Since I’ve moved to the Cathedral, I have found one of its most striking features is the bell tower lit at night. For me, it provides not only safety in the physical darkness, but more importantly, Christ’s spiritual light radiating in the downtown core.

For the whole Diocese and for the neighbourhood, the Cathedral is the place to encounter Jesus and His light that permeates so profoundly in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. Because of this Sacramental encounter, we are saved and restored!

As we experience 15.5 hours of physical darkness, as well as the health, financial, social, and emotional repercussions of the COVID virus, this Sunday’s psalm response is very timely: *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved* (Ps 80:3). Only Jesus can restore people’s sense of meaning and purpose in the midst of suffering and disarray.

How can we continue to let the Cathedral reveal the face of Jesus with his light and his salvation? Here are a few tangible ways that the Cathedral needs to be restored to better bring the Lord’s light, salvation and restoration to the downtown core:

- Interior lighting improvements in the Cathedral ($20,000)
- Internet connectivity in all 3 Cathedral buildings to host live-streamed events, such as Masses with the Bishop ($20,000)
- Hiring a Director of Evangelization to oversee the Cathedral’s digital and in-person evangelical outreach and faith formation ($60,000)
- Saving for a potential Cathedral roof replacement ($250,000)
- Making donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper program

This week’s bulletin includes a pre-authorized donation form to make it easy to financially support the Cathedral. As well, please contact me if you would like to consider other ways to give, such as:

- Annuities and stock equity donations
- Making legacy gifts such as naming the Cathedral as a beneficiary in your insurance policies and wills.

For those of us who can regularly see the Cathedral lit at night, we should be proud to be members of such a beautiful place. We should also be honoured by the responsibility to bring Christ’s light to so many whose lives have been darkened by illness, unbelief, fear, and despair. By sharing our spiritual and financial treasures, many can be restored and saved.

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved*  
(Ps 80:3)
Readings for December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: (Isaiah 11:1-10) With righteousness he shall judge the poor.
Second Reading: (Romans 15:4-9) Christ has saved all people.
Gospel (Matthew 3:1-12) Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Nov. 14 to Nov. 20, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Collections</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes/Loose/Debit/etc.</td>
<td>$5,766.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Donations</td>
<td>$  742.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$6,508.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your generosity!

* Please see the attached November 2020 financial update

OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:00 pm. Closed on Statutory Holidays.

TRUST IN THE LORD.
We are the body of Christ. Each family is an essential part of this body. Continue to support our faith community by giving. It is now possible to make your regular offertory gift by phone, mail, drop-off donations to the church, office, or pre-authorized offertory. Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. You can also use this QR code to donate online with a debit or credit card. If you have questions about charitable giving to our Parish, please contact: Lillian Illescas, Finances at 403 228-4170.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Nov. 14 to Nov. 20, 2020

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PRAYER CORNER INTENTIONS: For the sick, the suffering, the elderly, the lonely and all who find themselves on the margins of society, that they may be empowered by God’s special care of them, especially Marli Puhlmann, Marion Burrus, Dr. Nancy Maguire, Peggy Hart, Jim Delay, Renee Wilson, Keith Anderson, Dawnette Humphrey, Karl Beischroth, Marion Limoges, Laura Meier and George Kassis. For those who have died in Christ, especially the victims of the Corona Virus, that they be resurrected with Him into eternal life.

Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are a marvellous time to come face-to-face with Christ the King in all his humility and his healing divine power. For the Fridays (Dec 4, 11, and 18) before Christmas Day, there will be Eucharistic Adoration in the Cathedral from 8AM until 8PM (the 5PM Mass will still take place). As well, a priest will be available for Confession during this entire period. To come and adore Christ the King, you’re welcome to signup at http://stmaryscalgary.ca/ministries/eucharistic-adoration-fridays-christmas.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2021: We are in process of preparing the offertory envelopes for the upcoming year and thinking about how we can then distribute the boxes keeping in mind COVID precautions (unnecessary handling). Why not consider the use of a Pre-authorized giving plan for your Sunday offertory donation? Pre-authorized giving (PAG) provides for a convenient way to support St. Mary’s Cathedral even if you absent from the Cathedral. As Christian stewards, it will give you the opportunity to better plan your finances when supporting our parish. A representative from the parish office will be at each Mass to provide you with a Direct Debit form and/or answer any questions you may have. If you have changed your address in the last year, please let us know in order to send your tax receipt to the correct address.

St. Mary’s Cathedral Catholic Women’s League (CWL) Christmas Raffle

1st Prize | BEAUTIFUL HOMEMADE QUILT (5’ x 6’)
2nd Prize | BEAUTIFUL HOMEMADE QUILT (3.5’ x 5’)
3rd Prize | 1-YR COSTCO GOLD STAR MEMBERSHIP

Prize Draw Date | 20 Dec 2020 after the NOON MASS
Visit the area adjacent to the Gift Booth to view the quilts. Purchase tickets ($25/each) via CHEQUES (payable to St. Mary’s Cathedral CWL) or E-TRANSFERS (to: stmaryscalgarycwlfundproj@gmail.com)

ONLY 60 tickets printed in TOTAL! Proceeds go to support Elizabeth House and St. Mary’s Cathedral CWL initiatives! Call Sharon Bernard at (403) 991-0804 for inquiries. Visit us on Facebook @ yycstmaryscwl!

The First Sunday of Advent signifies the start of the new liturgical year. The Gift booth has Missals for $10.00. We also have a wide assortment of Advent devotion booklets available, as well as wreaths, candles, and religious Advent calendars for the children that will help you prepare for the great feast of Christmas. This year why not consider bringing an Advent devotions booklet and a set of Advent candles to those who do not feel comfortable attending Mass in person?

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St. Mary Cathedral
Parish Financial Update
as at November 24, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Statement</th>
<th>Balance Sheet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ordinary Income/Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>Chequing</td>
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<tr>
<td>$340,955</td>
<td>$163,671</td>
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<td>Other Collections</td>
<td>Savings/other</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,675</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donation/Grant*</td>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<td>$228,492</td>
<td>$232,464</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>$368</td>
<td>$1,708,812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>$82,221</td>
<td>$1,941,276</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$654,711</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
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<td>Salaries</td>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<td>$299,680</td>
<td>$47,482</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Total Parish Equity</td>
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<td>$143,036</td>
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<td>Rectory</td>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</td>
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<td>$26,166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin/Office</td>
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<td>$57,284</td>
<td>$72,695</td>
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<td>Assessment***</td>
<td>Programs</td>
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<td>$23,970</td>
<td>$21,722</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td><strong>$82,852</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Ordinary Income</strong></td>
<td>($64,589)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- **Donation/Grant**: includes the Diocesan subsidy and Government wage subsidies.
- **Other**: includes priests residence rental fees, online donations, parish hall rental, maintenance
- **Assessment**: the amount that parishes pay for the work of the entire Diocese.

For further information please contact:
- **Paul Valentine** St. Mary's Finance Council Chair
  email: finance@stmaryscalgary.com  403-862-4206
- **Lillian Illescas** St. Mary's Secretary and Bookkeeper
  email: lillian@stmaryscalgary.com      403-228-4170
Bishop McGrattan explained in his most recent Pastoral Letter to the faithful that the Diocese and the parishes have made difficult financial decisions this year that will affect staffing both in the Catholic Pastoral Centre and the parishes in the year 2021.

Having met with the staff, I would like to share with you the following staff who will continue to serve in the parish for 2021.

Maribel Rabanal: Rectory Housekeeper

I take this opportunity to thank the staff, who for parish financial reasons will not be coming back to their positions, for their service and contributions to the parish. I ask that we keep them in our prayers:

Allison Charlton: Sacramental Preparation
Linda Hengen: Receptionist
Frank Lynch: Music Director
Aurora Rivera: Rectory Cook
Celina Soltys: Rectory Housekeeper

As we end this year and prepare for the upcoming year, I will continue to consult on how we can continue to creatively find ways to provide ministries that are essential to parish life with the involvement of the finance council and the volunteers here in the parish.

Lastly, I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have shared of your time and resources to help me in the operation of the parish especially during this pandemic.

Fr John Nemanic
Rector- St Mary’s Cathedral
NOTE:

- The Mass schedule is contingent upon the restrictions placed by the Province of Alberta, Alberta Health Services, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary.
- The Diocese of Calgary has stipulated that registration for Christmas Masses will begin on December 17.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**
Thursday, December 24  Masses at:
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm and Midnight

**CHRISTMAS DAY**
Friday, December 25  Masses at: 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**
Saturday, December 26  Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 27  Masses at 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

December 28-31 (Monday-Thursday) 9:00 am Daily Mass

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**
Thursday, December 31  Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm
Friday, January 1, 2021  Mass at 9:00 am and 5:00 pm

**OFFICE HOURS DURING CHRISTMAS**

The Parish Office will CLOSE at Noon on Thursday, December 24
and will reopen Monday, December 28 (8:30 am-12:00 pm - ONLY)
We will close again at Noon on Thursday, December 31
and reopen Monday, January 2, 2021 at 8:30 am.

St. Mary’ Cathedral - 219 - 18th Ave. SW Calgary, AB T2S 0C2 Tel: 403 228-4170
www.stmaryscalgary.ca
The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Program

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (“SSVP”) is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ through serving the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

For many families, Christmas is the favourite time of year, bringing family and loved ones together in joy and love to share a meal and thanksgiving. However, there are many in our St. Mary’s community who are suffering, estranged from their families, recently losing a spouse or from the effects of poor physical or mental health. As Christians, we are called to see Christ in this suffering and to help in all possible ways.

This Christmas season, the St. Mary’s SSVP will be distributing Christmas hampers to the poor in our local community. We help many families and individuals who would not have a special meal or a gift for their children to open. This year will prove especially challenging. With the effects of COVID-19 and a depressed economy, we face many financial challenges and need more help than ever to help those in need to find enjoyment in the Blessed Christmas season. In a typical year, SSVP delivers close to a 100 Christmas hampers to families in our community. We feel the need this season may well be higher.

We are accepting donations for our Christmas hampers. Non-perishables can be dropped into the SSVP box at the back of the Cathedral. Financial contributions - payable to Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - can be dropped off at the church office or deposited into the donation box. You may also donate online - Please click HERE OR copy and paste this link to your web browser: https://ssvpcalgary.ca/give/ and select St. Mary’s Conference. CRA Charitable Donation Receipts will be issued. Our Christmas hamper cutoff date is December 11th and our hamper delivery date is December 19th.

Volunteers are invited to join the Society. We meet on first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Parish Hall (or online during Pandemic). If you are interested in joining us, or if you require assistance, please contact us at 403-397-6028.

Due to COVID-19, we have altered our Giving Tree Program which, in the past, allowed the donation of Christmas gifts. This year, we are asking for donations of gift cards - at least $25 - from your favourite toy store or big box superstore. If you would like to help a specific child or family, please call our SSVP phone line at (403) 397-6028 ext. 3. Leave a message that you would like to help and one of our volunteers will contact you to work out the details. This program will start on November 28th and end December 13. Gift cards are to be dropped off at the Parish office by December 13th.

We hope you will be generous once again so that we can help bring cheer to those who would otherwise have little during the Holidays. Please open your hearts to our struggling community. Please contact our Christmas phone line at (403) 397-6028 ext 3 if you require any further information.

Yours in Service of the Poor,
Renee Erickson
President, SSVP St. Mary’s Cathedral Parish
ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL
Direct Debit/ Credit Card Authorization Form

Please Print Clearly

Last Name ___________________________________________ Name ______________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ Province ___________________ Postal Code ___________________

e-mail address ________________________________________________

Phone Number ______________________ Cell Number __________________

Credit Card Number _____________________________ Expiry Date ________________
or Account Number ________________________________________________

(Please attach void Cheque for verification information)

Bank ______________________________ Branch ______________________

Please specify below which funds you would like your gifts to be directed towards in what amount:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering Type</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Monthly (Indicate) 1st./15th/30th.</th>
<th>Annually</th>
<th>Other Date</th>
<th>One Time Donation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Offering</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Together in Action (TIA)</td>
<td>_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Anthony’s Fund (Poor)</td>
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<td>Altar Flowers Fund</td>
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<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ONCE A YEAR**

New Year’s Day                  January 1st.
Seminarian Fund                 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Holy Thursday – Share Lent      
Good Friday – Holy Land         
Easter                         
Pope’s Pastoral Works          May
World Mission Sunday            Oct.
Catholic Education              Nov.
Mission Mexico                  Dec. 12
Christmas                       Dec. 25

**For weekly monthly/annual gifts where the date is not already noted, please specify the date you wish to have your gifts withdrawn in the fourth column provided.

I authorize St. Mary’s Cathedral, 219 – 18th Ave. SW, Calgary, Alberta to receive the amounts mentioned above from my Master Card/ Visa or by Direct Debit in instalments as specified above. I understand that I can change or delete my donation amount at any time with written confirmation to the Parish Staff. I understand that I must allow at least 2 weeks to allow these changes to be applied.

Signature _________________________________ Date _________________________

**If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 403 228-4170.