

ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH

FALL 2020

CAMPUS *connection*



MESSAGE FROM THE *pastor*

"God's ways are not our ways." I have pondered these words from the prophet Isaiah often this past year. What a year it has been! All of us have been knocked off our feet, and our daily routines in life were suspended. Each day I find myself in prayer asking God to show me his way, to lead me, to guide our parish, and to fill all of us with peace.

COVID-19, racial injustice and unrest, tumultuous elections, etc. have made it clear we are not invincible, and we need God's help. As difficult as this past year has been for all of us, I have found some graces. As our mission statement says, we are Christ-centered with the Eucharist as our source of holiness. This pandemic has made us aware of the gift of the Eucharist; oh how we hunger for the Eucharist and we no longer take the Eucharist for granted. I loved presiding at first communion and confirmation Masses throughout the summer. I was inspired by parents living their commitment to raise their children according to the teachings of Jesus, and the intimate Masses allowed me to get to know more of our families. Despite not being able to physically gather every Sunday, we discovered live-streaming and have maintained and grown our community of faith all over the country. In this difficult time, all of you have generously continued to give financially to keep our parish afloat. This time allowed us to rediscover the sin and horror of racism, and I find it hopeful that people are coming together in new ways to work for racial justice. When the pandemic hit, we were just starting to talk about celebrating our 100th parish anniversary in 2024. We discovered that God was calling us in a different direction now - a return to our mission of living a faith that does justice. So we reached out to those marginalized because of unemployment, and through the generosity of all of you, we hit the streets to feed the hungry. Speaking of food, I have been blessed by so many of you who have dropped off food for me these past 8 months.

Who knows what is in store for the next several months. Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings will look different this year. Hopefully our country will start to heal. We pray that we find a vaccine and begin to contain this virus soon. What we do know is that God will be with us. As Mary and Joseph discovered, and so have we, with God, all is possible. With Mary and Joseph, we too are called to bring Christ into the world.

I miss all of you. I miss our gatherings and all the vibrant activities of St. Mary Student Parish. I long to be with you again. I am also grateful for you. Your faith inspires my own. We walk together with Christ and with one another. I am grateful for your ongoing support of our parish. Your generosity pays the bills and allows me to sleep at night. Your generosity also helps families who are restless at night with the worry of paying their bills. Thank you!

Let's continue to pray for one another and love one another. God will continue to lead us if we continue to open our hearts and our hands. Let Mary's prayer continue to be our own, "here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

With prayers and affection,



James Gartland, S.J.

Rev. James Gartland, S.J.
Pastor, St. Mary Student Parish





OUR MISSION

St. Mary Student Parish is Christ-centered with the Eucharist as the source of holiness in our vibrant liturgical life.

We are a welcoming, inclusive, caring, and diverse Catholic community, uniting residents and students.

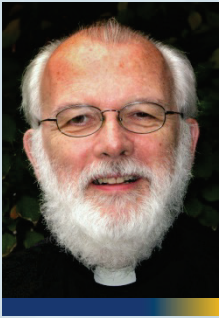
Inspired by Ignatian spirituality, we live a faith that does justice, reaching out to the marginalized.

As an apostolic parish, we are committed to ongoing formation of Christian witness, discipleship, and leadership.

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A FOND FAREWELL



Fr. Dennis Dillon, SJ retired to the Jesuit community at the Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan in September 2020.

Fr. Dennis served as a pastoral associate at St. Mary Student Parish for 11 years, bringing his love of poetry and the arts to pastoral ministry. Often sharing a poem or two during his homilies, Fr. Dennis masterfully intertwined nature, faith, and

love, encouraging parishioners to experience God's beauty all around them. He also led a three-part film series at the parish each summer and performed magic tricks annually at the children's Christmas pageant & mass.

At Colombiere, Fr. Dennis joins 45 other Jesuits and serves as librarian for the center's vast video library.

YOUNG ALUMNI ANSWER GOD'S CALL

The future of our church begins right here with our young alumni. Join us as we pray for them and all of our students as they consider the many different options God may have for their ministry!



Jacob Derry

2017 Graduate

Served as

Campus Ministry Associate

Jacob was accepted as a Diocese of Lansing seminarian at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit in the Fall of 2020. "I started seriously praying about the priesthood in April 2019. My discernment involved regular spiritual direction, Daily Mass and Adoration, spiritual reading, seminary visits, and conversations with our Vocations Director. At first I was afraid at the prospect of giving up my plans to pursue the priesthood, but throughout the ups and downs of life, the Lord's love has been the only constant, the only Truth. I can trust Him. This is why, a year later, I felt confident in God's will for me and was accepted to seminary. God's dreams and plans are always so much bigger and better than mine."



Theresa Walle

2020 Graduate

Served as

Intern for Music & RCIA

Founded in 1915 by Blessed James Alberione, the Daughters of St. Paul are media apostles dedicated to creatively bringing the Gospel of light, love, and hope to as many people as possible. Theresa will spend the next two years in St. Louis for postulancy, followed by two years of novitiate in Boston before making temporary vows. "I am grateful to all at St. Mary who helped me in my discernment journey, from fellow students, parishioners, and staff. You are in my prayers, please pray for me too!" You can follow Theresa's journey on Instagram and Twitter through searching her handle, @joyfulpostulant, or searching #medianuns.



Karl Finkbeiner

2020 Graduate

Served as

Intern for Retreats

Karl recently joined the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan. He shares, "During my time at the University of Michigan, I was blessed to have a community of Catholics who revealed Christ to me, built me up, and called forth my gifts to participate in God's mission to reconcile the world to Himself. God created each of you to be His beloved children and to make His love known through the gifts He has given you. I offer to you the words of St. John Paul II, who said that young people 'know that their life has meaning to the extent that it becomes a free gift for others.'"

PAST & PRESENT *weddings*



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Many alumni return to St. Mary Student Parish to take their wedding vows, with every summer Saturday featuring one or even two celebrations of love and unity. While many couples postponed their weddings due to COVID-19, some couples decided that while the pandemic altered their plans, it only deepened their desire for marriage. We caught up with Tyler and Cherie (Netzloff) Huss who were married on August 1, 2020 with Fr. Joe Wagner, SJ as presider. Looking back on their wedding, the couple shares:

“Getting married is an incredible adventure, and getting married during a pandemic after having planned a 350-person wedding you can no longer have is still an incredible adventure. Reflecting back on this time, we realized what a blessing in disguise it has been. Facing everything this year has thrown at us together prepared us for the leap of faith that was marriage and prepared us to better move through challenges together in the future. The experience has deepened our faith in God’s love and our trust in each other. We believe more strongly that no matter how the final product looks, the important and meaningful pieces will always be there in the end.”

Congratulations to Tyler, Cherie, and to the other eight couples who were married at SMSP since March 2020. May God continue to bless your marriages!



A LOOK BACK

A couple kneels in front of the original altar during their wedding in the 1950s. The altar was removed from St. Mary Student Parish following Vatican II in 1965. Also pictured are the original pews and gothic style lighting. Today, you can still see pieces of the original chapel design in the wooden framing on the ceiling and the beautiful stained glass windows.

MASS in a pandemic

Campus was already abuzz with news of the coronavirus as students, faculty, and staff prepared for spring break. The consensus was that it was business as usual. Our annual Alternative Spring Break experiences, including travel to Los Angeles and to the Dominican Republic, would continue. Other students traveled back to their hometowns, eagerly seeking rest from a rigorous semester.

But returning to campus, there was no way to anticipate the tidal wave that was swiftly approaching. On Friday, March 20, the parish leadership team made the difficult decision to close the parish to the public effective immediately. No student gatherings, no office hours, and the most difficult decision of all, no mass. St. Mary Student Parish was the first Catholic parish to close in Ann Arbor, a decision later echoed by almost every place of worship in Ann Arbor during the immediate onset of COVID-19.

Within just two days of this decision we were up and running with live-streamed Sunday mass on our website. The dispensation from physically attending Sunday mass within the Diocese of Lansing was in effect through the end of the summer, and would be extended through the end of Ordinary Time in November. But what happened next would shape the future of worship at St. Mary Student Parish.

As we began streaming, hundreds of households tuned in to watch mass virtually, celebrating the Eucharist – without the Eucharist. Despite microphone mishaps and internet connectivity issues, week after week households around Ann Arbor and across the United States were tuning into our parish. Parishioners who were homebound or residing in assisted living could watch mass at their home parish. Families across the country could click play at just the same time and watch the very same mass. Alumni were tuning in from the coast to coast.

Launching our streaming masses in English, we quickly added a Spanish mass, and we are now streaming monthly masses for graduate students and young professionals, as well as masses on Thursdays as part of our weekly undergraduate Ig.nite event.

While we're consistently working to improve the quality and consistency of our streaming masses, one thing is certain: the live-streamed masses are here to stay. We invite you to join us for mass on Sundays at 9:00 am in English or 10:00 am in Spanish on our website stmarystudentparish.org.

Fr. Jim Gartland, SJ blesses catechists during live-streamed Sunday mass, October 2020



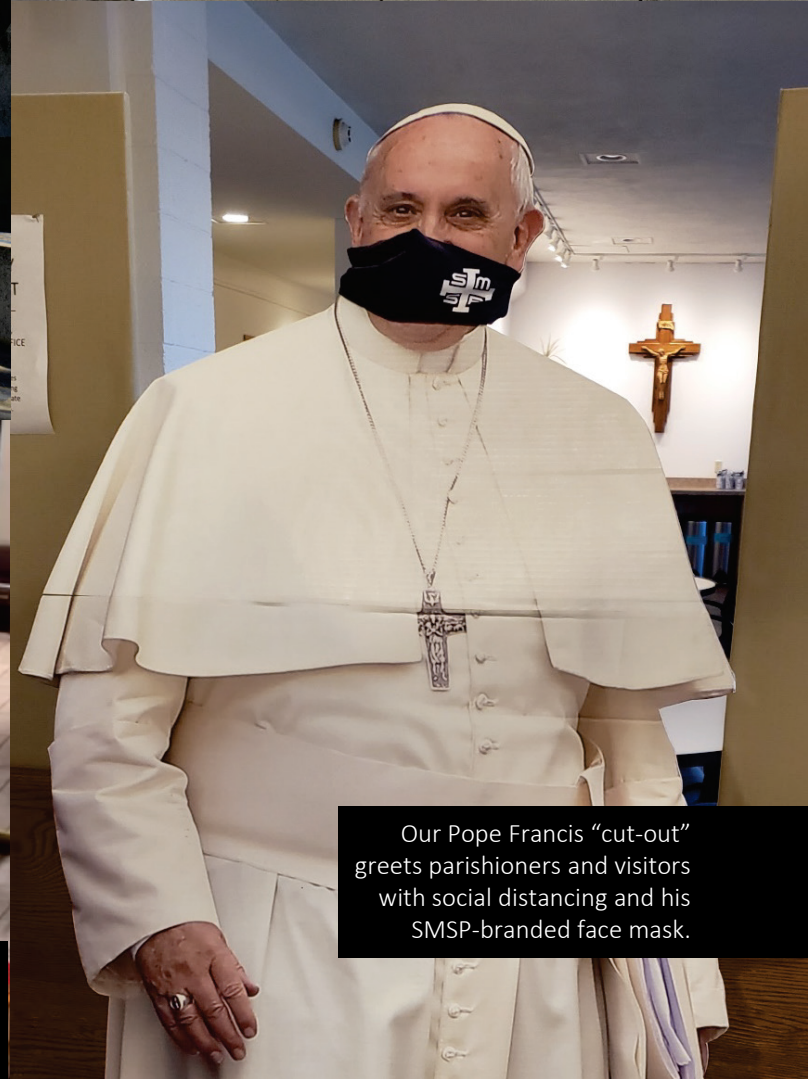
Undergraduate interns gather at SMSP in August to kick off the new academic year, August 2020



Fr. Jim Gartland, SJ distributes communion during an outdoor mass on Maynard Street, August 2020



Parishioner Gretchen Farah watches mass online each week with her son Michael, who tunes in all the way from his home in West Hollywood!



Our Pope Francis "cut-out" greets parishioners and visitors with social distancing and his SMSP-branded face mask.



Fr. Patrick Casey, SJ presides during All Saints Day mass featuring two altars celebrating Dia de los muertos, November, 2020

FAITH DOING JUSTICE

While students, faculty, and staff were eagerly awaiting the University of Michigan's decision to move forward with in-person classes for the fall semester, it was clear that even if students returned to Ann Arbor, the semester would be far from normal. When the decision came in early August to physically invite students back, there was little time to plan.

In a pandemic, gatherings, if any, must remain small. A truly unprecedented hurdle for campus ministry! A typical Sunday at St. Mary involved hundreds of students joining us for mass, with 70-80 sticking around for Sunday snacks and study breaks in our lounge. Meanwhile, on Thursdays, over 200 students came together for mass followed by dinner and faith-based conversation during Ig.nite.

While the number of COVID-19 cases rose and fell, retreats and faith-sharing groups were forced to go virtual. But one major challenge remained: how can our students grow in their faith that does justice without encountering their brothers and sisters in the community?

By reflecting on their experiences and learning about their faith, student leaders and interns were invited to participate in the Faith Doing Justice social media campaign, spearheaded by senior Cecilia Rivet. Consider this a different kind of virtual program, with the added bonus that the audience has expended to include resident parishioners, families, and alumni.

Cecilia identified three important issues to focus on during the

fall semester: racial justice, the election, and hunger and homelessness.

In September, her campaign began with the **Novena for Racial Justice**. Everyday for 9 days, different undergraduate students (with an occasional alumnus) shared a video inviting all to unite in prayer for a world where the human dignity of all is upheld. The novena concluded with an in-person outdoor vigil on September 18th in our courtyard.

For October, the focus was the upcoming election. Launching a video series entitled "Voting as an Act of Love," students highlighted the seven tenets of Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Family, Community and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, Care for God's Creation, and Solidarity. Cecilia shares:

"This teaching reminds me of our Catholic intention to build a just society and our belief that every person has inherent dignity and a right to life because of that dignity. This reflection empowers and inspires us to vote."

And for November, Cecilia will publish another social media campaign with short videos on hunger and homelessness. We invite you to join us online for this series and to review the Novena for Racial Justice and Voting as an Act of Love series on our facebook page: facebook.com/SMSP.UM.



COVID *community response*

MOVED BY THE SPIRIT

From backyard masses celebrating First Communion and Confirmation, to live-streaming Easter Mass, and brides and grooms donning face masks, it is clear that despite the pandemic, the Spirit is moving within us, among us. Take a deep breath and reflect on these recent months. Ask yourself: how is God at work in your life today?

“He who carries God in his heart bears heaven with him wherever he goes.”
- St. Ignatius of Loyola



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Since April 2020, over \$80,000 has been raised by our COVID-19 relief fund. This money goes directly to families struggling with food insecurity and other immediate concerns in our community, as well as organizations that support this mission. To contribute to this fund, please visit our website: stmarystudentparish.org/give and click the ParishSoft giving link, select Faith Doing Justice, and add a note about COVID-19.

SHELTERING THE HOMELESS

Over 30 volunteers signed up to assist with the men’s rotating overnight shelter. This annual event asks organizations to host for one week each winter. But during the pandemic, the shelter will remain at the same location each month, and volunteer organizations will rotate from week to week. St. Mary volunteered November 8-16 at Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church covering meals, hospitality, and overnight shifts.



WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

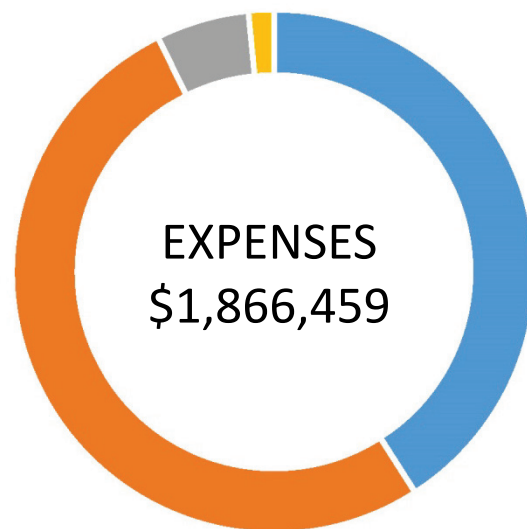
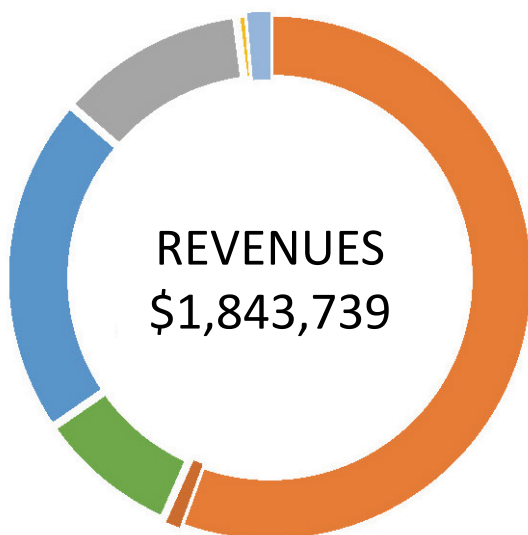
Although the Diocese of Lansing has extended the dispensation from Sunday mass until the start of Advent on November 29, distribution of the Eucharist continues every Sunday from 11:30 am – 12:00 noon. Parishioners are able to watch mass from home then come to our parish to receive the Eucharist and some even pick up and deliver the Eucharist to seniors in our community who are in assisted living. For the continued safety of our community, we offer communion in the hand only.

ANNUAL *report*

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

St. Mary Student Parish operates on a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30. We ended the 2019-2020 year with a net loss of \$22,720. Our revenue fell short of our budget by \$44,832 and our expenses were \$22,112 less than budget. The majority of the difference in revenue can be attributed to the annual fund. The savings in expenses is due to us essentially closing our buildings on March 20, 2020 in response to COVID-19. While we did open gradually through the remainder of fiscal year, the majority of our regular programming was suspended. We applied for and were granted a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program which helped off-set our loss.

The loss in 2019-2020 was less than the \$172,099 loss incurred in the prior fiscal year. Looking forward to the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we made some staffing changes – both in numbers of staff and in job descriptions – not only in response to how we “do” church during COVID-19 but also to be as fiscally responsible as possible with the generous donations we receive.



■ SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	\$1,024,190
■ ANNUAL FUND	\$385,589
■ CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION	\$214,120
■ FEES & DONATIONS	\$161,816
■ OTHER DONATIONS TO CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$24,563
■ DIOCESAN HISPANIC MINISTRY GRANT	\$20,000
■ DIOCESAN CAMPUS MINISTRY GRANT	\$13,450

■ PARISH PROGRAMS	\$965,620
■ CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$763,963
■ DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS	\$107,726
■ TUITION SUBSIDY	\$29,150

The information shared herein is an overall snapshot of the parish’s financial performance for the fiscal year July 12019, through June 30, 2020.

For further detail regarding the fiscal year 2019-2020 or should you have any questions, please contact:

Cathy Welch, Business Manager
 cwelch@smspnewman.org
 734.663.0557 x 224

2019-2020 DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday Collections

14% of Returning Donors gave the **same gift amount** as 2018-2019

33% of Returning Donors **increased their gift amount** from 2018-2019

20% were first-time givers

Annual Fund

13% of Returning Donors gave the **same gift amount** as 2018-2019

23% of Returning Donors **increased their gift amount** from 2018-2019

49% were first-time givers

STEWARDING YOUR GIFTS

Here at St. Mary, we manage two major sources of income: *Sunday Collections* and the *Annual Fund*, which fund the vast majority of parish operations. In addition, we receive individual gifts that are for more specific programs or ministries. Some of the programs that are frequent recipients of these donations include Faith Doing Justice, Hispanic/Latino Ministry, and Alternative Spring Break.

Sunday Collections

Sunday Collections include all offerings received at our Sunday masses, which is a blend of offering envelopes, checks, and loose cash. They also include online donations specifically noted for Sunday Collections, which is electronically transferred weekly, monthly, and sometimes annually. Donations to Sunday Collections can also be made through the Venmo app @SMSPumich.

Support for Sunday Collections is provided by parishioners, students, and any visitors attending mass.

Annual Fund

Campus Ministry donations received outside of Sunday Collections are placed into the Annual Fund. This includes March Match Madness, year-end donations, appeals to alumni and parents outside of Ann Arbor, and more.

FINANCIAL QUICK REFERENCE

Our federal tax ID number is 38-1358228.

St. Mary Student Parish is registered as a tax exempt organization under 501(c)(3).

Stock transfer through Wells Fargo

Depository Trust Company (DTC): 0141 | Account Number: 5826-5216

Stock transfer Vanguard to Vanguard

Account Number: 881-60554382

For more information, please visit www.stmarystudentparish.org/give



St. Mary Student Parish
Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan

331 Thompson Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

STMARYSTUDENTPARISH.ORG

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO:

- JOIN US FOR MASS ONLINE
- MAKE A RESERVATION
TO ATTEND MASS IN-PERSON
- SUPPORT ST. MARY

*hail mary
full of grace
the lord is
with you*

