IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH."

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Good News Report

With great gratitude, our parish is able to report many blessings and much good news! In every aspect of our parish's life, we see God working profoundly in people's lives. Each parishioner shares in these blessings and deserves to be thanked. As our parish develops, we continue to seek constant improvement. Over the last couple of years we can see much positive development, and that's good news for us to celebrate! There is still much more good news to come as we continue to work on more. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless our parish!

Parish Life & Community

Our parish community is *growing* and continues to offer parishioners increasing opportunities to grow in their faith journey (from parish groups, special events, to media updates and more!).

Church Improvements

New additions and further improvements are in place to create a more accessible, long lasting, and beautiful building and worship space. We continue to try to improve our parish!

Financial Updates

The parish is grateful that offerings have increased and creative efforts for responsible financial stewardship continue to be encouraged as the *One Heart, One Soul* campaign formally concludes.







Parish Life & Community Updates

Social and Formation Events

- We've launched our monthly Youth Nights & Young Adults Group
- Running the viewing of *The Chosen*
- Began offering monthly men's retreats ("Men's Recollections")
- Started our *Family Catechism* group, helping families to grow in faith

Media

- Made social media improvements
 - Facebook
 - X (formerly Twitter)
 - Instagram
 - TikTok
 - YouTube
- Improving our parish website with added functionality
- We began parish podcast to keep people in the loop about our faith and our parish

Parishioner Involvement

- We held a synodal gathering (we are looking forward to the fruits of this important work!)
- We continue to listen to parishioner feedback for improvements
- Many parishioners took part in a program called Isaiah 49, as our parish prepares to evangelize and share the beauty of our faith
- Our Peach Festival committee, Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's league have continued to be very generous to our parish, as other groups also do wonderful work

Relationships

- Built stronger relationships with the schools
 - Immaculate Heart of Mary Elementary School
 - St. Gabriel Elementary School
 - Cardinal Newman Secondary School
- Strengthened our relationship and ministry to Orchard Terrance, the nearby nursing home



Volunteers & Ministry

- Offered more training to liturgical ministers
- Growth of already existing parish groups (e.g., De Mazenod Door ministry)
- Formed a new St. Vincent de Paul conference to help those in need in our community
- Many new volunteers are stepping up to assist with our various parish ministries
- We've had three seminarians stay with us over the past two years and are expecting another soon
- We have the largest RCIA group this year than we've ever had in the past

Parish Statistics

- Sacraments offered have increased:
 - Weddings increased by 21%
- Baptisms increased by 37%





- Number of new registered families: 72 (over past 2 years)
- Number of new parishioners: 152 registered (many more unregistered)
- Parish hall rentals were up in 2024 from 2023 by 42, with an increase of rental income by 187%

It is a regular occurrence that someone has come up and said, "we are new to the area, how do we register with your parish?"



Additional **Improvements**

- Added Confessions before all Masses
- Mass attendance for all four Masses has gone up

Church Installations & Improvements

- New boilers in the Church which are more energy efficient and should last longer
- New AC unit for the rectory
- New TV installed in Meeting Room 1
- New St. Joseph statue in the church
- New liturgical items decorating the church
 - Candlesticks
- o Altar cloths
- Paschal candle
- Tabernacle
- Kneelers
- veils
- Sanctuary lamps
- New crystal containers for oils in the Ambry. These sacred oils are blessed by the Bishop.
- We installed red & green confessional lights.
- Air hockey, foosball and ping pong have been added to our hall for our events.

- Installed our new sound system and microphones to better hear the Word of God and our worship music.
- New keyboard, and new mixer.
- Preparing to offer hearing-assist by means of bluetooth hearing aids.
- Added a holy water reservoir for parishioners to take holy water from.
- We now have a new fire safety and inspection plan.
- We've added more places for altar servers in the sanctuary.
- We've put an altar stone in the altar.
- We've found a relic of St. Margaret Mary that we can now use.

Further Improvements

- Various fixes to the building:
 - Walls Filled, painted
 - Floors Damage fixed, cleaned
 - Other maintenance and improvements
- Improved outdoor garden
- Improved use of outdoor digital sign
- Tidying and organizing of storage rooms, beautification of parish space
- · Replating of items
 - Tabernacle
 - Altar bells
 - Candelabra
 - Thuribles and other liturgical items
- Improvements to our Adoration Chapel, including chairs, statuary, and decorations
- Improved generally in Diocesan compliance







- Repainted and refinished several statues
- Repainted parking lot lines
- We are making excellent progress on cleaning our storm pond drain

Financial Updates

We have also formally been able to conclude our *One Heart, One Soul (OHOS)* parish campaign, able to move forward with a vibrant and strong parish. While we still have a substantial debt from our initial mortgage, we look ahead with firm resolve to continue to be good stewards of our blessings. Our *OHOS* campaign will allow us to make a substantial payment towards our debt as we continue to prioritize this financial goal.





Through our *OHOS* fundraising efforts, we have been able to purchase two new boilers, convert much of our lighting to LED, hire our custodian Kieran, and fund youth ministry activities. The funds that remain have been allocated to maintaining the lights in our parking lot, and towards our parish's mortgage. We are situated well financially and continuing to improve.



General Finances

- We've added two new members (David M and Marie G) to finance council.
- Offerings have gone up. For example, Jan
 Dec 2024 offerings were up \$26,086.79, an increase of 13.5%.
- We are preparing to make a contribution to our parish debt (exact amount to be determined).

Thank you for all your generous support!