

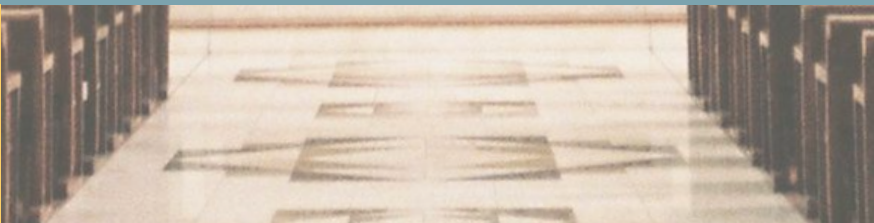


Building a Legacy

**of Faith,
Hope, and
Discipleship**



St Thomas More Parish
Divine Mercy Building Project





Contents

The Vision	2
Why Parishes Matter	3
St Thomas More Parish	4
The Solution	5
Affording a New Parish	6
How We'll Get There	7
Walking Together, In Faith	8

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?

Romans 10: 13-14

The Vision

Divine Mercy

A dynamic faith community that will make an undeniable difference in the lives of thousands for generations to come.



*Jesus came to them
and said:*

*“Go and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the
name of the Father and
of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit, and
teaching them to obey
everything
I have commanded
you”*

Matthew 28:18-20

Catholicism is more than a set of beliefs, it is a way of life that transforms individuals and communities.

A parish is more than a building, it is the living body of Christ in action, where faith is nurtured, where the sacraments bring us closer to God, and where we respond to Christ’s call to love and serve one another.

Our faith is rooted in real people, real places, and real encounters. While the modern world, and technology allows us to connect in many ways, the Church must remain physically present in the world as a visible, approachable, and accessible refuge for all.

Parishes are platforms for ministry, service, and transformation. They are gifts handed down to us by generations of faithful Catholics who built them in service to God and their communities.

Our churches provide a sacred space for silence, reflection, and spiritual nourishment. They are where faith is deepened, culture is built, relationships grow, and families find support. As social beings, we are called to gather with purpose.

Parishes are the foundation upon which thriving communities are built. Together, we have been blessed with the opportunity to build a new, flourishing, twin Parish to serve Southwest Edmonton, for generations to come.

Why Parishes Matter?

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart...for God loves a cheerful giver"

2 Corinthians 9:7

The Hands and Feet of Christ

Catholic parishes uplift the communities around them. The largest non-government healthcare provider worldwide, throughout history, the Catholic Church has led the way in education, healthcare, and social justice, shaping the very foundations of human rights and dignity. Over almost 3 decades, St Thomas More Parish has exemplified this, supporting thousands of Edmontonians, and many communities beyond.

Today, needs continue to grow. In 2024, St Thomas More Parish, through the Society of St Vincent de Paul, served 870 households, and over 2,400 individuals - a staggering 155% increase since 2019. As our community grows, so does the call to serve. To meet rising demands, we need more hands, hearts, and space to help people encounter Christ, through us.

155%

Increase in households served

870+

families and households supported at St Thomas More

A Call to Grow with Purpose

Edmonton is growing fast, welcoming over 200,000 new residents in 2024. With that growth comes a call for us, as Catholics, to step up and care for the spiritual needs of our community. At St. Thomas More, we have already reached, and in many ways, passed our capacity.

More families come through our doors, looking for a place to worship, to belong, to grow in faith. But our walls, teams, parking lot, and capacity can only stretch so far. Our twin parish is our answer to the call of growth, service, and love. This is our way to carry our mission forward, prepare for the future, and serve both the families we know and the ones we haven't met yet.

The need is now. The responsibility is ours.



St Thomas More Parish

4,000+

Weekend Mass Attendees

St. Thomas More Parish, one of the largest in the Archdiocese of Edmonton, serves around 35,000 Catholics in Southwest Edmonton and beyond. The community's ongoing rapid growth has led to a vibrant congregation, but also to challenges in accommodating the spiritual needs of all members.

Given the urgency of this situation, we have been entrusted with the sacred mission of establishing Divine Mercy, a twin parish that will ensure every Catholic in Southwest Edmonton has a place to grow, worship, and serve.

Together, we can make this vision a reality.

Stretched Beyond Capacity

St. Thomas More Parish is thriving, with weekend attendance at 4,100 and surging to nearly 10,000 during peak seasons. However, facilities are stretched beyond capacity, with limited space, parking, and accessibility hindering our ability to serve effectively.

10,000+

Students supported across 15 Catholic Schools

Without expansion, we risk:

- **Overcrowding**, diminishing the quality of worship and sacramental experiences.
- **Strained pastoral resources**, limiting our outreach and support capabilities. St Thomas More Parish currently serves 15 Catholic schools, impacting over 10,700 students, and offering 145 liturgies from September to June. Pastoral care is provided to 20 senior residences where approximately 650 liturgies are celebrated each year. With growing communities, and needs, the situation is unsustainable.
- **Missed opportunities**, preventing us from fully engaging and nurturing the faith of new and existing parishioners.

35,000

Catholics in Southwest Edmonton

650+

Liturgies celebrated at senior residences each year

To sustain and grow our faith community, we must expand.



*And so I say to you,
you are Peter,
and upon this rock
I will build my
church, and the
gates of the
netherworld shall
not prevail
against it.*

Matthew 16:18

The Solution

In January 2020, the Archdiocese of Edmonton purchased a 10-acre parcel in Glenridding Ravine (north of 41st Avenue SW and east of 170th Street) for \$9.7 million to establish a future parish for Southwest Edmonton - Divine Mercy. We will be constructing a new Parish on this land, targeting completion by 2032.

Our land is located next to a site acquired by Covenant Health to develop a “Catholic Campus,” to include a health facility and a Catholic school. This site will provide accessible faith-based services for the growing community.



“Throughout scripture, we are reminded of the importance of offering our first fruits to God. “In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.” (Genesis 4:3-5). Abel offered God his very best—not his leftovers. Today, we are called to reflect in the silence of our hearts, and ask - Am I offering God my first fruits?

We have been gifted a once-in-a-generation opportunity to grow to grow His mission. With God’s grace and your generosity, we can build Divine Mercy - a legacy of faith that will endure for generations. Just as those before us sacrificed to build the churches we now call home, we are entrusted with a sacred mission. Let us rise to this call, offering our very best for His glory.

Father Mark McGee, Pastor, St Thomas More Parish

How can we afford a new Parish?

St Thomas More Parish **can no longer meet the growing needs** of our vibrant parish community. **Urgent action is needed** to address current overcrowding and resource limitations.

Together, we can!

The projected cost for constructing the Divine Mercy project is approximately \$18 million (2025 dollars).

- This investment encompasses land development, construction, and essential amenities.
- To raise enough resources to bring the much-needed Parish to fruition, the funding will rely on St Thomas More Parish contributions.

Parishioner contributions

- If each **St Thomas More family contributes \$175 each month** over the next five years (or about **\$40 a week**), the goal is well within reach!
- \$75 per month will be allocated to maintain St Thomas More operations, with \$100 towards our twin parish building project.

Our strength lies in coming together as the hands and body of Christ, nurturing each other. With our twin parish building project, we have the opportunity to live out our faith more, creating a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Just as those who came before us sacrificed to build the parishes that nurtured us, it is our turn to ensure that this gift of faith continues to thrive and grow.

30-35,000
Square Foot Church

900-1,200
person capacity

\$18M
est. Total Project Cost

7 YEARS
to completion in 2032

\$175
per family monthly

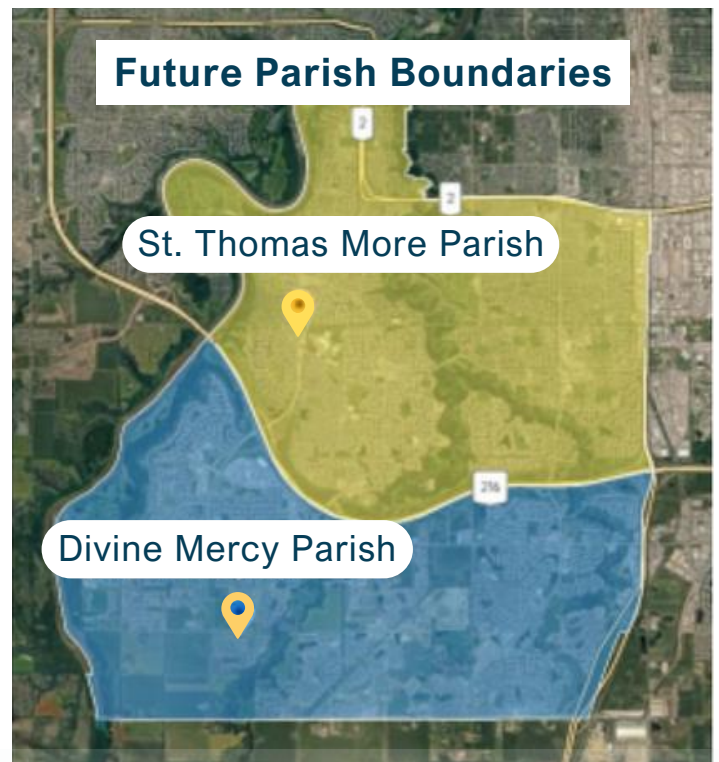
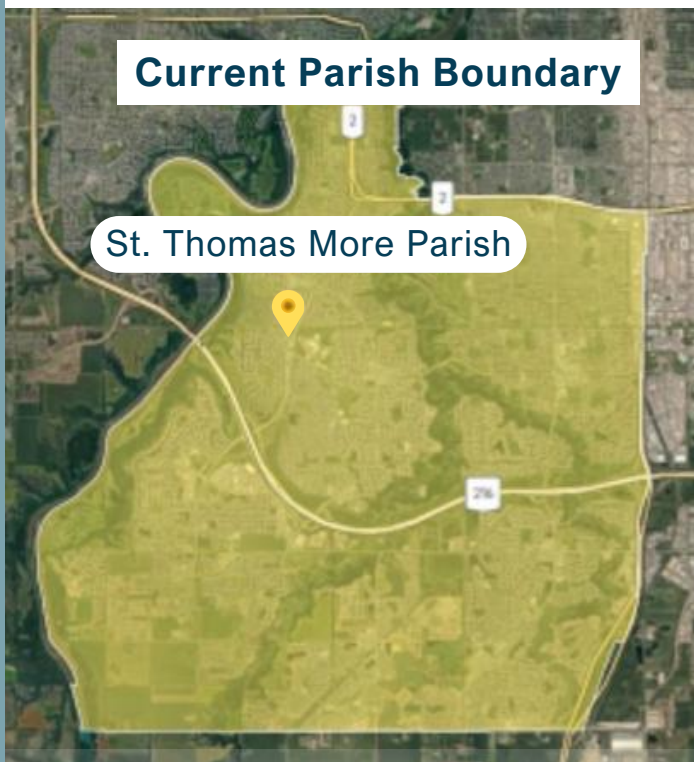
How We'll Get There

St. Thomas More parishioners are invited to be part of an important mission. Our goal is possible by 2032, if we all come together and share what we have.

Over the next 7 years, we'll fund this project together through our regular weekly contributions.

Let's grow in faith, and build a lasting legacy. Together, we can do this!

By each family maintaining our **weekly parish giving at \$40 — about the cost of two pizzas** — we can fully fund our parish, **and** build our twin parish community. The more we give, the faster we build, and the more we reduce the impact of inflation along the way.



PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTIONS

1

YEAR 1 - 7

St Thomas More parishioners regular weekly collections will fund the project!



DESIGN

2

YEAR 2-3

Initiate the design of the new building, with St Thomas More parishioner input.



CONSTRUCTION

3

YEAR 3-7

Dependent on funds raised, begin construction, working towards completion in 2032.



COMPLETION

4

YEAR 7

Complete construction! Worship as a united Catholic parish community integrated into the Archdiocese West Deanery.



Walking Together, in Faith

“I was on the planning committee to build St Thomas More parish back in the 90's. I feel so blessed to be able to see this Parish grow and thrive so much over the past 3 decades, and again to be a part of growing beyond our walls. This is a gift so few Catholics have in their lifetimes, and I am excited to yet again contribute to extending our faith, and providing a spiritual home for thousands of Catholics, for countless years to come.” -

Leslie, St Thomas More parishioner

“Expanding our parish means new opportunities for our children to grow in faith, for seniors to find companionship, and for families to feel at home in the Church that Christ left us. My family and I are committed to making this dream a reality, even if it means some sacrifices over the coming years.” -

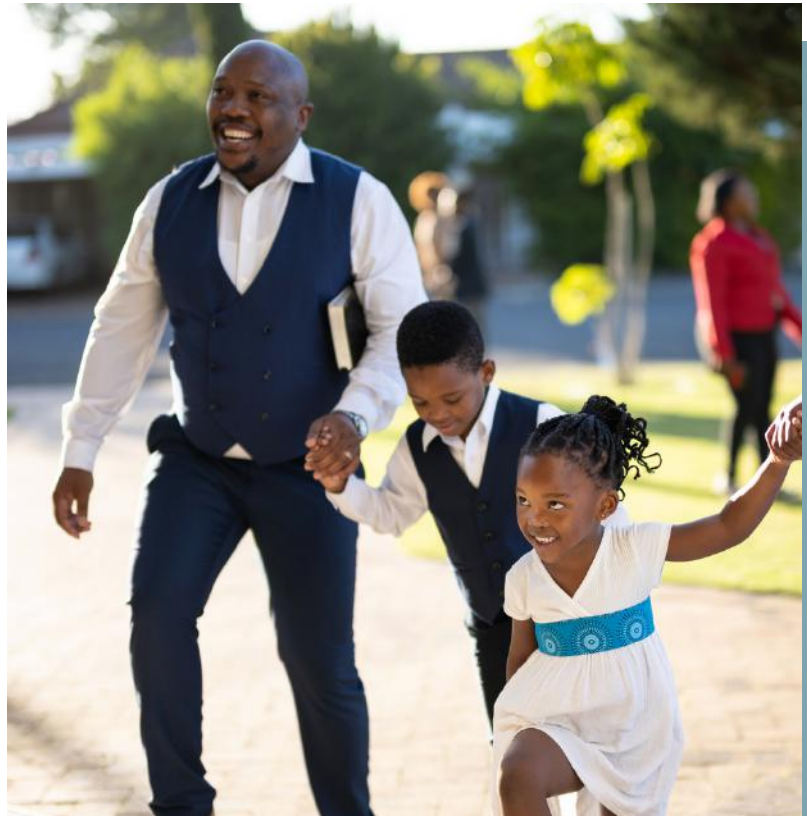
Sasha, St Thomas More parishioner

“The warm welcome I received here at St Thomas More, as a new immigrant living in Windermere, made me proud to be a Catholic. No matter where you go in the world, our church is a beacon of consistency, faith, tradition and Christ's love. Blending the faith we have known all our lives, with the new community we have built here, this parish has been so important in helping me and my family make Edmonton our home, and feel like we belong. I am so honoured and thankful to be able to contribute in my small way to constructing a new community that will serve me, my family, and so many future generations.” -

Ola, St Thomas More parishioner

“I have been a part of St. Thomas More for over 20 years, and I have seen firsthand the impact our parish has had on families, youth, and the elderly. Divine Mercy is the next step in our mission to bring Christ's love to even more people.” -

Taylor, St Thomas More parishioner



Join us!



Like any family, as we grow, so must our capacity to support one another. Divine Mercy will begin with the foundation that each of us helps to build.

Beyond merely a financial appeal, our building project is a call to engage, to volunteer, and to pray together as a community.



Be part of this monumental journey

Your support will enrich lives, honour our call to make disciples of all nations, continuing the legacy of our faith, and invest in the future, ensuring that generations to come have a place to encounter God's love.

Please reflect on how you can contribute - through financial support, volunteerism, participation, and prayer.

Your weekly contribution of \$40 will help ensure we reach our goal.

Learn more, and support the Project:



stm.caedm.ca/divine-mercy-project



stm@caedm.ca



780-906-4717