



## **St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church**

### **Case Statement for Support**

### **Roofing Repair & Restoration Project**

On Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, extensive structural damage was discovered causing Saint Thomas Aquinas Church building to be deemed unsafe for the community to occupy. Immediately, Mass was moved to the parish activity center across the street and Father Sullivan formed a parish building committee and began the necessary assessments to determine the extent of the damage and costs of needed repairs and restoration. Father Sullivan, along with a team of structural engineers, general contractors, Rob Schorr from the Diocesan Facilities Office, and Mike Morris, parish business manager, came together and after much prayer, planning, and critical analysis have determined the financial needs and next steps to reopen the doors of Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish to the nearly 600 families who call it home.

The rich history of Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church begins in 1819, when the first Catholic Mass was celebrated in Zanesville, Ohio by Dominican Father Dominic Young, at the Green Tree Tavern. In 1820, Mr. John Dugan, the key early benefactor of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, purchased land located at the Northeast corner of Fifth Street and Locust Alley upon which the first Catholic Church was built in Zanesville. The construction of this second church led to the rapid growth of Catholics in the Zanesville area. This growth led to the discussion of erecting a "new stone structure" that would serve as the home for all Catholics in the city. The cornerstone for that "new stone structure", laid on Saint Patrick's Day 1842, became the current Saint Thomas Aquinas Church.

One of four Catholic churches in Muskingum County, parishioners have generously shared their time, talents, and treasures to provide for the religious education and spiritual formation and growth of the youth, adult faith-enriching opportunities, outreach to Catholic families and a cherished sacramental life for its parishioners. Saint Thomas Aquinas has also been a key charitable support to the less fortunate, the homeless and hungry, and young women experiencing unexpected pregnancies.

Upon professional engineering inspection, the walls and foundation of the church were found to be structurally sound, while the roof is in need of irrefutable repairs. Structural issues with the roofing trusses, which are made of red oak timbers and are original to the construction of the church, must be repaired. Both deferred maintenance and natural aging have contributed to deterioration and needed repair and reinforcement of the roof trusses. This will require adding fabricated steel C channels which will encapsulate the current wooden trusses to shift the weight onto the new steel infrastructure. Currently, the church roof has been braced with shoring towers and scaffolding to ensure there is no further damage to the church and roof structures. The cost to repair the roof is \$1,650,000.

The church repair project also includes replacement and repair of deteriorated masonry and formed concrete on the bell tower and repair of the church bell and clock mechanism. The estimated cost of the bell tower and bell tower clock repair is \$250,000.

The total estimated cost for all church repairs is \$1,950,000.

A total of \$350,000 has already been paid from parish reserves to stabilize the church roof. A matching gift of \$250,000 was pledged from the Cora E. Rogge Foundation in support of the project. This generous gift along with approximately \$139,000 already received in donations brings the total capital paid or pledged to the project of \$739,000.

The parish has determined the need for a Capital Campaign of \$750,000 in order to pay for the church repair project and to replenish parish reserves used to complete the project. This will ensure a stable financial future for Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish. The Capital Campaign goal of \$750,000 is projected to be raised over 3 to 5 years. Working with the Diocesan Office of Development and Planning, Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish is conducting a Feasibility Study to determine the parish's enthusiasm for this project and parishioner's willingness to provide financial support to a Capital Campaign of this size.

It is essential that all parish families participate in this act of financial stewardship. For every family that does not participate, it increases the burden upon those who do participate. It is asked that each family provide a gift commensurate with your family's ability to sacrifice financially. Every gift will be deeply appreciated and cherished as a legacy for the Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish community both now and for the future.

The Strategic Plan for the Muskingum County Catholic Community is evolving, and will be part of the Diocesan "Real Presence, Real Future" strategic plan. If the funds are raised that provide for the repair of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Roof, that does not mean that at some point, even in the future, consolidation of churches within the county may not occur. The Diocese is developing a long-range vision for every county in the diocese and that plan will need to be modified as changes, especially demographic changes, occur.

As mobilization for the Capital Campaign begins to take place, please consider how you might volunteer to assist in the critical work ahead. Many hands make for a lighter load. It is this combination of your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure that make Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish YOUR Parish!

Peace and blessing,

The Reverend JCP Sullivan  
Parish Priest

Details are outlined below along with estimated cost and projected fundraising sources:

Phase 1 – Secure and Assess	\$ 350,000 (Paid)
Includes the engineering assessments & design,	

asbestos mitigation, and the shoring towers and braces supporting church.

Phase 2 – Repair and Restore	\$1,600,000
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| • Truss Repair          | \$ 1,234,966 |
| • Bell Tower Repairs    | \$ 198,000   |
| • Clock Replacement     | \$ 50,000    |
| • Project Contingencies | \$ 117,034   |

Total Cost of Project is estimated at	\$1,950,000
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Fundraising Plan to raise \$1,600,000 for Phase 2 includes:

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| • Francis McIntire Fund | \$ 600,000        |
| • Parish Reserves       | \$ 250,000        |
| • Capital Campaign      | <u>\$ 750,000</u> |
| Total                   | \$1,600,000       |