

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025



MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR



FR. MATTHEW OAKLAND

Pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace,
Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Joseph

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

PARISH FAMILY #28: GROWING IN GRACE

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, other buildings and finances) to carry out the full range of ministry and the work of evangelization.

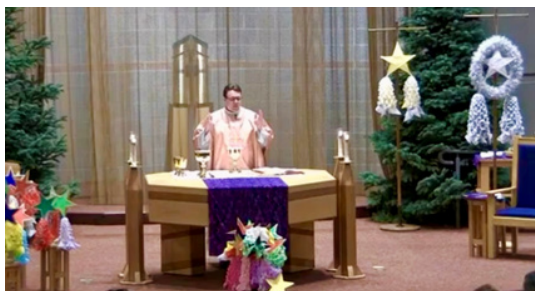
With a reduction from three to two priests, Sunday Mass times had to change immediately, a challenge for SJ in particular who lost a Sunday Mass and OLOS which had their Sunday morning Mass shift to the afternoon. Thankfully a number of the Saturday night Mass goers from SJ found a new home at OLOS or 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.

LITURGIES

CONFIRMATION

"Preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation with my sister was a meaningful journey. We began with some faith, but through prayer, learning, and reflection, it grew stronger and deeper. Alongside John, Christian, and our classmates, we gained wisdom, shared experiences, and strengthened our understanding of God's love. The process not only prepared us for receiving the sacrament but also brought us closer together as members of our faith community."

~ Alejandra and Diana Magallanes



SACRAMENTS



Baptism of Cora, January 2025

OCIA

"I started coming to OCIA at the invitation of my now godmother/sponsor. I had no intentions of joining the Church, but was curious to know more about Catholicism. I had been a lifelong seeker, bouncing between agnosticism, generic deism, and apathy, but never Christianity. The group leaders of OCIA were very gracious in answering all of my questions, taking time after the meetings to continue our conversations for a few extra minutes. As the time approached to either go through with getting my sacraments or not, I wavered. The support from the OCIA group to discern earnestly, with no pressure to move faster than the pace at which God was working on my heart, will forever be highlighted in my mind. The moderators of the group truly trust in and allow for the Holy Spirit to move all hearts towards the love of God, and for that I am so grateful."

~ Danielle Maria "Hildegard" Arguello



FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

"What began as a logistical switch for Sacramental Prep has become a profound blessing—a nudge from the Holy Spirit that has drawn our family deeper into faith. I am so grateful for the welcoming community, the thoughtful curriculum, and, above all, for Adriana's joyful witness. Mary, Queen of Peace has become a true home for our family's spiritual growth, and I look forward to continuing this journey together."

~ Brooke Sullivan



FAITH FORMATION

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Throughout the year, 32 families participated in our Family Faith Formation program. They enjoyed meeting once a month in person at our parish to learn about God, the teachings of the Catholic faith and grow in understanding of why we believe what we believe. This dynamic, fun and engaging curriculum also provided opportunities to encounter Christ through the meditation of Scripture and visits to the Blessed Sacrament, as well as a space for the children to make friendships in Christ. We are so grateful to the parents, who supported their children so faithfully, and to the volunteers who made these programs such a success.



CGS

This year, we were grateful to offer all three levels of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). Over 40 children participated, guided by more than ten catechists and supported by caring parent volunteers. Throughout the year, the children explored practical life work, scripture, and liturgy, and engaged in activities that encouraged reflection and spiritual growth. They also celebrated special moments together, including the Liturgy of Light, Pentecost, and Advent. Many have journeyed with us from Level 1 through Level 3, and it is a true joy to see their faith grow—planting seeds that continue to blossom in meaningful and beautiful ways.



YOUNG ADULTS & YOUTH GROUP

Young Adults hosted Adoration and Confessions nights led by Fr. Poje, while Jon's leadership deepened collaboration between St. Joseph and Mary, Queen of Peace. Game nights were a huge hit!

The Middle School Youth Group met at St. Joseph, and the High School group gathered at Mary, Queen of Peace. The High Schoolers attend the Steubenville NW Conference in Spokane, which was a transformative experience.

These young members play a vital role in our parish family's future.



PARISH LIFE



JOYFUL DISCOVERY PRESCHOOL



WHERE FUN AND LEARNING NEVER ENDS!

In our 11th year, Joyful Discovery Preschool was blessed with amazing families, students, and teachers, and continued to grow as the best hidden gem in Sammamish!

We welcomed nearly 50 families, our classrooms were full, and waitlists continued to grow, a true reflection of the trust families placed in us.

JDP continued offering developmentally appropriate, faith-based programs for ages 2-4, combining play, learning, and spiritual growth. The year was filled with joyful community events like Brownies & Bingo, Dad's Pumpkin Carving, and our beloved JDP Christmas Story, among others.

We gathered weekly for Chapel time, where monthly Faith Focus themes helped children grow in love and understanding of God. We were also proud to continue our partnership with Eastside Catholic, welcoming student volunteers into our classrooms.

Visit www.joyfuldiscoverypreschool.org



OUTREACH MINISTRIES



KOC Spring Mass



PREPARES Baby Shower

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Rooted in faith and service, we joyfully began the year with our 4th of July Parking Event, raising funds with the Scouts for Coats for Kids. Throughout the seasons, we brought our parish together with Pancake Breakfasts, youth contests, and festive fundraisers. New faith-filled events like the “Keep Christ in Christmas” Poster and Catholic Essay Contests inspired our youth. We ended the year prayerfully with our first Knights Mass and the beautiful May Crowning of Our Blessed Mother. We are grateful for the support of our parish community and look forward to another year of faith, fellowship, and service.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Over the past year, guided by the Gospel and inspired by the example St. Vincent de Paul, we served our neighbors in Sammamish and Issaquah with compassion and hope. We completed over 313 home and phone visits, assisting 178 households and 516 individuals. With 99% of donations directly supporting those in need, our Vincentian mission continued to foster spiritual growth through service. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and partnership in this ministry.

HUMAN CONCERNS

The Human Concerns Ministry, with the generous support of our parishioners, provided school supplies to Catholic schools and St. Vincent de Paul clients, winter gear for Kirkland Safe Parking residents, and funds to build wells and provide clean water in Ghana. The Giving Tree and Toiletries Drive aided seven non-profit organizations, collecting \$3,424 in donations, \$6,355 in gift cards, 270 toys, and 35 gifts for Marianwood. In spring, 215 Easter baskets went to Issaquah Food Bank, and a baby shower supported PREPARES moms and children.



Bundle Sunday

FY 24/25 FINANCIAL REVIEW

THE BIG PICTURE AND KEY METRICS

We continue to carry out the work of Jesus at Mary, Queen of Peace, supported by the gifts of our parishioners of their time and talent, and of their treasure as well.

The Abbreviated Income Statement outlines our operational income and expenses. It also contains realized capital income to fund building expenses, which if over 10k are expensed on the Balance Sheet as long term assets. In looking at just the operational income and expenses, FY22-23 finished with a -1% deficit (-21k), FY23-24 finished with a -5.9% deficit (-118k), and this year finished with a +1.4% surplus (32k). We ended the year with just shy of four months of expenses in unrestricted cash in reserve.

Our financial operations have experienced a number of large changes these past few years. Thanks to our dedicated parishioners, collections aren't one of them, down 1% in the midst of a transition. Regular donations were down 5k, and loose donations were up significantly (20k) with new parishioners due to Mass time changes in the Family. Donations through companies and employee matching continued an annual rapid decline (-15 to -30% each year, a drop of 20-40k), as more companies stop matching to churches.

MAJOR MOVERS (+/- 20K)

The largest change in income came from the Capital Ask this winter to fund the new boiler, the lower roof replacement, and the parking lot, expenses which bridge fiscal years. We realized 261k from the Building Fund, and in addition to the ACA and Called to Serve as Christ rebates fully funded our major capital expenses for the year. Income from our parking lot rentals were up 21k. There were significant reimbursements (73k) from St. Joseph and Our Lady of Sorrows as a part of the new Family Cost Share system. And while we normally bring in funds from the BS to cover evangelization program expenses (38k in FY23-24), we did not do so this year as we move away from funding operations from reserves.

The largest expense change was in staffing. Clergy compensation moved elsewhere, as did janitorial costs with a new vendor, and some JDP costs. There was a 101k net decline owing to not refilling several staff positions given the large operational deficit, eliminating a few stipend positions, gaps in replacing others as they departed, and an outside accountant helping with the bookkeeper transition. The parish Finance Councils of Family 28 agreed on a formula to share the clergy expenses, including an assistant and the rectory rental. MQP pays 47% of these shared Family 28 expenses, which represents an increase of about 13k over prior priest compensation and housing costs.

We didn't have as many smaller projects this year around the building with staff bandwidth and contractor shortages, so there were significant savings over prior years (50k).

Churches pay property tax on anything over five acres (unless they have a school, and then practically speaking everything is exempt), as well as surface water management fees for impervious surfaces. The Archdiocese pays these costs, and we reimburse them. There was an issue with the CY22 costs. They were paid, but the check was cancelled in FY23-24 while we disputed it. The corrected amounts were paid this year, along with a missed payment from CY23. The result is that the expenses were 20k in FY22-23, -17k in FY23-24, and 86k this year, when they should be 30-40k per year, meaning the FY23-24 deficit would have been even larger had it not been for this anomaly.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We reduced our donations to others from the parish by 25%, donating 50k to support the local, regional and international poor and those in need, as well as evangelization efforts at our state's college Newman Centers. Some of these are on the P&L, and some on the BS, as we also moved about 15k in custodial donations to the BS instead of tracking direct donations and expenses from parishioners to these causes on the P&L as previously done.

The Archdiocesan Assessment formula recently changed for the first time in over a decade, resulting in a large increase for MQP. Owing to properly classed school subsidies and with our FY23-24 capital expenses, it went down 27k.

Joyful Discovery Preschool income was up 20k between tuition increases and new students. Expenses were up 31k, in large part due to shifting JDP costs previously paid under regular parish expense lines to JDP lines, including a number of miscellaneous payroll costs, as well as janitorial and building expenses. The result is that JDP went from breaking even last year to a small deficit (-5.4%). Eliminating the hidden subsidy will allow us to better manage this wonderful program in service of parish and neighborhood children and better understand and manage the parish's financial support.

The FY25-26 budget was challenging given the large prior structural deficit. The budget only barely breaks even at present because of a delay in filling one of the open positions. And it doesn't include some things we could use, like part-time staff to work on building maintenance, as we only have contracted janitorial. Income has declined 5.4% over the last four years, while inflation has gone up 18% - impacting utilities, taxes, supply costs, compensation, etc. The result can only be impacts on ministries and parish life.

We strive to be prudent stewards of the resources entrusted to our care, as we carry out the work entrusted to us by Jesus Christ of sharing the Good News, and growing together as disciples of the Lord. These financials are not the foundation of our community, but are a necessary part of carrying out our mission. For full financial reports, please email bookkeeper@mqp.org, and if you have any questions, contact director@mqp.org.

Abbreviated Balance Sheet			
	6/30/2023	6/30/2024	6/30/2025
ASSETS			
Cash and Savings	1,360,180	1,043,128	1,134,995
Prepaid Expenses and Receivables	564	65	15,578
Fixed Assets (buildings and land)	11,442,477	11,748,559	12,079,852
TOTAL ASSETS	12,803,221	12,791,752	13,230,425
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Custodial Funds and Credit Card	85,791	45,318	47,218
Restricted and Designated Funds	367,515	388,527	451,443
JDP 25/26 Unrealized Tuition	4,600	43,615	49,966
TOTAL LIABILITIES	457,906	477,460	548,627
EQUITY	12,345,315	12,314,292	12,681,798
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	12,803,221	12,791,752	13,230,425

**6/30/25 Largest
Designated/
Restricted Funds:**
Building: \$212,043
Evangelization: \$103,899

ABBREVIATED INCOME STATEMENT

	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget
REVENUE				
Sunday, Feast Day and Online Collections	1,526,701	1,487,900	1,472,736	1,452,000
Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate ¹	109,903	92,213	67,926	70,000
Called to Serve as Christ Rebate ¹	12,782	5,147	2,542	0
CCS Rebate for Local Outreach			11,051	6,054
Restricted Gifts (building, evangelization, outreach) ²	85,360	60,236	266,554	209,000
Joyful Discovery Preschool Tuition, Other	172,300	174,592	194,223	187,839
Bequests		37,500		0
Fee Income (faith formation, sac prep)	25,456	39,336	24,411	10,900
Family 28 Shared Income/Reimbursements ³			72,677	2,000
Facility Rental Income ⁴	30,354	27,000	48,370	70,000
Other Income (auction, interest, stole fees)	101,147	79,115	66,697	56,850
TOTAL OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL REVENUE	2,064,003	2,003,038	2,227,187	2,064,643
EXPENSES				
Salaries and Benefits ⁵	895,251	960,855	724,416	644,415
JDP Salaries and Benefits	152,334	160,058	173,069	194,437
JDP Operational Expenses	16,220	14,303	32,076	28,884
Supplies	73,073	67,220	54,475	55,475
Program Expenses	33,796	54,305	24,362	26,400
School Subsidies to St. Louise and St. Joseph	52,300	57,900	60,083	45,500
Facilities, Operations and Utilities	208,273	240,085	147,058	161,900
Contracted Services (insurance, vendors)	142,552	122,595	121,702	181,300
Family 28 Shared Expenses ³		10,833	201,383	167,000
Business (property tax, stormwater, cc fees) ⁶	140,474	101,767	170,063	119,705
Donations to Others ⁷	114,008	79,332	39,818	40,000
Assessments (Archdiocese, Deanery)	133,639	145,682	115,173	119,171
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	1,961,921	2,014,934	1,863,678	1,784,187
NET INCOME/(DEFICIT)	102,082	(11,896)	363,508	280,456
CAPITAL EXPENSES FROM BALANCE SHEET	11,049	306,082	331,293	270,000
NET OF OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL	91,032	(317,977)	32,215	10,456

LONGITUDINAL EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ACA and CTSAC rebates are normally for capital projects which are expensed on the Balance Sheet.
2. 261k in Building Fund donations realized from the BS to cover capital expenses.
3. Family 28 Income and Expense net represents MQP's 47% share of the priest expenses (comp, housing, assistant).
4. Parking rates were raised for the first time in a decade on Arbor School, as well as Skyline students, with more spots.
5. 135k shifted elsewhere, with 101k in savings from several staffing changes and open transition time.
6. CY22 property taxes and stormwater fees were under revision and back payments were made this year.
7. The decline is in part owing to a reduction given the deficit, and in part to shifting custodial donations to the BS.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another
as good stewards of God's varied grace.
~ 1 Peter 4:10

GRACE IN ACTION

	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

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

50	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	22	Scheduled Adorers
39	Ushers	14	Adoration Subs
35	Readers	12	Sacristan/Team Captain
30	Altar Servers	7	Livestream



1121 228th Ave SE
Sammamish, WA 98075



425 - 391 - 1178



www.mqp.org