

From the Pastor's desk:

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

Pastors are responsible for providing their parishioners with a sort of State-of-the-Parish report each year. While usually focusing only on the condition of the Parish's finances for the current and immediately preceding year, I have chosen to share with you both a financial and a sacramental picture going back several years in addition to this current year's budgeted financial projections, so that you might see developments and trends and compare the data for yourself. I present these figures to you in a spirit of transparency, and I ask that you spend some time reviewing them at home with your family.

I also take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support of the Parish. All of the good things that are accomplished here at St. Margaret's – our pastoral work; our apostolic outreach; our educational and catechetical endeavors; our ministry to our youth, elderly, and homebound; and so much more – is made possible only through the generosity of people like you. I am reminded every day of the many great things that we do for God as a people of faith. We are a vibrant community with much to offer. That vibrancy is not sustainable, however, without the sacrifices so many of you make in terms of your time, talent, and treasure.

As part of my fiscal responsibility to you as your pastor, I try to keep our budget balanced and to make sure that our bills are paid on time. While we have reduced the operating deficit considerably in the course of the last two years through both your generosity and the reining in of expenses, you can see that we still have a long way to go to make ends meet. The decrease in the number of active parishioners and financial contributions are taking their toll, requiring me both to reduce salaried staff and to draw down against the Parish's diminishing reserves in order to meet ordinary operating expenses. Your bills for utilities, maintenance, and repairmen's services have continued to increase; so have the Parish's.

At the same time, the difficulties associated with maintaining our aging buildings continue to be increasingly problematic. The "newest" of our facilities, the Parish Center, is now over 40 years old; the biggest part of our campus, the church-school building, is over 80, and the Hall is well over 110! Roofing repairs to all of our buildings, repointing of exterior walls, the repair of flood-prone parts of buildings, repair/replacement of HVAC equipment and doors and windows, and other concerns are on-going problems that cry out for attention after far too many years of benign neglect. Although our buildings are structurally quite sound and solid, the very manner in which they were constructed often makes it difficult and costly to maintain and repair them. These are but one part of the financial challenges that must be faced as we move forward.

Many of us have participated in several successful campaigns over the years, funds from which will be applied as work is done to the properties. The main thrust of our efforts, however, must be geared toward a deeper sense of ownership and on-going stewardship among our parishioners. For too long, the burden of supporting the Parish has been carried by too few of our people. This must change as we strive to provide the services that you and your families use, need, and demand.

Most families who receive envelopes do not use them, and half of those who do use them are still putting very little in them. Although many of you are quite generous, the regular Sunday collections continue to contain mainly one-dollar bills. One or two dollars in the envelope or collection basket may have sufficed in 1950, but do not cut it any more and have not sufficed for years. In this regard, I ask you to pray about your regular donations and to increase your offering as soon as possible. A weekly minimum donation of \$10 per adult, even a \$5 per week increase *per adult* above your current giving levels barely would get us to break even for the year. If you do not do so already, I encourage you to support your Parish through automatic donations using *Faith-Direct* or some other form of electronic bank transfers. You may contact our Parish Offices for more information.

Finally, I realize many people are leery about contributing money to the Church after the latest news reports of clerical sex abuse scandals. While we cannot change the past or ignore the consequences brought about by some clergy, we must remind ourselves that when we give, we do so as an expression of our faith in God and for His greater glory. Your gifts to St. Margaret's make possible the many good things that we do despite the taint of sin that we all experience. Do not allow the sins of others and our collective past to keep you from supporting your Parish.

You may note, too, that there has been a decline, not only in the attendance at Mass but also in the number of baptisms and weddings that we celebrate here at St. Margaret's. This also has been the experience at most of the parishes in the metropolitan area and beyond. We can bemoan the figures and talk about the days when the churches were full, OR we can be active disciples of the Lord and participate in His mission to bring all people to salvation, beginning with our own families and neighbors. Our faith is in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead. A vibrant, faith-filled community of active believers is up to you, cooperating with the grace of God and the power of His Holy Spirit within you.

I remind myself each day that this is not *my* parish, but *your* parish. I am merely here to serve you as best as I can while I'm assigned here. I will never ask you to do anything that I myself am not willing to do first. Over the past 159 years since the Parish's founding among the fields and bogs of Middle Village, priests have come and gone, and the neighborhood has gone from rural to urban/suburban, but the practice of the Faith remains the centrality of our lives as a community. This is *your* Parish and, God willing, it will remain yours and your children's for many years to come. Please consider both increasing your sacrificial support to your Parish now and taking a more active role in what we do here.

May God, Who is never outdone in generosity, bless you and your loved ones abundantly!

~ *Fr. Armato*

INCOME SUMMARY (CHURCH OPERATIONS ONLY)

ACTUAL September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2018, and BUDGET Projection for Fiscal Year 2018-19

	ACTUAL					BUDGET
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
INCOME						
Sunday Collections	403,377	385,319	356,510	389,079	407,062	416,000
Easter & Christmas	47,518	62,270	46,700	43,225	37,661	42,000
Fundraising	83,156	81,369	80,507	45,085	38,515	40,000
Donations / Bequests	84,361	196,125	79,079	96,500	167,062	50,000
Capital Campaign	0	0	108,291	33,169	67,700	60,000
All Programs	67,715	63,091	144,312	37,991	222,994	167,000
Candles	32,801	37,413	33,409	34,818	33,675	40,000
Poor / St. Vincent de Paul	6,866	6,904	6,646	10,906	21,477	20,000
All Other Income	345,046	159,642	165,322	218,013	160,867	201,314
TOTAL INCOME	1,070,840	992,133	1,020,786	908,786	1,157,013	1,036,314
EXPENSES						
Salaries: Clergy & Lay	384,407	374,050	358,456	409,696	410,560	421,842
All Employee Benefits	144,442	162,810	177,040	179,086	165,474	153,600
Household	20,428	17,957	17,683	13,125	6,716	7,800
Office	52,157	57,412	43,183	70,710	54,396	47,120
All Programs	59,066	73,847	62,475	30,312	156,210	140,000
Insurance	53,892	54,043	56,276	66,890	70,828	78,000
Liturgical	26,377	24,407	20,602	21,989	16,016	22,500
Gas	26,145	27,353	20,469	36,993	32,850	35,000
Electricity/Water/Sewer	52,147	59,132	82,521	72,846	41,183	40,000
Regular Maintenance	95,248	100,288	77,855	66,383	57,933	61,000
Major Repairs	0	148,770	197,510	6,445	1,900	25,000
Diocesan Assessments	65,600	61,900	61,900	54,000	41,600	43,300
Capital Campaign	0	873	0	12,159	255	0
Fundraising	40,125	35,148	36,290	21,563	16,715	15,000
All Other	32,945	43,617	28,712	62,410	120,651	43,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,052,979	1,241,607	1,240,972	1,124,607	1,193,287	1,133,162
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	17,861	(249,474)	(220,186)	(215,821)	(36,274)	(96,848)

SACRAMENTAL AND MASS ATTENDANCE RECAPS
~ 2011 - 2018 ~

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS¹	YEAR¹							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
BAPTISM	80	75	70	88	85	96	80	52
FIRST COMMUNION	66	56	60	63	60	73	99	81
CONFIRMATION	67	47	42	0 ²	53	57	69	60
MARRIAGE	7	12	12	16	10	8	14	7
HOLY ORDERS³	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
ANOINTING OF THE SICK	27	18	29	30	39	33	18	15
FUNERALS	134	130	136	110	122	102	119	111
RCIA - ADULTS INITIATED⁴	7	10	5	18	4	14	11	2
AVERAGE MASS ATTENDANCE^{5 & 6}								
MASS TIME (LANGUAGE)	YEAR							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
SAT. - 5:00 PM (ENGLISH)	222	198	248	191	246	203	206	241
SAT. - 7:30 PM (ENGLISH)	140	152	156	159	148	139	N/A ⁷	N/A ⁷
SUN. - 7:30 AM (ENGLISH)	138	145	139	147	141	182	157	135
SUN. - 9:00 AM (ITALIAN)	230	201	191	163	157	175	132	105
SUN. - 10:30 AM (ENGLISH)	273	277	225	229	220	187	241	218
SUN. - 12:00 PM (ENGLISH)	228	234	199	242	254	268	241	231
SUN. - 5:00 PM (ENGLISH)	185	151	210	233	177	199	170	162
TOTALS	1,416	1,358	1,368	1,366	1,343	1,352	1,146	1,092

Notes:

¹ Figures for all Sacramental celebrations are for calendar years.

² No children were confirmed in 2014 due to a change in the Diocesan minimum age requirement.

³ Ordinations to Holy Orders: 2015 - Priesthood (1), and 2017 - Diaconate (1).

⁴ Does not include teenagers confirmed at Christ the King Regional HS.

⁵ Capacity of the church 2011-2015 was 720 adults; 2016-present, post-renovation seating is about 480.

⁶ Average Mass attendance figures are from actual headcounts taken on the first and third weekends of May and November each year; the year's average is the simple average of those four weekends.

⁷ The 7:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass was discontinued as of January 1, 2017, in conjunction with the same time-slot being dropped at Our Lady of Hope, both Masses being deemed to be superfluous.