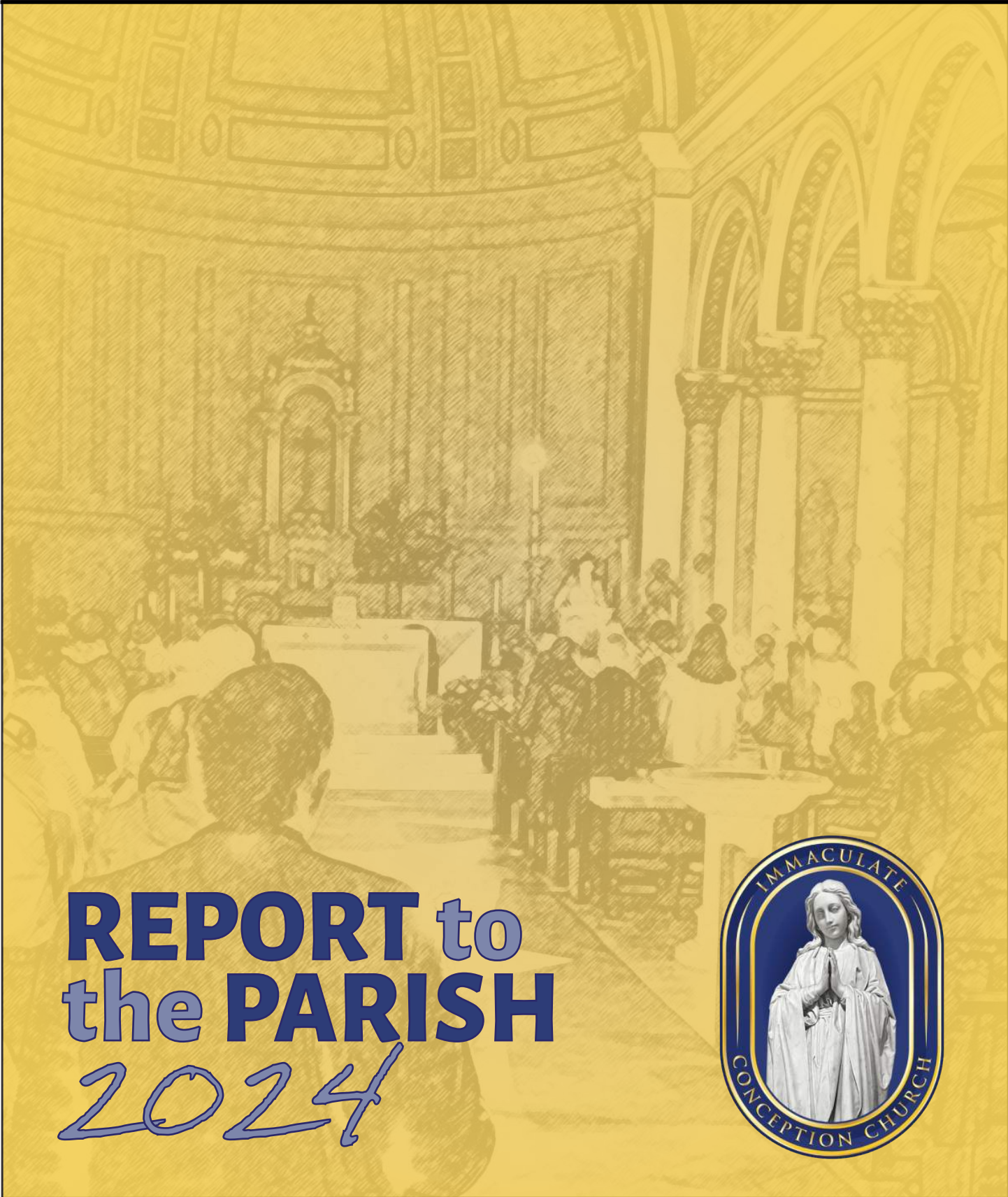


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH

OCTOBER 27, 2024 | 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



REPORT to the PARISH 2024



Fr Benny's REPORT TO THE PARISH



The Word of God

Strength in Service

Growing in Faith

Prayer & Reflection

Worship in Song!

Exploring our Faith

Dear Parishioners:

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE OUR FISCAL YEAR ENDED ON JUNE 30, 2024 and we are already more than a quarter of the way through our fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Last year was a very busy one for St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish. For me, personally, I was very excited to have my term as your pastor extended for another six years. I have learned a lot and we have done a lot over the past seven years, and I look forward to building on all we've accomplished since I arrived.

Our **Faith Formation Program** continues to be one of our highlights. We witnessed 18 children receive First Eucharist and 19 teens Confirmed last year. We are excited because all of our classes are larger than we expected this year. For those who are unfamiliar with our program, it uses the liturgy and the mass as the basis of teaching our faith. Our classes are generally held twice a month during the school year, and the children are expected to attend, and participate in, the mass. Thank you to all who generously donate your time, talents and treasures toward making this program a success.

Helping those who are less fortunate is certainly a cornerstone of our parish. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, **Mary's Pantry** helped many with groceries and personal care products as they struggled last year. The Pantry's biggest outreach event is distribution of Thanksgiving Dinners – not just turkeys but all the fixings! Thanks to the generosity of the **Knights of Columbus** and our parishioners who donated the sides to make up the meal, we were able to provide nearly 100 meals last Thanksgiving.

One of our other vibrant ministries is our **Resettlement Ministry**. Our



Resettlement Ministry supports refugees during their transition to the United States. As many of you know, Catholic Charities provides temporary housing to refugees when they first come here to give them a chance to find work and more permanent housing. Our Ministry provides supplies, assists with English language training, immigration needs among other costs incurred by those who have fled their home countries in search for a better way of life. In addition, our ministry has assisted families to enroll their children in schools and find permanent housing.

AM VERY PROUD OF THE OPPORTUNITIES WE OFFERED FOR YOU TO EXPLORE YOUR FAITH. During Lent, Fr. Chris Ciccarino led a series entitled “**Lenten Exodus, Living in Egypt**” and during the Easter Season, Fr. Jared Brogan led a series entitled “**The Eucharist Believed, Celebrated and Lived**”.

Both priests were very exciting speakers and led those who participated in journeys to deepen their understanding of their faith.

In addition, we offered other opportunities for our parishioners meet as a community. Our **Women’s Cornerstone** met in the beginning of the calendar year and the women continue to meet periodically. After being forced to shut down after COVID, our **Seniors Ministry** has been reactivated and meets regularly and we have once again, begun making adult and youth **mission trips**. I’m sure you enjoyed reading the reflections our teens wrote for our bulletin after returning from their trip to McAllen Texas.

As you would expect, our busiest time of year is the Christmas season. From our **Annual Women’s Social** to **St. Nick’s Breakfast** to our **Christmas Concert** many of you spent time with our community during the Christmas season. We hope to see all of you again this year.

As we seek ways to offer you opportunities to form a closer connection to our community, we also need to focus on the business of running a church and a parish. Yes. It is a business too. And like all other businesses, I need to turn to our financials.

Our fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 ended with a net deficit of \$32,000. While we incurred an overall deficit, we did have some favorable things. Last fall, we undertook an **Increased Offertory Program** and thank you to the many parishioners who responded. Last year, our weekly offerings were nearly 14% higher than in the previous year. This, contributed significantly to our ability to offer to you the programs I mentioned above. In addition, your generous donations to our Legacy Fund, Repairs and Maintenance and Resettlement Ministries were essential to our ability to pay our costs last year. **The chart attached provides some**

insight into the gifts made to the parish. What is striking to me is that 43% of the gifts we received were from individuals who either are not in our database or who donated cash and did not provide the information for us to attribute their gifts to them. I appreciate the generosity you’ve all shown us although the year was a difficult one for many of you.

The Revenues represent only one side of the equation. Like all businesses, it costs money to run the parish. You will see from the attached chart, our largest single expense is labor. This includes clergy, parish office staff, Faith Formation staff, Music and our maintenance staff. Without this team, we would not be able to provide the services, quality worship experience and maintain the buildings.

What is consistently the most significant cost outside labor costs is **Repairs and Maintenance**. Given the age of our buildings, it is no surprise that every year, we discover expensive repairs that need to be made. Last year, we spent over \$150,000 repairing our facilities – specifically, the church, rectory and parish center. Among the most significant repairs we made last year were sealing our parking lot and paving the driveway to the rectory. Both were in bad shape and had become not only safety issues, but challenges for snow removal and needed to be done.

As you recall, we silenced our beautiful bell two years ago when we discovered cracks on its facade. Last year, a structural engineer toured the tower and based upon his report and subsequent additional studies, this bell tower will require significant work. As a result, the bell continues to be silent and will remain silent for the foreseeable future. We are working with the engineers and with the Archdiocese to determine the best way to address the tower. As I learn more about this, I will inform you.

We also continue to face roof issues on some of our buildings and we are addressing them to avoid further deterioration. Unfortunately, last year we spent nearly \$20,000 on roofing issues and we know that we are not done yet!

You may have noticed that the windows in the church need to be repaired. Our beautiful stained-glass windows will need repairs to prevent further deterioration. While we made no progress on that last year, we hope we can repair them soon.

I hope by now you’ve had the opportunity to meet our new **Music Director, Brenda Ferguson**. Brenda is an accomplished organist with considerable experience developing and leading church choirs. She has been working hard to help provide the type of music experience you all enjoyed in the past and is looking forward to reinstating our choirs. She plans to start with a “**Cherub Choir**” this year and will, hopefully, involve many more of our parishioners in our music program. Last year, many of you enjoyed our **Christmas Concert** and we hope you all will join us for Brenda’s first Christmas Concert here. She is working hard to plan a program that I’m sure will help all who attend to enjoy the spirit of Christmas.



Our facilities costs don't end with repairs and maintenance. Like

you, we struggle with rising costs – food, utilities and insurance continue to rise significantly each year. I am pleased that, despite this, we have been able to offer so much support to those in need.

As I look to 2025, we have another ambitious year ahead. We continue to focus on mass celebrations that are favorable experiences – from the preacher to the music. If we aren't doing a good job there, the rest doesn't really mean a lot. Our faith formation program continues to grow. We have an enthusiastic team of catechists and our Faith Formation staff are excited to be working directly with our children during their sacrament preparation programs. We believe that since bringing Brenda on board, we have stability in the music area and our music ministry will bring much to the worship experience.

THAT SAID, THE BIGGEST ISSUE (ASIDE FROM OUR FACILITIES ISSUES) WE GRAPPLE WITH IS OUR DEBT TO THE ARCHDIOCESE. As many of you may recall, when I arrived here, the Parish owed nearly \$1,000,000 to the Archdiocese. I was, at that time, told not to worry about that debt and not to worry about incurring more debt. As a result, we currently owe the Archdiocese \$1.4 million. The Archdiocese recently informed me that we need to develop a plan to repay the debt. Our Business Manager and I are working with our Finance Council and with the Archdiocese to develop a plan to repay that debt. We will be sharing more on this with you soon.

Despite our facilities and fiscal challenges, I am optimistic about the future of Immaculate Conception Church. Our Faith Formation Program is solid and growing; our Music Ministry is taking off; our Seniors Ministry, Resettlement Ministry and Cornerstone continue to be very active so there is much to be thankful for.

*God Bless You,
Fr Benny*



Fun & Fellowship

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Celebrating Sacraments

Fiscal year 2024 STATISTICS

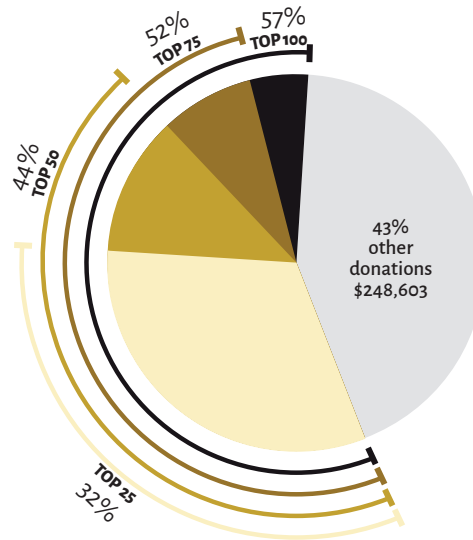
Donations



Total Donations
\$581,196

Total Tracked in D-Base Donations
\$415,832

Total Untracked Donations
\$165,364



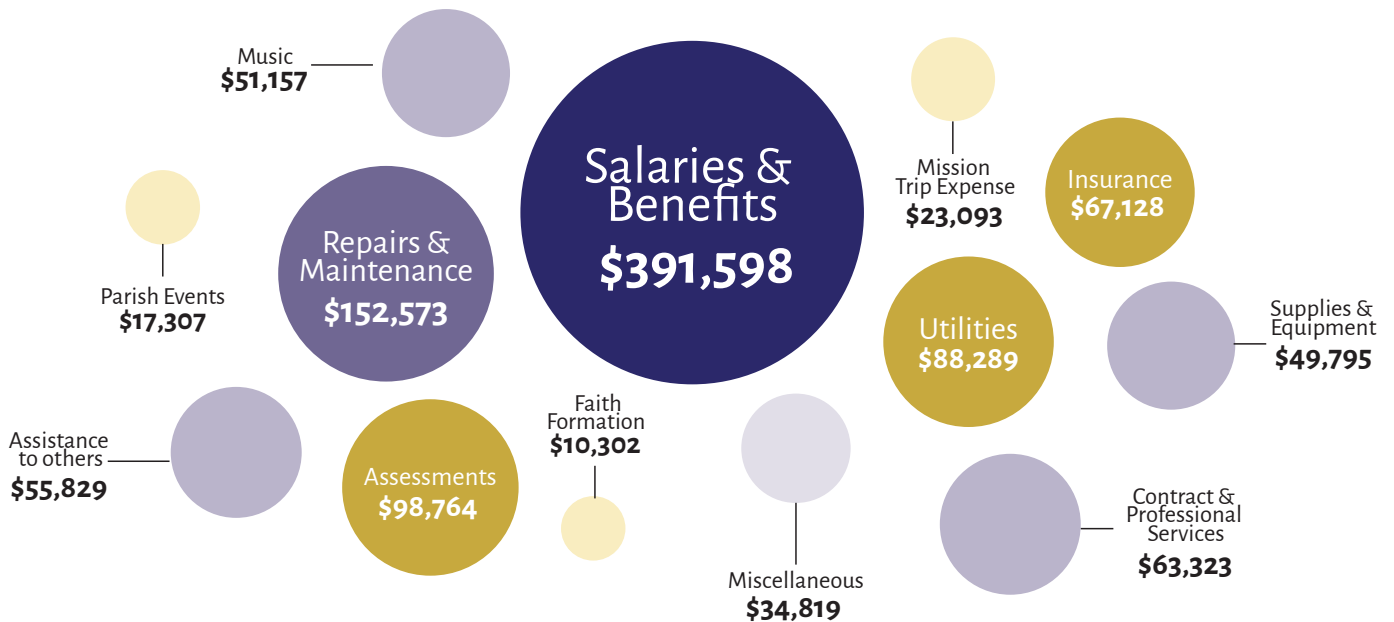
57% of donations come from the top 100 donors
\$332,593

52% of donations come from the top 75 donors
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44% of donations come from the top 50 donors
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32% of donations come from the top 25 donors
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Expenses



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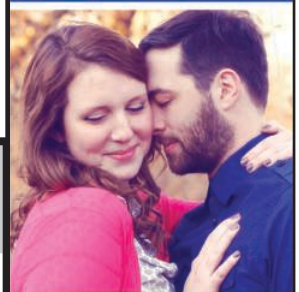
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