

Saint Margaret Mary Parish
3055 Leechburg Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

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Dear Parishioners,

Peace and blessings to you all!

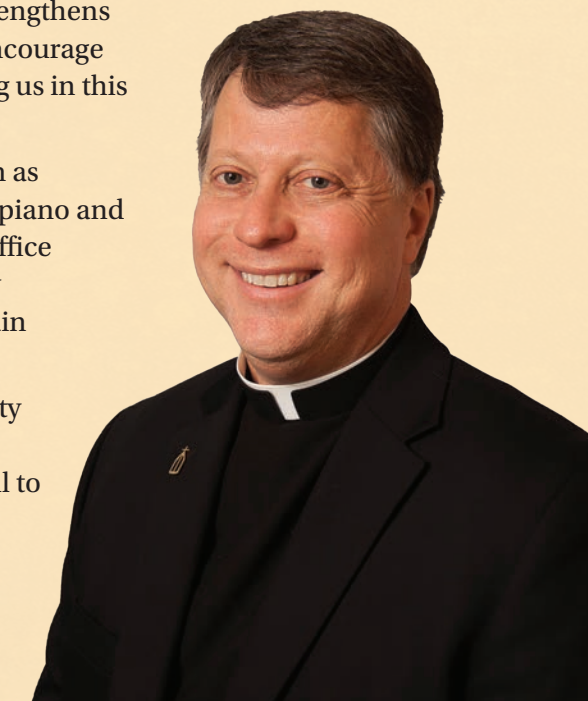
It is with a grateful heart that I offer this year's annual report, *ThanksGIVING for Our Parish*. As we reflect on the blessings and growth of our faith community, we are reminded of Pope Leo XIV's inspiring call for every parish to recognize its vital role within the universal Church. Our parish is not simply a local gathering spot; it is a living part of the Body of Christ, united with the Holy Father and Catholics worldwide in mission, prayer, and service.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick has challenged us to build a strong and vibrant parish community that will flourish well into the future — rooted in faith, hope, and charity. Our parish has responded generously to this call by nurturing discipleship, deepening faith formation, and reaching out with Christ's love to those in need.

Through your prayers, time, and generosity, we continue to grow as a parish family united in Christ's mission. Our educational programs inspire the young, our sacramental preparation strengthens hearts, and our outreach ministers to the sick, the poor, and the elderly. We encourage you to explore the many ministries our parish has to offer and consider joining us in this joyful work. Your gifts are truly needed and welcomed!

Looking ahead, we are grateful for your support as we undertake projects such as equipping our music ministry program with a new microphone for our grand piano and drum set and refurbishing the Children's Liturgy of the Word area and other office spaces. For your convenience, a Giving QR Code is included to help you easily participate in online giving or make a year-end gift. Traditional offerings remain deeply appreciated as well.

Our parish is a blessing, not only to each other but also to the wider community and Church. Let us move forward together with thanksgiving in our hearts, confident that by strengthening our parish, we are answering the universal call to be a living witness of Christ's love in the world.



Peace and Blessings,
Father Daniel L. Blout, Pastor

thanks GIVING for Our Parish



GIVING QR Code

**Saint Margaret Mary Parish
Annual Report 2025**



Our Shepherds

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church

Pope Leo XIV, elected in 2025 as the first American Pope, hails from Chicago. Before his election, he was Cardinal Robert Prevost. Known for his pastoral heart, theological clarity, and commitment to evangelization, Pope Leo brings a renewed focus to the vital role of the parish in the life of the universal Church. Pope Leo spent more than two decades in Peru, where he became a naturalized citizen and served as a missionary and Bishop. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese, and also reads Latin and German.



The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., Bishop of Greensburg

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., is the sixth Bishop of Greensburg, having been appointed by Pope Francis on December 18, 2020, and consecrated on February 11, 2021. He is the first native Bishop of the Diocese, hailing from Leechburg. His episcopal motto is *Christus est veritas* ("Christ is the truth"), reflecting his deep devotion to truth rooted in the Gospel. He is steadfastly committed to strengthening and nurturing our parishes, ensuring they remain vibrant centers of faith and service for generations to come.



Father Daniel L. Blout, Pastor

Father Daniel L. Blout, a native of Masontown, was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Greensburg in 1996. He is a seasoned parish priest, having served as Pastor of Saint Mary of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning; Saint Mary Parish, Yatesboro; Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite; and Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, before being installed as Pastor of Saint Margaret Mary Parish in July 2025. He is deeply dedicated to shepherding our parish, with its many vibrant and diverse ministries.



Father Elpidio Alcontin, Parochial Vicar

Father Elpidio Alcontin, more familiarly known as "Father Bimbot," is a native of the Diocese of Tagum in the Philippines. Father Bimbot faithfully celebrates Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and is dedicated to the weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He also collaborates with parish staff and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, making pastoral visits to the homebound and residents of local nursing homes.



Father Rodolfo P. Mejia Jr.

Father Rodolfo P. Mejia Jr., more familiarly known as "Father Rody," is a native of the Diocese of Antipolo in the Philippines. In addition to faithfully celebrating Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Father Rody is dedicated to the weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He also collaborates with parish staff and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion making pastoral visits to the homebound and residents of local nursing homes.



Our Parish by the Numbers:

Registered Households
2025: 1,106
2024: 1,117
2023: 1,077

Baptisms
2025: 33
2024: 35
2023: 34

First Holy Communions
12

Confirmations
24

Weddings
2025: 9
2024: 6
2023: 2

Funerals
2025: 52
2024: 69
2023: 58

Households that Give
743

Households that Don't Give
363

A Call to Serve

Consider serving our parish family. We continue to invite and encourage parishioners to prayerfully consider serving as altar servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, greeters, and/or formation leaders. If you are interested in finding out more about serving in any of these ways, don't hesitate to reach out to one of our staff or call the parish office — we're here to guide and support you through each step of the way, including the clearance process.



Ministries in Action

Our Children's Formation program utilizes three unique formation models: Traditional Classroom, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and Home Study. Each model aims to help our young people encounter Christ through experiential catechesis, inviting children and their families into a life of discipleship. Children are given the opportunity to break open the Scriptures, experience the sacramental life of the Church, participate in hands-on learning, and experience family prayer, helping children to nurture their relationship with Jesus and His Church in a holistic way.

Our Middle School Youth Ministry for students in grades 6-8 meets every Wednesday from September through May. These gatherings are designed to help youth grow in their relationship with Christ through building community, learning about their Catholic faith, deepening their prayer life, engaging in lesson-related activities, serving others, and encountering Christ through the Church's sacramental life.

Our High School Youth Ministry for students in grades 9-12 meets once a month from September through May. These gatherings are a chance to connect with friends, enjoy games and social time, and dive into meaningful conversations about real-life issues and what it means to live out your faith in today's world.

Parish Financials

| | 2024-25 | 2023-24 | 2022-23 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Offerory | \$ 960,418 | \$ 1,084,687 | \$ 974,048 |
| Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i> | 10,139 | 4,798 | 8,318 |
| Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i> | 226,775 | 189,129 | 174,712 |
| Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund | 39,640 | 30,383 | 33,149 |
| Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)</i> | 260,414 | 145,939 | 51,771 |
| Special Collections | 23,767 | 9,501 | 32,906 |
| Total Income | \$ 1,521,153 | \$ 1,464,437 | \$ 1,274,904 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Administration | \$ 288,640 | \$ 246,982 | \$ 233,900 |
| Church | 159,146 | 136,172 | 149,466 |
| Rectory | 16,637 | 11,620 | 31,342 |
| Education and Ministry | 183,231 | 151,035 | 157,990 |
| General Expenses | 493,409 | 482,439 | 437,607 |
| Special Collections | 23,303 | 8,621 | 35,406 |
| Extraordinary Expenses | 532,329 | 325,686 | 379,669 |
| Total Expenditures | 1,696,695 | 1,362,556 | 1,425,380 |
| Net Operating Income (Loss) | \$ (175,542) | \$ 101,881 | \$ (150,476) |
| Added to Savings | \$ 16,649 | \$ 117,341 | \$ 264,839 |
| Added to Endowment | 269,820 | 169,648 | 14,148 |
| Total Operating Income | 110,927 | 219,222 | 114,363 |

Giving With Gratitude

This is our Giving QR Code. By scanning it, you can easily enroll in online giving, make your first gift, increase your weekly offertory, make a year-end gift, or donate in honor of or in memory of someone you love.



Or, visit our website to make a donation: SMMLB.org and click on GIVING at the top of the page. Of course, traditional check or cash donations are always deeply appreciated too. Mail your gift to Saint Margaret Mary Parish, 3055 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell, PA 15068.