



⊕ld St. Mary's
Catholic Church
A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS ↗

Building a Church,
GROWING A COMMUNITY

— Community —
Impact Statement

for Fiscal Year 2026
(July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)



Our Mission: Embracing an Expanding Sense of Community

Since 1903, Old St. Mary's has been served by the Paulist Fathers, missionary priests who have served North America since 1858. The Paulists have long brought a hopeful and outward-looking approach to their mission: meeting people where they are, building bridges across division, looking for the ways God is already at work in the world around us, and helping every person see that they are a part of the Church's mission. For more than a century, that same missionary outlook has helped shape the way we live our faith and build community at Old St. Mary's.

That vision calls us to be a **parish on mission**. Our missionary work is not only about caring for those within our community, but about continually expanding our sense of who that community includes: welcoming and accompanying people, serving our neighbors, engaging the wider world around us, and inviting others into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it was an extraordinary year for Old St. Mary's! This Community Impact Statement¹ tells the story of our missionary accomplishments in 2025-26, lays out our plans for 2026-27 and beyond, and details the resources necessary to accomplish those plans. As you read, we encourage you to learn more about our mission and ministries, to ask questions and offer suggestions, and to increase the time, talent, and treasure you invest through Old St. Mary's.

For nearly 200 years, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church has evolved to meet the religious needs of the people of Chicago. From our founding in 1833, before the town of Chicago was incorporated, through our flourishing today in the city's fastest-growing neighborhood, we have distinguished ourselves through our diversity, outreach, and ability to adapt to the changing needs of the Loop and South Loop. Along the way, innovations at Old St. Mary's have had national and international influence. At our heart, however, we are a local parish defined and sustained by our sense of **community**.

Our sense of community continues to grow and expand. The number of registered households has more than tripled since 2002. Our school, founded in 2004 with 18 students, now accommodates 500. In recent years, we have embraced the call of Popes Francis and Leo to become more *synodal* (collaborative) and to reach out to those on the peripheries. We wrote a new mission statement in 2024:

“
Old St. Mary's welcomes and accompanies everyone
on their faith journey. Inspired by the Holy Spirit,
our diverse community encourages people
to grow their relationship with Jesus Christ and one another
through Eucharist, worship, prayer, education, and service.
”

Our parish and its largest ministry, Old St. Mary's School, share a strong and growing sense of common vision and mission.

Our mission statement refers both to the Holy Spirit's gift of diverse people whose lives have shaped Old St. Mary's for generations and to the Spirit's diverse gifts within each person. We are a community of people with different backgrounds, at different phases on our journey of faith, and whose relationship with Old St. Mary's takes many forms. Our school includes Catholic families who worship at other parishes as well as non-Catholic families. Our church has become a home for many who might wrestle with different aspects of Church teaching. Neighbors join us for service projects, and local businesses and organizations support our endeavors. We trust that the Holy Spirit continues to shape and expand our sense of community, drawing us more deeply into the mission God has entrusted to Old St. Mary's. **A continued commitment to community will be the lifeblood that sustains the progress we have made in the past few years.**

Our expanding community is evident in the growth of many of our ministries in the past year. Old St. Mary's is encouraging and training more volunteers to engage their God-given talents as missionary disciples. As we grow, we are clarifying policies and procedures. We are also strengthening our financial reserves so that we can provide adequate staffing and well-maintained infrastructure for increased activity on our campus.

Your time, talent, and treasure make a powerful impact! The upcoming year will focus on nourishing our community around four themes: (1) **Enriching each other's faith**, (2) **Reaching out to the margins**, (3) **Nurturing our children**, and (4) **Building a stronger financial foundation**.



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¹ While this report touches on the vibrancy of Old St. Mary's School, it is not intended as a comprehensive school report. That can be found at osmschool.com/state-of-the-school.



Enriching Each Other's Faith



“Whenever we encounter another person in
love, we learn something new about God.”

The Joy of the Gospel
Pope Francis

Children's Lenten Stations of the Cross

Old St. Mary's: A Community Enriching Each Other's Faith

We often experience God through our interactions with one another — whether it be in liturgies, in friendship and fellowship, or in serving those in need. As the community of Old St. Mary's, we share responsibility in helping one another grow in faith. In the Church today, people often need to feel a sense of *belonging* within a community before they feel comfortable engaging more deeply with that community's values. Social events play an essential role in our mission: they help newcomers find a place within our community, while also strengthening the relationships and sense of belonging that sustain us all. Old St. Mary's campus calendar in 2025–26 was the busiest in at least 7 years! We are very grateful to everyone who helped make possible an ever-expanding calendar of events, ministering to an ever-expanding group of people.

Mission Accomplishments in 2025–2026

- In the 2026 Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey of 58 benchmarks for parish success, parishioners reported improved satisfaction with almost every benchmark, compared to the 2023 DMI. Respondents were especially satisfied with **opportunities for spiritual growth, musical participation, social events, good preaching, and volunteering.**
- Attendance on Easter Sunday increased approximately 30% compared to last year. **Attendance at all weekend Masses increased approximately 10%** over the previous year.
- 10 adults & 1 teen received Easter sacraments through the **OCIA process.**
- Some spiritual highlights included the **Blessing of the Animals**, special liturgies celebrating **Our Lady of Guadalupe** and **Simbang Gabi**, and the **Lenten mission preached by former OSM pastor Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP. School Graduation** was celebrated in the context of Mass.
- Large receptions after special liturgies included the **Blessing of Students & Backpacks, Our Lady of Guadalupe**, and **Simbang Gabi**. Other social events included **Oktoberfest, Santa's Workshop**, the **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry**, and the **Chili Cook-Off**. The **School Gala** sold out, and for the first time, alumni families filled several tables.
- We continued to host **Advent & Lenten faith-building groups** and the **Sunday evening meditation group**, and we added several **book discussions** and **lectio divina gatherings** throughout the year.
- We provided opportunities for other forms of shared prayer, including **the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Taizé Services**, and **Communal Penance Services.**
- We strengthened several ministries this year, most notably the **Guadalupe Committee, Ministry of Care** to the sick and homebound, and the **Knights of Columbus.**
- 26 people in our parish-school community shared **pastoral reflections in the bulletin.**

Missionary Plans for 2026–27 and beyond

- Our main spiritual goal for the upcoming year is to equip hundreds of people throughout the entire Old St. Mary's community with knowledge and experience of **various prayer techniques from the Christian tradition**. We hope that this in turn will assist all of us in **developing or enhancing our personal relationships with God**.
- While **opportunities for volunteers to engage** are plentiful, we will make it easier for parishioners to find and act on them. This coming year, we will focus on simplifying how we recruit, train, support, and appreciate our volunteers.
- One subset of our community that needs special programming is Young Adults ages 18–39. We expect to create a leadership committee for our **Young Adult Ministry** this year.

Resources needed for 2026–27 and beyond

- Plan to **join us for workshops, speakers, and discussion groups** throughout the year, especially during Lent 2027.
- We intend to provide other self-directed resources for individual or small group spiritual formation.
- Please **pray about how you can donate your time and talent** to enrich the Old St. Mary's community. Invite your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers to join us! Practicing Catholics can contact Ace Gangoso (ace@oldstmarys.com) to learn about ongoing liturgical ministry opportunities both at Mass and behind the scenes. Contact Elise Flick (elise@oldstmarys.com) to assist with **small groups, youth, or OCIA**.

Reaching Out to the Margins

“ —
The current articulation of Paulist mission
is the steadfast proclamation of hope in the world:
Reaching Out to those on the peripheries
Building Bridges across division, and
Awakening the Missionary Vocation of all the baptized — ”

Paulist Charism, Spirituality, and Mission Document
Paulist General Assembly 2026



Volunteering at Greater Chicago Food Depository

Old St. Mary's: A Community Reaching Out to the Margins

Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis explicitly challenged the Church to go out to the peripheries, reminding us that the margins are not simply places where we go to serve, but places where we encounter Jesus himself. It is there that we experience ***The Joy of the Gospel***, discovering the ways God is already at work in the world around us. This past year, we encouraged people to embrace their identity as **missionary disciples** and to recognize that we all have a role in the Church's mission. As the Paulists begin to live more deeply their new *Charism, Spirituality, and Mission* document, we expect this missionary identity to take deeper root throughout the Old St. Mary's community.

Mission Accomplishments in 2025-2026

- We had a blast doing **outreach on Ash Wednesday!** Out on the sidewalk, we imposed ashes, distributed devotionals, and engaged in meaningful conversations with a steady stream of people for 12 hours straight.
- We strengthened our charitable commitments to **The Giving Tree, Catholic Charities, Greater Chicago Food Depository, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Kolbe House Prison Ministries**, and the **Chicago Shares Program**.
- We continued to support our sharing parish, **St. James Food Pantry**, with donations of volunteer hours, toiletries & other material goods, and more than \$42,000 from our monthly second collections.

Missionary Plans for 2026-27 and beyond

- We are reviving the **Social Justice Committee**, with a new structure that will focus on charity, education, and advocacy events, providing service-learning opportunities for people of all ages.
- We hope to hire a full-time **Director of Communications and Outreach** in the next few months. This person will not only direct all of our communications channels but also provide staff support to our outreach ministries, such as Greeters, Sunday Morning Hospitality, and the Social Justice Committee.
- The priests of Old St. Mary's are responsible for preparing all Catholics living in the Loop and South Loop for marriage. We hope to **recruit Archdiocesan deacons** to help relieve some of that burden from Fr. Rich and Fr. Dan.

Resources needed for 2026-27 and beyond

- **Become a greeter** or **join our Sunday morning hospitality team!** Ace (ace@oldstmarys.com) will train you as a greeter, and Lauren (lauren@oldstmarys.com) will connect you to volunteers on the hospitality team.
- **Stay informed about upcoming social justice ministry opportunities** — they are too numerous for us to mention at Mass! Read the bulletin and/or subscribe to our weekly Thursday electronic newsletter at <https://bit.ly/osm-mailinglist>.

Nurturing Our Children

“The specific purpose of a Catholic education is the formation of boys and girls who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbor and enriching society with the leaven of the gospel, and who will also be citizens of the world to come, thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints.”

The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools
Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB

Mass of the Holy Spirit, Old St. Mary's School

Old St. Mary's: A Community Nurturing Our Children

Old St. Mary's School provides a rigorous, faith-based preparatory academic experience. Our School promotes academic excellence through research-based curriculum, measured assessments aligned to relevant standards, and continual curriculum evaluation. For more information, please refer to the **State of the School Report** (osmschool.com/state-of-the-school) or contact Principal April Greer (AGreer@osmschool.com).

The **Sunday Faith Formation** (SFF) program provides religious instruction, including sacramental preparation, for children who attend non-Catholic schools, who are older than the normal age for sacraments, or who attend Catholic school but are seeking to further deepen their knowledge of God. It seeks to equip students with an understanding of the many ways God is present to us and opportunities to practice responding to his love through prayer, service, and participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

Mission Accomplishments in 2025-2026

- **Elise Flick**, our new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, brought a creative and pragmatic approach to every ministry she touched. She collaborated with teachers and catechists to better align School & SFF sacramental preparation, and she provided enhanced support to our growing SFF program. She led 4 family-based catechesis classes, and she designed retreats for students preparing for First Reconciliation and Confirmation.
- The pastoral staff took additional steps to assist classes in "hosting" **School Masses**. They led Bible studies, brainstormed the prayers of the faithful, and trained student ministers. 8th graders served as Eucharistic ministers. We started a junior cantor program.
- We enhanced the once-a-month 11 am "**Family Mass**" experience, with child-friendly lectionary readings, student ministers, and homilies partially tailored to the needs of younger listeners.
- We celebrated **36 Baptisms** of infants & children and **47 Confirmations** of 7th and 8th graders.
- Students 2nd through 8th grade — in both the School and SFF — grew in their understanding of the **sacrament of Reconciliation**. By the spring semester, almost all students were prepared, relaxed, and fully aware that the sacrament primarily celebrates God's love for each of us.
- Now that Old St. Mary's celebrates Confirmation in 7th grade, we had an opportunity to re-imagine 8th grade spiritual formation. Elise and a team of volunteers established a **Youth Ministry** for students grades 8-12 that meets every other Sunday after the 4 pm Mass.

Missionary Plans for 2026–27 and beyond

- This is the first year that we will prepare students for **First Eucharist** in 3rd grade. We will be designing new **family-based catechesis** and retreats for this program.
- Rather than using the universal daily readings for School Masses, we will create **our own cycle of scripture readings** tailored to the spiritual formation needs of our children.
- More families are signing up for SFF, allowing us to offer **more classes**. Classes will be offered for grades PreK4–8, rather than K–7.

Resources needed for 2026–27 and beyond

- An expanding roster of **faith formation opportunities** can only happen if we recruit more volunteers. Please visit oldstmarys.com/lifelong-faith-formation/ or contact Elise (elise@oldstmarys.com) to learn about the joys and commitments necessary to assist occasionally or on a regular basis. All volunteers who work with minors must be background checked in advance, so we cannot accept last-minute assistance from anyone who has not already met Archdiocesan safety requirements.
- Even if you don't have a family member enrolled in Old St. Mary's School or in SFF, please try to **stay abreast of news** from both! We are all strengthened by knowing each other's challenges, hopes, and dreams.
- Old St. Mary's School welcomes families who seek a faith-filled, academically excellent Catholic education. **Parishioner families are encouraged to apply**; all applications are considered thoughtfully and in accordance with the school's admissions process and available space.

“Old St. Mary's School, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago and reflective of the Paulist Mission, is committed to prepare students to be productive, responsible and impactful members of the world community.”

OSM School Mission Statement

Building a Stronger Financial Foundation

“—
| Christians are called to be good stewards of the personal vocations they receive. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities, and roles to which God calls him or her. |
—”

From Stewardship: A Disciple's Response
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Parol-making workshop in advance of Simbang Gabi celebrations

Old St. Mary's: A Community Building a Stronger Financial Foundation

Our community's future is bright because of our community's dreams and sacrifices in the recent past. In the late 20th century, Old St. Mary's was located on the southwest corner of Van Buren and Wabash Streets, mostly serving commuters who worked in the Loop during business hours. It had no school. Thanks to the audacity of the 400 households worshipping at our old location and others who have since joined them at our South Loop location, we built a new church in 2002, opened a school in 2004, built a school building in 2011, and opened the Parish Center in 2016.

We are so grateful for all the people — many of whom are still with us! — who have brought us to the present moment. Today, we face a new fiscal reality. The school is reaching maximum capacity, we need additional staff to support our expanding mission, and our buildings are aging. It is time to solidify our financial position so that we can continue to dream boldly!

Church Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

Thanks to your generosity and two significant one-time influxes of revenues, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church is in a much better financial situation now than at any point since FY 2019. We still have a way to go to reach true financial stability, but we have definitely made significant progress. Thank you!

- Regular donations (Sunday & Holy Day, Christmas, and Easter) were up by almost 9%, or \$77,000.
- Regular expenses were not quite at the budgeted level.

	Projected Budget	Actual Fiscal Year	Over (Under)
Total Revenues	\$938,968	\$1,028,927	\$89,959
Total Expenses	\$983,706	\$912,259	(\$3,376)
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$44,738)	\$48,597	\$93,335

In addition to these regular operating revenues and expenses, the church also:

- Received one-time net income from the sale of the Parish Condominium² of almost \$257,000.
- Received three cash payments from the federal government totaling almost \$183,000 under a program to reimburse employers for the costs of retaining employees on the payroll during the Covid pandemic. One additional payment of \$34,000 is expected in FY 2027.
- Received almost \$240,000 last year from the Archdiocese of Chicago's *Generation to Generation* (G2G) campaign that can be used for capital expenses.

²As previously reported last year, a decision was made to sell the Parish Condominium that housed two of our priests. Instead, the Parish is now paying the Paulists, who own the home where Fr. Rich and Fr. Dan now live, a monthly amount equal to the rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in this area. This decision not only resulted in a one-time cash inflow, but also saved a yearly amount this past year and this new fiscal year of approximately \$25,000 in lieu of paying the monthly condo assessment for the Parish Condominium.

What this means:

- The Parish Finance Council's goal of having an operating reserve of at least 6 months of budgeted expenses (1/2 of the yearly budget) has been met.
- The Parish now has additional funds that it can temporarily use to help cover the salary and benefits for one part-time and one full-time staff person. The goal is to fully cover those costs with regular operating revenues (i.e., offertory) and to continue to finish each year in the black, to maintain a healthy operating reserve and to add to our capital reserve to help meet current and future capital needs.
- The Parish now has a good start on a reserve for capital needs thanks to parishioners giving to the G2G campaign. If everyone is able to fulfill their 5-year pledges, we expect to receive another \$800,000 over the next 4 years, which will allow us to make additional necessary repairs, replacements, and upgrades to our facilities.

Church Fiscal Year 2027 (Starting July 1, 2026)

We are projecting a deficit of approximately \$135,000. Our budget includes these assumptions:

- No increase in offertory giving from last year's actual receipts, although the amount in this budget, which was prepared last March, reflects a 9.7% increase over last year's budgeted revenues.
- All existing staff positions remain filled, and new part-time and full-time staff positions are added.

	Budget
Total Budgeted Revenues	\$1,029,857
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$1,164,701
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$134,844)

We expect to use everything we have received from the G2G campaign thus far towards a new church lighting system (hopefully installed in 2027) and a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (hopefully installed in 2028). If we collect the remaining \$800,000 pledged to G2G in the next 4 years, we anticipate that we will have a capital reserve after paying for the lighting and HVAC to use towards smaller projects. To meet capital needs that will likely arise before all G2G funds are collected (such as improving the sound in the church and repairing parking lot pavers and gates), we would like to both erase the projected deficit budgeted for FY 2027 and add to our capital reserve.

Therefore, we ask you to:

- **Please prayerfully consider an increase in your offertory giving.** Much of our offertory increase last year came from families who increased their giving by 20%, 50%, or even 100%. Thank you! We know that not everyone has the resources to be as generous, but if you are able, your additional giving will help our community have finances stable enough to keep expanding our missionary reach..

- **Give to the offertory in electronic recurring installments.** Predictable, recurring income enables more reliable budgets. Start the process at <https://oldstmarys.com/give/>.
- Other ways to give include qualified charitable distributions from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), which may count toward a donor's required minimum distribution, and gifts of appreciated stock. Donating appreciated stock directly can allow donors who itemize to receive a charitable deduction while generally avoiding capital gains tax on the stock's appreciated value. Learn more at <https://oldstmarys.com/give/>.
- To make a new pledge to G2G to help us with **long-term capital expenditures**, visit <https://bit.ly/chicago-g2g>. 20% of your pledge will go to Archdiocesan needs outside of Old St. Mary's.

A more detailed version of the budgets from the last several years is available at oldstmarys.com/osm-budget. If you have questions about the church budget or how you can contribute, please reach out to Dawn Burns (dawn@oldstmarys.com).

School Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

Old St. Mary's School finished the fiscal year with a net surplus of approximately \$55,000. The main factors that caused the difference:

- We experienced significant salary and benefits savings due to the August calendar having only 2 pay periods instead of 3 as originally budgeted, plus 5 new teachers being onboarded 4 pay periods into the new year.
- The savings allowed us to repaint interiors, replace concrete, and purchase new kindergarten furniture.
- Financial assistance costs and tuition delinquency were higher than anticipated.

	Budget	Actual	Over (Under)
Total Revenues	\$5,832,290	\$5,767,553	(\$64,737)
Total Expenses	\$5,830,518	\$5,712,713	(\$117,805)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$1,772	\$54,840	\$53,068

- In addition to these regular operating revenues and expenses, the school received three cash payments totaling almost \$890,000 from the same federal government program as the church. One additional payment of \$166,000 is expected in FY 2027. In late June 2026, we used \$600,000 of these funds to pay down the principal on the school building loan we have with the Archdiocese and re-amortized the remaining payments to save \$521,000 in debt service over the next 6 years.

School Fiscal Year 2027 (Starting July 1, 2026)

We currently project a \$43,000 surplus with an enrollment of 500. Please keep in mind that salary and benefit rates, 75% of our annual budget, are set by the Archdiocese.

	Budget
Total Budgeted Revenues	\$5,988,032
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$5,945,088
Net Income (Deficit)	\$42,944

Old St. Mary's School is close to reaching maximum enrollment capacity, thus entering a new fiscal era. Costs for salaries, benefits, utilities, and materials will likely continue to increase in the years to come, even though we do not anticipate a significant increase in the number of families paying tuition. The School continually works to keep tuition as low as possible so that Old St. Mary's Catholic School remains accessible to as many families as possible. Therefore, the School Advisory Board shifted its focus in FY 2026 to strategic financial planning and alumni & community relations. It intends to have a similar focus in FY 2027.

There are some essential needs — teacher bonuses and the long-term financial stability of our school — that aren't covered by tuition. Donations and fundraisers help fill the gaps. Last year we raised over \$300,000 through Oktoberfest, the Blue Ribbon Fund, and the School Gala, exceeding our goal for the year by 20%, a goal which had been raised by 25% from the previous year. This helped us to provide bonuses large enough to express sincere appreciation for our teachers. It is unlikely we will ever be able to provide bonuses large enough to close the substantial teacher pay scale gap between Archdiocesan Schools and Chicago Public Schools.

Therefore, we ask you to:

- **Please prayerfully consider donating to the Blue Ribbon Fund at osmschool.com/giving.** We would like to give our teachers bonuses similar in size to what we gave in FY2026, and we need to make larger investments in the School's long-term financial stability.
- The School is the engine that ever renews our community! Even if you do not have children enrolled in the School, please make an effort to stay informed about the events at the School and the accomplishments of our children in the School.

If you have questions about the School budget or how you can contribute, please reach out to Shannon Carsello (SCarsello@osmschool.com).

Ⓢ Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS

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