



## **Q&A on the new Mass offerings at St. Thomas the Apostle Church**

**Why is the Latin Mass community moving to St. Thomas the Apostle in Irondequoit?** Bishop Matano believes that the move to St. Thomas the Apostle will provide the Latin Mass community with a more spacious environment for fellowship, as well as a more convenient time for the Mass. This initiative is being offered by the Diocese with the cooperation of St. Kateri Tekakwitha parish.

**Is this a permanent move?** It is too soon to tell. It is Bishop Matano's hope that the move to the larger facility and more convenient Mass times will prove to be a catalyst for success, resulting in increased attendance and growth of the community, and that the community will be able to sustain its financial obligations.

**Will there be other Masses at St. Thomas?** In addition to the 11:15 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Extraordinary Form, a Mass in the Ordinary Form will be offered at 9 a.m. A Mass also will be offered on Holy Days.

**When does this begin?** It is our hope to begin on the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 2014.

**Who will be the principal celebrant?** As at St. Stanislaus, Father Bonsignore will preside at the majority of Masses.

**Does this mean St. Thomas is a new and independent parish?** No. St. Thomas is a church that will remain a part of St. Kateri Tekakwitha parish. The St. Thomas facility is being made available in a lease arrangement.

**What are the financial obligations?** This new initiative will require approximately \$200,000 on an annual basis in order to meet expenses. It will be necessary for those who worship at St. Thomas to support this work through weekly collections and other donations. These funds are needed to cover facility rental fees and utilities.

**Will St. Kateri Tekakwitha parish incur additional costs as a result of this initiative?** No additional costs to the parish are expected.

**Who will manage the community's finances?** Just as St. Stanislaus assisted in financial management when the Latin Mass was offered there, St. Kateri will assist in managing and tracking finances.

**Will the weekly collections at both Masses at St. Thomas be counted jointly?** Yes. All monies collected at both Masses, as well as any additional funds donated to support this initiative, will be combined.

**Will those who take part in the new Mass offerings at St. Thomas be able to have social gatherings, fundraisers and related activities at the facility?** Yes. It is hoped that the opportunity to offer fellowship and programs outside of Mass will enable the initiative to flourish.

**What will Father Bonsignore's role be at Monroe Community Hospital?** Father Bonsignore will remain priest chaplain at the hospital. Father Jack Healy and Father Joseph Demaio will be the principal celebrants of the Mass at Monroe Community Hospital. We are grateful for their generous assistance.