



Our Lady of the Lake



Annual Parish Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



Parish Demographics

Parishioners	FY 23/24	FY 22/23
Households	1,487	1,501
Individuals ¹	3,901	4,388
Household Envelope Users	735	651
Sacramental Trends	FY 23/24	FY 22/23
Baptisms	20	27
Marriages	6	2
Funerals	26	20
RCIA Candidates/Catechumens	6/6	7/5
First Eucharist	37	28
Confirmation	40	40
Discipleship	FY 23/24	FY 22/23
Pre-K – Eighth Grade	110	104
High School	19	29
LANE ²	254	240
Discipleship Total	383	373
Parish School: Corpus Christi	FY 23/24	FY 22/23
OLL Students	58	49
SFDS Students	93	96
Other Students	13	10
Total Students	164	155
Catholic High School	FY 23/24	FY 22/23
OLL Students	5	7

¹ Much of this decrease is due to a database cleanup.

FY 23/24 Demographic Data:

	FY 23/24	FY 22/23
17 & Under	612	633
18–24	419	507
25–39	337	885
40–59	1,008	1,108
60–79	1,050	1,031
80+	197	175
Unknown	278	49
Total	3,901	4,388

² This number reflects OLL adults with LANE accounts. LANE has a total of 901 subscribers, including adult non-parishioners and LANE Kids. This is an increase from 787 subscribers in 22/23.



Statement of Parish Financial Activity

Income	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
Offertory	1,192,762	1,340,318	1,148,398
Ministry	54,097	52,266	63,688
Other	85,863	52,040	76,759
Haiti	96,678	44,000	85,429
Total Income	\$ 1,429,400	\$ 1,488,624	\$ 1,374,274
Expenses	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
Ministry	110,537	143,065	113,133
Administration	143,866	141,188	132,642
Salaries & Benefits	603,499	668,329	609,892
Facility	176,446	221,997	190,147
School	281,457	289,295	369,754
Haiti	69,659	44,000	96,463
Total Expenses	\$ 1,385,484	\$ 1,507,874	\$ 1,512,031
Excess	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
Excess Income Over Expenses	43,916	(19,250)	(137,757)
Savings	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
Parish Savings & Cash Accounts	\$ 1,317,502		\$ 1,380,074

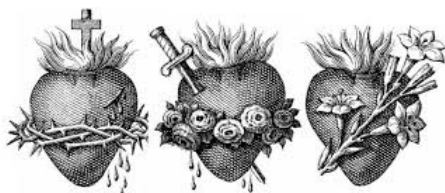
The Statement of Parish Financial Activity is presented on a modified basis. A traditional Income Statement includes depreciation. Depreciation is an accounting practice used to spread the cost of tangible or physical assets, such as buildings, across their useful life. Depreciation for 2024 and 2023 was \$177,252 and \$173,991, respectively.

Finance Council Members: Theresa Asselin, Brad Everest, Bob Fenton, Greg Foster, Steve Grossman, Alan Hughes, Becky Loeprich, and Garrick Pohl

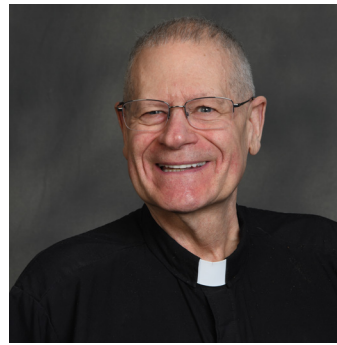
Administration

This past fiscal year, OLL completed phase one of a boiler replacement. We purchased two high efficiency boilers to replace our aging boilers in January 2024. Phase two, the installation, will be complete in fall 2024. We should see lower electric and natural gas bills, as well as receive rebates from Consumers Energy and Semco Energy.

Also in 2023–2024, we installed a new surveillance-access control system to enhance security for parishioners, staff, Discipleship students, and our tabernacle in its new location.



A Message From Our Pastor



Dear brothers and sisters,

Two years ago, we resumed offering the Blood of Christ again during the distribution of Holy Communion. When we receive Communion under only one form, we receive the full presence of Christ. When we receive the Eucharist under both forms, we experience a fuller sense of his real presence. How has our appreciation of the real

presence increased this year?

The beautifully refurbished tabernacle was moved back to the sanctuary on March 11, 2024. The process of returning the tabernacle to the sanctuary began about five years ago. It involved detailed conversations between myself, parish staff, the pastoral and finance councils, and the diocesan committee that oversees church renovations. Ultimately, I presented a proposal to Bishop Walkowiak, who approved it.

July 17–21, 2024, the Catholic Church in the United States gathered in Indianapolis, Indiana, to celebrate the tenth National Eucharistic Congress. Pilgrims from Our Lady of the Lake were among the 51,000 who attended this life-changing event. I encourage you to visit our parish website to read their testimonies. Another resource is eucharisticcongress.org, which provides access to the presentations made at the congress.

Our Lady of the Lake offers opportunities to grow in love and devotion to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. You can spend time in prayer during Adoration on Thursdays from 3–9 p.m. and on first Fridays from 9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. You can sign up on the parish website for a consistent time, or simply drop by the chapel.

May we continue grow in our love and appreciation of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Michael Burt, Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake



Worship



Sacred Liturgy

In 2023–2024 OLL focused on increasing the reverence that we show for our Eucharistic Lord during the sacred liturgy. This initiative aligned with the National Eucharistic Revival.

During Lent 2024, we relocated our tabernacle from the daily Mass chapel to the sanctuary of the main church. This decision was made after a years-long process of consultation with our parish councils and the diocese.

Specifically, we moved the tabernacle to the area behind the ambo (where the Scriptures are proclaimed). This change brought the reserved Eucharist into the literal and symbolic center of our parish. By aligning our ambo and tabernacle, we are now highlighting the connection between the written and incarnate Word of God. By bringing the tabernacle close to the main altar, we are now showing more clearly that the Eucharist is the fruit of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Moving our tabernacle also gave us the opportunity to refurbish it. The company that originally constructed our tabernacle installed new gold plating in its interior, re-stained the wooden exterior, and polished the brass images of the Twelve Apostles.

Near the end of the fiscal year, on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, our parish introduced a kneeler at each Communion station. This makes it easier for parishioners to kneel while receiving the Eucharist if they wish to. Fr. Michael encouraged all parishioners to recommit to receiving the Eucharist reverently, whichever way they choose to receive our Lord.



Sacred Music

Our Liturgy Choir opened the year with a Sing & Snack event, from which we gained several new members. They sang for weekly Sunday Masses, feasts, solemnities, and Holy Week. The Liturgy Choir also provided music for an Encounter Night in the fall, with several choral meditations, solos, and Eucharistic hymns sung throughout a holy hour. Our Resurrection Choir continued to provide music at funerals and All Souls' Day. The Corpus Christi Catholic School Choir was composed of twenty-eight students in 4th–8th grades who sang for weekly school Masses. Several of them joined our Liturgy Choir for the Mass and Eucharistic procession for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi in June.

While Audrey was on maternity leave from November through January, our cantors, choir members, and substitute accompaniments provided wonderful music and helped our congregation continue to sing through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many thanks to Barb Baltmanis and John Griffin for covering the bulk of the Masses, along with Michelle Ogren, Shawnda Draeger, Rob Hlebinsky, Jim Colburn, John Eisenhauer, and Kim Wurm. We are also grateful to Dwight Avery and Carla Niziolek for providing music at the school Masses during this time.

In 2024, OLL purchased a pipe organ from the Netherlands to replace our current electronic organ and elevate the beauty of our liturgies. After extensive discussions with our pastoral and finance councils, Fr. Michael sought permission to purchase the organ from our bishop. Bishop Walkowiak encouraged us to proceed. We are excited about this unique opportunity and anticipate the organ's installation in January 2025.

Mission

Our Mission Department helps parishioners do the works of mercy in our community. We work with and through a number of partner ministries, including Catholic Charities West Michigan, Gateway Mission, Positive Options, the Children's Advocacy Center, Doors of Hope, the diocesan Prison & Jail and Migrant Ministries, and the St. Vincent de Paul Center.

During Lent 2024, a group of parishioners visited St. Vincent to deliver the food collected during our St. Joseph's Table food drive and to explore volunteer opportunities at the center.



Community Life

2023–2024 was the year of parish revival, a part of the multi-year National Eucharistic Revival taking place in the United States. Here at OLL, we focused on increasing our devotion to Christ in the Eucharist and building a Eucharistic community here on the north side of Holland. This was reflected in our communal prayer, parish events, and our social groups and guilds.



Several times during the year, OLL hosted Encounter Nights—holy hours that were a great introduction to Eucharistic Adoration and opportunities to bring our parish together to worship our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The Liturgy Choir and Fr. Michael led worship during one of these Encounter Nights. The other two were Family Encounter Nights that combined the holy hour with a social hour. Also during this fiscal year, we began providing Adoration resources aimed at both adults and children in the chapel.

In fall 2023, we launched our first Connect & Contribute Campaign. Our goal was to make parishioners aware of all the ways they can get involved and serve at our parish and encourage them to prayerfully discern how the Lord is calling them. Connect & Contribute will now be an annual campaign at OLL.

Also in the fall, we began work on a new photo directory for the parish. Many thanks to all the families and individuals who had their photos taken. We were able to release the new photo directory in early 2024.

Once again, OLL provided parishioners with resources related to the liturgical seasons in conjunction with the Lakeshore Academy (LANE). The Advent/Christmas Time program was Eucharistically themed: “Keep Mass in Christ-Mass.” The Lent/Easter Time program aligned with the introduction of the St. Michael Prayer following Masses: “Spiritual Warfare, Spiritual Peace.”

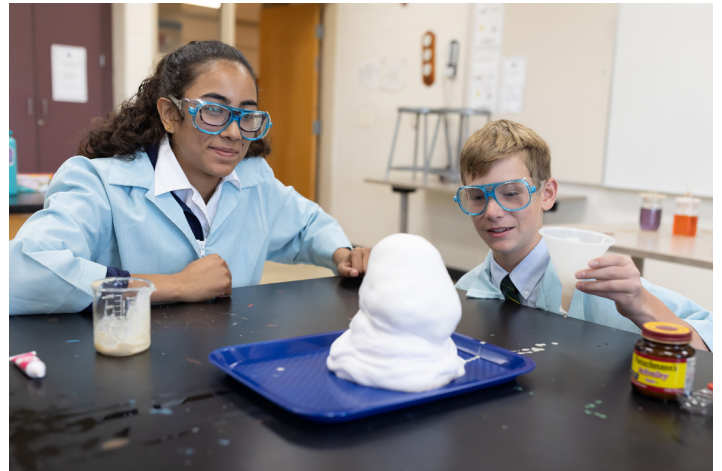
With the Memorial of St. Blase falling on a Saturday in 2024, we took the opportunity to celebrate the Blessing of the Throats at Masses on Saturday and Sunday. This was part of our ongoing effort to involve as many people as possible in the traditional devotional life of the Church.



Our annual Eucharistic procession on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi came at the end of the fiscal year. Thanks to a grant from the Corpus Christi Foundation, we were able to add greater beauty and dignity to our procession with a canopy and processional torches. This event allowed us to worship our Eucharistic Lord together with our school community.

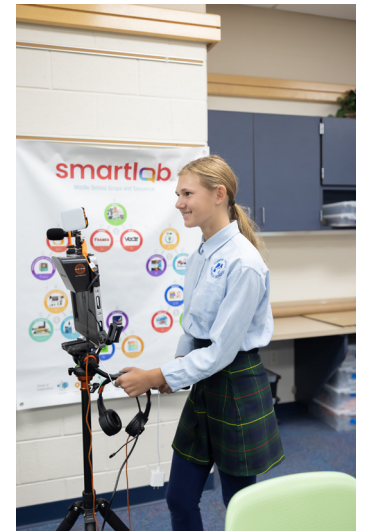


Our School



Corpus Christi Catholic School opened its 2023–2024 school year on August 22, 2023. The new school year brought plenty of new faces to our community, with the school matching its highest enrollment in the last five years and welcoming the largest kindergarten class in that same time period.

Having completed several renovations and updates utilizing federal grants, we opened the year with classrooms outfitted with new furniture, upgraded technology, and a state-of-the-art SmartLab, emphasizing inquiry and innovation. Students enjoyed working cooperatively on real-world problems and exploring new technologies such as CAD design, astronomy mapping, solar energies, coding, robotic design, video production, and more.



We also began a year of celebration, having successfully completed a capital campaign raising \$1.3 million for a tuition assistance endowment, ensuring the accessibility of Catholic education for all our families, both now and into the future. 2024 brought about the 25th anniversary of Corpus Christi Catholic School and the 100th anniversary of Catholic education in Holland. We shared these celebrations with our parishes and committed to carrying on our mission for many more years to come, welcoming all children, enriching their knowledge, nurturing their faith, and building their character in a Catholic Christian environment. It was a great year and we look forward to the next!

Discipleship



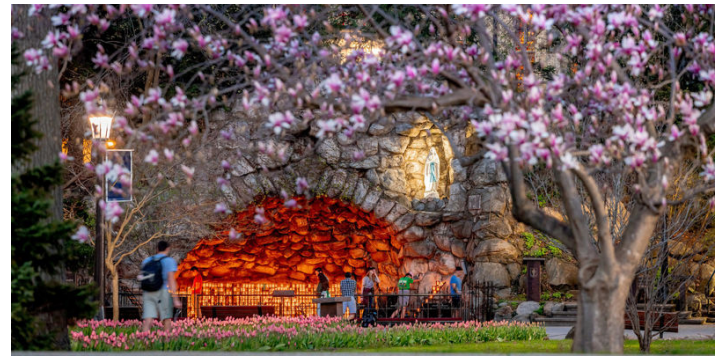
At Our Lady of the Lake, Discipleship ministries encompass a variety of vital faith formation programs designed for all ages. We provide comprehensive education for children and youth from kindergarten through 12th grade, focusing on sacramental preparation for first Holy Communion and Confirmation. Additionally, our ministries prepare parents for their children to receive the Sacrament of Baptism and couples to enter Holy Matrimony. For those seeking to join the Catholic Church, our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) programs offer essential guidance and support, culminating in catechumens and candidates entering the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

We are pleased to report that this past year was active and fruitful, with significant participation across all programs. Parishioners can refer to the table on page two of this report for detailed numbers reflecting the enthusiastic engagement of our community.



This year also brought notable changes to our Discipleship team. We welcomed Erin Pilarski as our new Children's Ministry Coordinator; she will bring fresh energy to our programs. We bid farewell to Carla Niziolek, our Director of Discipleship. After eight innovating and impactful years, she is now pursuing other career opportunities; she and her family continue to be valued parishioners. Adam McNutt, our Youth Ministry Coordinator for the past six years, has also transitioned to new opportunities in Arizona. To support our expanding programs, Greg Smith, our Director of Ministries, has taken on many of Carla's responsibilities, while Gretchen Catalfamo has joined us as our Confirmation Coordinator, overseeing the new two-year preparation program for 7th and 8th graders. Additionally, Rachael Fornorotto has joined our staff as the High School Coordinator.

Lakeshore Academy for the New Evangelization



The Lakeshore Academy for the New Evangelization (LANE) began six years ago when Bishop Walkowiak came to bless its launch and consecrated our LANE classrooms. Since then, it has expanded from a classroom-only adult education model to include an online learning platform that supports K-6 faith formation, learning modules for Catholic families, and adult education, serving participants from not only Our Lady of the Lake but from around the diocese and across the country.

As the table on page 2 indicates, this last year the total number of subscribers to the LANE platform increased from 787 to 901. This includes LANE Kids participants and adults who are not members of OLL. The number of adult OLL parishioners with LANE accounts grew from 240 to 254.

In addition to the online learning platform, LANE offered twelve weeks of adult classroom instruction onsite at OLL, with courses in Church history and the spiritual classic *An Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales. We also led a group on a day trip to the University of Notre Dame, visiting the replica Lourdes Grotto, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the Main Building (the Golden Dome), and the Hesburgh Library ("Touchdown Jesus").



Our Sister Parish in Haiti



OLL parishioners have been supporting Haiti for over 16 years. Our sister parish is Sts. Anne and Joachim in Labranle Haiti, where Fr. Effener is the pastor. Haiti is in a state of anarchy, which has put great pressure on basic living needs like food, drinking water, transportation, and education. Our focus is to support a meal program for the children who attend Christ the King School, supplement the teachers' salaries, and provide two meals a month to the parishioners who attend Sunday Mass. In addition, this year a grant from the Sweere Foundation supported finishing the interior of the rectory, a sound system and musical instruments for the church, and a summer Bible school for the children.

School Lunch Program: We supplement the cost of daily lunches for the approximately 300 children who attend Christ the King School in Labranle. This is often the only meal the children have in a day.

Teacher Subsidy: We supplement the wages for teachers at the school. We paid for the training of two kindergarten teachers at a cost of \$665. These teachers will be able to teach at Christ the King School after they complete their training.

Fr. Effener's Stipend: Father uses these funds to support a variety of needs at Sts. Anne and Joachim Parish. For example, teachers are transported from Gonaives to Labranle via motorcycle. Father hires a driver and pays for the gas.

Fr. Effener's Annual Visit to OLL: This visit brings awareness and facilitates fundraising. Fr. Effener visited us for more than a week and celebrated all the Masses. The Knights of Columbus hosted a pancake breakfast and all proceeds went to the Haiti fund. Fr. Effener was able to meet with many people and talk about the needs of his parishioners.

Sunday Mass Meal Program: Hunger is a serious issue in Haiti, and food costs have risen due to the unstable government. Through the generosity of our parishioners, we can support two meals a month at a cost of \$400 per meal. This feeds approximately 400 people.

Prayers and Announcements: Quarterly, we focus on intercessory prayers for Haiti through the patron saints of Haiti. You will hear these intercessions in the Prayer of the Faithful at Sunday Masses. In addition, our sister parish is in many of our Sunday petitions throughout the year.

Haiti Committee: Fourteen active OLL parishioners serve on the committee. The committee is open to adding new members who have a heart for this ministry. We meet quarterly.

Giving: Contributions, primarily through the monthly envelope collections, were roughly \$61,000. In addition, through the "Mango Tree" giving prior to Fr. Effener's visit, we raised about \$5,000. If you would like to contribute, contact the parish office for envelopes or contribute online.

The needs in Haiti are great, and your contributions are making a significant difference in the living conditions, health, and education of our brothers and sisters at Sts. Anne and Joachim. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for this important ministry.

Parish Care

Thanks to a cadre of faithful volunteers, the Parish Care Department was and is able to:

- Send birthday cards to parishioners over 70
- Provide Christmas gifts and cards to each of our 80 home/facility-based parishioners
- Deliver Easter cards and small faith gifts to our home/facility-based parishioners
- Bring the presence of Christ in Holy Communion to home/facility-based parishioners
- Provide support to those grieving the loss of a spouse, those with cancer, and those with atrial fibrillation through support groups
- Walk with those working through a loss with a BeFriender
- Present the biennial Discussions & Decisions series
- Maintain a loan closet of durable medical equipment free for parishioners to use (A new cold therapy machine for use after surgery has just been donated by the Knights of Columbus. A list of available equipment is on the OLL website.)
- Sponsor an annual blood drive
- Provide support and educational programs
- Advocate and assist parishioners in navigating the health care system,
- Assist with pre-planning of funeral Masses
- Coordinate the Prayer Angels group, which prays for needs and requests privately
- Work on updating the emergency contact list for all parishioners (Please remember to let us know when you have a new phone number or address to assist in keeping our records current.)

All of these programs are possible only with the involvement and support of volunteers. Parish Care is Catholic social justice in action.

Our Lady of the Lake, Pray for Us!

Queen Assumed Into Heaven, Pray for Us!

Queen Conceived Without Sin, Pray for Us!



Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for Us!

480 152nd Avenue, Holland, MI 49424
oll.org — 616-399-1062
Emergency After Hours: 616-283-4675
Facebook and the myParish app

Sunday Mass: Sat 5 p.m., Sun 9 & 11 a.m.
Daily Mass: Tue 12 p.m., Thu–Fri 9 a.m.
Reconciliation: Wed 6 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.
Office: Tue–Thu 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
Fri 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Church & Chapel: Tue–Thu 8:15 a.m. –
2 p.m., Fri 8:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**CORPUS CHRISTI
CATHOLIC SCHOOL** 

Mass: Wed 8:45 a.m. (See Calendar)
12100 Quincy Street, Holland, MI 49424
corpuschristischool.us — 616-796-2300

Pastor: Fr. Michael Burt, ext. 106,
frmichael@oll.org

Director of Ministries: Greg Smith,
ext. 113, gsmith@oll.org

**Director of Administration: Melissa
Linderman**, ext. 104,
mlinderman@oll.org

Administrative Assistant: Katie Wells,
ext. 102, kwells@oll.org

**Director of Sacred Music: Audrey
Gorman**, ext. 119, agorman@oll.org

Liturgical Coordinator: Debbie Kraus,
ext. 112, dkraus@oll.org

**Parish Nurse/Parish Care
Coordinator: Pat Whitaker**, ext. 203,
parishnurse@oll.org

**Children's Ministry Coordinator: Erin
Pilarski**, ext. 103, epilarski@oll.org

**Confirmation Coordinator: Gretchen
Catalfamo**, ext. 114, gcatalfamo@oll.org

**High School Coordinator: Rachael
Fornarotto**, ext. 123, rfornarotto@oll.org

**Director of Community Life: Cory
Lakatos**, ext. 110, clakatos@oll.org

Hospitality Coordinator: Miki Brierty,
ext. 108, mbrierty@oll.org

Front: Solemnity of Corpus Christi 2024; **Back:** Window in the parish library