



The Church of
St. Mary

September 2018

STEWARDSHIP OUR WAY OF LIFE



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Fellow Parishioners of The Church of St. Mary,

Stewardship is not a dirty word; it really is a way of life—living life with gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. It is a way of life that is more caught than it is taught. Both of my parents died, my father in 2000 and my mother on June 27 of this year. So, they are very much on my mind. They taught my brothers and sister and me to be stewards, that is—to be generous in giving our time to help others, to use our talents to help our community and to use whatever financial resources to bring life to others. They were not ‘preachy’ about it, but simply did it.

Catholics often equate stewardship with giving money in your church envelope. It is much broader; it is about returning blessing for blessing, about trusting God, the giver of all things. It is rooted in the belief that everything revolves around imitating God’s generosity to us. Scripture says, “*God loves a cheerful giver.*” Why? Because God’s own goodness is reflected back.

Thank you for your generosity not only to our parish community, but to so many good causes in our community and beyond. So many of you give of your time, talent and financial resources in large and small ways. I know so many of you who give of yourselves in many quiet, unassuming ways.

Continue to be generous as God is generous. Help re-make the world through gratitude. God bless you all!

Fr. Steven M. Binsfeld



*When we use our gifts in the way
God intends, we experience true joy
that others notice!*



GRATEFUL

Stewardship is a grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.



QUILTING AND HELPING OTHERS

A monthly get together for coffee, quilting and fellowship.

The St. Maria Mission Group of St. Mary's is affiliated with the Diocese of St. Cloud Mission Office. The purpose of this group is to support mission work overseas and in local communities.

Our local organization meets monthly for quilting and fellowship. Quilt tops are sewn at home, and then tied at the gathering. Quilts and embroidered dish towels are sold at the St. Cloud Mission Office to help support overseas missions. They also distribute quilts and rosaries to those in need.

Locally, quilts and pillowcases are donated to Love INC, The Caring and Sharing Room, and Someplace Safe. Baby quilts are donated to Life Connections (formerly Birthright).

All are welcome to join this group in the Great Hall on the last Monday of each month from August through April from 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Watch the bulletin for more information. Help with binding quilts is needed, and this can be done at home. Donations of quilt batting and 2-ply yarn are always welcome.

If you would like more information, call Joyce Burghardt at 320-763-7615 or Gloria Philbrick at 320-886-5301.



BROTHERS

SERVING TOGETHER



“The hardest part is just signing up.”

Tony and Nick Olson serve regularly at the 5:00 PM Mass. Nick, a high school senior, started serving at his family’s parish in New Ulm as a 5th grader. After their family moved to Alexandria, he started serving at St. Mary’s. Tony, a 4th grader, has been serving for almost a year. He thought serving at Mass looked fun after years of watching his brother, so it was an easy decision to help out.

Both young men enjoy helping out. They agree that it’s fun to be a part of Mass by helping Fr. Steve and St. Mary’s sacristan, Marlys Weber. They think that the hardest part of serving is just doing it - taking the leap and signing up. Once they started, Marlys trained them and both Nick and Tony commented, “It’s fun and easy!”

When asked why do they help out, both hesitated, probably because it’s something they don’t really think about much. Their whole family volunteers in different ways, so it’s part of their tradition and way of life. Not helping isn’t a consideration.

St. Mary’s is in need of more servers and anyone can do it — girls, boys, women and men. To get started, just call the Parish Office at 763-5781. That’s the hardest part.

6 CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EVERYDAY STEWARD

01

MINDFUL

Lives in the present, without the baggage of the past, and without fear of the future.

02

PRAYERFUL

Sees every day as an opportunity to be in the presence of God.

03

GRATEFUL

Gives thanks for all God’s blessings, especially the little everyday ones.

04

GRACIOUS

Receives all of God’s creation in a welcoming and hospitable manner.

05

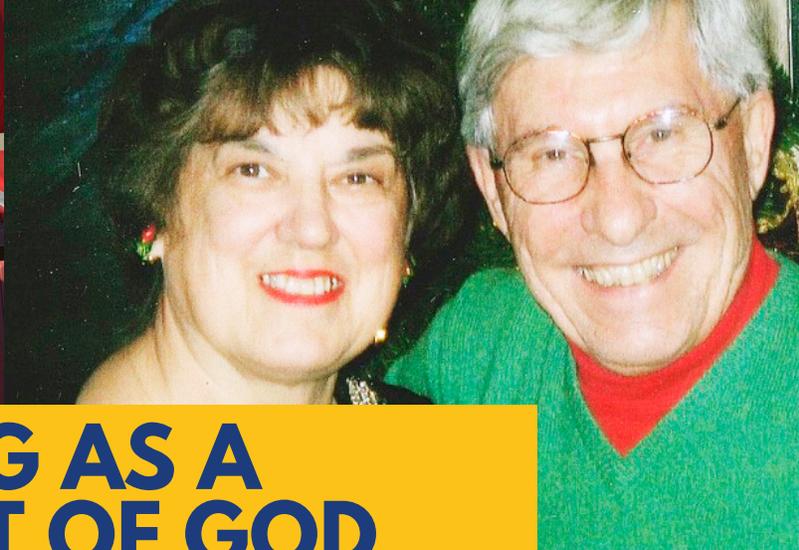
COMMITTED

Perseveres daily in a way of life acknowledging everything belongs to God.

06

ACCOUNTABLE

Understands the value of parish community and the role it plays.



LIVING AS A SERVANT OF GOD

A LEGACY OF GIVING

Suzanne Streich, and her brother and sister, grew up in a family devoted to giving — giving to God, giving to church, and giving to community. Her parents, Jimmy and Bonnie Chan, modeled a deep faith, which included living a life as a servant of God.

When reflecting on her parents' influence, Suzanne smiles, realizing that even after death, her mom is "in charge." Suzanne has found she's asking herself, "What would my parents think about how I'm living my life? I need to be more like they were."

Suzanne's dad, Jimmy, served on the St. Mary's Cemetery Committee for years; so when she was invited to join the committee, she knew this was a

great opportunity to follow her parents' example. Even though she was hesitant to fit it in to her work schedule, she felt called to help out. Although Jimmy was no longer on the committee, he was still alive to tell her how proud of her he was.

Bonnie and Jimmy taught their children to give what you can and live as a servant of God. For Suzanne, even after her parents have both died, their legacy of giving continues to be lived out through her and her siblings and their children.

It's a good reflection for all of us — how often do we consider our families' influence on how we live our lives? What kind of example are we living out for our own children?

Inspired to **BE**

— BEATITUDE BLESSINGS —

BE Humble

PRESENTED BY: DEB HADLEY

Join us for an evening of prayer and learning.

Deb Hadley will speak about the beatitude, "Blessed are the meek."

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER, 26TH, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

**"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE LAND"**
— MATTHEW 5:5

ALL ARE WELCOME!



GRENADA MISSION TRIP A JOYFUL EXPERIENCE

Rachel Roers, a 2018 Alexandria Area High School (AAHS) graduate, and Adam Pohlen, an AAHS senior were 2 of the 24 youth and 5 adults from St. Mary's who traveled to Grenada in July to serve in a Catholic Heart Workcamp mission. Workdays were spent serving in numerous ways including; replacing a swing set, building homes, providing a medical clinic, sharing time with those with disabilities, painting a school, and leading a Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS was a favorite activity since it involved the most interaction with the local young kids. They played games, gave piggyback rides, and made crafts while making strong connections. Although the time spent with the VBS kids was short, it was difficult to say goodbye.

Both Rachel and Adam returned with an appreciation of the joy they witnessed in the people they were helping. They both agreed that the people of Grenada were some of the happiest they've ever met, even though they seem to have little. The opportunity to be removed from our culture and the general busyness of life made room for God for both the youth and the adults. Being witness to their joy was transformational.

*"It felt like
the Holy
Spirit was
there!"*

A highlight for the mission group was a celebration in the streets. This celebration started when the group was at adoration. The priest instructed four of our youth to hold a canopy over the monstrance (the vessel used to display the consecrated host) as he carried it in procession. They continued outside into the night. Led by musicians and the priest carrying the monstrance, all 150 youth and adults from the mission processed through the streets while singing and dancing. Local people came out of their homes and joined in the celebration. Everyone sung, danced and celebrated God together. Adam commented, "It felt like the Holy Spirit was there!"

For more pictures and comments, visit the St. Mary's Youth Ministry or heartworkcamp Facebook pages.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2018

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents			
Petty cash	\$100		
Checking	376,287		
Mass fund	2,263		
Money market	469,528	\$848,178	
Other		265	
Total Current Assets		848,443	

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Land and land improvements	899,873		
Buildings	15,511,364		
Furniture & equipment	1,267,284	17,678,521	

Total Assets **\$18,526,964**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Other current liabilities		\$6,308	
Notes payable			
\$2,800,000 Note Payable	\$1,840,536		
\$1,200,000 Note Payable	267,367	2,107,903	
Total Liabilities		2,114,211	

NET ASSETS

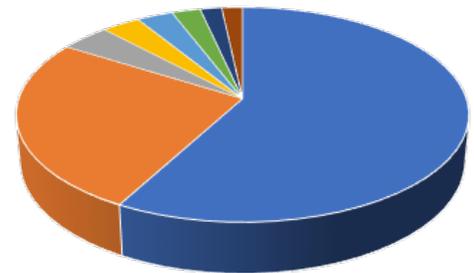
Without donor restrictions	15,937,283		
With donor restrictions	475,470	16,412,753	

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$18,526,964**

WE GIVE OUR
First Fruits

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Regular Offerings and
Grade School Contributions are
Primary Sources of Revenue



- Offerings
- Grade School
- Donations
- Fundraising
- Faith Formation
- Extraordinary
- Other
- Cemetery

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

REVENUE & SUPPORT

	AMOUNT	%
Offerings (<i>Sunday, electronic, Holy Days</i>)	\$1,869,520	58%
Grade school (<i>Tuition, support, & fundraising</i>)	839,038	26%
Donations (<i>Bequests & other</i>)	132,057	4%
Fundraising (<i>Parish raffle</i>)	102,140	3%
Faith formation (<i>Tuition & missions fundraising</i>)	96,109	3%
Extraordinary (<i>1-time transfer</i>)	76,130	2%
Other (<i>Various auxiliary services</i>)	57,016	2%
Cemetery (<i>Sales of lots, crypts, & niches</i>)	55,183	2%
Total Revenue & Support	3,227,193	100%

EXPENSES

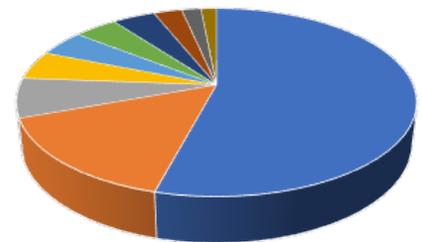
Payroll	1,594,112	54%
Benefits and taxes	449,209	15%
Liturgical, missions, benevolence, instructional, parish festival, other	199,751	7%
Repairs & maintenance (<i>Building, grounds, equipment, janitorial</i>)	144,805	5%
Utilities (<i>electric, heat, communications</i>)	132,627	5%
Diocesan assessments	123,005	4%
Office (<i>Offertory envelopes, supplies, technology, copier, other</i>)	121,224	4%
Interest expense	80,389	3%
Property & liability insurance	54,983	2%
Fundraising (<i>Parish raffle, calendar raffle, other</i>)	44,038	1%
Total Expenses	2,944,143	100%

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$ 283,050

Note: An increase in Net Assets is necessary in order to make debt principal payments and pay for capital expenditures such as, air conditioning system, columbaria, parking lot sealcoating, etc.

Payroll and Benefits are
Primary Expenses



- Payroll
- Benefits and taxes
- Liturgical, missions, benevolence, other
- Repairs and maintenance
- Utilities
- Diocesan assessments
- Office
- Interest expense
- Property & liability insurance
- Fundraising

The Church of St. Mary Highlights 2017-2018

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Our fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. From a financial perspective, as a whole, St. Mary's was successful. Our Change in Net Assets (revenues less expenses) was \$283,050. After you deduct our debt principal payments of \$220,179, we were left with \$62,871 to manage our cash reserves and cover capital projects. This means that we ended our fiscal year in the black.

Our regular weekly offerings increased 2.9% over the previous year. It is this regular, sacrificial giving that allows our parish to keep up with our day-to-day operating expenses. This includes paying just wages and benefits, paying down our debt, maintaining our campus facilities, offering a variety of faith formation opportunities for people of all ages, providing hundreds of liturgies during the year, hosting regional faith events, assisting outside organizations in the greater Alexandria area, and supporting Catholic education through our school (which is expected to be near record enrollment this fall).

Each year, we are presented with new opportunities & challenges. Women in New Evangelization (WINE) starting up this month is one such opportunity.

As many of you are aware, we did have an unusually large capital project this year in the replacement of our chiller unit that handles the cooling of our entire campus. At 21 years old, it was nearly at the end of its expected life and, after being damaged by a couple of severe storms last summer, it needed to be replaced. The total cost of the project was \$104,600, but we received insurance benefits to reduce our net cash outlay to \$62,498. Still, a difficult bill to swallow if it were not for our planned cash reserves.

We have completed our LED lighting project which will reduce our energy consumption. Through the use of an extraordinary bequest, we were able to invest in our Great Hall, creating storage in the alcoves, a fresh coat of paint, a state-of-the-art video projection system, and comfortable folding chairs.

We are committed to being good stewards of God's blessings and building your trust. We continually strive to reduce spending where we can, while investing in areas that support our mission. Last year alone we identified over \$15,000 in annual savings initiatives.

We have been blessed by many who have left their legacy to this beautiful parish. We will continue to strive to serve our mission and ask that you prayerfully consider how you will receive God's gifts and serve as a good steward of them. Please help us to passionately live out our mission: "To know, love, and serve God by living the Eucharist."

If you ever have any concerns or questions, please feel free to stop on in to the parish office.

With gratitude,

Michael J. Dolan

Michael J. Dolan
Finance Committee Chair

With gratitude,

Todd Wentworth

Todd Wentworth
Parish Business Administrator

THE 2017 - 2018 NUMBERS FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

2,154
REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

60 YOUNG
ADULTS
CONFIRMED

5,516
BAPTIZED
CATHOLICS

46
ADULT LEADERS
FOR GRADES 6-12
FAITH FORMATION

5 RCIA
CANDIDATES

50 FIRST
COMMUNIONS

46 INFANT
BAPTISMS

32 FULL-TIME
STAFF

449 STUDENTS
ENROLLED
IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

187
NEW HOUSEHOLD
REGISTRATIONS

200
SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT

9
MARRIAGES

59
DEATHS

320-763-5781 | stmaryalexandria.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Father Steve Binsfeld, Pastor
Todd Wentworth, Parish Business Administrator
Francie Peterson & Elmer Kobbermann, Trustees
Steve Russell, Parish Pastoral Council Chair
Mike Dolan, Finance Committee Chair

STAFF LEADERSHIP

Laurie Youngers, Director of Music and Liturgy
Kathy Fischer, Parish Nurse
Troy Sladek, Principal
Laurie Bienias, Logistics Coordinator
Kathy Ballou, Communications and Ministry Coordinator

420 Irving Street
Alexandria, MN 56308

The Church of
St. Mary

