

**Holy Cross Parish**  
711 Depot Street  
Youngwood, PA 15697

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Greensburg, PA  
Permit No. 130

### Dear Parishioners,

God warns us about tough times. The Bible talks of illness and asks us to visit the sick. Then if we are ill, we have coping skills.

Fourteen years ago, I had a lump on my left arm. I anointed a dying man. His wife was a tiny woman and when thanking me, she hugged me and made the lump hurt! Then, I began to take it seriously. I found Dr. Armanious who removed the lump and scheduled me for 35 radiation treatments at the Arnold Palmer Cancer Center. Now, I can say, I am still here. People I ministered with with cancer had taught me everything they could about the disease. I was extremely grateful.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, we all have been sorely tried. Finances have been tougher for many. The prices of everything seem to have risen dramatically. Some have no work. Others were ill, etc. Times have been rough.

Both Bishop Malesic and Bishop Kulick have asked us to wear masks and to sterilize the Church after each Mass. We spent money on sterilizing equipment for the Church and rectory.

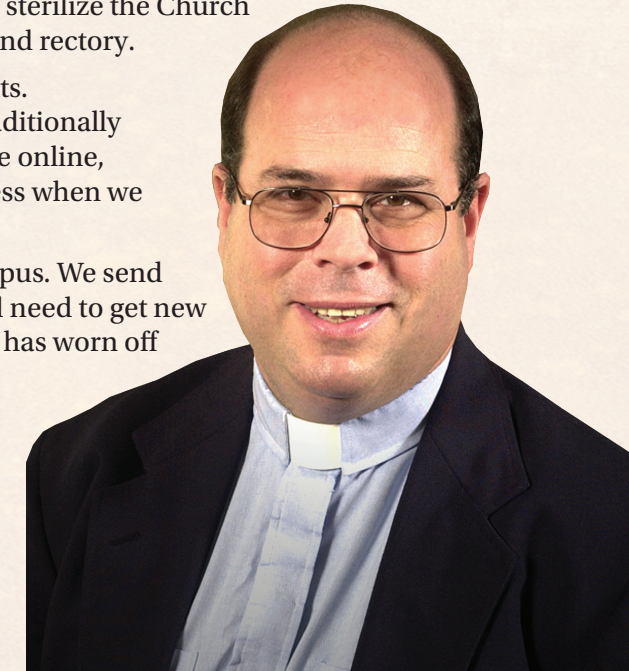
Now the bishops are asking people to come back to Mass and the sacraments. Bishop Kulick is asking for an increase in the offertory. This can be done traditionally with envelopes or by online giving through the internet. To learn how to give online, contact Scott Sisteck in our office. It is easy, safe and convenient and costs less when we can eliminate envelopes.

In the last several years, we have done many renovations to the church campus. We send youth to conferences and have a great religious formation program. We will need to get new hymnals in the near future and will need to refinish the pews as the varnish has worn off with the constant cleaning.

You are all in my prayers. Keep each other and me in yours as well as we progress beyond COVID-19.

Thanks for considering an increase in the offertory. Saint Paul says:  
"God loves a cheerful giver!"

*1000 Blessings,*  
**Father McGuirk**



Growing Support for our  
**FAITH**  
Community



**Holy Cross Parish Annual Report 2021**

## Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

- **Altar Server** - Altar servers assist the priest in preparing for Mass.
- **Music Ministry** - Choirs and cantors provide musical support of full and active participation in the liturgy.
- **Greeters** - Greeters welcome parishioners to our faith community.
- **Money Counters** - These individuals assist in counting collections.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist** - Parishioners assist the priest in distributing the Eucharist at Mass.
- **Religious Formation Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders** - These individuals assist in forming the next generation of Christ's disciples.
- **Lectors** - Lectors proclaim the word of God during Mass or other liturgical functions. Lectors devote time to preparation and understanding of sacred Scripture.
- **Women's Guild** - The Women's Guild provides many social, spiritual and service opportunities for parish women.
- **Ushers** - The ushers take up the offertory and distribute bulletins after Mass. They also assist as needed with emergencies and other concerns.
- **Ministers of Hospitality** - These volunteers provide pastoral care to the sick and homebound of the parish. The ministers take the Eucharist to the sick where they are at home, a personal care home or a nursing home.





# Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements



Your contributions to our parish help maintain the facility, making it the center of prayer in our community. Over the last three years, we installed two concrete wheelchair ramps, replaced sidewalks around the church, and installed two new roofs on the school and a new roof on the rectory. We repointed the school and church buildings; replaced upper windows in the rectory; installed new windows on part of the school building; and completed a new kitchen in the church social area, new reconciliation rooms and a new

ADA-accessible restroom on the main floor of the church. Current projects include replacing the sewage lines in the basement of the rectory, rewiring the rectory, repointing a small portion of the rectory, adding a new garage, the permanent placement of St. Gilbert's bell outside the church, replacement of stairs in the church and the completion of the window project at the school. Future projects include refacing the rectory kitchen cabinetry and new air conditioning units for the church.

## Parish Financials

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
<b>Offertory</b>	\$ 305,993	\$ 298,857	\$ 277,169
<b>Other Ordinary Income</b> <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	7,720	6,447	8,295
<b>Extraordinary Income</b> <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	71,311	67,301	84,571
<b>Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund</b>	52,681	61,212	27,693
<b>Other Non-Assessable Income</b> <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	101,744	199,454	150,828
<b>Special Collections</b>	28,467	45,470	17,625
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 567,916</b>	<b>\$ 678,741</b>	<b>\$ 566,181</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	\$ 119,192	\$ 108,972	\$ 107,405
Church	51,166	38,079	42,714
Rectory	22,545	8,651	13,688
Education and Ministry	65,591	64,236	73,493
General Expenses	166,633	152,952	134,024
Special Collections	27,713	44,011	18,375
Extraordinary Expenses	102,180	251,817	198,503
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>555,020</b>	<b>668,718</b>	<b>588,202</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 12,896</b>	<b>\$ 10,023</b>	<b>\$ (22,021)</b>

## Our Garden



### Registered Households

2021: 552  
2020: 562  
2019: 622

### Single Member Households

141



### Baptisms

2021: 4  
2020: 3  
2019: 7

### Weddings

2021: 1  
2020: 3  
2019: 0



### Funerals

2021: 26  
2020: 17  
2019: 15



## 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; but it was greatly assisted by online giving and a record-breaking Diocesan Lenten Appeal.

As I am sure you can imagine, our parish, and particularly our societies, suffered from the loss of fundraising monies. Last year, our fall festival was cancelled and we had to do an UN-FESTIVAL. We do have some fundraising in the form of tickets, so please consider participating.

I do want to call your attention to some of the youth programs at our parish over the past number of months. When the pandemic first hit last spring, our parish was one of the first to transition to online religious education. Both youth ministry and faith formation met regularly over ZOOM to continue their spiritual growth. Youth ministry returned in person during the year following all safety precautions, and faith formation met each week over ZOOM for class. The program was blessed to host a Palm Sunday event at the church that was well attended and received. None of these undertakings would have been possible without the tremendous time and talent of our parish formation and youth ministry teams. Vacation Bible School met online in 2020 with 20 children and returned in person with close to 30 children attending in 2021. These programs will resume this fall and will depend on your generosity, support, and prayers.

## Ways You Can Give



**BY MAIL:**  
Holy Cross Parish  
711 Depot Street  
Youngwood, PA 15697



**IN PERSON:**  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00AM - 4:00PM  
Friday - 9:00AM - 3:30PM



**ONLINE:**  
[osvhub.com/holycross-church/funds](https://osvhub.com/holycross-church/funds)

