

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

JOSHUA 24:15

November 26, 2023 | THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Pastor's Letter



Dear Parishioners,

I remember a couple years ago seeing a guy wearing a tee-shirt with a picture of Jesus and the word "GOAT." At first I was taken aback. I didn't know GOAT was an acronym (I'm an old, out of touch soul). I thought it was a reference to the sheep and goats parable we have today, where the goats are bad. A student in

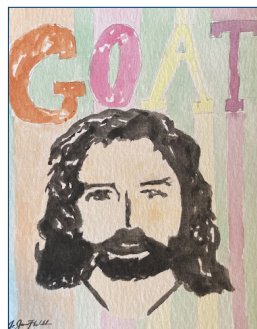
school explained to me that GOAT means "Greatest of All Time." Once I knew that, I thought the tee-shirt was kinda cool and funny. Good thing I didn't confront that guy on the street.

We celebrate Christ the King this weekend. Yes, Jesus is the real and original and only GOAT. He will never be replaced. We will never grow tired of him.

As a kid I used to have posters of the Chicago GOATS in my bedroom: Michael Jordan, Walter Payton, Dick Butkus, Ryne Sandberg. I also had a crucifix. The posters are now gone. The crucifix remains. And I am happy for it. I pray you may have the same experience with the GOAT.

Inside the bulletin this weekend you will find our Parish's Annual Report. You can see the strength not just of our numbers, but of our ministries. We offer many opportunities here for people to know, love, and serve the Lord and one another. I want to offer a special thank you to the parish staff, the council and ministry heads, the many volunteers, and all of you for making this parish special. The GOAT is very proud of you all, and I am privileged to serve as your pastor.

Fr. James F. Wallace, *Pastor*



Operations Director Letter

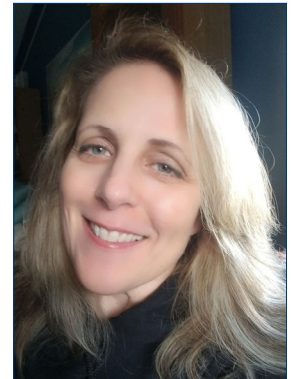
Greetings St. Paul Community!

I would firstly like to express my gratitude to every one of you who each represent a unique puzzle piece that collectively present the story represented in the following pages. We are so very blessed at St. Paul with committed parishioners in all facets of our parish life, ministerially, educationally, and financially.

We are also fortunate to have a committed staff who utilize their God-given gifts to ensure our parish runs smoothly, tending to the many details that make a place like ours hum.

Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the dedicated members of our Parish Finance Council and our School Finance Committee, as well as our principal, Dr. Erika Mickelburgh. Managing an \$8 million financial portfolio requires an unwavering commitment to the highest of ethical standards and assiduous attention to the smallest of details. Proper oversight of this management is critical to ensure both our financial stability and integrity. Our Councils meet regularly to analyze everything from budget projections to profit-and-loss reports while also engaging in strategic discussions about capital expenditures, investment opportunities, and so much more! Thank you to the dedicated members named below for their valuable contributions.

Sandra Labouvie, *Director of Operations*



FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP			
PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL		SCHOOL FINANCE COMMITTEE	
Robb Armour, Chair		Ann Nyhan	
Doug Evanoff		Scott Foster	
Jim Marino		Kyle Stengle	
Heather Harlan			
Gregg Rusk			
Kathy Scherer			
Anne Scialabba			

Thank You!

PARISH STATISTICS

YEAR ENDING	REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS	BAPTISMS	FIRST COMMUNIONS	CONFIRMATIONS	RCIA	WEDDINGS	FUNERALS	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	CCD ENROLLMENT	WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE
6/30/2022	4,990	230	222	199	13	40	94	701	961	1787 (Oct 22)
6/30/2023	5,057	238	191	195	15	44	140	730	934	2125 (Oct 23)

Church Financial Report

ORDINARY INCOME	Year Ending 6/30/2022	Year Ending 6/30/2023	(\$X) = decrease
Collections (including Christmas and Easter)	\$2,084,398	\$2,120,414	\$36,016
Religious Ed Tuition and Program Fees	\$239,539	\$193,711	(\$45,828)
Auxiliary Groups Net Results	\$105,594	\$17,363	(\$88,231)
Interest Income	\$8,578	\$10,644	\$2,066
Miscellaneous Income	\$144,283	\$143,582	(\$701)
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$2,582,392	\$2,485,714	(\$96,678)
ORDINARY EXPENSE			
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,031,297	\$1,029,014	(\$2,283)
Archdiocesan Assessments	\$311,202	\$278,928	(\$32,274)
Education Grant to SPC School	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$0
Miscellaneous Expense	\$53,070	\$72,493	\$19,423
Maintenance and Building Repairs	\$121,410	\$146,211	\$24,801
Utilities	\$106,664	\$102,112	(\$4,552)
Administrative and Equipment	\$113,605	\$80,248	(\$33,357)
Insurance	\$75,925	\$83,626	\$7,701
Books and Supplies	\$37,987	\$32,817	(\$5,170)
Altar and Liturgical Supplies	\$24,161	\$18,391	(\$5,770)
Food and Transportation	\$19,549	\$18,115	(\$1,434)
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSE	\$2,104,870	\$2,071,955	(\$32,915)
NET ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE <i>(before unrealized gains on investments)</i>	\$477,522	\$413,759	(\$63,763)
Unrealized Investment Gains (Losses)	(\$4,864)	\$18,876	\$23,740
NET ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE <i>(after unrealized gains on investments)</i>	\$472,658	\$432,635	(\$40,023)

Highlights

RELIGIOUS ED TUITION AND PROGRAM FEES INCOME

Fiscal Year 2022 income included delayed payments from COVID-impacted Fiscal Year 2021.

AUXILIARY GROUP NET RESULTS

Financial data represents combined activity across our Apostolate of Women group, Men’s Club, and Social Service Ministry (SSM). The reduction in Fiscal Year 2023 is primarily due to elevated giving to SSM in the prior year.

ARCHDIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS EXPENSE

Assessments are based upon operating revenue from two fiscal years prior. Fiscal Year 2023’s assessment was based upon Fiscal Year 2021’s revenue which was negatively impacted by COVID.

NET ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

The current Net Ordinary Income/Expense position is positive, and the parish is in good financial shape. Our parish operates with a very small staff, as most parishes do. Based on operating surpluses generated in the last couple of fiscal years, we will evaluate if we need to add staff to maximize the impact of all our parish ministries.



SUNDAY COLLECTIONS HISTORICAL VIEW

Year Ending	In-Pew Giving	Electronic Giving	Total Giving	% Electronic
6/30/2017	\$1,378,245	\$167,200	\$1,545,445	11%
6/30/2018	\$1,316,162	\$215,733	\$1,531,895	14%
6/30/2019	\$1,288,521	\$303,854	\$1,592,375	19%
6/30/2020	\$1,170,751	\$415,981	\$1,586,732	26%
6/30/2021	\$751,265	\$702,784	\$1,454,049	48%
6/30/2022	\$1,075,065	\$639,865	\$1,714,930	37%
6/30/2023	\$1,117,434	\$669,865	\$1,787,299	37%

We are grateful for our parishioners that have signed up for electronic giving; 37% of total Sunday contributions electronically is outstanding, 50% would be even better! The Parish Finance Council encourages you to consider electronic giving if you aren’t already doing so.

School Financial Report

ORDINARY INCOME	Year Ending 6/30/2022	Year Ending 6/30/2023	(\$X) = decrease
Tuition and Fees	\$4,360,593	\$4,678,901	\$318,308
Miscellaneous Income	\$645,103	\$578,794	(\$66,309)
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$5,005,696	\$5,257,695	\$251,999
ORDINARY EXPENSE			
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,686,798	\$4,062,035	\$375,237
Maintenance and Building Repairs	\$367,610	\$295,408	(\$72,202)
Books and Supplies	\$374,336	\$332,686	(\$41,650)
Utilities	\$106,393	\$90,193	(\$16,200)
Administrative	\$86,088	\$69,113	(\$16,975)
Insurance	\$101,133	\$111,360	\$10,227
Furnishings and Equipment	\$166,162	\$75,252	(\$90,910)
Miscellaneous Expense	\$48,941	\$43,671	(\$5,270)
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$33,118	\$36,496	\$3,378
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSE	\$4,970,579	\$5,116,214	\$145,635
NET ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE	\$35,117	\$141,481	\$106,364
Extraordinary Expense - UGC STEAM lab renovation	\$0	\$140,000	\$140,000
OVERALL NET	\$35,117	\$1,481	(\$33,636)

Highlights

TUITION AND FEES INCOME

The increase is primarily due to an enrollment increase from Fiscal Year 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

Scholarship donation collections were down in Fiscal Year 2023.

SALARIES AND BENEFITS EXPENSE

In Fiscal Year 2023, we hired two reading specialists and added additional instruction time in music and art in our early childhood program. There was also an increase in professional growth for our teachers. More speakers came to our school and more teachers were able to attend national conferences.

MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING REPAIRS

Fiscal Year 2022 included out-of-scope STEAM expense reimbursement to the parish and higher expenses for snow removal and AC equipment repairs.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES EXPENSE

In Fiscal Year 2022, new science curricula were purchased and implemented. No new curricula was purchased in Fiscal Year 2023.

FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT EXPENSE

Expense was down in Fiscal Year 2023 due to using federal funds towards new furnishings needed for the school.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE

Construction to add walls on the STEAM Lab and three additional inclusion meeting spaces occurred over this past summer. See page 7 for more details



Church and Rectory Capital Projects

With a campus as large and active as ours is, there are always larger-scale projects waiting to be undertaken. These capital projects often take time to complete, and therefore might span multiple fiscal years. Most projects featured in this section were substantially completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2023. We are so very grateful for your generous giving which not only covers our operating expenses, but allows us to build reserves to put towards future projects.

Glass Block Windows

Total Project cost: ~\$20,000

Several of the windows in our Holy Family Chapel were broken and boarded up due to playing ball in the safety lot. Therefore, in the late summer/early fall of 2022, we replaced them with new glass block windows and installed an HFC exhaust vent. The east side windows were replaced at the same time.



BEFORE PHOTO



AFTER PHOTO

Upper Church / HFC Multimedia Installation

Total Project cost: ~\$27,000



Upper Church monitor

Two broadcast-quality cameras we installed in our Upper Church this past summer. They feed transmission to both a newly installed TV monitor in the vestibule of our Upper Church and large projector screen in our Holy Family Chapel (HFC). This audio-visual system can be used to simulcast live Masses to the HFC and can also be used for standalone



Holy Family Chapel projector

meetings in the HFC space. Increased use of this HFC space by our ministries is helpful given our chronic shortage of meeting space.

Door Restoration

Total Project cost: ~\$20,000

Thanks to a generous and unexpected donation from a parishioner, we were able to refinish our church and rectory doors. The exterior sides of each door were stained and varnished, and the kick plates were replaced. Lintels were also sanded and painted with weather-appropriate paint, and brickmolds were stained and caulked. As the pictures show, the end result is absolutely beautiful!



Refinished doors of Upper Church (view from Northwest Highway)



Refinished rectory door

School Capital Project

Upper Grade Center Lower Level STEAM Renovation

Total Project cost: ~\$165,000

BEFORE PHOTO: February 2023



No STEAM Lab walls or inclusion rooms

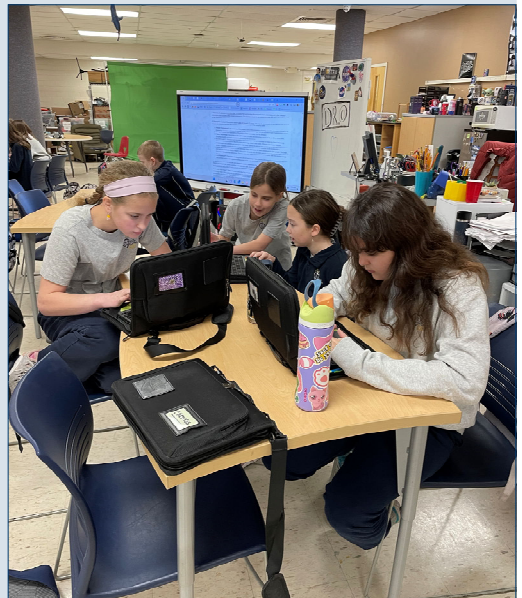
Wall framing to separate STEAM Lab from hallway



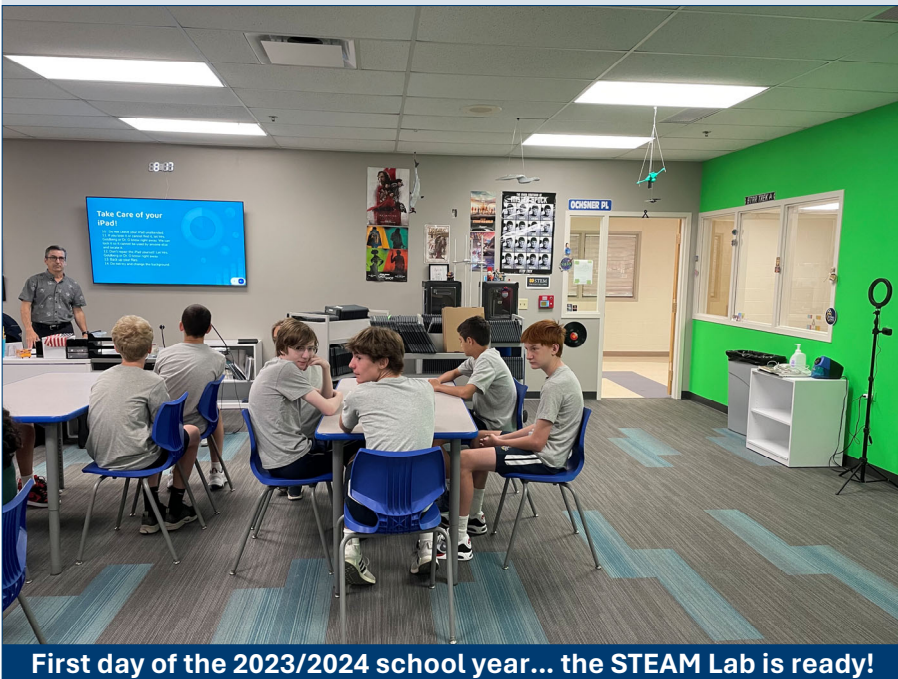
Framing 3 new inclusion meeting spaces

The lower-level student lunch room was redesigned in the summer of 2020. We built a lower-level Library, STEAM Lab, and Faculty Room at that time. The redesigned lower level allowed us to expand our STEAM programs and offer library time for all grade levels.

Construction to add walls on the STEAM Lab and three additional inclusion meeting spaces occurred over this past summer. Complete with a green screen wall and brand new furniture, our second STEAM Lab is the perfect space for all our robotics, virtual reality, STEAM equipment, and, more importantly, learning!



Students collaborating in STEAM Lab



First day of the 2023/2024 school year... the STEAM Lab is ready!



Church Extraordinary Income and Expense

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME HIGHLIGHTS	Year Ending 6/30/2023	Extraordinary income typically includes estates, bequests and memorials, annual appeal rebates, and a few other miscellaneous income streams. The extraordinary income is used to cover the costs of our capital projects, fund operating shortfalls, and build reserves with anything left over.
Estates, Bequests, and Memorials	\$6,601	
Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate	\$81,001	
Contributions to PEEF (Parish Educational Endowment Fund)	\$160,365	
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS	Year Ending 6/30/2023	Extraordinary expenses reflect disbursements related to capital improvement projects such as those listed in this table and on the previous pages under capital projects. They also include payouts from our PEEF to scholarship recipients, those pursuing continuing education, and an annual PEEF allocation to help fund school operations.
Annual PEEF Payout to School	\$90,478	
Church Improvements*	\$22,492	
Upper Church/HFC Multimedia Project*	\$13,129	
PEEF Scholarships	\$12,450	
PEEF Continuing Education Reimbursements	\$8,015	

* The remainder of these expenses will be reported next fiscal year

Church Cash and Investment Balances

	Year Ending 6/30/2022	Year Ending 6/30/2023	(\$X) = decrease
Operating Accounts	\$1,582,213	\$1,920,198	\$337,985
Savings and Certificates of Deposit	\$1,710,903	\$1,806,870	\$95,967
Investments	\$722,318	\$723,541	\$1,223
TTWCI (To Teach Who Christ Is)	\$2,679	\$6,852	\$4,173
TOTAL	\$4,018,113	\$4,457,461	\$439,348
PEEF	\$2,503,236	\$2,581,297	\$78,061

We are fortunate to have had strong weekly and holiday collection levels over the last few years, especially since COVID. Strong collections produce operating surpluses, which lead to higher cash balances saved and invested as parish reserves. We hold reserves primarily to maintain and replace the many capital items across our campus, like roofs and boilers and HVAC units. Reserves can also be used in emergencies or for other financial needs of the parish and its ministries. Note that as an endowment fund, PEEF assets are for its defined purposes and are not available for wider parish use.

Second Collections

ARCHDIOCESAN COLLECTIONS		PARISH COLLECTIONS	
Church in Latin America	\$3,658	St. Benedict the African	\$40,238
Seminarian Education	\$9,979	Lenten Alms	\$50,000
Good Friday/Holy Land	\$5,217	Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Collection	\$5,906
Church in Central and Eastern Europe	\$3,285	Scholarship Collection	\$1,933
Catholic Charities Mother's Day	\$5,005	FISCAL YEAR 2023 TOTAL	\$98,077
Peter's Pence	\$2,040		
World Mission Sunday	\$4,126		
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$7,447		
Retired Religious	\$12,622		
Mission Cooperation Plan	\$11,151		
Priests' Health and Retirement	\$14,908		
FISCAL YEAR 2023 TOTAL	\$79,438		

Please note that only donations received via St. Paul of the Cross are included in these numbers. Donations made by St. Paul parishioners directly to these campaigns are not included in these numbers.

Catechesis Report

MOMENTS OF GRACE

How do I summarize a year into a tiny report? I'll give it a try. As human beings we are always looking for signs of God breaking into our lives, moments of grace. I continually find signs of God's grace and Joy in our Catechesis program as a whole and individually in our students, families, catechists, and coordinators. We are over 900 students strong, each individual bringing their own gifts to the catechesis group and parish, all a gift from God. We offer classes beginning in Pre-K and culminating in 8th grade. Every year, each student travels through the liturgical year, participating in and learning about our Catholic rituals, traditions, bible stories, and experiencing the sacred flow hidden within the year through the eyes of faith. As the years go on, they grow deeper in wisdom and faith. Christ requested of us to make disciples and catechesis accomplishes this through classes, retreats, service projects, and sacraments over the childhood of the student.



8th graders presenting lessons to younger grades

I love the sacraments. We can be touched by Jesus. I can palpably feel the healing in the families during our First Reconciliations. The candles are lit, the music is on, Jesus, the one who always searches for us, is present. In preparation for First Communion, our families gathered for retreat, listened to Fr. James teach about the mass, and made bread. Then at last in May, the children experienced Jesus fully present in a new way in the Eucharist.

Confirmation preparation is an eight-year process super focused on Jesus and the Spirit in the seventh and eighth years. The Confirmands attend a Confirmation retreat. This past year, the diocese sponsored the retreat named Holy Fire. You can see video of it on YouTube. At the end of the two years, each student is individually interviewed for Confirmation declaring their desire and were confirmed by Bishop Bartosic. The kids got it, you could tell by the looks on their faces they experienced the presence of God. The eight-year journey is really just the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith.



Communion retreat bread baking



Opening Song at First Communion

I simply don't have enough space to describe all that went on and all we did. Always feel free to go onto our website at spc-catechesis.net for pictures and more information. If you are interested in weekly email blasts, just email me and ask to be added. All parents in our program automatically receive these blasts.

Watch for moments of grace.

Anna Mae Parkhill
 Director of Catechesis

Social Service Ministry Report



Food Pantry donation

Last year, Social Service Ministry (SSM) responded to the needs of those around us in various ways through our Food Pantry ministry. We distributed 7,200 bags of nonperishable food products, 1,000 bags of fresh fruit supplied by the Park Ridge Kiwanis, and many bags of fresh vegetables from our parish garden. Jewel-Osco provided 150 precooked Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. We gave a total of 150 \$50.00 Jewel gift cards at Thanksgiving (one per household) and 700 individuals received \$50.00 Walmart gift cards for Christmas.

Through partnering with the Illinois Department of Human Services, we also responded to the needs of local Venezuelan migrants who were sent to this area. We did so by supplying 21,200 half-pints of milk for the children along with 120 Chromebooks and 250 backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies. After school tutoring, snacks, hats, scarves, mittens, coats, and laundry money and detergent for the mothers were also donated.

Parish groups, community organizations, and individual parishioners continue to be strong supporters of all that we do. We are so grateful for your ongoing support of our vibrant ministry that has produced a \$250,000 surplus over the past few years. We are currently evaluating our ministries, looking at other services, and seeking parishioner input to strategize where we can best provide value to our community.

Leni Duffy
Director of Social Service Ministry



Food drive donation from Confirmation kids



Park Ridge Police Dept "Stuff the Squad Car"



"The measure of greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty."

- Pope Francis

School Report



September 23, 2022 Tiger Fun Run

St. Paul of the Cross School had an outstanding Fiscal Year 2023. With a total enrollment of 730 students, a 4% increase over the previous year, the school maintained waitlists in many grades.

The Annual Tiger Fun Run on September 23, 2022, was an overwhelming success. The proceeds from Fun Run are allocated to the school's general operating budget and help to fund valuable programs, activities, and school improvements. We are profoundly grateful to all the students, generous sponsors, and donors for helping raise \$150,000 in net proceeds.

The Endowment Committee hosted the annual Trivia Night in the Parish Life Center in November. As always, it was a great night of laughter and community, raising awareness for our vital Parish Educational Endowment Fund. We raised over \$10,000 for the Fund, helping sustain our mission for future generations.

The three-week Annual Fund Appeal kicked off February 14th, and thanks to the incredible generosity of our current and alum families, we raised more than \$130,000! Proceeds from the 2023 Annual Appeal enabled us to further rework the lower level, adding walls and carpeting to create three new small group meeting rooms and completing the STEAM room.

St. Paul of the Cross School was the beneficiary of two federal EANS grants (Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools) in FY23.

- EANS 1 Grant: \$114,397 allowed us to switch over to 1:1 iPads. All the students received "Apple student" training to help them transition from Chromebooks to iPads.
- EANS Reallocation Grant: \$241,130 allowed us to give all classrooms a facelift, including the Science Lab, Music Room, new STEAM Lab, and Art Room. We replaced the old desks with furniture that better facilitates collaboration and engaged learning!



Kindergartners helping at our Food Pantry, Fall 2022



Appreciating our teachers!

Erika Mickelburgh
SPC School Principal

