



ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these chaotic times in which we find ourselves, I am comforted and strengthened by the variety and number of those who spend their time, talent, and treasure helping their fellow parishioners and our greater community. I am filled with hope for our future together.

It has been a good year here at St. Elizabeth. We continue to grow our relationship with our sister parishes, Holy Family in Adrian and Light of Christ in Deerfield/Blissfield. In addition to hosting a combined parish grouping picnic, we also got together for a trip to the Father Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, where we enjoyed a tour and fellowship. Future events are being planned for the upcoming year.

Other wonderful events over the last year included a well-attended Pet Blessing to mark the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a very successful Roast Beef Dinner, where we served 1,239 meals, and the annual Mass of Remembrance, where we honored 25 of our parishioners who died over the last year. This Mass continues to bring special comfort to those who have lost loved ones.

Our second annual Valentine's Day Dinner, cooked and served by our Youth Group under the direction of Chef Jeff Monahan, was a huge success. We had more than 100 people enjoy a delicious prime rib dinner and drinks to celebrate each other.

Our Youth Group and Faith Formation programs continue to flourish under the direction of DRE/CYM Heather Marsh. We had 17 children make their First Communion/Reconciliation and 19 confirmed and sealed in the Holy Spirit. We also had 18 baptisms, 7 marriages, and 25 funerals in addition to welcoming 15 newcomers into full communion with the Church.

This past spring, during Lent, we launched the Rescue Project, a mission of Father John Riccardo, former pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. We had a very good turnout for this program, which attracted a number of people who are new to our parish.

Our parish family loves to gather together, whether it's the monthly Knights Breakfast, an ice cream social, movie night, or the Young Adults Dinner, and we are seeing our numbers grow as we break bread and spend time together.

Helping Hands continues to look out for those in our parish who are homebound, providing their Thinking of You bags to each one and hosting a number of parish activities, including the receptions after the Easter Vigil and Mass of Remembrance.

This past June, we participated in the 40 Hours of continuous Eucharistic Adoration along with other parishes in our diocese to promote spiritual renewal and unity within the Diocese.

I am encouraged and humbled by the increased level of participation among our parishioners, both financially and in giving of their time and talent. I thank all of you who have continued to step up, whether as a volunteer, supporter, or donor. You are the reason we have been able to sustain our ministries and provide for the greater good.

I hope you take time to read through this annual report and take note of our financial status as well as our parish ministries' updates. Please know I am eternally grateful for each and every one of you and all you have done over the last year and in every year before. I appreciate all of you.

May the blessing of Almighty God be upon you all as we start our 78th year as a parish and may He hold us all safely in the palm of His hand.

Fr. Dan

Clergy



Fr. Dan Wheeler

Fr. Dan has faithfully served as a priest for 50 years and has served our parish for 37 years; we sincerely thank Fr. Dan for his service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our parish and the Catholic Church.



Fr. Peter Clark

Fr. Peter Clark, Senior Priest in Residence at St. Dominic Oratory. We thank him for his assistance in ministering to our parish.



Deacon David
Hammer



Deacon Ray
Pizana



Deacon Jim
Nicholson

St. Elizabeth Parish is blessed to have the ministry of Deacons David Hammer, Jim Nicholson, and Ray Pizana, who continue to exemplify Christ in how they live and serve our parish.

Ministries and Organizations

We thank all of you who serve our parish, our community, and our Lord through the following ministries. We invite all parishioners to consider where God is calling them to serve. *Lord, where do you want me to serve you?*

Altar Servers

Parish Prayer Warriors

OCIA/OCIC

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Sacramental Preparation

Rosary Altar Society

Building/Grounds: Maintenance & Repairs

SOS Bible Study

Youth Ministry

Helping Hands

Stephen Ministry

Migrant Ministry

Men's Discipleship Group

Young Adult Fellowship

Faith Formation

Music Ministry

Adult Bible Studies

Funeral Ministry

Parish Council

Knights of Columbus

Homebound Ministries

Stephen Ministry

Over the past year, our dedicated Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders have provided confidential one-to-one care, offering a listening ear and encouragement to those in need. Stephen Ministries core mission is to offer confidential one-to-one care for an hour each week to individuals experiencing difficulties in life, such as loneliness, grief, relationship issues, illness, etc. This personalized approach ensures that each person received the attention and support they need to navigate their challenges.

This past year, 23 Stephen Ministers and 4 Stephen Leaders have collectively provided over 1,350 hours of care. These hours represent moments of prayer, empathy, understanding, and encouragement, making a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. To continue our mission, we have trained and commissioned 5 new Stephen Ministers. These dedicated individuals have undergone rigorous training to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to provide effective care.

Our Stephen Ministers and Leaders meet twice monthly for small group sessions and continuing education. These meetings provide an opportunity for them to share experiences, receive additional training, and support one another in their roles. This ongoing support ensures that Stephen Ministers remain well-prepared and motivated to serve our parish and community.

Faith Formation & Education	Student	Catechist
Religious Education - Pre-K	2	1
Religious Education - Elementary School	54	7
Youth Ministry - Middle School	40	4
Youth Ministry - High School	6	2
Young Adults	20	-
OCIA	10	4
Adult Bible Studies	20	2
Marriage Preparation	7	1
Baptism Preparation	18	1

Ministry of Sacraments	Sacraments
Profession of Faith & Adult Sacraments – Coordinated through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and	1
Baptisms – Coordinated through the Baptism Preparation Program and Pastoral Ministry	18
First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion – Coordinated through the Sacramental Preparation as part of the Faith Formation Program	17
Confirmation – Coordinated through Confirmation Prep during Faith Formation and OCIA	19
Marriage – Coordinated through the Marriage Preparation Program and Pastoral Ministry	7
Funerals/Memorial Services of the Deceased – Coordinated through Pastoral Ministry	25

From Josh Bauer, Transitional Deacon



Why celebrate becoming a deacon when I have not graduated? Because we are not celebrating finishing seminary but a total gift of self. Every deacon gives his whole life to God, making life-long promises of simplicity, obedience, and chastity. Once ordained the man cannot marry, with those who were preparing for the diaconate often marrying beforehand and those preparing for the priesthood freely embracing a life of celibacy. Once ordained these promises are irrevocable: even if the man stopped pursuing priesthood he would not be able to marry. This level of commitment is like marriage: God calls every married person to love by calling them to lay down their life for their spouse and to be fruitful by raising children. God calls every bishop, priest, and deacon to lay down their lives for their spouse, for His spouse, the Church, and to be fruitful by raising spiritual children. Like marriage, this level of commitment is borne of deep love. I have experienced the love of God. He saved me from my life of sin, a life I did not want to live but could not escape. He showed me how meaningful creation and life is. He showed me that He loved me beyond all telling. When one experiences such a complete love, love wells up in their heart and drives them to love completely in return. How deeply He has loved me! His love has been so sweet, so steadfast, so merciful! What else could I do except decide to lay my life down for Him who laid down His life for me?!

-Dcn. Joshua Bauer

Diocesan Services Appeal

The 2025 Diocesan Services Appeal was held in the spring, and I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the financial sacrifices that you have made for this appeal. By the great generosity of each one of you, we exceeded our Diocesan Services Appeal Goal (\$56,974) by the end of July, when we were at 123% of our goal. Thank you so much to each of you who contributed.

Thank you for your constant support and generosity. Your financial gifts provide the means for the Church to thrive and serve our community. May God bless each of you as you help continue the mission of the Church.

In Christ,



Fr. Dan Wheeler



External Giving – St. Elizabeth Parish

Diocesan Collections

Evangelization, Local & Global Missions, Retired Religious Fund,
Catholic Social Teaching

\$8,168

Local Ministries

Helping Hands, Migrant Ministry

\$ 9,506

Total External Giving

\$17,674

Offertory Contribution Methods

The Sunday collection basket continues to be the donation method used by most parishioners. The online offertory and direct contributions from retirement accounts are gaining popularity.

During the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year, approximately 38% of the Sunday Offertory came from our Online Giving program. There are a total of 144 families participating in Online Giving. If you would like to enroll, visit www.stelizabethstdominic.org/parish-life/online-giving, click on the link to Our Sunday Visitor, and follow the prompts to register an account.

Several of our retired parishioners are taking advantage of the IRS guidelines regarding charitable contributions from Individual Retirement Accounts. If you have an annual Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you can speak with your financial advisor or your tax preparer to learn how to make a tax exempt donation to St. Elizabeth Parish.



Parish Revenue & Expenses – St. Elizabeth Parish

Revenue

Sunday & Holy Day Contributions	
Regular Weekly Collections	\$605,695
Fundraising	
Roast Beef Dinner and Raffle - net proceeds	\$26,817
Other Revenue	
Interest, Bequests, Publications, Other Collections	\$178,976
Faith Formation	
Tuition	\$4,795
Total Revenue	\$816,283

Expenses

Assessments	
Diocesan, Priest Retirement, School Assessments	\$85,628
Church Employee Benefits	
Social Security, Disability, Hospitalization, Retirement	\$28,338
Pastoral & Secretarial Services Salaries	
Pastor, Secretary, Musicians, & Visiting Priests Stipends	\$127,300
Christian Service, Parish Life & Worship	
Hospitality, Ministries, Social Events, Funerals, Supplies, Liturgical Roles, Music Ministry, Clergy Training & Education	\$31,121
Church Plant Operations	
Maintenance Salaries/Supplies, Contracted Services, Repairs/Utilities	\$343,903
Administration	
Office Supplies, Printing, Phone, Equipment, Postage, Etc.	\$87,210
Faith Formation	
Salaries, Benefits, Supplies, Instructional Materials	\$110,300
Total Expenses	\$813,800

Parish Net Revenue

Parish Revenue	\$816,283
Parish Expense	\$813,800
Net Revenue	\$2,483

Explanation of Values - St. Elizabeth Parish

- The offertory for the year increased over the previous year. The Other Revenue income is down from the previous year, however there were several special donations received from parishioners.
- The major expenditures during the year were the replacement of a roofing section of the Parish Center, the replacement of the HVAC unit for the parish hall, the replacement of the driveway aprons for the Parish Center, and the removal of the old convent building. These significantly impacted the parish maintenance expenses for the year along with many other minor maintenance projects. The Financial Council appreciates the generosity of the parishioners and their desire to keep all of the parish facilities in excellent condition.

Youth Ministry

God is on the move!

This year we kicked off Youth Group with a huge influx of new students, and then our Faith Formation program gained five new families. It's clear that God is doing something in the hearts of the families in our community.



As students enter middle school we are seeing a desire to be a part of the community at church. Both in attending Youth Group and through works of service. Numbers for all our events continue to rise. And thanks to the Confirmation Prep program and the Outpouring Retreat, our students are encountering God in a real way and it is changing their lives. I've seen those who were uninterested do a 180, suddenly making their faith a priority; asking their parents to go to Mass; asking for the sacrament of Reconciliation; telling their friends about Jesus and bringing them along. In other words, they've become Jesus' disciples.



Our Youth Group underwent a restructuring as I felt God calling His children to better know His voice through Scripture. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and other donors, every Youth Group student was gifted a beautiful Bible. Each week we look at the Gospel reading for the coming week, asking questions, offering insight, listening for God's voice and seeing how to incorporate what we learn in our daily lives. In addition, we learn the story of a saint, being inspired to stand up for what we believe and to become the person God made us to be. Of course, we have fun, too! Flashlight hide and seek continues to be the favorite game.



The Fruits of the Spirit incentive program in Faith Formation is bearing fruit in the lives of our students. It's not just about doing what is right, but about why we do it. When Jesus lives in our hearts and we allow the Holy Spirit space to work in and through us, amazing things happen!

Please include our youth and their families in your prayers. Prayer has power and I know that the intercession of our parish family has led to this expansion. God has more in store – for He is a good and loving God who wishes to pour out His blessings on us all. Let's build on the foundation of faith that has been established as we continue in prayer, service and frequent encounters with the living God in the Eucharist.

With thanks,

Heather Marsh
Director of Faith Formation and Coordinator of Youth Ministry



Helping Hands Ministry

The Helping Hands Ministry has had an incredibly impactful and productive year, tirelessly working to support parishioners in times of financial emergency, while expanding its outreach to serve even more members of our community. This year, the ministry's care included (1) the homebound by delivering Communion, (2) those grieving the loss of loved ones by delivering plants as a symbol of care and remembrance, (3) participants in Faith Formation through tuition subsidies, and (4) many others through sponsored parish events like the Mass of Remembrance, Senior Luncheons, Ice Cream Social, and Share the Warmth.

The Helping Hands Ministry continues to embody the spirit of generosity and compassion, serving as a cornerstone of support for our parish family. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to this vital ministry—your efforts truly make a difference in the lives of so many!

Key Parish Updates

In the last year, we've accomplished quite a number of things as a parish to enrich, encourage, and assist one another and the greater community:

- July (2024) was Tecumseh's Bicentennial Celebration, and our parishioners volunteered in a variety of ways. St. Elizabeth was featured on the Historical Timeline erected at the High School. We also celebrated a Mass to remember all of our parishioners who went before us as well as our early Catholic pioneers who first established the parish in the Little Stone Church on E. Chicago Boulevard.
- Our summer celebrations included Ice Cream Socials, a fruitful Vacation Bible School, and the first of many Family Movie Nights.
- In August, we enjoyed the company of our sister parishes, Holy Family and Light of Christ, at our annual parish picnic.
- Our annual Pet Blessing was held on Sept. 30, just a few days before the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.
- October brought the 70th Annual Roast Beef Dinner, serving 1,239 dinners. Being the month of Halloween, October also brought our family friendly Trunk or Treat.
- We held Euchre Tournaments to raise funds for the Kentucky Youth Mission Trip.
- To name a few annual favorites, the Knights of Columbus Council 9937 offered monthly breakfasts, a Pancake Supper, St. Patrick's Day Dinner, a Flower Sale, Scholarship Awards, and a Family Bowling Event.
- Young Adult Fellowship (for parishioners 18-39) gathered monthly to cook and share a meal, featuring a saint of the month and special cuisine
- January featured a popular Chili Cook-off and training for our new Stephen Ministers, while February saw the return of our popular Valentine's Night dinner served by members of the Youth Group.
- Catholic Charities continues to offer counseling services on a weekly basis here at St. Elizabeth.
- Our parishioners continue to be generous with their time, talent, and treasure with Share the Warmth.
- Together, with our sister parishes from Holy Family and Light of Christ, we made a pilgrimage in celebration of the Jubilee Year to the Solanus Casey Center at St. Bonaventure in Detroit, MI.
- We closed out the fiscal year in June, by participating in 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration along with every other parish in the Diocese leading up to a special Corpus Christi Mass and Diocesan Eucharistic Procession.



Knights of Columbus Council 9937

St. Elizabeth's Knights of Columbus Council 9937 had another exemplary year of service and almsgiving. From monthly breakfasts, to annual fundraisers and sponsored social events, the men of Council 9937 continue to be a driving force behind innumerable events and initiatives here at St. Elizabeth that simply would not be possible without their dedication and love for the Lord. This year, they launched their very own website, kofc9937.org, where parishioners can stay up-to-date on their latest events, fundraising, almsgiving, and most importantly, where able men can learn how to join them in their work and become a council member. Vivat Jesus!

Rosary Altar Society

St. Elizabeth's Rosary Altar Society was established in 1913, and its members today continue a century-old tradition of caring for the altar. They launder and replace altar cloths and purchase hosts for Mass. More importantly, their goal is to promote the spiritual growth of all women in the parish.

Funding for the RAS comes through the sale of raffle tickets for quilts, and items made by members, which are raffled off at the annual Roast Beef Dinner.

The RAS meets monthly to share fellowship, praise, and to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary through their works. This ministry recites the Scriptural Rosary as a means to help others in the parish who are in need. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month (except July, August, January and February).

St. Elizabeth Parish Media



Our website is the best place to learn more about parish life, ministries, sacraments, upcoming events, Catholic media and news, and more. Download the myParish app on any smart phone or join our Facebook page to see the Mass schedule and to receive reminders about upcoming events and cancellations. Formed includes Catholic-based media, such as movies, documentaries, audio talks, study programs, and audio books.

St. Elizabeth Parish Council

The Parish Council acts as a focal point of unity and a channel of communication and cooperation, planning for future growth and coordinating the efforts and activities of the parish in the service of our mission. The Parish Council consults with the pastor, and this consultation is derived from prayerful and thoughtful preparation and joining together in the Holy Spirit. The Parish Council maintains a vision of the Church that reflects the people of God acting as a community focused on evangelizing the people of God.

The St. Elizabeth Parish Council is comprised of Stan Ames (Chair), Mary Kirby, Robyn Francis, Jeff Monahan, Liz Phelan, Heather Marsh, Lynn Hughes, Vince Labadie, Jaclyn Harris, Deacon Ray Pizana, Deacon David Hammer, and Fr. Daniel Wheeler.

St. Elizabeth Parish Financial Council

The Financial Council at St. Elizabeth Parish assists Fr. Dan in the financial matters of the parish, advising him on making decisions regarding spending funds for the benefit of parishioners. They serve as a consulting body for parish expenditures and (as needed) in any financial matter requiring the approval of the bishop. The Financial Council prepares an annual budget, promotes awareness of personal responsibility among parishioners regarding good stewardship, and presents an annual report to the parish of our financial status.

The St. Elizabeth Parish Financial Council is comprised of John Ellis (Chair), Chris Ameal, Brian Cytlak, John Kuenzer, Evan Kirby, Drew Lesko, Becky Warner, and Fr. Daniel Wheeler.

St. Elizabeth Parish Mission Statement

“We, the family of St. Elizabeth Parish, dedicated followers of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit and transformed by the celebration of the Eucharist and God’s Word, reach out to all God’s people through charity, prayer, fellowship and service.”