

Challenges and Opportunities in Parish Integration

As we continue our Beacon's journey of becoming a single canonical parish, one of the larger challenges we face is on the operational side. Specifically, how do we bring together the operations of four unique parishes, two schools, and one cemetery, each with their own histories, traditions, and processes, into a single efficient system? More importantly, how do we accomplish that without losing those special charisms that each parish brings to our Family? There lies both the challenge and the opportunity.

To address this, our teams have been hard at work developing processes to seamlessly bring together the critical components of our operations, while promoting greater efficiency and collaboration among our parishes. These include standardizing one financial management platform for all four parishes and adopting a common approach regarding income, expenses, budgeting, and reporting. As a result, we now have a greater ability to accurately see and, more importantly, improve the financial performance in each of our parishes.

In our schools, we have adopted FACTS, a comprehensive, integrated data management platform designed specifically for K-12 schools. This change has allowed us to centralize operations, including admissions, academics, staff, and student information, all in a single robust database. This change has reduced costs and streamlined operations significantly, enabling our teachers and administrators to focus more on the core aspects of their work.

We have also made continuous progress in caring for and improving the spaces that serve our parishioners. We've upgraded classrooms, meeting and worship spaces, and accomplished many long-awaited facility repairs. We've found new ways to fund capital-intensive projects that relieve the pressure on our operating income. As a result, today our parishes and schools are in a stronger financial position than they've been in for years.

We certainly have a lot of work yet to do, but we're off to a good start.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Tim Ralston'.

Fr. Tim Ralston
Pastor of Stella Maris

First Holy Communion, 2026

Below you will find the schedule for the First Holy Communions at Stella Maris. Please continue to pray for our children as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion this spring!

- St. Peter: Saturday, April 25 | 5:00 pm Mass
- St. Mary: April Sunday, April 26 | 10:30 am Mass
- St. Thomas More: Sunday, May 3 | 10:00 am Mass
- St. Bernadette: Sunday, May 3 | 11:00 am Mass

IGNITE 2026-27 Informational Meeting Confirmation Parent Meeting

Thursday, April 30 | 7 pm | St. Thomas More

7th-grade parents, mark your calendars! Join us on Thursday, April 30, from 7 - 8 pm to learn about our IGNITE Confirmation program and what the 2026/27 formation year will look like. The meeting will take place in the dining hall at St. Thomas More. Please contact John Giroux with any questions you may have at jgiroux@stellamarisfamily.org.