

ASSUMPTION

of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
PARISH

MAY YOU FIND CHRIST HERE...

MAY YOU BRING CHRIST TO THE WORLD

SEPTEMBER 2024

Inside

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish has been a well known landmark in the community for over 153 years. Established 1871, this beautiful Catholic Church has grown to more than 3,200 parish families and nearly 10,000 parishioners. Anyone who drives down Main Street in O'Fallon can see that Christ's love is known in our every gathering.



Mission Statement: *We, the people of Assumption, are called to be servants of God as exemplified by, and under the protection of, our Mother Mary.*

As good stewards of our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure, we pledge to bring Christ to our community through worship, learning and service.

In response to our Lord's Great Commission of "making disciples of all nations," our ministries serve all parts of our parish community, the local and regional community and the ministries of the Universal church.

Through the Pillars of Worship & Prayer, Formation & Education, Service & Hospitality and Administration & Stewardship, "we find Christ here... and bring Christ to the world."

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PARISHIONERS, SACRAMENTS, AND PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

Every year, the parish submits to the Archdiocese of St. Louis a summary of the number of people in the parish, as well as the yearly sacramental records called the Status Animarum. This gives us a snapshot of some parish sacramental activities throughout the year.

A summary of the report for the past year is as follows:

Registered Households: 3,288

Total # of Catholics: 9,130



Baptisms: 69

61 infants, 0-6 years old
 3 children, 7-18 years old
 5 adults over 18 years old



**First
 Communions: 93**



Funerals: 71



Confirmations: 108



Weddings: 13



**Professions
 of Faith: 8**



Emerald Macey is baptized at Assumption, April 2024.

Most of these have stayed quite constant since last year.

We had a few less weddings this year, but already have over 20 scheduled for the coming year, so it's assumed that was simply an anomaly. Some of the sacraments, like First Communion and Confirmation, are pretty easy to predict how many we will have next year, as we can look at the day school and PSR 1st grade and the 7th grade classes to predict the numbers. Having that regular schedule makes things pretty straight forward as far as preparation and what and when we need to be registering for these sacraments.

But some sacraments don't usually work that way. For baptisms, weddings, and funerals, we realize that these can come at different times in our lives and we celebrate them as the situation arises, so we must prepare for them in similar ways. **So, what do you do when you need one of these sacraments?**

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2023-24 ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

In this report, we look back on the financial results of the parish for the most recent fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2023, and ended on June 30, 2024.

"Through your generous contributions and management of our finances, we have been able to keep up with payments and rebuild some of our reserve, and even pay down some of the loan principal through grants from the Archdiocese."

— Fr. Nick

The good news is – we had a good year financially. Our bottom line was a positive \$14,570, even after deducting our debt payments. How quickly things can change for the positive, as a year earlier, we had a deficit of \$227,701.

Our total income improved from \$4,825,327 to \$5,362,147. Sunday revenue and other income increased by just over \$300,000, including an \$89,600 education grant from the Archdiocese, a \$41,545 government grant for school safety improvements, and a bequest of \$88,000 from Father Ron Rubbelke. Tuition and fee income increased by just over \$228,000 because of higher enrollment and a 10% increase in our tuition rates.

Even though our income improved, our total expenses increased from \$4,735,563 to \$4,985,675. Our personnel costs (salaries and benefits) increased by nearly \$230,000. At the suggestion of the Archdiocese, we decided to provide a long overdue \$5,000 salary increase to our full-time teachers a year ago.

Capital expenditures increased from \$112,024 to \$182,369, mostly at our school.

During the last school year, we used a government safety grant to pay for impact-resistant film for glass doors and windows (\$7,175) and a new public address system (\$37,925). The Fund-A-Need funds raised at our last two dinner auctions helped us replace school air conditioners (\$34,100) and install over 20 security cameras (\$25,177) on the property. We also spent \$48,703 to replace computers.

Our debt to the Archdiocese, which we used in 2013 to finance the expansion of our school building, had a balance of \$524,192 at the end of June 2024. **We are on track to make the last payment on our 15-year loan in May 2026, less than 2 years from now. This is considerably earlier than originally forecasted in 2028**

Recent special contributions also have allowed us to pay down some of our debt. A bequest of \$40,000 was made in memory of Arthur and Paul Niebur, along with an additional \$5,000 that has been contributed specifically to reduce our debt. *detailed chart on page 4*

2023-24 ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

SUMMARY 2023-24 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (Actual Results)						2022-23	
	Parish & Other	School (K-8)	PSR	LifeTeen	Pre-K	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated
Capital campaign revenue	\$ 5,946					\$ 5,946	\$ 12,798	
Tuition and fees	91,651	\$ 1,741,720	\$ 39,282		\$ 344,310	2,216,963	1,988,764	
Sunday revenue and other	2,567,175	528,255	(234)	45,157	(1,115)	3,139,238	2,823,765	
Total income	2,664,772	2,269,975	39,048	45,157	343,195	5,362,147	4,825,327	
Personnel	605,818	2,167,781	84,495	106,528	308,436	3,273,058	3,045,731	
Supplies	216,261	161,692	4,028	87,526	2,277	471,784	474,546	
Fees & services	60,635	69,129	888	460	790	131,902	130,788	
Maintenance, utilities, etc.	239,842	203,597	1,980		36,064	481,483	524,711	
Loan interest	44,581					44,581	62,042	
Insurance, Archdiocese assessments	385,034	184,558	3,995	4,672	4,608	582,867	497,745	
Total expenses	1,552,171	2,786,757	95,386	199,186	352,175	4,985,675	4,735,563	
Net ordinary income (loss)	1,112,601	(516,782)	(56,338)	(154,029)	(8,980)	376,472	89,764	
Investment fund earnings	93,996					93,996	96,702	
Endowed gifts	5,367					5,367	5,177	
Capital campaign revenue	1,396					1,396	3,204	
Capital expenditures	(11,073)	(158,078)			(13,218)	(182,369)	(112,024)	
Non-cash expenses						(287)	30	
Tuition write-offs		(16,904)			(2,532)	(19,436)	(25,601)	
Net income (loss)	1,202,287	(691,764)	(56,338)	(154,029)	(24,730)	275,139	57,252	
Loan principal payments						260,569	284,953	
Surplus (deficit)						\$ 14,570	\$ (227,701)	

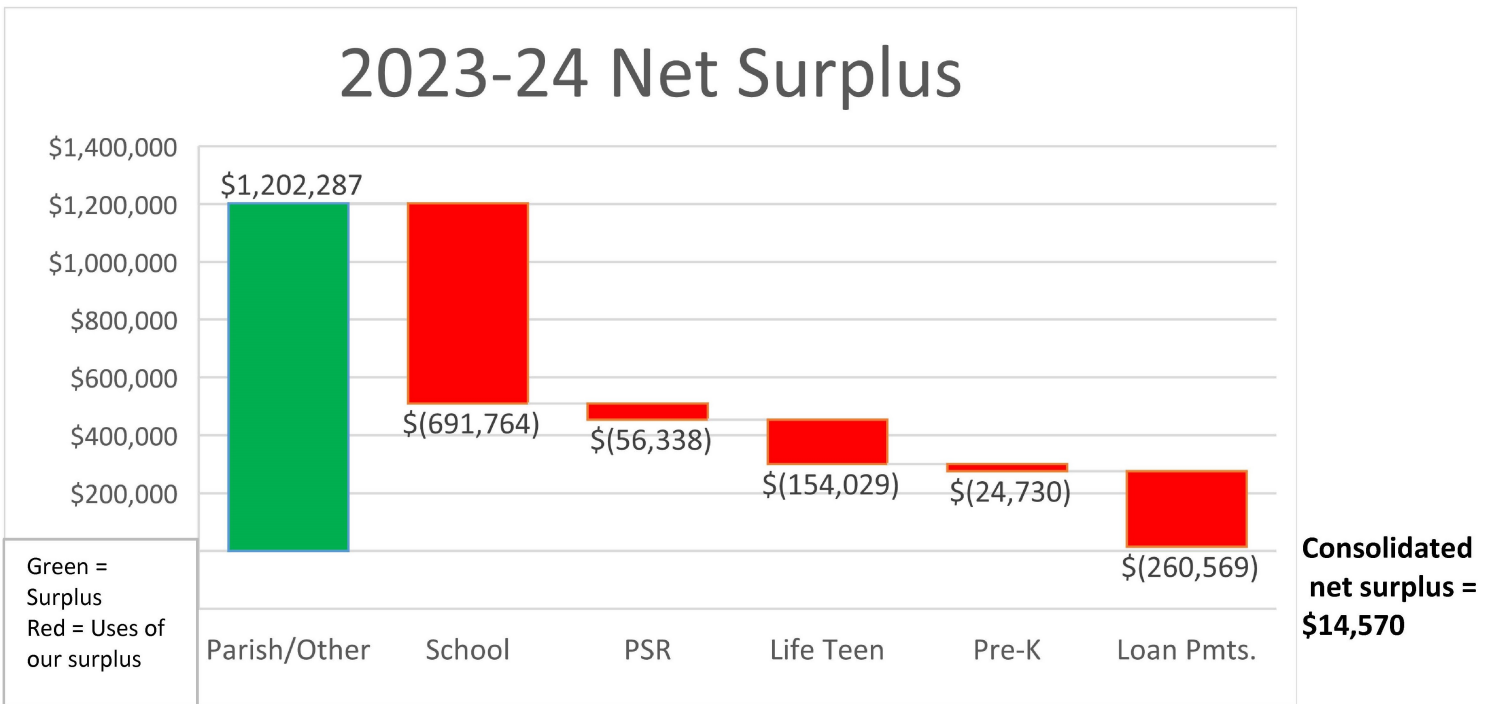
Parish Funds Secure Parish Mission

How is the Parish money spent?

The chart below shows how the net income of the parish operations (green column) is allocated to cover the deficits (red column) of our school, parish school of religion (PSR), and youth ministry (Life Teen) programs. These activities are vital to the mission and future of our parish, and are supported with parish funds.

The elementary school (K-8) had a net loss of \$691,764 for 2023-24. This is a slight improvement over the previous year, thanks mostly to an \$89,600 grant from the Archdiocese.

Our PSR and Life Teen programs are critical to raising the next generation of Assumption parishioners. In 2022-23, our support of those programs amounted to \$56,338 and \$154,029, respectively, including personnel expenses.



Thank you

Our financial results for the past year were made possible by the steady support of our loving parish family, and by the grace of God. Your prayers and your contributions have strengthened us as we have mindfully managed our finances. We count on your continued generous financial support as we move forward into 2025. If you have questions about our parish finances, please contact me.

Peace,

Fr. Nick

Parishioners, Sacraments, and Professions of Faith continued from front cover

What do I need to do to have my child baptized? Get married? Or plan a funeral?

Even if you don't need one of these sacraments now, the first thing you need to do, if you haven't already, is to register in the parish. This helps the parish communicate with parishioners, get to know you, and keep you informed about what is happening in the parish.

REGISTER NOW!

You can stop by the office or go online to our website - assumptionbvm.org to register. Don't worry if you are not registered yet, many will register when they are engaged to be married or are expecting a child.

Baptism

You found out that you are pregnant and are expecting a baby – congratulations! **As the delivery date gets closer one of the things you might be thinking about is, when and how do we get our baby baptized?** If you contact our parish office you can register for a baptism class where Deacon Richard will inform you about the sacrament: what happens at the service, the meaning and purpose of the different parts and symbols, the role of godparents, and whatever else you might want to know. When you register for the class, our secretary will take down the information about your child, such as their name, birth date, and godparents. You may attend the Assumption Baptism Class before or after your child is born, so you might not have all the information yet, but we can fill that in later. **The church recommends that you have your child baptized as soon as you can.**



Camden Gomer holds Godchild, Emerald Macey after her baptism at Assumption on April 21, 2024.

If there is a danger of death for the child, they may be baptized in the hospital immediately after they are born, but normally it is in the first few months when the child, the mother, and the family can gather to celebrate the sacrament together. We usually schedule baptisms to be celebrated on Sunday at 1:15 p.m. after our Sunday noon Mass. This can be scheduled at the baptism class or by calling the parish office.

If you decide to go back to the parish where your parents live and where you grew up to celebrate the baptism, or your children are bringing your new grandchild here to be baptized, you will probably need to contact both parishes. The parish where the child lives will likely give you permission to have the baptism at the other parish, and being closer, will likely provide your baptism class. The parish where the baptism will take place will need to schedule the ceremony.

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What do I Need to do to get Married? Or Plan a Funeral? *sacraments continued*

Weddings

When a Catholic is going to get married, unlike many other religions, we require that they be married in the Catholic Church to be considered a valid marriage by the Church.

After getting engaged a couple is likely going to start talking about where they are going to get married, the date, what works for their schedules and that of their immediate family, and when can they reserve the church and the reception hall for their wedding?

Call the parish at least 6 months prior to the wedding to begin preparations.

In addition to being sure that they can reserve the church building for the date they desire, the Catholic Church also requires that a couple goes through certain preparation for the wedding which should start at least 6 months prior to the wedding.

Preparations include:

- Meetings with a priest or deacon to talk about their relationship, the Church's teachings on marriage, the wedding ceremony itself, and to be sure that all of the paperwork, permissions, and everything else will be ready so they can celebrate their wedding.
- Attending a Marriage Preparation program. This is another means to help the couple understand some of the communication and relationship concerns before entering the marriage, to learn some skills and good practices, and to be more open to the full blessings of the sacrament of marriage.
- Attending a Natural Family Planning (NFP) Introductory Session: This informs the couple about what is involved in practicing NFP and how it helps understand and identify different signs of a woman's natural cycles.

Before the wedding you will also need to get a copy of your baptismal certificate and a marriage license. The baptismal certificate needs to be recent, since it will have a record of your sacraments on it, demonstrating that you are free to marry. It also provides us the address to notify your place of baptism after your wedding, as your place of baptism maintains your sacramental records. The marriage license is only good for one month, so you need to wait until the last month to get it, usually from a courthouse. In Missouri you can get the license anywhere in the state and it can be used for a wedding celebrated anywhere in the state.

A wedding rehearsal is usually scheduled in the evening, one or two nights before the wedding. Ideally, everyone in the wedding party will be there, as well as, anyone who might have a particular role in the service. The rehearsal allows everyone the opportunity to walk through the service so they know where to stand, who to follow, and what cues they might have to know. They don't have to memorize anything, but hopefully everyone will be a little more relaxed at the wedding and can fully participate in the service.

Soon after scheduling the wedding, the couple *must* contact our music director, Parker Bishop, to coordinate and approve the music for the wedding. Parker or any musician can sing or play, but not all music is wedding appropriate and must be preapproved prior to the wedding.

The Assumption Church and Chapel can be reserved up to two years in advance.

Funerals

When a death occurs, the funeral planning may need to be done very quickly, with only a few days before the service will be held. A family will usually be coordinating with a funeral parlor regarding the deceased and either casket or cremation.

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Assumption Men's Group Ministry Thrives

Just over a year ago our Men's Group at Assumption was reformed. 'Reformed' because we previously had a men's group, and they continued to lead certain activities, including the Easter Egg Hunt and the School Golf Tournament, but this was mostly remnants of what it had been at a previous time. Until recently, four parishioners, Michael Bigler, Kelly Gessert, Derek Menne, and Chris Smith, with the assistance of Fr. Nick, met to discuss the vision for a *new* men's group. After fleshing out a few ideas and determining three areas of focus desired – spiritual, service, and social – a mission statement was written, and a general meeting was held to determine how we might live this out.

From the first meeting, it appeared numerous men were looking to be a part of the group. Quickly settling on a basic structure for our meetings, we split into groups to focus on different types of events or activities desired.

- The meetings typically start with a prayer and a spiritual segment, followed by a 10-15 minute spiritual video, and 10-15 minute breakout session to discuss the video and the topic it addressed.
- The different groups, Spiritual, Service, and Social, break up to discuss upcoming or new activities that we might want to lead, as well as the participation and help it might need and any ideas or input from the group.
- We conclude with a prayer and then socialize.

The O'Fallon Knights of Columbus #2269 has been graciously allowing us to use the lower hall for meetings at 7 p.m., the first Wednesday of each month, and monthly attendance ranges from 25-40 men. We hope you will join us as we live out our mission.



Men's Group Mission Statement:

To inspire men to intentionally and passionately live out their Catholic faith, by building an evangelistic brotherhood. Dedicated to cultivating virtues through selfless service to the parish & community, steadfast commitment to prayer & worship, & spiritual development centered on the male vocation.

Funerals continued

The funeral parlor will usually assist in scheduling the burial or interment of the deceased and be involved with scheduling the funeral service. **The family may contact the parish immediately or wait until they meet with the funeral parlor to let us know about the death.**

When the parish is contacted, we can let you know when the church and a priest are available for the service. We have a packet of information to assist in planning the funeral service, that includes sample readings, petitions, and music, along with an outline of the service to show where people may be participating. The priest will set up a meeting with the family to discuss the service and to help plan a visitation hour, if they desire to have one at Assumption before the funeral. The priest also coordinates with our music ministers for the service and, along with our secretary, coordinates livestreaming of the Mass, if desired, and possibly a funeral luncheon in our parish hall.

While our cemetery plots have all been purchased, the parish does have space available in our columbarium for cremated remains. Choosing a niche ahead of time can make it easier for a family when a death does occur. Some people may also consider choosing some readings or music for their funeral service before they die. The time of death is always sad, but we believe that we are meant for an eternal life with God in heaven. Our choices for a funeral Mass express this belief, and while praying for the deceased and those mourning, it inspires us with the hope that is central to our faith.