

The Spirit

Tidings for the parish community of Saint Elizabeth

Welcome, Father Jayamanne

This past September, the Saint Elizabeth Parish community welcomed our new parochial vicar, Reverend Dr. Lourdes Sri Dharshana Jayamanne, known to us as Father Jayamanne.

Born and raised in Colombo, Sri Lanka in a large Catholic family, Father Jayamanne was the youngest of five children. When his older brother entered the seminary, their mother frequently prepared meals and hosted his brother's fellow seminarians for holidays. Because the seminarians were often at his home, Father Jayamanne developed friendships with them and eventually decided to follow in their footsteps.

He became a seminarian at the age of 17. After completing advanced level studies and a year of discernment, Father Jayamanne continued his path to the priesthood at Our Lady of Lanka Major Seminary and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Colombo in 1994.

Father Jayamanne's work as a priest has been quite active and



Father Jayamanne comes to Saint Elizabeth Church

diverse. In his early years, he served as a parish priest and spent several years as Vice-Rector and Director at Aquinas College, the Catholic University College of the Archdiocese of Colombo. He then studied in Bangalore, India, where he earned a master's degree in philosophy before moving to Auckland, New Zealand to serve as a pastor while completing his Doctorate.

Upon finishing his studies, he returned to Sri Lanka and served on the faculty of Aquinas College once again, as Director of Linguistics and head of the Business Professional Studies program. Father Jayamanne was awarded the titles of Deshabandu, an honor conferred for meritorious

service, as well as Vishva Keerthi, the highest honor awarded for services in the field of Education, for his contributions to youth advocacy and other charitable works.

In 2018, Father Jayamanne's priestly mission brought him to the United States and the Diocese of Las Vegas, where he served as the parish administrator for Sacred Heart Church in Ely, Nevada.

When asked for his reaction to his assignment in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, Father Jayamanne said he was thrilled. "I love this area of the country," he said. "Having spent some time in the

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Who's Who in the Parish Office? Warm welcome to our new staff members!

We're turning the spotlight on three employees who recently began new roles.

Roberta, John, and Annabelle collectively bring a fresh perspective and broad experience to strengthen the parish staff.

In August, **Roberta Dainton** transitioned from administrative secretary to coordinator of religious education, a position she previously held at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in West Chester. "Returning to a role that challenged me to grow spiritually and blessed me is awesome," she said.

Roberta sees her job as a way to share the light of the Gospel and plant the seeds of truth 'behind-the-scenes.' "I'm the supporter and encourager, cheering on our parish families and volunteers in their efforts to live and learn their faith as well as to make God's love and Christ's work known and understood," Roberta added. With a thriving elementary program in place,



Congratulations to Roberta Dainton in her new role as Coordinator of Religious Education

Roberta is now addressing the faith formation needs of our parish's older students by adding an RCIA opportunity for baptized or non-baptized high school teens and by participating in an Archdiocese initiative that connects our Confirmation candidates with Catholic young adults who share how they apply virtue to everyday life decisions and challenges. As she looks forward to sacramental celebrations this year, Roberta can't help but reflect on how God unexpectedly brought her back to aiding in the faith journey of others. "It gives me that coming home feeling—familiar and joyful," she said.

The parish had to look no further than its own team member, **John Rowe**, when searching for a new coordinator of maintenance and facilities. John has been a valuable part of the custodial staff since 2010, holding positions of increasing responsibility throughout his time at Saint Elizabeth. One of the most valuable things he has learned working for the parish is that everyone is willing to help, no matter what is needed. "In that way," John said, "the parish staff is more like your family away from home."

Over the past decade, John found that the key to keeping all the parish facilities up and running is the ability to react on a moment's notice. "Even well-planned things can change, so having a team that's flexible enough to make adjustments quickly and still address all the



Congratulations to John Rowe in his new role as Coordinator of Maintenance & Facilities

other daily responsibilities is our number one goal," John added. John's professional background spans several, diverse industries including real estate, warehouse management, and general contracting. "Each of these experiences are helpful in my current role," he said.

Annabelle Croy is the person behind that friendly voice you hear when calling the Mullin Ministry Center. She joined the staff as parish secretary in late July after she and her husband, Keith, heard Father Mullin announce the open position during Mass. "Keith actually took my hand and raised it, as if to say, 'Here's your candidate for the job!'" laughed Annabelle. With a degree in communication arts, she's held management roles in Foreign Service, finance, retail, manufacturing, as well as non-profit industries. "I'm finding it very interesting to learn the behind-the-scenes efforts that go into managing a parish office,"

(continues on page 5)

Family Spirits: My Trip to Montego Bay – One Parishioner’s Life-Changing Mission Trip

This past summer, as one of six adult chaperones of over 15 Lansdale Catholic High School students, I was given the opportunity to live and work with the 35 residents and many caretakers of Blessed Assurance in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Blessed Assurance is part of a network of homes under the organization of Mustard Seed Communities (MSC). Residents are children born with special needs, into extreme poverty, who, in most cases, were discarded or abandoned. Blessed Assurance takes them in, deeply roots their care and protection in God’s grace, and adamantly insists on not just giving these children a home but also on realizing the utmost dignity and potential of every individual.

My co-worker and good friend first brought this mission trip to Lansdale Catholic students after a graduate had volunteered with MSC through her college. We formed an informal group and proceeded to lead several annual trips for high school students to Blessed Assurance until the pandemic broke out around the world. So many people were (and still are) affected by those several years when the world seemed to stand still, but I remember how deeply affected students and colleagues were whenever they’d recall the kids at Blessed Assurance who were cut off from financial and, more importantly, social nourishment. Each time the students prayed for “the kids,” I felt more and more called to join them. I had plenty of time over those years to think about my

own faith journey, to think about myself, and I decided it was time to act. When the mission trips began again this year, I signed on. I didn’t exactly know what to expect, but I knew it was time to get out of my comfort zone. I was also forewarned to leave any romanticized notions of a trip to the Caribbean behind.

Pulling into Blessed Assurance, you’re immediately met with sub-par living conditions, especially for children with unique needs: a rusted, dilapidated playground, outdated medical supplies, no Wi-Fi, holding tanks to allow for 30-second cold showers, ten or more children of varying ages and capabilities packed into tiny quarters. But surprisingly, these weren’t the first things we saw. We saw colorful pastel houses dotting a small, enclosed property with 24/7 security and bright, bold letters painted onto the side of a bridge declaring “He is here!” We witnessed Jamaican “One Love” hospitality as all of the children and caretakers with homemade “Welcome Lansdale Catholic” signs clapped on our arrival. We were the first mission trip volunteers to visit in two and a half years!

I watched as 15 teenagers, who had each raised money and paid



Parishioner Emily Brady experiences “authentic joy” on mission trip

for their own trip, completely surrendered themselves in service to others joyfully, even as they were tasked with the difficult but rewarding work of literally feeding each child every morning and night. They bravely tended to the children despite how much it pained all of us to see such unimaginable struggle. But it’s the spiritual nourishment which differentiates MSC from other service trips. Each physically challenged child, mostly barefoot and wearing secondhand clothes, is raised in the word of God clinging to his or her “My Daily Bread” prayer book each day, one of few tangible possessions they own. I realized that they don’t need our sympathy; most are far better off in their seeming poverty than we are in the modern world. There is an authentic joy which emanates from a simple life lived in Christ. In the words of MSC’s charismatic and humble Executive Director, Father Garvin Augustine:

“This is their world and this is their life. They’re living longer

Family Spirits:

(cont'd from page 3)

because of improved care. It's not a matter of just housing them; we are looking to realize their full potential. In today's society we don't think much of people with disabilities. We don't think they're productive citizens....

we're trying to change that.... they have potential, but we have to see that. We believe that life is meaningless and purposeless without a spiritual connection. Without a sense of connection to God, we would just be another social service. This is what sustains us." In my time at

Blessed Assurance, I discovered that each face was matched with a story, each life is known by name. I witnessed the true Church which joyfully proclaims, "Thank you Lord" and "He is here." It might sound cliché, but I will never take for granted my own health, education, access to food, a comfortable home with a hot shower or the power of a community fueled



by Christ's teachings. I returned home after just seven days, but Blessed Assurance caretakers are still there doing the real work.

~ Emily Brady, Guest Contributor

NOTE:
Mustard Seed Communities (MSC) is an international non-profit dedicated to caring for the most vulnerable populations

throughout the developing world. It began in 1978 as a home for a handful of children with disabilities who had been abandoned to the streets of Jamaica. Today, MSC provides loving and lifelong care to over 600 children and adults with disabilities, children affected by HIV, and young mothers in crisis across Jamaica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. To learn more visit www.mustardseed.com

Emily Brady is a parishioner of Saint Elizabeth and serves on the Stewardship Committee.

Emily graduated from Villanova University in 2011 and has been teaching in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the last nine years. She is currently the English Department Chair at Lansdale Catholic High School, where she teaches English and Italian.



Welcome, Father Jayamanne *(cont'd from cover)*

Bridgeport, Connecticut Diocese as well as in Staten Island, New York, I have developed many friendships with fellow Sri Lankan priests in the area. Also, two Sri Lankan brothers just started at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, and I look forward to helping them as they proceed with their studies.”

While most of his immediate family remains in Sri Lanka, Father Jayamanne reflected that he has enjoyed the many years of moving and working around the world. “I feel blessed in my faith to have spent time in all these places and to have been able to work with so many different people,” he said.

His first impression of the Saint Elizabeth community has been

very positive. “It’s amazing here. I am grateful to have this experience,” he said. “As an administrator, I learned how long it can take to get things accomplished. Father Mullin is full of spirit and works so hard. He’s never exhausted! He is a wonderful pastor to the people of Saint Elizabeth Parish, and I look forward to working with him.”

When asked about his ministry among us, Father Jayamanne said, “This is a great opportunity for me to get to know the people of the parish. As priests, we are called to understand the needs of our people and provide spiritual nourishment.” He also said that he is looking forward to not driving as much. His parish in Las Vegas was located 250 miles from the city, while his home

here at Saint Elizabeth is just steps away from the church. “It was also freezing and lonely in the mountains, so I’m glad to be where the temperature is moderate,” he added.

Perhaps we should check back with him in February about his feelings on Pennsylvania weather?

Welcome, Father Jayamanne!

~ Julie Krumenacker

Who’s Who in the Parish Office?

(cont’d from page 2)



Saint Elizabeth Church Welcomes Annabelle Croy as Parish Secretary

she said. “I’m also thankful to have such supportive and cheerful coworkers.”

Prior to their move to Chester Springs, the Croy’s raised their family in Florida, where Annabelle was an active church and school volunteer. Annabelle also has a passion for travel and most recently journeyed to England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland with her husband and mother.

Best wishes and best of luck to all our new staffers!

~ Amy Giampietro

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School Spirits: New Faces Welcomed to Our School

Along with many new students, this Fall semester welcomed two new staff members to the Saint Elizabeth Parish School family.



*Saint Elizabeth Parish School
Welcomes
Jessica Sharpe as
Administrative Secretary*

Jessica Sharpe began as the Administrative Secretary to the Principal back in August. She believes that God places you where you are supposed to be. Jessica and her husband, Dave, who works in the lawn care industry in Coatesville, have been married 28 years. They are newly “empty nesters” since their twins turned 21 and entered their final year of college. Emma, who is studying Public Health at the University of Maryland, is working to become a Physician’s Assistant. Jackson, who is at West Virginia University, is studying Exercise Physiology and pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy.

The Sharpe family recently moved into our parish. Shortly after arriving, Jessica saw an ad for her current position and things started to fall into place for her future. Jessica comes to the job with both residential and commercial property management experience and brings excellent skills in customer service, management, and leadership.

“This position is a perfect fit for me. Coming from a large family, I love children,” said Jessica. “I look forward to getting to know all the children and their families in the years to come.” On weekend mornings, Jessica can often be found walking her dog, Daisy, along Marsh Creek.

Steve Pochadt began his tenure as the new fourth grade teacher this past September. He has taught all over the greater Philadelphia area, most recently in Upper Moreland as a long-term substitute reading support instructor. He brings nine years of experience and is focused on providing positive reinforcement, engaging lessons, and self-guided learning to his students. Steve and his wife, Jackie, also a teacher, live in Saint Simon and Jude parish in West Chester. They share their home with three cats, two snakes, and a bearded dragon. Despite having no prior connection to our parish, Steve remarked, “I am amazed at how I was quickly accepted, just like a family member.”

Steve’s favorite subject is social studies; he enjoys learning

about the customs and lifestyles of others, as evidenced in his having traveled to 30 countries on four continents. When asked about his goals for his new class he explained that he intends “to provide an effective, long-lasting, Christ-centered education for young minds.”

Our school has been enhanced by the addition of these two excellent staff members. Welcome to the Saint Elizabeth Parish School family!

~ Elisa Sheronas



*Saint Elizabeth Parish School
Welcomes Grade 4 Teacher
Steve Pochadt*



Supplement to the Spirit Newsletter: December 2022
Parish Financial Report for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Dear Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth,

Greetings for Advent and Christmas: May all of us enter this holy season with a hope-filled spirit, strengthened by our shared faith in Jesus Christ!

I am grateful to all those parishioners who have continued to demonstrate their commitment to a stewardship of treasure throughout the past year. On the next several pages, you will find detailed reports about the income and expenses of the parish and the parish school for the period July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. This year's financial report to the parish community again includes a *four-year historical perspective* on the financial status of both the parish and the parish school.

Throughout the past fiscal year, we have continued to meet everyday operational expenses, carry the annual debt service on the education center mortgage, provide financial support for the parish school and complete several long-term maintenance projects through the consistent financial support of a core number of parishioners and the parish staff's efforts to control ordinary expenses. For this I am deeply grateful.

I encourage you to review this information and, if you have any questions or comments to share, please contact me at the parish office (610-321-1200).

As you may recall, back in November of 2020, we inaugurated a parish-wide, five-year capital campaign entitled ***Moving Forward in Faith - Extending God's Light*** in anticipation of the 25th anniversary of the parish's founding in 2000. I am happy to report that this anniversary campaign continues to be a wonderful success! Through the extraordinary generosity of some 576 parish families, the anniversary campaign now has gifts and pledges totaling over \$4.777 million. Equally amazing is the fact that we now have more than \$3.14 million in total funds collected.

Our parishioners' campaign dollars are already having a great impact for the parish. Following the exhibits in this report you will find an update on the campaign (see page 11), explaining its three funding priorities and reporting how campaign funds have been allocated so far. Most significant is the \$1.5 million advanced payments we have made on the parish mortgage, while still providing monies to address major capital maintenance projects (\$243,814) and to cover the parish school's operating deficit (\$169,550).

The Parish Finance Council and the Parish School Board of Limited Jurisdiction are working together to address the yearly operating deficits of the parish school, while at the same time keeping tuition at an affordable level for the families who seek a Catholic elementary education for their children. We need all our parishioners to promote and support the faith-grounded and high quality academic educational program provided at Saint Elizabeth Parish School.

It's not too late for more of our parishioners to participate in the *Moving Forward in Faith - Extending God's Light* campaign with a one-time gift or a two-year pledge. For more information, simply call the parish ministry center (610-321-1200) during weekday office hours. May God continue to guide our efforts to move forward in faith with a renewed commitment to extend God's light to others, both within and beyond our parish community!

During the Advent Season, I encourage all of you to reflect prayerfully upon your own commitment to support Saint Elizabeth Church with your stewardship of time, talents and treasure. May God bless you and your loved ones at Christmas and throughout the New Year 2023!

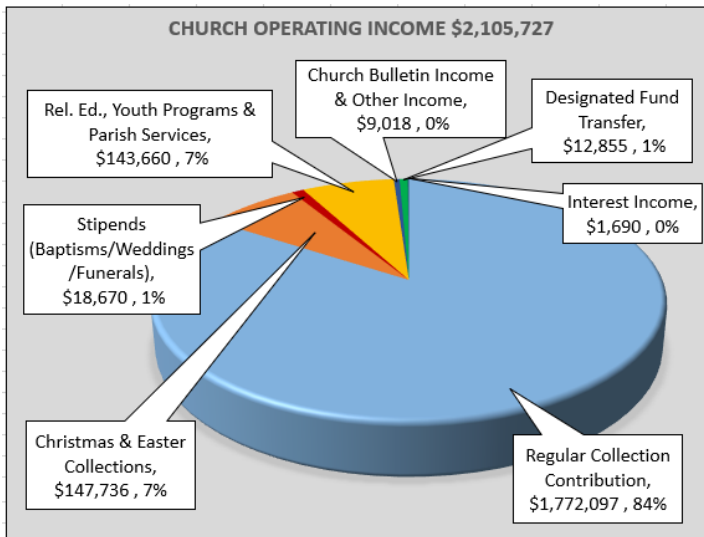
- Fr. Tom Mullin

Saint Elizabeth Parish

Financial Report for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

INCOME

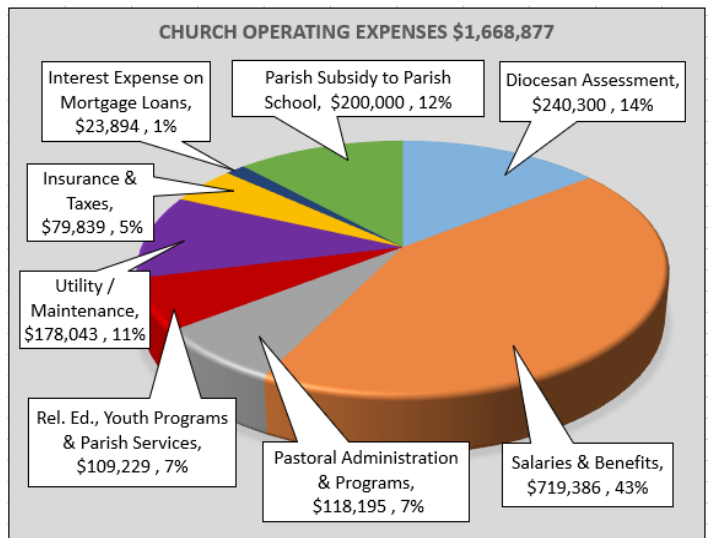
Summary of Operating Income	
	2021-2022
Budget Category	Church
Regular Collection Contribution	\$ 1,772,097
Christmas & Easter Collections	\$ 147,736
Stipends (Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals)	\$ 18,670
Rel. Ed., Youth Programs & Parish Services	\$ 143,660
Church Bulletin Income & Other Income	\$ 9,018
Designated Fund Transfer	\$ 12,855
Interest Income	\$ 1,690
Total: Operating Income	\$ 2,105,727



EXPENSE

Summary of Operating Expenses	
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 240,300
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 719,386
Pastoral Administration & Programs	\$ 118,195
Rel. Ed., Youth Programs & Parish Services	\$ 109,229
Utility / Maintenance	\$ 178,043
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 79,839
Interest Expense on Mortgage Loans	\$ 23,894
Parish Subsidy to Parish School	\$ 200,000
Total: Operating Expenses	\$ 1,668,887

Total: Operating Income	\$ 2,105,727
Total: Operating Expenses	\$ (1,668,887)
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 436,840
25th Anniversary Campaign Funding for Debt	\$ 880,000
Designated Fund for Debt Reduction	\$ 4,300
Insurance Proceeds (net)	\$ 147,030
Loan Principal Payments	\$ (1,211,256)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 256,914



Summary of Cash Assets	
Banking Accounts	\$ 1,970,703
Stars Rewards Inventory	\$ 430
Accounts Receivables	\$ -
Pre-Paid Expense	\$ 1,930
Total Cash Balance as of June 30	\$ 1,973,063

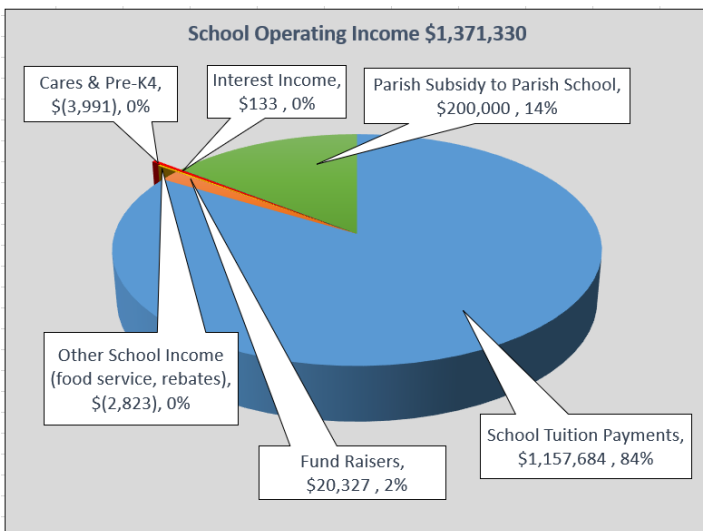
Summary of Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 85,406
Payroll Liability	\$ 39
Mass Account	\$ 3,691
Prepaid Registration	\$ 19,365
Diocesan & Poor Box Collections	\$ 3,990
Anniversary Campaign/Designated Reserve	\$ 1,204,096
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,316,587
Mortgage Indebtedness	
Church Mortgage	\$ -
Education Center Mortgage	\$ 1,590,485
Mortgage Liabilities	\$ 1,590,485
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,907,073

Saint Elizabeth School

Financial Report for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

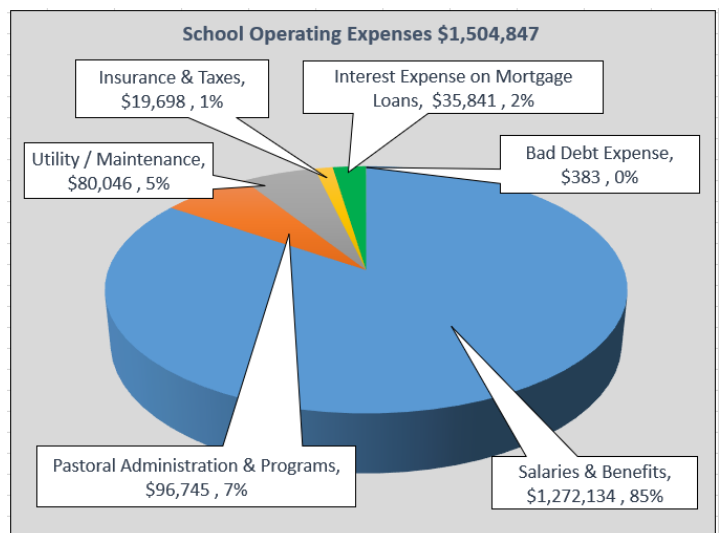
INCOME

Summary of Operating Income	
	2021-2022
Budget Category	School
School Tuition Payments	\$ 1,157,684
Fund Raisers	\$ 20,327
Other School Income (food service, rebates)	\$ (2,823)
Cares & Pre-K4	\$ (3,991)
Interest Income	\$ 133
Parish Subsidy to Parish School	\$ 200,000
Total: Operating Income with Parish Subsidy	\$ 1,371,330



EXPENSE

Summary of Operating Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,272,134
Pastoral Administration & Programs	\$ 96,745
Utility / Maintenance	\$ 80,046
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 19,698
Interest Expense on Mortgage Loans	\$ 35,841
Bad Debt Expense	\$ 383
Total: Operating Expenses	\$ 1,504,847
Total: Operating Income with Parish Subsidy	\$ 1,371,330
Total: Operating Expenses	\$ (1,504,847)
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (133,518)
Previous Year (loss)	\$ (32,532)
Anniversary Campaign Funding	\$ 166,050
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 0



Summary of Cash Assets	
Banking Accounts	\$ 142,646
Accounts Receivables	\$ 110,798
Pre-Paid Expense	\$ -
Total Cash Balance as of June 30	\$ 253,444

Summary of Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,458
Payroll Liability	\$ 126,063
Prepaid Registration	\$ 41,400
Restricted/Designated Reserve	\$ 83,523
Current Liabilities	\$ 253,444
Total Liabilities	\$ 253,444

Saint Elizabeth Parish & School: Financial Report Historical Perspective

Church Report				
Operating Income & Expenses				
	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019
Total Operating Income	\$2,105,727	\$2,033,577	\$2,167,170	\$2,236,157
Total Operating Expenses	-\$1,468,887	-\$1,470,946	-\$1,531,974	-\$1,619,911
Operational Surplus pre Principal Payments & School Subsidy	\$636,840	\$562,631	\$635,197	\$616,246
PPP Loan			\$144,205	
Anniversary Funding of Debt Reduction	\$884,300	\$617,126		
Insurance Proceeds	\$178,845	\$280,017	\$6,302	
Insured Replacement Cost	-\$31,816	-\$434,229		
Loan Principal Payments	-\$1,211,256	-\$905,641	-\$262,948	-\$262,991
Parish Subsidy to Parish School	-\$200,000	-\$200,000	-\$200,000	-\$500,046
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$256,914	-\$80,096	\$322,756	-\$146,791
Summary of Cash Assets				
Operating Accounts	\$766,607	\$630,477	\$598,871	\$224,442
Restricted/Designated Reserve	\$257,428	\$216,020	\$217,984	\$207,739
Anniversary Campaign Funds	\$946,668	\$1,020,165	-\$11,545	\$0
Total Banking Accounts	\$1,970,703	\$1,866,662	\$805,310	\$432,181
Stars Rewards Inventory	\$430	\$2,773	\$6,170	\$31,641
Accounts Receivables	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pre-Paid Expense	\$1,930	\$2,207	\$2,933	\$5,978
Total Cash Balance as of June 30	\$1,973,063	\$1,871,642	\$814,413	\$469,800
Summary of Parish Liabilities				
	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019
Accounts Payable	\$85,445	\$175,907	\$86,438	\$64,385
Mass Account	\$3,691	\$3,802	\$3,679	\$3,962
Prepaid Registration	\$19,365	\$18,980	\$13,851	\$31,263
Diocesan & Poor Box Collections	\$3,990	\$5,001	\$1,977	\$4,234
Restricted/Designated Reserve	\$257,428	\$216,020	\$217,984	\$207,739
Anniversary Campaign Funds	\$946,668	\$1,020,165	-\$11,545	\$0
Restricted/Designated Reserve	\$1,204,097	\$1,236,185	\$206,439	\$207,739
Current Liabilities	\$1,316,587	\$1,439,874	\$312,383	\$311,582
PPP Loan	\$0	\$0	\$144,205	
Mortgage Indebtedness				
Church Mortgage	\$0	\$0	\$731,064	\$865,275
Education Center Mortgage	\$1,590,485	\$2,801,742	\$2,976,318	\$3,105,056
Total Liabilities	\$2,907,072	\$4,241,616	\$4,163,971	\$4,281,913

Parish School Report				
Operating Income & Expenses				
	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019
Total Operating Income	\$1,171,330	\$1,165,011	\$1,408,177	\$1,336,352
Total Operating Expenses	-\$1,504,847	-\$1,572,108	-\$1,730,544	-\$1,836,398
Parish Subsidy to Parish School	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$500,046
Operational Surplus (Deficit)	-\$133,518	-\$207,097	-\$122,367	\$0
PPP Funds	\$0	\$0	\$296,931	\$0
Previous Year Surplus (loss)	-\$32,532	\$174,564	\$0	\$0
25th Anniversary Campaign Funding	\$166,050	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	-\$32,532	\$174,564	\$0
Summary of Cash Assets				
Banking Accounts	\$142,646	\$235,201	\$460,087	\$355,660
Accounts Receivables	\$110,798	\$54,642	\$28,578	\$44,145
Pre-Paid Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,152
Total Cash Balance as of June 30	\$253,444	\$289,844	\$488,665	\$405,956
Summary of School Liabilities				
	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019
Accounts Payable	\$2,458	\$46,381	\$3,180	\$20,715
Accrued Salaries	\$126,063	\$128,368	\$153,250	\$167,521
Prepaid Registration	\$41,400	\$46,860	\$45,890	\$56,600
Restricted/Designated Reserve	\$83,523	\$100,768	\$111,781	\$85,818
PPP Loan			\$296,931	
Total Liabilities	\$253,444	\$322,376	\$611,032	\$330,654
Cash Assets less Liabilities	\$0	-\$32,532	-\$122,367	\$75,302
Enrollment	210	212	273	298
Enrollment 2022-2023: 181				



Moving Forward in Faith - Extending God's Light

The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Capital Campaign for Saint Elizabeth Church

With the inspiring generosity of our parishioners and benefactors, we are well on our way to securing the financial health of the parish community through 2025 and beyond.

As announced in the original case statement shared with our parishioners in the fall of 2020, there are **three critical funding priorities** for the anniversary campaign:

Debt Reduction/Elimination: The parish has been diligently reducing our mortgage obligations so that regular income may be directed to sustain and grow our many active parish ministries. Since the outset of the campaign, we have completely paid off the church mortgage (in the amount of \$617,126) and made advance payments on the education center mortgage (\$880,000) while still meeting the monthly principal and interest payments from our operating income. Assuming the timely payment of the remaining campaign pledges, we anticipate paying off the outstanding mortgage with a combination of operating and campaign monies by December of 2024!

Restricted Parish Education Fund: We remain committed to offering faith formation programs for all parishioners and to providing an elementary Catholic education for all who choose it. To date, close to \$170,000 in campaign funds have been allocated to cover the shortfall in operating expenses for the parish school, in addition to the annual parish subsidy to the parish school (currently \$200,000 per year). As available, the campaign will provide monies to enrich program offerings, to sustain technology upgrades, and to provide tuition assistance to qualifying parish families.

Technology Development and Long-Term Maintenance Projects: Because the parish buildings and campus are nearly 20 years old now, we are currently conducting a *Master Plan Facilities Study* under the coordination of GKA Architects to assess facility needs and identify maintenance & technology projects to be addressed over the next five years. To date, close to \$250,000 in campaign monies have been spent on maintenance & facilities projects, including a major overhaul of the HVAC system for the church and education center.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has given their time, talent and treasure to this project as we move forward toward the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Saint Elizabeth Parish back in July of 2020. May God continue to guide our efforts to move forward in faith with a renewed commitment to extend God's light to others, both within and beyond our parish community!

Dates of Interest

November 26-December 11

Advent Giving Tree

Saturday, December 3

RCIA Rite of Welcome at 5:30 PM Mass

Sunday, December 4

Presentation of First Penance/First Holy Communion Candidates at 9:30 AM Mass

Thursday, December 8

Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 7:30 AM, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 14

Advent Penance Service with Individual Confessions at 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 17

Christmas Confessions
9:00-11:00 AM

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses
4:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Masses
8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Sunday, January 1

Holy Day of Mary, Mother of God
Vigil Mass at 5:30 PM on Saturday
Mass at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Sunday, January 8

Blessing of 2023 Confirmation
Candidates at 9:30 AM Mass

Friday-Saturday, January 27-28

Pre-Cana Program for Engaged Couples

Sunday-Friday, January 29-February 3

Catholic Schools Week
Open House: Sunday, 12:30-2:00 PM
Closing Mass: Friday, Feb. 3, 11:00 AM

Friday, February 3

Feast of Saint Blaise
Blessing of Throats at the 7:30 AM Mass

Saturday, February 4

First Penance Service at 11:00 AM

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Mass at 7:30 AM and 7:00 PM
Liturgy of the Word with Ashes
at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Lenten Fridays, February 24-March 31

Stations of the Cross & Benediction at
7:00 PM

Saturday, March 4

Penance Service for
Confirmation Candidates
and Sponsors/Parents at 10:30 AM

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