

Dear Friends... Praised be Jesus Christ!

In December 2024, the late Pope Francis declared 2025 a Jubilee Year of Hope. Since then, the Church, both universally and locally, has embraced this year with a renewed commitment to hope. As St. Paul reminds us, "Hope does not disappoint..." (Romans 5:5). And yet, as we look at our Church and our world, we see so many brothers and sisters living without hope. Some may be lost, having never encountered Jesus. Others may carry wounds so deep that trusting again, even in God, feels too risky.

As disciples of the Lord, we know that hope is not a matter of luck or chance. Our hope is rooted in a person—Jesus Christ. And this hope is not for us alone; we are called to share it with one another. St. Paul continues, "...because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

As you read this Annual Report, I pray you see clearly how God is moving within our parish. A relationship with the Lord begins by spending time with Him. We are blessed with vibrant, prayerful Masses and many opportunities to encounter the Lord in prayer. When hope seems distant, remember those who have returned to the Church through OCIA and our young people growing in faith through Children's Ministry, Edge, and LifeTeen. Our school, led by Mrs. Linda Joyner, is a place where God's love is encountered daily through our dedicated teachers and staff, a true beacon of hope for the future.

Those who are sick, isolated, or homebound often face the greatest challenges to hope. Our Pastoral Care ministry meets them with Christ's presence through intercessory prayer, the Anointing of the Sick, and the Eucharist brought to their homes. Your spiritual and financial generosity allows us to reach far beyond our doors. Through your support, we extend Christ's hope to those in our community who are in the most desperate need.

For all of this, I say thank you. Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, and the many ways you share Christ's love. I hope this Annual Report fills you with hope, as it shows how the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our parish. Truly, we can do nothing apart from Jesus, our Shepherd and our King.

In closing, I offer heartfelt gratitude to our parish staff, ministry leaders, and all who witness to Jesus Christ daily. Special thanks to Daniel Hansen, Director of Administrative Services; Mayra Moreno Garcia, Parish Accountant; our Parish Trustees; and the Finance Council members who worked diligently to prepare this report.

May God continue to bless you and our entire parish with an abundance of hope.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor





Liturgy

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the heart of our parish life, the source and summit of all we do. Each weekend we gather as one community to give praise and thanksgiving, strengthened for the week ahead. We are blessed to also celebrate daily Mass, where Christ nourishes us each day.

This past year brought many graces in worship and music, including a Children's Choir of **45** voices on Christmas Eve and our First Annual Outdoor Festival Mass, where more than **500** parishioners and friends gathered under the big tent.

The Holy Spirit is present not only in the Mass but in parish prayer and devotion: Be Still and Know, May Crowning, Corpus Christi, Divine Mercy, and Eucharistic Adoration. With grateful hearts, we recognize that all we have accomplished is because of God and offered back to Him **for His glory**.



Discipleship

The themes of Invitation and Growth stand out in our Discipleship offerings for 2024–25. Our Discipleship Commission launched a Christmas Card Initiative, mailing nearly **4,000** invitations to area residents and encouraging parishioners to personally invite friends and neighbors. This effort led to a dramatic rise in Christmas Mass attendance, with continued growth in Mass participation, new members, and discipleship offerings. Plans are underway to expand this evangelization at Christmas and Easter.



Family Formation has also grown, with parents sharing that they joined St. Mary to renew their faith alongside their children. Many are rediscovering their faith and leading their families at home.

Teen and young adult discipleship is thriving as more youth celebrate Confirmation, return to parish activities, and attend the Steubenville Youth Conference. Young adults are also engaging in scripture studies and parish life.



Pastoral Care

Our four core ministries of Prayer, Anointing, Communion, and Funeral are carried by **58** dedicated ministers. The Prayer Shawl Ministry and regular Intercessory Prayer gatherings offer comfort and support, while the Sacrament of Anointing is offered monthly and individually as needed. Ministers bring Communion to care centers, hospitals, and the homebound, aided by new Notebird software that improves communication. Grounded in humility, simplicity, friendship, and joy, we continue to serve God's people through Word, Sacrament, and Service.

Human Concerns

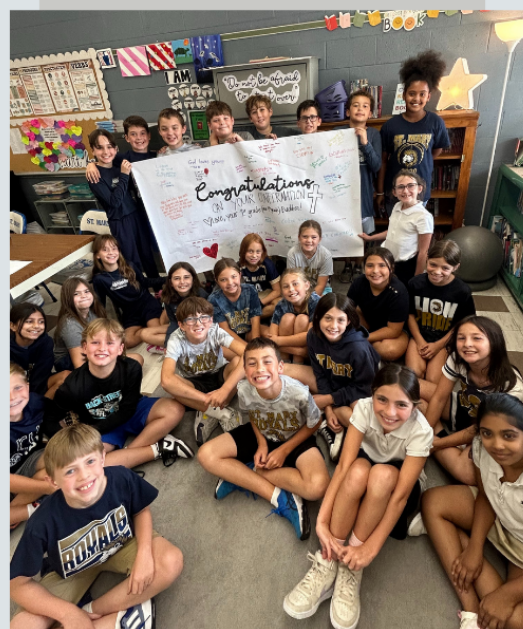
The Human Concerns Commission lived out Christ-centered service through prayer, generosity, and partnerships. Despite unrest in Haiti, aid continues to reach our sister parish in Latiboliere, parishioners supported the Circle of Love and Lenten drives, and local ministries were strengthened. St. Vincent de Paul welcomed **31** new volunteers, expanded outreach, and improved pantry operations to share Christ's love with those in need.

St. Mary Parish School

St. Mary School is fully accredited by the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Association and has received **Exemplary Recognition** from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for excellence in Mission and Catholic Identity. For seven years, we have been recognized as a Distinguished Project Lead the Way School, one of only **45** elementary schools in Wisconsin with this honor.

Two \$25,000 Love One Another Grants, together with parishioner generosity and Royal Affair donations, funded a research-based reading and writing program and new interactive classroom displays. All middle school students are now equipped with one-to-one Chromebooks to support safe, effective learning.

Rooted in **faith and service**, our Outreach Ministry Partnerships connect each grade with meaningful service, including Haiti Mission, St. Ben's Meal Program, Nia Imani, Pathfinders, Kinship, and Repairers of the Breach, with Student Council supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Annual Report - June 30, 2025

We are pleased to report that the parish has achieved its sixth consecutive year of meeting budget, closing the 2025 fiscal year with a net operating income of \$10,105. While this positive result reflects continued fiscal discipline and stewardship, it's important to recognize the underlying factors that contributed to the outcome and the financial challenges that remain ahead.

The 2025 budget was built with the expectation of increased offertory and giving, which would support the addition of two new parish staff positions: an Associate Pastor and a Director of Communications. However, neither position was filled during the fiscal year, and offertory revenue did not increase as projected. As a result, while we successfully met budget, this was due in large part to unfilled staffing costs, not increased revenue. This distinction is critical as we look to future sustainability.

Additionally, the school's enrollment came in below expectations, with 385 students enrolled versus the budgeted 410. This shortfall in enrollment resulted in lower tuition revenue than projected. While our operating income remains positive, this trend highlights the need for continued attention to enrollment strategy and retention efforts.

It's worth noting that several important initiatives took place outside of the operating budget. Thanks to the generosity of our community and successful fundraising efforts—including the Royal Affair and grant funding—we were able to upgrade interactive classroom technology across the school. Similarly, progress continues on various Love One Another campaign projects, which are improving our parish campus and infrastructure.

Looking ahead to the 2026 fiscal year, we will be working with the Archdiocese Stewardship Office to enhance our monthly offertory giving, which remains our most critical and substantial source of funding. We must also acknowledge the ongoing impact of inflation, which continues to erode our purchasing power. Simply cutting expenses is no longer a viable solution, as it limits our ability to meet essential fixed costs, such as building maintenance, wages, benefits, insurance, utilities, and other operational commitments. We are committed to avoiding a return to deferred maintenance, which in past years led to costly long-term consequences. Careful spending will always be our priority, but we must also be realistic and proactive in planning for the future needs of our parish and school.

As we move into the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, we have submitted a deficit budget due to the continued rise in operating costs and flat revenue trends. Unlike the previous year's budget, which was built with the assumption of offertory growth that ultimately did not materialize, the 2026 budget is based on historic giving levels with no assumed revenue increases. This conservative approach is fiscally responsible but highlights the structural imbalance we face if revenue remains stagnant. While the submitted budget reflects a prudent view of our current financial reality, it also paints a concerning picture of our needs going forward. Through strong stewardship, careful expense management, and a successful expanded offertory effort, we are hopeful that actual performance will exceed the budget and better position us to grow the parish and expand its capacity to support our ministry.

REVENUE				
	Actual			Budget
	6/30/2023	6/30/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Parish School Revenue	\$1,775,379	\$2,132,565	\$2,094,153	\$2,216,066
Liturgy and Music	25,223	24,332	26,328	24,500
Catholic Formation	39,205	41,505	26,741	36,625
Outreach / Human Concerns	1,797	250	250	
General Parish Revenue				
Monthly Envelopes	1,735,673	1,742,523	1,778,967	1,800,000
Sunday Offertory	119,924	126,202	145,859	120,000
Debt Retirement	0	0	0	
Endowment Revenue		67,297		80,000
Bequests	237			
Haiti Income				
Parish Festival	90,000	110,275	80,000	80,000
All Other Parish Revenue	93,653	96,443	68,961	72,000
Total Parish Revenue	\$2,105,711	\$2,208,827	\$2,127,106	\$2,213,125
TOTAL REVENUE PARISH AND SCHOOL	\$3,881,090	\$4,341,392	\$4,221,260	\$4,429,191

EXPENSE				
	Actual			Budget
	6/30/2023	6/30/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Parish School	\$2,620,666	\$3,018,626	\$2,791,663	\$3,057,345
Liturgy and Music	149,312	188,941	200,006	215,577
Catholic Formation	279,367	280,726	302,139	290,940
Outreach / Human Concerns	1,252	564	1,193	2,500
General Parish Expense				
Archdiocesan Assessment	134,364	133,957	164,421	150,000
Haiti Program				
Debt Repayment				
Interest Expense				
Endowment Expense				
Office, Bldg, Grunds, Admin	657,485	646,429	751,733	911,451
Total Parish Expense	\$1,221,780	\$1,250,617	\$1,419,492	\$1,570,468
TOTAL EXPENSE PARISH AND SCHOOL	\$3,842,446	\$4,269,243	\$4,211,155	\$4,627,813
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)	\$38,644	\$72,149	\$10,105	\$ (198,622)