

OUR LADY of *Joy*
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Carefree, Arizona



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GRACE



STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

A LETTER FROM FATHER JESS

Dear Family of God,

I am pleased to present Our Lady of Joy's 2022-2023 Annual Stewardship Report. The report highlights the important work accomplished by nearly 400 volunteers whose work spans 40 ministries as well as committees, programs, and services that touch the lives of our parishioners and also those in need within our diocese.

As our fiscal year ended on June 30, 2023, we felt blessed to experience the full restoration of parish life that had been compromised by the pandemic. This restoration was marked by a truly special celebration on November 12-13, 2022—the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Joy. The entire parish celebrated “50 Years of Grace” with a festive weekend that included a special Mass and dinner attended by past and present clergy, Auxiliary Bishop Nevarez and other diocesan personnel.

As Pastor, I am keenly aware of the hard work and sacrifices made by parishioners over these five decades. From the construction of our first building in 1974, two years after the parish was officially founded, to the seven buildings and a convent that now serve our community, our mission to help people on their faith journey continues to flourish.

Whenever I am asked what I would like my legacy to be as Pastor of Our Lady of Joy, my response is: “If I can get one person to heaven, it is worth it. If I can get two or more, all the better!” This is a special place not only to me, but to many.

Thank you for continuing to serve the Lord and Our Lady of Joy by your tireless support, your presence and worship-offering. I am grateful for each of you and the generous support you have given to the parish, Father Clement, and myself.

Yours in Christ through Mary,



Fr. Jess Ty

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to build a community of missionary disciples through the Sacraments, prayer, acts of charity, and evangelization and catechesis based on the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.



PASTORAL REPORT

Registered Families	2400
Number of Anointings	66
Number of Communion Calls	15
Marriages	16
Deaths	42
Baptisms (all ages)	40
Confirmations	55
1st Reconciliation	37
1st Eucharist	55
RCIA	7
Religious Education Students	163
Preschool Students	34
Full Time Employees	16
Part Time Employees	4
Number of Volunteers	360
Number of Ministries	39
Charity and Development Appeal	
Goal: \$285,000 Actual: \$343,751	





FAITH FORMATION

By David Lins, Director of Faith Formation

The Faith Formation Department hoped that July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 would be a time for the program to return full-force in the wake of a global pandemic, but new challenges surprised us all. Despite the unforeseen tests, the volunteers and staff of the parish rose to overcome them.

We began the year with tremendous promise for children’s catechesis and family ministry. Anna Dice was entering her second year as Coordinator of Children’s Catechesis and her first with everyone back in the classrooms. Easing back to in-person programming, classes were limited to twice monthly and volunteers returned to teach our youngest parishioners. Dinners were provided as an opportunity for families of the parish with children of similar age to build relationships. Speakers tackled topics relevant to today’s parent, and family adoration took place at every other class session.

The program was impacted when Anna had to depart unexpectedly, but the program volunteers forged ahead with several staff members graciously staying late and helping with whatever was needed. Sr. Susan Marie took on several additional responsibilities as Interim Coordinator, and as a result, the children continued to be taught the Faith without interruption. The Sacraments fittingly took place on Pentecost Sunday and were celebrated by Bishop Thomas Olmsted at his last parish visit before retirement. A true blessing for our parish.

Also joining the parish staff amid the challenges of the pandemic was our Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Mady Mooradian. In this, her first year under normal circumstances, Life Teen High School Ministry and Edge Middle School Ministry both returned to regular meetings on Sunday night and Wednesday night, respectively. Both programs started a bit small as families became more comfortable with public gatherings and momentum had to be regained with high-quality programming and consistency.

Continuing the theme, the Rite of Christian Initiation returned to Wednesday nights, now taking place in the Parish Library. David Lins and a curated volunteer team of three led those wishing to become Catholic, those wishing to complete their sacraments of initiation, and anyone who wanted to “audit” the class, in lessons leading all the way from the existence of God to the Creed. The year ended several weeks after many of the participants received sacraments at the Easter Vigil with a party hosted by Fr. Jess in the rectory.

Every adult Faith Formation class returned fully to the Church campus with the exception of the virtual Saturday morning Bible Study. Parishioners were thrilled to finally be able to fully take advantage of the Parish Hall remodel almost every day of the week.

I am proud of the way our parishioners, staff, clergy, and volunteers went above and beyond to ensure that Faith Formation remained a central force at Our Lady of Joy despite the many challenges.



PRESCHOOL

By Jessica Snook, Director of Preschool



Our Lady of Joy Preschool, located on the south side of the church campus, has been teaching children ages three to five years old since 1991. In the 2022-2023 school year, we had 35 students enrolled. We have two preschool classes and two PreK classes in our stand-alone building. Our main feeder schools are Annunciation Catholic School and St. John XXIII, which are both K-8 grade programs.

There are many unique features about OLOJ Preschool, most importantly our faith formation program for our students. We teach the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program to our students in the Holy Family building. CGS is an incredible program, teaching children the Catholic faith at their level. With more than 35 hands-on presentations, children learn about the Annunciation, parables, the Holy Land, altar setting and liturgical calendar just to name a few. In addition, we incorporate prayer, the Saints and the story of Jesus's life throughout our daily and weekly schedule. Our preschool curriculum is rooted in academics and includes math, science, handwriting and literacy.

Each year we celebrate many memorable events with our preschool families. Grandparents' day is celebrated with All Saints Day, Trunk or Treat, St. Nick's breakfast, Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad. Our parish and preschool St. Nick's event were attended by over 215 guests. We all enjoyed ourselves at our annual Parish and Preschool Trunk or Treat event where we had some amazing car trunks decorated and it was attended by over 50 cars. A very special Grandparents Day is shared with our All Saints procession in which we have cookies, coffee and a craft with our families.

Our parents experience a special connection with our teachers and staff as drop-off and pick-up times allow great conversations about the student's day. In addition, twice a year our teachers conduct assessments on each student and meet with the parents to discuss their child's successes and room for growth. Our students matriculate to their kindergarten classes with solid self-confidence, a strong academic background and a love for friends and faith. We are grateful to Father Jess and Father Clement in their support of Catholic education as well as Bishop Dolan.



PARISH OUTREACH

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

Advent Project: St. Agnes Catholic School	\$19,634
Advent Project: St. Charles Apache Mission School	\$13,008
Sanctity of Life Ministry	\$15,560
Religious Retirement	\$6,463
Gospel of Life	\$280
Special Collection - Black & Indian	\$887
Lenten Project: Aid to Women Center	\$5,329
Lenten Project: First Way Pregnancy Center	\$5,596
Holy Land	\$2,560
Communications	\$100
Priest's Discretionary Fund	\$32,084
St. Michael Catholic Church	\$10,000
Memorial Gift Donations	\$550
Building Fund	\$583,188
Parish Outreach	\$30,568
St. Charles Back-to-School	\$5,200
Total Donations	\$731,007



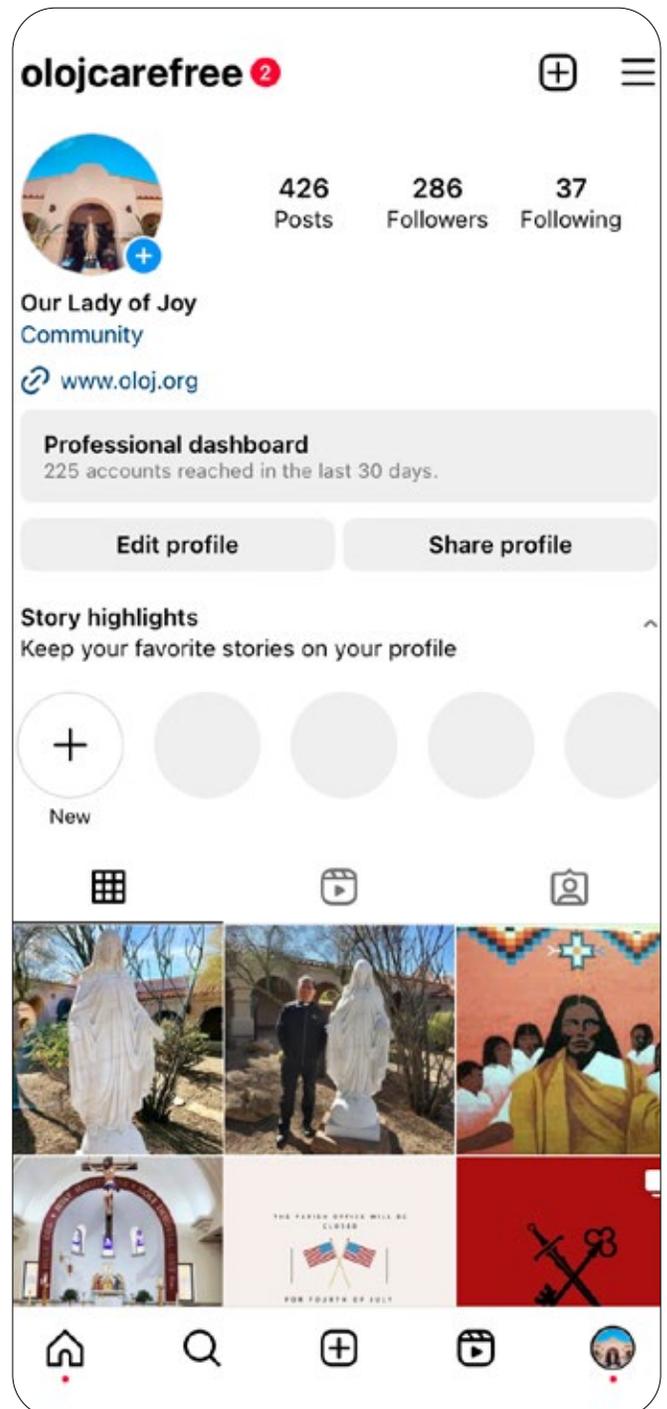
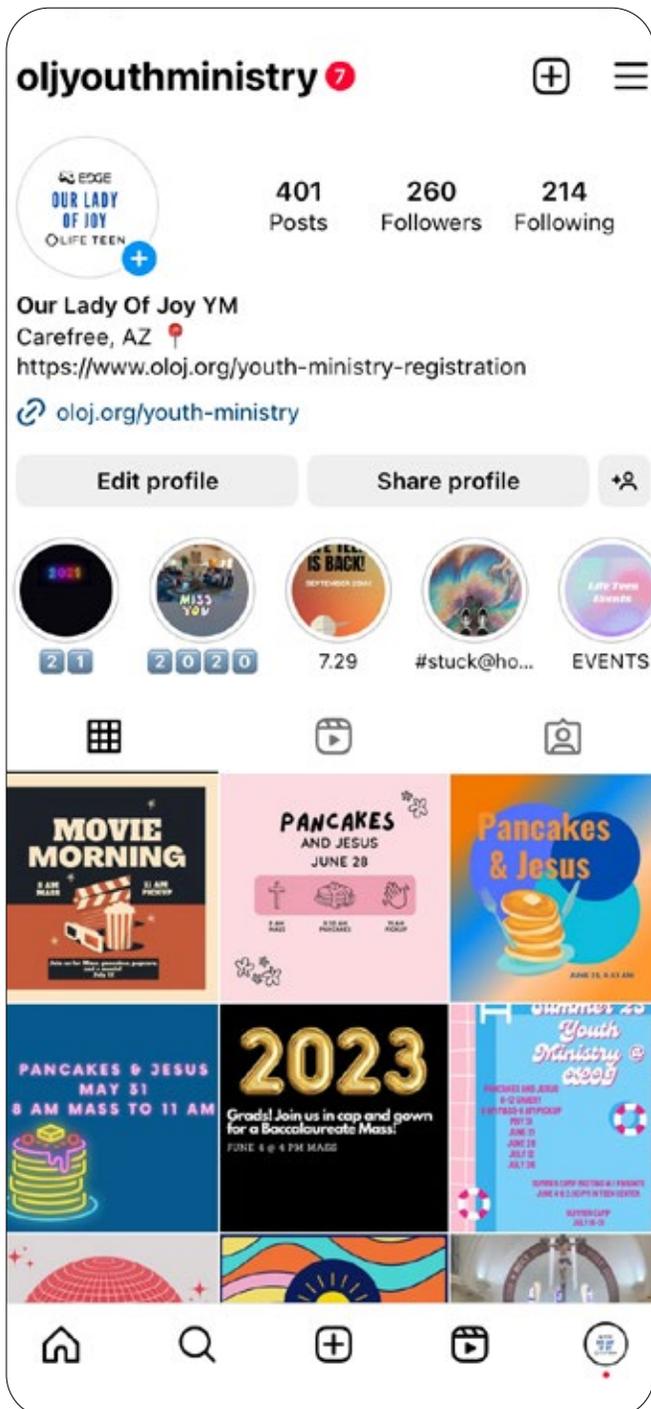
SOCIAL MEDIA

By Madyson Mooradian, Social Media Coordinator

The Our Lady of Joy Facebook page has an estimated audience of 33.2k from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, an increase of 10,000 viewers. The Facebook account had 68 new page likes while the Our Lady of Joy Instagram had 102 new followers.

The Our Lady of Joy TikTok account, started in 2022 with 102 followers and 1,080 likes, has grown to 453 followers and 2,567 likes.

Our Lady of Joy continues to live stream every weekend and the priests' and deacons' homilies are put on YouTube. The YouTube account has 774 subscribers, up 136 since the previous fiscal year's number of 638 subscribers.



FAMILY MINISTRY

By Moni Matthews-Hoffmann, Coordinator of Children's Catechesis & Family Ministry

Family Ministry at Our Lady of Joy seeks to create a supportive environment for families with children to grow in faith and fellowship, to build a Catholic culture and to find a second home through the bonds formed with the families and the parish. This time allows the parents to focus on building fellowship and faith with other families that are raising children within the Catholic Faith. We have speakers, videos, monthly adoration and small group discussions focused around raising a Catholic Family in today's world.

This past year we were thrilled to bring Family Ministry back home full force to Our Lady of Joy. Our families enjoyed many nights of food, fellowship and faith together. It was beautiful to see more than 200 people gathered together for meals in the Parish Hall each and every week with 40-50 parents spending time listening to speakers and videos to strengthen the faith within their families. We had a wonderful turnout every week and are look forward to another amazing year!

1st Reconciliation	37
1st Eucharist	55
Confirmations	58
Holy Family Catechesis Students	167



YOUTH MINISTRY

By Madysen Mooradian, Youth Ministry Coordinator

This fiscal year of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 saw increased numbers of middle school and high school students registering for Edge and Life Teen compared to previous years. Over the semester, the adult Core Team grew as well, with the end of the semester seeing five Core members for Life Teen and four for Edge. Life Teen's theme was the Creed, and it was broken up over both semesters. Edge's fall semester was focused on the Mass and why do kids need to attend, while their spring semester was focused the seven sacraments.

In October of 22, the Life Teen fall retreat went to St. Joseph Youth Camp in Flagstaff for a weekend. The theme of this retreat was "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength." This three-day retreat helped created community, but also challenged the 12 teens who attended.

In March of 23, the Edge day retreat was focused on saints and blessed who are under the age of 15. The 10 students who attended learned about these holy youth, broke into small group discussions, and attended Mass.



YOUTH MINISTRY

By Madyson Mooradian, Youth Ministry Coordinator

In April of 23, the Life Teen day retreat at Sprit in the Desert Retreat Center in Cave Creek focused on how to change their daily lives to be healthier, happier, and holier. Fr. Kurt Perera, the vocation director for the Diocese of Phoenix celebrated Mass and Eucharistic Adoration at this event.

The summer of 2023 marked the return of our popular Pancakes and Jesus, where 6-12 graders attend 8 am Mass and then spend the rest of the morning hanging out to enjoy various activities, such as water games, board games, and relational ministry. Pancakes and Jesus are typically attended by 10 to 15 students.

During the fiscal year, I was able for the first time to take four Core members to a Core member training organized by Life Teen and the Diocese. This daylong retreat was held in Avondale and included informational talks, Eucharistic Adoration, small group discussion, and games. The Core members who attended expressed their spiritual growth from this event and are willing to attend in the future.



OUR LADY'S GUILD

By Sharon Madura, Our Lady's Guild President

Our Lady's Guild of Our Lady of Joy is dedicated to living Catholic values through prayer and action. More than 150 parish women with a myriad of backgrounds become one in their Guild Sisterhood. We meet monthly, September through May, to connect with each other, foster new friendships and be engaged by an array of presentations.

Several Guild Interest groups offer opportunities for personal growth including the Sister-to-Sister Breakfast bunch, Book Club, Hiking Club and Finer Diners. Our Prayer Warriors offer a group Divine Mercy Chaplet service for any Guild member or her immediate family member who is ill or dying. Our Lady's Angels offer rides, meals and other support to members facing personal or physical challenges. The Funeral Reception Committee facilitates funeral receptions for our members/spouses after their funeral mass. Craft Angels is a wonderful group, open to the parish, that helps others through craft creations and the gathering of items for those in need.

We support our church financially through the tremendous success of our Annual Christmas Bazaar which will be held in November this year. We lend a helping hand to support parish projects most notably the Parish Advent Project and the Parish Lenten Project. Our Back-to-School Drive is an annual event benefitting St. Charles Catholic School on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

All women of the parish are encouraged to join. We look forward to welcoming new members and strengthening our visibility on our church campus.

Our Lady's Guild will celebrate its 50th Jubilee this year.

GUILD OUTREACH GRANT AWARDS	
Life Teen Ministry	\$100
Christmas Bazaar	\$12,650
Craft Angels	\$1,000
OLOJ Clergy Staff and Sisters' Gifts	\$565
50 th Anniversary Desserts	\$440
TOTAL	\$14,755



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

By Richard Maes, Grand Knight

The founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Father Michael McGivney, asked the men at his parish to come together and help the church and the community. He wanted an army of Catholic men to pray together and to protect our faith. He started Council #1 in the basement of Saint Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut with 10 men. Today we have roughly 2 million members worldwide and assets over \$116 billion due to our insurance programs and investments. As men, it is our job to lead the family to church and pass down our traditions and our faith. The Knights at Our Lady of Joy are an active, visible group who are involved in every aspect of parish life. Many Knights are Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, choir members and parish committee members. Our parish priests, Father Jess and Father Clement, are both 4th degree Knights. We are blessed to serve with them at Our Lady of Joy.



The Knights at OLOJ had a very productive fraternal year contributing to various events and charitable endeavors. They assisted with the Our Lady's Guild Christmas Bazaar, provided the beverages for the parish 50th anniversary, participated in the Arizona Rosary Celebration in downtown Phoenix, and organized the annual Breakfast with St. Nick event for the parish. They supported the St. Charles Apache Mission School, providing funding for over 60 students, food gift cards for their families and winter coats for 24 students. Six Lenten fish dinners, serving over 1,200 parishioners, helped to fund the OLOJ Pre-school. The Golf Fore Charity golf tournament is the Knights' largest fundraiser. Over the last 22 years it has earned more than \$4 million, which has gone to charities. The Knights provided more than 2,500 hours of service and donated over \$160,000 to charities during the last fraternal year.



OUR GOOD WORKS 2022-2023	
Aid to Disabled	\$2,000
Catholic Education	\$15,600
Culture of Life	\$1,500
Family Aid and Food	\$96,200
Pro-Life and Women's Center	\$13,000
Religious	\$15,700
Veterans & First Responders	\$9,025
Youth	\$6,400
TOTAL	\$159,425





ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

By Douglas Rea, St. Vincent de Paul President



Poverty never takes a vacation. That is why the Our Lady of Joy Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is on-call every day of the year. We carry out our work through the donations of our generous parishioners.

Our Founder, Frederic Ozanam stated, "No act of charity is foreign to our society". We abide by this whole-heartedly and do a variety of things to help our neighbors get back on their feet and back in a good place with their lives. But we are much more than a charity. We are "Christ bearers" to people who have financial needs beyond their ability to pay. We help pay utility bills, help with unexpected medical and dental situations, and help with car repairs thus assuring transportation to and from work. Unfortunately, families find themselves in a situation where they can't pay their rent for a month or two, usually when they are temporarily out of work. We will pay their rent in these cases. Finally, we pray with them, encourage them to move forward, and many times leave them with a Bible, rosary, prayer cards, or other religious objects

Throughout the year, we conduct food drives and clothing drives to help those in need. We have a back-to-school program for needy students from ages 5 through 18 where we give each child a backpack, two Walmart gift cards for school supplies, and a voucher for the St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store for clothes. Finally, we contribute to the Phoenix St. Vincent

de Paul community through aid to conferences (with needs greater than their parishes contributions), the "Ministry of the Homeless" (homeless food, water, and living assistance), the "Bring Hope Home Ministry" (assistance in relocating homeless to apartment living), and the "St. Vincent de Paul Scholarship Fund" (tuition assistance for first time in family college students).

And most importantly, we are a Vincentian family who grows together through our work, our fellowship, and the Spirituality we put into our meetings. We meet two Fridays a month and are always looking for new Vincentians.

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Our Lady of Joy Conference

Unrestricted Donations Received:	\$154,437
Restricted Donations Received:	\$100,000
Client Aid Expended:	\$85,348
Aid to other Phoenix Conferences:	\$36,986
District 11 Dues:	\$12,361
St. Vincent De Paul Upper Council Ministries: ...	\$24,959
Operational Expenses:	\$1,928
Home and other In-Person Visits:	56
Clients Served:	185
Total Hours of Service:	5,150
Total Miles Driven:	34,419



“50 YEARS OF GRACE” PARISH ANNIVERSARY

By Joy Sabol, Event Chair

Our Lady of Joy parishioners rejoiced the second weekend in November to celebrate “50 Years of Grace.”

Under the leadership of Our Lady of Joy’s Parish Pastoral Council, a weekend of activities highlighting the Church’s golden jubilee anniversary was planned and executed by the council along with a team comprising church ministries, staff and volunteers.

The celebration was kicked off during the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass, celebrated by honored guest Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Nevares and Fr. Jess. The church was at its capacity of more than 900 with parishioners and many former Our Lady of Joy clergy and religious as well as pastors from neighboring parishes in attendance.

The inspirational Mass featured special liturgical music under the direction of Gabriel Martinez which consisted of a combined choir accompanied by a string and brass ensemble.

At the conclusion of the Mass, parishioners were given “Enrichment Materials” — gold bags with reading material focused on the sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation and the Holy Mass.

Following the Mass, approximately 350 parishioners and staff were treated to a catered dinner (with wine!) in the Parish Hall, which was elegantly decorated in royal blue and gold.

The dinner program included a video produced by parishioner-owned J & A Films with highlights of the parish’s 50 year history and comments from clergy and parishioners on the personal impact Our Lady of Joy has had in their lives.

Remarks from Bishop Nevares complimented Our Lady of Joy parishioners past and present who helped to grow and establish the church since it was formerly founded on November 14, 1972.

Underscoring the importance of the lay community, long time parishioners were honored for their faith and consistently long service. Fr. Jess mentioned in his dinner remarks that “we’ve been blessed by the commitment from those who preceded us, and especially from those who are here tonight.”

Long-serving dedicated parishioners who were honored included: Nancy Knight, 48 years, Ron and Marsha Orson, 48 years, Jeanine Moyle, 47 years, Jean Frimodig, 47 years and Debby Bello, 42 years.

Honorees received a framed image of Our Lady as well as a gold necklace with the OLOJ rose logo on one side and a commemorative engraved message on the other side. These beautiful necklaces were available to all parishioners at the Gift Shop.

All dinner attendees received a commemorative gold Christmas Tree ornament and a blue toasting champagne flute.

The following day — Sunday — the 50th celebration continued with Family Funday activities planned after all morning Masses.

The free Sunday Funday was open to the entire parish community, including children. More than 800 parishioners enjoyed food, refreshments, family fun and spiritual enrichment activities in and around the Parish Hall. Activities for all ages included face painting, photo booths, balloon twisting, a caricature artist, and faith-based craft activities like rosary making, coloring books and a OLOJ pictorial historical display.

The Parish Pastoral Council is grateful to those who contributed funds, time and talent to create a memorable weekend, with special thanks to the following sponsors:

- Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Homes
- The Knights of Columbus Council 1116
- Members of Our Ladies Guild
- ARC Impressions

The weekend was a moving experience for our parish community. Fr. Jess summed it up best when he noted at the celebratory Mass:

“A Golden Jubilee is a milestone. Without God’s grace we cannot be here. So let us give thanks to God for all the gifts He poured out into our souls.

“I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers of our Parish, for without you, we would not be where we are now. Thank you so much for your dedicated service to God and His People. With our theme, ‘Celebrating 50 Years of Grace’, we are grateful to God for giving us Our Lady of Joy, the Mother of God, as our Patroness, helping us all to be like her Son, Jesus.”



“50 YEARS OF GRACE” PARISH ANNIVERSARY

By Joy Sabol, Event Chair

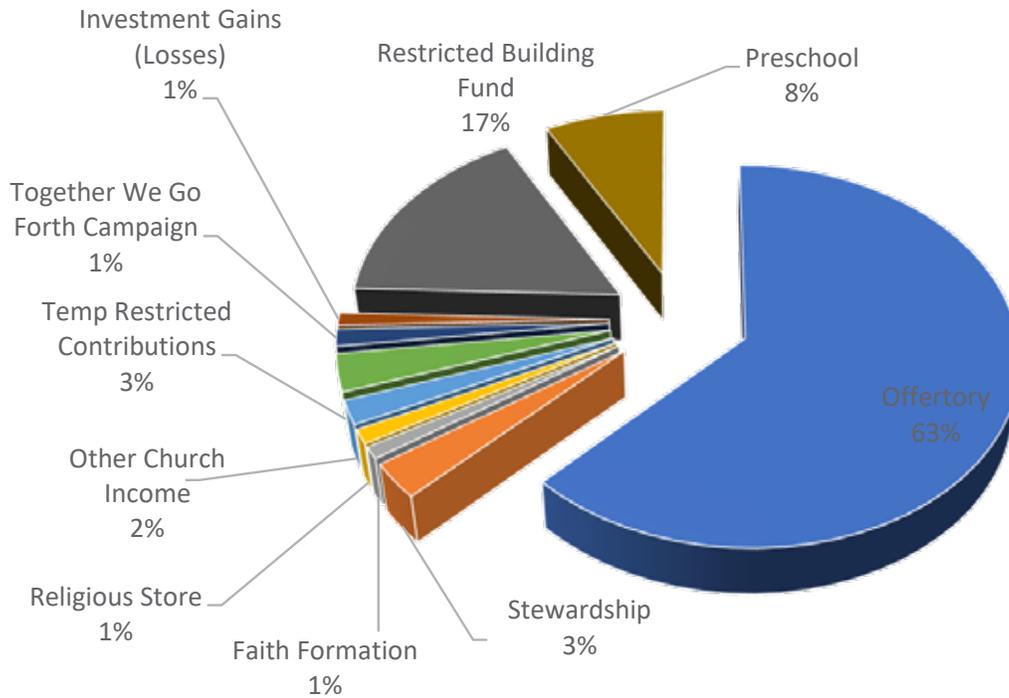


PARISH INCOME

By Laura Hicks, Director of Parish Operations

Parish Income

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



Offertory	\$2,030,024
Stewardship	\$98,452
Faith Formation	\$32,685
Religious Store	\$39,846
Other Church Income	\$66,731
Temp Restricted Contributions	\$103,627
Together We Go Forth Campaign	\$47,000
Investment Gains (Losses)	\$34,559
Restricted Building Fund	\$535,246
Preschool	\$257,752
Total Income	\$3,245,923

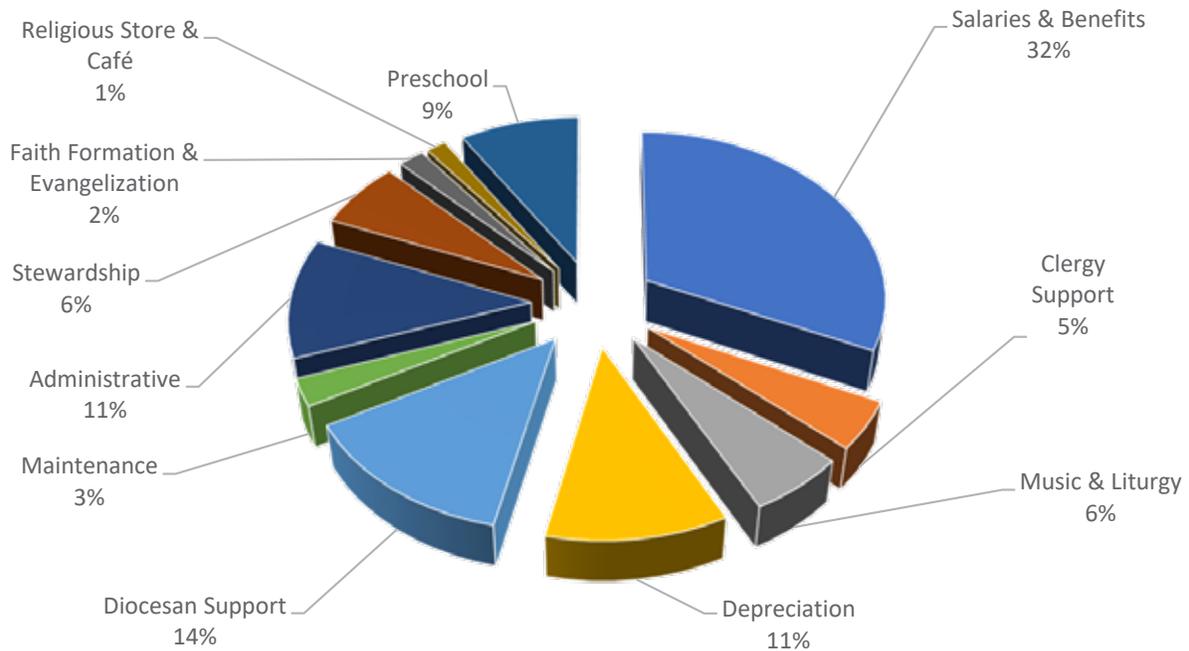
From Diocese 2023 EOY Financial Reporting

PARISH OPERATING EXPENSES

By Laura Hicks, Director of Parish Operations

Parish Operating Expenses

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



Salaries & Benefits	\$871,528
Clergy Support	\$128,397
Music & Liturgy	\$162,027
Depreciation	\$300,175
Diocesan Support	\$372,652
Maintenance	\$71,791
Administrative	\$314,665
Stewardship	\$177,804
Faith Formation & Evangelization	\$52,837
Religious Store & Café	\$41,625
Preschool	\$242,903
Total Expenditures	\$2,736,404

From Diocese 2023 EOY Financial Reporting



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