

WE LEAD PEOPLE
TO JESUS THROUGH...

Baptism 64

First Reconciliation 65

First Communion 65

Confirmation 54

Weddings 16

Funerals 74

Parish School 362

Faith Formation 323



Dear Friends... Praised be Jesus Christ!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

What is a disciple? Simply put, a disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ. Every one of us, by virtue of our baptism, has been called to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Over the last year the Holy Spirit has prompted us to focus on what I call *Intentional Discipleship*: meaning that we dive deeper into our relationship with the Lord in order to follow, worship, and share Jesus more radically. Through formation events and programs, we have been given opportunities to be intentional with our discipleship. Our mission is to boldly proclaim Jesus Christ through our words, actions, and way of life.

One of the goals of our parish is to equip the faithful to follow the Great Commission. Your financial and prayerful generosity allows us to fulfill that goal. Through programs and events such as Evangelical Catholic's *Reach More* and Bishop Robert Barron's *The Mass* and *The Sacraments* video series, many people have been able to deepen their faith and be more prepared to share it with others. These are just two of many wonderful opportunities.

We look to the various outreach efforts and see a grand witness to Jesus Christ through generosity and service. Our brothers and sisters both locally and internationally know who Jesus Christ is because they have been loved through our generosity.

For the next year our discipleship will be concentrated on the Eucharist as we are in the midst of the National Eucharistic Revival. I am so excited for what the Holy Spirit has in store for our parish family. Grace is abounding and this is evidenced in the following pages of this report. Indeed, we have much to be grateful for and celebrate.

Finally, I wish to offer my gratitude to the staff, ministers, and all those who witness to Jesus Christ on a daily basis. A particular word of thanks to Daniel Hansen, Director of Administrative Services, Vivian Roe, Parish Accountant, our Parish Trustees, and members of our Finance Council who have prepared this report. May God continue to bless us abundantly!

Holy Mary, Mother of God... pray for us!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

DISCIPLESHIP (FORMERLY CATHOLIC FORMATION)

Your Catholic Formation Department offered a multitude of ways for parishioners of all ages to gather together as Disciples of Jesus Christ, to grow deeper in our relationship with him in our community, and to introduce others to Jesus Christ. In October Fr. Don Calloway presented discipleship viewed from the eyes of Mary. Over 150 parishioners joined in a parish-wide book study on *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*, with many individuals learning about the world outside of the Church, where we are called to share the Gospel. Our praise and worship team was joined by Fr. Aaron for our *Be Still and Know* evenings. Praying the Stations of the Cross and celebrating May Crowning and Corpus Christi Sunday provided powerful experiences. Countless participants joined us for Bishop Robert Barron's *The Sacraments*, hosted by Fr. Aaron. Seasons 2 and 3 of *The Chosen* were popular Wednesday night offerings, and for the first time ever we conducted two rounds of Reach More Training Groups where we help individuals discover their desire to lead others to Jesus Christ. Our RCIA offerings helped numerous adults to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Finally, this Lent we featured thirteen small groups for a Lenten Study.



Elementary, middle and high school youth had numerous opportunities to grow as disciples here at St. Mary as well. Middle school youth attended regular formation sessions on Sundays and Mondays, while high school students chose from a variety of courses including: *Connected* which explored Catholic Social Teaching; *The Invitation* which explored the habits of discipleship; and *Venture* which examined Salvation History from the book of *Genesis* to *Revelation* and its impact on our lives today. In addition, thirty-seven high school students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation were treated to a day-long retreat from the Menasha, Wisconsin-based Spiritus Ministries. Advent saw a group of middle school youth exploring saints and scripture, while a number of middle schoolers attended the Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally in March 2023. Several students also spent part of their summer serving at the Xaverian Missionaries house setting up for their annual festival.

HUMAN CONCERNS

Through God's grace and Fr. Aaron's strong support, our commission transitioned to a volunteer-led group. All our past endeavors, along with some new activities, have returned as fully *in-person* service opportunities.

In Fall we were blessed with a visit from the new (two years) pastor from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Latiboliere, Haiti. The pandemic and civil strife in the country had twice-postponed celebrating our twenty-year anniversary of our twinning relationship. Fr. Bellegarde brought good news that the clinic destroyed by last year's earthquake has been rebuilt. Our Haitian brothers and sisters continue to keep us in their prayers. The Respect Life ministry called upon us to uphold the dignity of *all* life, and to help with the increasing needs of the Women's Support Center of Milwaukee. Circle of Love brought back the beautiful tradition of inviting parishioners to pick gift-request envelopes from Christmas trees. None of the tags (representing over 400 gifts) were left on the trees after that first selection weekend; parishioners made the holidays brighter for everyone. St. Vincent de Paul was so overwhelmed by your donations for the annual Thanksgiving food drive that they were able to abundantly supply four other struggling parish pantries.



The newly-formed Racial Justice ministry, through its "On the Road to Damascus" series, coordinated presentations, book discussions, and small-group discernment sessions designed to reflect upon and educate towards racial healing. (Next year the ministry will have been absorbed under the Discipleship Commission.) Repairers of the Breach greatly expanded their winter emergency shelter hours and have rebounded to near pre-pandemic levels in terms of visits/services. A coat drive, a winter essentials collection, a soup collection, weekly bread distributions, lunch-making, dinner preparing - all variously supported Nia Imani Family, Inc., Pathfinders, Repairers of the Breach, St. Ben's, and SVdP's Southside meal program. The parish's Lenten almsgiving raised over \$17,500, plus requested items for featured ministry partners.

All our partners appreciate the steadfast support our parish provides. One of the challenges will be to reengage the *personal interactions* with our brother and sisters. We invite you to join us in building God's kingdom here on earth!



LITURGY

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is where everything begins. Every aspect of our parish finds its meaning in the Mass. Why? Because, as the Second Vatican Council states, the Eucharist is the “source and summit of all Christian life” (SC, 47). What a joy it is to pray together as a vibrant worshipping community every weekend. While our Liturgy Team has been experiencing transition for the past year, with the help of many hands, both staff and volunteer, God has given us the grace to pray and worship well. How exciting that we have welcomed Mr. Jim Clauer as our Director of Liturgy and Music. We cannot wait to see what the Holy Spirit has in store for us!

We can see the Holy Spirit alive in our liturgy not only when celebrating Mass but in our many other prayer opportunities like Be Still and Know, May Crowning, Corpus Christi Procession, Divine Mercy Holy Hour and many more. The devotional part of prayer shines through as many people come to spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.

How blessed we are to have a faith community that is on fire with the Holy Spirit. As we celebrate this past year we do so knowing that it is all because of God and for His glory.

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

- The Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association has awarded St. Mary Parish School, Hales Corners, the highest standards of excellence required of all members of the WNSAA and is fully accredited by the association.
- Awarded Exemplary Recognition by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in the area of *Mission and Catholic Identity, Academic Excellence, Mission, Community, and Climate*.
- Recognized as a *Project Lead the Way* distinguished school five years in a row. We are 1 out of 212 elementary schools across the US to receive this award.
- 70% of current staff had or now have their own children attend St. Mary Parish School.
- 96% of our 8th grade students perform AT OR ABOVE grade level in Reading on the MAP* tests.
- 85% of our middle school students perform AT OR ABOVE grade level in Math on the MAP* tests.
- 97% of our 8th grade students are proficient or advanced on the national ACRE** test.
- Our one-to-one Chromebooks for all middle school students complements the rigorous instructional program we provide.

* Measure of Academic Progress

** Assessment of Children in Religious Education



SCHOOL - PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

3K/3rd Grade	Respect Life Ministry
4K/5K	Haiti Ministry in Latiboliere
1st Grade	Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative
2nd Grade	Regency Senior Living Center
4th Grade	St. Ben's Community Meal Site
5th/7th Grade	Nia Imani Family, Inc./Transitional Housing for Families
6th Grade	Pathfinders/Outreach/Education/Shelter
8th Grade	Repairers of the Breach/Serving Homeless Men and Women

ANNUAL REPORT - JUNE 30, 2023

We are pleased to report we achieved our fourth year in a row of balanced budgets. Thus, we are reporting a slight operating surplus of \$38,644 (approximately 1% revenue) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Similarly, the Finance Council has approved and submitted another break-even budget for the fiscal year of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. With your support, we hope to achieve that target in the months ahead. While balanced budgets and careful stewardship of your generous support are relevant to the annual report, our primary focus remains bringing people closer to the Lord through Word, Sacrament and Service. We acknowledge with deep gratitude all the sacrifices you make to allow us to do this on a daily basis through our Liturgy, School, and Discipleship efforts.

Operating revenue was within \$7,088 of budget, with tuition increases and automation of our tuition collection processes largely offsetting declines in monthly contributions. We are carefully monitoring monthly contributions as this is our largest source of income and has fluctuated in the past year. As previously reported, contributions have been impacted by external forces like inflation and a down stock market. Contributions have also been impacted by internal forces like fewer parishioner registrations and our recent capital campaign. The Finance Council also declined to take the annually budgeted draw from the Endowment fund to avoid selling assets in a down market. As a result we came very close to the targeted income. We will remain watchful as similar revenue challenges face us in the coming year.

On the expense side we were able to achieve our targets through careful parish spending and the temporary reprieve in salary costs which came from unfilled positions of Parish Accountant and Director of Liturgy and Music for most of the fiscal year. We are running a lean Parish Staff and as a consequence we have had to call on volunteers and parishioners during these challenging times. We have been blessed to have filled our open positions, so we do not anticipate similar savings in the 2024 fiscal year. Any time we can be within one percent of our expense targets is cause for gratitude and we came in at \$36,000 under the budgeted expense overall.

Notes: These statements are inclusive of the operating income and expense which is budgeted to break even. Significant non-operating events (monies raised for specific one-time projects, capital campaigns, and support to others) are reported here by footnote to avoid skewing our operating results. The largest non-operating event in fiscal 2023 was the successful Love One Another Capital Campaign to raise pledges of \$2.7 million dollars of which \$1.6 million will come to support St. Mary. It's important to distinguish between pledges (a promise to support the campaign) and collections (money actually donated) as the \$1.6 million of pledges to St. Mary will be collected over a five-year period. Our share of the Love One Another collections in fiscal 2023 (January through June) were \$332,000. It is also important to note that the replacement of the upper parking lot occurred after the fiscal year end of June 30, 2023 at a cost of \$515,000 and that project came in better than budget. We also replaced our failing phone system at an anticipated cost of \$40,000. As such, these first two Love One Another Campaign projects consumed more than has been collected to date. This timing will slow our ability to do more projects under the Love One Another Campaign until collections catch up to the project expenditures. Our community also provided \$96,000 of support to our sister parish in Haiti and we collected \$114,000 in our Building Repair Fund. The Building Repair Fund will keep our facilities going until the Love One Another collections catch up to the project costs and new projects can begin. Priority to all capital projects is given to those that reduce our operating cost or significantly improve the quality of worship and education.

REVENUE				
	6/30/2020	6/30/2021	6/30/2022	6/30/2023
Parish School Revenue	\$1,551,745	\$1,455,621	\$1,664,451	\$1,775,379
Liturgy and Music	20,799	13,640	37,300	25,223
Catholic Formation	56,584	38,170	24,430	39,205
Outreach / Human Concerns	1,777	835	631	1,797
General Parish Revenue				
Monthly Envelopes	1,869,320	1,911,224	1,799,766	1,735,673
Sunday Offertory	89,715	38,376	105,028	119,924
Debt Retirement	101,675	151,665		
Endowment Revenue	102,936	24,927	74,137	
Bequests		57,779	11,416	237
Haiti Income	(17,103)	0	0	
Parish Festival	109,994	1,000	0	90,000
All Other Parish Revenue	80,418	169,820	59,976	93,653
Total Parish Revenue	\$2,416,113	\$2,407,975	\$2,112,684	\$2,105,711
TOTAL REVENUE PARISH AND SCHOOL	\$3,967,858	\$3,863,596	\$3,777,135	\$3,881,090

EXPENSE				
	6/30/2020	6/30/2021	6/30/2022	6/30/2023
Parish School Expense	\$2,349,789	\$2,374,227	\$2,446,349	\$2,620,666
Liturgy and Music	303,054	149,090	153,569	149,312
Catholic Formation	242,445	203,216	265,086	279,367
Outreach / Human Concerns	33,955	34,831	33,366	1,252
General Parish Expense				
Archdiocesan Assessment	134,174	139,511	132,259	134,364
Haiti Program	71,216			
Debt Repayment	119,707	151,779		
Interest Expense	10,599	4,248		
Endowment Expense	18,329			
Office, Building, Grounds, Admin	642,694	638,205	631,643	657,485
Total Parish Expense	\$1,576,174	\$1,320,880	\$1,215,924	\$1,221,780
TOTAL EXPENSE PARISH AND SCHOOL	\$3,925,963	\$3,695,106	\$3,662,273	\$3,842,446
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)	\$41,895	\$168,490	\$114,862	\$38,644