

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish – Queensbury

REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES and PARISHIONERS – STATE OF THE PARISH

January 2025

Once again it is that time of the year to report on the "State of the Parish" from the Pastor's perspective. What follows are some thoughts on the trends, needs, accomplishments of this past year as well as a direction for the future. I thank you for your support and prayers.



STATE OF THE PARISH

This year we made only a few **improvements** ... resealed the parking lot, had electrical work done on the outside lights, continued to have problems with the sound system and live-streaming.

The continuing challenge going forward will be getting more **people involved** in the parish, the shrinking **number of clergy**, and a monitoring of the **finances** (cost of food is a major concern for everyone these days)

Fr. Busch has been pastor here since 2005 ... and **reached retirement** age in November 2024. He did resign from as the Episcopal Vicar for the Adirondack Vicariate on December 31, 2024. Plans to celebrate his 45th Anniversary in July 2025 are underway.

People have been **supporting the parish** with the weekly collections, but with mail-ins and on-line giving. The goal for 2025 will be to have more participate by on-line giving. Income tax statements will be available through flock notes and the website in 2025.

This year the **parish logo was changed along with the bulletin** with the help of Liturgical press. In 2025 we will work on the website.

Using **Flock Notes** has improved communication with the parish. We need to promote this with the congregation.

In general the parish is doing very well with the support through contributions, and the upkeep on the buildings and property that has been accomplished.

The future is uncertain with regards to an aging population, lack of volunteers, the shortage of clergy, and economy. The bankruptcy has not yet been resolved.

Staffing

- **Joe Yaroshak** – is the janitor for both OLA and Sacred Heart. He works 1 day at OLA and the other 4 at Sacred Heart.

Last year we hired **ALLPro** to maintain the cleaning of the Church and parish buildings for OLA. There has been a change in their staff, Terry and Derek have left. Cheryl has taken over.

We have a contracted service for **lawn maintenance**. They did an excellent job this summer and we will continue to use this.

- We do have a contract with **North Country Snow Removal**. **Sean Sullivan** has volunteered to clean the walkways with the parish owned equipment – Kubota and Snow blower. **Andy Caruso** who volunteers as overseer of Buildings and Grounds in Lake George has assisted Sean in the hydraulics of the snow equipment.
- We hired **Paul Scott** as the PT secretary last year. He has formally been a School Superintendent, very knowledgeable in HR issues, and all Computer software.
- **Alesia Tarbell** continues on as the other PT secretary, now serving since 2009.
- **Patti Abbott** continues as Bookkeeper and Business Manager, both at OLA Queensbury and Sacred Heart in Lake George.
- **Sue Wright** continues as Director of Music.
- **Maria Gargano** continues as Faith Formation director.

Trustees

- **Rich Zaccaro** and **Roxanne Odom** will continue till June 30, 2025 when their terms will be up. (This is their 6th year) New Trustees will need to be appointed.

Finances

- **Tony Farrer** continues to chair the finance committee. We have not met in a number of years due staffing changes and COVID.
- We will form a new committee to meet quarterly beginning April 2025. Annually we will meet with our investment firms: Arrow Bank and Edward Jones. Rich Zaccaro will join this group as his term of trustee will end.

Capital Improvements

- Removed a dead tree in the lot and had the lot resealed. Future improvements will include the curbing, a new sign for the front, and replacing the cube lights at the entrances.
- Installed a *mini-split* in AV room for Air conditioning.
- Continued work on Sound System and Live streaming

CLERGY SHORTAGE – Aging Catholic population trends

Tom Cronin has replaced Deacon Frank Berning as head of Pastoral or Strategic Planning last year.

Fr. Ken Swain continues to help with weekend Masses. He is 80 years old. The problem is the Mass times do not allow one priest to cover the 3 parishes. Sacred Heart in Lake George and St. Cecilia's in Warrensburg have a 10 am Mass. OLA has 8 am and 11:30 am.

This year we had to implement the celebration of Eucharist in the absence of the priest in Lake George and once in Warrensburg.

Deacon Ryan McNulty led the service – no one left, all understood as we have been talking about the shortage for a number of years. [In December 2024 Fr. Busch became ill at the 4 pm vigil and could not celebrate the 5:30 pm in Lake George.] This trend of substituting Communion services for Mass will continue in the diocese with the lack of priests available.

Not only is there a lack of priests to cover, but there is also a great need for people to be involved in ministries such as lector, eucharistic minister and server (including funerals).

Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025 will only have Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes – no Mass on that day.

Future is uncertain. Churches will have to close due to a lack of people, clergy, and revenue. We must begin to prepare people now for this and encourage them to travel to the nearest church. Also, we must return to training lay leaders for the Celebration of the Eucharist in the absence of a priest.

Mass times will need to be adjusted if the priest/pastor is to cover multiple churches. Some churches will have to close. Perhaps Eucharist will not be offered in every church every week. Priest will become the circuit rider.


Educating the people continues to be a priority at this time. Ministry training will be essential.

Bishop Ed is unwilling to close churches. However, with the bankruptcy and priest shortage – he may not have a choice.

COMPARISION Year 2023 to Year 2024

Our Lady of the Annunciation Queensbury						
MONTHLY AVERAGE	Count	Collection		MONTHLY AVERAGE	Count	Collection
January 2023	485	\$ 8,444.20		January 2024	490	\$ 7,043.75
February 2023	446	\$ 6,084.25		February 2024	537	\$ 8,692.07
March 20223	446	\$ 6,418.25		March 20224	402	\$ 8,498.00
April 2023	580	\$ 8,178.60		April 2024	567	\$ 7,520.40
May 2023	505	\$ 7,324.50		May 2024	552	\$ 6,241.75
June 2023	565	\$ 8,228.56		June 2024	570	\$ 6,957.80
July 2023	612	\$ 7,300.20		July 2024	596	\$ 4,793.00
August 2023	590	\$ 7,622.38		August 2024	622	\$ 8,354.00
September 2023	562	\$ 7,317.83		September 2024	521	\$ 6,447.00
October 2023	527	\$ 6,487.30		October 2024	556	\$ 7,059.88
November 2023	546	\$ 7,099.50		November 2024	534	\$ 7,262.56
December 2023	514	\$ 7,013.95		December 2024	553	\$ 7,111.75
OVERALL AVERAGE	531	\$ 7,293.29		OVERALL AVERAGE	542	\$ 7,165.16
Easter 2023	799	\$ 12,852.00		Easter 2024	818	\$ 10,933.00
Christmas 2023	860	\$ 11,879.00		Christmas 2024	964	\$ 12,747.00

Sacramental Statistics											
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 yr Average
Baptisms	31	25	24	20	15	18	21	21	17	19	19
First Communion	30	27	15	24	11	11	11	15	12	14	13
Confirmation	62	44	42	38	28	15	14	9	14	6	12
Deaths	29	27	32	27	36	27	25	30	23	25	26
Marriages	7	3	3	5	7	5	3	4	0	0	2

Our Lady of the Annunciation - Queensbury																			
RELIGIOUS ED PROGRAM - Past Years' comparison																			
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-2024	2024-25								
Gr 1 - 8 HS		194	106	88	114	93	87	85	89	82	74								
		144	105	104	88	32	42	31	28	15	26								
TOTAL			211	192	202	125	129	116	117	97	100								
BREAKDOWN																			
		Switch to Family Program																	
First Communion Confirmations		30	27	17	23	11	13	14	15	12	14								
		62	44	42	38	29	16	13	9	10	6								
Pre-School Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8			3	2	2	2				4	5								
					9	8	6	8	5	7	5								
		18	15	7	7	10	9	6	10	8	10								
		22	14	17	15	7	12	10	10	14	13								
		24	5	13	21	12	8	11	10	8	9								
		20	9	6	13	14	10	11	12	5	6								
		22	8	6	8	12	14	9	11	13	6								
		18	17	10	11	6	9	13	8	8	7								
TOTAL		194	106	88	114	93	87	85	89	82	74								
9th		36	27	29	16	16	11	9	5	11	13								
10th		50	32	40	31	16	15	9	11	4	13								
		58	46	35	41		16	13	12										
TOTAL		144	105	104	88	32	42	31	28	15	26								

Where are we going to be as a Church in the near future?

Our Diocesan Appeal supports the offices at 40 North Main – one of which is the Office of Evangelization & Strategic Planning – headed by Tom Cronin.

Role of the Office

- With bankruptcy reorganization, there has been streamlining at the diocesan level and we are down 21 positions.
- The office formerly known as “Pastoral Planning” is tasked with doing planning through the lens of evangelization, our ultimate mission and why we exist as a Church, following Mt. 28:19
- How do we **manage our limited resources to fulfill our mission?** We are looking at this as a 5-year plan.



Standings

In the statistics that follow, note that 2022 was a poor investment year, that numbers were down, and that 2023 had improvements, so they subtracted PPP & ERC to get a fair look at the numbers:

- 41 out of 126 parishes were net positive 2022
- 63 out of 126 parishes were net positive 2023
- 21 out of 126 parishes were net positive for both years



There are 54 active diocesan priests under 69.

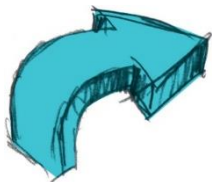
Average workload is 4 Masses per priest per weekend.

Priests report that parish & network management has increased stress.

A key Question under discussion on the Diocesan level and local level – for the **future, where do we need our bricks and mortar to fulfill our mission?**

People in our pews don't know the state of affairs, they don't know that their parish is doing so poorly, or the nature of the number of priests in the pipeline, or of the development of any leaders for their parish. Parishioners deserve to know the facts – **first step is communication.**

Understand the situation according to three aspects:



- clergy shortage,
- demographics local to each parish,
- and parish finances.

The only one of these where parishioners have any control is “finances”.

The Diocesan Appeal is crucial for our diocese. It provides services that individual parishes cannot afford

Our Lady Of The Annunciation Church
 Stmt. of Financial Position (Bal. Sheet) for 12/2024

	<u>12/2024</u>	<u>12/2023</u>
0100.10 CASH OPER. ACCNT-CHURCH	\$306,213.14	\$318,311.65
0102 PETTY CASH ACCOUNT	100.00	100.00
0104 OLA Reigniting Our Faith Campaign	0.00	100.00
0111 SAVINGS MM SPEC-BUS LMTD 9	57,906.93	57,906.93
0130 INVESTMENT	551,253.99	539,027.64
0131 INVESTMENT MARKET VALUATION	224,528.33	166,986.90
0132.10 EDWARD JONES 280-1-6 (Book V	400,000.00	400,000.00
0133.10 EDWARD JONES 280-1-16 (Mkt V	248,643.15	169,492.13
0200.10 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	0.00	4,646.91
0255.15 Re-Igniting our Faith	112,925.14	104,300.22
0280 TRANSITORY INCOME	(100.00)	0.00
0280.30 AACL (Patti)	(1,193.45)	(1,193.45)
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,900,277.23</u>	<u>\$1,759,678.93</u>
0640.10 NYSPFL Withholding	\$84.43	\$111.32
0640.30 NYSPFLWithholding	13.38	15.72
0650.10 HEALTH INS. WITHHOLDING	31.32	0.00
0651.10 Dental & Vision Insurance	1.08	0.00
0685.10 DEFERRED REVENUE - CLASSY	450.00	450.00
0815 CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	0.00	10.00
0827 Catholic Charities	0.00	5.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	580.21	592.04
0900 FUND BALANCE	\$8,590.79	\$88,838.00
0901 PRIOR YEAR BALANCE	<u>1,891,106.23</u>	<u>1,670,248.89</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	1,899,697.02	1,759,086.89
TOTAL LIABILITIES / EQUITY	<u>\$1,900,277.23</u>	<u>\$1,759,678.93</u>

Our Lady Of The Annunciation Church
Stmnt. of Activity (Income Statement) for 07/2024 thru 12/2024

	Year to Date 07/2024-12/2024	Year to Date 07/2023-12/2023	Variance of Cur. to Prior
CHURCH INCOME-			
1001.10 REGULAR COLLECTIONS	190,612.43	187,946.22	2,666.21
1005.10 COLLECTION - EGIVING	75.00	0.00	75.00
1011.10 FLOWERS	2,500.00	1,446.00	1,054.00
1012.10 HOLY DAYS	4,606.00	3,832.25	773.75
1015.10 COLLECTIONS, SPECIAL- AC/HEAT	6,020.00	7,030.00	(1,010.00)
1016.10 COLLECTIONS, CHRISTMAS	12,477.00	10,919.00	1,558.00
1100.10 BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL RECEIPTS	7,500.00	5,400.00	2,100.00
1110.10 PAMPHLETS & PAPERS ETC.	0.00	51.00	(51.00)
1140.10 INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	7,284.24	11,355.91	(4,071.67)
1141.10 REALIZED GAINS	0.00	18,057.39	(18,057.39)
1281.15 RIOF Income	1,443.75	5,730.90	(4,287.15)
1282.15 RIOF Interest Income	560.11	996.47	(436.36)
1300.30 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RECEIPTS	3,615.00	3,825.00	(210.00)
1315.10 TRANSFERS FROM MASS OFFERING/STIPEND AC	0.00	4,070.44	(4,070.44)
1320.10 EVANGELIST	10.00	183.00	(173.00)
1350.10 SPECIAL EVENTS/FUNDRAISING	1,003.80	946.85	56.95
1351.10 FUNDRAISING - CLASSY CRAFTS	13,041.50	11,972.00	1,069.50
1400.10 DONATIONS/MEMORIALS	2,137.00	1,874.00	263.00
1440.10 RESTRICTED DONATIONS	300.00	318.00	(18.00)
1455.10 REIMBURSED EXP	27,903.97	38,198.38	(10,294.41)
1456.10 Loan Repayment	0.00	30,339.00	(30,339.00)
1459.10 Rebates from Diocese	0.00	550.00	(550.00)
1460.10 NON ASSESSABLE INC. (OTHER)	273.00	7.08	265.92
1615.10 UNREALIZED GAIN/LOSS	62,019.27	47,663.78	14,355.49
TOTAL INCOME - FAITH FORMATION	\$343,382.07	\$392,712.67	(\$49,330.60)
CHURCH EXPENSES			
RECTORY EXPENSES			
REL. ED. EXPENSES			
HALL EXPENSES			
2100.10 SALARIES-CLERGY	\$23,149.00	\$19,159.92	(\$3,989.08)
2101.10 SALARIES-CLERGY-EXTRA	7,734.84	7,422.10	(312.74)
2104.10 SALARIES, LAY	56,075.83	60,379.55	4,303.72
2104.30 SALARIES, LAY (FAITH FORMATION)	7,742.24	7,499.96	(242.28)
2105.10 OCCASIONAL HELP	1,499.00	1,750.00	251.00
2200.10 BENEFITS,HEALTH & DENTAL-CLERG	5,652.18	4,361.65	(1,290.53)
2204.10 BENEFITS, HEALTH & DENTAL-LAY	7,462.02	5,242.97	(2,219.05)
2225.10 BENEFITS, DISABILITY-LAY	164.84	206.63	41.79
2225.30 BENEFITS, DISABILITY-LAY	44.21	43.50	(0.71)
2230.10 BENEFITS, Pension Retirement & Health - Clergy	3,698.40	3,644.80	(53.60)
2231.10 BENEFITS EXPENSE, TSA, CLERGY	875.00	750.00	(125.00)
2234.10 BENEFITS, PENSION-LAY	(897.92)	(765.21)	132.71
2304.10 PAYROLL TAXES-FICA	4,098.16	4,333.03	234.87
2304.30 PAYROLL TAXES-FICA	592.30	573.82	(18.48)
2324.10 BENEFIT, WORKER'S COMP.	2,490.00	2,371.00	(119.00)

Our Lady Of The Annunciation Church
 Stmt. of Activity (Income Statement) for 07/2024 thru 12/2024

	Year to Date <u>07/2024-12/2024</u>	Year to Date <u>07/2023-12/2023</u>	Variance of <u>Cur. to Prior</u>
2344.10 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	213.38	239.48	26.10
2344.30 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	110.50	110.24	(0.26)
2350.10 BACKGROUND CHECKS	0.00	1,508.00	1,508.00
2350.30 BACKGROUND CHECKS	36.00	366.00	330.00
2410.10 SERVICES, LEGAL, ACCOUNTING	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
2500.10 PAMPHLETS AND PAPER EXPENSES	3,011.90	2,193.00	(818.90)
2510.10 SUPPLIES, OFFICE	1,383.60	1,163.11	(220.49)
2510.30 SUPPLIES, OFFICE/CLASSROOM FF	342.69	105.15	(237.54)
2515.10 SUPPLIES, COMPUTER RELATED	0.00	80.49	80.49
2520.10 SUPPLIES, MAINTENANCE & HOUSE	916.21	689.03	(227.18)
2525.10 SUPPLIES ALTAR-GENERAL	1,509.49	1,008.72	(500.77)
2530.10 SUPPLIES, ALTAR-FLOWERS	47.97	0.00	(47.97)
2540.10 CLOTHING-VESTMENTS	0.00	470.44	470.44
2550.10 FOOD	644.82	796.90	152.08
2550.20 FOOD	3,000.00	3,500.00	500.00
2550.30 FOOD	361.74	604.08	242.34
2560.10 SUPPLIES, CHURCH ENVELOPES	680.44	826.95	146.51
2565.10 SUPPLIES EXP., SMALL EQUIPMENT- FURNISHI	687.93	2,430.43	1,742.50
2570.30 TEXTBOOKS	2,545.80	3,147.76	601.96
2600.10 TELEPHONE	299.94	299.94	0.00
2600.20 TELEPHONE	299.94	299.94	0.00
2600.30 TELEPHONE	299.94	299.94	0.00
2650.10 INTERNET EXPENSE	346.66	259.98	(86.68)
2650.20 INTERNET EXPENSE	436.61	259.98	(176.63)
2650.30 INTERNET EXPENSE	346.62	259.98	(86.64)
2700.10 POSTAGE, CARRIERS	438.00	396.00	(42.00)
2810.10 CONTRACTED SERVICE-MAINTENANCE	26,382.61	24,518.83	(1,863.78)
2815.10 CONTRACTED SERVICES-OTHER	13,747.37	4,399.07	(9,348.30)
2815.20 CONTRACTED SERVICES-OTHER	851.94	786.66	(65.28)
2815.30 CONTRACTED SERVICES-OTHER	1,410.00	591.25	(818.75)
2830.10 UTILITIES	5,154.90	3,784.50	(1,370.40)
2830.20 UTILITIES	497.17	541.57	44.40
2831.10 UTILITIES, SEWER AND WATER	336.40	456.40	120.00
2831.20 UTILITIES, WATER AND SEWER	70.00	70.00	0.00
2840.10 MAINTENANCE-GROUNDS	3,399.98	3,740.96	340.98
2850.10 INSURANCE, PROPERTY & VEHICLES	19,013.00	18,107.00	(906.00)
2850.20 INSURANCE, PROPERTY & VEHICLES	2,505.00	2,385.00	(120.00)
2870.10 REPAIRS/UPKEEP-BUILDING	0.00	113.49	113.49
2870.20 REPAIRS/UPKEEP-STRUCTURE	0.00	3,850.00	3,850.00
2880.10 REPAIRS,FURNISHINGS&GRDS&EQUIP	1,200.00	46.10	(1,153.90)
2890.10 TRASH REMOVAL	2,203.75	619.00	(1,584.75)
3210.10 TRANSPORTATION-OTHER TRAVEL EX	0.00	101.12	101.12
3300.10 CLERGY REIMBURSEMENT	3,112.94	3,971.01	858.07
3400.10 SUBSCRIPTIONS, DUES-OTHER	3,830.00	535.10	(3,294.90)
3400.30 SUBSCRIPTION-DUES,OTHERS	325.00	2,524.00	2,199.00
3420.10 LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS	3,624.41	3,409.12	(215.29)

Our Lady Of The Annunciation Church
Stmnt. of Activity (Income Statement) for 07/2024 thru 12/2024

	Year to Date <u>07/2024-12/2024</u>	Year to Date <u>07/2023-12/2023</u>	Variance of <u>Cur. to Prior</u>
3430.10 REFERENCE MATERIALS	609.60	585.60	(24.00)
3440.10 EVANGELIST EXPENSES	1,405.52	3,194.65	1,789.13
3600.10 CHOIR -SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	3,795.37	164.69	(3,630.68)
4200.10 AWRDS/RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION	2,250.00	2,100.00	(150.00)
4200.30 AWARDS/RECOGNITION/APPRECIATIO	200.00	200.00	0.00
4210.30 TRAINING/EDUCATION-PROFESSIONA	0.00	35.00	35.00
4212.10 TRAINING-VOLUNTEERS	0.00	260.00	260.00
4230.30 YOUTH AND OTHER RETREATS	0.00	200.00	200.00
4350.10 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES/ CLASSY CRAFTS	1,939.44	1,104.68	(834.76)
4400.10 CHARITY AND DONATIONS	1,437.00	480.00	(957.00)
4930.10 BANK SERVICE CHARGES	0.00	75.00	75.00
4931.10 PAYROLL PROCESSING FEES	513.05	492.74	(20.31)
4933.10 CREDIT CARD CHGS - EGIVING	1,433.16	1,584.32	151.16
4934.10 ADMIN FEES - EGIVING	0.00	778.12	778.12
4935.10 INVESTMENT FEES	1,843.59	2,591.04	747.45
5030.10 SCHOOL ASSESSMENT	27,919.00	27,008.78	(910.22)
5040.10 Diocesan Appeal	49,148.30	0.00	(49,148.30)
5300.10 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	570.00	60.00	(510.00)
6005.10 EQUIPMENT, AUDIO VISUAL	0.00	8,759.61	8,759.61
6010.10 EQUIPMENT, COMPUTERS	0.00	1,507.00	1,507.00
6020.10 EQUIPMENT, STRUCTRUAL EXPENSES	14,722.50	38,854.00	24,131.50
TOTAL DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	<u>\$334,791.28</u>	<u>\$303,874.67</u>	<u>(\$30,916.61)</u>
NET INCOME/DEFICIT ACCOUNT	<u>\$8,590.79</u>	<u>\$88,838.00</u>	<u>(\$80,247.21)</u>
 <u>Summary of printed accounts</u>			
Total Income	\$343,382.07	\$392,712.67	(\$49,330.60)
Total Expenses	<u>\$334,791.28</u>	<u>\$303,874.67</u>	<u>(\$30,916.61)</u>
Total Net	\$8,590.79	\$88,838.00	(\$80,247.21)