

Saint Sylvester Parish
P.O. Box 617
Avonmore, PA 15618

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Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to present you with this year's Parish Annual Report titled *thanks*GIVING for Our Blessings. Although I am new to the parish, I am thankful for the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon this faith community.

As you know, we have consolidated our youth program to one group that meets at Saint Matthew Parish. I am happy to see that all three parishes share equally in the expense for passing the faith on to the next generation. Currently, the Diocese is working on a new and innovative curriculum for faith formation to transmit the faith through unforgettable experiences that move our children toward the Holy Spirit.

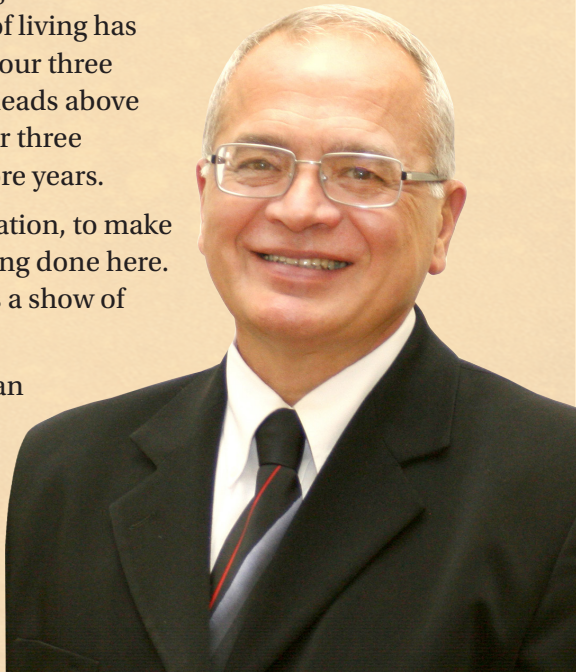
Our blessings include numerous impactful ministries in our parish that engage many volunteers who reach out to the sick, the poor and the elderly. Thank you for supporting the ministries that provide corporal works of mercy. Please read through our ministry listing and consider becoming part of this transformative work. Were it not for the volunteers, such as the 90-plus-year-old woman who helps make pierogi, we would not be able to meet our ordinary expenses. We can always use more help, both physically and financially!

You, yourself, are a blessing to our parish. Thank you for attending Mass, praying with us and supporting the parish through your generous donations. As you know, the cost of living has increased over the years. This impacts each of us personally as well as requiring our three parishes to seek increased donations to help pay the costs. We are keeping our heads above water, but many more things could be done if we had more resources. Two of our three parishes have leaking roofs. One has a boiler that we pray holds out for a few more years.

Now I am asking you, with prayerful consideration to your current financial situation, to make a year-end gift to our parish to show your gratitude to God for the good work being done here. Or, if you are able, perhaps you will increase your weekly or monthly offertory as a show of thanks for the blessings God has bestowed upon you.

For your convenience, we've included a GIVING QR Code. 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.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Dan



thanks
GIVING
for Our Blessings



GIVING QR Code

**Saint Sylvester Parish
Annual Report 2024**



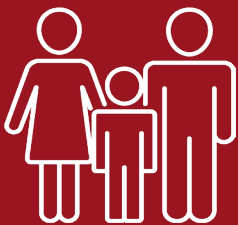
Become an Intentional Disciple

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/PrayerandPerfectPairings](#)).
- October 27 – Fall Tea, 12:30 PM, Saint Sylvester Parish.** More than a fundraiser, the tea is the social highlight of the greater Slickville community, featuring good food, laughter, raffles and door prizes.
- 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 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](#)).



Our Parish by the Numbers:



2024: 99
2023: 94
2022: 97

Registered Households

Current
Single
Member
Households

52



Baptisms
2024: 1
2023: 2
2022: 0

Weddings

2024: 0
2023: 1
2022: 0



Funerals
2024: 6
2023: 5
2022: 6

Households that Give

61

Households that
Don't Give

38

New to Our Parish

Deacon Dan became only the second permanent deacon to be named as administrator in the Diocese of Greensburg, following the model of Deacon Bill Newhouse, who served as administrator in Jeannette. He became administrator of Saint Ambrose, Saint Matthew and Saint Sylvester parishes on June 17. He was ordained Aug. 10, 2009, by Bishop Emeritus Lawrence E. Brandt. His first assignment was at Saint Lawrence Parish, Cadogan; Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City; Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning; and Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro. He was then transferred to Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysburg. After several years, he was transferred as a permanent deacon to Saint Ambrose, Saint Matthew and Saint Sylvester parishes. Three years later, he was sent to serve in his home parish of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Delmont, and partner parish Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes, Export, where he served until his current return to the partner parishes of our area as parish administrator, where he serves with the assistance of pastoral supply priest Father Mark Dunmire. He and his wife Debbie reside in his ancestral family home on what is left of a once sprawling family dairy farm. They raised two children, Dr. Christina Monroe and Daniel P. Frescura. Debbie did all the work of a mother and was still able to teach for 32 years at Aquinas Academy in Greensburg. Deacon Dan earned his bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and also studied at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, to improve his German skills and study philosophy. He is certified to teach German and English. He taught in the Penn-Trafford School District for 37 years. In 2000 he earned a Master of Arts degree in theology from

Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, and taught as an adjunct professor at Seton Hill University, Greensburg, for 10 years. In 2006, Bishop Brandt invited lay men who had degrees in theology-related studies to listen to a presentation about creating the permanent deacon program. After taking more classes at the seminary and going through an in-depth formation program, Deacon Dan was ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt, on August 10, 2009.



Father Mark holds a degree in fine arts/media arts from Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh, and a Master of Divinity and a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from Saint Mary's Seminary, Baltimore. He was ordained by Bishop Edward C. Malesic June 13, 2020. For his first assignment, he was Parochial Vicar at Saint Bruno Parish, South Greensburg, and Saint Paul Parish, Carbon, as well as providing sacramental assistance at Saint Anne Home and Westmoreland Manor, Greensburg, and serving as Chaplain at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School. He was then assigned as Parochial Vicar to the Connellsville Catholic Community of Saint John, Saint Rita and Immaculate Conception parishes, along with Saint Aloysius Parish, Dunbar, Saint John the Baptist Parish, Scottdale, and Saint Joseph Parish, Everson. Next, Father Mark was assigned as pastoral supply under the administration of Deacon Dan Frescura at Saint Sylvester Parish, Slickville, Saint Matthew Parish, Saltsburg, and Saint Ambrose Parish, Avonmore.

Giving With Gratitude



We are excited to showcase our GIVING QR Code. By scanning it, you can easily enroll in online giving, increase your weekly offertory or make a year-end gift. Traditional check and cash donations are always deeply appreciated as well. You can visit our website, stop by in person, or mail your gift.



BY MAIL:
Saint Sylvester Parish
P.O. Box 617
Avonmore, PA 15618



IN PERSON:
Monday – Friday – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Closed Wednesdays



ONLINE:
[partnerparishesmas.org](#)

Parish Financials

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Offertory	\$ 115,097	\$ 105,178	\$ 104,294
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	2,116	768	1,367
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	15,619	8,877	3,378
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	21,117	24,426	17,616
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)</i>	11,709	26,207	16,894
Special Collections	4,691	4,547	5,773
Total Income	\$ 170,349	\$ 170,003	\$ 149,322
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 30,326	\$ 32,077	\$ 31,245
Church	12,034	20,924	12,752
Rectory	13,070	2,048	2,516
Education and Ministry	14,565	15,127	14,289
General Expenses	66,649	72,265	62,635
Special Collections	4,887	4,100	5,821
Extraordinary Expenses	31,013	22,687	23,472
Total Expenditures	172,544	169,228	152,730
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (2,195)	\$ 775	\$ (3,408)



Our Ministries:

- Altar Servers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Lectors
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Liturgy Decorating Volunteers
- Partner Parish Pastoral Parish Council
- Finance Council
- Partner Parish Faith Formation
- Altar Rosary Society
- Bereavement Committee
- Baking or Preparing a Dish for Parish Functions
- Parish Office Helpers
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society
- Knights of Columbus
- Saint Ambrose Food Pantry
- Fundraising Volunteers
- Facilities Committee — Concrete Work, Painting, Electrical, Carpentry/Construction, Grounds/Landscaping, General Maintenance

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 724-697-4129 so we can walk you through the process of becoming a volunteer.