

OUR LADY'S PARISH
920 R Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02452

October 1, 2023

ANNUAL PARISH UPDATE

Dear Parishioners:

The **Fall Season** resumes many parish activities. **It is a time to first thank God for all the blessings He continues to bestowed upon Our Lady's Parish and renew our commitment to follow Him.** This is also the time of year when we pause to review where we stand as a united Faith Community. I am grateful to the Church and School Parish Staff, the dedicated volunteers and all parishioners who are committed to advancing the Cause of Christ at Our Lady's. Many thanks to the members of our Consultative Committees - Church and School for their active support and involvement. We are also blessed to have people from neighboring cities and towns who have made Our Lady's their spiritual home, and worship with us regularly.

Our Lady's Academy remains strong.

- **423 students** are enrolled for the *2023-2024 academic year*. This is the ***highest number of students at our Parish School since the school opened in 1964.***
- Chandra Minor, our dedicated school principal, joined with a committed faculty, many active parents and other parish volunteers keep our School vibrant.
- Father Campo and I continue to offer regular Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Conferences, periodic opportunities for Confession, and classroom visits to further the religious training of our youth. These spiritual and liturgical opportunities are also provided to pour Religious Education (CCD) youth.

Our Religious Education program (CCD) is nearing 200 students.

- Upon Felicia Forger's retirement, Mrs. Elizabeth Pettine, a long-time parishioner has successfully transitioned to the role of Program Coordinator, following years of volunteering in the program.

We thank Sharon Micco for 25 years of dedicated service at the parish. We congratulate her on accepting a new job that will provide her many beneficial opportunities for her future. With the help of some volunteers the current staff is temporarily keeping the operations of the office running smoothly.

Church Improvements.

- I am very pleased to announce that the **Church Heating/Cooling system** has been completely **installed**. Now we will be able to enjoy a warm church this coming winter and a cool oasis for prayer each summer.
- The **replacement of two school heating boilers** will occur during **late spring 2024**. It will be entirely funded by Our Lady's Academy. This costly initiative is meant to better prepare us for future needs. *The cost of operating our School is separately funded, through tuition and fundraising, by the School Community.*

Parish Buildings and Grounds.

- I am happy to report that during this past year much **maintenance, beautification and modernization projects** on our parish buildings and grounds were completed.

- More pro-active improvements will be planned to further protect our physical assets.
- The construction of a **third shrine** inside the church (similar to the improvements made to the entranceway Shrine of Our Lady's Statue and St Joseph's Shrine) is in the planning stages. It will be placed in the old now empty confessional. This project will be funded separately by the *Church Building Fund*.

Weekday Eucharistic Adoration.

- Eucharistic Adoration, which started during the Pandemic, continues. It gives everyone a place of spiritual solace and an opportunity to spend quiet time with Jesus.
- **Sunday and Vigil Masses** have grown in attendance, as well as **weekday Masses**.
- **Our Church remains open most weekdays from ca. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.** We give thanks to our volunteers who open and secure the Church each day throughout the week, as well as those who assist at our Masses.

Special Prayer Services.

- During the month of October special prayer services will be held in the Church at **noon** each **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** to pray for the significant **universal Synod** in Rome as called by Pope Francis. This further time of prayer is an opportunity to invoke the Holy Spirit to guide the Pope in this consultative process.
- Additionally, **Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration** will be available **Tuesday evenings from 5 to 6 p.m. throughout the month of October** in an appeal to God for spiritual renewal. Prayer is essential as we advance into the future with God.

Outreach to: the Homebound, the Elderly, Adults and the Youth remains a priority.

- This includes Masses/services at our local nursing homes, and home visits through the efforts of dedicated lay volunteers, coordinated by John Barry, and Deacon James Rice.
- **The recently established monthly Men's and Women's Prayer Group on Saturdays** provides adults an added opportunity for spiritual growth.
- **Our High School and College Age Youth Group** was re-established in the spring of 2022 and continues to gather periodically for social opportunities and spiritual growth.
- The **Children's Choir** at the 9:00 am Mass is back and the **Adult Choir** has resumed singing at the 11:00 am Mass.
- **Fr. David Campo** helped to lead a weeklong High School Youth/College Age Catholic Faith-based Service Project trip to Tennessee last July. The trip had a significant impact on the fifteen young people and chaperones who represented our parish with other Catholics who joined from around the nation. **Father Campo will continue to serve at our parish throughout the current school year and remains on schedule to begin active military service as a US Navy Chaplain starting early June 2024.** There is a tremendous shortage of priest chaplains in the US Military, which is an important ministry to serve the millions of young adults who serve to protect world peace.
- **Deacon David Joanis** will be ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Boston in May 2024. He will remain serving most weekends here as part of his seminary formation.

Our Lady's Parish will continue to respond to the spiritual needs of our time. Father David Campo and I join you in praying for our parish, our families, our nation, peace and the concerns

giving their time and donating funds, which enables our parish to remain vibrant.

Our Grand Annual Appeal begins the weekend of **October 14-15, 2023** through **February 28, 2024**. **These funds are necessary to balance our Church budget.**

The expenses of maintaining our Church have increased greatly.

- Among the necessary expenditures are: *(Church supplies, heating, cooling, and electricity bills, cleaning services, maintenance of the grounds and lawns, snow removal and sanding the property, police details, general repairs, etc.)*

The fiscal year operating expense report for both Church and School are attached to this letter.

For this reason, I ask you to be as generous as your means allow. **Each working parishioner is asked to contribute \$500.** If this amount is beyond your means, **any donation is welcome and essential** for the financial solvency of the Parish. **If you can contribute more – please prayerfully consider increasing your donation.**

Enclosed is a Grand Annual Envelope. **You may make your donation directly to Our Lady's Parish, 920R Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02452,** or simply place **your contribution** in any envelope, label it "Grand Annual" and leave the envelope in any church donation container. For your convenience, you can also pay by **credit card on our website www.olca.org, click on "Donate"** and follow the prompts. The fund you will choose is **"Grand Annual."** PayPal is also accepted at our website. For further donation options or questions you may email (parish@olca.org) or phone (781-894-3481 X2) at the Parish Office

May **Almighty God** continue to watch over us as we journey together in faith. Please know of my prayers for you and your family. Kindly pray for me. Together let us invoke the intercession of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, Our Mother, to advocate for all before the Throne of the **One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Sincerely in Christ,


Rev. James M. DiPerri, Pastor

**OUR LADY COMFORTER OF THE AFFLICTED PARISH
INCOME STATEMENT - OPERATING FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 & 2022**

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022
OUR LADY'S CHURCH		
INCOME		
Offertory, Monthly & Grand Annual	\$767,203	\$750,984
Fundraising - Net of Expenses	82,056	33,111
SBA/PPP Loans Forgiven		-
Other Income	155,576	134,279
Total Operating income	1,004,835	918,374
EXPENSES		
Salaries & Benefits	350,253	327,590
Educational Materials & Faith Formation Costs	49,274	30,616
Plant Expense	196,874	156,897
RCAB Assessments	34,413	32,807
Administration	105,348	130,987
Capital Improvements	65,289	104,619
Total operating expenses	801,451	783,516
Transfers to Restricted Building Fund - Church	173,000	123,415
Transfer to Restricted Youth Ministry Fund	17,000	-
Total Expenses	991,451	906,931
NET INCOME	\$13,384	\$11,443
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**SPECIAL RESTRICTED APPEAL CHURCH HEATING
& COOLING REPLACEMENT FUND**

Donations made through June 30, 2023	332,891	
Expenditures through June 30, 2023	(279,022)	(a)
Fund Balance 6-30-23	\$53,869	

(a) Total additional costs to complete the Church Heating & Cooling Replacement at 6-30-23 were \$50,000.
Project was fully funded through special donations.

**Please turn over for the school and
combined parish financial recap**

**OUR LADY COMFORTER OF THE AFFLICTED PARISH
INCOME STATEMENT - OPERATING FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 & 2022**

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022
OUR LADY'S ACADEMY		
INCOME		
Tuition & Fees - Net	\$4,130,556	\$3,715,735
Fundraising - Net of Expenses	5,822	12,180
Other Income	248,435	184,588
Total Operating income	4,384,813	3,912,503
EXPENSES		
Salaries & Benefits	2,776,031	2,596,019
Educational Materials & Faith Formation Costs	50,073	58,463
Plant Expense	478,302	411,796
Administration	170,137	161,625
Capital Improvements	104,148	115,796
Total operating expenses	3,578,691	3,343,699
Transfers to Restricted Building Fund - School	700,000	435,000
Transfer to Tuition Scholarship Fund - School	60,000	125,000
Total Expenses	4,338,691	3,903,699
NET INCOME	\$46,122	\$8,804
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SUMMARY - OUR LADY'S PARISH		
INCOME - CHURCH & SCHOOL	\$5,389,648	\$4,830,877
EXPENSES - CHURCH & SCHOOL	5,330,142	4,810,630
NET INCOME CHURCH & SCHOOL	\$59,506	\$20,247
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