

# STEWARDSHIP

# Our Way of Life



Living  
a Life  
of  
Stewardship



The Church of  
**St. Mary**

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## A NOTE FROM FATHER MATTHEW

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

We are made for relationships. We begin by being born into a natural family, with obligations toward parents and siblings from the first moments of our lives. We are also born into a spiritual family, our community of faith, at Baptism, and are nourished and formed in the context of our parish.

As we grow up, we grow into greater responsibilities in both natural and spiritual families. We receive the Sacraments and develop a closer relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist. As we become more capable, we take on roles of service to others, giving as we have received. After Confirmation, we have available to us almost every service opportunity in the Church. Our parish family needs us as much as we need them.

I thank each of you for the gifts of your time and talent that you share with our parish family at The Church of Saint Mary. In just a few weeks with you I have already been impressed with the passion that drives so many of you to serve

others in great and small ways. I am overwhelmed by the sheer number of volunteers involved in the Holy Mass each weekend. I am humbled by the teams of disciples among us who care for our homebound parishioners, assist at funerals and weekday Masses, provide behind-the-scenes labor in our office and school, and participate in our wide variety of service organizations, committees, and councils. The bigger the parish, the more its activity depends on good people like you!

We are all called to be good stewards of the time, talent, and treasures God has entrusted to us; may we be inspired by the Holy Spirit to put these gifts to work for the glory of God and the sanctification of all creation.

There is a misconception in the Church that the priest is somehow responsible for everything that happens in the parish, or that the parish staff make everything happen. The more time I spend in parish ministry, the more I wonder how this idea ever came about!

A healthy parish is driven by the Holy Spirit active in you. We have an amazing staff at St. Mary's, but they are here to assist, organize, and strengthen the good work God is accomplishing through you. It is the combined effort of all of us that makes God's Kingdom grow in our midst.

New ministries come about when ordinary people respond to God's call to service and make things happen. If you are hearing God call you to service in some new way, we would love to hear about it! If there is an existing ministry that you feel could use some new life, and you have an idea to help it grow, let us know! The Church is an organic institution, ever growing and regenerating. You are part of God's plan for the Church, and I cannot wait to see what God can do with our cooperation.

Please take some time to prayerfully consider the gifts God has given to you and how you can put these gifts to work in His service in our parish and community. We are all called to be good stewards of the time, talent, and treasures God has entrusted to us; may we be inspired by the Holy Spirit to put these gifts to work for the glory of God and the sanctification of all creation.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Kuhn

# Helping Build Hope & Homes

## Habitat for Humanity Women Build

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County Women Build provides the opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities. This summer, the women of St. Mary's parish staff formed a volunteer build team and helped construct a home. The St. Mary's women's team, led by Faith Community Nurse, Kathy Fischer, framed and erected walls.

The St. Mary's Women Build was a rewarding experience for all involved. The team learned some new skills while improving our community. Women helping women is a positive and powerful message.



# HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS IN SERVICE

## A MINISTRY OF CARE FOR THE SICK, ELDERLY AND HOMEBOUND



Throughout the history of the Church, the ministry to the homebound has been a major part of the works of mercy in parish life. The mission of The Church of St. Mary is:

“To Know, Love and Serve God by Living the Eucharist.”

We celebrate the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith, praying as Christ did — we share the Eucharist so all may be one, whether sick, elderly or homebound.

### THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM ARE:

#### SACRAMENTAL

- To bring the Eucharist to those who are sick, elderly or homebound and unable to attend Mass in person
- To refer the elderly, sick or homebound to the Faith Community Nurse or Parish Priest as needed for sacraments or health support

#### SPIRITUAL

- To share prayer
- To bring bulletins
- To accept prayer requests
- To provide care notes, prayer cards, prayer shawls, and devotional items
- To include the homebound in the parish prayer activities and parish-related projects and organizations

#### CHARITABLE

- To provide service by performing: errands, correspondence, cognitive activities, telephone check-ins and visits
- To encourage other parish organizations, Faith Formation students, and St. Mary's School students to participate in this program
- To remember the homebound at special occasions, such as, birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries, special liturgical celebrations, etc.

### A HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN SERVICE VISIT WILL:

- Help build a bond between the elderly, homebound or ill parishioner and the parish
- Help make a connection that eases loneliness and isolation
- Help bring comfort and hope
- Show gratitude to the elderly and homebound for their many years of participation in our parish community
- Foster awareness and involvement in principles of Catholic social teaching (human dignity, call to family, community, and participation) for all parishioners

### INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

-OR-

WOULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
BENEFIT FROM HEAD, HEART & HANDS  
IN SERVICE?

CONTACT:

Kathy Fischer  
St. Mary's Faith Community Nurse  
320-762-2320  
kfischer@stmaryalexandria.org

Ministers will be trained by the St. Mary's Faith Community Nurse and supported throughout the ministry.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP SERVING IN DULUTH

In June a group of our middle schoolers experienced their first Mission Trip. They worked with a local food shelf, cleaned up local parks and the fairgrounds, and worked with a local youth center. They left an impact on those they served.

John was in his 80's and had lost his wife about 6 months earlier. He was in the process of leaving his home of 53 years and moving in with his daughter. Our kiddos brought a little joy to John – he especially hit it off with our own John (Sanden). Despite being off schedule and spending longer than intended, our group stepped up, assisting with moving, packing and just visiting.

Hands of God - that's what you all were in our time of need when helping us move my Dad's belongings. I felt so overwhelmed before you all miraculously arrived. Praise Jesus!

Our afternoons were spent at a youth center – a place where those who really had nowhere to go spent their day. Mason came from a home where his parents had been in and out of prison and addiction was present. He had spent time in foster homes and experienced abuse. It was beautiful to see how our kids coaxed him out of his shell. He was especially fond of DJ (one of our young adults) and playing pool with the boys.

Trinity was a reserved 8 year old with beautiful long hair. She mostly communicated with nods and shaking of her head. Leah put braids in her hair one day using twine and pipe cleaners to hold them in place. Trinity took one look in the mirror and threw her arms around Leah thanking her – beyond words.

Stanley waited eagerly each afternoon for our group of 8th grade boys to arrive and shoot hoops with him, play pool, or video games. One afternoon we helped offsite, but our students didn't want to disappoint Stanley or the other kids, so they chose to spend their free time that afternoon at the youth center.

These are just a few examples! We were also able to make time to enjoy God's gifts in nature, spent time in prayer, and attended Mass where we were excited to meet Fr Mike Schmitz!

Thank you for your prayers and support of our youth! We feel it is important to offer these opportunities for middle schoolers to encounter Christ!



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2021 AND 2020

ASSETS	2021	2020
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Checking and Petty Cash	\$ 185,200	\$ 268,560
Checking - Restricted	890	1,657
Savings	799,168	743,728
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	985,258	1,013,945
Investments - Restricted	796,632	800,457
Cemetery Perpetual Care	65,000	-
Other	1,850	-
Total Current Assets	<u>1,848,740</u>	<u>1,814,402</u>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Land and Improvements	903,753	903,753
Buildings	15,700,730	15,653,157
Furniture and Equipment	1,506,625	1,276,631
Total Property and Equipment	<u>18,111,108</u>	<u>17,833,541</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 19,959,848</u>	 <u>\$ 19,647,943</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 7,949	\$ 10,236
 SBA - PPP Loan	 369,255	 369,200
\$2,800,000 Note Payable	1,384,176	1,555,599
\$1,200,000 Note Payable	-	-
Total Notes Payable	<u>1,753,431</u>	<u>1,924,799</u>
 Total Liabilities	 <u>1,761,380</u>	 <u>1,935,035</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	17,215,449	16,688,304
With Donor Restrictions	983,019	1,024,604
Total Net Assets	<u>18,198,468</u>	<u>17,712,908</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 19,959,848</u>	<u>\$ 19,647,943</u>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2021 and 2020

	2021		2020	
<b>REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>				
Offerings ( <i>Sunday, electronic, Holy Days</i> )	\$ 1,813,284	49.4%	\$ 1,914,597	44.6%
Grade School ( <i>Tuition, support &amp; fundraising</i> )	988,954	26.9	834,962	19.5
Grants	419,200	11.4	-	0.0
Donations ( <i>Bequests &amp; other</i> )	105,119	2.9	1,258,205	29.3
Fundraising ( <i>Parish raffle</i> )	96,960	2.6	87,180	2.0
Faith Formation ( <i>Tuition &amp; missions fundraising</i> )	46,638	1.3	54,041	1.3
Other ( <i>Various auxiliary services</i> )	58,035	1.6	67,048	1.6
Cemetery ( <i>Sales of lots, crypts &amp; niches</i> )	40,534	1.1	43,951	1.0
Investment Earnings	104,013	2.8	29,957	0.7
Total Revenue & Support	<u>3,672,737</u>	100	<u>4,289,941</u>	100
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Payroll	1,802,710	56.56	1,689,887	53.64
Benefits and Taxes	444,645	13.95	425,322	13.50
Liturgical, missions, instructional, benevolence, festival, other	222,492	6.98	251,754	7.99
Repairs & maintenance ( <i>Building, grounds, equipment, janitorial</i> )	134,828	4.23	168,608	5.35
Utilities ( <i>Electric, heat, communications</i> )	133,999	4.20	143,825	4.57
Office ( <i>Technology, offertory envelopes, supplies, copier, other</i> )	148,365	4.66	160,089	5.08
Diocesan assessments	129,792	4.07	131,260	4.17
Property & liability insurance	65,654	2.06	61,590	1.95
Fundraising ( <i>Parish raffle, Gathering, calendar raffle, missions</i> )	55,681	1.75	55,547	1.76
Interest Expense	49,011	1.54	62,647	1.99
Total Expenses	<u>3,187,177</u>	100%	<u>3,150,529</u>	100%
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 485,560</u>		<u>\$ 1,139,412</u>	

Note: Excludes depreciation and amortization.

# 2020- 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Over the past year, despite many challenges of the pandemic, we worked hard as a parish to continue to live out our mission *To Know, Love and Serve God by Living the Eucharist*. We continued to fully support our outreach, faith formation, Catholic elementary school, liturgies, cemetery upkeep and took care of our 60 employees. The following are some of the financial highlights of our 2020-21 fiscal year.

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## OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

Our Parish had two large expenditures this year: a boiler replacement for \$47,573 and the new Church audio visual system for \$229,994. We were able to pay for these large expenditures as a result of gifts from Father Al's legacy and the St. Mary's Catholic Foundation. We also received forgiveness of our first PPP loan totaling \$369,200. This makes our income statement appear as if we made \$485,560. However, we actually had a decrease in weekly contributions of over \$101,000. After all is considered, the result is a decrease in our cash of \$28,687 from last year.

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## WE DID NOT BACK DOWN ON OUR PARISH TITHING

We shared \$36,414 with individuals in need in our community as well as an additional \$23,383

with other organizations.

17 different organizations were reviewed & supported by our Outreach Committee, including the financial support of four St. Mary's Habitat for Humanity build teams, Central MN TEC, Catholic Extension (Tekakwitha Center in the Diocese of Crookston), Friends of San Lucas (Guatemala) to name a few.

Early this summer, Rosanne Fischer spoke to us about the Holy Trinity Peace Village in Kuron, South Sudan. With the generous support of our parish through individual donations and our parish tithe, we contributed \$11,865! We continue to care for our global Church!

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## WE ESTABLISHED A CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND

We must care for our cemetery in perpetuity – forever. That is a long time. We must invest savings into an investment that will earn more than inflation and allow us to withdraw earnings to forever care for our cemetery. We now have the start of this investment established with the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Saint Cloud.

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## LEGACY DINNER

We have missed getting together at our legacy dinner to share inspiring stories and spend

time in fellowship. We look forward to the possibility of getting together once again.

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Looking ahead to the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Finance Committee approved the budget at the end of May. The budget provides for a 2.8% increase in regular sacrificial giving.

As parishioners, we can feel proud of what we have done to live as Christian stewards. We are grateful for all who have shared their blessings in helping people grow in their faith and service to others.

We promise to continue to be good and faithful stewards of your financial contributions.

With gratitude,

*Michael J. Dolan*

Michael J. Dolan  
Finance Committee Chair

*Todd Wentworth*

Todd Wentworth  
Parish Business Administrator

GET TO KNOW  
OUR PASTOR  
FR. MATTHEW



**FAITH FORMATION KICKOFF**



**GRILL THE PRIEST**

**WED.**

**SEPT 22**

**FAMILY NIGHT SOCIAL**

HAVE QUESTIONS?  
GET THEM  
ANSWERED

For All Faith Formation Students and Families

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5:30 PM MASS

6:15 PM DINNER

7:00 PM GRILL THE PRIEST

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Go to [stmaryalexandria.org](http://stmaryalexandria.org) to RSVP

Alexandria, MN 56308  
420 Irving Street

The Church of  
St. Mary

