

St. Mary Parish

Serving Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, & Rowley

2009 Annual Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Maintaining the richness of our Faith

Sacramental, religious education, and spiritual development activities that pass on the rich traditions of our faith:

Sacraments:

46 Baptisms
89 First Communions
56 Confirmations
4 Marriages
31 Funerals

Religious Education:

Our Religious Education Program is reaching 550 students - taught by 106 teachers
Grade 1: Saints Pageant
Grade 2: Mass of Belonging
Grade 9 and 10: "Dating without Regret" with the Ipswich parish
Grade 10: Rite of Enrollment Mass

Spiritual Development:

Way of the Cross - each Friday during Lent was very well attended. This past year each week was hosted by a different parish committee or group.
Adult Education Bible Study - Wednesdays in the Georgetown Chapel we have been studying John's Gospel, The 3 books of John, and Revelation.
ARISE Together in Christ program met during Lent and October has had active participation by 7 small groups of parishioners.
The Truth Project met over the summer and was enjoyed by 25 parishioners
Rosary Group continues to meet every Thursday night in the Georgetown church.
Tuesday Rosary Group continues to meet every Tuesday rotating between the Sisters of Notre Dame, Our Lady of Hope, and St. Mary's Rowley Church.

Dear Parishioners:

This is the first time we are using this new format to bring you the Parish Annual Report. Our Parish Pastoral Council and our Parish Finance Council have been working to present an accurate picture of where we stand as a parish. We hope that this new format will be helpful to you.

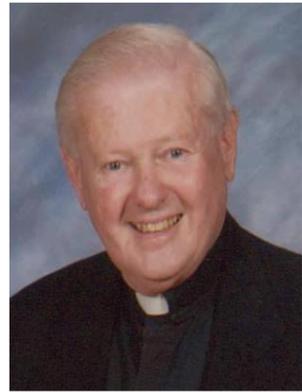
I wish to state first and foremost my appreciation for all the work done while I was recuperating from my heart attack and foot problems. Diabetes does not kill you - everything it causes kills you. And I discovered this personally at the end of May. Luckily I was in the hospital for the foot when the heart attack occurred. My staff informed me how many people came forward to offer their services, support and prayers. For this I am extremely and sincerely grateful.

As you may know the problems with the economy have affected our parish as it has affected so many others. Our increased giving campaign, conducted during my absence but with my full knowledge and support, has helped to some extent to assure some financial stability and seems to be moving our finances in the right direction. I certainly hope that, as the economic recovery takes place, you will remember your parish and its needs.

Finally, I wish all to know that at the recommendation of my doctors in Boston I have resigned as Vicar Forane of the Haverhill Vicariate. This will allow me to concentrate fully on our parish, its services and its problems, as well as the ministries that I enjoy so much - especially those involving our teens.

Blessings,

Fr. Jim



**Parish Pastoral Council's Report
July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009**

If we take a moment to reflect on our parish over the 12 months which ended June 30, 2009, we are given an opportunity to recognize the many wonderful strengths of our parish community and to confront the realities of our more significant challenges. We are blessed with a small core of committed staff and laypersons who have worked tirelessly to, maintain, and, in some cases enhance, the liturgy, ministries, spiritual development and services provided within our parish. A quick read of the weekly bulletin will reveal the depth and breadth of the programs, events and opportunities available to all of our parishioners as they celebrate their faith.

With a parish footprint that spans 4 towns and 3 school systems and a parishioner demographic mix that continues to diversify, the parish mission becomes more difficult to achieve. Our mission is to create a living and loving community of believers seeking a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ by providing a warm and welcoming home for all the People of God. We all come to our parish community with a variety of expectations, traditions and life experiences. Together they provide a rich mosaic of our Catholic faith but, in isolation, may distract us from the core mission of our parish community and the many blessings we have at St. Mary's. Given our size and the variety of parishioner expectations, there will always be some aspects of our parish life that may not satisfy all the expectations of every single parishioner. If, together, we

can focus on the most important elements of our faith, we may be better able to enjoy and partake of the many opportunities available for us to celebrate our faith together at St. Mary's.

Social Opportunities available to Parishioners:

Volunteer Cruise
Annual Chicken BBQ
Archdiocese 200th Anniversary Celebration at All Saints
Vendor Fair to Support RE
Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service
Children's Nativity Play
Holy Hour For Life
Game Day
Senior Valentine Dinner Dance
Boy Scout & Girl Scout Sundays
Pasta Cook-off
First Communion Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus
Scholarship Pancake Breakfast
Women's Club
Ultreya - Monthly Pot Luck & Prayer
Boston Pops Trip
Parish Fishing Trip

Our very own Mo Levasseur received the richly deserved **LIGHT OF THE WORLD AWARD** from the Archdiocese of Boston for her new and innovative work with the youth of our parish. Our 7th and 8th graders have been encouraged to do community service and they have a great time doing it.

Our long term goal is to have our extended parish family recognize the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist, with active attendance at weekly Mass central to their lives. Together with Fr. Carroll, the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, and the parish staff have considered many different strategies for reaching out to our fellow parishioners in order to get them more actively involved in their Faith. We would welcome the non-practicing parents of our religious education students, Catholics who only celebrate the Eucharist at Christmas and Easter, and those who have not felt welcome for a variety of reasons. This is an important and mighty effort in the wake of the more recent reconfiguration and the more distant abuse scandal. Our efforts to gather these members back into our parish family over the past six months has been particularly challenging without Fr. Carroll actively guiding the life of our parish.

In many respects, parish life has been in "status quo" since May as we anxiously await Fr. Carroll's return to full-time ministry. Many parish families are struggling during these challenging economic times and, consequently, the parish finances are struggling too. Over the past summer, some parish employees were asked to take furloughs from their positions or to agree to work fewer hours. Repairs to the septic system in Rowley are on hold, and the overall



Our Mass Celebrants
Rev. James M. Carroll, Pastor
Rev. Richard Craig, &
Rev. Thomas Kelley



Our Parish Pastoral Council
Anna McGrath, Bill Lucas, Joe Kosciuszek,
George Fischer, Mary Lou Sullivan,
Carol McManus, & Kathy Ferreira
Not Shown - Joe Soucy & Kathy Killam



Our Parish Finance Council
Tom Delmonaco, Chuck Michel,
Chuck Trotta, Don Coleman,
Kevin Bisson, Diane Loehle, &
Bob Apprich,

financial stability of the parish, though solvent today, continues to erode. The solution to these challenges is a complex one, and it is inextricably tied to the declining attendance at Masses and the lack of financial commitment on the part of many enrolled parishioners. These challenges are not unique to St. Mary's parish community – they are being felt across many Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese. We do have a wonderful opportunity ahead of us to join together to address these challenges and make St. Mary's a more active faith community than it is today. For those of you who have the skills, talents and resources to help with this important mission, we ask that you consider giving a small amount of your time and join the current team of parish staff and volunteers who give so freely of their time and effort. We do need your help as continuing to operate with the current level of resources is not sustainable over the long term. Rejoice, join in and celebrate! You are an important part of the St. Mary's community. Together we can make a difference.

Respectfully Submitted by the Parish Pastoral Council.

**St. Mary's Parish
Parish Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2009 and 2008**

As many of you know, this past twelve months have been a very difficult time for many of the parishioners in our Parish Family, and understandably, this has had a major impact on our financial situation this year. Bottom line – the expenses have been greater than our income. Nevertheless, the Capital Campaign contributions made and anticipated have been very gratifying. The renovations at the Georgetown site are almost complete and our debt is less than what we expected. In 2010, our financial outlook has our Parish facing another challenging year, but, we, the Parish Finance Council, ask for your understanding of the situation and for your continued support of St Mary's Parish.

The following section details the parish finances for Fiscal Year 2009, covering the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Parish financial results for FY 2009, 2008 and the Parish's projected FY 2010 Budget are presented in the adjacent chart.

Parish Income

Parish income, excluding income from the Capital Campaign, for FY 2009 totaled \$394,072. This is a 15% decline in overall income from the previous year. The current economic crisis coupled with the fact that some of our parishioners are dealing with unexpected job losses caused our weekly offertory to see an 8% decline

Other Aspects of our Parish Community:

People Helping People served 26 families in need at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter
Pregnancy Care Center - St. Mary's is always very generous to this annual drive to help support the needs of mothers who bravely chose life. With "The Giving Tree" and the "Baby Bottle Drive" Paul V Sullivan Scholarship Program awarded 5 Scholarships in 2009
KOC Bottle and Can Recycling – yielded \$948 last fiscal year.

Ministries:

Communion Calls are provided by 10 volunteers within our parish
Eucharistic Ministers: 34 active ministers assist in the celebration of the Eucharist.
Choir/Music Ministry: 30 parishioners are active in bringing music to the Eucharist.
Alter Servers: 26 young people assist in the Mass with 5 joining this past year.
Lectors: 12 parishioners
Ushers: 4 at each of the Masses.
Greeters: There are 12 that cover the 3 Masses each weekend.
The Prayer Shawl Ministry produced 48 shawls. 27 were distributed to those in need.



Our Religious Education Staff
Stephanie McGann, Secretary
Mary Williams, DRE
Tricia Hanlon, ADRE



Our Office & Custodian Staff
Stephen Williams, Assistant Custodian
Maureen Cannon, Secretary
Tom Rowinski, Custodian
Nanette Hadley, Business Manager



Our Music Directors
Chandler Noyes, Georgetown
Pat McDonough, Rowley

over the previous year. Our Grand Annual collection, which is vital to maintaining our parish, declined almost 60% in FY 2009 due to the introduction of the Capital Campaign. Our hope is to increase our Grand Annual collection for 2010. Other income collected by the Parish saw a decline of 33% in FY 2009. Other income is made up of funds received primarily from gifts, bequests and fundraising.

Parish Expenses

Despite escalating costs in utilities, compensation, and benefits, total parish expenses decreased \$6,718 in FY 2009 from the FY 2008 levels. During FY 2009, the staff made a conscientious effort to contain Administrative Expenses. In addition, during FY 2009, a decision was made to use our Rowley site only on Sunday to minimize the fuel costs since oil prices soared. The Parish also took advantage of a fixed pricing feature for gas heat at the Georgetown site. The heating expenses decreased significantly and had a very positive effect on our facilities expense. The expenses that could not be controlled internally were employee benefits. The Archdiocese of Boston administers all of our benefits. The Archdiocese has done a great job in the past to stabilize these costs. However, in FY 2009, external pressures caused health care and pension costs to be increased.

FY 2010 Budget

Our FY 2010 Budget was prepared using zero-based budgeting in order to continue to contain and reduce Parish expenses wherever possible. Every staff member was required to take unpaid work furloughs. The music staffs in both sites were furloughed for July and August and the Religious Education staff was furloughed for July. Administrative staff will be taking their furloughs throughout the year. Maintenance staff hours were reduced and more of the health insurance costs will be borne by employees. As part of the budgeting process, we were faced with the increased cost for Clergy compensation due to Fr. Carroll's illness. In order to help alleviate the additional Clergy costs, Fr. Carroll donated one month's salary back to the Parish and Fr. Kelly paid for all of his living expenses personally rather than having the Parish cover these costs. Despite all of this planning, our Parish is still facing a deficit for FY 2010. As a result, we have reached out to all of our registered parishioners in hopes of bringing them back to our weekly liturgy, as well as our Religious Education Program. Our goal is to see an increase to our Offertory for FY 2010 so we can avoid further cuts to Parish expenses.

Capital Campaign

St. Mary's Parish Capital Campaign has been a bright spot for the Parish. As of June 30, 2009, through the generous donations and pledges for the Campaign, the Parish has been able to complete 90% of the planned

renovations to the Georgetown site. The renovations included replacing the roof on the church, repairing and painting the interior of the church, installation of a handicapped lift as well as new handicap accessible bathrooms to make the church compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The kitchen in the Parish Hall was also renovated. As of June 30, 2009, \$144,409 has been collected through donations and an additional \$236,144 has been pledged for the Capital Campaign. The outstanding debt as of June 30, 2009 for the Capital project was \$175,357.

Parish Savings

As of June 30, 2009, the Parish had cash balances as follows: \$62,698 in operating checking and savings accounts, \$85,898 in a Capital Campaign account and \$37,529 in restricted savings accounts. The total balance in savings amounts to \$186,125.

Respectfully Submitted by the Parish Finance Council.

Income:	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2008	% of Change	Budget FY 2010
Offertories	\$262,447	\$285,571	-8%	\$259,500
Grand Annual Collection	15,170	37,660	-60%	25,000
Sacramental Offerings	10,923	10,750	2%	9,000
Religious Education	47,730	49,108	-3%	60,000
Interest	5,993	4,860	23%	5,000
Other	51,809	77,439	-33%	21,600
Total Income	\$394,072	\$465,338	-15%	\$380,100
Expenses:				
Compensation & Benefits	\$205,570	\$177,365	16%	\$199,520
Administration	20,583	25,067	-18%	23,500
Facilities	119,481	127,387	-6%	108,237
Pastoral	63,740	75,161	-15%	42,640
Outreach	15,857	27,063	-41%	18,148
School Subsidy	14,357	14,263	1%	13,000
Total Expenses	\$439,588	\$446,306	-2%	\$405,145
Net Operating Income	(\$45,516)	\$19,082	-338%	(\$26,045)

Capital Projects	Fiscal Year 2009
Roof	\$265,859
Handicap Lift & ADA compliance	37,174
Handicap Bathrooms	49,121
Kitchen improvements	21,693
Other	9,877
Total Capital Project Expenses	\$383,724