



GIVING IMPACT REPORT

# FY25



**OUR LADY OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
PARISH**



# CONTENTS

Pastor Introduction.....2

Lights Out! But Our Parish Shone Brightly.....4

Cougar Cubs Mornings: Big Fun for Little Learners.....5

GIFT Fund Update: Giving Is a Faithful Treasure, Indeed!.....8

Lenten Almsgiving: Healing Heart, Changing Lives.....9

Parish Council Reflection.....10

Narrative from Finance Council.....11

Comparative Statement of Revenue & Expense.....12

Balance Sheet.....13

Looking Ahead to FY26.....14

Nuts & Bolts: The Parish Multi-Site Review.....15

A Feast of Faith and Fellowship:  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service.....16

Queen of the Rosary School  
Advisory Board Reflection.....17

Lenten Small Groups:  
Growing Together in Faith (and Friendship!).....18

Sunday Family Masses: QR School Students in the Spotlight.....19

About Us.....20

By the Numbers.....21

Dear OLBS Family,

As I sit down to write my first letter for our parish annual report, my heart is filled with gratitude and humility. This past year was full of grace and activity—much of which took place before I ever arrived—and I want to begin by offering my thanks. First, I am grateful to all of you, the parishioners of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, for the many ways you have carried the mission of Christ forward through prayer, service, and generosity. I would also like to recognize my predecessor, Fr. Dan Folwaczny, for his faithful leadership and the firm foundation he helped build here.

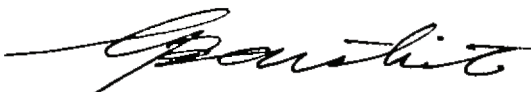
When I was first informed that I would be moving from my parish in Rogers Park to serve here in Elk Grove Village, at a parish with two worship sites, a school, and the important work of a multi-site review looming, I'll admit that excitement was not my first reaction. Change can be daunting, even for priests. But I also promised, from the moment I arrived, that I would not attempt to "fill anyone's shoes." Instead, I would strive to be the priest God created me to be and to learn how best to minister to this community.

In these first months, I have discovered a parish that is alive with faith and filled with joyful activity. I am blessed every day by the dedication of so many volunteers who care for the details of parish life—from the beauty of our worship spaces, and the compassionate outreach of our Bereavement Ministry to Mother/Daughter events or Student Ministry at our Queen of the Rosary School and the countless other ways you serve one another and our community. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure is a sign of God's Spirit at work.

Looking ahead, we know there is important work before us. Together we will continue the multi-site review with prayerful discernment. We will strive to strengthen enrollment in our Queen of the Rosary School, ensuring that future generations of children receive the gift of a faith-based and academically rigorous Catholic education. And we will continue our commitment to evangelization—building a culture of invitation so that all may know the love of Christ. We are already seeing hopeful signs: our Queen of the Rosary School, Evangelization Leadership Team, OCIA program, and many ministries continue to welcome and accompany others on their journey of faith, Sunday attendance and offertory are slowly but steadily increasing, and our Annual Catholic Appeal and Lenten Almsgiving reflect a strong spirit of generosity.

I look forward to walking this journey with you as Companions on the Journey. May we continue to grow as a community of prayer, service, and joyful witness. And may the Lord, who has begun this good work among us, continue to work in and through our community as we continue to become Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Arthur Bautista, Pastor





## Lights Out! But Our Parish Shone Brightly

Last October, our St. Julian Eymard Church lost power. Not just a flicker here and there—three full weeks of darkness that required Masses, meetings, and ministries to move to Queen of the Rosary Church and even into Queen of the Rosary School. What caused this? A perfect engineering storm: power lines installed decades ago without conduit, a building addition in the '80s built right on top of them, and the inevitable settling from our freeze/thaw cycles in Chicagoland. Over time, the lines breached, and just like that, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish was in the middle of a blackout.

What followed could have been a logistical nightmare. Instead, it became a shining example of our parish community's resilience and generosity. Our Operations Director immediately sprang into action, coordinating with the Archdiocese to find qualified vendors and fast-track permits. Meanwhile, our maintenance team secured the St. Julian building, handed out flashlights for those needing access, and carefully unplugged equipment to prevent further damage.

But it wasn't just the Operations Director and maintenance team carrying the load. The parish came together in ways both big

and small. Our QR School graciously opened its doors to house our parish office for three weeks and even let ministry meetings take place in spaces like the teacher's lounge. Volunteers stepped in to move computers, files, and paperwork so that staff could keep the daily work of the parish running smoothly.

Even communication became a community effort. Of course, we sent out blast emails, bulletin notices, weekly newsletters, and social media updates. But knowing not everyone would see them, volunteers, including Fr. Dan and Fr. Paul, stationed themselves in the parking lot at St. Julian Eymard Church to personally greet visitors and provide directions to Queen of the Rosary Church, just one mile down the road.

Throughout the three-week outage, our ministers continued the work of God with grace and smiles, even in unfamiliar and uncertain circumstances. Masses were celebrated, ministries carried on, and our community never missed a beat. It was a powerful reminder that a parish is not defined by walls or wires, it's defined by people.

This experience showed us how critical your support is. Gifts to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish fund not only routine operations, but the unseen, extraordinary efforts that keep our community strong when unexpected challenges arise. Your generosity equips our staff, volunteers, and ministries to respond with creativity, courage, and faith, ensuring that our mission never falters—even when the lights go out.

In the end, the power lines were restored, but the true power revealed during those three weeks was the unbreakable spirit of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. Thanks to you, we weren't just a church in the dark—we were a community shining brighter than ever.



## Cougar Cubs Mornings: Big Fun for Little Learners

At our Queen of the Rosary School, we're always looking for ways to build community and give our youngest learners a head start—both in life and in learning. That's why we launched Cougar Cubs, a monthly gathering for children aged 0–4 and their parents, grandparents, and guardians. What started as an idea has become a beloved tradition that brings our parish and school family together in a playful, joyful way.

Each Cougar Cubs morning is packed with fun and learning. The little ones dive into playtime, stories, songs, snacks, and crafts, all thoughtfully themed to the month. November brings colorful leaf sun catchers, December calls for festive Christmas wreaths, February melts hearts with Puppy Love creations and so on. It's more than just cute crafts—it's a chance for our littlest learners to get their first taste of structured activities, socialize with other children, and explore early childhood curriculum in a playful, hands-on way. And, let's be honest, a little freedom to move, create, and giggle goes a long way!

But Cougar Cubs mornings aren't just for the kids. Caregivers get a much-needed breather from their daily routines and a chance to connect with other adults in a caring community. Sharing

stories, swapping tips, and enjoying a cup of coffee (or two) while watching their children engage and grow creates a sense of connection that stretches far beyond the morning.

The program also serves as a gentle introduction to life at our Queen of the Rosary School. While we hope many of these Cougar Cubs will eventually become full-fledged Cougars, the focus is on building relationships, fostering curiosity, and creating joyful memories. It's about letting children explore at their own pace while giving families a warm, welcoming space to engage with our parish and school community.

The response has been phenomenal. Families return month after month, children excited to see their friends, and caregivers grateful for a chance to connect, laugh, and share the parenting journey. Teachers and staff cherish the opportunity to meet young families early, lay the groundwork for future

learning, and watch our youngest Cougars flourish before they even set foot in a classroom.

Cougar Cubs mornings remind us that community building begins with the smallest members of the Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish family. Each story read, each craft created, and each giggle shared is a building block in a strong, vibrant, and loving faith environment. And it's your generosity that makes programs like this possible, helping us create moments of learning, friendship, and joy that set our children on a path to flourish both academically and spiritually.

So, here's to our Cougar Cubs: small in size but big in spirit, curiosity, and heart. With your support, these little learners and their families are not only growing together, but becoming part of a thriving community where every Cougar, big or small, can shine.







## GIFT Fund Update: Giving Is a Faithful Treasure, Indeed!

If there's one thing Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish knows how to do, it's turning generosity into action and this year, the GIFT Fund helped us do just that. The GIFT Fund (which fittingly stands for Giving Is a Faithful Treasure) is the annual allotment from our Parish Endowment Fund that ministries can use to create opportunities for faith, fellowship, and fun.

The Parish Endowment Fund was established back in 1997 as a way to ensure long-term stability and provide resources for special projects that build up parish life. Each year, our Finance Council reviews the statements from the Archdiocese and determines a safe portion to make available. Ministries then dream up ideas, submit requests through the Parish Council, and if approved, bring those ideas to life.

For a few years, the fund sat quietly waiting to be used. It was reintroduced last year, but only about half of the available allotment was tapped. This year? Let's just say ministries were ready to roll. The entire allotment was joyfully and creatively used to strengthen our parish and serve the wider community. And what amazing projects those GIFT Funds made possible!

Our Good Samaritan Ministry launched a brand-new website that keeps guests and volunteers connected

and informed. Visitors can now access up-to-the-minute supper dates, locations, and maps right from their phones, while host sites can track and report how many guests and meals were served (and even what was on the menu). It's technology serving fellowship in the most heartwarming way.

Our Ministries of Care, Bereavement and Grief Share Ministries enjoyed a well-deserved Spiritual Care Retreat at a nearby retreat house, complete with overnight accommodations, meals, and a guest speaker who reminded our caregivers that tending to themselves is part of tending to others.

Our Men's Group took faith and fellowship on the road—literally! During Lent, they took parishioners to the theater to see *The Chosen: Season 5 – The Last Supper*, and then on Holy Thursday they chartered a bus for a traditional Visitation of Seven Churches. Faith, friendship, and maybe a

few snacks along the way—it was Catholic camaraderie at its best.

And our Respect Life Ministry took the parish's witness for life all the way to Springfield, joining others from across Illinois for the March for Life. Thanks to GIFT support, transportation and participation were made easier, allowing more parishioners and neighbors to stand together in faith and hope.

In short, the GIFT Fund was truly a faithful treasure this year. These projects remind us that generosity doesn't just fund programs; it builds connection, compassion, and community. Because of your support, our ministries are finding creative, faith-filled ways to serve, pray, and grow together.

And that's the beauty of the GIFT Fund: it keeps giving, and so do you.



*Special Lenten guest! Dimitrios Troy, who plays Lazarus in *The Chosen*, joined us to kick off our memorable Season 5 viewing. Thanks to our Men's Group for organizing!*

## Lenten Almsgiving: Healing Hearts, Changing Lives

Every Lent, our parish family comes together to live out one of the core pillars of the season, almsgiving, in a meaningful way. For the past four years, our Parish Lenten Almsgiving Projects have been a true testament to what can happen when faith meets action and generosity meets purpose.

Each year, we've taken on a new project that reaches beyond our walls and touches lives in ways we might never fully see but certainly feel. In 2022, our Lenten giving supported Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, raising \$2,500 to help young people find safety, stability, and a future filled with hope. In 2023, we turned our hearts toward welcoming the stranger, raising \$10,000 to walk alongside a young migrant family, a couple with a three-year-old baby girl and another on the way, as they settled into a new life filled with promise. And in 2024, we went global with Waves of Change, raising an incredible \$28,000 to fund

water wells in Cameroon, the birthplace of Fr. Louis. What better symbol of Lent is there than clean, lifegiving water?

Then came this past Lent, and our parish took on another deeply important mission: Mental Health Awareness and Support. The goal? To bring light, compassion, and understanding to an often-overlooked area of human suffering. Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, we raised \$11,000 to support mental health advocacy within the Archdiocese—and just as importantly, laying the groundwork for our very own Parish Mental Health Ministry.

This ministry-in-the-making aims to provide a compassionate space for those struggling with mental health challenges and for those walking beside them. Because while prayer and faith are powerful, sometimes healing also needs listening ears, informed support, and the assurance that no one is alone. The fruits of this ministry are

only beginning to blossom, but already we can see the seeds of hope taking root.

Our Lenten Almsgiving tradition has become one of the most anticipated and inspiring parts of our parish life. Each project reminds us that while Lent calls us to sacrifice, it also calls us to build up—to lift others, to reach out, and to respond to Christ's love with our own.

It's amazing what happens when a community comes together with open hands and open hearts. From clean water across the world, to safe shelter in Chicago, to welcoming a family starting anew, and now to nurturing mental and emotional well-being—our parish continues to make Lent not just a season of giving up, but a season of giving back.

So yes, our almsgiving has built wells and opened doors. But more than that, it has built hope—and that's something we can all pour our hearts into.

*This year we welcomed our new Mental Health Ministry, dedicated to accompanying parishioners with compassion, dignity, and the light of Christ.*



## Parish Council Reflection

The 2024–2025 year for Parish Council was one of growth and spiritual renewal. We welcomed added ministry representatives and a new Mental Health Ministry. Spiritually, a highlight of the year was our Lenten book study, made possible through the generous support of the Gift Fund, our Parish Endowment Fund. These resources enabled us to purchase copies of *Rescued* by Fr. John Riccardo, a book that invited parishioners to rediscover the heart of the Gospel message in a fresh and transformative way through a “book club–small group” setting.

Throughout Lent, parishioners gathered in small groups, meeting weekly to read, reflect, and discuss the themes presented in the book. These gatherings provided a welcoming space for participants to ask questions, share personal experiences, and grow together in faith. Many expressed that the small-group format fostered spiritual reflection and awareness. During this book study, we were encouraged to read passages of Scripture and see the message of salvation with renewed enthusiasm. The book’s central message—God’s plan for humanity is one of rescue, restoration, and hope—all through God’s grace. This affected us deeply and enriched our Lenten journey.

The Gift Fund is a vital resource for sustaining and enhancing our parish ministries through the generosity of the parish community. By supporting initiatives such as the Lenten book study. The fund helps foster spiritual growth, deepen discipleship, and strengthen the fellowship that binds our parish community together. Its ongoing support enables us to offer meaningful opportunities for formation and engagement, ensuring that all parishioners have access to programs that nurture their faith.

As we reflect on this past year, we are grateful for the generosity that makes these efforts possible and for the many parishioners who participated with open hearts. The 2024–2025 year demonstrated how thoughtful use of our resources can draw our parish community closer to Christ and to one another, preparing us to continue our mission with gratitude and hope.

Blessings, Anita Dwyer and Julie Hirsch  
Parish Council Chairpersons

*We thank our Parish Pastoral Council members for their prayerful guidance, wise counsel, and unwavering dedication to strengthening the spiritual life and mission of our parish community.*

Anita Dwyer & Julie Hirsh, Chairs; Mary Dolan, Secretary; Ray Bauer, Jim Gutsmedl, Larry Zabinski, Debbye Duda, Executive Committee Members at Large

Rosemary Beatty, Terry Bergmann, Gerry Bliss, Kathy Casterton, Linda Colaprete, Peter Gennuso, Marcia Hirsch, Norene Koziatek, Eileen McWherter, Peter Meister, Susan Schneider, Tom Tallman, Ministry Liaisons

## Narrative from Finance Council

This annual finance report is based upon the revenue and expenses for this past fiscal year, spanning the 12 months ending on June 30, 2025, and is the fifth year of operations for 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 prior twelve-month period, accounted for in a like manner.

The 2024-25 statement of revenue and expenses for the Parish shows a change in net total assets of (\$468,804), including a School Operating (Deficit) of (\$7,593), a Church Operating (Deficit) of (\$104,571) and (\$348,880) spent on Capital Improvements.

Total School Revenue increased by \$32,422. Mandatory fees (which include required purchase of tickets for fund raising events) are now shown as Tuition and Fees. This makes Fund Raising appear to be significantly less, but it now reflects how much voluntary purchases and donations exceed all fund-raising expenses. Total School Expenses increased \$87,545, with staff salaries and benefits up 3% and Utilities/Maintenance/Property Insurance costs up 23%.

Church operations resulted in a shortfall of (\$104,571), significantly larger than the prior year's (\$14,105) deficit. As has been true the last few years, Sunday & Holy Day Collection remain persistently flat and consequently could not offset the ongoing inflationary pressure realized within our expenses. Total revenues fell by (\$17,761) due almost entirely to the absence of several large bequests, which appeared in the Religious Education & Other Income account, and benefited the parish last year. Worth noting is that much of \$83,447 in investment income was generated from cash reserves being moved to higher yielding investment vehicles, an increase of almost 20% from the prior year. Church expenses rose 6%, or (\$72,705), due primarily to increases in Salary and Benefits (\$34,294), as well as Utilities/Maintenance/Property Insurance (\$9,583) and Other Operating Expenses (\$10,068).

As mentioned above, a number of significant capital projects were completed this year including the replacement of the QR church's 60+ year old boilers (\$113,524), the re-surfacing of portions of the QR parking lot (\$53,301), and the deployment of security cameras (\$34,868) at both places of worship. Not planned, but just as essential, was the replacement of the underground infrastructure supplying electricity to SJE and completed in October 2024 (\$144,756).

Despite these financial challenges, our Parish balance sheet remains strong. Our Net General Funds Available (which are the Parish's Assets after subtracting its Liabilities) position fell just (\$3,331) to \$1,436,786. The large drop in our Restricted Funds (\$465,473) is entirely due to withdrawals from the To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) reserve account and reflect the dollars invested into the above-mentioned capital projects. Finally, and significantly, the parish has no outstanding debt.

Jim Styka and Mark Sherman,  
Finance Council Executive Committee

*We extend sincere appreciation to our Finance Council members for their stewardship, transparency, and faithful oversight, ensuring that our parish resources are managed with integrity and care.*

Joe Tomaino, Chair; Jim Styka, Mark Sherman,  
Dcn Jerry Szostak, Executive Committee

Brian Foley, Tim Francl, Frank Ramljac, Ken Ropiak, Joan Selvig

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT for QR School and OLBS Parish**

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE**

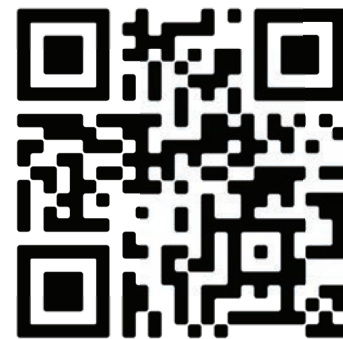
**For the Fiscal Year ended 6/30/2025 vs. 6/30/2024**

|   |                  |                  | <u>Comparison</u>    |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
|   |                  |                  | <u>Favorable or</u>  |
|   | <u>2024-25</u>   | <u>2023-24</u>   | <u>(Unfavorable)</u> |
| <b>SCHOOL</b>                                 |                  |                  |                      |
| Tuition & Fees                                | 1,392,845        | 1,280,366        | 112,479              |
| Fund Raising                                  | 77,501           | 177,315          | (99,814)             |
| Other Income                                  | 98,592           | 93,404           | 5,188                |
| Auxiliary Accounts                            | 14,310           | (259)            | 14,569               |
| <b>TOTAL SCHOOL REVENUE</b>                   | <b>1,583,248</b> | <b>1,550,826</b> | <b>32,422</b>        |
| Salaries & Benefits                           | 1,309,145        | 1,265,539        | (43,606)             |
| Utilities/Maintenance/Property Insurance      | 208,186          | 169,739          | (38,447)             |
| Other Operating Expense                       | 61,099           | 55,636           | (5,463)              |
| Archdiocesan OCS Assessment                   | 12,411           | 12,382           | (29)                 |
| <b>TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSE</b>                   | <b>1,590,841</b> | <b>1,503,296</b> | <b>(87,545)</b>      |
| <b>NET SCHOOL OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b> | <b>(7,593)</b>   | <b>47,530</b>    | <b>(55,123)</b>      |
| <b>CHURCH</b>                                 |                  |                  |                      |
| Sunday & Holy Day Collection                  | 716,198          | 717,545          | (1,347)              |
| Christmas & Easter Collection                 | 155,486          | 147,657          | 7,829                |
| Religious Education & Other Income            | 134,786          | 183,525          | (48,739)             |
| Archdiocesan & Sharing Collections            | 49,515           | 46,890           | 2,625                |
| Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Parish Revenue     | 34,765           | 26,022           | 8,743                |
| Investment Income                             | 83,447           | 69,726           | 13,721               |
| Auxiliary Accounts                            | 853              | 1,446            | (593)                |
| <b>TOTAL CHURCH REVENUE</b>                   | <b>1,175,050</b> | <b>1,192,811</b> | <b>(17,761)</b>      |
| Salaries & Benefits                           | 675,130          | 640,836          | (34,294)             |
| Utilities/Maintenance/Property Insurance      | 227,681          | 218,098          | (9,583)              |
| Other Operating Expense                       | 135,870          | 125,802          | (10,068)             |
| Archdiocesan & Sharing Payments               | 49,367           | 46,890           | (2,477)              |
| Archdiocesan Assessment/PRMAA                 | 133,731          | 128,388          | (5,343)              |
| Miscellaneous Expense                         | 57,842           | 46,902           | (10,940)             |
| <b>TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSE</b>                   | <b>1,279,621</b> | <b>1,206,916</b> | <b>(72,705)</b>      |
| <b>NET CHURCH OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b> | <b>(104,571)</b> | <b>(14,105)</b>  | <b>(90,466)</b>      |
| TTWCI Pledges Received                        | 1,200            | (21,024)         | 22,224               |
| <b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>                   | <b>(348,880)</b> | <b>(15,935)</b>  | <b>(332,945)</b>     |
| Extraordinary Income (Expense) (net)          | (8,960)          | 714              | (9,674)              |
| <b>NET EXTRAORDINARY INCOME/(EXPENSE)</b>     | <b>(356,640)</b> | <b>(36,245)</b>  | <b>(320,395)</b>     |
| <b>CHANGE IN TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>             | <b>(468,804)</b> | <b>(2,820)</b>   | <b>(465,984)</b>     |

**PARISH FUNDS BALANCE SHEET REPORT**  
**For the Fiscal Year ended 6/30/2025 vs. 6/30/2024**

|                                    | <u>2024-25</u>   | <u>2023-24</u>   | <u>Difference</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                      |                  |                  |                   |
| Parish Bank Accounts               | 1,445,846        | 1,406,449        | 39,397            |
| Auxiliary Bank Accounts            | 64,106           | 58,484           | 5,622             |
| <b>GENERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>     | <b>1,509,952</b> | <b>1,464,933</b> | <b>45,019</b>     |
|                                    |                  |                  |                   |
| Accounts Payable                   | 10,896           | (19,088)         | (29,984)          |
| Prepaid Tuition & Fees             | 33,493           | 43,904           | 10,411            |
| Deferred Income                    | 28,777           | 0                | (28,777)          |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>           | <b>73,166</b>    | <b>24,816</b>    | <b>(48,350)</b>   |
| <b>NET GENERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b> | <b>1,436,786</b> | <b>1,440,117</b> | <b>(3,331)</b>    |
|                                    |                  |                  |                   |
| <b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>            |                  |                  |                   |
| Endowment Fund                     | 442,476          | 426,920          | 15,556            |
| Building & Millennium Fund         | 269,245          | 238,336          | 30,909            |
| TTWCI                              | 196,894          | 708,832          | (511,938)         |
| <b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>      | <b>908,615</b>   | <b>1,374,088</b> | <b>(465,473)</b>  |
|                                    |                  |                  |                   |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>            | <b>2,345,401</b> | <b>2,814,205</b> | <b>(468,804)</b>  |

*Consider making a modest increase in your weekly contribution and signing up for our e-Giving option (follow this link or scan the code at right to sign up for e-Giving—it's simple, safe, and secure). E-Giving ensures important consistency in our weekly contributions while additionally netting you the benefits your credit card of choice provides.*



## Looking Ahead to FY2026

As has been noted in every annual report since OLBS was formed, the Parish continues to confront two significant challenges, each with considerable impacts to our financial well-being.

Last year, our school finished with a small Net Operating Deficit for the first time in the last five years. This is a direct result of enrollment declines and can only be addressed by reversing this trend and recruiting more students into the school. This situation is further aggravated by post-COVID inflation within our operating expenses. Though the management team has done “yeoman’s work” to control expenses, only an increase in revenue will successfully reverse this situation. The school’s principal, marketing lead, and parish operations director have developed a number of ideas as to how this may be accomplished. Work has now begun on a three-year plan, and we expect to see a number of new initiatives to improve attendance launched before the plan has been finalized.

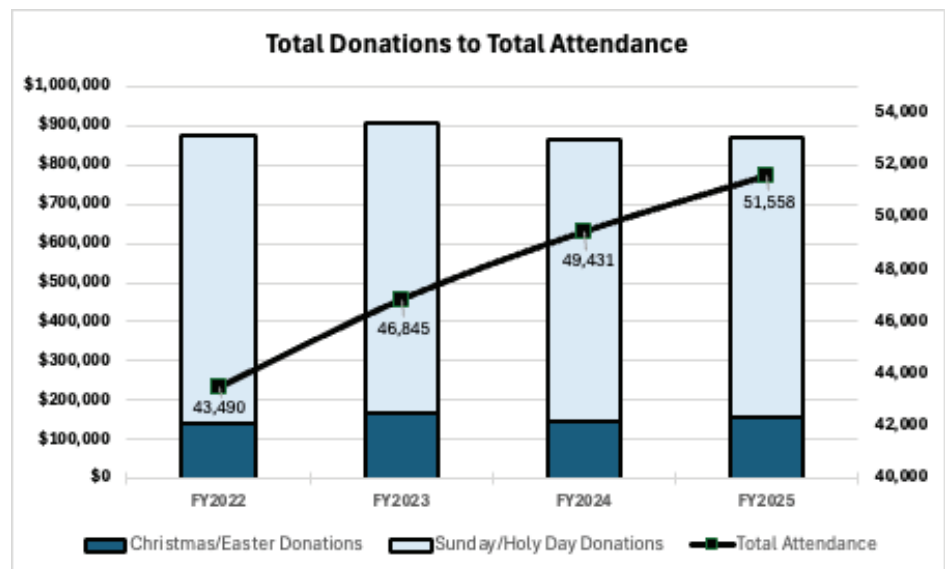
With regards to our church, this is the fourth consecutive year of ending the fiscal period with a loss. Most worrying, the extent of the loss continues to grow. What we find most puzzling is, while Mass attendance numbers have

experienced positive growth each of the past few years (and were up another 2,127 from last year), a corresponding increase in weekly donations has not been realized. The graph below illustrates the positive trend in Mass attendance beginning with 2021, the first year we began tracking, as compared to the stagnant growth of donations over that same period (see *Table “Total Donations to Total Attendance”*).

Similar to the school, Total Church Expense exhibits the inflationary increases we are all experiencing within our own households. Collections remaining essentially flat leaves us with a deficit. Worth noting however is if our mass attendees increased their donations just 4% each year since FY2022, the church would have finished this fiscal year with a slight surplus. This indicates it will not take much

to turn this around. As this is our parish, it is all our problem to solve and one which is not insurmountable.

Over the last few months, a Multi-site Review committee has been formed and begun assembling a picture of the state of our current facilities, their usage and maintenance requirements, and our ability to financially sustain them. The parish is fortunate to have a strong balance sheet, no outstanding debt, and a steadily growing number of mass attendees. However, as mentioned, the lack of sufficient revenue is a serious concern and must be addressed. Consequently, the committee will develop recommendations over the next few months and present them to the parish in a town hall early next year (see *“Nuts & Bolts: The Parish Multi-Site Review”*).



## Nuts & Bolts: The Parish Multi-Site Review

When parishes are combined into a new, singular entity, the Archdiocese of Chicago requests the newly formed parish conduct a viability assessment of its facilities. While ideally this assessment would have been conducted in the three (3) years immediately following unification of Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard Parishes, it was instead deferred until the disruptions and impacts of the pandemic had mostly dissipated. With the pandemic now mostly behind us, the Multi-site Review (MSR) Team was assembled in the Summer of 2025 and consists of eight (8) parishioners, two (2) Archdiocese of Chicago representatives plus our Pastor, Fr. Art Bautista and Operations Director, Ms. Jennifer Frazzini. The goal of the MSR Team is to assess each of our facilities and develop the long-term strategy for each based on how Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish does “Mass and Ministry.” The assessment will involve a review of current scheduling plus additional key metrics such as utility costs, capital project needs, current and expected future utilization, and the overall financial condition of our parish. Based on the assessment, a recommendation as to the future of each structure will be developed, delivered to Fr. Art for his approval and, once presented to the Archdiocese, implemented.

The MSR Team is targeting early 2026 for a parish town hall where its final recommendation will be presented. Until then, the Team is committed to keep you, our parish community, informed via regular communications presented either in-person during Masses and/or through written updates delivered within the parish bulletin. You have likely heard and/or read our updates over the past few months.

Know the representatives from the Archdiocese of Chicago are on board to provide us with process guidance and ensure we have access to subject matter experts as needed. However, the Team’s final recommendation will be ours and a conclusion reached after a thorough review of mass attendance trends, the size and scope of all pending maintenance initiatives, and our parish’s financial strength. We appreciate your continued patience and support throughout the next few months.

Mark Sherman and Julie Hirsch, MSR Team Chairs

*Thank you to the parishioners on the Multi-Site Review Team for their commitment, insight, and collaborative spirit in helping shape the future of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.*

Julie Hirsch & Mark Sherman Team Chairs

Jim Gutsmiedel, Jill Meister, Joerg Oberschmied,  
Randy Reid, Joe Tomaino, Glen Villano

## A Feast of Faith and Fellowship: Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Last November, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish had the honor of hosting the Village Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Prayer Service for the first time in decades! On the Monday before Thanksgiving, the church was filled with neighbors, friends, and guests from faith communities all across our village, coming together to give thanks in a beautiful display of unity, prayer, and song.

It was a heartwarming evening that reminded everyone that while our faith traditions may differ, gratitude is something we all share. Clergy and lay leaders from many local houses of worship offered prayers of thanksgiving, hope, and peace, each reflecting the unique voice of their community. The result? A service that felt like a spiritual potluck where everyone brought something meaningful to the table, and together it made a feast for the soul.

Our Music Ministry helped set the tone, leading a combined choir that represented many voices—literally and figuratively! Hearing singers from different faith communities blend in harmony was a powerful symbol of what this night was all about: unity, respect, and the joy of coming together as one. More than a few attendees commented afterward that the music alone could have been a prayer.

Of course, no Thanksgiving gathering would be complete without sharing a little something to take home. Fr. Dan, in true pastoral and neighborly fashion, purchased fresh buns from Jarosch Bakery. As guests departed, volunteers handed out these rolls along with a Thanksgiving prayer that families could recite around their own tables later in the week. It was a simple gesture, just a way of saying, “We’re glad you were here, and may your gratitude continue to rise like good bread.”

Hosting the service wasn’t just about providing space, but also welcome. For many who attended, it was their first time visiting our parish, and what they encountered was warmth, hospitality, and the unmistakable spirit of community. The evening was filled with

smiles, conversation, and that unmistakable buzz that happens when people feel truly connected.

In a world that often emphasizes what divides us, this service was a joyful reminder of what unites us, our shared humanity and our shared gratitude. And it was made possible through the generosity of our parishioners. Your support doesn’t just keep the lights on; it creates opportunities for faith, fellowship, and friendship to flourish both within and beyond our parish walls.

As Pastor Stefan from Christus Victor put it on his way out the door, “It felt like Thanksgiving started early this year.” We couldn’t agree more. Our parish was overflowing with gratitude that evening, and maybe just a hint of the aroma of freshly baked bread.



## Queen of the Rosary School Advisory Board Reflection

For more than 65 years, Queen of the Rosary School has partnered with parents as primary educators of their children. At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year we welcomed our new Principal, Mr. Ryan Andersen. With more than 18 years of experience in both general and special education, Mr. Andersen brought more than just credentials, he brought heart, vision and a deep love for Catholic education. From streamlining curricula to launching new extracurriculars like Robotics, Mr. Andersen is leading with purpose and joy.

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 continue to meet these challenges with faith through various initiatives and our new school motto “Where Faith and Learning Feel Like Home” which reflects everything that makes QR special—a place where students grow in faith, knowledge, and friendship; where they are known, loved, and supported every day.

### Highlights include:

**Student Services:** Through tutoring, mentoring, and individualized instruction, each child is encouraged to learn at their own pace and reach their fullest potential. Students seeking an extra challenge can even take high school-level courses at St. Viator High School.

**Curriculum.** Queen of the Rosary School prioritizes social-emotional learning through the Friendly curriculum, helping students build healthy relationships, manage stress, and improve focus. By integrating these skills into daily lessons, students learn to understand their emotions and make responsible decisions—strengthening our nurturing environment and supporting their growth academically, socially, and emotionally.

**Technology.** From Chrome Books and iPads to our Learning Media Center and STEAM opportunities like our new Robotics Club, students thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

**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.

**Rolling Enrollment:** Our preschool program welcomes our youngest learners as they take their first big steps in a warm, faith-filled environment. Here, they build friendships, grow in confidence, and are supported by our experienced faculty—always surrounded by God’s love. To help families begin their journey even sooner, we now offer rolling enrollment, allowing children to join our wonderful school as soon as they turn 3, rather than waiting until August.

Laurie Oddo, School Advisory Board Co-Chair



## Lenten Small Groups: Growing Together in Faith (and Friendship!)

Lent is a season of reflection, renewal, and at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish—relationship. For the second year in a row, our parish community came together for Lenten Small Groups, gathering in living rooms, classrooms, and coffee shops to read, reflect, and reconnect through faith-filled conversation.

This year's parish-wide read was *Rescued* by Fr. John Riccardo, a powerful reminder that the story of salvation isn't just ancient history, it's personal. Week by week, participants dove into the book's reflections on sin, redemption, and the boundless love of God who rescues each of us. Discussions were lively, heartfelt, and sometimes even a little humorous (because let's be honest, no small group is complete without laughter and snacks).

Small groups formed in every corner of parish life. Friend groups gathered around kitchen tables, ministry teams met after rehearsal or service projects, and even our catechists and Queen of the Rosary School parents

and staff joined in. Many who had participated in last year's Lenten book—*Be Transformed* by Dr. Bob Schuchts—were so inspired by their experience that they volunteered to lead small groups this time around. Talk about spiritual growth in action!

The beauty of these Lenten gatherings wasn't just in reading a great book (though Fr. Riccardo gave us plenty to think about), but in how they strengthened connections across our parish. People who might have only exchanged polite nods at Mass found themselves sharing stories of faith, challenges, and grace. Hearts opened, friendships formed, and the season of Lent became a journey not walked alone, but together.

Participants shared how meaningful it was to step away from the busyness of daily life and spend time reflecting on their relationship with God and with one another. One parishioner put it best: "I didn't realize how much I needed this community until I found myself in it."

Our Lenten Small Groups are more than a program, they're becoming a parish tradition. Each year, more people join in, and each year, the conversations go deeper. The result? A parish that doesn't just attend Mass together but grows, prays, and learns together.

And none of this would be possible without your generosity. Because of your support, our parish can provide the resources, materials, and formation opportunities that help make initiatives like these flourish. You help us create spaces where faith can be explored, questions can be asked, and community can thrive.

As we look ahead to next Lent, we're already excited to see what book will inspire us next, and what new friendships and spiritual discoveries will unfold along the way. Because when it comes to faith, growth happens best in good company.



## Sunday Family Masses: QR School Students in the Spotlight

This year, some Sunday Masses became extra special thanks to a little thing we like to call student-powered liturgy. Each month, a different grade from our Queen of the Rosary School took the lead—not just as altar servers, but also as lectors and gift bearers. It was an amazing opportunity for our students to dive deeper into the Mass, and a real treat for our parish to see them in action.

There's something magical about watching a student stand confidently at the ambo, proclaiming the Word of God, or processing down the aisle with the gifts. These moments weren't just adorable—they were powerful reminders of how faith is alive and thriving in our youngest parishioners. And yes, sometimes those readings had words so tricky that even the adults in the pews might have stumbled. On one particularly memorable Sunday, Fr. Dennis was visiting and announced that it was 3rd Grade Sunday. Some of the first two readings included vocabulary that he admitted he wasn't sure he would have pronounced correctly himself!

But Fr. Dan and Fr. Paul had a plan. In the week leading up to their class Sunday, they met with the "host" class to go over the readings, helping with pronunciation, understanding, and background. They took the time to ensure each student

felt confident, informed, and ready to shine. By the time Sunday arrived, the children were prepared not just to read words on a page, but to proclaim God's Word with understanding and joy.

The impact went beyond the students themselves. Families in the pews beamed with pride, fellow students clapped quietly along with the responses, and clergy marveled at how engaged and prepared the young ministers were. What could have been intimidating became a joyful, inspiring celebration. The students learned not just about serving in Mass, but also about responsibility, preparation, and the honor of being part of the liturgy in a meaningful way.

Sunday Masses like these remind us why our parish and school programs matter so much. They provide opportunities for students to grow in faith, connect with clergy, and participate in the life of the Church in tangible

ways. And these experiences wouldn't be possible without your generosity. Your support allows us to provide programs, training, and guidance so our students can step into these roles confidently and fully prepared.

In the end, Sundays brought smiles to faces young and old, and hearts filled with pride and faith. Our students didn't just serve, they shone. And as always, the parish community gathered together to witness the beauty of faith in action, showing that when young people are given the opportunity, they rise to the occasion, inspire everyone around them, and remind us why Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish is such a vibrant place to grow in faith.





# ABOUT US

## 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.

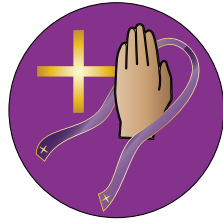


# BY THE NUMBERS

## Sacraments Celebrated



**35**  
Baptism



**59**  
First Reconciliation



**59**  
First Eucharist



**43**  
Confirmation



**5**  
Matrimony

## Youth Engagement



**23**  
Graduates



**55 | 33**  
Youth | Teens



**16 | 4**  
Teens | Adults

## Welcomed to the Faith



**6**  
Elect (0 Baptisms)





### **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.

### **Our Queen of the Rosary School**

Queen of the Rosary School—where faith and learning feel like home. 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. Arthur Bautista, Pastor

Fr. Paul Àdajà, Assoc Pastor  
Mr. Jerrold Szostak, Deacon

Ms. Jennifer Frazzini,  
Operations Director

Mr. 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