



OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE PARISH

# Stewardship Report

JULY 2022-JUNE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

“How can I make a return to  
the Lord for all the good  
things he has given me?”

PSALM 116

# Stewardship.

Dear Parishioners,

As your pastor, it is my responsibility to present to you each year the Parish and School Financial Report for the previous year. The members of the Parish Finance Council have diligently prepared this report, which shows how we maintain our parish and school buildings and invest in our parish community.

One section of the report that should be of particular interest to you—the School and Religious Education Programs—details what we have accomplished in supporting Catholic education and the future of our students. In addition, and most notably, this past year we completed the Renew my Church process. After the completion of this program, the Archdiocese of Chicago determined that our parish is stable both financially and spiritually. Therefore, we can remain a separate entity and do not need to merge with any neighboring parishes. This is great news, which is due in large part to the many parishioners who have generously given their time, talents, and treasure to ensure that our community not only survives, but thrives.

Since each of you play an important part of our parish community, I would like to encourage you to carefully read this report. And, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please let me know.

I would also like to express my special gratitude to our Parish Finance Council for their dedication to ensuring the proper management of our parish and for preparing this report.

I am deeply grateful for your ongoing generosity and support, and I pray that Our Lady of the Wayside rewards each of you!

Rev. W. Arthur Marat  
Pastor of Our Lady of the Wayside



***Publication Note- The publication of the stewardship report is an annual responsibility of our parish. You'll note that this is the second time in calendar year 2023 that you are seeing a report. Today's report is for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Going forward this report will be published annually in November.***

Prepared and Submitted by the Our Lady of the Wayside Finance Council:

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# Faith Formation.

The religious education program (REP) expanded its class options for the 2nd year in a row this year. Providing flexibility to foster their faith, OLW began offering online home study for Confirmation prep students and continuing to offer a family based home study program to grades 1-6.

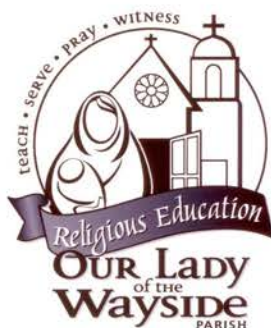
REP continues to offer an in person program for grades 1-8 on Tuesday evenings.

Our Youth Ministry keeps teens connected to their faith. Every Sunday evening around 30 high school students participate in Peer Ministry.

Children's Ministries include

- Scouting Programs
- Children's Liturgy of the Word (during 9:30 mass)
- Monthly Family Masses
- Faith Into Action
- Little Saints
- Vacation Bible School.

OLW has been proud to host Totus Tuus, a popular diocese-sponsored summer camp experience for students in first grade through high school for the past two years. This has been an important opportunity for our youth to **grow their faith.**



# The Sacraments.

Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, through which Divine life is given. There are seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.



Celebrating sacraments helps us to strengthen our parish community. As a faith community, we take great pride in celebrating sacraments with our members throughout every stage of their lives.

## In 2022-2023 we proudly celebrated:

- **94 Baptisms**
- **70 First Holy Communions**
- **69 Confirmations**
- **11 Marriages**
- **90 Funerals**
- **82 Anointings**
- **5 RCIA Candidates**

These meaningful celebrations have brought us closer to God and helped us grow together as a faith-based community.

The OLW campus requires annual maintenance and repair in order to ensure the buildings are safe and properly functioning to serve our community.

During FY 22-23, through a combination of OLW parish fund and generous donations from parishioners for specific projects, we were able to complete the following improvement projects:

- Renovated and repaired the Rectory kitchen
- Installed new signage across the entire campus
- Repaired and repainted the parking lot
- Repaired HVAC systems
- Renovated the rectory patio
- Painted the Parish Center and railings around campus
- Masonry repairs on Parish Center
- Renovated Lower level washroom in Elementary School

# Capital Improvements.

OLW is fortunate to have a large campus with five buildings providing spaces to worship and grow as a faith community and school. Like the parish, the buildings on campus are nearly 70 years old.

The Archdiocese has completed a full campus facilities assessment and provided a 5-year road map of repairs that our campus will need.

Capital Campaign planning will kick off in early 2024 to allow OLW to raise the needed funds to meet the repair and maintenance requirements.

# Our Lady of the Wayside

## Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

### July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

Income	FY 2023	FY2023	FY2023	FY2022	Fav(Unfav)	Fav(Unfav)	
	Church	School	Parish	Parish	\$ Change	% Change	
Sunday & Holy Day Collections	1,587,757		1,587,757	1,567,805	19,952	1%	
Tuition & Fees	69,705	2,487,487	2,557,192	2,416,234	140,958	6%	
Fundraising		179,879	179,879	179,054	825	0%	
Interest & Investment Income	7,287	622	7,909	16,508	(8,599)	-52%	
Sacrament & Mass Donations	69,661		69,661	80,136	(10,475)	-13%	
Other Income/Donations		16,875	16,875	23,400	(6,525)	-28%	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,734,410</b>	<b>2,684,863</b>	<b>4,419,273</b>	<b>4,283,137</b>	<b>136,136</b>	<b>3%</b>	
Expenses	FY2023	FY2023	FY2023	FY2022	Fav(Unfav)	Fav(Unfav)	
	Church	School	Parish	FY2022			
Personnel (Salaries/Benefits)	968,877	2,462,177	3,431,054	3,167,615	(263,439)	-8%	
Operating & Office Expense	274,243	267,352	541,595	525,194	(16,401)	-3%	
Utilities	53,249	70,534	123,783	133,901	10,118	8%	
Facility & Ground Maintenance	108,543	116,237	224,780	204,274	(20,506)	-10%	
Furnishings & Other Equipment	22,253	94	22,347	43,504	21,157	49%	
Archdiocesan Assessment	155,640	19,590	175,230	204,568	29,338	14%	
Priest Retirement Assessment	54,480	-	54,480	65,074	10,594	16%	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,637,285</b>	<b>2,935,984</b>	<b>4,573,269</b>	<b>4,344,130</b>	<b>(229,139)</b>	<b>-5%</b>	
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>97,125</b>	<b>(251,121)</b>	<b>(153,996)</b>	<b>(60,993)</b>	<b>(93,003)</b>	<b>-52%</b>	
			<b>Operating Cash</b>	<b>1,750,898</b>	<b>1,999,786</b>	<b>(248,888)</b>	<b>-12%</b>
			<b>Restricted Savings &amp; Endowment</b>	<b>1,163,031</b>	<b>1,153,922</b>	<b>9,108</b>	<b>1%</b>

### **Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Performance Highlights:**

Parish income increased by 3% primarily from increased tuition and fees as Sunday and Holy Day Collections only increased 1% from FY22.

OLW is not immune to rising costs in the current inflationary economy. As a result, parish expenses increased by 5% compared to FY22 primarily from an increase in Salaries and Benefits.

**For the combined church and school operations, the operating loss was \$154K, which follows the prior year loss of \$61K.**

**Simply stated: Financial performance that results in an Operating Loss is not sustainable for our parish.**

# Parish Financial Performance

## Fiscal Year 2023 INCOME Details:

- Sunday, Holy Day and Holiday Collections increased **1%** for FY 2023
- Consistent with market trends- Interest and Investment Income, albeit a small portion of our income, **decreased** by 55%



**OVERALL Income is failing to keep up with expenses**

## Fiscal Year 2023 Expense Increase Explanations:



- The Parish staff performed well in managing the controllable expenses such as utilities and administrative expenses.
- Salaries increased by 2.5% while employee benefits were restored to their pre-Covid level, and health care insurance costs rose along with participation rate, leading to an 8% rise in employment related costs.
- Increased maintenance costs, mostly caused by deferred maintenance, for items such as leaky roof, repairing the mortar on the buildings and renovating the bathroom in the elementary school building are another cause of increased expenses.

## **Financial Stability at OLW Parish**

Call to  
Action

We're thrilled that to this point our parish has remained debt-free and continues to enjoy financial stability. However, with the continual decline in offertory collections, we are concerned the financial strength of the parish will weaken. As expected, we are evaluating our budget and operations to reduce costs where possible.

**Unfortunately, expense reduction alone won't be enough.**

**To Maintain Financial Stability we need YOU!  
Please prayerfully consider how your family  
can increase your support to our parish.**



# Offertory Collections.

The total number of Parish Families that donate annually Increased in FY '23 from 907 to 951.

This represents a 4.58% increase in families donating.

**Yet- Parish Offertory Collections are down over \$200,000 annually since FY19.**

## YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

### ACTION ITEM #1

Celebrate CHRISTMAS and EASTER with larger gifts to your parish!

All of our cherished Christmas and Easter holiday traditions with family and friends **exist because of our Catholic Faith** and the miracles of these two holy occasions.

While you're preparing for these holidays- shopping for gifts and special menus- **plan to increase your gift to your parish as well!**



### ACTION ITEM #2

**Starting with ADVENT 2023- Please consider increasing your donation by \$10/week or \$40/month.**

If all 951 donating families can make this \$10/week increase the Parish will be able to operate at a small surplus rather than our current loss.



## Online Giving.

If you're looking for a simple way to make regular contributions to your parish, GiveCentral is the answer.

- It's similar to paying household bills online, and it's easy to set up.
- You can choose to contribute using a bank account, credit card, or debit card.
- You can automate your offertory contributions on a weekly or monthly basis. Best of all, you're in control of your donations and can adjust them as needed.
- You can also donate to second collections, holidays, and other giving opportunities:
  - School Endowment Fund
  - Rebek Scholarship Fund
  - Parish capital improvements
  - General Fund to help balance the budget

To sign up for GiveCentral, visit [olwparish.org](http://olwparish.org) and click on Give Online OR scan this QR Code:



**If you are an Online Donor already- NOW is the time to login and review your donation choices and increase your weekly giving!**

# Building Community.



"TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR TOIL. FOR IF THEY FALL, ONE WILL LIFT UP HIS FELLOW. BUT WOE TO HIM WHO IS ALONE WHEN HE FALLS AND HAS NOT ANOTHER TO LIFT HIM UP!" ~ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

Our Lady of the Wayside is a Community. A Parish built on relationships with God and with each other.

The Ministries at Our Lady of the Wayside provide opportunities to grow in faith, fellowship and service for members of our parish of **all ages**.

## ***A small sampling of the OLW Ministries include:***

- **CFM** - Through the dynamics of small group discussions held in members' homes, CFM members come together to learn, grow and support each other in becoming and living as the people of God in everyday life.
- **Bible Studies**- Parishioners meet weekly Friday mornings at 9:30 am in the Cabrini Room of our Parish Center to reflect on the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday and to explore their implications for daily life
- **Art and Environment**- A group of parishioners who help plan, design and execute the Worship Space Environment for the various seasons of the Liturgical Year.
- **Women of Wayside**- A large community made up of small faith groups who meet once per month.
- **Men's Golf League**- OLW Men's golf plays Wednesday afternoons at Arlington Lakes Golf Course from April through September.
- **St. Mark's Ministry** -sponsors a monthly food drive, the second Sunday of every month, to benefit the Food Pantry at our sharing parish,
- **St Vincent DePaul Ministry** - hosts an annual 5K Run & Walk to promote community and raise funds for those in need of life's basic necessities.
- **Live Stream Dream Team**- Streams daily masses, funerals, weddings and weekend masses for people who cannot attend OLW in person

....and SO Many more! Visit the OLW website to see how you can participate in the incredible community at OLW!





# Our School.

ENRICHING MINDS.  
FOSTERING FAITH.  
EXPANDING TALENTS.

For several years now, parents, students and teachers in the Archdiocese of Chicago are asked to take a Catholic identity survey to measure how well each school is performing to meet the directive of St John Paul II – “The mission of a Catholic school is the integral formation of students so that they may be true to their condition as Christ’s disciples...”

100% of students agree – God is present in my life

99% of students agree – Prayers and Masses at school help me know and love Jesus.

98% of students agree – At my school, I have opportunities to help others through meaningful works of service and care.

94% of students agree – Teachers help me see how Catholic faith should help me make day to day decisions.

99% of parents agree – I encounter teachers and staff witnessing the Catholic faith in the interaction with others.

*Fostering Faith* is one part of the school’s mission and based on these answers, OLW School is meeting that aspect of the mission. As the largest ministry of this vibrant parish, OLW School is highly engaged in raising and educating the future of our faith.



## *Enriching Minds*

OLW offers a rigorous academic program and OLW alumni consistently are placed into honors classes in high school.

STEM is part of the K-5 curriculum, helping our students learn vital skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Our small class sizes allow our teachers to really know each student individually.

## *Expanding Talents*

Each student has unique gifts and talents and OLW School offers many ways to explore those talents.



There are so many ways in which OLW students grow:

- Strong academics
- Religion taught every day
- Weekly Mass that is student focused
- Buddy Program
- Sports, Theatre, Band and Choir
- Robotics, Scouting, Scholastic Bowl, Student Council, Yearbook
- CORE

# Our Lady of the Wayside School Funds.

Our school is the largest ministry of the parish. The Parish's investment in the school allows it to set competitive and reasonable tuition rates.

Tuition and fees is the largest revenue source for the school, but that only covers about 85% of the school budget. The school's fundraising goal is \$180,000 yearly to bridge the gap between tuition and fees and the full operating expenses. We rely on donations from current and former parents, alumni, parishioners, family and friends, and community partners.

In 2022-23, the Family School Association (FSA) contributed over \$130,000 to help bridge the gap. Their fundraising efforts were vital and appreciated.

All donations to the *Annual Fund* help the administration provide resources and support to enrich the student experience. This includes: the school counselor, curriculum coordinator, teacher stipends & reimbursements for classroom supplies, among other needs outside the normal operating budget.

In the 22-23 school year, sponsorship fundraising also supported the Annual Fund. Sponsor logos were on banners hung in the gym and also were shown in the different school event ticketing websites. This is now a yearly fundraising effort for the school to support the Annual Fund.

Other fundraising for the Annual Fund comes from #GivingTuesday, matching donations, an Annual Alumni appeal, and from directed donations.

Our school is very lucky to have an *Endowment Fund*. The OLW School Endowment Fund was established in 1999 to perpetuate, partially support, and uphold the educational work of the School. Many alumni parents support the Endowment Fund because they understand the long-term benefits of securing OLW's future. This is a restricted fund, and only interest income can be used.

In the 2022-23 school year, the OLWSEF Board approved a disbursement for renovation to an elementary school bathroom.

## How can parishioners help support OLW School?

1. Participate in FSA Fundraisers
  - Events, Supper Club, Gift Card Rebate Program, Book Fair
2. Donate on #GivingTuesday
3. Contribute to the Rebek Scholarship Fund second collections
4. Make a directed donation for capital improvements or curriculum needs
5. Become a school sponsor

Find out more at [olwschool.org](https://olwschool.org).

The Gloria Rebek Scholarship Fund assists families who require immediate or ongoing tuition assistance. You can support the Rebek Fund during two specific second collections, by making ongoing donations through GiveCentral, or by designating your donation. For the past five years, the *IL Invest In Kids Tax Credit Scholarship (TCS) Program* has made it possible for an average of 19 students to attend OLW each year. We are grateful for the donors that participated in the program to provide scholarships to OLW students.

Please visit [olwschool.org](https://olwschool.org) > Support OLW to see all the ways you can help keep our school going. For questions, please contact our school principal, David Wood, at [dwood@olwschool.org](mailto:dwood@olwschool.org), or Danielle Kenney at [dkenney@olwschool.org](mailto:dkenney@olwschool.org).





# Celebrating 70 Years!

70 Hours of Adoration ★ Cardinal Cupich Mass  
Parade Float ★ Family Fair ★ Oktoberfest!  
Golf Outing

Since Lent 2023, Mike Nolan, a long-time parishioner and leader, has successfully guided a team of inspired volunteers in executing a year-long celebration for Our Lady of the Wayside's 70th anniversary!

The Celebrate 70! Celebration has embodied everything that makes OLW so special. We have had events to **build our faith**, celebrate our **families**, toast to **friends ~new and old**, fund raise for our parish and enjoy God's beauty in **nature** together on a beautiful golf course!

The celebration will conclude on 2/24/24 with a wonderful event, Soiree, celebrating 70 Years of Catholic Education! To be involved or learn more, contact Cassandra McKenna, Dir of Special Projects, at [cmckenna@olwschool.org](mailto:cmckenna@olwschool.org)

*Save  
The  
Date*

**For the Final  
Cornerstone  
EVENT!**

**Be there!**

*Celebrating Seventy Years of Catholic Education*



**CELEBRATE**  
OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE PARISH

*Soiree*

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024**  
METROPOLIS BALLROOM OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW