

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017



We, the parish family of St. Francis of Assisi, formed in 1980, are gifted with wisdom, productivity and vitality. We are a Sacramental people journeying toward our Christian mission to know, love and serve Christ. To better know, love and serve Christ, we strive to emulate our patron, St. Francis of Assisi by: Focusing our greater concern on the building of our people, giving our time, talent and treasures, in reaching out to others, and promoting peace and harmony within God's creation.

We Celebrate 37 Years of Parish Life



My brothers and sisters,

What a blessing it is for me to be among you, to lead you in worship, and to guide you on your individual and communal spiritual journeys! In the time I have spent with you, you have come to know that my slogan is consistent—Go and share the Good News! And I see that in you! I experience Good News through my many encounters with you at church, in parish activities, and in your homes.

This Annual Report reviews our accomplishments and successes. It highlights the amazing things God is doing at St. Francis of Assisi. It celebrates the positive momentum our church is experiencing. It also recognizes some of the people who help us succeed through sharing gifts of time, effort, and energy.

As we continue to live our parish mission, this report becomes “the story” of our parish for this year. It highlights our activities, our new ventures, and also



identifies some of our challenges. I am most grateful to all of you for living the mission of our parish. I am proud of you. I am here to walk this continued journey of sharing the Good News with you.

I ask God daily to bless our efforts—those of prayer and those of service.

Pope Francis reminds us that we need to follow Jesus’ lead to encounter and accompany those we meet, even in our own parishes. The community of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church has been committed to following Jesus and making disciples for 37 years now.

To be a disciple is to be a learner, one who is engaged in a lifelong process. The learning process is not haphazard but intentional and consistent with the needs of parishioners in mind. To that end, we present highlights of our year.



Photo by Kenneth Caruthers

CELEBRATIONS

Our year included the welcome of Fr. Tony to St. Francis, the inauguration of Sunday Mass in Spanish, and celebrations of 25 years of ACTS retreats and 10 years of Mobile Loaves & Fishes. Brian Garcia was ordained to the priesthood. We welcomed 47 candidates and catechumens at the Easter Vigil. Tony and Irma Flores received the Lumen Gentium award. Johnny and Shirley Flores began formation for his diaconate ordination. Our CYO won several championships, and our Knights of Columbus won several state awards.

Photos from top to bottom: St. Francis’ CYO soccer team wins first place in the 2016 City Tournament (Photo courtesy of St. Francis’ CYO). Two young volunteers pack bags of chips for St. Francis’ Mobile Loaves & Fishes (Photo courtesy of Gerry Caron). Fr. Tony baptizes a catechumen at the 2017 Easter Vigil (Photo by Kenneth Caruthers). Fr. Brian Garcia celebrates his first Mass as a priest on November 20, 2016 at St. Francis (Photo by Kenneth Caruthers).

Sacraments and Formation

100

Baptisms



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117

First Communion



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Confirmations



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Weddings



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Funerals



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ATTENDANCE



Faith Formation Enrollment

Elementary School	292
Sacrament Preparation	102
Homeschool	31
Middle School	45
Edge Program	56
Life Teen Program	82
Teen Confirmation	41
RCIA	47



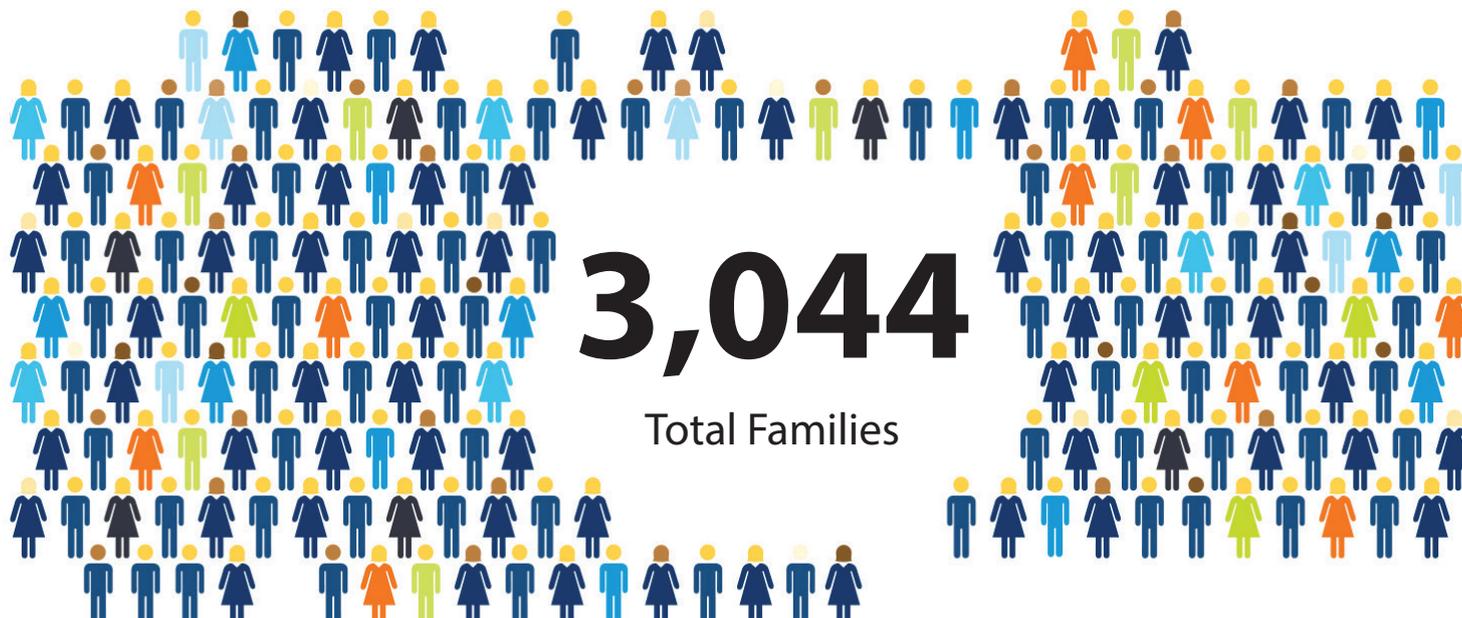
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426

New Families



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In Giving We Receive

Annual Financial Summary

	2016-2017
Income	\$2,462,925.09
Expenses	\$2,335,117.56
Balance	\$127,807.53*

Income Report

	2016-2017
Offertory	\$1,893,676.60
Debt Reduction	\$89,584.34
Faith Formation	\$153,484.58
Archdiocese Refund - Insurance Claims	\$21,015.20
Archbishop's Appeal Rebate	\$7,906.11
Hall and Room Rental	\$7,991.77
Music and Liturgy	1,576.23
Annual Parish Festival	\$111,605.55
CYO	\$79,610.44
Other Donations	\$22,063.37
Other Income	\$74,410.90
Total Income	\$2,462,925.09

Expense Report

	2016-2017
Faith Formation	\$202,111.76
Archdiocesan Services Fund	\$301,896.00
Debt Payment/Interest	\$395,448.00
Staff Salary/Insurance/Benefits	\$630,945.52
Clergy(2): All Expenses	\$129,996.97
Insurance: Property and Liability	\$32,073.16
Maintenance	\$109,919.98
Contracted Services	\$26,767.34
Fixed Assets (Capital Improvement)	\$89,977.43
Utilities	\$132,889.15
Liturgy and Music	\$45,530.78
Communications	\$8,459.45
Festival Expenses	\$14,709.71
Parish Events	\$ 8,562.09
General Supplies	\$34,667.39
Grants to the Poor/Sister Parish Support	\$102,185.30
CYO	\$68,977.53
Total Expenses	\$2,335,117.56

*When funds are available, additional monies are applied toward debt reduction. Finance Council policy ensures a healthy checking account to cover unforeseen incidental costs that may occur for facility repairs.



Outreach Income Totals

	2016-2017
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	\$65,359.00
Mobile Loaves & Fishes	\$110,810.50
Living Water International	\$16,569.86
Habitat for Humanity	\$30,017.96
2nd Collections to Archdiocese	\$114,088.84
Archbishop's Appeal	\$159,233.00
Total Outreach	\$430,720.16

Contributors and Registered Families**

Annual Amount	#	%
< \$100	234	0.5%
\$101-\$500	315	4.0%
\$501-\$1,000	217	8.0%
\$1,001-\$2,000	224	17.0%
\$2,001-\$3,000	105	13.0%
\$3,001-\$5,000	70	14.0%
\$5,001-\$7,500	46	14.0%
\$7,501-\$10,000	21	8.8%
\$10,001-Above	19	20.7%
Total Families	1,251	100%

**Please note: Cash donations are not identifiable if envelopes or online giving is not used. Some donations are one time contributions from visitors.

Who is a Parishioner?

In the light of our parish commitment to the stewardship way of life, we define an active parishioner as one who:

1. Has completed and submitted a parish registration form via online registration or printed form turned in to the office.
2. Participates regularly in the liturgical life of the parish.
3. Supports the parish mission by completing and fulfilling an annual commitment of growing spiritually, participating in parish life by offering service, and contributing financially to the parish through sharing of gifts.

"Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord."

-Taken from *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*



A RELIANCE ON PRAYER AND THE SACRAMENTS

GROWING IN FAITH AND WORSHIP

It's all about Sunday! Every room, including office space, is filled with children, teens, and adults learning. The adults enjoyed Robert Barron's Catholicism series. For middle-schoolers, we added a Sunday afternoon option, as well as homeschool.

Recognizing the number of families with small children, we initiated pre-school faith formation on Sunday mornings, expanded child care during Mass times to include Saturday and Sunday evening, and changed Stations of the Cross to Tuesday and made them more kid-friendly. With the addition of new catechists, we are able to do Children's Liturgy of the Word at two Masses on Sunday.

Every weekend over 380 parishioners are available to help with our liturgies as altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, cantors, choir members and greeters or hospitality ministers. Average Mass attendance each weekend was 2,313. Other highlights include:

- Lenten Reflection Series on Easter symbols
- Handbells at more Masses
- Two Taizé Prayer experiences, Advent Retreat, large Bible Study on Mary
- Two Pilgrimages of Art and Faith to Israel and Spain
- Four adult and two teen ACTS retreats, Beyond Cana retreat
- Attendance at Archdiocesan Assembly, Youth Spectacular, SEEK
- Catechists attended LA Congress, choir members and musicians attended NPM, Life Teen Core members went to training, 3 ACTS Spiritual Companions completed training
- Distributed 1,000 copies of *Resisting Happiness* by Matthew Kelly
- Formed four new Small Church Communities
- Moms Ministry became more visible and integrated into parish life
- Women in the Spirit met monthly to discuss *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brené Brown
- Participation in classes and lectures at Oblate School of Theology



A COMMITMENT TO A HEALTHY ORGANIZATION

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR RESOURCES

At St. Francis, the leadership (pastor and staff) work diligently to be good stewards of all the resources available to us—the time, talent, and financial support of parishioners. Parish members are our partners when they assist us in meeting our goals.

The people of our parish community are our greatest resource. Through your efforts we are able to grow spiritually, to serve joyfully, and to give generously. We work intentionally and consistently in forming disciples of Jesus—to increase our capacity to share our faith and bring many to an encounter with Jesus. We are especially proud of these stewardship efforts:

- Reduced our parish debt aggressively
- Provided additional forms of payment for parish financial support
- Integrated Mobile Loaves & Fishes and Men's Club into parish accounting
- Held Beyond Cana's retreat on St. Francis' campus to reduce costs for participants
- Switched to Catholic Charities counseling
- Exceeded our Archbishop's Appeal goal for the sixth year in a row

Photos from top to bottom: The team for St. Francis' November 2017 women's ACTS retreat began meeting in the summer of 2017 to start formation (Photo courtesy of St. Francis' women's ACTS). Fr. Tony and other pilgrims enjoy time out on the Sea of Galilee during their pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March 2017 (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tony). Parishioners participate in St. Francis' 2016 Advent Taizé Prayer Service (Photo by Eileen Kleffner). Juan Lopez cooks BBQ chicken for the Men's Club (Photo courtesy of St. Francis' Men's Club).



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A PASSION FOR EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

SERVICE, COMPASSION, AND COMMUNITY IN AND BEYOND THE PARISH

We have been improving our communication with you! We continue to produce a creative bulletin that features our families in action, social media postings announcing events and sharing St. Francis memories, current website information, and the early Friday morning e-mail push, My St. Francis. Our parish office is conveniently open Monday-Thursday from 8 am-7 pm, Friday from 8 am-5 pm, Saturday from 8 am-4 pm, and Sunday from 9:30 am-11:30 am.

We welcomed 426 families with personalized welcome cards and introductions at Mass and parish events. Significant evangelization, discipleship, and service opportunities included:

- St. Vincent de Paul
- Homebound ministry
- Ramadan dinner
- Hosted teens from Dallas at FISH Camp
- V Encuentro
- Young Catholic Professionals Executive Speaker Series
- Mobile Loaves & Fishes celebrated 10 years at St. Francis with 650 volunteers, 400 of which are active and 80% are parishioners
- Kids' Day Out
- Living Water International Mission Trip to Guatemala
- Habitat for Humanity
- Strong, professional staff



Photos from left to right: St. Francis hosted students from the FISH Camp Mission Trip from Dallas over the summer (Photo courtesy of FISH Camp). St. Francis parishioners volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in the fall to help a family in need of housing (Photo by Kenneth Caruthers).

Thank You for Your Participation

WE PRAY

We offer liturgies, retreats, religious education for children and teens, continued faith education for adults, marriage formation and enrichment programs, Bible studies, counseling, and the list goes on, literally, on page 9 of our weekly bulletin. We also offer preparation for sacraments with information on page 8 of our bulletin.

WE SERVE

We understand everyone serves in a different way, each with unique gifts driven by passion for what they do. We offer multiple ways in which you can serve, ranging from ministries in liturgy, religious education, and social outreach to campus gardening, prayer quilting, and visiting the sick. See page 9 of our bulletin for opportunities.

WE GIVE

As you continue your stewardship journey, prayerfully consider the many ways in which you are blessed. If you decide that you want to participate in giving, there are several ways you can give to St. Francis of Assisi.

1. *Online Giving* (Our Preferred Method)
2. Weekly or Monthly Envelopes
3. Deferred and Planned Giving: Bequests in wills, stocks, bonds, life insurance, etc.

A Note About This Report

This annual report highlights parish data from the 2017 Fiscal Year, which spans from July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017. Download this report online at www.sfasat.org/2017Report. Stay connected to parish news and updates throughout the year with the Sunday bulletin, Friday e-newsletter, the parish newsletter, website (sfasat.org), and social media accounts: fb.com/sfasatx | twitter.com/sfasat | instagram.com/sfasat | SFA YouTube Channel



“If a parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.” -Pope Francis