



2016 Stewardship Report



ST. MARY
CATHOLIC PARISH
LITTLETON

From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and the faculty, staff, ministry leaders, and councils of St. Mary Parish and School, I am pleased to provide you with the actual results of operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

At the Marian Festival on September 11th, during which we celebrated our Blessed Mother, I posed some questions for us all to reflect upon. Are we (as a society) happier than we were 15 years ago on this anniversary of the 9/11 attacks? Do we have profound hope, do we know truth, and are we truly happy? There is much to discern regarding these questions! I can say with assurance that, in the past fiscal year, we have experienced many reasons for hope. Although we began the year with a slight decline in offertory, we have seen a nice recovery; we began last school year with a decline in enrollment at St. Mary School, but in the last month, we have experienced an increase in enrollment by a total of 30 students. Our youth & children's ministries and adult formation programs are growing and thriving. All of these are very good news and reasons for hope in our future here at St. Mary Parish.

It is well known that our Blessed Mother always points to her son whenever we encounter her; as she told the servants when he performed his first miracle at Cana, she asks us to "do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). When we are baptized, we are



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consecrated by Christ to enter into new life with him as Priest, Prophet and King. As you read the stories in this report, you will see how we at St. Mary Parish and School are living our baptismal call through liturgy and worship (Priest), teaching (Prophet), and service (Servant-King). The events recounted here are only a few of the ways in which we follow Mary's direction and encouragement to follow her Son. There are many more stories to be told about how this community uses the resources you provide through your generous gifts – if you want to know more, our bulletin and website are great resources to find ways to get involved or just see what's going on at the Parish and School.

I hope that this report helps you to more fully understand the beautiful fruit that your gifts can produce in our faith community. I ask you to reflect and pray so that you can fully understand your role in the Church and your commitment to our parish family. As always, if you have questions, please call the parish office and you will be directed to someone who can assist you.

May God Bless you all, and thank you for your continuing support of St. Mary Parish and School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Javier Nieva".

Fr. 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. It is truly my joy to be joining the staff this fall as principal. Currently in my 32nd year as an educator, I am always energized by the students' enthusiasm and excitement for the new school year. This year, indeed, we have great cause for hope.

As the 2015-16 school year ended we had an enrollment of 443 students. As I write this to you today we stand at 476 students with a couple of families discerning the possibility of enrolling additional students. Although a few grade levels are full, we still have room for additional enrollment at most grade levels. Our total ca-



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capacity sits at about 500 students; our goal is to be at capacity within 3-5 years.

Academically we are strong and growing stronger. Our students consistently perform above grade-level expectation and demonstrate strong growth year after year across all grade levels in both language arts and math. 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.

We also plan to share our story with a broader audience. To that end, we have recently added the new half-time position of Development Coordinator. The first ma-

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.

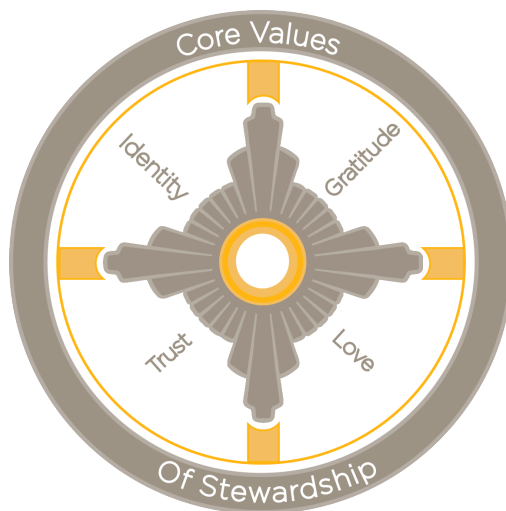
The Stewardship categories of Time, Talent, and Treasure underscore the four core values of an authentically lived Christian life: identification with Christ, trust in God, gratitude toward God, and love for God and each other.

We identify with Christ.

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

We trust 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.)

Our next major undertaking will be to create a central listing of all alumni. This will allow alumni an opportunity to share memories of how they grew spiritually and educationally during their time at St. Mary. We are a tapestry of our past looking toward our future. We want to hear stories from former students and build stories for future students.

A long-term project is to establish and grow an endowment fund with the support of the entire St. Mary community past and present. Once established, this fund will provide financial stability to hedge against tuition expenses.

Finally, we are actively exploring the role of our preschool program. How can we best serve our families with preschoolers? What services do our families and youngest students need most? With these answers we can grow our preschool program with the knowledge that they will one day become our kindergarten and primary students.

Daily, our students pray the Angelus, a special devotion to Mary, who said “yes” to God’s call. We remain mindful of the many blessings we have been granted by God. We continue to say “yes” everyday to the work God calls us to do to create a rich and deeply spiritual and educational environment here in our school.

I am richly blessed to be serving as your principal.

Sincerely,

Jim Baker
Principal

Answering Our

Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet, king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them. (CCC 783)

Priest: Changes Coming to Marriage Preparation

May through September is known to wedding coordinators and marriage preparation ministers across the nation as “Wedding Season.” It is the time when we start seeing ads from David’s Bridal and “Just Married” signs frequently appear on the backs of cars.

On February 14, 2014, Pope Francis said:

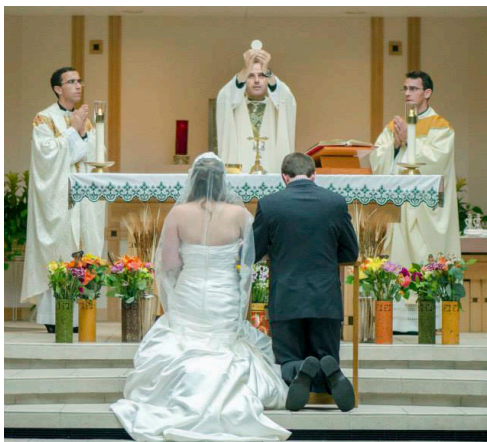
What happened in Cana 2,000 years ago, happens today at every wedding celebration: that which makes your wedding full and profoundly true will be the presence of the Lord who reveals himself and gives his grace. It is his presence that offers the “good wine,” he is the secret to full joy, that which truly warms the heart. (Address to Engaged Couples in Rome)

With these words in mind, the staff at St. Mary Parish are rethinking how we “do” marriage preparation.

Mentor couples have always been the highlight of our marriage preparation process. These couples meet with engaged couples to answer questions and give real-life guidance on what married life is really like. They “[share] their very life with engaged couples” (Michael Muldowney, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator).

While still working in conjunction with Fr. Armando Marsal, DCJM, who will continue to provide lessons on theology to engaged couples, Michael and Brian Donelson (Director of Catechesis and Evangelization) have implemented a new format for the Marriage Preparation program. This new format includes having mentor couples speak at the Marriage Prep Family of Bethany meetings every other month to share the authentic

“lived experience of Christian marriages” (Muldowney). In addition to the bi-monthly meetings, mentor couples will also speak at retreats and will meet one-on-one with engaged couples two to three times before the marriage ceremony. In our previous format, mentor couples would only meet one to two times with the engaged couple before the ceremony, but did not have the opportunity to speak at meetings or retreats, giving the mentor couples only a few opportunities to share their experiences.



Over the past few months, Michael has already seen couples coming into the program begin their marriage with renewed or newly discovered faith. And that, in the end, is what marriage preparation is about. “Marriage Prep is about conversion. It’s about converting yourself and your marriage to Christ ... If we can do that we can bring Christ to the whole family.”

Prophet: Changes Coming to Faith Formation

Faith formation is an ongoing, life-long process for any Catholic. This last year, we at St. Mary Parish have realized that this is also true for faith formation programs! With changes stemming from the Archdiocesan “Restored Order of the Sacraments” and those originating from our own identity as a family of families, the past year has been brimming with change for our Bethlehem Faith Formation program.

“Truly The Eucharist is the Great Sacrament of the Church. The Church celebrates The Eucharist, and at the same time The Eucharist makes the Church” (St. John Paul II, Homily at the Eucharistic Congress in Wroclaw, 1997). In the spirit of St. John Paul II’s words, Archbishop Samuel Aquila has begun the long

anticipated restoration of the order of the sacraments (or simply, the “Restored Order”) throughout the Archdiocese of Denver. The purpose of the Restored Order is to “restore the Sacraments of Initiation to their original order, that is, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist” (Aquila, Saints Among Us). According to Archbishop Aquila “this will make available every sacramental grace the Church has to offer to children who have reached the age of reason.”

Susan Suddjian (Children’s Ministry Coordinator) and Brian Donelson (Director of Catechesis and Evangelization) have been working hard over the last year to make this transition as seamless as possible for our parish.

Baptismal Call

But the Restored Order is not the only change being made within the Bethlehem Faith Formation program. A new family focus is also revitalizing how the faith is being taught. Over the past several years it has become apparent that parents must play an active role in their children's formation if their children are to build a strong foundation of faith that will carry them through the rest of their lives. With this in mind, we are now offering family retreats, sacrament celebrations centered around the whole family, and online catechesis tools and curriculum. These additions are "instrumental in families learning the faith and living the faith together" (Suddjian). Susan also has plans to include a fourth year in which families who just completed the faith formation process will act as mentors to families



currently preparing their children to receive the sacraments.

Parents are also benefitting from our new program format. Over the past year, Susan has seen connections and relationships being built between the parents of children in faith formation. "They are becoming a support system for each other and are learning to embrace their faith and one another" (Suddjian). So, not only are parents taking a more active role in their children's formation, they are also delving more deeply into their own faith in relationship with other families. As we begin a new term, we anticipate that these changes will continue to blossom and continue to have a positive impact on families enrolled in our Bethlehem Faith Formation program.

King: Outreach Efforts at St. Mary Parish

"God created shadows to better emphasize the light" (Pope John XXIII). St. Mary Parish had the unique opportunity to see the truth of these words firsthand this April. On April 6, 2016, a fire on the 4th floor of Southview Place Towers (a senior apartment complex) resulted in the evacuation of over 130 units leaving at least 30 seniors with nowhere to go (9News, April 8, 2016). Many of the evacuees moved in with family on a temporary basis, but for those who had no family living nearby it was a time of intense struggle. The nearby United Methodist Church offered their campus as a temporary shelter where the senior residents were given cots in a room set up as a temporary dormitory. After nearly two weeks of waiting, the 132 displaced seniors were then told that their leases were being terminated due to extensive damage from the fire which would take at least six months to repair (Littleton Independent, April 19, 2016).

However, thanks to the quick response of the Red Cross, the United Methodist Church, several government organizations and our own parish family, what could have been a heartbreaking tragedy turned, instead, into an occasion of hope.

"Within a day's notice or less we had parishioners providing meals," said Linda Sherman, the Director of Parish Life and Service here at St. Mary. In addition to cooking and serving meals at the United Methodist Church and other locations, St. Mary

ministries came together to do what they do best: serve. Stephen Ministers provided a listening ear and emotional support to the distressed residents while St. Vincent de Paul ministers worked with the residents to get them the financial aid they needed. St. Mary Parish also gave a portion of our annual tithe to St. Vincent de Paul for the displaced residents. Other ministries that were involved in the relief effort included the Delores Project, the Knights of Columbus, the Altar and Rosary Society, Families of Bethany, the Mother of Mercy Ministry, and others.



Three of the many who served the residents of Southview Place Towers.

In addition to our ministries, several individual parishioners and parish and school staff members stepped up to help in the relief effort. Julianna Dempsey, the St. Mary Event Coordinator at the time, headed up and coordinated the volunteers from St. Mary until all was resolved and the last of the residents had found lodging at nearby hotels and apartment buildings.

We are grateful to every person who offered their time and talent to serve the displaced seniors in our own parish family and in our Littleton community. It was a rare opportunity to see God at work within our parish family, a "shining example of how our ministries should and can work together to help others" (Sherman). ✠

Stewardship

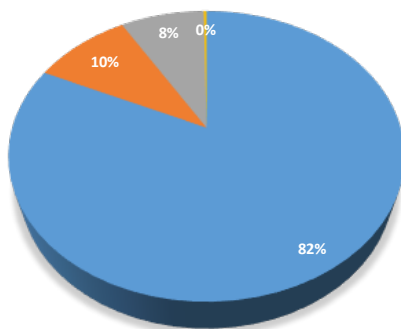
Parish Income & Expenses

FY 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

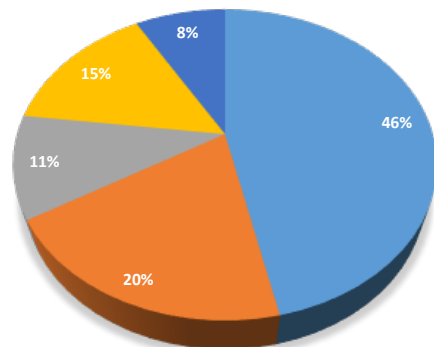


Operating Expenses

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

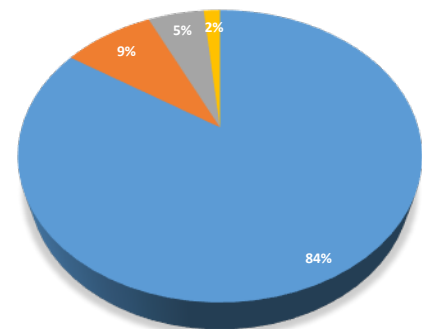


FY 2015

Operating Income

Offertory	\$2,334,085
Ministry & Program Income	\$242,681
Other Operating Income	\$149,639
Investment Income	\$43,512

Total Income \$2,769,917

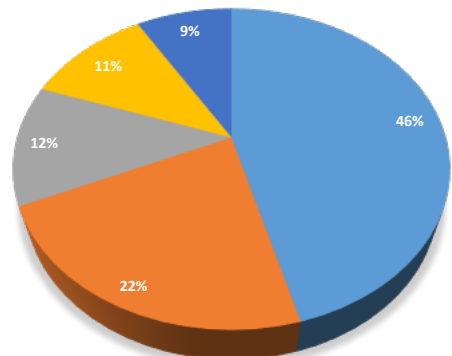


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$1,249,057
General Operating Expense	\$612,823
Ministry & Program Expense	\$331,748
Facilities Expense	\$301,453
Charitable Contributions	\$233,200

Total Operating Expense \$2,728,281

Net Operating Surplus \$41,636



Notable Parish Financial Items

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

- Cash and investments: \$2,703,477 (FY 2016)
- Number of families registered: 1,913 (active: 1,742)
- Number of families using Faith Direct: 308 (Oct. 2016)

of Treasure

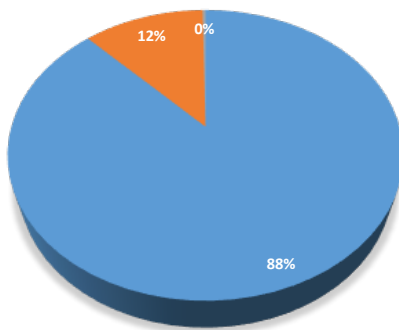
School Income & Expenses

FY 2016

Operating Income

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

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

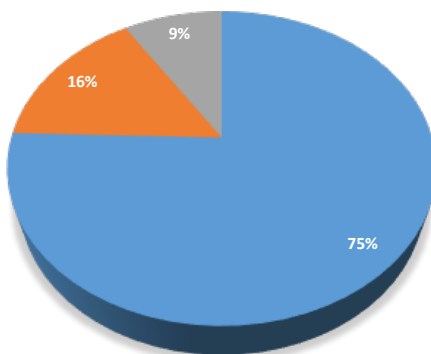


Operating Expenses

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**

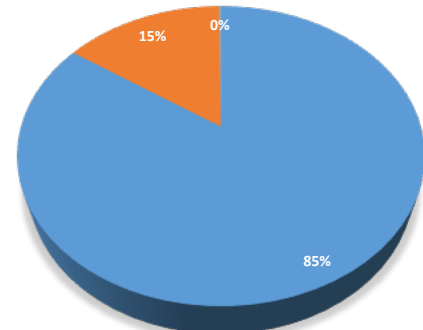


FY 2015

Operating Income

Tuition & Related Income	\$2,330,452
Other School Income	\$417,157
Other Operating Income	\$6,129

Total Income **\$2,753,738**

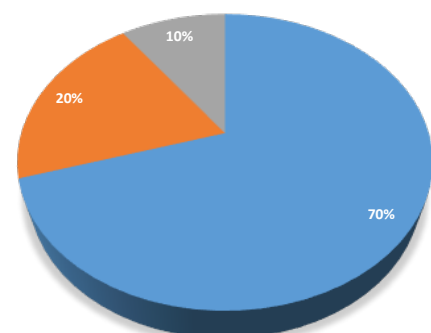


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$1,932,858
School Operating Cost	\$549,906
Facilities Expense	\$272,204

Total Operating Expense **\$2,754,968**

Net Operating Loss **\$-1,230**



Notable School Information Items

- Number of students: 443 (FY 2016), 476 (Oct. 2016)
- Affiliated tuition rate (1 child grades 1-8): \$5,300 (FY 2016), \$5,400 (Oct. 2016)

Parish Tithe

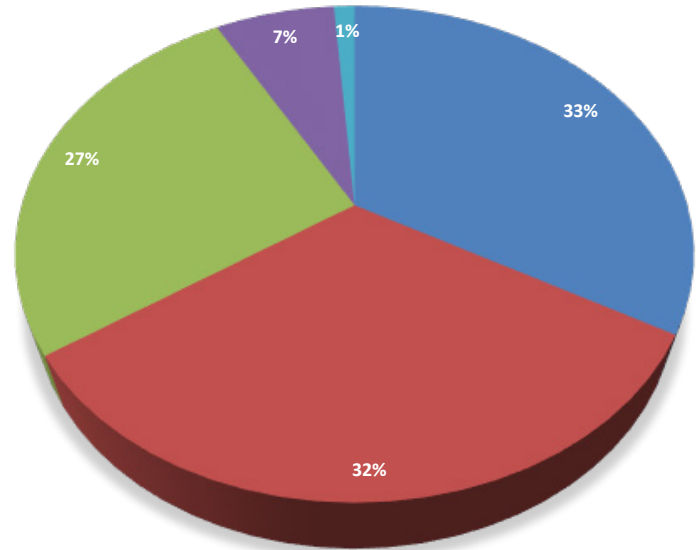
What is a Stewardship Parish?

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

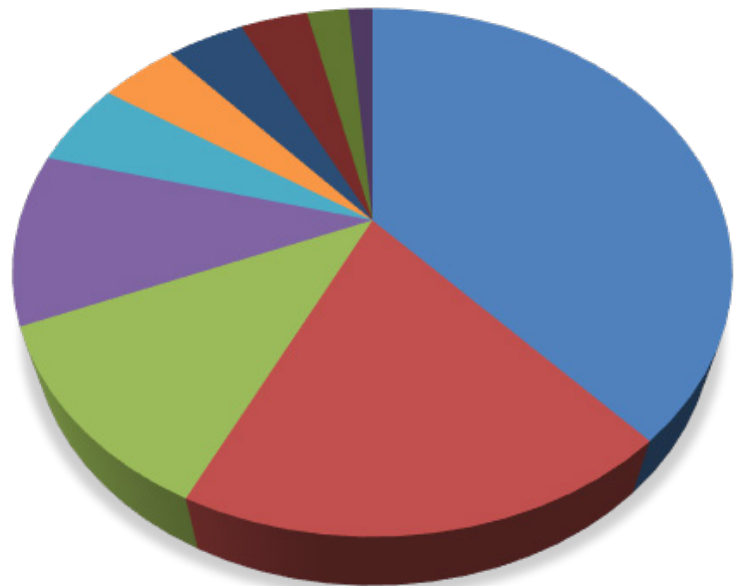
Education	\$75,910
Outreach/Social Concern	\$74,022
Vocations & Religious	\$60,500
Mission	\$15,750
Ministry Support	\$2,717

Total **\$228,899**



Top 10 Tithe Recipients

St. Mary School (tuition)	\$73,137
Archdiocese Needy Parish Support	\$36,000
St. Vincent de Paul	\$22,000
Catholic Charities	\$20,000
Carmelite Sisters	\$10,000
Mission Co-Op Appeal	\$8,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$8,000
Archdiocese Seminaries Appeal	\$7,000
FOCUS	\$4,300
Lighthouse (Respect Life)	\$2,500



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