Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish

Growing Support for

Community

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Dear Parishioners,

The safety and health of every member of our parish have been in my daily prayers as together we continue to face the ups and downs of the pandemic. Many of you, I know, have endured great pain and personal loss, not to mention the numerous concerns that have developed as the pandemic has imposed an ongoing struggle with fear and isolation in many people's lives. Still today, there is the ongoing uncertainty of what is next.

I hope you have been comforted by our parish and Diocesan outreach through streaming Masses, phone calls, special mailings and special COVID-19 ministries like online prayer chains and other opportunities for prayer. There were also special collections to support mission work at home and around the world, food drives to help the hungry, volunteers who cleaned and sanitized our churches to protect our at-risk parishioners, and outreach coordinators who made a crucial connection with the elderly and homebound. Our Good Samaritan Ministry continues its outreach to families with emergency situations such as rent, electric or gas shutoff notices. The Bereavement Ministry provides comfort and support to parishioners who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

These are just a few examples of the outpouring of love we saw in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the pandemic.

I want you to know that through it all that Saint Mary Parish has continued to nourish the seeds of faith that have been planted, seeking to care for the spiritual and material needs of our entire parish community. The good news in all of this is that the harvest has been bountiful! In fact, the support provided by you, the faithful, has been just remarkable.

As excited as I am about the impact of our outreach, I also realize that a tidal wave of need is still on the horizon. Economic uncertainty and continued isolation mean the most vulnerable among us will need us now more than ever. Our missions and ministries cannot continue to meet that need without your help.

I want to sincerely thank you for all that you have given to our parish. Remember, your contributions keep this parish vibrant and impactful. Please remember your parish this year, and prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship so we can continue God's work.

Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

- Altar Servers
- Adult Altar Servers
- Cantors
- Greeters
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Ministers to Sick and Homebound
- Lectors
- Adult Choir



Yours in Christ, **Father Ron**

- Ushers
- Ministers of Hospitality
- Praver Chain
- Bereavement Ministry
- Altar Rosary Society
- Knitting Group
- Associates of Mary
- Men's Christian Fellowship

Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements





Your contributions to our parish help maintain the facility, making it the center of prayer in our community. Since last year, we undertook improvement of the sound system in the church and enhanced the livestreaming equipment. We repaired the

sanctuary ceiling and repainted the interior of the church. We also power-washed the exterior of the church. Upcoming projects are repair of some areas of the parking lot and installation of the fence above the parking lot.

Parish Financials 2020-21 2019-20 2018-19

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Offertory	\$ 180,505	\$ 189,700	\$ 183,255
Other Ordinary Income (monthly collections, votive candles)	4,457	3,715	2,843
Extraordinary Income (bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)	27,213	20,376	37,963
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	20,040	10,216	8,176
Other Non-Assessable Income (The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)	24,856	41,025	1,602
Special Collections	24,247	13,069	61,669
Total Income	\$ 281,318	\$ 278,101	\$ 295,508
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 57,838	\$ 75,546	\$ 72,530
Church	24,053	43,472	46,267
Rectory	3,418	8,005	2,147
Education and Ministry	12,720	12,877	15,279
General Expenses	77,053	93,478	85,215
Special Collections	23,583	12,158	51,689
Extraordinary Expenses	32,978	37,101	42,943
Total Expenditures	231,643	282,637	316,070
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 49,675	\$ (4,536)	\$ (20,562)

Our Garden



Registered **Households** 2021: 329 2020: 333 2019: 330











Weathering COVID-19

Just as God has provided for you, you have provided for our parish. Your investment is like the tilling of the soil, helping us to grow stronger. Despite the pandemic, our parish offertory remained strong, primarily due to the generosity of our parishioners; but it was greatly assisted by online giving and a successful Diocesan Lenten Appeal.

As I am sure you can imagine, our parish, and particularly our societies, suffered from the loss of fundraising monies. This year, just like the previous year, we were not able to hold our parish festival due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our Lenten fish dinners were also modified to takeout only. But we created other avenues to be connected with you through social media presence and other parish events.

We do have some events on the calendar, including the Angel Giving Tree in cooperation with Armstrong County Children, Youth and Family Services, which fulfills the wishes of needy area families; the Angel Memorial Tree, with ornaments that can be bought and hung in memory or in honor of a loved one, during the Advent season; and the Epiphany play, performed by our faith formation children Jan. 2 after the 11 a.m. Mass. This will be a true celebration of the Light of Christ present in our families and in our world. Please consider participating in these events. Help us grow the flowers of tomorrow by planting the seeds today.

I would like to call your attention to our new initiatives. A Ministry Fair will be held in December, which will give you an opportunity to assess your God-given gifts and talents and share them through our different ministries. Also, this year our faith formation program plans to offer an activity each month that will center on building family faith. These efforts will go a long way in planting the seeds of faith in the next generation of our parish.



Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL: St. Mary, Mother of God Parish P.O. Box 327 109 Second St. Yatesboro, PA 16263



IN PERSON: Monday - Thursday 9:00AM - Noon and 1:00PM - 4:00PM



ONLINE: stmaryyatesboro.org