



ANNUAL REPORT

2016

2017

JUNE 30 JULY 1

OUR LADY OF GRACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH



MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED



A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Magnanimity, greatness of soul. As we seek to grow this year in the virtue of magnanimity by the grace of the Holy Spirit, let's realize that all we have is simply gift. Abilities, charisms, talent, time, wealth, even the love we have for God and one another we have received to glorify, that is, magnify the Lord.

Being a person of magnanimity is not the same as being a braggart. Bragging does not make one magnanimous. Bragging, or showing off, is really a form of arrogance or pride. It can be a way of hiding our true selves, whom God made us to be.

Boldly Jesus declares: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."* (Matthew 5:14-17). The good that we do, graced by God, becomes a sign for others of God's favor, indeed, his magnanimity.

Bring this newsletter to your prayer this week. Notice how we all receive God's countless blessings from the magnanimous love of others. Spending time in prayer, putting our gifts at the service of our community and sharing our tithes enriches the lives of us all, serves the needs of those in need and expresses God's magnanimity.

Thank you for living lives of magnanimity. Let this newsletter of our stewardship be an invitation to root ourselves more firmly in prayer. Therefore, let us increase our resolve to *daily prayer*, frequent *confession* and, above all, every Sunday receiving in *the midst of our community* the Body and Blood of Christ, Whom we serve in one another, the visitor, those in need and in the stranger.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor





In 2017 we implemented **online Adoration sign-in software Adoration Pro** which has allowed for easier management of adorers and the ability to monitor individual adorer activity.

DID YOU KNOW?

We've been **improving our communication** with you! Since the **new website** went live last fall, there were 51,800 visits through June. We have **tripled our Facebook reach** from 554 likes to 1450 likes. We introduced OLG eNews, a weekly email newsletter and, during the fiscal year, **42 eNews emails were sent out to 2000+ subscribers.**



Every weekend over 120 parishioners help with our Liturgies as Sacristans, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors, Cantors, Choir and Greeters.



It takes **12-15 volunteers** and **approximately 50 service hours** to serve a **funeral lunch:** 4-5 volunteers to set-up, 8-10 volunteers for clean-up. Almost **2500 hours of service** were provided last fiscal year.

We added **additional Meals on Wheels routes** – on a daily basis we service **6 routes of between 8 and 11 elderly shut-ins.**

As part of our Design for Learning initiative, **35 classrooms at OLG School and JPII Prep** were completely retrofitted with **new learning-centered class furniture** financed entirely through OLG generosity.



OLG volunteers **feed 250 people monthly** at **Sharing and Caring Hands**, with an **additional 5 volunteer days** added this year where OLG students cook and serve for the guests there.

Through our parish school and outreach efforts at JPII Prep and in Ghana, **more than 1,700 students** are receiving a **Catholic faith-based education.**

We increased our **Pro-Life** presence through:

- a new **Dignity of Life Committee**
- hosting tables at the **ABRIA and Cradle of Life** benefits
- having a strong presence at the **ABRIA's Family Fun Run and 5K**
- hosting a **Birth Mother's Retreat** for women who chose life and surrendered their children to adoptive parents
- having a group of HS teens and chaperones attend with Fr. Kevin the **March for Life** in Washington, DC.



Six **Boy Scouts** and two adults completed a **50 mile hiking trek** at the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico.

Five OLG Life Scouts are **working towards their Eagle award.**

PRAYER

Prayer and the sacraments dispose a soul to receive the abundant graces of God necessary to grow in holiness. Through prayer we nurture our personal relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Prayer increases our yearning to receive the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Catholic faith. We gather together as a parish family to worship and praise God in Mass. Nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist, we are strengthened as a stewardship parish as we strive to live the disciple's response: go and serve.

The Numbers



4,000+
HOURS IN ADORATION



115
BAPTISMS



42
WEDDINGS



137 NEW FAMILIES
2,580 TOTAL



- 1 Baptism of Emma during the Easter Vigil
- 2 Fr. Neil Bakker at St. Joseph's Sister Parish in Ghana
- 3 Marie Le Force leading her workshop during Prayer Fair
- 4 An enactment of the Christmas story during Christmas Eve Mass
- 5 The Rite of Sending for RCIA candidates
- 6 Couple renewing wedding vows at the Celebrating Marriage Mass



7



8



9



10



11

HOSPITALITY

"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35) Jesus Christ teaches that whenever we welcome one of the least of our sisters and brothers, we welcome Jesus Himself. When parishioners experience a warm and sincere welcome, they in turn become open to giving themselves to others. This desire to welcome others is yet another gift of God. The most vibrant stewardship parishes are those in which parishioners know they are welcomed, fostering a sense of ownership and personal involvement in lived stewardship to the parish family.

The Numbers

700
**OLG MC SUMMER CLASSIC,
 ROCK THE FIELDS, GALA &
 MINI RETREAT ATTENDEES**



1,776*
CHRISTMAS TREES SOLD



1,800*
FISH FRY MEALS SERVED



20,000+
DONUTS & COOKIES ENJOYED



***record number**

- 7 OLG Men's Club Grill the Priests Event
- 8 Annual 5th Grade and Senior Pen Pal BINGO
- 9 Young Adult Brunch Party
- 10 Veteran's Day Celebration
- 11 OLG Men's Club Fish Fry and Pasta Bar

SERVICE

Members of a stewardship parish readily minister to the varied needs of their own parish family, the Church and wider community. Just as members of a family come together to help one of their own, members of a stewardship parish family serve those who are hurting or in need, doubting or seeking salvation. They also gather together to celebrate, thank and to return God's gifts.



The Numbers



44,541 lbs
SCHOOL FURNITURE
SHIPPED TO GHANA



3,000+
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SERVICE HOURS



4,000+
PARISH OUTREACH
VOLUNTEER HOURS



5,000+
PASTORAL CARE
VOLUNTEER HOURS



- 1 Loading school furniture to be shipped to OLAG Senior High in Ghana
- 2 Youth packing food at the Food Bank during summer Mission Home
- 3 Family photo at the annual OLG Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot
- 4 Women working on a Habitat for Humanity home at Women Build
- 5 High School Youth at the March for Life in Washington D.C.



FORMATION

Inherent within each individual is the need to give – to move from selfishness to selflessness. This dynamic shift is a life-long journey of conversion. The stewardship parish accompanies its members constantly in their conversion and, in the process, the formation of the individual helps form the parish community. As one grows more deeply in this formation to a life of stewardship, the more deeply one loves as God loves us.



The Numbers

150

HEARTS ON FIRE BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPANTS



256

RECEIVED 1st COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION



700+

PRAYER FAIR ATTENDEES



7,346
HOMILY PODCAST
DOWNLOADS



- 6 Sposi Novelli formation night, "Four Strengths of Every Great Family"
- 7 Crew Leaders and kids playing at Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- 8 Sheryl Moran leading a Hearts on Fire Bible Study session
- 9 Sr. Eileen with students at the Encounter Kickoff Retreat
- 10 Koinonia family formation night with speaker David Rinaldi
- 11 Catholic Watchmen hosted by the OLG Men's Club
- 12 Chosen (Confirmation Program) Kickoff



FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Dear Friends,

Fiscal year 2017 was a good year for Our Lady of Grace as the steady growth that we experienced in 2016 continued. The following results reflect what occurred for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

From a financial results perspective, we were able to end fiscal year 2017 with a "Net Ordinary Income Surplus." The "Ordinary" income results are a reflection of how we manage our "day-to-day" operations. At a summary level, the revenues collected from all ministries were better than our projected budget. We experienced an 8% increase in school revenue that was in part due to the fundraising for the schools new "Design for Learning" initiative. Those funds were immediately invested in the furniture and equipment to support that initiative, which increased our expenses in the school ministry. Additionally we also had a 7.25% increase in "collection revenue" over the budget. It is this "collection" revenue that funds many of our ministries and pays for the day-to-day operating expenses of the parish. We are very thankful for your continued financial support, and we are hopeful that we can continue this positive trend. The "ordinary" net operating results showed a nominal "surplus" against the fiscal year budget.

In addition to a surplus in the day-to-day financial performance of the parish and school, we are also able to report a surplus in "Net Income" after "Other" income and expenses. Included in the "Other" income and expenses are items like gains and losses on our parish investment accounts held at Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) and any special gifts we received over the course of the fiscal year as well. Nearly all of the special gifts received by the parish and school were targeted for specific improvements on the parish campus and school classrooms. The amounts invested in CCF funds are held for long-term purposes, and we are pleased to inform all constituents of our ministries that the parish did not liquidate any investments for operating purposes.

As we indicated last year, we have spent considerable time and energy growing our three endowments (School, Parish, and Cassidy). The endowments are very important to the long-term financial future of our parish and school. We

were blessed to receive gifts to the endowments that went directly into the endowment funds at Catholic Community Foundation (CCF). In addition to these outright gifts, the investment market(s) performed well and our endowments performance "mirrored" the overall performance of the markets.

The beautiful mission statement of Our Lady of Grace is: "To Make Jesus Christ Known and Loved". This mission cannot be lived out without first understanding at a deep and personal level that everything we have is a gift from God and, as such, we should try to express our gratitude to God for those gifts. We are so grateful to the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace who demonstrate a consistent commitment to God and Our Lady of Grace through gifts of their prayer, service and tithe.

In closing, we remain committed to operating the finances of our parish in a "balanced" way so as to maintain your trust. We ask you to recommit yourselves to this beautiful faith community as well. Please prayerfully consider making a new or increasing financial commitment to allow us to continue to build a bright, Christ-filled future for Our Lady of Grace and for all those we serve. Please help us continue to live our parish mission: "To Make Jesus Christ Known and Loved." We depend on your committed financial support.

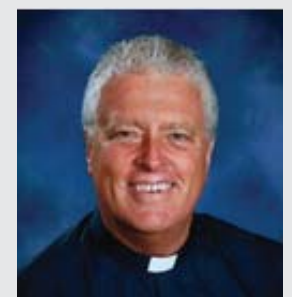
Your brother in Christ,

Jeff Hansen
Finance Council Chair



In Christ's Love,

Deacon Bob Durham
Business Administrator



GIVING ANALYSIS

Profile

Fiscal year June 30, 2016 - July 1, 2017

This represents offertory giving only, including: EFT, envelopes and online giving to the general fund.

2580

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS (AS OF 6/30)

7644

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

1642

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING HOUSEHOLDS

63.64%

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS CONTRIBUTING

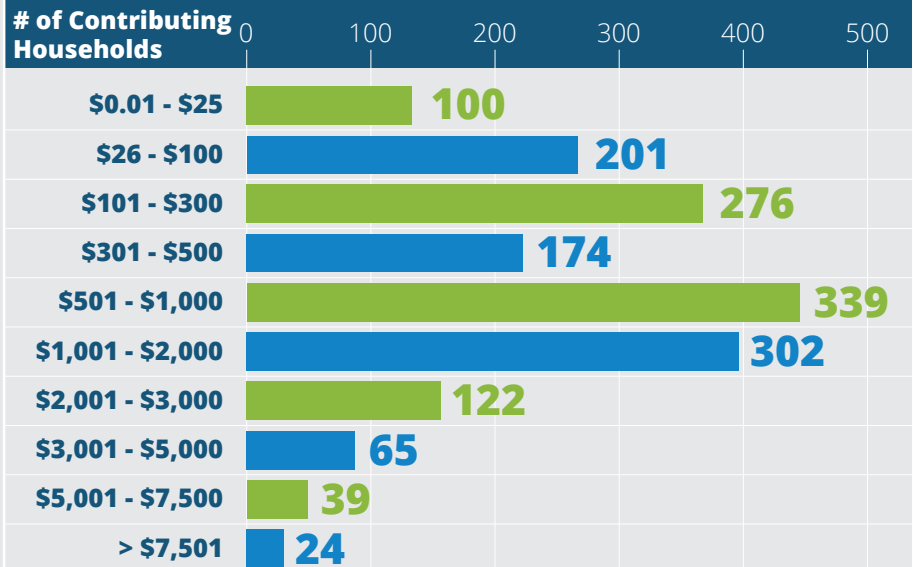
\$22.80

AVG. WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION PER CONTRIBUTING HOUSEHOLD

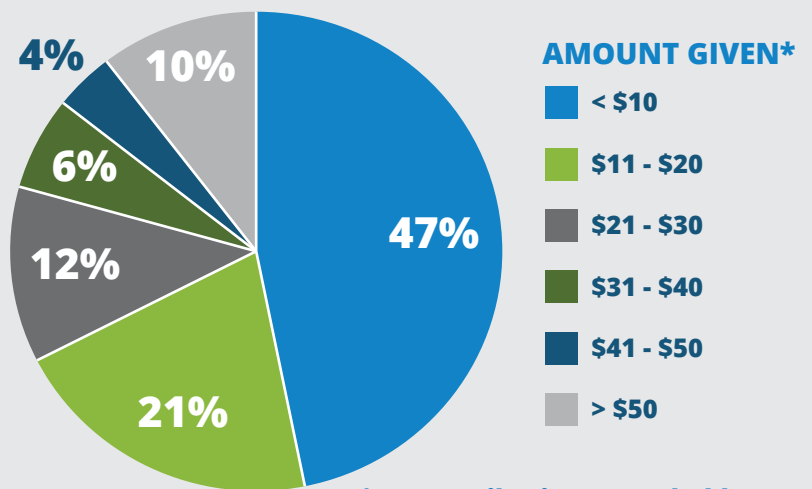
\$1,185.00

AVG. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION PER CONTRIBUTING HOUSEHOLD

Annual Giving



Avg. Weekly Giving



*By Contributing Households (1642)

JOIN US

Dear Families of Our Lady of Grace,

Thank you for sharing your love with one another and our parish community. Through our Mother Mary, Our Lady of Grace, we are continually invited to grow closer and know her Son, Jesus. We appreciate your generous support of our parish through prayer, ministry service and your tithe. We want you to think of Our Lady of Grace and its parishioners as your extended family, your home away from home. Whether you are a long-time parishioner or completely new to our community, we invite you to be active and prayerfully consider where and how God is calling you to participate. As we build a culture of lived stewardship and grow in magnanimity, the living Christ is made visible. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." (Romans 5:5) Join us in fellowship at an upcoming ministry event and allow the grace of the Holy Spirit to transform your heart.

In Christ,
Janna Davies
Stewardship Coordinator

See the website or the parish bulletin for more detailed information on parish ministries and upcoming events.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday - Friday
5:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sports Night with West Metro Young Adults

Friday evenings
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Theology on Tap for Young Adults

Tuesday evenings in November and April 3 - May 8
6:30 - 9:00 PM

MONTHLY EVENTS

New Parishioner Orientation

2nd Sunday of the Month (typically)
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

First Friday Fellowship

1st Friday of the Month
After the 9:00 AM Mass

Rosary and Fellowship

1st Saturday of the Month
After the 8:00 AM Mass

2017



NOV

- 10 Veteran's Day Program
- 16 OLG Men's Club Grill the Priests
- 19 MN Wild Watch Party for High School Youth
- 24 Christmas Tree Lot (ends Dec. 14)



DEC

- 13 Advent Day of Mercy
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

2018



JAN

- 1 New Year's Day
- 21 Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast



FEB

- 2 Celebrate Marriage Night
- 10 Men's Club Winter Gala
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 24-25 Prayer Fair Weekend



MAR

- 5 Spring Bible Study (Mondays, March 5 - April 30)
- 16 Men's Club Fish Fry
- 21 Lenten Day of Mercy
- 29, 30, 31 Easter Triduum



APR

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 2 Spring Bible Study (Mondays, March 5 - April 30)
- 27 OLG School Carnival



MAY

- 5-6 First Communions
- 16-17 School 8th Grade Play



JUN

- 8 Last Day of School
- 16 Widows' Day of Reflection