

Financial Update to the Parish Community

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the final quarter of our fiscal year, I want to share with you an honest and transparent update on the financial health of our parish and school. While we continue to experience blessings in community and spiritual growth, we also face some financial realities that require our shared attention and prayerful consideration.

Where We Stand Financially

At the start of this fiscal year, we budgeted for growth across several areas, including offertory and school enrollment. Unfortunately, some of these projections have not materialized as expected:

- **Offertory collections** remain **below budget**. While we had hoped for growth, offertory contributions have remained relatively **flat over the past 12 years**, holding steady at approximately **\$1.8 million annually** through monthly envelopes and weekend giving.
- Our **school enrollment**, which we had projected at **410 students**, is closer to **380**. Though this is a strong number, the shortfall impacts tuition revenue and overall budget planning.

Rising Costs

Like many families and institutions, the parish is also facing the pressure of **inflation**. Key areas seeing increased costs include:

- **Teacher salaries**, which we've adjusted using a competitive scale benchmarked against both private and public schools, to attract and retain talented Catholic educators.
- **Building maintenance and improvements, healthcare, utilities, and general overhead** all continue to rise, tightening our operating margins.

Signs of Hope and Growth

Despite these financial challenges, there are many signs of vitality and renewal in our parish:

- **Mass attendance is growing**, across all Masses, where we're blessed to welcome **younger families and new faces**.
- **Our Discipleship Team** continues to offer **diverse opportunities for spiritual growth**, drawing more parishioners into active participation.
- **Christmas and Easter Masses** saw **very strong attendance**, with our worship spaces once again filled with joyful hearts.

We are also encouraged by signs of growth in our **school community**:

- While current enrollment is under budgeted expectations, we are seeing **strong interest**, especially in our **K3 program**, which is vital to building the future of our school.
- **Tours are frequent**, and we are optimistic about the **2025–2026 enrollment** numbers based on current inquiries and family engagement.

How We Plan to Address the Deficit

To responsibly manage our financial challenges, we are taking the following steps:

1. **Enhanced Offertory Initiative**

We are working closely with the **Archdiocese Stewardship Office** on a renewed effort to grow offertory giving. A key part of this plan is encouraging **parishioners to make an annual pledge** for the upcoming fiscal year. Pledging helps us plan more accurately and sustainably, and we ask all households to prayerfully consider this commitment.

2. **Growing Enrollment**

We continue to invest in **marketing and outreach** for our school, particularly to prospective early childhood families, and maintain a strong focus on **Catholic Identity**—which we know is increasingly essential in today's world.

3. **Exploring New Programming**

We are reviewing and considering **new parish and school programming** that supports mission alignment and may also offer additional revenue streams or cost efficiencies.

A Call to Stewardship

We remain deeply grateful for the generosity you have shown throughout the years. Our parish is not just a place—it is a **living community of faith**, entrusted to us by God. Your continued

financial support ensures we can grow in our mission of forming disciples, educating our children in the faith, and serving one another.

As we look to the end of this fiscal year and begin preparing for the next, we will invite you to reflect on how you can be part of sustaining and growing this mission. If you haven't yet pledged for the upcoming year, we encourage you to do so. Every gift—large or small—makes a meaningful impact.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor - St. Mary Catholic Faith Community.