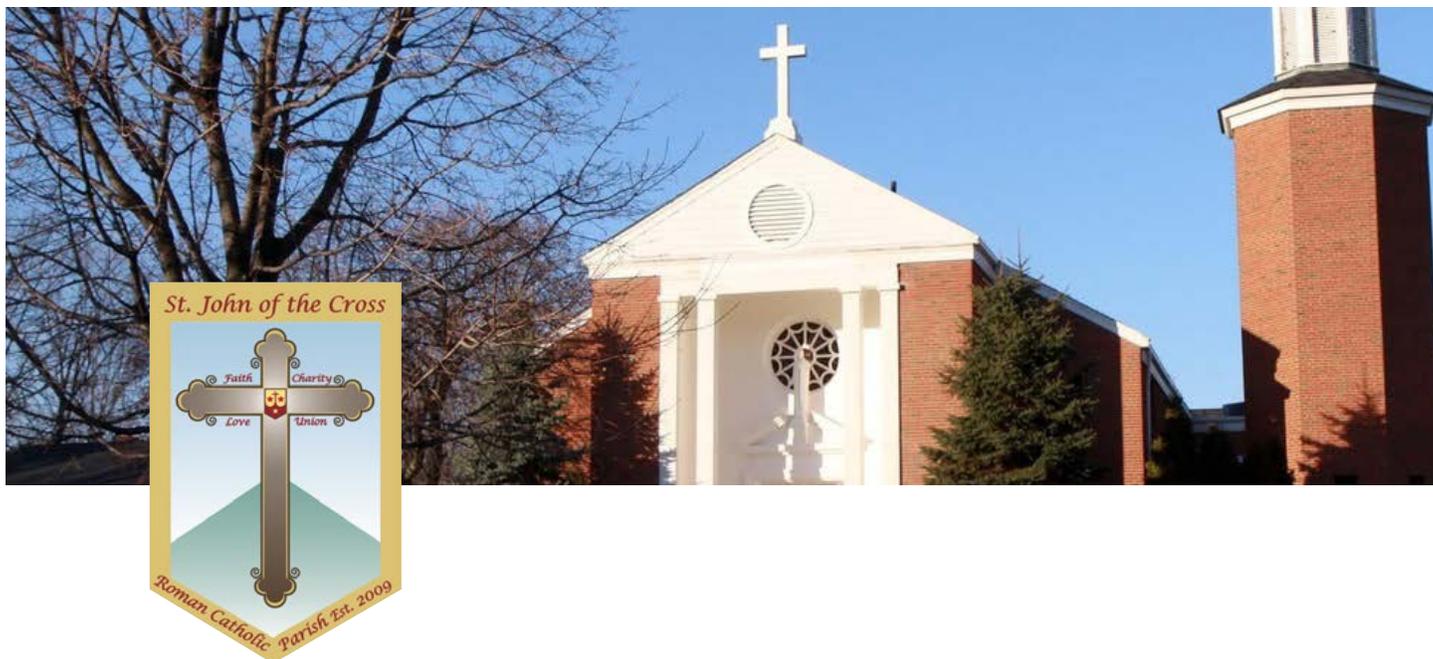


# Saint John of the Cross Parish Annual Report 2015-2016



Photographs courtesy of parishioner Gery Petrof

## LETTER FROM FATHER SALVATORE M. RUGGERI



It is with pride in our parish, gratitude to God and our parishioners, and great hope for our future, that I present to you the annual report of our parish. What you will find here is not only our financial statements, but also a brief yet wonderful glimpse into who we are as a parish family and what we do to bring forth the Kingdom of God in Euclid and beyond as we have committed to the Jubilee Year of Mercy through our Corporal and Spiritual works.

We have accomplished so much in the last year and have made great strides in not only planning for our financial future, but also in growing our ministries and looking toward the possibilities that are before us.

**We paid off our mortgage**, saving us thousands of dollars each year in interest expense as well as allowing us to use the money that was paid on principal for the administrative and ministerial needs of our parish. Thanks to your generosity, **collections increased 9% over last year**, and have given us opportunities to save for necessary capital expenditures in the future. What was a budgeted \$69,000 deficit, in the end, became an over \$11,000 surplus because of the hard work and generosity of you, our parishioners.

In this report, you will find highlights of this year, stories of and snippets of the ways that our community has served and loved, worked and dreamed. We have much to be proud of, and I never cease to be humbled by the kind and loving spirit of so many who bring those dreams to reality. It was a tremendous year in the life of our parish, and we have continued to build a strong foundation that will serve us well in the years to come.

As we move through this next fiscal year, you will, I believe, see a great many things that will bless our parish family. We, the staff, in conjunction with our Parish and Finance Councils have great plans for continuing the momentum and building upon it through encouraging greater involvement, offering even more opportunities for ministry and outreach, continuing and increasing the good that we do, and providing you, our parishioners, with an ever stronger foundation in faith. It was Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the current president of Liberia who said, “The size of your dreams must always exceed your capacity to achieve them.” We have big dreams, and with God’s grace and your love, we can achieve them all together.

The successes of this year belongs to all of us, and reveal what we can do when we work together for good. Please be sure to let me or our Business Manager Kay Magri know if you have any questions about what is contained in this report. I am proud to be your pastor, and promise you that I will continue to do my best each day to serve each of you. I am dreaming big ... let’s make those dreams a reality.

In Christ,



## Mission Statement

We are the Catholic Community of ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, established in 2009. Uniting the people of God as ONE FAMILY, we are rooted in and empowered by our SACRAMENTAL LIFE and Eucharistic celebrations. Living as DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, we recognize our God-given potential and challenge one another to share our giftedness, embrace our diversity and engage in social outreach, service and education. In doing so, we seek to EXTEND THE REIGN OF GOD in Euclid and the wider community.



## ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS: ONE FAMILY

### Jubilee Year of Mercy

This Holy Year began on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father’s mercy. The Church encourages us to be good stewards of Christ’s mercy and love through Corporal and Spiritual works such as visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, etc. Here are just some of the ways in which St. John of the Cross responded to the call:



## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Jesus tells us that He wants us to pray. Prayer is fruitful in our journey of faith. Here are some of the ways parishioners responded to the call for prayer through the sacraments and the spiritual life of our community:

- Prayed for persecuted Christians worldwide focusing on a different country each week
- Over 150 participated in the 24 Hour Adoration with the Lord
- Celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participated in Communal Penance Services
- Attended regular Eucharistic celebrations and evening or morning prayer
- Participated in Advent activities – such as making family wreaths – and Christmas celebrations
- Participated in Lenten activities, Stations of the Cross and Living Stations, Holy Week, the Easter Vigil and Easter and attended the Lenten Mission with Fr. Al Krupp
- Attended the Lenten Parish Retreat – “Into the Heart of Mercy” with Father Sal followed by a Soup Supper
- Attended Scripture studies: “Acts of Apostles” with Father Mehok and “The Prophets: Messengers of God’s Mercy” with Father Sal
- Participated in Anointing of the Sick, Blessing of Throats, Home Blessings, Pet Blessings and Easter Basket Blessings
- Personally or communally prayed the Rosary
- Celebrated Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations and Marriage.

## DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Joyfully accepting the responsibility of discipleship is one way to practice good stewardship. As disciples of Jesus Christ, here are some ways that parishioners have embraced this mission:

### Participated in Administration Ministries

- Parish Pastoral Council supports the Pastor and acts as a liaison between parishioners, parish ministries and staff
- Finance Council assists the Pastor in managing parish finances and assets

### Participated in Church Formation

- Parish School of Religion (PSR) educates students in grades K-8
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) prepares individuals to become Catholic

### Participated in Liturgy and Worship

- Music Ministry enhances our worship experience through the adult choir, musicians, youth choir and cantors
- Altar Servers assist our clergy in setting up and serving during the Mass
- Art & Environment visually enhances the worship space in keeping with the Church's seasons and Holy Days
- Eucharistic Ministers serve Communion at Mass and to the sick and homebound
- Greeters set the tone for the worship service and act as ambassadors of Christ's hospitality as people enter our church
- Lectors proclaim the Word of God through the readings at Mass to help bring the scriptures to life
- Liturgy Commission ensures proper liturgical practices, educates parishioners and supports other ministries
- Ushers assist people during liturgies, provide for those with special needs, and take up the collections

### Participated in Fellowship Ministries

- Bingo, Bocce, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Hospitality, Knights of Columbus, St. Fiacre and the Young Adult ministry all work to serve our parish family and beyond

### Participated in Enrichment Ministries

- Legion of Mary, Men's Prayer Group, Morning Rosary and Women in Faith gather in prayer and serve in love



## EXTEND THE REIGN OF GOD

Giving of ourselves is an imitation of Jesus, who gave His very life for our salvation. Returning our blessings is part of our outreach to extend the reign of God beyond our community:

### Participated in Outreach Ministries

- Evangelization Ministry reaches out to invite and welcome new parishioners
- Caring Cooks provides meals to parishioners in need due to illness or a death in the family
- Ministry of Consolation offers support and prayer to those who have experienced a loss
- Prayer Shawl Ministry handcrafts, blesses, and gives hundreds of shawls to bring comfort as a reminder of God's loving embrace
- Social Justice supports and educates the community on issues relating to the dignity of human life, the poor and vulnerable, and caring for God's creation
- Youth programs such as Euclid Life Teen and Euclid Edge help to form our young parishioners in the ways of Christ

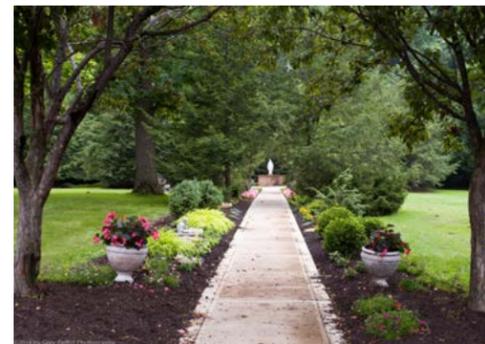
### Our volunteers participation in these outreach activities:

- Traveled to Chacraseca, Nicaragua as mission partners with Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and hosted Padre Tomas' visit here
- Prepared and delivered wrapped Christmas gifts to the Rose Mary Center and other organizations.
- Supported the Westside Catholic Center Clothing Drive
- Prepared and served lunches for the Joseph Home and Thea Bowman Center
- Volunteered with the Providence House Crisis Nursery
- Served a Pancake Breakfast for the community's homeless
- Volunteered for the Community Partnership Meal with Covenant Baptist Church
- Shared Christmas gifts and caroling at Grande Pointe and Waterford nursing homes
- Supported the Ronald McDonald House
- Sponsored Hospitality weekends throughout the year
- Provided Christmas gifts to others through the Giving Tree

# ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2016

To be able to continue the Corporal and Spiritual works of our parish, we must be willing to sacrifice financially also. Parishioners have responded well to the stewardship of "sharing our treasures" in many ways. These are just some of the fruits of our labor:

- Increased monthly offertory contributions by \$2,862 on average; provided \$12,000 in special gifts or bequests to the parish and increased online giving by 20%
- Supported "Rooted in Faith" with \$153,063 to date that helped to pay off our mortgage and provided for future capital improvements
- Participated in parish fundraising events like Bingo, the Annual Extravaganza, Second Blessings Rummage Sale, and Pasta with Padre raising \$79,352
- Increased revenue by 9% in offertory collections and 91% in rental income.
- Provided Barni Family Scholarships, a Bozak Scholarship and a Dimagard Scholarship to Catholic students
- Supported and maintained the Outdoor Shrine
- Supported the Liturgical Tribute Fund with items used for worship in honor of donors and in memory of loved ones
- Supported Legacy Giving with bequests from family estates
- Supported Parishioner-in-Need Fund with emergency assistance to our parishioners facing severe financial challenges
- Supported Window Legacy Campaign by dedicating a stained-glass window in memory or honor of a loved one
- Supported Celebration Plaza Fund with engraved pavers



On the following page are the financial statements of our parish including Revenues and Expenses and Financial Position for your review.

Although overall parish collections and programs have increased in the last fiscal year, donations and fundraising revenues have decreased. And, maintenance costs continue to rise.

To offset these burdens, the parish diligently works to find ways to reduce expenses and increase revenues by renting our underutilized spaces to outside social service organizations.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF THE PARISH

## St. John of the Cross Parish Statement of Revenue and Expenses July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Budget 2017
<b>Church Revenue</b>			
Offertory Collections	\$376,815.00	\$411,156.07	\$411,000.00
Other Collections	67,936.32	73,753.50	70,000.00
Donations & Bequests	24,778.02	12,054.04	11,900.00
Bingo Proceeds	55,354.25	53,571.39	48,600.00
Net Fundraising Income	26,298.13	25,780.35	21,500.00
Parish Programs	12,300.30	15,313.52	13,320.00
Investment Income	12,617.35	11,810.88	6,040.00
Rental Receipts	35,245.00	67,357.50	72,905.00
Contributions from Parish Organizations	4,107.00	810.00	750.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	39,659.12	34,104.00	
Extraordinary Receipts	106,526.91	36,804.60	
<b>Total Church Revenue</b>	<b>\$761,637.40</b>	<b>\$742,515.85</b>	<b>\$656,015.00</b>
<b>Church Expenses</b>			
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	\$408,211.44	\$374,649.89	\$380,177.00
Rectory Household	8,768.34	9,257.77	8,500.00
Parish Office Administration	68,857.55	43,955.29	35,102.00
Altar & Liturgical	17,740.53	13,755.99	18,800.00
Community Outreach	13,096.49	5,549.29	5,400.00
Religious Education	3,568.01	3,180.98	5,100.00
Stewardship & Evangelization	9,502.45	13,532.63	7,398.00
Utilities	70,212.88	65,473.76	73,100.00
Insurance & Property Taxes	31,912.03	30,936.92	29,224.00
Maintenance, Repairs & Plant Operating	41,494.24	32,197.43	27,400.00
Diocesan Assessments	52,782.00	55,416.00	65,286.00
Insurance Claims		31,308.44	
Capital Expenditures	15,820.20	52,086.00	
<b>Total Church Expenses</b>	<b>\$741,966.16</b>	<b>\$731,300.39</b>	<b>\$655,487.00</b>
<b>Net Church Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$19,671.24</b>	<b>\$11,215.46</b>	<b>\$528.00</b>

## St. John of the Cross Parish Statement of Financial Position

	Balance at June 30, 2015	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS		
Checking Account Balances	\$59,882.04	\$79,824.09
Savings & Investment Accounts	581,264.19	417,841.57
TOTAL CHECKING, SAVINGS & INVESTMENTS	641,146.23	497,665.66
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	669.32	693.00
OTHER ASSETS		90.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$641,815.55</b>	<b>\$498,448.66</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payable to Diocese of Cleveland	\$573,255.90	\$562,395.20
Other Accounts Payable	52,963.09	101,384.09
	626,218.99	663,779.29
INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	5,210.00	7,541.00
Mortgage Payable	194,473.65	—
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$825,902.64</b>	<b>\$671,320.29</b>
FUND BALANCE		
FUND BALANCE BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR	(203,758.33)	(184,087.09)
Net surplus (deficit) for fiscal year	19,671.24	11,215.46
FUND BALANCE, END OF FISCAL YEAR	(184,087.09)	(172,871.63)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$641,815.55</b>	<b>\$498,448.66</b>

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[www.facebook.com/SJOC](http://www.facebook.com/SJOC)



## GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

### "\$52 for the Future" – Help Us GROW!

Like every household, the cost to run the parish increases every year – even though measures are taken to reduce costs. This year, we will launch our plan to raise funds to help operate and maintain the parish, grow our ministries, provide more outreach to the needy and save for the future!

### Evangelization: "Operation Andrew"

"We're just not the same without you!" It is our call to evangelize to those that have expressed an interest in returning to the Church or those who have questioned their faith. So bring a friend to church! We will continue to focus on evangelization and outreach to non-active Catholics.

### New Faces

Welcome to *Ben Koval*, Director of Music And Liturgy, his wife Elizabeth arrived in July from St. Jude Parish in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ben graduated from Aquinas College with degrees in Liturgical Music and Music Education and brings his passion

for music and love for the Church to St. John of the Cross. In addition to growing the choirs, Ben plans to offer cantor workshops with neighboring parishes, introduce a new handbell ensemble and possibly host a concert series.

Welcome to *Kate Frasier*, our shared Youth Minister with Ss. Robert & William, studied Communications at John Carroll University and previously worked for The Fish radio station. She discovered her passion of working with teens, and eventually went into ministry full time. Kate also runs EDGE for middle school and helps with the sacrament of Confirmation for the youth.

### SJOC Parish Online

In 2016, St. John of the Cross launched a new website ([www.saintjohnofthecross.org](http://www.saintjohnofthecross.org)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SJOC](http://www.facebook.com/SJOC)) to respond to the increasing popularity of social media. You now can contribute to the collection online, interact with us and share parish activities in real time with your family and friends!