



FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do we need a new parish?

- When Archbishop Smith initiated the development of new parishes, the intent was to better serve some of the rapidly expanding parts of the city.
- With that in mind, new parishes are being planned to accommodate growing congregations in the West, Southwest and Northeast parts of Edmonton.
- As St. Thomas More parish has over 5000 registered families, it is one of the biggest in the Archdiocese.
- We, the St. Thomas More parishioners, are invited to actively participate in the continuity of Christ's mission by helping to build a new parish!

2. Where is the land for this project?

- The land is in *Glenridding* in Southwest Edmonton. It will be part of a "Catholic Campus" that includes a Covenant Health facility, and possibly a Catholic school in the future.
- If you follow Rabbit Hill Rd to 28 Ave SW you can visit the site!
- There is a sign there announcing, "Future Home of a Catholic Church."
- Please refer to the maps (on the following page).



St Thomas More New SW Parish FAQ



3. Why this location?



- This location was selected after careful consideration with Covenant Health to develop the 'Catholic Campus' concept.
- This site is situated to meet the current and future demands of Southwest Edmonton, giving people good access to Catholic facilities.
- Ultimately, it will enable the Church to bring the Word of God to that community!

4. How much land was bought?

- The parcel of land that was purchased for the new church is 9.96 acres or 4.03 hectares.
- By comparison, St. Thomas More's land size is 5.24 acres or 2.12 hectares.
- The current planning base for the new church is just under 4,000 square metres. This would allow plenty of parking.

5. What other amenities are in the area?

- The new parish will be paired with an adjacent Covenant Care Facility to form a 'Catholic campus'.
- The community planning around it will have many amenities such as new schools, a new rec centre, a transit centre, and a commercial/grocery centre.

6. Has the land been purchased already? When?

- When a parcel of serviced land became available in the new family-oriented neighbourhood of Glenridding Ravine in Windermere (north of 41st Avenue SW and east of 170th Street), the Archdiocese arranged to purchase it at a price of \$9.67 million in January 2020.



- At the same time, Covenant Health bought the adjacent land.
- This decision to purchase the parcel was made in consultation with the Archdiocesan Finance Council, a committee of clergy and lay people who advise the Archbishop on financial matters and long-range planning.

7. When do we estimate that the new parish will be built and operational?

- These will depend on careful study and a number of factors, including fundraising and population growth.
- Also see "How long are we planning on fundraising for this project?"

8. What will the process be for the naming of the new parish?

- There is not yet a name for the new parish.
- The Archbishop has invited parishioner engagement in the process, and a St Thomas More Parish survey has been launched. We need your input!
- The Archbishop will be provided with input from the St Thomas More parishioners and then decide on the name.



9. What are the implications for St. Thomas More parish in terms of parishioners leaving for the new parish?

- The new parish would enable people living in the Southwest corner of Edmonton to access Catholic facilities that are closer to them than St. Thomas More.
- The major effect on St Thomas More is that weekend Masses may be less crowded.
- This would help ease some of the issues that have been regularly occurring at St. Thomas More, including parking lot congestion at weekend Masses.

10. Will there be priests for the new parish or will the two parishes share clergy?

- It is too early for the Archdiocese to make decisions about clergy for the future parish but the plan is for the parishes to have their own priests.
- Clergy from both parishes would share the current rectory.
- As always, your prayers for vocations are needed.

11. What will the boundaries of the new parish be?

- The boundaries will officially be set by the Archdiocese when the new parish is established, a process which also involves the naming of the new parish.
- The vision is that the new parish will encompass the area from south of the Henday to the city limit, and from Gateway Boulevard westwards to the North Saskatchewan river.

12. How much will this cost (land and future building)?



- The parcel of serviced land cost \$9.67M.
- Additional funds will be needed for the building itself.
- Based on recent newly established parishes (Camrose, Corpus Christi), the cost of the building is estimated to be in the \$15-20 million range in current year funds.
- Together the land and building are estimated to be in the \$25-30 million range in current dollars.

13. Who holds the mortgage, and how much is still on it? Is St. Thomas More responsible for financing both the land purchase and the church building?

- The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton holds the mortgage with RBC.
- The mortgage was for \$7.50M in January 2020, as the Archdiocese put \$2.17M down for the initial purchase.
- STM is responsible for repaying the mortgage as well as the amounts put in by the Archdiocese, for a total of \$9.67M for the land.
- STM and our sister SW parish will be responsible for funding the future building.
- Monthly mortgage payments, on principal plus interest, were made by the Archdiocese in January through March, 2020.
- Current arrangements between RBC and the Archdiocese are for interest only payments due to the economic situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This arrangement will last until October 2020.
- The current balance of the mortgage changes each month with the actual amounts of interest charged and payments



made. Please contact the committee chairs if you would like more details.

14. How much has the Church paid already?

- St Thomas More Parish paid its first payment of \$150,000 towards this mission on June 16, 2020.
- The Archdiocese has paid \$2.17M down for the initial land purchase and continues to backstop St. Thomas More parish (more detail provided in Who holds the mortgage, and how much is still on it? above).
- The term 'to backstop' means to cover differences between what is owed to the bank each month and what the parish has paid, thereby avoiding penalties.

15. How long are we planning on fundraising for this project?

- Fundraising will be an ongoing mission. This mission is not a sprint or even a marathon. Continuing Christ's mission by building a new church is generational.
- As per the Archdiocese policy on new church construction: "The parish must have at least 50% of the total cost of the project ON DEPOSIT WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE before the project will be allowed to proceed. The parish funds pay for the first 50% of the project cost before requesting the balance of the funds from the Archdiocese."
http://www.caedm.ca/Portals/0/documents/policies/200A-Construction_and_Renovations.pdf
- How long it takes before the new SW church will be constructed depends on population growth in the area, the pace of fundraising, and other factors, but is estimated to be in 10-15 years time.



16. How long did it take to fundraise for the current St. Thomas More church building, and how much did it cost?
- We can go back even further into our parish's history.
 - In 1968, St Agnes parishioners in south Edmonton requested a new parish be established to serve the growing southwest area of the city.
 - Archbishop Anthony Jordan announced, in September of 1969, the establishment of a new parish, to be named after St Thomas More.
 - A sod turning event was held on the original site on 114 Street and 40th Avenue in May 1978, and Mass was celebrated in the new church that Christmas Eve.
 - Moving forward to 1990, renovations were done to maximize the seating in that existing church and a 5-year planning committee was established.
 - In 1993, the Parish Council recommended construction of a new church. The pastor accepted, and Archbishop Joseph MacNeil endorsed the concept.
 - In 1994, 5.24 acres of unserviced land was purchased at 23rd Avenue and Terwillegar Drive, where we now sit.
 - In June of 1996, construction began on our current church building.
 - Mass was first celebrated there in April of 1997.
17. Will there be financial pressure on St. Thomas More for its regular operation and maintenance?
- STM will face pressure to be cost-efficient in its operation and maintenance because the parish is responsible for this new additional mission.



- Funds specifically donated to the new SW parish will be dedicated towards this mission.
- Direction provided by donors as to how they wish to aim their funds will be fully respected.
- Especially in this difficult and challenging time, it is important that parishioners continue their generous support of St Thomas More parish, as their means allow.
- We are immediately able to welcome donations to the new SW Parish, but will not be officially launching our fundraising campaign for this mission until the current pandemic situation eases.

18. How can I donate?

- Using the St Thomas More **Pre-Authorized Donations** form. Even if you have set this up in the past, please take the time to review your annual giving to the church. Are you able to move closer to giving the first work hour of each day to God? New as of May 2020, there is now the option to direct a portion of your giving towards our New SW Parish mission.
- **Online** - On the STM website (stm.caedm.ca), you will see a link to the New SW Parish information about halfway down the homepage on the right, or you can click the  button right on the STM home page. Then, on the donation page, you can select "New SW Parish" as a recipient for your generous gift from the drop down list. Please consider using the monthly option for your giving. A receipt will be emailed to you within a few minutes upon completion of your donation.



Donate

Use this form to make a one-time or monthly donation to the parish, to support the New Southwest Parish or Together We Serve. You will receive a receipt from CanadaHelps in the name of St. Thomas More Parish for any donations made here.

DONATION DETAILS

AMOUNT

Show scheduling option

\$ 9700000

FUND

General

General

New Southwest Parish

Together We Serve

- **By cheque** delivered to the STM parish office, placed in the New SW Parish donation box at the back of the church, or placed into the weekly collection basket. Cheques should be made out to St Thomas More Parish, using the Memo line to state "New SW Parish". Receipts for donations by cheque will be issued by the parish office at the end of the year.
- **By cash** delivered to the parish office or by using the envelopes located at the back of the church for the New SW Parish. We even have a special donation box at the back of the church for your envelopes, or you can always drop these envelopes into the weekly collection basket. Write your contact information on the envelope so that you can



receive a donation receipt at the end of the year from the parish office.

- **By Contacting us** - the New SW Parish Committee Co-Chairs, Heather-Jane Au or Paul Givens, would love to hear from you to answer any questions you might have about our important mission, the many ways you can help (such as by giving of your talent or prayer), or to assist with special donations such as one-time gifts, vehicle donations, bequests, and pledges.

19. Can I pledge a donation electronically?

- **Online giving** - follow the link on the STM website (stm.caedm.ca).
- On the STM website, you will see a link to the New SW Parish information about half way down the homepage on the right, or you can click the  button on the STM home page.
- Then, on the donation page, you will see a drop down list with "New SW Parish" as an optional recipient for your generous gift.
- Please consider using the monthly option for your giving.
- A receipt will be emailed to you within a few minutes upon completion of your donation.

20. Can I set up an automatic monthly pledge?

- Yes, monthly giving is easy to set up, either through the parish office using the Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD) form or directly from the parish website (stm.caedm.ca) and its Online Donations button.



- If using Online Donations, after clicking the  button on the STM homepage, select the "Donate Monthly" box under Donation Details.

21. If I donate by cheque, who should it be made out to?

- Cheques should be made out to St Thomas More Parish, using the memo line to indicate "New SW Parish" to direct the funds to this mission.

22. Other ways to donate? Bequests? Insurance policies? Wills? Shares?

- Bequests are important to the church. If you are considering a bequest through your will, please contact the New SW Parish Committee Co-Chairs either Heather-Jane Au (780) 993-0792 at or Paul Givens at (780) 951-7285, or email to NewSWparish.stm@caedm.ca



23. How can I assure that my donation is directed to the new SW parish fund?

- For online donations, use the "fund" drop down to select "New SW Parish."
- For cheques, use the Memo line and write "New SW Parish," and the cheque should be made out to St Thomas More Parish.
- For cash, use the New SW Parish envelopes and deposit them in the envelope box at the back of St. Thomas More church or with the weekly collection
- On the STM Parish PAD form, select the portion to go towards the New SW Parish.

24. Does any part of my donation go to service fees?

- Cash, cheque, and Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD) directed to the New SW Parish do not incur any service fees. These donations are processed by our own STM Parish office staff.
- Online donations incur a 3.75% service fee, which is the approximate equivalent of a credit card fee.
- Any service fees associated with donations are considered costs and are tracked by the committee, and this information including costs-to-date is available to the parish community by contacting one of the committee members, including Heather-Jane Au or Paul Givens, or by emailing NewSWparish.stm@caedm.ca

25. Through my will, can I direct a portion of my estate toward funding the new southwest Edmonton parish?



- Bequests are important to the church. If you are considering a bequest through your will, please contact the New SW Parish Committee Co-Chairs either Heather-Jane Au (780) 993-0792 at or Paul Givens at (780) 951-7285, or email to NewSWparish.stm@caedm.ca

26. Will I get a tax receipt?

- Yes - for online donations, tax receipts will be issued via email immediately upon completing the donation online.
- For donations using cash, cheque, and Pre-Authorized Donations, receipts will be issued by February of the following year through the parish office in accordance with the normal practice.



27. Who are the members of the new SW parish committee?
How do I contact committee members?

- Our committee needs your support. Please contact us through the parish office or our website to become more involved.
- The current committee members include:

Amobi	Nwando
Au	Heather-Jane (Co-chair)
Benson	Blaine
Edmonds	Mike
Elle	Glenn
Fairfield	Stephen
Faitakis	Christina
Fidyka	Fr Mitch
Givens	Paul (Co-chair)
Ashdown	Jean
McGuinness	Sean
van Soest	John
Valerio	Jocelyn
Yatscoff	Randall