

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Where we have been graced with success!

- We ended the Fiscal Year 2016/17 with a healthy financial outlook.
- Giving (currently) is up 8% over last year at this time.
- Membership at Our Lady of Lourdes has increased by 19% over last year (1,476 Households as of 2/18).
- Parishioners donating through EFT (Electronic Giving) has increased by 17% over last year.
- We ran a very successful Jubilee Capital Campaign and have completed most of our campaign projects!
- Financial controls, procedures and policies have been strengthened.
- The Finance Council has been strengthened through increased and diverse membership and oversight.
- Financial transparency has been improved, e.g. Annual Report and the new Bulletin Finance Reporting.
- More realistic budgeting has been employed.
- Negotiations with vendors, research and outsourcing to new vendors reduced general operating costs.
- We have successfully recruited more volunteers for Liturgical Ministries, Events and Activities.

Where challenges remain:

- Just as giving is up, so are expenses (you know this from your own lives and budgets).
- Cash flow is always a challenge for parishes – strong, committed and consistent giving is necessary for regular monthly operating expenditures.
- Our Lady of Lourdes is understaffed. As a vibrant and growing parish, our increased programming, events and activities are impacted by the lack of employed staff to assist with the planning, staffing and implementation of the many opportunities associated with our growth.

How can we respond?

- If you have not returned your Stewardship Commitment, please prayerfully consider doing this now. When we receive financial pledges, we are better able to forecast the income of the parish over the next year, plan for our growth and fulfill our potential. Stable and sacrificial giving benefits the parish.
- If you haven't considered EFT (Electronic Giving), please know it is secure, safe and convenient and provides the parish consistent financial funding.
- Regarding the Jubilee Fund - if you did not support this effort earlier, please help us now so that we can reach our stretch goal.
- If you did pledge to the Jubilee Campaign, we ask you to send payments in on these pledges as projects have been completed and bills are due.
- Help us accomplish a strong finish for fiscal 2017/18 - continuing our positive momentum!
- Planned Giving - now is the time to consider the most creative and effective ways to support the future of Lourdes. Consider the parish as you map out your own estate and will planning.

Our Lady of Lourdes, the first parish to be named for the apparition at Lourdes in the United States, is your spiritual home. For more than 140 years the flame of the Catholic faith has been kept alive at our parish. Thank you for your commitment to Notre Dame de Lourdes and for choosing to be an important part of our vibrant future.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.