

ST. MAX

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



PASTOR'S PAGE

FR. KYLE KOWALCZYK

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP DIOCESE

In the diocese of Wichita, KS parochial school tuition is completely free! How is that even possible? For multiple decades now the diocese has made a concerted effort to become a "Stewardship Diocese". What does that mean? It means that every family is expected to tithe. And because every family tithes, every parish has enough money that every school is free!

EPIC FAIL

There was a parish in our own diocese that tried to do free tuition once. The leaders of the parish thought they would simply tell all the families to put their "tuition money" in the basket and then the school would have the same amount of money, the families would be able to write it off as charitable giving, and everyone would come out ahead. But what actually happened was that people did not tithe their tuition money, other families heard about the "free tuition school" and enrolled their kids (also without putting any money in the basket) and the school found itself millions of dollars in debt and was almost forced to close!



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As attractive as "free tuition for all" sounds, it is not something that can be done overnight. Tithing is not something that just happens. It is a culture that must be cultivated slowly. When I first arrived at St. Max, I was handed a budget projecting a \$100K loss. What a welcome! I knew immediately that I wanted to change that in the coming years. The only way to balance a budget is to cut costs or increase income. The only way to cut costs is to lay off employees, cancel programs, or turn off the heat. (All bad options.) And there is only one way to increase income. That's you and me (yes, priests tithe too). But I don't think it is accurate to say that our tithing covers costs. That's not why we tithe.

Tithing is not a “donation”, it’s not a “gift”, it’s not a “transaction”. We don’t tithe to pay for “something”, we tithe because we love God. We tithe because God has given us everything. We tithe because we want to say, “Thank you, God, I trust you to provide for everything I need, and I want to live more for you!”

Last November we launched our first Stewardship Campaign, during which I preached and wrote on the spiritual value of tithing. The results were beautiful. Over 75 pledge cards were returned, and many other people called, emailed, or went online to increase their regular giving. Last December was the best December in the books! But it wasn’t just a flash in the pan, a mere response to a guilty conscience or some such thing. The collections have remained high and we completed the fiscal year with the highest total collections in our parish history, breaking a million dollars!

This is such a testament to your faith! When we give to our parish, we are giving to the Lord. You have shown your love for the Lord in a remarkable way! Furthermore, when we give not just from our surplus but from our need we allow ourselves to rely even more on the Lord. I am fully confident that you will get to see first hand how the Lord provides for you in the years to come! And if you have a “tithing story” please share it with us!

As your pastor, I want to say thank you so much for your gracious response. This is a real gift to the whole parish community, and something we can collectively be extremely proud of! A parish that is giving to the Lord, is a parish that can thrive and flourish. That’s really exciting!



REMEMBER THAT WHEN
YOU LEAVE THIS EARTH,
YOU CAN TAKE WITH
YOU NOTHING THAT
YOU HAVE RECEIVED -
ONLY WHAT YOU HAVE
G I V E N

- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI -



Q: Should I remember the parish in my will?

A: Yes! It is rare a parish can survive (or start for that matter) without the occasional large gift or bequest.

This is a beautiful way to leave a lasting legacy at the parish that has given you so much in your life and helped you on the way to heaven. It was a more common practice in years gone by to consider the parish as one’s additional child. If one had 5 kids, one would divide the inheritance into 6 parts, one part to each kid and one part to the parish. In my time here I can only remember one sizeable bequest to the parish.



WHAT IS A TITHE?

— ’’ —

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

— ’’ —

1 CORINTHIANS 16:2

Probably many of us have heard that tithing is 10% of our gross, pre-tax income. That's sort of true. It's Biblical, but it's so Old Testament. The Jews tithed 10%, but the early Church Fathers said Christians should tithe even more. They encouraged/commanded us to give all! Because Jesus never said 10%; he actually seems to suggest that we give EVERYTHING!

For many years I had heard that we were "supposed" to tithe 5% to our parish and 5% to other charitable organizations. Again, this is not biblical. Even in the Old Testament there was a difference between tithing, which was 10% of our "first fruits" and almsgiving which was surplus wealth given to the poor.

The Church precept is simply that we must provide for the material needs of the Church "each to his own ability". Some may be in a position for a time unable to give even 10% and some may be able to give well over 10%. At the end of the day it is not a math game. It's a matter of the heart. If everything I have is God's gift, and I am merely a servant, then I must ask what he wants me to do with it.

Q: Where does our money go?

A: The general collection goes into the general operating budget. Specifically this funds everything the parish does from maintaining the buildings to paying employees to supporting the various programs and events. However, we should look at it from the spiritual perspective. When we give to God, we give Him permission to do whatever He wants with whatever we give Him. It's not ours, it was His gift to us...we are simply returning it. Obviously the parish tries to spend the money as prudently as possible, however, tithing helps us to relinquish control and trust in God.



STARTING OUT

I think the starting point for most of us is knowing what we are actually giving. Do the math. How much do you make? How much do you give? What percentage are you at? 1-2%? (That's the average for most Catholics.) I encourage you to be intentional, bold, and courageous. How will you increase that for next year? Maybe increase it to 2% or 4%. If you are at 10% consider 11%. That may be daunting or scary, but the Lord will not let you down. (Neither will the parish--if you increase your tithe and come up against a hard month, let us know and we will help you out!)

I would encourage you to stand firm even when the going gets tough. Oftentimes in the spiritual life we have a moment of grace to do something bold (whether to increase our tithe, or take a Holy Hour, or to give up some vice), and later once the inspiration fades, we are tempted to fall back to our old ways. But the saints often remind us to never go back on a spiritual resolution. Remember: the Lord doesn't take back his gift, so neither should we.

— “ —
Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,
That there may be food in my house. Put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts,
And see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven for you,
and pour down upon you blessing without measure!

— “ —

MALACHI 3:10

I have often heard, "Give until it hurts!" I would agree with that and add to it: "then keep giving until it doesn't hurt anymore." Keep giving and giving until you aren't a person who gives, but you are a giver. Give until you don't consider anything you have as your own, but everything belongs to another. In the book *Les Misérables*, Jean Valjean steals the prize possession of a saintly bishop, his silver cutlery. When the police drag Valjean back to the rectory, the bishop tells them that not only did he give these to Valjean, but he also gave him the candlesticks which he neglected to take. He isn't lying. The book makes clear that the bishop lived in such a way that *everything* he had belonged to whomever needed it. The silver actually did belong to Valjean. If you are the type of person who thinks too much about money, maybe move to online giving--set it and forget it! The money magically disappears before you even know it was yours. It's very helpful.

PRIESTS

Back in the old days, in some places the priest's salary was the Christmas collection. (I would have had quite the payday this last year!) But you can imagine how this could cause conflict amongst priests trying to get assigned at the wealthier parishes! In some countries, this is still the case--I have African priest friends who get paid in goats and chickens and rice!

Thankfully in most dioceses including our own, all priests are on a fixed plan, so that we all make the same amount based on how many years we've been a priest. It doesn't matter if he is a pastor or a vicar, at a rich parish or a poor one. This is so he can focus his attention completely on being a spiritual father for his parishioners. So, whereas a priest is not going to get rich, he is not going to have to worry about his finances either.



*"This is the meaning of
true love, to give until
it hurts"*

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

At least he doesn't have to worry about his personal finances. He still has to worry about his parish finances, and that can be a heavy burden. He knows all the costs associated with giving employees just wages and fair compensations and raises, and the costs of electricity and heat and A/C and the rising price of natural gas, and all the deferred maintenance projects, and all the day to day operating costs, and programing, not to mention all the things he wishes he could do for his parish. He knows all those things and can do very little about it and so year after year he ends up with a budget in the red. So, when you tithe, you are easing your pastor's mind and helping him to be more effective as a minister of the Gospel.

Of course, priests tithe too. In recent years I have been inspired by lay friends who tithed 10% even on their unemployment check, and by a priest who tithed 10% to his parish and another 10% to other charities; they inspired me to

increase my titling above 10% as well. Recently, I realized I already have enough to live on, so I began rolling my annual raise into my tithe or almsgiving. One year I inherited 15K from my grandmother and I just gave it away to a ministry I love to support! It is very freeing and invigorating to give money away! (I only share these stories as further inspiration.)

COLLECTION BASKETS

Every Mass when the collection is taken up it reminds us of several things. One, I am about to receive the gift of God himself in the Eucharist! There is no greater gift! Two, God has given me everything and everything I have is his! Three, out of gratitude and love I am invited to make a return to the Lord for all he has done for me! We aren't purchasing heaven, but we are getting way more than we bargained for!



Q: Should I tithe on a fixed income or if we are having financial difficulties?

A: We always need to be prudent with our money, especially when there is a limited supply, but sometimes "prudence" can disguise itself as control or lack of trust. The nice thing about 10% is that it is always 10%. When we really recognize that God owns everything and we are merely the stewards of His stuff, the more we grow in trustful surrender to Him and start to see the ways that He provides.

Whether you put cash in the basket, or throw in your envelope or give online, I want to thank you for your “return to the Lord”. A tithing parish is one that we can all be proud of. If you increased your tithe last year, thank you! If you started tithing recently, thank you! If you are praying about starting to tithe, thank you! In coming weeks we will have tithe pledge cards in the pews. I invite you to take those home and pray about what the Lord is calling you to do this year. You can fill it out and drop it in the basket. I will be doing the same.

Let me conclude with this. Whereas we did end fiscal 2025 in the black, a surplus isn't really a surplus. A surplus just means we can finally tackle some of the deferred maintenance projects we've been putting off (such as broken concrete, leaky roofs, drafty windows, stained floors, chipped paint, dying A/Cs, the list goes on!)

But if we continue to tithe like this, then just imagine the possibilities! We could do all the deferred stuff, and then we could look forward to beautifying our buildings and grounds, adding staff positions, increasing our community outreach, and yes, I think a tuition free school is even within the realm of possibilities. In short, we could build a beautiful Catholic culture of discipleship, community, and faith, because that's what this is all about!

“

“I am happy to announce that due to a successful year of tithing, we will no longer conduct our annual raffle this next summer. ”

— Fr. K

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RECLAIMING SUNDAYS

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ST. PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS ARCHDIOCESE

OCTOBER

Rest, Recreation and Prayer

“On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing; he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.” Genesis 2:2

We are called to rest on Sunday as the Lord rested. It isn’t an idleness or simply a time for entertainment but rather a restorative experience of reveling in the fullness of what has been and gratitude for God’s providence — a time to take delight in the gift of life.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER:

- Refrain from house projects and tasks centered around productivity.
- Choose activities focused on recreation, leisure, and rest (such as reading a book, listening to music, doing a crossword puzzle, going for a long walk, playing a game, or playing outdoors together).
- Build community by inviting another family over or by visiting a friend or relative.
- Kids love traditions and they are great for building family identity. Create a Sunday tradition such as brunch after Mass or flowers and candles with dinner. Or, on the flip side, adopt a quiet, simple dinner. In the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a Sunday family rosary could be in your living room, but also could be prayed on a walk, around a campfire, or in the car on the way back from visiting that relative.
- Recommended resource to assist in building habits of prayer is the Hallow App.



ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE
CHURCH AND ACADEMY

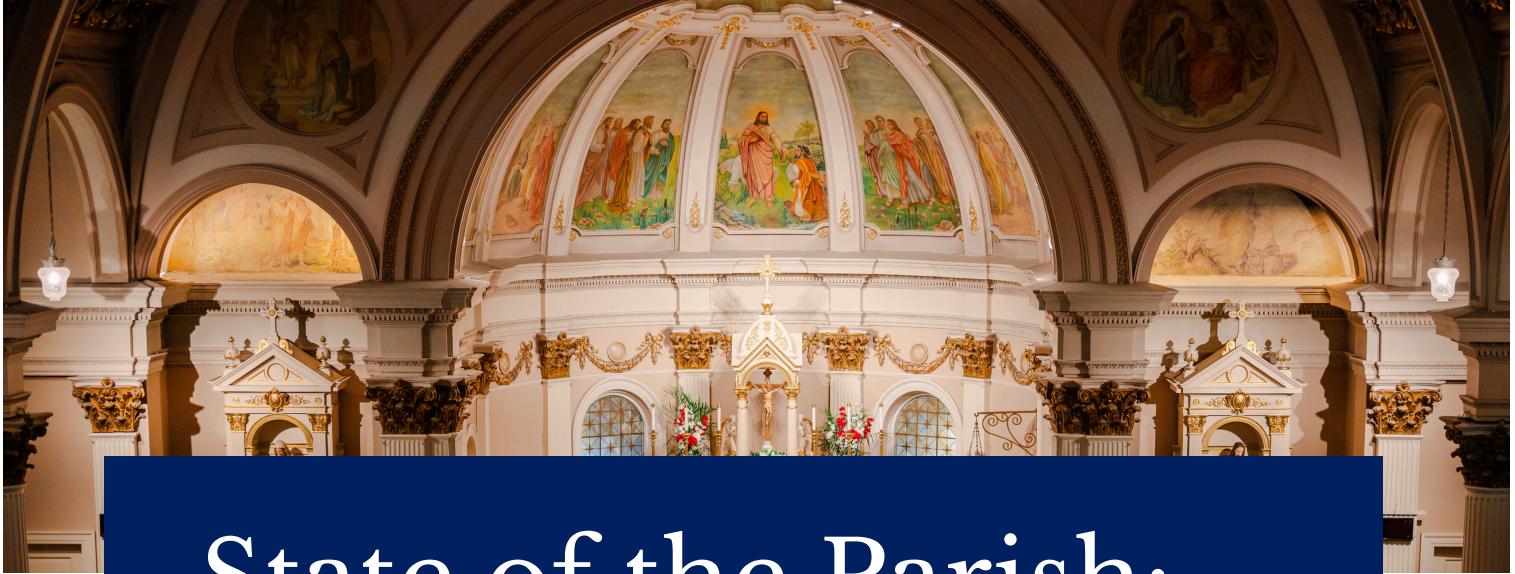
FISCAL 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

PREPARED BY
MARIE BAUMAN
ACCOUNTING MANAGER



State of the Parish: Church of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Last November, Fr. Kowalczyk preached a homily on the state of our Parish finances for the fiscal year 2024 that had recently ended on June 30, 2024. As Fr. Kowalczyk and I prepared for that homily, we knew it wasn't going to be an uplifting or exciting homily. The fact of the matter was, the Parish didn't have a great year financially and ended up with a \$45,000 loss. The biggest cause of that loss was our lackluster collections. Our fiscal 2024 annual collections were the lowest since 2021 and at that point in November 2024, our current year fiscal 2025 collections were not doing any better. At the time of that homily, we were significantly below budget and were looking at another lackluster year.

However, as you may recall from Fr. Kowalczyk's most recent homily the weekend of September 27th - 28th on the State of the Parish, things turned out very differently for the year ended June 30, 2025.

In fact, starting in November 2024, many parishioners rose to the challenge, and we very quickly saw a turnaround in collections. In fact, as I was preparing the month-end close for December 2024, I had a hard time believing my eyes. Collections were double what we had budgeted and the highest December collections on record! Our whole staff rejoiced at the news and thanked the Lord for the generosity of many parishioners.



But one good holiday month does not make a parish budget and to be honest, we were a bit cautious as to how subsequent months would play out. However, we learned of many instances as noted on the pledge cards and in conversations with parishioners that you took the tithing message to heart and real change has happened. In fact, for the months of January 2025 through August 2025, we have seen on average a 27% increase in monthly online giving, a 7% increase in Sunday envelope giving, and a 26% increase in cash received in the Sunday collection plate. We hope and pray that the remaining months of fiscal 2026 will follow in this pattern and allow us to continue with all of the endeavors and projects we feel called to undertake for the Lord and this Parish.

All this to say, the bleak collections picture that was painted last November turned into a beautiful masterpiece of sacrificial giving and joy by the end of the fiscal year. Whereas we ended the previous fiscal year 2024 with a loss of \$45,000, we ended fiscal year 2025 with a surplus of \$123,000. That is a turnaround of \$168,000 and 88% of that surplus was because of the increase in collections from December 2024 – June 2025. Of course, by surplus we mean that we can now finally tackle some of the things we have been putting off, so please don't stop tithing! Thank you again for your generosity and commitment to sacrificial giving. Please see the following page for the Parish's fiscal 2025 financial report.

FISCAL YEAR END REPORT - Parish

Operating Income	Budget	Actual	Diff	Budget
	FY2025	FY2025	FY2025	FY2026 (3)
Annual Giving	\$ 880,060	\$ 1,028,017	\$ 147,957	\$ 1,038,135
Faith Formation, Liturgy, Parish Outreach	\$ 33,350	\$ 36,179	\$ 2,829	\$ 35,350
Buildings & Utilities	\$ 11,000	\$ 10,729	\$ (271)	\$ 10,600
Other Parish Income	\$ 53,684	\$ 59,148	\$ 5,464	\$ 56,867
Total Parish Operating Income	\$ 978,094	\$ 1,134,073	\$ 155,979	\$ 1,140,952
Operating Expenses				
Parish Administration	\$ 307,285	\$ 352,483	\$ 45,198	\$ 411,305
Faith Formation, Liturgy, Parish Outreach	\$ 187,688	\$ 202,657	\$ 14,969	\$ 209,717
Facility Costs (incl St. Martha Hall Mtg pmt)	\$ 190,128	\$ 161,418	\$ (28,710)	\$ 191,891
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$ 79,493	\$ 79,493	\$ -	\$ 73,339
Parish Investment in School	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ -	\$ 260,000
Total Parish Operating Expenses	\$ 984,594	\$ 1,016,051	\$ 31,457	\$ 1,146,252
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ (6,500)	\$ 118,022	\$ 124,522	\$ (5,300)
Non-Operating Income (1)	\$ -	\$ 23,909	\$ 23,909	\$ -
Non-Operating Expense (2)	\$ -	\$ (7,576)	\$ (7,576)	\$ -
Overall Income/(Loss)	\$ (6,500)	\$ 134,355	\$ 140,855	\$ (5,300)

Cemeteries (Calvary Cemetery, St. Joseph Cemetery, Old St. Peter Cemetery)

Income	\$ 26,742
Expenses	\$ (31,863)
Overall Income/(Loss)	\$ (5,121)

Items to Note on Income & Expenses

(1) 2025 Parish Restricted Income \$15,884 + \$8,025 investment gains on CCF Agency accounts.

(2) 2025 Parish Restricted Expense = (\$7,576)

(3) The FY2026 Parish operations deficit of (\$5,300) is for the mortgage principal payments on St. Martha Hall and will be covered by savings. Apart from that, the Parish has budgeted a balanced budget; Income = Expenses.

Balance Sheet as of 6/30/25

Assets		Liabilities	
Operating Checking (CorTrust Bank)	\$ 282,234	Accounts Payable	\$ 30,026
Cemetery Checking (CorTrust Bank)	\$ 102,533	Accrued Liabilities	\$ 99,032
Raymond James Certificate of Deposits	\$ 311,426	Other Liabilities (4)	\$ 112,796
Other Restricted Funds (CorTrust Bank)	\$ 199,570	Deferred Tuition	\$ 13,060
Catholic Comm. Foundation - Parish	\$ 89,746	Total Liabilities	\$ 254,913
Catholic Comm. Foundation - School	\$ 384,086		
Catholic Financial Life Cemetery Annuities	\$ 201,559	Total Net Assets	\$ 18,316,161
Paula Field Scholarship Investment	\$ 98,312		
Buildings	\$ 16,901,607		
Total Assets	\$ 18,571,075	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 18,571,075

(4) Capital Campaign Long Term Note Payable
St. Martha Hall addition



State of the School: St. Maximilian Kolbe Academy

Did you know our school will be celebrating 150 years next year? We are grateful we have a school and we have seen many benefits to the broader community including; lives changed, amazing classical education being taught, people coming back to church, conversions, etc. A bit of background on the school's finances. The school has four sources of revenue: tuition, Parish investment, fundraising, and parishioner donations. As Fr. Kowalczyk talked about in a homily this summer, no Catholic school in this day and age can survive on tuition fees alone. It takes the whole community! While we ended the fiscal 2025 school year with a \$28,500 operating surplus, this was only due to the generosity of the community. In fact, this past year tuition only covered 47% of our

school's total expenses, which include salaries, benefits, building expenses, and supplies. Fundraising covered 14%, and the Parish investment covered 19%. The remaining roughly 20% was covered by donations from parishioners, alumni, and other community members. However, this last bucket of donations is very unpredictable. As Fr. Kowalczyk mentioned in his homily, for the last two years the school has received some large gifts that have tremendously helped their bottom line and avoided sizeable losses. But prior to 2024, this bucket only routinely covered on average 6% of our operating expenses. As you can imagine, budgeting for this bucket is hard and as a result we do have a sizeable shortfall budgeted for the school in fiscal 2026.

We want to reemphasize that we need everyone's help to ensure our school thrives and is open for another 150 years! Thank you to

everyone who supports the school in any way, we are so grateful! Please see below for the School's fiscal 2025 financial report.

FISCAL YEAR END REPORT - School

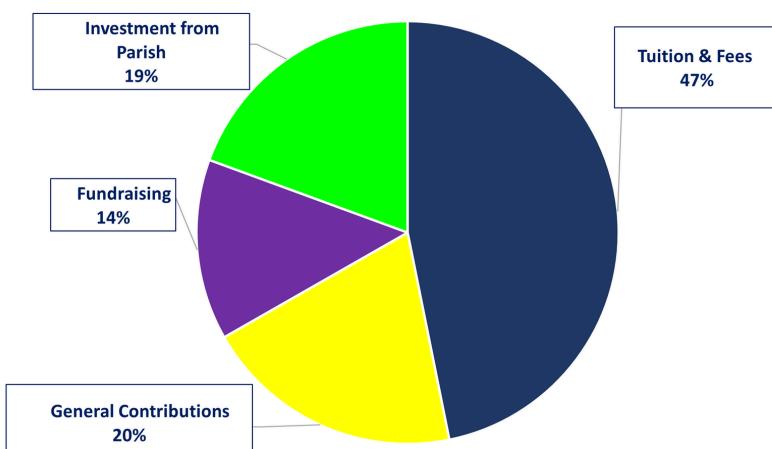
	Budget FY2025	Actual FY2025	Diff FY2025	Budget FY2026
Operating Income				
Tuition	\$ 450,965	\$ 472,404	\$ 21,439	\$ 472,590
General Contributions (e.g., Parishioners, Alumni, etc.)	\$ 40,000	\$ 249,791	\$ 209,791	\$ 40,000
Fundraising (e.g., Ride4Reason, CUF raffle, Spring Gala, etc.)	\$ 156,000	\$ 156,737	\$ 737	\$ 160,000
Investment from Parish	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ -	\$ 260,000
Misc Revenue (e.g., registration fees, classroom fees, etc.)	\$ 59,600	\$ 58,201	\$ (1,399)	\$ 52,325
Total School Operating Income	\$ 926,565	\$ 1,157,133	\$ 230,568	\$ 984,915
Operating Expenses				
Salary & Benefits Expenses	\$ 935,915	\$ 936,430	\$ 515	\$ 963,546
Facility Expenses (e.g., utilities, maintenance, etc.)	\$ 112,354	\$ 96,808	\$ (15,546)	\$ 116,117
Curriculum & Other Expenses	\$ 93,623	\$ 95,377	\$ (1,754)	\$ 82,545
Total School Operating Expenses	\$ 1,141,892	\$ 1,128,615	\$ (16,785)	\$ 1,162,208
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ (215,327)	\$ 28,519	\$ 247,353	\$ (177,293)
Non-Operating Income (1)	\$ -	\$ 78,607	\$ 78,607	\$ -
Non-Operating Expense (2)	\$ -	\$ (93,794)	\$ (93,794)	\$ -
Overall Income/(Loss)	\$ (215,327)	\$ 13,331	\$ 232,166	\$ (177,293)

Items to Note on Income & Expenses

(1) 2025 School Restricted Income \$35,072 + \$43,535 investment gains on CCF Agency account and the Paula Field Scholarship investment account.

(2) 2025 School Restricted Expense = (\$93,794). These expenses were covered by dedicated funds previously set aside.

St. Max Kolbe Academy Sources of Funding





2025 - 2026

RIDE for a REASON



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are honored to pray for you during Ride for a Reason and daily throughout the school year. To submit your prayer intention and/or donation by Friday, October 10th, please scan this qr code.



Honoring our VETERANS



FRIDAY

Nov 14th

8:30AM

MASS SHORT PROGRAM LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Help us spread the word by inviting a Veteran

Lessons from Creation... that go far beyond science!



Magnifying glasses help our third graders see and understand that there are far more details in creation than meets the eye. The Word of God helps them see and understand that the same is true for them. Psalm 139

Our first graders have been studying metamorphosis by observing all four stages of the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Last week they said goodbye to their friend, Ruby.

The beauty of creation provokes the heart. For some, it elicits awe and wonder, and their questions lead to God. For others, beauty is merely consumed without a thought raised to the One who brings all of creation into existence.

One of the great joys of an authentic Catholic education is the limitless opportunities to lead the mind and heart of each student beyond the visible world to that of the eternal.

Drawing from the poetic writings of 'The Confessions' by St. Augustine, we get a glimpse of how beauty provoked the heart of this great Doctor of the Church - beginning with this question...

"And what is the object of my love? I asked the earth, and it said: 'It is not I.' I asked all that is in it; they made the same confession (Job 28:12f.).

I asked the sea, the deeps, the living creatures that creep, and they responded: 'We are not your God, look beyond us.'

I asked the breezes which blow and the entire air with its inhabitants said: 'Anaximenes was mistaken; I am not God.'

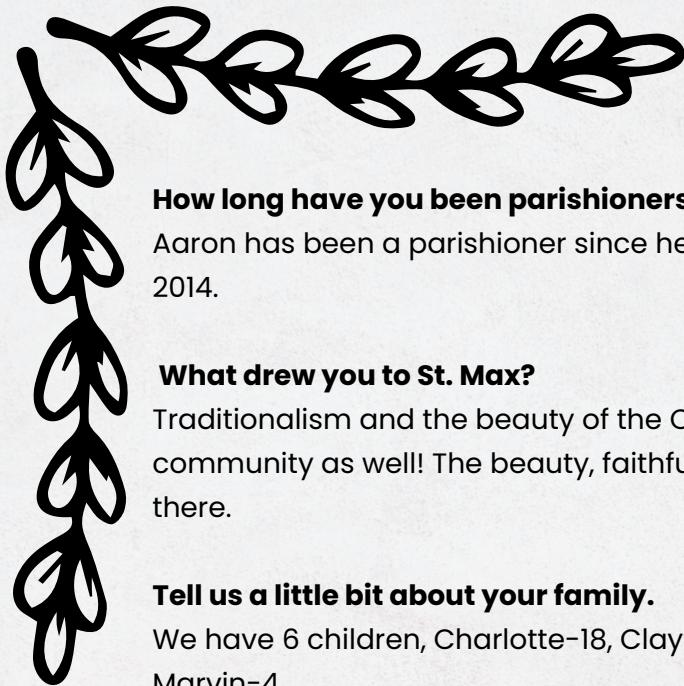
I asked heaven, sun, moon and stars; they said: 'Nor are we the God whom you seek.'

And I said to all these things in my external environment: 'Tell me of my God who you are not, tell me something about Him.' And with a great voice they cried out: 'He made us' (Ps. 99:3).

My question was the attention I gave to them, and their response was their beauty."

MEET
THE
Roers



**How long have you been parishioners?**

Aaron has been a parishioner since he was born. I joined when we were married in 2014.

What drew you to St. Max?

Traditionalism and the beauty of the Church attracted us to St Max. We love the community as well! The beauty, faithfulness, reverence and community keeps us there.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

We have 6 children, Charlotte-18, Clayton-17, George-10, Joseph-8, Gianna-7, and Marvin-4.

How are you involved in the parish/what do you currently participate in?

We did the Beloved class recently and I attended the 4th year of Cana, a small group for mothers.

Talk a bit about your faith journey.

We were both revert. I was confirmed in 2011. My husband and I met just before that and we married in 2014 at St. Timothy's in Maple Lake. He studied to be a Deacon while Charlotte and Clayton were still young. We are weekly adorers and try to attend Mass as often as we can. We try to pray the rosary daily as a family. We both grew up with the rosary and I have been helping organize the rosary rallies here in Delano for 10 years now.

What is a fun fact about you/your family that may surprise people?

Fun fact, my husband and I backpacked the Grand Tetons which were so beautiful and breathtaking. He actually proposed to me while we were rock climbing in Red Wing which we renamed the spot one hand jam after our proposal. We also got to meet Pope Francis, and have our marriage blessed in 2014 on our honeymoon. That was quite the experience of a lifetime, one we will never forget!

Do you or your family have any favorite hobbies, activities, or traditions that you participate in?

We love to be out in nature hiking, boating, camping, enjoying bonfires, being with friends and family, and barbecuing.





The *Power* of the *Rosary*

TESTIMONY BY TAHNEE ROERS

Tahnee Roers has been helping organize the annual Rosary Rally every October in Delano for close to ten years. The rallies began when she and Peggy Bobick, a former parishioner, partnered with the organization, America Needs Fatima (ANF). ANF's Public Square rosary Rally campaign helps Catholics to organize their own local rally, joining thousands of other Catholics around the country to pray the rosary together.

Tahnee and Holli Arthur continue the tradition this year, with the rally taking place on Saturday, October 11 at noon in the parking lot of My Bodyshop Fitness at 901 Babcock Blvd East. The message of Our Lady of Fatima and the rosary is important now as ever before.

“

The Rosary is the weapon of our times”

- St. Padre Pio





How did you first start hosting the Rosary rallies?

Peggy Bobick - former St. Max parishioner - started doing the Rosary rally a year or two before I joined her, but I attended her rallies. Peggy and I quickly became friends, and she asked me to help lead the rallies. Of course I said yes, and I've been helping organize them ever since. She just sent me a picture of the Rosary rally in 2015, so for 10 years we have been doing them!

What an honor it is to be doing this for Our Lord and Our Lady, and I believe our country needs it now more than ever. This devotion has so many promises and graces attached. I've seen too many miracles to not believe in the power of the Rosary. Most of the saints spoke highly of it, even claiming it had more power than an atomic bomb. It is a powerful armor against hell, vice, sin, and heresies. It is the weapon for these times. There's not a whole lot that goes into organizing a rally. It's pretty simple - just being willing to do it and inviting people.

At the rally we have banners and prayer guide sheets for everyone to follow along with and we just allow the Holy Spirit to work. I definitely feel strengthened when gathering with others to pray. There is strength in numbers and the power of the Rosary calls down great mercy for our country and for the world. It has always been the "battering ram" as Our Lady described to St. Dominic in the 13th century.

Can you tell us more about your devotion to Our Lady?

How did it begin? I grew up with the Rosary. I remember my grandparents prayed it daily. They made thousands of Rosaries for missions everywhere. That always stuck with me because they were such a great example of holiness and what marriage and family should be in my life as my own family was broken. My parents divorced at a young age so I looked up to my grandparents.

It wasn't until later in life that I grew in my devotion to Our Lady. When I had my first child in 2008, I started my journey back to the Church and I felt Our Lady calling me to get confirmed which I did in 2011. I was praying the Rosary daily and going to daily Mass and I started noticing the graces even though I didn't fully understand what they meant. For example, as I would pray, at times I would smell roses when there were no flowers around whatsoever. My son has also told me he has had the same experience. I took that as a signal grace from Our Lady.

The 15 promises of praying the Rosary says it all. Mary promises great graces and protection and that we will have the whole heavenly court at our side. A few Saints I look to for guidance besides Our Lady and St Joseph are Padre Pio, St Monica, and St Rita, but I tend to just call on the whole heavenly court at times when I need extra help.



Delano Rosary Rally, 2015

Do you have any stories of conversions among your attendees?

I have seen so many conversions recently and I don't know if it has anything to do with our prayers. We may never know, but we just need to trust that God hears our prayers and He is always working for our good. I have witnessed people in my own family who are coming back to the faith. My cousin just received all his sacraments and I had the honor of being his sponsor. Now his dad is taking classes to receive his sacraments, so that is a huge blessing I'm grateful to be a part of.

Our Lady is powerful and She cares about our needs as well. Just as She went to Jesus at the wedding in Cana and Our Lord worked His first miracle on Her behalf, so she still presents our needs today and I believe Jesus never refuses His Mother who was His Most faithful disciple.



2025 ROSARY RALLY

October 11, 2025
12:00pm

My Body Shop Fitness
901 Babcock Blvd E.
Delano, MN

Join us as
we publicly
ask God
to save
America
by praying
the rosary
of His
Most Holy
Mother
Mary.

Our nation is
in great need of
public prayer,
repentance
and conversion.

Come and pray with us!

BE A PART OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST ROSARY CRUSADE!

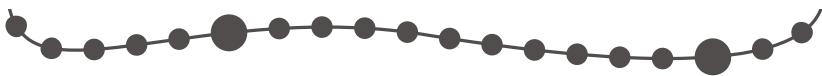
All across America, on the same day and
time, over 22,000 rosary rallies take place.
Learn more about *America Needs Fatima*
Rosary Rallies by scanning the QR code.



Questions?
Holli Arthur 612-298-9328
Tahnee Roers 763-221-4438

Rosary

Testimonials



“

I don't know where to start... Our Lady's Rosary converted me before ever receiving the sacraments. I was filled with such an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the blessed sacrament and go to confession for the first time. The rosary stopped my wicked tongue from cussing (which is a miracle in itself). The rosary infused virtue into my life. The rosary stopped me from committing mortal sins and heightened my awareness of sin. The rosary caused fights with the devil. The rosary brought me into mysticism and consolations. The rosary brought me closer to my guardian angel. The rosary helped bring our third child into the world. The rosary brought me so much closer to the Word of God. The rosary changed how I see the world. The rosary and especially Our Lady's 7 sorrows rosary helped me through the hardest crosses of my life and persevere when I thought I couldn't do it (still does). The rosary helps me in times of desolation. The rosary shows me the will of God. The rosary single handily increased my love for Jesus Christ and most especially his presence in the blessed sacrament. The rosary gave me devotion to the holy souls in purgatory (pray for them I beg you!) The rosary showed me that God is truly inside of us and that His presence can manifest. The rosary proved to me that God AND Our Lady hears every single thought and mental prayer. The rosary is my life and when I don't pray it consistently or pray it halfhearted it shows up in my lack of virtue and just how miserable I am without her. When I pray good rosaries Our Lady is never outdone in her generosity and our family life is better. The rosary is hard. The rosary is worth it. The rosary will make you love Jesus like you never have before and darn near throw you into the confessional. The rosary is my umbilical cord in which she nourishes my soul with grace, love and virtue. The rosary is my mystical rose, yes real roses, the most potent inconceivable smell of heavenly roses one could ever smell and even taste. The rosary is my ladder to heaven. The rosary even wipes away my sins. The rosary protects me and my family. The rosary makes me love God and neighbor... I am sure I am missing thousand of other things. If only I could pray her rosary better...

-Joseph B.

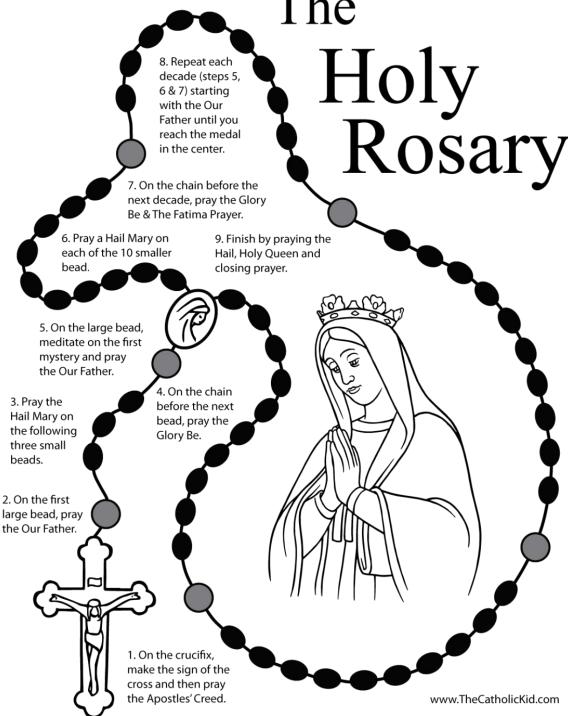
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One advent I felt called to pray the rosary for my future spouse everyday, I was single at the time and discerned that I was called to marriage. I started going to the church before the blessed sacrament everyday to pray the rosary. In the beginning, there were 3 times, I went to pray the rosary at a different time every time, I encountered a young man that I just met. He was either there before me or showed up after me and we ended up praying the rosary together. After the third time he asked me if I just wanted to meet every day to pray the rosary. That was 12 years ago this advent. Now we are expecting our 5th baby in March and pray the rosary every day with our children. We are so thankful to our loving mother Mary for bringing us together and always praying for and interceding in our relationship. -Rose Rodriguez

”

The Holy Rosary



www.TheCatholicKid.com



A Catholic without a rosary is like a soldier without a weapon

“

After many failed attempts at praying the rosary regularly, I heard a couple of priests, including Fr. Kowalczyk, talk about the importance of the rosary. Among those talks, I learned how to improve my perspective of what praying the rosary is actually all about- walking through the life of Christ through the mysteries and meditating on the fruits and petitions during the repetition of the prayers has really impacted how I use that time in prayer. It is hard some days to avoid feeling like it is a task to complete rather than the act of engaging with God in the sharing of my heart and receiving His love for me in return that it is. I have been praying the rosary daily now since January and it has helped deepen my prayer life and improve my mental health in ways I didn't know was possible. I have received clarity in many areas of confusion I have felt in the past and so many prayers have been answered. My advice, just start on day 1 and don't try to be perfect. Don't stress over getting distracted a lot. The struggle to keep praying is a prayer as well. -Bailey Bickerstaff

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In December 2014, Jesus appeared to a Catholic bishop in Nigeria and instructed him that the rosary was the weapon that would overcome Boko Haram. Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of the diocese of Maiduguri, Nigeria, claims that one evening, while he was praying his rosary, Jesus appeared to him holding a sword. During the vision, Jesus extended the sword toward the bishop. When the bishop went to take the sword from Jesus, it miraculously transformed into a rosary! Once the bishop had the rosary-sword in his hands, Jesus looked at him and said three times, "Boko Haram is gone! Boko Haram is gone! Boko Haram is gone!"

After the bishop of Maiduguri had his vision, he began to promote the rosary in his diocese in Nigeria. In many of his interviews, he repeats his vision and informs his listeners of his interpretation of the vision in the following words: "As soon as I received the sword, it turned into a rosary. I didn't need any prophet to give me the explanation. It was clear that with the rosary we would be able to expel Boko Haram." On October 13, 2016, dozens of kidnapped girls were suddenly released by Boko Haram from captivity. In May 2017, another 83 girls were released. Then, on July 3, 2017, 700 members of Boko Haram surrendered their weapons and turned themselves in to Nigerian authorities.

-Excerpt from the book *10 Wonders of the Rosary* by Fr. Don Calloway

”

WHY IS THE ROSARY SO IMPORTANT?

★ It Brings Peace

In a world filled with noise and anxiety, the slow rhythm of the rosary helps calm the soul. It's a moment to pause, breathe, and rest in God's presence.

★ It Keeps You Close to Mary and Jesus

The rosary is like walking through the life of Christ with His mother, Mary. It's a way of seeing the Gospel through her eyes—of letting her lead you closer to Jesus.

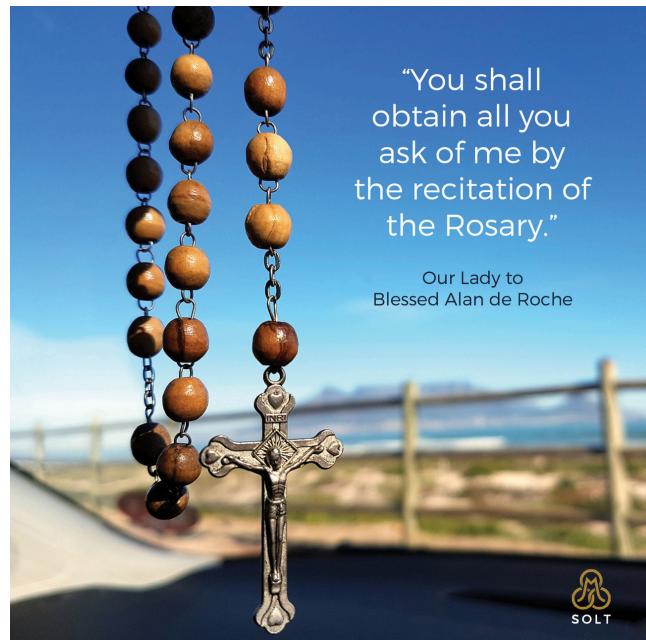
★ It's Powerful in Spiritual Warfare

Countless saints and popes have referred to the rosary as a spiritual weapon. When prayed with faith, it's a source of strength against temptation, discouragement, and fear.

★ It's Accessible

You don't need fancy words or a theology degree to pray the rosary. You just need a willing heart.

(from westcoastcatholic.com)



October 7 is the **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary** - formally known as Our Lady of Victory. It also marks the anniversary of a famous battle in which the rosary was used as a weapon of defense by the Catholic Church. Check out the QR code to learn more about the Battle of Lepanto and the power of the rosary.

ABOUT THE COVER

By Jacob Velander

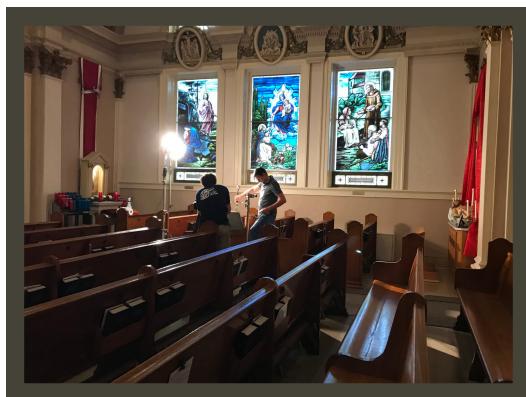
As a kid I was lucky enough to live in a house backed up to a wooded area, which meant there were a plethora of sticks for me to sort through, finding the one easiest to fashion into a sword with my imagination. I couldn't count for you the number of zombies, ogres, skeletons and dragons I left on the field of battle that was my backyard. I was a warrior wielding a weapon.



Those monsters in my yard weren't created by the stick I found. The figures had always been present, lurking through my thoughts. Scary beasts taunting me from my closet or under my bed, keeping me from sleep. You can't do anything about imaginary ghouls from under the covers. But, with a blade in your hands you find agency. They didn't stand a chance against my stick.

Now, as an adult I would like to think I grew out of the fantasies I imagined as a child, but upon further inspection I realize they're just as real as ever. The difference is the monsters don't keep me from sleep with fear, they keep me from sleep with temptation and guilt. I'm being attacked constantly, but the dragons don't breathe fire, they whisper lies to tell. The zombies don't bite at my flesh, they gnaw at my chastity. The skeletons scheme ways for me to steal.

One assumes that these demons are only meant to be endured by us, until it's apparent that there's a tool to give you spiritual agency. You don't always need to take a defensive position. Let's grab that good stick in the backyard and go on the offensive. Grab your rosary and remember that the demons don't stand a chance. Be a warrior wielding a weapon.



Creating the cover - behind the scenes

Jacob Velander is a parishioner at St. Max who lives in Buffalo with his wife Zoe and their two young daughters, Genevieve and newborn baby Clover. He is a recent revert whose Grandmother was a devout Catholic. Even though she passed away when he was 4, he believes she may have been interceding for him on his journey back to the Catholic faith. He works as a videographer in the Twin Cities and is using his creativity and talent to help the parish via photography and videography, including the amazing cover we have for this newsletter. We are so grateful for his contribution!



UPCOMING *Events*

OCT
8

ARS VIVENDI

All parishioners are invited for a fun and faith filled gathering to build Catholic culture. Come for the whole evening or just part of it...whatever works for your schedule. Dinner (meatball sandwiches), talk by Fr. K (theme is Living a Sunday lifestyle), and evening prayer. Classes are available for school aged children, and childcare for the youngest.

OCT
11

RIDE FOR A REASON

Annual bike-a-thon for St. Maximilian Kolbe Academy. Help support the school by making a pledge with a student you know. Mass beforehand at 8 am in the Adoration Chapel.

OCT
14-22

FR. K OUT OF TOWN

Fr. K will be out of town. There will be no weekday Masses while he is gone, and there will be a visiting priest for weekend Masses.

NOV
1

BELOVED

Calling all married couples! Join us for the first day of a 12 part series to enrich your marriage. Full breakfast ~ time for uninterrupted prayer ~ meaningful conversations ~ childcare provided. Meet at 8:30 am in Handzel Hall at St. Joseph Campus.

NOV
2

PROCESSION TO CALVARY CEMETARY

In honor of All Souls Day and, there will be a procession immediately following the Sunday 10 am Mass to Calvary Cemetery, which is a half mile walk from the church.

NOV
9

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

Join us for an afternoon of sacred music in the Main Church at St. Peter Campus, followed by a wine and cheese reception. Doors at 2:30 pm, concert begins at 3.



Thank you!

Deacon Joe would like to express his gratitude for everyone who celebrated his 25th diaconate anniversary with him and to those who helped put it together.



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Sponsor!