



June 2021

Dear Families,

Like every other school in MN, St. Mary's Catholic School was faced with many challenges due to COVID-19, but overall we feel many positive things happened this school year. We were fortunate to maintain in-person learning for the entire school year. I couldn't be more proud of the ways the staff and SMS families committed themselves to ensuring the best possible education during the difficult situations they endured this year. Despite needing to continuously adjust schedules and lessons, the classrooms managed to accomplish a large amount of meaningful instruction, while figuring out distance learning and navigating COVID restrictions and illnesses. St. Mary's Catholic School's goal is to continue to provide the best academic experience for our students in a faith-filled environment. This report will provide some information in regard to the current state of our school.

## Mission Statement

***St. Mary's Catholic School is a faith-filled community that illuminates the teachings of Jesus by using our hearts, hands, and voices as Christian witnesses while striving for academic excellence.***

## Financial Report

The estimated cost to educate a student at St. Mary's School will be \$5,394 for the 2021-2022 school year. The following areas are the ways in which St. Mary's is funded.

**Tuition:** Tuition will remain the same for the 2021-2022 school year:

First Child	Grades K-6	\$1875
Second Child	Grades K-6	\$1550
Third Child	Grades K-6	\$1275

*\*Add an additional \$950 per student if not a registered member of a Parish*

**Preschool:** Little Saints Preschool tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year:

5 full days:	\$400.00/month	
4 full days:	\$325.00/month	
3 full days:	\$250.00/month	
2 full days:	\$175.00/month	available for 3-year olds only
5 half days:	\$200.00/month	
3 half days:	\$125.00/month	available for 3-year olds only

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**Financial Report-continued**

**Subsidy:** St. Mary's Church will support the school with \$130,000 in subsidy for the 2021-2022 school year; this is \$70,000 less than previous years. Because of the current financial status of the parish, we will also be receiving \$70,000 from the Endowment Fund and \$30,000 from the St. Mary's School Auction reserve fund to meet our operating budget. St. Mary's School administration meets with the School Board, Finance Committee, and Parish Council monthly to discuss operations of the school, including budget and financial projections. As the new church building is now completed and church expenses are beginning to be established, these discussions will become more important as we look to the future of the school as a mission of the parish. New fundraiser and donor opportunities continue to be discussed and are implemented regularly to offset declining subsidy dollars available from the church.

**Catholic Foundation:** The foundation was founded by Bishop John F. Kinney in 2000 to hold and manage funds raised from the "Living the Promise" campaign. It offers scholarships and initiatives to support Catholic Schools. Money is raised for these scholarships through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, Breakfast with the Bishop, and the Bishop's Annual Golf Fundraiser. Through this foundation we receive donations from:

Stearns County Endowment Fund	\$900
Great Technology Giveaway	\$1200
Living the Promise Scholarship (scholarship and tuition assistance)	\$1500
Catholic Schools Student Scholarship Fund	\$1700
Living the Promise Grant	\$1500
Annual Appeal	\$5500

**Donations:** We also receive many donations from companies and individual people throughout the year that helps us balance our budget.

**Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund:** The Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund was started in memory of Stacy, a former St. Mary's Catholic School parent, who passed away in May of 2019. The 2021-22 school year is the second year the Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund was available to families who qualify for financial assistance. Assistance is available for students in Pre-K through 6th grade. This scholarship fund has been started with the generous gifts of Stacy's family, friends, and community members who were touched by Stacy's giving nature. We continue to accept donations to keep the fund available for years to come.

**Fundraisers:** With the uncertainty of what the 2020-21 school year was going to look like financially, we added some new fundraisers and changed or dropped a few others. The Harry's Pizza Fundraiser and adjustments made to the Auction4Education were a huge success.

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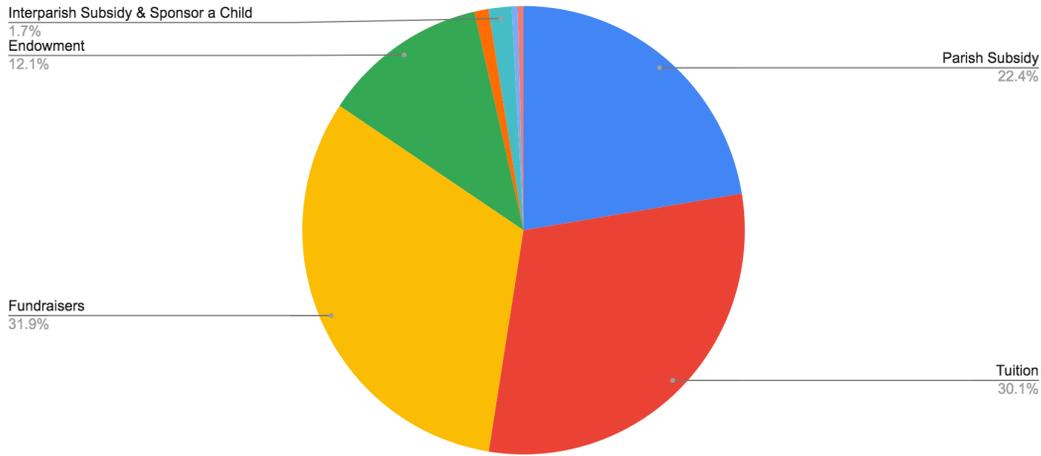
Fundraiser	Amount Raised in 2020-2021
Freeport Golf Classic	\$4,500
St. Bernard/St. Elizabeth Breakfast- Not able to have because of Covid- Instead donation cards were sent to members	\$1000
Marathon/Prayer-a-thon	\$25,668
Catholic Schools Breakfast-Not able to have because of Covid	\$0
Auction4Education (including raffle)	\$124,377
Harry's Pizza	\$18,832
Coborn's Coupon Book	\$8,250
Extra Programs that generate revenue	Amount Received in 2020-2021
Box Tops	\$267
Caseys	\$31
Pop Cans	\$1,048
Coborn's More Rewards	\$1,390
Arvig	\$2,445

**SMS\$4Kids:** The total program rebate for 4/1/20 - 3/31/21 was \$8,768.02. St. Mary's School made a profit of \$5,809.84 after expenses (including \$2,880.68 that was given out in tuition reimbursements.) The **SMS\$4Kids Program** ("SMS Cash for Kids") is a wonderful program used to raise funds for the school as well as help **reduce your tuition commitment**. The best part about the program is there is **NO ADDITIONAL COST** to the people using it. If you or someone you know would like to start using SMS\$4Kids please contact the school at 320-256-4257.

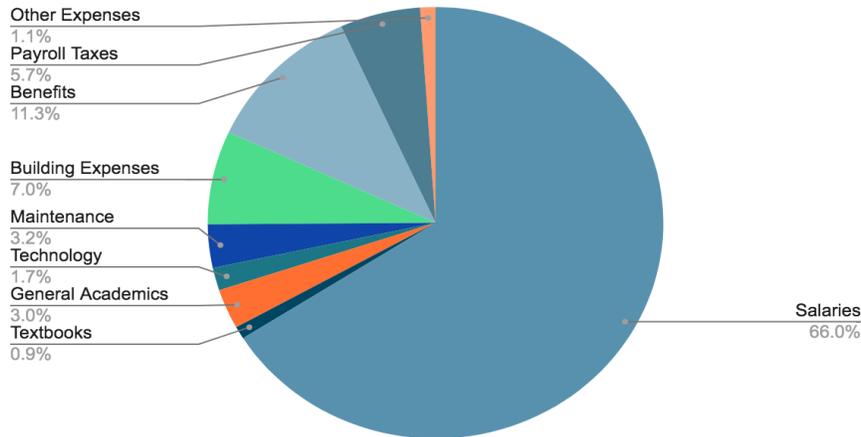
**Budget:** Our operating budget income for the 2020-2021 year was estimated at \$528,850. With the added income from successful fundraisers the adjusted operating budget is \$580,000. The expenses for the 2020-2021 school year is estimated to be at \$585,000. This information reflects our school budget as of April 30th. The complete school year budget runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

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### Income



### Expenses



## Enrollment

#### 2020-2021 Enrollment

Little Saints 3-5	19
Kindergarten	11
1st grade	17
2nd grade	12
3rd grade	21
4th grade	10
5th grade	17
6th grade	19
<b>Total K-6</b>	<b>107</b>

#### 2021-2022 Enrollment

Little Saints	17
Kindergarten	15
1st grade	13
2nd grade	17
3rd grade	13
4th grade	21
5th grade	10
6th grade	17
<b>Total K-6</b>	<b>106</b>

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Registration is still open for the coming school year. If you know of anyone who might be interested in having their children attend St. Mary's School, please have them contact the school for a visit.

As a means of promoting continued increases in enrollment at St. Mary's School, and to reward existing families for their efforts in promoting our school, an Enrollment Referral Incentive Program will be offered for the 2021-2022 school year. Any current SMS family whose outreach and referral efforts result in a new family registering their child(ren) at St. Mary's School for the 2021-2022 school year will receive a credit of \$100 in May of 2022 for each new family they refer.

## Curriculum and Instruction

Following our curriculum cycle, and after a thorough evaluation of our student objectives and outcomes, St. Mary's School will implement a new math program in the fall of 2021. We completed our second year of our new reading curriculum, Benchmark Workshop. Teachers continued to have professional development this past year to assist them in using the curriculum most effectively. This year our curriculum cycle will guide us through the process of evaluating our science curriculum. Please see the Accreditation section of this report for additional information regarding curriculum.

## Faith Development and Dedication to Service

Throughout the year, our students have many opportunities for developing a strong faith and learning to serve others. These are a few of the activities our students participated in throughout this past school year that reflect our dedication to service and reaching out beyond the walls of our building.

- Since we were not able to visit Pine Villa this year, we sent pen pal letters, cards, videos, and projects to connect with the residents that couldn't see family and friends because of Covid.
- Students prayed daily for those whose prayers we collected from our Marathon/Prayer-a-thon.
- Students collected socks for area shelters during Advent.
- Students collected money for the Melrose Food Shelf, Fr. Schwieters and Fr. Ohmann, and Simply Love International during Lent.

## Maintenance Projects

St. Mary's School has a maintenance committee that oversees the upkeep of the school building and grounds. We are in the process of combining the church and school maintenance committees. One of the committee's priorities will be collaborating with the Parish Council in developing a budget for bigger maintenance projects.

- New carpet and blinds are being put in the 6th grade classroom. Each year we budget for one classroom to get new carpet and blinds.
- The fenced-in area on the south side of the school and the north parking lot will be seal coated this summer.

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- A water softener will be installed.
- The chimney on the roof was cut off, insulated, and capped. Repairs on other areas of the roof were also completed.
- The gym floor will be resealed this summer.
- Melrose Electric installed a new control access panel to the school security system.

## Accreditation

**MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association):** The Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) has renewed the accreditation of St. Mary's School for the eligibility period of 2020 to 2027. The mission of MNSAA is to be a facilitator in improving the quality of nonpublic education in Minnesota through the accreditation process. Part of the improvement initiative that MNSAA requires of St. Mary's School is to produce a Strategic Plan that includes objectives, action steps, and a timeline. Progress on our Strategic Plan is reported to MNSAA on an annual basis. Our full Strategic Plan can be found on our website and SchoolSpeak.

Some of our major successes are with our curriculum; these include implementing a new reading program, choosing a new math program, beginning the process of using and understanding the standards more effectively, and following a curriculum cycle to evaluate, develop, and implement all curricula while using our resources wisely and effectively.

Another success we celebrate is the development of our Marketing Committee. After three years of diligent effort, this school year we finally felt like things started to come together. Strategies were developed that encouraged stakeholder involvement and investment in the St. Mary's Catholic School mission.

The Marketing Committee also developed a parent/guardian survey that was sent to families in May; results will be posted on the school website and SchoolSpeak as soon as they are available.

St. Mary's School has recently completed an Emergency Operations Plan; this plan was created in collaboration with local emergency response agencies and the Melrose Area School District. Staff and students have trained on the plan and will continue to do so multiple times throughout the year.

There are 4 main objectives in our Strategic Plan we continue to work on yearly.

Objective 1: Using Hearts, Hands, and Voices, St. Mary's Catholic School will be a community of academic excellence.

Objective 2: St. Mary's Catholic School will provide a safe, functional, and attractive learning facility.

Objective 3: St. Mary's Catholic School will remain financially viable into the future.

Objective 4: St. Mary's Catholic School will communicate effectively with stakeholders to increase enrollment and retention of students in the school.

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## SMS Information

**Endowment Fund:** The endowment committee meets quarterly. As of March 2021, the endowment fund has reached \$1,398,193.51. Of this amount, \$829,823.25 is principal. As of May 2021, the Endowment Fund has given a total of \$446,000 to the school. The Endowment Fund contributed \$70,000 to the 2020-21 school year operating budget. The Endowment Fund has given more than the designated amount because of the shortage of income from the parish subsidy.

**Technology:** We are continuing to update our technology resources for the students. Melrose Area Schools will purchase chromebooks for the 5th graders. Those chromebooks will remain with them until the end of 8th grade. All students at St. Mary's now have a device they use at school and home for educational purposes. We were able to purchase an interactive flat panel for every classroom with funds from Every Bid Counts, Melrose Lions, an anonymous local donor, Great Technology Giveaway, and budgeted technology money.

**Lunch:** Our lunch program continues to be catered by True North Marketplace/Cornerstone Cafe. Our school is not a member of the MN School Nutrition Program but we do offer free and reduced lunch options for families who are in need. In Minnesota, Title services are tied to free and reduced lunch patrons, so if you feel like your family may qualify for these services, we encourage you to apply (even if you choose not to use the program) as it helps St. Mary's School qualify for Title services and assistance from the public school system.

**Teaching Assignments:** Mrs. Ellen VanOverbeke(Schaefer) has taken a teaching position at a different school and will not be returning to SMS for the 2021-22 school year. We are in the process of hiring a new 5th grade teacher.

**Dates to Remember:**

August 24	Open House 4:00-7:00pm
August 30	First Day of School
September 8	School pictures
October 1	Marathon/Prayer-a-thon
October 20	Grandparents Day
December 15	Christmas program
March 5	Auction 4 Education

St. Mary's Facebook Page: St Mary's Catholic School - Melrose

St. Mary's School Website: [www.smsmelrosemn.org](http://www.smsmelrosemn.org)

Thank you for your continued support of our school. The St. Mary's Catholic School community is very blessed to have so many individuals who care about our ongoing success.

Sincerely,

Autumn Nelson, Principal

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