



Our Journey Together St. Stephen the Martyr Annual Report 2015

Friends In Christ

I want to thank all of you for your generous giving this past year. We continue to progress in the revenue needed to accomplish the mission that God has given to St. Stephen the Martyr. Both in areas of spiritual and temporal works we've been able to provide for many acts of charity here in our parish and surrounding community. This is because of your "Yes" to God's Holy Spirit. With your dollars we are equipping the saints for the building up of the Church.



There is still much work to be done. We have over 6000 registered parishioners, but demographics say that there are 13,000 Catholics in the area, and 60,000 others of whom we have no idea what their religious affiliation is. I hope to reach out to them during the coming year, which Pope Francis has proclaimed to be a Year of Mercy beginning December 8th. I hope you will join me in investing our lives for the work of God, the Opus Dei that brings true peace to our world.

J. S.

Headlines Proclaiming the Vitality of our Faith Community

Conferences and major events reach out to the faithful, strengthening our engagement with God

- Men's Retreat in November 2014 and September 2015
- Iron Sharpens Iron - Regional Men's Conference - April
- Fr. Augustine from India and his reflections for Lent -- April
- Archbishop of Assisi, with us much of July
- Catholic Charismatic Renewal annual conference, May
- Return of Tom Curran's GIFT conference, March
- Fr. Tom Vandenberg's Marriage Night



Small groups, small Christian communities – recent additions to our many opportunities for fellowship, service and prayer

- Sacred Story, an Ignatian path to Christ – “It literally changed my life”
- That Man Is You, early morning men's gatherings
- Rosary Makers, praying and creating for all of us
- Our parish's own St. Vincent DePaul council, responding to the cries of the poor in our neighborhood
- Visitation Guild renews as Woman's Guild, continuing a proud heritage of service
- Family of the Gospel Ministry, new family ministry group following the teaching ministry of the Archbishop of Assisi
- Napro, a volunteer ministry serving couples with fertility issues and those considering the new natural family planning method developed by Creighton University Medical School (a Jesuit university)

Our parish is growing in hospitality -- “I found a home”

- “More people are coming through our doors”
- Welcoming – special ministries for Christmas and Easter visitors
- Banners in church -- speak to the core of who we are as a faith community
- Major events and conferences welcome parishioners, visitors, seekers and the curious

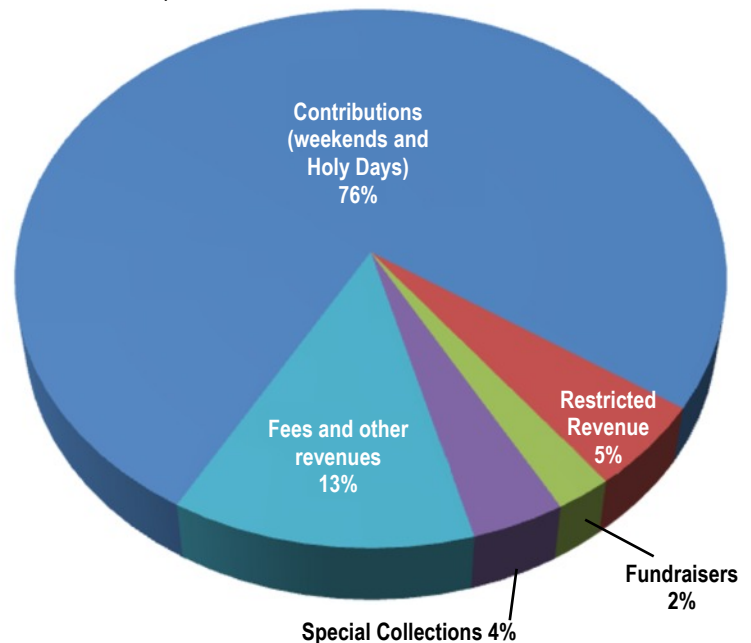


Campus Features continue to be added

- Outdoor Way of the Cross, being added to our meditation complex of Memory Garden, Labyrinth, and Marian Grotto
- New parking lot lights – energy conservation and added security
- Lawns improved and expanded, beautifully supports the spiritual tranquility of our campus and provides opportunities for even more robust fellowship

Sources of Revenue (For Year 2014-2015)

Contributions (weekends and Holy Days)	\$ 1,573,026
Restricted Revenue	
*Direct Aid & Food Bank	72,583
* Debt & Improvements Envelope	34,681
Fundraisers	
* Outreach fundraisers	14,059
* Annual Appeal Rebate	36,590
* Youth Mission & Activities Fundraisers	8,864
Special Collections	
* U.S. Needy and Social Concerns	11,966
* Foreign Missions: Collections & Fundraisers	8,252
Fees and other revenues	
* Education Fees & Charges \$	74,106
* Bequests, stock & Liturgy fees	151,923
* Interest earnings, rentals & misc.	34,669
Total	\$ 2,080,718



Dynamic increases in weekday Masses

- Growing attendance
- Added Tuesday evening Mass
- People staying longer after Mass -- for blessings, rosary and Adoration

Vibrant Youth Activities Expand

- Steubenville Conference at Spokane added to our summer schedule of youth opportunities
- World Youth Days (2016)
 - Group from St. Stephens already organizing
 - New summer Garage Sale is helping fund
- Annual Yakima Mission joined by Fr. Ed and the Archbishop of Assisi
 - Fun fundraisers support our youth (dinners, breakfasts, "stock" sales)
- Bishop Eusebio confirms over 40 of our youth, bestowing on them the gift of God's Spirit

Children's Ministry continues their growth

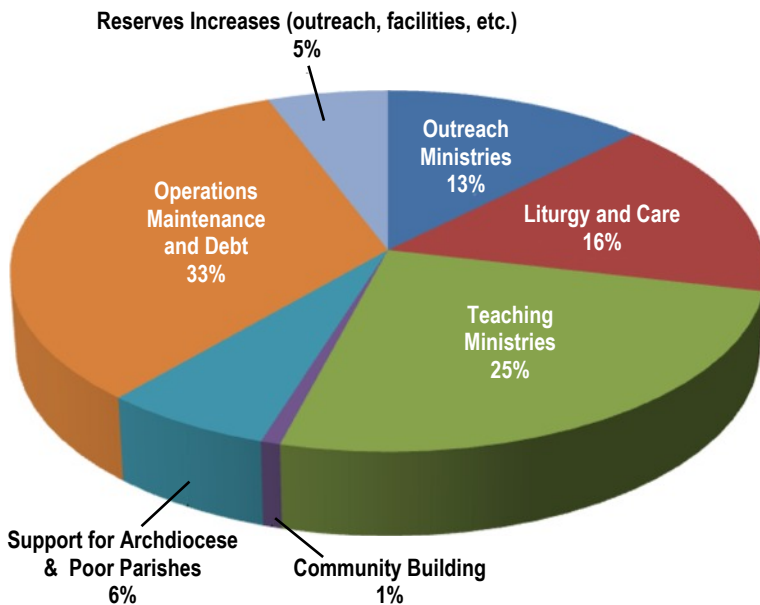
- Vacation Bible Camp a roaring success, again!
- Little Saints Preschool adds afternoon Pre-K program
- New catechists enrich programs
- Baptisms and first sacraments – welcome both parents and children to a growing engagement with our good and gracious God

Pastoral Care Ministries grow in service

- Fr. Reynaldo Yu returns to St. Stephens – nearly full-time
- Many new volunteers join hospital and nursing home visitation ministry
- The annual number of funeral Masses and services continue to inch-up. Our ministries of bereavement, funeral receptions and grief respond with compassion, sympathy and support
- Pastoral counseling hours have increased, as have services to those seeking a Catholic annulment
- Empathy and encouragement continue to be provided by trained volunteers from our Spiritual Companions and Stephen Ministers ministries
- Reorganization to better coordinate scope of services
- All Souls Day -- grief gathering in remembrance of the departed
- Mass of Remembrance – mourns death of a child



Expenditures (For Year 2014-2015)



Outreach Ministries

* Direct Aid, Outreach & Social Concerns	\$176,976
* Foreign Missions	80,365

Liturgy and Care

* Clergy & Pastoral Care	233,611
* Liturgy & Worship	97,029

Teaching ministries

* Youth & Family Ministries	311,265
* Adult Evangelism & Communications	105,892
* Catholic School support	106,500

Community Building

* Parish Life	15,634
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Support for Archdiocese & Poor Parishes

* Archdiocesan Support	117,074
* Assistance to poor parishes throughout the Archdiocese & South King Hispanic ministries	16,242

Operations, Maintenance and Debt

* Ministry support services, finance and administration	236,458
* Facilities, Insurance, Prop taxes	295,743
* Debt pay-off	143,307
Capital Improvements	26,127

Reserves Increases (outreach, facilities, etc.)	118,496
Total	\$2,080,718

Respecting the dignity of human life

- 40 Days of prayer for the unborn
- January Respect Life Vigil, Olympia march on state legislature, Mass at St. Martin's University with Archbishop Sartain

Outreach services to those in need steadily serves

- Terrific Tuesday Meals – St. Stephens role in this ecumenical ministry increases
- Our Food Bank attracts more donations and provides increasing quantities, varieties and quality of nourishment to those in need
- Assistance to non-parishioners grows through establishment of our own St. Vincent DePaul council
- Shoulder-to-Shoulder assistance to parishioners in need continues steady
- Leadership spirituality revitalized through Just Faith training

Church debt paid off – without special drive!

- Fifteen years after major renovation and expansion of our main building
- Nine years after purchase of the one-acre "Regis property" in the center of our 192nd Street frontage
- Seven years after purchase of a residence house for the priests who serve our faith community



Weekend Mass attendance declines slightly, while number of confessions, funerals and parishioners go up

- Robust multicultural celebrations
- Our Lady of Lavang – Vietnamese Mass and festival
- Sambang Gabi – Filipino devotional and celebration
- Pentecost – food fair from many lands



Vital Statistics

Parish Census

Households	2,597	Individuals	6,137
Marriages	22	Baptisms	54
First Eucharist	88	Confirmations	51
Funerals	40		
Faith Formation – youth and children enrolled		421	

Quotes From Fellow Parishioners

"Innumerable number of people touched by Christ here"

"Things are happening around here!"

"We've got awesome, awesome, awesome volunteers!"

"Volunteerism! Awesome opportunities to serve and grow"

The joy of Christ continues to infuse our vibrant faith family here at St. Stephens. Thank you for journeying with us!

Each year through our Annual Report we try to capture some highlights to share and celebrate from the year just passed. You will find in the pages, of this simple publication, memory joggers of growth and change, laughs and heartaches, and personal encounters with God and his people.

Also, as good stewards we present a financial accounting of our stewardship. Once again the people of St. Stephens have generously shared of their treasure. And, once again we have sought to judiciously utilize those funds to honor and serve Christ's mission. Should you have any questions about our parish finances, or want a more detailed report, please contact me by phone (253.631.1940 x102) or email SpencerJR@comcast.net

May the peace and joy of our Lord be with you,

Jim Spencer
Parish Administrator

