

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

40 Sullivan Dr, Jersey City, NJ 07305

Mission Statement

We, the faith community of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, joyfully and humbly seek to make our Lord Jesus Christ ever more real in all our lives. We enliven our Mission by a commitment to Stewardship as a Way of Life.



We strive to pursue our Mission by being a welcoming community that provides a home for all and celebrates life, hope and reconciliation through Word, Worship and Service.



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019



WORD - Catechist leads young kids in praying the Apostles Creed at the Liturgy of the Word with Children



WORSHIP - Family brings up gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory



SERVICE - Members of Holy Name Society load grocery bags for delivery to Our Lady Of Sorrows Food Pantry



COMMUNITY - Parishioners break bread at the communal table

A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Our Blessed Virgin Mary!

As a firm believer in God and His divine providence, I want to express my sincere gratitude first and foremost to God, who is the source of all that we have, and then to you, dear parishioners, for your faithfulness and for your love for our parish. We should never stop giving thanks to God for all the graces and blessings He has bestowed upon us. God has wondrously blessed our parish with generous people like you. And because of you, we're doing great!



In the next pages you will find a report of the activities of our various ministries grouped according to the Archdiocesan model of Word, Worship, Community and Service. As you can see, we have a good number of available resources for our spiritual nourishment. Besides regularly coming to Sunday Mass, a good number of you have gone an extra mile. It is good to see many of you moving forward in faith by being part of some of our parish groups or ministries. It is a sign of your being faithful followers of Christ.

For our parish to continue its fine work, your financial support is also needed. Take a look at our financial situation in the next pages. You will see that without the rent from our school building, we could not survive.

This past year, we had many repairs. Some of them were unforeseen. Please refer to the back page of this report for details. Our buildings are old, including the rectory or the priests' house, and are slowly deteriorating. They need our attention. Recently, for the safety of all our parishioners, we installed interior and exterior surveillance cameras throughout our parish plant.

I am so grateful for the generosity of donors who lightened our financial burden by contributing towards some of our major repairs. May God bless their generous hearts! I hope and pray that there will be more generous souls who will step up and do the same.

There are pending repairs that need to be addressed as soon as possible. We hope to get them completed during this current fiscal year. Details are shown on the back page of this report.

We need to raise funds in order to address these projects and to meet our operating expenses. The best possible way to do that is through your weekly offerings and gifts.

The Lord has placed this parish into my hands, and yours as well. It is our responsibility to provide the resources to make Our Lady of Mercy Parish a bright sign of God's kingdom here in our part of Jersey City.

Lovingly yours,
Father Marty B. Jacinto

WORD

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

🌻 For Fiscal Year 2019, we celebrated:

Baptism	23
First Communion and First Reconciliation	31
Confirmation	27
Weddings (including 1 Marriage Validation)	4
Funerals	29

🌻 Our enhanced infant baptism program gathered parents to rejoice, to understand, to prepare, to celebrate, and to remember.

- Four would-be parents rejoiced with mentor couples for the new life they were expecting.
- At the gathering to remember, 4 families shared their journey of parenthood since their babies were baptized.

🌻 Parents and children attended First Reconciliation/Eucharist formation sessions.

🌻 Parents, candidates, and sponsors attended Confirmation sessions and retreat.

EDUCATION AND FORMATIONAL LIFE

Our Lady of Mercy Parish is blessed with a Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation who directs programs for the religious formation of our children

🌻 Our School of Religion had 179 students from Kindergarten to Eighth grade.

🌻 We have 11 catechists and 8 aides who underwent formation, are skilled, and have religious education background.

🌻 Forty-eight children attended Vacation Bible School.

🌻 We have 8 Lectors who completed training at the Newark Archdiocese Center.

🌻 For on-going faith formation, we had

- Days of Recollection
- Encountering the Risen Lord, a day of reflection and re-commitment to our Liturgical Ministry
- Parish mission given by Fr. John Paul Cafiero, OFM
- Live Christ, Share Christ program – 156 parishioners completed training since its inception in 2017
- Appreciate the Word, Live the Word – a Lenten program designed to help us grow in appreciation of the message of the Gospel; 66 parishioners attended.

WORSHIP

LITURGY AT OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH IS A VIBRANT CELEBRATION THAT REFLECTS THE UNITY IN DIVERSITY OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.

- 🌻 Around 1,560 parishioners attend our five weekend Masses, and about 80 parishioners attend our two daily Masses.
- 🌻 Fr. Tom Iwanowski presented a four-part series on "Appreciating the Mass."
- 🌻 Our Music Ministry is directed by the Director of Liturgical Music.
 - The adult choir added 5 new members, bringing our total to 35.
 - The children's choir has 10 members.
 - The Sunday 7 p.m. mass has a choir with 12 members who focuses on Christian Contemporary Music in an effort to improve congregational participation.
- 🌻 We have Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Altar Servers who completed training, either locally or at the Newark Archdiocese Center.
 - We installed 14 new altar servers, bringing total to 63 active altar servers.
 - We commissioned 8 new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- 🌻 Parish Rosary Crusade is in its third decade with 104 Families who hosted the images of our Lady of Mercy and Our Lady of Fatima and prayed the family rosary throughout the year for the intentions of the whole parish.

SERVICE

- 🌻 We have professional ministerial staff persons fully qualified to respond to the spiritual needs of our 1,330 registered parishioners:
 - Pastor, two Parochial Vicars, Permanent Deacon, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, Director of Music Ministries, Director of Youth, Young Adult Ministries, and Assistant for Youth Ministry.
- 🌻 Our Wellness Ministry sponsored several activities for the benefit of OLM parishioners:
 - Winter blood drive 23 pints = 69 lives saved
 - Summer blood drive 31 pints = 93 lives saved
 - Health fair including presentations on diabetes, dental care, aromatherapy, chiropractic work, physical therapy
- 🌻 Ministry to the Sick
 - Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick was celebrated where 120 elderly and sick parishioners were anointed.
 - Visited residents at Alaris Health Nursing Home in Jersey City. Led communion service on the second Monday of the month.
 - Celebrated Mass on the fourth Monday of the month at the same facility.
- 🌻 Jersey City Together ("JCT") is a broad-based, non-partisan organization of about 35 religious congregations, non-profits, parent organizations, and tenant groups working together to address issues in our city. We work on issues important to our members and our communities -- in particular, issues related to housing affordability, education, public safety, and criminal justice.
 - OLM Local Chapter of JCT is an active member of this group since its inception in 2016.

- We continue to work with the City to reduce illegal tractor-trailer traffic in Country Village.
- We worked with the City to make additional parking spots available on part of Lembeck Ave.
- We sponsored a public meeting with the City South District Police Department Commander to discuss and resolve public safety issues in our area.
- We sponsored a public meeting with a Public Service Electric & Gas Company representative to get updates on the Company's projects in our area as well as discuss our residents' concerns.
- We hosted a listening session among our area residents where we gathered information about their problems and concerns which we continue to take up with our City officials.
- We continue to work with City officials in the design, planning and implementation of the proposed Country Village Park, to be located along Sullivan Drive from Danforth Avenue to the Bayonne boundary.
- We participated in the 4th Annual Great Jersey City Clean Up activity.
- We periodically host the meetings of the Strategy Team of JCT. This team is responsible for the planning and implementation of the JCT's goals and projects.
- 🌻 Parishioners donated to the Food Pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows; Holy Name Society delivered and unloaded food items monthly.
- 🌻 Parishioners supported the Giving Tree Ministry that collected and delivered Christmas presents to St. Ann's Day Care Center, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Catholic Charities (serving Jersey City and Union City), Several Sources Shelters (serving unwed mothers), Broadway House Newark (serving HIV/AIDS patients), Covenant House Newark, and Roxas City, Philippines Outreach.
- 🌻 Rosary Society donated palm crosses and hand-made gift bags filled with items for Peace Care St. Anne's Nursing Home.
- 🌻 At the Family Faith Festival, families prepared personal hygiene kits and sandwiches for the homeless, and created personalized greeting cards for sick children and the aged in nursing homes.
- 🌻 Youth Ministry's "Sock it to Homelessness" collected 690 pairs of socks for the homeless.

COMMUNITY

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH INVOLVES ALL PARISHIONERS IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

- 🌻 We have an active youth ministry:
 - Jr. High School – Grades 6, 7 & 8
 - T.O.R.C.H. – Teen Outreach in Response to Community Health – Grades 9-12
 - Connect (Confirmation Peer Ministry Team) – Grades 9-12
- 🌻 We have a Rosary Society, and a Seniors Club
- 🌻 Our Holy Name Society increased its membership to 45, including 14 females
 - They organized an outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, joined by about 400 parishioners
 - They initiated Stations of the Cross in the church for the Fridays of Lent, attended by at least 60 parishioners
 - They actively serve as ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers during regular and special masses.
- 🌻 Ministry Fair – members of several ministries spoke at all weekend Masses for several weeks to explain their mission, and to invite parishioners to join.
- 🌻 Parish Feast was reinstated with novena, praise and worship concert, fellowship, and procession after the Feast Day noon Mass.

Financial Summary

	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	CHANGE Favorable/ Unfavorable
OPERATING REVENUES			
Sunday, Christmas, Easter Collections	\$ 525,224	\$ 532,095	\$ 6,871
Religious Education/Sacrament Fees	31,745	35,601	3,856
Donations, Gifts, Bequests	111,566	126,256	14,690
Rental Income (a)	106,441	149,598	43,157
Interest Income	1,740	1,650	90
Candle Revenues	18,593	18,556	37
Other Income	21,352	23,751	2,399
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 816,661	\$ 887,507	\$ 70,846
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries, Insurance Premiums, Benefits, Pension Costs, Payroll Taxes	\$ 427,687	\$ 435,664	\$ 7,977
Buildings, Utilities, Equipment Costs (b)	169,163	152,663	16,500
Archdiocesan Assessments	54,360	103,812	49,452
Contracted and Professional Services	98,960	80,574	18,386
Religious Education (excluding Salaries)	14,133	3,759	10,374
Liturgical, Office, Priest Residence Supplies	67,621	78,437	10,816
Other Expenses	27,883	27,024	859
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 859,807	\$ 881,933	\$ 22,126
SURPLUS /DEFICIT	\$ 43,146	\$ 5,574	\$ 48,720

(a) Income from Rental of our school building to Starting Points, subject to Archdiocesan debt repayment

(b) Details of repairs and maintenance are shown on back page

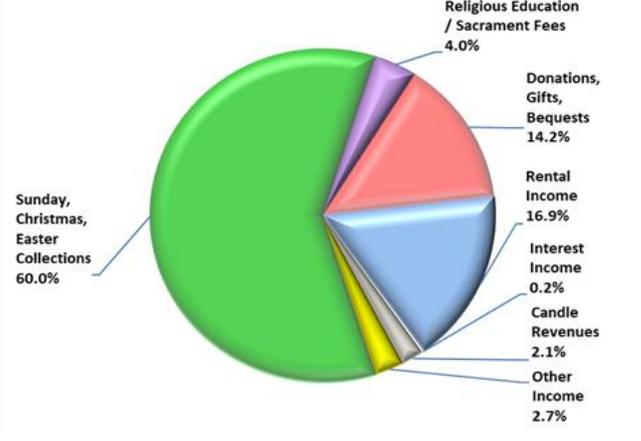
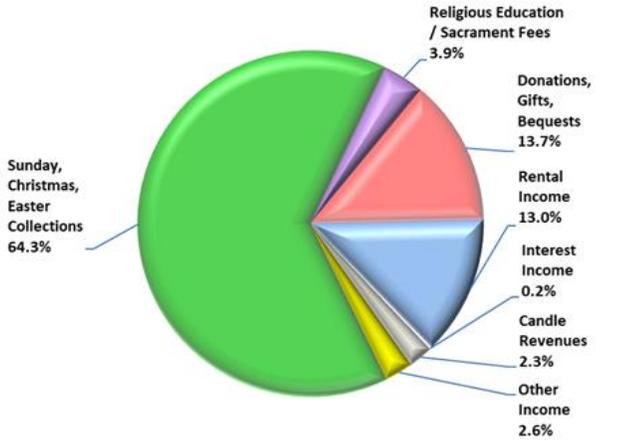
Visit our parish website olmnj.org to see a detailed list of revenues and expenses.

Financial Summary

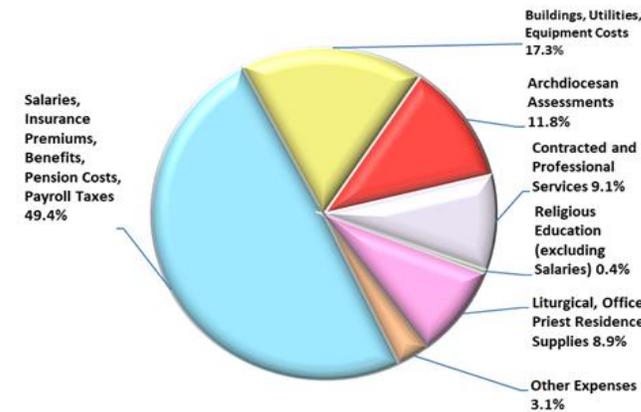
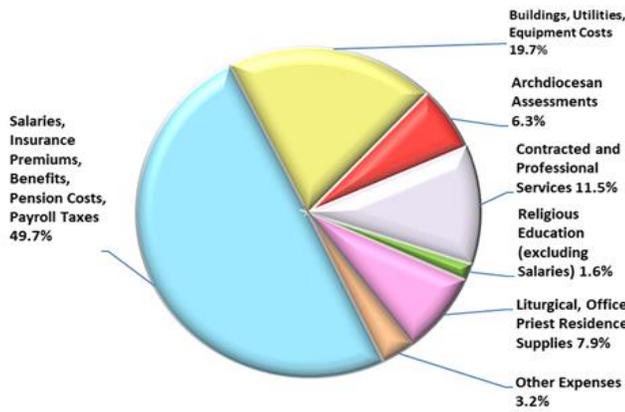
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FY 6/30/2018

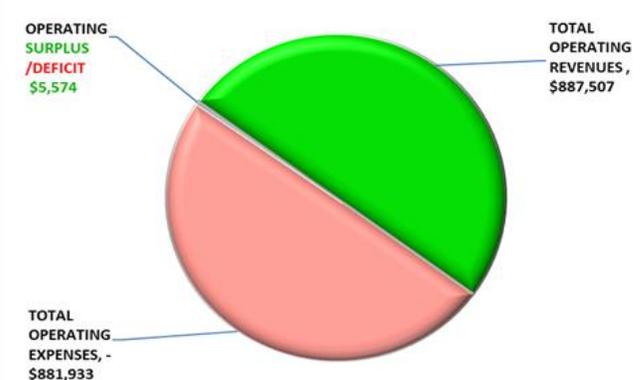
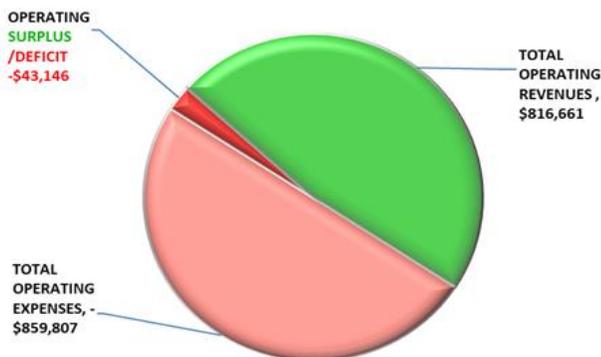
OPERATING REVENUES



OPERATING EXPENSES



SURPLUS / DEFICIT



- (a) Income from Rental of our school building to Starting Points, subject to Archdiocesan debt repayment
- (b) Details of repairs and maintenance are shown on back page

Visit our parish website olmnj.org to see a detailed list of revenues and expenses.

REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE WERE MADE IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR TO OUR FACILITIES:

CHURCH

- Wireless upgrade and replacement of damaged amplifiers in church and Maria Room
- Resurfaced porch on Bro. Stan Drive
- Replaced railings at church entrance
- Replaced one air conditioner compressor
- Cleaned accumulated grime from ceiling
- Repainted ceiling, bathrooms, vestibule, chapel, and choir office
- Rearranged chapel set-up

Parish Center (former convent)

- Repainted parts of the parish center
- Bought 20 new chairs

School

- Installed new automated controller and new refractory for boilers

Security

- Installed new security cameras: 10 in church, 7 in parish center, and 6 in rectory
- Installed security locking on church main doors

Parking Lots

- Repaved 21,000 sq. ft. of church and parish center parking lots
- Repaved church, parish center, and school sidewalks
- Repainted parking lots lines

Much Needed REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL EXPENDITURES Planned For 2020

- Repair sanctuary (or altar) steps
- Repair porch at the priests' residence that is on the verge of collapsing
- Renovations to priests' residence
- Re-point some of the church walls, and re-caulk the gaps or joints of the other walls
- Purchase gas generator for emergency use, such as power outage during a hurricane. Hurricane Sandy in 2013 flooded and damaged the whole Maria Room, when the sump pumps did not operate for lack of power. The Capital Campaign allotted only \$10,000, and it costs more.