



St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish

Forming saints for Christ and the Church since 1857

ANNUAL STATE OF THE PARISH REPORT

July 01, 2016 – June 30, 2017

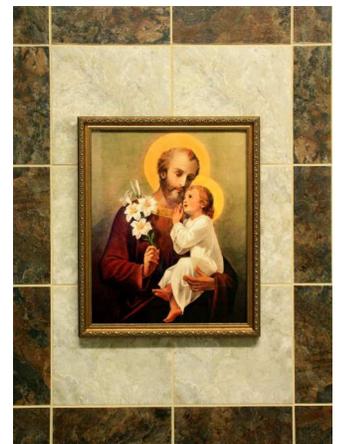
MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope. ~ I Peter 3:15

Christians are innately a people of hope. Saint Peter witnessed the countless miracles of the Lord Jesus. He listened to His blessed teachings. He experienced firsthand the love and forgiveness of the Risen Christ. St Peter's hope, and ours, rest securely on the suffering, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus made present to us in Scripture and Sacrament. Empowered by this intimate relationship with the Lord and his fellow disciples of the Church, Peter spent his life glorifying God and giving others a reason to hope.

In Sacred Liturgy, in faith formation, in Christian service, in abundant generosity, our parish carries on this Apostolic work within the community of Rush County. We provide a reason to hope and to sanctify Christ as Lord. The **2016-17 fiscal year Annual Parish Report** provides plentiful reasons to hope. In most instances, we have grown our ministries and expanded our mission. We have increased the number of students in our parish Catholic school and preschool. We have engaged more persons in faith formation opportunities. We have increased volunteer involvement. We have faithfully celebrated Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage. We have reached more people in need in the community and done more good for God. All of these things should give us ample reasons to hope. As you study this report, it should provide you sufficient proofs and explanations for the many good things happening in our parish family.



As you will recall, parish collections were lagging during the winter months of 2016-17. When this fact was brought to the attention of the parish at large, you responded, not only in meeting the budgetary needs, but by surpassing expectations. Honestly, I am not surprised, for this is the faithful response I've come to expect. Frequently, you exhibit new reasons to hope for the Church universal because of the vibrant hope of the Church local. We can see, in the fruits of our parish life, numerous reasons to hope for the future and the present as we 'sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts,' in our parish, and in our Church.

St Mary, Mother of Hope, Pray for us,

Rev. Jeremy M. Gries

2017-18 Parish Council

Mr. Shawn Adkins, Chair
Mr. Craig Angle
Mr. Stephen Ariens
(Parish Council Rep.)
Mrs. Debbie Banks
Mr. Paul Barada, Jr
Mrs. Lori Ernstes
Mr. Bruce Fenimore
Mr. Brian Hill
Mr. Steve Thoman
Mr. Eric Wagoner
Mr. Don Yager

2017-18 Finance Council

Mr. Doug Krieger, Chair
Mr. Elbert Gordon
Mrs. Marilyn Spilman
Mrs. Debby Williams
Ms. Marty Connerly
(Sch. Commission Rep.)
Mr. Stephen Ariens
(Parish Council Rep.)
Mr. Shawwn Storms
(ASO CPA, Partner)
Mrs. Diana Storms
(ASO CPA Accountant)

2017-18 School Commission

Mrs. Sherri Kirschner, Principal
Mrs. Susan Spaeth, Chair
Mrs. Theresa Alexander
Ms. Marty Connerly
Mrs. Lori Ernstes
(Parish Council Rep.)
Mrs. Nita Fields
Mrs. Julia Jessup
Mr. Curt Naylor
Mrs. Cheryl Riggs
Mrs. Jennifer Snow
Mrs. Marcy Westphal

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ST MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

Standing by Jesus ✠ Serving Others ✠ Succeeding



In 2016-17, St. Mary Catholic School & Preschool continued its rich tradition of providing quality Catholic education to the students of Rush County. The year's theme was "**Jesus is Our Superhero!**" Décor, activities, and even homilies focused on remembering that and also on realizing that we can all be Superheroes with Christ and in Christ. In fact, Jesus needs us to be His superheroes at various times.

The school faced some staffing challenges with two teachers having babies and one facing a serious health concern. We had to be flexible and adaptive to the circumstances at hand. While continuing to provide quality education to our students, we came to realize just how generous, loving, and supportive our parish and school family truly is. School staff, parents, and parish volunteers pulled together to deliver on our promise to educate the whole child – body, mind, and soul. We found several superheroes among our staff members and parents when they stepped up to take on extra duties, or share in responsibilities of the absent teachers. Two "temporary" staff members have become permanent staff members, joining the SMS family in this current school year. Even in adversity, blessings are to be found.

Our community acted as superheroes during our *Catholic Schools Week Italian Night*. Each year, a delicious Italian dinner is served by the staff and a free-will donation is accepted. This year, 100% of the proceeds collected were donated to our staff member fighting cancer. Additionally, we had planned a cake auction to pay for the remaining balance of the 5th/6th grade class trip to Camp Rancho Framasa. A very generous parent offered to pay for the trip so ALL profits could be given to Mrs. Murphy. From one evening, we were able to give Mrs. Murphy a check for \$3300!!! We are happy to report that Mrs. Murphy is doing much better and has returned to teaching this year.



Another superhero we encountered was the *Shanahan family*. They experienced the passing of James and decided to gift the school with memorials in his honor. The focus was on updating our playground. We were able to replace many old, discolored, and defaced pieces as well as purchasing new equipment for the children to use. We placed a climbing rock at the edge of the mulch with a dedication plaque in his honor. Our students enjoy these updates every day!



We had many superheroes work with our *Green and White Gala*. 2017 was the most successful to date. Its success spurred ideas from the committee on how to incorporate the 150th School Anniversary into the event for this year, which will be April 28, 2018. It is sure to be bigger and better than ever.

An extremely successful *Preschool and Kindergarten Open House* led us to contemplate the addition of another half-day preschool class. Once registrations started coming in, and we had reached capacity by early May, we proceeded with the expanded preschool program. We are proud to be providing preschool education to 33 students. We are blessed with a superhero preschool staff. The strong preschool enrollment and excellent retention among Kindergarten to sixth grade means we started 2017-18 with the largest enrollment in eight years at 118 students.



As you can see, 2016-17 was a year of various Superheroes sharing their superpowers with our school, our staff, and our students. We are thankful to them all and are excited to see the fruits of their labors as they continue into the 2017-18 school year!



SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Receptions into the Church:

- Infant Baptisms (0-6 yr) = 10
- Minor Baptisms (7-17 yr) = 1
- Adult Baptisms (>18 yr) = 4
- Received into Full Communion = 10
(Baptized Christians who became Catholic)

First Holy Communions (children) = 5

Confirmations: Teen = 13, Adults = 0

Marriages: Catholic = 6 (both spouses Cath.)
Interfaith = 5 (only one spouse)

Funerals, Wake Services, Burials = 17

PARISH FAITH FORMATION

2016-17 marked the beginning of a new era of Religious Education and Formation. The parish adopted a family-based catechesis model. Parents of K-6th graders meet with Fr. Gries once a month while their children are in catechesis. Then they have lessons at home as a family the rest of the month. Teens utilized programs on *Formed.org*.

Youth Group was active. 13 young ladies attended a Graced retreat. 4 teens attended the ICYC conference. 40+ kids attended VBS. 3 men attended *Lions Breathing Fire* conference. *That Man is You*, in its initial year, draws an average of 32 men each week. Bible Study grows. Nearly 75 people attended each holy hour to mark Divine Mercy Sunday and the 100th Fatima Anniversary. At every level, people were growing in faith and holiness!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council read and discussed *I am a Church Member* by Thomas Rainer. This Christian booklet provided a lively discussion around involvement, expectations, and responsibilities of active parishioners. A key theme was 'I am in the Church to serve, not be served' (Mt 20:28).

Maintenance matters were high on the priority list of the Parish Council. A great deal of time was spent discussing engineering reports and plans for the school building masonry and parking lot improvements. Parking lot subsurface drainage installation was authorized as a preliminary step. A decision was made to pursue a feasibility study and possible capital campaign to fund these needed campus improvements. Smaller improvements were made in 2016-17. The Rectory guest suite received new paint, carpet, and bathroom upgrade. A new roof was installed on the rectory garage. New garage doors were installed in the Food Pantry building. New windows and covers were installed on the west side of the gym and lower north side. Some boiler repairs were along with some plumbing upgrades in the school kitchen.

Parish Council investigated different options of a Parish Mission, ultimately deciding to host the Father's of Mercy again in February of 2018.

The Parish Welcome Committee did some outreach by publishing the "10 Things the Church wants People to Know," one at a time in the Rushville Republican paper. They also worked on a parish handbook.

The parish hosted two Euchre Night socials and the WeAct Rush County Youth Forum. The Cemetery Committee had a great turnout for the annual clean-up day. Overall, it was a productive year.



VBS

SOCIAL OUTREACH

St Mary provided financial assistance to **85** households for such things as rent and utilities, for a total of **\$13,401** in 2016-17.

St Mary Food Pantry assisted **993** households or **3311** people (2184 adults, 1127 children).



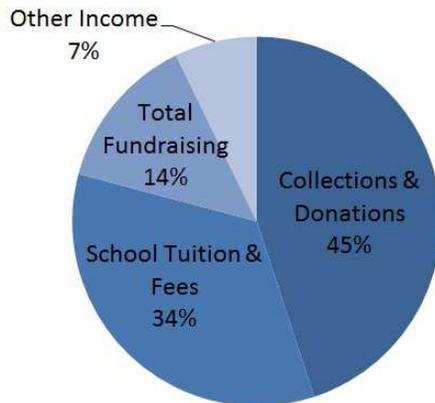
FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

(July 01, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

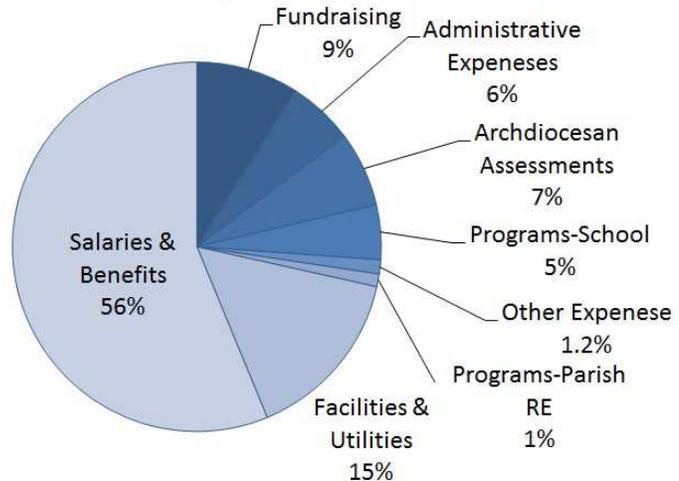
Number of Registered Households = 4690 (7% increase) Estimated number of individual Catholics = 1214

Households contributing Tractable Sunday Donation in 2016 (envelop/check/ACH) = 3800 (81% households)
 (\$0.01-\$200 = 68 households; \$200-\$500 = 540; \$500-\$1000 = 80; \$1000-\$5000 = 1640; >\$5000 = 140)

Ordinary Parish Income



Ordinary Parish Expenses



INCOME:

Sundays/Holy Days	\$465,564
Special 2nd Collections	\$ 5,773
Other Donations	\$ 43,827
School Tuition & Fees	\$387,611
School Grant & Title	\$ 8,217
Parish Rel. Ed – Fees	\$ 7,591
Fundraising – Festival	\$ 40,376
Fundraising – School	\$ 65,546
Fundraising – Scrip	\$ 48,993
Sales (Ads, Cafeteria)	\$ 27,240
Other Income	\$ 12,816
Sodality	\$ 3,773
PTA	\$ 22,665
Calvary Cemetery	\$ 23,253
Mass Stipends	\$ 4,657
Food Pantry	\$ 19,706
Financial Assist. in need	\$ 2,684
Interest Income	\$ 8,397
Endowment Income	\$ 17,383

Total Income **\$1,216,072**

EXPENSE:

Parish Salaries	\$ 66,115
School Salaries	\$379,038
Employee Benefits	\$139,547
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$ 68,012
Special 2nd Collections	\$ 5,773
Office Expenses	\$ 26,986
Liturgy Expenses	\$ 10,113
Accounting Services	\$ 23,685
Utilities	\$ 37,207
Property & Facilities	\$112,449
Programing-Parish Rel. Ed	\$ 11,577
Programing – School	\$ 49,692
Fundraising – Festival*	\$ 27,420
Fundraising – School	\$ 22,116
Fundraising – Scrip	\$ 43,599
Other Expenses	\$ 12,952
Sodality	\$ 3,428
PTA	\$ 17,480
Calvary Cemetery	\$ 23,950
Mass Stipends	\$ 5,224
Food Pantry	\$ 21,729
Financial Assist. in need	\$ 11,260

Architect/Engineer Fees \$ 9,260

Total Expenses **\$1,128,612**

Total Net Gain* **\$ 87,460**

* Includes \$3,180 to Pastoral Care & \$15,617 to Parking Lot Fund

Designated Funds: Sodality - \$4,351; Calvary Cemetery - \$33,704; PTA - \$22,172, Scrip - \$15,534
 (Designated funds are held in trust by the parish on behalf of a parish organization or project at fiscal year-end)