



Our Lady of the Lake

Annual Parish Report

Fiscal Year
July 1, 2025 to
June 30, 2026



Parish Demographics

Parishioners	Fiscal Year 25/26	Fiscal Year 24/25
Households	1554	1,515
Individuals ¹	3717	3,669
Contributing Households	682	665
Sacramental Trends	Fiscal Year 25/26	Fiscal Year 24/25
Baptisms	28	27
Marriages	5	9
Funerals	13	22
OCIA Candidates/Catechumens	8/1	5/5
First Eucharist	32	24
Confirmation	38	28
Discipleship	Fiscal Year 25/26	Fiscal Year 24/25
Pre K - Eighth Grade	106	85
High School	22	18
Parish School Corpus Christi	Fiscal Year 25/26	Fiscal Year 24/25
Total Students	144	171
OLL Students (Preschool - 8 th Grade)	47	68
Catholic High School	Fiscal Year 25/26	Fiscal Year 24/25
OLL Students	4	3

¹ Individual Parishioners Demographic Data:

Ages	FY 25/26	FY 24/25
17 and under	539	513
18 - 24	422	426
25 - 39	420	369
40 - 59	959	974
60 - 79	1,115	1,076
80 +	237	219
Unknown	25	92
Total	3717	3,669

Catholic Services Appeal Report



CSA Year	Paid	Goal	Over Goal
2025	\$191,038	\$176,728	\$14,310
2024	\$177,557	\$168,624	\$8,933

The Catholic Services Appeal is an annual diocesan collection that strengthens the Church's work throughout West Michigan. Anything raised above our parish goal is returned directly to our parish.

Statement of Parish Financial Activity

Income	25/26 Actual	25/26 Budget	24/25 Actual
Offertory	\$1,318,093	\$1,254,024	\$1,205,743
Ministry ¹	55,930	59,250	257,964
Other ²	144,299	162,287	219,322
Haiti ³	157,424	60,000	100,754
Total Income	\$1,675,746	\$1,535,561	\$1,783,783
Expenses	25/26 Actual	25/26 Budget	24/25 Actual
Ministry	\$114,301	\$131,753	\$86,065
Administration	158,153	174,009	161,042
Salaries and Benefits	682,827	684,466	599,517
Facility	208,387	175,464	197,348
School ⁴	311,111	309,869	299,964
Haiti	144,592	60,000	107,941
Total Expenses	\$1,619,371	\$1,535,561	\$1,451,877
Excess	25/26 Actual	25/26 Budget	24/25 Actual
Income Over Expenses	\$56,375	0	\$331,906
Savings	25/26 Actual	24/25 Budget	24/25 Actual
Savings and Cash Accounts ⁵	\$1,326,106	0	\$1,649,171

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 FY25/26 and FY24/25 was \$210,424 and \$190,613 respectively.

Parish Totals From Special Collections

Special Collection	FY 25/26	FY 24/25
Archdiocese for Military Services USA-Triennial	\$4,005	\$150
Campaign for Human Development	6,639	5,124
Catholic Relief Services	8,748	8,911
Mission Co-op-Biennial	7,481	120
Operation Rice Bowl	1,430	1,719
Religious Retirement	9,478	12,745
World Mission Sunday	4,837	4,618
Total	\$42,618	\$33,387

Loan Balances as of June 30, 2026

The parish has two outstanding debts with the Diocese as of June 30, 2026. (interest rate 3.5 %)

Security System

Balance: \$59,071
Original Loan 2/20/24: \$74,231

Pipe Organ

Balance: \$127,515
Original Loan 7/23/25: \$372,026

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our pipe organ fund! Your gifts have helped us contribute to our original loan in a substantial way. If you would like to contribute, we are still accepting donations.

Finance Council:

- John Caron
- Brad Everest
- Bob Fenton, chair
- Greg Foster
- Steve Grossman
- Alan Hughes
- Bobbie Otto
- Garrick Pohl

Notes:

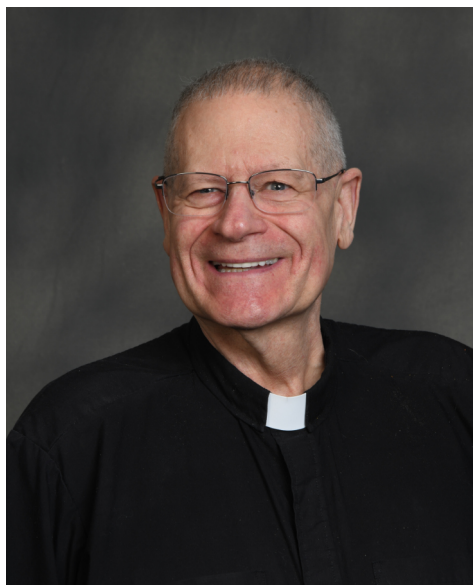
¹ includes one time estate gift, \$200,000 (FY 24/25)

² includes donations for pipe organ, \$171,116 (FY 24/25)

³ includes a \$35,000 grant (FY 25/26)

⁴ includes Corpus Christi School (K-8) and Catholic High Schools

⁵ major elements of change include safety improvements and building repairs at the parish and school, and payments for the pipe organ with donations received in FY24/25



A Letter From Father Michael

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After reading this year's annual report, take a stroll around the parish. Some things have changed that we may have missed.

We installed new doors at the west entrance of the church. They have a beautiful wood-grained appearance that is warm and welcoming.

We installed new LED lights in the parking lots, enhancing safety and illuminating these areas for people leaving church after Mass, adoration, faith formation, and LANE classes. They are programmed to illuminate the parking lot if unusual activity is detected.

A working relationship with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department was established. They visit our facilities regularly and have access to Fr. Nash Hall to fill out paperwork and use the restrooms.

We added a 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by reconciliation on Wednesday nights, making daily Mass accessible to individuals who work during the day. Mass attendance has ranged from 30 to 40 participants. 5-12 individuals each Wednesday have utilized this added opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation.

Our Knights of Columbus Council 7115 continues to support the parish through projects and fundraisers. In the past fiscal year, they began a project to enhance the sign at the corner of James Street and 152nd Avenue. They added the words "Catholic Church" to our parish sign. Over the summer, the Knights updated the landscaping around the sign.

By the time you read this year's report, Fr. Effener will have come, gone, and updated us on the Haiti School Project, summer camp, and the new solar panel generator.

Thank you for your generosity and for being a vital part of the ministry provided by Our Lady of the Lake!

In Christ,

Rev. Michael Burt

Fr Michael Burt
Pastor, Our Lady of the Lake

New Daily Mass Added Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

In response to a growing need for an evening Mass during the week, Father Michael implemented a new daily Mass on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., with confession immediately following Mass. This Mass began in October 2025 and continues to be well attended. We are glad we can now offer working adults and families the opportunity to attend Mass after work hours.

Expanding Staff Roles



Rachael Fornarotto Becomes Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Young Families

Effective July 1, 2025, Rachael Fornarotto, our previous High School Coordinator, expanded her role to become our Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Young Families. In this new position, Rachael continues her dedicated work with our high school students while also fostering stronger connections with our young parishioners. She builds meaningful relationships and develops engaging activities that better integrate young adults and young families into the vibrant life of our parish. She ensures that parishioners in this stage of life

feel valued, supported, and deeply connected to our parish family.

In the past year, we have seen our young adults and young families begin to flourish. We now offer a Children's Lending Library full of age-appropriate, Catholic materials for children to borrow and use during Mass. Rachael leads and supports many fun events throughout the year. We now offer a bible study for young adults and young families. Finally, Rachael oversees our newborn meal trains and has taken great care to minister to our families welcoming new babies.

We look forward to the incredible impact Rachael will have in strengthening our community, whose effects we hope will last for years to come.

Updates On Our Pipe Organ



Premiere Pipe Organ Recital

On Friday, May 22, we were delighted to hold our first pipe organ recital. Audrey Gorman, our Director of Sacred Music, headlined the recital, with additional musical guests throughout the evening, including vocalists, violin, and trumpet. This event was open to all and free of charge, although we collected a free-will offering, which was donated toward our organ fund. We collected \$965 from this event. If you missed the recital, or would like to watch it again, scan the QR code to the left to watch a recording of the performance on YouTube.

Organist: Audrey Gorman
Vocalists: Sarah Wilson, Brian Burch, Laura Cole
Violin: Carla Niziolek
Trumpet: Anton Petrenko

Giving Tuesday

Our parish participated in the Diocese of Grand Rapids' Giving Tuesday Campaign for the first time in 2025. Each parish, school, and diocesan ministry could choose its own cause while tapping into the diocese's organization and promotion of the campaign. The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan generously sponsored the campaign with grants totaling \$10,000. Five donation challenges throughout the day encouraged participation and sparked good-natured competition. "Winners" of each challenge received additional funds toward their cause.

Our Lady of the Lake chose to allocate our Giving Tuesday donations to our organ fund. From this campaign, we received a total of \$11,610 from 30 donors! We did not win any of the challenge grants throughout the day, although we did come close to a few of them! We were amazed by the generosity of our donors, and we are so grateful for their investment in the future of our worship!



Building and Safety Improvements

New Parking Lot Lights

Throughout February and March, we updated all our parking lot lights. These improved lights provide much broader, more consistent lighting throughout the parking lot, eliminating dark corners and shadowed areas. They are programmed to activate at dusk and dim slightly after our evening activities conclude, with a similar schedule as dawn approaches for our morning activities. They also instantly return to full brightness when motion is detected throughout the night.

We installed the improved lights as a safety measure to help our parishioners and visitors feel safe and see more clearly as they enter and leave the building, especially throughout the darker winter months. This will help us maintain a high level of security at our parish.



New Doors At Our Main Entrance

In April, shortly after Easter, we installed new front doors at our main entrance. These new doors are not only a maintenance improvement to the building, but also an area of enhanced safety. All doors use a programmable security locking system that can be controlled remotely. This is a much quicker and easier way to lock or unlock the doors than the previous lock-and-key method. We also think they match the aesthetic of the area much better, and we hope you enjoy them as you join us week after week!



Knights of Columbus Council 7115 Contributions



Thank You, Knights of Columbus

Over the past year, our parish community has been blessed by the dedication, hard work, and generosity of our local Knights of Columbus council. The Knights continually step up to serve our church and demonstrate what it means to put faith into action. Thank you for your continuous devotion, labor, service, and leadership in our community.

Enriching Our Worship: A New Ciborium

Over the years, our ciborium, the covered vessel which holds the consecrated Eucharist, began to wear down. We had two options: send it in to be refinished or order a new one. Our Knights of Columbus offered to purchase a new, bigger ciborium for our parish, which Father Michael consecrated at a Knights' Corporate Communion Mass in January, 2026. (see the photo above)

Caring for Our Grounds: Hands-On Service and Visual Impact

In addition to their financial gifts, the Knights also offer to complete physical projects around the church grounds. This past year, they began a project of adding the words "Catholic Church" to our large sign and replacing the landscaping around it. This was completed over the summer in 2026. They also completed a landscaping project of placing rocks around the parish garage to improve the appearance and drainage in that area.

Bringing Joy to the Season: New Christmas Trees

The Christmas trees we normally display behind the altar during Advent and Christmas were becoming very old, frail, and thin. Our Knights of Columbus generously purchased three new Christmas trees for us! These beautiful, sturdy new trees will enhance our seasonal decorations and celebrations for years to come!

In Wisdom, Age, And Grace

A Collaborative Discussion Series

In the spring of 2026, Mike Faber, Coordinator of Liturgy and Pastoral Care at St. Francis de Sales, led a four-class discussion series presented in collaboration with the Lakeshore Catholic Parishes of Our Lady of the Lake, St. Francis de Sales, St. Mary's, and St. Patrick - St. Anthony. Each session drew 30 to 50 attendees and received much praise, with requests for future sessions.

Mike Faber holds a B.S. in Gerontology, a Certificate in Mental Health and Aging, and an M.S. in Sociology, specializing in Aging and the Life Course. Mike has worked in Gerontology for 35 years, focusing on higher education for the last 25 years.



Older Lives Matter: Living with Purpose and Passion at any Age held at St. Patrick - St. Anthony in Grand Haven, encouraged participants to live life with God to the fullest, regardless of age.

Caregiving 101 held at St. Francis de Sales in Holland, connected family caregivers with the support needed to successfully do that important life work.

Mental Health and Aging: Alzheimer's, Dementia, Depression, and Anxiety held at St. Mary's in Spring Lake, taught participants to understand and successfully deal with the emotions of major losses.

Death, Dying, Bereavement held at Our Lady of the Lake in Holland, discussed death, dying, grief, and bereavement from a Catholic perspective, focusing on the ethical and moral issues related to end-of-life decision-making.



LANE Adult Class Series 2025 - 2026

Habemus Papam: The Dawn of Pope Leo XIV's Papacy

Throughout the academic year, the Lakeshore Academy for the New Evangelization (LANE) conducted a three-part, adult class series on the topic "Habemus Papam: The Dawn of Pope Leo XIV's Papacy". This class, taught by Greg Smith, Dean of LANE, was created in response to the transition of papal leadership from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV, marking our first new pope in over a decade. It explored the rich legacy of the papacy and the promising beginnings of Pope Leo XIV's leadership. Drawing from history, theology, and current events, both the instructor and students examined how the Church's mission evolves today.

Part 1, "Fishers of Men: From Peter to Leo XIV", traced the papacy's 2,000-year journey from St. Peter to our 267th pope, Leo XIV, and explored its evolution, modern roles, powers, and the workings of the Vatican.

Part 2, "Echoes of a Lion: Lessons from Leo XIII", reviewed why Cardinal Robert Prevost chose "Leo" and what we can learn from Pope Leo XIII's visionary teachings on 19th-century issues, including how they inspire our new pope on economics, bioethics, AI, and more.

Part 3, "Pope Leo's First Moves", explored Pope Leo XIV as we approached his first anniversary, including his unfolding vision: linking 2,000 years of faith to modern challenges like technology and AI, while pursuing unity amid the approaching millennium of the Great Schism.

Our Sister Parish in Haiti

Sunday Meal Program Expanded To Include Every Sunday

In a region facing food insecurity, inflation, and gang violence, our partnership with St. Anne and St. Joachim Catholic Church and their school, Christ the King, provides a lifeline of hope and tangible support. We provide daily meal for the school, two meals a day at the children's summer camp, and Sunday meals after Mass for parishioners. This year, we have increased the Sunday meal program to include every week of the year!

Sweere Foundation Grant Award

In April, the Board of Directors of the Harry and Jane Sweere Foundation approved a 2026 grant award to our sister parish in Haiti. This grant will support the school construction project by assisting with the completion of the school interior and the preparation of the second story for future expansion.



Solar Generator Installation

After Father Effener's annual visit in the Fall of 2025, multiple donors reached out to offer generous donations toward a generator for the parish. After careful research and discussion, the parish purchased and installed a SolTech solar generator. (see the photo to the left)

Corpus Christi School

Adoption Of A Patron Saint

Corpus Christi Catholic School adopted St. Carlo Acutis as our patron saint. As the first millennial saint, St. Carlo Acutis had a deep devotion to the real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and he used his knowledge of modern technology to bring this to the masses! Many of you have likely visited and witnessed the traveling Miracles of the Eucharist exhibit based on his research and compilation. His original website can still be viewed today.

Our students recognize in St. Carlo a kindred spirit; he is often pictured in blue jeans and holding a computer or gaming handset. They also recognize in him an example to follow as they continue to grow closer to God as members of Corpus Christi – the Body of Christ.

As a school, we have already begun incorporating St. Carlo Acutis into our everyday life. Each day we ask for his intercession during our morning prayers. We participate in Eucharistic Adoration monthly and even had an opportunity to venerate his relic in the spring. We are planning a week of celebration during his Feast Week coming up in October!

St. Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

Contact Us

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oll.org

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Office Hours
Mon - Fri | 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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Catholic School**
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Holland, MI 49424
CorpusChristiSchool.us
616-796-2300

Sacraments

Mass Schedule

Sunday9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Adoration

Thursday 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.
First Fridays
.....9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.

Baptism

For baptismal preparation,
contact our parish office or visit
oll.org/baptism/.

Marriage

For marriage preparation,
contact our parish office or
visit oll.org/weddings/ at least
six months in advance.

Follow Us



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