

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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Dear Parishioners,

As the Church teaches our work gives us dignity. Being a praying, participating member of the church is work, assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is work, in fact the liturgy is called the work of the people. As the pandemic has taught us we are not made to live alone or worship alone.

It is time to at least make a new beginning on getting back to a more normal way of doing things. Sorry, but the new normal is anything but normal.

In modern times we have seen a decline in membership in clubs, voluntary associations, community life, and a decline in marriage as an institution, decline in membership in churches. What people used to do together they now do alone and the response to the pandemic seems to have made everything worse.

For any institution to exist, including a parish requires that the members must be prepared to make sacrifices. A parish in which the members are not willing to bear their fair share of the burden of keeping it going, to many free riders, so to speak, will cease to exist.

For those of us who have gotten into bad habits as far as their religious obligations, can, with God's grace can replace these bad habits and become more loyal members of the Body of Christ.

The human condition is about relationships, about faithfulness, staying true, loyal and committed, through good times and bad, in sickness or in health, it is about consecrating the bonds between us or we are simply isolated and vulnerable.

We have done a financial forensics of our parish and have discovered that since the beginning of the pandemic St. Thomas Aquinas has not collected around \$80,000 in the collection. Far too many people who used envelopes have not used them.

So, for those who have been invisible for the last 20 months or so, begin to play your part as praying, participating, worshipping members of your parish as well as taking parish stewardship seriously.

Faith and action go together so let us pray for those who cannot attend Holy Mass because they are home bound or have serious health problems and those who have gotten in the bad habit of staying home when they don't have to. We also pray for those parishioners who, during the pandemic have remained praying, participating, worshipping members of the parish.

There are far too many parishioners that I have not seen for many months.

As it says on our newly designed bulletin, a quote from St. Thomas Aquinas, *"The bread of Angels becomes the bread of men"*.

We need to begin to rebuild our parish and that needs all hands on board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Charles Moser". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Reverend Charles Moser
Pastor**