PARISH PROFILE

Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas: Faith communities of support and gratitude

SEATTLE
BY ARMANDO MACHADO

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Seattle and St. Thomas Parish in Tukwila have a shared dedicated staff and many thankful parishioners.

“The support of the St. Thomas community and so many friends meant so much to us at the time of Mom’s illness and death,” reads an announcement from the Clarke/Wheeler family. We thank you so much for your prayers, Masses, and help at the reception — and extra thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the supper at her Rosary.”

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was established as a parish in 1892. St. Thomas Parish was established as a mission in 1912 and became a parish in 1946.

The pastor of both churches is Father Gerald Mayovsky; the pastoral assistant is Donna Ferraro. In addition to the Knights of Columbus, the ministries include the Ladies Club of STOLL (St. Thomas/Our Lady of Lourdes); Youth Ministry; Young Adult Ministry; and a donation collection program for St. Martin de Porres Shelter in Seattle. The weekend liturgies include a Sunday Spanish Mass at St. Thomas.

Monte Cromwell has been a member of the Knights of Columbus St. Thomas Council 11253 since it was formed 12 years ago.

“It’s been very rewarding being a member of the Knights,” Cromwell said last week. “The Knights are very supportive of the parishes, and of the bishops and the priests... The two parishes are only about seven miles apart; the relationship is very cordial.” He said that the St. Thomas Knights council also serves Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

Cromwell said he also is involved with the Knights at the state level, presently as the state retention chairman. He said his wife, Tina, also has been an active church volunteer, currently serving as a Eucharistic minister at St. Thomas.

Gratitude for the Knights and other volunteers is often expressed. A written announcement from Father Mayovsky to the Knights noted “sincere appreciation for the ossuaries which were designed and handcrafted by Jim Duffy and Michael Prakash, brother Knights. These ossuaries will beautifully enhance the funeral liturgies wherein a cremation has taken place. The ossuary will contain the cremated remains in the sanctuary during those liturgies. I am grateful to all of you.”

Recent staff announcements also note that the initial effort to renovate St. Thomas Church and enlarge the gathering space “was the result of many years of prayer, commitment and perseverance. We now have the continued work of repaying the remaining balance of our loan.”

In addition, there are faith-sharing announcements from staff to parishioners — Catholic-guided advice for personal spiritual growth, Christ-centered family life, and harmonious friendships.

Moreover, there are memos called Thoughts to Ponder, such as one attributed to Mother Teresa: “Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness — kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”

January 21-22 St. Thomas and Our Lady of Lourdes participated in the new Progress P3 subscription program. Five dollars from each subscription they sold went to their youth group. For more information on this program contact Marketing Associate Keri Hake at 206-382-2075 or kerih@seattlearch.org.