

2023-2024



EAST LANSING
CATHOLICS

Stewardship Report



As we enter November, the Church meditates on the return of Jesus and prepares to celebrate Christ the King Sunday. Our readings speak of narrow gates, like the eye of a needle, that strip us of our earthly attachments and refocus us on our mission to love God and neighbor. Our unstable times of high inflation, conflicts between nations, natural disasters, and uncertainty about our nation's future with a contentious election looming, reinforce the revelation that this world is not our home. Instead, Jesus calls us to be salt and light, to go the extra mile, to turn the other cheek, to forgive without limits, to carry our crosses patiently, and to hold aloof from the bitterness and impurities of our world. Our witness is needed now more than ever!

We are one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Lansing, with an elementary school of nearly 350 students, a student center that serves one of the largest universities in America, and a Sunday TV Outreach ministry that reaches over 5800 households in addition to our many charities, ministries and organizations. And we have aging facilities in need of repair with a large staff and faculty that works very hard for modest salaries. Thankfully to our parishioners and benefactors, our income outpaced our expenses this past year, but inflation is certainly cutting into our budget, and there is more work to be done. Sacrificial giving will be needed to even keep pace with our current activities this coming year.

Our ongoing National Eucharistic Revival reminds us that Our Lord is Truly Present in the Eucharist at every Mass and in every tabernacle. As our parish brings us the most priceless gift of Heaven in the Eucharist, let us look to make a return to the Lord for all that we have received by seeking to cover the rising costs of mission that support the sacraments and ministries of the Church. And please continue inviting family members and friends to encounter Jesus through the Catholic Church. The world needs our witness, so let us preserve our ministries for the benefit of future generations. As Fr. Mac would say, "Let us *keep first things first!*"

May Almighty God bless and make our discipleship fruitful!

Fr. Gordon P. Rejzla

Your Parish by the Numbers

Sacraments / Liturgies

- 953 Opportunities to receive the Eucharist in 2023-2024
- Baptisms - 57
- First Communion - 48
- Confirmations - 29
- Marriages - 17
- Funerals - 40
- 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 - 27
- 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
- Weekly attendance increased last year: Oct 22/1,511 Oct 23/1,626
- 2,975 people received ashes on Ash Wednesday

Parish Info

- New Members - 59 Families
- School: Provided a Catholic education to 335 Preschool - 8th grade students, plus after school care and athletics
- The School had 4 Tartan Masses where students played key roles and provided music for Mass
- Campus Ministry offered 5 retreats and 3 ASB mission trips plus groups for Men's & Women's Discernment, Bible Study and Faith Sharing
- Family Ministry had monthly offerings such as a date night, park play dates, and Holy Day celebrations
- The Festival committee offered celebrations for many Holy Days such as St. Joseph's Day and Divine Mercy Sunday
- The choirs participated in a Fall Requiem concert and gathered singers and instrumentalists for Christmas and Easter Masses

Special Events

- Parish Picnic in August
- Concerts in the Parking Lot
- Diocesan Anniversary Mass in Sept.
- Hosted the first year of the Catholic Bible School of Michigan
- Corpus Christi Procession around St. Thomas Aquinas
- Hosted the St. Jude Relic
- First Saturday presentations and receptions held all 12 months with an average of 100 people attending
- Senior Masses held Sept. - May

Social Media



elcatholics.org



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



facebook.com/elcatholics.org

By the Numbers, Cont.

Outreach Ministries

- Thanks to your generosity through the year, collections of coats and cold weather gear, clothing, backpacks and diapers were extremely successful
- Matthew 25 contributed \$149,991 to charities all over the world
- Knights of Columbus raised money for their charity work through the Tootsie Roll Drive, Pancake Breakfasts, and Fish Fries during Lent
- Walking with Moms hosted 4 baby showers for Moms in need of support

Major Building Improvements

- St. John worship space updated with new paint, stenciling, and art
- St. John roof was replaced and HVAC System was overhauled
- St. John Student Lounge was upgraded with new paint, carpet and furniture
- St. Thomas Aquinas School had all new security cameras installed
- 22 Classroom doors were replaced and new modern drop ceilings and energy efficient lights were installed in 9 classrooms
- Terrazzo floors at St. Thomas were refinished (Witness to Hope Projects officially concluded!)
- Sound system overhaul of speakers, soundboard and controls completed

Media

The Outreach Mass, airs on 2 TV stations every Sunday morning and reaches an estimated 5800 households weekly. You can watch anytime on their website, outreachmass.org. In December 2024, the Outreach Mass will be celebrating 40 years on air.

Financial Stewardship

elcatholics.org/giving

- The Greatest Gift campaign successfully raised over \$50,000 in June to close the gap and reach our annual Offertory Goal
- 24 families signed up for recurring donations. Thanks to their generosity, the parish has more financial stability and is better able to plan for the future
- For giving options including recurring gifts, IRA distributions, gifts of stock or setting up a legacy, go to elcatholics.org/giving or contact Sara Pettit, spettit@elcatholics.org or 517-351-7215

Finance Council 2023-2024

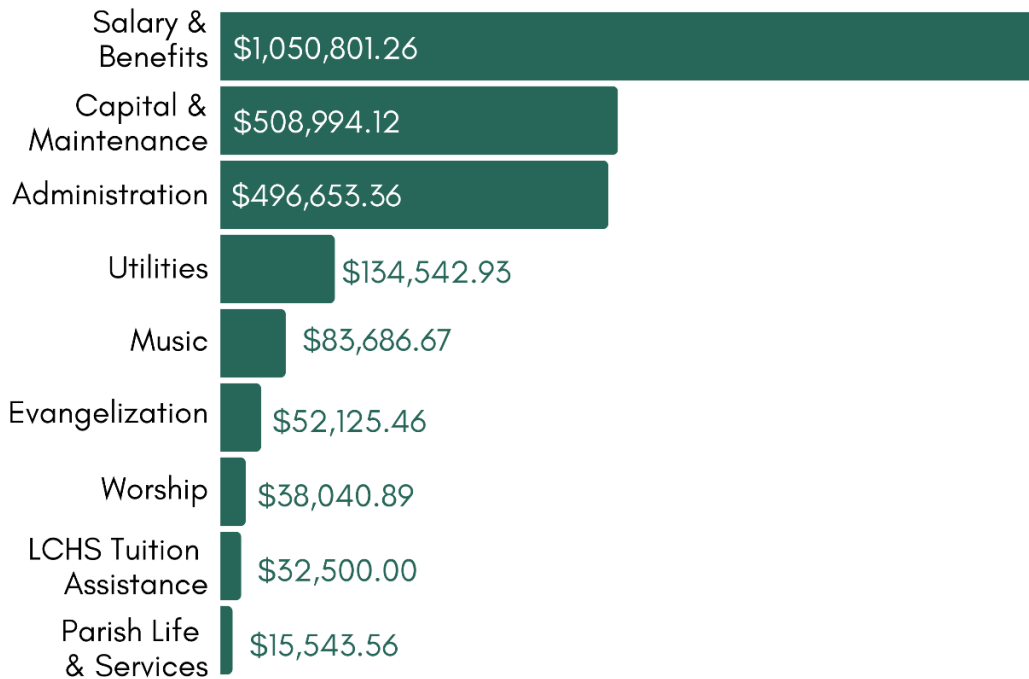
Rev. Gordon Reigle, Pastor
Bob Schneider, Chair
Mike Charette
Jim Forney
Dave Gillison

Rachel Petro
Roseann Zumbrink
Mary Burdett, St. Thomas Aquinas
Parish School Rep

Parish Expenses

East Lansing Catholics is one parish encompassing both St. Thomas Aquinas church and St. John Student Center. Parish expenses cover general parish functions, Campus Ministry, Worship & Liturgy, and Music Ministry.

Total Expenses \$3,544,788.00

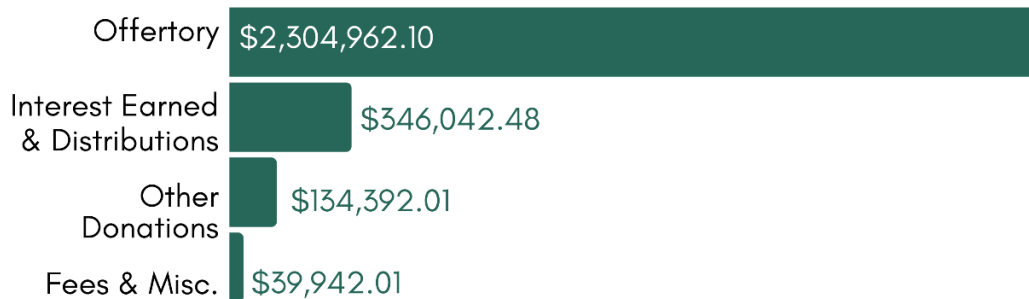


Parish Transfers



Parish Revenue

Total Revenue \$3,645,458.81



Witness to Hope

\$820,120.25 was released from restriction from the *Witness to Hope* campaign.

\$232,103.60 was used for projects at both churches and in the school building to help balance our budget.

The remaining **\$588,016.65** was put into one of our savings accounts at the Diocese.

Faith Formation

Expenses \$182,711.22

Revenue \$18,828.12

Transfer from Parish \$163,883.10

Faith Formation includes Religious Education, Adult Formation and materials, RCIA/Becoming Catholic, and Youth Ministry.

Outreach Mass

Expenses \$104,121.83

Revenue \$118,067.86

Over 397 people donated to the Outreach Mass, helping STA's televised Mass reach, on average, 5,800 households in the Lansing and Flint markets at 3 different air times.

Ways to Contribute to Your Parish

Offertory Contribution

Set up a recurring donation via debit, credit card or ACH.

Stock or IRA Donation

Make a qualified distribution from your IRA, or donate stock.

Funds & Endowments

Make a donation to one of our sustainable funds or endowments!

St. Thomas Aquinas Choir of Angels

Seraphim

Annual Giving of
\$100,000+

1 Family

Cherubim

Annual Giving of
\$50,000+

1 Family

Thrones

Annual Giving of
\$25,000+

5 Families

Dominions

Annual Giving of
\$15,000+

7 Families

Virtues

Annual Giving of
\$10,000+

15 Families

Powers

Annual Giving of
\$5,000+

65 Families

Principalities

Annual Giving of
\$1,000+

473 Families

Archangels

Annual Giving of
\$500+

271 Families

Angels

Any Gift Amount

1,065 Families

Nearly 85% of all registered families, Outreach Mass viewers, visitors, and regular attendees helped support our parish.

For information on how you can help, please contact Sara Pettit, Director of Operations & Advancement, at spettit@elcatholics.org or 517.351.7215 ext. 302.

STA Parish School

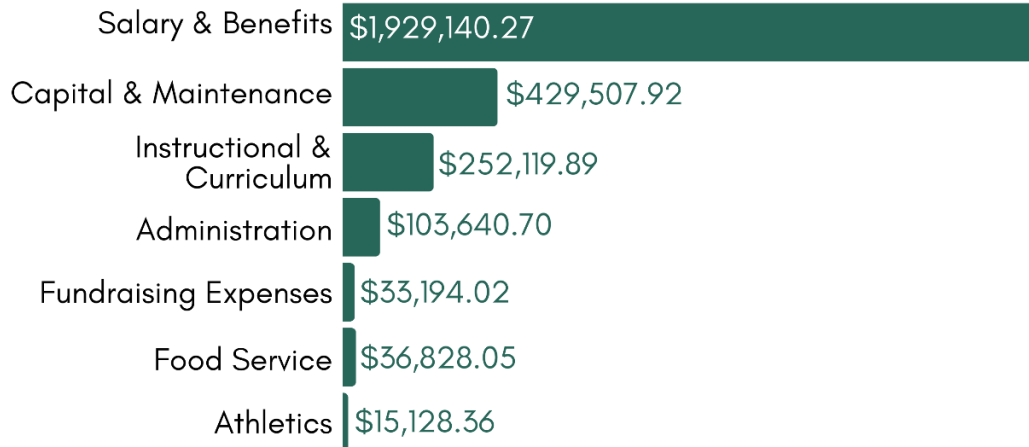


Total Enrollment 334 pre-k-8th grade

Cost to Educate (k-8th) \$7,002.09

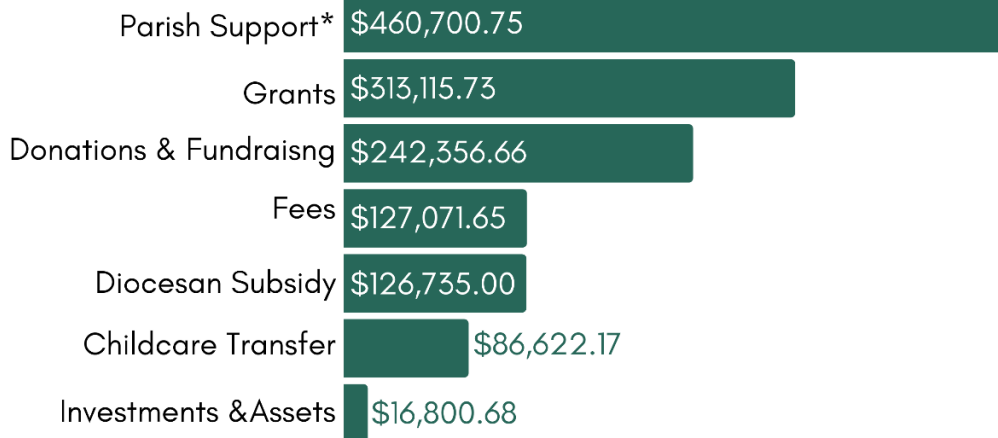
Tuition for 1 Student \$4,900

Total Expenses \$2,799,559.21



Total Revenue \$2,799,559.21

Tuition Income \$1,426,156.57



**Parish Support includes a per pupil parish subsidy, tuition assistance, and the Parish Transfer.*

2024 Together for Tartans

Income \$241,704.89

Expenses \$27,903.70

Net Revenue \$213,801.19

