



# ST JOHN PAUL THE GREAT

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH  
TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT



## Parish Life Report

Fiscal Year 2024 *July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024*

# From your pastor: What we have achieved and what lies ahead

## Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John Paul the Great,

As we gather our reflections and accomplishments in this annual Parish Life Report, I am moved by the **profound sense of community and dedication** that permeates every aspect of our parish life. The pages of this report are filled not just with numbers and achievements, but with the **vibrant stories of faith and service** that define who we are as a community devoted to Christ and to one another.

**This past fiscal year**, from July 2023 to June 2024, has been a **remarkable period** of growth, challenge, and deepened faith. We have welcomed **93 new families** into our parish, each bringing new energy and perspectives that enrich our communal tapestry. These families have joined us in worship, service, and fellowship, contributing to the vibrancy of our parish life.

Our **sacramental life** has been equally robust. We celebrated the **union of 7 couples in holy matrimony**, each ceremony a testament to love and commitment that strengthens the entire community. The **initiation of 2 adults through the OCIA**, the celebration of an **adult first Communion**, and the joyful **baptisms of 39** individuals remind us of the ongoing journey of faith at every age. **Confirmations of 41** young



Father Emmanuel Ihemedu

people and **first Communions of 62** children mark significant steps in their spiritual lives, rites of passage that we honor and celebrate with great joy.

In moments of sorrow, we have stood together at **89 funerals**, offering comfort and prayers for our departed brothers and sisters, affirming our hope in the resurrection.

This year also marked the **50th annual pasta dinner** hosted by the Holy Name Society, a cherished tradition that not only offers fellowship but also serves as a bridge connecting generations within our parish. Over **500 meals** were served, a testament to the enduring spirit of community and service that defines us.

As we navigated these and countless other moments, our **"Protect the Flock"** security initiative stood out by providing peace of mind, ensuring that our sacred spaces remain sanctuaries of peace and safety. Our engagement in the broader community through initiatives like **"Mass in the Neighborhood"** and substantial charitable efforts like **our food drives** and **Christmas Giving Trees** project have visibly extended our mission beyond the church walls, embodying the call to serve as Christ did.

**Each number in this report tells a story of faith, hope, and love.** They reflect your generous spirit and unwavering commitment to not only maintain



'Mass in the Neighborhood' at Mount Pleasant Inn

but grow the life of our parish in ways that honor God and serve our community.

**As your pastor, I am profoundly grateful** for your trust, your participation, and your fervent prayers. Together, we have not only met the challenges of the day but have risen above them, propelled by our faith and fellowship. **As we look to the future**, let us continue to draw strength from each other and from the Lord, who guides our every step. May this report be a reminder of what we have achieved together and a beacon of the potential that lies ahead in our journey of faith.

Thank you for being a part of this blessed community.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Father Emmanuel Ihemedu*



# Key Highlights: Discipleship, Outreach, Stewardship

## I. Discipleship & Outreach

### HOW WE LIVED OUT OUR FAITH FOR GOD:

- 1. Mass in the Neighborhood:** This initiative brought the Mass to various neighborhoods, enhancing our evangelization efforts and making our presence felt within the community.
- 2. Pentecost Celebration:** A vibrant celebration featuring a diverse liturgy in multiple languages, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and embodying the spirit of Pentecost.
- 3. Healing Mass:** Held on the first Friday of each month, this service has grown to support over 100 parishioners each session, addressing their spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.



Altar servers



St. Joseph Honorees  
Mr. & Mrs. Mazzarelli



Parish choir with director Konstantza Chernov



Holy Name Macaroni Supper Fundraiser

### HOW WE LIVED FOR OUR NEIGHBORS THROUGH SOCIAL OUTREACH:

- 1. Social Ministry Initiatives:** Our parish successfully collected over 1,400 lbs. of food, managed significant charitable drives like the Christmas Giving Trees, and supported local shelters with regular meal deliveries.
- 2. Holy Name Society Pasta Dinner:** Serving 500 meals both in-person and takeout, this event not only continued a cherished tradition but also supported our broader community engagement.

## II. Stewardship

- 1. Protect the Flock Security Team:** We established a pioneering security program to ensure that our parish remains a safe space for worship and community activities.

- 2. Educational Achievements:** Recognition at the HOPES Dinner celebrated our efforts in reversing the decline in academy enrollment, with Father Emmanuel honored for his leadership.
- 3. First Parish Dinner Club:** Introduced this year, this event fostered deeper connections among parishioners through shared meals, music, and fellowship.
- 4. Capital Improvements:** We enhanced our parish facilities by installing modern air conditioning systems in our churches, ensuring comfort and accessibility for all parishioners.



Pentecost parish picnic festivities



Paving at St. Francis  
and the Academy

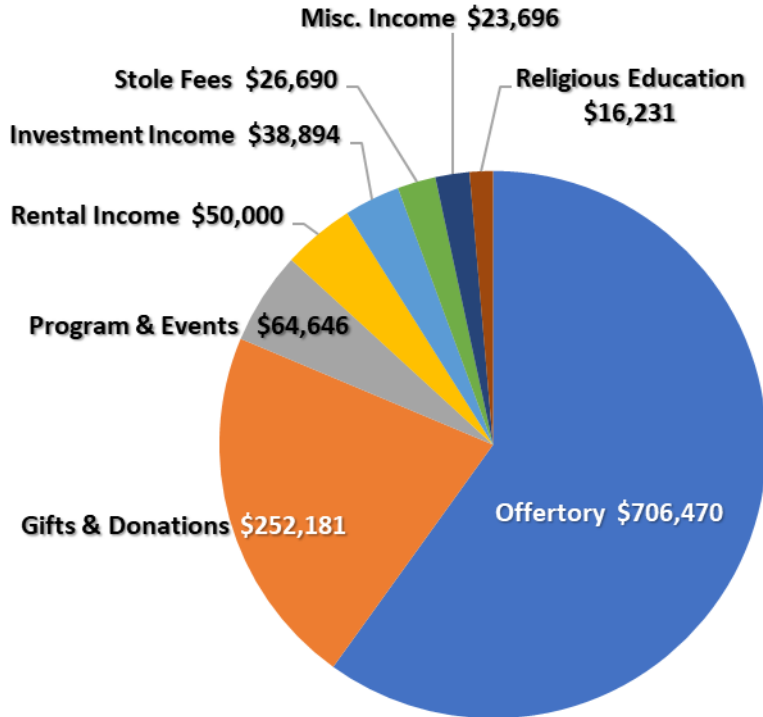


Install air conditioning

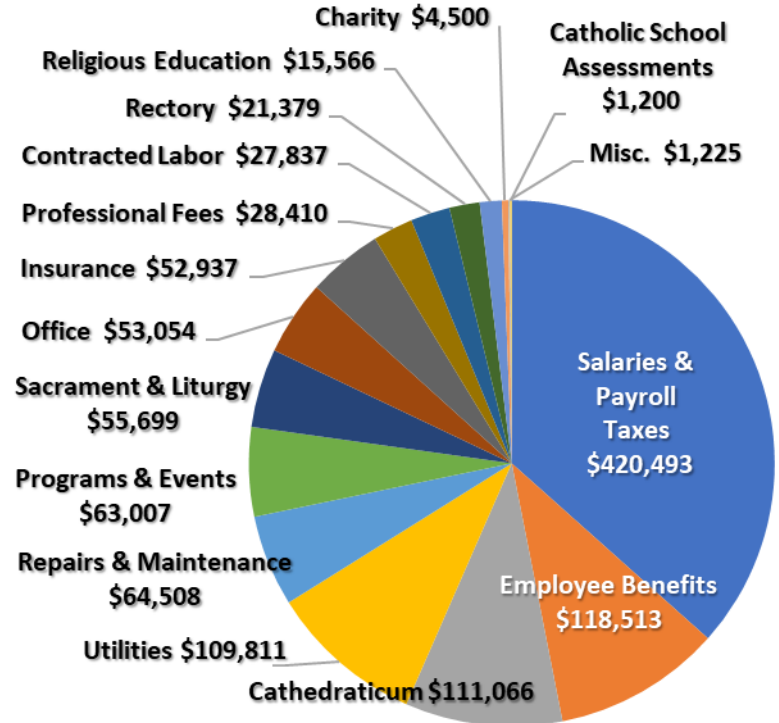
# Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

This financial overview provides transparency, showcasing our stewardship of parish resources and illustrating our commitment to fiscal responsibility.

## Total Income \$1,178,808



## Total Expenses \$1,149,205



# Challenges & Goals

## III. Current Challenges and Future Goals

### CURRENT CHALLENGES:

**1. Aging Demographics and Declining Volunteerism:** Engaging younger parish members remains crucial as we face an aging demographic and reduced volunteer participation.

**2. Infrastructure Needs:** Continuous upgrades are necessary to maintain the safety and beauty of our historic buildings while enhancing their functionality.

### FUTURE GOALS:

**1. Continuing Growth in Academy Enrollment:** We aim to further increase enrollment and improve educational offerings.



First Communion

**2. Church Membership Expansion:**

A comprehensive demographic study and ministry fair are planned to tailor our evangelization efforts effectively.

**3. Youth Program Development:** Establishing a vibrant youth ministry is key to nurturing the spiritual growth of our younger members.

**4. Perpetual Adoration Chapel:** Constructing a chapel for perpetual adoration to deepen the spiritual engagement of our community.

### Parish Statistics

- New Families .....	93
- Marriages .....	7
- OCIA .....	2
- Adult First Communion .....	1
- Baptisms .....	39
- Confirmation .....	41
- First Communion (children) .....	62
- Funerals .....	89
- Academy enrollment .....	190
- Graduate from Biblical School .....	1

*'As we look to the future, let us continue to draw strength from each other and from the Lord, who guides our every step.'*



Monthly Mass of healing



St. John Paul the Great Academy graduates



Abp. Coyne visits parish



Adult sacraments through OCIA



# Volunteers, Ministries & Community

*"...this report ... reflect[s] your generous spirit and unwavering commitment to not only maintain but grow the life of our parish in ways that honor God and serve our community."*



Parish family & friends celebrate leadership honor for Father Emmanuel at HOPES Dinner



Eagle Scout repair project



Shelter meal prep by faith formation students



Landscaping by Holy Name Society



Prayer Shawl Ministry at work



Members enjoy our first Dinner Club



'Christmas in July' toy drive

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