



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

BERNARDSVILLE'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SINCE 1898

December 2023

OLPH staff and leadership continue to exercise caution and conservative spending to ensure operations are managed without running into a deficit. The campaign has allowed us to play catch up, but the fiscal concerns remain. A glance at our finances would lead us to assume that our collections allow us just enough to cover our operating costs. We must remember that a considerable amount of money (\$560,000 last year) raised through our Capital Campaign was used for deferred maintenance. We continue to fall below what we need in collections to properly care for and manage our facilities. Our offertory continues to decline as the numbers below illustrate.

	Last Year 2022-23	5 years ago 2017-18	10 years ago 2012-13
Offertory and Holidays	\$880,287	\$935,568	\$958,740

Our parish community continues to grow and flourish. In the past year, 54 children made their first Holy Communion and 61 were confirmed. We welcomed 29 baptized and celebrated 16 weddings, and 39 new families registered at OLPH.

Through the support of our parishioners and benefactors, our church is committed to fulfilling one of its missions by providing Catholic education to those who desire such. Our school educates approximately 185 students and last year our Religious Education program served 245 public school students.

The School of St. Elizabeth curriculum focuses on individual learning and an environment rooted in Christian values. All our teachers are NJ state-certified with over two-thirds holding advanced degrees. Their average tenure is eight years. Our student-to-teacher ratio in K-8 is 12:1. Assessment scores have maintained their top position in our Diocese for over two years, highlighting both the growth and achievement of students across all grades. In 2022 and 2023, 100% of St. E's graduates seeking admission to private schools were offered acceptance to their preferred institution. Many students received merit scholarships based on entrance exam scores. Graduates continue to thrive and attribute their success to our rigorous academic environment.

Our church community has a long and beautiful history of commitment to their faith. Our congregants have always been extremely generous and enthusiastic about our parish, and I thank you for the gifts of your time, talent, and treasures. Your sacrificial giving makes it possible for us to maintain our parish facilities and provide ministries. Donations to our Charitable Assistance fund of \$38,000 provided support to our neighbors in need.

Holy Cross Cemetery is also part of our mission and continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. We strive to provide our loved ones with a well-maintained resting place on blessed grounds at a reasonable cost. From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, we celebrated 32 memorials and funeral masses and laid 90 faithful to rest in our cemetery.

I thank you for the ongoing support and generosity to our parish, through your gifts, the offertory collection, and contributions to the Capital Campaign.

In Christ,

FISCAL YEAR July 1 - JUNE 30		2022-23	2021-22
Church Revenue	Weekend Collections	730,208	722,801
	Christmas/Easter/Holy Days	150,079	166,379
	Gifts/Donations/Bequests	14,523	12,944
	Flowers/Sacramental Offerings	23,587	23,554
	Religious Education	41,805	42,794
	Diocesan Collection/Nat'l Mission Appeals	49,615	46,418
	Rentals/Investments/Bulletins (2022 includes Portico Insurance settlement)	10,255	36,128
	Total	1,020,071	1,051,019
School Revenue	Tuition & Fees	1,290,997	1,227,788
	Fundraising	115,141	112,831
	Endowment	88,779	89,038
	Donations	74,849	55,130
	Diocesan/Outside Parish Subsidy & Grants	95,680	71,250
	Student Activities	39,199	29,970
	Rental income	20,000	10,000
	Total	1,724,645	1,596,007
Church Expenses	Religious/Lay Salaries & Benefits	397,731	383,779
	Office & Administrative	54,240	56,454
	Liturgical & Music Ministry	98,377	94,588
	Religious Ed/Youth Ministry/Bible Camp	135,887	124,581
	Other Ministry (Fellowship, Retreats, Hispanic)	7,108	2,390
	Diocesan Collection Payments	49,615	46,418
	Assessment	100,400	108,100
	Maintenance/Insurance/EDA	92,837	86,887
	Utilities	51,614	47,358
	Total	987,810	950,555
School Expenses	Salaries & Benefits	1,130,476	1,125,260
	Office, Professional Services & Marketing	84,429	75,183
	Instruction/Prof Dev/Student Activities	108,356	88,826
	Maintenance/Repairs/Insurance/EDA	319,674	296,721
	Utilities	109,789	105,604
	Total	1,752,724	1,691,594
Church Revenue		1,020,071	1,051,019
Church Expenses		(987,810)	(950,555)
	revenue over expenses	32,261	100,464
School Revenue		1,724,645	1,596,007
School Expenses		(1,752,724)	(1,691,594)
	revenue under expenses	(28,079)	(95,587)
	NET	4,182	4,877
	Capital Campaign funds used	560,200	320,300