



St. Mary, Mother of the Church
140 Main St., Lee

St. Mary of the Lakes
72 North Main St., Otis

St. Joseph's
11 Elm St., Stockbridge

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2023

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15th, 2023

St. Mary's Parish

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One parish family serving God and neighbor through three churches, two cemeteries, two rectories and a school covering eight towns in our beautiful Berkshires.

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners

I hope you find in this report a helpful snapshot of our parish. I have compiled our Sacramental and Census numbers. It is good to review who is an "official" member as well as the formation and sacrament ministries we perform. Behind each number is a living, breathing person who is a beloved son or daughter of God. Together we are the parish family of St. Mary.

I also included Fiscal Reports from St. Mary, Mother of the Church (church and rectory), St. Joseph (church, rectory and cemetery), St. Mary of the Lakes (church), St. Mary's Cemetery and St. Mary's School. Sometimes fiscal reports can be confusing, so don't hesitate to talk to me or one of the members of the Finance Council. We are called to be stewards of the great gifts God has given us. I pray I have stewarded and shepherded the parish well.

I dedicated a whole page to some of the things happening around the parish. There is a whole page for the school and a whole page for all the Buildings and Grounds projects that happened last year. It is only a smattering, but I hope it inspires you to get more active in your faith.

Last year saw the transition of Karen Vidoli from Parish Secretary to Cemeteries Manager. She continues to work on putting the entire St. Mary's Cemetery into an online version while overseeing purchasing of plot and burials at both of our cemeteries. We also said a sad goodbye to Kate Murray as our Faith Formation Coordinator. She is studying for her Masters in Social Work. We wish her well.

Marya Makuc took on the job of Parish Secretary as well as a new vision of Faith Formation that focused on Youth Ministry and forming the whole family. Her presence has been such a blessing. In addition, she headed up the renovations of St. Joseph's Rectory. I cannot describe the gargantuan effort she put into repairing and refurbishing that building. Sadly, she put in her notice at the beginning of August. I am still in shock, but I wish her well. She will be a blessing wherever she goes.

We were so blessed to have Katie Harkness join us as an intern this summer. She helped at the school before it got out, the renovations of St. Joseph's Rectory, office help at our rectory, set-up and serving at the Vacation Bible School, chaperoning Steubenville East and her study of Acts of the Apostles. What a breath of fresh air she brought!

Fr. Matt has been hard working throughout the year. In addition to his profound and holy efforts as a parish priest, he served as acting principal for the three months that Mrs. Culver had off for maternity leave. He celebrates his third anniversary of Priesthood today, the Feast of the Assumption. May Mary, queen of clerics, watch over him.

My year has been overshadowed by major health challenges due to a Staph infection in one of my artificial knees. I don't want to rehash how wearing it was leading up the major surgery in December, the months of IVs and the new knee in March. I am still very far from up to speed, but I continue to work 12 hour days. Thanks for all the prayers, best wishes and support. I really try to be a good and holy priest, serving you as best I can.

I really believe in the accountability, learning and planning that this Annual Report affords us. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Know of my prayers for you and your loved ones, please say a prayer for me and the whole parish.

Pax, Fr. Brian McGrath

Census

(numbers as of from July 1st of the previous year through June 30th of the year indicated)

# Registered Parishioners	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Households	1,043	965	940	950	986
Total Census of Parish	2,714	2,324	2,117	2,168	2,595
# Students in Faith Formation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
St. Mary's School (K - 8)	75	70	86	96	80
St. Mary's School Pre-Primary	31	29	27	29	32
Faith Formation (K-8)	42	40	38	41	37
Faith Formation (9-12)	30	25	17	16	17
Sacraments	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adult Baptisms	1	0	1	0	1
Profession of Faith	0	0	2	1	1
Infant Baptisms	26 <i>(1 at STJ)</i>	17 <i>(2 at STJ)</i>	11 <i>(2 at STJ)</i>	14 <i>(4 at STJ)</i>	19 <i>(1 at SML)</i>
First Communion	20	7	29	15	17
Confirmed	18	0	32	13	20
Vocations	0	0	0	0	0
Weddings at SMC & SML	5	1	5	1	4
Weddings at STJ	6	5	4	6	6
Anointing of the Sick	127	90	31	96	487
Funerals	43	43	66	58	59
Avg. Daily Mass Attend.	25	20	20	20	20
Avg. Sunday Mass Attend. SMC	575	225	325	288	290
Avg. Sunday Mass Attend. SML	150	60	100	30	38
Avg. Sunday Mass Attend. STJ	160	75	100	73	50

Some thoughts on the Census

Several years ago, we started a process of updating our census. Taking off names of people that had moved away or passed away. Since then, we have seen some new families in the parish and pray we will continue to see our numbers grow.

Our parochial school saw a drop in numbers as a large class graduated and the incoming Kindergarten class was very small. But you will see in the report on page 5 that we are fiscally solvent. More important than numbers is the quality of the education that we provide. We educate the whole child by the grace of God.

Our Faith Formation program began a family centered approach where both student and parents attend a educational, service and prayer experiences. We thank God for the fidelity of our families who remain committed to passing on the faith. First Communion remained solid with students from both Family Faith Formation and the School. This year our Confirmation program was very large as Bishop Byrne allowed for the sacrament in 9th Grade. That meant we had several classes making Confirmation. We strive to keep those Confirmed active in the church with Mass, High School Youth Group and ways to serve (readers at Mass, aids at Family Faith Formation, etc.).

We still do many more Funerals than Baptisms. But we had a baptism at St. Mary of the Lakes for the first time in many years. We pray for our young families and the next generation. We also pray for those who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.

It was another big wedding year. Many came from outside our parish. But those live around here can be seen going to church. That is such a sign of hope for them and for our church.

We offered the Anointing of the sick at Mass back in February. Most everyone who was at church took the opportunity to receive this Sacrament of Healing. We also have offered the Sacrament at several of our First Friday Masses bringing healing and grace to those confined to nursing homes. It is a beautiful and powerful prayer of the Church.

The Sunday Mass Count is a hard count we do over three weekends in October. That's not our busiest season (especially at St. Joseph and St. Mary of the Lakes). We haven't reached pre-Covid numbers, but we continue to see good Mass attendance.

Fiscal Year Ending	St. Mary's Parish (Consolidated)		St. Mary Mother of the Church		St. Joseph's Church & Cemetery		St. Mary of the Lake Mission		St. Mary's Cemetery	
	2022	2023	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/22	6/30/23
Income (Collections, Bequests/Gifts, etc.)	\$599,359	\$579,305	\$402,106	\$410,471	\$93,600	\$ 86,901	\$47,208	\$37,875	\$56,445	\$ 44,058
Expenses										
Salaries & Benefits	\$241,778	\$241,797	\$200,932	\$187,597	\$19,200	\$19,200	\$15,600	\$15,800	\$ 6,046	\$19,200
Cathedraticum	\$ 18,183	\$ 23,844	\$ 14,841	\$ 19,200	\$ 1,692	\$ 2,268	\$ 1,650	\$ 2,376	\$ -	\$ -
School Subsidy	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 57,600	\$ 57,600	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ -
Sacramental & Ministry Programming	\$ -	\$ 14,911	\$ -	\$ 14,911	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Church, Office, Cemetery Supplies & Maint.	\$ 53,033	\$ 51,163	\$ 37,201	\$ 35,333	\$ 6,653	\$ 6,849	\$ 6,199	\$ 6,489	\$ 2,981	\$ 2,492
Furniture, Equipment & Vehicle	\$ 5,609	\$ 8,573	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 640	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,969	\$ 8,573
Buildings & Maintenance	\$ 85,428	\$ 72,608	\$ 67,682	\$ 28,769	\$10,109	\$ 27,952	\$ 7,238	\$ 6,326	\$ 400	\$ 9,561
Utilities	\$ 49,005	\$ 47,665	\$ 27,522	\$ 25,336	\$10,711	\$ 11,933	\$ 6,515	\$ 6,908	\$ 4,256	\$ 3,488
Property, Casualty & Liability Insurance	\$ 22,551	\$ 25,260	\$ 9,504	\$ 10,344	\$ 9,135	\$ 10,692	\$ 2,376	\$ 2,592	\$ 1,536	\$ 1,632
Investments Gain/(Loss)	\$ 8,171	\$ (10,922)	\$ 6,555	\$ (13,555)	\$ (10)	\$ 7,185	\$ (71)	\$ 7,368	\$ 1,697	\$ (11,920)
Total Expenses	\$535,587	\$545,820	\$415,282	\$379,090	\$59,339	\$ 80,093	\$40,778	\$41,690	\$20,188	\$ 44,946
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ 63,772	\$ 33,485	\$ (13,176)	\$ 31,381	\$34,260	\$ 6,808	\$ 6,429	\$ (3,815)	\$36,258	\$ (889)

Thank you all for such generosity last year. Our income was up at St. Mary's, Lee but slightly down in the other three areas. Most importantly we had enough to cover our expenses and keep the parish with our three worship sites, two cemeteries and school active and alive. Thank you.

Our expenses were diligently stewarded. One increase is seen in Cemetery Staffing as Karen Vidoli moved from Parish Secretary to Cemeteries Manager and we paid for the lawn mowing personnel out of our Cemeteries Account rather than St. Mary Mother of the Church. Overall salaries were kept in check. Cathedraticum is our contribution to running the diocese. We tracked the Faith Formation Program and Youth Ministry expenses to give us a better idea of what things cost. The Youth Ministry fundraised for all their program expenses ... thanks for their hard work and the generosity of our people. With a tight budget we were able to reduce the cost of running the church and offices, but the Cemetery Truck and lawn mowers needed maintenance and gas (always a rising cost). When you look at page 6 you can see what we did for Buildings and Maintenance. Several of the projects were sizable. Even with the icy winter our Utilities were kept in check. Insurance cost rose as it always does.

One interesting category is our investments. All markets were very volatile and mostly down last year. But we transferred money from savings to investment for St. Joseph and St. Mary of the Lakes at the right time. So they saw an overall increase. We are in those investments for the long term, so we hope to see overall increases for each area over the years.

Overall, we had another good year. All net income is going into savings or investments for future projects and the "rainy day fund."

Once again, thank you for your generous support. You keep our parish financially solvent and ministerially vibrant.

A LOOK AROUND THE PARISH

SOURCE AND SUMMIT

The very source and summit of the life of grace is the Eucharist. In it we are invited to receive the very body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. There is no substitute. There is no greater gift. Jesus invites us to receive him, be nurtured by him, to eat the body of Christ in order to become the body of Christ. Please join us at Mass. If you cannot make it, call the rectory and we will work on bringing you Communion at home.

Saturday: 4:00 pm – St. Mary, Lee

5:30 pm – St. Mary of the Lakes, Otis

Sunday: 8:00 & 11:00 am – St. Mary, Lee

9:30 am – St. Joseph, Stockbridge

Monday - Friday: 7:00 am – St. Mary, Lee

The biggest news is the recent notice of Marya Makuc's upcoming departure. She has been amazing. As Secretary she brought a bright and attentive presence that was always so welcoming. She increased the number of volunteers at the rectory (thank you volunteers for your helpful service). As a Youth Minister she has been inspirational. She ushered in a new Family Faith Formation program that forms not only the youths but parents and parishioners as well. She organized and ran a Vacation Bible School this summer, our first in many, many years. She became a Virtus trainer to help with Safe Environment training here and around the diocese. She started and successfully ran a Middle School Service Club called John 21. She refashioned our High School Youth Group into one that serves not only our parish but all the parishes here in the Southern Berkshires. She will be deeply missed. We have several inquiries regarding the position(s) and hope to have a replacement(s) soon.

REGISTER FOR FAITH FORMATION

at St. Mary's Parish

Family Faith Formation
Grades Pre-K - 12

Confirmation Class
Grades 9 - 12

Registration
www.stmarylos.com



ADORATION: We have a special place for Prayerful Adoration: Located behind the main church in Lee, Our Lady's Oratory is open M-F 8:00 am – 11:00 pm and on Sat & Sun 9:00 am – 11:00 pm. Come spend a moment or sign up to cover an hour. There is grace in the Sacrament.



TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE: We are a Stewardship Parish. That means we believe that everything we have is a gift from God. He calls us to steward this wisely and give back to him our time in prayer and service; our talents to serve the parish and community; our treasure to fiscally support the efforts of our parish and the various ministries we run. Every week we detail the stewardship of our parish in the bulletin. We give an accounting of the collections, invite people to prayer and detail one of the many service opportunities within the parish and local area.

Calling all men of the parish. Consider becoming a Knight of Columbus. We are a fraternal organization that serves the parish and local community. We run rosaries. We support local and national relief efforts. We step up wherever God is calling faithful men to serve. For more information, contact Grand Knight Charles Houff (413)717-1846



Visit our Website for all the latest news and information: www.stmarylos.com

Watch the Mass live streamed on our FaceBook Page: [St Mary Lee Otis Stockbridge](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryLeeOtisStockbridge)

Subscribe to our weekly email (FlockNote) by emailing lcschurch@gmail.com and asking to be added to our FlockNote list.

← ← ← Website QR CODE



This July, we had a blast at Vacation Bible School! Our summer intern, Katie Harkness, organized a week of faith-filled fun where fourteen youth learned to "Shine Jesus' Light" in all the ups and downs of life.



We formed a new Middle School service club last October made up of eleven students that met thirty-two times and served twenty-two different community groups from the Lee Food Pantry to our homebound parishioners.



Our Family Faith Formation program engaged twenty-four families in catechesis as we heard from guest speakers and enjoyed activities like making Rosaries and Advent wreaths together as a parish family.



Our students served at Mass as the lectors, altar servers, greeters, and gift bearers on a monthly basis.



We had a regional focus with our seventeen Confirmation students. We attended a Mass with the Bishop, hiked, and went on a retreat with youth from around Berkshire County.



Our High School youth group brought together youth from all over South County for weekly gatherings that began in prayer and typically ended with a game of basketball. Our many field trips were highlighted by hikes, a Holy Thursday pilgrimage, leading the Rosary at the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, and our Kayak and Cookout event this summer.



Eight members of our Matthew 5 Youth Group attended the Steubenville East Conference in Springfield for a weekend in July. We heard from internationally recognized speakers and met hundreds of other Catholic youth.



St. Mary's School		
Income	2022	2023
Tuition	\$ 672,881	\$ 610,757
Discounts	\$ (178,444)	\$ (161,961)
Parish & Diocesan Support	\$ 95,593	\$ 77,164
Special Collections	\$ 15,878	\$ 21,147
Other Tuition Assistance	\$ 45,069	\$ 62,763
Extended Day Program	\$ 17,526	\$ 21,528
Fundraising	\$ 114,538	\$ 230,479
Donations	\$ 166,251	\$ 113,993
Grant Income	\$ 92,507	\$ 39,216
Rental Income	\$ 6,060	\$ 5,060
Other Misc. Income & Fees	\$ 23,906	\$ 24,225
Total Income	\$ 1,071,765	\$ 1,044,371
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 670,722	\$ 660,012
Health Insurance	\$ 59,410	\$ 71,739
Other Administrative Expenses	\$ 44,666	\$ 13,745
Events & Social Expenses	\$ 12,652	\$ 37,395
Educational Materials & Supplies	\$ 63,922	\$ 30,527
Building & Grounds Maintenance	\$ 67,558	\$ 65,059
Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 9,817	\$ 8,193
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 39,438	\$ 2,100
Cost of Food Expense	\$ 30,569	\$ 35,199
Utilities	\$ 57,487	\$ 53,043
Insurance	\$ 19,127	\$ 20,544
Investment Gain/(Loss)	\$ 5,523	\$ 6,933
Total Expenses	\$ 1,075,370	\$ 997,554
Net Income	\$ (3,606)	\$ 46,817

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MRS. CULVER



Education with a Plus!

The 2022 - 2023 school year was yet another wonderful one at St. Mary's School! Over the past three years, our enrollment has continued to steadily increase. Not only in our younger grades, but as students in older grades continue to join us. We are incredibly grateful for all of the support that we receive from our SMS families and from our community. A great way to continue to support our mission is keeping us in mind as you register your school-aged children for the upcoming year. Registration is currently open at SMS, and there are spots available at most grade levels. The school is always open for a tour or a shadow if you are interested in getting to know more about our rigorous curriculum and extensive programs. St. Mary's School prides itself on being the home to experienced and dedicated staff and faculty who have so much to offer our students. Contact the main office with any questions or for more information about us at (413) 243-1079.

A QUICK LOOK AT THE NUMBERS: The number of students attending St. Mary's School dropped last year. Hence the drop in overall income. We are extraordinarily grateful for the generous support of the Diocese, area parish and our own parish. One enormous increase we achieved was through Fundraising. Our various fundraisers throughout the year were fun and successful. But the big increase was due to the Annual Appeal which saw an increase in the Large Donor Phase. One aspect of Fundraising that needs mentioning is that all our major projects were made possible through their efforts, most especially the Auction and direct gifts. Thanks to all involved in Fundraising for your generous efforts. Knowing that our income was going to be down we tried to keep expenses down and we succeeded. We gave all staff increases in salary. The reason the overall went down was the changes at maintenance and the loss of our Spanish Teacher due to illness. Everyone's health insurance costs went up but health insurance is such a vital benefit to several of our teachers and staff. The three biggest areas of savings were in Administrative Expenses, Educational Materials and Furniture & Equipment. We were able to tighten our belts without compromising educational excellence. A pleasant surprise was saving money on utilities. We had factored an increase but were able to keep electricity and gas usage in check for an overall savings from last year! The net result is a slight surplus which will be helpful as we strive to bring our teachers salaries to a better level with public school teachers and look to some new programs at the school next year.

You are invited to our 2023

Alumni Reunion!

Saturday, September 16, 2023
All classes of St. Mary's School, Lee, MA

ALUMNI REUNION: Join at the 4:00 pm Mass for prayer and the Sacrament. Following Mass there will be a wine and cheese reception at St. Mary's School, 115 Orchard St., Lee. Please RSVP by 9/8 to Linda Winters at (413)243-1079 or lwinters@stmarysleel.org

JOIN US FOR BINGO. September 9, October 14, November 4, December 9. Saturday Afternoons: Doors open at 1:00 pm, Games start at 2:30 pm. \$10 Basic Entry Package.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

BINGO

Event

BUILDING, GROUNDS AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS | JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023

St. Mary's Lee: *The Church bathroom sewerage pipes were completely cleaned out and new piping was installed where tree-root damage had cracked/compressed them. Parking Lot between the Church and rectory was paved through the great generosity of the Garrity Family | Richard Brittain repaired the Community Garden Vegetable Stand that was damaged in the Spring wind storm | A Mulch/Compost area constructed behind the Garage, The Old English Beech and Katsura trees were treated and fertilized by an arborist, the Church organ was repaired, the church and rectory Boilers were repaired, the Religious Education Room was refurbished with a new ceiling, lighting, shelving and paint.*

St. Joseph's: *An Outdoor Christmas Creche was constructed, it was a great success in the Advent/Christmas Season, for the summer it is stored by the fence | An industrial Dehumidifier was installed in the Basement of the Church, plastic sheeting was put over the dirt floor areas and a thorough cleaning of the basement took place | The large Tree in Front of Church died over the winter, it was cut down | The rectory is undergoing a major renovation (fixing electrical issues, repairing and repainting woodwork and walls, getting donated furniture and decoration, repairing plumbing, purchasing a new stove), the rectory gutters were repaired on the front and removed on the back.*

St. Mary of the Lakes: *repairs were made to the HVAC unit for the Center, repairs were made to the Church heating system, several loose Shingles were replaced (sadly that led to realizing we need a new roof), an industrial Dehumidifier was installed in the basement.*

St. Mary's Cemetery: *a new Enclosure was attached to the Garage for storage of the Cemetery Truck, we did some ongoing Road Repairs & Tree Work, A New Overall Map & individual Section Signs were designed and made (they now need to be installed – Thank you Knights of Columbus).*

St. Joseph's Cemetery: *Major Tree Work was done to the Hemlocks (dead and dangerous trees were cut down along the front entrance and all the hemlocks throughout the cemetery were treated by a certified arborist for a blight that is affecting hemlocks across Western Massachusetts).*

St. Mary's School *New Water filling Stations were installed in the main hallway, the 8th Grade hallway and gym, a new Front Entrance was created to improve safety and energy efficiency, the Faith Formation Room was completely refurbished (electrical, drop ceiling, paint, new storage ... paid for by the Parish), the Library Cupola was repaired and re-flashed (this summer we will replace the entire Library & Pre-School Roof), the Gym Gutter was repaired.*