

Ascension Parish
504 Cowan Avenue
Jeannette, PA 15644-1799

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Dear Parishioners,

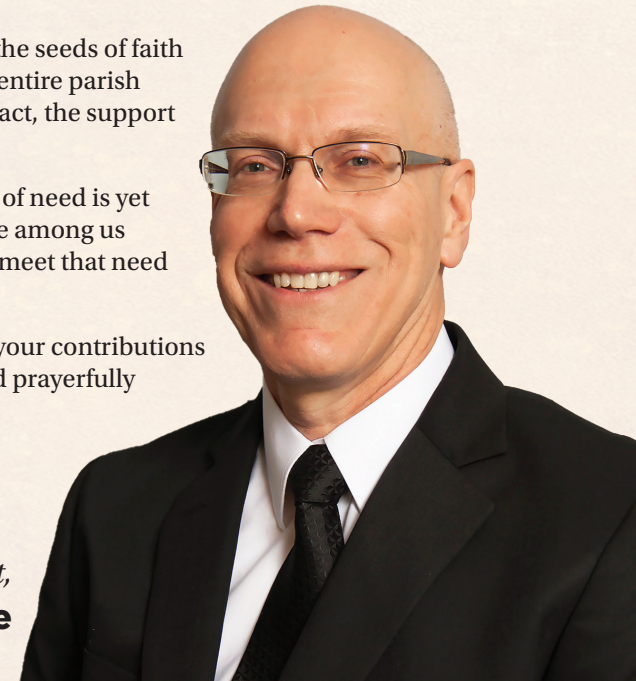
The safety and health of every member of our parish have been in my daily prayers as together we continue to face the ups and downs of the pandemic. Many of you, I know, have endured great pain and personal loss, not to mention the numerous concerns that have developed as the pandemic has imposed an ongoing struggle with fear and isolation in many people's lives. The crosses on the wall at Ascension Church attest to parishioners' personal losses, and the many empty seats in both churches make present the concerns that the pandemic continues to present to us today. Even with the reopening of the businesses and some return to normalcy, there is the ongoing uncertainty of what is next on the horizon.

I hope you have been comforted by our local and Diocesan outreach through streaming Masses, phone calls and pastoral visits. There were also special collections to support mission work at home and around the world, food drives to help the hungry, clothing and baby supply drives to assist young families in need, volunteers who cleaned and sanitized our churches to protect our at-risk parishioners, and outreach coordinators who made a crucial connection with the elderly and homebound. 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, Ascension 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 yet to come. 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. Remember, your contributions keep this parish vibrant and impactful. Please remember your parish this year, and prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship so we can continue God's work.



Yours in Christ,
Deacon Bill Newhouse

Growing Support for our **FAITH** Community



Ascension Parish Annual Report 2021

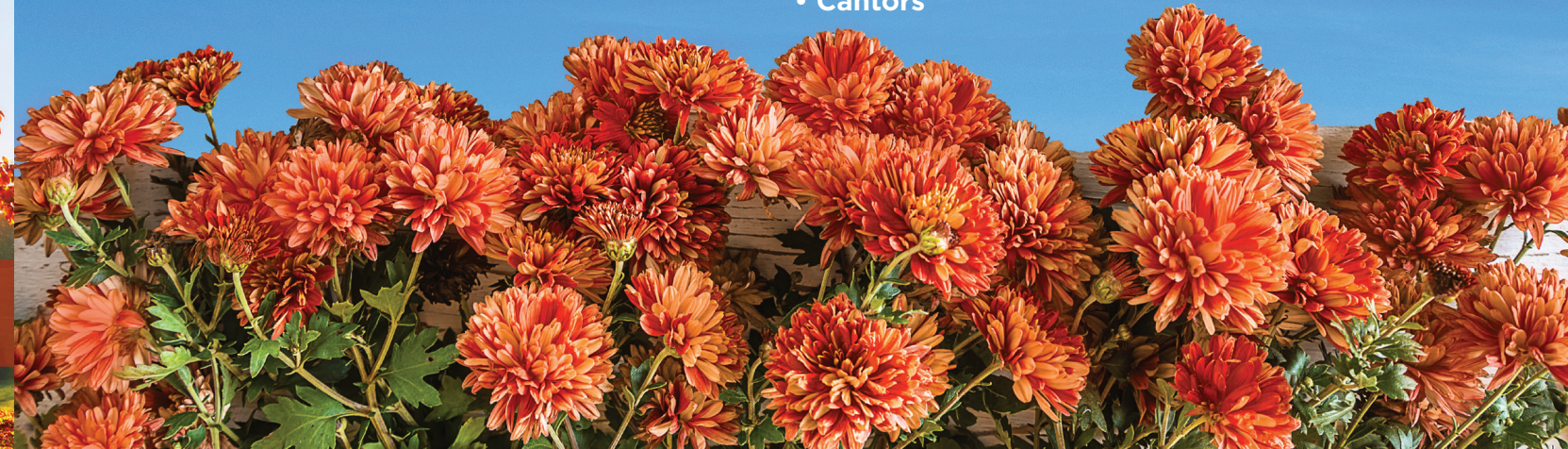
Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

- Pastoral Council
- Jeannette Holy Name Society
- Knights of Columbus
- Rosary Altar Society
- Prayer Chain

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Lectors
- Ushers
- Altar Servers
- Greeters
- Cantors



Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements



Your contributions to our parish help maintain the facilities, making it the center of prayer in our community.

Over the last three years, we replaced the 30-year-old parish phone system and upgraded all office computers and software packages. At Mersinger Hall,

the air conditioning unit and coil were replaced, and the boiler tank and piping were replaced.

Despite all the listed improvements, the challenge of maintaining all of the buildings of both parish campuses is enormous.

Parish Financials

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Offertory	\$ 223,733	\$ 242,868	\$ 299,905
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	1,921	3,064	3,777
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	27,086	61,718	33,488
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	—	22,016	8,439
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	1,592	53,852	29,695
Special Collections	7,573	31,480	22,895
Total Income	\$ 261,905	\$ 414,998	\$ 398,199
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 59,726	\$ 60,915	\$ 77,466
Church	29,211	26,064	32,449
Rectory	6,710	7,398	10,561
Education and Ministry	45,874	56,695	69,184
General Expenses	111,290	161,713	167,402
Special Collections	7,793	31,864	22,924
Extraordinary Expenses	4,291	25,558	9,743
Total Expenditures	264,895	370,207	389,729
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (2,990)	\$ 44,791	\$ 8,470

Our Garden



Registered Households

2021: 500
2020: 516
2019: 481

Single Member Households

272



Baptisms

2021: 5
2020: 5
2019: 2

Weddings

2021: 1
2020: 1
2019: 1



Funerals

2021: 40
2020: 38
2019: 32

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 our parishioners.

While the offertory remained strong, the Diocesan Lenten Appeal, at first, suffered. In addition to the pandemic, the uncertainty of the parishes in Jeannette was a concern. What worried many was the repair at Sacred Heart Church suddenly coming to a halt when the damage exceeded what was anticipated. The temporary closure seemed to turn into something long term, possibly permanent. This uncertainty had a negative effect on the DLA. Following the Bishop's assurance of his support for the churches in Jeannette and the reopening of Sacred Heart Church for liturgies, a DLA extension campaign was run, and all indications show that it is rebounding well.

On the other hand, as I am sure you can imagine, both of our parishes suffered from the loss of fundraising monies. Two summer festivals at Ascension were lost, along with other fundraisers sponsored by the Holy Name and Rosary Altar Societies.

I do want to call your attention to some exciting news, though. We recently hired a pastoral associate for faith formation and evangelization, Elisa Esasky. Elisa will be bringing faith formation back to the parishes, along with heading up our evangelization ministry, youth ministry, young adult ministry and adult education. These efforts will go a long way in planting the seeds of faith in the next generation of our parishes.

In the meantime, Benedictine Father Job Foote has begun a lectionary-based Scripture study on Tuesday evenings, allowing parishioners to become better acquainted with the Bible. He has been working to strengthen the parishes' prayer life by having the rosary prayed before all Masses, eucharistic adoration before weekday Masses, and regular eucharistic adoration, confession and Benediction on Fridays. The first step in evangelization is becoming a people of prayer.

Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:
Ascension Parish
504 Cowan Avenue
Jeannette, PA 15644-1799



IN PERSON:
Monday - Thursday
7:30AM - 12:30PM



ONLINE:
ascensionsacredheart
churches.org

