

SECOND PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

Los Osos, CA 93402

5 November 2017

My Dear Parishioners and Friends,

God's Peace and Love!

I present to you the Second Parish Stewardship Report.

In this document, you will find the following:

1. Income and Expenses Report of Fiscal Year 2015-2016;
2. Income and Expenses Report of Fiscal Year 2016-2017;
3. Financial Trends of the past five (5) Fiscal Years;
4. Plea for Action.

In the administration of the temporal goods of the parish, the *Parish Finance Council* assists me. Members of this group are respected and competent in the fields of finance, business management, and entrepreneurship. With their watchful eyes, wise counsel, and effective help, they keep your contributions safe from thieves. They make sure that your contributions go to where they are intended to go.

In our Diocese, one (1) Fiscal Year is reckoned from September of the current year to August of the following year. I have been with you for three (3) Fiscal Years. Through this period, we have accomplished great things. Our *AMA (Annual Ministries Appeal)*, *Annual Los Osos International Festival*, *Kermes (Hispanic food sales)*, and *other minor fundraisers* never fail to surprise us with positive results. And the late Grace Tevis left us a "restricted donation" for the construction of an Adoration Chapel. However, our main source of income, the *Weekend Plate Collection*, shows a consistent downward trend. This is very alarming! Due to this, paying the parish operations expenses every two weeks has been problematic. "Will our funds this week be able to pay our bills?" To make things worse, various unexpected expenses knock at our parish door. All these combined have been causing me great anxiety.

I need your urgent help. Please help our parish church. Please help me. The church needs funds for parish operations. I am sorry if I am begging for more help from you. The biggest part of the expenses pie chart (see next page) is the salaries of parish staff. Among the staff, the things that pertain to the pastor are the biggest: salary of the pastor, health and auto insurance, pension fund, food, board and lodging, and other clergy benefits. If parish income does not increase and does not consistently arrive every two weeks, the worst case scenario is the Diocese may revert St. Elizabeth's to administrative arrangement like in early 2001. It means that the pastor needs to leave, daily Masses is discontinued and a supply priest from another parish celebrates the minimum number of weekend Masses.

To avoid such scenario, I, the Parish Finance Council, and the Stewardship Report Team have come up with recommendations on how to effectively raise our parish income. Please heed the suggestions in the next pages.

Everyday, I am grateful for each of you. How I wish I could win the lottery and solve all our financial problems. But I believe something more beautiful and meaningful will come out of this time of testing. Our God of Love and Mercy will never forsake us. When He knocks at the door of your hearts, please, I beg you, open it, and let Him come in.

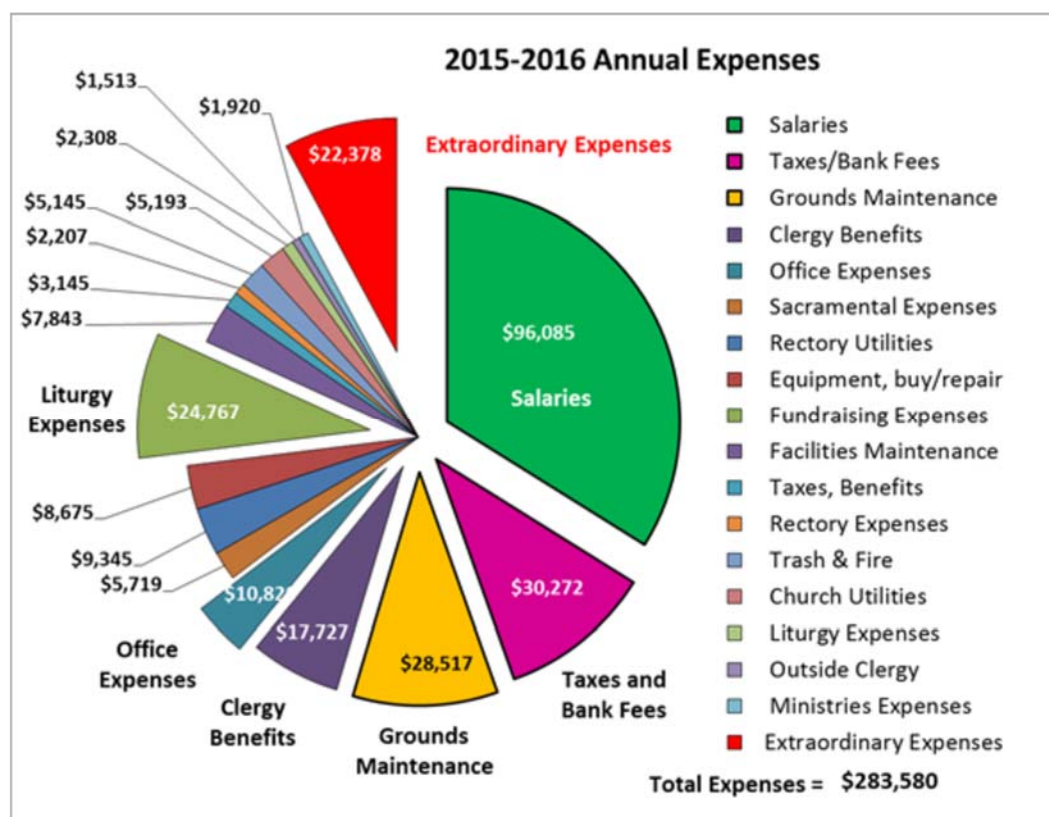
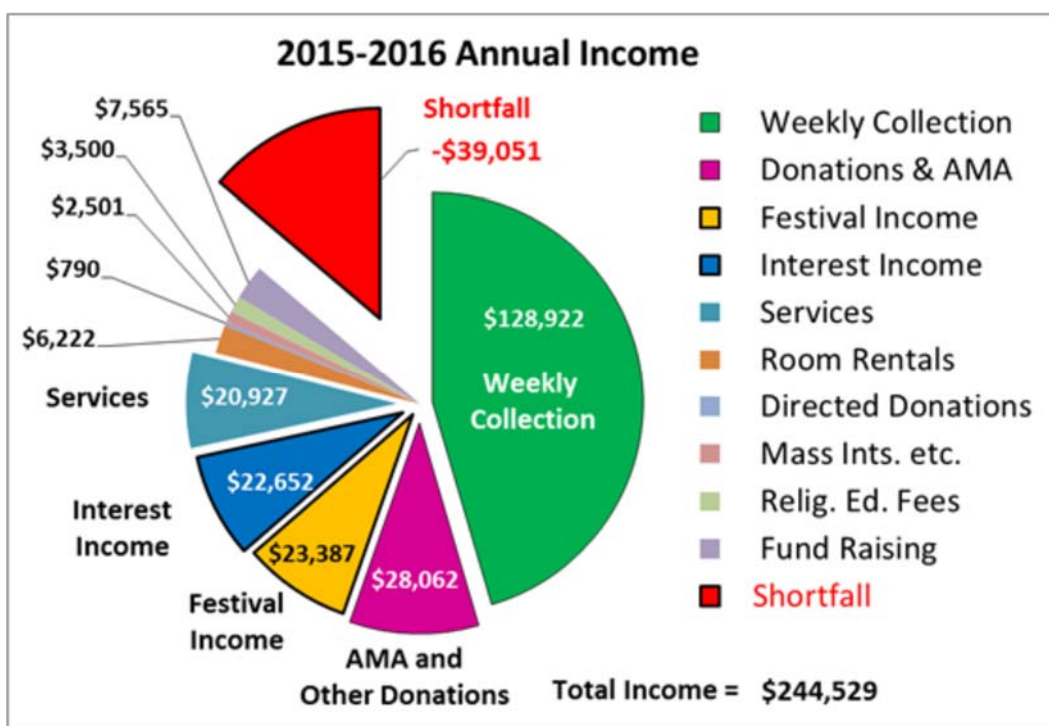
Love and prayers,



Fr. Joey

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

From September 2015 to August 2016



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Office renovation;
2. Cabinets in classrooms and community room;
3. Sanctuary platform;
4. New sound system & cables;
5. Railings & ramps in platform;

6. New Kitchen Refrigerator
7. Church & Rectory sewer hook-up

FY 2015-16 Shortfall: \$39,051

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

From September 2016 to August 2017

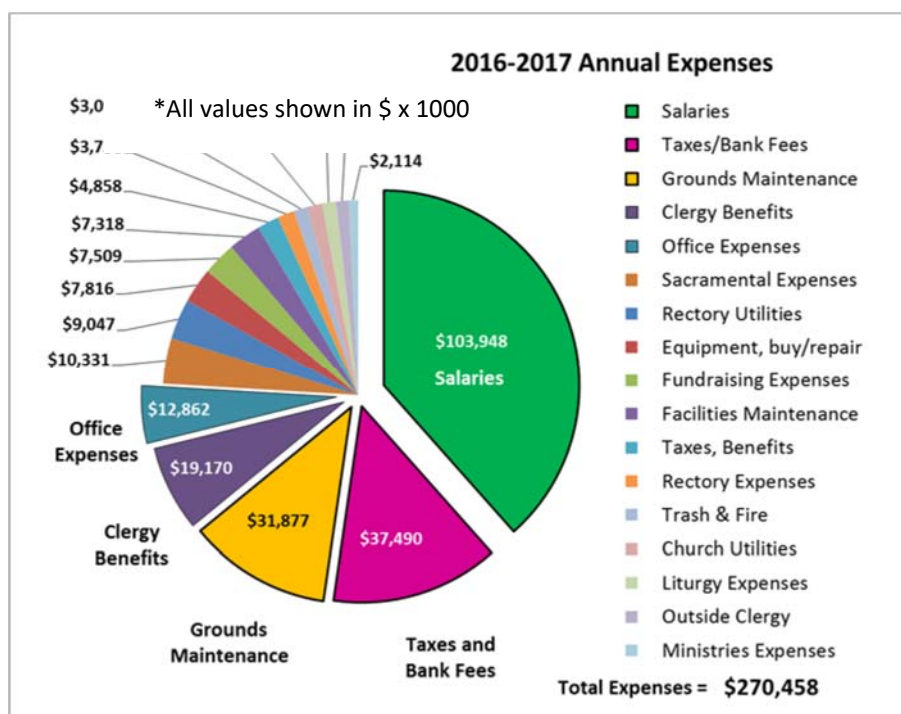
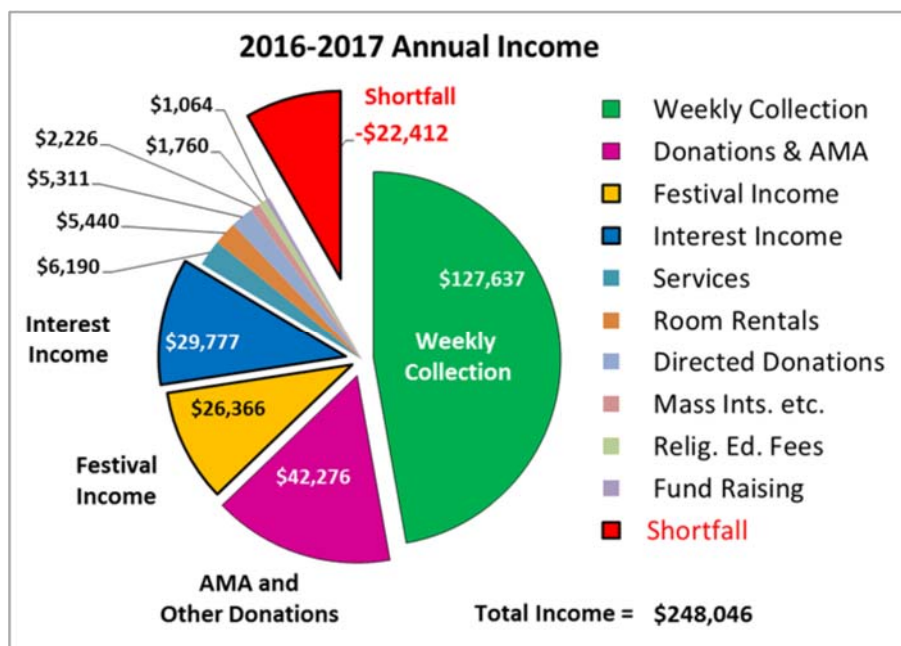
The following figures show the financial results for the fiscal year September 2016 through August 2017. Total income was \$248,046 with the largest contributions from the weekly collection, followed by the AMA, Festival Income and Interest income. Expenses were \$270,458, with the largest expenses being salaries, followed by taxes, maintenance, benefits and office expenses. Unfortunately, this year we outspent our income by \$22,412, which was covered up by borrowing from earmarked funds. In short, we are not receiving enough contributions to cover our expenses.

Weekly Collection	\$127.6
Donations & AMA	\$42.3
Festival Income	\$26.4
Interest Income	\$29.8
Services	\$6.2
Room Rentals	\$5.4
Directed Donations	\$5.3
Mass Intensions, etc.	\$2.2
Religious Education Fees	\$1.8
Fund Raising	\$1.1

TOTAL INCOME* **\$248.0**

Salaries	\$103.9
Taxes/Bank Fees	\$37.5
Grounds Maintenance	\$31.9
Clergy Benefits	\$19.2
Office Expenses	\$12.9
Sacramental Expenses	\$10.3
Rectory Utilities	\$9.0
Equipment, buy/repair	\$7.8
Fundraising Expenses	\$7.5
Facilities Maintenance	\$7.3
Taxes, Benefits	\$4.9
Rectory Expenses	\$3.8
Trash & Fire	\$3.1
Church Utilities	\$3.3
Liturgy Expenses	\$3.1
Outside Clergy	\$2.8
Ministries Expenses	\$2.1

TOTAL EXPENSES* **\$270.5**

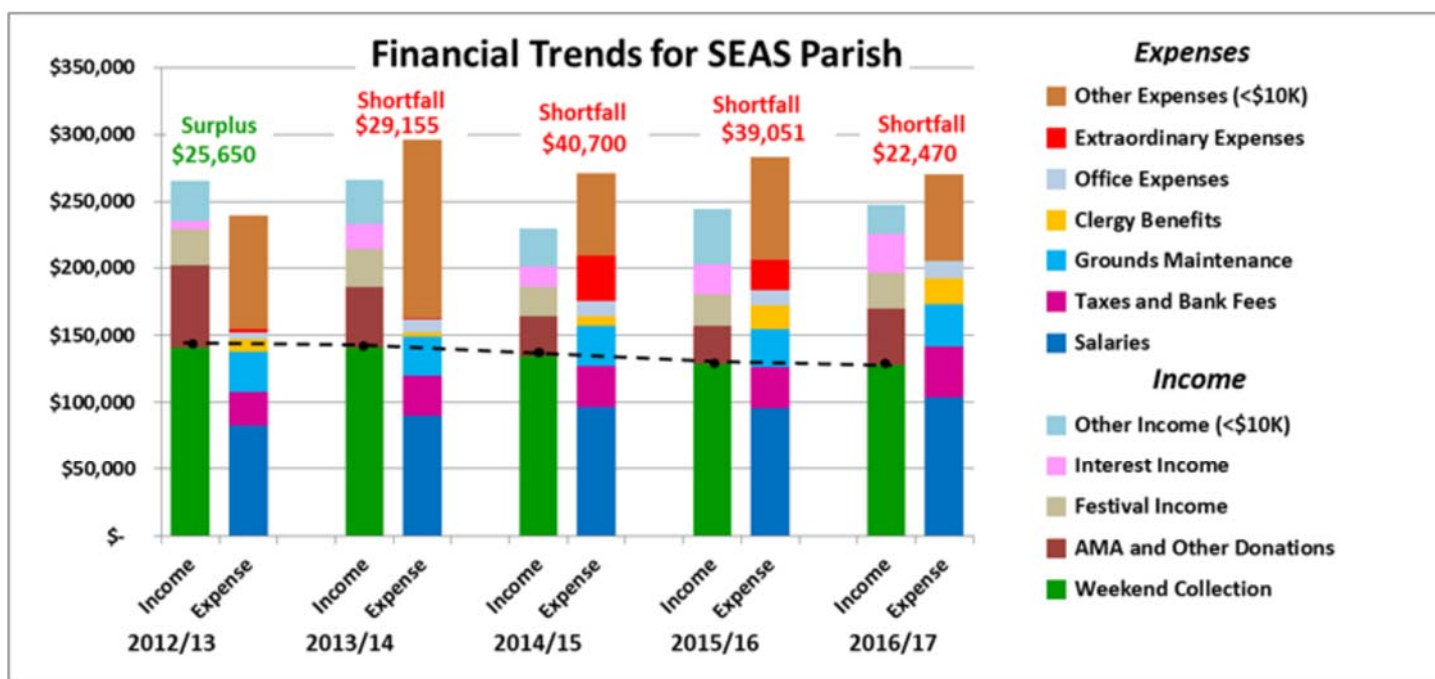


*All values shown in \$ x 1000

FY 2016-17 Shortfall: \$22,412

FINANCIAL TRENDS

FIVE FISCAL YEARS



The history of SEAS financials over the recent years shows a steady increase in expenses while our income is not keeping pace, resulting in a growing shortfall. We are doing well in both the AMA and the Festival results, but the weekly collections are steadily declining (black line in figure). The weekly collection is by far the largest part of the financial support for our parish, and it has dropped to values lower than at any time in the five year window.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Our plate collections are running less than \$2,500 per week for a parish with 400 contributors, which come out to \$6.25 per week per contributor. Since this is not covering our costs, more needs to be done and it needs to come from you, the parishioners. So here's what we can do:

1. As a simple benchmark, consider giving a minimum of 1% of income to the parish in the weekly collection. For a family making \$25,000 a year, that would be \$5.00 per week. At an income of \$50,000, a year, it would be \$10 per week; at \$100,000, \$20 per week.
2. As an alternative which may be easier to understand, give one hour's income per week—the same amount of time we spend in church.
3. For those of us who can afford it, consider giving more than these minimums; consider tithing. We still hope to buy pews and improve the facilities in the parish, and funds for those improvements will have to come from contributions above the minimum, which only covers the ongoing costs of running the parish. We all depend on SEAS for our religious support; SEAS in turn depends on us all for its financial support.
4. I am also asking that everyone sign up for the automatic giving option (electronic giving). It's easy to enroll, you won't need to remember to bring the envelope, and when you are out of town, the support continues--as does the ongoing activities of the parish. Our work doesn't take vacations, so our needs don't either.
5. Bequest. Please consider St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in your Will or Trust.
6. Support parish fundraisers.

When we were growing up, the term we often heard was "tithe", which meant giving 10% to the church. Things have changed and 10% is too much, but since we spend 1% of our week's awake-time in the church on Sunday, it seems reasonable that we also spend 1% of our treasure to support that same church. Or if you prefer, contribute an hour's worth of income per week as part of the hours' worth of worship on Sunday.

God has blessed us with this wonderful parish; we need to do our part to keep it vibrant...and solvent.