



**NATIVITY** *of* **MARY**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022/2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Nativity of Mary,

Greetings in the Peace of Christ.

We have had another incredible year as a parish, and I am grateful for the resilience and dedication of our community. We have gradually been rebuilding a sense of normalcy in how we do ministry, with groups beginning to meet and more events being planned. I am particularly grateful to the countless volunteers who have stepped up in so many ways.

At the core of any parish is not a particular priest or even the staff that is there (though these things can certainly help to cultivate community). Rather, at a parish's core are the lay faithful—the generous men and women who gladly give their resources and their time to allow the mission of Christ to grow and flourish. Nativity of Mary has a long history of lay-run programs, and I am deeply inspired by the efforts of those serving in various roles, including pastoral care ministers who bring the Eucharist to the homebound, catechists who educate our parish's youth, group leaders who guide small groups and social justice initiatives, liturgical ministries that enhance our worship, and individuals who serve the poor and vulnerable in the broader community through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and VEAP. These are just a few examples of the many roles that our parishioners graciously and generously fulfill.

St. Paul, most notably in his first letter to the Corinthians chapter 12, speaks about how the Body of Christ, the Church, is made up of many members. As each member comes forward with the gifts and talents that they have been entrusted with, the community becomes alive and animated. No two people bring the exact same gifts, even though they may be performing the same ministry! As he states earlier in this same letter (1 Cor 3:6): "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor."

We who are actively in the vineyard of the Lord all play an important role, and when we are knit together by the spirit, it brings forth the most wonderful and unexpected fruit. As we enter another year together as a parish, it is my hope that we will continue, both as individuals and as a collective group of parishioners, to put in the effort to bring forth a good harvest for the Lord.

In the words of St. Gregory of Nazianzen (†390 A.D.), "Jesus wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ the Great Light bathed in the glory of Him who is the very Light of Heaven." May the community of Nativity of Mary continue to grow in strength, love for neighbor, and a desire to make God's presence manifest in the Bloomington community.

In Christ,

*Fr. Nathan LaLiberte*

Fr. Nathan LaLiberte



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

	FY 2024 (Budget)	FY 2023	FY 2022
<b>Operation Revenues:</b>			
Parish Donations & Contributions	\$1,260,000	\$1,353,295	\$1,257,634
School Tuition	\$1,792,957	\$1,648,867	\$1,697,059
Preschool	\$331,606	\$291,703	\$283,059
Creative Clubhouse	\$125,500	\$146,527	\$77,359
Parish Ministries / Programs	\$64,620	\$361,985	\$219,869
School Activities / Programs	\$24,450	\$23,851	\$20,022
School Fundraisers	\$273,200	\$213,270	\$289,336
Non-Operation Plan	\$0	\$282,000	(\$30,828)
<b>Total Operation Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,872,333</b>	<b>\$4,321,498</b>	<b>\$3,813,510</b>
<b>Operation Expenses:</b>			
Parish General Administration	\$562,300	\$544,686	\$448,847
School Educational Expenses	\$2,003,301	\$2,132,075	\$2,151,711
Utilities and Maintenance	\$477,190	\$529,529	\$529,537
Preschool	\$337,669	\$326,213	\$359,958
Creative Clubhouse	\$66,060	\$41,472	\$25,970
Parish Ministries / Programs	\$264,405	\$262,709	\$192,281
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$101,600	\$85,826	\$101,618
School Activities / Programs	\$18,783	\$15,291	\$19,013
School Fundraising	\$94,900	\$67,352	\$47,451
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,926,208</b>	<b>\$4,005,153</b>	<b>\$3,876,386</b>
<b>Operating Revenue over (Under) Operating Expenses</b>	<b>(\$53,875)</b>	<b>\$316,345</b>	<b>(\$62,876)</b>

*Archdiocesan Accounting Policies require Parishes to report their financial information using accrual basis of accounting. This means expenses are recognized when incurred and income is recognized when earned.*

The community of Nativity is truly blessed by the unwavering support of its parishioners who generously contribute not only their financial resources, but also their time, talents, and prayers. We are grateful to each and every one of you!

In fiscal year (FY) 2023, we experienced higher-than-anticipated revenues, primarily due to a reimbursement from the Employee Retention Credit (ERC), a government initiative related to Covid. Apart from this, the Parish also generated modest income for the year.

Looking ahead to FY 2024, we anticipate facing some challenges in our budget. We do not expect to see the same level of one-time revenues, which is projected to result in a 9% overall reduction. Despite the headwinds of inflation, we are projecting slightly lower operating expenses.

In conclusion, we welcome your input and feedback as we plan for the future, and we are always open to questions or comments. Our goal is to make the best use of the gifts we receive, in order to benefit the parish and the community we serve.



## MINISTRIES

- 47 Baptisms
- 41 First Communions
- 34 Confirmations
- 4 Weddings
- 49 Funerals

# NEW AROUND NATIVITY

## SVDP CLOTHING DRIVE

Earlier this fall, the Society of St Vincent de Paul Nativity of Mary Conference conducted a Clothing Drive. SVDP-Twin Cities supplied a 26-foot truck and many parish and school volunteers collected the donated clothing before and after the weekend Masses. The event was a spectacular success. We collected nearly three tons, or about 6,000 pounds of very high-quality clothing that completely filled the truck. Many people will benefit from the parish and school donations that will be distributed through the SVDP Twin Cities Thrift Store.



## AD GENTES

In efforts to respond to Jesus' Great Commission—"go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19)—Nativity began Ad Gentes this summer: a drive-thru prayer and evangelization outreach event. During rush hour, parishioners stood on street corners and held signs inviting passerbys to Nativity for prayer; prayer teams stood ready in the parking lot to receive whoever came by. We had great success and look forward to continuing this ministry.

## FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

This year, Fr. Cassian initiated the practice of the First Saturdays Devotion at our parish. With 30-50 participants each month, this special devotion, which was revealed by the Virgin Mary at Fatima, has become a cherished monthly event. The specific acts of devotion include receiving Holy Communion, going to confession, praying five decades of the Rosary, and meditating for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary, all with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These practices have been powerful for those who attend. We are excited to embark on another year of the First Saturdays Devotion.



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

A new young adult ministry is in town! Over the last year, sports nights, brewery outings, cookouts, trivia games, and most recently a JPIL-themed retreat were offered to our local young adult community in collaboration with St. Edward's, St. Bonaventure's, and Pax Christi. In July, a group of 35+ young adults visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse where they attended Mass and explored the grounds before departing for the bluffs for an epic hike.

## TREE REMOVAL

Several trees have been removed from our grounds due to the ash borer bug infestation. Thanks to the Men's Club and other dedicated volunteers, eight infected trees were successfully taken down earlier this year. Approximately 30 volunteers worked tirelessly from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, using various equipment all donated by Men's Club members. The operation filled a 30-yard dumpster, with parishioners benefiting by collecting firewood. We deeply appreciate the collaborative effort and commitment of all involved in this huge undertaking.

## NEW HYMNALS

After 20 years, we were able to replace our old hymnals with the Gather Fourth Edition books. The musical contents of the new hymnals feature a diverse roster of composers and a wider breadth of musical styles. We were able to purchase these new hymnals largely thanks to the generosity of our parishioners! With over 200 books dedicated in honor of loved ones, we are not only filled with the joy of music each time we open a book, but our hearts also warm seeing the names of so many of those near and dear to Nativity parishioners.

# SCHOOL UPDATE

Nativity of Mary Catholic School continues to thrive and our staff is dedicated to providing an excellent Catholic education. Our mission is to foster academic, spiritual, social, and emotional growth while preparing students to become impactful members of our community and world. We aim to inspire our children to become the saints of the future!

## NEW SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

Nativity of Mary School has embraced cutting-edge technology with the implementation of a state-of-the-art security system thanks to generous donations at last year's Spirit of Spring fundraiser. The new system boasts advanced door access controls and high-resolution cameras, reinforcing the school's commitment to student safety. This proactive approach not only deters potential security threats but also offers peace of mind to parents and staff. Thank you to all who contributed to the funding of this vital upgrade to our campus! The money raised for the Parish Center in 2022 is still in a designated fund as we work with the city to provide a plan for ADA requirements and obtain licenses.



## ACCREDITATION

Nativity of Mary School hosted an on-site visit in the spring of 2023 and earned fully accredited status through the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). This recognition speaks volumes about the school's commitment to maintaining high academic standards and providing quality education. MNSAA accreditation is a rigorous process that involves a thorough evaluation of the school's curriculum, faculty, facilities, and overall educational practices. Nativity of Mary School met the stringent criteria set by MNSAA, affirming its dedication to excellence in education.

Accreditation through MNSAA is a testament to the school's ongoing efforts to enhance the learning experience for its students. Parents can trust that Nativity of Mary School adheres to nationally recognized standards, fostering an environment that promotes academic achievement and personal growth while maintaining our dedication to inspiring saints of the future.



## CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF MARY

Our school came together as a united community of faith—students, parents, parishioners, and staff—to honor and celebrate the life of Mother Mary. Gathering on the soccer field, the sisters led us in a collective rosary, dedicating our prayers to the Nativity of Mary community. Students expressed their love with flowers and cards, creating a heartwarming scene of devotion. Witnessing both the young and the not-so-young anymore fervently praying and counting beads on their rosaries was truly a blessing. The festivities concluded with a joyous rendition of "Happy Birthday," a surprise confetti launch, and freebies for all, making it a memorable day commemorating the precious gift of God's Mother. Mother Mary, pray for us!



## NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

We are pleased to welcome our new Assistant Principal, Sarah Hickel. With a wealth of experience in educational leadership, Mrs. Hickel will play a crucial role in supporting our school's growth and fostering an environment that promotes academic excellence. As our school continues to expand, the importance of this position is paramount to ensuring effective administration, student success, and overall school development.