



St. Margaret Mary Parish

Experience New Life in Christ



2022-2023 Parish Annual Report



Parish Annual Report

2022-2023

Content



- 2 **Pastor's Letter**
- 3 **New Parish Mission and Vision**
- 5 **Worship & Music**
- 7 **Adult Faith Formation**
- 9 **Youth Faith Formation**
- 11 **Christian Service**
- 13 **Financial Overview**
- 21 **Parish Staff and Pastoral Council**



Pastor's Letter



Dear St. Margaret Mary Parishioners,

The 2022-2023 fiscal year was yet another exciting and fruitful year for our parish! As you read through this annual report, I hope you get a sense of the amazing things the Holy Spirit is doing in our parish right now. I'd like to direct your attention to a few details in particular:

- This past fiscal year, we welcomed 130 new families to our parish and celebrated an increase in the number of Sacraments.
- We introduced new and exciting programs and opportunities.
- We supported numerous communities and individuals through an impressive amount of service and donations.
- We saw mass attendance and collections steadily rise, despite the impact Covid has had on churches and institutions across the country.

With such growth, we continue to remain fiscally responsible with your generous donations contributing to the good of our parish initiatives and operations, and we're poised to have yet another fruitful year! I hope you enjoy reading this report and share the same sense that it is truly an exciting time to be part of the St. Margaret Mary Parish family, the parish with heart, on a mission to help people experience new life in Jesus Christ!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Max Behna

Parish Vision & Mission

The world is hurting. Our Church is hurting. But Jesus is LORD and He promises a life of true joy and abundance! In response to this truth, we announced a new Vision & Mission for St. Margaret Mary Parish in January 2023:

St. Margaret Mary exists to help people *experience new life in Christ!*

In the face of shame, offering an experience of unconditional love and mercy.

In the midst of despair, offering an experience of real hope.

In the midst of anxiety, offering an experience of peace & security.

In the midst of meaninglessness, offering an experience of renewed sense of purpose.

In the midst of lies, offering an experience of that Truth which sets us free (John 8:32).

In the midst of sin, offering an experience of forgiveness.

In the midst of isolation, offering an experience of communion.

In the face of death, a reassurance of eternal life!

This is what Jesus came to offer us and is made possible through a living relationship with *Jesus Christ, who is alive and well* and wants us to *experience His love in real time, an experience that will change our lives, and always for the better!*

“I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly!”

-John 10:10

And how do we experience this new life in Christ? Through the opportunity to:

Encounter Christ

We help people encounter the living person of Jesus Christ.

- Radical Hospitality
- Eucharist
- Kerygma (Knowing Our Story)
- Beauty
- Community



I find being in the quiet presence of Our Lord a healing gift. During Eucharistic Adoration, I share my joys, sorrows, concerns and fears with Jesus. It is like visiting a most caring and trusted friend. Eucharistic Adoration is a time to open my heart to Jesus. It is a quiet and thoughtful time, which I treasure.
- Eileen Foran, parishioner since 1996

Grow in Christ

We help people deepen their relationship with Jesus through the Beauty, Truth, and Goodness of our Catholic faith.

- Prayer & Devotion
- Scripture
- Small Groups
- Sacraments
- Faith Formation



The Great Adventure Bible Study was amazing and really impactful to my life. I have never encountered scripture in such a deep and meaningful way.
- Catie Harrison, parishioner since 2007

Be Christ

We empower people to go out and be Christ to the world.

- Service
- Evangelization



I find working with the homeless to be very rewarding. Not only am I doing as Jesus commanded to “love one another”, I am rewarded by the spiritual energy produced by our loving and supportive parish.
- Steve O’Brien, PADS volunteer & parishioner since 2005

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Greeters
Lectors
Sacristans

Music Ministries

Cantors
Children's Choir
Contemporary Choir
Schola Cantorum Choir
Good Shepherd Funeral Choir
Instrumentalists

Other Ministries

Eucharistic Adoration
Baptism Assistants
Linen Launderers

To learn more and to sign up to volunteer, visit www.smmp.com



Worship & Music

The Christian Worship Commission (CWC) ministries promote and develop the continuing spiritual and liturgical life of the parish with liturgies being the primary focus to help people encounter and grow in Christ.

In addition to our pastor, visiting priests, and four deacons, many different ministries are able to be like Christ to others and contribute to our vibrant Masses. Greeters are the face and spirit of our parish's charism of radical hospitality as people enter the worship space. Several members of the greeter teams are trained in first aid, CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use. Sacristans ensure that everything needed for Mass is properly set up, and cleaned up when Mass has ended.

Liturgies also require the support of other ministries including the sacred role of eucharistic ministers. The lectors, which include teens, young adults, and veteran readers, eloquently proclaim the Word of God to the congregation. Behind the scenes, we also have dedicated linen launderers. And, in the past year, we were pleased to restart our altar servers ministry with a new coordinator taking over for Deacon Ken.

Members of our music ministry provide an encounter with Christ through the beauty and power of sacred music for our liturgies. The first SMMP Youth Cantor Scholarship was awarded to three high-school students who have promising futures in the field of church music and singing. The Children's Choir sang for masses throughout the year and continued to grow in number. In December, the Contemporary Choir, Schola Cantorum Choir, and the Children's Choir came together to sing at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. In May, a Star Wars Pipe Organ Discovery Day was held, in which our Director of Music, Jessica Chi, showcased our pipe organ to children and families of our parish. The Contemporary Choir, under the direction of Brian Pelz, continues to inspire parishioners through their music, and participated in many additional liturgies throughout the year, including First Communion and Confirmation. The group "Off The Rails" performed at the Parish Appreciation Dinner and the annual outdoor concert held each summer for parishioners, neighbors, families, and friends.

Our liturgies are celebrated in a beautiful worship space which is seasonally decorated by the Art & Environment Coordinator and volunteers. Our growing number of baptisms and weddings are facilitated by the Sacrament Coordinator and a team of assistants. The dedication of all CWC ministry volunteers make our liturgies and sacramental rites relevant and spirit filled.

The CWC is not all work. We also strive to build community amongst our members. Ministry representatives gather annually for a summer barbecue, and the contemporary choir hosts a holiday gathering and end of year pizza party.



They say singing is like 'praying twice.' And indeed it is. Hearing the congregation join us in song is a wonderful tribute to how important music is to everyone. Music is a universal language and being part of this is pure heaven!"

2977
registered
households

130
new families
registered

90
baptisms

12
weddings

Statistics based on our fiscal year:
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

Adult Bible Study
 Communio
 Morning & Evening
 Enrichments
 Marriage Preparation
 Baptism Preparation
 RCIA
 Parish Library
 Parish Mission
 Women's Café



Adult Faith Formation

In the fall of 2022, SMMP launched a new learning and Catholic content online platform called *Formed*. It is a multilayered approach to learning through movies, studies, podcasts and shows for children through adults.

AFF kicked off the Liturgical “new year” in Advent, by selling Advent wreaths, candles, calendars and a new Advent devotional. Fr. Ryan Adorjan presented about the *Wonder of Advent* and spoke words of encouragement for the world of our times.

Bible Study was very much alive this year as we added a new study called, *Unlocking the Mystery*. Several “seasoned” Bible Study attendees participated with the RCIA class

in learning how the New Testament is concealed in the Old and how the Old Testament is revealed in the New. In total, 95 people walked their way through the Book of Hebrews, the Acts of the Apostles and the rest of the Bible.

Morning and Evening Enrichment began just before the start of Lent and continued into May. Over 150 people took advantage of speakers and topics ranging from *Walking the Journey through Lent* and *The Road to Emmaus*, to *Understanding the Message of Divine Mercy*. We watched an episode from the TV series *The Chosen* and discussed Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well. We also learned ways to provide comfort and relief to caregivers through the *Nourish for Caregivers* apostolate.

Women’s Café continues to draw women of all ages. About 35 women regularly attend, enjoying a warm and friendly place to share fellowship, with the intent of deepening relationships with Christ. Topics included: our relationship with the Saints, Christmas around the world, and discovering our personal mission in Christ’s kingdom.

Sacramental preparation for adults is an important part of encountering and growing in Christ. Baptism preparation classes teach parents how to live a sacramental life in their own homes as the “domestic church”. Through RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) three adults completed their sacraments of initiation and three adults made a profession of the Catholic faith this year. We also welcomed two preteens into the Catholic Church.

We finished the Liturgical Year with our three-day Parish Mission, where Deacon Keith Strohm discussed the Father’s love for us, the saving power of Jesus, and how to unleash the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, a new group formed called “Lattes and Littles” for parents or caregivers of toddlers.



The new, ‘Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible’ study was amazing and really impactful to my life. I have never encountered scripture in such a deep and meaningful way. Anyone struggling to understand how the events that predate Jesus connect to us as Christians, should consider this study. I am really looking forward to the fall study.”

200+
 parishioners
 registered for Formed

425+
 attended the parish
 mission in person

1130+
 online views of the
 parish mission

To learn more and to sign up to volunteer, visit www.smmp.com

Grades Pre - 8

Religious Education
First Reconciliation
First Eucharist
Sacrament Preparation
Catechists
Service Opportunities
All Saints Catholic Academy

High School Youth

Peer Ministry
Confirmation
Retreats
Service Trips

To learn more and to sign up to volunteer, visit www.smmp.com

462
students in the Pre-8
and Youth Faith program



Youth Faith Formation

Grades Pre-8 Our catechists provide reverent prayer experiences, rich faith sharing, Scripture reading and engaging activities that lead our students to grow in Christ and deepen their relationship with Him. Our K-8 RE classes meet for an hour three to four times per month from September through April. This past year, we piloted a *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program for preschoolers during the 9am Mass.

Students participated in retreats, a parent/child faith sharing night and large group communal worship. Additionally, students hosted three masses. Reconciliation services were held in Advent and Lent. Students re-enacted the Nativity during Christmas week classes and the Living Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.

Living our faith in service to others is an integral part of our program. Families participated in several service projects living out our mission to be Christ.

- Hundreds of parents and children served at Feed My Starving Children.
- Students created hundreds of cards, decorations and banners for nursing home residents, made blankets and collected diapers for Almost Home Kids and collected protein bars for cancer centers.
- Families also collected hundreds of paper products & food donations for 360 Youth Services.
- During Lent we collected over \$13,000 parish-wide to benefit hundreds of underprivileged children in Uganda.
- Students created a banner and made decorations for the police station during police appreciation week.

Our goals in **Youth Ministry** are to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today, to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. This remains challenging as our young people are still recovering from the global events that destabilized their world.

9th and 10th graders do more than learn information and complete service hours as they prepare for confirmation. Over 12 three hour sessions, they explore our tradition and how it integrates into their practice of our faith led by 10 inspiring adult leaders. Retreat helped them to encounter Christ and grow in Christ. We hosted our annual Deanery Speaker event with Roy Petitfils giving insight into the challenges around mental health with our young people, their families and our world over the last few years. The 10th graders served over 1600 hours in our wider community throughout the past two years. We celebrated confirmation with Bishop Hicks on May 19th.

Retreats are created and facilitated by the juniors and seniors in Peer Ministry. Through witness talks and small group discussions, they bring relevancy and vitality to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This year, they also prepared a Junior High Retreat that creatively used Minecraft to explore our parish vision and mission. We also brought back the Harvest Sunday Food Drive enabling our youth to be Christ in our neighborhood.

80
students received
First Communion



40
students were
Confirmed

61
students received
First Reconciliation



10,000+ lbs
of food collected
on Harvest Sunday

Bereavement Ministry
Big Day of Service
Charitable Contributions
Christmas Giving Tree
Daybreak Transitional Housing
Earth Care Committee
Food Pantry Ministry
Holiday Food Baskets
Knights of Columbus
Legion of Mary
Men's Club
Military Ministry
PADS
Pastoral Care
Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee
Refugee Support Group
September Senior Club
St. Vincent de Paul
Welcoming Committee



Christian Service

St. Margaret Mary Parish has always been known as “the parish with heart” because of our service to others. We are living our mission to be Christ to others as we serve our parish and our community. We raise funds and volunteer for various ministries and community agencies that align with our mission, bringing an encounter with Jesus through our good works.

On our fifth annual “Big Day of Service” hundreds of parishioners of all ages served over 20 parish ministries and community agencies. We collected food and toilet paper, created blankets, cards and holiday decorations, and sent volunteers to several

To learn more and to sign up to volunteer, visit www.smmp.com

community agencies. But service is not just a one-day activity. At St. Margaret Mary Parish service is a way of life. Our mission is embedded in everything we do.

We serve the homeless in our community by volunteering to give food and shelter through our PADS Ministry. We provide housing and mentoring for families in our Daybreak Transitional Housing Ministry. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society assists those in need. We mentor and assist refugee families. We collect food for our local pantries and holiday food baskets for families and individuals. We award grants to local social service agencies that serve the needy and disenfranchised. We support Pro-Life initiatives in the area through prayer and fundraising. Our Earth Care ministry keeps us aware of current events and works to beautify our grounds. During the Christmas season we provide Christmas gift cards and food for our neighbors in parishes in Aurora.

In addition to the services we provide for the wider community, we also help our parish family encounter, grow in and be Christ. The newly formed Welcoming Committee provides hospitality and fellowship for both new and established parishioners. Pastoral ministers visit the sick and bring communion to our homebound parishioners. Our Legion of Mary members pray for the spiritual and social welfare of parishioners and the world. Bereavement Ministers care for those who have lost loved ones. We also provide financial assistance to parishioners as well as Christmas gift cards and food baskets as needed.

The Men’s Club sponsors the parish picnic and other activities throughout the year to enhance parish life as well as fundraise for various causes both in and outside the parish. The Knights of Columbus are dedicated to the mission of service, supporting vocations and individuals with developmental disabilities as well as other national and parish-wide initiatives.



“Serving others through the various ministries at St. Margaret Mary has enriched my life in so many ways. It has allowed me to see the generosity and love in our parish and to see Christ in the people around me.”



\$16,000+

donated in gift cards to people in need at Christmas

80+

local charities received support from our service ministries

Thank you for your generosity!

You make our mission at St. Margaret Mary possible! Because of your generous offerings of time, talent, and financial contributions, our parish is able to achieve our Mission by doing God's work through our many ministries and inspiring liturgies.

We Thank You!



Financial Overview

The following pages present a financial overview for our fiscal year running from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Our full annual report will be published in an upcoming bulletin.



Financial Projects in 2022-2023

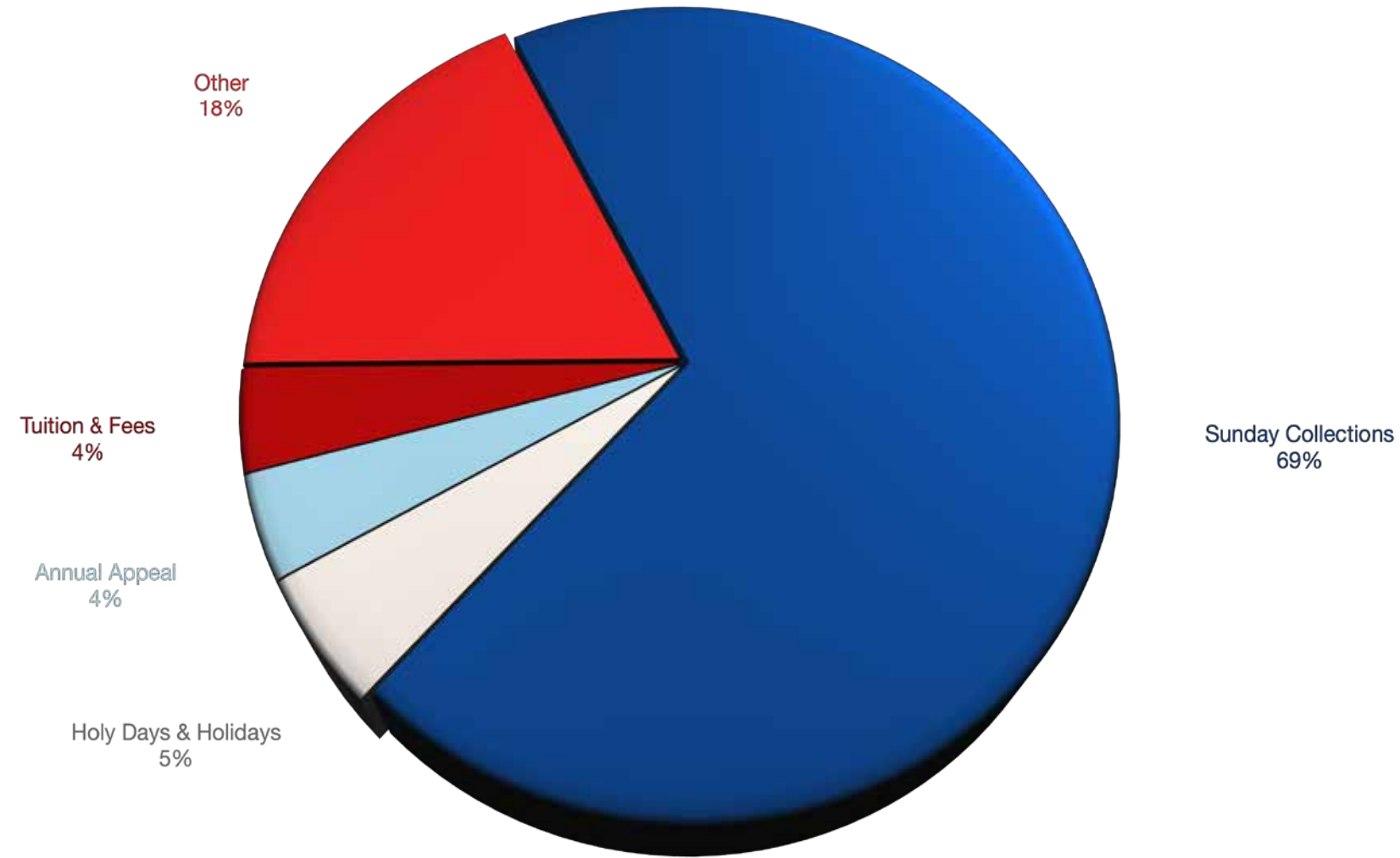
This year, asphalt repair and sealcoating for the parking lots were performed, concrete work at the north entrance was done, and the chapel and narthex HVAC units were purchased. Additionally, the rectory carpet was replaced, an office water heater was purchased, and major upgrades were made to the computer network.

Several of our older HVAC systems require maintenance and replacement in the near future. We have planned for replacement of these units over the next few years.



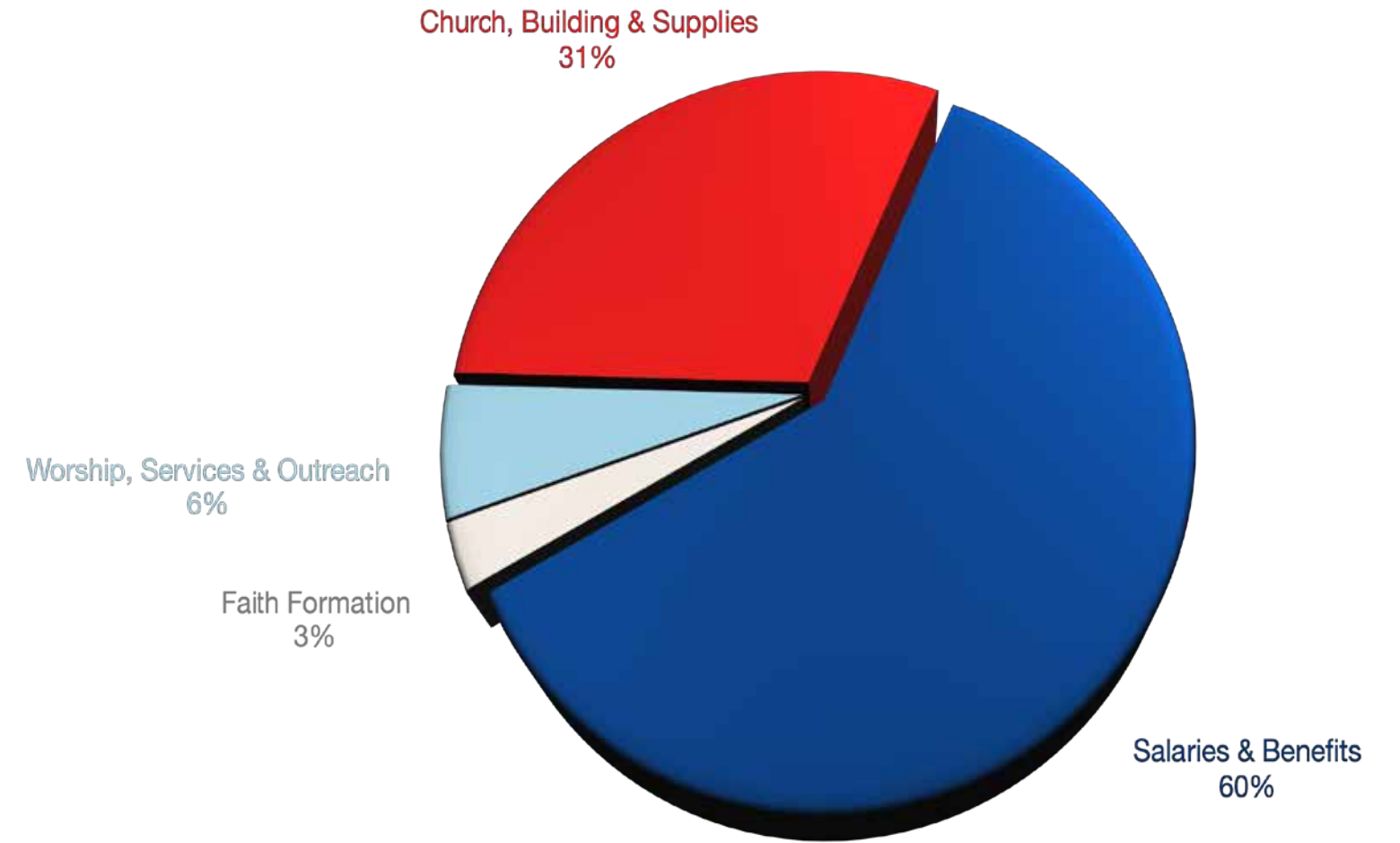
Annual Income Total

\$1.84 Million





Actual Spend

\$1.36 Million



STAYING CONNECTED

In order to stay up-to-date with our rapidly changing and highly technological culture, we implemented several communication tools, including:

-  new parish website
-  new parish app (MyParish)
-  new email platform (Evangelus)
-  new database platform (Camino)
-  Spotify
Fr. Max's homilies

PARISHIONER DONATIONS

1,142

registered households who contributed to our parish last year

\$1,200

average household contribution regular donors made throughout the year

40%

of all donations to the parish are made online

\$83,425

the amount of planned gifts parishioners made to the parish last year - offering significant tax advantages



All that our parish accomplishes is only possible because of amazing donors and volunteers like you! Thank you!

Looking for ways to get involved? Please visit our parish website at smmp.com for a detailed list of our ministries.

Dedicated Funds

In addition to normal donations, parishioners are able to target contributions to several of our ministries. These contributions, along with our Good Friday collections, are managed separately and are dedicated solely to their intended ministries. They cannot be used for general parish expenses.

Some examples include:


- Daybreak Transitional Housing
- Youth Ministry Missions Trips
- Refugee Support
- St. Vincent de Paul
- and many others...

For more information on how to contribute in this way, please visit smmp.com/give-3 or call the parish office.

Dedicated Donations

St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 33,173
Daybreak Transitional Housing	\$ 21,663
Giving Tree	\$ 7,370
Refugee Support	\$ 5,705

Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

Amount donated from SMMP	\$ 150,804
 \$13,115 increase from prior year 446 number of SMMP households donating	
Refund back to parish	\$ 18,553



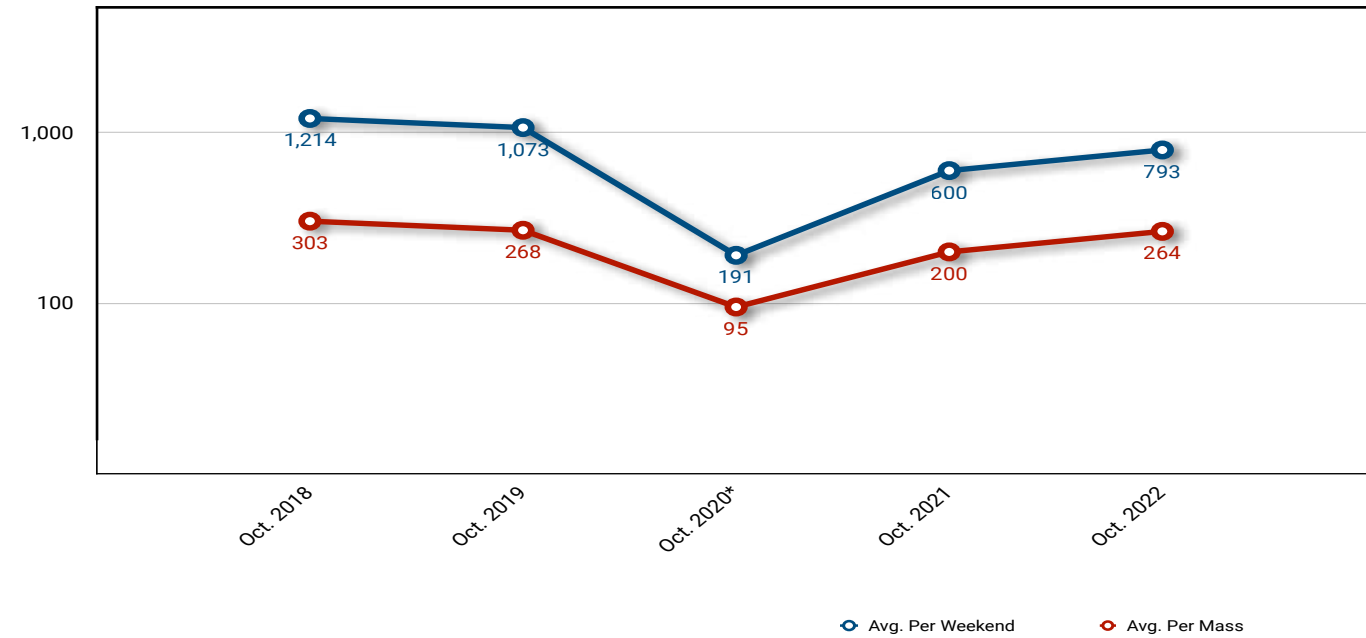
Repair and Replacement Fund

Our Repair and Replacement account is used to pay for future capital improvements to our property. These would include replacing HVAC units, parking lot replacement, lighting, church flooring and roof replacement. \$120k was transferred from the Operating Account to the Repair and Replacement account during the 2023 fiscal year. We paid expenses in the amount of \$59.6k which included \$36.5k for asphalt repair and sealcoating of the parking lots, \$4.5k for concrete work at the north entrance and \$18.6k for the chapel and narthex HVAC units. The Repair and Replacement Fund balance as of 06/30/2023 was \$506.1k.

Mass Attendance & Donations

While other parishes have experienced a decline in mass attendance over the years, we are currently experiencing an increase in both mass attendance and donations. Thank you to all those who have donated to support our growing parish and its ministries!

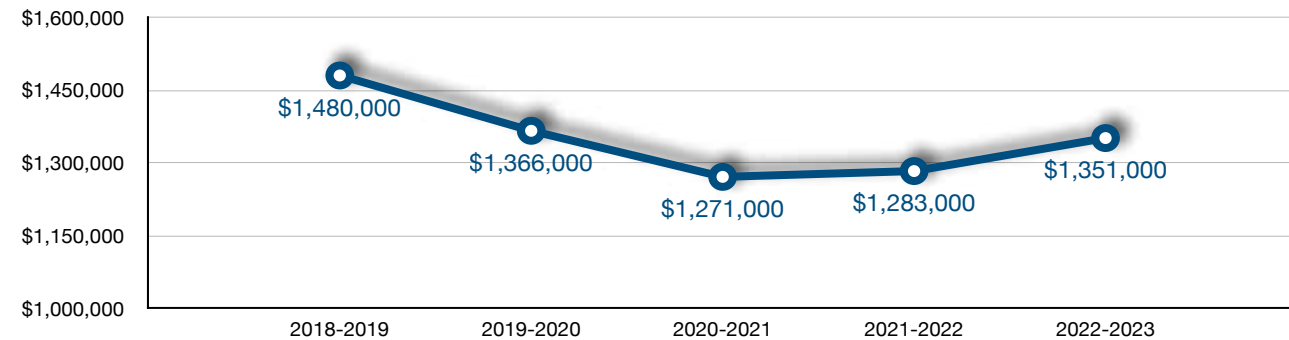
Average Weekend Mass Attendance in October 2018-2022



**Due to COVID-19 restrictions, SMMP went from four in-person Masses to one during the summer of 2020. A second Mass was added in September 2020 and a third Mass in September 2021.*

Parishioners are also able to watch Mass online.

Annual Sunday & Holy Day Donations



Ways to Donate

God is generous with us and we are called to be generous in return. Without the gifts of time, talent and treasure shared so generously by our St. Margaret Mary members, we simply would not be the vibrant, welcoming, and faith-filled Catholic Church community we are proud to be. By sharing our gifts with one another, we will ensure our parish thrives for generations to come.



Sunday Offerings

We accept cash & checks placed in the Sunday collection basket or the parish office.

Automated Giving



Simplify your life with online donations. Big or small, all donations make a difference.

Automated giving:

- means no more check writing or envelopes to remember
- allows you to plan your giving, in the same way you budget other financial commitments
- enables you to manage your account online, adjust the amount of your contribution, get a record of your giving, etc.

You can easily enroll by clicking on the "give" tab at the top of our website or by calling the parish office.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock



We understand that cash may not always be the best way to give, so there are other options for supporting our parish. Giving through appreciated stock is simple and may have tax benefits to you. Learn more by clicking the "donate" icon on our parish website or by calling the parish office.



Tax-Free IRA Gifts

People aged 70½ or older may make charitable gifts from an IRA account directly to St. Margaret Mary with no tax liability to the donor.

If you are 70½ or older, you can give up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to St. Margaret Mary free from federal income tax each year.

The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you still benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.

Your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.



Estate Planning

Consider leaving a gift to St Margaret Mary in your will or by beneficiary designation. An informative video can be found on our parish website under the "give" tab.

Pastor

Rev. Max Behna

Deacons

Dn. Joe Ferrari
Dn. Don Helgeson
Dn. Kenneth Miles
Dn. Terry Taylor
Dn. Fred Straub (retired)

Liturgy & Music

Liturgy Coordinator *Director of Music*
Dn. Kenneth Miles Jessica Chi

Contemporary Choir Director
Brian Pelz

Faith Formation

Director of Adult Faith Formation
Kelly Reznicek

Director of Religious Education
Jacqui Snyder

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Dan Lawler

Adult Faith Administrative Assistants
Katie Matar (hired April 2023)
Kathryn Sevryn (hired April 2023)

RE/Youth Administrative Assistants
Christina Lupo
Sepha Slean

Administration

Administrative Assistants
Millie Gredics
Mary Sears

Bookkeeper
Riani Ng

Business Manager
Stephanie Barcel (left May 2023)
Matthew A. Ernst (hired May 2023)

Custodian
Ziggy Owiesek

Director of Communications
Julie Duffin

*Director of Mission Advancement
& Assistant to the Pastor*
Rochelle Luciano

Sacrament Coordinator
Anita Wennlund

Art & Environment
Judy Rieser

Pastoral Council

(July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

Pastor
Fr. Max Behna

Vice President
Kathy O'Rourke

President
Mike Anderson

Secretary
Lise Nauman

Admin/Finance Commission
Anne Lysaught

Christian Service Commission
Mary Kienstra

Christian Worship Commission
Barb Ryan

Staff Representative
Dan Lawler

Members-at-Large
Steve Novotny
Bob Presnak (Stewardship)
Susan Stonesifer

Recording Secretary
Anna Castillo

*Thank you to the PC members
who served this past fiscal year.
For a current list of members,
please visit the website.*