



# The Angelus

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Spring 2022

*'You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works'*

## Answering the Need to Feed

One night about 40 years ago, parishioner Margaret Peck suggested to her husband Bill and their six kids that they pack up their Sunday dinner leftovers for a new ministry called Aid for Friends. The meals were returned to parish freezers and delivered to the homebound. Bill, an avid cook and son of a B&B owner, agreed.

To say that the amiable Boeing engineer had found his calling would be an understatement. Those early leftovers soon gave way to fresh, home-cooked meals — honey chicken, meatloaf, roasted potatoes. He didn't stop — not when the kids left home, not when Margaret died, not when he turned 80 ... then 90... and not when he downsized and moved in with his son Matt. Matt just became Bill's sous chef, and together, they made more and more — and more — meals.

In 2020, when COVID struck and food insecurity skyrocketed across the community, Bill and Matt made 1,700 meals for Aid for Friends (now called Caring for Friends). In 2021, they topped 3,400, including casseroles for SJC's other meal ministry, St. John's Hospice.



**Matt and Bill Peck drop off some of the 3,400 meals they cooked for others last year.**

Both retired widowers, Bill, 93, and Matt, 61, are clearly major forces behind the growing outreach of St. John's two meal ministries.

But they are not alone. Under the leadership of parishioners Lou Bachetti (Caring for Friends) and Ellie Murray (St. John's Hospice), home cooks in and around St. John's now turn out thousands of meals, soups and casseroles each year for delivery to people who are in need, homebound and ill. Meals are delivered to Anna's Place, The Bernardine Center, Catholic Social Services and St. Katharine Drexel Food Pantry in Chester and St. John's Hospice in Philadelphia. All report soaring, and chronic, food insecurity.

See **MEALS**, page 5

## Semi-Annual Financial Report

### Ensuring a Parish of Faith and Action

Thanks once again to the unfailing support of its parishioners, St. John Chrysostom continues to secure the critical resources needed to nurture and serve the parish and community.

Despite continuing financial hardship inflicted by COVID, unemployment and inflation, parishioners remain steadfast in their support of the parish.

Our mid-year financial report, available on page 4, shows that the parish is on track to end the fiscal year June 30 with a surplus, despite the continuing need for maintenance and upgrades.



**Parishioner love and generosity touched hundreds of lives through Christmas outreach. See page 3.**

Recent major projects include replacement of the church's 20-year-old fire alarm system; a facelift for the parking lot; and new LED church lighting.

This spring, the parish will replace failed underground wiring from the church and Parish House to Providence Road and renovate the 1970s-era Stevenson Center entrance with one that is an ADA compliant and fully accessible.

Beyond the brick-and-mortar essentials are the means to support the parish's foundational missions of worship and service. Parishioner donations are seen throughout our beautiful church environment; felt in the vitality and service of our ministries, including CYO, Youth Group and Religious Education; experienced in our events and activities; and realized in the lives touched every day by our community outreach. This support is the lifeblood of our mission today and lays a strong foundation for tomorrow.

As COVID and social and political division try to push us toward greater isolation and discord, St. John's parishioners continue to push back with radical generosity and compassion.

In doing so, they defy the toxic trends of our time in favor of an active faith that recognizes the call to build both community and kingdom here and now.

*Support keeps  
worship rich,  
outreach strong,  
facilities safe.*

See **FINANCIALS**, page 4



# Cold Hands, Warm Hearts

This was not the fall and winter we expected or wanted — upended yet again by waves of COVID, trailing illness and disruption. But St. John's parishioners kept the faith and met the setbacks with good cheer and great generosity. Mass attendance rose, dipped, then rose again, as people found their comfort zones and once again embraced their faith and a rebounding parish life.



Left and above: Our first Sensory Friendly Trunk or Treat, hosted by our Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, was spooktacular, attracting many trunks, tons of treats, crafty fun led by the Girl Scouts, and scores of witches, scarecrows, elves and assorted creatures making for a merry monster mash.

Right: CYO athletes sorted an avalanche of donations from our Winter Coat Drive for speedy delivery to Philly and Chester. Far right: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry created more 600 christening blankets, prayer shawls, lap robes, hats, scarves and more in 2021 for health-care workers, people in need, hospice and chemotherapy patients, and nursing home residents.



COVID remained a concern in church, but we continued to worship and celebrate safely.

Below left: The ranks of new Altar Servers set a record in 2021, welcoming many new girls and boys in fourth grade and up. Center and right: Seventy parish second graders celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Jan. 19.





# Giving Lightens a Weary Winter

St. John's parishioners live their faith all year, but they really outdo themselves during the holidays. Our Christmas outreach this season was unprecedented — financially, yes, but also in its spirit of joy and encounter with people of all faiths, ages, races and circumstances.

Parishioners wrote thank-you notes to caregivers, paid visits to our homebound and bereaved, welcomed families from the community to our Sensory Friendly Morning with Santa, connected across ministries to share efforts, gifted entire families, celebrated donors, and caroled and danced with women with disabilities in their homes.

More than \$16,000 in gift cards alone were donated across the community — an incredible outpouring that doubly blessed recipients with both the means and the dignity to select and wrap their own holiday gifts for loved ones.

Such are the fruits of our faith.



THE BERNARDINE CENTER



ADOPT A FAMILY



ANNA'S PLACE



SENSORY FRIENDLY MORNING WITH SANTA



ST. NICHOLAS PROJECT - DIVINE PROVIDENCE VILLAGE



# Semi-Annual Parish Financial Report

<b><u>PARISH GENERAL OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b>FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,</b>		<b>ANNUAL BUDGET</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Church Collections	\$ 675,447	\$ 744,954	\$ 1,300,700
Interest, Dividends & Other Income	532	3,356	5,500
Religious Education Tuition	32,970	34,710	65,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 708,949</b>	<b>\$ 783,020</b>	<b>\$ 1,371,200</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
<b><u>Pastoral Care, Church &amp; Rectory</u></b>			
Salaries, Health & Pension Benefits	\$ 238,848	\$ 239,846	\$ 492,635
Religious Educ./Youth Group	29,408	29,924	64,515
Pastoral Expenses	24,209	54,993	54,800
Office and Other Administrative Costs	23,694	22,458	44,200
Insurance & Real Estate Taxes	22,693	24,440	47,900
Subtotal	\$ 338,852	\$ 371,661	\$ 704,050
<b><u>School</u></b>			
Financial Commitment to Mother of Providence	\$ 91,800	\$ 95,400	\$ 220,000
<b><u>Buildings &amp; Ground</u></b>			
Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 74,033	\$ 51,035	\$ 114,500
<b><u>Charitable Giving &amp; Archdiocesan Assessment</u></b>			
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$ 77,150	\$ 83,400	\$ 166,500
Local Charities, net of contributions	8,081	6,065	22,500
Subtotal	\$ 85,231	\$ 89,465	\$ 189,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 589,916</b>	<b>\$ 607,561</b>	<b>\$ 1,227,550</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 119,033</b>	<b>\$ 175,459</b>	<b>\$ 143,650</b>
<b><u>Capital Contributions/(Expenditures)</u></b>			
Designated Contributions	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
Church Masonry	(33,195)	-	
Parking Lot Repair/ Resurfacing		(24,200)	
Church Fire Alarm (Partial)		(14,075)	
Church Lighting System		(8,132)	
<b>Net Capital Contributions/(Expenditures)</b>	<b>\$ (18,195)</b>	<b>\$ (31,407)</b>	

## **Upcoming Parish Capital Expenditures during 2022**

1. Church Alarm System, balance	\$ 14,075
2. Handicapped Access to Stevenson Center(prelim. estimate)	12,000
	<b>\$ 26,075</b>

***Thank you for your continued support.***



**@SJC-Church**

# Mother of Providence Celebrates 10 Years



**M**other of Providence Regional Catholic School opened its 10th academic year in September 2021. Enrollment continues to grow, with 277 students now in PreK-3 to 8th grade. MPRCS provides a safe and welcoming environment where students can reach their academic, spiritual and social potential. In 2020, MPRCS received the U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon for excellence. Fall registration is now open. Please visit us at [www.mpregional.org](http://www.mpregional.org).



## MEALS, page 1

Lou delivers meals to Chester weekly. "The smiles and thanks from the volunteers at the pantries are genuine and overwhelming," he says. "Most of our recipients have difficulty making ends meet, don't have enough nutritious foods, or are isolated or homebound. The sadness comes with seeing clients patiently waiting in line, sometimes with young children, for their allotted portion of the basics of life."



**Lou Bachetti delivers Caring for Friends meals to Chester weekly.**

### 'Tastes Like Home'

Ellie Murray has led the St. John's Hospice effort since 2015. "My mother had made Hospice casseroles for years, and it seemed she was whispering to us from heaven above that we could help this program," she says. The meals feed hundreds of homeless men who stand in line daily for a hot lunch.

The Caring for Friends meals are "a blessing" to clients of Catholic Social Services in Chester, especially when the food pantry is closed and there is no food with which to cook, says assistant administrator Honor Blackburn-Grant.

At Anna's Place, "there is always great happiness when guests know they will have a homemade meal," says Sr. Maggie Gannon, OSF. "So many, especially our elderly and single men in the boarding house across the street, say it tastes like how they remember home.

"The casseroles are a beautiful response to the Gospel Message and a visible sign of God's love."

The meal ministries draw cooks of all ages, in and outside the parish. Young children pack leftovers and learn to share; teens flex their growing cooking skills. Retirees like Bill and Matt Peck find the ministries a meaningful way to give of their time and resources. "People are hungry," says Bill, who is up at 4 am and busy in the kitchen long before Matt rolls in. "I like doing this."

### 'It Goes Deeper Than This'

Meals, soups and casseroles may be made any time, with any recipe, frozen and returned to the Parish House for delivery. Supplies and instructions are at all church exits. The demand for meals never slows. Both Lou and Ellie emphasize that these efforts are ministry, not just meals. They are the first Corporal Work of Mercy: to feed the hungry. Ellie quotes Pope Francis: "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works." The casserole ministry, she said, "is the perfect way for us to do both."

Lou cites Matthew 25:35 ("For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat") and other Scripture passages on this theme. "Most of them talk about hunger and food, but it goes deeper than this," he says. "It's about us being hospitable to any needs of our neighbor."

To learn more about these ministries, contact the Parish House at [connect@sjcparish.org](mailto:connect@sjcparish.org) or (610) 874-3418.

## 4 Years - 30,000 Meals

	Casseroles	Meals
2021	556	4884
2020	657	5006
2019	582	3447
2018	480	3128

*SJC parishioners have fed the equivalent of several towns through the parish's two meal ministries (casseroles serve six to eight). Demand for meals remains high year round.*



617 S. Providence Rd.  
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(610) 874-3418  
www.sjcparish.org

#### CONNECT



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## Passages

Oct. 1, 2021 – Jan. 31, 2022

### Baptisms



Roberto Carlos Villanueva Brito  
(Roberto & Julia)  
Matteo Duy DeCaro (Mark & Anh)  
Aiden James Engber (Michael & Nina)  
Chase Joseph Grant (Michael & Kaitlyn)  
Nathan Richard Jablonski (Ryan & Rachel)  
Cora Lee Nelson (David & Colette)  
Devyn Elizabeth Nelson (David & Colette)  
James John Roysdon (Richard & Maryclaire)  
Aubrey Grace Thomas (Andrew & Angelina)

### Marriages



Vincent Giacobello & Jaime Leigh Morris  
Justin Kuter & Taylor Aaron  
Christopher Lara & Jessica Ferrarelli

### In Memoriam



Jean O'Connor (Oct. 4)  
Catherine Weyman (Oct. 11)  
John C. Brennan (Oct. 13)  
Assunta "Sue" Paolucci (Nov. 12)

Donna Maria Lipka (Dec. 21)  
Barbara Atkins (Dec. 22)  
Sadye Soltysiak (Dec. 30)  
Sally Slawter (Jan. 14)

### New Parishioners



Eileen Bowe  
Angela Brauner & Mario Rosetti (Leonardo)  
Victoria Cocco & Finbar Byrne  
Dr. Tessa & Philip Cook (Isla)  
Kelly Evans-Brown (Billy & Alexa)  
Colleen & Mark Dietzler (Lucy)  
Whitney & Paul Gladney  
(Caroline & Margaret)  
Michael Grady  
Melissa & Ryan King  
Drs. Elizabeth Kubasko-Lanzilotti &  
Thomas Lanzilotti (Isabella & Andrea)  
Kate Callejas-Repici & Cyrus Repici (Santino)  
Ruben Nieto & Grecia Ojeda (Camila)  
Todd & Beth Parker (Louis, Julia)  
Joshua Parsio & Katie Granato-Parsio  
(Luca, Leo, Levi)  
Allison & Kevin Tscholl (Owen & Josephine)  
Andrea Van Horn & Ralph DelVacchio



#### MASS SCHEDULE

\* **Livestream** on YouTube & Facebook  
† **American Sign Language:**  
9:30 am 1st and 3rd Sunday and as noted

**Saturday:** 4 pm  
**Sunday:** 8 am 9:30 am\*† 11:30 am  
**Tues-Fri:** 8 am\*

#### LENT

**March 2: Ash Wednesday**

8 am\* 1 pm 7 pm

**Stations of the Cross:** 6 pm Tues in Lent\*

**April 9-10: Palm Sunday**

4 pm Sat; 8 am 9:30 am\*† 11:30 am Sun

**April 14: Holy Thursday - 7 pm\*†**

**April 15: Good Friday - 3 pm\*†**

**April 16: Holy Saturday - 7 pm**

#### EASTER SUNDAY

8 am  
9:30 am\*†  
11:30 am

