	<u>Dialogue, Truth, Faith</u>
- Fred Chandler, Lead - Patrick Price - Karla Hudecek - Mary Rice - Fr. Varghese	- Geoff Ziegler, Lead - Noah DeMoss - John Sobotowski - Sonya Chevigny	- Nancy Stark, Lead - Fred Chandler - Sonya Chevigny - James Trippi - Evelyn Ridley Turner	- Mary Catherine Grau, Lead - Sonya Chevigny - Rachel Hudson - Sheila Brown	- James Trippi, Lead - Karla Hudecek - Sheila Brown - Teresa Reynolds Settanni - Carissa Cartwright