



St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

2026 Proposed Budget

Called to Grow, Called to Give

As we look toward 2026, St. Mary Magdalene is a parish community growing in energy, spirit, and purpose. God continues to call us to deepen our faith, strengthen our ministries, and open our doors wider to those seeking a spiritual home.

This budget is more than an accounting of numbers. It is a reflection of our shared mission and the ways our gifts are transformed into ministry. Each pledge, each offering, and each act of service becomes part of something larger, our collective response to God's abundant grace.

We are Called to Grow in worship, in faith, in community, and in stewardship. We are Called to Give as grateful disciples, investing in God's work in and through St. Mary Magdalene.

Outreach, while not included in the line items of this budget, is equally central to our mission. Our support for community organizations such as Heart-n-Hand, The Single Mom KC, the Belton Education Foundation, and Maison de Naissance embody our call to serve those beyond our walls. Outreach is supported through direct donations to a designated Outreach Fund rather than through the operating budget. In this way, outreach serves as a living expression of our faith in action highlighting the generosity of our parish in answering Christ's call to love our neighbors.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Diocese, we have been able to significantly reduce our mortgage debt. This milestone allows us to begin shifting resources toward ministry growth and program development. Though each step may seem small, together they represent a meaningful movement forward in our ability to nurture all areas of parish life and mission.

Throughout this document, you will find the proposed 2026 budget organized around four core areas: Worship, Faith, Community, and Care for Our Church Home. Each area represents a vital pillar of our mission. At the end of each section, you will find a brief summary of the changes shown in *italics*.

We invite you to read this budget prayerfully and reflect on how your gifts, in time, talent, and treasure, contribute to the life and mission of St. Mary Magdalene, and how you might be called to grow and give this year. Together, we can continue to grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and share God's abundant love with all who seek a spiritual home in our community.

I. Growing in Worship (\$74,870)

At the center of our life together is worship, the heartbeat of our parish. It is here that we gather week by week to offer thanks and praise, to hear the Word proclaimed, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to be renewed for service in the world. Worship is where we encounter the living God and are shaped as followers of Jesus.

In 2026, we are strengthening our worship life by investing in clergy leadership, music ministry, and worship resources that help us welcome and inspire all who gather.

Area	2025	2026	Difference
Clergy Leadership	\$37,431	\$38,870	+\$1,439
Music Ministry	\$30,260	\$32,300	+\$2,040
Worship Supplies	\$3,200	\$3,700	+\$500

The increases shown in the lines above reflect an adjustment to clergy compensation in keeping with diocesan minimum guidelines, as well as an increase to the priest's auto allowance. They also include a well-deserved raise for our dedicated music director and an increase in the allowance for music-related expenses such as instrument tuning. These changes help ensure that we continue to meet our commitments to the clergy and staff who sustain the worship and pastoral care at the heart of our common life.

II. Growing in Faith (\$2,400)

Formation is where faith takes root and grows. It is how we come to know God more deeply and discern how to live out our faith. In 2026, we are strengthening our commitment to lifelong Christian formation by investing in children, youth, and adult ministries.

Area	2025	2026	Difference
Children's Ministry	\$0	\$400	+\$400
Youth Ministry	\$150	\$1,000	+\$850
Adult Formation	\$500	\$1,000	+\$500

The changes outlined above will allow us to invest more fully in formation programming for all ages: from providing our youth Sunday school curriculum, to offsetting costs for youth group events and outings, to ensuring that cost is never a barrier to participation in adult formation offerings. While the increase in this area may be modest compared to others, it represents an important commitment: formation is and will remain a priority for us here at St. Mary Magdalene.

III. Growing in Community (\$10,400)

St. Mary Magdalene is a church where people find belonging. In 2026, we are investing in ministries that build and strengthen community, both within and beyond our walls. These investments support hospitality, leadership, and diocesan partnerships that connect us to the wider Church.

Area	2025	2026	Difference
Hospitality	\$300	\$1,000	+\$700
Leadership	\$250	\$500	+\$250
Diocesan Commitments	\$6,500	\$7,700	+\$1,200
Miscellaneous	\$1,300	\$1,200	-\$100

The changes above reflect increased support for our hospitality ministry, helping to host regular newcomer gatherings and offset the costs of coffee hour and parish events. Additional funding for leadership will cover expenses related to the annual vestry retreat and staff meetings. Finally, the modest increase in our diocesan assessment is a meaningful sign of gratitude and good faith in response to the diocese's mortgage grant, showing our continued progress toward paying our full assessment.

IV. Growing in Stewardship of Our Church Home (\$120,094)

Our church campus is a sacred trust, a gift that allows every other ministry to flourish. In 2026, we continue to strengthen our stewardship of these physical resources by maintaining our facilities, meeting financial commitments, and ensuring our spaces remain welcoming for all.

Area	2025	2026	Difference
Office Expenses	\$4,415	\$4,225	-\$190
Insurance	\$11,200	\$12,500	+\$1,300
Operating & Maintenance	\$37,150	\$46,200	+\$9,050
Mortgage Interest	\$36,000	\$36,893	+\$893

Notes Payable (Not Budgeted):

Area	2025	2026	Difference
Mortgage Principal	\$36,000	\$12,876	-\$23,124
Diocesan Loans	\$7,400	\$7,400	—

This section reflects some of the most significant changes in our expenses from the previous year. Increased funding for utilities and an additional \$3,000 for building and grounds will help us care for our 15-year-old church home as it begins to show the natural signs of age. While our total mortgage

payments have decreased significantly, interest costs rose slightly due to re-amortization, balanced by a substantial reduction of more than \$20,000 in principal payments. These changes reflect our ongoing commitment to care wisely for the resources entrusted to us.

Living Our Call

Our 2026 budget reflects both faith and intention. Budgeted expenses total \$187,488, directly supporting ministry through these four pillars. When mortgage principal and diocesan note payments are included, our total ministry investment rises to \$207,764.

Our stewardship goal for 2026 is to reach \$170,564 in pledged giving, a tangible expression of our shared commitment to ministry.

Every pledge matters. Every gift tells a story. Together, they form the heartbeat of our ministry, empowering us to worship deeply, learn faithfully, care generously, and grow boldly.

As we look to this new year, we believe we are called to Grow in worship, faith, community, and stewardship. Called to Give as grateful disciples, investing in God's work through St. Mary Magdalene. We invite you to join us in this journey, offering your time, talent, and treasure as part of God's work in and through St. Mary Magdalene. Each gift, no matter the size, helps our community grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and shine God's love more brightly. Together, we can embrace this season of opportunity, deepen our connections with one another, and welcome all who seek a spiritual home among us.