



# ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

## SAINT LUKE CHURCH

HONORING THE PAST – CELEBRATING THE PRESENT – ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

Feast of Saint Luke, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

Some years back, Pope Francis made his first-ever visit to the United States. When he spoke to us he was plain and gentle, yet incredibly powerful in his message. He spoke with clean common sense, but with sharp challenges to the way that we see ourselves and the way we live our lives as citizens of this great American nation every day.

The Pope may not have said anything directly at that time about the hot-button issues that our country struggles with, but he did say things that can challenge and lift any and every aspect of our lives to a higher and more noble level. He even challenged our Congress to avoid the temptation to the kind of mentality that divides people: who are the bad guys and who are the good guys – who's with us and who's against us. In the years since, we have seen vividly how that kind of partisan attitude refuses to see the possibility of good in others; it grows quickly into anger and quickly becomes competition at its worst: it keeps good things from getting done.

***Most of all, Francis reminded us that being a follower of Jesus, being a person of faith, being a responsible citizen of our great country is not a spectator sport. We all have a part to play, a job to do.*** A quote from the papal Mass in Philadelphia: ***"One of the great challenges facing the Church in this time and generation is to foster in all the faithful a sense of personal responsibility for the Church's mission, and to enable them to fulfill that responsibility as missionary disciples, as a leaven of the Gospel in our world."*** In view of an increasingly secular world and its non-values that threaten a Godly way of living, we must renew our efforts to invite people to the "Good News" of Catholic Christian faith and life. In other words, Francis challenged us each, from our personal relationship with Jesus and our rootedness in our faith, to be a part of the solution and not simply to complain about the problems.

### Saint Luke Parish

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Our life as a parish is – and must always be – first and foremost ***spiritual***. Many parish annual reports (our own past reports included) focus almost exclusively on financial statistics.

I choose deliberately to offer this report in a different direction because of the current climate in which organized religion is constantly criticized by cultural currents and mindsets that are variously secular, agnostic and atheist. The revelations and issues arising from acts of abuse by the clergy – even to the highest levels of the hierarchy – have wounded, saddened, angered, and depressed us all.

Despite the way our beliefs are portrayed in the mainstream media and secular imagination, we Roman Catholics have a way of life and prayer backed by over two millennia of prayer, scholarship and faithful practice in the lives of countless believers. We must treasure that heritage and do our very best to pass it on to future generations so that all ages may find hope and strength and joy in Christ and his Gospel.

No, we're not perfect; *indeed, that's why we are Church*. The many difficulties that trouble our nation and world pointedly remind us of our flawed humanity and never-ending need of God's grace and mercy. When one suffers, the entire Body of Christ suffers. But only *together* can we survive and thrive through such difficult times.

In light of all that, my annual report to you continues with a focus first on our life as a parish family in prayer, ministries and activities.

## The Spiritual and Sacramental Report

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If nothing else, every Catholic parish is founded on the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments. The table below presents our sacramental statistics for the years indicated:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>BAPTISMS</b>	44	29	31	27	32	18	32	29	21	30	18	22
<b>FIRST COMMUNIONS</b>	44	30	44	36	35	46	35	39	43	35	41	38
<b>CONFIRMATIONS</b>	60	58	61	85	58	45	38	46	39	42	39	34
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	9	2	4	4	3	4	3	5	5	5	5	7
<b>FUNERALS</b>	26	24	40	23	27	24	38	34	25	34	26	34

- It is a serious concern that the number of baptisms has fallen from 44 in 2006 to just 22 in 2017, a decline of 50% (and even lower in 2011 and 2016). Either there are fewer families with young children in our neighborhood, or those families do not see the value of committing themselves and their children to a way of life in the Catholic faith community. Fewer baptisms now will carry over into fewer First Communion and Confirmations in the years to come.
- Furthermore, we (along with other parishes) have seen an substantial increase in “drop-off-and-pick-up” families in our Religious Formation Program – parents who drop their children off for classes as they would for any other sports activity or lessons of various kinds, but who do not appear to exemplify an active faith for their children by participation in the Mass, the sacraments or any other aspect of parish life.
- While we have seen a slight uptick in the number of weddings this past year, the number of faith-based weddings has declined to an all-time low. This is consistent with cultural trends affecting all faith communities. In the current day, weddings have “morphed” from being an expression of a lifelong commitment with strong ties to faith into being more of a cultural “destination” event with its own secular ritual with all the presumed and expected trappings. This detachment from a faith-grounding will continue to demonstrate itself in the declining numbers of future baptisms and sacramental celebrations.

## Parish Life

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Nonetheless, we here at Saint Luke continue to offer for all ages an impressive array of ministries and activities: spiritual, educational, service and social. (Forgive me if I've left anything out.) We'll be having a **ministry fair** this autumn when you can speak with folks who already involved and find out more information. All are invited and welcome!

### **LITURGY**

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Altar & Sanctuary Guild  
Altar Linens  
Altar Servers (Boys & Girls)  
Adult Acolytes (Funerals)  
Flower Committee  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Liturgical Flowers & Decorations  
Lectors  
Ushers and Greeters  
Votive candle stand Keepers

### **LITURGICAL MUSIC**

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Adult Choir  
Cantors & Leaders of Song  
Children's Choir (Christmas & Easter)  
Contemporary Choir (Sunday 5:30 pm)  
Resurrection Choir  
*(Instrumentalists Always Invited!)*

### **OUTREACH**

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Bereavement Ministry  
Easter Baskets for Sick and Elderly  
Food Pantry  
Harvest Fair/Christmas Gala Committee  
Interfaith Council  
Parish Nurses  
Parish Prayer Line  
Pastoral Visits to Sick and Homebound  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Redirection of Christmas  
Religious Gift Shoppe  
Soup Kitchen

### **Other Service Opportunities**

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Mailing Assistants  
Marian Garden Guild  
\*Parish Finance Council  
\*Collection Counters  
*\*(by Pastor's invitation only; please call if interested)*

### **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

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Catechists  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
Classroom Aides  
Hall Monitors

### **PARISH LIFE/SOCIAL**

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Hospitality/Receptions  
New Horizons Seniors  
Parish Coffees  
Parish Buildings and Grounds Committee  
Pastoral Advisory Council

### **SEASONAL**

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Breakfast with Santa  
Easter Bunny Breakfast  
International Dinner  
Parish Picnic  
Sweethearts' Mass

### **ADULT FORMATION**

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Faith Forum  
First Friday Lecture Series  
Ignatian Spiritual Exercises  
Men's Annual Retreat  
Men's Saturday Morning Reflection Group  
Mosaic (Spirituality for Women)  
Pre-Baptism Preparation for Parents  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)  
Women's Retreat

### **Youth Ministry**

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Monthly Teen Mass, Dinner & Activity  
Contemporary Music for the Teen Mass  
Mission Trip and Adult Chaperones  
Service Projects

Let me add that, at the time of this writing, we are making excellent progress in the creation of our redesigned website, thanks to the excellent input we have received from so many of you, and especially for the dedicated work of Jennifer Coffman and Rita Kruk who are currently coordinating the effort. We also hope to bring on some “media interns” from among our younger parishioners to help assure that the Good News about Saint Luke Parish receives as wide a distribution as possible.

## Finance Notes

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All these are possible only because of your generosity and the dedicated staff and countless volunteers who every day strive to give their very best in service to you, their fellow parishioners. The Balance Sheet, Income & Expense Report and the Budget figures for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 follow my remarks.

In justice, **we must continue working to provide our employees with cost-of-living increases**, which our income in recent years has not allowed as fully as I would hope. That cannot happen without your increased support in a spirit of gratitude for their work on your behalf.

**Another goal is to continue work toward making our financial position ever more secure for the future.** One bright spot in that regard is that the parish received **\$115,000** in bequests during the year, most notably from the estate of Ms. Ray Marie DiLieto.

While *most* of our capital needs (HVAC, roofing, boilers, and other dated equipment) have been addressed over the years that I have been here, we still need to be sure that we have sufficient “rainy day” resources to address any unforeseen major needs. As you homeowners know well, delayed maintenance always leads to higher costs in terms of repairs.

Although the rectory driveway was repaved last year, two other paved surfaces that need attention: the “upper” parking lot by the “new” Stable (A.A. Meeting facility), desperately needs crack filling and sealing to prevent further disintegration; the “lower” lot by the church and Parish Center is already over ten years old and needs similar maintenance to prevent similar disintegration in the near future.

The Parish Center Kitchen has been brought up to Westport Health Department codes. We have replaced the wooden “butcher block” counter top on the center island with a granite surface and included a sink for hand washing. The 30+ year old stove is needing more and more repairs to function, not to mention the costs of propane that come from pilot lights that burn continually.

We also have converted much of our lighting into far more energy-efficient LEDs, both in the Parish Center and the parking lots. However, we will need to look into a similar upgrading of the lighting in the worship space and their controls.

On behalf of all our Parish Staff, I ask you please to remain assured of our prayerful gratitude for your participation in the life of our parish and for your generosity in helping us to provide our very best in worship, pastoral care, education and community life.

Cordially yours,



Monsignor Andrew G. Varga, D.Min.  
Pastor

**Saint Luke Parish - #30000**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of June 30, 2018

12:58 PM  
07/13/2018  
Accrual Basis  
Jun 30, 18

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1000 - CASH 150,234.34

Total Checking/Savings 150,234.34

Other Current Assets

1100 - RECEIVABLES -1,263.67

1200 - OTHER ASSETS 3,212.52

Total Other Current Assets 1,948.85

Total Current Assets 152,183.19

Fixed Assets

1300 - FIXED ASSETS 9,599,365.42

Total Fixed Assets 9,599,365.42

Other Assets

1400 - INVESTMENTS 317,522.02

Total Other Assets 317,522.02

**TOTAL ASSETS 10,069,070.63**

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

2000 - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE 13.20

Total Accounts Payable 13.20

Credit Cards

2030 - CREDIT CARDS 1,295.23

Total Credit Cards 1,295.23

Other Current Liabilities

2050 - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & STIPENDS 10,590.64

2200 - PAYROLL LIABILITIES 67.96

2400 - DEFERRED INCOME 1,983.68

Total Other Current Liabilities 12,642.28

Total Current Liabilities 13,950.71

Total Liabilities 13,950.71

Equity

3000 - NET ASSETS 9,613,325.03

3002 - Retained Earnings 266,099.22

Net Income 175,695.67

Total Equity 10,055,119.92

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 10,069,070.63**

**Saint Luke Parish - #30000**  
**Income & Expense**  
 July 2017 through June 2018

12:47 PM  
 07/13/2018  
 Accrual Basis

	Jul '17 - Jun 18	Jul '16 - Jun 17	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
4000 · OFFERTORY INCOME	651,040.04	658,300.12	-7,260.08	-1.1%
4100 · OTHER REGULAR INCOME	178,448.39	183,009.76	-4,561.37	-2.49%
4200 · Non-Operating Revenue	218,738.16	119,621.56	99,116.60	82.86%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,048,226.59</b>	<b>960,931.44</b>	<b>87,295.15</b>	<b>9.08%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>1,048,226.59</b>	<b>960,931.44</b>	<b>87,295.15</b>	<b>9.08%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
5000 · COMPENSATION & BENEFITS	394,858.84	385,997.32	8,861.52	2.3%
5100 · CONTRIBUTIONS & ASSESSMENTS	113,853.61	143,416.84	-29,563.23	-20.61%
5200 · SERVICES, FEES, INSURANCE	85,438.88	89,475.05	-4,036.17	-4.51%
5300 · SUPPLIES, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE	239,327.70	236,613.12	2,714.58	1.15%
5400 · UTILITIES	53,362.76	51,696.31	1,666.45	3.22%
5600 · PROPERTY TAXES	189.13	120.52	68.61	56.93%
6000 · UNCATEGORIZED	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>887,030.92</b>	<b>907,319.16</b>	<b>-20,288.24</b>	<b>-2.24%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>161,195.67</b>	<b>53,612.28</b>	<b>107,583.39</b>	<b>200.67%</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
7000 · TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS	1,500.00	1,000.00	500.00	50.0%
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>50.0%</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>50.0%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>162,695.67</b>	<b>54,612.28</b>	<b>108,083.39</b>	<b>197.91%</b>

**Saint Luke Parish - #30000**  
**Income & Expense Budget Overview**  
**FY 17-18 and FY 18-19**

Accrual Basis

	<b>Jul '17 - Jun 18</b>	<b>Jul '18 - Jun 19</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
4000 · OFFERTORY INCOME	658,296.12	650,963.04
4100 · OTHER REGULAR INCOME	171,255.41	178,193.15
4200 · Non-Operating Revenue	105,309.34	116,171.53
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>934,860.87</b>	<b>945,327.72</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>934,860.87</b>	<b>945,327.72</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
5000 · COMPENSATION & BENEFITS	386,110.32	408,081.15
5100 · CONTRIBUTIONS & ASSESSMENTS	118,013.76	113,703.61
5200 · SERVICES, FEES, INSURANCE	90,625.53	85,163.38
5300 · SUPPLIES, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE	208,050.85	236,514.57
5400 · UTILITIES	50,857.51	48,630.64
5600 · PROPERTY TAXES	120.52	189.13
6000 · UNCATEGORIZED	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>853,778.49</b>	<b>892,282.48</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>81,082.38</b>	<b>53,045.24</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
7000 · TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS	1,000.00	1,500.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>82,082.38</b>	<b>54,545.24</b>