

2024



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

My Dear People,
This Annual Stewardship Report provides a comprehensive overview of our parish's financial and spiritual progress over the past year.

In line with our mission, we have dedicated ourselves to four key priorities: enhancing Evangelization opportunities, strengthening Internal Operations, inviting core organizations to embrace a 'maintenance to mission' message, and strengthening the parish and school spiritually, financially, and socially.

Throughout our transformative journey, we have diligently prioritized mission over maintenance. Our unwavering commitment to these priorities has enabled us to make significant strides in our pastoral ministry. We have expanded our outreach programs, reaching out to the marginalized and those in need of Christ. We have also invested in professional development for our staff, ensuring they are well-equipped to serve our community. Furthermore, we have encouraged our core organizations to align their operations with our mission of evangelization. This has resulted in a renewed focus on serving the spiritual and temporal needs of our parishioners.

Financially, we have been blessed with the generous support of our members. Through your contributions, we have been able to maintain our parish and school facilities, as well as support a variety of programs and initiatives.

Throughout this past year, we have never lost sight of our ultimate goal: to help each other journey toward heaven. By working together, we have created a vibrant and welcoming community where all are invited to encounter the transformative power of Christ's love.

As we enter a new year, I ask for your continued prayers and generous support. We have come far in our journey from maintenance to mission. But our journey is far from over. Let us continue to work together with unwavering determination, keeping the main thing the main thing. Together, we will achieve even greater heights and make a profound difference in the world. We must remain steadfast in our pursuit of excellence, recognizing that the challenges we face are opportunities for growth and innovation. Your unwavering dedication and unwavering support are the driving force behind our collective success. Together, let us continue to build a parish that is a beacon of hope and a source of strength for all who come within its embrace.

Sincerely in Christ,

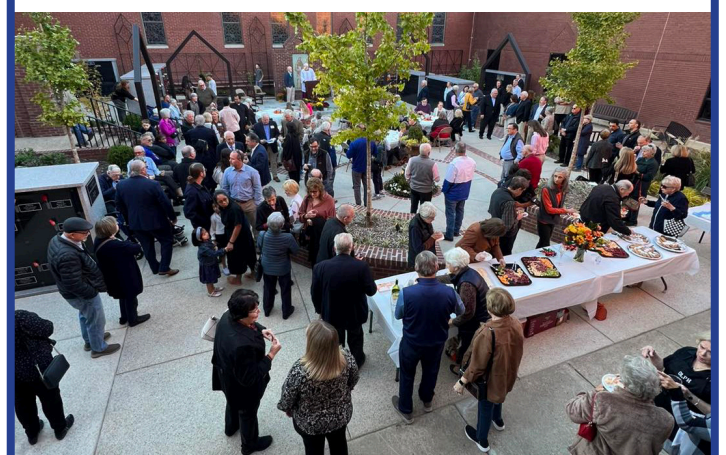


Fr. Jolly Sebastian



Garden of Saints & Columbarium Beautification Project

Over the summer, we completed a beautification and expansion of our solemn garden to improve, enhance, and enlarge the space. The work was completed on time and within budget and we enjoyed welcoming Bishop Talley to bless the newly renovated space on October 17th. In November, we celebrated Mass in the garden for All Souls Day. The Garden of Saints is also a reverent and holy place to pray for loved ones and the holy souls in purgatory. Complete with outdoor speakers which play beautiful hymns, the Garden of Saints and Columbarium is a wonderful place to meditate on the lives of saints, especially those depicted in the statues generously donated by our parishioners. If you are interested in purchasing a niche or sponsoring a bench or tree in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office. We are especially grateful to Greg Costa and his committee for bringing Fr. Jolly's vision for this project to life!

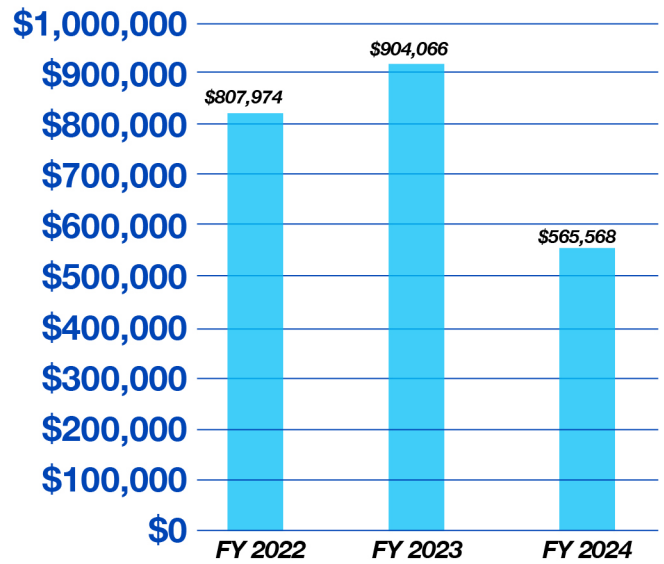


As of June 30, 2024, we have collected \$2.4 million of the \$3.1 million pledged. We are so grateful for the generosity of our parish family! With funds already received, we have supported the initiatives of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis, invested in evangelization and Catholic education, and our Renovation Committee is working with a new architect to plan a sanctuary beautification project that accomplishes our goals without exceeding our budget. Our sanctuary sound improvement project will be completed in November. With your feedback, we will determine if further sound improvements like new speakers and acoustic panels are needed during the renovation. Updates about the renovation will be provided once construction drawings and cost estimates are complete. By delaying the start of the project, we have been able to collect and earn interest on the pledges collected.

UIF/UIM Collections By Year

Total Pledged: \$3,180,720

Pledges Outstanding: \$903,132 (28%)



During the year of Eucharistic Revival, we celebrated **Corpus Christi with a Eucharistic Procession** and reception for the entire parish community.



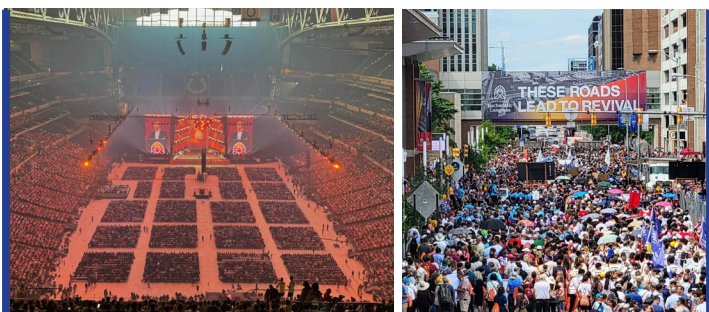
Fr. Jolly began offering **Healing Holy Hours** in the main church for the spiritual wellbeing of his flock.

We added **another day of Eucharistic Adoration** to our weekly calendar. Now parishioners can come and adore our Lord in the chapel on Tuesdays and Fridays after 8:15am Mass until 8:00pm.



Our DRE, Jisha Thomas, chose the theme “**The Sweetest Gift**” for **Vacation Bible School** this summer to help our youngest parishioners learn more about Christ’s true presence in the Eucharist. They ended the week with a Holy Hour and it was beautiful to see so many children reverently praying and adoring Jesus!

Several parishioners attended the **National Eucharistic Congress** where thousands of Catholics joined together to praise and worship our one true King!



We added **Youth Holy Hour** opportunities during Advent and Lent which we will continue to offer in the future.

10 VALUES OF A GROWING PARISH

After our 2023 Summer book study of Divine Renovation, we got to work with existing and new committees to adopt the 10 values of a growing parish. There is still much work to do, but we are excited about the progress we've made and we invite all members of our parish family to find ways to get involved in adopting these values for the sake of God's Kingdom. We are periodically surveying members of specific ministries and the parish at large to monitor our success. Please prayerfully consider how you plan to join our mission in 2024-25.

Giving Priority to the Weekend



Hospitality



Uplifting Music



Great Homilies



Meaningful Community



Clear Expectations



Strength-based Ministry

Formation of Small Communities



Experience of the Holy Spirit

An Invitational Church



Parish Retreat

As we have worked to move our parish from maintenance to mission, we have increased our prayer, opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, opportunities to invite others to participate in programs and courses outside Sunday Mass, and increased daily Mass attendance. In November, we began a 7-week study of *The Wild Goose*, discovering a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. This study will prepare our parish for a Parish Retreat, *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* scheduled for January 13, 14, and 15. There will be a daytime and evening study and the videos are available on Formed.org. Experiencing the Holy Spirit is one of the 10 values of a growing parish, but more importantly, it is essential for Catholics to grow in holiness and discern God's will for their lives.

Catholics believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, along with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is also known as the paraclete and advocate. The Holy Spirit is both a person and divine and is referred to as "the Lord." The Holy Spirit guides our lives toward goodness and truth and reveals the depths of God. The Holy Spirit gives us grace, which includes right counsel and piety. The Holy Spirit animates the Church, which is made up of everyone alive in Christ. The Holy Spirit expands our minds and souls so we can be open to God's graces.

God gave us the Bible, the Eucharist, and the community of the Church. He sent the Holy Spirit to console, comfort, advocate, and help us in our journey to heaven. It is our responsibility to pass this on to future generations. Even if you were not catechized or evangelized properly, it is not too late to learn how to invite the Holy Spirit into your life so that God can transform you. The Holy Spirit can empower you and lead you if you cooperate and seek God's will. More information about the retreat and registration information will be provided in November. All are encouraged to participate in these next steps of our Spiritual Revolution so that we can become a more invitational church and make Our Lady a Spiritual Home for God's fallen away Catholics and unchurched children.



SAVE THE DATES
JAN. 13-15
5:30-7:30PM

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR THE RETREAT



Health of Our Parish

We welcomed 67 new families this year and will host a New Member Welcome Dinner in November. Many new parishioners are participating in our Alpha Course to meet people and find out how to get involved at Our Lady. We appreciate how active members are welcoming new members into all of our ministries with open arms! Our offertory remains healthy enough to cover our operational expenses, but many of the programs we are investing in will need to be carefully evaluated as we come to the end of the United in Faith/United in Mission capital campaign. We encourage all parishioners to pray about increasing their donations of time, talent, and treasure in the coming year so that we can continue to offer programs that welcome new members and encourage all members to take the next step in their faith journey.

Family & Marriage

While we know youth and young adults must be a priority, we also know that young families need the support of the entire parish family. In addition to their fundraising efforts, our Home & School Association and Men's Club bring parents and parishioners together by hosting fun family events throughout the year. Both groups spend countless volunteer hours to support our school and athletics program. The Our Lady Family Ministry gathers for a Rosary and Potluck Dinner each month. We encourage grandparents and parishioners to join them! We have run the Alpha Marriage Course twice and plan to run it again during Lent in 2025. We also run The Alpha Parenting Small Children Course on Sunday mornings during PRE. These communities of families are places to build friendship and to normalize living an authentic Catholic life.

This year we celebrated:

- 43 Baptisms
- 32 First Holy Communions
- 42 Confirmations
- 12 Marriages



Church Financial Statements

Balance Sheets

Fiscal 2024

*Fiscal 2023**

Cash, unrestricted	\$1,073,677	\$866,529
Cash, restricted for Programs & Projects	688,536	598,420
Cash, restricted for UIF/UIM	1,365,990	1,348,811
Other Current Assets	17,729	24,485
Total Cash & Current Assets	3,145,932	2,838,245
Investments	431,718	410,181
Property, Plant & Equipment	12,499,897	12,175,246
Total Assets	\$16,077,547	\$15,423,672
Current Liabilities	\$655,025	\$694,856
Net Assets	15,422,522	14,728,816
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$16,077,547	\$15,423,672

Operating Income Statement

Operating Revenue	\$1,803,686	\$1,873,250
Salaries & Employee Benefits	763,985	707,962
Administrative & General Expenses	134,689	186,902
Pastoral Expenses	165,995	165,142
Plant Operations & Maintenance	404,744	530,152
Security Services	24,986	28,988
Cathedraticum (<i>annual sum paid to Diocese</i>)	265,718	249,373
Total Operating Expenses	1,760,117	1,868,519
Operating Income	43,569	4,731
Interest Income	83,862	52,171
Total Income	\$127,431	\$56,902

*Adjustments reflect the reclassification of expenses and assets after projects were completed in FY23.

School Financial Statements

School Balance Sheet

	<i>Fiscal 2024</i>	<i>Fiscal 2023*</i>
Cash, unrestricted	\$220,363	\$407,145
Cash, restricted	234,677	323,149
Endowment, Tuition	416,027	384,794
Funds invested with Diocese	159,803	151,832
Receivables	14,766	1,009
Other Current Assets	5,601	1,314
Property, Plant & Equipment	362,420	296,175
Total Assets	\$1,413,657	\$1,565,418
Current Liabilities	\$171,841	\$435,986
Net Assets	1,241,816	1,129,432
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,413,657	\$1,565,418
<i>School Revenue & Expenses</i>		
Tuition	\$1,863,251	\$1,797,906
Other Revenue	308,566	319,018
School Operating Revenue	2,171,817	2,116,924
Salaries & Employee Benefits	1,568,306	1,638,232
Administrative & General Expenses	93,981	58,888
Plant Operations & Maintenance	162,698	155,596
Student Enrichment	272,232	373,027
Assessments & Subsidies	4,497	4,787
Total Operating Expenses	2,101,714	2,230,530
Net Operating Income (Loss)	70,103	(113,606)
Extraordinary Income		
General Restricted Contributions	2,580	275
Funded Grants- Scholarship Funds	39,320	27,800
Funded Grants- Educational Fund	91,224	60,738
Interest Income	35,091	27,291
Total Extraordinary Income	168,215	116,104
Total Restricted Expense	165,719	88,366
Extraordinary Income (Loss)	2,496	27,738
Total Income (Loss) Including Extraordinary Income	\$72,599	\$(85,868)

**Adjustments made to accounting to reflect true operating revenue and expense vs extraordinary income and expense*

Staff Updates

One of the initiatives laid out in our parish strategic plan, created by our Parish Pastoral Council shortly after Fr. Jolly arrived was to ensure internal operations are supporting our vision and mission. In FY23 we hired Jisha Thomas as DRE and Robin Perry as School Principal. These women have been leading their teams of catechists, teachers, and volunteers to take Catholic education at Our Lady to the next level. They have a wonderful Catholic Education Committee that supports their efforts and publishes an annual report of all that they are accomplishing.

In FY24 we hired a new Accounting Manager, Teresa Elliott, and a new Director of Admissions for the school, Diana Billingsley. We also recently welcomed Luis and Roxanna Mercado to assist us with our IT needs. The Mercados are school parents, parishioners, and now members of our team! They bring experience and expertise to these positions that greatly support our vision and mission. To make sure our church and school are aligned in our mission, we have two staff retreats each year at the Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center. These retreats offer rest and refreshment to our teachers and staff where we share meals, play games, hear from great speakers, celebrate Mass, and end the day with Eucharistic Adoration. Our priests join us for the retreats and give us the opportunity to receive reconciliation.

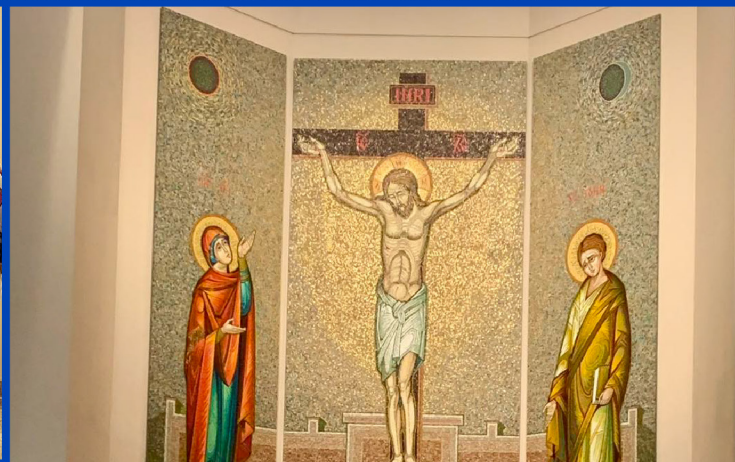
*Teresa Elliott,
Account Manager*

*Diana Billingsley,
Director of Admissions*



*Luis & Roxanna
Mercado,
IT*





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