

# —Community— Impact Statement

for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)





#### Introduction

Together as one Catholic community of faith, we at Old St. Mary's Catholic Church and School are excited to report that:

- Tremendous progress was made this past year against challenging goals
- A solid foundation is in place to support even more progress in FY 2026!

#### Highlights include:

- Mass attendance increased 17% over the prior year and 67% over 2022
- A new mission statement was adopted and additional ministries were engaged
- Accomplished individuals were hired to join the ministerial leadership team
- Both the School and the Church ended the year ahead of budget
- Offertory financial support increased by \$40,000
- The Blue Ribbon Fund exceeded its goal by 20%
- Contributions to the Annual Paulist Appeal increased by 100% with more families participating

And there's more! This 2025 Community Impact Statement\* is presented in two parts: (1) the advancement and impact of our mission and ministries; and (2) the financial support and spending that enabled these accomplishments.

Each of these parts includes information about ministries and programs at Old St. Mary's, with details about goals, results, and projections for FY 2026 including opportunities and challenges. Our aim is that every parishioner understands the plans created by parish leadership and advisory boards, and discerns how to take part in carrying them forward. Whether our connection is primarily through the Parish, through the School, or through both, we belong to one community united at Old St. Mary's.

As you read this report, we invite you to prayerfully consider:

- What does it mean for me (and my family) to belong to Old St. Mary's?
- How is God inviting me to do more through Old St. Mary's?

Your presence makes a powerful impact! We encourage you to learn more about our mission and ministries, to ask questions and offer suggestions, and to increase the time, talent, and treasure you invest through Old St. Mary's.

Rev. Richard Andre, C.S.P.

Pastor, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church & School

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April Greer

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\*While this report touches on the vibrant life of our largest ministry, Old St. Mary's Catholic School, it is not intended as a comprehensive School report.

# Our Heritage, Our Future: A Year of Energy and Renewal

Situated in the heart of Chicago's South Loop, Old St. Mary's stands at the center of a dynamic and ever-growing neighborhood. Surrounded by a rich mix of long-time residents and new arrivals, families of all backgrounds, and a broad range of cultural and economic experiences, we are a community of faith that continually responds to the evolving needs of our neighborhood. Amid constant change, Old St. Mary's has remained true to its mission: to meet people where they are, and to help each person discover and know that they belong.

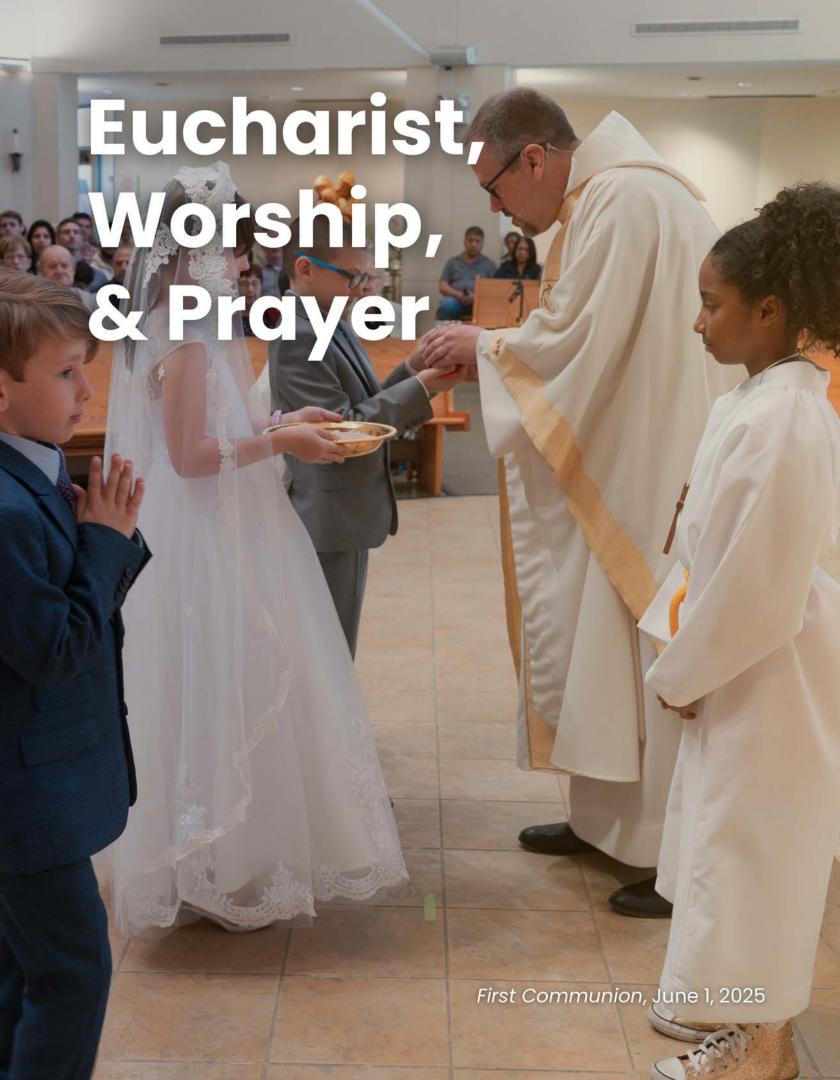
Rooted in our Catholic tradition, we "welcome and accompany everyone on their faith journey." Guided by the Holy Spirit, we open our doors to all. Whether people are joining us at Mass for the first time or have been here for years, whether they are seekers or lifelong Catholics, we strive to be a place of welcome, encounter, and growth.

Our story is one of resilience and renewal. From the original Catholics who petitioned Bishop Rosati of St. Louis to create this parish in 1833, to the parishioners who helped build our current campus, found the School, and open the parish center, Old St. Mary's has always adapted to meet the needs of the times. Since 1903, the Paulist Fathers, the first religious community of Catholic priests founded in the United States, have served the Old St. Mary's community. As a Paulist-led community, the spirit of their mission reverberates through all we do: fostering a community of welcome, reaching beyond church walls, building bridges of understanding, and welcoming all into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Like many church communities, we faced a challenging period in recent years. The Covid-19 pandemic challenged us to hold steady, even as our usual rhythms of ministry and growth were disrupted. In 2024-25, we continued the work of deepening our identity as a mission-based parish. With renewed energy and focus, we recommitted ourselves to proclaiming the gospel and attending to the needs of our neighbors. The newly-configured Parish Pastoral Council, after wide consultation with the community, issued an updated mission statement in December 2024 to guide our future:

Old St. Mary's welcomes and accompanies everyone on their faith journey. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, our diverse community encourages people to grow their relationship with Jesus Christ and one another through Eucharist, worship, prayer, education, and service.

Our updated mission statement reflects the heart of who we are. At Old St. Mary's, we emphasize **Welcome and Accompaniment** as core values. We give witness to these values through our **Eucharist**, **Worship**, **and Prayer** and the ways we serve and care for one another (**Education** and **Service**). Our commitment to inclusiveness is inspired by a synodal spirit — a way of walking together that calls us to communion, shared responsibility, and a conversion of heart. It reminds us that we truly belong to one another, and that the renewal of our community depends on each of us offering our gifts in love (**Stewardship**).



# **Eucharist, Worship, & Prayer**

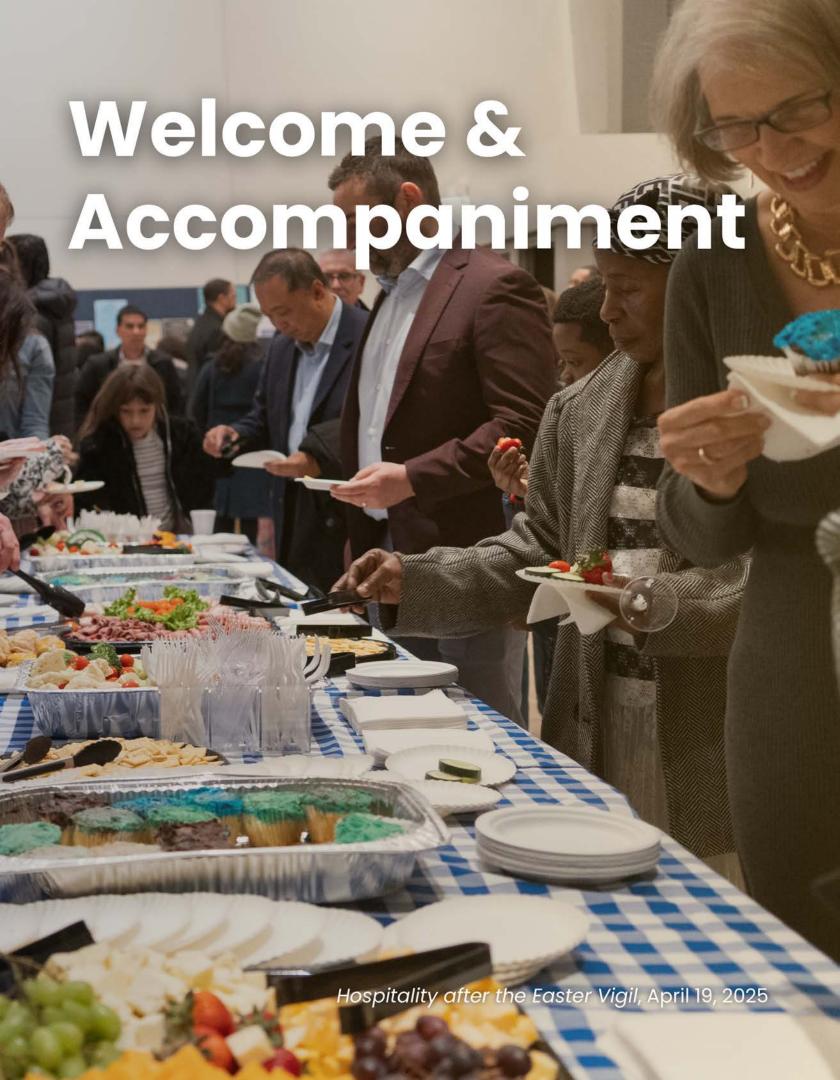
#### Commitments in FY 2025

- Strengthened Pastoral Presence: The Paulist Fathers invested in our community by sending three priests to serve in Chicago: two priests to serve full-time on staff (Fr. Rich Andre, CSP and Fr. Dan Macalinao, CSP), and a third priest in residence (Fr. Bob Cary, CSP).
- **Expanded Lay Participation:** We worked to streamline opportunities for ministry, making it easier for parishioners to serve as liturgical ministers.
- Renewed Communal Worship: Our community committed to building a more vibrant liturgical life, emphasizing the synergy in our gathering as the Church. We strove to more fully live our identity as the Body of Christ — many diverse parts in the one Body.

#### Highlights in FY 2025

- Growth in Worshipping Community: Mass attendance was the highest it has been in five
  years! A number of long-time parishioners returned to in-person worship, and new faces
  joined us at Old St. Mary's. Attendance rose 17% over the previous year, and 67% compared
  to 2022, signaling renewed energy and connection in our liturgical life.
- **Director of Liturgy and Music:** In January 2025, we welcomed **Ace Gangoso** as our new DLM. Ace has a gift for encouraging the best in our music ministers and in helping the whole assembly enter more deeply into our liturgical worship.
- Energized Liturgical Participation: Masses have a palpable sense of joy and engagement, echoing Vatican II's call for "full, conscious, and active participation" in the liturgy. From every corner of the church, the sound of the entire assembly praying together was a moving reminder that liturgy is something we do together.
- Deepened Communal Prayer Life: Parishioners continued praying the Rosary together in the chapel every weekday at 8:00 AM. They gathered at the church and in homes for other shared prayer experiences, including Eucharistic Exposition, Stations of the Cross, Taizé, and seasonal workshops.

- Continue Rebuilding Mass Attendance: While participation continues to grow, weekend
  Mass attendance remains about 25% below pre-pandemic levels. Help our parish grow by
  inviting your neighbors, friends, and colleagues to join us at Mass or any of our
  community's events. If anyone has questions about returning to the Church, or exploring
  their Catholic faith, please know that Fr. Rich (<u>FrRich@oldstmarys.com</u>), Fr. Dan
  (<u>FrDan@oldstmarys.com</u>), or Elise Flick (<u>Elise@oldstmarys.com</u>) would be honored to
  accompany them.
- Grow our Liturgical Ministry Teams: To better represent the diversity of our community and to expand on our small but dedicated pool of ministers, please consider serving as a liturgical minister. Our goal is to build a more sustainable rotation where most ministers serve just once or twice a month. We're hoping to grow our roster to include: 100 Eucharistic Ministers, 50 Altar Servers, 50 Greeters, 40 Lectors, 30 Ushers, 30 Hospitality Members, 15 Sacristans, and 12 Livestream operators. If you feel called to serve, please contact Ace Gangoso (Ace@oldstmarys.com).



# Welcome & Accompaniment

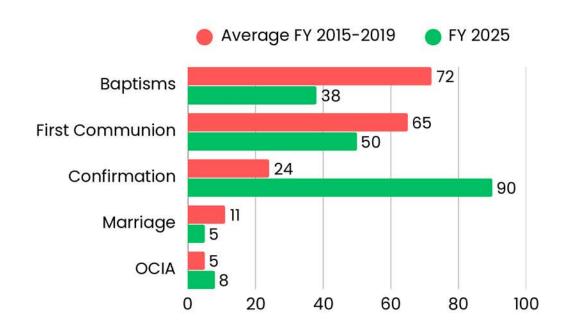
#### **Commitments in FY 2025**

- A Welcoming Parish: Since the late 1800s, Old St. Mary's has welcomed people of diverse
  income levels, political perspectives, ages, ethnicities, and cultures. This year, we
  recommitted to that legacy by celebrating the breadth of our community's diversity.
- Renewed Paulist Identity: We emphasized core Paulist values, especially the commitment
  to welcome those who have historically been marginalized by the Church. This included a
  renewed focus on Christian unity, fostering inter-religious dialogue, and healing the
  wounds of those who feel hurt by or alienated from the Church.
- Invested in Accompaniment: We provided opportunities to walk with one another in faith

   – across age groups, backgrounds, and stages of belief.

# Highlights in FY 2025

- Witnessed to Faith Through Our School Ministry: Old St. Mary's Catholic School continued to serve as our premier ministry for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ: His teachings, life, and message. Our School presents the Catholic faith in a comprehensive and affirming manner, not just teaching academics, but actively fostering faith, encouraging spiritual growth, and helping students and families experience the transformative power of the Gospel, demonstrating our dedication to creating an environment where every student is valued and embraced. Reflecting the diversity of our neighborhood and community, 58% of students enrolled were children of color, a sign of our ongoing commitment to welcome and inclusion.
- Robust Sacramental Life: We accompanied dozens of individuals and couples through sacramental preparation, including a large Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) cohort, numerous students receiving First Communion and Confirmation, and preparing dozens of couples for the sacrament of Marriage.



- Post-Mass Hospitality, Week after Week: We continued our tradition of offering hospitality through food and fellowship after our Sunday morning Masses and after daily Masses.
- Celebrated Our Diversity: We recognized our ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity in many
  ways, including Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations, Simbang Gabi, our 2nd annual
  "Knights Around the World" School festival, and the School's "House system" centered on 8
  culturally-diverse saints.
- Committed to the Margins: Old St. Mary's renewed sponsoring the Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach (AGLO) and collaborated with Old St. Patrick's Parish to celebrate the 4th annual Beloved service for LGBTQ+ persons and their allies. We also reignited our young adult ministry, providing programming for people ages 18-39. By June 2025, we had over 75 people on our young adult mailing list.
- Upgraded Our Livestream Ministry: We improved our livestream capabilities, making it
  easier for parishioners unable to attend in person and those joining us beyond the South
  Loop to participate more fully in our liturgies and feel connected to the community.
- Enhanced Parish Communications: We invested in improving our communications and refreshed many streams for keeping our community informed and connected. This included updates to the parish bulletin, e-newsletter, bulletin board, website, and social media — with messaging tailored to reach both parishioners and our neighbors in the South Loop.
- Faith Sharing in Small Groups: We offered opportunities for reflection and conversation through Lenten small groups, video series, scripture study, guest speakers, and book discussions.

- Update Your Contact Information: We may not be able to reach you in an emergency!
   Visit <u>oldstmarys.com/join-2/</u> to update your contact information and/or sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.
- Volunteer for Hospitality Ministry: We urgently need more volunteers to help host hospitality, especially after the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass. Contact Fr. Dan (<u>FrDan@oldstmarys.com</u>) to get involved.
- Continue to Strengthen Communications: As we continue to expand and improve our communications, we are looking for ways to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Please reach out to Fr. Rich (<u>FrRich@oldstmarys.com</u>) with comments and suggestions.
- Support Small Group Faith Sharing: Although scheduling can be a challenge, small groups continue to be a much-appreciated dynamic in our parish life. If you are interested in facilitating a small group — whether one-time, seasonal, or ongoing, please contact Elise (<u>Elise@oldstmarys.com</u>).





## Education

Old St. Mary's continued its commitment to education in three distinct ways in FY 2025:

- Old St. Mary's Catholic School provides a rigorous, faith-based preparatory academic experience. Established in 2004, our School promotes academic excellence through research-based curriculum, measured assessments aligned to relevant standards, and continual curriculum evaluation. For more information, please refer to the State of the School Report (osmschool.com/state-of-the-school) or contact Principal April Greer (AGreer@osmschool.com).
- **Sunday Faith Formation** (SFF) program provides religious instruction, including sacramental preparation, for children in grades K-8 who do not attend Catholic school.
- Currently, **adult education opportunities** consist of various series and stand-alone programs, offered on Sundays, weeknights, and Wednesday mornings.

#### **Highlights in FY 2025**

- Strengthened Collaboration Across Ministries: School and Parish staff developed systems for a more collaborative working environment. In this year of transition, an extraordinary combination of staff and volunteers assisted with the sacramental preparation of students, both in the School and in our SFF program.
- Deepened Our School's Catholic Identity: We dedicated significant effort to strengthening
  the School's Catholic identity while remaining welcoming and sensitive to the needs of
  non-Catholic families. Students scored significantly higher on the Archdiocese of
  Chicago's annual Catholic Identity survey than in previous years. In addition, more School
  families participated in weekend Masses at Old St. Mary's, building on strengthening our
  culture as one united community.
- Responsive Faith Formation Programming: Our SFF and School Sacramental Preparation
  programs accompanied families responsively. We offered both group learning with peers
  as well as individualized instruction when needed always striving to prepare children
  well for the sacraments.
- Nurtured Faith Formation Programs: Catechists offered Children's Liturgy of the Word
  during Sunday Masses for children who had not yet received Communion, and our Order
  of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) was organized into cohorts for adults, teens, and
  children to foster age-appropriate formation.

- Director of Lifelong Faith Formation: In July 2026, we hired Elise Flick as our new DLFF. Elise brings a fantastic combination of academic training and real-world experience to working collaboratively within diverse communities of faith.
- Strengthen Alignment between School and SFF Programs: We continue to better align
  the content and approach of religious instruction between the School and SFF programs.
  This also includes aligning curriculum, and clearer communication of expectations to
  families with students preparing to receive their sacraments.
- Growing Our Team of Catechists: We seek more catechists for the SFF program and for
  providing opportunities for high school students. If you would like to serve as a catechist, a
  minister to teens, or a helper in the faith formation program, contact Elise
  (Elise@oldstmarys.com); training and support is always provided.



# **Service**

Old St. Mary's committed to do more outreach, charity, and advocacy work by reviving some of our **service ministries** that had thrived before the pandemic.

#### **Highlights in FY 2025**

- Reorganized and Re-energized Our Connections to Other Charitable Organizations: The
  Social Justice & Services Group held two organizing meetings in late spring. By June, they
  had increased their support of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services and Chicago Shares, and
  had begun plans to resume assisting Catholic Charities, the Greater Chicago Food
  Depository, Kolbe House Prison Ministry, and the Advent Giving Tree. We hope that this
  group will become a central point of coordination for all School & Parish service projects,
  helping shape them as learning opportunities for people of all ages.
- Revival of Ministry to the Homebound: Our Ministry of Care held a training session in March for people willing to take communion to the homebound. To request a visit for a homebound loved one, please go to <u>bit.ly/osm-communionvisit</u>.
- Renewed Knights of Columbus Presence: Old St. Mary's Council #182 of the Knights of Columbus, which had expanded into Holy Name Cathedral 8 years ago, discerned this past year that it can better serve both parishes by separating into 2 parish councils, as long as they can recruit sufficient Knights in the next few years.
- Shared the Paulist Spirit: The Chicago Paulist Associates explained the spirituality of Paulist founder Servant of God Fr. Isaac Hecker in the Paulist Associates' "Who the Heck is Hecker?" bulletin series, and hosted a community-wide celebration of Fr. Hecker's 205th birthday.
- Old St. Mary's honored **Dr. Cozette Buckney** for her decades-long service to the Parish and School during the national "Spirit of Hecker" Awards broadcast at (<u>paulist.org/heckerawards</u>).
- Ms. Cleofe Garcia and Ms. Rhea Imbag were were honored at the Archdiocese of Chicago's inaugural Araw ng Parangal awards, which recognized leaders in Filipino Ministry across the Archdiocese.
- Old St. Mary's received mission impact grants from the Paulist Office of Mission Advancement for Young Adult Ministry, livestreaming efforts, and the SEED program that the School will host in 2026.

- To be added to the mailing list of the Social Justice & Services Group, contact Lauren (<u>Lauren@oldstmarys.com</u>). Anyone who would like to take on a leadership role in the group should contact Fr. Rich (<u>FrRich@oldstmarys.com</u>).
- For training as a Eucharistic Minister to visit the homebound, contact Merlyn Chua (careministry@oldstmarys.com).
- Catholic men from either Old St. Mary's or Holy Name Cathedral interested in joining the
   Knights of Columbus may contact Grand Knight Will Woodard
   (<u>WWoodard245@gmail.com</u>).
- One of the best ways to amplify the Paulist identity of Old St. Mary's is to become a Paulist
   Associate. The group is open to men and women of any Christian denomination. Learn
   more at paulist.org/associates, then call the office (312-922-3444) and ask for the
   contact information of Levita Anderson, Chicago Coordinator for the Paulist Associates



# Stewardship

Old St. Mary's Parish and School Leadership set a goal to foster a more **team-oriented approach** built on trust, to enter more deeply into the Church's invitation to **synodal conversion**, and to commit to **greater transparency** in our finances so that our community can both trust our stewardship practices and generously support our financial goals.

#### Highlights in FY 2025

- Strengthened Leadership Structures and Elevated Lay Voices: Old St. Mary's created the
  Parent Advisory Team & the Building & Grounds Committee and made structural
  changes to the Parish Pastoral Council & the Finance Council. Twelve people wrote
  pastoral reflections for the bulletin, including 6 women, bringing diverse perspectives.
- Invitation to Greater Long-Term Financial Health: The Finance Council asked parishioners
  to prayerfully consider increasing their offertory giving and to give via recurring donations.
  Our community responded by giving approximately \$40,000 more to the offertory in FY
  2025 than FY 2024. The Finance Council also advised staff on cost-saving measures,
  including selling the parish-owned condominium that had housed some of the Paulists for
  the past 9 years.
- The School's Blue Ribbon Fund exceeded its goal of \$200,000 by approximately 20%. This
  allowed the School to make a modest increase in teacher retention bonuses and to make
  its first-ever extra interest payment on the school debt.
- The community also gave generously to the Annual Paulist Appeal, providing essential support for the Paulist Fathers. By June 2025, 10.2% of households had contributed more than the total raised in both 2023 and 2024 combined! Ongoing contributions can be made at any time at paulist.org/apa.

- Inspire a Culture of Vocations Outreach: The Paulist Fathers need more vocations, and it is
  the work of the whole community to help inspire them. We can help more people
  recognize and respond to a possible call to priesthood through our prayers and
  encouragement.
- A **new School Advisory Board structure** will be implemented in FY 2026, focusing on alumni relations, fundraising & development, and creating a new strategic plan.
- Sharing the Story of Old St. Mary's: Many in our community know little of the vision and sacrifice of the generations who came before us. We have assembled a team to better communicate our history as we prepare for the School's 25th anniversary in 2029 and the Parish's 200th anniversary in 2033.
- Old St. Mary's continues to push the limits of what can be accomplished with current financial resources. Prayerfully consider how you can support the Parish Offertory (discussed in the "Budget Overview" section below), the Generation to Generation:
   Answer the Call campaign (addressing building maintenance issues, to be discussed in October & November 2025), and the School's annual Blue Ribbon Fund (discussed in the "Budget Overview" section below).
- If the School could pay the remaining 8 years of mortgage payments ahead of schedule, that would free up approximately \$500,000 per year that could be spent on other School priorities.

## **Budget Overview for Old St. Mary's Catholic Church**

#### Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

We initially projected an \$81,000 deficit, but ended the fiscal year **up** with a net gain of \$77,000. The main drivers of the better-than-expected results were:

- Receipt of a \$69,000 unexpected bequest.
- Offertory giving exceeded our budget by \$40,000. Thank you!
- Salary and benefit savings resulted from two unfilled staff positions for part of the year.
- Excess contributions of \$14,000 to the Annual Catholic Appeal were rebated to us.

Please note that without the extraordinary revenues of the bequest and the ACA rebate, we would have ended the year with a deficit of \$6,000. If we had had a full staff last year, the deficit would have been larger.

	Projected Budget	Actual Fiscal Year	Over (Under)
Total Revenues	\$866,753	\$989,556	\$122,803
Total Expenses	\$947,339	\$912,259	(\$35,089)
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$80,586)	\$77,306	

#### Fiscal Year 2026 (Starting July 1, 2025)

Giving trends are moving in the right direction, but we're projecting a \$45,000 deficit for FY 2026. Our reserve is \$195,000, and such a deficit would cut the reserve by 23%. Our long-term goal is to grow the reserve to 6 months' operating expenses, or \$500,000, in case of emergency. Factors in our FY 2026 budget:

- We're assuming a 3% increase in offertory giving (Sundays and holy days), for a total of \$885,000.
- We filled vacant staff positions.
- The Archdiocese is predicting higher insurance and utility costs.
- Old St. Mary's is no longer exempted from paying into the archdiocesan priest retirement fund.

**Good news**: The Paulists downsized their housing footprint this summer, which should save the church \$25,000 in housing costs for Fr. Rich and Fr. Dan!

	Total Budgeted Revenue	Total Budgeted Expenses	Net Income (Deficit)
FY 2026 Budget	\$938,968	\$983,706	(\$44,738)

We would like to close the projected \$45,000 deficit, and generate a consistent positive net each year. The net could be put toward a reserve for emergencies, building repairs, and hiring additional staff to support carrying out the Parish mission.

- Please prayerfully consider an increase in your offertory giving by 5-15%. Not everyone can do this, but if you are able, it will enable a more stable foundation for our ministries.
- **Give to the offertory in electronic recurring installments.** Predictable, recurring income enables more reliable budgets. Start the process at <u>oldstmarys.com/donate</u>.

A more detailed version of the budgets from the last several years is available at <a href="https://www.oldstmarys.com/osm-budget">www.oldstmarys.com/osm-budget</a>. If you have questions about the Church budget or how you can contribute, please reach out to Dawn Burns (<a href="mailto:Dawn@oldstmarys.com">Dawn@oldstmarys.com</a>).

## **Budget Overview for Old St. Mary's Catholic School**

#### Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

Old St. Mary's Catholic School projected a \$157,000 deficit but finished with a smaller one at \$101,000. There were 3 major factors in the difference:

- Careful management kept overall expenses 1% under budget.
- Enrollment was slightly under target (4 students).
- Financial assistance costs were higher than anticipated.

The deficit was covered by our annual reserves, and thanks to our archdiocesan savings, the school was able to handle the normal ups and downs of School finances smoothly.

	Projected Budget	Actual Fiscal Year	Over (Under)
Total Revenues	\$5,383,730	\$5,367,733	(\$15,997)
Total Expenses	\$5,540,284	\$5,468,713	(\$71,571)
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$156,554)	(\$100,980)	

#### Fiscal Year 2026 (Starting July 1, 2025)

Even with higher salaries and benefits, which are 75% of school expenses, the 2026 budget is looking good for next year! We are projecting a small net surplus of \$2,000. The two main reasons for this projection:

- We have a 3% enrollment increase (17 more students).
- Tuition rose 5% to help offset higher costs.

Salary and benefit rates are set by the Archdiocese, and the School continually works to keep tuition low so that Old St. Mary's Catholic School remains accessible to as many families as possible.

	Total Budgeted Revenue	Total Budgeted Expenses	Net Income (Deficit)
FY 2026 Budget	\$5,832,300	\$5,830,500	\$1,800

Please note that there are some essential needs - teacher retention bonuses and the long-term financial stability of our school - that aren't covered by tuition. Donations and fundraisers support the Blue Ribbon Fund to help fill the gaps. Last year, we raised over \$240,000. Looking ahead to this school year, the School Advisory Board will focus on fundraising and development efforts to build a sustainable future.

What we would like from you:

Please prayerfully consider donating to the 2025 - 2026 Blue Ribbon Fund at osmschool.com/giving. Our goal is \$250,000, with a strategic focus of financially compensating the expectional dedication of our teachers. These funds will provide year-end, returning, and sign-on bonuses for teachers, recognizing the personal commitment our teachers give each day. Your donations will directly support and reward their outstanding commitment.

If you have questions about the School budget or how you can contribute, please reach out to Shannon Carsello (SCarsello@osmschool.com).