

# *East Lansing Catholics* Mid-Year Annual Report Presentation



Wednesday, March 26, 2025





# *Current Status*

Parish Statistics, Budget, Projects



# African Catholic Mass

- African Catholic Community - celebrated 19 years together in 2024!
- First Sunday of the Month, Mass at STA, 3:30pm
- The Grand Rapids African Catholic Community joins us on First Sundays, and our community goes to Mass with them in Grand Rapids on the Third Sunday of each month
- Now making connections with African Catholic Community in Mishawaka, IN
- Mar. 20 - Mass celebrating Our Lady of Kibeho Apparition - 5pm, Cana Chapel
- Apr. 6 - African Community Lent Retreat in Fr. Mac Hall 9am - 3:30pm with Mass at 3:30pm
- **Plus, Korean Community Mass - Fourth Sunday of the Month at STA, 3:45pm**

# Campus Ministry

- Heritage Gala restarted in November
- Fall & Spring Retreats complete
- ASB Mission Trip complete
- 17 small group leaders currently trained (8 more coming for the fall)
- Chaldean Mass last week
- Dance this Saturday Night
- Graduation Mass & Brunch on May 2nd
  
- Grad Student & Young Professional (GSYP) Group meeting every Wednesday evening

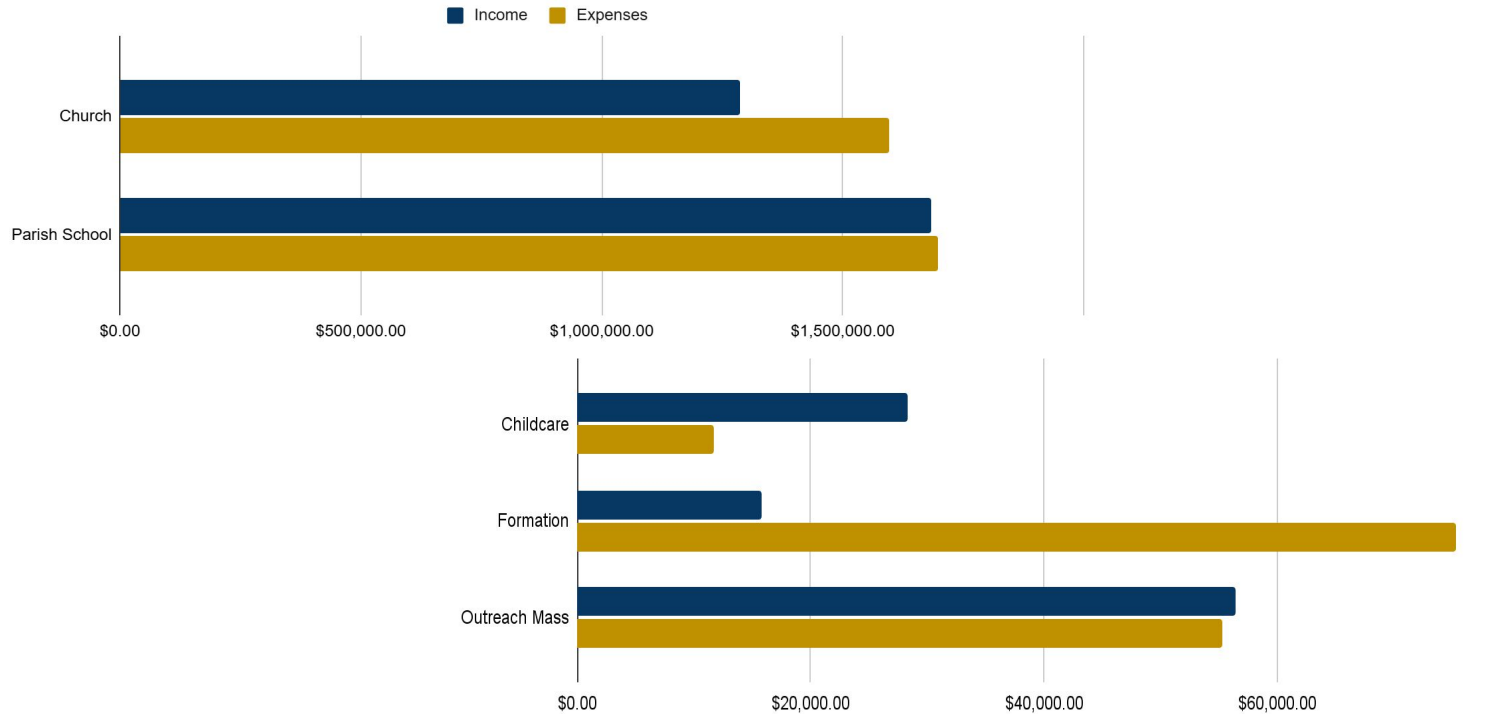
# Campus Ministry

- Average St. John Night Mass Attendance is 60 people, up from last year (probably about 20%)
- St. John Sunday Mass Attendance is up compared to last year by an average of 15%
- Average confessions heard on weekdays at St. John is 15
- Renovated Newman Lounge has resulted in increased use of the space
- 17 college students will be receiving sacraments at the Easter Vigil
- 24 students receiving a free *Magnificat* subscription during the school year as a result of new student leadership endowment

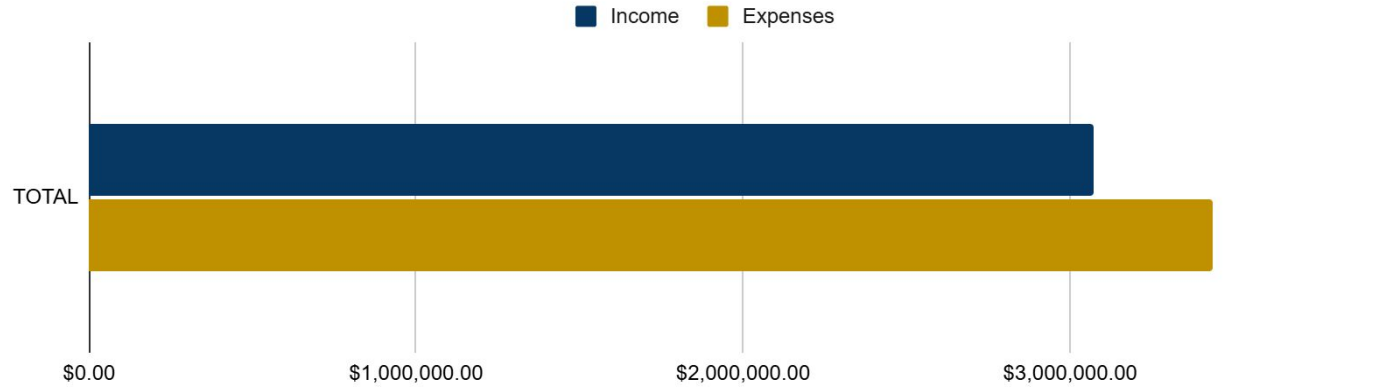
# Campus Ministry

- **13 students participated in their first Alternative Spring Break**
- **Increased number of vocation visits at St. John with new Vocation Spotlight Initiative:**
  - **priests/religious from 7 different communities/orders/rites have visited the student center since October, in addition to Catholic Spartan alumni priests and seminarians**
- **4 Praise & Worship events, 3 of which were led by student musicians/singers**
- **2 student-hosted pancake breakfasts (1 per semester)**
- **1 collaborative event each semester with St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor**  
(Game Day Mass in Ann Arbor in October & Priest Swap in January)

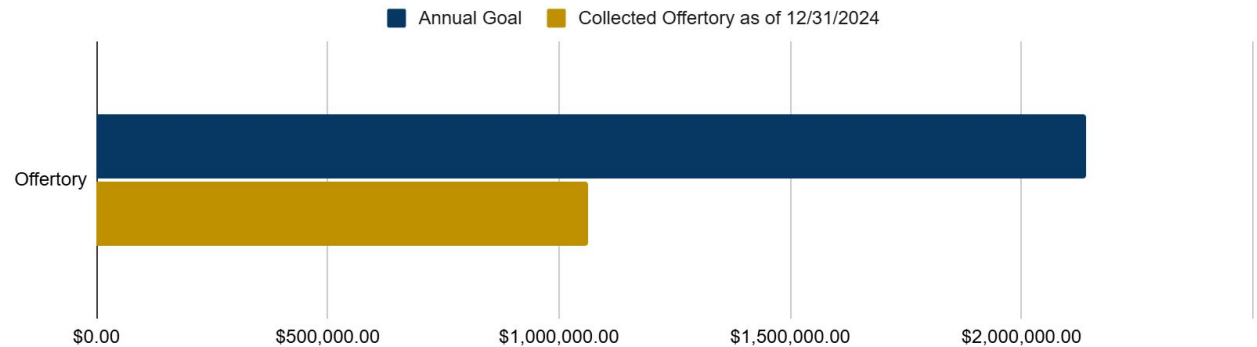
# Fiscal Status



## Total Income vs. Expenses



## Sunday and Holy Day Offertory Collection





# Formation

- **Religious Education**
  - Back in session after spring break
  - Assisting with school students in OCIA
  - Planning for an 8th grade rel. ed. class for the fall
  - First Holy Communion - Sunday, May 4
- **Confirmation**
  - Fr. Riley has started a new class in January (to be confirmed in November)
- **Becoming Catholic / OCIA**
  - Around 30 entering the Church at the Easter Vigil
  - Another 20 have begun OCIA for next year already
  - Completing the 3 Lenten Scrutinies currently at the 10am Sunday Masses, St. John
  - **Need more OCIA sponsors!**

# Formation

- **Adult Faith Formation activities**

- **Nov. 9 - Grandly Seminar** (helping grandparents to pass on the faith)
- **Dec. 14 - Advent Women's Brunch**
- **Catholic Bible School of Michigan - over 60 participants** (year 2)
- **First Saturday Presentations monthly**
- **Hallow subscriptions available / Lenten Pray 40 Challenge - [www.elcatholics.org/hallow](http://www.elcatholics.org/hallow)**
- **Monthly Senior Masses & receptions - 3rd Wed. of the month** (except for April 9th)

# Liturgy

- Dec. 13 - Advent Lessons & Carols at SJSC
- Feb. 22/23 - Altar Server Retreats for STA and SJSC
- Preparing choirs and ministry schedules for Holy Week and the Easter Vigil
- First Wednesday Organ Recitals at 12:15pm (including next week, Apr. 2)
- Lenten Stations of the Cross on Fridays: 1pm - SJSC, 7pm - STA
- Lenten Reconciliation Service - this Sunday, Mar. 30, 1:30-3pm at STA
  
- Sunday Mass attendance for 2025 shows a 60-person increase over last year's attendance
- Infant Baptisms - needing to add more dates to the calendar to accommodate requests
- Wedding Calendar - scheduled from now until Dec. 20
- St. Thomas clergy take 1st on-call for after-hours hospital ministry - FEB. & SEPT.
- **Always in need of Eucharistic Ministers for Homebound / Senior Home ministry!**

# Outreach Mass

- Celebrated 40th Anniversary of the TV Outreach Mass at Christmas 2024
- Outreach Mass will air reruns for a few weeks while our director, Lisa, recovers from hip surgery and gets her mobility back
- The Outreach Mass covers  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Michigan and has a viewership over 5000 households
- Livestreams available on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@OutreachMass](https://www.youtube.com/@OutreachMass)
- Website up and running - [www.outreachmass.org](http://www.outreachmass.org)

# Outreach Ministries

- **Walking with Moms in Need**
  - Serving mothers in need, baby showers, supporting Shared Pregnancy
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society conferences at St. John & St. Thomas are very active & busy**
  - St. John Conference - Food Cupboard, Returning Citizens, Adopt a Family, Cristo Rey support...
  - St. Thomas Conference - home visits, financial assistance
  - May 3/4 - StVdP Truck in STA parking lot to pick up items for thrift store
- **Knights of Columbus**
  - Lenten Fish Fries with music (4-7pm) in the school gym or takeout

# Parish School

- 341 students enrolled in PK-8th grade
- Registration for next school year has begun - currently at 274 students registered
- March is Reading Month
- Tartan40 calendars & Baby Bottle Boomerang collections for Lent
- Irish Step Dancers visited on St. Patrick's Day
- Jr. Cougar Performance of Mary Poppins, Jr., last weekend
- Kindergarten Open House tomorrow (Mar. 27), 5pm
- Spring Break - next week
- Spring Carnival - Apr. 25
- Eighth Grade Graduation - May 28



# *Parish Fundraisers*

Light the Way, Heritage Gala, 75th School Anniversary



# Parish Fundraisers

- **Light the Way Campaign**
  - \$151,619.36 raised during the campaign period + \$100,000 matching gift
  - More than 20 donors who have never given to the parish before, gave to Light the Way
- **Heritage Gala for Campus Ministry**
  - Held November 9, 2024 at the MSU Kellogg Center
  - 126 tickets sold
  - \$24,208 raised to support Campus Ministry
  - Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 to support Catholic Spartans!
- **School 75th Anniversary Gala**
  - Held February 7, 2025 in the STA Parish School Gym
  - 174 tickets sold
  - \$93,302.88 raised + \$60,954 Private Trust gift to School Capital Improvements = \$154,256.88
  - All funds going toward renovations in 18 classrooms, music room, and school library
    - Painting classrooms, standardized projectors and audio, LED lighting, wood refinishing, custom markerboards, and door framing.





# *Diocesan Campaigns*

DSA 2025, Stewardship for Saints & Scholars





# Diocesan Campaigns

- **Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) Status - 61% to our parish goal of \$227,445.47**
- **Stewardship for Saints & Scholars Campaign**
  - **Feasibility Study complete**
  - **No combined campaign - stretch campaign instead**
  - **Goal of \$2.875M** (anything above benefits the parish beyond the school - hoping for \$3.5-4M)
  - **Wave 3 rollout - starting in August**
  - **20% returns to the school, up to \$575, 000** (but won't be available immediately)
    - How best to use? (TBD)
    - Survey what renovations follow in 2026-27, and what is funded by S3 in future years?



# *Parish Vision*

Meeting the Needs of Tomorrow's Church



# Parish Vision

**Vision for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Parish School, and St. John Church & Student Center**

- **Witness to Hope Campaign Summary**
- **St. John Church & Student Center Updates**
- **Parish School Renovations 2024-25**
- **Future Renovations for St. Thomas Church**

# Witness to Hope Campaign Summary

The *Witness to Hope capital campaign* (2017-23) served to enhance our ministry in several ways:

- Repairs to St. Thomas Aquinas Church floor
- New on-site rectory
- Renovation of heating/cooling at St. John Church & Student Center
- New pre-school & after care building at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School  
(includes demolition of old convent)
- Pole barn for storage of maintenance equipment
- Replace roof systems at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School
- Replace intercom system at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School

# St. John Church & Student Center

In addition, we have replaced the flat roofing at St. John, painted the sanctuary, and installed LED lights in the past year.



# Parish School Renovations - 2024

**Last summer, the parish also began a multi-year facelift of our elementary school by replacing playground fencing, installing drop ceilings and LED lighting in 9 classrooms, replacing classroom doors, and completing a pavilion that can serve as an outdoor classroom and shade-structure for our playground.**



# Parish School Renovations - 2025

This summer, the parish is planning the following renovations for the school:

- Main Office Secured Entry Vestibule
- Gym West Wall Support Repairs / Rehanging Gym Divider Curtain
- New Phone System / Rekeying Campus
- Mold Remediation in basement spaces
- Classroom Updates: new painting, new boards, wood trim and door frame refinishing, etc.





# Parish School Renovations - 2026+

**St. Thomas Aquinas Parish will begin the Diocesan *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* campaign this fall. This 5-year pledge campaign will benefit Catholic Education. 20% of the funds collected up to our parish goal of \$2.875M will be returned to our parish for school use in the end. These funds will support future renovations and updates to our school campus.**

**[www.stewardshipforsaintsand scholars.com](http://www.stewardshipforsaintsand scholars.com)**

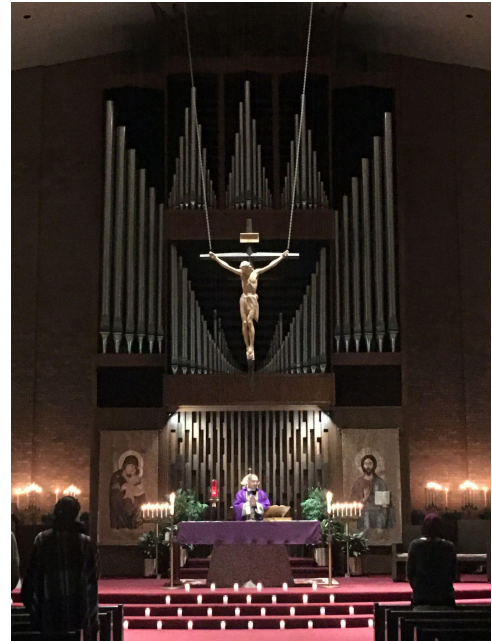
## **S3 Campaign Goals (2025-2030):**

- Attract, form, train and retain excellent and faithful teachers and administrators. (35%)
- Grow tuition assistance for current and new families. (30%)
- Assist students with special needs. Enhance services at our regional high schools. (15%)
- Local Initiatives. (20%)

# Future Renovations for our Church

Let's start with the obvious - our **pipe organ** is failing:

The mechanical parts of an organ need to be repaired or replaced every few decades - leather wears out, mechanics fail, electronic components are outdated or out of warranty. As our current pipe organ was built in the mid-80s (1984/85), it is reaching that period of time where components are failing, and the parish needs to plan for a major renovation to keep our organ functional for years to come.



# Future Renovations for our Church

A major organ renovation is needed ASAP for the following reasons:

- **The newer (80s-era) pipes are failing due to poor metal quality (a poor grade of zinc was used). These pipes are starting to bend and collapse on themselves. You may have noticed the gray boat ropes used to secure the façade pipes lest they fall on anyone during Mass. These pipes will need to be replaced.** Note: The original Austin Organ Company pipes are much older yet sturdier and worth renovating to preserve the core of our organ.
- **Not all of our current 61 ranks are operational. Some are virtual ranks, and either the electronics or speakers failed years ago. For instance, our present organ has chimes, but they haven't been operational in years.**
- **In the current configuration, some pipes are inaccessible and cannot be tuned or maintained. A restructuring of the pipe case is required to remedy this situation.**

# Future Renovations for our Church

**As a major pipe organ renovation will require modifications to our church sanctuary, now is a good time to consider what a future church upgrade could look like. We know that we need to replace the sanctuary carpet, pews, and give the church a consistent look, as noted below.** These renovations are time-dependent on funding, annual budgeting, special donations, and the possibility of exceeding our *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* campaign goal. Concept work is in progress.

- **Renovate the sanctuary - replace carpet with tile**
- **Emphasize the tabernacle and crucifix by dividing the pipe organ swell boxes**
- **Make the wood trim match throughout the church**
- **Replace the acoustic tile on the walls**
- **Honor our patron saint, St. Thomas Aquinas**
- **Renovate the bathrooms**