## **Dear Parishioners of Mother of Sorrows Parish,**

I am grateful to God for the many blessings that we continue to experience here at MOS. In the past year, we had 133 new households register, 58 children be baptized, 81 children receive their first Holy Communion, 54 youth confirmed, and 11 youth and adults become members of the Church through the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. Sunday attendance at Mass is at an all-time high, and more and more people are becoming active in a variety of parish ministries!

We are also blessed to have a newly ordained priest, Father David Slusarick, assigned to the parish. His presence is invaluable in light of our new partnership with Saint Mary Parish in Export and Saint John Baptist de La Salle Parish in Delmont.

With the addition of Ellen Mady to the parish staff, our faith formation program continues to grow, enabling us to focus on the family and the domestic Church as we seek to form disciples young and old. We strongly emphasize family faith formation, which brings parents and children of all ages together to focus on how the faith can be learned and lived as a family. We also support a number of other formation opportunities to meet the diverse needs and spiritualties of families, including the now regional CGS program, the weekly formation program held at Saint Mary Parish, and an at-home program.

At Mother of Sorrows School, we celebrated our 60th anniversary and welcomed Darcie Gatti as our new principal.

Support of our parish Outreach Ministry enables us 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. Ministers of Holy Communion to the homebound and elderly visit those who are no longer able to come to Mass and share with them the presence of our Eucharistic Lord.

Our parish festival was again a great success this year, fostering a sense of joyous community spirit and supporting our mission to grow in faith and service. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our parishioners and friends in the community, we raised \$88,835.

You, too, are a blessing to our parish. I thank you for your participation in the life and mission of the parish, for gathering to pray with us and for supporting the parish through your generous donations.

With gratitude for the blessing of your past support, I am now asking 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. I invite you also to review the information presented in the next few pages as you renew your commitment of support to our parish.

For your convenience, a GIVING QR Code is included in this brochure. By scanning it, you can easily enroll in online giving, increase your weekly offertory or make a year-end gift. Of course, traditional check and cash donations are always deeply appreciated as well.

Once again, know that I am grateful for your membership in our parish. I keep 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** 













## **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.

### THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

In last year's financial report that I sent to parishioners, I noted that "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 we had an increase of 8% in the Sunday offertory last year and also an increase in the level of giving! (See accompanying chart.) Thanks to all who helped us reach these goals!

## **OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

This fund is designated 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. The parish share of the annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal is also added to our savings account, as well as donations that are earmarked for specific projects.

This past year we spent \$51,440 to repair and repave the entrance from Evergreen Drive and reseal the main driveway and parking lot; \$11,910 for emergency repairs on the air conditioning units in the church and school; and \$12,018 to upgrade our security cameras.

As of June 30, 2023, the balance in the savings account was \$591,133, with these funds earmarked for a new LED lighting system in the church, completion of the campus landscaping project and installation of a new school playground.

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 \$23,270 to this fund,

bringing our current balance to \$347,318. 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 \$2,557,627 as of June 30, 2024. 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 3-5 % 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 ensure that your support reaches the parish, even when you are away or not able to attend?

As stewards of Mother of Sorrows Parish, 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.

## **Become an Intentional Disciple**

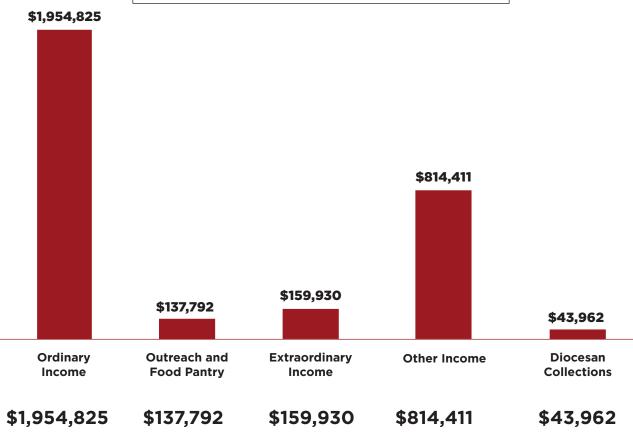
Enter into a deeper relationship with your fellow parishioners by attending one of these upcoming events:

- October 24 Prayer and Perfect Pairings, Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. A five-course meal and wine pairings with recipes from Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Father Christopher J. Pujol, Father Andrew J. Hamilton, Father John Torres and Father Daniel E. Carr; proceeds benefit Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg (tickets: DioceseofGreensburg.org/perfectpairings)
- October 23 Trunk or Treat in anticipation of All Hallows
   Eve and All Saints Day, 6:30 PM,
   main parking lot)
- November 4 Mass of Remembrance of those who died this past year, 7 PM
- December 7 Breakfast with Saint Nicholas, 9:30 AM, Saint Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon.
   Free event with brunch, photos with Saint Nicholas, an art project and a show about cultural versions of Saint Nicholas (details available in November: DioceseofGreensburg.org).
- December 8 Family Service Project, after 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses, Social Hall
- December 14 Christmas Night Market, 2-9 PM, Christ
  Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.
  Food and craft vendors, cards, gift and
  décor booths, 4 PM Mass with Bishop Larry
  J. Kulick and the Diocesan Youth Choir,
  artist Pipka Ulvilden with her Blessed
  Mother and Nativity creations, Christmas
  cookies, and wine tastings (details:
  ChristmasNightMarket.org).
- December 22 Blessing of the Bambinelli: Parishioners are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figurine from their home Nativity to be blessed at all weekend Masses.
- December 29 Family Service Project, after 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses, Social Hall



## **Mother of Sorrows Parish Annual Report** Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024





- - MOS Outreach
- Offertory Holy Days
- Food Pantry
- Easter Collection
- Christmas Collection
- Flower Fund
- Votive Candles

Debt Reduction

- - Donations
    - Investment
    - Interest
    - Bequests
- Fundraising
- Catholic Accent
  - DLA Refund Withdrawal
  - from savings
  - Faith Formation **Tuition**
  - MOS Endowment (Non-Assessable)

Financial Summary July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Assets as of June 30, 2024

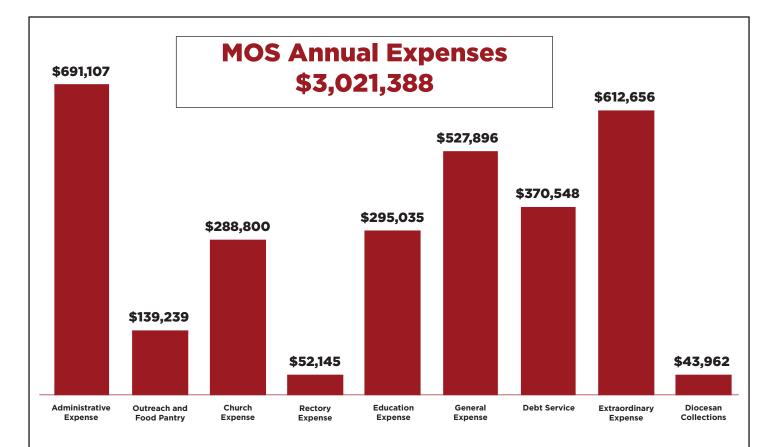
\$3,110,920 **Total Income** (3,021,388) **Total Expense** \$ 89,532 **Net Income** 

**Operating Account Endowment Fund Savings Account** 

\$ 124,917 \$ 347,318 \$ 591,133

Second

Collections



Administrative Expense: Clergy and staff salaries, office expense (phones, supplies, postage, printing expenses, technology), Catholic Accent expense and Hospital Ministry expense		
Outreach and Food Pantry: Funding for MOS Food Pantry and local, national and international outreach efforts	\$139,239	
Church Expense: Choir, liturgical and sanctuary supplies, flowers, church and school maintenance and repairs, parish-sponsored events and activities	\$288,800	
Rectory Expense: Meals, housekeeping, supplies, maintenance, improvements	\$52,145	
<b>Education Expense:</b> Catholic Education Assessment, faith formation expenses, youth ministry expenses and activities, sacramental preparation expenses	\$295,035	
<b>General Expense:</b> Utilities, employee health and pension benefits, Diocesan Assessment, property and liability insurance premiums, real estate taxes, janitorial supplies	\$527,896	
<b>Debt Service:</b> Interest and principal payments on (a) the current debt obligation (\$2,557,627 as of June 30, 2024) 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 \$173,407 (as of June 30, 2024) from the Catholic Institute of the Diocese of Greensburg	\$370,548	
<b>Extraordinary Expense:</b> 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	\$612,656	
Diocesan and Special Collections: Funds transferred to the Diocese for Second Collections	\$43,962	

## **New to Our Parish**



Father David M. Slusarick was born and raised in Uniontown, where he attended Saint Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parish. He is the son of Amy and the late David B. Slusarick of Uniontown. He attended West Virginia University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a Master of Arts in education leadership studies. Prior to entering priestly formation, Father Dave was employed as Director of Student Services for a private vocational college, Creative Director for a small marketing and event management firm, and Senior District Executive for the local office of a national nonprofit organization. He completed the Pre-Theology (philosophical studies) program at Saint Mark Seminary and Gannon University in Erie, and then earned a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in theology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary near Philadelphia. Under the guidance of Father Augustus Puleo, he completed a master's thesis titled "Creating a Pro-Fatherhood Parish and Why It Matters," which equipped him with pastoral ideas for empowering

men to be faithful protectors, providers and guides for their children. He was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Greensburg in May 2023 and served at Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville, and at Saint Bede the Venerable Parish in Holland, Pa. Father Dave was ordained a priest for the Diocese in June 2024. He feels privileged to help our community of parishes to grow in knowledge, love and service of the Lord, and to empower the faithful to share the light of Christ in our corner of the world. By proclaiming the Word, celebrating the sacraments and sharing catechetical instruction, Father Dave's goal is to guide parishioners toward hope, joy, peace and purpose in this life, and ultimately, to an eternity with Jesus. He also looks forward to helping people discern God's call for their lives, as he begins his work as Associate Director for Priestly Vocations in the Diocese of Greensburg. Father Dave is an Eagle Scout who enjoys outdoor relaxation and adventure. Another favorite pastime is reading Scripture, Catholic/Christian books and works of fiction. He loves music of many varieties and enjoys singing karaoke or listening to live music in the company of his friends. If you haven't met him yet, be sure to say hello after Mass!

<b>Parish Financials</b>	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Offertory	\$ 1,954,825	\$ 1,754,147	\$ 1,674,532
Other Ordinary Income (monthly collections, votive candles)	137,792	139,257	151,280
Extraordinary Income (bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)	159,930	63,656	86,840
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	132,801	83,175	82,591
Other Non-Assessable Income (The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)	681,610	568,583	801,134
Special Collections	43,962	45,046	52,735
Total Income	\$ 3,110,920	\$ 2,653,864	\$ 2,849,112
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 830,346	\$ 758,960	\$ 738,307
Church	288,800	316,650	218,248
Rectory	52,144	32,475	32,010
Education and Ministry	295,035	312,722	248,790
General Expenses	527,896	471,797	446,383
Special Collections	43,962	45,046	52,735
Extraordinary Expenses	983,204*	791,866	1,153,804
Total Expenditures	3,021,388	2,729,516	2,890,277
Net Operating Income (Loss)**	\$ 89,532	\$ (75,652)**	\$ (41,165)

\*Included \$408,000 added to the Reserve Fund in FY24, and another \$305,000 and \$148,000 added in FYs 23 & 22.\*\*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 Parish by the Numbers:



Registered Households 2024: 2,392 2023: 2,299 2022: 2,253

Current Single Member Households

381





Baptisms 2024: 58 2023: 58 2022: 72

Weddings 2024: 13 2023: 10 2022: 17





Funerals 2024: 53 2023: 49 2022: 56

#### Weekly Giving Statistics July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

2024	2023	LEVELS
25 families	16 families	> \$200
69 families	53 families	\$ 100 - 199
151 families	122 families	\$ 50 - 99
74 families	59 families	\$ 40 - 49
289 families	306 families	\$ 20 - 39
259 families	228 families	\$ 10 - 19
197 families	189 families	\$ 5-9
400 families	394 families	<\$ 5
928 families	932 families	<b>\$</b> 0

Stewardship is a way of life. For Christians who follow in the way of the Lord Jesus, stewardship is an expression of discipleship. When we recognize that God is the origin of all life, the giver of everything that we have and are, we respond by thanking God through prayer, by serving God and God's people through ministry, and by sharing our financial resources with the Church and with those in need. Stewardship is a way of life based upon conversion of heart.













## **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.





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

## **Our Ministries:**

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

FAITH FORMATION: 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, Men's Fellowship Group

**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, Family Fellowship Group

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

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.

#### **Mother of Sorrows Parish**

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