

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
Aiken, South Carolina

ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends,

St. Mary's is a truly special place, and it is a great blessing to serve this community. As I look back on the 2025–2026 school year, I am grateful for the many ways our parish, families, alumni, and friends have supported our school and its mission. Your generosity helps us continue to provide a Catholic education to the families we serve. Thank you for the many ways you invest in our students and help us form them in faith, virtue, and wisdom.

Families come to St. Mary's because they want their children to grow in their Catholic faith while receiving an excellent education. We want our students to develop a love of learning, grow in wisdom and virtue, and come to know Jesus Christ more deeply. We also believe that Catholic education should be accessible to families who desire it for their children. The generosity of our donors helps make this possible, and I am especially grateful for those who give so that more families can be part of our school community.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you will enjoy seeing some of what we have accomplished together this past year and the opportunities ahead of us. We are grateful for the continued growth of our school, the many opportunities we can offer our students, and the people who make this work possible. If you have not had the opportunity to visit St. Mary's, we would love to welcome you to campus and share more about the life of our school.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's and for being part of this community. May God bless you and your families, and may He continue to guide us as we grow together in faith, virtue, and wisdom.

In Christ,



Carlos Overstreet
Principal

FINANCIAL REPORT 2025-2026

CARLOS OVERSTREET, PRINCIPAL
FR. RICHARD WILSON, PASTOR

ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The mission of St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic School, in partnership with parents, is to form Christian leaders who are faithful, prepared, and courageous.

INCOME HIGHLIGHTS

TUITION & EDUCATIONAL FEES
$1,721,608

PARISH AID
$312,024

FUNDRAISING
$243,858

STUDENT ACTIVITIES/SERVICES
$69,237

EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS

PAYROLL EXPENSES
$1,806,378

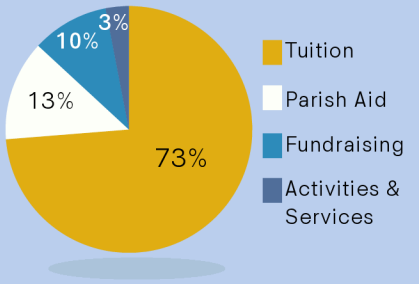
OVERHEAD & GENERAL EXPENSES
$369,867

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENSES
$126,841

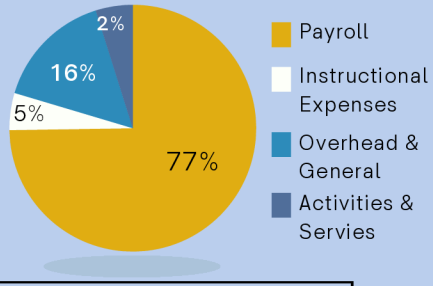
STUDENT ACTIVITIES/SERVICES
$55,077

METRICS

INCOME



EXPENSES



GOALS/PROGRESS

- Strengthen Financial Sustainability through enrollment, fundraising, careful budgeting, and responsible stewardship of resources.
- PTO met an annual budget contribution goal of $35,000 and covered additional indirect costs.

NET LOSS
$38,437

*For the complete school and parish financial reports, please visit our parish website. https://www.stmarys-aiken.org/financial-reports

St. Mary's School and Parish are deeply grateful to all of our donors and the PTO for their generous support throughout the year. Their commitment and contributions make it possible for our school to continue providing excellent opportunities for our students. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to parents for partnering with us in the education of their children. Thank you for investing in our mission and in the future of our children.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.STMARYSCHOOLAIKEN.COM

A GROWING SCHOOL COMMUNITY

After-School Enrichment

Learning doesn't end when the school day does! Our expanding After-School Enrichment program gives students opportunities to discover new interests and develop new skills through offerings such as sewing, chess, guitar, art, calligraphy, and more.



Growing Enrollment

Our St. Mary's family continues to grow! Enrollment has increased, with over 30 new families enrolling. This growth reflects the confidence families place in a St. Mary's education and our vibrant school community.

Our preschool program completed its first year with near capacity enrollment.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Diaper Drive

Our school community came together to support local families in need, donating 5,236 diapers and 1,192 wipes through our Diaper Drive.



Service Projects

Our families and students participated in a variety of service projects from filling local blessing boxes, to food drives, to making sandwiches for those in need, and more.



INVESTING IN OUR FACILITIES

New HVAC Units

Last spring, 3 of 7 HVAC campus systems were replaced, representing meaningful progress in a multi-year effort. The 2025 Day of Giving campaign raised $40,873 helping fund the units at approximately $12,000 each. These new units are providing improved comfort and reliability throughout our campus.

Energy-Efficient Lighting

Carter Hall is now equipped with new LED lighting, improving energy efficiency and reducing operating costs. Additional LED upgrades are planned as we continue to invest in a more energy efficient campus.



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

We proudly sent the SMS Class of 2026 into their next chapters with our prayers and support. We are especially proud to celebrate Aiken High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian, both St. Mary's graduates and members of our parish community. May God bless all of our graduates as they continue to learn, serve, and lead.



BUILDING A FUTURE FOR OUR FAMILIES

The Gilmore Estate

The generous legacy gift of Keith Gilmore's Estate represents an important investment in the future of the students at St. Mary's School. Proceeds will directly impact families seeking a Catholic education through tuition assistance for years to come. There are many ways to leave a legacy at St. Mary's School and parish including estate planning that can help future generations benefit from a Catholic education.

PTO Gala

The PTO Gala was a wonderful evening of fellowship and generosity, bringing our school community together in support of our students. The funds raised at PTO events directly support our school and students. Please consider attending our next gala!



Supporting Families at St. Mary's

Through the SC ESTF Scholarship Program and the generosity of Friends of St. Mary's, financial assistance is helping over 40 of our families provide a St. Mary's education for their children. We are grateful for the donors who make this opportunity possible.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Growing Our STEM Program

Our commitment to STEM education continues to strengthen. Dr. Daw, Emeritus Professor of Physics from Clemson University, worked with our teachers through professional development focused on strengthening STEM instruction while furthering our mission of providing students with a rigorous academic foundation.

Applied Science & Robotics

Our Middle School students are taking STEM learning to the next level through new applied science pathways. Students are exploring robotics, engineering, coding, scientific investigation, problem-solving, and hands-on design, building the skills and confidence to approach real-world challenges with curiosity and creativity.





THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The generosity of our school community makes so much of what we do possible. We are deeply grateful to every donor, sponsor, volunteer, and supporter who invested in our students this year. Whether through our Day of Giving, the PTO Gala, PTO fundraisers and event sponsorships, Friends of St. Mary's School sponsorships, ongoing STEM Center pledge fulfillment, or countless volunteer hours given in classrooms, at school events, and behind the scenes, your generosity strengthens our mission and helps provide an exceptional Catholic education for every student. Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's School.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Catholic Identity

Strengthening Our Catholic Identity remains a priority as we continue to intentionally form students in both faith and character. We are introducing our new Education in Virtue program and Manners Mondays initiative, students focus on habits rooted in the Catholic virtues while learning the importance of respect, kindness, gratitude, and consideration for others.





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CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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