



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2020-21

ANNUAL REPORT


The Year of the Eucharist

Greetings from Father Bill McKee

I am honored and excited to be joining the St. John the Baptist Catholic Community. It is a privilege to follow and to build upon the ministry of your founding pastor, Fr. Jack Walmesley and Fr. Jim Coyne who has served you these past 19 years. Together with these men, you, the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Parish, have built a strong community of faith known for your life of stewardship, your advocacy and care for those in need, and your attentiveness to reflect upon and grow in faith.

This has been a time of change and challenge for you as you have struggled with Covid 19. This pandemic has claimed a few of your own members. It has curtailed the ability to gather and put on hold many of your ministries. It has been a time of emotional and financial stress for many families, including our parish family. Because of the pandemic, you were forecasting a \$127,350 deficit. However, due to the generosity of parishioners and the wise stewardship of your parish staff, this past year's deficit was only \$40,722.

Times of change and challenge are opportunities to renew and strengthen the dreams and values of the community. I hope this time of change in pastoral leadership will only strengthen what you hold dear and value about St. John the Baptist Catholic Community. I look forward to traveling with you this journey of faith.



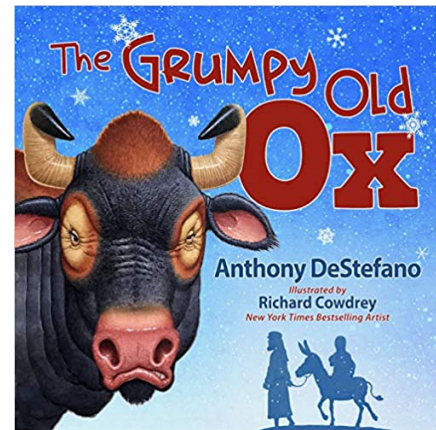
Where we are
TODAY

Eucharist means "Thanksgiving"

And how grateful we are to our God, and to all who have given of their time, talent, and treasure to meet the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of our parish, we moved from recording Masses to streaming them live on our Facebook page, using newly purchased equipment and repurposing spare computers.

By October of 2020, we were able to move Masses inside, with seating limited to 25% of our capacity. In order to receive the Eucharist, attendees had to sign up beforehand. It is a testament to the power of the sacrament that - once vaccines became available in the early spring - Masses filled up every weekend. Our caring phone committee led by Anne Frederick continued to keep in touch with parishioners unable to make it to Mass.

Because we were unable to feature our usual children's pageant on Christmas Eve, we instead invited Mrs. Claus to read *The Grumpy Old Ox* by Anthony DeStefano, which told the story of how the crankiest occupant of the stable of the Christ child was transformed by His birth on Christmas Eve. With the sanctuary filling up, we enlisted the multi-purpose rooms to serve as overflow worship space. Pictured is the paschal fire as observed on the screen. All Christmas Eve and Triduum Masses were livestreamed to allow for overflow, and our environment team worked overtime to ensure a sacred space.



In February, we greeted a foot of snow in the parking lot, and are thankful for the parishioners who cleared the way for Mass on Valentine's Day. At the end of June, we bid farewell to Fr. Jim in temperatures that hit a sweltering 110 degrees Fahrenheit!



Even with the pandemic closing in-person faith formation classes, our team creatively engaged 61 kids in grades K-4 in an online Liturgy of the Word and in video meetings orchestrated by our high school CREW volunteers. By Easter, Pastoral Assistant for Elementary Faith Formation Therese McHenry had engaged the children via "Butterfly Cam" as we watched this metaphor for the resurrection unfold.

79 Middle and high schoolers engaged via Zoom with games, with over half engaged in Confirmation preparation as well.

Adults were able to engage in formation via our all-parish Zoom, Zoom Bible study, and via a number of livestreamed events. RCIA preparation involved 14 youth and adults.



We are so grateful for the 72 volunteers who helped with faith formation, from prepping and teaching craft projects, reading stories online, creating videos, putting together packets, and more!



The parish celebrated 34 baptisms, 5 professions of faith, 81 first Communion, and 49 confirmations (many of the adults among these receiving "all of the above").



In addition, 6 couples were married or had their marriages validated in the church, Father anointed 37 ill persons and held 17 funeral masses. These ceremonies were smaller than usual, often livestreamed, and we can say with confidence that there has not been a single case of COVID19 spread at any of our events. We appreciate everyone's caution and willingness to mask up, vaccinate, and maintain physical distancing.

The operative term for LJP this year has been "drive." Out of our drive to help those less fortunate, we have hosted drives for food, school supplies, and baby supplies for the PREPARES program. As always, parishioners have been generous and we've been able to meet the need of all who have asked.



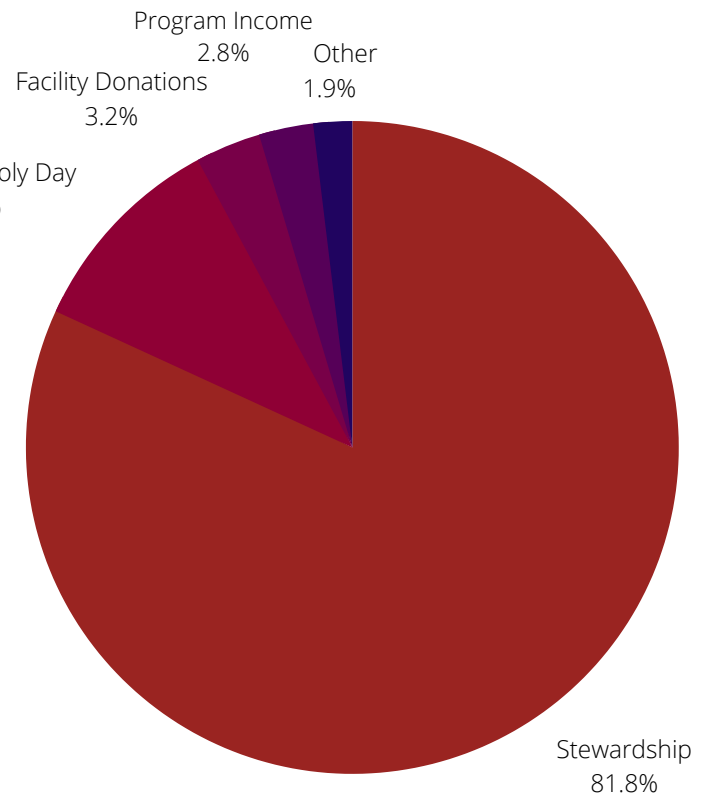
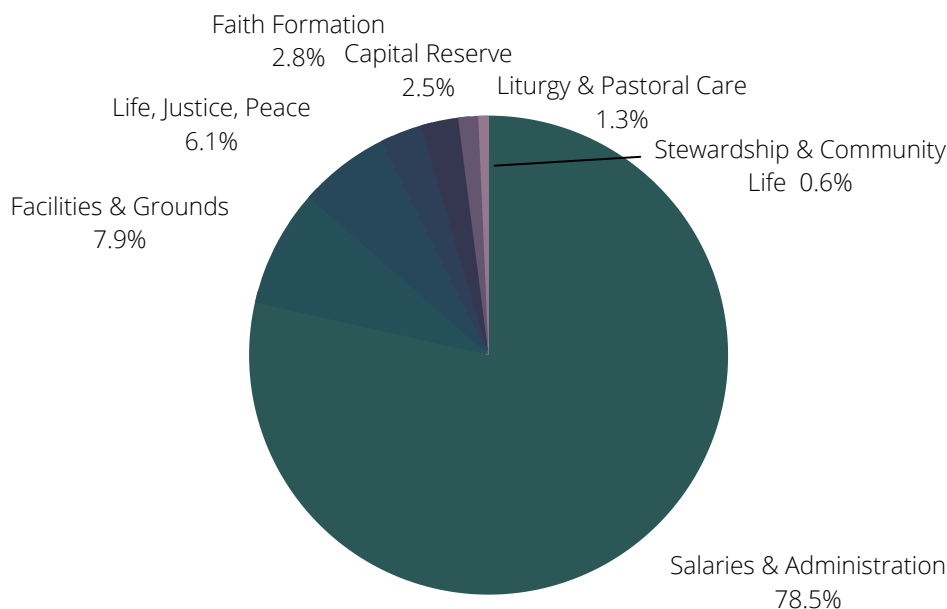
Many of our usual programs moved forward as well: our safe car program continues to have between 3 and 6 guests, and the Knights of Columbus offer them breakfast 2 mornings a week in a safe, clean, well ventilated space, while parishioners left a cooler full of drinking water during the hot months. The Garden of the Good Shepherd, and parishioner gardens, offered produce to the Storehouse.



Two groups of parishioners met weekly via Zoom to participate in the Just Faith series including "Faith and Racial Healing" and "Faith and Racial Equity". Through readings, videos, and exercises, participants explored the history of enslaved black persons in the United States, and their struggles to be recognized as full human beings - which continue today, even in the church. Participants will finish the series with "Faith and Racial Justice" in the next year.

St. John the Baptist finished the fiscal year with revenue totaling \$1,210,539. Giving was \$37,223 greater than expected, given the effects of the pandemic - with many parishioners mailing their pledge or using online options.

Still, revenue in 2020-21 was less than the previous year: \$70,379 less, to be exact. This reflects in dollars what we experienced as a community-the difficulty of participation when we cannot meet as a body.



Expenses were \$40,722 greater than revenue, which is \$86,630 better than expected, as we did not reduce salaries. Since program occurred primarily online, we were able to reduce operating expenses by quite a bit, even with the investments we made in technology.

Like many parishes in the Archdiocese, St. John the Baptist received a PPP (Paycheck Protection Plan) loan for \$100,000. This loan was "forgivable," meaning it does not have to be repaid, and meant to offset 2.5 months of lost revenue while we were closed. We applied for forgiveness in November, and as of June 30 had not been notified that this has been approved, so the loan will become a grant in FY 2021-22.

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021

Checking.....	\$166,542
Petty Cash.....	\$ 100
Savings.....	\$324,366
Capital Reserve.....	\$249,603

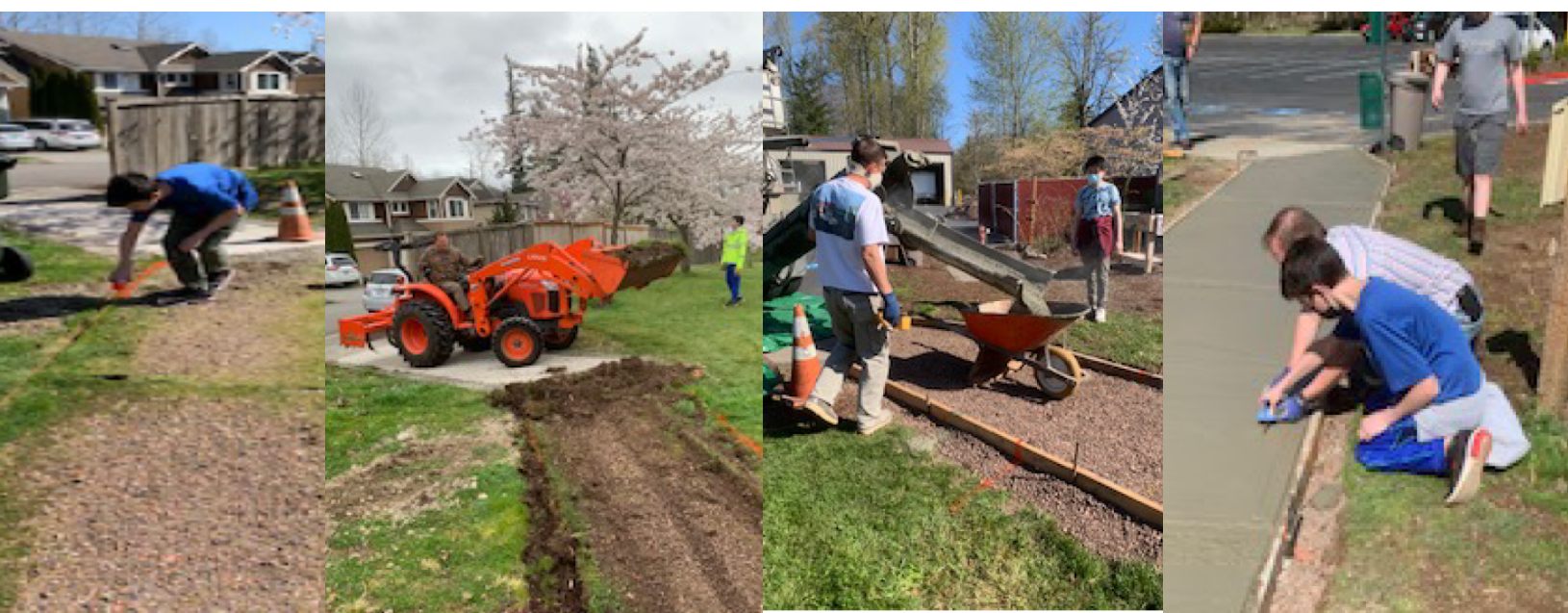
There can be advantages to leaving buildings empty over a period of time. We resurfaced the parking lot, finished painting exterior doors, and deep cleaned many well-used areas, including the kitchen. Volunteers took over much of the work, further evidence of stewardship in action.

Thanks to generous giving of parishioners, we finished the equipment upgrade in the sanctuary: we have TV monitors to show video announcements, we have lighting for the altar and ambo, and we are able to stream events live via Facebook, using multiple cameras.

Zoom, and additionally GoTo, was our most significant technology upgrade, and we continue to use it for online and hybrid meetings, welcome gatherings, and faith formation events.



Scouting continues to support the work of the church. Benny Beatty completed the sidewalk connecting the neighborhood to the east with our walkways, making the walk to school much easier for our neighboring families, as his Eagle Scout project. Alex Litchfield completed work painting the interior of the garage for his Eagle Scout project.





Father Jim's 19 years at St. John the Baptist came to a close June 30th, culminating a month's worth of liturgies celebrating his time with us. He signed the Life Teen cross and received small crosses made from the wood, received a basket of goodies from around the world, a car tote full of items for his road trip, a quilt of the National Parks, and other gifts from parishioners and friends.

Father's portrait, holding up the consecrated host, is hanging next to Fr. Walmsley's as the second pastor of the parish. Page Lane is the artist.

Video's of Fr. Jim's time with us are still available on the website.

The final liturgy, celebrated in 110 degree weather!, finished with a presentation emceed by Jim Battles and a BBQ hosted by the Knights of Columbus and the St. John's kitchen crew led by Kathy Pryor.



Jennifer Burianek led the transition committee that met with the Archdiocese to plan Father Jim's farewell and Father Bill's welcome. Playing a key role in the planning was party lady extraordinaire, Connie Tietz.

Father Jim continues to live close by and will fill in for Fr. Bill from time to time. We are very fortunate to have had him as our second pastor!