

ASSUMPTION

Blessed Virgin Mary

PARISH

MAY YOU FIND CHRIST HERE...

MAY YOU BRING CHRIST TO THE WORLD

SEPTEMBER 2025

Inside

For over 154 years, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish has stood as a beacon of faith, hope, and love in the community. Established in 1871, this sacred Catholic Church has flourished into a spiritual home for more than 3,200 parish families and nearly 9,500 parishioners. Its presence on Main Street in O'Fallon radiates the light of Christ's love, visible in every gathering and every act of worship, service, and fellowship. **It is a place where hearts are uplifted, lives are transformed, and the mission to bring Christ to the world is lived out daily.**



Through sacraments like Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage, the parish nurtures the spiritual journeys of its members, celebrating milestones that deepen their connection to God. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) serves as a gateway for many to begin their spiritual path, while the parish's ministries and programs foster fellowship, service, and spiritual growth.

Even in moments of sorrow, such as Funerals, the parish provides comfort and hope, reminding families of the promise of eternal life with God.

The parish's financial stewardship reflects its commitment to sustaining its mission, ensuring that its spiritual and educational programs continue to thrive. With a focus on worship, formation, service, and hospitality, Assumption Parish remains a place where the light of Christ shines brightly in the community.

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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: 3,276

Total # of Catholics: 9,294



Baptisms: 88

42 infants, 0-6 years old
26 children, 1-6 years old
13 children, 7-18 years old
7 adults over 18 years old



First

Communions: 103



Funerals: 66



Confirmations: 107



Weddings: 23



**Professions
of Faith: 16**



*Logan Jordan and Alexandra Hudelson
professed their wedding vows, May 10, 2025.*

Parish Counts Increase Overall, Except for Funerals and Confirmations

The total number of Catholics registered at Assumption increased by 164 parishioners this year over last year. The increase in registrants can be attributed to a number of things, including couples registering to get married or others wanting to baptize their children. But, it also affirms that our parish community is growing, and we are so excited to see more families coming back to Church.

We had 10 more weddings celebrated this year, but only have three scheduled for the coming year, which is a lot less than the 20 we had on the books for 2025 at this time last year. Some of the sacraments, like First Communion and Confirmation, are pretty easy to predict. We look at the day school and PSR, 1st grade and the 7th grade classes, to determine the numbers for the next year.

As for Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals, we realize that these can come at different times in our lives and we celebrate them as the situations arise.

2024-25 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, 2024, and ended on June 30, 2025.

"Through your steady support of Sunday contributions, generous bequests made as part of a will or trust, and our successful efforts to maintain and grow school enrollment, we have been able to continue to invest in our future here at Assumption."

— Fr. Nick

The good news is – we had a good year financially. Our bottom line was a small deficit of \$17,237, after deducting our debt payments. A year earlier, we had a small surplus of \$14,570. (Both relatively small considering we have a budget of over \$5,000,000).

Our total income improved from \$5,362,147 to \$5,584,246. Sunday revenue and other income increased by just over \$84,000, including some generous bequests and distributions from retirement accounts. Tuition and fee income increased by over \$140,000 due to higher enrollment and a five percent (5%) increase in our tuition rates.

While our income improved, our total expenses also increased from \$4,985,675 to \$5,157,215. Our personnel costs (salaries and benefits) increased by nearly \$74,000, mostly from annual salary increases. Occupancy costs increased by just over \$52,000, primarily from contracted cleaning services and utilities.

Capital expenditures increased from \$182,369 to \$210,215. The most significant new expenditure (\$97,724) was the construction of the Early Childhood playground for our younger children. Most of this has been funded by fundraising and donations specifically for the playground. A year ago, we had one-time expenditures for security improvements, including impact-resistant film for glass doors and windows (\$7,175), a new public address system (\$37,925), and over 20 security cameras (\$25,177) on and around our school campus.

Our debt to the Archdiocese, which financed the expansion of our school building in 2013, had a balance of \$227,200 at the end of June 2025. **We are on track to make the last payment on our 15-year loan in June 2026, less than nine months from now. This is considerably earlier than originally estimated when the loan was made and we couldn't be more pleased.**

2024-25 ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

SUMMARY 2024-25 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Actual Results)								
	Parish & Other	School (K-8)	PSR	Youth ministry	Pre-K	Consolidated	Prior year	
Capital campaign revenue	\$ 3,042					\$ 3,042	\$ 5,946	
Tuition and fees	90,326	\$ 1,841,805	\$ 36,620		\$ 388,824	2,357,575	2,216,963	
Sunday revenue and other	2,788,128	376,041	1,025	\$ 56,239	2,196	3,223,629	3,139,238	
Total income	2,881,496	2,217,846	37,645	56,239	391,020	5,584,246	5,362,147	
Personnel	656,238	2,178,628	114,862	101,393	296,234	3,347,355	3,273,058	
Supplies	234,924	125,050	11,232	134,966	2,886	509,058	471,784	
Fees & services	68,988	82,991	843		525	153,347	131,902	
Occupancy	229,802	251,495			52,221	533,518	481,483	
Loan interest	27,400					27,400	44,581	
Insurance & Archdiocese	379,797	163,110	4,174	5,787	33,669	586,537	582,867	
Total expenses	1,597,149	2,801,274	131,111	242,146	385,535	5,157,215	4,985,675	
Net ordinary income (loss)	1,284,347	(583,428)	(93,466)	(185,907)	5,485	427,031	376,472	
Investment fund earnings	91,606					91,606	93,996	
Endowed gifts	8,054					8,054	5,367	
Capital campaign revenue	1,250					1,250	1,396	
Capital expenditures	(116,893)	(84,512)			(8,810)	(210,215)	(182,369)	
Bad debt and non-cash expenses	-	(20,156)				(20,156)	(19,723)	
Net income (loss)	1,268,364	(688,096)	(93,466)	(185,907)	(3,325)	297,570	275,139	
Loan principal payments						314,807	260,569	
Surplus (deficit)						\$ (17,237)	\$ 14,570	

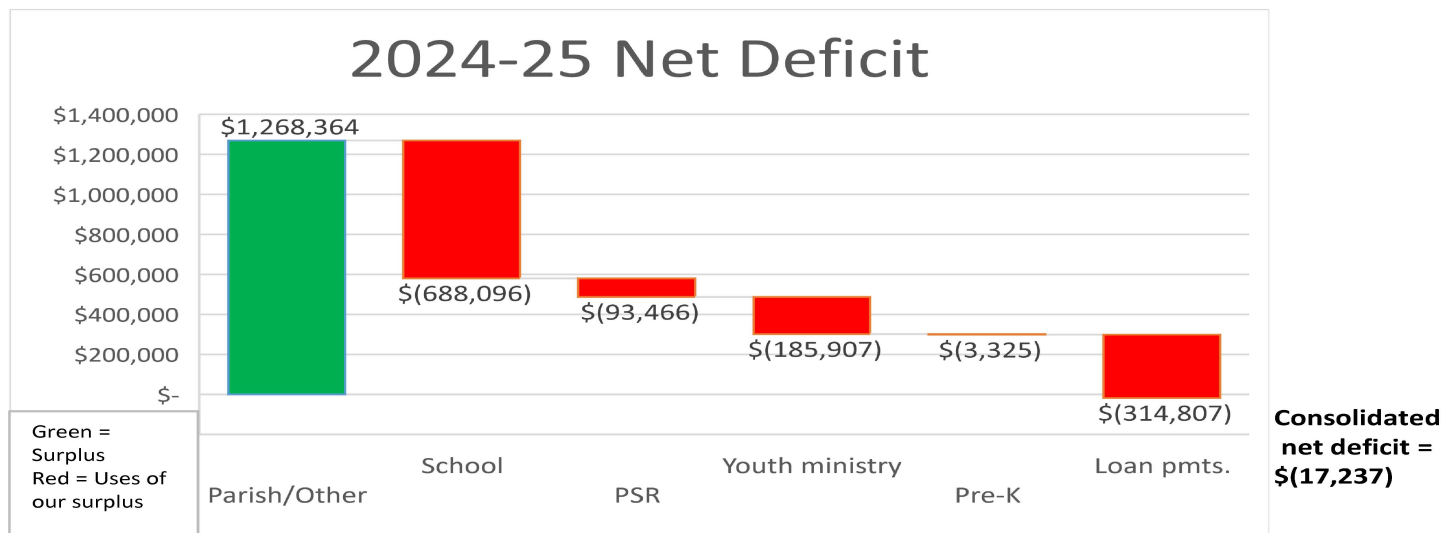
Parish Funds Secure Parish Mission

How is the Parish money spent?

The chart below shows how the net income of the parish operations (green column) is used to support the operations of our school, parish school of religion (PSR), and youth ministry (Life Teen) programs (red column). **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 \$688,096 for 2024-25. **This is a slight improvement over the previous year (\$691,764) and a considerable achievement, since the previous year included a one-time grant of \$89,600 from the Archdiocese of St. Louis.**

Our PSR and Life Teen programs are critical to raising the next generation of Assumption parishioners. **In 2024-25, our support of those programs amounted to \$93,466 and \$185,907, respectively, including personnel expenses.**



Thank you

The blessings we've experienced this past year are a reflection of God's grace working through the love and generosity of our parish family. Your prayers and contributions have been a source of strength, enabling us to continue our mission of sharing Christ's light and love with the world. Looking ahead to 2026, we trust in God's providence and humbly ask for your continued support to sustain and grow our Church and ministries. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your kindness and commitment to His work. If you have any questions about our parish finances, please feel free to reach out.

Peace,

Fr. Nick

2024-25 ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2025

Assets

Cash and bank accounts	245,724
Funds on deposit at the St. Louis Archdiocesan Fund	119,255
Accounts receivable	123,724
Prepaid expenses	2,268
Restricted endowment funds	842,020
Total assets	1,332,991

Liabilities and fund balance

Accounts payable	1,302
Special collections payable	34,772
Archdiocese assessments	230,141
Unearned income and other	233,751
Construction loan from the Archdiocese of St. Louis	227,200
Total liabilities	727,166
 Fund balance (assets minus liabilities)	 605,825
Total liabilities and fund balance	1,332,991

Discovering the Beauty of the Catholic Faith

We are all called to evangelize by living our faith joyfully and transparently, sharing our personal testimony of how Christ transforms our lives, and by actively participating in community life through acts of service, as well as inviting others to Mass, and engaging in respectful conversations that lead to a deeper encounter with Christ.

God and community bring people to our faith, and Assumption is the place where many spiritual journeys begin...

Every year, we offer an invitation to anyone 16 years and older to experience the fullness and beauty of the Catholic Faith. It's a chance to listen to God's call, deepen your relationship with Him, and take the next steps toward becoming part of the Catholic Church.

The 'Overview of the Catholic Faith' is where it all begins. The annual presentation is given by our Pastor, Father Nick Kastenholz, and is supported by our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) team, formerly R.C.I.A.

The program offers to anyone interested in becoming Catholic, a unique opportunity to explore the rich history, beliefs, and sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church, while



Olivia York is Baptized during the Easter Vigil in the Church on April 19, 2025.

*God calls
many to the
Catholic Faith
at Assumption*



'Overview of the Catholic Faith' in the Church on August 29, 2024.

discovering how Catholics embraced Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior.

Over the past several years, there's been a great need for God... our youth group is growing exponentially at Assumption, and so is our O.C.I.A. program. Many Catechumens (people who never received Christian Baptism) and Candidates (people who received Baptism in a different denomination) are feeling like they need something more in their life; God is talking to them and they are listening. Just last year, we had a total of 29 join the program to become Catholic, including one in college who was learning with the group, one from our youth group, and five children.

People are coming into the parish office saying they are being drawn to the Church. The pews are fuller and people are getting back to Church.

God speaks through our O.C.I.A. team, and they have become a great instrument of God, reaching out to those seeking the Catholic faith. We are supposed to love each other and help each other get to heaven. Assisting people build a relationship with God and become part of the Catholic Church is part of our calling. Thank you to all who help.

Assumption Music and the Mass

Music is a spiritual treasure that elevates prayer, unifies the congregation, and gives greater solemnity to the sacred rites.

*"He who sings well,
prays twice."*

-St. Augustine

Each Sunday, we gather to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Mass. The music, whether it be the traditional hymn we've known for years, or a new worship song we're hearing for the first time, is one of the most important parts of this celebration. But have you ever wondered why music holds such a central place in our liturgy? Rooted in the Bible and the earliest Christian traditions, music has long been understood as a powerful way to glorify God and lead the faithful into a deeper encounter with divine mystery.

The Church teaches that music is not merely decoration for the Mass; it is an integral part of the liturgical action. *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (or GIRM)* states that the purpose of sacred music is "the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful." In simpler terms, its role is to make our prayer more powerful and beautiful for God and to make us holier.

Music achieves this in several profound ways:

Our singing is a powerful symbol of the unity we share as the Body of Christ. Just as many notes form a single beautiful chord, our individual voices—whether strong, soft, trained, or untrained—blend into one communal voice of prayer. This act of singing



together physically embodies our spiritual unity, transcending our personal differences and strengthening our identity as a family of faith.

The words we sing are not arbitrary; they are primarily God's own Word from Scripture, like the Psalms, the Gloria and the Holy, Holy, Holy. Music has the unique power to lift these sacred texts off the page. A melody can highlight the joy of a praise or the sorrow of a lament, helping the truth of the words to sink into our hearts and memory in a way that the spoken word alone often cannot. "When words fail...music speaks."

Certain moments in the Mass are so filled with divine mystery that they call for a response greater than speech. The "Alleluia" as we prepare to hear the Gospel, the "Holy, Holy, Holy" as the Eucharistic Prayer begins, and the "Great Amen," affirming Christ's real presence—these are acclamations of awe, joy, and faith. Music is the natural and God-given vehicle for this profound expression, allowing our whole being—body, mind, and soul—to participate in the divine encounter.

The music of the Mass is not a performance we watch from the pews; it is a prayer we are all called to join. Whether you feel you have a "good" voice or not, your vocal participation is a gift that you offer to God and to your fellow parishioners. It strengthens our communal bond and amplifies our collective worship.

The next time we start to worship together at Mass, remember: you are not just singing a song. You are adding your voice to an ancient and glorious tradition, uniting your prayer with the saints throughout history, and giving a more perfect offering of praise to our loving God.