

Twin Parish News

FEBRUARY 2026

A partnership between St. William and St. Joseph, Côtés-de-Fer, Haiti



A Valentine of Thanks

In every prayer, in every gift,
love has found its way across the sea.

What we share has taken root—
steady, faithful, quietly.

With grateful hearts,
we thank you for walking with
St. Joseph Parish.



Your Love in Action

What our parish provided together in 2025



Agroforestry \$15,000 +

\$ 5,841 for hurricane damage

Your love supported farmers with seeds, tools, training, and shared livestock—helping families strengthen both land and livelihood.



Education \$46,500

Your love provided school operations and tuition assistance so children could continue learning, even in uncertain times.



Healthcare \$3,850

Your love supported basic healthcare through ongoing hypertension care and essential medicines.



Infrastructure \$16,399

Your love helped maintain and restore parish buildings so worship, learning, and community life could continue safely.



Water \$31,100

Your love made clean, reliable water possible for families through new wells, cisterns, and maintenance.



Your Generosity at Work

What we are prepared to provide together in 2026

The approved 2026 budget reflects both our ongoing commitments and our readiness to respond to needs as they arise—so that education continues, clean water flows, healthcare is available, and parish life remains strong.

AGROFORESTRY = \$12,000

Continuing ecological and economic development through tree planting, sustainable farming, and shared livestock.

EDUCATION = \$32,000

Supporting two elementary schools and tuition assistance to attend a Catholic high school

INFRASTRUCTURE = \$6,000

Caring for parish buildings and systems, including solar conversion, connectivity, and essential repairs.

HEALTHCARE = \$6,500

Ongoing hypertension care and access to basic medicines for parishioners in St. Joseph and surrounding chapels.

WATER = \$24,000

Providing clean, reliable water through new wells, testing, and maintenance for chapel communities.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH OPERATING EXPENSES = \$37,822

Supporting the daily life of the parish, including administration, transportation, food for families, priest support and new loan program..

DISASTER RELIEF & EMERGENCY RESERVES = \$32,622

Maintaining a modest reserve so we can respond quickly in times of unexpected need.

HELPING HUGS, INC. ADMINISTRATION = \$3,500

Covering essential costs such as IRS tax preparation, annual US Postal Box rental fee, postal costs, technical support for website, credit card charges for online donations, and state incorporation fees.

TOTAL 2026 BUDGET = \$154,444



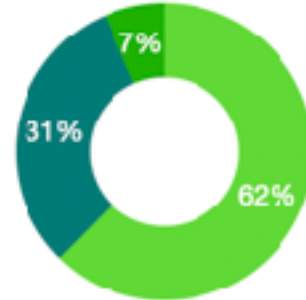
Caring for What Has Been Entrusted to Us

Here is how your love was received and shared.

The charts below show how the 2026 budget supports both our mission commitments and the essential work of sustaining this ministry.

2025 How Our Community Gave

Funds Raised	
Annual Dinner and Auctions	\$87,971
Education Campaign	\$43,760
Bi-monthly Basket Collection	\$9,300
Total Funds Raised	\$141,031

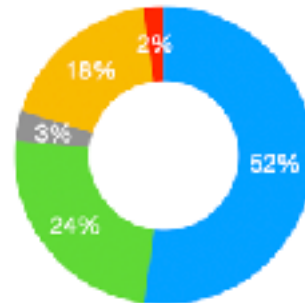


- Annual Dinner and Auctions
- Education Campaign
- Bi-monthly Basket Collection

***Planned 2026 expenses draw from funds already on hand, beyond the fundraising projects shown here.**

2026 How Your Gifts Will Be Used

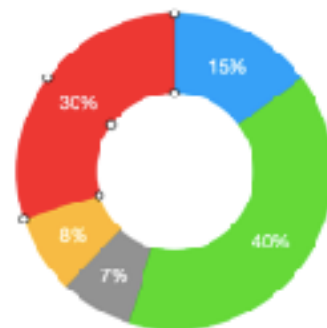
2026 How Funds Are Allocated	
Mission Areas	\$80,500
St. Joseph Church Support	\$37,822
Disaster Relief	\$5,000
Emergency Reserves	\$27,822
Helping Hugs Inc. Administration	\$3,500
Total expenses	\$154,444



- Mission Areas
- St. Joseph Church Support
- Disaster Relief
- Emergency Reserves
- Helping Hugs Inc. Administration

2026 Allocation by Mission Area

Agroforestry (Tree Currency Program)	\$12,000
Education	\$32,000
Infrastructure	\$6,000
Healthcare	\$6,500
Water	\$24,000
Total expenses	\$80,500



- Agroforestry (Tree Currency Program)
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Healthcare
- Water

Thank you for taking the time to understand the care behind this ministry.



Donor Spotlight

A Heart for the Cross

By Evy Marshall

All those wonderful crosses you see in The Grotto religious goods shop—and those you’ve admired at the twin parish auction—are crafted and lovingly donated by Mark Valentine.

Mark and Becky Valentine have been full-time Saint Simons residents since 2023. Becky, from Savannah, and Mark, from Atlanta, met at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church in Atlanta and recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. Early in their marriage, a small magazine ad for the King and Prince Hotel brought them to Saint Simons for an anniversary visit. Charmed by the island, they purchased a condo in 2001 and have celebrated many anniversaries here since.



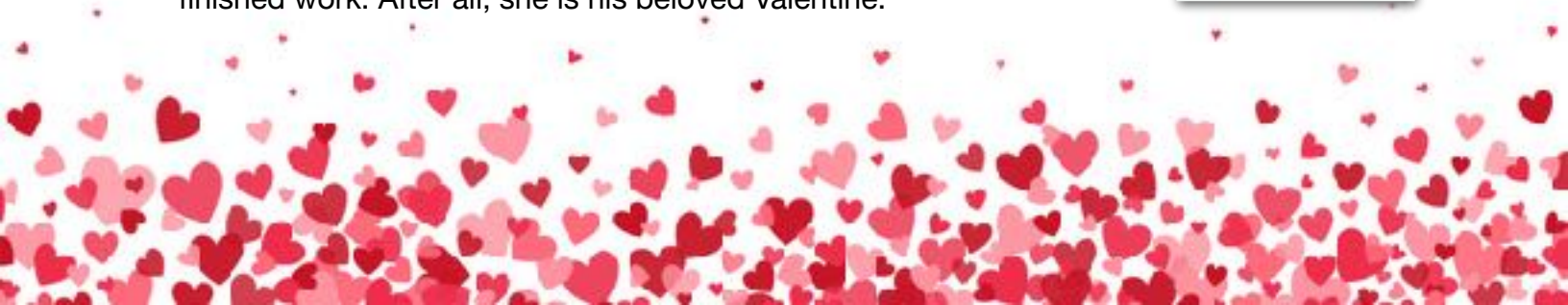
Mark grew up in a devout Methodist family and converted to Catholicism when he met Becky. The love of woodworking runs in his family; Mark began working with tools at age 12. Though his career was in engineering, he remodeled an old home in Decatur, Georgia, creating beautiful cabinets for his kitchen.

After settling on the north end of the island, Mark and Becky found their spiritual home at St. William, becoming active in parish life and ministries.

In a small shed on his property, Mark now creates crosses that are distinctive and full of character. He seeks out interesting woods, rich colors, and unique details. “You always notice a cross,” he says. “It’s a reminder—an outward sign of faith.”

After attending a Helping Hugs event and hearing stories of our twin parish, Mark knew this was where the proceeds from his crosses could do the most good.

Becky delights in his creativity and is always the first to see his finished work. After all, she is his beloved Valentine.



Next Meeting

Twin Parish Council

Thursday, February 5
First Thursday of the month

9:00 a.m.

St. William Parish Hall
Room #1



Scan to Donate

Helping Hugs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity.
All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.

Contact: info@helpinghugsinc.org

Donations may be made to
Helping Hugs Inc.,
P.O. Box 24477, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

or on our website: www.helpinghugsinc.org

