



*“As each one has received a gift...
use it to serve one another as
good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
~1 Peter 4:10*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Annual Report
and Stewardship Initiative**

Dear Friends in Christ,

My heart is full of gratitude for the ways in which God has blessed our fine parish and for the abundant life that is ours in Christ Jesus. I am grateful indeed for all of you and the blessings that your presence and faith bring to Our Lady of Lourdes. Amidst the challenges of a pandemic, social unrest and uncertainty, we know by faith that God is with us – God’s grace and love abide. The call to faith and generosity are always in season for Christians who follow Jesus’ model of humble service. The path of generosity and love is the way forward to a healthy future as a parish and the way forward to a more just and peaceful world.

I invite you to carefully read the parish annual report and to prayerfully consider this stewardship initiative and its attendant request to generously pledge your gifts to help build up our community at Lourdes. There are plenty of details, numbers, facts and figures contained within. What follows in my letter is a spiritual reflection on the nature of stewardship – an exploration of the call by our Lord to exercise our freedom to respond with generosity to God and to offer our gifts in service of the mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In reflecting on the nature of gift and the call to steward our gifts wisely and generously, Christians begin with the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ. In the fullness of time, God became incarnate in the womb of Mary – God’s mother and our mother in faith. God’s generosity knows no bounds as he sent his son into the world to redeem and restore our fallen humanity. Jesus’ paschal mystery – his life, passion, death and resurrection opens up a pathway to new life for those who believe and follow Christ. After washing the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, Jesus gives them – and gives us a command: what I have done, you are also to do.

The Apostle Paul – unmatched in his zeal for the Lord – speaks often of the varied gifts given by the Spirit for the upbuilding of the Church. Our gifts are diverse and each gift is necessary to serve the one faith that we all profess and to carry out the mission that Christ entrusted to his Church. There are several important themes that are presented frequently in Scripture. The theme of stewardship is one of them and is ubiquitous in both testaments of Scripture. Jesus teaches often that we are called to be wise and generous stewards of the gifts given to us. Gifts are never given for their own sake – they are not to be hidden or unused. Rather, we know through Scripture that our gifts are given by God for service in the Church and in the world. Ultimately, we will be measured, in justice, by how we use the gifts that have been entrusted to our care.

The community of Our Lady of Lourdes has been a significant gift in my life as pastor. What a terrific community filled with wonderful and faith-filled disciples. We have come so far together in the last number of years. God has richly blessed our parish in so many ways. Our patron saint – *Notre Dame de Lourdes* – and her intercession have been the source of countless blessings – some seen and others hidden in the veil of God’s providential love. Over the past decade, we have grown in faith, in size, in talent, in excellence, and in generosity. This has occurred because so many of you have responded to God’s call to generously share your gifts with this community.

Stewardship is not a slogan or a clever method to raise funds. For faithful Christians, stewardship is a way of life – it is the lifeblood of Christ flowing within us that impels us to respond to God’s call with generosity and fidelity. As I prayerfully reflect on our shared life together at Lourdes, several names and faces leap to mind – generous disciples who make the parish go and flourish, they lean into our mission and the important ministries and initiatives integral to Lourdes. The perennial challenge is that we need more generous stewards at Lourdes in order for us to grow and flourish in our faith and to meet our strong potential.

The parish staff, parish leaders and I have worked hard to be good stewards of the gifts you have entrusted to us – including your gift of treasure. Mary Asp and other parish leaders have been thoughtful and prudent in maximizing the funds that you have generously gifted the parish. Given your generosity, as you will see in the annual report, we were able to once again finish the fiscal year in the black, a significant accomplishment amidst decreased Sunday given brought on by COVID. Notwithstanding this accomplishment, we remain understaffed as a parish, which taxes current staff members and inhibits where we can grow and thrive. We have made very good use of the talents of generous parishioners who have offered their gifts as part of their stewardship commitment – Julie Craven, Nancy Casey and Linda Ferris are at the top of this list which has allowed us to punch above our fighting weight these past several years.

We are at a critical time as a parish – we can either meet the moment with generosity and faith or contract and recede at the very moment when Minneapolis and the surrounding community needs communities of faith like Lourdes to be a beacon of light and hope. This moment requires all hands-on deck – all gifts generously offered so that, like St. Paul, having gone all-in with Christ, we can go all-out for Christ. Nothing less is asked of us as disciples and nothing less is required in this crucible moment.

Here is what I am asking all parishioners and friends to do. Carefully review the annual report and the important information within. Next, prayerfully discern where God may be calling you to offer your gifts of time, talent and treasure. If you are already in a ministry, consider joining another ministry. If you are not yet involved in a ministry, jump in based on your gifts and interests. All gifts are needed at this time. If you are giving to Lourdes, consider increasing your giving so that we can build up the parish and realize the potential of a vibrant future. If you are not giving regularly to Lourdes, now is the time to step up. The parish community and the important ministries we exercise require your commitment and intentionality. Now is the time.

We ask all parishioners and invite all friends to examine the opportunities to serve Lourdes in a particular ministry and to help financially sustain our parish through consistent and generous giving. We ask that you return all pledge cards to the parish via the collection basket, mail or by dropping off your pledge card at the parish office, no later than December 8, 2021. This is the feast of the Immaculate Conception – a mystery that is particularly resonant for our community as Mary responded to the young Bernadette’s question, “what is your name” by saying: “I am the Immaculate Conception.” My prayerful hope is that we would use our gifts of freedom and faith and respond, like Mary, with a generous yes to God.

Gratefully in Christ,
Rev. Daniel Griffith

Lourdes Statement of REVENUE:	Fiscal 2020-2021 Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Operating Total	\$771,312.93	\$690,000.00
Festival Total	\$6,930.00	\$89,500.00
Hall/Kitchen Lease & Rent Total	\$100.00	\$3,000.00
Music Revenue Total	\$2,826.71	\$30,000.00
Organ/Livestream Projects	\$213,553.00	\$0.00
Liturgy Total	\$3,776.58	\$7,900.00
Parish Outreach Total	\$47,617.00	\$55,000.00
Sacrament/Formation Total	\$40,480.00	\$44,850.00
Other Groups Total	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Revenue Total	\$1,086,596.22	\$922,750.00

Lourdes EXPENDITURE	Fiscal 2020-2021 Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Operation Total	\$450,277.68	\$463,655.00
Festival Total	-\$163.41	\$43,600.00
Parish House/Church Bldgs. Total	\$223,859.32	\$96,050.00
Grounds Total	\$34,059.69	\$6,350.00
Rectory Bldg/Clergy Housing Total	\$47,071.64	\$7,214.00
Liturgy Total	\$14,605.56	\$20,200.00
All Clergy Services Expenditures	\$158,648.40	\$163,832.00
Music Total	\$27,953.67	\$46,760.00
Parish Outreach Total	\$23,653.93	\$53,650.00
Youth/Adult Formation Total	\$3,663.82	\$4,250.00
Sacramental Preparation Total	\$16,414.87	\$13,800.00
Other Groups Total	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Expenditure Total	\$1,000,045.17	\$921,861.00
Revenue-Expenditure	+\$86,551.05	+\$888.75

Our Lady of Lourdes Statement of Financial Position For the Year Ending June 30, 2021

Assets	Beg. Balance	YTD Balance	YTD Change
Checking Account	\$49,865.53	\$20,898.82	-\$28,996.71
Restricted Checking Account	\$309,839.01	\$301,362.02	-\$8,476.99
Money Market Account		\$107,314.80	\$107,314.80
Account Receivable	\$1,525.00	\$0.00	-\$1525.00
Prepaid Expense	\$7,160.24	\$8,850.69	\$1,609.45
Land Total	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$0.00
Building-Church Total	\$5,359,399.44	\$5,359,399.44	\$0.00
Building-Parish House Total	\$849,000.00	\$849,000.00	\$0.00
Building-Rectory		\$307,500.00	\$307,500.00
Equipment Total	\$634,090.03	\$634,090.03	\$0.00
Furniture & Fixture Total	\$8,203.51	\$8,203.51	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$7,236,082.76	\$7,613,589.31	\$377,506.55

Liabilities	Beg. Balance	YTD Balance	YTD Change
Account Payable Total	\$8,003.19	\$31,966.60	\$23,963.41
Accrued Liabilities Total	\$150.17	\$3,117.97	\$2,967.80
Benefit Deductions Total	\$0.01	\$0.00	\$0.00
Collections Total	\$106.00	\$294.00	\$188.00
Rectory Loan		\$259,636.29	\$259,636.29
PPP Loan	\$77,200.00	\$0.00	-\$77,200.00
PPP Loan 2		\$81,400.00	\$81,400.00

The first PPP Loan (Payroll Protection Plan) was forgiven. We do anticipate that the 2nd PPP draw will also be forgiven in the months ahead. The second loan was received in February of 2021 to help offset payroll costs associated with payroll during ongoing shortages during Covid.

Total Liabilities	\$85,459.37	\$376,414.86	\$290,955.50
Unrestricted Net Assets	Beg. Balance	YTD Balance	YTD Change
	\$7,150,623.39	\$7,237,174.5	\$86,551.05
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$7,236,082.76	\$7,613,589.31	\$377,506.55

Sacramental Life at Lourdes

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” ~John 14:6

Our Lady of Lourdes continued to provide the sacraments to families even during yet another challenging year. Although a number of plans were changed due to the restricted numbers of guests allowed, we were blessed to still celebrate all facets of sacramental life at Lourdes! Thank you for celebrating with us!

Baptisms - 26

First Communions - 12

Confirmations - 13

Weddings - 23

Funerals - 9

Thank you to all Baptism Hosts, Catechists, Marriage Mentors, Wedding Coordinators, Funeral Ministers and RCIA Sponsors!

Time, Talent and Treasure at Lourdes

***“I will offer no sacrifice to God that costs me nothing!”
~2 Samuel 24:24***

Please prayerfully consider where your gifts can be used in service to the parish. Your pledge card is enclosed in this packet. We ask that you please return it by **December 8, 2021**. Please make sure to fill out both sides of the card. Your financial pledge helps us to prepare our annual budget and your service selections assist us in connecting you to others in the same interest areas of ministry.

Opportunities to participate in the activities and ministries of Our Lady of Lourdes are many. Your talents and time are always appreciated and necessary to help us provide ongoing formation, outreach, events and evangelization. Although we continue flexible planning, we believe the efforts to engage parishioners in the fabric of life here at Lourdes is something that continues to foster wonderful friendships, nurtures us spirituality and creates memorable events. Coming together unites us in our faith in extraordinary ways!

If you don't see something on the back of the card that sparks your interest, don't forget ... new ideas are always welcome! Just put a note on your card and we will do our best to address your input! Thank you in advance for your contribution to life at Our Lady of Lourdes!

Lourdes: A Year in Review

“God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their heart so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.” ~Ecclesiastes 3:11

Our Lady of Lourdes experienced another year of accomplishment and faith amidst challenging circumstances and change. 2020-2021 will be remembered as the year of Lourdes being “virtual”! Livestream liturgy, video and YouTube adult faith formation, music concerts, zoom classes for children’s faith formation, zoom sessions for staff meetings, councils meets and groups - it became our “new normal”.

Due to continued Covid restrictions, we planned activities and celebrations for the courtyard whenever we could. We sadly cancelled plans for 2020 & 2021 **Lourdes Block Parties**, but we held a very successful **LourdesFest** in October of 2021 to celebrate a “mini block event and celebrated **Fleur De Lis Awards** in July of 2020, held a **Saturday Night Live**, a “virtual watch party” for **Abria**, and celebrated **Children’s Sacraments** in May! Many contacts continued throughout - we continued outreach to our parishioners via phone calls, postcards and yes, even more zoom meetings!

In 2020, we worked on many deferred projects. From July through December, we were able to accomplish the following: AC duct work repair in Church, replaced wall and cabinetry in bride’s room, and refinished the floors in Hofstede Hall as well as further upgrades to elevator and fire suppression systems in the Church. We installed new AC, replaced kitchen and bathroom flooring and refrigerator in the Parish House. Using volunteers, many areas in both buildings were repainted and refreshed. Plantings and yards were beautifully maintained!

We received forgiveness on our first Payroll Protection Plan Loan in October of 2020. Also in the fall of 2020, two major decisions were reached. We purchased a townhome in Lauderdale to serve as our Rectory and Father moved in at the end of November and we signed with **Timothy Patterson** to construct the **Ralph Strangis Memorial Pipe Organ**. Construction began on the organ in January of 2021.

In the winter of 2021, we applied for and were approved for our 2nd Payroll Protection Plan Loan. We continued making much needed repairs and began planning for future projects. Spring of 2021 we had repairs done to the irrigation system for our lawns, had repairs done on grotto pool and lighting, signed with a lawn servicing company, made upgrades to our wi-fi and some aging technology equipment and installed our own livestream equipment. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, much of the costs that were incurred were completely covered.

At the end of May, 2021, we reopened the doors of the Church-no reservations needed! June of 2021, we said farewell to **Fr. Bryce Evans** and **Christine Griffith**. The difficult decision to reduce staff was also announced in June. **Carol Burns** was hired as Director of Sacraments and Formation to cover the gaps left with the departures of Fr. Evans and Christine and we said farewell to **Jared Ash**, **Hazel Jordan** and **Jennifer Wenzel**. We are most grateful for their combined years of service to Lourdes!

Our Lady of Lourdes Stewardship Prayer

*Lord of all creation,
We praise and thank You for all the blessings we receive.
Everything we have is Your gift to us.
Through Your love for us,
You gave us the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ.*

*Filled with Your love,
we respond to Your call to be disciples of Your Son.
Unite us as a community of missionary disciples.
Open our hearts and minds to Your abundant grace so that we
might become good stewards of Your gifts.*

*As stewards, teach us to receive Your gifts gratefully,
nurture them responsibly, share them selflessly,
and return them to You with increase,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

**Please return your response cards by December 8th.
Use the envelope provided to mail or drop in the collection basket.
The clergy and staff of Our Lady of Lourdes *thank you* for your
generous commitment to our growing parish!**