



ST. MARY
CATHOLIC PARISH
LITTLETON

2017 Stewardship Report



From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the priests of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as well as the St. Mary Parish & School faculty and staff, ministry leaders, and councils, I am pleased to provide you with the actual results of operations for the 2016/2017 fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. I hope that this report helps you to more fully understand the resources that are required to minister to our parish and school. More importantly, after reading this report, it is my hope that you see the crucial role your gift plays in bearing fruit in our parish family.

In my homily at the Marian Festival on October 10, I shared with you that this year we will be looking at the places where God is working, transforming, and doing good things for us. The first and most important place that He works is in us, through the sacraments of the church. Therefore, our theme for the year is *Sacraments: A New Beginning for the Family*. As we begin the implementation of the Archbishop's plan for the Restored Order of the Sacraments this year (Baptism, Confirmation and then First Holy Eucharist), we will be talking about those sacraments of Christian Initiation which are the foundation of all our Christian life throughout the coming months. We want to walk with you as we all seek to understand and live more richly our Christian mission by engaging fully in the sacramental grace God is bestowing upon us every day.



As you know, the most important sacrament is the Holy Eucharist; it should be the source and summit of our Christian lives. If that is true, then what we really want is to love the Eucharist, to be centered in the Eucharist, to live out of the Eucharist. Most importantly, we really want to live so as to become the Eucharist as a parish, as individuals, and most of all as families. In fact, the recently announced capital project will help support our call to live as a Eucharistic family. While

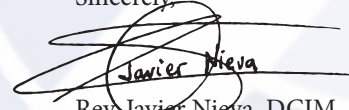
you will be hearing more about this in 2018, our focus at this time is how our regular Gift of Treasure is vital to the day to day health and operation of the parish and school.

What we really want is to love the Eucharist, to be centered in the Eucharist, to live out of the Eucharist.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for your support of St. Mary Catholic Parish and School. As good stewards, you have continued to share your time, talent and treasure in some amazing ways! As always, if you have questions, please call the office

and you will be directed to someone who can assist you. May God Bless you, and I look forward to the next phase of our walk together toward holiness!

Sincerely,


Rev. Javier Nieva, DCJM
Pastor

From the Principal

Dear St. Mary Community,

On behalf of the St. Mary School faculty and staff, I am pleased to update you on the progress we are making as a school. In my second year here as principal of St. Mary Catholic School, it is a pleasure to reflect on the success we had last year as we look forward to the 2017-2018 school year.

Our enrollment has held steady. We currently have 468 students which is only a slight decrease from this time last year. We expanded our four-year-old preschool program this year to allow an option for children to be with us up to five days a week as well as for full school days. These new options were well received by our families and our preschool program is truly thriving.

Academically, we are strong and growing stronger. Our students consistently perform above grade-level expectation and demonstrate strong growth year over year across all grade levels in both language arts and math. Another way of viewing this success is the fact that at



We are able to be deeply rooted in our Catholic faith and tradition while simultaneously excelling academically.

each grade level tested, third through eighth, our students performed above grade level and improved by more than the equivalent of one school year. These results illustrate that it is most definitely possible to achieve "Heaven AND Harvard;" that is, we are able to be deeply rooted in our Catholic faith and tradition while simultaneously excelling academically.

One meaningful activity that we engage in as a school family is called Caring Communities. These communities are made up of about 24 students each in grades one through eight. Each "community" has about three students from each grade level. We come together approximately once a month to perform service projects, pray, and gain a deeper understanding of our faith. During our most recent gathering, Caring Communities created bags with necessities for Christ in the City volunteers to distribute to the Denver homeless. It is a beautiful way that our older students can witness to the younger.

We also continue to dig deeper into our understanding of the Disciples' *Educational Covenant*, and the role we as educators play in

Stewardship



Why Do We Give?

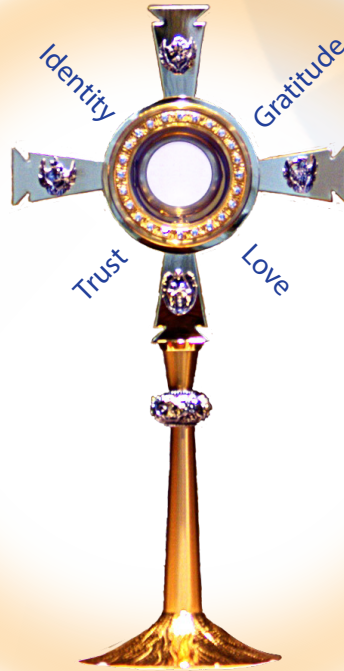
God asks only for a tithe, or a tenth, in thanksgiving for what he has done. But what should you give? He asks us to give of our time, talent, and treasure, not because he has a need for these gifts, but because he knows that we need to give for our own happiness. Then, when he sees our response in love, he gives us even more of his love and grace. So, what begins as a gift from God, becomes a gift to God, and results in a greater outpouring of love and grace from God. The Stewardship categories of Time, Talent, and Treasure underscore the four core values of an authentically lived Christian life: identification with Christ, trust in God, gratitude toward God, and love for God and each other.

We identify with Christ

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my entire will.

We trust in God.

All that I have and possess. You have given all to me.



We are grateful.

To You, O Lord, I return it. All is Yours; dispose of it wholly according to Your will.

We love.

Give me Your love and Your grace, for this is sufficient for me.

(From the Principal, cont.)

helping our students flourish in their friendship with Christ. With the spiritual guidance of our chaplain Fr. James, we are discovering the beauty, blessings, and responsibilities of being teachers.

Our students pray the Angelus daily and celebrate the Eucharist as a school community during our weekly Friday Mass. This year we have incorporated the parish theme, *Sacraments: A New Beginning for the Family*, and began the year by revisiting baptismal symbols and practices. These practices help us to remain mindful of the many blessings we have been granted by God, and to continue to say “yes” every day to the work God calls us to do as we create a rich and deeply spiritual educational environment here in our school.

Sincerely,

Jim Baker
Principal

Parish Sacraments 2016–2017

St. Mary Parish celebrated these sacraments during the past year:

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| • Baptism: | 80 |
| • Marriage: | 20 |
| • Confirmation: | 74 |
| • First Communion: | 85 |

There were 24 candidates and catechumens participating in this past year's Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) process.





Answering Our

Martha's Ministry: Serving like Martha with the Heart of Mary

In October 2016, a new ministry called Martha's Ministry was formed to offer girls a special way to serve during the liturgy. "It's a unique opportunity for young ladies ages 11–18 to serve the Lord in the capacity that Martha served him in Bethany," says Julie Hecker, the ministry leader for Martha's Ministry. Through this ministry, girls have the opportunity to serve as greeters, ushers, and lectors.

But it offers the girls more than just a way to serve. Through their service in the liturgy, the girls learn more intimately how to serve with the love and generosity of the Blessed Mother. They are completely wrapped up in the flow of the liturgy and focused on the needs of the congregation. "It's a win-win," Julie says. "It's a win for the girls because they are learning service, and a win for the parishioners who are happy to see them."

Currently, Martha's Ministry is made up of a team of 15 girls. Julie hopes that as the ministry continues to grow she will be able to offer mini-retreats and also give some of the older girls more responsibilities such as scheduling and coordinating the younger girls.

Being a lector is an optional part of the ministry. Not every member of Martha's Ministry chooses to read at Mass, but several do. Julie has had the opportunity to see the girls' nervousness before Mass, and to witness the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that happens

as they proclaim God's Word. "It's very frightening for them," she says, "but when they are proclaiming the Word, it becomes proclaiming the Word and not just performing a deed. It is beautiful to see them transform."



Julie has also been blessed to see how these girls grow in their ministry. "They understand that there is an importance and a need. That they can fulfill it is exciting [for them]." The ministry's particular focus is not, however, just to fill a need. It is to help the girls grow in the virtues of the Blessed Mother: generosity, humility, faithfulness, charity, and serving in love. It is this emphasis that is the true heart of Martha's Ministry. Julie pointed out that people often forget that women were present during the Last Supper. They were the ones waiting on Jesus and his disciples; they were in the background, witnessing and serving as Jesus spoke the first Eucharistic prayer. It is the same for the girls who serve in Martha's Ministry. They are quiet witnesses and participants in the liturgy through their service and attention to the needs of the congregation.

Julie is excited about what the future may hold for Martha's Ministry. She hopes that it will continue to expand and be an opportunity for growth in service for more young ladies and a source of joy for our parishioners as they watch these girls cultivate the virtues of Mary in their own hearts and lives.

Extraordinary Ministers: Becoming the Hands and Feet of Christ

Imagine you are sick and in the hospital, or cut off from your faith community by disabilities that leave you homebound. Imagine how lonely and spiritually desolate it would feel. Now, imagine that someone, out of their generosity reaches across the void and offers to bring you the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith.

Every Sunday, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC's) offer their time and talent to assist in bringing Christ to our parish family during the Mass. What we don't see on a regular basis, however, are those that do not serve during the Mass, but travel to bring Christ in the Eucharist to those who are sick or homebound.

Teresa Birdsall, the Liturgy and Spiritual Life Coordinator here at St. Mary Parish, says that the EMHC's to the Sick and Homebound is one of the most beautiful ministries because "you really are living out your baptismal grace of priest, prophet and king." The EMHC truly becomes the hands and feet of Christ. Teresa goes on to say that there is never a time you need Christ as much as when you are sick, alone or homebound: "It's so significant!"

Teresa had the opportunity to be on the receiving end of her ministry when her father was in the hospital for heart problems. She said that they were too far from St. Mary Parish for our ministers to come. However, even though they did not call or in

any way request a Eucharistic Minister to come, someone just showed up from another parish. "In that moment when [the EMHC] was at his bedside and holding the body of Christ, I felt immense peace and comfort. [My father] was able to receive Jesus and all fear was banished despite the uncertainty," Teresa relates.



Baptismal Call



Besides the outstanding gift of bringing Christ to the person, these ministers also offer comfort and emotional support. "It's a very relational kind of ministry," she says. The EMHC's to the Sick and Homebound form relationships with the people they serve. They also become a bridge between the parish and the recipient by contacting the parish with the person's needs and bringing bulletins and other information back to the recipient.

The EMHC's to the Sick and Homebound visit Littleton Adventist Hospital, Libby Bortz Assisted Living, the Lifecare Center, the Gardens at Columbine Assisted Living, Amity Plaza Senior Living, RiverPointe Senior Living, Wind Crest Senior Living, Health South, and Porter Hospice in addition to rehabilitation centers in Littleton and the personal homes of homebound parishioners. The EMHC's to the Sick and Homebound have brought Communion to at least 55 homebound parishioners over the last year, which does not include the people they have served in the various facilities they visit. Teresa's current team of

EMHC's to the Sick and Homebound consists of about 15 ministers. While the training process can vary in length, she said that from start to finish, it generally takes only five days to two weeks to get a new minister trained and ready to go.

But the person receiving Christ is not the only one who benefits from this ministry. As anyone who serves knows, they often receive far more than they give away. "That's the paradox of love: the more you give away, the more you receive," Teresa says.

Many of the EMHC's to the Sick and Homebound have also related that their ministry enriches their faith in their growing understanding and appreciation for the Eucharist. "The most important thing they have to have is that really deep love and awareness of, and full belief in, the True Presence," Teresa says. It is this one requirement that makes this ministry a particularly deep, rich, visual and public outpouring of our faith.

Prayer Quilt Ministry: Celebrating Seven Years of Outreach

In 2010, Lila Engelbert approached Fr. Alvaro, with a new ministry idea. She had heard about the Prayer Quilt Ministry from a good friend of hers in Kansas. While not being new to quilting (she has been quilting for about 30 years) the idea struck a chord. When she heard about the ministry, she says she felt compelled to do it. Fr. Alvaro loved the idea, and the Prayer Quilt Ministry at St. Mary Parish was born. In fact, he was so excited about the idea that he wanted Lila and her team to make quilts for every pregnant mother at St. Mary Parish. While that was a bit beyond the capacity of Lila and her team, they have made several quilts for pregnant mothers through the years.

It has now been seven years since Lila first approached Fr. Alvaro, and the ministry is still going strong. In addition to pregnant mothers, Lila and her sewers have made and given out 1,458 quilts to those having surgery, the ill, and people in need of emotional support. Some of these quilts have also gone to a number of children born with complications or who were facing serious illness. The ladies simply make as many quilts as they can and drop them off at Lila's house. Then, when a call comes in, the quilt is ready to go. All that remains is to ask for the prayers of parishioners and the blessing of a priest.

The beauty of this ministry is two-fold. First, the person is receiving a quilt blessed by a priest, which gives the recipient spiritual comfort. Second, the quilt is covered in tiny knots tied by parishioners after they've said a prayer for the recipient. So, the quilts bring with them the spiritual blessing of the priest along with the support and

prayers of our parish family. Some recipients have mentioned noticing an improvement right away after receiving the quilts; others have simply commented on how much comfort the quilts bring them just with the knowledge that so many people are praying for them.

Lila has also experienced the gift of her ministry from the receiving end. In September, 2015, she fell and fractured her back and her ministers brought her a prayer quilt while she was recovering. She related how much emotional, spiritual, and physical comfort the quilt brought her during that time.

Lila is deeply grateful to the DCJM who have supported the ministry through the last seven years by their willingness to take the time to bless the prayer quilts. She is particularly grateful to Fr. Alvaro and Dcn. Greg for their support in getting the ministry started, and to the ministry's various donors (both financial and material) throughout the years. Finally, Lila is grateful to her team of sewers. "I have wonderful ladies that work with me. They are just wonderful! And they all feel the same way about the ministry."

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is one of the many blessings we have here at St. Mary Parish.

It is a ministry that, from its inception, is truly a heartfelt "yes" to God's call to give. What is truly amazing about the Prayer Quilt Ministry is the sense of mission felt by Lila and her team. For them, their ministry is a call and a gift. It is their way to offer their God-given talent back to God and to the people who come to them seeking a means of spiritual and emotional comfort in their time of need.





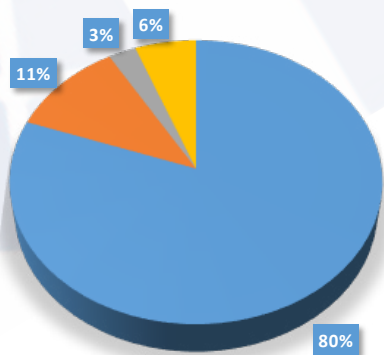
Stewardship

Parish Income & Expenses

FY 2016–2017

Operating Income

Offertory	\$2,371,286
Ministry & Program Income	\$324,190
Other Operating Income	\$77,602
Investment Income	\$171,002
Total Income	\$2,944,080

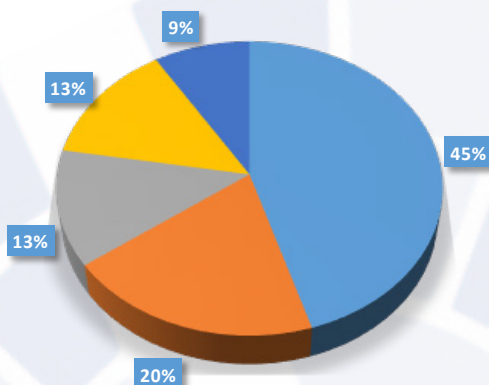


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$1,293,386
General Operating Expense	\$564,903
Ministry & Program Expense	\$363,371
Facilities Expense	\$385,721
Charitable Contributions	\$252,091

Total Operating Expense **\$2,859,471**

Net Operating Surplus **\$84,610**

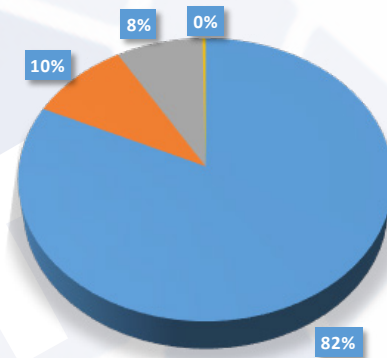


FY 2015–2016

Operating Income

Offertory	\$2,313,279
Ministry & Program Income	\$268,300
Other Operating Income	\$232,087
Investment Income	\$-7,605

Total Income **\$2,806,061**

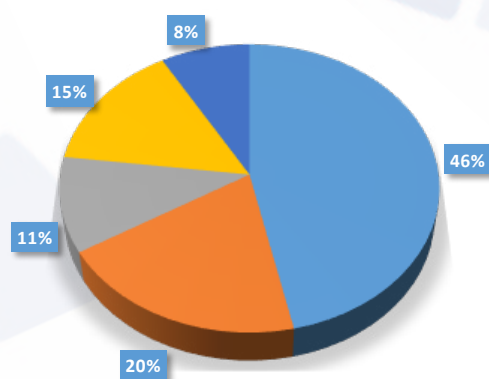


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$1,258,915
General Operating Expense	\$534,179
Ministry & Program Expense	\$287,955
Facilities Expense	\$396,665
Charitable Contributions	\$224,961

Total Operating Expense **\$2,702,675**

Net Operating Surplus **\$103,386**



Notable Parish Financial Items

- Charity tithe is 10% based on projected offertory
- Parish continues to be **debt free**
- Parish continues to meet Archdiocesan liquidity requirements

- Cash and investments: \$2,819,148 (FY 2016–2017)
- Number of families registered: 1,913 (active: 1,742)
- Number of families using Faith Direct: 401 (Oct. 2017)

of Treasure



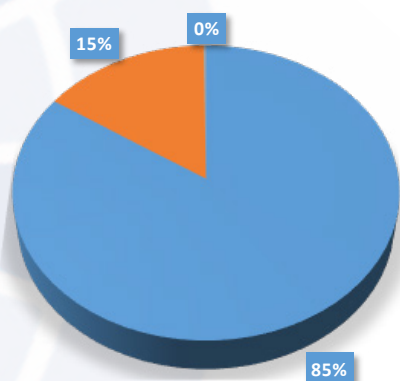
School Income & Expenses

FY 2016–2017

Operating Income

Tuition & Related Income	\$2,307,731
Other School Income	\$419,342
Other Operating Income	\$6,309

Total Income **\$2,733,383**

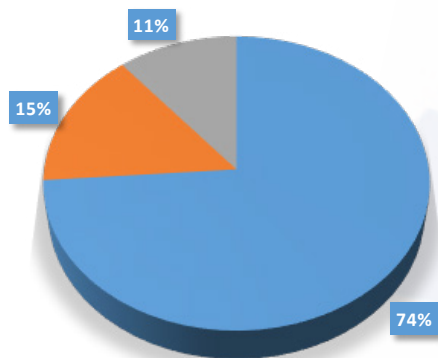


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$2,072,035
School Operating Cost	\$424,760
Facilities Expense	\$309,474

Total Operating Expense **\$2,806,269**

Net Operating Loss **\$-72,886**

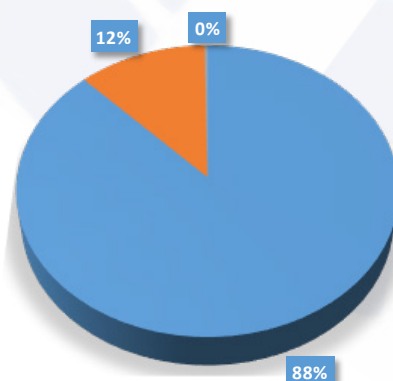


FY 2015–2016

Operating Income

Tuition & Related Income	\$2,130,627
Other School Income	\$288,506
Other Operating Income	\$6,998

Total Income **\$2,426,131**

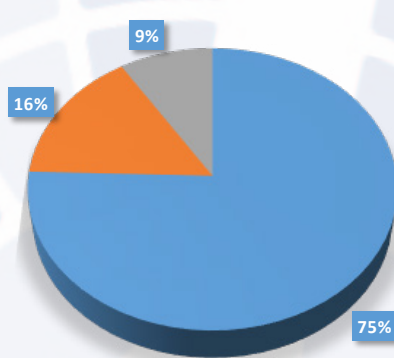


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$1,967,542
School Operating Cost	\$405,174
Facilities Expense	\$234,121

Total Operating Expenses **\$2,606,837**

Net Operating Loss **\$-180,706**



Notable School Information Items

- Number of students: 468 (Oct. 2017)
- Affiliated tuition rate (1 child grades 1-8): \$5,550 (FY 2016–2017)
- \$123,000 in tuition assistance from parish, \$47,000 from outside sources
- School cut losses by 60% from last year



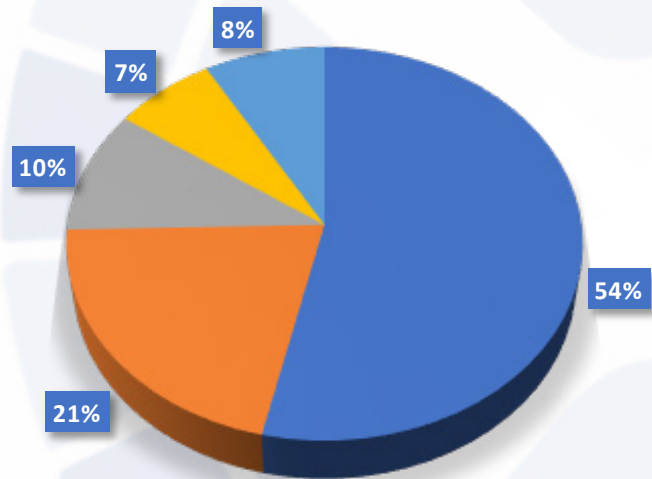
Parish Tithe

What is a Stewardship Parish?

A Stewardship Parish is a parish that gives, serves, and loves generously and gives of its first-fruits to others in need. It recognizes that everything we have has been given to us by God. Because of your generosity, we have tithed 10% of our offertory to these ministries and organizations.

Tithes by Category

Education	\$133,930
Outreach/Social Concern	\$52,683
Vocations & Religious	\$25,300
Mission	\$17,425
Needy Parish/Ministry Support	\$20,753
Total	\$252,091



Top Tithe Recipients

St. Mary School (tuition support)	\$123,000
St. Vincent De Paul	\$24,000
Needy Parish Support	\$15,000
St. Mary School Wash. DC trip (2016)	\$5,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$8,000
Archdiocese Seminary Appeal	\$7,000
Carmelite Monastery	\$6,000
Catholic Charities (St. Veronica)	\$5,000
Parishioner Assistance Fund	\$5,000
FOCUS missions	\$4,300
Dominican Sisters of Binh Duong	\$4,000
Mission Co-Op Appeal—Uganda	\$4,000

Questions or Comments?

If you have questions or comments about this report, please feel free to contact us at 303.798.8506.

- Sarah Norton, Director of Business Operations
- Jim Baker, Principal
- David Suddjian, Director of Liturgy and Worship
- Linda Sherman, Director of Family Life and Service
- Brian Donelson, Director of Catechesis and Evangelization
- Vinny Boscia, Director of Facilities and Maintenance
- Jim Feldhake, Finance Council Chair