

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How blessed are we to be able to walk this earthly pilgrimage with one another as members of St. Maria Goretti! No matter what is happening around us — be it a pandemic, challenges in our culture, or social strife — **St. Maria Goretti is our safe haven.** It is the place where we can come together, gathered around the Eucharistic table, to worship and serve our Lord.

It is also the place where we serve one another. **Here, united in God's love, we are a visible sign of the body of Christ, and together, we can accomplish amazing things.** In the story of the early Church told in *Acts of the Apostles*, we see that after the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus' disciples, they are filled with vibrancy, passion, and life. With this newfound grace and inspiration, they go out into the world and draw new members into the Body of Christ. Their growth as a community is a sign that God is present and at work. We are blessed to belong to St. Maria Goretti at a time when we are experiencing growth—both in numbers and in vibrancy. We see *new* people each weekend, and *more* people join us in praising God. To borrow an expression, now is the time to “strike while the iron is hot” --to capture the enthusiasm for the great works of God in our community and to grow more fully into the Body of Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit here at St. Maria Goretti.

With this in mind, **I invite you to respond to St. Maria Goretti's new stewardship program: “Growing in the Spirit.”** Please review the contents of this brochure and prayerfully consider how you and your family can play an active role in continuing the work of Jesus Christ through our parish community. Our goal is to increase our Sunday offertory contributions **to bring Jesus Christ to as many people as possible.** This is no easy task in today's climate, but I am confident that our dedicated parishioners are up to the challenge.

On February 19, the parish will hold a special Commitment Weekend, inviting members of our community to connect with one another and make a financial commitment that will allow St. Maria Goretti to continue its essential work. **We are counting on you!** Please participate in our “Growing in the Spirit” Program and help us respond to God's great gift of love by loving one another with the heart of His Son.

Thank you for your generosity, prayers, and commitment to St. Maria Goretti!

In Christ,



Rev. Alex Roche, STL



Connect with Us

Fr. Alex
Pastor
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570-655-8956

Deacon Mike
Deacon
smgAltarServers@comcast.net
570-655-8956

Parish Office
42redwood@comcast.net
570-655-8956

Making your Commitment

Fill out the enclosed Commitment Card and bring it to Mass next weekend

or

scan this QR code with your smartphone to fill out your Commitment Card online.



Fulfilling your New Commitment

Three simple and secure ways to do so:



Sign up for **Online Giving** or update your current online gift amount at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YQM1/home>.



Use your **offering envelope** and bring it to Mass each Sunday or mail it to the parish office.



Explore using **tax advantaged charitable gifts** such as IRA Distributions, Gifts of Stock, or remembering the parish in your will. Contact the parish office at 570-655-8956.

Growing in the Spirit



ST. MARIA GORETTI
CHURCH
LAFLIN, PA



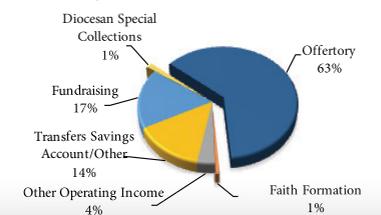
Financial Snapshot: 2021/2022 Fiscal Year

Operating Income

Offertory	\$338,850.00
Faith Formation	\$4,357.00
Other Operating Income	\$19,083.00
Transfers Savings Account/ Other	\$78,230.00
Fundraising	\$92,913.00
Diocesan Special Collections	\$7,958.00

Ministry & Program Income	\$39,914.00
Other Operating Income	<u>\$124,994.00</u>

Total Operating Income **\$575,878.00**

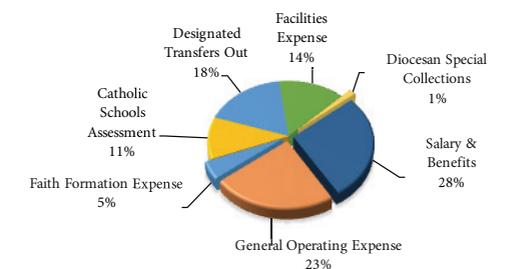


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$151,347.00
General Operating Expense	\$125,833.00
Faith Formation Expense	\$25,848.00
Catholic Schools Assessment	\$61,068.00
Designated Transfers Out	\$98,076.00
Facilities Expense	\$78,910.00
Diocesan Special Collections	<u>\$8,345.00</u>

Total Operating Expense **\$549,427.00**

Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) **\$(8,036.00)**



Growing with our Parish

Here, united by the Holy Spirit, we are a visible sign of the body of Christ and together we do great things. With new community members joining our parish every day, it is an exciting time to be part of the St. Maria Goretti family. Just as in the early Church, the increasing vibrancy of this parish is a sign of the Spirit at work.

712

Families in our parish

46

New families this year

Renovation of the Parish Grotto

New Parish Youth Group

New Socials and Fundraising Events

Growing with our Lord

As we strive to grow as a parish community, we always remember that our greatest treasure is the presence of God in our midst. When we seek peace and grace in a tumultuous world, St. Maria Goretti Parish is our welcome home. We are committed as a parish to become a place where people can encounter the Lord and receive his Spirit.

New opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration

New scripture studies

60%

Mass attendance increase from last year

Celebration of St. Maria Goretti

Growing with our Neighbor

We know the importance of bringing the love of God to our neighbors. Through our many ministries and our social and service-oriented outreach programs, we imitate the Spirit-filled Church of the Apostles. St. Maria Goretti Parish must become a sign of grace and a source of goodness to the entire community.

Establishment of a Diocesan Vocation Center in our parish

Care & Concern Pediatric Clinic

11

Families received Financial Assistance

\$9,000 Donated to the Pittston Food Pantry