



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Clergy

Rev. Brian Van Fossen	Pastor
Rev. Richard Gyansah-Tabiri	Assistant
Deacon Gene Blockus	Deacon

Staff Members

Ellie Scovish	Stewardship Coordinator
Ann Rish	Office & Bulletin Coordinator
Daniel Kotsko	Faith Formation Coordinator
Amanda Matysik	Youth and Young Adult Minister
Matt Shaul	Sacred Music Coordinator
Chris Janusz	Maintenance Coordinator

Sacraments

Baptism: Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to call the Parish Office to schedule a preparation session and the tentative date.

Matrimony: Couples planning to enter into Holy Matrimony are to call the office at least one year prior to set a tentative date and schedule Pre-Cana.

Reconciliation: Please consult the bulletin for dates and times or call one of our priests for an appointment.

Hospital and Homebound: Please call the office for First Friday or Anointing.

Priesthood and Religious Life: Contact our priests for an appointment.



This is the second time we are asked to evaluate our hearts. The first was in the beginning of Holy Mass where we recognized our sinfulness and asked God for mercy and gave Him glory for His faithfulness, though we were unfaithful. Now we have come to offer ourselves in the Presentation of Gifts. Here we examine our lives in light of our relationships with our brothers and sisters and the world. The gifts we offer are for the community. The poor, the broken, the lost, the unwanted, the glorious, the sinner and the saint, are all members of our community. If we have a grievance against any member of this community we need to recognize that separation, that sin, and do something about it.

“Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24). This is difficult at times to accomplish. However, if you hold in your heart, “I’m not doing anything for that person.” or “I will only offer my gift if that person doesn’t receive anything.” Then we are not really offering our gift. The gift has conditions to God and these conditions are still held by the person. It is not really offered. It is like giving someone a car and then telling them they can only drive it if you are in the vehicle driving it for them.

This is not how God loves or offers Himself. “But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes to rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” (Matthew 5: 44-45) This is how God loves us, and we are called to love others just the same. God’s Peace!

Fr. Brian





Mass Intentions

January 22-January 28

Monday	8:30 AM	Fr. Ed Zawodniak
Wednesday	8:30 AM	Anthony Zbick <i>by Daughter</i>
Friday	8:30 AM	Ruthann Ryczak
Saturday	5:30 PM	George Pavlick <i>by Bill & Tina Rombilus</i>
Sunday	8:30 AM	Bob & Helen Keener <i>by Family</i>
	11:00 AM	All living & deceased Members & Benefactors of OLMC

The Altar flowers this week are in loving memory of George Pavlick offered by Wife & Family



First Friday and Saturday Devotions

February 2 @ 8:30 am

First Friday Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

February 3 @ 8:30 am

First Saturday Mass w/Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Eucharistic Adoration, Prayers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Confession



Altar Flowers

Anyone who would like to donate an altar bouquet or offer the Weekly Sanctuary Candle in memory of a loved one please call the parish office (570-477-5040)

NOTICE

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours

Monday	9:00am - 4:00pm
Wednesday	9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday	9:00am - 4:00pm

If there is an immediate need please call St. Faustina Office at (570) 735-4833.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan to donate or visit annualappeal.org

Bishop's Annual Appeal	
Parish Goal	\$19,000.00
Total Raised	\$13,112.00
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$5,888.00)



Faith Formation Classes

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Confirmation classes will be held on the first Thursday of the month



Prayer Request and Requests

Fr. Brian will be attending his annual priestly retreat beginning January 15th. Please pray for him and, if you have any intentions, pass them along to him to keep in prayer.

SCAN TO REGISTER
College Age +

EZRA 10:4

A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE PRIESTHOOD

Rev. Alex Roche

Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke
Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office

MARCH 1-2, 2024

REGISTER AT DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG/VOICATIONS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations

Thursday,
February 1st

7:00 PM

St. Maria Goretti Church
42 Redwood Drive - Lafin

SPEAKER, RECONCILIATION,
AND SOCIAL.

LIVE MUSIC BY JOEL KANKIEWICZ

Stewardship

All things are possible with God

Devote Time

Share Talent

Give Treasure

A way of life

2023 Contribution Statements

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of our parish in 2023. Your time, talent and treasure has made it possible to worship the Lord, serve our neighbors and build our community. If anyone would like to request an end of year contribution statement, please contact the parish office. 570-477-5040 or email at olmhc@gmail.com



World Day of Prayer
The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.
Friday, March 1, 2024



"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Fishing is an active verb. If you are being called to strengthen Christ's Church through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, **act**. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Office at 570-207-1452 or vial email: vocations@dioceseofscranton.org.

Prayer of the Faithful Petition

For an increase in fishers of men and for a deeper gratitude for the priests and religious now serving our diocese, we pray to the Lord.

OPEN HOUSE

Looking for a great school for your child? St. Nicholas-St. Mary School is just the place! Join us at our Open House on Sunday, January 28th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. We serve all of Luzerne County with small class sizes: Pre-Kindergarten for ages 3 and 4, and Kindergarten through 8th grade. We are located at 242 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, Call 570-823-8089 with any questions.

St. Nicholas-St. Mary

"where good beginnings last a lifetime!"



100th Anniversary Merch T-shirts and Ornaments

These shirts will be available at the parish office! We have a variety of sizes and, if we run out, we will order more!

We will also have Christmas Ornaments available for purchase. These pewter ornaments are beautifully crafted and great gifts for this coming year.

- Ornaments \$10**
- T-Shirts Kids \$10**
- Adult \$13**
- 3x or higher \$15**



In November of 2022, we printed our first Stewardship Report for our parish. We then followed up with the Diocesan Five Year Trend Report in January of 2023. After these reports were posted we were able to understand the financial concerns of the parish. We understand that we are in great shape in paying bills; however, we did not have a savings account to pay for capital expenses or growth. This caused our finance and parish councils to discern what is needed to be updated or fixed as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary and look toward the future of our parish. Some major expenses centered on structural damages to the foundation of the parish hall and a new sounds system for the church and hall. Some smaller, but cost effective measures, would be the changing of lights to a more energy efficient model and work on water and heating/cooling issues.

Since those discussions we started a dedicated fund for building renovations. We have also looked into a way to create a savings account that would be able to collect interest and save funds for a needed time. We are also looking at a need for volunteers and ways people can connect into our parish life. This transparency is something that the Diocese has asked us to continue as we look to the future of our parish and the local community. We all share the responsibility of sharing the Gospel of Jesus with our neighbors through word and example. Through our time, talent and treasure, we work together in this effort and come together as a parish family. Each and every one of us has a part to play in sharing the Gospel.

Thank you for being a part of our mission!

The Diocese of Scranton has again asked all parishes to publish their Five Year Trend reports in the coming weeks. Bishop Bambera renews his commitment for transparency in all parishes. This report is hoping to make all parishes knowledgeable of their history in order to plan toward the future. These reports will help plan for collaboration between parishes and conversations within Deaneries. The next report will be a Spiritual Report which will reflect our sacramental journey over the past five years. This will be coming to us from the Diocese around the Lenten Season. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free in contacting the office or any member of Finance Council or Parish Council. Let us continue to work together to spread the Gospel of Jesus in our community.

Financial Income Report 2019-2023

We run our fiscal year between July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023. This report reflects the income reported to the Diocese over the past five years during this period of time with the year ending date. Operating and Non-Operating Income are both reflected in this report along with the designated accounts.

Operating Income

Collections: includes all offertory envelopes, online giving and loose collections, including for holidays, Holy Days and any special collection (flower) envelopes.

Faith Formation Fees: includes all registration and program fees for both faith formation and adult programs

Fundraising: includes any gifts or donations that are not regular parish offertory, bequests, and memorials, parish activities, donations from parish societies and any parish rebate from the Diocesan Annual Appeal

Other Income: includes rental of facilities, insurance refunds, interest income, sale of assets, funeral/wedding perquisites or any other income.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Collections	\$231,829	\$225,704	\$207,574	\$246,945	\$250,192
Faith Formation	\$1,690	\$1,710	\$1,650	\$1,685	\$2,649
Fundraising	\$50,260	\$11,301	\$37,460	\$42,149	\$56,960
Other	\$2,260	\$7,823	\$8,141	\$6,768	\$15,099

Non-Operating Income

Designated Income: includes donations or grants specifically earmarked for a designated purpose, reimbursements from linked parishes to help cover expenses and any Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) grant income.

Transfer from Savings: includes transfers from bank accounts that are excluded from operating income or have already been reported as operating income.

Special Collections: are special collections which get remitted back to the Diocese.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Designated Income	\$1,057	0	\$23,552	\$22,392	0
Savings	\$5,580	\$9,802	0	\$144,128	\$11,527
Special Collection	\$5,389	\$6,152	\$4,290	\$2,514	\$5,348
Total Revenue	\$298,065	\$262,492	\$282,667	\$466,581	\$341,775

Financial Expense Report 2018-2022

This report reflects the expenses of the parish based on several areas. This makes up all the expenses, both operating and non-operating, for the parish during these fiscal years. These numbers do not reflect expenses to our cemeteries.

Operating Expenses

Administration: includes half clergy salaries and benefits, office staff salary and benefits, administrative expenses, telephone, computer services, postage, printing, envelopes, and the Cathedraicum (9.5% parish assessment to the Diocese) and Clergy Care and Wellness Assessment

Rectory: expenses include the costs to run and maintain the rectory, as well as half of household expenses for the priests.

Liturgy: includes salaries and benefits of musicians and liturgical staff including directors, musicians, and sacristans. This also includes all liturgical equipment and supplies (printed materials, candles, flowers, decorations, etc.)

Faith Formation: includes salaries and benefits of faith formation director and staff, including family and/or youth director. This also includes cost of all textbooks and supplies, retreats, etc.

Social Justice: includes all social justice salaries and benefits, as well as the cost of all social justice expenses.

Operation & Maintenance of Place: includes salaries and benefits of all maintenance staff. This also includes the occupancy costs of the parish buildings, including electricity, heat, water, cleaning, janitorial, repairs and maintenance, and any plant and maintenance supplies.

Operating Expenses Continued

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Administration	\$130,460	\$135,657	\$152,124	\$147,259	\$137,044
Rectory Expenses	\$9,284	\$3,969	\$5,319	\$6,453	\$8,582
Liturgy	\$18,718	\$27,082	\$21,143	\$21,433	\$21,707
Faith Formation	\$29,217	\$8,062	\$6,218	\$4,761	\$6,426
Social Justice	\$672	0	0	0	\$773
Operation & Maintenance	\$36,386	\$39,089	\$33,991	\$38,055	\$42,094

Non-Operating Expenses

Fixed Expenses: includes insurance premiums from the Diocesan Self-Insurance Program for property, liability, and workers compensation, real estate taxes (if any) and rental of facilities

Debt Services: includes interest and principal payments paid on outstanding parish debt

Capital Outlays: includes any major repairs on the parish building or site or any new construction costs.

Designated Expenses/ Transfers Out includes all expenses designated for a specific purpose (i.e. food pantry) or transfers out to savings / building fund.

Catholic School Assessments: paid are included here. These represent the parish's portion allocated for the support of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System which are 14.5% for a parish with a Catholic School in its county or 8% if there is no school in its county.

Diocesan Special Collections Remittance: are the remittals of the Diocesan collections above.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Fixed Expenses	\$15,084	\$14,364	\$13,812	\$13,281	\$14,402
Debt Services	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	0	0	0	\$104,128	\$11,527
Designated Expenses	\$8,225	\$95	0	\$40,000	0
Catholic Schools	\$36,948	\$43,140	\$49,656	\$46,068	\$48,115
Diocesan Collections	\$6,035	\$5,915	\$4,290	\$2,514	\$5,348
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$291,029	\$277,373	\$286,553	\$423,952	\$296,018

Summary

Surplus (Deficit): this line represents the increase or decrease in parish cash balances from the beginning of the year to the end of the year on a cash basis based on actual expenses paid

(Increase) Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations: the amount represents the change in the parish's unpaid obligations over the year. If there is an increase in unpaid obligations, this number will be negative. If the parish reduced its unpaid obligations, this will be a positive number.

Parish Net Surplus (Deficit): this value is the sum of the Parish Surplus (Deficit) and the (Increase) Decrease of Unpaid Diocesan Obligations. The cash balance represents the net effect of operating active on a cash basis. If a parish is current on all of its obligations, there would be no difference between the cash and actual. However, if a parish is unable to stay current on its obligations, the increase of unpaid obligations will reduce their Cash Basis Net Surplus (Deficit) by the amount of the increase in unpaid Diocesan obligations.

This Actual Parish Net Surplus (Deficit) reflects a parish's true ability to pay its current obligations.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Surplus (Deficit)	\$7,036	\$(14,881)	\$(3,886)	\$42,629	\$45,757
Unpaid Diocesan Obligation	\$257	\$6,528	\$(5,581)	\$4015	\$(5,219)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$7293	\$(8,353)	\$(9,467)	\$46,644	\$40,538

Account Amounts at July 1, 2023

The amount of money we have on hand at the end of this report is reflected in the following numbers. This does not include the cemetery account.

Primary Checking \$ 72,354.13
Used for paying bills.

Primary Savings \$ 0
Retained in case of need