

2022-2023



EAST LANSING
CATHOLICS

Stewardship Report



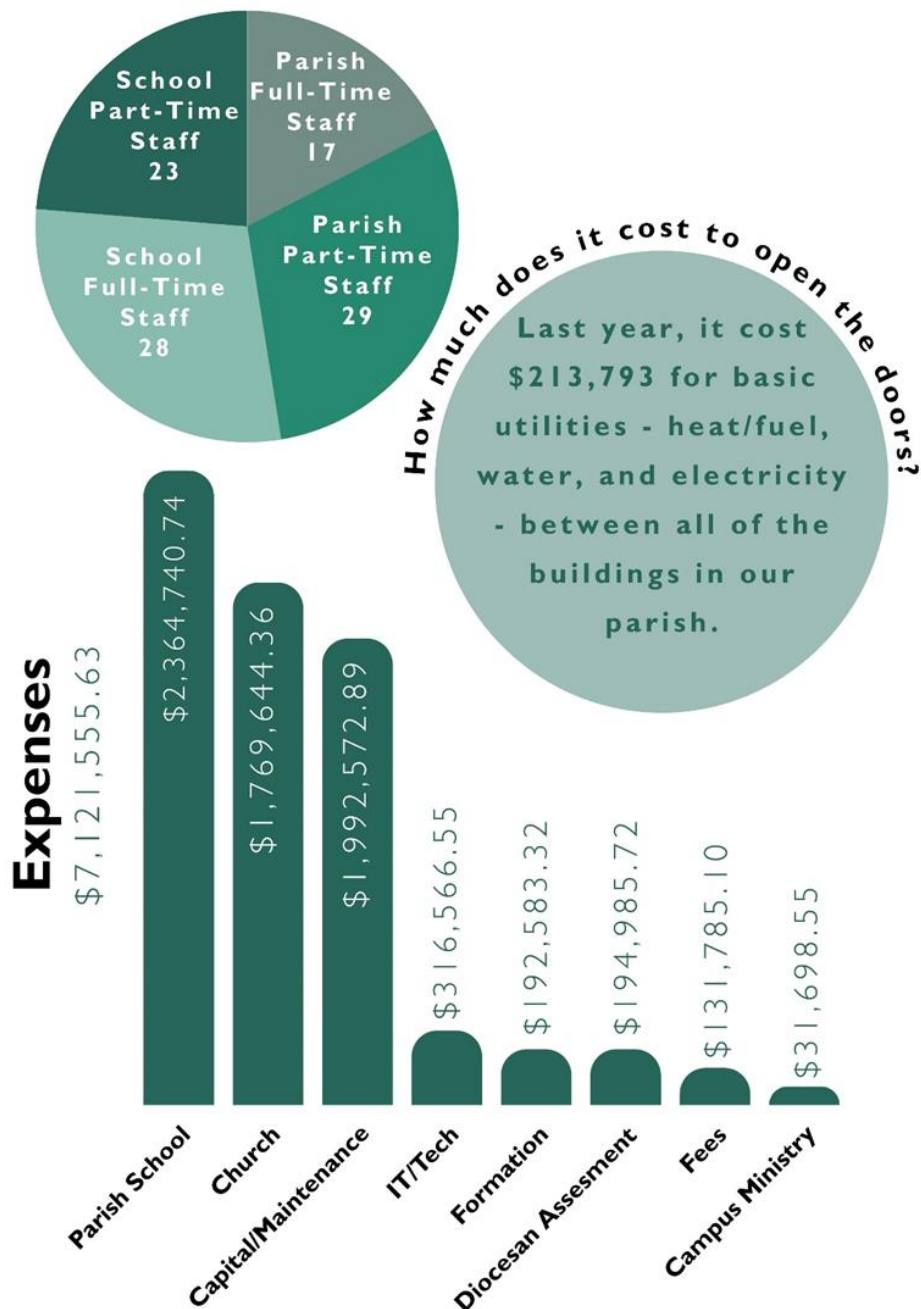
As we conclude another liturgical year and prepare again for Advent, I want to thank our parishioners and benefactors for their generosity to the mission of Jesus Christ in East Lansing. This stewardship report only highlights the basics of our ministry. With dozens of ministries and lay organizations, please know that there is much more going on than any summary can cover.

We are blessed to have a most amazing and unusual institution – a large suburban parish with an elementary school of 330+ students, a student center available to serve one of the largest universities in America and a Sunday TV Outreach ministry that reaches one third of Michigan and over 5000 households. Yet there are thousands of Catholics in our own area who need to be invited or re-invited to Mass so as to enliven this community with their presence. As Christianity appears to be on the decline in America, let us work together to reverse that trend, grow our ministry, make our elementary school more affordable, expand our campus ministry programs, update our facilities and announce the Gospel of the Lord. We don't need another government program or scientific solution; we need Jesus Christ!

Thankfully, we met our expenses this year, but our attendance and collections have clearly suffered since the pandemic. In these times of inflation and increased food and utility costs, I am not asking for a large increase in giving but a new engagement of our faith and Mass attendance. We need to begin with our relationship with Jesus Christ! Cultural Catholicism is setting in and too many among us only attend Christmas and Easter liturgies. Together, we can do better. Our National Eucharistic Revival reminds us that Our Lord is Truly Present in the Eucharist at every Mass and in the tabernacle throughout the week. If we are putting our faith in our own abilities or allowing other priorities to crowd out our times of prayer and worship, then let us make a resolution for this new year to keep first things first. Jesus loves us and is waiting for us to spend time with Him. Let's not keep Him waiting.

May Almighty God bless us and preserve us in faith now and forever!

Fr. Gordon P. Reyle

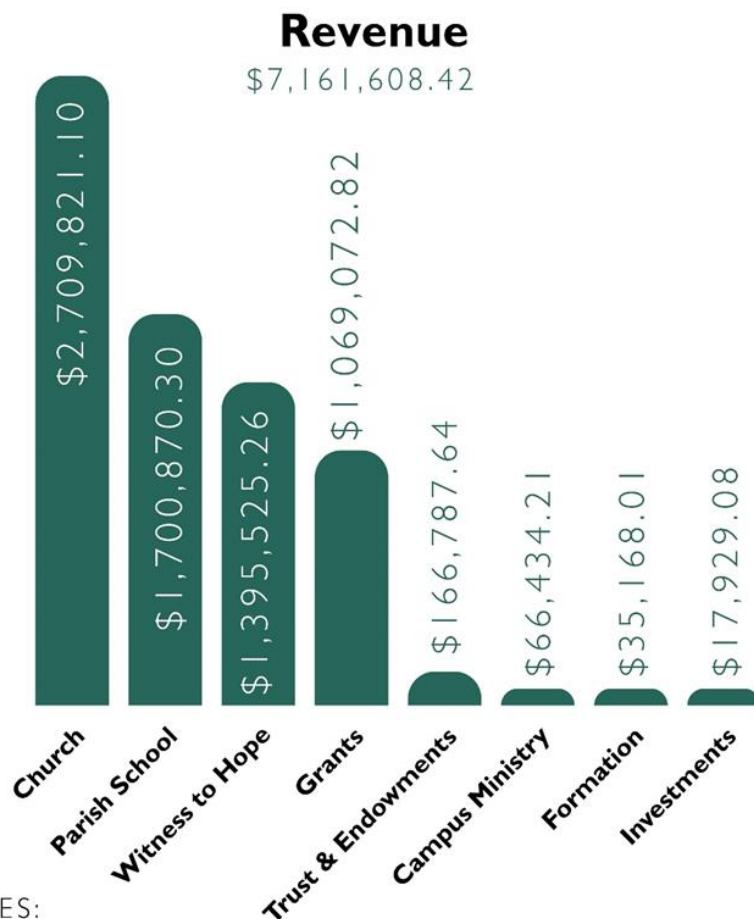


Questions About Giving?

There are many ways to give to St. Thomas Aquinas and St. John Student Center.

**Stock Donations | DAF & IRA Distributions | Planned Gifts & Bequests | Monthly Donations | One-Time Gifts
Endowments & Trust Funds | Sponsorships**

For information on giving, please contact Sara Pettit, Director of Advancement, at spettit@elcatholics.org or 517.351.7215 ext. 302



NOTES:

*Revenue totals are *after* Parish transfers to the Parish School, Formation, and Capital Projects.

*Expenses for IT and Technology span across all buildings and programs.

*Fees include all credit card and processing fees.

STA Parish School

One of the greatest assets is our Parish School. Our pre-K through 8th grade students and staff rely on our parish for support, to be able to provide a high-quality education and share the love of Jesus everyday in the classroom.

In 2022-2023, there were 338 students enrolled at the STA Parish School, and utilized 21 classroom teachers, 6 teachers for special classes, and 5 support staff.

The school received **\$65,403** in tuition support from the parish, STA Education Trust Fund, staff tuition credit, and our Tuition Assistance program.

St. Thomas Aquinas Education Trust Fund

Once a year a small board of trustees meet to discuss parish education needs.

The Educational Trust Fund, originally named the St. Thomas Aquinas Education Foundation, established in 1973, provides grants to improve and enhance our school and formation programs.

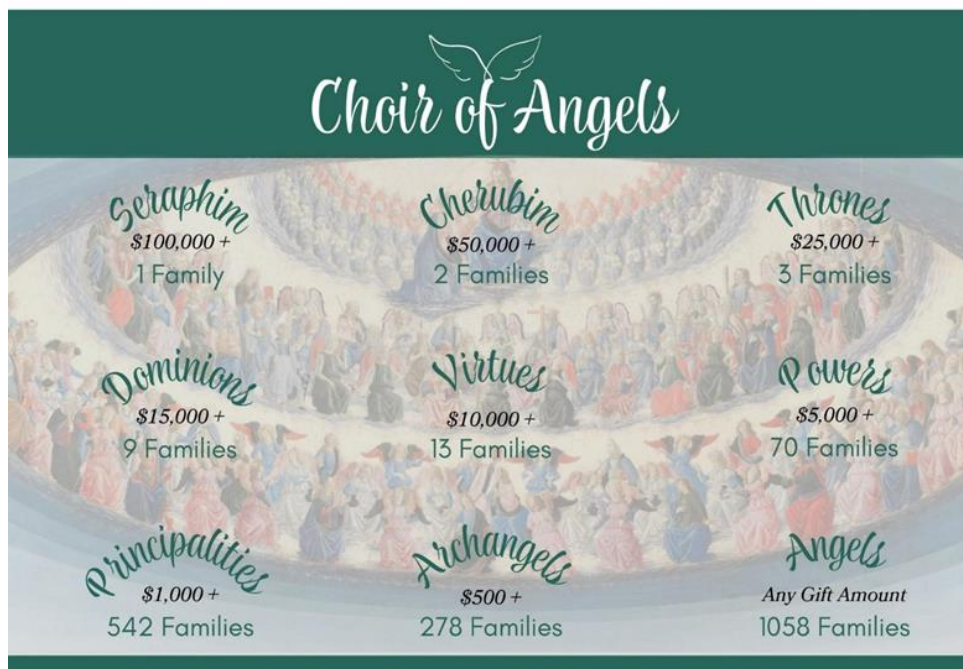
The Educational Trust Fund has enhanced the curriculum at the Parish school - helping our students be on-par or surpass peers from other schools - and funded projects to bring in speakers, concerts, and more that create engagement in youth and adult formation.

The Education Trust Fund has humbly helped St. Thomas Aquinas meet and live our mission for the last 50 years.

Countless children, adults, and families who belong to or have engaged with the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish community are the true beneficiaries of the Trust.

One of the founding tenants of the Trust Fund is ensuring the **preservation of funding for years to come**. The Trust Fund is funded by private donors and held in an account by the Diocese of Lansing.

In celebration of the Education Trust Fund's Semicentennial anniversary, consider making a donation and help perpetuate a legacy of giving and Catholic education.

A graphic titled "Choir of Angels" featuring a background image of a choir of angels. The chart lists nine categories of donations, each with a minimum amount and the number of families it supports.

Category	Minimum Amount	Families Supported
Seraphim	\$100,000 +	1 Family
Cherubim	\$50,000 +	2 Families
Thrones	\$25,000 +	3 Families
Dominions	\$15,000 +	9 Families
Virtues	\$10,000 +	13 Families
Powers	\$5,000 +	70 Families
Principalities	\$1,000 +	542 Families
Archangels	\$500 +	278 Families
Angels	Any Gift Amount	1058 Families

Thank you to our generous **Choir of Angels** for your support!

1,976 donors graciously contributed last year, totaling **\$2,735,430** in gifts!

These donors include some of the 2,108 registered families/households of our Parish, visitors to Masses, Outreach Mass donors, and more.

Your Parish by the Numbers

Sacraments / Liturgies

- Baptisms – 73
- First Communions – 61
- Confirmations – 31
- Marriages – 21
- Funerals – 45
- Reconciliation is offered 6 days a week
- Adoration offered 5 days a week while school is in session
- People brought into the Church through the O.C.I.A. process – 22
- 9 monthly Senior Masses with receptions
- Multiple times a week, at all hours, our clergy are called for anointings and visits to our 2 local hospitals
- Sunday attendance increased all of last year. Oct 22 – 1,511 Oct 23 – 1,626

Parish Info

- New Members – 59 Families
- School: Provided a Catholic education to 335 Preschool – 8th grade students. The school also offers after school care & athletics
- Religious Ed expanded – Atrium for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Campus Ministry offered 5 retreats & 3 ASB mission trips plus groups for Men's & Women's Discernment, Bible Study and Faith Sharing
- New Groups Formed – Walking with Moms, St. Thomas Family Ministry and the Festival Committee
- Music Ministry provides cantors and accompaniment for all Sundays, School Masses and evening Campus Ministry Masses. Choirs at both St. Thomas and St. John
- The choirs participated in a Fall Requiem concert and Lessons and Carols with the Diocesan Choir

Major Building Improvements

- St. John Roof and HVAC redone
- Terrazzo floor in the church at St. Thomas refinished (Witness to Hope projects officially concluded!)
- Security Enhancements for the School

Special Events

- Parish Picnic in August
- Concerts in the Parking Lot
- "Four Levels of Happiness" day retreat
- Jubilee Celebration of one of our Patron saints, Thomas Aquinas
- Corpus Christi Procession around St. Thomas Aquinas
- Graduations for 8th graders, High Schoolers, and MSU students celebrated
- First Saturday presentations and receptions held all 12 months with an average of 50 people attending
- Senior Masses held Sept. – May

By the Numbers, Cont.

Outreach Ministries

- Matthew 25 contributed \$98,479 to charities all over the world
- Very successful Christmas matched Giving campaign
- Shared Pregnancy collection at Christmas and Easter
- Successful collections of coats and cold weather gear, clothing, backpacks and diapers
- Knights of Columbus raised money for their charity work through the Tootsie Roll Drive, Pancake Breakfasts, and Fish Fries during Lent
- Two active St. Vincent de Paul Conferences helping to shelter people, keep their utilities on, feed them, welcome the recently paroled, support other community outreach ministries and so much more!

Media

The Outreach Mass, recorded in High Definition is produced and edited at St. Thomas. The Mass airs on 2 TV stations every Sunday morning, and reaches an estimated minimum of 5000 households weekly. You can watch anytime on their website, outreachmass.org.

Social Media



elcatholics.org



[elcatholics](https://www.instagram.com/elcatholics)



facebook.com/elcatholics.org

Online Giving

elcatholics.org/giving

It's easy! All you need to do is use the **Donate Now** button on our website. The PushPay online giving platform is highly secure and easy to use. To track your giving or set up a recurring gift go pushpay.com/login.

Finance Council 2022-2023

Rev. Gordon Reigle, Pastor
Mary Chris Hotchkiss, Chair
Bob Schneider, Vice Chair
Mike Charette
Christopher Dean
Jim Forney
Roseann Zumbrink
Kevin Essenmacher, St. Thomas Aquinas
Parish School Representative