

ASSUMPTION *of the* *Blessed Virgin Mary* PARISH

PARISH, SACRAMENTS, AND PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

SEPTEMBER 2023

Inside

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 of the parish activities throughout the year. A summary of the report for the past year is as follows:

Registered Households: 3,292

Total # of Catholics: 9,164



Baptisms: 88

76 infants, 0-6 years old
8 children, 7-18 years old
4 adults over 18 years old



First Communions: 89



Weddings: 23



Funerals: 78



Confirmations: 108



Professions of Faith: 12



*Kaitlyn Blattel and Sean Loreaux
exchange vows April 15, 2023*

- 2 2022-23 Annual Parish Financial Report
- 3 Parish Funds Secure Parish Mission
- 4 Assumption Youth Ministries Thrive
- 5-6 Parishioners, Sacraments, and Professions of Faith

The professions of faith numbers are larger than normal this year. Although they are exactly the same numbers reported in 2017, these numbers are the most we have seen in over a decade, and that's good news!

continued on page 5

2022-23 ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

The past fiscal year was challenging... In 2022-23, Assumption had a deficit of \$228,000, compared to a deficit of \$63,000 in 2021-22. The effects of inflation on our costs, especially salaries, as well as higher interest rates on our loan from the Archdiocese, are a cause for concern. Our income from tuition and offertory collections has not been growing fast enough to cover the higher costs, and that trend is depleting our operating reserves.

At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2023, we had operating reserves of \$556,000 in the bank, and we owed \$803,000 to the Archdiocese for our school construction loan.

To ensure the longevity of our parish for future generations, all of us must focus on:

1. enrolling more students in our school
2. growing the number of parishioners
3. increasing financial support of the parish
4. including the parish's needs in your estate planning, and IRA and 401(k) distributions

Our total income for 2022-23 was \$4,825,000, which is \$115,000 less than in the previous year. The previous year included government grant income of \$307,000 at our school for COVID-19 recovery. That grant did not repeat in 2022-23. Our offertory collections were up \$96,000 over 2021-22, an increase of 5%. Our K-8 school tuition declined by \$29,000 (2%), but pre-K tuition increased by \$119,000 (39%) from the prior year.

Total expenses for 2022-23 were \$4,736,000, as compared to \$4,438,000 in the year prior to that. Personnel expenses increased by \$347,000, including a \$47,000 increase in health insurance. We also had some teacher turnover during the summer of 2022, and the replacement teachers qualified for higher rates of pay due to experience.

Our interest expense also increased from \$32,000 to \$62,000, due to the Archdiocese floating interest rate that increased from 2.75% to 6.25%. Our school loan payments are \$21,000 per month, and the good news is that the parish is on track to make the last payment in August 2026.

SUMMARY 2022-23 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023						2021-22
	Parish & Other	School (K-8)	PSR	LifeTeen	Pre-K	Consolidated	Consolidated
Capital campaign revenue	\$ 12,798					\$ 12,798	\$ 41,365
Tuition and fees	76,262	\$ 1,441,965	\$ 44,749		\$ 425,788	1,988,764	1,889,454
Sunday revenue and other	2,380,289	406,780	(170)	\$ 34,542	2,324	2,823,765	3,009,739
Total income	2,469,349	1,848,745	44,579	34,542	428,112	4,825,327	4,940,558
Personnel	675,971	1,860,220	95,146	75,161	339,233	3,045,731	2,698,543
Supplies	235,265	142,889	15,771	76,903	3,718	474,546	497,371
Fees & services	50,255	77,876	1,993	79	585	130,788	159,298
Occupancy	246,991	239,388	1,440		36,892	524,711	499,184
Loan interest	62,042					62,042	32,384
Insurance & Archdiocese	323,447	140,529	4,605	3,652	25,512	497,745	551,128
Total expenses	1,593,971	2,460,902	118,955	155,795	405,940	4,735,563	4,437,908
Net ordinary income (loss)	875,378	(612,157)	(74,376)	(121,253)	22,172	89,764	502,650
Investment fund earnings	96,702					96,702	(122,490)
Endowed gifts	4,371	806				5,177	21,389
Capital campaign revenue	3,169	35				3,204	3,672
Govt. loan forgiveness	-					-	-
Capital expenditures	(15,424)	(95,242)			(1,358)	(112,024)	(182,472)
Non-cash expenses						30	
Bad debt		(25,601)				(25,601)	(9,159)
Net income (loss)	964,196	(732,159)	(74,376)	(121,253)	20,814	57,252	213,590
Loan principal payments						284,953	276,593
Surplus (deficit)						\$ (227,701)	\$ (63,003)

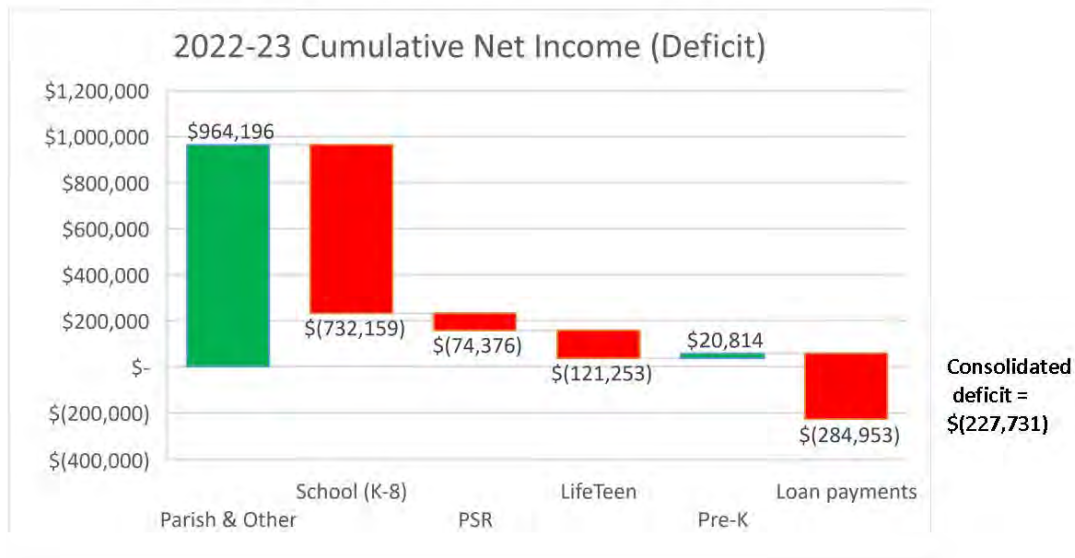
Parish Funds Secure Parish Mission

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 important to the mission of our parish, and are subsidized with parish funds.

The elementary school (K-8) had a net loss of \$732,000 for 2022-23 and tuition income was slightly lower, while personnel expenses increased by 9.5%.

Our PSR and Life Teen programs are critical to raising the next generation of Assumption parishioners. **In 2022-23, our support of the programs amounted to \$74,000 and \$121,000, respectively, including personnel expenses.**



2023-24 Financial Concerns

For 152 years, all parishioners, not just the school parents, have supported the cost of running the school. When those costs go up, tuition rates and parishioner contributions need to go up too. For the current 2023-24 school year, we are facing 10% higher costs, as we have accepted the Archdiocese's recommendation to raise full-time teacher salaries by \$5,000, which was long overdue. We also have increased tuition rates by 10%, which was a sacrifice for our school parents. However, to keep our deficit in check, we need a 10% increase in parishioner contributions as well.

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. Thank you! 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 2024. If you have questions about our parish finances, please contact me.

Peace,

Fr. Nick

Assumption Youth Ministries Thrive

Assumption Youth Ministry is a Eucharist-centered Catholic ministry for middle school and high school teens. By sharing the teachings of our Church and facilitating powerful encounters with Christ, we help teenagers grow in knowledge of our faith, while transforming hearts to help them passionately live out the gospel by serving and loving one another.

Life Teen, our high school ministry, begins with the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Life Teen Mass, and then meets from 6:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m., always starting with a meal, and then moving into session that breaks down our Catholic faith in a way that is vibrant, interactive, and leads to a deeper relationship with God and our parish community. We offer a weekend Fall Retreat at Marianist Retreat Center in Eureka, MO, as well as several summer retreat opportunities including the Life Teen Leadership Conference, Steubenville Youth Conference, and Life Teen Camp Covecrest. Teens are also an integral part of presenting our Luke 18 Confirmation Retreat to our 8th graders.



Eighth graders gather for Eucharistic Adoration during our annual Luke 18 Retreat.



Assumption Life Teen fun at Camp Covecrest 2022.

Edge, our middle school ministry, is offered in tandem with PSR and serves as dynamic faith formation in a youth ministry setting, preparing 7th and 8th grade youth to receive their Confirmation. All 7th grade and 8th grade youth are welcome, both Assumption school and public-school students. Students meet in grade-specific small groups that remain consistent throughout the year to facilitate holy friendships and trust, as well as mentoring relationships with adults and teen core members who lead the small group. Each Edge session is dynamic, prayerful, educational, and fun.



Middle schoolers at Assumption Edge enjoy exciting 3-D activities.

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

A profession of faith isn't a sacrament but is the means by which a person who was baptized in another Christian church, whose baptism we recognize as valid, is received into the Catholic Church. The most common situation to celebrate this is for adults who were raised or became a part of another Christian church, but are now coming into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and are received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. In this case, they would have been going through instructions on our faith throughout the previous year, and then immediately after making their profession of faith, they would be Confirmed and receive their First Communion, also at the Easter Vigil.



One of 12 baptized during Easter Vigil 2023.

Officially, the RCIA is designed for adults who are not baptized and are coming into the Church, but there are often many who have been baptized and desire to become Catholic and receive the sacraments and they need similar catechesis. Last year, at the Easter Vigil, we had 10 professions of faith and 5 baptisms celebrated. Each came from a unique background and were different ages. Some were teenagers who were learning about our faith through our youth ministry programs and meetings particularly for them. Most were adults who were participating in our RCIA program (the ones who are with us at the 8 a.m. Sunday Masses). So, if you are counting the numbers you might ask me, "You said we had 12 professions of faith but you only mentioned 10 at the Easter Vigil, what about the other 2?" The Easter Vigil is the most common time

to receive the baptized into the Church, but it can happen at other times if there is a need, and particularly if they are still children. It is not uncommon to have a couple of children each year who may be in first or second grade who we receive into the Church.

One or both of the parents may already be Catholic, so the parents are not being received into the Church, but for some reason they were worshipping at another Christian Church when they had their child and had them baptized there. But now that their child has reached school age and may soon receive their First Reconciliation



Candidates are welcomed into the baptismal font one at a time to be baptized.

continued on page 6

"I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God." (RCIA Paragraph 491)

and First Communion, they have decided to come back to the Catholic Church and raise their child Catholic. In these situations the parent does not need to be received into the Church, but the child does, especially if they desire to receive the sacraments with others their age, and so we receive them into the Church whenever is appropriate for their situation.

In some ways we can wonder why we have to be so difficult and have these different requirements that people have to meet. I consider that I am glad God is so accommodating. That He knows we are each unique and are on different journeys, and sin and separation do occur at times. But God wants us all to be united, with one another, and eventually with Him in heaven. Christ came and gave us this Church and the Sacraments, and following the Bible, Tradition, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we try to follow Christ on our journeys, and we need to also invite and help others to do so with us.

You might hear us use the word evangelize at times, and we find it in these professions of faith. When we evangelize we have found the good news in Jesus Christ so we want to bring it to others so they may also have it and bring them to Him.



Those who have already been baptized in another Christian Church are being received into full communion with the Church.



Those being baptized and their sponsors gather at the baptismal font.

For those coming into the Catholic Church that were not baptized, that is obvious, since they have not known Christ. For other Christians who have already been baptized but are not Catholic, we believe the fullness of Christ, the sacraments, and how Christ meant us to be united. Life is found in the Catholic Church; Christ is our head, and we are his body. We do not deny the relationship other Christians already have with Christ, that is why we believe in their baptisms and do not re-baptize people coming to the Catholic Church from other Christian denominations. But we do have a process to receive them into the Catholic Church, to be sure they understand what they are doing and are open to the obligations, the rights, and all the graces God offers us in the sacraments.

But we also have to realize that evangelization isn't just for non-Christians, or non-Catholics. All of us could grow in our relationship with God, and our unity with one another. There is still plenty of room for more in our church, and always in our Church.

Peace,

Fr. Nick