

House of Welcome



In times of illness, we want to be able to minister to our members and give them the strong support of the Parish's prayers.

When it is time to have a child baptized, that child needs a home, a community of faith that will support the child and family.

When it is time to marry, mourn, celebrate, deepen your spirituality or broaden your involvement, we want to be here for you.

It is not enough just to be baptized and fulfill your Sunday obligation. As a parish we are called to care for our own. We want to know "who are our own."

Register in the parish each year.

(to verify that your information is up-to-date as well as verify for our office that you are still here - as our parish has a fluctuating membership)

Included on the registration form is our Time & Talent Survey – it is vital that this be updated each year.

The parish is a house of welcome to all and a place of service to all, or, as Pope John XXIII was fond of saying, to be the "village fountain" to which all would have recourse in their thirst.

John Paul II

Time & Talent



What has God gifted me with that I may use for the service of the Church?

Our Time & Talent Survey (*part of the parish registration form*) provides a means to indicate interest or receive more information about parish ministries and groups.

All of us have been blessed. We have unique contributions to make to the work of the Church, both as individuals and as families. By sharing our time and talent we have the opportunity to take ownership in the parish.

There are opportunities to share your time and talent with your parish, either continuing in ministries, programs or committees OR in new involvements within our parish life. In this way we can become faithful stewards, a people who live our faith more fully.

Jesus said nothing about wanting church *members*, but he was most emphatic about his followers being true disciples.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. In all things glorify God.

1 Peter 4:10

Sacrificial Giving



What return shall I make to the Lord, for all God has given me?

Our ability to earn money is a gift from God. Returning a percentage of our *treasure* back to God is one way that we live our faith.

Just like our family households, our parish community needs financial resources in order to operate, serve, and minister. God provides for these needs through you—you ARE the parish.

Prayerfully reflect on what your financial contribution to St. Thomas Aquinas parish should be. The amount is never as important as the spirit of generosity in giving. We may contribute money, but our real gift is love.

Each Fall parishioners formalize their commitment to sacrificial giving, a pledge between themselves and God, at Mass.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should have the means to contribute so freely? For everything is from you, and we only give you what we have received from you.

1 Chronicles 29:14

STA Mission Statement



We the people of St. Thomas Aquinas wish to know God and reveal God's presence --

We strive to be a spiritual community of welcoming, growing, sharing, and witnessing Christians in the Catholic tradition.

As a faith community we worship God--

We celebrate our faith in liturgy, encouraging all to active participation and spiritual growth.

We reflect on the Word, proclaim, teach, and witness to its power--

We share the Gospel within the Church, with Iowa State University and with the entire community.

We wish to be a reconciling community--

We strive to embrace differences, forgive offenses, seek justice and to overcome oppression in our own hearts, homes, parish, workplace, and the world.

We are a community of student, parish, family, local and international communities--

In all that we do we wish to lovingly serve the needs of others.

We the people of St. Thomas Aquinas wish to be a sign of hope--

As we live out the paschal mystery in our own lives, we nurture and support one another.

We pledge ourselves to this mission so that, growing through God's unconditional love, we can transform ourselves and our world in the light of the Gospel.

The Stewardship committee of St. Thomas Aquinas will :

- ▶ Educate parishioners to practice stewardship as a way of life;
- ▶ Promote the importance of sharing our time, talent, and treasure;
- ▶ Help develop a sense of ownership and community in the parish; and
- ▶ Encourage parishioners to share their gifts with all of God's people.



Stewardship

*We are called to
BE Church
not just
go to church*



St. Thomas Aquinas Church
& Catholic Student Center

Ames, Iowa