



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The lifeblood of a parish (meaning of parishioners) is God’s unmerited Grace. Without it, we are left solely to ourselves.

And His Grace calls us to a Mission. We have responded to this Mission through our liturgies, and numerous and fruitful ministries and charities.

This lifeblood of God - given grace calls for our stewardship. That is, wisely maintaining our campus facilities, growing our pastoral programs, and paying our bills.

This Newsletter gives details about our stewardship and Offertory trends. I ask you to read it carefully and to prayerfully and seriously consider the part your personal stewardship plays in our Mission.

Scripture tells us our stewardship must be intentional, prayerful and sacrificial if it is to serve the Lord and his people and be an integral part of our faith.

Thank you for your support to date and whatever increase you can offer. As Lent draws near, know of my prayers and those of all our clergy for a grace filled 40 days.

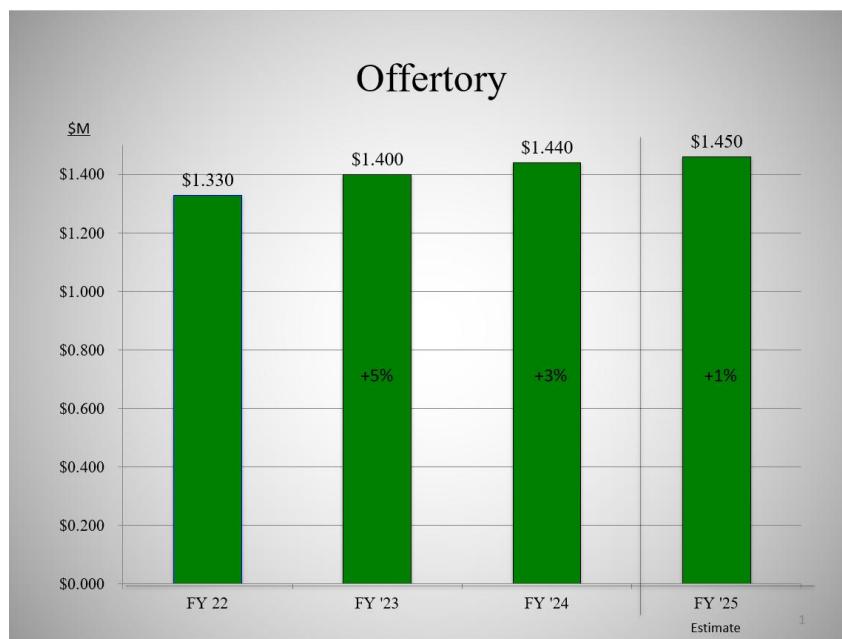
Many Blessings,
Msgr. Royal

OPERATIONS AND OFFERTORY UPDATE

In the first six months of fiscal year 2025, the Parish generated net income above budget, primarily due to better-than-expected results from major “One-Time” gifts, and Cemetery Operations. Both of these sources of income are highly unpredictable, and similar results are not likely sustainable.

At the same time, the Parish Offertory was 3% below budget, and only 1% above last year. Despite reducing expenses by 4% from 5 years ago, expenses have recently been increasing at the rate of 3-4% due to inflationary pressures.

The graphic below illustrates offertory donations over the past 3 years and a projection for this fiscal year. The rate of giving has been declining, has not kept pace with recent inflationary pressures, and does not adequately cover the Parish’s essential operating and ministry needs.



OFFERTORY APPEAL

After much deliberation with the leadership of our Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, we believe it appropriate to introduce a “Increased Offertory” campaign to address the ever growing operational, pastoral, and physical needs of the Parish. It will help us

- Keep pace with rising costs
- Support programs for Parish ministries and the growing youth and young-family population
- Reduce reliance on unpredictable sources to fund operations (Cemetery & Major Gifts)
- Provide adequate cash flow for unanticipated capital and operational expenses

We therefore ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your weekly giving to the Parish, our spiritual home, and to express gratitude to the Lord for all He has given us.

The graphic below provides “Giving Guidelines” for your consideration.

Guideline to Giving... “Little Means A Lot”

Current Weekly Giving	Suggested Range New Giving
\$1.00	\$2.00 - \$3.00
\$5.00	\$6.00 - \$8.00
\$10.00	\$12.00 - \$15.00
\$50.00	\$55.00 - \$60.00
\$100.00	\$110.00 - \$120.00
\$200.00 +	\$220.00 - \$240.00
Potential Annual Yield	\$200,000 +

Giving Back To God What He Has Given Us

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Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:7

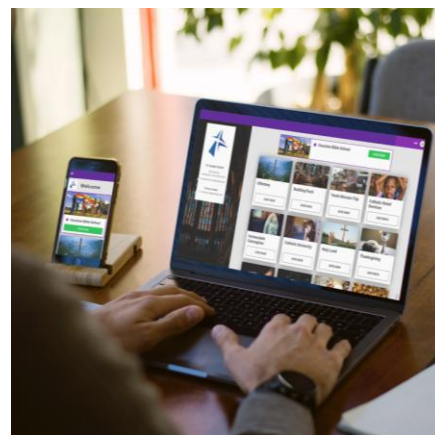
A CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE - ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving helps support our Parish by allowing donations, payments and pledges to be made via your mobile phone, smart device or computer. This capability, offered by OSV, our service provider, is

- ✓ Convenient – anytime, anywhere access through the internet
- ✓ Secure – adheres to banking security standards
- ✓ Flexible – start, stop and change your contributions at any time
- ✓ Simple – no need to contact your bank or the Parish Office

OSV offers the ability to easily create and manage

- ✓ Weekly Offertory Gifts
 - Recurring & One-Time options
 - Various frequencies for recurring gifts include:
 - weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly
- ✓ Facility Repair & Maintenance Fund Gifts
- ✓ Special Collection Gifts
 - One-time & Recurring gifts
 - Can be scheduled in advance for the year ahead
- ✓ St. Mary Parish Events Registration & Payment
- ✓ In-person Purchases (bake sales, Christmas ornaments, etc.)



Online  Giving
from OurSundayVisitor

How to Register

- Go to our Parish website www.smcr.org
OR
- Scan the **QR code** (on posters, in the weekly e-newsletter, bulletin, or below)
- **Step by Step Instructions to Register for Online Giving**
 - Click on GIVING, then select “Online Giving”
 - Click “Create Account / Sign In” in upper right
 - Sign In *only* if previously registered with OSV
 - Create your Account
 - Enter your Name, Email Address and create a Pa:
 - Click on FUNDS to create Weekly Offertory and Special C
 - Schedule your one-time and recurring gifts
 - Schedule Special Collections gifts in advance for the entire year
 - Add Payment Information: bank or credit card
 - Submit gift – SUCCESS!
- Once registered, the only information required for future donations is related to selecting the gift, amount, date and source of distribution.



Scan the QR Code
to Get Started!

REACHING THOSE NOT IN THE PEWS

Although there are 3,200 registered families in the Parish, 1,600 are considered “active,” with only 700 or so being regular weekly donors. We are reaching out to those who do not attend Mass regularly through phone and mailing campaigns to invite them back, to understand why they have not been participating, to invite them to an “open house,” and to share with them the many Parish services offered from which they may benefit.

Warmly welcoming them back, will hopefully result in strengthening their faith, healing where healing may be needed, and many blessings as they become more active in worship and as members of St. Mary Parish.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

For Christians, good stewardship is a calling to develop our God-given gifts (time, talent and treasure) and returning a portion back to God through generously sharing for the benefits of others. By doing this we return to Him in thanksgiving that which He already owns.

We do appreciate the financial challenges that many face, and we are also aware that you are doing your best to give sacrificially to the Parish. Your past generosity has allowed us to achieve our mission of delivering inspiring liturgical and ministry services, and with your help, we can continue to live, learn and share our faith even more effectively to become an even stronger Parish.

As always, on behalf of our Parish Family, we thank you for all your past support. If you find it difficult to increase your weekly donation at this time, please continue to give whatever you can and pray for the success of this Stewardship Appeal for the Parish.

What our Lord asks is...

“Not Equal Gifts” but “Equal Sacrifice”

