

Annual Report

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Our Lady of the Black Hills

Our Lady of the Black Hills exists to proclaim the joy of the Gospel to all creation and to transform lives with the Father's mercy.

Dear friends and Disciples of Christ,

First of all, I am grateful to God for each of you. God is at work in you and in our parish. I am grateful to God for the many ways He is leading us, as a parish and as individuals. I want to say thank you, thank you for your generosity and your faithfulness. I am very much touched by your good spirit and your faithful stewardship, especially in these adventurous times. Our parish did very well and continues to do well with the Diocesan Capital Campaign, "Living the Mission," and with our ongoing parish financial and spiritual needs. Our finance and parish councils help to ensure your gifts are used wisely and that all measures to protect them are in place. To help with better oversight and control of your money, I strongly encourage you to consider online (automatic or one time) giving—a safer and easier way to give at olbh.org/donate.



This fiscal year our donations were a little bit below budget, but that was expected this year. With the help of our parish staff we were able to save money on expenses and thus ensure financial stability. At the end, we came ahead a little. Thank you.

Our Lady of the Black Hills will continue the work and the mission of our Church family. We continue to support the work of the parish, the work of our diocese and charitable work of the Church. This year the Diocese welcomed the Sisters of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. They will work in the Chancery and at our Catholic Schools.

In this report you will find the income/expense report for the 2020-2021 statement, as well as facilities repairs and updates, faith formation information, and the happenings of the parish life. There is also a budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Please, continue your support of our parish budget, and we will do our best to use your gifts diligently. Thank you for your support.

In Christ,

Fr. Andrzej

Completed Upgrades to Buildings and Grounds

1. Finished the rectory basement.
2. Replaced the roof and gutters of the rectory due to wind and hail damage.
3. Converted and updated the lighting in the Church to LED lights with dimmers. The existing track lighting was also extended to increase light.
4. Replaced the kneeler cushions in the pews; completed due to a private donation for the project.
5. Added an additional electrical panel to alleviate overburdened panels.
6. Painted the Parish Hall (downstairs); done by the SDSU Newman Center as a service project.

Ongoing Parish Needs & Projects

- ⇒ Sound system replacement and the possible addition of a camera for livestreaming .
- ⇒ Address the landscaping on the North side of the church.
- ⇒ Connect to city sewer; the septic tank is not adequate to meet the size of the parish.
- ⇒ Repair of the wall that holds the vaulted stained glass mural of the Loaves and Fishes.

Our Lady of the Black Hills Statistics 2020-2021

By the Numbers:

526—Families registered

192—Formed.org Families [free resource for all parishioners] olbh.formed.org

12—Children baptized

13—Children received First Eucharist

17—Youth Confirmed

1—Adult Baptized

13—Funerals

1—Adult received into Full Communion

5—Couples prepared for marriage

Faith Formation:

36—Catechists

90—Pre-K—6th grade students

19—Confirmation students (7th grade)

18—8th-12th grade students

300—Adults (participated in one or more sessions of adult faith formation)

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

Coordinated by John & Joni Osnes and Amy Haakenson

Sunday morning adult faith formation sessions were led by David Allardyce and Pamela Weaver. Topics presented were The Sacraments, The Search, Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Reconciliation, and Lectio: Prayer. We were able to offer classes remotely by zoom for The Search and Forgiven. Aging Gracefully During the Pandemic was also offered, with 15 participants. 16 adults attended The Sacraments, 60 adults attended The Search, 32 adults attended Forgiven, and 17 attended Lectio: Prayer.

Theology on Tap began meeting the first Monday of the month beginning in February 2021. 10-12 adults attend monthly.

Wisdom Wednesdays occurred once a month starting in November and speakers were Joni Pecora, Fr. Andrzej and Deacon Greg, SD Kids Belong, Dionne Eastmo, and Shawna Hanson were the presenters.

There were three weekly Bible studies, including a women's group, an Early Bird group, and a Men's group with 20- 22 adults who attended regularly.

The ChristLife Evangelization process continued this year with 28 participants in Following Christ in the Summer of 2020, and 19 participants attended Sharing Christ in the Spring of 2021. We were able to offer several virtual sessions.

All 12 sets of parents who have had their child baptized at OLBH received follow up mailings at the child's 3, 6, 12, 18 months, and their 2nd and 3rd year birthdays to support in providing for the child's spiritual, emotional and physical growth. We have recently started switching to offering follow-up emails in lieu of physical mailings.

Our Lady of the Black Hills supported and encouraged 15 parishioners to go to Pastoral Ministry Days, and 8 to REFUEL.

† R C I A †

Coordinated by Brad Blauvelt and Stacy Tate

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults team instructed one adult in the Catholic faith along with their sponsor on Tuesday evenings via Zoom from September through the Easter season. He came into full communion with the Church. The class utilized many different learning materials including the *Symbolon* series from Formed.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children had two participants. One attended Faith Formation classes and had instruction from her parents in the Blessed program from Dynamic Catholic. She received her First Communion and made her profession of faith. The other student was received into full communion with the Church and completed RCIC classes at home as well as parental instruction in the Blessed program. Rhonda Gehlsen coordinates the RCIC program.

Student Faith Formation

Elementary Faith Formation

Coordinated by Rhonda Gehlsen

We offer two paths of Pre-K – 5th faith formation: the traditional classroom model and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We offered classes on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We had over 100 children registered and attending Faith Formation classes this year.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Parents led their children in preparation for the sacraments using the 'Blessed' curriculum by Dynamic Catholic consisting of a workbook and DVD. The parents attended 'Forgiven' and 'Presence' presented by the Augustine Institute and facilitated by Deacon Greg Sass. Brenda Cassen held bi-weekly classes for the children. Twelve children received their First Communion on May 2nd.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to our Catholic faith that combines scripture and liturgy in a Montessori environment. The children gather in an atrium that is filled with material that helps aid the children in their relationship with Christ. The level I atriums were led by Lisa Katzenstein, Debby Heisinger, Maria Pesek, and Rhonda Gehlsen. Their assistants were Kelsey Cox, Samantha Keeler, Amy Haakenson, Angela Curry, and Erica Bestgen. The level II atriums were led by Megan Hamer and Cathleen Denekamp. Lori Blake assisted Megan and LaChel McCollar assisted Cathleen. The level III atriums was led by Jenny Scherr with Melissa Murphy as her assistant.

Traditional Catechesis

A lectionary-based catechesis is the foundation of this program. The basic curriculum is selected to integrate scripture, doctrine, prayers and practices of the Church. We offered Traditional classes on both Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evenings for first through fifth grade. They used the 'Spirit of Truth' curriculum by Sophia Institute. Our diligent catechist teams include Marty Quinn and Jeremy Thompson, Sydney Berra and Jennifer Curtis, John Gehlsen and Aaron Denekamp, and Bridgette Fode and Suzanne Reeve.

Duc in Altum

Duc in Altum was held July 18-22. Over fifty kids grades 1-12 participated in faith filled fun led by seminarian Josiah Hanson and his team.

Middle and High School Faith Formation

Coordinated by Rhonda Gehlsen

7th Grade (Confirmation Class) – The students walked through the 'Chosen' curriculum on Wednesday evenings led by Mark Weishaar, Laura Varilek, Jennifer Schaeffer, Joshua Weaver, and Teresa Thompson to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. They attended an overnight retreat at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. They also completed a Saint Report and answered the Bishop's required questions. Seventeen students were confirmed by Bishop Peter Muhich on May 8, 2021.

8-12th Grade – The youth participated in YDisciple groups which are small faith sharing groups designed for high school aged youth. There was one girls group and two boys groups held on Wednesday evenings led by Abigail Luchessi, Kami Serfling, Jim Landers, Anson Juelfs, Shawn Harwood, and Aric Dyczek. The Steubenville conference was canceled this year due to COVID-19.

♪ ♪ ♪ Liturgy ♪ ♪ ♪

This year found us still contending with the Pandemic, with limiting numbers at Liturgies, Social Distancing, and the supplying of masks and sanitizer. Yet, as in years past, OLBH saw the ongoing dedication of those who are “called to serve” in so many ways, as Hospitality ministers, Extraordinary ministers, Altar servers, Deacons, Lectors, Sacristans, and Music ministers, perhaps at times even in the simple prayerful patience for things to return to some semblance of what we had known.

Due to the ongoing concerns with the Pandemic and following CDC guidelines, our Ministries were also limited, utilizing limited numbers of lectors, altar servers, sacristans, and music ministers. Lorraine Rieth-Ptacek (Director of Music & Liturgy) continued to minister as the musician along with her family, holding off on the scheduling cantors for much of 2020. The other accompanists too were waiting for the go ahead after the anticipated vaccines. Our Saturday night 5pm Liturgy continued to be Live Streamed with an online Worship Aid for those attending the Mass at home.

On July 16, 2020, we celebrated Sister Mary Catherine’s Emeritic Life Vows at Mass. Having been away from cantoring for months, Joshua Weaver was asked to cantor the Mass and did a beautiful job leading us in prayer. Later that week, Lorraine was able to attend the National Pastoral Musicians Conference (held in Kentucky) online. It was enlivening and enlightening to hear and see what other parishes across the Country were doing in light of the restrictions to numbers in the churches and singing in Parishes. In August, our Liturgical Ministers were blessed to serve for Vigil and Funeral Liturgies for our beloved parishioners and families. Cantors Brad Blauvelt and Jessica Bergeleen cantored for the Funerals, again not having cantored for months and we were so grateful for their leading us in prayer. In the coming month, we also celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony for a number of couples. Things looked different, with limited numbers, some with only close family and a few friends in attendance, again with Social distancing, masks, and sanitizer. I will never forget the image of an entire Wedding Party wearing masks all in a row.

During The hymnals were taken out of the pews for safety, and we provided Worship Aids for all Liturgies. Since numbers needed to be limited for Masses, OLBH provided two daily Masses until the end of July, when we returned to our regular morning Mass schedule. In September, the Worship Commission met during Leadership Night for discussions on Liturgical planning. We returned to our regular scheduling of Liturgical Ministries, listed in our Bulletin in October. On Nov. 28th, 2020, the 1st Sunday of Advent, we returned the Breaking Bread hymnals to the pews. We also began praying the new Diocesan Prayer for Vocations .

On December 11, 2020, we had our Advent Communal Penance Liturgy with Adoration. We celebrated four Christmas Masses, two on Christmas Eve and two on Christmas day (again with a very different look without



♪ ♪ ♪ Liturgy ♪ ♪ ♪

On January 13th and 24th, OLBH was the host for recording the Masses for TV with visiting Priests presiding and our own Lector, Pam Weaver, and Musician, Lorraine Ptacek serving.

On Ash Wednesday, February 17th, we followed a new Diocesan mandate for the Distribution of ashes (blessed ashes sprinkled on our heads.) On March 8th, 2021 we had our Lenten Communal Penance Liturgy with Adoration. Our Pastoral Ministry Days, March 22nd & 23rd were presented virtually right at OLBH, where we began each day with Mass.

On Palm Sunday and throughout the Triduum and Easter Liturgies, cantors were scheduled and proclaimed the Psalm, leading the response from the Ambo. It was truly a blessing to have our cantors ministering to us once again! We also celebrated with our RCIA candidates their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church!

We welcomed back our accompanists who have served us so faithfully over the years, Brenda Czmowski and Regena Thrall. We cannot thank them enough for serving as Music Ministers once again here at OLBH. We give a big THANK YOU to Jane Abernathy, who recently has moved to Wyoming, for all her years as an accompanist at OLBH. We will miss her dearly and our prayers follow her and her family to their new home. We hope that she will check in with us occasionally, as she is still a close neighbor.

As Our Lady of the Black Hills, on May 1st, we honored Mary in a May Crowning at the beginning of the Saturday 5pm Mass. The Rosary was also prayed before Mass during the month of May. On May 2nd at the 8am & 11am Masses, we celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Then, on May 8th at the 5pm Mass, we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation, with Bishop Muhich presiding.

Again in the summer, we ministered to families thru the Vigils and Funeral Liturgies of the Resurrection. On the 14th of June celebrating Corpus Christi, we sang together a new and beautiful Sequence, telling the story of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The 11am Mass was followed by Adoration. This year we also recognized St. Joseph and hosted a special Statue from the Diocese along with a special Holy Hour of prayer. Again, we continued our Wednesdays of Adoration.

We are starting to look like our Parish before the pandemic. Though we have seen some parishioners move away, we look out into the congregation and see new faces and some we had missed during the last year, full of the joy of being together as One Body of Christ. We welcome what the rest of this year will bring as God leads leads us in our journey of faith at OLBH.



Parish Organizations

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Our Lady of the Black Hills Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul fulfilled 203 requests for help in the Piedmont Valley for our neighbors in need. They received \$19,420.29 in income and gave \$13,905.03 in aid.

The society received 6,621.79 in donations, \$2,798.50 in fundraising profits, and \$10,000 from the Spearfish St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Please consider helping our friends in need in the Piedmont, Black Hawk, and Summerset area.

Expenses were paid for \$7,318.80 worth of housing assistance, \$4,151.55 in utilities aid, \$149.49 in auto repairs, \$604.91 for phone bills, and other aid in the amount of \$369.11. The conference expenses were \$1,311.17; \$510 of the total expenses were donated to the national council.

Piedmont Valley Ministerial Association Food Pantry

The Piedmont Valley Food Pantry provided 501 families with 667 bags of food. Over 1.5 times what was given out last year. At Christmas 75 families received 79 hams and 745 wrapped gifts. Food pantry expenses included grocery purchases at a total of \$829 and Gas Vouchers at a cost of \$453.96. The fiscal year expense total was \$1,282.96. The food pantry took in donations in the way of income in the amount of \$7,073. Your continued support provides food and basic household supplies for our neighbors in need. Thank you.

Cornerstone Rescue Mission Meals

The first Tuesday of each month OLBH parishioners provide the ingredients for a meal for the friends in need at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. Prior to COVID, these individuals would prepare and serve the meals also.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

In **2021 OLBH parishioners graciously donated \$74,659 in pledges from 151 households**. While the participation rate increased nominally, the total dollars pledged decreased. Overall, the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal is at 80.7% toward goal and is – 6.2% down compared to 2020 and has only a 25.3% diocesan wide participation rate.

The 2020 Diocesan annual appeal had a 24% participation rate by OLBH parishioners totaling \$80,018 pledged by 146 households. Participation rate is important for the Diocese concerning alternative funding from outside sources.

Our Lady of the Black Hills has a goal of 35% participation rate to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. A gift of any size goes a long way in supporting the goal. \$5 dollars dramatically impacts participation rates, even if you can give \$10 the more participation, the easier the goal. You can donate to the Diocesan Annual Appeal anytime by visiting <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/annual-diocesan-appeal-2021/>.

FY Income/Expense: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

BALANCE SHEET

Checking & Savings	\$99,840.30
Receivables	0.00
Cont. Savings Church Furnishings	1,854.78
Contingency General Savings	10,765.30
Contingency Education Fund	24,813.13
Building Maint. Savings	107,869.04
Land	66,376.00
Land Improvements	86,442.29
Buildings & Improvements	642,007.48
Furniture & Equipment	216,917.22
Religious Articles	2,992.37
TOTAL ASSETS	1,259,877.91

Loan Principal (PPP)	0
Amounts held for others	1,746.29
Sound System	9,346.00
Diocesan Donations	
Fund Balance account	1,248,785.62
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	1,259,877.91

INCOME:

New Building Funds	18,197.00
Collections	383,815.92
Merchandise Donations	816.28
PPP Loan Forgiveness	32,347.50
Memorials	1,965.00
Subtotal Contributions	437,141.70

Parish Activities	10,447.05
Fall Festival	6,975.00
Parish Income	17,452.05

Reimbursements	7,532.62
Interest & Dividends	2,658.30
Misc./Facility Income	930.00
Miscellaneous Income	11,120.92

TOTAL INCOME	\$465,714.67
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*Contingency Building Savings	\$26,197.00
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*moved to balance sheet at year end

EXPENSES:

Salaries	132,065.10
Employee Benefits	52,736.33
Continuing Education	590.00
Employee Screening	0.00
Subtotal Salary/Benefits	185,391.43

Computer/IT	2,744.98
Postage	1,960.90
Office Expenses	10,049.53.
Subtotal Office Expenses	14,755.41

Worship Aids	1,560.92
Liturgical Supplies	6,458.09
Choir Expenses	1,695.58
Special Events	3,875.88
Service to Parishioners	2,177.42
Subtotal Aid/Event Expenses	15,767.89

Household/Table Expenses	6,210.42
Travel Expenses	4,629.05
Subtotal Expenses	10,839.47

Utilities	27,989.44
Equipment & Building	34,303.58
Assessments/Donations	40,963.94
Subtotal Parish Costs	103,256.96

Grade School Religious Ed	4,255.88
Atriums/Cat. Of the Good Shep.	4,415.57
Middle/High School Ed.	8,455.06
Adult Education	6,784.17
Parish Education & RCIA	2,321.66
Subtotal Rel. Ed Program	26,232.34

Assistance/Gifts	1,392.95
Parish Activities	3,378.65
Fund Raising Costs	0.00
Interest Payments on Loan	0.00
Capital Improvements	26,269.66
Subtotal Misc. Expenses	31,041.25

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$387,284.76
Adjusted Net Difference	\$52,232.91

"Assessments/Donations" (right column) includes \$850 per month of support for our Sister Parishes in Corson County and \$27,159.94 paid to the Rapid City Catholic Schools to support the 34 student parishioners enrolled from Our Lady of the Black Hills.

LOOKING AHEAD

PROPOSED BUDGET: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

PROJECTED INCOME

New Building Funds	17,000.00
Collections	404,000.00
Merchandise Donations	1000.00
New Rectory	0.00
Subtotal Contributions	420,000.00
Parish Activities	10,150.00
Fall Festival	7,000.00
Parish Income	17,150.00
Reimbursements	7,000.00
Interest & Dividends	1,800.00
Misc./Facility Income	800.00
Miscellaneous Income	9,600.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$448,750.00

PROJECTED EXPENSES:

Salaries and Benefits	193,688.00
Continuing Education	2,000.00
Employee Screening	0.00
Subtotal Salary/Benefits	194,142.00
Office Supplies	2,000.00
Computer Supplies	1,500.00
Postage	1,500.00
Office Expenses	8,500.00
Subtotal Office Expenses	13,565.00
Worship Aids	500.00
Liturgical Supplies	12,150.00
Choir Expenses	1,500.00
Special Events	1,500.00
Service to Parishioners	2,600.00
Subtotal Aid/Event Expenses	18,250.00
Household/Table Expenses	6,700.00
Travel Expenses	5,500.00
Subtotal Expenses	12,200.00
Utilities	27,800.00
Equipment & Building	35,130.00
Assessments/Donations	49,600.00
Subtotal Parish Costs	112,530.00
Grade School Religious Ed	7,000.00
Atriums/Cat. Of the Good Shep.	7,000.00
Middle/High School Ed.	11,750.00
Adult Education	8,650.00
Parish Education	4,000.00
Subtotal Rel. Ed Program	38,400.00
Assistance/Gifts	1,800.00
Parish Activities	8,050.00
Annual Building/Land Improvements	28,500.00
Misc	8,000.00
Subtotal	46,350.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$435,437.00

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving is very helpful to our budget in projecting income, expedient bookkeeping, and secure transactions.

Please consider donating online. You can learn more by visiting olbh.org/donations. There you can make one time or recurring donations designated as you wish.

If you need assistance setting up online giving, please contact Katie in the office at 787-5168.

OLBH Councils and Committees

Pastoral Council

The purpose of the pastoral council is to act as a consultative body to the pastor. By collaborative exchange it seeks to discern the pastoral needs and goals of the parish. It promotes the best interests of the parish by making recommendations for its management and development, both spiritual and temporal. Finally, it serves as a medium whereby any and all members of the parish may make known their views on parish matters. All are welcome to attend any meeting.

Members Include:

Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, Deacon Greg Sass, Deacon John Osnes, Cathleen Denekamp (Chair), Brad Blauvelt, Robert Weaver, Barb Landers, Tee Burress, Brenda Flottmeyer, Lorinda Collings, Bridgette Fode, and Erik Haakedahl

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM in the parish hall.

Leadership Night

Leadership Nights are hosted on the second Thursday of each month beginning in the Church with evening prayer and then breaking out into commissions/councils, and committees. All are invited to attend and to lend their voice and hands to aiding in furthering the mission of OLBH. Councils meeting that night include Stewardship Council, Administration Commission, Evangelization Commission, Catholic Outreach Commission, and Worship Commission. For more information on how to be a part of the commissions or to aid the councils/commissions in planning or projects please contact the office.

*The Catholic Outreach Commission and the Worship Commission are in need of additional members.

Finance Council

The Finance Council provides assistance to the pastor in applying the principles of good stewardship in utilizing all parish resources, both human and financial. The council meets quarterly with the pastor in order to review and approve the annual budget, recommend business management policies of the parish and to address human resource issues including salaries and insurance, offer long term recommendations on management of the financial resources of the parish, advise regarding maintenance and facilities improvements.

Members include:

Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, Leisa Nash (Chair), Trista Hedderman (Vice Chair), James Johns, Larry Williamson, Ryan Turnquist, Tom Collings, Eric Scherr and Lorinda Collings

Discipleship Commission

The purpose of the Discipleship Commission is to support the faith formation programs and to guide their development in accordance with the parish purpose statement, vision, core values, priorities, and goals. It serves to foster cooperation, coordination, and communication among those involved in faith formation at OLBH. Meetings are held quarterly and are open.

Members include:

Deacon Greg Sass (Chair), Deacon John Osnes, Teresa Thompson, Amy Haakenson, Rhonda Gehlsen, Brad Blauvelt, Brenda Czmoswski, Lisa Katzenstein, and Stacy Tate.



Pastor: Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek

Pastoral Team: Deacon couples Walt & Judy Wilson (retired), John & Joni Osnes, and Greg & Nancy Sass.

Staff: Rhonda Gehlsen, Lorinda Collings, Amy Haakenson, Lorraine Rieth-Ptacek, Todd Philippe, Erik Haakedahl, and Katie Harwood



This year we learned that we have a statue of Our Lady of the Black Hills.

Randy Eckman visited the Black Hills in 2004. He was at the Needles highway lookout when he noticed the thick trees looked similar to a mantle covering the mountains, then he thought that the Blessed Mother has a mantle of spiritual protection that she places over her children who have a devotion to her.

He wondered if there was an Our Lady of the Black Hills statue or church authorized by the Diocese. He stopped of at the Chancery and was directed to Piedmont. He spoke to the pastor of that time, Fr. Mark McCormick, and asked about a statue. He drew a sketch and placed pine trees on the mantle of the Mary statue.

A famous Cuban painter was in the Twin Cities at the time, Mario Fernandez. He agreed to paint the statue for free. Fr. Mark received and blessed the statue.

The statue is currently on display in Fr. Andrzej's office as we work toward finding a way to best display the statue of Our Lady of the Black Hills.

*Sign up for the *NEW* parish directory today!*

<https://www.olbh.org/parish-directory-photos>



Our Lady of the Black Hills

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Piedmont, SD 57769

Olbh.org

Address