



Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish

Annual Report
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

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This Annual Report provides you with important information about our current financial status, financial outlook, and how your contributions directly support our essential ministries and help to renew our faith community. We invite you to read this report and reflect on your current and future commitment to Saints JFX Parish.

Vital Statistics
2101 Registered Families
33 Parish Organizations
154 Baptisms
110 First Communions
110 Confirmations
35 Weddings
58 Funerals
708 Saints JFX School Students
148 Families in Family of Faith
\$400,000 Parish Contribution to Saints JFX School
\$64,220 Parish Contribution to Youth Faith Formation
\$382,068 Parish Contribution to the Larger Community

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The Parish Finance Council advises Father Watts on various matters impacting the finances of Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish. The Finance Council has prepared this report to provide transparency to parishioners regarding the stewardship of your generous monetary contributions and to provide a summary of activities conducted by our faith community. Please feel free to contact [Joseph D'Arco](#) or [Father Watts](#) if you have questions about this report.

The Parish Finance Council

Father Wayne F. Watts, Pastor
 Joseph D'Arco, Operations Director
 Andrew Housley (Co-Chair)
 Kate Denny (Co-Chair)
 Brendan Falls
 Jeanette Fitzpatrick
 William Gano
 Robert Morehead
 Javier Santacruz
 Matt Schumacher
 Eileen Sethna
 Steve Whisdosh

Letter from Our Leadership Team

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

“Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

These words, written by Saint Paul to the people of Rome, and proclaimed often by people of faith throughout this Jubilee Year of Hope, serve as the background for our brief letter introducing this year’s Annual Stewardship Report. Pope Francis, in his Bull of Indiction, written in May 2024, announced the Jubilee Year (which began in December 2024) using the same words in his very first sentence. Our Fiscal Year 2025 began shortly after that. While we still have a few months of Jubilee, our Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025. As we present to you this year’s stewardship report, you will see that we have reason to hope.

Great things happen at Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier. This report will highlight some of the wonderful things that the people of this remarkable parish accomplished in the last Fiscal Year. What we do and what we say here demonstrate that the love of God really has been poured out into our hearts. The generosity of many – who give time, talent, and treasure to this place and beyond – inspires us and gives us boundless reason to hope.

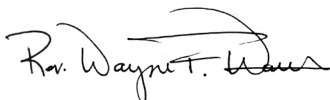
As we began the Fiscal Year in July 2024, we also commenced the One Plan campaign. We are still overwhelmed by the number of people who raised their hand, stepped up, and helped. The consultants said that we should secure six co-chairs for our campaign’s size. They said, “Ask ten and you might get six.” We asked ten couples and individuals. They all said yes and offered suggestions of another eight. So, we asked them. They all said yes – a reason to hope! They rolled up their sleeves and spent countless hours volunteering with the fundraising and early construction phases. And by the end of the Fiscal Year, June 30, 2025, we were making great progress toward our historic goal.

Dozens of visitors have remarked to us about our full churches for our Sunday Masses and the joyful celebrations that we have. An increase of families and children participate in our Sunday worship. We see it with our own eyes and we are filled with hope and joy. One curiosity, though, stems from the fact that our increase in Mass attendance is not equaled with an increase in the Sunday offering numbers. While more people are attending Mass, the collections remain basically flat. We are hopeful that with the One Plan solicitation phase soon to be behind us, we can now focus on supporting the regular operations of the parish and school. The flat collections are simply an opportunity. We’re not losing sleep over it. We know the generous people of this parish will look into their hearts and increase their Sunday offering. We promise you that we will. Please consider electronic giving via pushpay.com. Know that we won’t ask you to do anything that we are not willing to do, too.

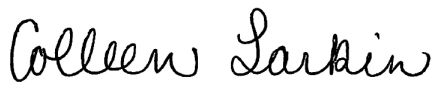
As the amazing things continue here, and as we begin the transformation phase of the One Plan, we remind you that everything we do here aims to bring people closer to Christ and his Church. We end with Pope Francis’ words:

“Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: ‘Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!’ (Ps 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever.”

With warmth and gratitude,



Rev. Wayne F. Watts
Pastor



Colleen Larkin
Principal



Joseph P. D'Arco
Operations Director

Financial Highlights

Our Parish family continues to be blessed with strong financial health. Fiscal Year 2025 was a special year – one that set the course for our future and celebrated the successful launch of the One Plan, a record-setting campaign that reflects the generosity and faith of our community. All of this was achieved while carefully managing the resources of both the Parish and the School.

As you will see in the attached financial detail, both the Parish and the School stayed close to their financial goals for the year. While core giving (Sunday, Christmas, and Easter offerings) came in a bit lower than expected and slightly below last year, this was not surprising. Many of our families focused their time, attention, and resources on the One Plan campaign. With more families joining our Parish and pews filled each weekend, we are confident that giving will return to normal levels in Fiscal Year 2026.

Our School also remains on a steady path, supported by tuition, fees, HSO efforts, and Parish funding. The Parish's contribution to Catholic education remained strong and consistent with prior years, showing our continued commitment to helping children grow in faith and knowledge.

As we enter Fiscal Year 2026, our commitment is to remain careful stewards of the resources entrusted to us. With the One Plan moving from fundraising into development, we look forward to renewed focus on regular giving, which will allow us to strengthen our ministries, support our school, and continue serving the growing needs of our Parish family.

Saints JFX One Plan Summary

In July of 2024, the Saints JFX Parish formally announced One Plan, a long-term vision and investment strategy aimed at reinvesting and improving both internal and external facilities. Rooted in faith, stewardship, and unity, the plan focused on enhancing worship spaces, improving educational facilities, addressing deferred maintenance, and creating more welcoming areas for prayer, learning, and fellowship.

Guided by this plan, we have made outstanding progress in both planning and fundraising. As of the date of this report, our parish community has pledged more than \$34.5 million, reaching 98% of our \$35 million goal, with contributions from over 700 families. Having quickly fulfilled our Archdiocesan commitment, all remaining funds now stay within our parish to support One Plan priorities, including air conditioning installation at St. Joseph Church, the creation of a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, campus safety and accessibility upgrades, and the continued maintenance of parish and school facilities. Larger projects such as a new building at the SFX school campus, gathering spaces, and green areas are being implemented on a phased basis as required approvals are obtained. Through the generosity and faith of our community, the One Plan is turning a shared vision into a lasting legacy for Saints JFX.

Statement of Activities

Current Year Versus Prior Year Results

Revenue	Actual 2025			Actual 2024			Increase (Decrease)		
	Church	School	Total	Church	School	Total	Church	School	Total
Sunday Collections	\$1,957,542	0	\$1,957,542	\$1,938,070	0	\$1,938,070	\$19,472	0	\$19,472
Christmas Collection	391,431	0	391,431	450,796	0	450,796	(59,365)	0	(59,365)
Easter Collection	125,301	0	125,301	164,133	0	164,133	(38,832)	0	(38,832)
Tuition & Fees (1)	67,280	6,434,540	6,501,820	88,394	6,336,313	6,424,707	(21,114)	98,227	77,113
Net Rental Income	19,899	0	19,899	20,572	0	20,572	(673)	0	(673)
Auxiliary Grps/Fundraising (2)	2,200	1,035,577	1,037,776	10,196	948,777	958,973	(7,996)	86,800	78,803
Miscellaneous Income (3)	71,831	47,700	119,531	159,740	72,637	232,377	(87,910)	(24,937)	(112,847)
Total Revenue	\$2,635,484	\$7,517,817	\$10,153,301	\$2,831,901	\$7,357,727	\$10,189,628	(\$196,418)	\$160,090	(\$36,328)
Expenses									
Salaries & Benefits (4)	\$1,388,952	6,898,988	\$8,287,940	\$1,334,357	6,079,994	\$7,414,351	\$54,595	818,994	\$873,589
Utilities	129,056	144,714	273,770	116,240	133,728	249,968	12,816	10,986	23,802
Administrative Expenses	164,895	390,421	555,316	156,777	348,879	505,656	8,118	41,542	49,660
Maintenance & Repairs (5)	165,350	194,545	359,895	139,905	272,383	412,288	25,445	(77,838)	(52,393)
Furnishings & Equipment	10,292	107,514	117,806	15,999	96,528	112,527	(5,707)	10,986	5,279
Books & Supplies	13,251	124,214	137,465	29,514	116,465	145,979	(16,263)	7,749	(8,514)
Insurance	126,491	209,383	335,874	112,521	191,590	304,111	13,970	17,793	31,763
Archdiocesan Assessment (6)	352,642	44,478	397,120	340,284	30,616	370,900	12,358	13,862	26,220
Miscellaneous Expense (7)	170,801	68,573	239,375	118,854	81,305	200,159	51,948	(12,732)	39,216
Total Expenses	\$2,521,730	\$8,182,831	\$10,704,561	\$2,364,451	\$7,351,488	\$9,715,939	\$157,279	\$831,343	\$988,622
Ordinary Surplus (Deficit)	\$113,753	(\$665,013)	(\$551,260)	\$467,451	\$6,239	\$473,690	(\$353,697)	(\$671,252)	(\$1,024,950)
Purchase of Property (8)	(1,493,078)	0	(1,493,078)	0	0	0	(1,493,078)	0	(1,493,078)
Debt Relief (9)	0	0	0	731,037	0	731,037	(731,037)	0	(731,037)
Non-Ordinary Income	3,895,015	0	3,895,015	306,432	0	306,432	3,588,583	0	3,588,583
Non-Ordinary Expense	(413,926)	0	(413,926)	(1,064,221)	0	(1,064,221)	650,295	0	650,295
Net Non-Ordinary	\$1,988,010	\$0	\$1,988,010	(\$26,753)	\$0	(\$26,753)	\$2,014,763	\$0	\$2,014,763
Net Cash Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,101,764	(\$665,013)	\$1,436,750	\$440,698	\$6,239	\$446,937	\$1,661,066	(\$671,252)	\$989,813
Unrealized Gains (Losses) (10)	\$368,047	\$172,469	\$540,515	\$319,460	\$107,248	\$426,708	\$48,587	\$65,221	\$113,807
School Subsidy (11)	(\$400,000)	\$400,000	\$0	(\$400,000)	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	0	\$0
Net Change in Assets	\$2,069,811	(\$92,545)	\$1,977,266	\$360,158	\$513,487	\$873,645	\$1,709,653	(\$606,032)	\$1,103,621

- 1) This is an expected increase from FY24.
- 2) The increase in this revenue line is related to a donation to cover the financial aid needs of the school, which is expected to continue annually. The HSO revenue, the primary component of this revenue line, was flat year over year. The HSO is a parent-led fundraising arm that supports the school through direct school support, teacher retention activities, campus improvements, etc.
- 3) Miscellaneous Income is mainly composed of stole fees (weddings, funerals, baptisms), Mass intentions, candles, and other miscellaneous donations.
- 4) The increase in expenses was largely budgeted. About 50% of the increase was due to cost-of-living adjustments and increases to benefit premiums. About 30% was due to increased benefit utilization and the rest is due to increases in end of year bonuses (Teachers Light the Way), which are funded through the HSO.
- 5) Due to the age of many of our facilities, unexpected maintenance repairs fluctuate greatly from year to year.
- 6) Archdiocesan Assessments are assessed at 18% of Sunday, Holy Day, Christmas, and Easter Collections. These funds support the operation of the Archdiocesan offices and employees.
- 7) Miscellaneous Expense comprises altar and liturgical supplies, food service, speakers' fees, hospitality, and dues & subscriptions.
- 8) Related to the purchase of 825 Greenleaf.
- 9) This debt relief was provided by the Archdiocese in FY24 as part of our merger from 2019 and was a one-time event to eliminate unmet legacy St. Joseph Parish Archdiocesan assessments for the Years 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- 10) Unrealized Gains (Losses) relate to increases in parish and school endowments and other investments.
- 11) The parish supports the school with a direct subsidy. The subsidy is currently expected to be between \$350,000 and \$450,000 annually and is used to help offset school operating expenses.

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	As of June 30, 2025	As of June 30, 2024	Increase (Decrease)
<u>Cash & Savings Accounts</u>			
Parish Accounts	\$15,112	\$308,835	(\$293,723)
Regular & Stock Savings	(1) 496,403	2,254,187	(1,757,784)
Total	\$511,515	\$2,563,021	(\$2,051,506)
<u>Designated Use Funds</u>			
Sharing Collections	(2) \$111,014	\$157,666	(\$46,652)
Auxiliary Accounts	(3) 461,099	414,529	46,570
One Plan	(4) 3,173,293	144,612	3,028,681
Building Fund	(5) 611,228	108,439	502,788
Total	\$4,356,633	\$825,246	\$3,531,388
<u>Restricted Funds</u>			
St. Vincent DePaul Society	(6) \$239,073	\$262,952	(\$23,879)
Immaculée Conception, Haiti	(7) 298,235	281,407	16,828
School Scholarship Fund	240,939	235,096	5,843
TLTW Today and Tomorrow	(8) 616,927	351,238	265,690
School Epic Fund	(9) 525,731	537,072	(11,340)
Total	\$1,920,905	\$1,667,765	\$253,141
<u>Endowments</u>			
Parish Endowment	(10) \$3,592,656	\$3,286,309	\$306,347
School Endowment	(11) 1,290,442	1,182,983	107,459
Total	\$4,883,098	\$4,469,292	\$413,807
Marketable Securities	\$38,438	\$38,437	\$1
Total Assets	\$11,710,589	\$9,563,760	\$2,146,830
<u>Liabilities & Reserves</u>			
Accounts Payable	\$ (162,287.19)	\$43,187	(\$205,475)
Prepaid Tuition	602,458	242,518	\$359,940
Reserve for Restricted Funds	1,382,973	1,367,876	\$15,098
Total Liabilities & Reserves	\$1,823,144	\$1,653,581	\$169,563
Net Parish Assets	\$9,887,445	\$7,910,179	\$1,977,266
Total Liab/Resrv & Net Assets	\$11,710,589	\$9,563,760	\$2,146,829

- 1) The drop in parish savings is related to the purchase of 825 Greenleaf for use as part of the One Plan. The funds used to purchase the property were not part of the One Plan fundraising.
- 2) Funds from Archdiocesan-sponsored collections and collections for St. Thomas of Canterbury School and Food Pantry, which are in the process of being paid.
- 3) Funds raised by the Women's Club, Men's Club, HSO, Faith Alive, and by the Peace & Justice organizations.
- 4) These funds are One Plan pledge payments that have been received. These funds are restricted and to be used for One Plan projects as outlined in the case statement.
- 5) Consists of funds being held at the Archdiocese for future capital projects.
- 6) The St. Vincent de Paul Society manages the investment and use of these funds, which are donor-restricted.
- 7) This is the total of several funds that are restricted for the support of our sharing parish in Haiti. Funds are administered by a parishioner group.
- 8) Teachers Light the Way (TLTW) Today and Tomorrow is a fund that was started in FY24 to help support future teacher bonuses. The increase in fund balance is the result of additional contributions to the fund as well as investment returns. The funds

- are invested with the Archdiocese and returns are expected to be in line with the Parish and School endowments.
- 9) The School Epic Fund was established to attract, retain, and inspire top educators, to further their development and to enhance the educational experience for all of our students. Funds are administered by the school leadership team.
- 10) The Parish Endowment comprises the legacy endowment funds for St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier. The majority of the funds originated from a bequest from the Morin family for the purpose of enriching the pastoral ministry of the parish. Use of these funds is overseen by a Pastor-appointed committee.
- 11) The School Endowment was established in 2001 with the twin goals of stabilizing school finances and providing a margin of financial flexibility and security. Use of these funds is overseen by a Pastor-appointed committee.
- 12) This amount is a more accurate estimate moving forward. In FY25, some variation is attributed to financial aid for FY26 that was received in FY25.
- 13) Variance caused by a few prepaid expenses, as well as an accounting placeholder/line item for expected incoming funding from COVID-era Employee Retention Credit (ERC).

Non-Ordinary Income and Expenses

<u>Non-Ordinary Income</u>	<u>Total</u>
Estates, Bequests & Memorials	22,274
Capital Improvements (1)	181,939
Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate	78,327
Sharing Parish Collections	52,563
One Plan Pledge Receipts	3,539,817
Other Non-Ordinary Income	20,094
Total Non-Ordinary Income	<u>3,895,015</u>
<u>Non-Ordinary Expense</u>	
School Improvements	(136,673)
St. Vincent de Paul Society	(10,205)
EPIC Fund	(24,155)
HSO (2)	(25,209)
Parish Improvements	(141,498)
One Plan Pre-Construction	(57,200)
Other Miscellaneous Expense	(18,987)
Total Non-Ordinary Expense	<u>(413,926)</u>
Net Non-Ordinary (Surplus/ Deficit) (3)	<u>3,481,089</u>

- 1) Funds contributed for various capital needs not related to the One Plan.
- 2) Fundraising by the Home and School Organization (HSO) net of disbursements.
- 3) Capital projects that were started, in progress, or completed in FY25 include landscaping at St. Francis Xavier Church, door restoration at St. Joseph Church, intercom system upgrades at both school campuses, and playground work at St. Joseph School Campus (One Plan Project).
- 4) Archdiocesan procedures require that funds received for special collections and contributions to sharing parishes be recorded as Non-Ordinary Income. Disbursement of funds is recorded as Non-Ordinary Expense. This item represents the difference between receipts and disbursements for the year.



With Grateful Hearts: Thank You for Believing in One Plan

As we begin to see the first signs of construction on our parish grounds – the sounds of demolition, the movement of equipment, and the visible signs of progress – we are reminded that God is truly at work among us. The start of this phase marks a powerful moment in our One Plan capital campaign: A dream long envisioned is becoming reality.

Our hearts are filled with deep gratitude. From the beginning, One Plan has been more than a campaign – it has been an act of faith, a commitment to the future of our parish and school, and a testament to what we can accomplish together as one family in Christ.

We are nearly at our campaign goal, and that is because of you – our parishioners, school families, alumni, and friends. Every gift, every pledge, every act of support has brought us to this exciting point. You have shown what it means to be good stewards of the blessings God has given us. Your faith in this mission has transformed plans on paper into a living, growing testament to our community's unity and purpose. Our parish has prayed, planned, and given generously, and now the work has begun.

These pictures of demolition may show walls coming down, but they represent something far greater being built up – our shared hope for the future. What once lived in our imaginations and planning meetings is now taking shape before our eyes.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every donor, volunteer, and prayer supporter who has made this possible. The walls we raise will echo with prayer, learning, and fellowship for years ahead.

Together, we are building more than structures: We are building the future of our parish and school. May God continue to bless our One Plan and all those whose hearts and hands make this vision possible.

The One Plan Committee



Key Parish Ministry Highlights

Throughout the Year of Hope, there was much to celebrate at Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier parish and school. Our many ministries are thriving and always open to new members. Contact the parish office for more information or the contact names listed below. Following are some highlights of these hope-filled activities.

SAINTS JFX SCHOOL

The school year kicked off with over 700 students across the two campuses. Three Back to School Nights welcomed parents back with a chance to hear from school leadership and faculty and staff! The Saints JFX values were rolled out to families: Faith, Respect, Integrity and Compassion, Academic Effort and Growth, and Wise Choices.

Kindergarten-8th grade students grew in faith and prayer, and experienced the joy of worshipping together as a school family in weekly Masses.

Each week 8th grade students volunteered at the St. Thomas of Canterbury Food Pantry, sorting and serving food for those most in need. Saints JFX Faculty and Staff participated in an afternoon of service at Feed My Starving Children, a Christian nonprofit organization, which provides meals for thousands of children and families who don't have access to food.

Students across both campuses participated in a service week during the month of April! From our youngest 2-year-old preschool students to our 8th graders, every child contributed to the week. Students spent time volunteering at various sites including Misericordia, Feed My Starving Children, local nursing homes, Bernie's Book Bank, and Cradles to Crayons.

The HSO had a very successful year, building community, creating welcoming events, and raising funds for our incredible school! Our strong athletics and extracurricular programs (band, theatre, Irish dance) are led by our dedicated faculty and staff.



Students in 8th grade enjoyed their Washington D.C. trip, while 7th grade students traveled to Springfield, and 6th grade students went to Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, where they were able to meet a famous astronaut!

And a highlight of the year was Special Person's Day, when 1st graders invited a special person in their lives to join us for a morning at the St. Francis Xavier Campus and a celebratory Mass.

The school chooses a theme each year to guide the educators' work. This year the school chose something to reflect Pope Francis declaration of 2025 as a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church following the theme Pilgrims of Hope. "As we embark upon the 2025-26 school year, our theme for the school theme is Hope in Every Heart, Joy in Every Step," said Principal Colleen Larkin. "As a full faculty, we spent time discussing the theme of hope: what hope is, what gives us hope, and how we can offer hope to our students and the entire Saints JFX community. Our teachers also spent time focusing on how to create joy-filled classrooms and teaching experiences for everyone!"



FAMILY OF FAITH (Parish Religious Education Program)

Saints JFX is celebrating its third year and pillar in our Family of Faith initiative. The program follows the pillars of the Catholic Church. The first pillar is the profession of faith, the second pillar is sacraments, the third pillar is morality, and the fourth pillar is prayer. This year, we will be studying the third pillar of morality with specific focus on the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes. The 2025-26 school calendar year is the third year of this rollout and registration remains open and all families (including Saints JFX school families) are welcome! Family community dinners are held once a month after the 4:45 p.m. Sunday Mass, with dinner



in the gym. Instruction is provided at parent meetings on one Tuesday evening a month. Dana McKenna, who leads the FOF program offered that, “parents are the first educators of the faith and through Family of Faith, parents are becoming empowered in their own faith identity, so they are more comfortable discussing and integrating faith into their everyday family life.” You and your family are welcome! For more information, contact [Dana McKenna](#).

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

A group of almost 30 are registered this year for OCIA, up from last year’s 23. The group includes people from inside and outside of the parish, different faith backgrounds, and some with no faith background at all, ranging in age from high school to their 70s. The group meets 6-7 p.m. every other Tuesday in St. Joseph’s community room. Michael Cesario says that hope is a factor in the large group this year: “In times like these that our world is facing, people are looking to put their hope into something truthful.” The OCIA group is led by a dedicated and very knowledgeable team of parishioners, some who have helped for 30+ years.



Also for parish adults, in 2024 Saints JFX launched a parish-wide Bible study program, which is open to all adults in the parish and meets the last Tuesday of the month from 6-7 p.m. in the school atrium. Last year’s focus was on Hope, and this year is focusing on the New Testament and deriving theological concepts directly from scriptures. For either of these programs, contact [Michael Cesario](#).

ACTION

The high school ACTION program’s trip to Lourdes coincided with the Year of Hope this past year, and included an audience with Pope Leo in the square and a trip to Assisi to see the burial place of new Saint Carlo Acutis. ACTION leader Noreen Russo summed up the group’s excitement: “Because Carlo was a young boy who brought hope and faith to the young, many youth groups traveled the 2 hours to Assisi,” and it was an opportunity for the ACTION members to see the





impact he made. As for seeing and hearing from the new pope, Russo said the group “found it so powerful and hopeful.”

A 20-person leadership team is adding structure and enthusiasm to ACTION, and they are thinking about ways to collaborate with other ministries. “One hope for the future of ACTION is to team with the Ministry of Care to join them and give people communion out in the community,” Russo says. “It adds joyful, hopefully energy to the sick and homebound members of the parish.”

The 70+ ACTION students come from Loyola, New Trier, North Shore Country Day, Regina, Woodlands and other schools and parishes through Chicagoland.

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Saints JFX grows and thrives in partnership with St. Thomas of Canterbury (STC), home to a rich immigrant community in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. Spanning four decades, Wilmette parishioners, teachers and school families have invested in the success and sustainability of STC with a particular focus on its food pantry and dedicated support of its parish school.

St. Thomas of Canterbury serves a hardworking network of families on the north side of Chicago living almost exclusively at or below the poverty line. Roughly 98% are immigrants (either newly arrived or first generation) from nations including Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Vietnam. Inspired by the social mission of the Catholic Church, Principal Christine Boyd works tirelessly to make STC accessible to the children of immigrant families so that even those speaking little to no English might succeed through an intensive program for English language acquisition. STC serves as a first, compassionate step on a longer stairway toward sustainability in a new land. All 275 STC students receive significant tuition assistance that serves as a lifeline to each learner and their family. Because families must contribute a sacrificial gift that amounts to approximately 30% of their student’s tuition, they are invested in their success and dedicated to their growth through and ultimate graduation from STC. Principal Boyd shares, “They’ve come because they really want to invest in their children and see that they get a high-quality education so that they’re not going to be poor in the next generation.”

Saints JFX enjoys over four decades of partnership with, celebration of, and service to St. Thomas of Canterbury. Our commitment to local communities is deep and enduring. Service to the food pantry includes “shifts” in the store for our Saints JFX 8th grade students who help guests with shopping, donate and deliver goods, and fundraise to purchase resources – most recently, the pantry’s shopping carts. Parish and school families assemble and donate personal toiletry kits and work in the soup kitchen. Saints JFX parishioners serve as 1:1 tutors and lean in as STC teachers; our school collaborates through book fairs to contribute in-demand titles for avid readers, and through basketball tournaments to fundraise for athletic equipment in demand across grades. A collaborative curricular highlight has been partnering in past years with STC for access to award-winning author visits and community-wide reading events.



Parish Organizations and Ministries

Our parish has many other ministries that welcome all time, talents, and treasures:

WORSHIP

Altar Servers: A total of 81 active altar servers (grades 4 through 8) assist the priests during weekend Masses. Contact: [Ron Berger](#).

Ana Ministry: Clean and press purificators and hand towels used during Mass. Contact: [Parish Office](#).

Elijah Cup: The Elijah Cup is a consecrated chalice used at Holy Mass. Parishioners are invited to receive the Elijah Cup at Mass and use as a focal point of prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Contact: [Kirsten Solmos](#).

Eucharistic Ministers: High school through adult participation during Masses, ages 16 through adult. Contact: [Ron Berger](#).

Lectors: Several new lectors (7th grade through adult) were trained over the past year. Contact: [Ron Berger](#).

Liturgical Arts and Environment Committee: Prepare and display floral arrangements, maintain the altars and linens during the liturgical calendar. Contact: [Parish Office](#).

Rosary: Join Pastor Wayne Watts as he leads the Rosary online at 7:30 am daily. Contact: [Parish Office](#).

The Parish Choir: The Parish Choir is open to all adult parishioners; no audition needed, simply a love of singing. The Choir rehearses for one hour prior to Mass time, alternating between our two churches. Musical selections encompass a range of styles from classical to contemporary. Contact: [John Hopkins](#) or [Jonathan Metzinger](#).

The Children’s Choir: Resumed after pausing during COVID. Students from 3rd-8th grades rehearse Tuesday 3:15-4:05 pm at SFX Church, and sing at St. Joseph Church Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (Oct.-May). Many of the 24 students are learning to cantor the parts of the Mass. All singers from both Saints JFX school and District 39 are welcome, but registration is required. Contact: [School office](#).

Sacristans: Prepare and oversee liturgical elements. Open to adults. Substitutes are always

needed. Training takes place during a Mass. Contact: [Ron Berger](#).

Ushers: Greet and assist parishioners, aid in collection of gifts. A very important ministry for ages high school and up. Contact: [Ron Berger](#).

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Adults and middle school/high school students provide liturgy of the word for children K-4th during 9:30 am and 10:30 am Masses. We are always welcoming catechists who are interested in being trained to help teach the parish children liturgy of the word. Contact: [Jane Daley](#).

SPRED (Special Religious Education): SPRED provides religious education for 11-16-year-old children with developmental disabilities. Other diocesan parishes sponsor SPRED for different age groups. Meetings take place on Mondays during the school year. Always welcoming catechists interested in being trained to help teach the parish children liturgy of the word. Contact: [Marion Kahle](#).

STEWARDSHIP

Bereavement Ministry: Adult parishioners provide funeral support for about 60 funerals each year, assisting the bereaved with the liturgy and offering a monthly drop-in grief support group. Contact: [MaryClare Birmingham](#).

Knitting Ministry: Started nearly 20 years ago to create prayer shawls for people experiencing illness, loss, or joyous occasions has expand to include a winter project of knitting or crocheting warm items for immigrants and the poor served by Catholic Charities. Meets second Wednesday of each month. Contact: [Chris Porter](#).

Ministry of Care: Adult parishioners visit the infirm in homes, senior living, skilled nursing, and Evanston Hospital, offering Holy Communion and shared prayer. Each week we bring the love of the parish in person to 75 to 110 people. Contact: [MaryClare Birmingham](#).

Moms & Tots: Playgroup for moms, dads, caregivers and small children meets twice a month. It continues to be a thriving ministry and a great way to gather for movement, play, and conversation. The group meets at Forest Park on warm weather days and in the SJ campus gym on colder or rainy days. Contact: [SJ School Office](#).

Saints JFX Women's Club: Join women of all ages and support the mission of the parish while meeting new people, serving others, and developing your faith. Members focus on charitable, spiritual, social, and service activities. Contact: [Parish Office](#).

Saints JFX Men's Club: Join men of the parish to experience fellowship, give service, and deepen faith at monthly 1-hour meeting and 1-2 hours of activity. Kickoff meeting Oct. 8 welcomed first-time Men's Club members and highlighted guest speakers, retreats, hands-on service and Theology on Tap nights planned for this year. Contact: [Zack Nippert](#).

Saints JFX Book Club: Meets at Mallinckrodt Community Center. Meetings begin with intentions for people in the parish and their families. Afterward, our lively discussions focus on the book's author and the book itself. Contact: [Donna Fugazzotto](#).



HUMAN CONCERNS (outreach & service)

Blood Drive: Saints JFX holds the largest Catholic Church blood drive in the USA with the American Red Cross, held annually on Super Bowl Sunday. We also collect toiletry items for the pantry at St. Thomas of Canterbury with a goal to collect 5,000 items. Volunteers to help with this hospitality and registration are welcome. Our blood drive started in 2016 out of a Ministry of Care meeting and since 2018 has honored the memory of SFX graduate Kevin Joseph Smith Burke. Over 2,000 units of blood have been collected in 10 years which has helped save over 6,000 lives. Contact [Jeff Later](#).



Care for Creation: The Saints JFX Care for Creation ministry was formed in April of 2025 and is dedicated to inspiring and enabling parishioners and their families to cherish and protect God's gift of creation. This new ministry responds to the call made by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si and continued by Pope Leo XIV. The ministry has 6 active members and meets monthly. Contacts: [Peter Alonzi](#) or [Ben Ivory](#).

Family Promise: Helping families with young children who are experiencing temporary homelessness. Contact: [George Pearce](#) or [Paula Humbach](#).

Haiti Sharing Parish: Offers financial and operational assistance to, and spiritual solidarity with, Immaculée Conception School in Galette-Chambon, Haiti. Contact: [Jody Weshler](#).

LOSS (Loving Outreach for Survivors of Suicide): Provides monthly drop-in meetings on the fourth Sunday of every month, to which all survivors of suicide are invited. Contact: [Marion Kahle](#).

Respect Life: Works with archdiocesan office to encourage assistance for unborn, people with disabilities, and the elderly with four main events a year. We join the international 40 Days for Life Campaign in the Spring and Fall each year. Our other events include a Mother's Day flower sale with proceeds going to the Women's Center in Chicagoland and a diaper drive in the Fall to benefit Aid for Women. Contact: [Kevin Connolly](#).

Welcoming Committee: Introduce newly registered parishioners to the parish community. The committee hosted several welcome dinners for new parishioners in the last year Contact: [Mary Pearce](#).

PARISH & SCHOOL ADVISORY

Finance Council: Assist pastor in administration and stewardship of parish financial affairs. Three-year term, meetings one night a month. Contact: [Andy Housley](#) or [Joe D'Arco](#).

Saints JFX School Board: An advisory body that serves the Pastor and Principal through input rooted in expertise and experience across a range of disciplines including finance, facilities, marketing, technology, academic planning and development. Contact: [Dave Majewski](#).

Parish Pastoral Council: Serve on the main consultative body of the parish, which exercises shared responsibility for the pastoral life of the parish, advising the Pastor. Contact: [John Celentani](#).

Home School Organization (HSO): Promotes parental support of Saints JFX School with events designed to enhance the school socially, academically, and spiritually. Contacts: [Elizabeth Sheedy](#) or [Cora Kelliher](#).

