

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



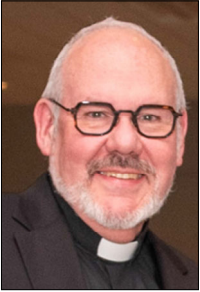
ANNUAL REPORT 2025



BELONG • BELIEVE • BE LOVE

OCTOBER 19, 2025

Pastor's Letter



Dear Parishioners of St Francis Xavier,

Grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Wednesday, October 15, quietly marked a moment of grace and gratitude for all of us - the 135th anniversary of the founding of our beloved parish, Saint Francis Xavier in La Grange. On that day in 1890, Archbishop Patrick Feehan of Chicago wrote these simple but momentous words to Father Hagan:

"Rev and dear Sir,

I now appoint you Pastor of La Grange to form a new congregation in that place. As winter will be soon approaching it will be well that you go there as soon as possible. I shall appoint immediately another Pastor for Maple Park."

With that brief letter, a seed of faith was planted here in La Grange. It has taken root in the lives, prayers and sacrifices of generations of parishioners who have called Saint Francis Xavier their spiritual home. We are blessed to be part of that living legacy!

Milestone anniversaries invite us to pause, remember, and give thanks - to look back with gratitude for the many blessings we have received as a parish family. The Lord has poured out countless graces upon this community through the Church's sacraments, our Elementary School and Religious Education program, our ministries, and our service to those in need. We also remember with humility that our journey has not been without challenges. Yet through every trial, God's faithfulness has sustained us, and the generosity of our parishioners has helped us meet each moment with courage and hope.

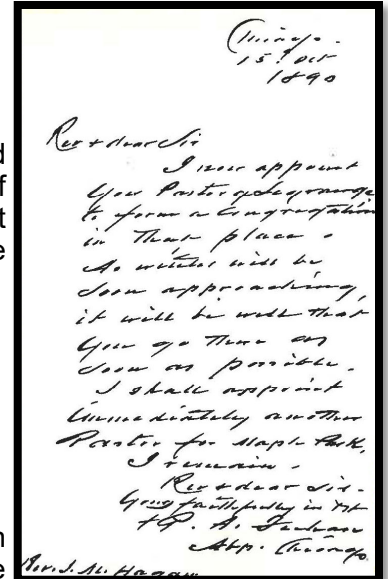
As we celebrate this anniversary, we also look ahead. The same Spirit who guided Archbishop Feehan and Father Hagan is still speaking to us today - calling us to listen, discern and respond to God's invitation for our time. What are the needs and dreams of our parish community - spiritual, educational, formational, and material? How is the Lord calling us to strengthen our mission of worship, learning, and service? What means and gifts has God already placed in our hands to make those dreams a reality? The answers begin by listening to the Spirit's stirring in our hearts.

At the heart of this listening is the virtue of generosity - a key expression of Christian stewardship. This annual report from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, summarizes generous acts of stewardship, abundantly displayed here. Generosity recognizes everything we have is a gift from God, meant to be shared in love. When we give generously of our time, our talents and our financial resources, we reflect the very heart of Christ, who "came not to be served but to serve."

Generosity begins with gratitude. The more we recognize how abundantly God has blessed us, the more naturally we are moved to share those blessings. It's in giving that we discover joy; it's in generosity that our faith finds expression.

Let us pray together that the Lord will attune our hearts to His will. May we continue to grow as a community where all *belong*, come to *believe* deeply, and live out the call to *be love*. May Saint Francis Xavier, our patron and missionary of the Gospel, intercede for us as we discern the path ahead. May his fiery faith and deep love for Christ inspire us to build up the Kingdom of God here in La Grange for generations to come.

With gratitude for your stewardship,
Reverend John Chrzan
Pastor



Original Letter

Finance Council Letter

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In last year's financial report, we presented a balanced budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year, and we are happy to report that we were able to achieve this goal, finishing the year with an operating surplus for the first time since 2022.

This goal could not have been achieved without your tremendous generosity. In the budget we presented last year, we projected a 6% increase in the Sunday offertory, and thanks to you, we were able to exceed that ambitious target. Also contributing to our success was increased enrollment at the elementary school which, together with another strong year of school fundraising and the first draw from our educational endowment fund, allowed us to once again pay bonuses to our elementary school faculty and staff and reduce the school subsidy to 16% of the overall budget (compared to 18% in the 2023-24 fiscal year).

As a result of the foregoing and a significant increase in bequests and memorials, we were able to maintain our strong net cash position from the prior fiscal year-end. In addition, contributions to our building and capital funds allowed us to commence with a much-needed replacement of the church's audio system and the construction of a new STREAM lab at the elementary school that will enhance the education provided to our elementary school students for years to come.

Turning to the current fiscal year, our final budget again achieves the balance we strive to present to the Pastor each year. Key to achieving this balanced budget is a projected increase in the offertory of approximately 4%. We acknowledge that this is an ambitious target, particularly in light of last year's significant increase, so we once again request that parishioners who regularly contribute consider increasing the amount of their offertory contributions and ask those parishioners who do not regularly contribute to consider doing so. Various methods of giving can be found on the final page of this report. In particular, in light of the important role played by bequests and memorials in maintaining the Parish's strong financial position last year, we humbly ask you to consider planned giving opportunities.

Like last year, our ambitious budget was informed by the "strong tailwinds" at the Parish and elementary school heading into this fiscal year. The Parish has been blessed with the arrival of Father John and the energy, thoughtfulness and leadership he has shown in his short time here and our faith formation opportunities and ministries continue to expand and thrive. The elementary school's positive momentum (and enrollment) continues to grow during Principal Bajner's second year, a trend that we expect to continue due to the combined efforts of our faculty, staff and parents and the investments made to improve our facilities and faculty retention. The contributions of time, talent, and treasure of all parishioners continue to demonstrate how blessed we are to be members of St. Francis Xavier Parish.

As always, it is truly an honor and privilege to serve as stewards of the Parish's financial resources. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who have generously contributed their time, talents, and treasure. Your past contributions have been instrumental in our achievements, and we have no doubt that your continued generosity will allow our staff and volunteers to continue their wonderful work in service of the Parish's mission.

With gratitude,
Cathy Bier, Carolyn Broughton, Jennifer Driscoll,
Timothy Funke, Tom Kostal (Chair), Kevin Lane,
Meredith Ritchie, and John Schaff

Stewardship

Belong. Believe. Be Love. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our parish community embraces this identity statement in many ways, including through stewardship (time, talent, treasure).

Devoting Time in Prayer

One year ago, Keith Spence stepped into Maggie McMahon's office claiming that he "did not know how to pray." Maggie suggested he give Hallow a try. The next week Keith shared that he had been praying with the app every day – and he has continued to do so ever since!

Keith described the impact Hallow has had on his everyday life. "I'm not the same guy I was a year ago. Prayer has opened my eyes - I look at people differently." He explained how praying with Hallow on a daily basis has made him aware that "God is in me and in everyone," allowing Keith to love people whom he might have previously judged and to serve others out of the abundance of his heart, rather than just for external validation.



Using Hallow, Keith prays first thing every morning, while he is mowing the lawn, while driving, and before he goes to bed each night. He had never prayed the rosary before, but now he prays it with Mark Wahlberg or Jonathan Roumie each night. His fiancé, Angela Diaz, saw the transformation in Keith and began to join in this life of prayer too. Keith's family members, many of whom are not Catholic, attended the Easter Vigil this past year to see Keith and Angela baptized, confirmed and receive their first Eucharist. They too have also noticed the change in Keith.

"The devil is not knocking on my door anymore. I can forgive others and forgive myself. And I tell my sons – and my brother – just give it a try, it will help you," Keith shared. Lately Keith has explored the Saint Michael's challenge on Hallow, and anyone scrolling through the prayer activity on our parish page can see Keith's daily favorites popping up each morning: Lectio Divina (prayerful reflection on scripture), Daily Gospel, and Jeff Cavin's daily reflections.

With scripture, meditation, music, saints, kids' content, devotions, and more, Hallow is the #1 prayer app in the world. The 235 parishioners on our Saint Francis Xavier Parish page have prayed over 400,883 minutes on the app just in the past year. That's over 18 hours of prayer per day! Visit www.sfxlg.org for information on how to join our Hallow community. The prayer challenges we host are always free. The app includes plenty of other free content, and Saint Francis parishioners can enjoy the Hallow premium content free for 6 months.

This app can truly transform your life with greater peace and confidence through a closer relationship with Jesus. Just ask Keith!

Sharing Talent



When any organization plans for a leadership change, it comes with varying degrees of uncertainty and some trepidation. Given the systemic shortage of priests in Chicago, Saint Francis Xavier faced a challenge in filling the role of our new pastor upon Father Bill Tkachuk's retirement. Anticipating this challenge, Father Bill formed the pastoral transition team, consisting of 13 men and women with varying and essential talents to produce a report for the Archdiocese, summarizing who we are and our hopes for the next shepherd of Saint Francis Xavier Parish.

This team embraced its mission in many ways. Because interviews of potential pastors are no longer part of the process, the team desired to prepare a document sharing the heart of the Saint Francis Xavier community. They were dedicated to building a strong future for our parish, united in Christ. Elizabeth Cooley shared: "Because the world is divided, we need a place where we are united in our faith that Jesus is our Savior, and we are His Body. The team took to heart that while we might not look like a diverse parish, we are each different in

Stewardship

our needs. We had just gone through some discernment on our identity, summarized in our parish identity statement of *Belong, Believe, and Be Love*. While we used that as a basis, it was vital that we provided an opportunity for each parishioner to reflect and share what attributes they would like in our pastoral shepherd. So the team set up three listening sessions and sent out a survey to give everyone, of all ages, a chance to share. Maureen Windmoeller employed her training in facilitating 'Conversations in the Spirit' to ensure prayerful listening sessions. Guided by the Holy Spirit, it was a powerful experience as we listened to each other to discern our vision through the heartfelt input we received from so many parishioners."

When it came time to summarize the vision from months of discernment, Therese Kartholl's well-honed writing skills created a document that the Archdiocesan Placement Board and pastors said is now a model for the entire Archdiocese. Our new shepherd, Father John Chrzan, is exceedingly grateful for all the pastoral transition team's efforts to welcome him here.

Finally, the pastor transition team, along with the parish staff, Catholic Women's Club, Liturgy Board, combined choirs, and so many other volunteers, demonstrated our gratitude to Father Bill Tkachuk on June 28 at a retirement Mass and celebratory lunch and presentation, which he described as "one of the best days of his life!" God bless the amazing men and women who served on the pastor transition team for a fabulous job!

Giving Treasure



Our parish offertory increased a tremendous \$190,000 (6%), which balanced our budget last year! We budgeted for 6%, and knew it was aspirational but absolutely possible with the momentum of this Saint Francis Xavier community. Thank you for this incredible display of stewardship! As noted in our financial report, our offertory supports the formation of our children. In total, our Elementary School and School of Religious Education offer formation for over 1,100 children, who are little disciples of Christ in action.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Our children are learning and demonstrating kindness and goodness at school and in our homes. Margaret Houston, preschool teacher at our elementary school, shared this: "Our theme for preschoolers is Caring for God's Creation, when we talk about and express our gratitude for God's gift of nature. A few years ago, we planted sunflower seeds in the spring, and our little ones took the seedlings home to plant in the ground and nurture with their family over the summer. In the fall, Thomas brought me a lovely sunflower bloom with a precious note. And every year since then, he has done the same with those sunflower seeds. This year, Thomas (now in second grade) had a "return to preschool day" and together, he and I helped our current preschoolers plant seeds as well. This is one of the many precious moments when these children demonstrate the kingdom of heaven on this wonderful Earth that God has gifted to us." Each month, the elementary school highlights one student act of "the Virtue of the Month" for each grade, 1st through 8th. May we all remember to pay attention to what our children can teach us!

With the call to ***Belong, Believe, Be Love***, we welcome the Holy Spirit on this journey as a community of faith, united in Christ.

In gratitude for your stewardship,
Jennifer Zeisloft
Director of Stewardship and Development



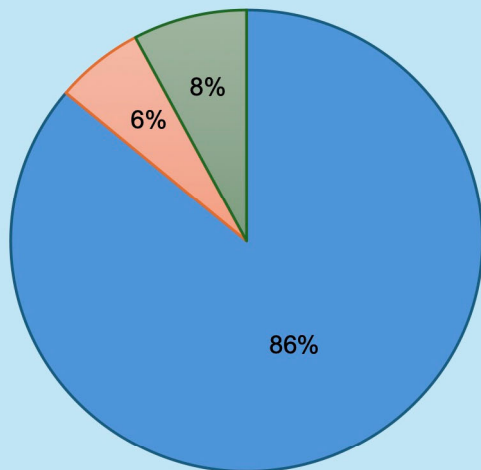
Finance Report

During budget preparation, the Finance Council, Director of Operations, and Principal strive to present the Pastor with a balanced budget. For the 2025-2026 budget, the Finance Council recommends an offertory increase of approximately 4%.

Church and Religious Education

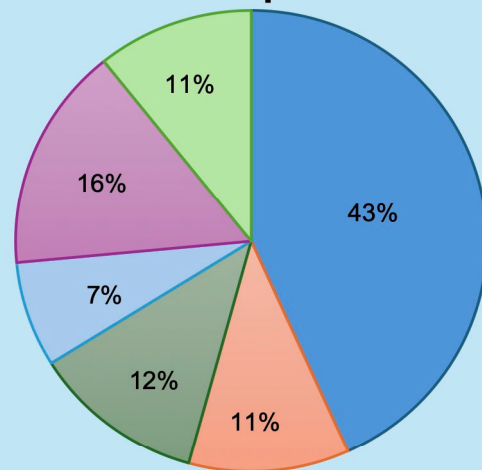
	Actual 6/30/24	Actual 6/30/25	Budget 6/30/26
Operating Church & Religious Education Revenue			
Sunday, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter	1,820,622	1,930,594	2,013,000
Other Operating Income and Interest Income	125,016	135,998	141,350
Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising	154,920	175,161	164,960
Total Church & Religious Education Revenue	\$2,100,558	\$2,241,753	\$2,319,310
Operating Church & Religious Education Expenses			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Professional Dev.	930,462	965,267	1,039,136
Archdiocesan Admin., Priest Retirement	243,036	245,739	255,636
Building and Grounds	278,686	264,558	266,606
Liturgical and Administrative	156,395	164,655	186,349
School Subsidy (see next page)	387,696	351,058	328,264
Religious Education Expenses	191,503	239,798	243,319
Total Church & Religious Education Expenses	\$2,187,778	\$2,231,075	\$2,319,310
Net Church & RE Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(\$87,220)	\$10,678	\$0

Church & RE Revenue FY25



- Sunday, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter
- Other Operating Income and Interest Income
- Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising

Church & RE Expenses FY25



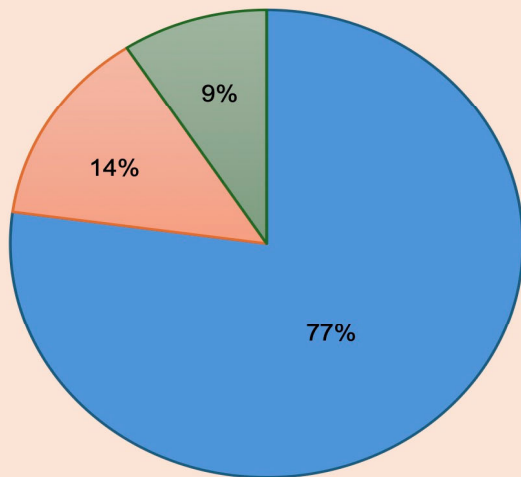
- Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Professional Dev.
- Archdiocesan Admin., Priest Retirement
- Building and Grounds
- Liturgical and Administrative
- School Subsidy (see next page)
- Religious Education Expenses

Finance Report

School

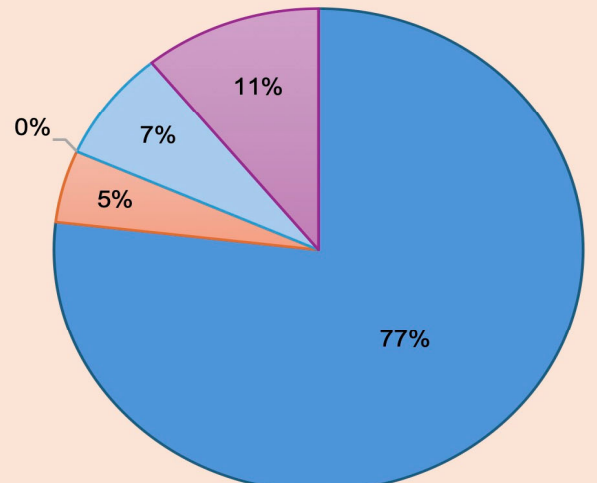
	Actual 6/30/24	Actual 6/30/25	Budget 6/30/26
School Revenue			
School Tuition, Fees, and Misc. Operating Revenue	2,774,887	2,949,111	3,213,644
Fundraising	575,780	521,646	563,000
Subsidy from Parish	387,696	351,058	328,264
Total School Revenue	\$3,738,363	\$3,821,815	\$4,104,908
School Expenses			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Prof. Development	2,714,249	2,936,701	3,119,942
Faculty/Staff Bonuses (including FICA)	213,954	184,309	215,300
Fundraising reserved for future Faculty/Staff Bonus	82,734	0	0
Building and Grounds	331,541	285,536	315,282
Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expenses	395,885	415,269	454,384
Total School Expenses	\$3,738,363	\$3,821,815	\$4,104,908

School Revenue FY25



■ School Tuition, Fees, and Misc. Operating Revenue
■ Fundraising
■ Subsidy from Parish

School Exp. & Reserves FY25



■ Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Prof. Development
■ Faculty/Staff Bonuses (including FICA)
■ Fundraising reserved for future Faculty/Staff Bonus
■ Building and Grounds
■ Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expenses

Non-Operating Parish Funds

	Actual 6/30/24	Actual 6/30/25
Building/Capital Fund Donations	\$143,174	\$233,991
Bequests	60,000	248,107
Memorials	2,350	36,724
Educational Endowment Draw	40,000	50,000

Other Financial Information

Statement of Cash Position

	6/30/23	6/30/24	6/30/25	
Unrestricted Funds				
Cash and Savings on Deposit	1,430,263	1,787,858	1,697,758	
Current Cash Liabilities	<u>535,406</u>	<u>761,078</u>	<u>695,073</u>	
Net Cash Position	\$ 894,858	\$1,026,779	\$1,002,686	
Restricted Funds for Long Term Initiatives				
Building Fund	608,597	121,323	532,185	Note 1
Bonus Reserve Fund	-	101,826	104,623	Note 2
Parish Endowment Fund	384,164	424,927	466,558	
Educational Endowment Fund	<u>932,227</u>	<u>1,016,084</u>	<u>1,042,341</u>	Note 3
Restricted Funds on Deposit	\$1,924,988	\$1,664,160	\$2,145,707	

Note 1: The increased balance in the building fund is for the expenses related to the new church audio system and the new Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math (STREAM) Lab in the school. These expenses will be paid by the end of fiscal year 2026.

Note 2: The Bonus Reserve Fund was established to mitigate fluctuations in annual fundraising efforts. Its purpose is to ensure the consistent provision of bonus payments to faculty and staff across fiscal years, stabilizing bonus distributions despite variances in fundraising income.

Note 3: The Educational Endowment Fund surpassed the \$1 million milestone during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The first significant distribution of earnings, amounting to \$40,000, was used to provide bonuses for faculty and staff in 2024 and add to the reserve. In 2025, \$50,000 was used to help pay for the new STREAM Lab in the school.

Other Giving

SFX received directed donations for the following outreach ministries:

Annual Catholic Appeal 2025	105,593
SFX Food Pantry & Community Outreach	85,797
St. Simon of Cyrene (formerly St. Agatha Parish)	18,232
St. Vincent de Paul Society	27,854
Fuller Center for Housing	5,506
Other Charitable Organizations (for a complete list, visit our website)	<u>54,496</u>
Total	\$297,478

Giving Treasure—Frequently Asked Questions

Considering which method of giving is right for you? Check out the FAQ below.

What method of giving is most cost-effective for the parish?

- Online monthly donations from your bank checking or savings account.
- The processing fees for these are about 0.5%, as compared to credit card fees of 3.5%.

If I want to give using my credit card, can I cover the higher transaction fee?

- Yes – you can! This is relatively new to Give Central, our online giving processor.
- Log into your Give Central account and select “I would like to cover the processing fee” when you make or change your contribution.

I prefer using offertory envelopes – is that ok?

- Absolutely. Please continue to do so. About 30% of our Sunday offertory is given using envelopes!
- We have identified ways to reduce the cost of printing and mailing.

How important is my Christmas or Easter donation?

- Very important! These two special donations totaled 13% (\$254,128) of our funding last year.
- While all parishioners receive the envelopes with Father John’s Christmas and Easter reflections, you can set up online giving right now using the QR code above.

Are there any other methods to give to offertory?

- Yes. Donations of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, and donor advised funds are tax-efficient methods, which many donors prefer.
- Contact Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Development, at 708-352-0168 or jzeisloft@sfxlq.org to learn more and if you have questions about these giving methods.

Set up regular donations with this QR code or [click here](#).

Thank you for your support to Saint Francis Xavier Parish!



Enrollment Statistics

Elementary School Enrollment

October 2024: 462
October 2025: 480

Religious Education Enrollment

October 2024: 625
October 2025: 630

Parish Statistics

Baptisms

2023-2024 164
2024-2025 181

Confirmations

2023-2024 96
2024-2025 105

Funerals/Burials

2023-2024 59
2024-2025 55

First Communions

2023-2024 132
2024-2025 152

Marriages

2023-2024 34
2024-2025 32

Newly Registered Families

2023-2024 145
2024-2025 108