



2024-2025 Annual Report



A Letter from the Pastor

As the pastoral year draws to a close, it's always good to look back with praise and thanksgiving to God. For me, discernment between religious life and diocesan priesthood was fairly simple. The parish was always the home of faith, and so it was in the parish that I wanted to spend my days: the joys and the sorrows; the profound moments as well as the light hearted ones; praying in church, learning in the school or classroom, socializing in the hall, relaxing around the dining room table at a parishioner's home. It is the gift of being together, and with the Lord. Thank you for your commitment as a disciple of Christ, your dedication to one another, and the ways in which you give life to our community. Thank you, too, for grace and patience, during a challenging year of unparalleled transition.

In Christ,
Fr. Matthew Oakland



Our Mission

In A.D. 33, with a desire to establish the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ established a Church and entrusted it with a Mission. St. Joseph parish in Issaquah, Washington exists to be a living response to that Mission. And so...

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we answer God's call to live as a community of Disciples of Jesus and his Mission. We strive to ever-deepen in that identity and life by embracing the Eucharist as the foundation of our life, and by proclaiming the Good News through our words and our actions, all so that we might draw others into discipleship and further establish God's Kingdom.

Partners in the Gospel Update

This year, the Archdiocese of Seattle celebrated the 175th anniversary of its foundation, and an epochal moment in the life of the local Church as Partners in the Gospel started taking shape. Part of the challenge we face is the shrinking number of archdiocesan priests. We are aided by priests from elsewhere, but it is problematic for them to serve as pastors given their short-term visas. Most parishes if not all also struggle with finding sufficient volunteers, and possessing the necessary financial resources for staff, programs and to care for their aging buildings. While there is much good happening, we can't allow our limitations to continue defining ministry, hence the need for this pastoral and strategic planning effort.

On July 1st, the local parishes of Mary, Queen of Peace (MQP) in Sammamish, St. Joseph (SJ) in Issaquah and Our Lady of Sorrows (OLOS) in Snoqualmie began to share a single pastor, Fr. Matthew Oakland, who was assisted by Fr. Kyle Poje. It is the beginning of a multi-year journey of discernment which will conclude with the three parishes merging into one parish. During this time, our community will discern together where God is calling us, how we can more fully live out the life of the Church, how best to utilize all of our resources (people, churches, school and other buildings, finances) to carry out the full range of ministry and the work of evangelization.

With a reduction from three to two priests, Sunday Mass times had to change immediately, a challenge for SJ in particular who lost a Saturday Mass and OLOS which had their Sunday morning Mass shift to the afternoon. Thankfully a number of the Saturday night Mass goers from SJ found a new home at OLOS or MQP's vigil Masses. In our first year, while many ministries continued separately, some joined together, in particular for sacramental preparation for those becoming Catholic, marriage preparation and adult Confirmation. SJ and MQP also started collaborating for youth ministry. Many of these changes happened out of necessity due to staffing and volunteer needs, but it's a blessing to be able to share resources between parishes in service to the People of God and the work of Christ.



Staff from all 3 parishes at a summer bonding event.

Parish Family Comparisons

Below is information for all the parish within our Parish Family which highlights the year end comparisons.

	Mary, Queen of Peace		Our Lady of Sorrows		St. Joseph	
	23-24	24-25	23-24	24-25	23-24	24-25
Sacraments						
Infant Baptism	17	22	7	6	27	13
1st Communion	35	42	18	19	39	39
Confirmations (Youth and Adult)	41	39	23	11	25	20
OCIA/POF (Becoming Catholic)	7	8	2	0	16	13
Marriages	7	5	1	1	6	1
Funerals	19	10	7	9	17	18
Confessions	1,380	1,267	260	346	1,270	1,080
People						
Total Masses	9	8	5	3	8	6
Mass Attendance (Fall)	932	1,024	255	278	739	692
Mass Attendance (Spring)	1,098	1,142	268	279	794	722
Money						
Parish Ordinary Inc	1,485,940	1,474,036	351,068	345,713	1,197,423	1,047,650

Liturgy and Worship

Our parish continued to be blessed with rich opportunities for worship through weekday and Sunday Masses this year. Each Mass offered its own musical style, enriching the liturgy, and our Sunday evening Mass remained a cherished time of quiet reflection.

Our parish school students participated faithfully in weekly Masses on Wednesdays while school was in session, deepening their connection to the Eucharist. Spanish Masses on most First Saturdays continued to unite and celebrate our diverse parish community. Eucharistic Adoration was available in the Blessed Sacraments Chapel throughout the week, providing parishioners sacred time for personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Parishioners were invited to begin their day with Lauds (Morning Prayer) each weekday at 8:30 a.m. in the Worship Space, creating a beautiful rhythm of prayer to start the day together.



Faith Formation and Sacraments

This year, our parish was blessed to walk alongside many individuals and families as they deepened their faith through the sacraments. We celebrated 34 Baptisms, 53 First Communions, 12 Professions of Faith, and 30 Confirmations, each a joyful witness to the Spirit at work in our community. The richness of parish life was further marked by 18 funerals, honoring those who have gone before us, and 2 marriages, celebrating the gift of covenant love. With a total of 1,646 registered households, our parish continues to grow in faith and discipleship.

Each sacrament reminds us of the depth, wonder, and abundant life we are invited into as followers of Christ. Whether in the joy of new beginnings, the strength of lifelong commitments, or the hope found in eternal life, we see in our community powerful witnesses to the beauty of Catholic faith.

Looking ahead to 2025–26, we plan to combine sacramental celebrations among the three parishes in our family, fostering a shared sense of community and faith.



"I was enrolled in OCIA at St. Joseph's about a year ago. I had not grown up in the Catholic Faith and had known virtually nothing about it for the first 18 years of my life, but OCIA was recommended to me right after I had attended my very first Mass! I joined the weekly OCIA classes and was finally exposed to the true depth of the Catholic Faith. I got to learn about so much, including prayer, the sacraments, the Mass, history of the Church, angels, saints, Mary, and of course, Jesus! The more I learned in OCIA, the more I loved Catholicism!"

- Ayla C., 2024 OCIA Participant

St. Joseph Parish School

Academically Excellent, Distinctively Catholic and Connected in Community

In 2024–2025, St. Joseph Parish School (SJS) continued to live out its mission of inspiring and educating the whole child - heart, mind, and soul. Our students achieved remarkable academic success, highlighted by our Decathlon Team's outstanding performance: 1st place in the Logic Quiz and 3rd place overall. Individual honors went to Adriana Mealy, who earned 3rd place in Science, and Lochlan Smith, who earned 2nd place in Social Studies. Our MAP testing scores were also a point of pride this year, with results exceeding Archdiocese averages and reflecting our teacher's continued dedication to our students' growth.

Rooted in our Catholic mission, service and faith were at the heart of student life. Every grade level took part in the Feeding Kiddos Backpack Program, supporting local children in need. Each class also led at least one Mass during the school year including the All-Saints Day Mass, Thanksgiving Bread of Life Mass, Living Nativity Scene, May Crowning, and three all-school Masses. These liturgies give our students opportunities to grow as leaders in their faith communities and among their classes.

This year was filled with enriching experiences that extended learning far beyond the classroom. Seventh and eighth graders journeyed to Washington, D.C., where they explored the nation's capital and deepened their understanding of history, civics, and citizenship. Pre-K students visited the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, discovering the wonders of our local environment, while fifth and sixth graders enjoyed hands-on learning and team building at Camp Seymour. Countless other field trips provided opportunities for experiential learning, sparking curiosity and connection. Across both campuses, our students continued to thrive academically and spiritually, embodying the values of service, leadership, and community that define St. Joseph Parish School.



"From Pre-K to 8th grade, St. Joseph School has helped shape me into the person I am today... SJS has always promoted the practice of the Catholic faith and growing closer to God. At St. Joseph, I learned that I also have a part in the Church. I learned that I could give back to the Church like how the Church gave to me. I did this through altar serving and took a part in leading rosaries, which really opened my eyes. St. Joseph Parish School has always been a cornerstone of my life. It is where I grew spiritually, academically, and as a leader." - Anwell G., 8th Grade Graduate, 2024-25

FY 24/25 Financial Review - St. Joseph School

While tuition revenues exceeded budgeted expectations by \$40,000, this was offset by a \$66,000 reduction in parish subsidy support, a \$16,000 shortfall in anticipated gifts to the school, and an auction net result that came in \$45,000 below budget.

During the summer and fall of 2024, we installed new flooring throughout the Issaquah school buildings and implemented a new security system. We also upgraded the HVAC systems in both cottages using funds from our operating budget. Thanks to the generosity of the Fulcrum Foundation, during the 2023–2024 school year we secured a \$30,000 grant that allowed us to further enhance the safety and security of our Issaquah Campus through the installation of an extensive camera system and door scanners, completed in the summer of 2024. Our Fund-A-Need initiative made it possible to provide new flooring throughout all school buildings, including the two back cottages. Today, these cottages house our 3rd-grade classroom and art program.

In addition to the 2023 Fulcrum Grant, we received an additional \$10,000 from the Fulcrum Foundation in the winter of 2024 to support direct mailing marketing efforts. Since the mailing in early March of 2025, we have enrolled four new students from within the targeted 98029 and 98045 zip codes.

Our 25/26 budget shows a net income of \$52,000. We hope to increase this surplus with additional enrollment during the year. Our goal is to strengthen our financial position so that we can invest in our school, including teacher compensation and future improvements in technology and curriculum.

Abbreviated Balance Sheet - St. Joseph School

June 30, 2025			
ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Checking	183,748		183,748
Savings in Parish Revolving Fund	304,795	52,732	357,527
Accounts Receivable and Pre-Paid	31,565		31,565
Endowment Fund		318,534	318,534
Fixed Assets	2,277,905		2,277,905
Total Assets	2,798,013	371,266	3,169,279
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Accounts Payable (Ins., Benefits, Other)	160,326		160,326
Deferred Income*	52,525		52,525
Restricted Funds**		263,877	263,877
Total Liabilities	212,851	263,877	263,877
Total Equity			2,692,551
Total Liabilities and Equity			3,169,271

NOTES ON BALANCE SHEET

*Prepaid registration fees in FY 24/25 and Annual Fund Donations for FY 25/26 will be recognized as income July 1

**Restricted funds include \$11k in Fund a Need funds, \$30k in donations held for repairs/improvements, and \$161k of Endowment original corpus donations

Abbreviated Income Statement - St. Joseph School

	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget
REVENUE				
Tuition and Fees	2,427,761	2,418,050	2,484,627	2,577,955
Development & Fundraising	270,226	254,000	257,044	259,000
Subsidy	328,478	336,068	273,750	248,000
Gifts	63,469	75,551	59,278	35,000
Grants	69,949	34,000	40,000	4,000
Fund A Need	74,746	51,858	95,693	4,681
Parents' Club	40,462	40,000	39,227	40,000
Other (Interest, Food Service)	22,563	21,000	22,829	86,000
TOTAL REVENUE	3,297,654	3,230,527	3,272,448	3,254,636
EXPENSES				
Salaries and Benefits	2,438,938	2,427,527	2,450,143	2,281,976
Business (Bus, Insurance, Etc.)	247,036	264,970	257,568	287,365
Fundraisers	68,755	48,700	80,419	69,000
Educational Expenses	102,151	117,500	128,291	134,100
Fund A Need	6,746	658	44,769	4,681
Operations and Maintenance	173,624	129,900	134,296	132,900
Utilities	82,330	85,000	89,255	95,100
Financial Aid	116,240	115,000	115,000	157,000
Parents' Club	44,704	40,000	40,461	40,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,280,524	3,229,255	3,340,202	3,202,122
NET INCOME	17,130	1,272	(67,754)	52,514
Capital Expenditures	137,873	93,565	118,271	-



FY 24/25 Financial Review - St. Joseph Church

This Fiscal Year was the first year of Partners in the Gospel and many resulting changes, including Mass schedules. The number of Sunday Masses celebrated was reduced from four to three. Daily Masses were reduced from four to three a week. Many parishioners attended daily Mass at the other locations in our parish family or took advantage of the prayer opportunities in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel open six days a week during church hours. Some started attending another parish for Sunday Mass with the loss of the Saturday Vigil. With these and other changes, total Sunday attendance declined 6.4% and general collections decreased by 14.3% from the previous fiscal year. As a result of the lower collections, we reduced the base subsidy level provided to the school, which also works towards the Archdiocese guidelines of school subsidy as a percentage of operating income. We also reduced some operating costs and ended the year with a slight operational deficit after eliminating capital income from the Income Statement. We are grateful for the continuing support of our parishioners.



Abbreviated Balance Sheet - St. Joseph Church

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2025		
ASSETS	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Checking	30,927	79,734		79,734
Savings in Parish Revolving Fund	931,175	781,047	24,182	805,229
Fixed Assets	4,306,634	4,458,681		4,458,681
Total Assets	5,268,736	5,319,462	24,182	5,343,644
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Custodial Funds	46,403		8,801	8,801
Credit Cards	2,471	2,827		2,827
Restricted Funds	148,299		23,917	23,917
Total Liabilities	197,173	2,827	32,718	35,545
Total Equity	5,071,564			5,308,099
Total Liabilities and Equity	5,268,736			5,343,644

Abbreviated Income Statement - St. Joseph Church

	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget
REVENUE				
Sunday, Feast Day and Online Collections	1,197,423	1,143,550	1,047,650	1,046,000
Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate	103,004	60,000	89,784	55,000
Called to Serve as Christ Parish Share	160	-	392	-
Catholic Community Services Rebate	10,980	10,000	-	5,000
Fee Income (Faith Formation, Sac. Prep)	22,415	21,880	17,974	19,125
Restricted Gifts (capital projects, outreach)	129,653	104,000	118,509	2,483
Bequests	37,500	-	-	-
Other (stole fees, mass intentions, votives, etc.)	59,918	87,400	60,073	58,875
Family 28 Shared Income/Reimbursements			13,131	-
Facility Rental Income			23,950	-
TOTAL REVENUE	1,561,053	1,426,830	1,371,463	1,186,483
EXPENSES				
Salaries and Benefits	564,682	566,757	486,991	499,104
Supplies (events, Mass, office, etc.)	61,489	54,704	41,194	44,532
Program Expenses	25,697	25,463	18,291	12,395
School Subsidy*	314,978	326,073	260,000	234,485
Facilities Operations, Maintenance and Utilities	81,638	69,526	85,256	75,720
Contracted Services (professional, insurance)	57,710	58,400	53,003	47,934
Business (bank fees, licenses, advertising, etc.)	23,927	22,225	21,382	29,175
Donations to Others (outreach, etc.)	136,976	104,000	100,690	-
Archdiocesan & Deanery Support	69,327	71,725	70,255	62,100
Family 28 Expenses**	-	105,000	118,744	117,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,336,424	1,403,872	1,255,806	1,122,445
NET INCOME	224,629	22,957	115,657	64,038

NOTES ON INCOME STATEMENT

*The school subsidy includes a percentage of the salaries of certain parish office staff for the time they directly support the school.

**The salaries and benefits of the two shared priests, their housing and costs for their administrative assistant are proportionally shared by the Parish Family with Mary, Queen of Peace and Our Lady of Sorrows.

