

2024 Stewardship Report

October 2024

Dear Parish Family Member,

We have such an amazing parish, and you are an important reason this is true!

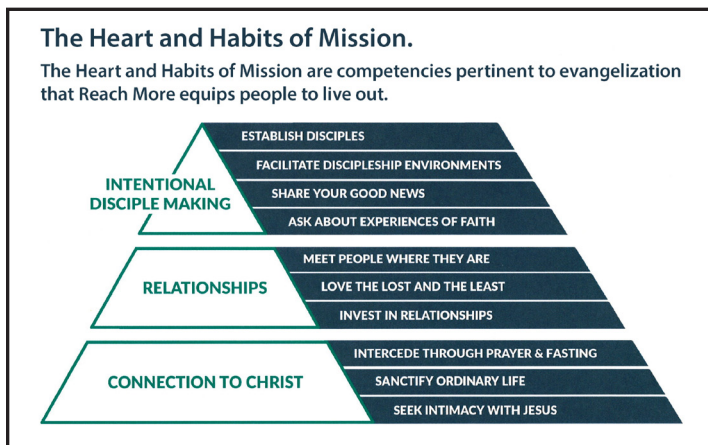
Every day I see the ministry of Jesus Christ unfolding in our midst. So much of what we accomplish in Jesus' name is reported in this stewardship newsletter for the fiscal year of 2024. Please take some time to read and be inspired!

Since our 70th Anniversary in 2019, we have been working hard to equip people with the "Heart and Habits of Mission." Our work with Evangelical Catholic and implementing their discipleship program, Reach More, has influenced our perspective as a parish staff. In the book, *Toward an Apostolic Church* by Peter Andrastek, he writes:



"A parish that prioritizes a process for lay apostolic formation equips the laity to live out their vocation on the front lines of the Church's mission." (page 50)

Creating opportunities for encounter with Jesus through one-on-one ministry continues to be our goal as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary and beyond. We accomplish this in a few fundamental ways: providing lay spiritual direction, days of recollection and, beginning this November, overnight retreats. As mentioned, another way is to invite parishioners into a process of discipleship formation called Reach More.



For hundreds of years, there has been an assumption that the role of evangelization was relegated to the "experts:" priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and professional lay ministers. In short, the parish staff. That was effective in the 1950's when the parish was at the center of our family life and when most Catholics attended Mass regularly. Sadly, this is no longer the case.

The Church has always taught that the work of evangelization belongs to EVERYONE as baptized followers of Jesus. Often, everyday Catholics feel ill-equipped to share their love for the Lord and accompany family members, friends or co-workers as they seek to make a relationship with Jesus a priority. This reality is the reason we have found Reach More so effective. When our lay faithful labor with our parish leadership to bring Jesus to the world, our parish becomes the vibrant community it's meant to be. The process of Reach More trains and equips the lay faithful to become mission leaders who will reach the people in their lives only they can reach. Jesus reminds us in Matthew's Gospel:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." (Matthew 9:37)

We need your help. As our need for one-on-one ministry grows, so does our need for trained ministers to help fuel this effort. We need YOU, and there are many ways in which you can personally participate in our parish mission. You can join our already active ministry teams in liturgy, evangelization, prayer or in service to others. And whether you can commit personal time at this point in your life, you can join us in raising the additional funds that will make it possible for us to meet our goals as a family dedicated to Christ's mandate to spread the Good News by participating in our increased offertory program, "One Family in Christ, Anchored in the Lord," this November. We are looking to increase our Sunday offering by 6% this fiscal year in order to help us expand our ministry efforts.

Together we have accomplished so much, and this 2024 Stewardship Report reflects just a snapshot of how the Lord is working through us. I cannot tell you enough what a difference our parish community makes in the lives of so many people, and yet we have so much "work" to do.

Please know my gratitude for your prayer, service and generosity and how much I love being your pastor!

Fr. Ron Wearsch

A letter from the PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Dear Parishioners,

We had another very good financial year in FY2024, once again generating a small surplus, thanks to your ongoing generosity. Here are the financial highlights for the year:

- Our offertory collections were up 2.6%, vs our 4% budget assumption. Our school operations provided a small operational surplus for the first time, driven by the implementation of Ohio's Expanded EdChoice program (*See comments below*).
- **Capital Campaigns:** As you know, during 2023 we successfully concluded our 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign. During 2024, we focused on completing the projects related to the Heart of a Shepherd (HOS) Campaign. See details included on page 3. All projects are substantially completed with the remaining HOS funds primarily dedicated to paying off our parish mortgage.
- **Mortgage:** In terms of our mortgage, we began the fiscal year with a balance of \$282,325. Due to your generosity, we were able to conclude the fiscal year with a balance of \$147,212, and we have clear line of sight to paying off the mortgage before the end of the year!
- **EdChoice:** During the past school year, Ohio greatly expanded access to the school voucher program known as EdChoice. The school staff did an outstanding job evaluating and quickly implementing the program. This was particularly difficult due to Ohio's rules that were still being finalized well into the school year. However, there are several key results from the implementation of EdChoice at St. Joseph Parish School:



- In FY 2023, parish school families **paid in excess of 90%** of the tuition we collected, with various scholarships covering the balance.
- In FY 2024, parish school families **paid less than 50%** of the tuition we collected, with the balance of tuition coming from scholarships, the Angel Scholarship Fund, and EdChoice!

In addition, due to the incremental EdChoice funding, our school operated at a small surplus for the first time! We plan to continue to re-invest in the school, and anticipate the school to operate at break-even, while focused on continuing to increase enrollment.

The parish and school staffs continue to perform in an outstanding manner. They continue to manage costs effectively, while delivering high quality ministries and strong educational outcomes for the children in our parish school. We are very fortunate to have a truly vibrant parish!

For FY2024, we reported a surplus and our balance sheet is in its strongest position in more than a decade. Our budget for FY2025 is at an operational break-even. Your Finance Council, along with the parish and school staffs, take very seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of your generosity.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

Darrell Deerberg, Kevin Felder, Peter Gibbons, Geoffrey Goodfellow, Steve Hopp, Jim McGrath, Joe McAleese, Adam Santo, Amy Solmos Wayne, Bob Swanson



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS *Fiscal 2024*

We are blessed by those who donate to our Maintenance Fund, which supplies the needed funding for the physical improvements we make both inside and outside of our buildings.

At long last, our “door to nowhere” goes somewhere. It had been a dream of mine for quite some time to make our parish office more secure and accessible to those that have mobility issues. That dream finally came true. At the beginning of our fiscal year (July 2023), work began on building a new parish office entrance. It was completed in just a couple of months and we have been using the entrance since last October. The funding came from dollars saved from a few fiscal years ago, along with dollars donated from this year. I know that the staff and parishioners appreciate the added security and accessibility. Thank you.

Other items that were accomplished with parish dollars and private donations include:

- Outdoor football area: drainage, turf field and seating (Fr. Becherer Field)
- Sidewalks that connect the school building to Electric Boulevard, the playground, the 3-on-3 basketball court and the seating area of the football field
- The storm drain on the east driveway was raised so cars no longer “bottom out”
- Parish office computers
- New maintenance floor scrubbing equipment

Items that were made possible by school fundraising (WeGiveCatholic + Fund a Need as part of our school auction):

- Audio/visual system in Parish Center
- School courtyard improvements

Heart of a Shepherd Campaign:

- Prayer pavilion and shrine area featuring two new statues
- North sidewalks and landscaping

Ohio Safety Grant – \$100,000

- 16 New surveillance cameras + upgraded server (\$65,788.30)
- New door control system (\$27,148.43)
- Portable radios for parish school (\$7,063.27)



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH *Fiscal 2024*

- Our annual financial report has been reviewed by the Diocese of Cleveland Finance Office, and we have received their letter of acceptance to publish our Fiscal 2024 results.



- We are blessed to be able to retire the mortgage on the Parish Center in November 2024. The loan was taken out in early 2016, and my desire was to have the mortgage paid off by the end of our 75th Anniversary year (April 13, 2025). Because of your donations to the Mortgage Fund and Heart of a Shepherd Campaign, and with the support of our CYO, we will be able to pay off this multi-use space in less than 10 years. Thank you.

• You may have noticed in your envelope packet that the Parish Center Mortgage envelope has been removed and has been replaced by an envelope titled “Capital Campaign.” We currently do not have a formal campaign, but I would like to start saving money for a car port to replace the current tent outside the Gathering Area. We do not begin any capital project or major repair unless we have all the money saved prior to starting. I will provide more information regarding the car port when the architect finishes a design, and a preliminary budget can be determined.

- We reduced the 2023 amount reported on line 22, *Fundraising & Other Parish Programs*, by \$75,181 and line 31, *Building Maintenance*, by the same amount. The adjustment for this year and last year was recommended by our Finance Council members. The adjustment related to our Capital Improvement Fund. This adjustment had no effect on the 2023 Net Parish Surplus as previously reported in this statement last year.



STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE

	<i>As of June 30,</i>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
¹ <i>Operating Cash Balance</i>	\$424,813	\$500,430
² <i>Restricted Cash Balance</i>	\$400,371	\$320,683
³ <i>Accounts Receivable</i>	\$39,908	\$2,026
⁴ <i>Other Assets</i>	\$32,332	\$19,043
⁵	TOTAL ASSETS	\$897,424
	\$897,424	\$842,182
LIABILITIES		
⁶ <i>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</i>	\$268,400	\$177,266
⁷ <i>Deferred Income and Restricted Support</i>	\$634,207	\$559,681
⁸ <i>Loans and Mortgage Payable</i>	\$147,212	\$282,326
⁹	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,019,273
	\$1,049,819	\$1,019,273
FUND BALANCE		
¹⁰ <i>Fund Balance Beginning of Fiscal Year</i>	\$(177,091)	\$(507,827)
¹¹ <i>Net Surplus (Deficit) for Fiscal Year</i>	\$24,696	\$330,736
¹²	FUND BALANCE END OF FISCAL YEAR	\$(152,395)
	\$(152,395)	\$(177,091)
¹³	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$842,182
	\$897,424	\$842,182

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH & SCHOOL *Fiscal 2024*

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

St. Joseph Parish

	<i>For the Year Ended June 30,</i>			<i>Budget</i>
	2024	% of TOTAL	2023	<i>For the Year Ending June 30, 2025</i>
PARISH REVENUE				
²¹ <i>Offertory and Other Collections</i>	\$1,444,087	76%	\$1,415,585	\$1,542,000
²² <i>Fundraising and Other Parish Programs</i>	\$300,274	16%	\$365,440	\$268,100
²³ <i>Mortgage Contributions</i>	\$81,613	4%	\$353,216	\$70,000
²⁴ <i>Other Revenue</i>	\$38,245	2%	\$33,548	\$7,500
²⁵ <i>Capital Campaign / Heart of a Shepherd Campaign</i>	\$29,946	2%	\$144,673	- - -
²⁶ TOTAL PARISH REVENUE	\$1,894,165	100%	\$2,312,463	\$1,887,600
PARISH EXPENSES				
²⁷ <i>Salaries, Benefits and Taxes</i>	\$741,272	40%	\$682,8440	\$888,533
²⁸ <i>Administration</i>	\$233,352	12%	\$204,615	\$226,980
²⁹ <i>Sanctuary and Liturgical</i>	\$94,607	4%	\$76,683	\$89,750
³⁰ <i>Parish Programs</i>	\$117,067	6%	\$117,653	\$119,366
³¹ <i>Building Maintenance</i>	\$132,412	7%	\$149,042	\$167,750
³² <i>Utilities</i>	\$65,181	3%	\$64,370	\$66,000
³³ <i>Capital Expenditures</i>	\$479,680	26%	\$305,500	\$100,000
³⁴ <i>Interest Expense</i>	\$8,172	0%	\$17,199	\$5,000
³⁵ <i>Diocesan Assessments</i>	\$158,418	8%	\$152,994	\$164,000
³⁶ <i>Support of Parish School</i>	\$(160,692)	-6%	\$210,832	\$37,607
³⁷ TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES	\$1,869,469	100%	\$1,981,727	\$1,864,986
³⁸ NET PARISH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$24,696		\$330,736	\$22,614

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

St. Joseph Parish School

	<i>For the Year Ended June 30,</i>			<i>Budget</i>
	2024	% of TOTAL	2023	<i>For the Year Ending June 30, 2025</i>
SCHOOL REVENUE				
⁴⁰ <i>Tuition and Fees</i>	\$1,646,205	87%	\$1,013,721	\$1,793,604
⁴¹ <i>Government Assistance</i>	\$101,996	5%	\$100,899	\$105,000
⁴² <i>Fundraising and Other</i>	\$311,706	16%	\$234,179	\$200,251
⁴³ <i>Parish Support of School</i>	\$(160,692)	-8%	\$210,832	\$37,607
⁴⁴ TOTAL SCHOOL REVENUE	\$1,899,216	100%	\$1,559,631	\$2,136,462
SCHOOL EXPENSES				
⁴⁵ <i>Salaries, Benefits and Taxes</i>	\$1,346,497	71%	\$1,179,960	\$1,673,192
⁴⁶ <i>Administration and Instructional</i>	\$149,593	8%	\$50,797	\$153,770
⁴⁷ <i>Building Maintenance</i>	\$120,255	6%	\$123,449	\$130,000
⁴⁸ <i>Utilities</i>	\$77,014	4%	\$76,214	\$79,500
⁴⁹ <i>Capital Expenditures</i>	\$205,858	11%	\$129,210	\$100,000
⁵⁰ TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES	\$1,899,216	100%	\$1,559,631	\$2,136,462
⁵¹ NET SCHOOL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ - - -		\$ - - -	\$ - - -

A letter from MAUREEN GOODWIN

Principal

Dear St. Joseph Parish School Family,

I am thrilled to write to you as the new principal of Saint Joseph Parish School, a place that has always held a special place in my heart. After spending twenty-two wonderful years teaching here, it is both humbling and exhilarating to return to this vibrant community where I have so many cherished memories.

I am also excited to introduce Mr. John Nunney, who joins us this year as our new Dean of Students. Mr. Nunney will play a vital role as an additional administrator, focusing on building positive relationships, overseeing school culture, managing student discipline and collaborating with our team to ensure a fruitful and enriching student experience. With Mr. Nunney's support, we are confident in our ability to maintain and enhance the strong, faith-centered environment that defines our school.



As we begin this new school year together, I want to share with you our key areas of focus:

- ***Strengthening Our Catholic Identity***

Our faith is at the core of everything we do. This year, Mr. Nunney and I are dedicated to deepening our Catholic identity, ensuring that our spiritual life is not just a part of our education but the very heart of it. Our faculty is currently reading "Educating for Eternity: A Teacher's Companion for Making Every Class Catholic." We want our students to experience the joy and strength of our faith in every aspect of their school life.

- ***Pursuing Academic Excellence***

Academic excellence remains a top priority. We are committed to providing a challenging and supportive learning environment that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and a love of learning. Our goal is to empower each student to reach their full potential and excel in their academic journey. This year, our faculty will focus on the Science of Reading. The diocese will release a list of preferred reading series for the 2025-2026 school year this fall, and we will communicate our choice later this year.

- ***Ensuring a Safe and Nurturing Environment***

The well-being of our students is paramount. We are dedicated to creating a nurturing atmosphere where every child feels secure and valued. This includes both their physical safety and emotional health, ensuring that our school is a place where every student can thrive. Last year, with the help of a safety grant, we added additional security cameras and installed phones in every room of the school. We have already begun collaborating with our local safety forces to ensure a safe start to the school year.

As principal, I am deeply committed to being a good steward of the funds entrusted to us by our parishioners and school families. I will work diligently to ensure that every dollar is used wisely and effectively to benefit our students and advance our mission.

At St. Joseph Parish School, we are more than just a school community - we are a family in Christ. This sense of belonging and mutual support is what makes our school truly special. With Mr. Nunney on board, and with all of us working together, I am confident that we will make this year a memorable and successful one for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our school community and Catholic education.

Peace and Goodness,

Mrs. Maureen Goodwin, M. Ed.

Principal, St. Joseph Parish School

A letter from JOHN STIPEK

School Scholarship Administrator

Dear Saint Joseph Families,

Reflecting on the past year, I cannot help but think of the last six years that I had the privilege of being your principal. I have had the pleasure of building such great relationships not only with our students, but also so many of our families. You made me feel so welcome and a part of our great school family from day one. Together we have worked to make Saint Joseph a welcoming place of which to be proud as we open our doors to many new families. We have created an environment that allows our children to learn and be successful. I cannot thank you all enough for these past six years - they have been very special and dear to me!



During this past year, we have continued to exhibit the academic excellence that sets us apart from other schools. Our standardized assessment scores continue to exceed the national norms for all three academic areas, Mathematics, Reading and Science in all grade levels. Our eighth graders who took the Ohio Algebra Test scored at either the Accomplished or Advanced levels of achievement. Also, once again our eighth-grade students continued the long tradition of having 100% of those students applying for Catholic high schools being accepted at their first-choice school. Our graduating Vikings will continue their education at Magnificat, Saint Joseph Academy, Saint Ignatius, Saint Edward and Elyria Catholic. We are so very proud of all our graduates!

This past year also was the first year that both the EdChoice Scholarship and Angel Scholarship Fund, created from the Ohio State Tax Credit Program, were offered to our parents. The EdChoice Scholarship was available to all our families to assist them in the cost of funding a Catholic education for their children. For some of our families, EdChoice made it possible for their children to attend Saint Joseph Parish School and become a part of our school family. The funding not only helped our families, but also allowed the parish to implement several improvements to our school and parish.

The Angel Scholarship Fund has become a win-win for our families. Not only are the funds that are donated to Saint Joseph utilized to assist with the cost of tuition for our families, but the contributing family also receives a credit to reduce the tax they would owe the State of Ohio. In the first year of this program, our generous supporters contributed over \$125,000 that we used to assist our families with the cost of tuition. Our goal for the 2024 Angel Scholarship Fund is \$200,000 to be used for tuition assistance for the 2025–2026 school year. If you have any questions about either of these programs, please contact me at the Parish Office.

Finally, we are very proud and grateful for the collaboration between the parish, school and our families. It is the “family environment,” evident in the celebration of Mass and within the halls of our school, that makes Saint Joseph Parish School the special place it is. It is each and every one of you, whether a school family or parishioner, that make Saint Joseph Parish and School so special! Together we create that environment!

Yours in Christ and Gratitude,
Mr. John T. Stipek, M. Ed.



2024 MINISTRY IMPACT *Sacraments & Teaching*

SACRAMENTS & EVANGELIZATION	2024	2023
Baptisms	49*	64
First Communions	73	80
Confirmations	47	62
Marriages	14**	15
RCIA Participants	5***	0
Average Weekend Mass Attendance	1,300	1,300
Weekly Homebound Communion Visits	120	120
New Parishioner Households	93	128
Trained Reach More Participants	67	16

DAY SCHOOL STUDENTS	2024	2023
K - 8	273	250
Preschool	51	55

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS	2024	2023
PSR	349	349

* 47 infant (to age 7) baptisms; 2 adult
 ** 10 marriages were Catholic to Catholic; 4 were Catholic to Christian; 5 were convalidations
 *** 1 Confirmation only; 3 Reconciliation+First Communion+Confirmation; 1 Baptism+Reconciliation+First Communion+Confirmation

CATHOLIC CHARITIES	
<i>Donations to Date</i>	\$138,948

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Eastern Europe	\$438.00
Black and Indian Mission	\$692.00
Holy Land	\$2,469.55
Holy Father	\$690.00
Catechetical Services	\$347.00
Catholic University	\$379.00
Communications Collection	\$314.00
World Mission Sunday Collection	\$730.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$1,062.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$4,187.00
Latin America	\$265.00
Mission Cooperative	\$8,509.00
Catholic Home Mission	\$561.00
Catholic Education	\$381.00
Rice Bowl Collections	\$2,208.15
Catholic Relief Services	\$927.00
Welcome Circle	\$24,257.00
TOTAL	\$48,416.70



Thank You!

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed, someone might say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

James 2:14-18

2024 MINISTRY IMPACT *Outreach to those in Need*

CHARITY IN LOVE

The **Charity in Love Fund** provides the financial support needed for all the meal preparations that we offer in Lorain County and beyond. We support the St. Elizabeth Center with a weekly Wednesday lunch, second and fourth Saturday breakfasts, dinner on the first and second Wednesday of the month, and lunch and supper on the fourth Friday of the month. We also make 65 weekly to-go meals for the residents of Bridge Pointe Commons in Elyria. In addition, we served over 1,000 people at Thanksgiving time at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Church in Lorain last year, as well as dozens of other Thanksgiving meals in and around Avon Lake.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The work of our **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, which works alongside its clients, is an example of a one-on-one caring ministry. With generous donations from our parishioners, we have been able to assist individuals and families in our parish and local community in a variety of ways in order to bridge the gap during times of crisis. Not only do we help to provide assistance for food, shelter, utilities, car repairs and gasoline, but we are also committed to being a spiritual support to our neighbors in need as well. Members of the SVdP Society partner with Community Resource Services (CRS) in Avon Lake to coordinate their efforts.



86 Home Visits

Our members visit clients homes to provide financial and spiritual support.

1,233 Miles Driven

452 Hours with Clients

19 Individuals and Families provided Rental Assistance

Approximately \$10,500 this past year.

20 Individuals and Families provided Utility Assistance

We help to pay a portion of gas or electric bills during the winter months.

Numerous Individuals and Families helped through the SVdP Pantry

A minimum of 10 clients/cases are assisted each month.

Weekly Meals provided to the St. Elizabeth Center

Each Wednesday, several SVdP volunteers make, deliver and serve lunches at the St. Elizabeth Center.



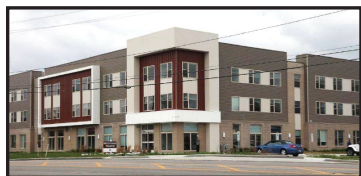
ST. ELIZABETH CENTER

Located in central Lorain, the St. Elizabeth Center serves as a place for persons who are homeless, hungry or otherwise vulnerable to receive assistance. Individuals are also provided information on community resources, as well as one-on-one assistance in order to access the resources available to them. The center also serves as a men's overnight emergency shelter, ultimately hoping to help each man secure stable housing and improve self-sufficiency.



BRIDGE POINTE COMMONS

Bridge Pointe Commons is a 62-unit permanent, supportive housing building in Elyria that serves individuals who have been chronically homeless and are suffering from a disability. Individuals living at Bridge Pointe have been living in shelters or on the streets for a very long time and are adapting to living in their own space. Supportive services offered on site in the building include teaching life skills, such as cooking, budgeting, housekeeping, and learning how to adhere to a lease. Additionally, case management, psychiatric, and employment assistance are offered by the on-site service provider, Riveon Mental Health and Recovery (formerly The Nord Center). St. Joseph Parish provides



a hot meal to the 62 residents every Friday. Providing this assists these residents with a sense of kinship, as the meals are delivered in the community room, as well as an opportunity for the residents to build relationships and learn about other supportive resources in the area. The meals bring comfort, joy and a sense of belonging to people who have not felt a part of a larger community for quite some time.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION 2023 / 2024

“CYO inspires young people to know God, to love God, and to serve God through athletics.”

Across the Diocese, about 21,000 athletes participate in CYO athletics with many sports to choose from, including flag football, tackle football, rookie tackle football, soccer, volleyball, cross country, track & field, basketball, cheer, baseball, and softball.

CYO PROGRAM OVERVIEW

At St Joseph's, participation in our CYO program has been increasing year over year, season over season, giving our children positive experiences and building great friendships in our parish community.

During the 2023-24 athletic year, we had 440+ children participating in our programs.

- 90+ girls on 11 grade school volleyball teams
- 30+ boys on 3 flag football teams
- 16 cross country runners
- 130+ children on 14 grade school basketball teams
- 55+ boys on 6 high school boy's basketball teams
- 19 girls on 2 high school girl's basketball teams
- 12 grade school girls on our winter cheerleading team
- 75+ grade school children participated in track and field



This fall, we have over 200 children participating in our fall sports programs, which has doubled since 2019. The growth in participation reflects our growing PSR program, day school and youth groups. We are pleased to be a small part of the overall experience that our parish children enjoy on campus.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2023-24 season was one of our most successful years as a CYO program. We had many firsts and school records achieved:

- 3 top 20 finishers at the Cross Country Championships
 - *Molly Pisanelli, Sylvia Langer, & Jack Feczko*
- 6th grade cheerleading squad won the Cheer Diocesan Championship!
- The 2023-24 season was the first year that our parish participated in girl's high school basketball. We had two teams, 11th and 12th grades. Both teams qualified for the CYO State Championship Tournament, with our 12th grade team finishing as runners-up!
- Our 6th grade track team finish 2nd at the CYO Grade 6 Invitational
- New St. Joseph Track & Field records:
 - Girl's High Jump – *Sarah Frericks* – 5'0"
 - Girl's 800 Meters – *Kara Bring* – 2:50
 - Girl's 1600 Meters – *Annie Collins* – 6:28
 - Boy's Discus - *Jackson Marshall* – 121'6
 - Boy's 100 Meters – *Chris Jirgal* – 12.14
 - Boy's 200 Meters – *Chris Jirgal* – 24.74



CYO 2023 / 2024

FACILITIES

Starting in the fall of 2023, we utilized the new audio system in the St. Joseph Parish Center to enhance our game-day experience for volleyball, basketball and cheerleading. This audio system has allowed us to provide the best indoor experience for youth sports in the Cleveland area. To share this experience with our neighbors, we are hosting more games in the Parish Center during the 2024-25 athletic season than ever before.

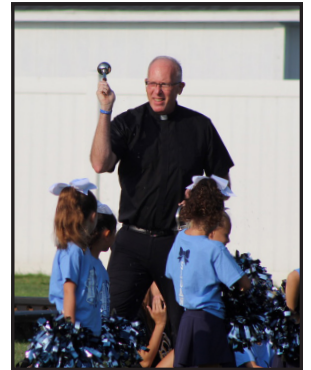
This August, we opened Fr. Becherer Field, which will host 30+ flag football games over 6 Saturdays this fall. The field is 70 yards by 30 yards and will be large enough to host games for flag football and 7v7 Rookie Tackle. The field is also equipped with a field goal post to allow junior high football teams to practice on this field.

During the Lake Breeze Festival our youth were able to use Fr. Becherer Field to run and play, which added to the overall enjoyment of the festival. We are excited for this field to be utilized for recess, gym class, CYO sports and many other parish activities.



Fr. Becherer Field was funded by private and directed donations from CYO families.

In addition, our CYO program provided the funding to resurface the existing 3v3 basketball court adjacent to the playground on the west lawn.



EXPANDED SPORTS / PROGRAMS

We are excited to announce a few new and expanded programs!

- We are restarting our tackle football program. This will provide our parish children the ability to play CYO football from 1st grade through 8th grade at St. Joseph's.
- As part of this restart, we are offering padded flag football for our 4th graders. Padded flag football is designed to be a transition from flag to tackle football.
- We started a fall cheerleading program for grades 1st to 4th. Participation in this program has exceeded our greatest hopes with 25+ children.
- In our cross country program's third year, we have expanded to include 3rd and 4th graders. Previously, the program was for only available for 5th to 8th graders.

We are very blessed to have the support of Fr. Ron, Phil Lewandowski, David Aslaksen, Jim Adamowicz and many others. Without strong support, our CYO program would not be able to provide as many opportunities as it currently does.

We are continually looking for new voices to join our program as a coach, board member, commissioner or tournament director. We need the continued support from our parish families to maintain our program's high standards.

Looking forward to another amazing year of unforgettable memories and friendships. God Bless!

CYO BOARD MEMBERS

Tony Cox, Jason Dietz, Greg Faltenovich, Jennifer Frericks, Robyn Groshek, Jessica Hill, Brendan Mackin, Adrienne Mueller, Kara Reynolds, Kay Simecek, Mike Simecek and Luke Steinacker



SAINT JOSEPH

PARISH and SCHOOL

32929 Lake Road

Avon Lake, OH 44012

Grow the Mission! Consider Paying it Forward.

As we reflect on another amazing year of faith, fellowship, and service, we invite you to consider making a charitable gift to support the continued growth of our parish's mission. Your generosity enables us to expand our outreach, enhance our ministries and foster a welcoming community for all. Together, we can make a lasting impact and bring hope to those in need. Please consider the following options:

- **Gift of Money**

Giving is easy. You can simply write a check payable to 'St. Joseph Parish' and send it to the Parish Office before December 31, 2024. Have you considered increasing your offertory?

- **Gift of Long-Term Appreciated Securities**

Charitable gifts of long-term appreciated securities have many advantages. Consult with your tax advisor to determine if this type of charitable gift is right for you. If you have questions, please call the Parish Office.

- **Using a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**

If you have reached the age of 72, you may be required to take minimum withdrawals (RMDs) from your retirement accounts (IRAs). You can make a QCD to St. Joseph Parish of up to \$100,000 of your RMD without including the distribution in your income.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our shared mission. May we continue to grow in faith and love, hand in hand as...

One Family in Christ, Anchored in the Lord.

