

ASSUMPTION *of the* *Blessed Virgin Mary* PARISH

LIVING STEWARDSHIP DAILY... MIKE & NANCY SULLIVAN

Fall 2019
Inside

Mike and Nancy Sullivan know close to every inch of the Assumption church grounds. The couple, parishioners since 1981, walk from their home to the church each evening, checking each exterior door to make sure all are locked. Like postal carriers, neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night keeps the Sullivans from their task.

The new church opened in 2006. A couple of years later, Fr. Joe Kempf discovered every once in a while the doors to the church had not been locked overnight.

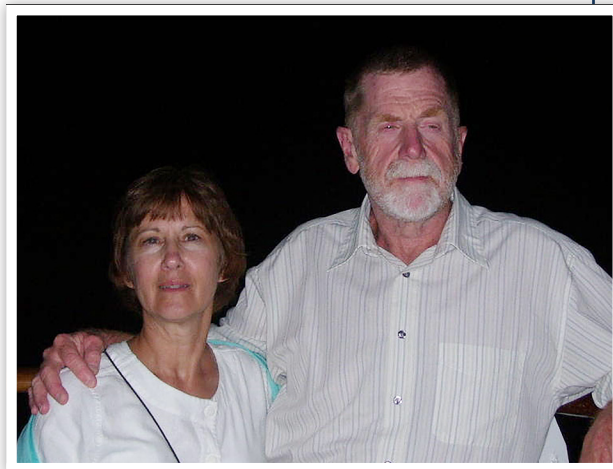
“So Jim Hager called and asked us to check the doors each night,” Nancy said. “We live just a couple of blocks away, so each evening we walk up to the church together to make sure the doors are all locked.”

They’ve experienced a variety of weather conditions over the 10+ years, but Nancy said the only thing that may delay them is lightning.

“We don’t go a week without finding a door unlocked,” she said.

She even incorporates the job into her Wednesday night Small Church Community meeting. Her group – about 10 parishioners – meet at Villa Theresa (Precious Blood Motherhouse) for fellowship, prayer and bible study. This is

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Mike and Nancy Sullivan

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ANNUAL PARISH *Financial Report*

In this article you will find a summary of our annual financial report for the parish for the fiscal year from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. It is broken out to provide the total income and expenses for the parish as well as to break out the individual components for the School, the Pre-Kindergarten program (PreK), the Montessori school (Montessori), the Parish School of Religion (PSR), our Teen programs, and all remaining parts which will be called the Parish.

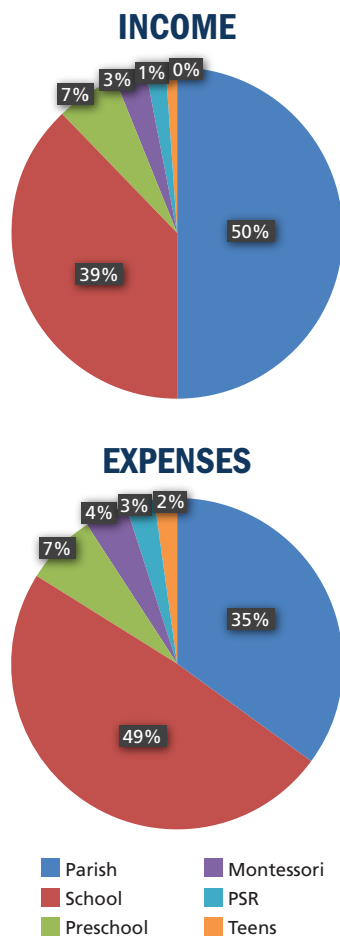
The final number in the bottom right-hand corner shows that our parish ran a deficit last year of \$290,934. Obviously this is not a sustainable situation and changes need to be made. To make these changes appropriately requires considering where our money comes from, where we spend it, what parts of this can be changed and which cannot. I hope this information will give you an appreciation of where we were this last year so we can discuss how to make changes for the future.

First looking at our income. The primary areas of income vary by the components. For the Parish the primary source of our income is our offertory. Out of the \$2,484,487 total, \$1,933,314 comes from our Sunday collections (this includes both checks and cash as well as on-line donations). Our capital campaign revenues include contributions from Beyond Sunday as well as Forward in Faith and the School Building campaign that some are still faithfully contributing to. The primary area of income for the School, PSR, PreK, and Montessori are tuition and fees with additional income from fundraising, which is the primary area of income for our Teen programs. This summary cannot provide

all of the details but is an abbreviated overview of our parish finances. The TEENS Income of \$19,448, for example, includes donations of over \$27,000 that was raised by their 'Calendar Big Board' as well as fees collected for various activities, but also has already taken out fees paid for some activities such as the Catholic Heart Work Camp and the 'Steubenville' retreat.

Looking at our expenses the primary category across all components is personnel, which results in 62% of our overall expenses. After this comes two categories labeled Occupancy and Insurance & Archdiocese. Occupancy includes utilities costs as well as repair and maintenance of our facilities with the Parish and the School carrying the greatest portion of this as it would be very difficult to apportion this completely between all components. The Insurance & Archdiocese includes a variety of expenses that are paid to the Archdiocese such as property insurance, priest health insurance, and parish taxes to support Archdiocesan programs and efforts.

The 'Cumulative Net Income' chart shows the difference between the income and expenses for each component. The Parish has as a priority the Catholic education and formation of our children and so we expect to be supporting the operations of our School and PSR as well as our Teen programs. Our parish loan is a reality that affects our finances both in the interest payments and the principal we pay off each year. We look forward to the day this will be paid off, but with our remaining balance at \$1,633,120 as of June 30, 2019, this will still need to be budgeted for over the near future.



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SUMMARY 2018-2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Parish	School	PSR	Teens	PreK	Montessori	Consolidated
CapCamp Rev	\$134,161	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$134,161
Sun Rev & Other	\$2,350,327	\$1,962,314	\$62,134	\$19,448	\$321,586	\$124,538	4,840,347
Total Income	\$2,484,487	\$1,962,314	\$62,134	\$19,448	\$321,586	\$124,538	\$4,974,508

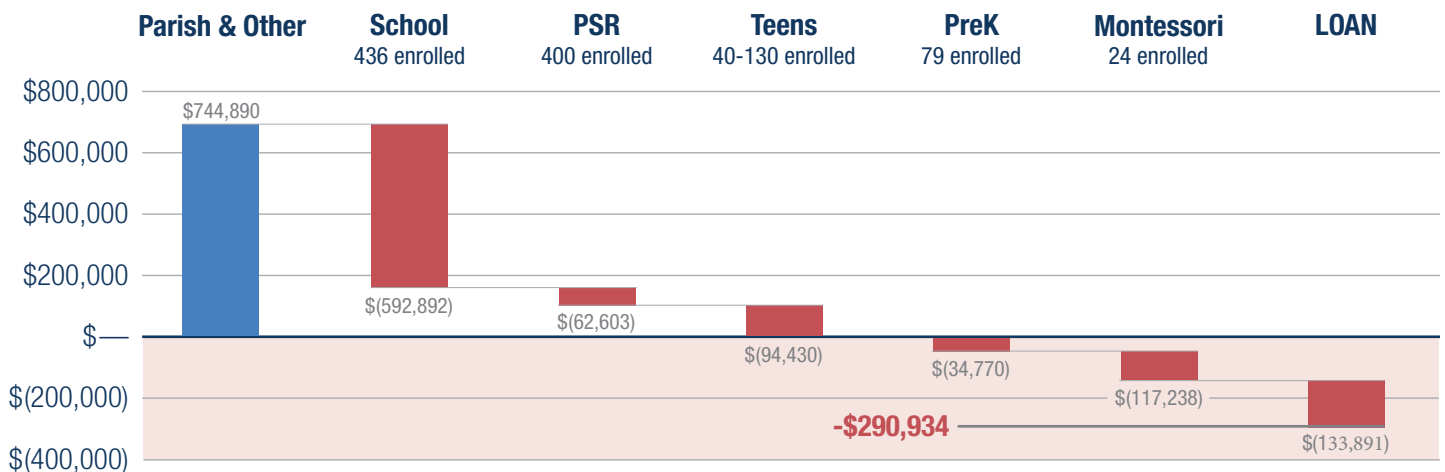
Personnel	\$609,498	\$1,745,645	\$102,437	\$78,575	\$300,679	\$167,148	\$3,003,981
Supplies	\$213,478	\$134,704	\$11,201	\$17,127	\$2,087	\$6,329	\$384,925
Fees & Services	\$252,251	\$63,943	\$2,945	\$15,623	\$491	\$1,351	\$336,604
Occupancy	\$252,639	\$220,627	\$2,130	\$30	\$20,458	\$8,283	\$504,168
Loan Interest	\$63,251	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$63,251
Insur & Archd	\$317,771	\$175,942	\$6,024	\$2,523	\$28,923	\$11,805	\$542,988
Total Ex	\$1,708,888	\$2,340,861	\$124,737	\$113,878	\$352,636	\$194,916	\$4,835,917

	\$30,709	\$185,623	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$31,603	\$247,935
Bad Debt	\$—	\$28,723	\$—	\$—	\$3,720	\$15,257	\$47,700
Net Income	\$744,890	(\$592,892)	(\$62,603)	(\$94,430)	(\$34,770)	(\$117,238)	(\$157,043)

(Net Loss)

Loan Principal \$133,891
Deficit -\$290,934

CUMULATIVE NET INCOME



2019 Fall Festival

It's crunch time for Aaron and Laura Bruns. Assumption's annual Fall Festival is just around the corner, and the Bruns have worked all year with the Fall Festival Committee to bring magnificent music, fantastic food, haunted hayrides and great games to the parish grounds. This year's festival will be held from 3pm-11pm. on Saturday, October 19, and 11am-6pm on Sunday, October 20.

Aaron and Laura joined Assumption as parishioners in April 2012. In January 2013, they attended Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreats.

"That allowed me to meet some people in St. Louis, because I was new to the city," Aaron said. "To this day, some of my closest friends are the men I met on the retreat."

In 2013, Dan Simpson and his wife, Nicki, were in charge of the Fall Festival. Dan was also involved with CRHP, and asked his friend, Aaron, to volunteer. Aaron spent the next five years leading the hayrides.

"That event grew bigger every year," Laura said. "The youth group started participating as characters in the haunted hayride on Saturday."

"I'm so thankful for Phil Lewendowski and Cin-

dy Bunge," Aaron added. "They help coordinate that, and that's one less thing I have to worry about."

One thing he started to worry about his first year as chair of the Fall Festival was the children's games.

With no one stepping up to lead that effort, Laura jumped in with her friend, Vanessa Markelz.

"Once I got involved, I really loved it," Laura said. "We are coming up with some new games for the little ones, and some games for the teens, too. And be sure to check the bulletin for ways you can help provide prizes for the children's games."

Aaron said it took a year to really understand the whole Fall Festival planning process.

"I was struck by the amount of work that goes into it, and I had been on the committee for five years," he said. "Joe and Amy Huff and Dan and Nicki left me a good

roadmap. Once the festival starts, that's the first time I can take a deep breath, because by that point, it runs itself."

Is it worth the months and months of planning?

"It's worth it," he said. "And we don't do this alone. There are so many volunteers. Our captains are amazing. They run the kitchen, kids' games, parking



Aaron & Laura Bruns

"We are coming up with some new games for the little ones, and some games for the teens too. And be sure to check the bulletin for ways you can help provide prizes for the children's games."



lot, hayrides, adult games of chance, the bar, the food on Saturday night, country store, and more.”

Some of the captains have helped out for many years, and some are the Bruns’ friends from CRHP who answered the call.

“People we’ve met along the way have really stepped up to help,” Aaron said. “We always need volunteers. The Sign-Up Genius makes it easy. Look for the instructions in the bulletin. You can volunteer anywhere from 2 to 5 hours of your time.”

Bruns said a lot of the teens need service hours, and they can earn those by volunteering for the kids’

games. Some companies allow adults to volunteer their time, too, and Aaron wrote more than a few letters for adult volunteers last year.

“We don’t ask people to work all weekend,” he said. “Just a shift. Without the help of all our parishioners, we couldn’t run this Fall Festival. When we all do our part, our parish thrives.”

Can’t volunteer? Consider becoming a sponsor. This year’s event sponsors are O’Fallon Garage and Sherman Towing. Aaron said other sponsorships are available, ranging from \$100 - \$500. The sponsorship money helps offset the cost of the event. In 2018, the Fall Festival netted more than \$40,000.

“It’s amazing the number of ways our volunteers find Christ at Assumption during this wonderful event,” Aaron said. “And the money we raise goes back to the parish, to help Assumption fulfill our mission of bringing Christ to the world.”



2019 Fall Festival
 Saturday, October 19: 3pm–11pm
 Sunday, October 20: 11am–6pm
To volunteer online:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4ca8a92fa3f58-misc>

Mike & Nancy Sullivan continued from front cover

something Nancy has done consistently since 1983.

“I took part in a 6-8 week program called Renew back then,” she said. “We met in people’s houses, and the group I was with kept meeting after the program ended. I enjoy the friendship and growing in our faith together.”

It wasn’t her first leap into ministry, however. A year after they joined the parish, Nancy picked up a list after Mass and saw her name and her husband’s

on the Fall Festival work list. There were not volunteers back then – every parishioner was put on a job list. Nancy was tasked with washing dishes – something she did until 1990. From there, she volunteered at the Country Store, in the children’s games and cutting pies. Her husband, Mike, parks cars at the Fall Festival and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. The couple also volunteers for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Annual Parish Financial Report continued from page 2

The number of students or children directly served by each component is also included on this chart. For the Teens the range represents an estimate of those there each week to those served at some time throughout the year.

The obvious two ways we can improve our financial situation is to increase our income and decrease our expenses. Tuitions are continuously monitored to keep Catholic education available and affordable to our parishioners while recognizing that there are limits to the amount the parish can support it. A key factor that we are also focused on is in keeping our enrollment up which helps distribute the fixed costs over a greater number of children and families, keeping the cost per child or family down. It would also be nice to just say our parish donations will be greater but we cannot simply budget that way. By reinstating the envelopes for the various category of donations and informing you here and through other means I hope to better inform you of our needs and financial situations as you make your decisions about financial support.

While it would be nice to be able to support our parish children even below Kindergarten this can be a considerable additional expense per child. At one time it was hoped that by attending the parish PreK programs that the children would continue to our day-school, keeping our parish schools full. But this has not been the result here or elsewhere, and thus

most programs for children before Kindergarten have been approached with the attitude that they would support themselves and not require parish subsidies. Our Montessori program has required some specific capital expenditures in getting started but we will approach it and our PreK program with a more critical eye towards demonstrating a balanced budget.

In addition to our \$290,934 deficit this last year the parish also depleted our remaining savings. Due to fees and tuitions already paid for the 2019-2020 fiscal year we currently have funds for operating expenses but an operating loan will likely be necessary this year. This deficit and our debt are two reasons why we will need to make some significant changes in the next year. I will share further information about this with you in the bulletin and at Mass in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you again for your generous support, I realize I can only provide limited details on these pages, feel free to ask me any other questions.

**Yours in Christ,
Fr. Nick**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

About Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

Periodically, we need to re-examine the ways in which we answer the call to stewardship, which is the reason for our upcoming Stewardship Renewal. This is an opportunity to ask ourselves how we can better use our time, talent, and treasure.

- Do I make time for prayer? By myself and with my family?
- Is my talent at work in our parish actively building the Church?
- Do I give a proportionate amount of my treasure to the weekly offertory?

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check “Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.” Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a

priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if more than one person is using the card.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to Assumption.

Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Honestly ask yourself, “How much time do I spend in prayer each week?” The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there’s just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you

spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (YOU - our individual parishioners).

Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at Assumption. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there’s something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at Assumption, “Why do you enjoy serving in this way?” They’ll probably say, “I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve.” This year, as you’re discerning how

you will offer your talents to God, considering signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry, where your good deeds not

only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to “help yourself,” but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the savviest businessperson worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it’s not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

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Commitment Weekend is Sept. 29
Don't forget to bring your
Commitment Card to Mass!
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ASSUMPTION
Blessed Virgin Mary
PARISH



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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 9:00am (MH), Vigil Mass 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, Noon, 5:30pm (Life Teen, All are welcome)

Daily Mass: Monday – Friday: 8:00am, MH at 6:30am

Perpetual Adoration: 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Reconciliation: Mon-Fri: 7:30am-8:00am in Church

Sat. 4:00pm-4:45pm in Church