

St. Stephen the Martyr Fiscal Year Report 2022

*The God of all grace
who called you to
his eternal glory
through Christ Jesus
will himself restore,
confirm, strengthen,
and establish you
after you have
suffered a little.*

1 Peter 5:10



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your continued generosity for the mission of Jesus Christ in our neighborhood. I believe that we made progress as a parish this past fiscal year, culminating in the gift of Perpetual Adoration that was achieved on Corpus Christi, June 19th, this past summer. Jesus said, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."



We thus became one of the few perpetual adoration parishes in the Archdiocese, thanks to our All Saints Adoration ministry and staff collaboration. Your support helps fund this Light to the nations. This is a sacramental sign of the Lighthouse that we envisioned our parish to become in our mission statement. The facilities that house this and all our ministries require utilities and maintenance. The staff support that helps coordinate this and many other ministries deserve a living wage. The volunteers who donate their time and talent also deserve all the resources that will help them know their gifts and fulfill God's will.

While we have reached many people with our works of mercy, both temporal and spiritual, we want to not only sustain, but we can increase our reach with your generosity. We have 80k souls in our neighborhood, many of whom are lacking a personal experience of Jesus Christ. We can be the leaven that causes inspiration to draw them nearer to Christ, nearer to God's love. I invite you to partner with me and all of our parishioners in fulfilling our vision of Sharing the Transforming Light of Christ. All things are possible with Christ who strengthens us. I believe that we can do it, we can fulfill God's desire to save all souls in this neighborhood. Are you ready?

Let me know how I, our pastoral team and ministry leaders and help equip you for God's work here on earth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr Ed

Dear Parishioners of Saint Stephen the Martyr,

During the last three years of experiencing the Covid pandemic, we have all suffered. By the grace of God, our faith, and prayers from all of you, our parish is being restored, strengthened, and fully established. We are back to celebrating Mass with the Eucharist and now the Precious Blood. Many parish life activities are returning in abundant ways. We have St. Michael beautifully displayed and protecting us, perpetual Adoration, and we have Blessed Carlo Acutis present with his blessings in a first-class relic. We relied on our faith and hope in Jesus Christ to persevere and flourish as the Body of Christ.



Parish operations have been steadily growing and returning, not just to where they were in the past, but in new and exciting ways. We have grown in our parish plan's three priorities: Youth/Young Adult Ministry, Communication & Technology, and Stewardship of Talents (engagement). We have a growing young adult group planning a trip to World Youth Day in Portugal, we have implemented better technology systems to enable better live streaming, staff collaboration, and parishioner communication, and we are implementing a Stewardship of Talents plan to help parishioners be engaged and give back to God the many gifts given to us. Please review this Annual Report to learn how your gifts are serving the Lord through this wonderful parish. Your continued support by sharing your time, talent, and your financial support as illustrated in this report, is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to this new fiscal year and all the great fruits it will bring. We are all blessed to be part of this great parish, Sharing the Transforming Light of Christ.

God Bless,
Tom Jones
Director of Operations

Sharing the Transforming Light of Christ

Financials: July 2021 - June 2022

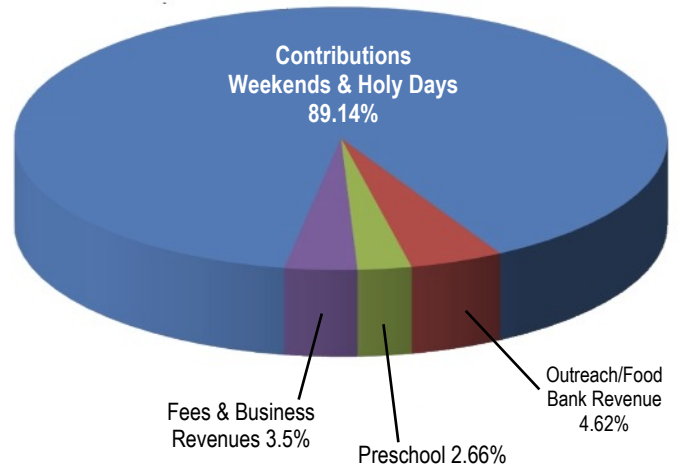
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income *	\$1,812,652	\$1,734,729	\$77,923
Total Expenses	\$1,731,438	\$1,739,912	-\$8,474
Net Revenue	\$81,214	-\$5,183	\$86,397



Annual Catholic Appeal

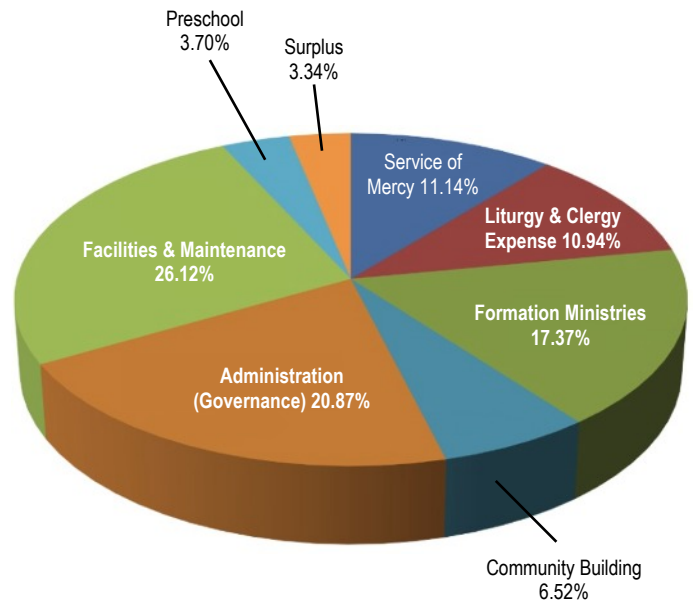
Pledges	113%	\$194,335
Goal	100%	\$172,390

Contributions (Weekends and Holy Days)	\$1,615,752
Outreach Revenue	
Outreach Assistance and Food Bank	\$83,696
Preschool	
Tuition and Registration-Preschool	48,154
Fees and other revenues	<u>\$65,050</u>
Total	\$1,812,352



Expenditures and Reserve Increases July 2020 - June 2021

Service of Mercy	
Direct Aid, Outreach & Social Concerns	\$122,156
Assistance to poor parishes and deanery Hispanic ministries	<u>79,635</u>
Sub Total	\$201,791
Liturgy and Clergy Expense	
Clergy Expense	\$110,295
Liturgy & Worship	<u>87,968</u>
Sub Total	\$198,263
Formation Ministries	
Faith Formation (children, youth & adult programs)	\$244,243
Catholic School support	<u>70,500</u>
Sub Total	\$314,743
Community Building	
Parish Life	\$17,837
Evangelization and Communications	<u>100,215</u>
Sub Total	\$118,052
Governance	
Parish Coordination	\$230,966
Archdiocesan Support - Assessments	120,286
Stewardship Programs	<u>26,854</u>
Sub Total	\$378,105
Operations and Maintenance	
Facilities and Maintenance	\$310,912
Taxes and Insurance	<u>162,286</u>
Sub Total	\$473,198
Preschool	<u>\$47,285</u>
* Surplus	<u>\$81,214</u>
Total	\$1,812,652



Fruits of Your Giving

Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

This year was a transition year with COVID creating new challenges but our parish was able to provide in-person and online sacramental preparation for: RCIA, Adult Confirmation, Marriage Preparation, and Baptism for Infants. Bible Study met in person and online and had good attendance. We brought parishioners together for an Advent Morning of Reflection, which was led by Fr. Ed, both in-person and live-streamed. We had a well-attended Parish Mission on: Living a Eucharistic Life in May, with Rev. John Thomas Lane. Partially due to his Mission, we were able to go to 24-hour Adoration. In October, men of the parish gathered at Black Diamonds Camps with Bishop Frank Schuster for the return of our annual Men's Retreat! Overall it was a great transition year and despite the limitations we faced, we were able to provide Sacramental preparation, the Sacraments, and some Spiritual reflection time.



Children's Faith Formation

Bible Camp

This year camp was in-person! We expanded our team and found a way to have onsite Bible Camp while navigating the latest covid restrictions. Groups stayed in their own 'pods', we did all our programming social-distanced in the main church. (Everyone was happy to go outside for games.) The biggest blessing here was to see one another again, praise Jesus, and have fun with our church friends!

K-5th Programs

We continued teaching classes at the live-streamed Wednesday night Mass, and are deeply grateful for Pat Madison and Brenda Wallace, who continued leading this program under strenuous circumstances. Our team was tiny but blessed and showered with grace, formed by God and inspired by our families.

Parents were amazing – teaching their children at home and helping them prepare for sacraments. It was a sacrifice for many families to fit teaching into already-demanding schedules and still make it work for their children. Many families enjoyed this faith-sharing time, while other families were still trying to figure it out. All, however, were blessed as they worked to build homes of faith.



We have learned through these challenges and found new ways to bring God's love to our children and each another. We will use these experiences to strengthen our programs in the future.

Little Saints Preschool Preschool was AMAZING this year. With covid impacts, our classes were much smaller and we were able to build a very personal community. Our teachers reshaped almost every element of teaching in order to make it work under heavy restrictions. We were aware that many programs closed while our program – and children – thrived. We are deeply grateful for the gifts and leadership of our Director/Teacher, Abbie Nelson, and Teacher, Susan Prelesnik. They expertly nurtured and guided the children, forming them in their social development, academics, and faith. Under trying circumstances and isolation, they showed courage, faith, and resourcefulness while creating a grateful community of families. Abbie and Susan both retired at the end of the school year. They are a beautiful treasure - a precious gift that God has given our community.



Child Care Due to covid restrictions, we were unable to provide childcare during this year. The team was deeply missed, as were the precious moments in the Nursery with our littlest ones. We are deeply grateful for the work and ministry of Liese Diachenko, our Nursery Lead, who also retired in Summer 2022. She did an exceptional job of greeting and caring for our little ones, keeping them safe and nurtured while their parents worshiped and learned at the church. During the covid restrictions, she monitored changes and had hoped to reopen. We will all be blessed when we can restart this important ministry.



Youth Ministry

Deanery Service Week: St. Stephen the Martyr Youth participated with youth from Holy Spirit in Kent and Holy Family in Auburn learning about and participating in a variety of services. The youth learned about the Social Justice teachings of the Catholic Church, what the Archdiocese does to evangelize those working on ships, visited service agencies in the area to see how people in need can get assistance, and did service together. One day the youth did service in their own parishes. Youth at St. Stephen's helped to clear the path on the outdoor Stations of the Cross, helped with lawn clean up for some senior parishioners, put together Ditty bags to be given to the Archdiocese for Seafarer, helped to put away the things used at Easter, helped at the Auburn Food bank and made cards that were given to Terrific Tuesdays to give to the people that they serve.



NET (National Evangelization Team) Retreats A Team of 10 young adults from across the country joined the St. Stephen's youth for a middle school and a high school retreat. The retreats included fun activities, witness talks, small group discussions, prayer, Mass and more.



Living Stations of the Cross: St. Stephen's youth presented the Living Stations of the Cross at three parishes once again this year. This moving presentation of the Passion and Death of Jesus leads people from across the Archdiocese in a prayerful experience as they prepare for Holy week. The youth presented the Living Stations at Holy Rosary Church in West Seattle, St. Brendan's in Bothell and at St. Stephen the Martyr at the Good Friday Service.



Confirmation: After a year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation Archbishop Etienne joined St. Stephen the Martyr Parish for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Need for Volunteers: Due to a lack of adult volunteers needed to provide Youth Ministry programs, weekly youth ministry programs were limited. Please consider how you can help in order for programs to be provided for the St. Stephen the Martyr Youth in the future.

Food Bank and Outreach

Our hardworking and faithful volunteers are always the beginning and the end of our many blessings here at the Food Pantry. The ministry would simply not exist in its present form without them. We averaged 47 families per week; that's 141 bags of food per week that is stocked, packed, and distributed with great love and care. None of the stock and supplies would be available if it were not for the generous donations of our parishioners, the youth group at St. Anthony's Parish, the general public, and donations from local business partners like Big Lots, Issaquah food bank, and the Adult Teen Challenge Rehab Center.



We are also greatly blessed to have remained open during the pandemic to distribute this much-needed food and supplies to our neighbors. Some of our homeless clients have found housing and were sustained through hard times with special bags created for them which required no cooking. Our outreach was extended to our younger families by generous donations of diapers and baby supplies from the Gabriel Project. Terrific Tuesday also continued despite not being able to serve meals at our parish but served shelters and those in need off-site.



Liturgy

In the past year, God showered our parish family with many opportunities to receive Him in Holy Scripture and the Holy Eucharist. Mass attendance continued to increase as we welcomed back more parishioners and new families. Our weekly schedule of Masses is once more complete with the return of the Sunday night Mass in the spring.

There are many ways in which our Pastor led us to "continually offer God a sacrifice of praise," (Hebrews 13:15). We celebrated the extended form of the Pentecost Vigil Mass, praising God whole-heartedly with songs of praise and thanksgiving, six scripture readings recounting the history of God's blessings upon His people and the calling down of the Holy Spirit.



In June our parish reached a long-time goal of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. Also in June, we processed our Eucharistic Lord through surrounding neighborhoods for the 3rd year in a row, bringing Jesus to all people. He belongs to everyone! We hosted holy hours for children, healthcare workers, parish missions, Divine Mercy, Vigil for Life, and various other occasions and groups.



Our live-stream prayer ministry invites all parishioners to unite in prayer via Facebook, including morning prayer, the noonday Angelus, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and evening prayer.



Liturgical ministries continue to grow and flourish. This year saw the formation of a Lector Leadership Team and two lector workshops. All liturgical ministries accept and train new volunteers year-round. May we continue to open our hearts to receive these free blessings from God and allow Him to change us through His presence in our lives.

Parish Life

St. Irenaeus says: *The Glory of God is a man/woman come fully alive...* The same could be said of a Parish fully alive! During this last year, we were freed from the restrictions of COVID in stages, which was very exciting. We hungered to be back in the church for Mass as people came back together gradually.



We were forced to adjust our Hospitality Ministry with Greeting/ Seating/Guiding us all to the Eucharist. Our ministry grew in new ways. We can celebrate more freely together in our buildings. Saturday Night Socials and Coffee & Donuts moved to the Plaza to fresh air and space to mingle and meet new & old friends. Funeral receptions came back and are growing as we celebrate the lives of our loved ones and friends.

The Knights of Columbus hosted the Lenten Fish Fry on Friday nights back in the social hall with excitement to provide a beautiful part of our journey through Lent. It was so easy to then move upstairs for the Stations of the Cross.



As grace builds upon grace these ministries prepared the way for a big beginning to this reporting year 2022/23, The World's Greatest Block Party, lead by our Knights of Columbus. What an amazing event! Parishioners along with neighbors came together on our grounds that are so well maintained by our Campus Crew! Elvis' entertainment was wonderful, food cooked by our Terrific Tuesday Meals teams was very tasty and games for all ages were led by the Young Adults of our parish family! It was a day to truly praise God for all His blessings he showers on us each moment. Let us continue to share the *Transforming Light of Christ* through our lives and by welcoming ALL our guests here to St. Stephen the Martyr.



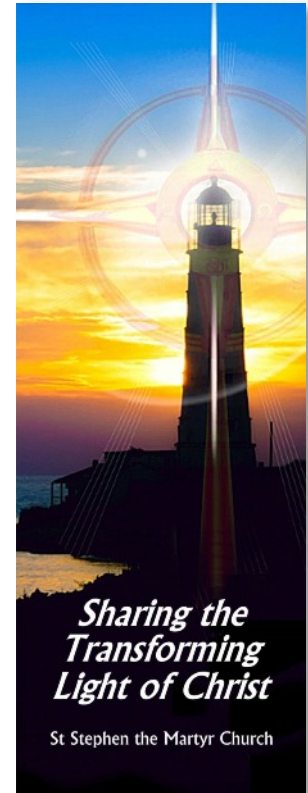
As St. Paul tells us, *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* - Eph 5:1-2

Coordination (Governance)

Recovering from the pandemic, the Fiscal year 2021-2022 saw St. Stephens Parish spring back to life vibrantly and excitingly. All this increased activity was met with an increase in administrative planning and work. Continuing with the Archdiocese of Seattle's initiative to standardize and improve parishes' technology, security, and parishioner engagement, we have implemented or planned new operational systems.

A new accounting system and reorganized General Ledger Accounts are fully in place. Preparation is underway to transition to a new Parish Relationship Management Database (PRM) being deployed in all parishes in the Archdiocese. This new system will improve parishioner record keeping, communication, facilities scheduling, electronic giving, stewardship participation, volunteer scheduling, and engagement.

Planning is ongoing for completing facilities projects to address deferred campus maintenance challenges. The St. Stephens administration team is committed to continuing to be good stewards of all the generous gifts returned to us by you, the Body of Christ, as we increase in worship and good works of the Lord.



Parish Statistics

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2022
Baptisms 30	39	Oct Mass Attendance (Average Weekend) 600	1050
Marriages 7	14	Christmas Mass Attendance 1115	1948
Funerals 21	42	RCIA Adults 16	8
Anointing of the Sick 175+	275+	RCIA Children 5	2
Confessions heard 460+	575+	Households donating 1034	972
First Communion 105	30	Total registered households* 2660	2534
Confirmations 37	48	Total registered members* 6210	5962
		Religious Education (Children & Youth) 201	245

*Cleanup of Parishioner Data Base was in process