

Saint Mary's Rectory

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August 29, 2018

My Dear Friends,

Once again, I have the pleasure of recapping some exciting activities at St. Mary's in the past year while asking for your continued support for our Grand Annual Appeal. This year is a little different in that I now write to you as your Pastor. His Eminence, Sean Cardinal O'Malley named me as the Pastor of St. Mary's effective this past June 2nd. In the day to day responsibilities that are mine, the change has been minimal. But, as for the stability and the official designation, it has made me immensely happy and proud. Despite these difficult times, the Church is enduring, I love being here at St. Mary's; we have an exceptional parish and much of that is directly attributable to the good and holy work that you do. As we move forward as a stand-alone collaborative in Phase 6 of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, "Disciples in Mission", we have a wonderful momentum behind us.

Proof that the present struggles cannot and will not dampen our zeal, we have had another exciting and activity filled year at St. Mary's. We have enjoyed what has become an annual tradition of the Blessing of the Bikes in coordination with the Sharon American Legion Riders. We also took some time to enjoy some sociability as a parish with the annual parish picnic. The devotional areas were built through the generous donation of a parishioner and a portion of the proceeds from the Christmas Fair and we have planned a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land for this February. For those that cannot join us on that trip, not to worry. There have already been some preliminary discussions about a parish pilgrimage to Rome in the coming years. Stay tuned!

These activities pale in importance to the central reason we exist: the worship of Christ Almighty in the celebration of His Sacraments. In this area, too, we have been incredibly active. Not only have we celebrated the Eucharist as a community, but we have started a Children's Liturgy of the Word program, we will be beginning a "Cherub Choir" for our youngest parishioners once a month, and we have our popular Coffee Hour after the 9am Mass. All of this in addition to the solemn duty of burying our beloved deceased, the joy of Baptizing our children, and the Anointing of the sick at home and in medical facilities. We experience the healing of Our Lord in the Confessional and we go the Doolittle Home monthly for Mass and to the Pondville Correctional Facility regularly for Mass and Confessions. We have presentations and Bible Studies. All of this is holy work made possible by the people of St Mary's parish and by focusing on what Jesus Christ can accomplish, we can be confident in the face of adversity.

No priest becomes a priest because he enjoys fundraising and asking for money. I'm no exception. In particular at a time when the Church has disappointed so many of us. However, I'd be failing in my duty to you if I didn't make clear that all of this good and exciting work relies on your generosity. I'm also very aware that there are many pressing concerns on where and how you spend your money. These decisions are a matter of conscience and should be made in consultation with your family with your needs in mind. I do ask, though, that when you set out your budget you remember that the Church, and this parish, are not mere charities among many. Giving to the Church is a Corporal Work of Mercy and a Precept of the Church.

The Grand Annual proceeds have been allocated to pay for many of the activities already mentioned earlier in this letter as well as providing a budget for the new parish social committee, the salary of a new Youth Minister, and the unavoidable costly repairs that our aging rectory required; these included replacement of the front steps, new carpeting in the Religious Education office, and repairs due to a burst pipe.

There are so many reasons to be proud of this parish. I take pride in being your pastor and I know you can take justifiable pride in all of the good things we are accomplishing together. I thank you for whatever you can give, especially your prayers. May God bless you all and know you all remain in my prayers.



Rev. Matthew J. Westcott

St. Mary Parish
Profit & Loss Prior Year Comparison
July 2017 to June 2018

	<u>Jul 17 - June 18</u>	<u>Jul 16 - June 17</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Offertory	415,903	426,941
On-line Giving	38,286	2,025
Holy Days	3,745	3,501
Parish Fuel Collection	9,609	9,578
Grand Annual	101,954	71,037
Scaramental Offerings	43,334	27,372
Catholic Appeal Rebate	4,202	686
Religious Education	45,240	46,915
Donations - Organ	5,565	71,180
Donations - Other	16,060	14,876
St. Mary Scholarship	1,752	1,252
Christmas Fair	32,330	29,897
Other Income	9,715	78,065
Other Sources of Income	14,817	16,940
Total Income	742,512	800,265
<u>Expenses</u>		
Staff Salaries	298,357	257,453
Non Employee Compensation	10,655	3,385
Staff Insurance, Taxes & Benefits	33,159	27,618
Clergy Stipends	65,196	63,582
Clergy Insurance & Benefits	31,691	29,282
Scholarships	6,000	2,000
Office Supplies, Telephone & Computer	13,779	23,475
Books & Pamphlets	14,597	32,387
Household	22,445	16,895
Utilities	39,915	32,295
Maintenance Grounds	30,098	28,413
Maintenance Buildings & Supplies	11,661	10,651
Pastoral/ Liturgical	46,976	41,354
Meetings and Workshops	7,755	5,407
Acq/Improvements - Site	2,825	4,170
Acq/Improvements - Furn & Equip	12,660	81,380
Acq/Improvements - Building	23,512	3,180
Central Monthly Tithe	47,361	45,625
Other Expenses	46,362	50,215
Total Expenses	765,004	758,767
Net Income (Loss)	(22,492)	41,498

St. Mary Parish - Cemetery
Profit & Loss Prior Year Comparison
July 2017 to June 2018

	<u>Jul 17 - June 18</u>	<u>Jul 16 - June 17</u>
<u>Cemetery Income</u>		
Sale of Lots	32,100	19,180
Openings & Annual Care	31,208	29,048
Cremation Opening	5,935	1,350
Foundations & Concrete Burial Units	23,672	16,023
Interest & Market Gain (Loss) on Investment	9,471	13,747
Misc Income	880	50
Total Income	103,266	79,398
<u>Cemetery Expenses</u>		
Operating Expenses Contract	72,491	65,975
Concrete Burial Units	4,960	1,920
Improvements	2,942	0
Facilities Maintenance & Utilities	930	354
Misc Expense	606	0
Total Expense	81,929	68,249
Cemetery Net Income (Loss)	21,337	11,149