Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish 5900 Kennedy Avenue

Export, PA 15632

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Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to present you with this year's Parish Annual Report titled *thanks*GIVING for Our Blessings. Although I am new to the parish, I am so thankful for the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon our faith community.

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

At the Summer Neighborhood gatherings that Father Dave, Father Jay and I attended, we learned that these blessings include a warm and welcoming parish family, friendly and hardworking parishioners, opportunities for fellowship, an active Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and a strong ecumenical connection with the other churches in Delmont.

Our blessings also include numerous ministries in our parish which engage many volunteers who reach out to the sick, the poor and the elderly. Please read through our ministry listing and consider becoming part of this transformative work. We can always use more help!

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

Another blessing here at St. Mary Parish is that our parish is in sound financial shape. At the end of the last fiscal year, despite a \$19,843.20 deficit in income vs. expenses, we were able to meet all of our financial obligations and pay our bills in a timely fashion. This is due to the generosity of many of our parishioners who see faithful stewardship as a way of life, living in a spirit of gratitude and showing that gratitude for God's abundant blessings in generosity.

Every week we publish the amount of the weekly offertory in the bulletin. However, these numbers do not tell the full story. Over the past five years, we have not seen an increase in the total Sunday offertory, despite the fact that our total expenses continue to go up. We should be trending an increase of 3-5% in the weekly collection to meet rising costs and to be able to expand our ministries and programming. We need to start reversing that trend now, in order that our parish can thrive, not merely survive.

At the end of June, we had \$218,530.88 in our parish savings account, a fund that is used for capital projects around the campus and the maintenance of our physical plant. Specific donations from parishioners and the parish share of the annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal help to fund this account.

The St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Endowment Fund was established to provide a legacy of faith for future generations. Grateful for the gift of faith that we received from our parents and those who came before us, we have the obligation to pass on our faith in a vibrant and thriving parish to our children and those who come after us. Currently, we have \$16,617.69 in this fund. In order to meet the future needs of the parish, we need an endowment of several million dollars. We hope to grow this fund by encouraging parishioners and friends of the parish to leave a bequest to St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in their will or estate plan.

YOU ARE A BLESSING

The bottom line is that St. Mary Parish is a vibrant, prayerful and thriving parish, thanks to the blessing of your membership and support! But our parish continues to need your help. I am asking you to prayerfully consider your weekly commitment to our parish:

- Has it grown over the past several years, or is it still the same amount?
- As you reflect upon God's blessings in your life, are you able to show your gratitude by increasing your weekly contribution?
- Considering that we need a 3-5% increase in revenue each year, are you in a financial position to help us meet this goal (e.g., 5% of \$20 is only \$1)?
- Do you use the Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) option for electronic giving to insure that your support reaches the parish, even when you are away or not able to attend?

For your convenience, we've included a GIVING QR Code. By scanning it, you can easily enroll in online giving, increase your weekly offertory or make a year-end gift. Of course, traditional check and cash donations are always deeply appreciated as well.

Your increased offertory, combined with careful planning and financial management, will help us meet our day-to-day expenses, plan for capital improvements and ensure that our community of faith continues to grow and thrive well into the future. Finally, in order to leave a legacy for the future, I ask you to consider including St. Mary Parish in your will or estate plan.

Once again, know that I am grateful for the blessing that you are to our parish. I keep you and your loved ones in my prayers each day. May God continue to bless you, and may Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes, continue to intercede for all of us. With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ, Monsignor Michael

Become an Intentional Disciple

Enter into a deeper relationship with your fellow parishioners by attending one of these upcoming events:

- October 24 Knights of Columbus/American Red Cross Blood Drive. Saint John Baptist de La Salle Church.
- October 24 Prayer and Perfect Pairings, Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. A five-course meal and wine pairings with recipes from Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Father Christopher J. Pujol, Father Andrew J. Hamilton, Father John Torres and Father Daniel E. Carr; proceeds benefit Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg (tickets: DioceseofGreensburg.org/PrayerandPerfectPairings).
- October 27 All Saints Party, Noon-2 PM, St. John Baptist de La Salle Church.
- November 11 Drive-thru fresh produce (sponsored by Saint Vincent de Paul Chapter), Saint John Baptist de La Salle Church parking lot
- November 27 Pre-Thanksgiving Mass
- December 7 Breakfast with Saint Nicholas, 9:30 AM, Saint Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon. Free event with brunch, photos with Saint Nicholas, an art project and a show about cultural versions of Saint Nicholas (details available in November: DioceseofGreensburg.org).
- December 7 and 8 Delmont Pilgrimage, starting at Shields Farm Historic Log Cabin
- December 14 Christmas Night Market, 2-9 PM, Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Food and craft vendors, cards, gift and décor booths, 4 PM Mass with Bishop Larry J. Kulick and the Diocesan Youth Choir, artist Pipka Ulvilden with her Blessed Mother and Nativity creations, Christmas cookies, and wine tastings (details: ChristmasNightMarket.org).







Parish Financials 2023-24 2022-23 2021-22 \$ 254,924 Offertory \$ 268,548 \$ 286,325 **Other Ordinary Income** 2,112 4,448 12,574 (monthly collections, votive candles) 21,977 22,647 28,916 **Extraordinary Income** (bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income) **Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund** 40,439 39,680 27,164 **Other Non-Assessable Income** 25,059 4,130 33,544 (The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan) 15,188 15,071 15,998 **Special Collections Total Income** \$ 373,322 \$ 372,301 \$ 373,120 **Expenses** \$ 91,043 \$ 92.752 \$ 80.333 Church 52,910 60,262 61,175 Rectory 7,600 10,132 10,063 Education and Ministry 64,953 61,788 57,745 General Expenses 111,065 101,845 96,873 Special Collections 15,844 15.106 14.940 Extraordinary Expenses 49,751 51,696 38,244 **Total Expenditures** 393,165 393,581 359,373 **Net Operating Income (Loss)** \$ (19,843) \$ (21,280) \$ 13,747

Our Parish by the **Numbers:**



Registered **Households** 2024: 341 2023: 341 2022: 336

Current Single **Member** Households





Baptisms 2024: 7 2023: 7 2022:7

Weddings 2024:4 2023:4 2022:2





Funerals 2024: 21 2023: 21 2022: 29

Weekly Giving Statistics Saint Mary Parish FISCAL 23-24

9 families	\$ 100 - 199
20 families	\$ 50 - 99
9 families	\$ 40 - 49
58 families	\$ 20 - 39
38 families	\$ 10 - 19
35 families	\$ 5-9
56 families	\$ 5
112 families	\$ O

Stewardship is a way of life. For Christians who follow in the way of the Lord Jesus, stewardship is an expression of disciple ship. When we recognize that God is the origin of all life, the giver of everything that we have and are, we respond by thanking God through prayer, by serving God and God's people through ministry and by sharing our financial resources with the Church and with those in need Stewardship is a way of life based upon conversion of heart.

New to Our Parish



New Window of St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes

On August 25, as Bishop Larry J. Kulick came to install our new pastor, Monsignor Michael J. Begolly, he also blessed a new stained glass window in the vestibule of our church. This vibrant addition enhances the spiritual ambiance of our church, providing a visual representation of our patroness, Our Lady of Lourdes, and her apparition to Saint Bernadette.

Mary (Mamie) (Simola) Ferguson and Anna (Simola) Rebitch were sisters who had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. They spent many hours praying the rosary not only individually in their homes, but also with the Mary, Queen of Peace prayer group that met regularly at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish to pray together. They are now together in the joy of God's Kingdom!

After Mamie's passing in 2010, while Father Michael J. Sikon was pastor, Mamie's son-inlaw, Paul Phelps, husband of Laura (Ferguson) Phelps, offered to create a stained-glass window from Oakbrook-Esser Studios in Oconomowoc, Wis., which they own and operate. As time marched on, Father Daniel J. Ulishney continued this project, as did Father Teo Cortezano.

The artistry and generosity of Paul and Laura, along with support from Laura's cousin, Debbie Frescura, for the preparation work for the window, has provided a most beautiful and prayerful entrance to Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Church. We extend our gratitude to them and pray that Our Lady of Lourdes might ask the blessing of her Son on all the members of their family and on our parish community.

Giving With Gratitude



We are excited to showcase our GIVING QR Code. By scanning it, you can easily enroll in online giving, increase your weekly offertory or make a year-end gift. Traditional check and cash donations are always deeply

appreciated as well. You can visit our website, stop by in person, or mail your gift.



Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish **5900 Kennedy Avenue Export, PA 15632**



IN PERSON:

Monday - Thursday - 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



ONLINE:

osvhub.com/stmary-church

Our Ministries:

- Altar Servers
- Ushers
- Lectors
- Greeters
- Sacristans
- Extraordinary Ministers of **Holy Communion**
- Communion to the Homebound
- Cantors
- Choirs (hand bell, parish, children's and funeral)
- Instrumentalists
- Arts and Environment
- OCIA
- Social Media Team

- Catholic Men's Fellowship
- Parish Photographers
- Witness to Life (Pro-Life ministry)
- Catechists and Aides
- Bible Study Groups
- Young Adult Ministry
- Women of Faith
- Pastoral Council
- Finance Council Office Volunteers
- Groundskeeping
- Money Counters
- Kitchen Crew
- Donut Sunday
- Spaghetti Dinner

- Faith Formation
- Hospitality
- Buildings & Grounds
- Liturgy & Worship
- Community Outreach Lenten Lunches
- Delmont Christmas Pilgrimage
- Food Bank Volunteer
- Cookie Bakers
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Funeral Vigil Service Leaders
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Youth Ministry
- Knights of Columbus
- Meals on Wheels

We really do need volunteers to support our parish, specifically servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, greeters and catechists. Please call the parish office today at 724-327-0647 so we can walk you through the process of becoming a volunteer.