



**OUR LADY OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
PARISH**



# GIVING IMPACT

## FY24







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# PASTOR'S REMARKS

Dear Parish Family,

As we do every year, we take this time to reflect on our previous fiscal year. Embracing our theme of Be Transformed, our fourth year together brought many moments of grace and also opportunities for growth as we listened to what God is asking for us personally, in our families and ministry groups and for Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

## **Financial Overview**

This past year was marked by a mix of achievements and challenges. Last year we saw a modest 5% increase in Sunday Mass attendance, and over these last four years, we've seen encouraging growth of about 36% in average attendance, growing from 700 to 950. However, in the same four years, Sunday giving has only increased by 4%, and we saw a decrease of approximately \$19,000 in offertory in FY24 compared to FY23 (*see offertory comparisons on pg 11*). The church ended the year in the red for a second year, and this combined with the gap between attendance and financial support, highlights the need for a renewed commitment to stewardship. Offertory supports our parish's financial stability, allowing us to maintain our worship sites, compensate our dedicated staff and support Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish's worship, ministry and outreach. Strengthening commitment to stewardship will allow us to maintain crucial ministries and programs which serve the parish and greater community.

## **Stewardship and Giving**

To better manage our resources, we successfully combined the balances from the former Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard parish's To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) campaigns into a single account. This consolidation, along with redirecting TTWCI monies to cover capital improvements and buildings and grounds projects, positions us to more effectively address facilities maintenance across both of our worship sites.

We reintroduced the GIFT (Giving Is a Faithful Treasure) Fund, which provides grants from the proceeds of an endowment fund to support ministry initiatives. While some of our ministries found inspiring and transformative ways to use GIFT grants to help others encounter Christ (*see Transforming Our Parish Through GIFT on pg 12 or visit [olbsegv.org/giftfund](http://olbsegv.org/giftfund) to discover more*), we only utilized about half of the available funds, distributing \$8,000 out of a possible \$18,000. In the coming year, we aim to fully engage our ministries to maximize these resources and further extend our outreach.

Though school enrollment was down slightly, strong support through events such as the Grand Raffle, Spring Gala and Track-a-Thon allowed the school to finish the year with a modest financial gain.

## **Outreach and Service**

In line with our theme, Be Transformed, we continued our generosity in support of annual initiatives. Our Lenten Almsgiving project, Waves of Change (*see Waves of Change on pg 16*), far surpassed its goal of raising \$8,500 to fund a single well for a village in Cameroon, Africa. We raised a total of \$28,000, including \$600 from our Queen of the Rosary School's Change 4 Change day, allowing us to construct three wells. Additional funds have been set aside for future maintenance and upkeep.

We continued to demonstrate our commitment to serving others through successful outreach programs such as Summer Suppers, Catholic Charities Dinners, Respect Life Month, and the Season for Life from Mother's Day to Father's Day. New this past year, our Good Samaritan Ministry expanded its Supper Program into the winter months by helping our neighbors at Christus Victor Lutheran Church

provide dinners for PADS guests one night a month. These efforts allowed us to continue our mission of caring for the hungry and supporting those in need throughout the year.

We participated in the National Eucharistic Revival, deepening our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. To honor the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it passed through Chicago, parishioners made a special pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Additionally, our Respect Life, Good Samaritan, Prayer Shawl, and Rosary Ministries organized a Morning of Adoration & Service (*see A Morning of Adoration and Service on pg 5*).

### **Parish Life and Ministries**

We strengthened our parish leadership by expanding representation on our Parish Council, recruiting at-large members, and, most significantly, asking each parish ministry to invite a liaison to serve on the council. These efforts are helping us ensure that all voices are heard as we work together to meet the needs of our community.

Additionally, our parishioners and ministries embraced the spirit of transformation by participating in new activities such as the Be Transformed Small Group (*see Be Transformed on pg 19*), exploring innovative outreach approaches (*see Painting Outside the Lines on pg 22*) and reimagining prayer services (*see Holy Hour Reimagined on pg 6*). These efforts fostered a renewed sense of community bringing new energy to our worship and fellowship.

In the same spirit of Be Transformed, our Queen of the Rosary School reinvigorated the older/younger grade Buddy Program, creating community and fostering connections between students across different grade levels. Additionally, we reconfigured and reimagined the library and computer lab space, transforming it into a new Learning Media Center that supports a modern, dynamic learning environment. This past year also saw the introduction of Friendlyzy, a new curriculum that places a renewed emphasis on social-emotional learning, helping to form students—spirit, mind and body.

### **Transitions**

We closed out the year by bidding farewell to our beloved principal, Ms. Kathy McGinn, who retired after 25 years (10 as an 8th Grade homeroom teacher and 15 as principal) of dedicated service to our Queen of the Rosary School. We also said goodbye to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament's first associate pastor, Fr. Louis Mboe, who was appointed as the pastor at St. Procopius/Providence of God in the Pilsen neighborhood beginning July 1, 2024. Their contributions have left a lasting legacy, and we are grateful for their faithful leadership.

### **Looking Forward**

As we step into this new fiscal year, we are guided by the theme Be Transformed: Discerning Our Charisms. This year, we invite everyone to take a spiritual gifts assessment as a way to discern and use our unique gifts to build up God's Kingdom. Scan the code on cards in our vestibules, or follow this link to take the quiz: [olbsefv.org/discover-your-spiritual-gifts/](http://olbsefv.org/discover-your-spiritual-gifts/). By discovering our charisms together, we can become even more intentional in our mission to serve God and His Church, reaching out to those in need and strengthening our parish community.

Thank you for your ongoing support, dedication and prayers. May God continue to bless Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and our Queen of the Rosary School, leading us toward growth, renewal and a deeper commitment to His call.

In Christ,



Pastor, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and Queen of the Rosary School



## A Morning of Adoration and Service

In response to Cardinal Cupich's call for a morning of Adoration and Service across the Archdiocese of Chicago as part of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, our parish community joyfully answered with a united effort. Led by our Good Samaritan, Respect Life, Rosary and Prayer Shawl ministries, parishioners came together for a day that truly embodied faith in action.


In the weeks leading up to the June 29th Morning of Adoration and Service, donations poured in as parishioners gave items to create comfort packs for the homeless and hungry. Essential items like ponchos, visors, hand warmers, personal care items and shelf-stable snacks were carefully gathered to support those facing difficult times. Our Respect Life ministry collected supplies from crisis pregnancy center wish lists such as diapers, clothing for infants and moms and more, reflecting our commitment to protecting and nurturing life at every stage.

Adding a personal touch, Prayer Shawl ministers handcrafted baby bonnets, booties and handheld prayer squares, infusing their gifts with care and compassion. Our Rosary Ministry selected rosaries, prayer cards and miraculous medals to include in each pack, sharing faith as well as material support. The donations were sorted and packed with love to nourish both body and spirit, embodying the hands and heart of Jesus extended to those in need.

The morning began with daily Mass and included Adoration and Reconciliation, uniting parishioners and community members in prayer and service. Through this beautiful gathering, our parish became a living witness of God's boundless love and care for the whole person—body, mind and soul.

**“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”  
(Matthew 5:16)**





**“Children’s children are the crown of the elderly, and the glory of children is their parentage.” (Proverbs 17:6)**

### **Holy Hour Reimagined**

The Respect Life Ministry has long been a cornerstone of our parish, dedicated to honoring and supporting life at all ages, from conception until natural death. This year, however, they undertook a transformative reimagining of their Holy Hour for Aging and the Elderly, turning it into an event that resonated with a broader audience and fostering deeper faith connections.

#### **The Challenge: Broadening the Appeal**

Traditionally, the Holy Hour for Aging and the Elderly has attracted our most active and engaged parishioners, who are primarily seniors. While this faithful turnout was heartening, the Ministry recognized an opportunity to extend their reach and invite a wider cross-section of the community. They aimed to create an intergenerational experience that would draw families together and celebrate the important role of grandparents and the elderly in our lives.

#### **A Transformative Strategy: Engaging the Whole Parish**

To achieve this broader engagement, the Respect Life Ministry implemented several key strategies:

#### **Personal Invitations to Students:**

The Ministry reached out to students from our Queen of the Rosary School, encouraging them to invite their parents, grandparents, older friends and neighbors. This approach ensured that the message reached beyond the usual attendees, bringing in younger families and their extended circles.

#### **Special Family Blessing:**

During the Holy Hour, a special family blessing was introduced. This inclusive gesture created a meaningful moment for all attendees, emphasizing the importance of family unity and intergenerational bonds.

**Symbolic Azalea Plants:** To further enrich the experience, small azalea plants, which symbolize family, were shared with each participating family. These plants served as a lasting reminder of the event and the beauty of familial connections.

#### **The Outcome: A Wider Audience and Deeper Connections**

The reimagined Holy Hour was a resounding success. The combination of

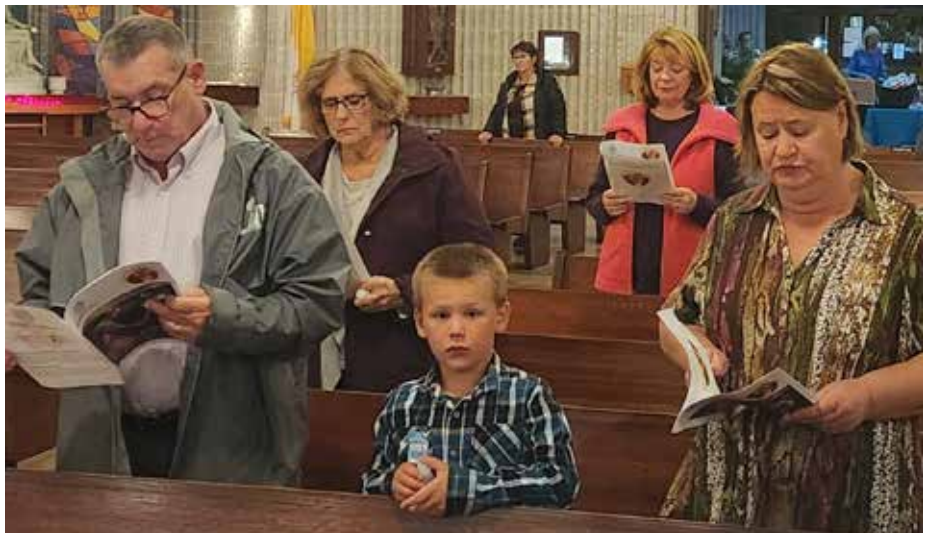
personal invitations, family blessings and symbolic gifts transformed the experience, making it appealing to a diverse group of parishioners. The event saw a significant increase in attendance, with families from various age groups coming together to celebrate and honor the elderly.

### **Lessons Learned and Future Plans**

The success of this reimagined Holy Hour highlights several important insights:

- **Inclusive Outreach:** Personal invitations, especially to younger members of the community, can greatly expand the reach of ministry events.
- **Meaningful Rituals:** Incorporating special devotions such as the family blessing can enhance the emotional impact and memorability of an event.
- **Intergenerational Engagement:** Creating opportunities for different generations to come together fosters stronger community bonds and mutual respect.

By stepping outside what has always been and embracing a broader vision, Respect Life Ministry has set a new standard for engagement and inclusivity within Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. Looking forward, Respect Life Ministry plans to continue this transformation by finding new ways to engage the entire parish. This approach not only enriches our community but also ensures that our ministries remain vibrant and inclusive.



## Combined Statement of Revenue and Expense for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024 vs. June 30, 2023

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Comparison</u> Favorable or <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
<b>SCHOOL</b>			
Tuition & Fees	1,280,366	1,418,841	(138,475)
Fund Raising	177,315	140,083	37,232
Other Income	93,404	77,133	16,271
Auxiliary Accounts	(259)	6,117	(6,376)
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL INCOME</b>	<b>1,550,826</b>	<b>1,642,174</b>	<b>(91,348)</b>
Salaries & Benefits	1,265,539	1,304,738	39,199
Utilities/Maintenance/Property Insurance	169,739	169,811	72
Other Operating Expense	55,636	80,785	25,149
Archdiocesan OCS Assessment	12,382	11,672	(710)
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,503,296</b>	<b>1,567,006</b>	<b>63,710</b>
<b>Net School Surplus/(Deficit) Ordinary income</b>	<b>47,530</b>	<b>75,168</b>	<b>(27,638)</b>
Extraordinary Income (Expense)	0	0	0
<b>Net School Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>47,530</b>	<b>75,168</b>	<b>(27,638)</b>
 <b>CHURCH</b>			
Sunday & Holy Day Collection	717,545	736,608	(19,063)
Christmas & Easter Collection	147,657	169,615	(21,958)
Religious Education & Other Income	183,525	150,572	32,953
Archdiocesan & Sharing Collections	46,890	52,589	(5,699)
Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Parish Revenue	26,022	28,994	(2,972)
Investment Income	69,726	9,514	60,212
Auxiliary Accounts	1,446	438	1,008
<b>TOTAL CHURCH INCOME</b>	<b>1,192,811</b>	<b>1,148,330</b>	<b>44,481</b>
Salaries & Benefits	640,836	560,140	(80,696)
Utilities/Maintenance/Property Insurance	218,098	235,207	17,109
Other Operating Expense	125,802	154,523	28,721
Archdiocesan & Sharing Payments	46,890	52,589	5,699
Archdiocesan Assessment/PRMAA	128,388	122,436	(5,952)
Miscellaneous Expense	46,902	52,842	5,940
<b>TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,206,916</b>	<b>1,177,737</b>	<b>(29,179)</b>
<b>Net Church Surplus/(Deficit) Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(14,105)</b>	<b>(29,407)</b>	<b>15,302</b>
TTWCI Pledges Received	(21,024)	4,480	(25,504)
Capital Improvements	(15,935)	(54,742)	38,807
Extraordinary Income (Expense)	714	4,785	(4,071)
<b>Net Church Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(50,350)</b>	<b>(74,884)</b>	<b>24,534</b>
 <b>Combined School and Church Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(2,820)</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>(3,104)</b>

## Parish Balance Sheet

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Parish Bank Accounts	1,493,825	1,478,375	15,450
Auxiliary Bank Accounts	59,671	66,226	(6,555)
<b>GENERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<u>1,553,496</u>	<u>1,544,601</u>	<u>8,895</u>
Accounts Payable	26,376	27,851	(1,475)
Prepaid Tuition & Fees	50,006	36,480	13,526
Deferred Income	5,825	0	5,825
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>82,207</u>	<u>64,331</u>	<u>17,876</u>
<b>NET GENERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<u>1,471,289</u>	<u>1,480,270</u>	<u>(8,981)</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Endowment Fund	383,314	379,992	3,322
Building & Millennium Fund	236,814	235,351	1,463
TTWCI	725,608	721,128	4,480
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>1,345,736</u>	<u>1,336,471</u>	<u>9,265</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>2,817,025</u>	<u>2,816,741</u>	<u>284</u>



## Narrative from Finance Council on Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

This annual financial report is based upon the revenue and expenses for this past fiscal year, from July, 2023 through June, 2024, the fourth year of operations as Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. The data has been compiled and submitted to the Archdiocese from the daily records maintained at OLBS, offered here with a comparison to the previous twelve month period, which was accounted for in the same manner.

The 2023-24 statement of revenue and expenses shows a modest deficit of \$(2,820). For the previous year, the parish showed a small surplus of \$280. This overall view includes extraordinary income and expenses, which showed deficits in both years for the Church due to more capital improvement expenditures than extraordinary income. In the current year, the Church also had a decrease in its To Teach Who Christ Is Fund because some parishioners exercised their right to refunds of their pledge payments when Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish made its own case statement for the future use of these funds, replacing the original case statements of Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard Parishes.

The school showed a surplus of \$47,530 this past year, a decline of \$27,638 compared

to 2022-23. Tuition and fees declined by \$138,475 due to lower enrollment. This was offset in part by increases of \$37,232 in fund-raising and \$16,271 in other school income. The school's costs were reduced during this past year, with less money spent in every major category, saving a total of \$63,710 when compared to the previous year. The overall result is that the school cut expenses to offset reduced revenue and still managed to end up with a surplus for this past school year.

The church saw an increase in total church income of \$44,481 despite a \$41,021 decline in Sunday & Holy Day, Christmas and Easter collections. The investment of excess funds produced \$69,726 of interest, dividends and capital gains, \$60,212 more than in 2022-23.

Church expenses were \$29,179 higher than the year before, primarily to cover almost \$80,696 in additional salaries and benefits while utilities, maintenance insurance and other operating expenses were reduced significantly by almost \$46,000. The larger expenditure for salaries was anticipated and included in the annual budget. The parish goal is to improve the quality and effectiveness of the staff in serving the needs of parishioners and the community at large. It is further hoped by allowing our priests to focus more on the spiritual needs of our parishioners and by adding more professionals to enhance the quality of our worship experiences, we will be prudent stewards of the monies entrusted to our care and use.



## Outreach and Parishioner Enrichment


Embedded in the numbers were three special outreach programs and parishioner enrichment. \$16,881 was spent on Welcome the Stranger, where special donations from parishioners funded living expenses for an asylum-seeking family until they were able to become self-sufficient. The second special outreach was known as Waves of Change. It involved collecting donations to upgrade the water pumping system in Father Louis Mboe's hometown in Cameroon. The monies far exceeded original expectations and eventually totaled \$28,000. Finally, the Parish Council was able to request allocations of monies to fund 6 separate activities during 2023-24. The ideas for what to do came from the active ministries within the parish. Such events as the Holy Thursday Church Pilgrimage, Theology on Tap and the Parish Lenten Mission were among the recipients of available money from the Parish Endowment Fund.

## Annual Parish Offertory Compared to the Last Pre-Pandemic Year

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>Pre-Pandemic 2018-2019</u>
Sundays & Holy Days	717,545	736,608	732,064	689,274	809,855	948,317
Christmas & Easter	147,657	169,615	141,800	133,188	129,984	137,774
<b>Total Church collections</b>	<b>865,202</b>	<b>906,223</b>	<b>873,864</b>	<b>822,462</b>	<b>939,839</b>	<b>1,086,091</b>
<b>Annual Shortfall of Church Collections compared to 2018-19 Pre-Pandemic Year In Dollars</b>	<b>(220,889)</b>	<b>(179,868)</b>	<b>(212,227)</b>	<b>(263,629)</b>	<b>(146,252)</b>	
<b>Shortfall As a % of 2018-19</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-13%</b>	

## Four-Year Comparison of Offertory Support

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
Sundays & Holy Days	717,545	736,608	732,064	689,274
Christmas & Easter	147,657	169,615	141,800	133,188
<b>Total Offertory Support</b>	<b>\$ 865,202</b>	<b>\$ 906,223</b>	<b>\$ 873,864</b>	<b>\$ 822,462</b>
<b>Annual Dollar Increase (Decrease) in Support</b>	<b>\$ (41,021)</b>	<b>\$ 32,359</b>	<b>\$ 51,402</b>	
<b>Annual Percentage Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6%</b>	
<b>Cumulative 4 year increase (2023-24 vs. 2020-21)</b>	<b>\$ 42,740</b>			
	<b>5%</b>			
<b>AVERAGE WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>700</b>



**“For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” (Luke 6:38)**

## **Transforming Our Parish Through GIFT**

In this remarkable Year of Be Transformed, the GIFT (Giving Is a Faithful Treasure) Fund has been a catalyst for incredible faith and fellowship initiatives within our parish. The fund has enabled us to launch and support various projects that have brought profound spiritual enrichment and strengthened our community bonds.

### **Parish Lenten Mission:**

One of the highlights of this year was the Parish Lenten Mission. The GIFT Fund bolstered generous donations and allowed us to invite Fr. Tim Anastos, an inspiring Eucharistic speaker, host the Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibit and provide warm hospitality with refreshments. The exhibit drew visitors from our parish and surrounding communities, and the Mission sessions saw an impressive attendance of about 150 people each night. This initiative offered a space for spiritual renewal and community connection, preparing us to celebrate the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

**Theology on Tap:** Young adults in our parish revived the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Theology on Tap Summer Speaker Series, utilizing the GIFT Fund to cover speaker fees and refreshments. This series attracted young adults from both our parish and neighboring areas, filling our fellowship hall each Wednesday in June. The first night’s attendance of 35 was the largest seen in years, highlighting the series’ success in fostering faith and lively conversation centered on practical Catholic living.

### **Visitation of Seven Churches:**

Our Men’s Group organized a special Holy Thursday Visitation of Seven Churches by renting a small coach bus, funded by the GIFT Fund. This allowed parishioners to extend their journey beyond local churches, enhancing their Holy Paschal Triduum experience. All 30 spots on the bus were filled, with a waitlist implemented due to high demand. The journey facilitated deep spiritual reflection and strengthened fellowship among participants.

**Mass & Meal:** The Marriage & Family Ministry used the GIFT Fund to host a Mass & Meal event, inviting newly-engaged and newly-married couples, along with families who recently baptized young children. This event, in celebration of World Marriage Day, saw approximately 50 attendees, including 12 young children. It provided a warm and welcoming environment for young families to connect with each other and our clergy, fostering community and faith.

Through these diverse projects, the GIFT Fund has significantly impacted our parish, fostering spiritual growth, community engagement and a deeper sense of fellowship. Each initiative has brought our parishioners closer together and strengthened our collective faith, truly embodying our Year of Be Transformed.

We are deeply grateful for the support of the GIFT Fund, which has made it possible for Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish to continue to grow in faith, fellowship and fun. We look forward to continuing to nurture and grow our parish community with the continued support of this vital parish resource.



## Message from School Advisory Board on Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

At the end of the 2023-2024 academic school year we said goodbye to our beloved Principal, Ms. McGinn. Ms. McGinn has been an institution at Queen of the Rosary School for 25 years. She led the school with a quiet strength and humble confidence that will be missed. She leaves a legacy of faith and learning in her wake that will be difficult to maintain.

Our parish theme of “Be Transformed” was particularly apropos as we launched a search for a new principal. We are fortunate and blessed to have found Mr. Ryan Andersen. After a series of thoughtful conversations with our search committee and our pastor and prayerful discernment, it became clear that Mr. Andersen was the right choice to lead us into a new era.

The landscape of Catholic Education in our community continues to be fraught with difficulties as we’ve watched schools permanently close their doors around us. With highly-rated public schools in our area, an aging demographic in Elk Grove Village, and the impacts of inflation hitting our middle-class community—we find ourselves in an existential battle for the future of our parish school.

We are poised to meet these challenges with faith through various initiatives. Some highlights of the 2023-2024 school year include:

**Technology Upgrades— including a newly conceived media center.** We were all excited by the transformation of our library and computer lab into a modern Learning Media Center (LMC) last Summer. The new LMC features updated technology and flexible furniture designed to enhance students’ research, study, and learning experiences. Each class has designated time to utilize the space, with opportunities to schedule additional time as needed. This revitalized environment supports Queen of the Rosary School’s commitment to providing a dynamic and engaging educational experience for our students.

**Emphasizing a Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum.** Queen of the Rosary School emphasizes social-emotional learning and implemented the Friendly curriculum to equip students with the skills necessary to build healthy

relationships, manage stress, and improve focus and academic performance. Integrating social-emotional skills into daily activities and lessons, our students better understand and manage their emotions and make responsible decisions. This approach strengthens our nurturing environment, empowering students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

**Buddy Program.** Queen of the Rosary School’s Buddy Program pairs older and younger grades for Mass attendance and a variety of educational activities throughout the year. This program allows our older students to grow as mentors and role models while encouraging our younger students to build confidence and feel supported. Through these meaningful interactions, students form special bonds that foster a sense of community and shared learning across grade levels.





**“With joy you will draw water from the fountains of salvation.” (Isaiah 12:3)**

## **Waves of Change**

This past Lent, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish rallied around a profound mission: to bring the blessing of clean, accessible water to a remote village in Cameroon, the homeland of our beloved Associate Pastor, Fr. Louis Mboe. With a goal of raising \$8,500, we hoped to install a single, hand-operated well that would forever change daily life for the villagers, many of whom had to walk miles for fresh water.

But as the weeks passed, we witnessed an overwhelming outpouring of support and generosity from our parish and school families. Through an incredible spirit of compassion, our project exceeded every expectation. In the end, we raised an astounding \$28,000, including \$600 raised by our Queen of the Rosary

School students. This total far surpassed our initial goal and allowed us to multiply our impact beyond what we previously imagined.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our community, our Lenten project has transformed into a mission with a lasting legacy. We were able to fund the construction of not one but three wells, creating sources of clean water in multiple areas. These wells will not only meet the immediate needs of the villagers but also enhance their quality of life, health and opportunity for generations to come. Additionally, with the funds raised, we set aside money to cover future upkeep and maintenance, ensuring that the gift of clean water continues to flow for years to come.

Waves of Change has shown us that together, we can create a ripple effect of transformation, embodying the love of Christ in real, tangible ways. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this mission—your generosity has made a lasting difference, bringing not only clean water but hope, solidarity, and a brighter future to our brothers and sisters in Cameroon.





"Powerfully eye-opening."  
**Christopher West**  
Cofounder of the Theology of the Body Institute

# BE TRANSFORMED

*The Healing Power of the Sacraments*

**BOB SCHUCHTS**  
*Author of Be Healed*


## Be Transformed

During Lent, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish launched a heartfelt journey of transformation through thirteen small faith-sharing groups centered around Dr. Bob Schuchts' book *Be Transformed*. These groups, ranging from four to ten participants, gathered weekly for six weeks in spaces as varied as parish meeting rooms, our Queen of the Rosary School, local coffee shops, restaurants, facilitator's living rooms and even virtually. Together, we explored the profound connection between the Sacraments and our emotional and spiritual healing, deepening our understanding of our Catholic faith and growing closer to God.

With group members engaging in honest, meaningful discussions that allowed them to support one another in their Lenten journeys, the energy could be felt throughout the parish. Participants not only found inspiration in the book's message but also discovered new friendships and community within our parish. Many expressed gratitude for the experience, with feedback

ranging from "I enjoyed the book" and "well organized" to "I was able to meet new people." The concluding virtual Q&A with Dr. Schuchts himself, organized by our parish Book Club, allowed parishioners to ask questions and directly engage with the author, rounding out a transformative season of reflection and spiritual growth.

Encouragingly, most participants shared interest in future small groups, with some even inspired to take on a facilitator role in the future. This Lenten journey through *Be Transformed* helped spark a renewal within Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, inviting a deeper connection to our Catholic faith and to one another as a parish community.



**"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."  
(Romans 12:2)**



## Message from Parish Council on Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

As we conclude another year at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Parish, we reflect on our theme, "Be Transformed." This guiding principle included the transformation of our Parish Council. Throughout the year, we focused on expanding our Parish Council, adding ministry liaisons, and revitalizing our parish endowment fund.

### Expansion of the Council

One of our goals this year was to enhance the structure and function of the Parish Council. In alignment with our theme of transformation, we expanded the Parish Executive Committee and welcomed ministry liaisons to the Parish Council. These liaisons act as consultative partners and play a role in helping to shape the path of our parish. They are essential in bridging the gap between the council and the various ministries within our parish, ensuring that we have a comprehensive understanding of the needs, hopes, and ideas of our faith community.

By involving representatives from each ministry, we can support ongoing initiatives while identifying opportunities for growth and collaboration. The Parish Council members work together with Father Dan, Father Paul, and the Parish Executive Committee to be

a consultative body and act as a bridge between parish leadership and the parish community. This approach has already begun to yield important discussions about ways to enhance outreach, improve communication, and foster a greater sense of community among parishioners.

### Revitalization of the Parish Endowment Fund

This year also saw the revitalization of the parish endowment fund, Giving Is a Faithful Treasure. The GIFT Fund is grown through generous donations from members of our parish and is used to support various activities within the parish community. Ministries and members of the parish community were invited to complete applications to request funding to offset the cost of a variety of parish initiatives. The Executive Committee then undertook the task of reviewing applications for funding and voting on proposals that align with our parish's mission and goals. This process not only reinvigorated interest in the endowment, but also allowed us to support various projects and initiatives that enhance our spiritual and communal life. The Executive Committee members encourage members of the parish community to continue to submit GIFT Fund

applications for review. Please contact the parish office or see the Gift Fund fliers in the vestibule.

### Seeking Continued Engagement

As we move forward, the Parish Council continues to seek new members who are passionate about serving our community. We still have some ministries that do not have representatives on the Parish Council, and we are also looking for members from the greater parish community.

We invite every member of our community to pray for guidance as we seek to align our efforts with God's Will. Whether you feel called to join the council, participate in a commission, or engage in a specific ministry, we believe that every contribution matters and can lead to transformative experiences.

This year, we have expanded our parish theme to "Be Transformed: Discerning Our Charisms." Every person was born with special gifts, or charisms, that they can share within their families and with other members of the community. We invite all members of the parish to take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment. This tool will help you discern your unique, God-given, talents and how best to use them in service to God and our parish

community. Discovering these charisms can assist you with identifying ministries that would benefit from your participation.

Information about the various ministries is readily available on the OLBS website, offering an overview of opportunities for involvement. We encourage all parishioners to explore these options and consider how they can contribute to our shared mission. For more information about the Spiritual Gifts Assessment, participating in the Parish Council, or joining any of our parish ministries, please contact the parish office.

### **Looking Ahead**

Recognizing the need for structured collaboration, we have begun re-instating four parish commissions: Spiritual Life, Education, Human Concerns, and Parish Life. Each commission provides a platform for members of various ministries to engage in meaningful conversations, exchange ideas, and brainstorm strategies for increasing membership and participation in parish activities.

Commission leaders play a crucial role by offering regular updates to the Parish Council, facilitating a flow of information that strengthens our community ties. These commissions not only empower parishioners to take ownership of their ministries,

but also foster a sense of belonging and purpose within the larger parish framework.


As we look to the future, we are filled with hope and excitement for what lies ahead. Our collective journey of transformation is ongoing, and with the support of our dedicated council members, ministry liaisons, and parish commissions, we are poised to deepen our impact within our parish community and beyond.

Together, we will continue to support existing ministries, explore new initiatives, and cultivate a parish environment that fosters spiritual growth, service, and

connection. Our theme of “Be Transformed” serves as a powerful reminder that each of us has a role to play in the life of our parish and that through our collective efforts, we can create a more vibrant, welcoming, and spiritually enriching community.

Let us carry the spirit of transformation into the coming year, trusting that we can continue to grow and thrive as a faith community through God’s Grace. May we each respond to His call and transform not only our parish, but also our own hearts in service to Him and to one another.





**“Go out, therefore,  
into the main roads  
and invite to the  
feast whomever  
you find.”  
(Matthew 22:9)**

## **Painting Outside the Lines**

In a demonstration of adaptability and determination, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish’s Women’s Club faced a significant challenge head-on, turning what seemed like a setback into a resounding success. The story of the Wine ‘n Paint event, with a registration deadline right before Holy Week, is a testament to the power of creative thinking, community spirit and stepping outside one’s comfort zone.

### **The Challenge: A Low Turnout and a Tight Deadline**

As the Women’s Club prepared for their highly anticipated Wine ‘n Paint event, they encountered an unexpected obstacle. Despite securing a GIFT Fund grant to significantly reduce the registration fee, RSVPs were dishearteningly low. With only a week remaining before the deadline to report attendance to the instructors for supplies, just three women had signed up. Complicating matters further, the registration deadline fell just

before Holy Week, a period when parish communications were understandably focused on Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

### **A Bold Strategy: Embracing the Parish Theme**

Determined not to let their efforts go to waste, the Women’s Club decided to embrace the parish theme of “Be Transformed.” This meant venturing beyond traditional methods and combining old-school tactics with new-school innovations. They took a two-pronged approach to reach out to the women of the parish:

#### **Leveraging Social Media:**

The Women’s Club harnessed the power of social media, posting about the event on all their pages. Engaging content and regular updates caught the eye of parishioners who might have missed the initial announcements.

#### **Personal Touch at Mass:**

Volunteers were posted at each Mass to hand out flyers, personally inviting women to join the event. This face-to-face interaction created a sense of urgency and community that digital messages sometimes lack.

### **The Result: Sold Out!**

The response was nothing short of extraordinary. Within days, registrations surged from a mere handful to an impressive 45, and the event quickly sold out. The combined strategy of digital outreach and personal invitation had struck a chord, demonstrating the power of personal invitation and a multifaceted approach.

### **Lessons Learned and Looking Forward**

The success of the Wine 'n Paint event during such a critical time underscores several key lessons for our parish:

- **Adaptability:** By being willing to try new methods and step outside their comfort zone, the Women's Club was able to overcome a significant hurdle.
- **Community Engagement:** While parish communication creates awareness, direct, personal invitations can be incredibly effective in fostering community participation.
- **Creative Problem-Solving:** Combining traditional and modern approaches can yield outstanding results, especially when faced with unique challenges.

This event serves as an inspiring example of what can be achieved when we embrace transformation and think creatively. As we look to the future, let us remember the success of the Women's Club Wine 'n Paint event and continue to explore new ways to engage and enrich our parish community.



# ABOUT US

**“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19)**

## **Mission**

Under Mary’s mantle, and with the guidance of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament seeks to share God’s love by celebrating the sacraments, proclaiming the gospel, and serving the needs of all His children.

## **Vision**

To be God’s witnesses, telling others of the love that we have received in Jesus Christ and also loving others as He has loved us.

## **Values**

**Love.** Growing in relationship with Jesus Christ, experiencing God’s loving presence and sharing God’s love with those we encounter.

**Knowledge.** Understanding Catholic teaching and discerning God’s call for our lives through a full sacramental life and ongoing faith formation.

**Culture.** Cultivating a culture of life by honoring all God’s creation, caring for our common home and respecting human dignity.

**Service.** Caring for all His children by generously sharing our time, talent and treasure in service to our parish and our community.

**Welcome.** Creating a warm, inviting and inclusive atmosphere where all feel welcome.



## Sacraments



**29**  
Baptism



**57**  
First Reconciliation



**57**  
First Eucharist



**49**  
Confirmation



**6**  
Matrimony

## Youth Milestones



**24**  
Graduates



**73 | 17**  
Youth | Teens



**10 | 2**  
Teens | Adults





### **About Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish**

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish is Elk Grove Village's vibrant Catholic community spread across two cherished church locations and a beloved Catholic School. Guided by Mary and the Holy Trinity, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish united in celebration, proclamation and service—extending God's love to all who join us on this journey. We aim to provide an authentic and welcoming environment where those new to the faith or anywhere in between will fit in easily and find community and a place to grow in faith and serve the Lord.

### **About Queen of the Rosary School**

Queen of the Rosary School, our parish school, offers a faith-based, academically-superior education that recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. Surrounded by a warm and nurturing environment, children feel respected and cared for while being supported and challenged to grow in knowledge, service and relationship to Jesus Christ and others.

### **Let's Connect**

Fr. Dan Folwaczny, Pastor  
[go.oncehub.com/frdan](http://go.oncehub.com/frdan)

Fr. Paul Àdajà, Assoc Pastor  
Jerrold Szostak, Deacon  
Ryan Andersen, Principal

To discover more about how God is working through us at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and Queen of the Rosary School, find us on the Web:

[OLBSEGV.org](http://OLBSEGV.org)  
[QRSchool.org](http://QRSchool.org)

or give us a call:

Parish (847) 979-0901  
School: (847) 437-3322