

Mother of Sorrows Parish

4202 Old William Penn Highway
Murrysville, PA 15668

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Dear Parishioners of Mother of Sorrows Parish,

In his Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, Rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all! The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

It is in this same spirit of thanksgiving that I write to you as the Church throughout the United States celebrates a special time of Eucharistic Revival. Here at MOS, we continue to see the Eucharist as the source and summit of our life of faith, a life marked by gratitude, celebration and remembrance.

GRATITUDE

I am grateful to God for the many blessings that we continue to experience here at MOS. In the past year, we had 110 new households register, 58 children baptized and 11 youth and adults become members of the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Sunday attendance at Mass is back to pre-covid numbers, and more and more people are becoming active again in a variety of parish ministries! Following last year's annual report, we had a 3% increase in annual giving, allowing us to maintain our parish ministries and continue our generous support of local and global concerns through our Parish Outreach Ministry.

CELEBRATION

With the addition of Dr. Thomas Octave to the parish staff, there is new vibrancy to our celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. The Paschal Triduum was very well attended, and the paschal bonfire provided a visual reminder that Christ is truly our Light. We celebrated the light of faith throughout the spring in the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Our faith formation program is moving in a new direction: focusing on the family and the domestic church as we seek to form disciples, young and old! Recently, Bishop Larry J. Kulick visited once again to help us celebrate the 60th anniversary of Mother of Sorrows School and its important role in the life of our parish.

REMEMBRANCE

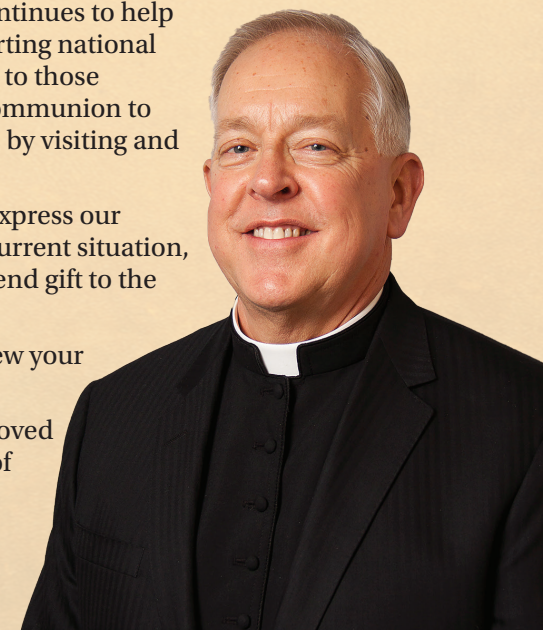
Remembering the many blessings we have received, our parish Outreach Ministry continues to help parishioners and neighbors in need with rent, utilities and food, in addition to supporting national and global relief efforts. Our Bereavement Ministry offers timely support and comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain after the death of a loved one. Our ministers of Holy Communion to the homebound and elderly remember those who are no longer able to come to Mass by visiting and sharing with them the presence of our Eucharistic Lord.

Eucharistic living, rooted in gratitude, celebration and remembrance, requires us to express our thanks in concrete ways. And so I ask you, with prayerful consideration to your own current situation, to consider making an increase to your weekly or monthly offertory or a special year-end gift to the parish, as an expression of thanks for the blessings that God has bestowed upon you.

I invite you also to review the information presented in the next few pages as you renew your commitment of support to our parish.

Know that I am grateful for your membership in our parish, and I hold you and your loved ones in my prayers each day. May God continue to bless you and may Mary, Mother of Sorrows, continue to intercede for all of us. With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Monsignor Michael



thanks
GIVING
For God's Blessings



Giving QR Code

**Mother of Sorrows Parish
Annual Report 2023**





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 Community Festival in 2022 generated a profit of \$54,000 that was added to the general operating fund. Parishioners donated \$139,257 to support outreach efforts including our food pantry and other local, national and global needs. We are truly blessed here at MOS!

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.”*

While we did have a 3% increase in the Sunday offertory last year, we also had a decrease in the level of giving (see accompanying chart). This, coupled with rising costs, meant that we were not able to move forward with an important issue that I raised last year, namely 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. Unfortunately, we recently lost one of our staff members who was offered a new position with a substantial increase in salary. In order to both attract and retain competent employees, we need to budget for more competitive salaries. This means that we actually need a 5-8% increase this year.

OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

This fund is used for capital projects to maintain and improve the church and school property. Each month we add to our savings account from the Sunday offertory in order to have the funds available

when we need them. As of June 30, 2023, the balance in the savings account was \$312,919, with all of those funds earmarked for a new LED lighting system in the church and for completion of the campus landscaping project. In the coming year, we will continue to add to our savings account to prepare for future planned capital expenses and to build a cushion for any unexpected costs associated with maintaining a large church and school campus.

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

- Repairing and repaving the upper parking lot and access road from Evergreen Drive
- Renovating the restrooms on the upper and lower levels of the church building
- Replacing the worn carpeting in the church, narthex and meeting areas

Your ongoing support will enable us to stay on schedule with the regular maintenance and repair costs as set out in our twenty-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 \$15,731 to this fund, bringing our current balance to \$290,834. 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

We continue to make progress on our debt obligations. The balance on the \$6.4 million loan taken out in 2004 to fund the church and school renovation was \$2,824,757 as of June 30, 2023. The loan 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 is a vibrant, prayerful and thriving parish, but it 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 5-8% increase in revenue each year, are you in a financial position to help us meet this goal?
- Do you use the WeShare option for electronic giving to insure 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 that make up 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.

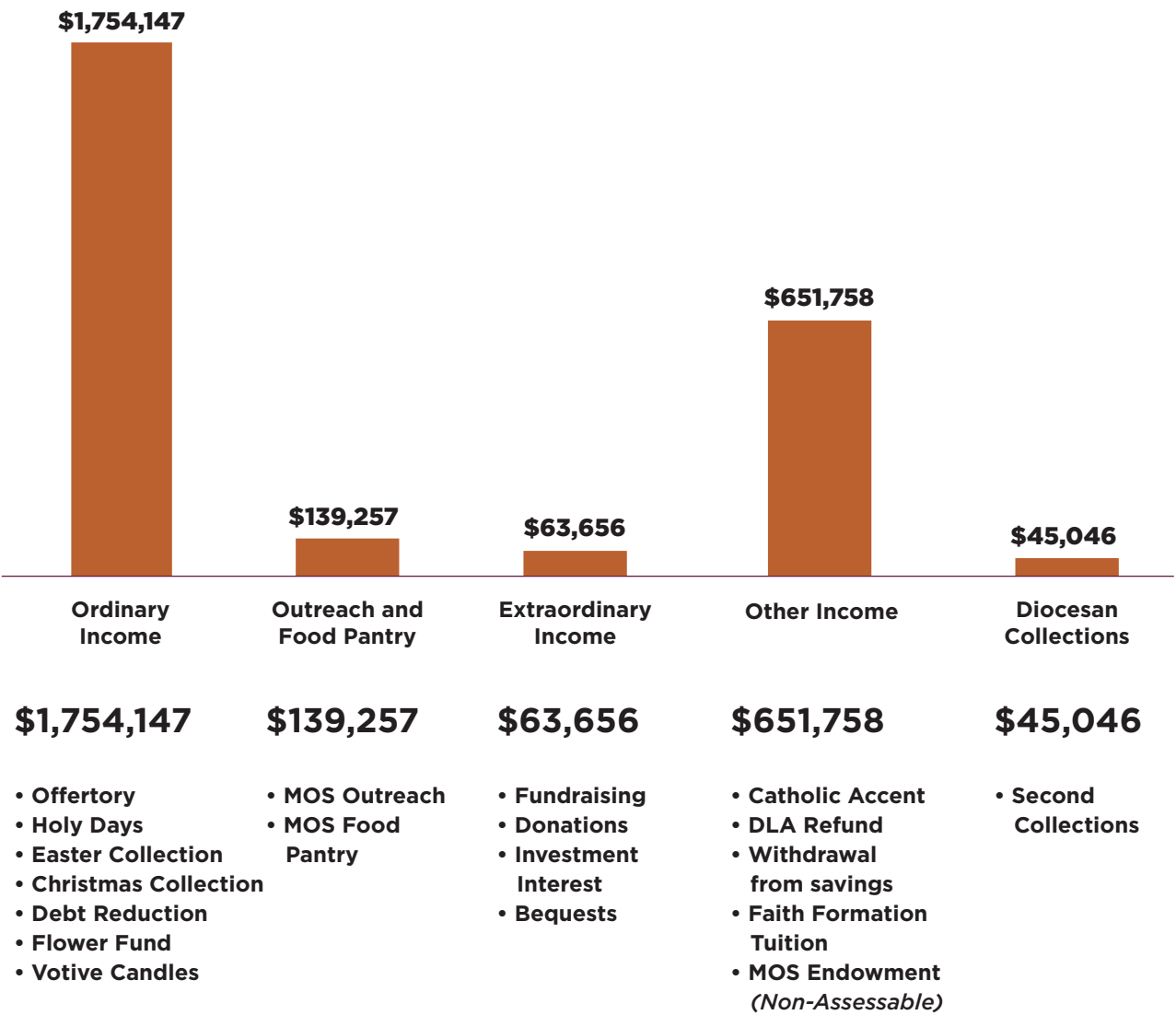
Finally, in order to leave a legacy for the future, I ask you to consider including Mother of Sorrows Parish in your will or estate plan.

**Weekly Giving Statistics
July 1 - June 30**

2023	2022	
16 families	25 families	> \$200
53 families	55 families	\$ 100 - 199
122 families	140 families	\$ 50 - 99
59 families	55 families	\$ 40 - 49
306 families	280 families	\$ 20 - 39
228 families	245 families	\$ 10 - 19
189 families	191 families	\$ 5 - 9
394 families	378 families	< \$ 5
932 families	884 families	\$ 0

Mother of Sorrows Parish Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023

MOS Annual Income
\$2,653,864



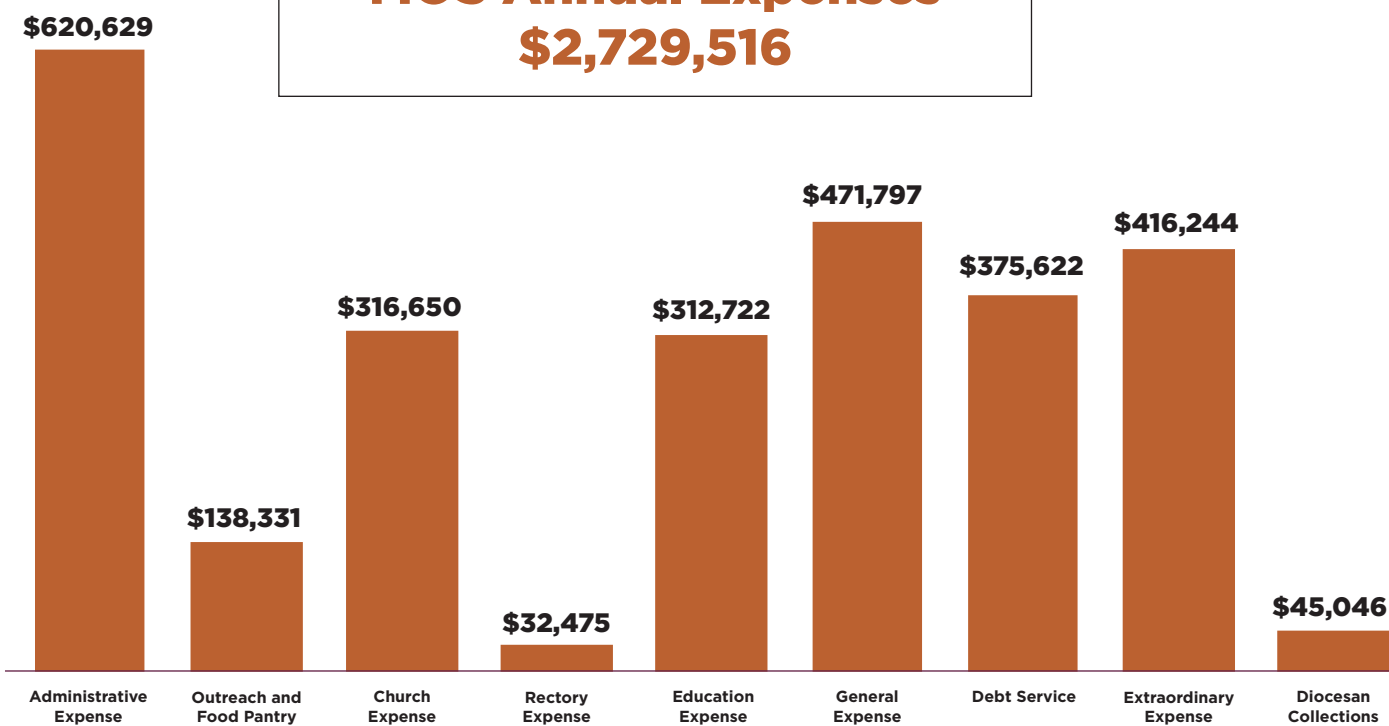
Financial Summary July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Total Income	\$2,653,864
Total Expense	(2,729,516)
Net Income	(\$ 75,652)

Assets as of June 30, 2023

Operating Account	\$ 33,975
Endowment Fund	\$290,834
Savings Account	\$312,919

MOS Annual Expenses
\$2,729,516



Administrative Expense: Clergy and Staff Salaries, Office Expense (Phones, Supplies, Postage, Printing Expenses, Technology), Catholic Accent Expense and Hospital Ministry Expense	\$620,629
Outreach and Food Pantry: Funding for MOS Food Pantry and local, national and international Outreach Efforts	\$138,331
Church Expense: Choir, Liturgical and Sanctuary Supplies, Flowers, Church and School Maintenance and Repairs, Parish-sponsored Events and Activities	\$316,650
Rectory Expense: Meals, Housekeeping, Supplies, Maintenance, Improvements	\$32,475
Education Expense: Catholic Education Assessment, Faith Formation Expenses, Youth Ministry Expenses and Activities, Sacramental Preparation Expenses	\$312,722
General Expense: Utilities, Employee Health and Pension Benefits, Diocesan Assessment, Property and Liability Insurance Premiums, Real Estate Taxes, Janitorial Supplies	\$471,797
Debt Service: Interest and Principal Payments on (a) the current debt obligation (\$2,824,757 as of June 30, 2023) 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 \$206,157 (as of June 30, 2023) from the Catholic Institute of the Diocese of Greensburg	\$375,622
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	\$416,244
Diocesan and Other Special Collections: Funds transferred to the Diocese for Second Collections	\$45,046

New to Our Parish

In September we welcomed Father Jay Jacinto to Mother of Sorrows Parish as our new Parochial Vicar. In addition to his role and responsibilities as Parochial Vicar, Father Jay teaches Latin at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School. Father Jay was born and raised in the Bicol Province of the Philippines and holds degrees in philosophy and theology from Holy Rosary Seminary and a master’s degree in education and business administration from the University of Nueva Caceres. He was ordained a priest in 2005 and has served the Archdiocese of Caceres in various capacities including as Parochial Vicar, teacher and school administrator, seminary rector, vocation director of the archdiocese, and secretary to the archbishop. If you haven’t met him yet, be sure to say hello after Mass!



Our Parish by the Numbers:



Registered Households
2023: 2,299
2022: 2,253
2021: 2,176



Current Single Member Households
363



Baptisms
2023: 58
2022: 72
2021: 33



Weddings
2023: 10
2022: 17
2021: 8



Funerals
2023: 49
2022: 56
2021: 31



Giving With Gratitude

We are excited to showcase our new Giving QR Code. Please scan it to make a year-end gift or to increase your offertory.



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



IN PERSON:
Monday – Thursday – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Friday – 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM



ONLINE:
MotherofSorrowsChurch.org/Donate

Parish Financials

	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Offertory	\$ 1,754,147	\$ 1,674,532	\$ 1,479,441
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	139,257	151,280	145,124
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	63,656	86,840	10,293
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	83,175	82,591	87,943
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)</i>	568,583	801,134	335,867
Special Collections	45,046	52,735	59,233
Total Income	\$ 2,653,864	\$ 2,849,112	\$ 2,117,901
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 758,960	\$ 738,307	\$ 663,229
Church	316,650	218,248	139,300
Rectory	32,475	32,010	22,269
Education and Ministry	312,722	248,790	236,114
General Expenses	471,797	446,383	417,242
Special Collections	45,046	52,735	59,233
Extraordinary Expenses	791,866	1,153,804	959,074
Total Expenditures	2,729,516	2,890,277	2,496,461
Net Operating Income (Loss)*	\$ (75,652)	\$ (41,165)	\$ (378,560)

*Deficit due to extraordinary expenses including repair of school roof and gutters, new campus signage, concrete and asphalt repairs & remediation of water problems in rectory basement and school boiler room.

Our Ministries:

- LITURGY:** Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Lectors, Ushers, Cantors, Parish Choir

FAITH FORMATION: Tiny Disciples, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Family Faith Formation, Junior and Senior High Youth Ministry, Faith Formation for Those with Special Needs, Sacramental Preparation for Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage, OCIA, Centering Prayer Group, Women’s Bible Study, Spiritual Direction

LEADERSHIP: Pastoral and Finance Councils
- OUTREACH:** Ministry of Care, Funeral Lunch Committee, Food Pantry, Walking With Moms in Need, Bereavement Ministry

SOCIAL: Boomers and Beyond Lecture Series, Breaking Bread Supper Group, Community Festival, Hospitality Committee

PARISH GROUPS: Knights of Columbus, Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild, Legion of Mary, Guys and God, Hearts Ablaze!

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