

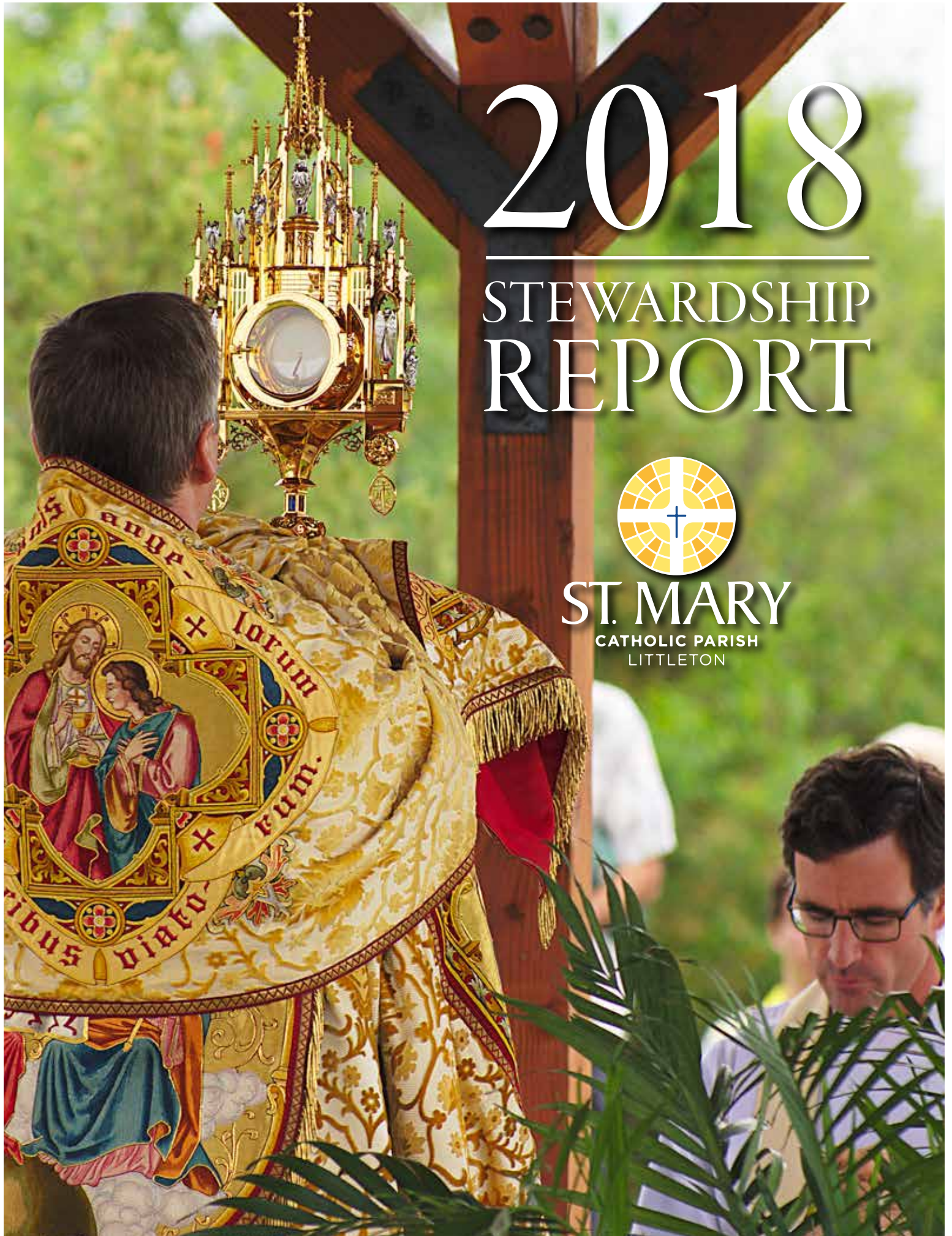
2018

STEWARDSHIP REPORT



ST. MARY

CATHOLIC PARISH
LITTLETON



From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

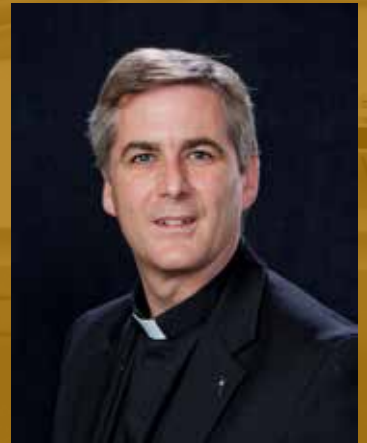
I am pleased to provide you with the results of operations for the 2017/2018 fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 on behalf of the priests of the DCJM as well as the St. Mary Parish & School faculty and staff, ministry leaders, and councils. This report is meant to help you more fully understand the resources that are required to minister to our parish and school. After reading this report, it is my hope that you can see the crucial role your gifts play in the important work of the parish.

Last year, we introduced the theme of Sacraments: A New Beginning for the Family. We reflected on the sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We will continue that reflection this year by focusing on the sacraments of Healing (Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation) and the sacraments at the Service of Communion (Marriage and Holy Orders). At the Marian Festival last month, I shared with you that in the church, we are always in the situation of being healed, like in a hospital. Our fallen nature is in constant need of God's touch to recover strength and hope. God's healing hand gives meaning to our pain and restores our filial dignity. But is the Church only a place to be healed, a place of recovery? So many times, focused on our own needs, we ignore what Saint Paul was praying for the Ephesians: "that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:17-19). And this love is Christ manifested in our own vocations.

Through the sacraments of Marriage or Holy Orders, God gives us a mission, to love others in humble service. This year, as we review these sacraments, we understand that our lives are called to bear much fruit (Jn 15:8). It is time for magnanimity and confidence since, through Christ, from God's fullness, we have all received grace in place of grace (Jn 1:16). In regard to the sacrament of Marriage, this year marked the 50th anniversary of a prophetic document by Pope Paul VI (canonized on October 14th): the Encyclical Humane Vitae. His teachings were resumed and expanded by Pope John Paul II with his teachings on Theology of the Body, showing us that the way God has chosen to reveal his love is the way of the family and human love. With the sacrament of Holy Orders, we will seek to rediscover the place and importance of priesthood in the Church, particularly after the crisis we have experienced of late.

We want to accomplish a lot of great things for your sake, together with the many other things that are part of the life of the Parish: works of charity, catechesis, liturgy and more. Your generous Gift of Treasure to the offertory enables us to do just that, giving us the resources to help our family members encounter Christ in the sacraments and to serve those most in need. Through our many ministries and programs, we seek to enable each of our parish family members to live out their mission and vocation.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support of St. Mary Catholic Parish and School. 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 continuing our walk together toward holiness!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Javier Nieva". The signature is written over a circular stamp that contains the text "Rev. Javier Nieva, DCJM" and "Pastor".

Rev. Javier Nieva, DCJM
Pastor

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

Dear St. Mary Community,

Our school here at St. Mary is a growing, thriving, flourishing environment for our children. We are coming off a year of tremendous reflection and growth.

This year we are focused on the power of our covenants. Our teachers established a strong covenant with each student and parent in the fall and have built upon that ever since. As principal, I established a covenant with teachers and parents. These agreements, in the presence of God, help us to focus on our work while supporting one another and holding each other accountable for communication, hard work, and supporting one another on our spiritual and educational journey.

Our staff has been working over the past year and a half to create and implement a literature-based program which will teach virtues to our students. We call this program the Narrative Project. Each grade level has identified outstanding literature that will teach and reinforce specific virtues. After reading about characters living out the virtue and discussing it in a variety of ways, our students will create a major product to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the virtue. Literature teachers in kindergarten through eighth grade are excited to bring this program to our students.

Academically our Iowa Assessment results continue to be among the highest in the archdiocese with every grade level testing (2nd through 8th) above grade level indicators by at least one full year. We successfully implemented a new writing program titled Every Child A Writer in the elementary school which has helped to bring our children's writing to new heights!

Our enrollment has held steady again this year at 465 students in our preschool through eighth grade. One key figure we monitor to assess our fiscal health is what we refer to as the "cost to educate" that is our school's overall expenditures divided by our number of students. For the 2017-18 school year, our cost to educate was \$6001 per student. This is important because this number reflects a reduction in the amount of the school deficit by about \$20,000 over last fiscal year. We have a master plan in place to continue reducing that deficit by controlling the cost to educate and increasing income moving forward with the ultimate goal of a balanced budget.

I want to thank you, St. Mary parishioners, for your support and dedication to our school. I am richly blessed to be serving as your principal.



Sincerely,

Jim Baker

Jim Baker
Principal

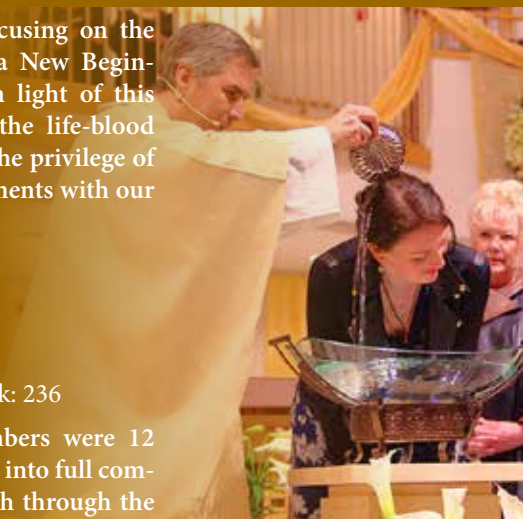
St. Mary

Sacraments

Last year, we began focusing on the theme of Sacraments: a New Beginning for the Family. In light of this renewed emphasis on the life-blood of the Church, we had the privilege of celebrating these Sacraments with our parish family:

- Baptism: 84
- Confirmation: 81
- Marriage: 18
- Funerals: 50
- Anointing of the Sick: 236

Included in these numbers were 12 individuals who entered into full communion with the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Truly a new beginning!

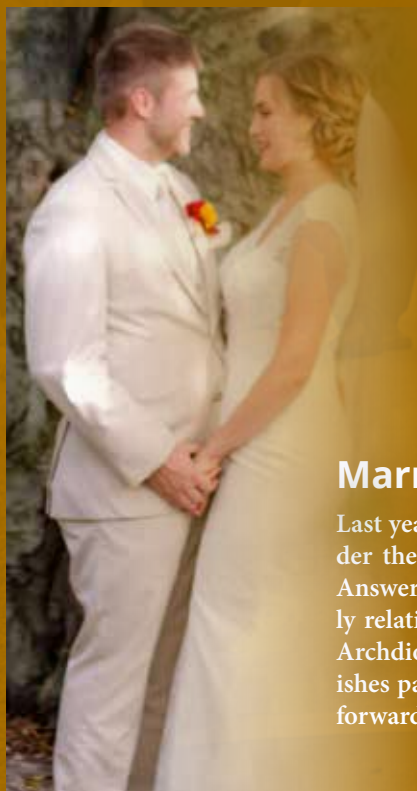


Outreach Ministries

Throughout the year, we continued our tradition of faithful service to those in any kind of need. Here are but a few of our outreach ministries:

- Parish Food Pantry: served 631 households, 1,968 individuals, 205,000 lbs. of food.
- Prayer Quilts: made and distributed 250 quilts.
- St. Vincent de Paul: provided financial assistance to approx. 360 families, including 336 children.

Thanks to your generous support in tithing and other donations, hundreds of individuals and families received physical, spiritual, and emotional sustenance during difficult times. We couldn't do these things without you!



Marriage Preparation

Last year saw a revitalization of the marriage preparation program under the leadership of the Catechesis and Evangelization Department. Answering the call to equip couples for successful marriage and family relationships, the new program drew participants from all over the Archdiocese. In Spring 2018, 20 couples from St. Mary and other parishes participated in the annual marriage preparation retreat. We look forward to building on that success in the coming year.



Highlights

Corpus Christi

The Feast of Corpus Christi on June 3, 2018 was marked by a special, expanded celebration which crowned our parish theme on the Eucharist. We began with 24 hours of Adoration, with music and devotions, starting Saturday morning. Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, we gathered for the traditional procession with the Blessed Sacrament, ending at the newly completed St. Mary Park. There at the pavilion, we finished our celebration with Adoration and Benediction. It was a beautiful time of honoring our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.



St. Mary Park

After several years of stop-and-go work, St. Mary Park finally opened in June 2018. The new park, located in the Northwest corner of the campus behind the school, provides a special space for parishioners to gather for fun and fellowship. Including a pavilion with tables and chairs, a fire pit, a sand volleyball court, and generous green space bordered by the Stations of the Cross, St. Mary Park is the embodiment of our vision to be a family-friendly parish.

A Visit From Padre Pio

On April 11-12, 2018, we were given the honor of hosting the relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, known affectionately as Padre Pio. The event was part of the official American tour of the relics in honor of the 50th anniversary of his passing. Thousands of people from all over Colorado and beyond descended on St. Mary Parish to venerate the relics of the great late-20th century saint. Thanks to the tireless efforts of parish staff and our amazing volunteers, the event was a great success and allowed the beloved saint to once again touch thousands of lives.



Capital Campaign: Charting the Course

In the spring of 2017, St. Mary initiated a feasibility study to assess the need for upgrades to the church and other parish buildings. Of particular interest was the issue of moving the choir loft to the back of the nave. Beginning in May of 2017, Fr. Javier called for a series of six “townhall meetings” to solicit opinions from parishioners and gauge the level of support for such an ambitious project. St. Mary retained the services of noted church architect Steve Baker to present design concepts and explain the importance of architecture to a parish’s worship. The data generated during these and other meetings encouraged the parish to move forward. Working with Baker Architects, LLC and Fransen Pittman General Contractors, we submitted a financial overview of the proposed project to the Archdiocese in February of 2018. The Archdiocese gave its approval for the project and we launched the Capital Campaign in June.

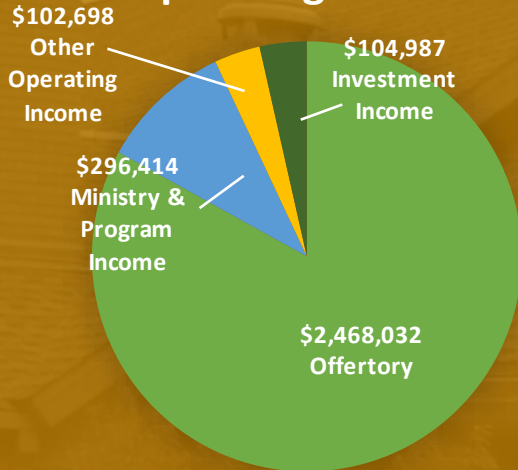


Stewardship

Parish Income & Expenses

FY 2017-2018

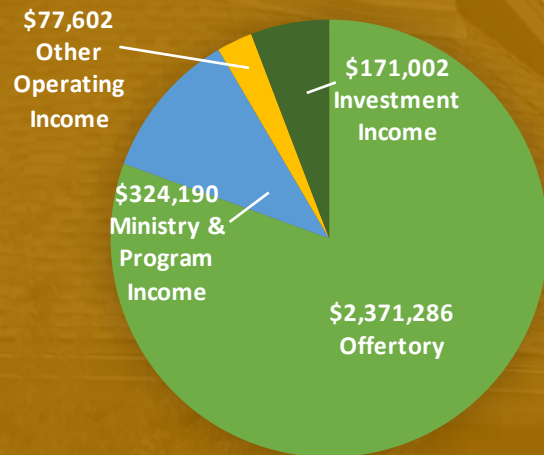
Operating Income



Total: \$2,972,131

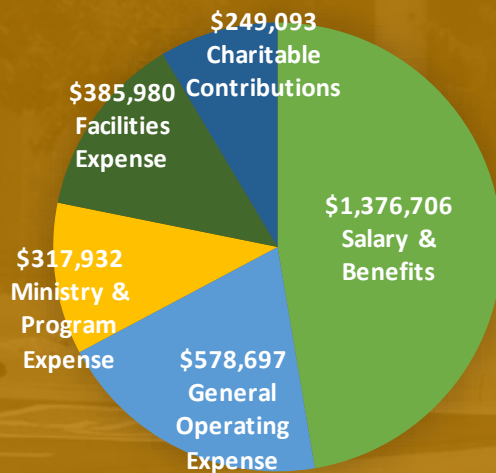
FY 2016-2017

Operating Income



Total: \$2,944,080

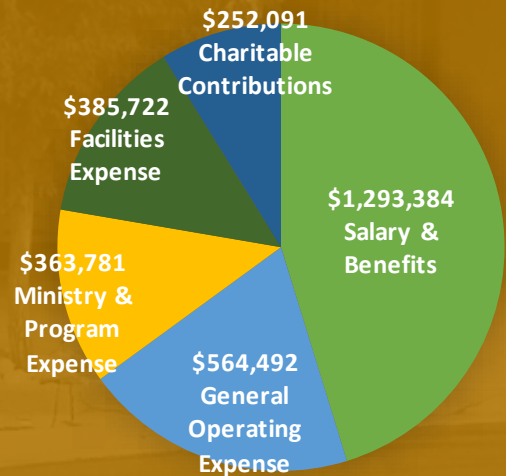
Operating Expenses



Total: \$2,908,408

Net: \$63,723

Operating Expenses



Total: \$2,859,470

Net: \$84,610

Notable Parish Financial Items

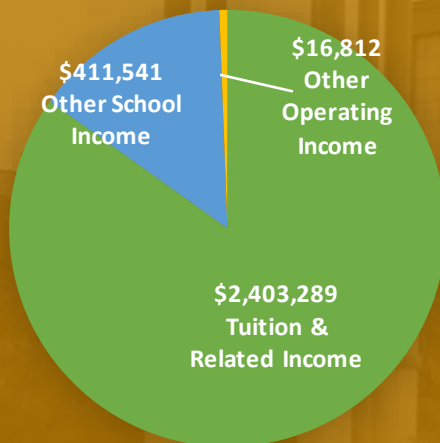
- Charity tithe is 10% based on projected offertory
- Parish continues to be debt free
- Parish continues to meet Archdiocesan liquidity requirements
- Cash and investments: \$2,689,435 (FY 2017-2018)
- Number of families registered: 1,976
- Number of families using Faith Direct: 454 (Oct. 2018)

of Treasure

School Income & Expenses

FY 2017-2018

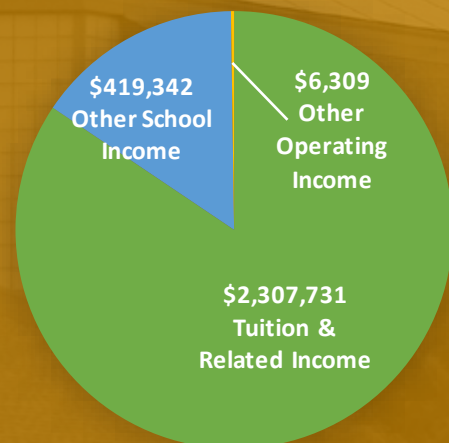
Operating Income



Total: \$2,831,642

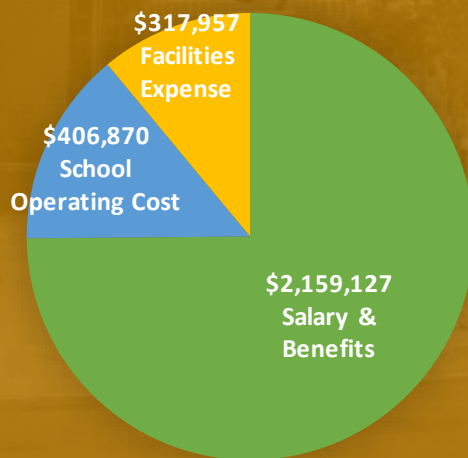
FY 2016-2017

Operating Income



Total: \$2,733,382

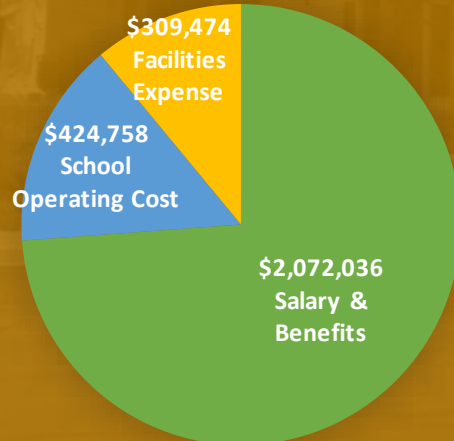
Operating Expenses



Total: \$2,883,954

Net: -\$52,312

Operating Expenses



Total: \$2,806,268

Net: -\$72,886

Notable School Information Items

- Number of students: 465 (Oct. 2018)
- Affiliated tuition rate (1 child grades 1-8): \$5,550 (FY 2017-2018)
- \$123,000 in tuition assistance from parish, \$47,000 from outside sources
- School cut losses by 28% from last year

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 and other worthy ministries and organizations.



Gift: \$115,000+
in scholarships

From one of many recipients: "Thank you so much for this blessing that allows us to continue sending our daughter to St. Mary!"



Gift: \$6,000

"May God reward your parish members for their great generosity. Thank you for bringing the relics of Padre Pio... be saints and pray for us!"



Gift: \$1,500

"From all of us at Bottom

Line Diaper Bank, please accept our most sincere thanks...St. Mary Parish provided an additional 20,115 diapers for families in need! Wow!"



Gift: \$5,000

"I was so grateful to receive your letter...

with a wonderful donation for us here at St. Joseph's. We are indeed in need of support as we have several concerns with our buildings which are old and in need of many repairs."



Gift: \$5,000

"Please thank your

community for their gifts of stewardship that you have so graciously shared. It is communities like yours that allow us to continue to build up our parish and do the work of the Lord."



Gift: \$5,000

"It seems that a lot of repair

work comes in all of a sudden and at one time. So know we are very, very thankful for your most generous gift."



Gift: \$5,500

"Dear Fr.

Javier and Parish, thank you so much for your generous gift to support our family in our mission work with FOCUS! Know of our prayers."

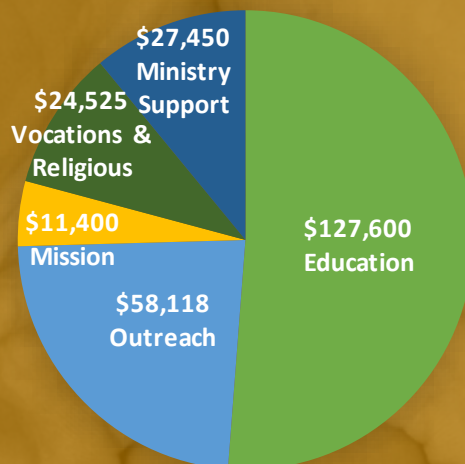


Gift: \$8,000

"I am looking forward to a

place to call ours! A place where we can make decisions about paint, carpet, and gardening. I look forward to taking pride in my yard."

Parish Tithing



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