



# 2020 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

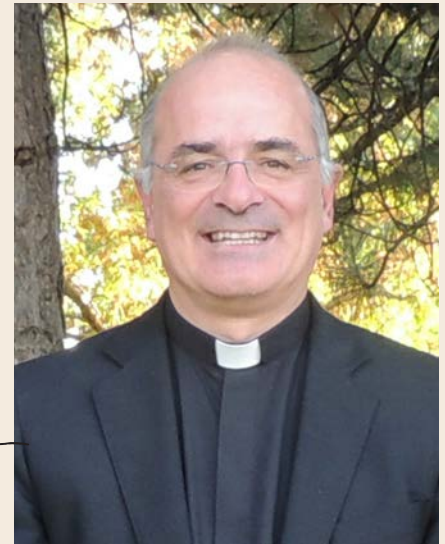


## From the Pastor

This time of coronavirus has made many things more challenging for us, including being installed as a pastor! However, Christ is greater than our difficulties! This Stewardship Report illustrates how He makes our lives beautiful and great, even in the midst of a pandemic! It is a great grace for me to be in Littleton with you now, learning about the responsibilities of a pastor and getting to know you all better. I am grateful to Fr. Javier for his continued service as administrator and to you for your support of this amazing parish.

In Christ

*José Noriega*  
Fr. José Noriega



## From the Administrator

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In union with the priests of the DCJM, 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 2019–2020 fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. This report is meant to help you more fully understand the resources that are required to minister to our parish and school. You can see the crucial role your gifts play in the important work of the parish!

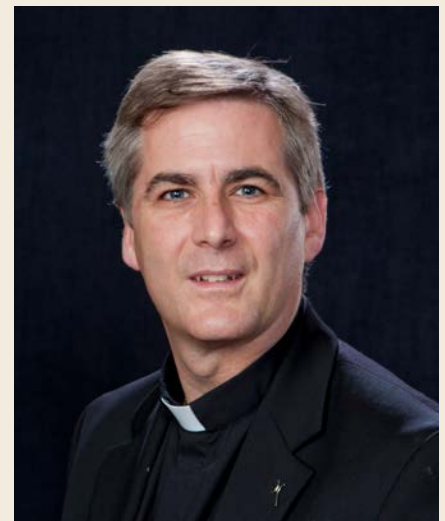
During the past year, we completed a year-long study of the Ten Commandments, completed our construction project on time and under budget, and managed to survive a pandemic! None of us will ever forget that in March of 2020 our world was turned upside-down in a matter of days by the COVID-19 virus. It has been a challenging time indeed since those early days of talk of the virus. Due to your generous contributions and financial stewardship of the parish, the clergy and staff at the parish and school were able to spring into action immediately to try to mitigate the circumstances for your spiritual health. St. Pope John Paul II, whose jubilee we are celebrating this year, told us, “Do not be afraid” and the Lord himself instructed us “Fear not, I am the one who helps you” (Isaiah 41:13). We heard those words and put our fear aside, allowing the Lord to use us in ways that we never dreamed were possible as illustrated in this report.

As you read the following pages, we hope you will be able to see just how important your donated dollars were in enabling parishioners to have online access to Mass (Vespers, Rosaries and more!), providing students with access to instruction, giving teachers the technology tools needed to host classes, and making it possible for families to be provided with emergency daycare during the worst part of the shutdown. Another beautiful fruit that we experienced was that, through the Paycheck Protection Program and your donations, we were able to provide wages for all employees through the end of the fiscal year. These are only some of the good things that we were able to provide during a very stressful and uncertain moment. In spite of the challenges we faced, your generous Gifts of Treasure are the reason that we have been able to do all of this important work.

On behalf of Fr. Jose Noriega and the DCJM, I want to express my deep gratitude for your ongoing support of St. Mary Catholic Parish and School. Without your continuing support, our “family of families” couldn’t have made our way through the pandemic in such a beautiful way. May God bless you!

Sincerely,

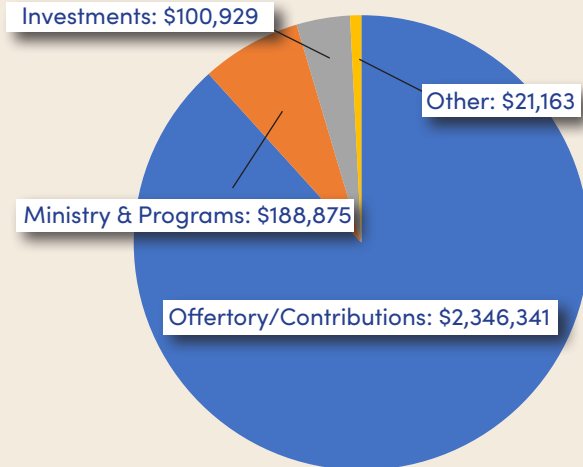
*Javier Nieva*  
Fr. Javier Nieva, DCJM  
Parish Administrator



# Parish Income & Expenses

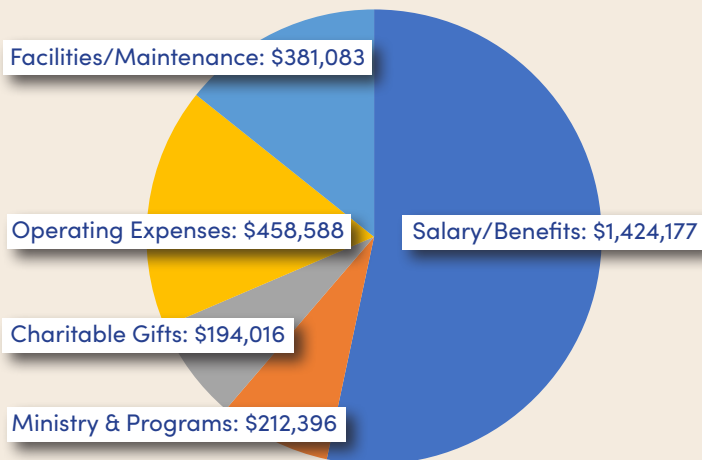
**FY 2019–2020**

## Income



**Total: \$2,657,308**

## Expenses

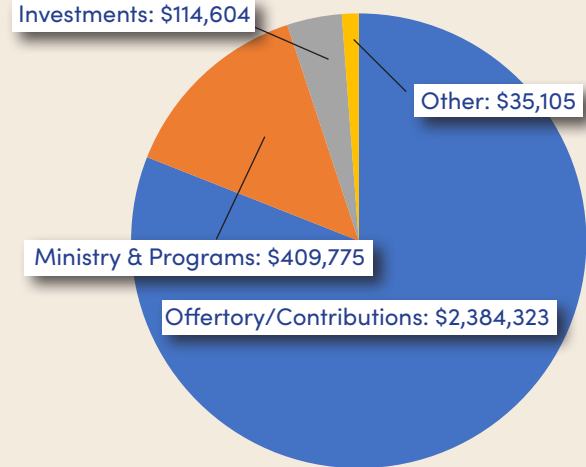


**Total: \$2,670,261**

**Net: \$-12,953**

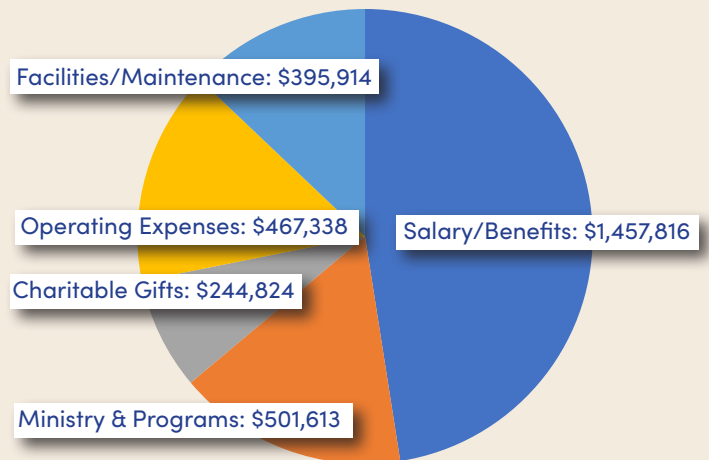
**FY 2018–2019**

## Income



**Total: \$2,943,808**

## Expenses



**Total: \$3,067,505**

**Net: \$-123,697**

### Notable Parish Financial Items

- Parish continues to meet Archdiocesan liquidity requirements
- Cash and investments for FY 2019–2020: \$3,229,829
- Number of registered families: 1,845
- Payroll Protection Program funding NOT included above

### Notable Capital Project Financial Information

- Capital building improvements capitalized FY2019–2020: \$4,008,935
- Capital campaign project expenses not capitalized: \$491,918
- Total income collected for project: \$2,948,299
- Total capital campaign pledges to collect: \$1,060,000
- Capital loan balance at FYE 2019–2020: \$1,409,212

# From the Principal

Dear St. Mary Community,

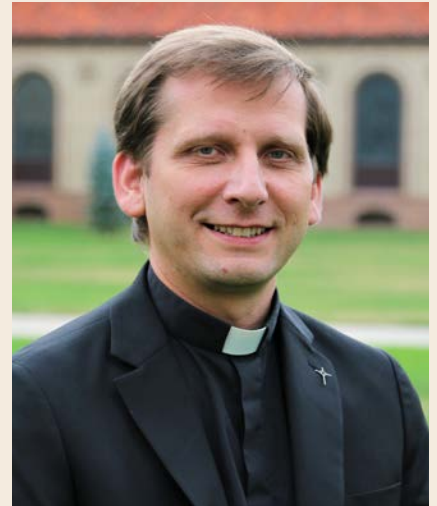
St. Mary Catholic School continues to be among the top Pre-K through 8th grade schools in the Archdiocese of Denver. Education is a primary mission of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (DCJM). *Learning the Art of Living* is our guiding principal, and through it we strive to educate the whole person of our students toward a great and beautiful life.

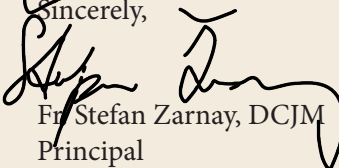
Vision and teamwork are an important part of the success of our school. This past year we created a Leadership Team of experienced teachers and staff to partner with me in providing not only an excellent educational environment for our families, but also a cohesive workplace for our teachers.

With the implementation of distance learning during the initial months of COVID-19, many schools experienced a lack of progress. However, our students were able to continue to excel in their education, and our community worked to remain connected:

- Our teachers demonstrated amazing determination to make distance learning successful for our students from preschool (3 years old) through 8th grade.
- We offered 150 families Chromebooks to assist with the increase in technology needs.
- On March 23, our preschool was converted to a child care for emergency front-line workers, caring for 30 essential worker families mostly from outside our parish family. In this way we provided a service to the Littleton community, promoting our Catholic Church's long standing edict of helping those in need.
- The emergency childcare evolved into a summer day camp for the essential worker families as well as for our own St Mary families, serving 64 families from May 31 through August 14, without incidence of COVID.
- As a result of our teachers' dedication, our eighth graders finished the year with high academic achievements, almost half of them receiving the Presidential Award.
- To connect our community during the summer, we offered a modified 8th grade Graduation Mass and optional Thanksgiving Masses for all the other grades.

The time of COVID-19 has proven to be financially turbulent. Through God's providence, and with the continued support of our parish and school families, we ended the school year in a strong financial position. I am grateful for the dedication of our faculty, staff, and families that allowed us to continue to live out our mission to be "focused on students and centered in Christ."



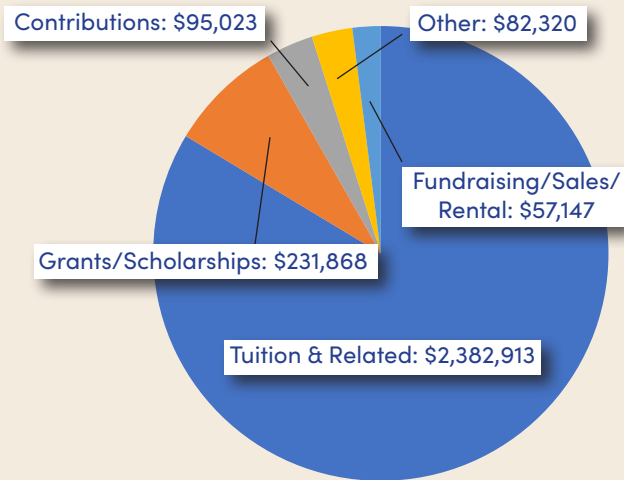
Sincerely,  
  
Fr. Stefan Zarnay, DCJM  
Principal



# School Income & Expenses

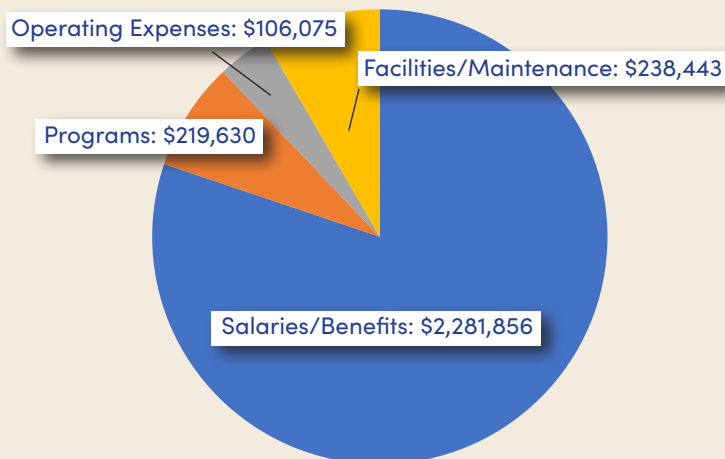
**FY 2019–2020**

## Income



**Total: \$2,849,271**

## Expenses

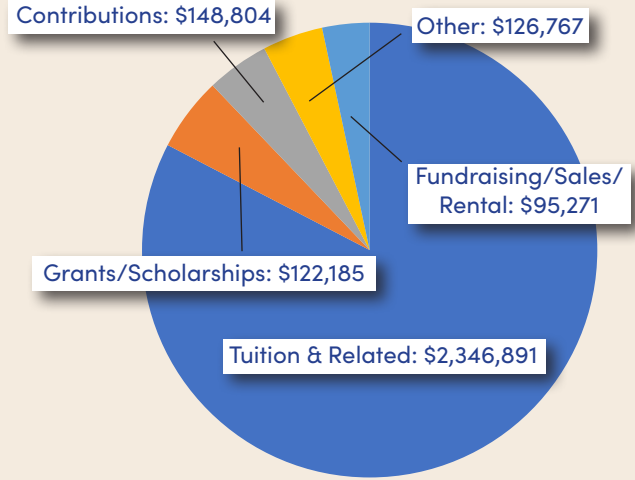


**Total: \$2,846,004**

**Net: \$3,267**

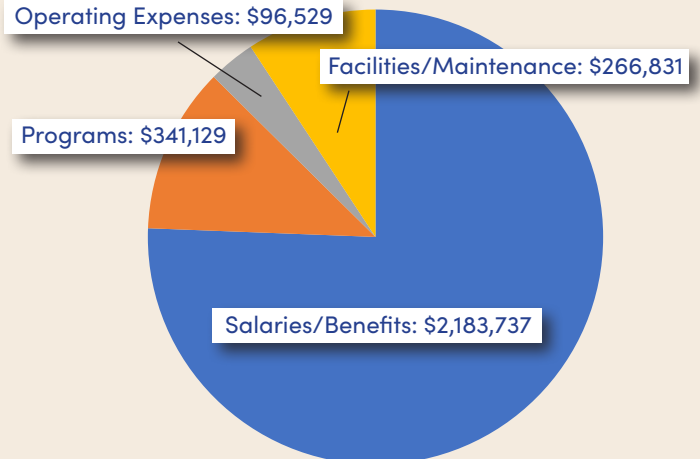
**FY 2018–2019**

## Income



**Total: \$2,839,918**

## Expenses



**Total: \$2,888,226**

**Net: \$-48,308**

### Notable School Information Items

- Number of students: 471 (as of Oct. 2019)
- Affiliated tuition rate (1 child grades 1–8): \$6,000
- Tuition assistance: \$266,078





## What Are We Going to Do Without Mass?

While a parish church performs many ministries, the heart and soul of any Catholic parish are the Sacraments. So, what happens when all public Masses are canceled and gathering indoors is restricted?

Like the rest of us, Mike Moyer doesn't have to wonder—he lived through it. Mike, a parishioner at St. Mary and a sacristan, was as dismayed as we all were when Masses stopped back in March. As he explains, “It was a feeling of loss, a feeling of ‘O my gosh, this is really serious... what are we going to do without Mass?’” It was most unexpected, and it's safe to say most of us have never experienced anything like it.

Of course, there was no way our shepherds, the priests of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, were going to just leave us spiritually bereft. One of the first things they did was implement the livestreaming of Masses from the rectory on YouTube and Facebook, as well as the Liturgy of the Hours, and even the Rosary. Many, like Mike, found a sense of connection through the livestreams that helped fill the void while we waited to see what would happen.

More importantly, we were never left without the great Sacrament of Mercy: Confession. Through hard work and a little ingenuity, Confessions have continued from the beginning of the crisis to the present day. One solution to maintain safety and ease the minds of the faithful was to start holding Confessions outside. As Mike recalls, “It was

an incredible feeling of relief and satisfaction that we could continue going to Confession.” Based on the numbers of those who came to celebrate Reconciliation during this time, including many from other parishes, a lot of us felt the same way.



With the limited resumption of public Masses over the spring and summer, we've been slowly returning to some sense of normality. But we will never forget the efforts and sacrifices of our priests that led us through the worst of the crisis. Mike sums it up: “The first thing I need to say is ‘thank you’ to the Disciples for the way they responded, as quickly as they responded to the situation... The Disciples were there for us.”



# Caring for the “Least of These” in a Crisis

For years, the St. Mary Parish Pantry has provided nourishment and comfort for many vulnerable people in our local community. It has been an anchor in the lives of many who face uncertainty on a daily basis. But in March 2020, that anchor was in jeopardy.

“When we first heard about the shutdowns coming, and that the church was going to be closed, we wondered if we would be able to continue the food pantry ministry,” recalls Debi Gorka, Parish Pantry Coordinator. “We knew we were going to have to find some way to do it... we didn’t know what to expect, but we trusted in God that we would be able to find a way.”

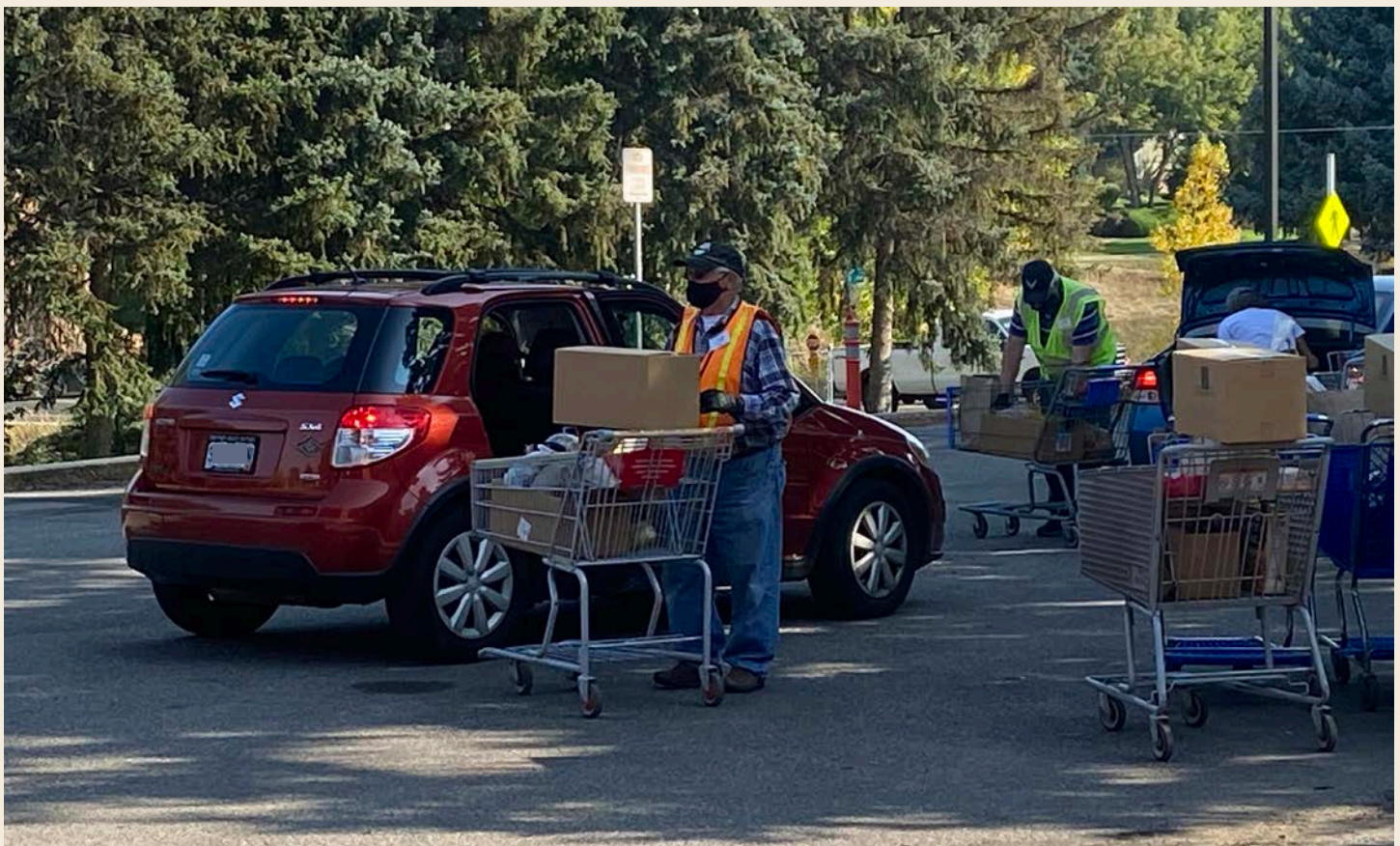
And find a way they did. Facing dwindling food supplies, Debi and her team of volunteers rallied the parish in support of an emergency 2-day food drive, and the response was overwhelming. “We got in so much food, it took us weeks and weeks to sort it all out.”

With all the new restrictions imposed on people gathering, the usual mode of clients coming inside to the church basement to pick up their food was no longer going to work. Undeterred, they improvised a new way of doing things: drive-up distribution! With this model, the Pantry volunteers pre-bag a balanced assortment of food, and cart the loaded bags out to the driveway behind Marian Hall. As the clients drive up, another team of volunteers loads the



bags into the cars. Contact is minimal, ensuring the safety and comfort of the clients.

Debi is quick to credit the courage and flexibility of her amazing volunteers, as well as the tremendous support from the parish staff and parishioners. And while we don’t know what the next weeks and months hold, we can be confident our Parish Pantry, by God’s grace, will be equal to any challenge as they continue to carry out their mission “to the least of these.”







## St. Mary School: “They Walked With Us Every Moment”

Educating 471 students from Kindergarten to 8th Grade is challenging under the best of circumstances. Throw in a global pandemic and the accompanying uncertainty and state-directed shutdowns, and it can seem nearly impossible. But thanks to the courage and creativity of the teachers and staff, St. Mary School found a way.

As 2020 rolled around, St. Mary School was enjoying some recent successes, including the expansion of the preschool program and the resulting doubling of preschool enrollment. When COVID-19 hit, and all schools had to shut down, it knocked everyone off balance. Parents, many of them working outside the home, found themselves homeschooling full-time on very short notice.

Preschool parents Jonathan and Sarah Dodge remember their reaction: “Total panic... How are we going to find structure, how are we going to find routine, and what does this mean for them and their education?”

Elementary school parents Robert and Marie Enzaldo can relate. At first, Marie remembers thinking, “Oh, that’s not for real, that won’t really happen.” When reality set in, she relates how “I felt a lot of fear and a lot of pressure.”

Under the leadership of principal Fr. Stefan Zarnay, the teachers and staff rallied to support parents during the crisis. It was a huge challenge, and a little frightening, “but right away, it was evident that St. Mary’s preschool... had



protocols in place and procedures in place to give us parents tools to keep the momentum going,” recalls Sarah Dodge. “All the teachers were ready and available to help us find ways to educate them.”

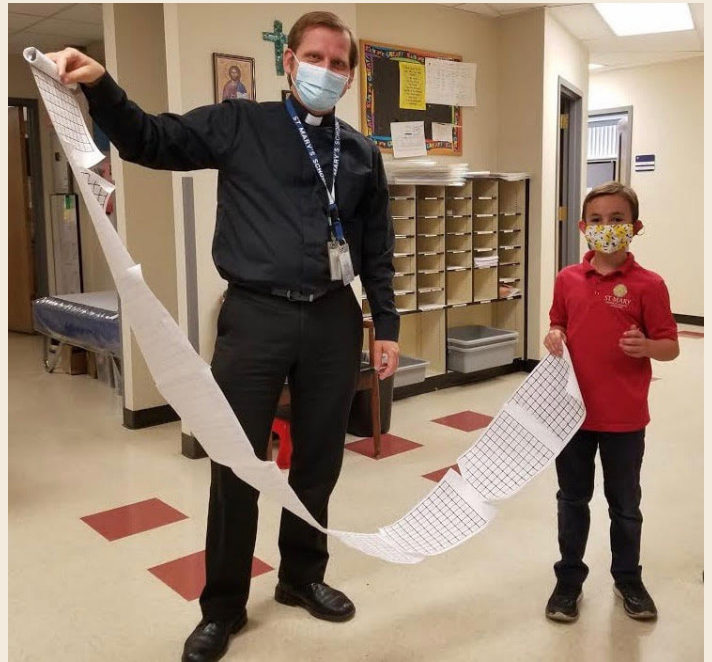
Robert Enzaldo was impressed with how the teachers converted the curriculum to form ready to be used by parents at home. “It was a really hard task, and they did an amazing job... it allayed a lot of fears about what the next days and weeks would bring for our kids, and we felt very supported in the role of educating our kids remotely.” Marie agrees: “I



was honestly blown away with how much dedication and work the teachers put in... We felt even more supported emotionally, and academically, and spiritually by the school and the parish.”

By Gods’ grace, St. Mary School opened this fall, welcoming all the students back for in-person learning, albeit with safety protocols still in place. Spring and summer of 2020 was a harrowing adventure, and it’s not over yet, but with some creativity, hard work, and a lot of love for the students, the teachers and staff have kept the flame of learning alive. As the Dodge’s put it, “St. Mary’s walked with us every moment of this journey... they have never left our side.”

Thanks to the teachers, staff, and most of all our brave students and parents, the future of St. Mary School is brighter than ever!





CELEBRATE  
the Sacraments...  
A NEW  
Beginning  
FOR THE FAMILY  
A Campaign for St. Mary Catholic Parish



*I was glad when they said to me,*

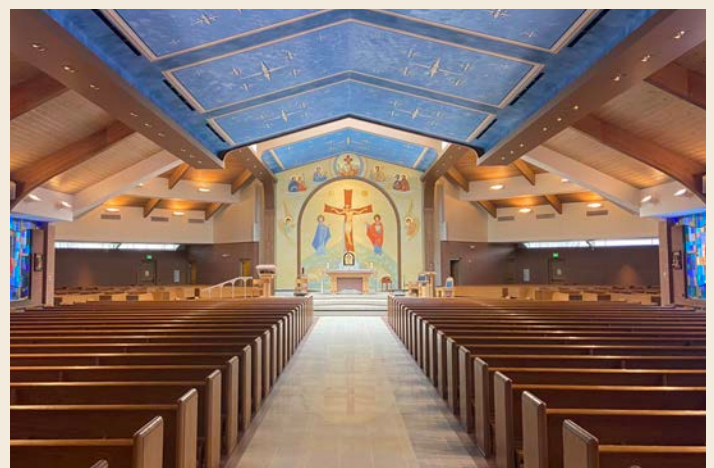


When our capital campaign began over two years ago, we couldn't have imagined the circumstances surrounding its eventual completion. Longtime parishioner Richard Damm was there for all of it. A member of the St. Mary family since 1996, Richard became deeply involved in the building project as a member of the Campaign Cabinet. As he puts it, "When Fr. Javier asked me to participate in the campaign, I certainly wanted to take advantage of that opportunity."

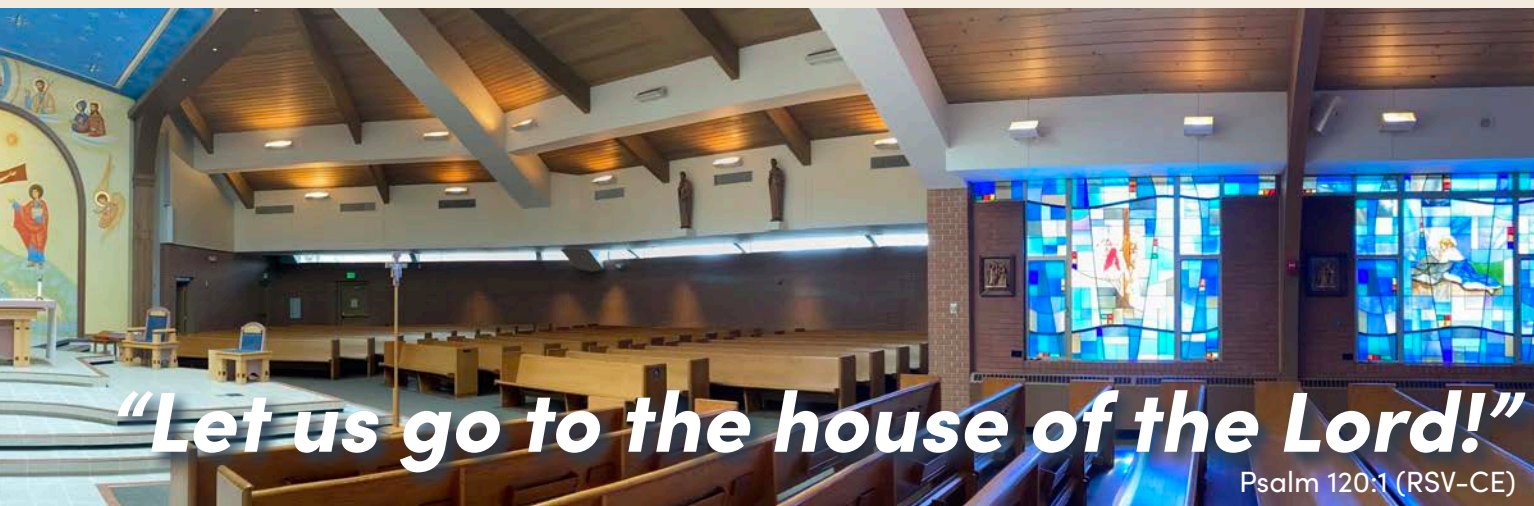
One of his jobs in the early stages of the campaign was visiting St. Mary families and explaining the project to them, encouraging them to support the campaign financially. "In general, I thought the response was exceptionally good. The people were receptive and very generous."

He has a lot to say about finished product. "As you go into the church... It's been a beautiful renovation ... Truly a spectacular new sanctuary... a magnificent mural depicting the crucifixion of our Lord and then the breathtaking tabernacle that provides a perfect home for the Holy Eucharist."

"Personally, what I like the most is the entry in the vestibule." Referring to the new prayer chapel, he is grateful







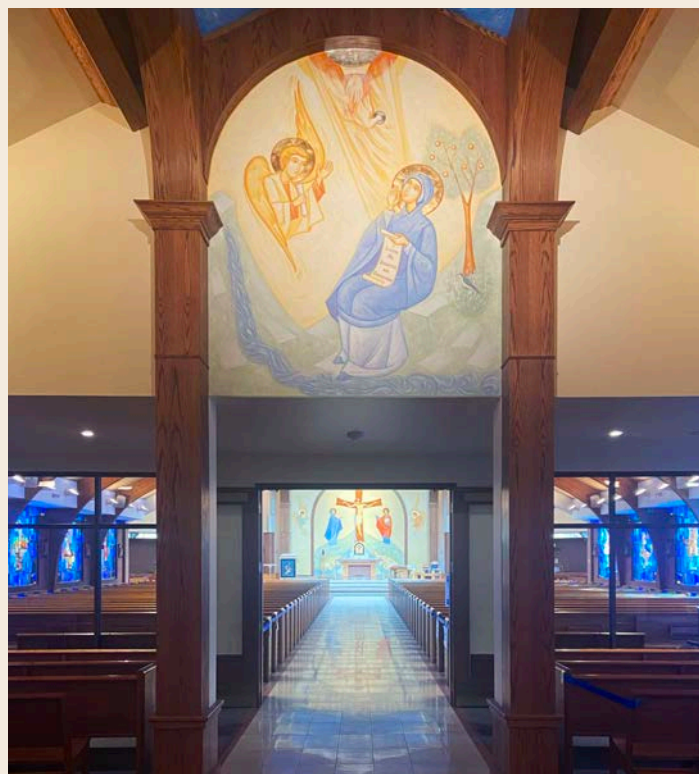
that we were able to keep and find a new place for the crucifix and statues that used to be in the sanctuary, and have been part of the church for decades. “It is a very welcoming part as you enter.”

“All in all it’s been an extremely successful and beautiful renovation.”

Like everyone, Richard was disappointed when, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we couldn’t open the new worship space with the kind of fanfare and celebration it deserved. “It was devastating. Fortunately, through the TV, we able to watch the services over the internet, we were able to see the beautiful... mural and the sanctuary, so at least that was somewhat gratifying.”

Richard is confident that the work done will inspire future generations of the St. Mary community, who “will be able to see... the love and concern that the parishioners have for the church and be able to have this beautiful sanctuary and the magnificent mural.

“I’m confident that people in the years to come will look back and... say to Fr. Javier, the building committee, and the architect: ‘you did a great job—well done.’”





# 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 from our offertory to these and other worthy ministries and organizations.

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

- St. Vincent de Paul: 227 families, including 271 children, assisted financially.
- St. Mary Parish Pantry: 603 households with 1,895 individuals received food.
- Prayer Quilts: 203 people received prayer quilts.
- Bethany Center/St. Raphael Counseling: 41 families counseled
- Mother of Mercy Ministry: 4 people assisted with 4 different needs.

## SACRAMENTS ADMINISTERED

- Baptism: 70
- Marriage: 1\*
- Funeral: 30
- Confirmation: 112\*\*
- First Communion: 72\*\*
- Anointing of the Sick: 156

\* Weddings were not scheduled during construction.

\*\* The restrictions placed on the Mass during the spring caused us to postpone Confirmations and the Rites of Christian Initiation that are celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Once again, the DCJM responded to the longings of many of the children who had been preparing all year to become fully initiated into the church and receive the Lord in the Eucharist for the first time. While large gatherings were not possible, and as the priests had all be granted faculties by the Archbishop to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation, they accommodated many families requests from May-September to have private Masses to fully initiate these young Catholics.

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Because of your generosity, we have tithed 10% of our offertory to these and other worthy ministries and organizations.

### Education: \$98,260

- St. Mary School Tuition Assistance
- Our Lady of Victory High School

### Outreach/Social Concern: \$58,700

- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Habitat for Humanity
- Catholic Charities

### Non-St. Mary Ministries/Needy Parishes: \$40,000

- Bella Healthcare
- Ascension Catholic Parish
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Parish
- Presentation Catholic Parish
- All Saints Catholic Parish

### Vocations & Religious: \$17,500

- Retirement Fund for Religious
- Carmelite Monastery
- Abbey at St. Walburga

### Mission: \$15,000

- FOCUS
- NET Ministries

### Top 3 Gifts:

- St. Mary School tuition assistance: \$87,760
- St. Vincent De Paul Society: \$27,600
- Habitat for Humanity: \$10,000

## Questions or Comments?

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Littleton, CO 80120  
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[www.stmarylittleton.org](http://www.stmarylittleton.org)

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6833 S. Prince St.  
Littleton, CO 80120  
720.283.4721  
[www.littletoncatholicschool.org](http://www.littletoncatholicschool.org)