

**St. Augustine Parish
15 Lincoln Street
Millville, MA 01529**



“We are committed to worshipping God, welcoming all, sharing faith, caring for you. We stand with every generation as we strive to live and grow in faith, hope, and love.”

SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS (S):

Financial:

- Positive financial results year over year thru July 2021:

\$ 10,427 Income/Expenses, Net \$7,628 (other)

\$28,793 Checking

\$25,719 Building Fund

\$81,164 DEF Savings

\$ 1,675 Altar DEF (Misc)

\$137,351 Total

- Rental of Rectory 4th year @ approx. \$1,400/month (2 additional years)
- Active FinCom weekly reporting, quarterly updates in Newsletter
- Positive yearly negotiated oil contracts

Campus/Facilities:

- Church is in good physical shape with abundance of seating and parking spaces
- Updated, energy efficient church with seating capacity of 487, air conditioned hall with 9 classrooms and seating for 177, and a relatively new commercial grade kitchen.
- Mass Save replaced all church and hall lighting with LED fixtures
- New Roof on Rectory (\$18,000 PAID), 2 car garage
- Additional storage building/garge next to hall
- Two (2) outbuildings for storage (previously used by scouts)
- Fully maintained organ (\$ 850 PAID)
- Centrally located within lower Blackstone Valley
- Building & Grounds committee tracks maintenance needs

Community/Parish Life:

- A number of active ministries as noted within the parish profile
- MITU established fundraiser with Fr. Esposito, Fr. Victor and Good Shepherd. 83% of \$70,000 commitment completed. Scheduled to finish by February 2022, well in advance, due to key cooperation/communication between parishes
- Committed core of daily Mass-goers and spiritual followers (16 to 24 parishioners)
- We are a “welcoming” community but realize that we must become more “invitational” as well
- Stable (maintenance) enrollment
- Clustering has proved it can work with solid pastoral leadership
- Deacon Mike and Marsha Hafferty as a consistant spirtual presenance
- Dedicated religious education teaching staff
- Parish collects food on a regular basis for the Blackstone-Millville Food Pantry, and our parishioners volunteer there weekly.
- Service to Community
 - St. Vincent de Paul
 - Financial assistance

- Food baskets and Christmas gifts
 - Service for anointing of the sick
- Outreach Team
 - Cards/breads delivered for those in town with deaths in family
 - Parish newsletter
- Veteran's Breakfast
 - Open to veterans and their families
 - Open to first responders
 - Religious education students participate

WEAKNESSES (W):

Financial:

- Covid has impacted income from fundraisers
- Commitment of parishioners for using envelopes or e-funds (cash only)
- Using one-time funds for operating expenses
- Lack of new parishioners or knowledge of same – need formalized “Invitation packet”
- Loss of income from bulletin advertisers; only one local advertiser utilized on current bulletin

Campus/Facilities:

- Maintenance of grounds challenging, with hills, walls, and wooded areas
- Parking lots in need of patching and sealing, expensive to maintain
- Hall requires regular maintenance to keep it usable and rentable
- Rectory in need of carpentry work and painting
- Snow & ice management in winter can be expensive due to hills

Community/Parish Life:

- No Priest residing in Rectory for 4 years
- High turnover of priests, no stability or consistency of leadership, from “ReBuilt” to final years
- Youth ministry stopped during Bishop’s removal of Fr. Gagnon
- No formal process for inviting the non-churched, 91% of population (286/3,253) in Millville
- Lack of consistency of spiritual happenings/events
- Parishioners left due to Mass time changes, changes to music ministry (e.g. loss of choir), children involvement in music ceased
- No measured Parental responsibility for RE
- Same people in charge of running same ministry functions.
- Reluctance of parishioners to get involved, especially leadership positions
- Some followers, few leaders
- Inconsistent CCD/RE leadership and direction

OPPORTUNITIES (O):

Financial:

- Establish goal percentage for “e-funding” to all parishioners to establish “obligation to support,” (not just a few dollars in the basket)
- Continue updates in quarterly Newsletter, weekly bulletins, and homilies regarding support of Parish and cost of certain items by specific ministries, i.e., grounds – cost of snowplowing
- Develop a 2 to 3 year capital and operating plan/budget
- Develop “for profit” quarterly events using commercial kitchen and hall
- Allow churches to invest in potentially higher yielding ROI than DEF, partial % permission if possible

Campus/Facilities:

- Use BVT connection for assistance with activities like woodworking or computer help
- Better advertise availability of parish hall with commercial kitchen

Community/Parish Life:

- Establish that the Pastoral Council should help to lead the parish discussion and assist in defining the “vision” of the Parish as a strategy. Hold ministries accountable for tactics to support strategy.
- Review/revamp parish guidelines regarding the Pastoral Council membership on regular basis allowing for new members, new ideas, new leadership to be developed as part of the Parish Renewal process.
- Outward reach thru ministries, succession planning for ministry leadership.
- Faith Formation, Bible Studies, explaining the parts of the Mass ETC.
- Have religious education students participate in Family Mass as in past
- Reinitiate religious education service hours for confirmation class

THREATS (T):

Financial:

- Costs accelerate (inflation) at a much greater rate than regular income
- Potential loss of tenant income
- Loss of income from ending Spanish Sunday P.M. Mass
- Younger families not attending or contributing in high numbers
- Unilateral decision making without involving all stakeholders can impact participation and planned budget

Campus/Facilities:

- Potential need for church roof repair/replace in future
- Upper and lower parking lots can degrade quickly if not maintained

Community/Parish Life:

- Younger families are not participating
- Restructuring may cause additional loss of parishioners
- Damaged reputation of Catholic Church contributed to lack of confidence in the Church (society relevance)
- Competing religions within town limits
- 5 other Catholic churches within 6 mile radius (MA & RI)