



Ascension and St. Edmund Parish Annual Report

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support and for all of the ways you keep our parish thriving. As I look at some of the highlights from this past fiscal year, it is clear that we are a faith community where mission is alive in everything we do.

What follows is the annual report, a year-in-review, for FY '24. It was important for me that you not only see the financial snapshot, but that you also have a glimpse of the important work of our parish. This is the vital mission-driven work that you facilitate and fund across all of our ministries.

Last year we faced a couple of challenges beginning with an unforeseen act of nature which closed one of our churches. Additionally, the Sunday offertory which is our primary source of revenue, fell short of what we budgeted thereby creating a financial gap. You generously responded to our plea and helped to reduce the gap for which I am most grateful.

The work of our parish and its ministries is dependent on your time, talent and financial backing. It for this reason that you will hear about the importance of the Sunday offertory in the weeks ahead so that together we can make sure that we end this fiscal year in a strong position.

Please know of my heartfelt appreciation for you. When we come together and work through our challenges while allowing ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, we build the Kingdom of God.

With you a Christian. For you a priest.

Fr. Carl

Stats

2,959

Registered Households

9,243

Registered Individuals

928 Avg. Weekend Mass
Attendance (Jan-June '24)



Celebrating Sacraments

Baptisms 78

First Communion 65

Confirmations 86

Marriages 8

Funerals 48



Impact Snapshot



Ascension School
383 enrollment



Religious Education
Spirit & Light Collaboration

427 enrollment
(combined with
St. Catherine-St. Lucy
and St. Giles)



Appalachia Service Project
Marked Ascension's 27th
year! 77 teens & 34 adults
made up 15 work crews.

Impact Highlights

OP Youth Ministry

Open gym events, movie nights,
Wholemakers Program,
Crop Walk & service activities



Migrant Ministry

8,000+ served

Robust volunteer network: 71 work on ministry days, 12 teach ESL, 23 sort.
National recognition



The Neighborhood Bridge

OP parishes shared outreach to the West Side,
connects residents to quality human services out
of St. Catherine-St. Lucy

Healing Prayer, Healing Song

100+ monthly participants

Ecumenical prayer outreach for OP community,

Little Lambs Program

Our Little Lambs (0-3mos) participate in
prayer, hands-on work, and celebration.



Evangelization Team

- Piloting Alpha which launches in the New Year
- Theology onTap series and Young Adult Ministry

Spirit & Light

RE, Faith and Fellowship, lifelong learning,
evangelization, youth ministry, and sacramental prep.
Both OP parishes share the staff and costs.

One in Love LGBTQ+ Ministry

Safe place for community, LGTBQ+ individuals, their
families and friends to share through listening circles.



Garden Ministries

donated fresh produce

Third Day Garden

1,814 servings

to Beyond Hunger

Susan Fleming Community Garden

3,373 lbs

to our sharing parish

Hospitality Ministry

Reception Committee
& Volunteers

Serve over

3,400+ meals



Housing Forward

Volunteers support the emergency overnight shelter at
St. Catherine -St. Lucy, year-round and houses up to
20 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Ministers of Care

494 monthly visits

Dedicated Ministers of Care
make visits to homebound parishioners and
those staying/living at various hospitals,
assisted living residences and nursing homes.



Ascension Knights of Columbus

225+ coats, 12,300 diapers,

**4,000lbs produce, 400+ meals and much
more....**

Raised needed funds for variety of ministries &
fostered community along the way.



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me.... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:35-40

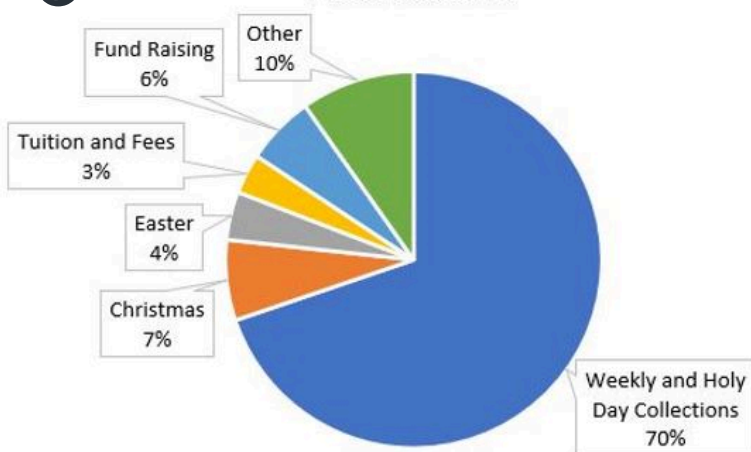
Operating Income and Expense Statement

Financial Snapshot – July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

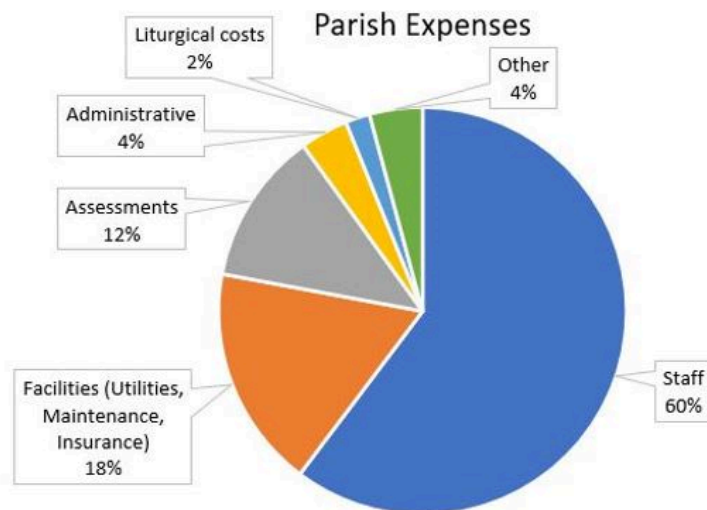
CHURCH INCOME	
Sunday/ Holy Day Collections	1,199,601
Christmas	119,016
Easter	71,248
Religious Education Tuition and Fees	59,023
Lease/ Rental Income	15,000
Fundraising	101,911
Other Income	153,008
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,718,807
CHURCH EXPENSES	
Salaries/ Benefits/Employee Taxes	1,131,400
Utilities	96,456
Maintenance/ Repairs/ Improvements	108,360
Operations/ Administrative Expenses	71,299
Liturgical Costs	36,575
Insurance	126,444
Archdiocesan & PRMAA Assessments	227,808
Other Expenses	78,688
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,877,030
CHURCH NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ (158,223)

SCHOOL INCOME	
Tuition, Fees, and Food Service	2,426,437
Scholarship/ Outside Tuition Funding	386,495
Fundraising	371,978
Other Income	47,757
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,232,667
SCHOOL EXPENSES	
Salaries/ Benefits/ Employee Taxes	2,530,288
Utilities	71,727
Book and Supplies	103,248
Maintenance/ Repairs/ Improvements	143,685
Operations/ Administrative Expenses	140,335
Insurance	96,397
OCS Assessment	22,952
Other Expenses	23,061
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,131,693
SCHOOL NET INCOME/ (LOSS)	\$ 100,974

Parish Income



Parish Expenses



Footnotes:

- (1) Donations (for Weekly, Holy Days, Christmas, and Easter) decreased by 6.4% FY24 over FY23.
- (2) Lease income was from The Children's School who moved out in Nov. '23.
- (3) A fundraising goal of \$75,000 was included in the FY 24 budget. Fundraising income was \$99,793, exceeding the budgeted amount.
- (4) The Close the Gap/Deficit Reduction initiative (reflected in other income) raised \$65,253.
- (5) Parish expenses decreased by 5.4% FY 24 over FY 23, although we still had a deficit of \$158,223
- (6) Any surpluses generated by Ascension School will remain with the school.

Archdiocesan Second Collections	
The Church in Latin America	1,107
Seminarian Education	2,449
Holy Land	1,361
Aid for Churches in Central and Eastern Europe	946
Catholic Charities	3,577
Peter's Pence	1,869
Propagation of the Faith/World Mission Sunday	1,524
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	2,171
Religious Retirement	3,202
Mission Co-Op	7,418
Operation Rice Bowl – Catholic Relief Services	769
Priest Retirement	2,924
TOTAL	\$ 29,317

Additional Donations	
St. Martin de Porres Sharing Parish	21,573
Taize Prayer Donations*	9,039
Ascension School Support *	11,546
Giving Tree/ Christmas Angels	22,520
St. Vincent de Paul	18,310
Annual Catholic Appeal	108,825
Migrant Shelter	50,368
Children's Lenten Project	7,091
TOTAL	\$ 249,272
Archdiocesan Second Collections	29,317
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 278,589

* These donations remain with the Parish or School and are recognized in income.

Extraordinary Income/Expenses

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME	
Donations to Building Fund	\$ 39,974
Annual Appeal/ To Teach Who Christ Is	\$8,175
St. Edmund Insurance Recoveries	\$ 682,370
Estates, Bequests and Memorials	\$ 36,132
St. Edmund Parking Lot FY24 Donations	\$13,845
Ascension School Kitchen FY24 Donations	\$16,442
Restricted Donations	\$15,000
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES	
St. Edmund Tuckpointing	\$ 95,580
St. Edmund Storm Damage (pd by insur.)	\$ 427,529
St. Edmund School Roof Repair	\$ 21,221
St. Edmund Airconditioning Overhaul	\$12,950
St. Edmund Parking Lot Repair (donor pd.)	\$15,570
Ascension School Kitchen (donor pd.)	\$18,538

End of Year Cash Balances

Operating Accounts**	1,413,683
School Endowment	147,944
To Teach Who Christ Is	0
Building Funds	555,555
Auxiliary Group Accounts	19,413
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 2,136,595

**Operating Accounts are combined funds of church and school.

Footnotes:

(1) Total insurance recoveries of \$682,370 were received for the St. Edmund campus storm damage. Costs of \$427,529 were incurred through 6/30/2024.

(2) Additional repairs not related to storm damage were identified during the work on St. Edmund Church. The cost of these repairs would be significantly less if done while the scaffolding was up. We authorized a loan of up to \$212,300 from the Archdiocese to cover these repairs. Through June 30, 2024, the amount drawn on the loan was \$95,580.



In-kind Donations
We thank our generous donors for their support towards specific parish and/or ministry needs.

Listen EVERYWHERE system-
Ascension Church

Refurbishing of hand bells-
Ascension Church

Parking lot repavement-
St. Edmund Church

Kitchen Update-
Ascension School

Wi-Fi installation and Listen
EVERYWHERE system -
St. Edmund Church

2 new refrigerators-
Murphy Hall kitchen

Raised garden beds-
Third Day Garden

Underwriting of fundraiser
prizes for year-end parish
endeavor

....and for all of the donations
not listed here.

361

parish
households
automate
their Sunday
offering

We need you!

Your support in all forms is essential to ensure the vibrancy of our parish.
Please consider sharing your time and talent with one of our ministries.

The Sunday offertory funds our ministries and parish operations. If you are able to increase your Sunday commitment, we thank you! Kindly consider automating your support as it allows us to better plan. You can use the QR code on the right to sign up on GiveCentral or you can contact Dir. of Development, Maria Allori, at mallori@archchicago.org for assistance or at 708-528-7622.



Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity!