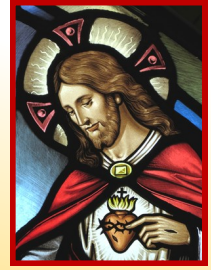


Church of the Sacred Heart

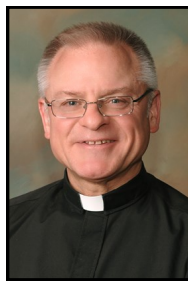
PARISH ANNUAL REPORT - 2017



200 RANDOLPH AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07080 ■ 908-756-0633 FAX: 908-757-5655 ■ WWW.CHURCHOFTHESACREDHEART.NET

Dear Parish Family and Friends of the Church of the Sacred Heart,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. I give thanks to God for you and your family who are part of this community of faith. As your pastor, it is important for me to share with you the state of our parish in this 2017 Parish Annual Report. As a parishioner and member of this family, I invite you to read and reflect on the information provided. I and members of our Parish Staff, Finance and Pastoral Councils welcome any of your questions and comments.



Earth, Wind and Fire ... just add Water and what do you get? It is not the gathering of the original members of the 70s R&B band, nor an announcement for their current tour. Neither is it an apocalyptic chant to save the planet. These are the classic four elements under incredible stress both locally and around the world. Continuous reports of disaster and tragedy fill the news ... earthquakes, mudslides, hurricanes, typhoons, raging wild fires, devastating rains and floods. Add to this the human factor in war, revolution, displacement, disease, poverty, prejudice, human trafficking ... and the outcry and calls for help that follow. Are you ready to just run away and hide?



I think that's where many of us find ourselves today. "No news is good news." "Ignorance is bliss." As overwhelming as it all can be, this attitude is neither healthy nor realistic. We are constantly bombarded with negative, hateful and "fake news." Finding a foothold and getting involved is the way to open the door to the light, truth and love that are also happening all around and within us. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that there is nothing that you can do to make a positive difference.

Tap into your faith and bring this all to prayer and to God. This is something real that we each can do ... here, today, now! As a steward of God's good gifts, be aware and thankful for how you are blessed. The concept of tithing and thanksgiving has served God's people around the world for thousands of years. You might consider it as a healthy course of action. Responsible giving opens us to the world, to the life, love and the good that is happening. It is an opportunity to share in the goodness and benefit

*Praying is something we can each do
to make a positive difference, here and now.*

from its bounty. We can't help everyone and do everything! We can each, however, do something and make a difference in someone's life.

A tithe is that 10% of whatever we have that we give back to God in gratitude. It is a healthy way to take stock of our lives regularly and to be aware of what we have in the lean times and in bounty. The top 5% we offer to the Church and the remaining 5% is shared with other charities. Your tithe may be what you are able to give financially as your offering. It may be the precious gift of your time, your talents and skills that you offer in service.

Staying in the loop, communicating and sharing are all signs of a healthy family. We strive to be a healthy family here at the Church of the Sacred Heart in all that we do in faithful celebration of the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass, the Sacraments, Religious Education & Faith Formation and what we offer and invite through our numerous parish ministries and organizations. The continuous
continued on page 4

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

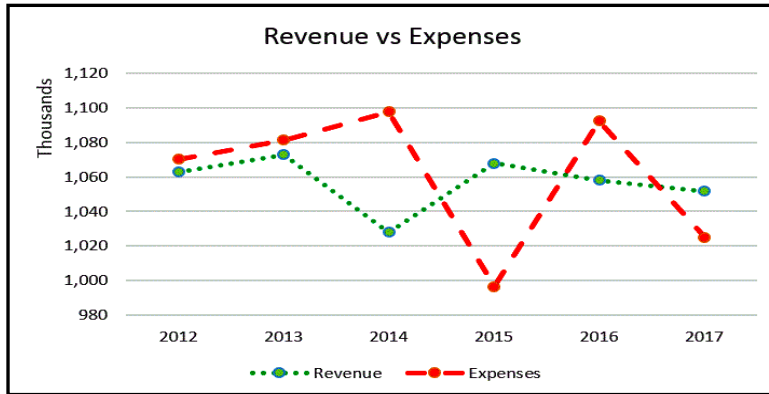
SACRED HEART CHURCH		2017	2016	2015
Operating Revenues				
Sunday and Holyday Collections	\$	742,884	\$ 763,239	\$ 771,357
Christmas and Easter		58,148	59,711	56,799
Offerings (A)		75,049	86,788	86,309
Gifts and Bequests		20,800	31,396	22,696
Religious Education		70,400	58,720	67,732
Fund Raising (Net) (B)		22,265	8,142	17,574
Mission Appeal Collections		23,703	29,997	24,597
Interest & Dividends		124	97	109
Other		38,430 (C)	19,892	20,704
Total Operating Revenues (D)		1,051,803	1,057,982	1,067,877
Operating Expenses				
Salaries and Benefits		498,495	533,360	515,231
Religious Education Program		42,889	18,138	8,514
Plant Maintenance and Insurance		110,296	133,054	106,957
Utilities and Telephone		85,936	83,512	85,650
Administrative and Operating Expenses		84,676	80,684	80,733
Parish School Subsidy		40,400	40,400	40,400
Shared Facility Costs Paid to Holy Savior Academy		19,032	15,193	24,012
Diocesan Assessment		110,900	149,600 (E)	50,000 (E)
Rectory and Religious Housing		8,863	10,178	10,663
Mission Appeal Payments		23,703	28,103	24,597
Total Operating Disbursements (B)		1,025,190	1,092,222	946,757
Operating Income (Loss)		26,613	(34,240) (F)	121,120 (F)
Extraordinary and Capital Items				
Revenues				
Major Renov. & Repairs (monthly 2nd collectn)		44,336	53,001	33,961
Expenses (Not paid from Major Renovations & Repairs) (G)				
Unpaid Sacred Heart School Lighting Project with PSE&G		0	1,082	12,986
Gas Meter Reading Malfunction with PSE&G		0	3,646	7,292
New School Boiler for Holy Savior Academy-Parish 50%		2,015	6,084	4,030
New Air Conditioner for Annex		0	0	3,000
Total Expense		2,015	10,812	27,308
Extraordinary Income (Loss)		42,321	42,189	6,653
Net Income (Loss)	\$	68,934	\$ 7,949 (F)	\$ 127,773 (F)



FOOTNOTES

- (A) Includes money received for candles, baptisms, funerals, weddings, and collections from Mothers Day, Fathers Day, All Souls Day and Ash Wednesday.
- (B) Decrease in 2016 amount due to timing of receipts/payments for a particular fund raising event. Receipts for the event were recorded in 2015 and expenses were recorded in 2016.
- (C) Includes new Year-end Gift offerings of \$18,484.

(D)



PARISH HOUSEHOLDS			
2016	2015	2014	2013
REGISTERED - ACTIVE			
2,301	2,129	2,101	2,104
FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS			
828	845	871	904

- (E) Note: Did not pay Diocese of Metuchen for full 2014-15 assessment. Balance due of \$48,000 rolls over to 2015-16 fiscal year assessment. The formula for the calculation of the Diocesan and Holy Savior Academy assessments is on our website.
- (F) The Operating Income and the Net Income was partially due to the underpayment of \$48,000 to the Diocese of Metuchen for the full 2014-15 assessment.
- (G) 2014 and 2015 amounts include the beginning of monthly payments for the following extraordinary items:
 - (1) - Unpaid Sacred Heart School Lighting Project with PSE&G - \$9,739 in 2014 and \$12,986 in 2015 with \$1,082 balance to be paid off by June 2016.
 - (2) - Gas Meter Reading Malfunction with PSE&G - \$7,292 in 2015 with \$7,291 balance to be paid off by June 2016.
 - (3) - New School Boiler for Holy Savior Academy - \$4,030 in 2015 and \$6,045 in 2016 with balance to be paid off by October 2017(\$2,015). The Academy will pay an equal amount as their share of the new boiler.

The information presented on pages 2-3 represent the parish financial report for the last three years. The **Operating Income** line reveals that we closed the 2016-2017 fiscal year with an approximate surplus of \$26,000. This \$26,000 is the result of several factors. The unfiltered and urgent truth that needs to be shared however, is that **with the fiscal year which began, July 1, 2017, we anticipate running a monthly shortfall of approximately \$10,000.**

This deficit is realized in part, due to the following expenses: the addition of an associate priest to our staff, Rev. Pervaiz Indrias AND the increasing operational costs and ongoing maintenance expenses. **N.B.** For the past three years Fr. John has been the only priest assigned to our parish. Fr. James DeFillips, a priest in-residence, served as full-time chaplain and teacher at Saint Joseph’s High School. Sacred Heart was never his priestly assignment. Thankfully, as his calendar permitted, he celebrated Sunday Masses with us.

There are anticipated, estimated capital costs to maintain our aging buildings, equipment and infrastructure. To mention a few, the list of **REPLACEMENTS** begins with \$150,000 for the new church boiler, \$32,000 for the rectory heating system, \$10,000 for the electrical system for Columbus Hall (storage/workshop at edge of parking lot), and \$6,000 riding mower. **UPGRADES** include items such as \$30,000 for

handicapped parking on South Plainfield Avenue, \$15,000 for air conditioning units for the Parish Center third floor and \$5,000 for assisted hearing devices for the church building. **These are 7 selected parish projects from a list of 77 with an overall total estimate of \$804,114.**

Several completed projects include the replacement of the church sacristy cabinetry and carpet (donor funded), removal of 2 sheet metal roof curb caps on church (energy savings), parish center electrical upgrade (code requirements & safety), asbestos remediation in convent and garage, emergency exit lights installed in church, 2 air conditioners replaced in cafeteria, HVAC fan bearing repair in church, restriping of parking lot, seal coating of school roof, AED installed in church, 2 downed-tree removals, storm sewer maintenance.

We continuously review and monitor our financial situation and are taking steps to further reduce our expenses to lessen the effects of this shortfall. We need your help to increase our weekly offertory collections and are praying that every parishioner will do what you can. Richard Anthony, parishioner and our Finance Council Chairperson, will be speaking to you the weekend of October 28 to explain these concerns more fully. May we work together as a family to understand and realistically address our spiritual and financial needs.

continued from page 1 - advancement and prudent use of technology is important in evangelization as we share the Good News of the Gospel. The Parish Census, now underway, is an opportunity to connect better with our parishioners, to maintain current information, to understand your needs and more effectively serve this faith family.

What follows are some highlights for your prayerful consideration.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OUR BISHOP JAMES CHECCHIO AS BISHOP OF METUCHEN – A highlight that many will remember was the episcopal ordination and installation of our new bishop here at the Church of the Sacred Heart on May 3, 2016. Our church hosted Vatican representatives, numerous cardinals, bishops, and several hundred priests, seminarians, and lay and religious representatives from every parish in the Diocese of Metuchen. Numerous ecumenical and interfaith religious leaders and civil officials were present. The liturgy itself was magnificent and nationally televised live on EWTN Broadcasting. The sacred ritual and music drew from the foundations of our Church and Jesus’ promise to be with His Church, the flock and its shepherds - the bishops, the successors of the Apostles. A photo gallery of this and other ordinations is available on the diocesan website.

How many of you know that our parish church of the Sacred Heart is the largest church structure in the diocese? Notably, our church is second in capacity to only one other church in the state of New Jersey - the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. For the size and the simple beauty of our great edifice, we were selected to host Most Rev. James Checchio’s ordination and

SINGERS & RINGERS

YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY GROWING



installation as the Bishop of Metuchen. Many of our parishioners were able to attend, some as guests, others as participants functioning in various ministries, such as ushers, greeters, and choir members. We thank God and you, our parish community, for giving us this beautiful church to worship in each day.

INTRODUCTION OF WHOLE COMMUNITY CATECHESIS (WCC) as part of our Religious Education program – Jesus said “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” The primary purpose of the Catholic Church and each Catholic parish is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ.” This is the most important function of the Church. We are charged with the mission to evangelize. And what is a disciple? One definition is: someone who has a vibrant and life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, living it and sharing it every day. We instituted Whole Community Catechesis (WCC) here at Sacred Heart parish in 2017. We began with 77 families participating with a total of 94 children, plus some additional adult members of the parish wanting to learn more about their faith.

In Whole Community Catechesis, children learn about God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Blessed Mother, Scripture and more. They receive their formation



for the sacraments. All of this unfolds in the context of their family learning about these together. The family is the single most important influence on religious transmission and faith practice - a truth demonstrated in research studies, the Christian Tradition and pastoral experience. The faith of parents and grandparents, their role modeling, their teaching, their warm and affirming parenting style are key factors in religious transmission and developing highly religious children, youth and young adults. In this program, adults also have their time together to learn, discuss and pray. An outgrowth of last year's experience has seen the first meeting of a small group of our parish teens who have formed a Youth Group. They gather monthly, beginning their session with WWC and then move on to their separate activities and program.

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM – While Whole Community Catechesis is in full swing, we also continue with the Summer Session of our Religious Education Program to meet the needs of those families unable to attend the WCC Program. Our objective over time is to transition all families to WCC. For the last two years we have had nearly 300 families enrolled in this Summer Session program, reaching our maximum capacity of almost 400 children. In the interim, we continue to rework the program to address the spiritual needs of our families more effectively to prepare us all to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in this 21st century.

New Ministries that have been instituted this past year.

MINISTRY TO THOSE WITH DISABILITIES – This ministry was established to affirm the integrity of all the Baptized and to work for their full inclusion in parish life. As part of this effort we have looked at changes to be made to parish facilities to add more handicapped parking and to allow for full access to parish facilities through adjustment to access ramps, bathrooms, and the church Sanctuary.

MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM – This ministry assists anyone who becomes ill at parish functions. We have added an automatic electronic defibrillator (AED) in the church to assist those who fall ill there and require its use.

NEW MEDIA MINISTRY – To utilize new means of communication, this ministry focuses on social media, which is especially important to our younger members. As part of this we have instituted an Instagram page, improved our website, and hope to also improve our use of Facebook and other social media outlets.

FRIENDLY VISITORS – The members of this ministry visit with those who are alone, homebound, in nursing homes or who are suffering in any way and have a desire or need to speak with someone or would like some supportive company.



**Ministries
and Parish Organizations**





MINISTRIES WEEKEND – Over Mother’s Day weekend, we held our Parish Ministries weekend to showcase all of our **39 ministries and parish organizations**. As highlighted on that weekend, Sacred Heart offers you numerous ways to participate and live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Spirituality —

We reach out to parishioners via our home, hospital and nursing care facility visitations. Spiritual formation continues in a unique way through our pilgrimages to holy places near and far such as the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico and to Israel and the Holy Land. Spiritual formation is supported through the gifts of *Dynamic Catholic* spiritual books at Christmastime sponsored by the Pastoral Council and afforded by donations from the parish Rosary Altar Society, The Knights of Columbus, other parish organizations and private member contributions. Eucharistic Ministers bring Communion to the sick and homebound; the Card Ministry maintains connections and relationships by sending notecards to our sick or homebound parishioners. Sacramental Anointing of the Sick, Masses of Anointing and periodic Divine Mercy Healing liturgies are celebrated with the faithful. Devotional Novenas of the Sacred Heart and Miraculous Medal are prayed weekly, weekly Eucharistic Adoration, Lenten retreats and Stations of the Cross are all part of our spiritual calendar. Last year’s Holy Week marked a special retreat time for our Gugerati (Indian) parishioners that became part of the entire parish’s celebration of the Sacred Triduum. Each year our Filipino parishioners, through the Filipino-American Society of Sacred Heart (FASSH), with the larger diocesan community celebrate *Simbang Gabi* and *El Santo Niño* here at the Church of the Sacred Heart.



We have outreach ministry that welcomes and celebrates monthly Mass and luncheon with the members of our parish and larger Catholic community who are mentally and physically challenged as *God’s Special People*. With Christian respect, compassion and joy, we welcome our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, their families and friends to our monthly faith sharing and gathering of *In God’s Image*.

Opportunities for spiritual development and participation expanded in recent months with the Summer Session Religious Education students who responded to the invitation to join the Youth Handbell and Vocal Choirs. Adults and Youth minister side-by-side as Altar Servers and Lectors. Other parish groups active in ministry and prayer are the Rosary Altar Society, the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites which each meet monthly, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Prayer Group which meets weekly.

Corporal and Community Efforts —

Social awareness and temporal assistance are hallmarks of the community outreach of our Social Concerns Ministry. Volunteer parish members, using the funds and materials generously donated by our parishioners and other residents of South Plainfield, assist individuals and families in need of food and shelter and aid in assistance and referral for unpaid utilities, rent and medical issues. In 2016 Social Concerns, with the help of the South Plainfield Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and St. Joseph High School students, distributed 2,040 bags of food to needy families. They provided over \$19,600 in financial assistance and \$7,600 in gift cards for perishable food, clothing and other personal needs.

Thank you for your generous support and contributions made to the Diocesan appeals, Mission appeals and periodic outreach efforts toward ending hunger and poverty via the annual events such as the CROP Hunger Walk and CRS Operation Rice Bowl. - *continued on page 7*



8th Annual Golf Outing



Early Tuesday morning, September 26, 83 eager golfers and 12 smiling parishioner volunteers began their day with a shotgun start at the Metuchen Golf and Country Club. This was the parish's 8th Annual Golf Outing, our major fundraiser of the year. The event has grown from year to year with the number of golfers, sponsors, patrons, and donors. We have been blessed with great weather each year and with generous players and volunteers. Though the final costs are still being calculated, we expect to well exceed last year's \$17,000 for parish revenue. Monies from this event have been targeted for tuition assistance for Catholic school education and parish technology. Thank you to all who participated and a special thank you to this year's Golf Chairperson, Mrs. Patti Stilo. Each year, the day after this event concludes, we begin planning for the coming year. Mark your calendars! Our 9th Annual Golf Outing is set for Tuesday, September 25, 2018.



continued from page 6 - We participate in the South Plainfield Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, the town's Labor Day Parade, the national Fortnight for Freedom, and the Girl and Boy Scouting programs.

Keep up with what's happening at Sacred Heart Parish. **Visit the parish website.** Visit us on Facebook and Instagram. Read the weekly, printed parish bulletin or find it digitally online. In the digital form you will also have interactive connection to our bulletin advertisers.

www.churchofthesacredheart.net

WANTED

**Male Choir Members
Adult & Youth Altar Servers
Friendly Visitor Volunteers**

For more information about these and any of our other 39 Parish Ministries, see the *Parish Ministries Guide* on our website at

www.churchofthesacredheart.net

GREAT REWARDS

Respectfully submitted by,

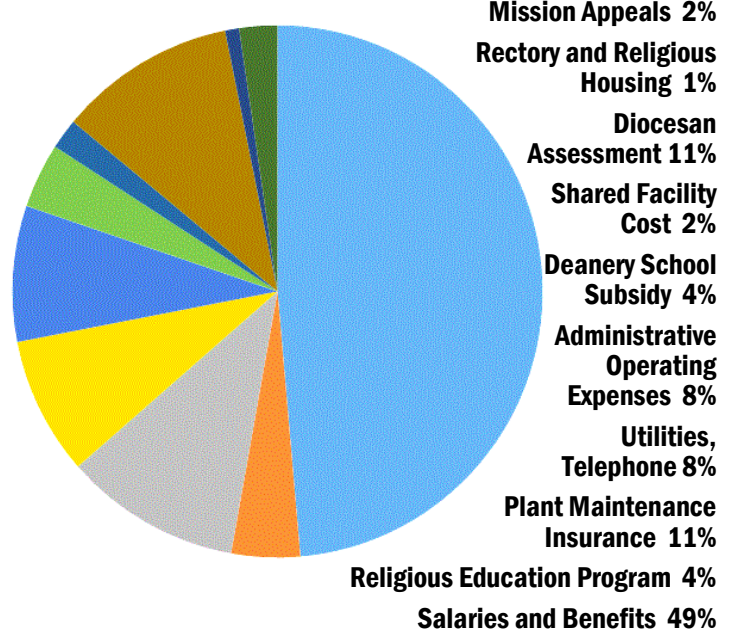
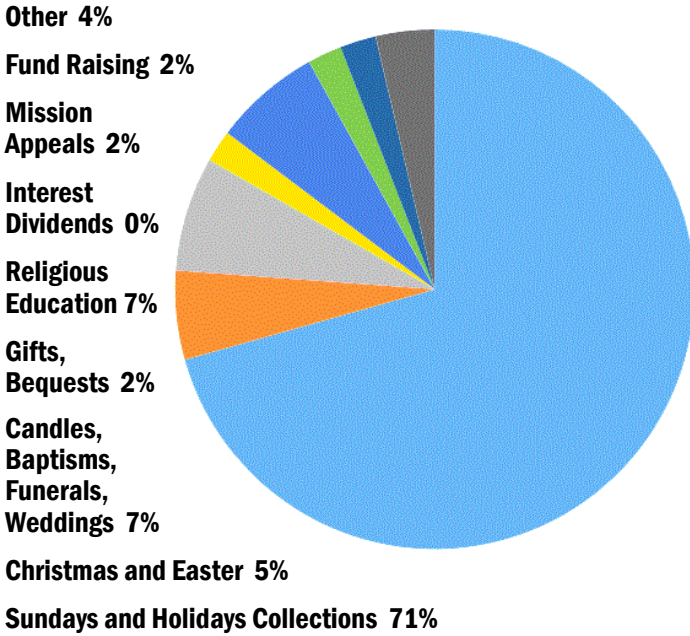
Rev. John B. Alvarado

Pastor



CHURCH REVENUES

CHURCH EXPENSES



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2017	2016 - 496
YOUTH ENROLLMENT	467	2015 - 472

2017	2016	2015	SACRAMENTAL DATA
43	43	52	Baptism
73	61	64	First Reconciliation
73	61	64	First Eucharist
65	56	58	Confirmation
1	4	6	RCIA
11	10	11	Marriage
66	258	47	Anointing of the Sick
63	87	89	Funerals
64	78	54	New Families

► This data is based on information collected from June 30 through July 1 of each year.

From St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

CHRIST HAS NO BODY

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
 Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.
 Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
 Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

PLANNED GIVING

builds a financial bridge from the present generation to the future. Our parish has a rich history & legacy. It is built on a firm foundation – a strong community of worship and service, a carefully managed financial footing, wonderful memories of parish events and many people who are strengthened and renewed on the path to salvation. People have been baptized, married, raised families and been buried from this parish. What is the story and heritage that this present generation is passing on to the next generation? Planned giving through wills, bequests and annuities help to provide the financial stability so that this parish community may continue to grow and proclaim the Gospel, to minister in the name of Jesus Christ and to be a source of ongoing faith formation.

Contact our Parish Office and speak with Marilyn Farrell 908-756-0633 x114 about the options & tax benefits of giving to your Church.



CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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