

2023

# PARISH LIFE

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

#### MY STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

My parish is composed of people like me, and I help make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am, It will be holy if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work if I work. It will be prayerful if I pray. It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them in. It will be a place of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with the same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be.

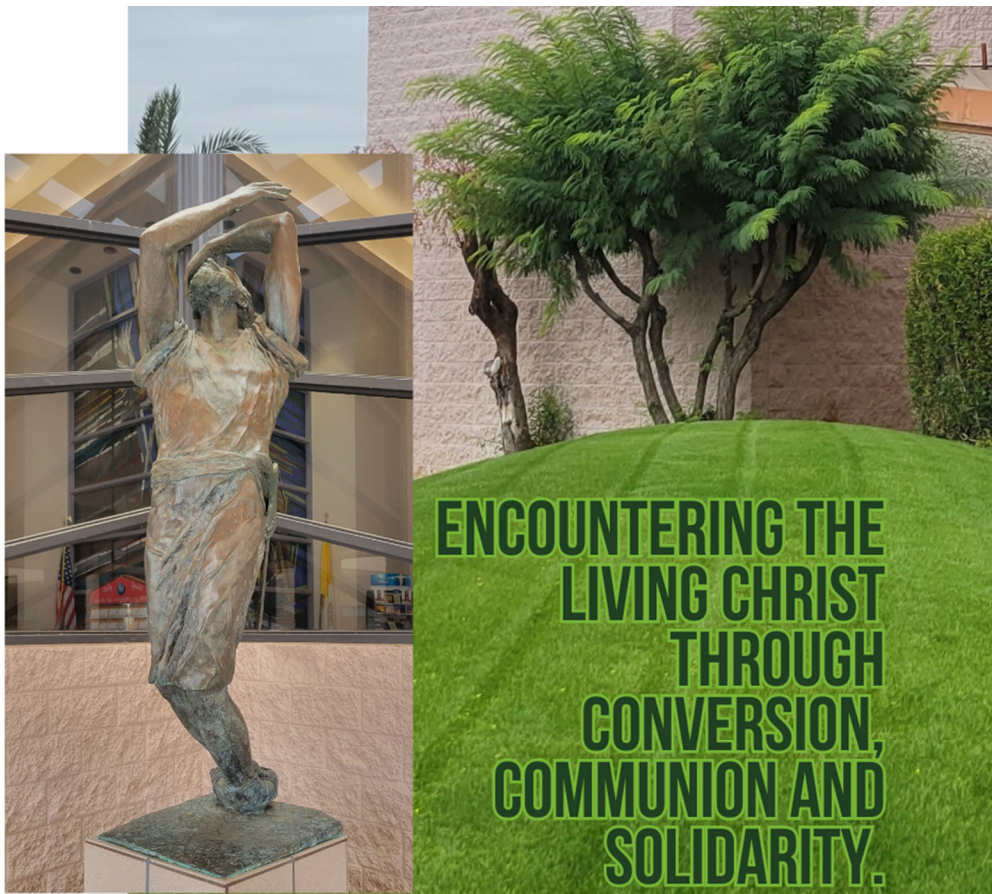
**HEAVENLY FATHER,  
HELP ME TO OVERCOME  
MY FEAR OF GIVING.  
WITH AN EXPECTANT FAITH,  
HELP ME TO TRUST IN YOU  
AND TO GIVE TO THE  
GROWTH OF YOUR CHURCH.  
AMEN**



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**"The family is the heart of the culture of life."  
- Pope Francis**



**ENCOUNTERING THE  
LIVING CHRIST  
THROUGH  
CONVERSION,  
COMMUNION AND  
SOLIDARITY.**



# Giving from the Heart – A Stewardship Way of Life

Stewardship is more than taking care and sharing of God's gift to everyone. Stewardship is aimed at creating a community founded on love. Hence the very foundation of stewardship is love. God, who loves us unconditionally in Jesus, did not only give us eternal life, but his love recreated us to be his children, part of His family. Our citizenship is in heaven as St. Paul described it. In the same spirit, the gifts of time, talent, and treasure we share with one another or to our church is meant to transform us to recognize and celebrate our identity as God's children. By so doing, we give not only because it is our responsibility but because it is our way of expressing our identity and gratefulness before God and His people – our brothers and sisters. In stewardship, we give not only what we have but also ourselves as the extensions of Jesus's mercy and compassion for the salvation of the world.

*Stewardship is aimed at creating a community founded on love.*

Sisters and brothers, I wish to thank you for your dedication in living the call to stewardship. Our parish family can't operate in an effective and efficient way without your support and financial help. These past couple of years have been a challenge to most of us and so to our parish. Few others have stepped up to augment their contribution to remedy the decreasing income of our parish, others remained in their normal way of giving, while a significant number remained inactive in giving.

*I wish to thank you for your dedication in living the call to stewardship.*

Our data shows a consistent decline in income creating a deficit every month in our finances. This is imperative of our intentional response from each and every one to remedy the problem. For those who have been giving more than you were asked, I commend you my sincerest gratefulness, please continue being charitable. Know that without your great sacrifice, we would be in an even bigger shortfall.





For those who can give more, please increase your support. For those who are not yet giving, please do as it would be injustice to those who are giving their fair share. Let your giving be joyful, generous, and consistent because God cannot be outdone in generosity. He will also multiply the gifts we give and comes back to us.

*Let your giving be joyful, generous, and consistent because God cannot be outdone in generosity.*

Let us be reminded of God's Word from the book of Proverbs: "In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." [Proverbs 3:6, 9-10]

*Fr. Bruno Cuario*



## A Message from our Associate Pastor

**The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship.**

*(Saint, Pope John Paul II)*



As Jesus' disciples, we are encouraged to be accountable and diligent in caring for the social and spiritual welfare of others and God. The author of life, God, has the option of assigning angels or saints to carry out His work, but He deliberately chose humans, in spite of our frailties to unveil the mystery of His presence.

*This is a moment of thanksgiving for your faith, commitment, and, service for the greater glory of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

This is yet another season that members of our parish community are required to share with others; time, treasure, and talents so as to reach the peak of our earthly potentials. The Church is still serving as a conscience in our society and the world at large: giving succor to the needy, comforting the sick, befriending the lonely, and giving those feeling hopeless hope in such a challenging world. However, the church would not have done any good without the generous participation of her members; who would rather inconvenience themselves, in order to please the lord and his church. This is a moment of thanksgiving for your faith, commitment, and, service for the greater glory of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Cheers! Have wonderful seasons of celebrations in the light of the gospel.

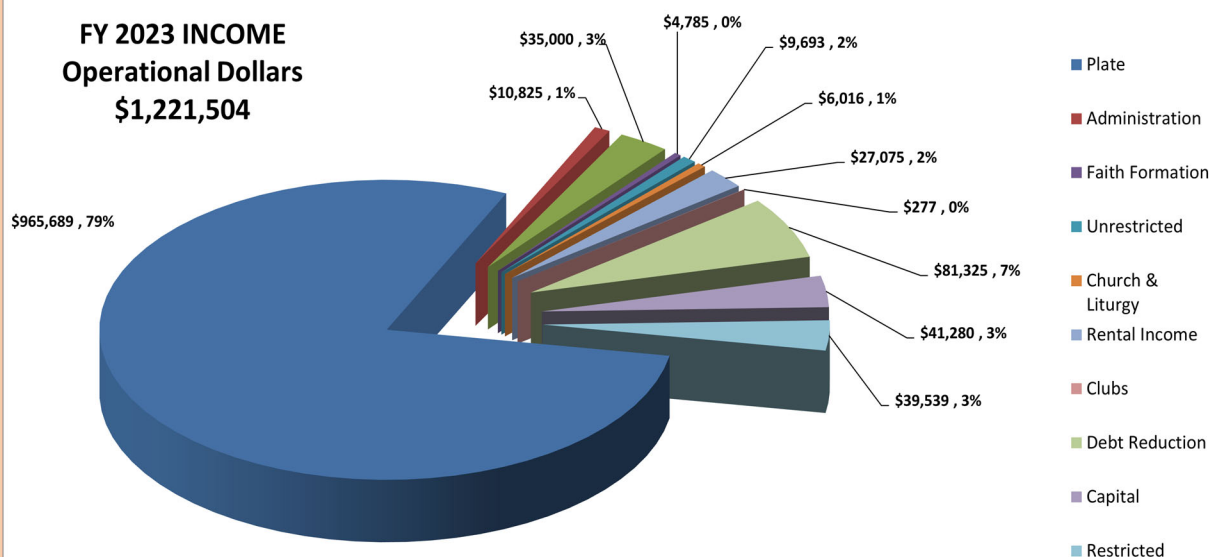
*Rev. Ishaya Samaila*

# Part 1: Financial and Temporal Report

## FY 2022-2023 INCOME

Thank you, the community of St. Paul's, for your continued commitment and generosity to the Parish. It is through the families practicing Stewardship including your commitment of offering Time in prayer, your Talent in ministry as well as

### FY 2023 INCOME Operational Dollars \$1,221,504



Treasure that keeps us vibrant and alive. This past fiscal year shows an overall decrease in income from last year of about 2.5% bringing us to an alarming 11.5% decrease from FY 2021. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, we have been proactive in monitoring our expenses to stay in line with the proposed budget. Last year's commitment from you and your family demonstrates the continued support and generosity to the community. Moving forward into the fiscal year, many of our families have continued with their on-line giving gift process as well as using the supplied envelopes. This has helped operating costs tremendously, however, balancing the budget is difficult as offertory continues to decline.



During the year your generous donations included a Christmas offering totaling \$68,130. This is a beautiful sign of parishioners sharing

and giving. \$50,000 alone was gifted through OSV on-line giving. This year the weekly offering "plate" equals 79% of our total income. We use this for budgeting our day-to-day operational expenses throughout the year. Looking at the income pie chart for FY 2023 you may notice the Debt Reduction contributions have

decreased by 9% and our Capital Improvement contributions have decreased by 15% from the previous year. Although slightly less than last year through your generosity to the monthly second collection for Debt Reduction contributed \$81,382 last year of which all was used to reduce the debt balance. The monthly collection for Capital Improvements is less than last year at \$41,280, about a \$7,300 decrease. We have made many improvements throughout the year. We have replaced one of our large AC units on the west side of the church, two smaller AC units in the hall and classrooms. The rectory roof was in great need of repair and was completed during this FY. The Diocesan campaign, "Together Let Us Go Forth, *Juntos Sigamos Adelante*" began four years ago and indicates the continuous 35% return of paid pledged dollars to St. Paul's. Last year we received \$35,000 of pledged gifts that is being held in a restricted account for the future St. Paul Family Center.

Each year these reports are prepared for you in efforts that communication and understanding is open and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the parish office. Meeting the need for the community could not happen without your generosity and support. Our budget keeps us afloat and on track with checks and balances needed to operate. Your commitment to Stewardship brings the extended generosity needed to continue the building of the Body of Christ at St. Paul Roman Catholic Parish.

*Craig Cullity*



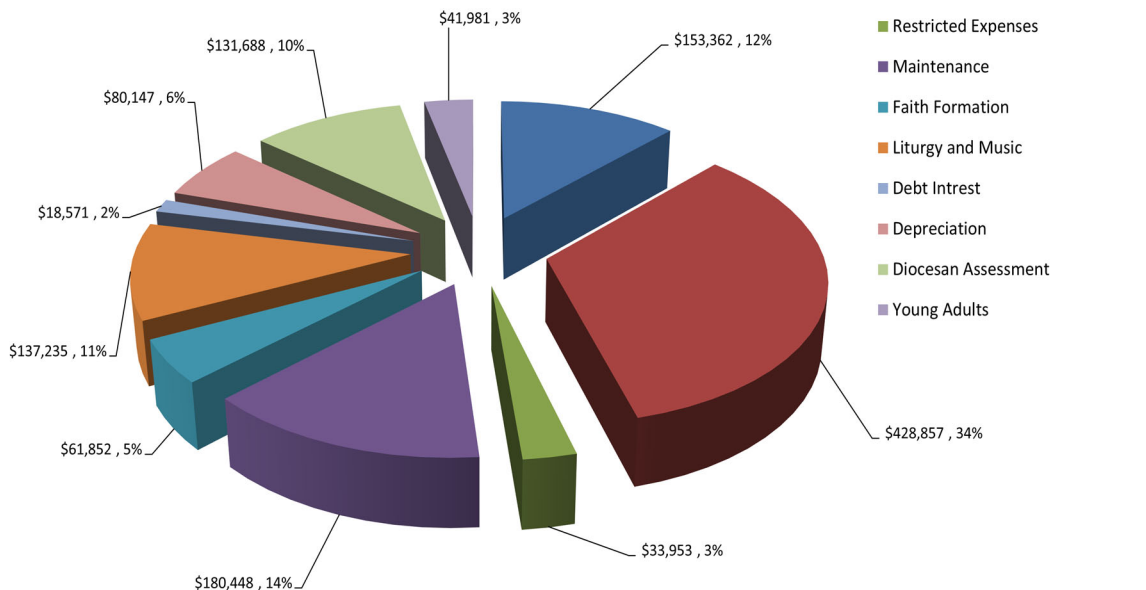
## FY 2022-2023 EXPENSES

The 2022-2023 Fiscal Year indicates our overall expenses have increased from last year by 10.5%. Budgeting and planning based on our forecasted income is difficult coming out of COVID. There are still many variables in attendance at mass as well as gifting the parish. We have invested in the future of St. Paul with a full time Liturgy Director, as well as a full time Director of Religious Education and extended resources in beginning a Young Adult Ministry. Religious Education

classes are up and running with on campus classes, organizations and councils are meeting regularly. St. Paul continues to reconnect with our parishioners; however, we can still feel the effects of fewer people on campus and in the pews. General expenses such as healthcare costs for our employees is up 6% from last year. There is an increase in liability insurance, a noticeable increase in our utilities of about 8%. Our contracted vendors, landscaping, fire protection, Terminix, etc. all show signs of increased overall costs. Our maintenance team has worked hard behind the scenes directing and participating in major projects. During this year we replaced a 22-year-old A/C unit with a new Carrier 27 ½ ton unit on the west side of the church for \$35,000 and two smaller units, 3.5 ton, in our classrooms for \$11,000. The roof on the rectory was also replaced in March. We have been mending it for the last 5 years. The cost was \$17,600. We also experienced some small electrical and plumbing repairs that were contracted outside for about \$6,500. These major capital improvements alone were approximately \$70,000. Unfortunately, restricted donations to capital improvements were about \$40,000 and the balance of the remaining \$30,000 was applied from the operating account. Your contributions to the monthly second collection for Capital Improvements are vital to completing these projects. It is through your generosity and gifts to St. Paul that keeps us alive, vibrant and in good working order to serve the faithful. We will continue monitoring our expenses under the direction of Fr. Bruno, the Finance Council, and the staff to find and implement cost-saving ideas. You the faithful, the volunteers and dedicated parishioners continue to complement the staff, the liturgy, and our organizations as you step up and help in many ways. That is truly the Stewardship way of Life and St. Paul thanks you.

*Craig Cullity*

## FY 2023 EXPENSE Operational Dollars \$1,268,094



**"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." St Francis of Assisi**

## PAYING DOWN OUR DEBT

Because of your generosity and support demonstrated in the use of envelopes and on-line giving, our parish continues to be successful in paying down the debt. These contributions are placed in a restricted account used only for debt payments. Thank you again for your generosity. Beginning this Fiscal year our debt amount was \$420,279. During the year we have paid down the debt to \$364,626. Your faithful giving has paid regular monthly installments bringing down the debt \$55,653 and sustaining a surplus of \$11,500 available for future payments. Monthly payments totaling \$73,220, including principal and interest were made throughout the year. Contributions to Debt Reduction were \$81,325, about 9% less than last year. Unfortunately, we were unable to make an additional principal payment. Thank you for your contributions. Your gifts of generosity continue to be secured in a restricted account to make any additional payments during the upcoming fiscal year. A true sign of Stewardship is recognized in our community through the generosity of each gift from each family.

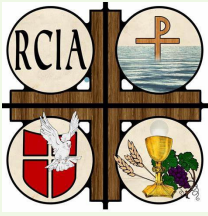


*Craig Cullity*



## Part 2: Spiritual Formation and Liturgy Report

### OCIA



The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), formerly, The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ("RCIA") is the process used by the Catholic Church to present the beliefs of the Faith to those adults (Seekers) who have made a conscious decision to explore full communion with the Church. and with the focus on the life of discipleship after the initiatory Sacraments are received. This ministry has helped many come back to the Church even after staying away for a very long period of time in their life. This is an advantage to the Parish, because all these Seekers register as permanent members, and many are involved in Parish activities like Bible Sharing, Women's Guild, and Legion of Mary, to mention a few. This ministry embraces both Catholics, and non-Catholics who have the desire to receive the Sacraments, and those who stayed away from their faith because of one reason or another, the team members make sure that they are helped in all possible ways.



Team Members are committed to imparting the Catholic faith, welcoming the Seekers in their personal journey of faith and the mission of Jesus Christ through prayer, outreach, and fellowship. During the lessons, the Word of God is integrated by reading and discussing the Gospel of the Sunday ahead, then a summary of the lesson is given to the seekers to further study at home. Inquirers are expected to join St. Paul's parishioners in weekday and weekend liturgies where they, like the rest of the parishioners, are formed by the Word of God. The Formation Team meets with inquirers on Thursday evenings from late summer through late spring to hear their questions and provide an orderly presentation of Catholic beliefs and Catholic discipleship. During Easter vigil 2023, three candidates received sacraments of confirmation, and two candidates received all the three sacraments. Team Members are also focused on the art of spiritual accompaniment, helping Seeker's master and understand the thresholds of conversion.

After reception of the Sacraments, Team Members continue to provide spiritual accompaniment to the Seekers in a process known as Mystagogy. The witness of their own lived faith and of the entire St. Paul's community serves as initial points of contact for prospective Seekers to learn more. As St. Pope John Paul II stated, and his successors have reminded us, "The Church now needs witnesses more than teachers." We encourage all parishioners to learn how to serve as initial points of contact. Jesus says, "whatever you have done to these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40-41).

*Sr. Rose Santa, SSF*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



Religious education has a beautiful vision that is: To transform the World, one Family at a time. And its Mission calls the parents to be the first educators of their children, and help them grow in the love of God, thus living the Catholic faith to the full. This ministry empowers families to learn, live

and strengthen the Catholic Faith and their relationship with God, as well as in the families.

It is an evangelizing catechesis that helps families grow in the transforming love of God. Volunteers teach and share their experiences with the Faith to children from preschool through 6th Grade. Our ministry has benefited many families as parents were able to teach their children at home using materials with clear Catholic teaching about Catholic Faith, beliefs, and practices, bringing families together.

Last year, we had 40 families meeting every first Sunday in O'Carroll Hall for family formation with some refreshments and fellowship with the parents by Fr. Mike Couhig, CSC. from October through May while the sacrament classes meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday. The children's lessons are based on our Liturgical calendar.

In June 4, 2023, sixteen children received the sacraments of 1st Holy communion and Confirmation, and fourteen received the sacrament of 1st reconciliation. We had about ten very committed volunteers on the program. And we are working very hard to make sure that we realize a big number of children in the near future.

*Sr. Rose Santa, SSF*



## MUSIC MINISTRY

Our mission is to lead, encourage, and inspire the faithful to sing together as one, to dispose themselves properly to celebrate the Holy Eucharist worthily by singing hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs with joy and thankfulness in our hearts to God. Our Music Ministry offers a variety of music styles (genres): Blended (Traditional/Contemporary) for Saturday Vigil 5 PM Masses; Traditional Choir (Sacred and Breaking Bread Music) for Sunday 7:30 AM; and Contemporary (Praise & Worship Music) for 9:30 AM and Noon Masses. Our Children & Youth Music Ministry leads the congregation at each first Sunday Noon Mass. We are recruiting for Young Adults Music Ministry to lead the 3rd Sunday Noon Mass. "Caroling Under the Stars" last December was a lot of fun.

We are looking for more singers and musician of all ages. If you can sing and/or play one Sunday a month, please consider helping out. Music ministry members will be invited to seminars, workshops, concerts, retreats, or conferences.

*Jojo Concepcion*

where we had pizza, snacks, and drinks while we dove into the teaching of the Catholic Church. We are looking for leaders and members for our various groups within the ministry: Hiking Club, Music Ministry for Mass, Worship Team, and Faith & Fellowship Groups. We need adult leaders and dinner hosts. We encourage our young adults and young families to get involved and be part of a group or groups that interest them. Please see the bulletin and/or our website for our schedule of events. If you are in the age of 18-40, what and where is your interest? How's God calling you? Let's have a chat.

*Jojo Concepcion*



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Our Young Adult Ministry's purpose is to bring together singles, couples, young families, and young professionals between the ages of 18 to 40 and form various ministries; to grow together in their social, spiritual, personal and profes-

sional life; and to reach out to the community and invite them to worship with us here at St. Paul; and to encourage them to become members of our parish community. Last Year, we launched our Young Adult Mass and worked on 4Fs: Fun, Food, Faith and Fellowship. We hiked the north mountain and had a few dinner nights with our sponsoring hosts. We participated in our Parish Picnic, Caroling Under the Stars, and other parish life events. For Faith & Fellowship, we had Catechism, Scripture Study, Pro-Life, Q&A Nights

I was visiting another parish who recently received a second priest, since the parish had grown (hallelujah) to over 1000 families. So, the Pastor wanted to add a Sunday Mass, going from 2 to 3 Masses on the weekend. This parish is about the same size as St. Paul. Incredibly, the parishioners fought back adding a Mass because they didn't have enough liturgical ministers. The main sacristan said, "no one wants to serve at Mass!" "We don't have enough to even cover 2 Masses". Can you imagine how disappointed the Pastor and new associate were feeling? The Pastor was asking for my advice, and I shared the overall struggle to provide enough liturgical volunteers. It also reminded me that St. Paul is not unique. There is a substantial change from when I first started to EM back in 2009. At that time, we had over 100 volunteers and I was scheduled about once a month. Now we have several people serving 2 or more weekend Masses and there are always empty positions at every Mass. The Diocese ended up removing his new associate at the end of this year as efforts to expand is on hold. Pray for vocations.

I've heard many theories as to the hesitation to serve. Some reflect the nature of our current times, whether it



be feeling commitment-less, all the way to lacking encounter with Jesus and in general people not going to Mass. At the same time, there is the phenomenon of people coming to me to say Mass was over by 3 minutes! As if we time our encounter with Jesus to a clock. How can we engage more in service this year? I pray for St. Paul constantly, since finding practicing good standing Catholics is becoming increasingly difficult.

The best witnesses to the faith and inspiration come from my brothers and sisters who serve. Truly, so inspirational. Capturing that enthusiasm requires the Holy Spirit to touch their faith. Somewhere in their faith journey, they have come to live in full gratefulness and love. It doesn't mean life has been easy, rather the opposite, but putting faith first in all adversity. The Holy Spirit is truth and accepting His will is something we all experience. However, through prayer, God is so good, He leads you to places that remove fear and anxiety. The comforting results from serving Jesus directly in a liturgical role is palpable. Seriously, have a conversation with any of the liturgical ministers, they will tell you how much they have gained spiritually.



Since we don't necessarily know the time and moment the Spirit touches our hearts, we created an easy way to let the Spirit guide you with a Liturgical Volunteer Board. Under the leadership of the Liturgy and Worship Board, we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you to serve. Anyone can pick up a card and interact with a fellow parishioner on any day of the year.

The liturgy department has taken great steps in resurrecting the Pastoral Health Care Ministry. After re-training and practice, the Parish can offer the homebound visits. Recently, there have been more requests than ever. The homebound need to feel connected to the people of the parish. Therefore, we are grateful for this ministry. Another liturgy department update for this year is formation of a liturgy and worship board. The board is divided into various ministries (lector, usher, etc.). The hope is to put individuals in a one-on-one engagement, training, and fellowship. This will help all of us as we welcome new faces and doesn't tie down training to a certain day of the month. It offers complete flexibility to the vol-

unteer and the ministry lead. A great example is our Altar Servers. The lead is Jeanne Cosme, and she had engaged all the families, conducted training on family's availability and ongoing formation. The leads for other ministries are all named on each card that is on our liturgy volunteer board in the back of the church. Recently we had Bishop John Dolan for Mass, and he took selfies with the Altar Servers. To say they were so excited would be an understatement. There is foundational faith growth with children who serve in any capacity. We have a child lector for children's Mass who is outstanding and children cantors who lead the congregation with such confidence and more. If the children can do it, so can you.

In this update, I want to especially recognize those who cover liturgical roles at daily Masses. These selfless people cover 10 Masses a week without someone from the liturgy department to assist. They silently serve our Lord without hesitation. This parish would not have daily Masses without them. This same group manages to take initiative to keep a fresh supply of altar linens and cleaning liturgical chasubles for the priests, modify the church colors, fill the candles, replace sanctuary candles, and much more. We cannot offer even 1 daily Mass without these holy people. Liturgy is the highest form of prayer, and the offering of the sacraments is the purpose for a parish! The parish is the People! Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, and we are his people. You are the church. Our new Bishop John Dolan has expanded the Liturgy and Worship department at the Diocese. There are more resources, seminars, and guidance opportunities for parish liturgical life. There is great emphasis on engaging Catholics in all sacraments. Bishop mentioned that despite the huge influx of people moving to the Valley, the current trend is people are not baptizing their children. Baptisms are down across all Catholics, for various reasons. However, it is very encouraging that baptisms are up at St. Paul. We have baptisms every 3rd Sunday and if you want to witness this amazing sacrament, stay after 9:30 Mass. This weekend we have 3 infants!

The liturgy update for 2023 could be pages long as there are always changes in parish liturgical life. We miss the presence of Sister Georgina and her contributions. I would be amiss if I did acknowledge her 2-year vocational service. Easily, the liturgy department and the many responsibilities could keep several people busy. However, St. Paul is so blessed to have the most devoted liturgical ministers and volunteers. We share our passion and love in Jesus. We all serve Him because we love Him.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage is the center of Catholic family life and the vocation through which most people live out their baptismal commitment. Cultural influences today can work against personal development for a strong marriage and lifetime commitment. Society expects marriages to fail, but the Catholic Church wants yours to succeed.

The Canon Law of the Catholic Church calls every diocese to prepare couples well as soon as possible for entering and living out this Sacrament. Among the key elements of effective and successful Marriage Preparation are an assessment of your strengths and areas for growth as individuals and as a couple, followed by strong educational program.

Getting married in the Catholic Church is a beautiful experience, but usually provokes many questions. We've done our best to answer the most popular questions from newly-engaged couples.

*Ed Seymour*



## DISCIPLES OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The "Disciples of the Holy Eucharist" (DOTHE) is a group of enthusiastic parishioners who are fully committed to adoring Our Lord Jesus Christ fully present in the Holy Eucharist. We do so through Eucharistic Processions, overnight adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament, and working to-

wards resuming 24/7 adoration in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel. If you would like to put your faith in action, please signup to adore at :

<https://stpaulsphoenix.weadorehim.com/>

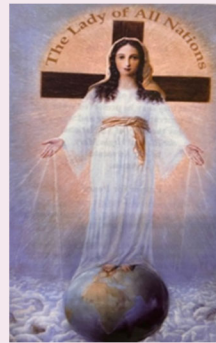
*Bill O'Connell*

## INNER HEALING MINISTRY

St. Andre's Inner Healing Ministry (STAIHM) is an offshoot of the Holy Cross Congregation's work, founded in 2012 through the work of Fr. Bill Faiella, CSC, Psy.D., and located at Casa Santa Cruz in Phoenix, home to the local Holy Cross community since 1971. STAIHM considers its membership to be the worshipers who attend the Friday Noon Inner Healing Mass, attendees of STAIHM retreats and workshops, and those who pray Fr. Bill's on-line Lenten and Advent Retreats; everyone is welcome to join. During the Mass, con-celebrated with Fr. Michael Couhig, CSC, Fr. Bill uses an age-old contemplative prayer exercise to help silence the noise and communicate with God. Future retreats and workshops will be published in the bulletin as well as Diocesan publications. Check out the STAIHM website at [ihmaz.org](http://ihmaz.org), or contact the parish office for further details.

*Fr. Bill Faiella, CSC*

## LEGION OF MARY



The Legion of Mary is a worldwide association of lay apostolate Catholic men and women, whose mission is to glorify God by doing works and prayers under the guidance and leadership of the Blessed Mother. The Legion was founded by Frank Duff in Dublin, Ireland on September 7, 1921.

Our St. Paul's Legion of Mary ministry is called Our Lady of All Nations Praesidium. We meet every Wednesday, 10:30am at the library. Active members attend the weekly meeting, pray the Rosary and Tesserat, study the Legion of Mary handbook, and do the following works: Eucharistic Ministry, Pastoral Care, leading the Rosary and Divine Mercy, make the gift bags for our newly Baptized, serve in Summer Bible School and Religious Education and other works as assigned and have fellowship with one another. The Auxiliary members are not obliged to attend any meetings but offers the Legion their daily prayers of the Rosary and the Tesserat. Both Active and Auxiliary members have a get-together once a year.

*Rosemarie A. Gabriel*



## DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

One of the very spiritual devotional prayers St. Paul has been doing before every Mass is the Rosary; in addition to Holy Hour on every First Friday of every month, the Divine Mercy is also recited. The Divine Mercy Chapel is a devotion is so unique and dear to many of us who feels a great desire for God's mercy. This devotional reminds us of St. Faustina's diary and writings

that overwhelmingly reassures us of His mercy! The Rosary volunteers are parishioners who stepped up from their 'comfort zone' to lead a Rosary prior to Mass. However, we need much more volunteers! These devoted Rosary leaders also support the Divine Mercy Devotion. We pray Divine Mercy group will resume with weekly recitation. In this season of stewardship, will you pray about becoming a Rosary leader or Divine Mercy leader? Our Liturgy department has all the prayers and will guide you.

*Dr. Sue Morawec*



## Part 3: From Our Parish Ministries and Religious Groups



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

St. Paul's  
Knights of Co-  
lumbus Council  
15001 was  
founded on St.

Patrick's Day 2010 with 25 men of the parish; today there are 110 on the roster, including some of the most active leaders of our church. We are an organization of Catholic men of faith, over the age of 18, who are dedicated to the tenets of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

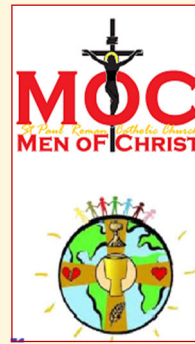
The Knights were originally organized in New Haven, CT, in 1882 by Father Michael McGivney (who is now declared "Blessed" by the church, and hopefully soon to be declared a "Saint"), for the purpose of taking care of the widows of the many men of the parish who had died. There are now over 2 million Knights worldwide.

St. Paul's Knights are active in several areas at our parish and throughout the diocese, being one of the most active in our state. The Council actively and financially supports the Sunshine Soccer League for mentally and physically handicapped children, the Life Choices Women's Clinic, the Poor Clare Nuns of Tonopah, the diocesan seminary Nazareth House, St. Vincent de Paul, Grand Canyon University Newman Center, Boy Scout Troop 916, and is the driving force and leader at St. Paul's annual Parish Picnic/Festival. We are also very involved in the state Knights-sponsored Arizona Rosary Celebration that draws up to 8,000 attendance each October in downtown Phoenix.

Many Sundays throughout the year, following Sunday Masses, the Knights host Donut Sunday. The campus is decorated at Christmas time by the Knights, as well as the inside of the main church. Knights serve as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, and in most any other need that St. Paul's has. We are on call whenever the parish needs us; in fact, Fr. Bruno recently referred to our Knights as his "Marines!"

All men of the parish over the age of 18 who are in good stead with the church are invited to apply for membership in Council 15001; just ask any Knight for a membership application form.

*Dan McGinn*



### **MEN OF CHRIST**

The Men of Christ gathers Catholic men once a week for conversation and fellowship with donuts and coffee while listening to the world's foremost Catholic apologists, theologians, and professors in order to deepen our faith and relationships. The Men of Christ feeds the Fullness of Authentic Faith in Jesus to Catholic men to make them better friends, sons, husbands, fathers, & men. Membership has grown to include men from other groups at St. Paul like Knights of Columbus, Men's Prayer Group, Parish Council, RCIA core members, etc.; we even attract men from other Parishes around the Diocese! We have also expanded to include daily Zoom gatherings 6am and 4pm, Monday through Friday. Men have reported sweeter relationships, especially with family and spouses, and an appreciation for the Catholic faith that has revitalized their commitment to Jesus and His Church; including and especially the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. All men are invited to show up, on campus or via Zoom, and be fed Spiritually & physically!

### **ST. PAUL'S RELIQUARY UPDATE**

As you know, after many decades, our beloved Parish is now in the custody of a bone-chip of the actual St. Paul himself; a two-thousand-year-relic! The grand plan of the leadership is to accentuate the Blessed Sacrament.

Part One of that plan was having moved the beautiful heirloom copper and turquoise tabernacle to the center of the altar for all to see. The Chapel also now has the tabernacle front and center!

Part Two is to prepare a worthy throne for the relic of St. Paul. The vision is to create a reliquary to house St. Paul, and it will resemble the tabernacle in shape, size, and material. We envision a copper and crystal "jewelry box" that is illuminated to highlight the precious and priceless relic of St. Paul.

The dream is very close to reality! The reliquary is 75% complete with the artist! Therefore, the date of installation is upon us, and the unveiling shall be on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul in 2024!

✠ Brian "Boots!" Bouterie, KM



## PORTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

### PORTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

The Porters of St. Joseph is a men's volunteer apostolate with the mission to provide a safe environment at our Catholic parish so we can worship God in peace. If you have prior experience in law enforcement, the military, security, or just possess a servant's heart and a willingness to learn, then the Porters of St. Joseph might be the ministry for you.

This is a perfect opportunity for men in the parish who feel called to get involved. We meet every third Wednesday of the month for the business of the Porters, prayer, and fellowship. We also conduct quarterly security training to prepare our volunteers for service. Training includes basic security fundamentals as well as CPR, first aid, and stop the bleed certification.

Not all positions require "front-line" security. There are several administrative and support positions available. Please prayerfully consider serving our parish in the Porters of St. Joseph Ministry! St. Joseph, Patron Saint of the Domestic and Universal Church; Pray for Us.

*John "Rick" Smith*

### SAINT PAUL'S MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club is a ministry of friends, fellowship, and giving back to help make the Parish a community of friends in Christ while having some fun at the same time. We sponsor four to five pancake breakfasts each year on Sunday mornings, using the funds to support worthwhile Parish needs, such as video equipment, Stations of the Cross, and the tuition for all children attending Vacation Bible School. There are only five meetings per year before each breakfast, an end-of-year golf outing, and volunteer opportunities at Parish events. Please attend a meeting to see if God is calling you to serve in this laid back, but meaningful ministry.

*Tom Van Buren*

### MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

The Homeless Sleeping Mat Project mission is to help make our fellow beings a little more comfortable during a hard time in their life. At the same time, being a good steward by using our time and talent to help those in need while helping our environment, saving thousands of plastic bags from the landfill and polluting our waterways. Our ministry brings people together in fellowship, while inviting them to fulfill God's command... "whatever you do for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me" (Mt. 25:40). Any parishioner can come join us for fun and fellowship, and be challenged to expand and grow in a new expression of love by learning to flatten, fold, cut, and roll into "plarn" (plastic yarn) in preparation for those who will crochet them into Mats..

*AnnMarie Greenan*

### WOMEN'S GUILD

The goal of St. Paul's Women's Guild is to encourage community building among all women in the parish. We build community through the many ministries and activities where we give service to both the Church and our wider community. The Guild has been continuously active since 1980 and has contributed significant financial and spiritual support over the years. It also provides members with an opportunity to share and showcase their individual talents by getting involved in Guild activities and enjoying lasting friendship. We attend Mass on the first Thursdays of September through May followed by our meetings. We host and serve refreshments at Church functions, especially Funeral receptions with our "Helping Hands", retreats, presentations, crafts group, prayer chain, and seasonal activities. We also raise funds for Church and campus needs through the Gift Shop, craft and bake sales, and document shredding events. We hope you can tell from all our activities that there is a place for you in the Women's Guild.

*Elle Wakefield, Chair*

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Vincentians dedicate themselves to those in need and work together to bring friendship and support to those living in poverty. FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.

Activities or projects planned this year

-Every Fifth Sunday in a month Monetary Blue Bag Collections after each mass; Fall Food Drive October/November; Adopt A Family Program

Projects being planned or organized:

-AAF Pillow Drive -AAF Gift Wrapping Night

What is expected of volunteer members?

Members are those who participate regularly in prayer life, attend regular conference meetings, and participate in charitable activities through personal contact with the poor of the Vincentian Conference or Council. Our focus is on a practical approach to dealing with poverty, alleviating its effects on individuals and families through working primarily in person-to-person contact by a unique system of family visitation and seeking to achieve social justice and equality of opportunity for all citizens.

The Society recognizes that the level of involvement members can commit to will vary depending on personal circumstances such as work and family commitments.

We meet the second and fourth Tuesday each month, from 6:30-7:30pm in the Conference Hall at St. Paul's

Any information of interest to invite new members!

-Why we need you - yes you! The calls we receive requesting assistance are increasing. We need new members who can join us in serving the poor within our parish boundaries and beyond.

-Vincentians aspire to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

*Manny Gomez*



## THE PARISH TRI-COUNCIL

### The Parish Tri-Council Oversight

Every church activity on the campus, both pastoral, temporal and spiritual, crosses through the oversight of all three councils, namely, Pastoral, Finance, and Stewardship. In this fiscal year, the Tri-Council provides this summary:.

### Parish Data:

1,279 Registered families,

### Sacraments:

16 Baptisms,  
17 Confirmations,  
18 First Communions,  
23 Funerals.

## PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Council led the preparations for and the celebration of Parish Day - the anniversary of our founding and the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Parishioners were dazzled and informed by the enlarged maps depicting Missionary Journeys of St. Paul displayed in the church entrance. The event was concluded with a Pig Roast and Feast. Earlier, members of the Council worked with Father Bruno in moving the church tabernacle to a more aesthetically and liturgically correct location behind the altar. Early in the New Year we enthroned first degree relics of St. Paul in a new reliquary in the former location of the tabernacle. The Council also approved a new Constitution and By-Laws and joined with the other Councils in efforts to attract and engage younger parishioners. With regret, we accepted the resignation of Ken Long who had been instrumental in identifying and bringing the Family Formation Religious Education Program to our Parish.

*Tom Nash, Chair*

## STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council's main functions at St. Paul's are to advise our pastor on stewardship-related matters and to publicize the many opportunities parishioners have to share their time, talent and treasure. Think of us as the marketing arm of the parish. Examples of our work include the videos and literature you see during the annual stewardship campaign, as well as the recognition dinner to

celebrate members of the parish who embody what it means to be a Steward of the Church.

We are looking for people of all ages and interests who can represent the diverse make up of our parish to the council. The time commitment is only about 1 hour per month, with the occasional request to present stewardship-related topics at the end of Mass or serve on a planning committee for one of our events, such as bingo at the picnic or planning the recognition dinner. Anyone with a creative mind who prefers to work behind the scenes rather than standing on the altar would be a good fit. If you are approached about the possibility of serving on the Stewardship Council, please give it serious consideration. Feel free to contact Roel Zamora at 916-529-0551 for more information.

*Roel Zamora, Chair*

## FINANCE COUNCIL

Your Finance Council is a critical component of the administration of the Parish. While the Council is primarily an advisory council to the pastor, Fr. Bruno, the Council is involved in reviewing and managing the various financial activities of the Parish. Those financial activities of the parish include, the management of cash collections, reviewing the monthly financial statements of the parish and reviewing the annual budget for the parish. Other roles include advising on proper internal controls over Parish cash and other assets, advising on financing options to minimize costs to the parish, analyzing financial trends of the parish and periodically reporting to the Congregation. The Council also provides guidance on facility issues and under Father's direction, manages the facility projects approved.

During 2021-22, the Council has been actively involved in monitoring the Parish finances through the health crisis and now in a down economy and continue to make improvements to the parish facilities. The Council continues to help Father monitor the financial trends of the Parish and offers input on strategies going forward. For example, there may be a new opportunity for congregation members of a certain age to take advantage of tax benefits by using retirement funds to make contributions (RMDs).

The Finance Council wants to express our profound gratitude to the parishioners of St. Paul Parish for your continued generosity. The Council is committed to the long-range financial strength of the parish and recognizes that that is only possible through the commitment and generosity of the parishioners.

*Mike Wagner, Chair*