



# PEACETIMES

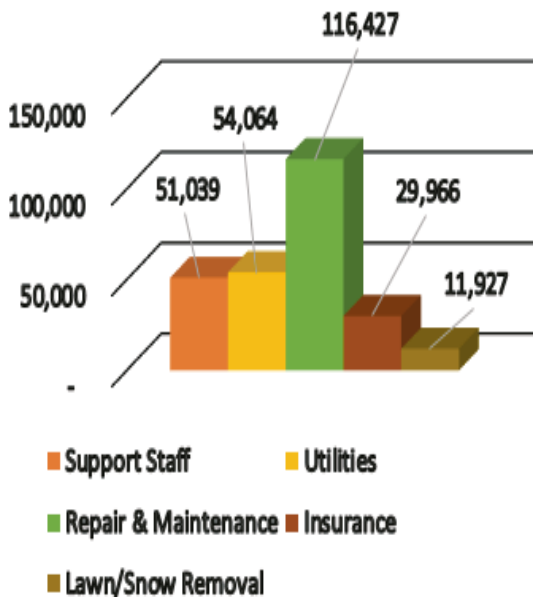
Prince of Peace Stewardship Newsletter  
Fall 2024

## Prince of Peace Annual Report

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

**GRATEFUL.** The Prince of Peace church building has played a vital role in the spiritual and communal life of our family. It has served as a sacred space for our family to worship, pray, and seek spiritual guidance. The physical presence of a church has provided a sense of stability and continuity, grounding our family in faith traditions that will last a lifetime.

### Facility Expenses



Beyond worship, the Prince of Peace Church has fostered a sense of community. Our family can connect with others who share our beliefs, forming supportive networks that can help during life's challenges. This building also has been a host to educational programs, such as Faith Formation, OCIA and Bible studies, which are crucial for passing on religious values and teachings to our children and reinforcing them in adults.

Moreover, the church building has offered a dedicated space for significant life events like baptisms, weddings, and funerals, creating lasting memories and a sense of identity tied to the church. It has facilitated community service and outreach programs, allowing our family to live out our faith through acts of service together.

In essence, the Prince of Peace Church is more than just a physical structure; it is a spiritual home that has provided a foundation for worship, education, community, and service. It has helped our family nurture our faith, build strong moral foundations, and create a legacy of religious devotion and community involvement. For us, the church building is a cornerstone of both personal and family life, deeply intertwined with our spiritual journey.

~Amy & Jason Downing

**THRIVING.** Prince of Peace is a vibrant parish. With 44 new families, 14 marriages, one of which was at the Easter Vigil, and 41 baptisms in 2023-2024, the parish family is growing. This year, 26 children received First Communion, 31 young adults were Confirmed in the faith, and 8 adults completed the O.C.I.A. program. Fr. Paul officiated at 9 funerals giving comfort to the grieving.

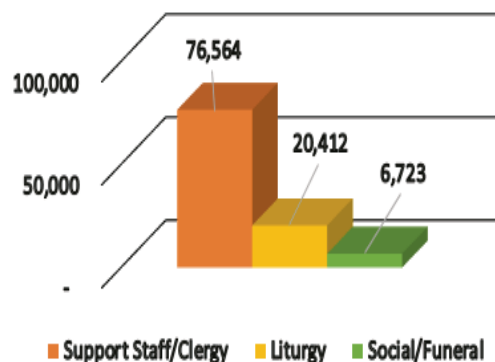
Prince of Peace is a young parish with 826 members from infant to age 20; 1,175 members ages 20-60; and 538 members ages 60+.

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## Financial Report Continued

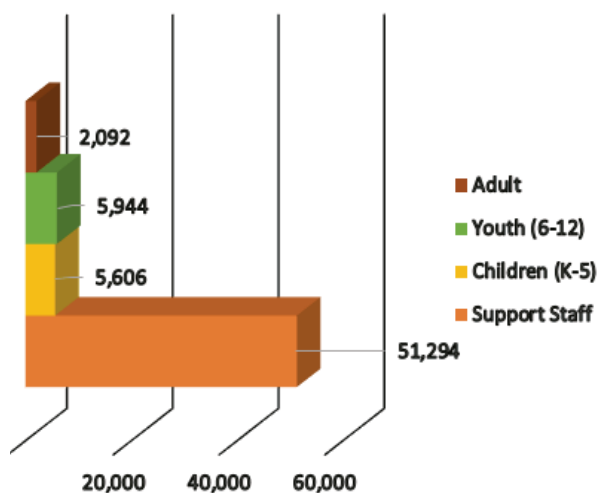
Our parish hosted several social, community, and growth events including a high school church pilgrimage, Blessing of the Stones in the foundation, Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracle boards, Christmas Eve Posada, Women at the Well Lenten Encounter, Stations of the Cross, Deacon Tom's Sunday morning class, Mass with Sr. John Marion and the School Sisters of Christ the King, SpringFest, and Eucharistic Procession after Mass in June.

### Liturgy Expenses



**SHARING.** Our daughters participated in Faith Formation and Summer Camp this past year and both programs brought a positive light to their faith life. Amy Lowe and her leadership team came prepared with fun, innovative ways to engage

### Faith Formation



our children in learning about their relationship with Jesus. Every time our girls finished a day at Faith Formation, there was non-stop giggling chatter from the backseat about what they learned, what craft they made, and what songs they sang. Pure joy was beaming as they showed their Jesus light bright on our car rides home. Prince of Peace provided a welcoming/fun/safe environment for our daughters to connect with other youth, to express their thoughts, ask questions, and pray together.

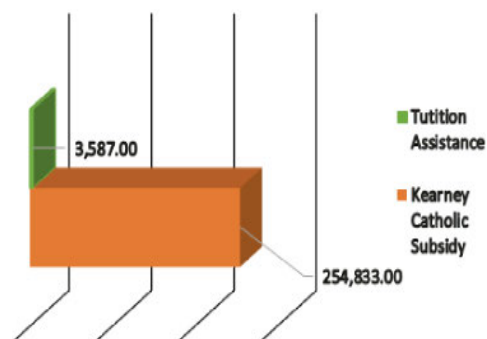
Our girls say their favorite activities were the Saint Stroll in October, Crowning of our Mother Mary BBQ, and of course the water slide day at camp. Our favorite event this past year was seeing Bailee receive her First Holy Communion. Amy made it a special day with emphasis on what it truly means to be in a state of grace when receiving Christ in the Eucharist. We feel truly blessed to be in a community that has Prince of Peace and their team to guide our daughters in their faith journey.

~Brooke & Nick Ward

**TEACHING.** As a family, we are deeply grateful for the role that KCHS has played in shaping our lives. Through the dedication of the teachers and the strength of a faith-based education, our girls have not only grown academically but have also been nurtured spiritually and morally. KCHS has provided an environment where our faith is woven into every aspect of learning, helping our children develop a deep sense of purpose, compassion and responsibility.

1 Corinthians 3:6-8. *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor."* KCHS has laid a foundation for my girls to grow in their faith journeys. It has planted seeds in their lives for them to take their faith upon themselves. God is the one who grew their faith, but KCHS planted the seeds to

### Kearney Catholic High School



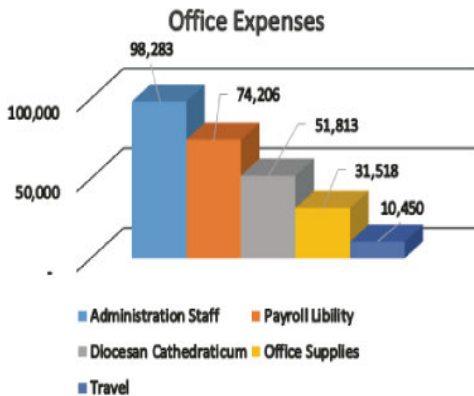
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make it possible for that to happen. Now we are reaping the benefits of seeing our kids grow in their relationship with God outside of the school. We have been truly blessed to be a part of the KCHS Community and Family.

~ Bridget and Jeremy Nore

**MINISTERING.** In my first month as a youth minister, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the spaces where God the Father is so gentle with me. I am continually fighting for control, seeking my own gain, and wandering off the path; however, God has never stopped pursuing my heart. In all of my humanity, He is unsurprised. He doesn't force me into His Love, but He will never stop wanting to give it to me. This Redeeming Love is offered to all of us, and I am honored to have the opportunity to share this Truth with our middle and high schoolers. To be in a position to offer the opportunities for this kind of encounter is extremely humbling- the Lord has chosen a very weak servant. I pray that our program is a space where conversion can begin and continue. I pray that it is a space where teenagers allow their hearts to be gazed upon by their Father and changed because of it. The fruits of our efforts may never be known to us, but the hope is that one soul might encounter Jesus Christ, might fall at the foot of His Cross and be changed forever. For this one soul is why we are here.

~Leeta Joslyn

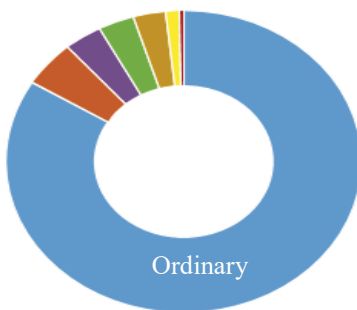


## INCOME 2023-2024

Ordinary: \$908,923.00
Christmas & Easter: \$37,782.00
Building & Maintenance: \$36,390.00
SpringFest: \$30,999.00
Faith Formation: \$14,027.00
Mass Stipends: \$4,120.00
All Other Income: \$53,031.00
<b>Total Income: \$1,085,272.00</b>

## EXPENSES 2023-2024

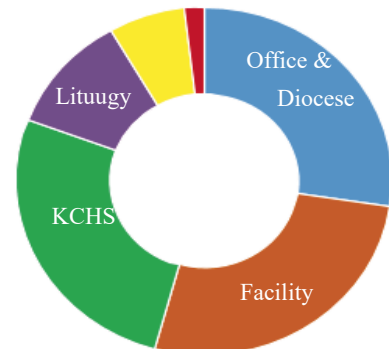
Office & Diocesan Cathedralricum: \$266,269.00
Facility costs: \$263,423.00
Kearney Catholic High School: \$258,420.00
Faith Formation (K-adult): \$64,937.00
Liturgy/Church Events: \$106,819.00
Interest: \$16,057.00
<b>Total Expenses: \$975,926.00</b>



## FISCAL YEAR END PROFIT

**\$109,346.00**

For additional details contact  
Cecilia Fick at 308-236-9171.



PILLARS OF PRINCE OF PEACE:

## Building On Faith

Total Project Cost: \$3.68 million  
Collected donations: \$2.75 million

**GENEROUS.** Prince of Peace has many generous donors which allows the church budget to cover increases in KCHS subsidy, building loan interest, annual staff raises, and other cost of living increases. The average weekly budget has been increased to \$18,500 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. First quarter budget amount was \$240,500. Collected amount was \$209,023. This has left a budget deficit of \$31,477 for the months of July, August, and September. If you received a raise, please remember that the church needs a raise too. Can you help with the deficit?



## Meet Leeta Joslyn



Once again, God has blessed our parish with an amazing human to help lead our youth to Him. Leeta Joslyn, who joined the Prince of Peace staff this past summer, is doing big things with our youth programs. In addition to Edge for middle schoolers, and Life Teen for high school students, Leeta has organized “POP in Thursdays”, a high school homework study group, as well as Bible studies for youth outside of our parish’s regular youth programming. Leeta assists Fr. Paul and Jeremy Nore with the Confirmation program, and is also currently fundraising to help defray the cost for high school seniors to go to SEEK in Salt Lake City, Utah this coming January. Additionally, she coordinates a monthly social for young adults in our parish. Leeta brings energy, enthusiasm, and love of the Catholic faith to everything she does, and her faith journey is as amazing as she is. She has graciously agreed to share her story, in her own words:

I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, in a wonderful Catholic family. My parents always made sure I made it to Mass, and I knew I was so loved. While I believed in God, it wasn't until I attended a non-denominational Christian sports camp in fourth grade that I learned about having a personal relationship with Him. I had never heard of this concept before, and was drawn into the zeal for the Lord that I found in the counselors and community at this camp. At the time, I had never seen a Catholic community with as much excitement for God as these people had, so I made up my mind at a young age that I wanted to be Protestant when I went to college. There was nothing (to my knowledge) that was so important in the Catholic Church that I couldn't find in a different denomination.

When I went to college, that's exactly what I did. I left the Catholic Church without a second thought. I met some fantastic friends and grew a lot in my time outside of the Church, but I was also building up a kingdom of my own. I refused to look into Catholic beliefs, because I was fearful that I might find truth within it and have to tear down what I had built. For two years, I pushed away the nagging feeling in my soul that I needed to look deeper. My parents begged me to ask questions and seek truth, but I continued to ignore it, holding on to the life I had built for myself with a white-knuckled grip.

Easter weekend 2022, I went to Indiana to visit my sister, Lizzy, where she was a FOCUS missionary at the time. I went with her to the Easter Vigil Mass. This was my first time ever going to Mass and not receiving the Eucharist. As I watched Lizzy and her teammates approach the altar, a wave of nausea overcame me. I ran to the bathroom and had a panic attack. I got sick multiple times and sobbed. I knew that stepping away from the Catholic Church meant I was rejecting the most beautiful gift that Jesus was offering me freely in the Eucharist. With all of my heart, I wanted to run back home to Him, but my pride and fear wouldn't let me.

Despite the continual nagging feeling that I needed to do something about this encounter, I went back to my daily life as a Protestant, holding onto the good things that I had in my community, and trying to convince myself that this was where God wanted me. For almost another year, I held onto this pride.

I had been dating a Protestant for almost two years, and we were preparing to get engaged in January of 2023. We had plans to move to Kansas City that summer and get married in the Protestant church. My parents were heartbroken about my decision, but I was determined to go through with that marriage and to hold onto the life I had built for myself. However, God had bigger plans for me.

*Continued on next page*





## Leeta, Continued

While visiting my family one weekend that January, we argued about Sola Scriptura, Sacred Tradition, and Sacred Scripture: our usual points of contention. Typically, I would just brush off all the points they made and go about my day. This time though, my heart was open just a little bit to hearing the truth, and that was enough for God. All He needs is a little bit to give us everything in return.

That whole weekend, I tried to fight my heart. The questions my parents asked me rolled around in my head, and nothing I could tell myself was powerful enough to drown them out. I went without food or sleep for three days, trying to ignore the now-resounding voice urging me to seek truth. I woke up on the third day (God loves to work in three's!), sat straight up in bed, unable to fight it anymore, and knew that I needed to come back to the Church. I was tired of running.

The sheer peace that came with listening to God's voice was enough to assure me that this was exactly what needed to happen. Despite the very real possibility that I would lose a lot, I had never been more sure of something or more at peace about God's desire for me. Making this decision caused me to lose so much: the man I thought I would marry, many friends, and the grand plan I had for the rest of my life. The walls of my kingdom came crashing down. It was extremely painful to be rejected so quickly, by so many people I loved. However, that hurt paled in comparison to the peace that came with being in full communion with Jesus again.

Every single day, I thank God for tearing down the walls of my heart and bringing me home to His Church. What a blessing it is that no matter how many times we reject Him, He still wants us! This is a kind of love that I don't understand. I couldn't earn it, and I surely don't feel like I deserve it. However, our God loves His children. He leaves the 99 to go looking for that one little lost sheep *because He loves us. we are worth it to Him.*

I am definitely not perfect in my walk with the Lord and never will be, but the free gift of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist draws me back again and again. He doesn't want just "okay" for us. He wants full communion...to give us everything. He offers Himself to each one of us every day as a gift in the Mass, where Heaven and Earth collide. Life continues to change, and I will continue to fall. But the truth remains that life is lived abundantly at the altar, where Jesus' perfect love is made present. He is worth losing everything for.

~ Leeta Joslyn

## October, Respect Life Month

October is Respect Life Month in the United States and the first Sunday of October is Respect Life Sunday. During this month, the Church encourages people to reflect on the dignity of all human life and to work together to respect life throughout the year. The Church's focus on respecting life includes issues concerning abortion, physician-assisted suicide, the death penalty, end of life, and bioethics. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from conception to natural death.

On October 6th nearly 100 students, adults, and families from area churches and cities lined both sides of 2nd Avenue in Kearney holding signs with pro-life messages. This public, prayerful, peaceful stand for life was organized and hosted by Susan Wheeler, our parish's Pro-Life Coordinator.





### Our Parish Continues to Grow!

Hospitality is one of the four pillars of Stewardship and so we extend a warm welcome to the following families who have recently joined our parish. Please extend a welcoming hand to them when you see them during liturgies and parish activities.

Michael & Lana Christensen		
Nathan & Katrina Fox	Wendell & Carol Kleinsasser	Darin & Tamara Busch
Patrick Rempe	Austin Murray & Samantha Mauch	Theresa Dolan
Brandon Pacheco	Mason & Molly Klingelhoef	Gary Menke
Jacob Solomon	Tomas Margritz & Isabel Mellick	Julie Jordan
Michael & Kylie Wilken	Benjamin & Katelyn Savageau	Heath & Emily Fink
Nathan & Rebecca Wangler		

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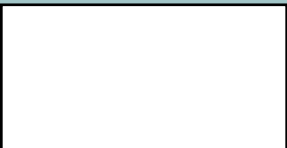
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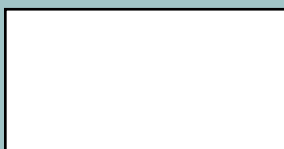
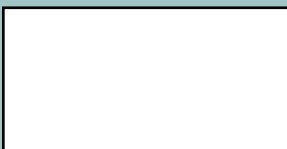
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### **Weekend Masses:**

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

### **Weekday Masses:**

See bulletin for times

### **Reconciliation:**

Saturday, 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Submit article ideas for the  
PeaceTimes newsletter to  
[mandy@kearneyprinceofpeace.org](mailto:mandy@kearneyprinceofpeace.org)

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## *Special Masses/Services*

### **All Saint's Day Masses**

*Thursday, October 31st - 6:00 pm*  
*Friday, November 1st - 12:00 pm \* 5:30 pm*

### **Thanksgiving Mass**

*Wednesday, November 27th - 6:00 pm*

### **Blue Christmas**

*Sunday, December 1st - 3:00 pm*

### **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

*Monday, December 9th - 12:00 pm*

### **Christmas Masses**

*Tuesday, December 24th - 4:00 pm \* 6:30 pm \* 9:00 pm*  
*Wednesday, December 25th - 9:00 am*

*For more information about any parish events, please call the church office.  
308.236.9171*