

Annual Report 2018-2019



Our Lady of The Atonement
Catholic Church
and The Atonement Academy

Moving Forward Together...



Parish Staff 2019-2020

Rev. Mark Lewis
Pastor

Rev. Jeffery Moore
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Michael D'Agostino
Deacon

Rev. Christopher G. Phillips
Pastor Emeritus (Clergy in Residence)

Rev. Mr. Michael Noble
Deacon (Clergy in Residence)

—
Bob Landry
Business Manager

Amelia G. Nieto
Director of Development

Dr. Jennifer Seighman
Music Director & Organist

Isabel Adame
Parish Administrative Manager



A Letter from Our Pastor



Dear Community of The Atonement:

It is a pleasure to provide you with a look at our first Annual Report of the parish of Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church and its school, The Atonement Academy.

More than a review of the past year, this also is a report with an emphasis on the year ahead.

We accomplished a great deal in 2018-2019, though we were not exempt from a number of those accomplishments coming as a result of a “refiner’s fire.” As Scripture reminds us, a refiner’s fire of intense heat and repeated hammering is sometimes a necessary test of our mettle. We pray to continue to come through any trials trusting our Lord’s faithfulness: *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.* (1 Peter: 5-10)

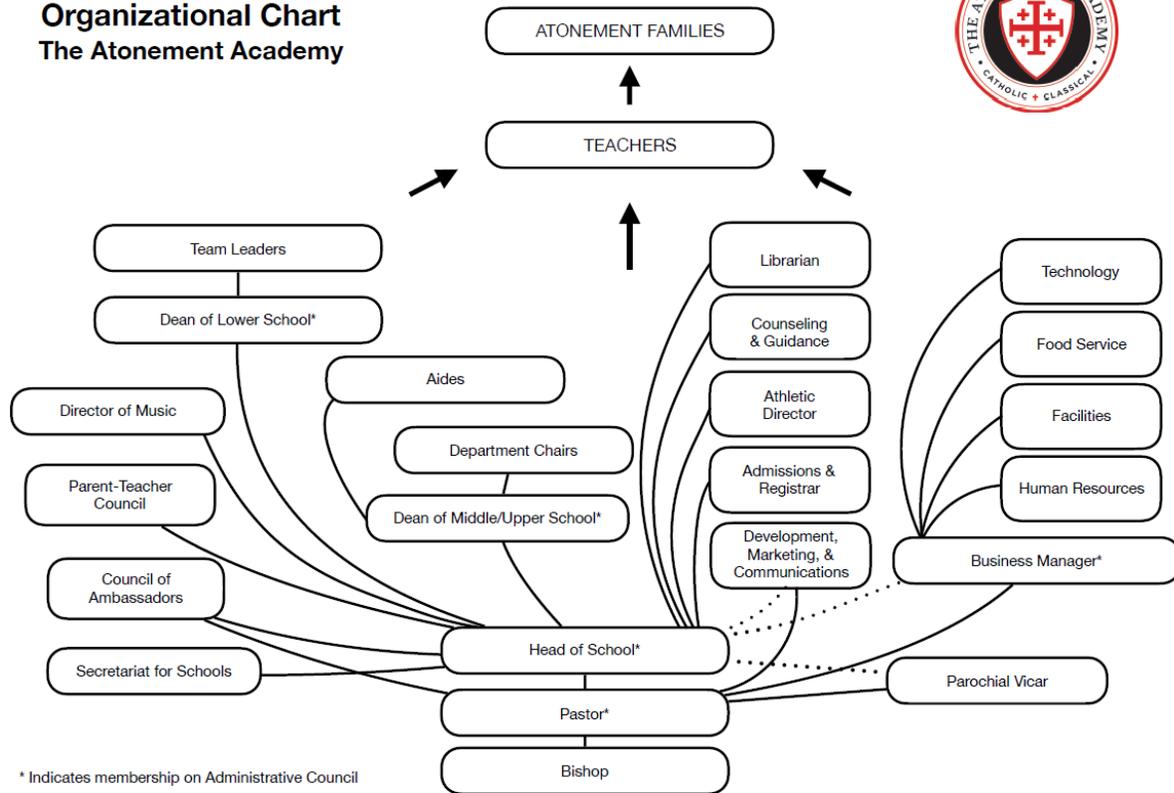
As most of you are aware, we have hired a new Head of School, Mr. Matthew D. Watson, and a new Dean of the Lower School, Mr. John D. Creech, and I know you will enjoy reading about them later in this report. They are experienced, dedicated administrators, and I trust they will complement our Dean of the Middle and Upper Schools, Dr. Lorelle Lamascus, as a team to develop and grow our school.

I appreciate the support of our parishioners and our school families as we re-structured and re-aligned our school so that we provide the Catholic and Classical education you have come to expect. For that, I thank you profoundly. Clearly, our church and school have an important role in building the kingdom of God and bringing others to know Christ. We must continue to look to the future with hope and trust God’s will!

I pray for you all each day, and your prayers and continued support are always welcome as we move forward together.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Mark Lewis
Pastor

Organizational Chart The Atonement Academy



Parish Activities and Ministries

Pastoral Council

St. Stephen's Guild

(Altar Servers, Lectors, Greeters, & Ushers)

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Altar Guild

Finance Council

Trail Life, USA

American Heritage Girls

Natural Family Planning

Fr. Paul of Graymoor Knights of Columbus

Council # 16730

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adult Inquiry Class

Young Adult Group

AA Group

Fulton Sheen Catechism

Saint Joseph the Worker Men's

Prayer Group

Saint Raphael Monthly Prayer Group

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sacred Music Choirs

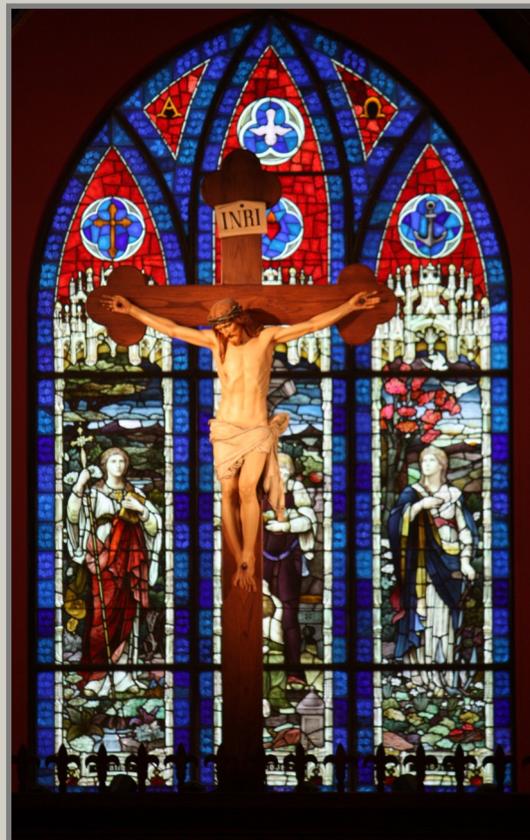
Music at Our Lady of The Atonement Catholic Church

Our parish music program reflects both the Anglican patrimony and the treasury of sacred music in the Roman Catholic tradition. Hallmarks of the Anglo-Catholic tradition place a strong emphasis on reverence toward the liturgy, excellence in choral music, the place of the organ in worship, congregational singing, hymnody, and the use of Anglican chant.

Choral music for liturgies includes works in English and Latin (and, at times, German, French, Russian) by composers such as Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, Palestrina, Victoria, Aichinger, Bach, Mendelssohn, Bruckner, Fauré, Duruflé, Stanford, Howells, and Pärt. Gregorian chant, Anglican chant, Russian Orthodox chant, and chant by St. Hildegard von Bingen can be heard regularly in our liturgies. At High Mass on Sundays and major feasts, choral settings of the Mass ordinary by Viadana, Hassler, Vaughan Williams, Ireland, Croce, Sumsion, Oldroyd, Casiolini, Langlais, and Rheinberger are sung in rotation with congregational settings, including Healey Willan's *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Martin Shaw's *An Anglican Folk Mass*, and several Gregorian chant settings. Multiple choirs, comprised of children in grade 3 through adults, assist with the worship life of the parish, singing over a hundred Masses every year and perform in the Parish Music Series.

A vibrant Parish Music Series offers sacred music concerts and liturgies, including a choral evensong series with guest choirs and organists, an annual All Souls' Requiem, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a Holy Week Meditation concert featuring major choral-orchestral works, and performances by our orchestra-in-residence. Highlights for the 2019-2020 season include celebrating the Canonization of Saint John Henry Newman and the 10th Anniversary of *Anglicanorum coetibus* with festive choral evensong, Gabriel Fauré's transcendent *Requiem in D Minor* on All Souls' Day, hosting the Austin Baroque Orchestra in concert, and a recital on our magnificent 50-rank Casavant-Frères pipe organ to mark our parish feast day.

Dr. Jennifer Seighman serves as Parish Music Director/ Organist and Mr. Gary Marks as Organist-in-Residence.



Dear Atonement Families,

On July 1, I arrived on campus as The Atonement Academy's new head of school. As anyone who has ever been a newcomer has surely experienced, it will take time to understand my new setting and get to know each of you. Still, the nature of the journey that we are on together will, I think, tend to accelerate the process.

To be a Catholic in contemporary America is a countercultural proposition. In such a context, a school committed to providing a classical liberal arts education in a community of deep spiritual nurture and beauty is a priceless gift to the local Church. Families rightly rejoice when such a school exists to assist them in passing on a living faith to their children. The scope of its impact can be generational, even eternal.

The Atonement Academy is such a school. With its beautiful facilities, hillside grounds, daily Mass, and commitment to the classical liberal arts, Atonement is poised to emerge as beacon of vibrant, authentic Catholic education. Furthermore, its close relationship with the parish suggests its potential as a locus of intentional Christian community. As such, Atonement should prepare to serve the Church well beyond San Antonio as it becomes a destination training ground for visionary educational leaders and a model for Catholic educational renewal.

Atonement's approach to classical liberal arts education is guided by our unique position as The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter's first and oldest school. Our work of formation is enriched by the patrimony of English Christianity, lost to the Church since the Protestant Reformation, but the cultivation of which is now the Ordinariate's special charge and gift. All of us, but young people especially, are most readily converted to the true and the good through the evangelism of *beauty*. The Atonement Academy "does" beauty better than any school I know of. The campus is in many ways a place set apart, where a sacramental worldview and the beauty of holiness find tangible expression in our special attention to art, architecture, music, and patterns of prayer, as well a rigorous academic life spurred on by faith and reason.

In the coming year, my focus will be on building a leadership team, immersing myself in the community, culture, and history of the Academy, and working with stakeholders to chart a course into the next twenty-five years.

I hope you will join us.

Your servant,

Matthew David Watson
Head of School

A Letter from Our Head of School





School Achievements & Highlights

Awards & Recognition

- Awarded Catholic Education Honor Roll (CEHR) School by Cardinal Newman Society and named “School of Excellence” in 2008-2011, 2012-2015, 2016-2021
- Ranked #3 on the leading national researcher, Niche, and their 2019 list of “Best Private K-12 Schools in the San Antonio Area”
- Ranked in the Top 5 in 2017, 2018 and 2019, ranked in the Top 5 of Niche’s list of outstanding private schools.
- In 2015, 2016, 2017 ranked in the Top 10 of the San Antonio Business Journal’s list of “Largest San Antonio Private Elementary and Secondary Schools”
- Consistently ranked by San Antonio Magazine in the Top 10 for academic institutions
- Recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School
- Accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCBED).
- 2019 National Handwriting Contest Winners (Atonement Academy students won 26 of the 35 awards given out by Universal Publishing)
- In 2019, twenty-three students qualified for the PSIA (Private Schools Interscholastic Association). This is the most comprehensive academic extracurricular program in the nation for students in grades 1-8.

Academics

- Catholic Classical Curriculum
- Average class size is 18 students
- Phonics based early childhood reading
- Goal-setting and tracking of independent reading using Accelerated Reader (AR)
- The average 2019 SAT score for Atonement Academy students, 1195, is 12% higher than the most recent national average of 1068, according to the College Board which administers standardized tests and curricula
- Our students maintain an average GPA of 90.3
- Students participate in daily choral music class
- Multiple award-winning choirs
- 5-10% of seniors earn National Merit recognition
- Eight AP courses offered for all upper school students

Our Graduates

- Our first high school graduating class was in 2008; since that time, we have had a 100% college acceptance rate into four-year universities including in-state, out-of-state, and international universities
- The average 2019 SAT Score was 1195 (National SAT Score: 1068; Texas SAT Score: 1020)
- Over the past eleven years, we have helped groom ten National Merit Scholar Finalists out of 198 graduates.
- In 2019, our students received more than \$2 million in scholarships, an average of \$105,603 per student.

Our Faith and Good Works

—**Daily Mass** integrated into the school day for students, faculty and staff

—**Daily theology** classes and integration of faith into all content areas

—“**Virtue of the Month**” examined and students are commended on their practice

—**Biennial pilgrimage to Rome** for juniors and seniors make to augment their Catholic education

—**Support of our Sister School** in the Holy Land since 2013 has provided more than \$30,000 in the Palestinian village of Jifna, north of Jerusalem, for school supplies and help with renovations through the Lenten Penny War

—**ProLife advocacy** includes witnessing on the sidewalks of local Planned Parenthood facilities and sending our Pro-Life club to the annual Pro-Life March in Washington, DC

—**Diaper Drives** several times a year for groups such as Seton Home and Allied Women’s Health

—**Clothing & Blanket Drives** to support our St. Vincent de Paul and other charities

—**Food Drives** collect canned goods for the San Antonio Food Bank and other local agencies

—**Crisis Response** to natural disasters locally or across the globe unites and organizes our community as we raise funds for crisis relief

School Leadership



Head of School, Mr. Matthew David Watson

Our new head of school began his work with The Atonement Academy in July 2019. Mr. Watson has a strong academic background with a Master of Education from Harvard University, specializing in teaching and curriculum. He also holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and he is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Educational Administration from Vanderbilt University.

Mr. Watson has spent more than 15 years in education; most recently, he was in Katy, Texas in administrative roles at St. John XXIII College Preparatory School and later at Aristoi Classical Academy. Mr. Watson and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of six children (infant to 14 years of age).

Dean of the Middle and Upper Schools, Dr. Lorelle Lamascus

A native of San Antonio, Dr. Lamascus came to The Atonement Academy in August 2018. She previously taught theology at St. John Paul II High School in Seguin for three years. Prior to that, Dr. Lamascus taught at several Catholic colleges and universities around the country.

She earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Marquette University and attended Catholic University of America for both her bachelor's and master's degrees. For Dr. Lamascus, the most rewarding part of her work is "watching students grow in their lived faith through their understanding of Catholic philosophy and theology."



Dean of the Lower School, Mr. John D. Creech

Mr. John D. Creech joined The Atonement Academy in July 2019 after nine years at the Western Academy in the Houston area. A former practicing attorney, Mr. Creech taught at various Catholic schools in Houston over the years and also served as a teaching assistant at Rice University. He earned a law degree from the University of Houston and practiced law in the healthcare industry. He graduated with his bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* from the University of St. Thomas.

At the Western Academy, Mr. Creech was a founding faculty member: he helped establish the school and its Catholic culture and rigorous academics. Mr. Creech and his wife, Stephanie, have six children, three girls and three boys that range in age from 23 to one.

Report from The Business Manager

As Director of Finance for Our Lady of the Atonement and The Atonement Academy, my responsibility is to ensure the proper administration and stewardship of the organization's financial resources. Upon taking over this position in October 2018, it was clear that new systems and procedures within the business office should be implemented.

Our principal sources of recurring revenues are offertory collections and tuition and fees. Due to the drop in student enrollment in recent years, the revenue collected from tuition and fees has declined, making it impossible to balance the budget.

Our fixed expenses have increased significantly in the past year due to the start of principal payments on the mortgage for the Upper School building. The mortgage is approximately \$8.5 million requiring a monthly payment of about \$50,000. This long-term debt commitment for the school/parish consumes about 20% of the school budget. Therefore our current mode of operations was unsustainable. With \$600,000 per year in debt service that means we must have 68 students paying full tuition of \$8,800 per year just to service the debt (note: our total enrollment for 2018-2019 was about 400 students).

Our beautiful facilities and grounds also require costly maintenance and repairs. For example, the tiles on the church steeples need to be replaced and a number of our air conditioning units are at the end of their useful lives. These represent major capital projects.

We are currently working to find alternative financing sources that will allow us to refinance much of our debt to provide needed breathing room as we look to boost enrollment at the school and begin our capital campaign.

Earlier this year, the Finance Council decided to raise tuition (but also to lower the registration fee), to make changes to the "family cap" structure, and to also "means test" families who have requested financial aid. We began using the FACTS Grant & Aid service which is the same service used across San Antonio for most private schools. Though none of these changes are popular, they are however necessary.



The Atonement Academy is a first rate Catholic Classical School and recognized nationally as a Blue Ribbon

School. Increasing enrollment is the key to growing and developing the school. Word-of-mouth recommendation by school parents is our best marketing tool by far. With better execution of our mission combined with other strategic marketing efforts, we are confident that enrollment will rebound over the next few years.

The Business Office continues to look for ways to more efficiently operate; for example, by reviewing vendor contracts to save money or receive better service for the same money. We are also busy updating our policies and procedures, financial controls, and recordkeeping to ensure that we are operating soundly.

The parish offertory collection currently averages roughly \$75,000 on a monthly basis. This amount tends to fluctuate with attendance at Holy Mass. More comes in during Advent and Eastertide; less during the summer months. Monthly expenses for the parish are approximately \$60,000. This does not include the periodic unplanned expenses that spring up, such as repairs to the pipe organ or the numerous air-conditioning units.

It is important for families to consider their level of giving. Like any other institution, the cost of "doing business" rises every year and we require sufficient financial resources to meet our obligations. As we are all creatures of habit, there is a tendency for parishioners to give the same periodic amount year after year. If the Lord has blessed you with a rise in salary/income, a portion of that could be provided to help support your parish. How many of us have things like gym memberships or Netflix accounts that we pay for but do not use? Those funds would surely be put to great use here!

We recently instituted the ability to donate on-line (go to our website, click on the "Giving" link and contribute through our accounting platform, ParishSoft. This is the **preferred** method of meeting your obligation to the parish. It is convenient, secure, provides a more predictable cash flow to the parish, and will reduce administrative expense as more parishioners utilize this feature.

There are only two ways to financially contribute to the parish, either directly to Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church or to The Atonement Academy. *(Please note that contributing to Our Lady's Dowry is not an offertory contribution that directly supports the parish. Our Lady's Dowry is an entity completely separate from the parish and not governed by the parish).*

Please pray for our mission as a parish and school that we may bring the light of Christ into the heart of many.

—Bob Landry, Business Manager

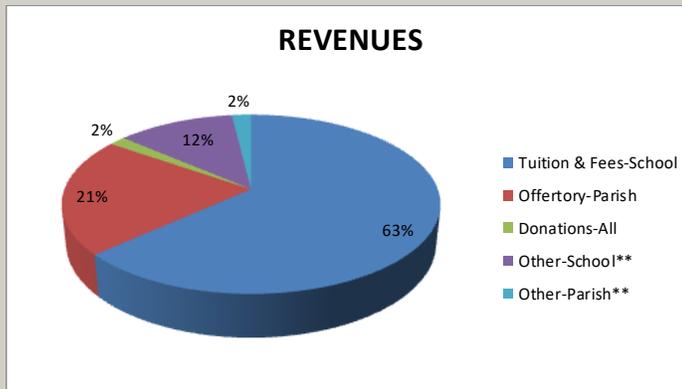
**<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/our154159>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

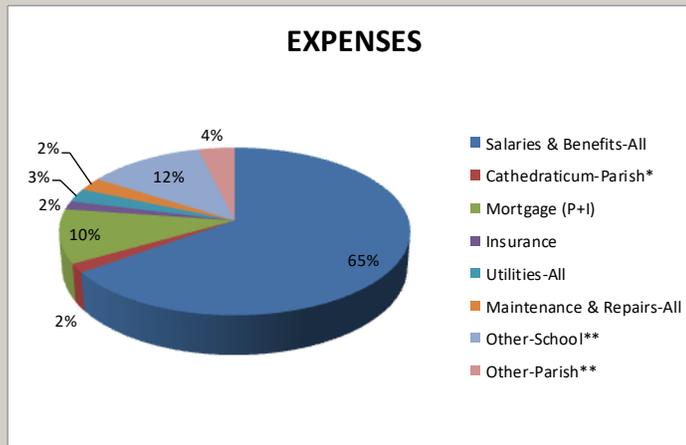
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

FY Ended June 30, 2019

Tuition & Fees-School	\$2,546,273
Offertory-Parish	\$855,733
Donations-All	\$67,837
Other-School**	\$472,410
Other-Parish**	\$77,673
	<u>\$4,019,925</u>



Salaries & Benefits-All	\$3,461,912
Cathedraticum-Parish*	\$91,438
Mortgage (P+I)	\$554,118
Insurance	\$86,982
Utilities-All	\$138,614
Maintenance & Repairs-All	\$135,878
Other-School**	\$648,509
Other-Parish**	<u>\$201,160</u>
	\$5,318,611



* "Cathedraticum" is our annual parish assessment to the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.

** "Other" Revenue and Expenses include such items as the annual Gala & Auction, King's Fair, PTC, Supplies, Equipment, etc.



MOVING FORWARD: How Do We Bridge the Gap?

- Boost your annual contribution to the parish or school by 15-20%!
- Help recruit more new families to the parish and the school! An additional 60 full-tuition-paying students would bring in approximately \$1.3 million.
- Volunteer at the school and parish to perform activities that have required paid aides/contractors. Opportunities abound for carline, lunch room and playground monitors, and your help with maintenance, landscaping, and repairs could make a difference!
- Take advantage of your company's matching gifts program! You can double or triple your gifts to the school (or church, in some cases).
- Participate in our fundraisers and activities — and bring your family and friends!
- More than anything else: Pray for our school!



Our Lady of The Atonement
Catholic Church
and The Atonement Academy

Financial Milestones

1983 to Present

1983-1990

Founding and Building

Original Church building dedicated 8/15/1987 for \$505,000.

First rectory purchased 1988 for \$103,000.

Adjacent property purchased for \$20,000.

1991-2000

School and Expansions

Second rectory purchased 1991 for \$147,000.

First school building 1994 for \$350,000.

St. Anthony Hall built 1998 for \$197,000.

2001-2010

Multiple Expansions

Additional 6 acres acquired 2001-2002.

Additional 83,000 sq. ft. expansion of building. \$4,000,000 (1/2 bank-1/2 capital campaign).

Retired debt 2005

2006-2010 7.5 acres acquired, second pipe organ purchased for \$500,000. Sports field completed \$350,000.

2011-2015

Major Expansion Project

Completed field house and outdoor restrooms 2012-2013 \$150,000.

A second capital campaign completed 2013, raising \$4,300,000.

2014 begin construction of 117,000 sq. ft. new building for \$11,500,000.

2016-2019

Moving Forward

Purchased third rectory in 2017 for \$252,000.

2018 all debt was combined into one long term loan \$8,600,000.

Third capital campaign to begin in 2019.

OLA financial milestones and long term debt

04/30/2019



School Faculty & Staff 2019-2020

Faculty 2019-2020

Mr. Matthew David Watson

Head of School

Dr. Lorelle Lamascus

Dean of Middle & Upper Schools

Mr. John Creech

Dean of Lower School

Mr. Zachary Adian

Math & Science

Mr. Colin Chude

History & English

Mrs. Sandra Czech

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Tina Fitzgerald

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brenda Garza

Third Grade

Miss Jennifer Gray

Science & Theology

Mrs. Maria Kennedy

First Grade

Mrs. Audrey Lenahan

Drama & Philosophy

Mrs. Maria (Christy) Lozano

PreK-4

Mr. John Markovetz

Math

Sister Mary Margaret

Math, Textbook Manager

Mr. Nicholas Mataya

Latin & Theology

Mr. Carlos Miranda

Physical Education

Mr. Tucker Moore

Assistant Music Director

Miss Laura Oliveros

Theology & Latin

Mrs. Elizabeth Otten

History & English

Ms. Lisa Pyle

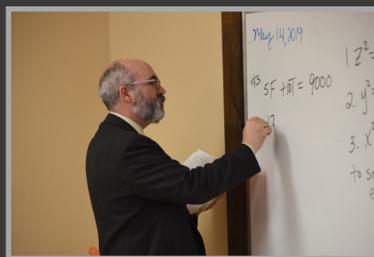
PreK-3

Mrs. Katherine Skeens

Physical Education

Miss Regina Szyzkiewicz

History & English



Mrs. Autumn Taylor

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Susana Trevino

Latin, Spanish, & International Students Coordinator

Mr. Dakotah Vidal

Athletic Director

Mrs. Kristie Weems

Second Grade

Mr. Theodore (Shawn) White

Science & Math

Mrs. Sue Wiessing

Sixth Grade



Staff 2019-2020

Mrs. Sandra Alejo

Accounting Clerk

Mrs. Cassandra Johnston

Front Desk and Administrative Assistant to Head of School

Mrs. Yolanda Joiner

Director of Admissions

Mr. Bob Landry

Business Manager

Ms. Erica Lizama

Business Office Assistant

Ms. Amelia G. Nieto

Director of Development

Mr. Dan Patrick

Office Assistant and IT Coordinator

Mrs. Ana Powell

College and School Counselor

Mrs. Deborah Wendtland

Librarian

Report from The Director of Development

What a great opportunity to be the first Director of Development for Our Lady of The Atonement Catholic Church and The Atonement Academy. When I began this important work in November 2018, my first task was to create and implement a fundraising strategy for both the church and the school. Clearly, with a new building to pay for, support for the school is critical; integral to our efforts also is the maintenance of our beautiful church and the parish grounds.

As we move into the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we will capitalize on the school's Silver Jubilee. For 25 years, The Atonement Academy has provided an outstanding academic and spiritual program to students and has become one of the most distinctive private Catholic schools in the nation. Our success lies with preparing each student beyond college and career. Our challenging classical liberal arts curriculum coupled with formation in the virtues are the foundation that prepares each student for a life well lived.



Although there has never before been a fulltime, professional attempt to cultivate all of our potential donors (alumni, parents, parishioners, corporations, and foundations), there has indeed been solid groundwork that has allowed the parish—church and school—to flourish. I will endeavor to continue to sustain, develop and cultivate these relationships for years to come.

Progress has already been made in several areas:

- A new parish website has been developed
- A new school website has been developed
- Marketing and communications efforts have been initiated
- Preliminary work has begun to contact potential donors (corporate, foundation and individuals).

As we celebrate The Atonement Academy's 25th Anniversary, I will be working closely with church

and school organizations to create and implement a development strategy. This will include:

- Individual Giving
- Corporate/Foundation Giving
- Special Events
- Memorial/Tribute Giving
Planned Giving.

To ensure that The Atonement Academy will grow and to ensure that our infrastructure is maintained and updated to serve Catholic families who are drawn to our church and school, we need dedicated, deliberate fundraising efforts. Investment commitments are needed to continue to meet the spiritual and educational needs of the individuals and families in our area, and that is why we are starting a Capital Campaign.

We have a goal of \$4,000,000 to be raised over the next three years. These funds will allow the parish to be financially stable, to invest significant dollars in our infrastructure, and finally, to complete sections of the new building such as the gymnasium space and the auditorium space. These new additions to the campus will expand opportunities to host members of the area's growing Catholic community for a competitive fee that will augment our operating funds. Athletic events, children's camps, fine arts performances, adult education and other specialized classes, wedding receptions, retreats, and conferences are just some of the ways we can utilize this multi-functional space.

I encourage you to be part of The Atonement Academy's 25th Anniversary campaign to serve our greater community and also to continue the tradition of providing an accredited classical education and unparalleled Catholic culture to boys and girls. Through the generous support of individuals, foundations, corporations and other friends we have built a strong foundation. With your continued support, together we can shape the future with our most precious assets – our children-- and ensure that we impart our faith and create a lasting legacy for future generations.

—Amelia G. Nieto, *Director of Development*

Parish and School Boards and Organizations

Board of Directors

Bishop Steven Lopes
*Bishop, Personal Ordinariate of the
Chair of St. Peter*

Father Timothy Perkins
*Vicar General, Personal Ordinariate
of the Chair of St. Peter*

Father Mark Lewis
Pastor, Our Lady of The Atonement

Mr. Michael Casseb
Parishioner & Attorney

Dr. David Sommer
*Parishioner & Professor of Finance
(Cheever Chair of Risk Management),
St. Mary's University*

Mr. Thomas Stallard
Parishioner & Real Estate Developer

Finance Council

Fr. Mark Lewis
Mr. Thomas Stallard
Mr. Bob Landry
Mr. Tony Previty
Dr. Juan Sánchez
Mr. Steven Vale
Mrs. Melissa Vale

Parish Council

Mrs. Terri Garza
Mr. Thomas Dum
Mr. Ray Slush

PTC

Mrs. Elizabeth Pro
Mrs. Brandy Piner
Mrs. Jean Clute
Mrs. Renee Keller
Mrs. Susana Treviño

School Council

Mrs. DeVon Mata Thomson
Mr. Thomas Stallard
Dr. Chad Hivnor
Mr. Jack Elsner
Mrs. Katie Sánchez
Mrs. Rachel McCauley

Booster Club

Mr. Brian Schott
Mr. Chris Wendtland

American Heritage Girls

Mrs. Deborah Wendtland
Dr. Veronica Tovar
Mrs. Catherine Henriquez
Mrs. Hope Garza
Mrs. Elizabeth Reedy

Our Lady of The Atonement Catholic Church and The Atonement Academy

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