



ANNUAL REPORT

Our Lady of Sorrows

JULY 1, 2024—JUNE 30, 2025



*"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

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

PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

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 Sunday Mass and OLOS which had their Sunday morning Mass shift to the afternoon. Thankfully a number of the Saturday night Mass goes 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.

In July of 2024, the Sunday Mass time changes at OLOS were not easy, losing a Sunday morning Mass time as it shifted to early afternoon to accommodate a two-priest schedule. And while this new time didn't work for others, and some went to MQP or SJ as a result, others adjusted their regular plans for the Lord's Day to make it work. In the end, there are more people coming to OLOS now than before, including some from St. Joseph, which lost their Saturday night vigil Mass, as they make a new home in the midst of this community. In general, we are starting to see more people moving between the parishes for formation or sacraments as well, as they look to what will work best for them and their family, or take advantage of the varied confession opportunities available. Below is the data for all three parishes in the family, as we start to think about our wider East County Catholic community becoming one.



	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 THE SACRAMENTS

First Communion

"The experience that my husband and I had when our daughters received their 1st Holy Communion was something so touching and meaningful and has had a positive impact on our lives. Since then, we have strengthened our faith and connection with God even more. We feel incredibly thankful to be part of a parish that reflects God's love so beautifully." *The RG Family*



Corpus Christi Procession

"We celebrated the precious gift of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ on the Feast of Corpus Christi. Parishioners followed in Sacred Procession behind Our Lord, exposed in the Monstrance and held aloft by Father Kyle Poje. This feast day is especially significant as it marks the moment in 2020 when we were allowed to receive Him again after three months without the Sacraments."

Christopher Brookes (Knight of Columbus)



LITURGY AND THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism

"Our daughter Anika Magdalena was baptized at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Snoqualmie on June 15, 2025. Her Baptism is a recognition of her identity as a cherished child of God and is a profound homecoming for her and all of us present into God's family. Anika is our beautiful, beloved, brave, strong, strong-willed, joyful girl, and she will boldly carry God's light of love into the world. We are grateful to the OLOS community for their love and support of our family!" *Eva Uribe*



"For me, Confirmation meant learning more about God, gaining a better understanding of the Mass and our Church teachings, and feeling more connected to the Church as a community. Along the journey to receiving the Sacrament, I met a lot of new people and made some good friends who share the same faith. I enjoyed learning about the Saints and choosing one who resonated with me. A highlight of my experience was the retreat because I realized how big and welcoming the Catholic community is. Learning the meaning behind the readings made Mass more meaningful for me. The Confirmation Mass was very special because Bishop Schuster was there, and I was surrounded by all of my family. I am thankful for my Confirmation teacher who guided me through this journey, and for my sponsor and the other adults from our church supported me." *Violet Anderson*



Confirmation

FAITH FORMATION

Vacation Bible Camp



"Thanks Gram for making me come to VBC...I really like Bible Camp". *Tyson McKenzie*



What did you like about the Confirmation Program?

"Hanging out with my friends and getting closer to God. I also really liked the Confirmation retreat".

Miles Taylor

Young Adult Group

"Well, the young adult group for us is kind of just a friend group so for me it's nice to be able to see my friends every week." *Serena Wolf*

"I enjoy having a space to hang out with my friends that can also open us up to new people from other parishes, introducing new perspectives on our faith. Conversations range from casual chatting to discussions on Catholicism, usually on mere whim, so it's a natural interest that brings us together. It's also just fun :)." *Madelyn Wolf*



"To me, young adult group means faith and fellowship—a welcoming space where we can share everything from deep theological conversations to lighthearted jokes. It has given me the opportunity to form deeper friendships and help our church's young adult community grow." *Zoe*

"To me, the young adult group is just fellowship every Sunday after Mass. I really have gotten to enjoy spending time with my friend and having good discussions about our faith. I've met some amazing people in this young adult group, and I really look forward to fellowship after Mass."

Sarah Berger

"I have loved being a part of the young adult group, always a good time with friends. We have great conversations about religion and various hobbies. We go on hikes on occasion and have little coffee conversations after Mass as well, hoping to have more of these in the future." *Isabella Laguna*

International Festival

"The 2024 International Festival was the first celebrated with Fr. Matthew Oakland. This joyful tradition at OLOS, now in its 15th year, welcomed new parish families and featured raffle prizes, cotton candy, cakewalk, Bingo, live music, and delicious food from diverse cultures. Parishioners' generosity and presence made the day a true celebration of unity and fellowship—one we'll look forward to for years as we grow together in love and support." *Carmela Wolf*





Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

"The children and teens sure made my evening, treating me so well full of love and tenderness. Our dinner conversations were delightful, and they listened to me and enjoyed my stories". Sue

PARISH EVENTS

"I love getting to have my extended "family" albeit furbabies blessed every year. And seeing every one with theirs too, getting to know our OLOS families more." Tina Laguna



Blessing of the Animals

Las Posadas



"Bringing the church/parish all together and all the Youths sure made me proud as we processed around the block and reenacted the Journey of the Holy Family".

The WH Family

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

It is only because of the generosity of our parishioners in sharing their time, talents and treasure that the work and ministry of Jesus Christ continues.

Income Shifts

Total collections, the primary source of income for the parish, were down 1.5% this fiscal year (\$5.6k). Visitor donations were up 210% as we welcome parishioners from St. Joseph and Mary, Queen of Peace. The parish no longer received support from St. Anthony Mission to support operations as that community is now attached to Holy Innocents and St. Jude, a drop of \$30k. The net result was a decline of 9% of total regular operational income.

This year the parish sold its rectory property across the street from the church as it wasn't big enough for the two priests to live together plus guests. It sold for \$755,000, of which our net after expenses was \$704,950. The original purchase price was realized on the Balance Sheet to offset the capital asset, and the capital gain on the Income Statement. This also meant a significant 4th quarter increase in our savings interest.

Expense Adjustments

OLOS' cost share of clergy expenses decreased \$35k vs the prior single pastor under the proportional shared model. Additionally shifting away from the prior PAA working remotely to utilizing the shared ministry of the PAA at St. Joseph reduced administrative overhead. Several other changes were made to reduce expenses due to the deficit, including adjusting one staff member's hours, and eliminating the contracted lawnkeeping service. We also discontinued former rectory housekeeping, and in FY25-26 will save on insurance and utility costs for the former rectory. Along with a number of smaller changes and savings opportunities, expenses decreased by 20%, to finish with an operational surplus even without the property sale income.

For full financials, or with any questions, please email ann@sjcissaquah.org. Thank you for your gifts, past, present, and future, which build up our community and continue our mission.

Abbreviated Balance Sheet

	FY2020-21	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
ASSETS					
Cash and Receivables	177,809	197,677	195,509	147,881	872,351
Fixed Assets: Buildings and Renovations	1,732,690	1,756,141	1,756,141	1,771,840	1,406,141
TOTAL ASSETS	1,910,499	1,953,818	1,951,650	1,919,722	2,278,492
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Facility Maintenance	995	-	-	-	9,692
Custodials (<i>Knights, Fil-Am, outside col-</i>	10,874	11,207	13,943	7,429	10,641
Accounts Payable and Other	5,126	1,838	8,769	20,927	6,188
PRF Loan	50,112	48,476	45,611	41,782	38,839
Total Liabilities	67,107	61,521	68,324	70,138	65,359
Total Equity	1,843,392	1,892,297	1,883,327	1,849,584	2,213,133
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	1,910,499	1,953,818	1,951,650	1,919,722	2,278,492

Abbreviated Income Statement

Italics are largest current components

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 Budget
INCOME						
Collections (<i>Sunday, Holy Day, Online, at Mass</i>)	341,872	343,583	320,092	351,068	345,360	334,960
Annual Catholic Appeal Refund		4,277	1,868	100	4,673	4,000
Called to Serve as Christ Rebate	12,913	11,795	6,876	1,329	77	
Fees (<i>Faith Form and Sac Prep</i>)	3,253	2,610	4,868	3,578	2,873	2,750
Restricted Donations (<i>realized facilities gifts</i>)	145,882	51,421	11,257	14,714	700	
Other Revenue	6,436	6,061	28,771	10,818	21,375	40,250
Shared Services ¹						
(<i>St. Anthony through FY24, then Family 28</i>)	24,902	32,400	33,048	30,192	350	300
COVID Aid	54,600					
Property Sale Gain ²					339,250	
TOTAL REVENUE	589,858	452,148	406,778	411,799	714,758	382,260
EXPENSES						
Salaries ¹	184,878	192,351	185,608	185,728	138,377	113,454
Benefits ¹	77,300	73,852	81,171	62,219	17,325	26,500
Operating Supplies	12,194	21,892	21,454	25,510	12,905	31,450
Program Expenses	886	2,393	1,631	4,420	1,416	2,750
Subsidy for St. Joseph Students	7,000	12,000	12,000	6,000	5,000	5,000
Repairs/Maintenance Parish	11,845	17,805	17,097	27,374	17,646	20,000
Contracted Services (<i>Insurance, Bookkeeping</i>)	19,850	21,623	24,448	63,619	48,096	52,850
Family Expenses ¹					42,504	45,000
Business Expenses (<i>Outreach, Bank Charges</i>)	14,227	6,810	13,329	5,864	5,947	7,550
Utilities (<i>Electricity, Water, Gas, Tech Support</i>)	23,166	24,266	28,431	28,758	37,812	32,000
Events and Appreciation	1,633	3,497	3,734	4,402	230	6,550
Assessments (<i>Archdiocese, ACA shortfalls</i>)	34,519	26,755	26,846	30,376	30,412	31,871
<i>Prior Period Adjustments</i>					(6,461)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	387,497	403,243	415,749	444,270	351,208	375,075
Net Operating Revenue	202,361	48,905	(8,971)	(32,572)	363,549	7,185

Capital Expenses ³ 505,181 23,451 0 15,699 0 *Unk.*

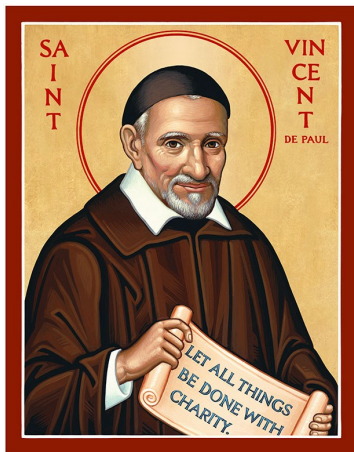
Explanatory Notes

- Starting in FY24-25, Our Lady of Sorrows shares two priests with Mary, Queen of Peace and St. Joseph as one parish family. Instead of paying the full salary and benefits of a single pastor along with other clergy assistance under the usual salary and benefits line items as before, Our Lady of Sorrows paid a 15% proportional share of the shared family expenses for the priests salaries and benefits, living arrangements, etc, now in a separate section, as agreed upon by the Family 28 Finance Councils. Lawnkeeping services, tracked in salaries, were discontinued partway through the year to save funds as we shifted to some part time staff and volunteers. Bookkeeping shifted from a salaried staff member to to a contracted service in FY23-24. The cleaning contractor expenses were moved for FY25-26 to the Contracted Services section.
- In FY 24-25, Our Lady of Sorrows sold its former rectory. The capital gain above the original purchase price is realized on the P&L, while the remainder is realized on the Balance Sheet with the Capital Asset change.
- Capital Projects, those over \$10,000, are tracked on the Balance Sheet and not in the regular operational/income statement. In FY24/25, there were no capital projects.

OUTREACH

Outreach Committee

"The Our Lady of Sorrows Outreach Committee remains devoted to serving both our parish family and the greater Snoqualmie Valley community. Guided by faith and compassion, we continue to put God's love into action through meaningful service. This past year, our committee collected more than 1,000 pounds of food for the local food bank, helping ensure that families in need have access to nutritious meals. We also partnered with Reclaim Stability to provide regular lunch meals for their residents and began new efforts to assist mothers in need with essential supplies for their newborns. It has been deeply rewarding to witness our parishioners' generosity and willingness to serve. Through their time, talents, and kindness, the spirit of Our Lady of Sorrows continues to shine in our community." *Genevieve McLean*



St. Vincent de Paul Society

"No work of charity is foreign to St. Vincent de Paul." We meet with our neighbors in the local community in need within their homes to provide hope, comfort, help, and guidance. We help them with rent, utilities, food, and many other items.



Knights of Columbus



This Catholic men's group supports vocations to the religious life. Involvement is a chance for personal growth, responsibility, and leadership. They host the annual Lenten Fish Fry, lead Tuesday night Rosary, and help with parish fundraising events. Outreach projects include Coats for Kids through the state council. We also offer life insurance and retirement investments to protect the family.

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE

"Participating in Parish Ministries has always been rewarding for me. I have found that most parishes need volunteers in the recognized ministries, but there are other areas of need in all parishes where your education or specific occupation can benefit a parish to fill, one time requests. No matter when, where, or how I have participated, my time and talent are rewarded with increased faith in our Lord Jesus and Parish Community, and I wish the same for anyone of you who volunteer at OLOS."

Mike MacKenzie



Our Lady of Sorrows

2024-2025



Thank you to the families who give! Our parish has 297 registered families, with approximately of 196 those families giving regularly within the past fiscal year.

Thank you to our parishioners and visitors for the many ways in which you bring life to our parish community and beyond, as disciples of Jesus Christ and Apostles to the world!