



ANNUAL REPORT



SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

OLYMPIA, WA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As summer turns to fall and all of the school and parish activities that fill our daily lives shift into high gear, it is good to take time to both look to the accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to what we are striving to be as a parish community, the Body of Christ here at Saint Michael Parish.

I am ever so grateful for the gift of being your pastor and for having the privilege of serving you these past 19 years. This past year has been no exception. Knowing that I was to remain your pastor, I asked the Pastoral Council to begin a Strategic Planning process to help us envision the future. I asked the parish and school staffs to focus more deeply on *growing intentional disciples* through their ministries so as to more deeply engage all parishioners in the life of Jesus Christ. I charged the Building Committee to envision beyond mere maintenance and storage concerns to how we could integrally enhance our worship space downtown so as to provide

both a welcoming as well as a more beautiful, prayerful and functional experience that would draw people into a deeper communion with God and with one another.

As with any endeavor, we made significant progress and had some significant challenges. Our Annual Report for the Pastoral Year of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 will offer both a look back and, most of all, a look forward.

We seek to be good stewards of the financial gifts you so generously give. We also seek to be transparent and accountable to you and to the Archdiocese. Each year in August, we submit an Annual Report that covers all of the sacramental and ministerial efforts of the parish as well as a detailed financial report. We ask for an audit on a regular 3-year cycle so that we can provide the best oversight possible. We do this so that we can be “good and faithful stewards” on your behalf. The Finance Council is diligent and serious.

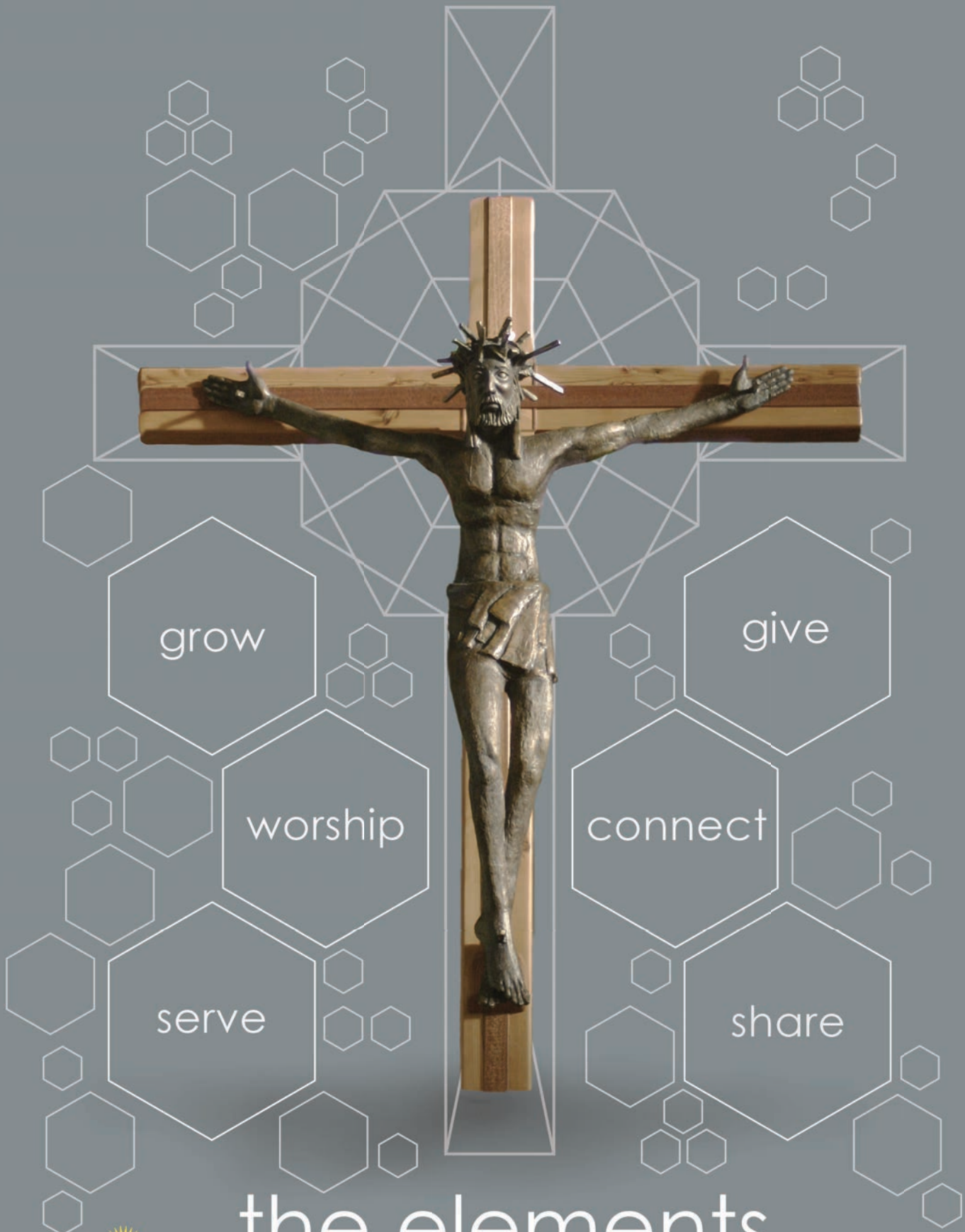
As you see in the following financial summary, we are a very blessed parish. We are financially sound and accountable. Each of our ministries carefully monitors and maximizes their budgets. We accomplish much on minimal expenditures. Since paying off our debt 15 years early, we have established a “Sinking Fund” for future capital needs following the principles of Financial Peace University. We continue to tithe as a parish, giving away over 10% of our income to serve others outside of our parish. This includes the mandated national collections of the American Bishops as well as local and international outreach efforts on behalf of the poor.

Our involvement in local Interfaith Works projects continues to grow as we seek to address the growing needs of the chronically homeless and needy folks in our community. Our ministry efforts include Grief Support, Cancer Support, Moms’ Group and the Men’s Shelter. Our parish school had its first preschool class ever. St. Michael Preschool helps prepare our young children for the excellent education and formation they will receive when they enter Kindergarten. Our Small Groups continue to grow and deepen in their faith. Our evangelization efforts have once again been grounded in a renewed ALPHA Program that has helped us focus on the core mission of the Church: “Go, make disciples.”

Yes, we are a very blessed community of faith. Yet there are challenges that face us in an ever changing, radically secular, fractured and individualistic society. The Catholic Church nationally is losing more members than gaining by a 6 to 1 ratio. If fallen away Catholics were a denomination, they would be the second largest in the nation. We all know of family members and friends who no longer celebrate Mass or are connected to the Catholic Church or any other church. Those who profess no religious affiliation are the fastest growing segment of the American population. We see our Catholic religious beliefs and freedoms rejected, scorned and under attack.

Yet, as St. Paul says, “We hold this treasure in earthen vessels that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.” (2 Cor. 4:7-10)

So we look to the future, to where the Holy Spirit is guiding and directing us. The Pastoral Council in collaboration with parish leadership and staff prayerfully discerned six “Elements of Discipleship” that define who we are and what can be expected of us as a parish and as parishioners. I ask that you read and pray with these, allowing them to call you into deeper relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



the elements
to discipleship

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016

Based on these six foundational elements, the Pastoral Council began a process of discernment as to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us in the next 10 years. After study of best practices of Catholic Churches in the United States and input from parishioners, leadership and staff we developed a Strategic Plan for the parish.

grow

In 2026, ALL members of Saint Michael Parish are intentionally progressing on their spiritual journey as evidenced by:

- Lives rooted in daily prayer
- Personal relationships with Jesus Christ
- Participation in adoration and prayer groups
- Learning through Bible study, Catholic education and retreats
- Fellowship in small groups and activities
- Regular Mass attendance
- Joyful service in the parish and the broader community
- Faith mentors and accountability partners
- Parents forming and teaching their children their faith
- Promoting and supporting vocations to the priesthood and religious life

worship

In 2026, celebration of the Eucharist at Saint Michael Parish is:

- Welcoming to all, where a pervasive sense of family makes everyone feel at home
- Celebrated in grand fashion through proclamation of the Word and music that stirs all to full participation
- Filled with the presence of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
- Beautiful in decor and setting befitting worship and praise for God
- Characterized by full participation and joyful energy that engages the heart, mind and soul
- Respectful of an individual's need for quiet reverence
- Challenging and motivating for everyone to live Christ's example
- Food for all who yearn and hunger for the saving grace of the Eucharist

serve

In 2026, the members of Saint Michael Parish embrace with passion and joyful hearts the call to serve one another and those in need by:

- Leading others to the Catholic faith through participation in outside activities
- Full involvement in the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy for all ages and abilities
- Ministries that serve the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community
- Ministries that serve our parish family
- Ministries that serve the liturgy
- Participating in mission experiences (local or foreign)

give

In 2026, Saint Michael Parish, borne of a spirit of gratitude for all God has given us, is fully committed to stewardship as a way of life, as evidenced by:

- 100% participation in sacrificial giving (6% to the parish, 4% to other charities)
- Full funding for Catholic school education for all parish families
- An abundance of time, talent, and financial resources to support our parish priorities
- The ability to support our members in times of need
- Debt-free living as a parish and families (excluding mortgages)

connect

In 2026, Saint Michael Parish members enjoy a deep sense of connection and relationship with one another and the broader Catholic community, brought about through:

- Support for one another during life events and transitions
- Easy and frequent access to parish leadership and clergy
- Fellowship in small groups that represent a diversity of interests and opportunities
- Parish-wide events and activities that foster our sense of belonging, family, and our identity as Catholics
- Service to those in need
- Our common expression of gratitude and sharing
- Participation in local, archdiocesan, national, and world-wide Catholic events
- Involvement with interfaith activities and programs
- Genuine expressions of warmth and comfort for one another
- An intentional and active online community presence

share

In 2026, Saint Michael Parish is a vibrant evangelizing community drawing people to Christ through:

- Engaging and inviting celebration of the Eucharist
- Influential digital presence in the community
- Personally sharing one's faith
- Clear communication of our Catholic faith and Catholic social teaching
- Catholic value-driven leadership and service that transforms the broader community
- Living our faith in our roles outside the church

In order to begin to implement this Strategic Plan, we developed five Strategic Initiatives, 2-3 year goals to move us toward the future state of 2026. These are:

ENHANCE THE SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

Enhance the Mass experience at Saint Michael Parish through vibrant music, inspiring homilies, welcoming all, and facilitating the opportunity for a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

CONNECTING THROUGH SMALL GROUPS

Increase the use of small groups to help parishioners connect with one another, help each other, and help the community.

GROWING IN FAITH, FORMING DISCIPLES

Provide opportunities to enable all parishioners to grow in their personal faith, no matter where they are on their faith journey.

EVANGELIZATION AND OUTREACH

Reach out to the community to bring the Good News to all.

ENHANCE COMMUNICATION

Intentionally develop our communications to reach all people in today's world.

Working with Councils, Commissions and staff, we are developing specific proposals for our parish ministries to deepen our discipleship and engagement. We are seeking to do this in a strategic and integral manner realizing that we are presently involved in many vital ministries. As we continue this process, we will evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts so as to maximize our impact.

I realize that this last sentence may sound like something from a stockholders meeting concentrating on dividends and the bottom line. Yet Jesus told us to be as wise as serpents and gentle as doves. As we read in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Since before my pastorate, Saint Michael Parish has had strong leadership and vision. I have worked diligently with you throughout these years to grow, deepen, reassess, renew and redirect that vision so that, as Vatican II in *Gaudium et Spes* stated, "To carry out such a task, the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel...We must therefore recognize and understand the world in which we live, its explanations, its longings, and its often dramatic characteristics." (LG 4)

As your pastor, I have striven with all my prayer and energy in collaboration with leadership and staff to make Saint Michael an **Amazing Parish** that would not only nurture and deepen our relationship with God but also be a beacon of hope, faith and love to the wider community. I believe that the Strategic Plan that we have put forth will enable us to take the next best steps on the journey of faith entrusted to us by the Lord Jesus to "Go forth and make disciples."

Over these next months and years, I ask for your faithful stewardship of time in prayer at home and here in community; the faithful stewardship of your talents in being involved in at least one ministry for the good of the Body of Christ; the faithful stewardship of your treasure, the financial resources God has blessed you with, each year "taking a step" to reach the goal of the biblical tithe of 10% given back to God in gratitude for the work of the Church.



PASTORAL YEAR 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- *First Mass on the Grass* — We held our first annual *Mass on the Grass* and Parish Picnic in concert with Olympia's Lakefair on July 19. Almost 750 people showed up to celebrate and enjoy games, food, and fellowship.
- Mortgage burning/Debt Free celebration — We burned our mortgage and celebrated being completely debt free on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel.
- ALPHA — We kicked off our ALPHA program on September 23 with approximately 40 guests who journeyed for 10 weeks and encountered Christ in a profound way.
- Preschool — St. Michael Parish School began a preschool program that has continued to grow and is now filled to capacity.

- Year of Mercy Pilgrimage — Fr. Jim led 40 parishioners on October 5 to Poland, and even visited Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. They placed our prayer petitions at Lithuania's famous "Hill of Crosses".
- Opening of Holy Doors — We inaugurated Pope Francis' establishment of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy on December 8 with ceremonies at all Masses to open the Holy Doors.
- Elements of Discipleship — The Pastoral Council culminated over a year of hard work as we rolled out the six "Elements of Discipleship" in order to clarify expectations and provide the blueprint for our new Strategic Plan.
- Seminarian Jeffrey Moore — Jeffrey spend 6 months with us and was deeply involved in the life of the parish. His Crusades talk was a highlight of his time here. Jeffrey celebrated his diaconate ordination on June 18.

- New Hospitality initiatives — We began to focus on improving overall hospitality at Masses. We adopted a "free-will offering" for coffee & donuts to ensure the focus was on building community and started a quarterly "Name Tag Sunday" to help us grow closer as a community and help newcomers feel at home as quickly as possible.
- Book Give Away — We gave out 1500 copies of Matthew Kelly's *Rediscover Jesus* at Christmas Masses.
- Vietnamese New Year — On February 7 our Vietnamese Community celebrate its annual TET in grand style.
- StrengthsQuest — Our first ever StrengthsQuest workshop in late February/early March for teens and parents provided an opportunity for both groups to discover the unique God-given strengths.

- Lenten mission — Fr. Marion Nguyen of St. Martin's Abbey gave four powerful talks on placing God first in all things.
- FORMED — Because of our parishioners' stewardship, we acquired FORMED as a faith formation and faith building resource for the entire parish.
- Crash! — Fr. Jim crashed his bike at Priest Days in Ocean Shores and was out of action for several weeks.
- Parochial Vicars — We said a fond farewell to Fr. Charles Banduku and welcomed our former youth minister turned priest, Fr. Cody Ross!

As I close these reflections, I want to focus on the “Joy of the Gospel”, of knowing Jesus Christ and being known by him, of being a sold out disciple of Jesus Christ, totally given over to his love. As Pope Francis tweeted on March 7, 2014, “Our deepest joy comes from Christ: remaining with him, walking with him, being his disciples.”

He also stated in his *Angelus*, Sunday, December 15, 2013, “*The joy of the Gospel is not just any joy. It consists in knowing one is welcomed and loved by God...And so we are able to open our eyes again, to overcome sadness and mourning, to strike up a new song. And this true joy remains even amid trial, even amid suffering, for it is not a superficial joy: it permeates the depths of the person who entrusts him/herself to the Lord and confides in the Lord.*”

Let our hearts be steeped in a joy that the world cannot take away, a joy rooted in Jesus Christ who calls us to be his disciples and sends us out as joyful ambassadors with the commission: “Go, make disciples!”

In Christ, I am ever so grateful to be your servant, your pastor. I love you.

P. Jim Lee



DEMOGRAPHICS

6612 Parishioners

2345 Registered Families

662 Liturgical Ministers

97 Music Ministers

240 Students attend St. Michael Parish School

331 Children in Preschool - 5th Grade Religious Education (F.A.I.T.H.)

98 Teen in EDGE and LIFE TEEN

32 Catechists and Aides

63 Baptisms

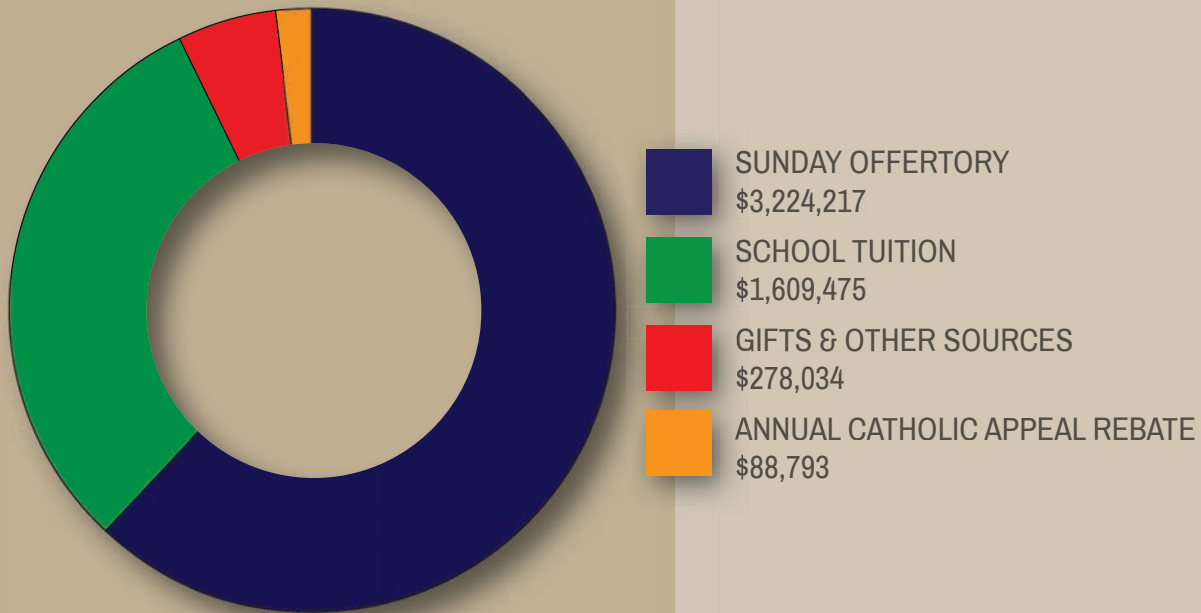
80 Confirmations

50 Funerals

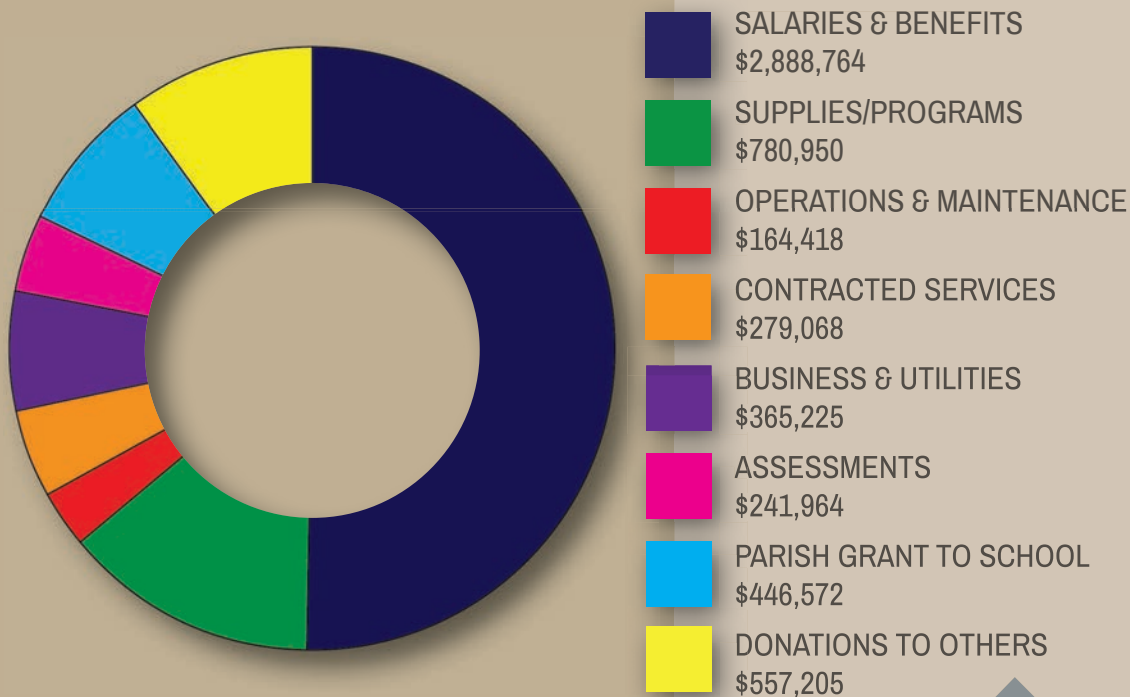
10 Weddings



GIFTS OFFERED



GIFTS DISPERSED



INCLUDES: \$28,881 SHOULDER TO SHOULDER • \$10,926 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL • \$20K HOME MISSIONS • \$15,285 RICE BOWL • \$10K NEIGHBOR SCHOOLS • SPECIAL COLLECTIONS • \$14,293 COMMUNITY KITCHEN MEALS • \$4K SENIOR SERVICES • \$2K PROJECT RACHEL • \$3,472 JOURNEY OF THE HEART • \$3,250 INTERFAITH WORKS

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