



Blessed
Sacrament
CATHOLIC CHURCH

1020 S. First Ave.
Morton, IL 61550
309-266-9721
www.bscmorton.org



Our Mission ~ To be formed as disciples who encounter the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, love the Lord through worship, and bring Christ to others through joyful service.

Finance Report 2023

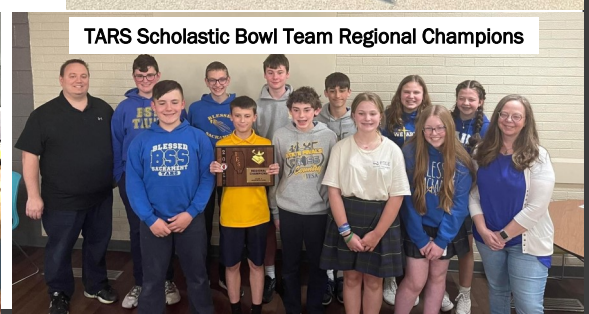
This report contains a summary of the financial state of our parish and school for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. It also includes other ways we use our time, talent, and treasure in building up our parish community. We want to thank you for the many ways you contribute – and not just financially. We are truly blessed by your generosity.

Even though this prior fiscal year shows a net loss, please know that our parish is strong financially. We continue to keep up with the rising costs of nearly everything, to keep our facilities up-to-date and operating smoothly, and to find ways to save money at every opportunity. We need your continued support to keep this up. Please make sure to take advantage of any employer charitable foundation matching gift opportunities, such as the Caterpillar Foundation matching program. Last year we received over \$70,000 in matching gifts from that program alone, and there are other employers who offer similar programs. It is such a blessing and a financial help to our parish.

Please also consider participating in the Empower Illinois program. This program provides tuition assistance to our families and results in a sizeable state tax deduction to you. If you already know about the program and participate, thank you. We received almost \$22,000 in tuition assistance through this program in the prior fiscal year. We are anticipating receiving almost \$50,000 this year. If you need more information about this program, please let us know.

We are available any time to answer questions on the status of the financial condition of the parish. Feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Finance Council: Fr. Adam Cesarek, Leslie Vallar, Mike Rochford, Ben Getz, Denise Henderson, Mike Zeller, Todd Wilderman, Julie Blair (Trustee), Andy Honegger (Trustee), Kim Gryl (Accountant)



TITHE

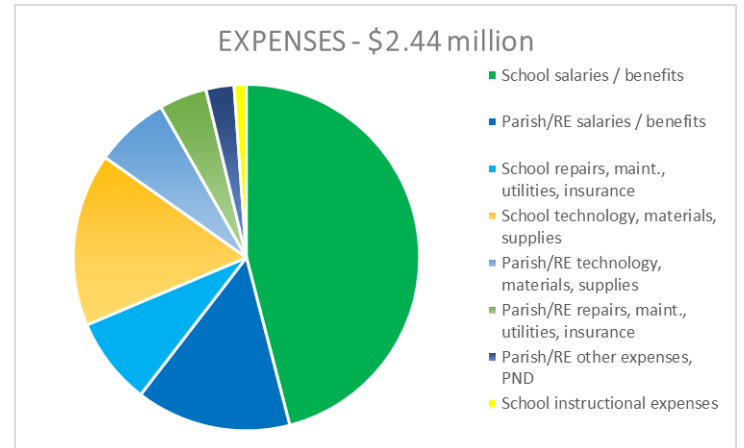
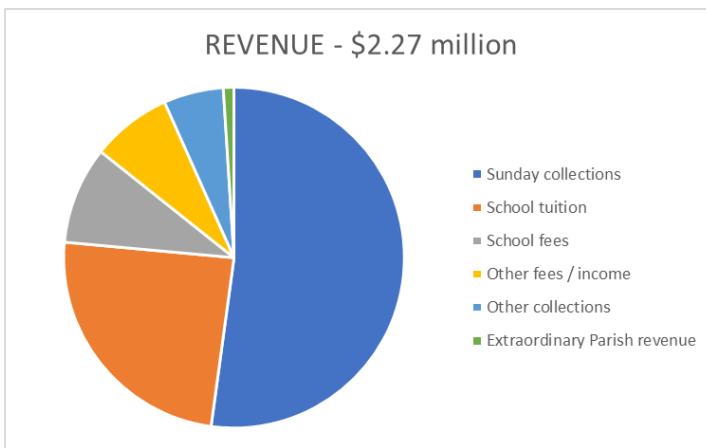
A tithe is one-tenth of something voluntarily paid as a contribution to a religious organization or charity. What matters most is not whether you give the tenth of your earnings, but whether you give it with the right attitude and the right heart. A heart that is truly right with God will have no problems giving ten percent or even more. God doesn't need our money, but we definitely need God to bless our money. That's why God calls us into generosity; He wants to know whether we value Him enough to part with our finances, whether it makes sense or not, and whether tithing is a dead practice or not. As your parish community, we've always asked for **ALL** parishioners to contribute **4%** as regular Sunday offerings. The Diocese asks for **1%** as part of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. That leaves 5% to contribute to the other organizations that mean the most to you.

Annual Gross Income	Monthly Contribution @ 4%	Annual Contribution @ 4%
\$24,000	\$80	\$960
\$36,000	\$120	\$1,440
\$48,000	\$160	\$1,920
\$60,000	\$200	\$2,400
\$96,000	\$320	\$3,840
\$120,000	\$400	\$4,800

DEBT REDUCTION

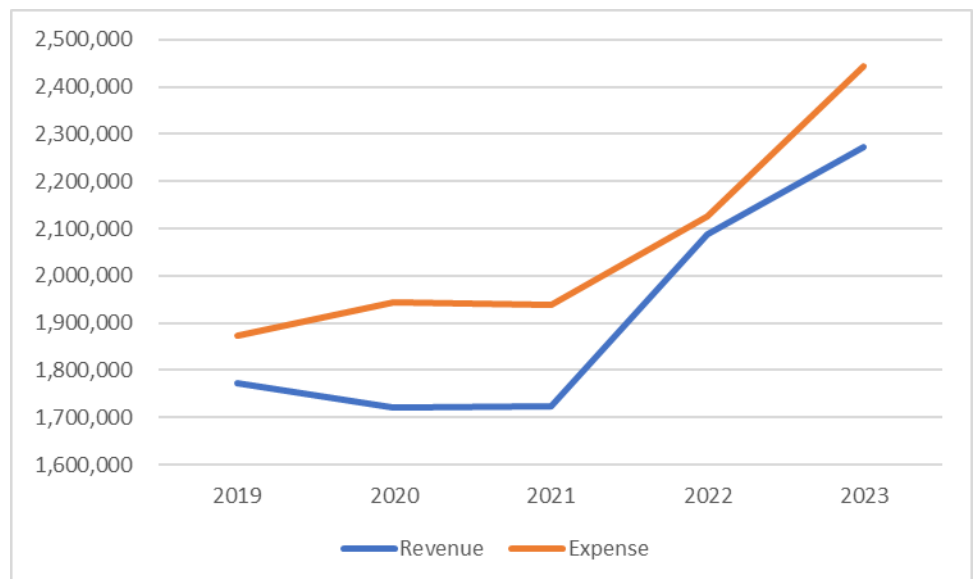
As was reported early in the fiscal year, we were able to pay off our debt with ERC funds and pledge payments. Thank you to everyone who supported our new facilities campaign!

2022-2023 FINANCIAL RESULTS



FINANCIAL RESULTS – 5-YEAR HISTORY

This chart shows revenues and expenses without extraordinary items (Festival proceeds, CARES Act PPP, investment gains/losses) over a 5-year period. Because of some unexpected maintenance and replacements in our HVAC system, the gap widened, but the Parish is very strong financially and has plans in place to maintain our new facilities. However we still need your support. Please consider setting up online donation. It is the easiest way to give. And please be sure to prayerfully consider your contributions to our Parish each year.



HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

Stewardship

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provided just over \$85,000 for rent, utilities, medical expenses, and food to those in need. In addition, \$13,500 worth of goods were donated to Sophia's Kitchen, Community Harvest Food Pantry, We Care, Community Cupboard, Enough Stuff Shop, and Neighborhood House.

Evangelization & Outreach

We are very proud of the evangelization and outreach that our parish provided through special projects and programs including:

- ◆ Weekly Communion services were provided at Brandon Wood and the Villas of Holly Brook.
- ◆ Group Rosary was offered at Apostolic Christian Restmor.
- ◆ Holy Communion delivered to an average of 70 homebound parishioners each week.
- ◆ Bereavement outreach and increased participation in the monthly Grief Care support group.
- ◆ Thanksgiving Day food drive, Sharing Christmas project and Easter Basket project.
- ◆ Blessed Family Ministry meets with other families on a regular basis.

Parish

During the past year, we welcomed 32 families to our parish. We sent welcome packets and reached out to new members to answer questions and provided information about our parish. Leadership of the parish changed on June 14, with the retirement/senior status of Msgr. Gerald Ward, and the welcoming of our new pastor, Father Adam Cesarek.

Religious Education

The Religious Education program for public schools had 171 children enrolled.

- ◆ The textbook from Sophia Press Institute, "Spirit of Truth," was used for grades 1-6. Grades 7-8 used Lifeteen "Edge" and grades 9-10 used "Lifeteen." Kindergarten participates in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. K-8 classes met at 10:30 AM and grades 9-10 meet at 6:00 PM, both on Sundays.
- ◆ We confirmed 27 students in our high school program.
- ◆ The high school youth group, "Holy Ground" met on Sunday evenings at 7:33 PM. The junior high youth group, "Edge" meets on the first Wednesday of the month.
- ◆ Totus Tuus was held in June, which focused on our Catholic identity through attending daily Mass, learning more about prayer and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. Eight kindergarteners, 77 children in grades 1-6, and 60 in grades 7-12 attended, plus many parish volunteers. Over 60 parish members donated their time by praying in the Holy Family Chapel during the week. In addition, each night a different parish family hosted the team for dinner in their home.



HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023 continued

School

- ◆ 217 students were enrolled in preschool through 8th grade at Blessed Sacrament School during the 2022-2023 school year.
- ◆ We had 34 second graders (BSS & RE) receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- ◆ The Office of Catholic Schools designated Msgr. Gerald Ward as the recipient of the Distinguished Pastor award for the 2022-2023 academic year.
- ◆ The Scholastic Bowl Team won their Regional competition, playing three matches.
- ◆ Our Declamation team offers 5th-8th graders a great opportunity to build public speaking skills in a variety of categories.
- ◆ The 5th grade students were entered into a nationwide Catholic Math League competition and finished as champions in the Division 5 competition. The 5th grade also graduated from the D.A.R.E. program, by the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office and participated in Junior Achievement, taught by parishioner Matt Heberer.
- ◆ Athletic highlights of the year include the boys Cross Country team winning the IESA 1A State Championship (2 years in a row) and Max Kirby (8th grader) was the individual state champion (2 years in a row). Blessed Sacrament hosted the 58th Annual Knights of Columbus Tournament for boys basketball where the Tars won 1st place. The 8th grade Lady Tars basketball and volleyball teams won their Regional tournaments.
- ◆ The 8th graders placed 1st, 4th, 6th, and 7th places (out of 25 bridges) in the ASCE Bridge Competition.
- ◆ The 8th grade cheerleaders hosted the first Cheer Clinic 2022 with 50 future Tars cheerleaders.



5th grade Math Champions

New BSS Yard Signs



8th gr VB Regional Tournament Champions



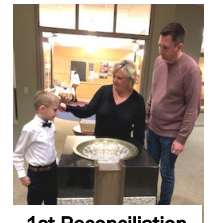
XC State Champions



BSS Band at the Peoria Chiefs game, along with Tom Mindock.



Lisa Bolt, preschool



1st Reconciliation



8th gr K of C tournament champions



Cheer Clinic 2022



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