



# New Southwest Parish

## Naming and Parish Engagement Project

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

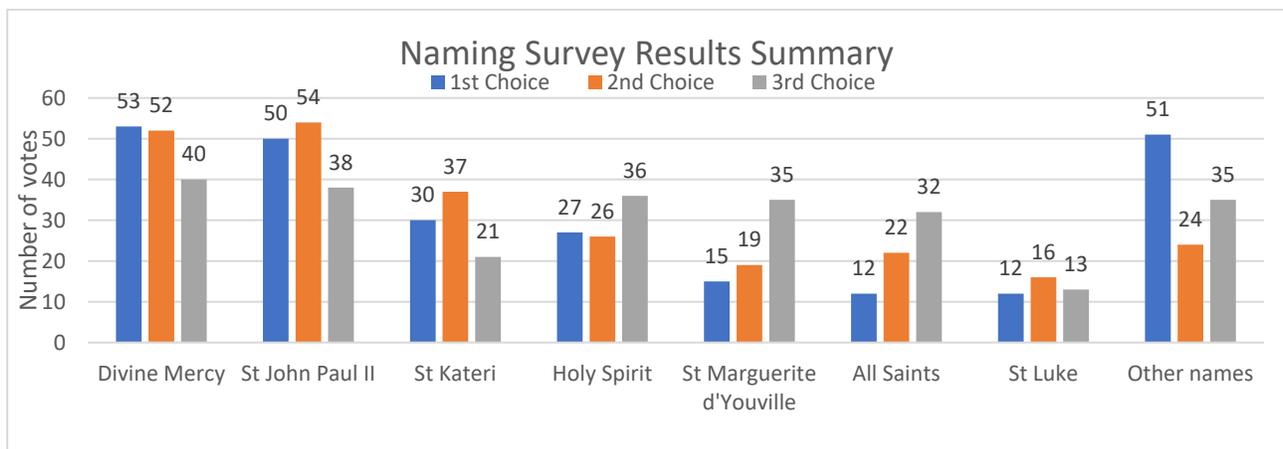
Archbishop Smith has presented St Thomas More Parish to participate in Christ’s mission by building a new church for the growing Catholic community in southwest Edmonton, and the Archbishop has encouraged engagement by inviting input to the naming of the new southwest (SW) parish.

A Naming Survey was open to St Thomas More parishioners of all ages from July 1 to September 30, 2020. The survey asked for a ranking of each participants top three choices of name for the new SW parish as an open ended question where participants could select from a list or choose their own name to put forward.

The top three name choices from the survey responses are:

1. **Divine Mercy** with 53 first place votes and 145 total votes (aggregate of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices)
2. **St John Paul II** with 50 first place votes and 142 total votes
3. **St Kateri** with 30 first place votes and 88 total votes

It total the naming survey collected 250 responses, with the full results summarized as follows:



The “Suggest Another Name” responses collected 107 additional names, which are listed in Attachment 1. This list includes 98 additional, unique suggestions for the new parish. The most frequent new name was **Blessed Father Michael Sopocko** with five proponents. Most “Suggest Another Name” responses were unique to a single survey participant.

The survey included an invitation for a call to the survey participant from a New SW Parish Committee Member to discuss the new parish as well as to answer questions about the new SW parish mission (refer to Attachment 2 – Frequently Asked Questions “FAQ”). Overall, the calls completed to-date resulted in very positive feedback to the committee representative, additional volunteers for the mission, and message that the invitation to participate was very special and treasured.

Calls to survey participants also provided an opportunity to discuss “Suggest Another Name”, highlighting responses that would be unlikely to be viable such as those that duplicated an existing name in the Archdiocese of Edmonton or that those are saints but not Catholic saints.

The number of survey responses was limited compared to the registered number of parishioners. Survey communications included:

- Mass and webcast Mass Announcements
- St Thomas More Facebook updates
- St Thomas More webpage updates and links
- New SW Parish webpage links and updates
- Paper survey copies available from the parish office
- Posters at entrances of St Thomas More Parish
- Sidewalk signs during final push near survey closing date

The consensus of the New SW Parish Committee was that the communication channels to the July through September Mass attendees was saturated and that an extension to the survey engagement period this period would not yield additional significant responses until Mass attendance moves beyond the current Covid-19 attendance and parishioner-comfort limits.

Recommended next steps include:

- 1) Presentation and review of the naming survey results by the St Thomas More Pastor.
- 2) Presentation of the naming survey results to Archbishop Smith.
- 3) Decision by the Archbishop on how to proceed.
- 4) Establishment of the new parish via a Mass at St Thomas More Parish with celebration(s) led by Archbishop Smith, and what the best timing for this would be with consideration for gathering restrictions, parishioner safety, and amenable weather.
- 5) New signage at the location of the new parish announcing the new name.
- 6) Maturity of the vision for the new parish with continuing and widening engagement of the current St Thomas More parish community with a focus on growing the awareness of the new SW parish.
- 7) While fundraising is currently and slowly organically growing, the official fundraising campaign will commence in January 2021, with mindfulness of the current communication limitations and other restrictions associated with Covid-19. The New SW Parish Committee prioritizes communication over fundraising.
- 8) Blessing of the site of the new church by the Archbishop in the summer of 2021 once gathering restrictions are less stringent and the weather is amenable to such gatherings.

## **BACKGROUND**

Archbishop Smith has presented us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage in the mission of the Church in a very concrete way: to build a new church for the growing Catholic community in southwest Edmonton. We are called to fashion a legacy that for years and generations to come will teach people that faith is beautiful, faith is necessary, and that the faith of those who built this parish was very strong indeed.

The Archbishop invited our input to the naming of this new parish.

## **GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

### **Goal #1:**

- Raise awareness among members of St. Thomas More Parish and others in the Catholic community of the need to continue Christ's mission with a new parish in southwest Edmonton and the role they can play in its development.

### **Objectives:**

1. Help parishioners visualize the project by giving it a significant name.
2. Select a short list of potential names for the Archbishop to consider.
3. Announce the name by Fall 2020, when parishioners will be back in the pews (we hope).

### **Goal #2:**

- Engage parishioners in the naming process and in the overall process of developing the new southwest parish.
- Facilitate future engagement by helping to update the parish registration database.

### **Objectives:**

1. Ensure that parishioners are engaged in the project from the very beginning, especially since they may feel disconnected from the parish during this pandemic.
2. Use a survey tool (digital, mailout, and available at the church) to ask parishioners to select their top three rankings from a list of 10 names and/or to submit a name that is not on the list. Each name will be accompanied by a short rationale for its suitability. A rationale will be requested for adding a new name to the list.
3. Front-end of survey questionnaire to capture updated registration information. This survey provides impetus for parishioners to update their registrations, including:
  - a. Updated contact details
  - b. List of family members
  - c. An invitation to switch to Pre-Auth Donations
4. Each member of a family / household, including minors, is welcome to complete one survey.
5. Aim to get responses from at least 50% of families on the parish mail/email list.
6. Offer further opportunities to talk about names during in-person meetings once public masses resume.

7. Survey will ask for ranking of each person's top three names. Survey results will weight answers in overall scoring.

**Goal #3:**

- Increase understanding of and support for capital needs.

**Objectives:**

1. Explain the Southwest Parish Project: vision, cost and timeline.
2. Attract donations of time, talent and treasure toward the project.

**NEW SW PARISH NAMES INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY, IN ADDITION TO "SUGGEST ANOTHER NAME":**

**List of candidate names for the New SW Parish:**

- All Saints
- Christ the King
- Divine Mercy
- Holy Cross
- Holy Spirit
- Our Lady of the Prairies
- St John Henry Newman
- St John Paul II
- St Luke
- St Marguerite d'Youville
- St Vincent de Paul
- Suggest another name \_\_\_\_\_

**NAMING SURVEY PLANNING TIMELINE:**

<b>TACTIC</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>DATES</b>
<b>Preparation</b>			
Present plan to AB Smith	Via CAE Communications Rep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following committee consensus (obtained May 11 2020) and Fr Mitch approval</li> </ul>	May 15, 2020
Survey Tool	Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop survey, get Father Mitch's approval,</li> </ul>	May-June 2020
Ancillary resources	Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attractive summary of the top choices for names, aimed at families who could engage their children in the process, while teaching them about the saints.</li> </ul>	May-June 2020
<b>Public Awareness Campaign Roll-Out</b>			
Survey Parishioners	Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange with parish to send to parishioners. Assist with stuffing envelopes. Provide paper copies for pick-up at church. Poster/table area at back of church.</li> <li>Link to survey on STM &amp; New SWP website, and STM Facebook.</li> <li>Prepare bulletin blurb with link to survey as a friendly URL.</li> <li>Compile responses</li> <li>Invite parishioners to update their registration with the parish office</li> </ul>	June-end September 2020
Consult Parishioners	Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up in-person meetings in parish</li> <li>Share survey results</li> <li>Gather further input</li> </ul>	September-mid October 2020
Short List of Names	Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present to Archbishop survey results</li> </ul>	October 15, 2020

<b>We have a Name</b>			
Announcement of Name and Blessing of site	Archbishop Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement to parish first, along with invitation to blessing of site</li> <li>• Coverage in Grandin Media, social media</li> <li>• Weekend Masses at STM offered for the STM parishioners in honor of the new parish name, followed by celebration banquet(s)</li> </ul>	Following the decision of Archbishop Smith
Ancillary resources	Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange production of new sign for site</li> <li>• Begin developing imagery for use on website, social media, print materials</li> <li>• Continue engagement of parishioners in guiding the vision for the new parish.</li> </ul>	November 2020 forward

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachments include:

- 1) Survey Responses to “Suggest Another Name”
- 2) New SW Parish Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ”)

**ATTACHMENT 1: Survey Responses to “Suggest Another Name”**

**St Thomas More's New SW Parish Naming Project**  
**Results for: Would you like to suggest another name?**

Respondent #	Suggest another name	If you have suggested a different name, please tell us why you think this name would be appropriate for our new parish.
3	#1 Saint Cecilia of Rome; #2 Saint Genesius of Rome; #3 Saint Isaac Jogues	#1: St Cecilia was a Roman martyr and is the patron saint of music. I am a musician myself and her prayers have helped me greatly. She is very special to me. Since we have a beautiful choir at St Thomas More, I thought her name would fit our new parish perfectly. #2: St Genesius was a brave Roman martyr who converted to Christianity in front of Diocletinn. Despite being tortured relentlessly, he never renounced his faith. Since few know of this great saint, I thought we should name our new church after him. #3: St Isaac was a strong evangelist to the Indigenous tribe of North America. He was tortured by the Iroquois, but after being rescued, he returned to them in hopes to spread the Gospel. His bravery and commitment to Jesus is so strong that I think the new parish should be named in his honour.
15	#1, St. Raphael #2 Christ Our Saviour	#1 share property with Covenant Health - archangel's name means "God Heals/Consoles" #2 He is our salvation what more?
20	(a) St Thomas Aquinas	St Thomas Aquinas would be a nice branch of St Thomas More. St Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1274 was a renowned Dominican Friar, philosopher, catholic priest and Doctor of the Church. He is the patron saint of Catholic Seminaries and Universities..
28	Blessed Father Michael Sopocko	very unique and He is the one that promoted the Divine Mercy
29	Blessed Father Michael Sopocko	very unique and He is the one that promoted the Divine Mercy
30	Blessed Father Michael Sopocko	very unique and He is the one that promoted the Divine Mercy
31	Blessed Father Michael Sopocko	very unique and He is the one that promoted the Divine Mercy
32	Blessed Father Michael Sopocko	very unique and He is the one that promoted the Divine Mercy
74	Father Michael McGivney	Founder of the KofC and a historic leader of the Catholi c church
23	Father Micheal Mireau	Young priest that left way to soon and he was greatfor young fellowship family.. Because I think we do not spend enough time thanking our Guardian Angel for the daily protection they provide us. We will go to Mass feeling extra protected in our Guardian Angels Catholic Church of Edmonton and it will prompt us to acknowledge and give thanks to our Guardian Angel.
27	Guardian Angels Catholic Church	Our Families are in deep need, especially at this time, for the Perfect Models of needing both the Father and Mother in Marriage.
11	Holy Family	We are all one family in God.
92	Holy Family	It represents the little ones who were slaughtered. The first martyrs.
22	Holy Innocents	I think this because she was such a role model to all young women, and men. She is a patron saint of Music, and that is very important to a lot of people. There also aren't as many churches named after women. I feel very strongly about a church being named after her. She is my favourite Saint!
38	I think that St. Cecilia would be a great name for the new church.	Prayers have been answered through novena to the Immaculate Conception
53	Immaculate Conception	
1	Immaculate Heart	
54	Immaculate Heart of Mary	This was the name of the church I grew up in Edm that was closed{76 AVE and 98 St} The devotion to Infant Jesus is important in these times of uncertainty and challenges since Infant Jesus says Ask you shall receive, seek and you find and knock it shall be opened to you
51	Infant Jesus	
26	Instead of just St Kateri, instead have her full name - St Kateri Tekewitha	It may show a little more respect and allow people to be a little more informed about her background as being aboriginal, might be a nice gesture as part of reconciliation

Respondent #	Suggest another name	If you have suggested a different name, please tell us why you think this name would be appropriate for our new parish.
34	Mary Mother of Mercy	The name Mary Mother of Mercy Parish is being proposed for these 7 reasons: 1)The new parish name is being chosen in 2020, the year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pope Francis has encouraged renewed devotion to the Mother of God in these turbulent times, adding three new titles to the Litany of Loreto in June 2020, one of which is Mother of Mercy (Mater Misericordiae). In a letter to the presidents of bishops' conferences worldwide, Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments and its Secretary, Archbishop Arthur Roche, noted that the new additions to the Litany of Loreto respond in a special way to the realities of the times we are living in including the many sick who are afflicted by the virus and the many families who are struggling from the wider hardships brought about during these challenging times. The letter also states that "during present times, marked by feelings of uncertainty and trepidation, the People of God devoutly have recourse to her (Mary), with full affection and trust" and that she is "the privileged and sure way to an encounter with Christ". 2)This title would serve as a reminder that "now is the time of Mercy" as underlined by Pope St. John Paul II and supported by Pope Francis in his declaration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy we observed from Dec. 2015 to Nov. 2016. 3) Mother of Mercy is the title for Our Lady used in the Salve Regina prayed at the conclusion of the Rosary- a prayer many recent popes (and the Virgin herself) have asked us all to rediscover and pray. 4)The name Mary Mother of Mercy would serve as a reminder that in May 2020 many bishops around the world, including our own Archbishop Smith, consecrated anew their dioceses to the maternal care of Mary. 5)This name would serve as a lovely complement to the new southwest K-9 Catholic school to be named Divine Mercy (the Merciful Jesus) and stand as a spiritual reminder that the hearts of Jesus and Mary are never to be separated. 6)The title with the word mercy in it would serve to underline that the church is a place where the spiritual acts of mercy are largely exercised (instruction of the ignorant, counsel to the doubtful, admonishment of sinners, forgiveness of offenses, comfort for the afflicted and prayer for the living and the dead). In addition, the long-term care facility for seniors to be erected on the same site as the church will be a place where the many of the corporal acts of Father Michael J. McGivney is expected to be beatified within the next year. He was the founder of The Knights of Columbus.
43	Michael J. McGivney	Devotion to Mother is very important now
98	Mother Mary	Significant to me
10	Mother of Perpetual Help	
37	No	
81	Our Lady of All Nations	
82	Our Lady of All Nations	Because it is a message for our times, especially with the state of the world these days.
67	Our Lady of All Nations	
8	Our Lady of Grace	I think the church should be named after our Blessed Mother.
56	Our Lady of Guadalupe	
6	Our Lady of Hope	This is the year 2020 - We are in great need of Hope & Trust. Jesus I trust in You.
69	Our Lady of Hope	I think there should be a Church dedicated to Our Lady
49	Our Lady of Immaculate Heart	Devotion to our Lady
64	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	The other names are used every where
36	Our Lady of Sorrows	Praying the 7 Sorrows and the 7 Dolours are not widely practiced enough
		It is the Patron Saint of the Philippines. I am not Filipino, but think it would be a great gesture to that growing community in our parish.
75	Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception	
39	Our lady of the nations	
40	Our Lady of the Nations	
41	Our lady of the Prairie	Because we live in Alberta
		I think the most appropriate name is DIVINE MERCY but my second choice will be Our Lady of the Prairies due to my devotion and of all the Albertans
59	Our Lady of the Prairies	Our society is in such turmoil right now; a state that desperately needs the help of the Blessed Virgin
77	Our Lady Undoer of Knots	

Respondent #	Suggest another name	If you have suggested a different name, please tell us why you think this name would be appropriate for our new parish.
58	Our Suggestions include St Josephine...to honer St Josephine Margaret BAKITA. We also like St Jean de Breboef	St Josephine would be a WONDERFUL Choice. Recently viewed a movie of her life on Formed...Born in Africa (?) and sold into slavery in Italy...her qualities as a Child of God radiated throughout her life as a slave...Later she was attracted to a christian Community and discovered Jesus tjhe Christ hanging from a cross in a Church...eventually (thru many struggles)...she was Baptized into the church and managed to gain freedom from her Slave Master...she wanted to become a Nun and needed to have her free will to enter the convent...She was a most Blessed Nun until she died and touched many souls...often the disadvantaged whom nobody else could reach....or communicate with. There is much more details to her life's story....she was a SPLENDID servant of the Lord God who made unbelievable sacrifices in the service of the People of God. sa
76	Pope JohnPaul II	This is more recognizable than St John Pail II and shorter
102	Pope Saint Pius X	I believe the Church needs to return to traditional Catholicism and defend against modernity.
57	Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary	
93	Saint André Bessette	Saint André Bessette is a Canadian. While he had to live and work through many disappointments, including not be allowed to become a priest, he became a porter and still used his gifts for the glory of God. He is a wonderful example of allowing God to use us in our weakness and strengths, which is a great witness to a growing community of people who are working hard for both the world, but also the Kingdom of God. In this age of advanced technology, we should be conscientious about we do online.
104	Saint Isidore of Seville	Hence the suggestion - St. Isidore: Patron Saint of the Internet
105	Saint Jane Frances de Chantal	My name is Chantal
2	Saint Lorenzo Ruiz	
65	Saint Patrick	closed St Patrick in North end
9	Saints Zelig and Louis Martin	They are the parents of Saint Therese and the first married couple to be canonized together. I think in today's climate it is important to celebrate the family especially. The sacrament of marriage and the family are under constant attack. When the Martins were canonized it was a sign of hope for married couples and families!
99	St John Paul II	A little shorter
19	St Anthony of Padua	He is Patron Saint of the Elderly
78	St Barbara	She was an extremely brave woman who became a Christian when she was a young woman and and had the courage to Stan up to her father and political leaders of the time ( 250AD)
95	St Gerard	
68	St Gianna	
89	St Isadore	Patron of farmers
106	St Joan of Arc	To lead all people, and especially the young Church, in the good fight of faith and to lead us into peace.
61	St John Fisher - martyr and friend of St Thomas More . Our second choice is St Mary Magdalene	Because he was a contemporary and friend who also died for his a Faith . Our second choice St Mary Magdalene chosen because she was the first apostle to whom Christ appeared and entrusted the message of the Resurrection .- a message for the world.. As recently canonized saint there are very few churches named after her.
84	St Josephs Catholic Church	Beliver of St Joseph
85	St Jude Thaddeus	st jude is the saint of hopeless cases and has made a number of miracles come through. We don't see a lot of church internationally or nationally named after St Jude!
109	St Mary Magdalene	Many of the other names have been used many times by other dioceses. I've never heard of a church named St May Magdalene. Christ's forgiving her of adultery makes her fitting for many faithful who return to faith after struggling with sexual impurity.
5	St Pedro Calungsod, St Rose of Sta. Rosa de Lima, St Josephine Bakita	He would be a great example and an inspiration for our youth in his dedication to our Lord and to follow Him.
101	st rachel	she was a strong women, like a shepardess, and will stand strong in the sw (we already have a strong male name in the sw).
17	St Raphael	The healing of God is so needed for all

Respondent #	Suggest another name	If you have suggested a different name, please tell us why you think this name would be appropriate for our new parish.
21 88	St Therese of Lisieux St Vincent Ferrer	the world has become so very very complicated. St Therese is a reminder that faith and love is so simple. As well, St Therese has held up her promise to give proof of the Divine. Followers feel guilty for asking for a sign. In a world so complicated, sometimes followers "need" them. St Therese's promise to reveal the divine for who's souls and hearts need it, to continue another day in faith is sometimes all it takes. St Anthony of Padua He is the first Canadian living after Confederation to be canoized (Oct 17/10). He is credited with thousands of reported miraculous oil healings associated with his pious devotion to St Joseph. While he was at Notre-Dame college, when an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year. He died in 1937 at the age of 91. A million people filed past his coffin. With us currently dealing with a world wide pandemic naming our new parish after St. André fits in with the current situation & the importance of praying to St. André.
50 44 45	St. André Bessette St. Anthony St. Anthony	Is a powerful saint Because I like St. Anthony
70	St. Augustine	He is a Black Saint and previously a theologian, philosopher, and the bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa and author of several books and articles.
47	St. Brother Andre	He is the first male Canadian saint AND had a deep devotion to St. Joseph who is Canada's patron saint AND the name of our Basilica.
86 96 62	St. Camilius St. Catherine of Siena St. Faustina	The story of ST. Camilius and his love for the sick and infected considering the period at which we are Covid 19 andand the announcement of a new parish. Born during a plague; patron saint of nurses and those ridiculed for their faith
42 13	St. Francis of Assisi St. Gianna	Patron saint of the environment and ecology - we could use the reminder to live more gently and compassionately. A wonderful example of our call to value all life
4	St. Gianna Molla	St. Gianna Berretta Molla 1922-1962. Canonized by Pope JP II on May 16, 2004. Married to Pietro Molla. She was an Italian Roman Catholic paediatrician who refused both an abortion and a hysterectomy while pregnant with her fourth child despite knowing that her refusal could result in her own death which did occur one week after the birth of her daughter on April 28, 1962, Her four children & husband were present at her canonization. She also aided The Society of St Vincent de Paul. She is a woman, married, mother, professional, and contemporary, a great model to life and the sacrifice of her own life to save her unborn child & who is now a doctor of genetics. Submitted by Patricia Foisy, B.Ed, BRE
107 97 7 60	St. Jerome St. John St. John Fisher St. John Fisher	The parish could be very dedicated to Holy Scripture, as St. Jerome translated a lot of the Bible. In honour of the Beloved disciple of Jesus. His Feast Day is same as St. Thomas More He was a friend of St. Thomas More and fellow-martyr.
91 103	St. John Fisher St. John Paul II	As St. Thomas More is a Southside parish, this new south side parish is linked to St. Thomas More by nature of its location and so it makes sense to honour St. John Fisher. I would not use the word Pope.
25 24	St. Josemaria Esciva St. Josemaria Escriva	My mom couldn't conceive for 3 years due to fertility issues and through the intercession of St. Josemaria had me. I am the only child. My wife guardian angel
94	St. Josemaria Escriva	He's the saint of the ordinary life and the charism of being a saint in the middle of the world will appeal and appropriate for many!
71	St. Josephine Bakhita	St. Josephine Bakhita is a modern African Saint (canonized in 2000) who was born in South Sudan, was a former slave and after her conversion became a Canosian nun. Given the growing African ex-pat community within the Archdiocese in Edmonton, it might be nice to have a parish named in recognition of the changing demographics of SW Edmonton.
87	St. Juliana	St. Juliana of Nicomedia is the patron saint of sickness, this is particularly relevant during these uncertain times of the pandemic. More importantly, most Catholic parishes are named after a male saint. Choosing a female saint would be a big gesture of inclusiveness by the archdiocese. Thank you for your consideration. May God bless us all!

Respondent #	Suggest another name	If you have suggested a different name, please tell us why you think this name would be appropriate for our new parish.
90	St. Kateri Tekakwitha	Saint Kateri Tekakwitha woman is a patron of ecology and ecologists, of the environment, environmentalism, environmentalists, exiles, orphans, the exiled, those ridiculed for their faith and for World Youth Day. Her full name stresses her roots and may be an instrument of reconciliation.
55	St. Louis and St. Zélie Martin	They are the first married couple to be canonized.
79	St. Louis and Zélie Martin	At this time when the family is under such attack we need reminders and examples of good Catholic family role models. 1) One of the new saints canonized by Pope Francis - in Oct 2019. She was beatified by St. Pope John Paul II. 2) She received the stigmata and heavenly visions. 3) sought Christ in the poorest and most marginalized. 4) <a href="http://www.causesanti.va/it/santi-e-beati/maria-teresa-chiramel-mankidiyan.html">http://www.causesanti.va/it/santi-e-beati/maria-teresa-chiramel-mankidiyan.html</a>
66	St. Mariam Thresia	
83	St. Mary Magdalene	Very important woman in the Gospels and the first witness of the resurrection
80	St. Mary, Glorious and Blessed Mother	We need to have a church in Edmonton dedicated to beautiful Mary, our mother.
63	St. Maximillian Kolbe	I like the story of Maximillian Kolbe
35	St. Michael the archangel	Daniel 12:1, "At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time." St. Monica prayed hard for her family members to convert. In this time of secularism in the world, I believe that many need God's help and intervention to convert family members back to the true God and away from electronic devices and materialism. I think that we all need St. Monica's help.
12	St. Monica	
100	St. Mother Theresa	She was a great humble woman
14	St. Peter	Our first pope! Our patriarch.No church in Edmonton with that name.
16	St. Raphael	Name in Hebrew is "God Heals/Consoles" We are sharing property with Covenant Health - a healing ministry
72	St. Thomas Aquinas	Thomas Aquinas was a great saint a doctor of the church, and is most worthy of having our future parish named after him. Also, it would be a less common name than the above suggestions, though they are certainly good!
73	St. Thomas Aquinas	It is the name of another Thomas of profound repute in the history of our Catholic Faith.
	St.Anthony or St. Joseph Catholic	
48	Church	I am big believer of both the saints
33	St.Jude	
46	St.Teresa of Calcutta	St.Teresa was a remarkable woman in both her faith and deeds and inspired millions of people around the world to care for the "poorest of the poor". She was wise, humble and self-effacing and can be a model for so many around her to be grateful for their blessings and share their abundance with the world.
	Sts Cosmas and Damian Catholic	
52	Church	They are the patrons of doctors, so that they can help the frontline workers.
108	Sts Joachim & Anne	Sts Louis & Zélie
18	The Church of John the Baptist	

**ATTACHMENT 2: New SW Parish Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ”)**



## 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](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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