

My Dear Parishioners,

While I was on retreat in Arizona in early August, I reflected upon my first year as Pastor of Mother of Sorrows Parish. I am grateful for your warm welcome when I first arrived and the encouragement and support I continue to receive from many of you before and after Mass each weekend. Be assured of my gratitude and prayers for each of you!

Much has happened in these past 15 months with regards to our facilities, finances, staff and parish life. Some of these are highlighted below:

FACILITIES We replaced the roof on the church and repaved the lower parking lot. We landscaped the front of the school and the grounds surrounding the church. Repairs were made to some of the concrete sidewalks around the church and school. We recently began the renovation of the Food Pantry Room.

FINANCES We received several generous donations which enabled us to fund a new staff position (Pastoral Associate for Spiritual Care), to completely pay for the landscaping project around the church and school, and to fund the renovation of the Food Pantry Room. Your response to the Sermon on the Amount last October helped to generate a 12% increase in the Sunday offertory over the previous year!

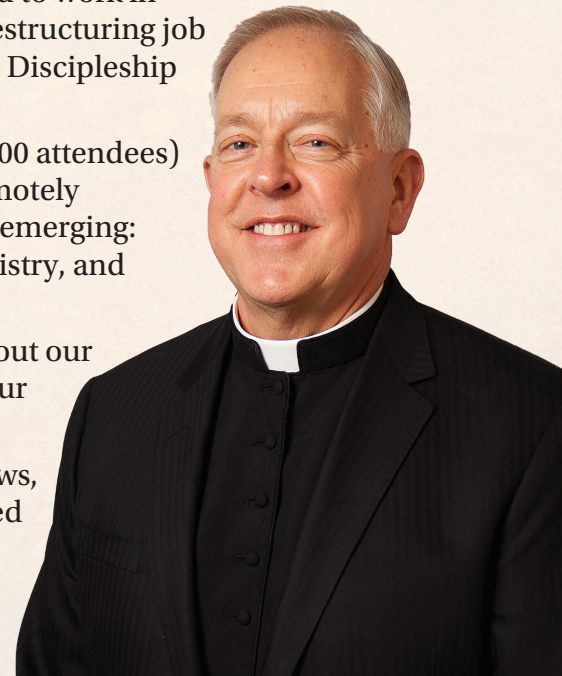
STAFF With a relaxation of COVID protocols, all staff members returned to work in person. In light of recent departures and resignations, we are currently restructuring job descriptions for staff positions. We recently hired a Pastoral Associate for Discipleship and Parish Life and a Communication Coordinator/Office Manager.

PARISH LIFE We have almost returned to pre-pandemic numbers (1,300 attendees) at Sunday Mass. Many of the programs that were put on hold or done remotely during the pandemic have resumed in person, and several new ones are emerging: Hearts Ablaze! Young Women's Group, Guys and God, Bereavement Ministry, and opportunities for Spiritual Direction.

I invite you to review the information presented in the next few pages about our parish, and then to make a prayerful commitment to helping us realize our hopes and dreams for the parish.

May God bless you and your loved ones, and may Mary, Mother of Sorrows, continue to be a model of standing by one another as we live as faith-filled disciples of her Son.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Monsignor Michael





OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

Our parish continues to be in sound financial shape. At the end of the last fiscal year, we were able to meet all of our obligations, and pay our bills and loans in a timely fashion. This is due to the generosity of many of our parishioners who see faithful stewardship as a way of life — living in a spirit of gratitude and showing that gratitude in generosity.

In addition, our Oktoberfest in 2021 generated a profit of \$33,838 that was added to the general operating fund. Mother of Sorrows Outreach also raised \$151,280 for our food pantry and other local, national and global needs. We are truly blessed here at MOS!

One of the pressing issues that needs to be addressed as we move forward is the salary of our employees. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us of the need to pay our workers a salary that is just. In Luke 10:7 Jesus himself says “the worker deserves his wages.”

In the past, many people who worked for the Church were volunteers who received no salary. Eventually, they were offered a small stipend that was in no way commensurate with their abilities or the work they did, and was usually far below the poverty level.

In order to hire competent employees, we need to budget for competitive salaries in order to attract the best candidates for the positions available.



THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

In last year's financial report that I sent to parishioners, I noted that *“While some families have regularly increased their contributions, over the past five years we have not had an increase in the total Sunday offertory... . We should be trending upward of 3-5 % in the weekly collection each year to meet rising costs and to be able to expand and develop our ministries and programming.”*

I am happy to report that this year we saw a 12% increase in the Sunday collection! This was an awesome response to the “Sermon on the Amount,” and helped us to meet rising costs and address needed capital repairs. Many thanks for your generous support in helping our parish move in the right direction.



OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

This fund is used for capital projects around the campus. Each month we add \$10,000 to this fund from the Sunday offertory in order to have the funds when we need them to maintain our facilities.

Last year we withdrew \$163,643 from this fund for the excavation and repaving of the lower parking lot, leaving a balance in our savings of \$11,643. Ideally, we need to be in a position where we can set aside \$20,000 per month into this fund.

Looking to the future, these are some of the items that we need to address:

- Refinishing the wooden pews in church. Weekly sanitizing during the pandemic removed the protective finish.
- Replacing the worn carpeting in the church narthex and meeting areas.
- Upgrading the lighting in the church to LED fixtures, in order to reduce electricity costs.
- Updating the sound system in the church to cover the “dead spaces” where it is difficult to hear.

Your ongoing support will enable us to stay on schedule with the regular maintenance and repair costs as set out in our 20-year master plan.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Mother of Sorrows Endowment Fund was established to provide a legacy of faith for future generations. Grateful for the gift of faith that we have received from our parents and those who came before us, we have the obligation to pass on our faith in a vibrant and thriving parish to our children and those who will come after us.

During the last fiscal year, we added \$63,604 to this fund, bringing our current balance to \$246,881. In order to meet future needs of the parish, we need an endowment of several million dollars. We hope to grow this fund by encouraging parishioners and friends of MOS to leave a bequest to Mother of Sorrows Parish in their will or estate plan.

2002-2004 CONSTRUCTION LOAN

To fund the church and school renovation in 2004, the Diocese of Greensburg borrowed \$6.4 million in the form of a bond issue on behalf of Mother of Sorrows Parish and School. In December of 2021, working with the Diocese, we converted the balance of the bond into a simple loan with the Catholic Institute of the Diocese. The conversion lowered our monthly payments to \$27,223. Our outstanding balance is now \$3,085,704 and is scheduled to be paid off in January, 2033. Your generosity each week enables us to stay current on our debt payments. This is a great blessing. However, the reality is that one Sunday collection each month must be used to

service this debt obligation. The 2004 renovation of the church and school has allowed us to grow as a parish and accommodate many different groups and activities. For this we are most grateful. But we must not allow the debt of the past to hinder the growth of new initiatives as our parish continues to grow.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is that Mother of Sorrows Parish continues to need your help. I am asking you to prayerfully consider your weekly commitment to MOS:

- Has it grown over the past several years, or is it still the same amount?
- As you reflect upon God’s blessings in your life, are you able to show your gratitude by increasing your weekly contribution?
- Considering that we need a 3-5% increase in revenue each year, are you in a financial position to help us meet this goal?
- Do you use the We Share option for electronic giving to ensure that your support reaches the parish, even when you are away or not able to attend?

As stewards of Mother of Sorrows Parish, we need to rebuild our savings in order to maintain the plant and property of our church and school campus. Your increased offertory, combined with careful planning and financial management, will help us meet our day-to-day expenses, plan for capital improvements, and ensure that our community of faith continues to grow and thrive well into the future.

- Finally, in order to leave a legacy for the future, I ask you to consider including Mother of Sorrows Parish in your will or estate plan.

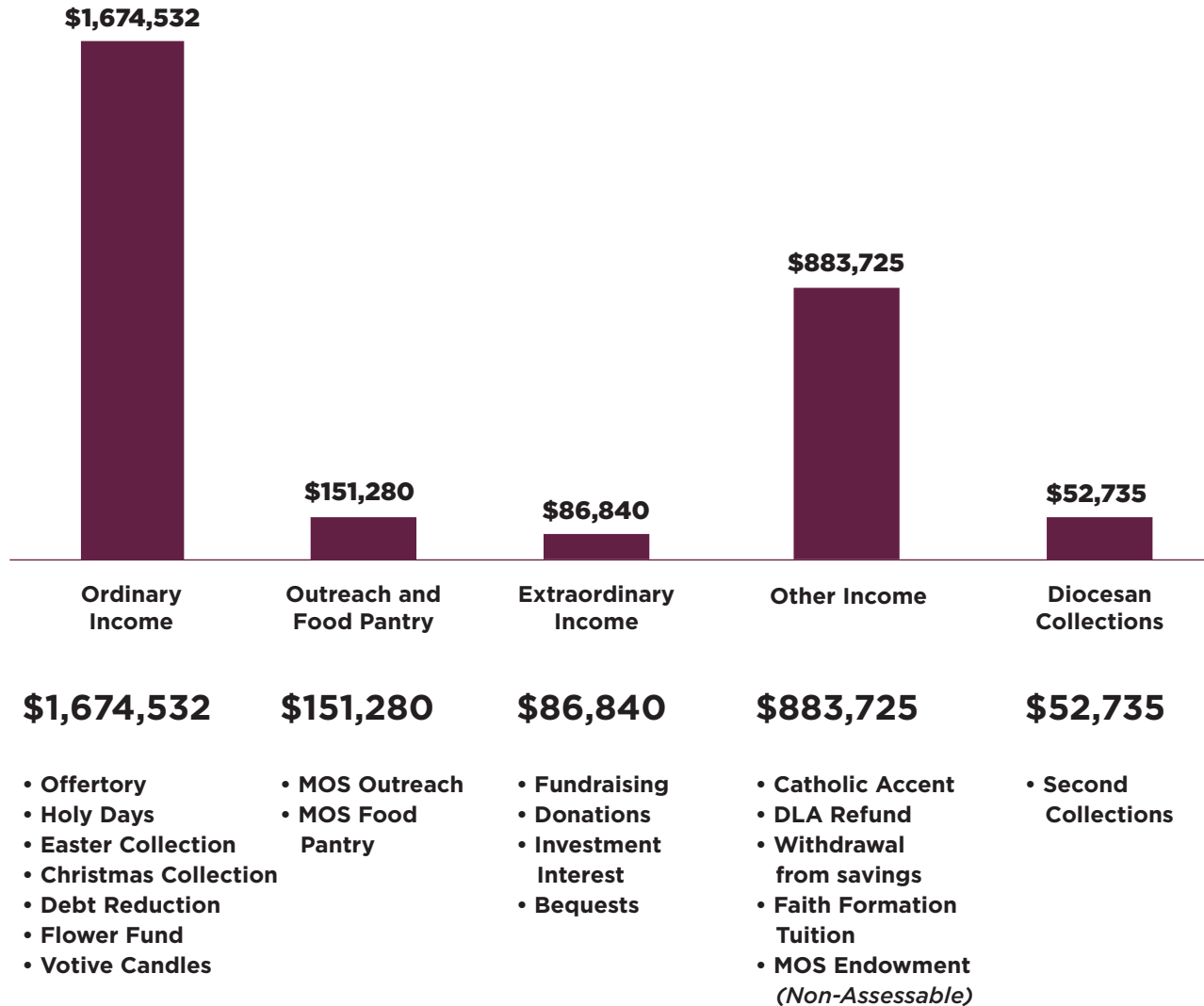
Weekly Giving Statistics July 1 - June 30

2022	2021	
25 families	14 families	> \$200
55 families	31 families	\$ 100 - 199
140 families	84 families	\$ 50 - 99
55 families	102 families	\$ 40 - 49
280 families	272 families	\$ 20 - 39
245 families	205 families	\$ 10 - 19
191 families	174 families	\$ 5 - 9
378 families	414 families	< \$ 5
884 families	880 families	\$ 0

Mother of Sorrows Parish Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022

MOS Annual Income

\$2,849,112



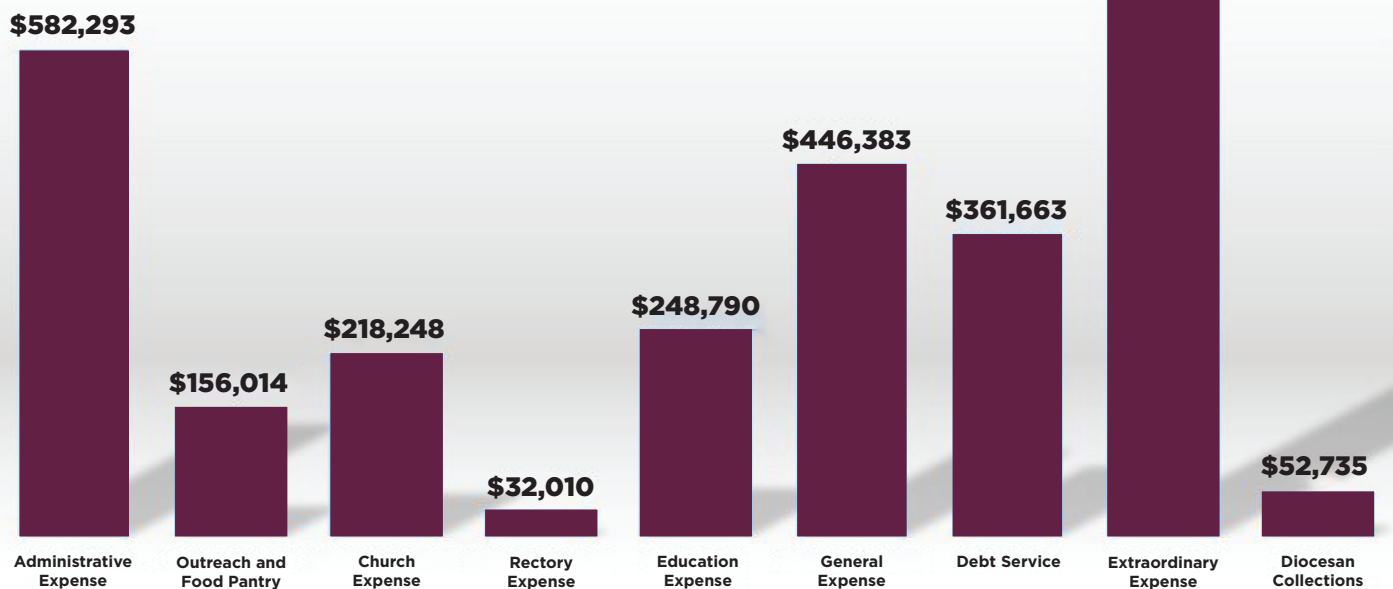
Financial Summary July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Assets as of June 30, 2022

Total Income	\$2,849,112	Operating Account	\$107,207
Total Expense	(2,890,277)	Endowment Fund	\$246,727
Net Income	(\$ 41,165)	Savings Account	\$ 11,643

MOS Annual Expenses

\$2,890,277



Administrative Expense: Clergy and Staff Salaries, Office Expense (Phones, Supplies, Postage, Printing Expenses, Technology), Catholic Accent Expense and Hospital Ministry Expense	\$ 582,293
Outreach and Food Pantry: Funding for MOS Food Pantry and local, national and international Outreach Efforts	\$ 156,014
Church Expense: Choir, Liturgical and Sanctuary Supplies, Flowers, Church and School Maintenance and Repairs, Parish-sponsored Events and Activities	\$ 218,248
Rectory Expense: Meals, Housekeeping, Supplies and Maintenance	\$ 32,010
Faith Formation & Education Expenses: Catholic Education Assessment, Faith Formation Expenses, Youth Ministry Expenses and Activities, Sacramental Preparation Expenses	\$ 248,790
General Expense: Utilities, Employee Health and Pension Benefits, Diocesan Assessment, Property and Liability Insurance Premiums, Real Estate Taxes, Janitorial Supplies	\$ 446,383
Debt Service: Interest and Principal Payments on (a) the current debt obligation (\$3,085,704 as of June 30, 2022) incurred for the renovation and expansion of the Church and School in 2004 (the original obligation was \$6,350,000), and (b) the loan balance of \$137,681 (as of June 30, 2022) from the Catholic Institute of the Diocese of Greensburg	\$ 361,663
Extraordinary Expense: Extraordinary Repairs to the Church and School Buildings and Campus, funds added to the Reserve Savings Account for future capital projects, and funds added to the MOS Endowment Account	\$ 792,141
Diocesan and Other Special Collections: Funds transferred to the Diocese for Second Collections	\$ 52,735

Parish Financials

2021-22 2020-21 2019-20

Offertory	\$ 1,674,532	\$ 1,479,441	\$ 1,521,902
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	151,280	145,124	132,916
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	86,840	10,293	71,748
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	82,591	87,943	101,142
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)</i>	801,134	335,867	354,711
Special Collections	52,735	59,233	61,974
Total Income	\$ 2,849,112	\$ 2,117,901	\$ 2,244,393
Expenses			
<i>Administration</i>	\$ 738,307	\$ 663,229	\$ 609,162
<i>Church</i>	218,248	139,300	139,292
<i>Rectory</i>	32,010	22,269	22,984
<i>Education and Ministry</i>	248,790	236,114	215,713
<i>General Expenses</i>	446,383	417,242	401,384
<i>Special Collections</i>	52,735	59,233	61,974
<i>Extraordinary Expenses</i>	1,153,804	959,074	483,565
Total Expenditures	2,890,277	2,496,461	1,934,074
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (41,165)	\$ (378,560)	\$ 310,319

Our Parish by the Numbers:



Registered Households

2022: 2,253
2021: 2,176
2020: 2,111



Current Single Member Households

252



Baptisms

2022: 72
2021: 33
2020: 37

Weddings

2022: 17
2021: 8
2020: 15



Funerals

2022: 56
2021: 31
2020: 47





We really do need volunteers to support our parish, specifically ushers, greeters and altar servers! Please call the parish office today at 724-733-8870 so we can walk you through the process of becoming a volunteer.

Our Ministries:

- **LITURGY:** Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Lectors, Ushers, Cantors, Parish Choir
- **OUTREACH:** Ministry of Care, Funeral Lunch Committee, Food Pantry, Walking With Moms in Need
- **FAITH FORMATION:** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Sunday Faith Formation Classes, Junior and Senior High Youth Ministry, Faith Formation for Children with Special Needs, Sacramental Preparation for Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage, RCIA, Centering Prayer Group, Women's Bible Study
- **SOCIAL:** Boomers and Beyond Lecture Series, Breaking Bread Supper Group, Community Festival, Hospitality Committee
- **LEADERSHIP:** Pastoral and Finance Councils
- **PARISH GROUPS:** Knights of Columbus, Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild, Legion of Mary, Guys and God, Hearts Ablaze!



Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:
 Mother of Sorrows Parish
 4202 Old William Penn Highway
 Murrysville, PA 15668



IN PERSON:
 Monday - Thursday - 9:00AM - 4:00PM
 Friday - 9:00AM - 3:00PM



ONLINE:
MotherofSorrowsChurch.org/Donate

Mother of Sorrows Parish

4202 Old William Penn Highway
Murrysville, PA 15668

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Uplift Our
FAITH
Community

**Mother of Sorrows Parish
Annual Report 2022**