

✠ ♦The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus ♦January 11, 2026♦ ✠

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS

The baptism of our Lord Jesus is sure a mystery. When we see the definition of the word "baptism", Jesus's baptism enters the category of mystery. We can see it even in the expressions that the 4 Evangelists describe it. They all use different words to express the relation, the connection, the link between Jesus and the DOVE that came from heaven. St Matthew (which is today's gospel) pens down the following: "...The Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him". St Mark pins down the following verse: "... like a dove descending upon Him". St Luke reports this: "...And The Holy Spirit descended upon Him in a bodily form". St John says: "In whomever the Spirit come down and remain...". However, The baptism of our Lord Jesus is a capital event in His life. Because the four Evangelists wrote about, and because the Church made it a Feast, it means Jesus's Baptism is essential to our spiritual life. That calls to a very important question: What have we done to or with our own baptism?

Parish Financial Report St. Mary of the Lake – Lake Winola TREND ANALYSIS					
	2025	Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30			
		2024	2023	2022	2021
Revenue					
Collections	98,417	106,703	116,165	122,607	114,437
Faith Formation Fees	365	330	20	170	645
Fundraising/Development	669,979	32,102	26,147	15,722	12,184
Other Income	25,709	19,452	42,661	6,534	2,270
Designated Income/Grants/PPP Loan	5,233	3,908	6,196	-	-
Transfers Savings Account/Other	-	-	-	-	-
Diocesan Special Collections	3,315	3,093	3,058	2,995	1,980
Total Revenue	803,018	165,588	194,247	148,028	131,516
Expenses					
Administration	68,863	68,526	98,828	60,668	77,452
Rectory	17,875	13,846	10,024	9,450	9,414
Liturgy	15,807	7,637	9,763	9,838	7,174
Faith Formation	2,920	2,818	2,923	524	2,299
Social Justice	18,886	9,034	4,414	75	-
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	186,376	25,767	33,852	25,761	26,091
Fixed Expense	6,357	4,864	4,508	4,098	3,796
Debt Service	-	-	-	9	-
Capital Outlays	164,395	-	-	36,926	-
Designated Expenses /Transfers Out	11,787	5,732	-	1,843	-
Catholic School Assessment	11,616	11,604	10,368	8,285	12,410
Diocesan Special Collections Remittance	3,650	3,108	3,174	760	662
Total Expense	508,532	152,936	177,855	158,236	139,298
Parish Surplus/(Deficit) - CASH Basis	294,486	12,652	16,392	(10,208)	(7,782)
(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	** (SEE NOTE)**	-	(1,933)	2,637	3,746
Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit)	294,486	10,719	19,029	(6,462)	(11,586)
NOTE					
Outstanding Diocesan Obligations could include: Diocesan assessments, School assessments, health insurance, self-insurance, pension and other expenses.					
End of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations		0	(1,933)	704	4,450
Beginning of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	-	(1,933)	704	4,450	646
(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	-	(1,933)	2,637	3,746	(3,804)
Diocesan Loan/Debt	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A