

Saint Sylvester Parish

C/O P.O. Box 617
Avonmore, PA 15618

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Dear Parishioners,

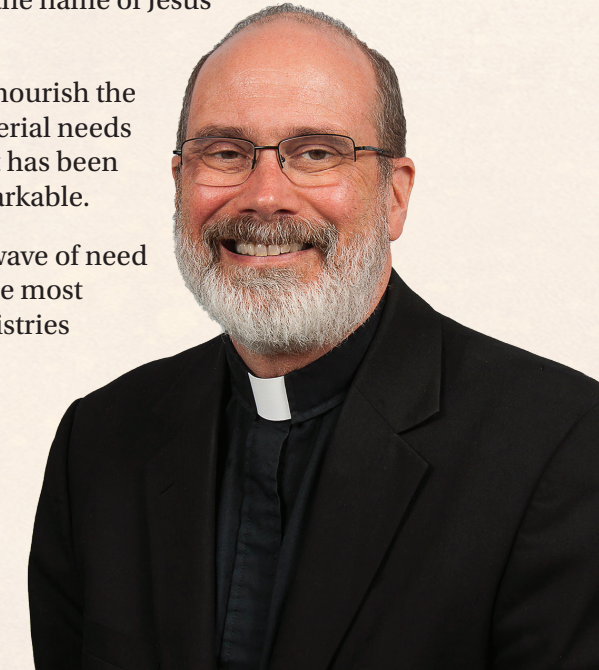
The safety and health of every member of our parish have been in my daily prayers as together we continue to face the ups and downs of the pandemic. Many of you, I know, have endured great pain and personal loss, not to mention the numerous concerns that have developed as the pandemic has imposed an ongoing struggle with fear and isolation in many people's lives. Still today, there is the ongoing uncertainty of what is next.

I hope you have been comforted by our local and Diocesan outreach through streaming Masses and commitment to get things to the "new normal" in the parishes. There were also special collections to support mission work at home and around the world, food drives to help the hungry, and volunteers who cleaned and sanitized our churches to protect our at-risk parishioners, and Father John and our eucharistic ministers have gotten back to doing Communion calls. Deacon Craig will begin doing these soon. These are just a few examples of the outpouring of love we saw in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the pandemic.

I want you to know that through it all, Saint Sylvester Parish has continued to nourish the seeds of faith that have been planted, seeking to care for the spiritual and material needs of our entire parish community. The good news in all of this is that the harvest has been bountiful! In fact, the support provided by you, the faithful, has been just remarkable.

As excited as I am about the impact of our outreach, I also realize that a tidal wave of need is still on the horizon. Economic uncertainty and continued isolation mean the most vulnerable among us will need us now more than ever. Our missions and ministries cannot continue to meet that need without your help.

I want to sincerely thank you for all that you have given to our parish either financially or with your time. Remember, your contributions keep this parish vibrant and impactful. Please remember your parish this year, and prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship (time, talent and financial) so we can continue God's work.



Yours in Christ,
Father John J. Harrold

Growing Support for our
FAITH
Community



Saint Sylvester Parish Annual Report 2021

Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

Please keep in mind that to volunteer in the parish you need to have the six Diocesan child protection clearances. If you don't have them, we will be happy to help you get them. These can be easily accessed and completed online. Everyone over the age of 18 should have these clearances because we all should be involved in the work of the parish.

- Altar Servers
- Adult Altar Servers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Lectors
- Ministry of Hospitality
- Liturgy Decorating Volunteers
- Partner Parish Pastoral Parish Council
- Finance Council Member
- Facilities Committee — Painting, Electrical, Carpentry/Construction, Concrete Work, Grounds/Landscaping, Gen. Maintenance
- Altar Rosary Society
- Bereavement Committee
- Martha Ministry (NEW)
- Baking or Preparing a Dish for Parish Functions
- Parish Office Helpers
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Knights of Columbus
- Saint Ambrose Food Pantry
- Fundraising Volunteers



Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements



Your contributions to our parish help maintain the facility, making it the center of prayer in our community. Last year, I sent you our State of the Parish Report, which provided detailed information about how we are working to grow support for our faith community and facilities. It highlighted that over the last three years, we updated and completely remodeled the rectory kitchen,

removed the stage from the social hall and added a beverage station, put air conditioning/heat pumps in the church and a dehumidifier in the social hall, and had a newer and bigger organ donated to the church. This year we added a new entrance from the parking lot directly into the social hall in time for the centennial celebration.

Parish Financials

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Offertory	\$ 96,025	\$ 96,449	\$ 105,172
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	2576	992	715
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	7,682	6,605	9,624
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	18,775	20,950	12,167
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	21,513	13,856	86,655
Special Collections	11,261	15,105	9,516
Total Income	\$ 157,832	\$ 153,957	\$ 223,849
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 24,337	\$ 26,954	\$ 29,905
Church	12,368	12,222	17,026
Rectory	2,522	3,401	4,526
Education and Ministry	18,925	13,012	17,108
General Expenses	53,839	51,550	51,889
Special Collections	11,393	15,288	10,125
Extraordinary Expenses	31,697	37,195	92,262
Total Expenditures	155,081	159,622	222,841
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 2,751	\$ (5,665)	\$ 1,008

Our Garden



Registered Households

2021: 103
2020: 104
2019: 105

Single Member Households

51



Baptisms

2021: 0
2020: 0
2019: 1

Weddings

2021: 0
2020: 1
2019: 1



Funerals

2021: 6
2020: 11
2019: 3



Weathering COVID-19

Just as God has provided for you, you have provided for our parish. Your investment is like the tilling of the soil, helping us to grow stronger. Despite the pandemic, our parish offertory remained strong, primarily due to the generosity of some of our parishioners, but it was also assisted by some parishioners beginning to use online giving. Sadly, we still have about 21% of the parish who do not financially support the parish

As I am sure you can imagine, our parish had to adapt in our fundraising activities. Last year, our dinners were takeout only, and we did very well. We also did a variety of raffles to raise money for our centennial celebration. Please keep an eye on the bulletin and parish website for upcoming fundraisers. We hope to bring back the homemade pizza and eat-in dinners!



Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:
Saint Sylvester Parish
C/O P.O. Box 617
Avonmore, PA 15618



IN PERSON:
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9:00AM - 1:00PM



ONLINE:
partnerparishesmas.org

