



St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

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623-972-2129 | www.sescc.org

50 Years of Building Disciples of Christ through Faith, Service and Community

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

JULY 1, 2024
THROUGH
JUNE 30, 2025



FISCAL YEAR
2024

LETTER FROM **The Pastor**

Beloved parishioners of St. Elizabeth Seton,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am writing to share with you the Stewardship Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. As your pastor, I believe in transparency and accountability in all that we do, especially in how we manage the resources entrusted to us by God through your faithful giving.

This report reflects not only the financial health of our church but also the many ways your generosity has enabled us to carry out our mission—spreading the Gospel, supporting our community, and nurturing spiritual growth. You will find details on our income, expenses, ministry investments, and outreach efforts.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, prayers, and commitment. Your faithfulness makes it possible for us to serve both our congregation and our broader community with love and purpose.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification on any part of the report, please do not hesitate to reach out.

May God continue to bless you and guide us all as we walk together in faith.
God Is Good, All The Time

In Christ's love,
Fr. Williams Abba
Parochial Administrator, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

The celebration of the Eucharist is the center of our parish life. From the Eucharist all aspects of life flow, from catechetical ministry to social outreach activity. It takes many members of our parish family to actively participate as liturgical ministers. The following shows current numbers of liturgical ministers.

NAME OF MINISTRY	NUMBER OF MINISTERS
ALTAR SERVERS	17
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	103
LECTORS	41
MUSIC MINISTERS	42
AV MINISTERS	3
SACRISTANS	19
FUNERAL MINISTRY	27
HOSPITALITY MINISTERS	53
MINISTRY OF CARE	35 ministers brought JESUS to the homebound 2,622 times



Catechetical Ministries

Because they have given life to their children, parents have a most serious obligation and enjoy the right to educate them. It is therefore primarily the responsibility of Christian parents to ensure the Christian education of their children in accordance with the teachings of the Church.” (Canon Law 226.2)

St. Elizabeth Seton assists parents in the faith formation and education of their children, providing opportunities to learn more about what we, as Catholics believe and how we practice our faith, as followers of Jesus Christ. The following number of parishioners participated in Faith Formation this year.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY	45	THAT MAN IS YOU	39
JUNIOR HIGH	23	ADULT FORMATION	218
HIGH SCHOOL	6	BIBLE STUDY	152
VBS	44	OCIA	6



Journey Together With Faith

These groups extend the love of Christ beyond our walls and engage with the wider community. They aim to meet both spiritual and physical needs, often through practical service, relationship building, and sharing the gospel. These groups help people deepen their faith and understand their calling to spread God's love and grace in the world.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY	25
CHRIST IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD	24
CURSILLO	45
HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP	30
SOLO GROUP	100
LEGION OF MARY	4
EVENING PRAYER GROUP	8

Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.* And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20



SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Life in Christ: they give birth and increase healing and direction to the Christian's life of faith. There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life.

BAPTISM	7
FIRST RECONCILIATION	8
FIRST EUCHARIST	10
CONFIRMATION	13
MARRIAGE	2
ANOINTING OF THE SICK	169
RITE OF CHRISTIAN FUNERAL	65

MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY DOLLAR

The financial report is divided into three sections:

- Charitable dollars collected at the parish and distributed elsewhere.
- Parish income collected at the parish for parish operations.
- Parish expenses are monies spent to operate our parish including our Diocesan Assessment

The parish, in its commitment to stewardship, strives to be fiscally responsible, using judicious resolve to cover our operational expenses, while also setting aside income for the future.



CHARITABLE GIVING IN OUR PARISH

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

SPECIAL NEEDS (LATIN AMERICA) | \$1331.75

PETER’S PENCE | \$4,074.25

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT | \$15

HOLY LAND | \$766.25

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES | \$9,142

COMMUNICATIONS | \$2,640.75

SANCTITY OF LIFE | \$1,464

MISSION SUNDAY | \$2,192

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT | \$2,462

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY | \$589

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS | \$3,171.30

MILITARY ARCHDIOCESE | \$15

NATIVE AMERICAN/BLACK MISSIONS | \$667

OTHER

DIOCESE OF KAFANCHAN | \$34,558

The Catholic Church teaches that offering some form of material support to the Church is obligatory for all Catholic adults who are able to do so although it doesn’t specify what percent of one’s income should be given. The key to understanding how God wants us to give to the Church is found in 1 Corinthians 16:2, “On the first day of the week [Sunday] each of you should set aside whatever he can afford,” and in 2 Corinthians 9:5-8.

So I thought it necessary to encourage the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for your promised gift [donation], so that in this way it might be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an exaction. Consider this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED

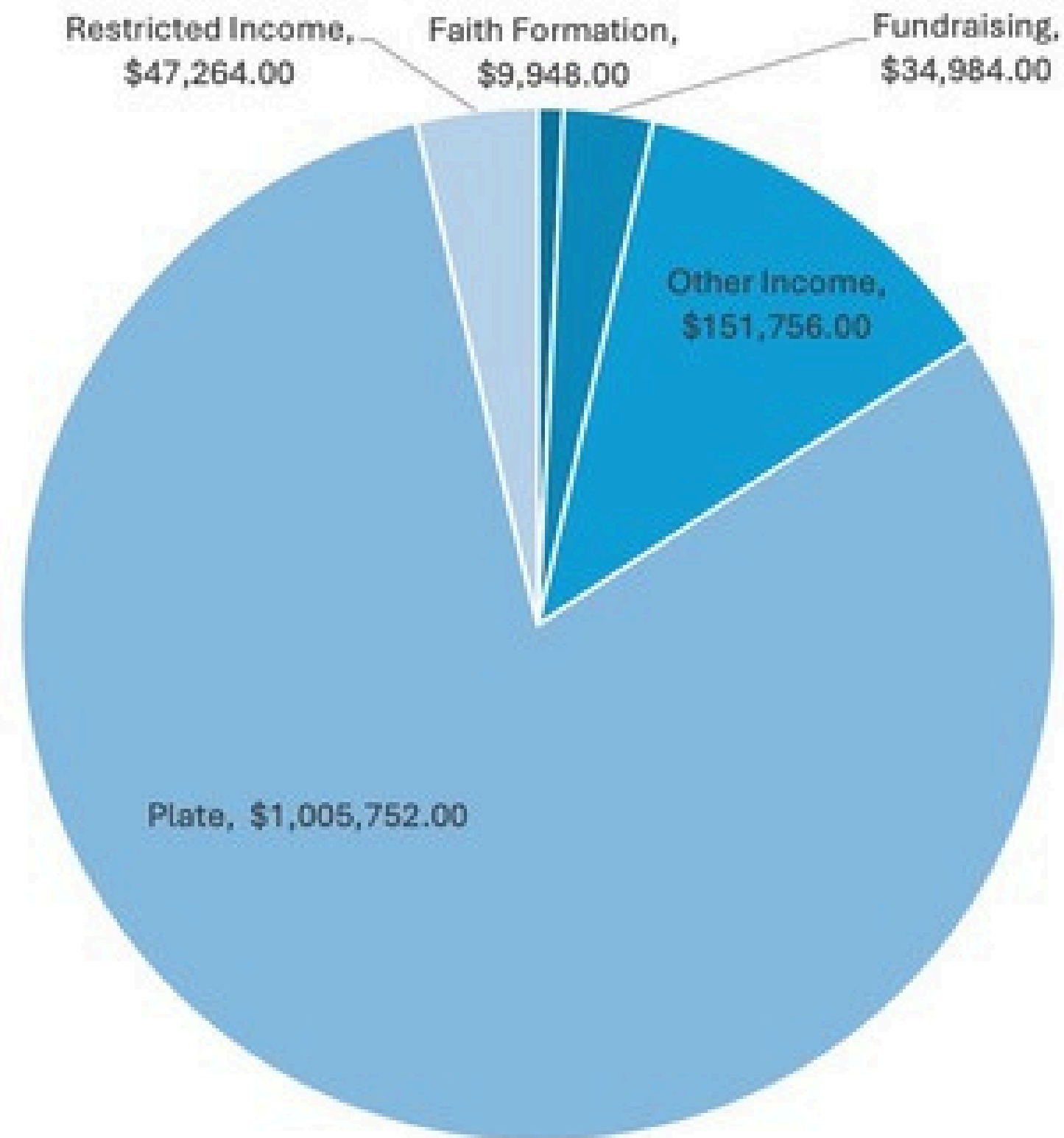
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS | \$63,088.30

DIOCESAN SUPPORT

CHARITY AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL | \$131,456

DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT | \$164,344

OPERATIONAL DOLLARS PARISH INCOME



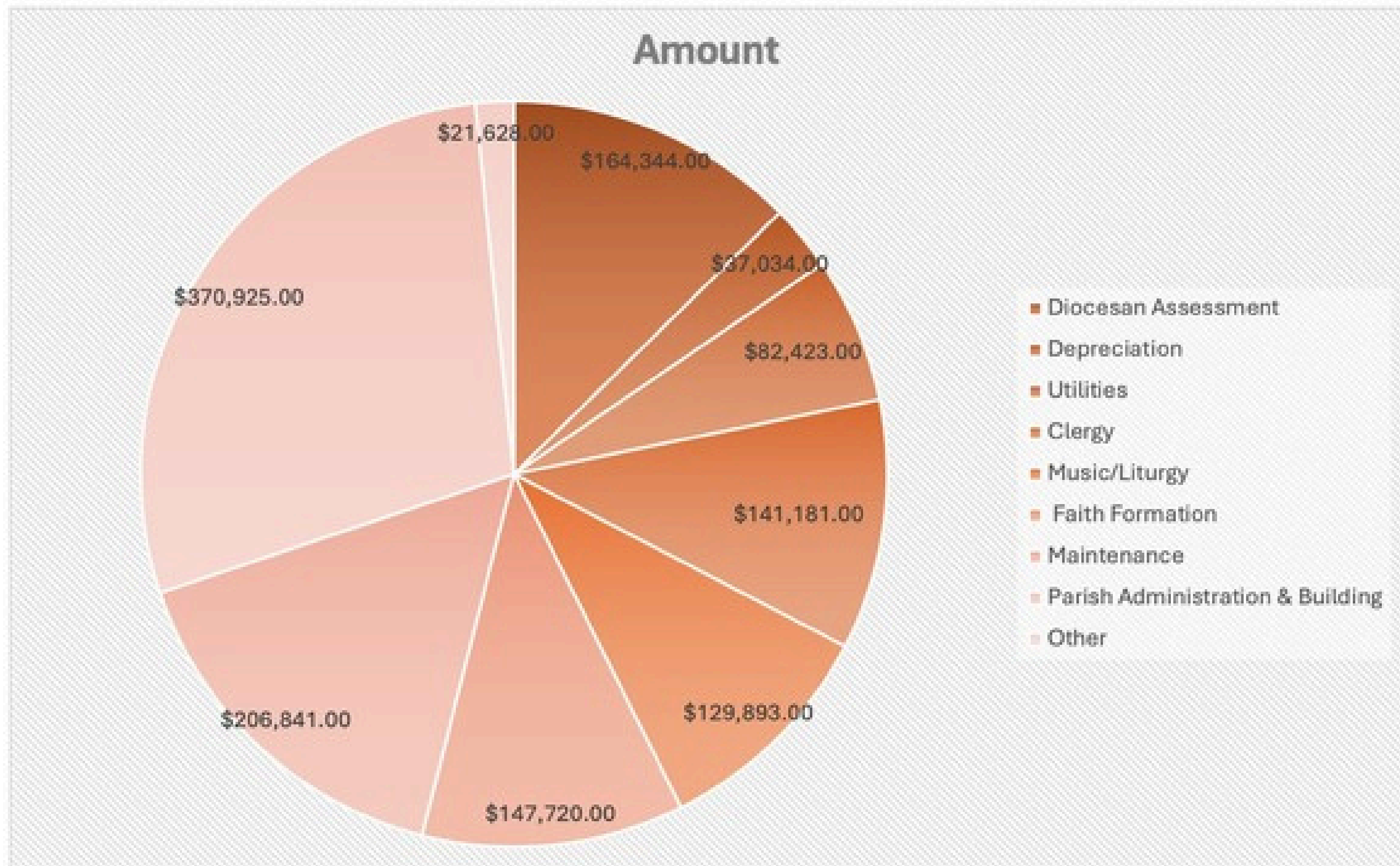
There are several ways parishioners can help our community flourish.

- **Weekly plate contributions**
- **Extraordinary contributions**
- **Temporarily restricted funds**
- **Wills, bequests, stock donations and others**

We would be happy to discuss the differences between them with you.

OPERATIONAL DOLLARS

PARISH EXPENSES



INCOME HIGHLIGHTS

MASS ATTENDANCE  18.5%

FAMILY REGISTRATION  8%

OVERALL INCOME  \$22,000

- PLATE INCOME  \$25,000

- INVESTMENT/INTEREST INCOME  \$47,000

- CONTRIBUTIONS & RESTRICTED INCOME  \$40,000

EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS

01

OUR PARISH ENDED THE YEAR WITH AN OPERATIONAL DEFICIT OF \$59,284. STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO CLOSELY MONITOR EXPENSES.

WITH CAPITALIZED PURCHASES & REPAIRS, CASH ON HAND DECREASED BY \$170,000.

AN AGING CAMPUS AND NEXT YEAR'S JUBILEE IMPROVEMENTS WILL ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO REDUCED CASH ON HAND.

St. Vincent de Paul



On behalf of our St. Elizabeth Seton St. Vincent de Paul Conference, we want to express our profound gratitude to our parishioners who contribute to our conference through our monthly shoebox collection, our SVDP envelope, online giving, food for our pantry, support for clothing drives and everything else that helps us to carry out our mission.

Our fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30th each year. For the first nine months in FY 24 – 25, we received a total of 439 calls on our help line (623-583-7303). We helped 433 households and 18 homeless individuals. We conducted 228 home visits and helped 671 people on those visits. We made 105 rent or other shelter payments. We paid 93 utility bills. In addition, we distributed 1478 bags of groceries, cleaning products, etc. We partner with our diocesan council for additional homeless prevention funds and a Wildfire grant to partially offset our shelter and utility payments.

Through an anonymous donor we have established an auto fund. We've received several auto donations and have paid incidental associated costs. We have also purchased vehicles, and we partner with Greenway Auto to either pay for or receive discounted services for our neighbors. We have provided 29 episodes of transportation assistance thus far this year.

Finally, we offer several other special programs: These include Back-to-School, 82 students helped, Turkey Tuesday providing Thanksgiving meals, and Adopt a Family providing toys, clothing and other items at Christmas. Both programs served 49 families and 124 children. We are also collaborating with West-Mec to offer vocational training to high school students in our families to try to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

We are always looking for new members, to become part of our Vincentian family, offering spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and opportunity to serve our neighbors in need. Roles include doing home visits, helping in our pantry, serving at our Santa Teresita food kitchen, the Surprise Thrift Store and many others. Please contact Tom Jennings at 910-619-0762 for more information.

Spiritual Guides Ministry



The Spiritual Guides Ministry, formed in 2024, offers spiritual accompaniment for members of the St. Elizabeth Seton Parish community. Spiritual guides, also known as spiritual directors, are specially trained individuals who want each person's faith in God to flourish. Through one-on-one confidential conversations or holy listening, they accompany individuals seeking to connect with the desire(s) God has planted in each person's heart – a desire to know and be closer to Him. Guides listen, discern, and sometimes ask questions, drawing the person's attention to God's presence in their story, thus helping them grow in faith, hope, and love. This ministry is not about counseling or problem-solving but learning to notice God's presence in the ordinary activities of daily life.

This ministry is open to all adult parishioners. It can be beneficial for anyone who has experienced a significant trauma or major life event such as loss of job, moving to a new place, or the death of a loved one – anything that has perhaps left you wondering, "Where is God in all of this?"

Are you seeking to discern your purpose at this time in your life? Does there seem to be a deep longing within you that you cannot name? If these are some of the faith questions, hopes, or concerns you have, we invite you to contact one of the members of the Spiritual Guides Ministry.

Gladyce Janky gjanky@sesc.org

Beth Lema blema@sesc.org

Virginia Vollmer vvollmer@sesc.org

Solo Group Ministry



SOLO GROUP

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE

The Solo group continues to be very active with our current membership consisting of 264 members from 5 area parishes and “other / unaffiliated”. We continue to provide a faith-based and safe environment for widows, widowers, divorcees, and singles to share their time with others with similar experiences. Many of our members, after years of caregiving, find Solo to be the next step after grief counseling to help rebuild social contacts and become active in society again, frequently recommended for seniors’ health. Each month we have had group meetings where we review the plans for the month which typically include concerts, plays, clean-comedy shows, bingos, meals, games, tours and other activities. Our most popular events this past year were tours of a Cerreta Candy Factory, a Lake Pleasant cruise, and group seating with discounts for plays at Arizona Broadway Theater. Monthly calendars are available at the St. Elizabeth Seton Office. See the weekly bulletin for contact information.

Legion of Mary



The Legion of Mary is a world wide Catholic organization that started on Sept 7, 1921 and has been approved by every pope since its founding and received from the popes their apostolic blessing.

In 1981 apparitions of Our Lady of Kibeho (Kibeho a small village in Rwanda, Africa) the Blessed Mother asked Alphonsine (one of the three visionaries) to join the Legion of Mary. She told the girl that she wanted to be loved by people everywhere so that she could bring lost souls to her Son Jesus.

The Mission Magazine reported that 90% of the Conversions that took place in Africa were through the Legion of Mary.

School For Saints - -Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary, once said that “The Legion makes saints and makes them by the bushel”. When we consider that an organization begun in 1921 already has three lay members whose cause for canonization has been introduced, it is truly amazing. Along with many giving their life or ending in prison camps in China

In 1931 Father Joseph P Donovan CM introduced the Legion of Mary to the United States in an article published in the Ecclesiastical Review “Is this Long Looked for Church Society”. The first American praesidium started on November 27, 1931 (the feast of the Miraculous Medal) in Raton, New Mexico

Seton Classic Trifecta



Over 50 volunteers came together to put on the Annual Seton Classic Trifecta, an event that brings the community together to enjoy the sights of classic cars, a craft fair and fantastic food.

The extravaganza encompasses the entire campus. Over 50 cars are on display in the parking lot. Last year a Chevy Nova took home “Best of Show”. Inside the air-conditioned hall 30 craft-vendors had their hand-made wares available for purchase. The third leg of our Trifecta is food. Last year the event was blessed to receive five volunteers from The American Culinary Federation Chef’s Association. These professionals turned our common kitchen into a gourmet restaurant, and as a result there were appreciative smiles everywhere from those filling the tables and enjoying the tasty food.

We are grateful to Fr. Williams Abba, our parochial administrator, Fr. Greg Menegay, our Dean, Sylvia Cabral, St. Vincent de Paul, the Knights of Columbus, our social groups, the parish staff and over fifty volunteers who prepared for and worked at the event, giving their time, talent, and treasure.

Last year’s Trifecta brought in a gross amount of \$8,108.07. After paying \$1,422.55 for expenses, we netted a total income of \$6,685.52. The proceeds of the event were divided equally between SVdP & KofC.

Knights of Columbus



The St. Elizabeth Seton Knights of Columbus Council 12144 has provided over \$55,000 of financial and material support to charitable organizations in the last two years.

Knights Council 12144 provides all men of St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Clement of Rome Parishes the opportunity to meet Christ's challenge, "Whatever you did for the least of my people, you did for me." Knights can meet Christ's challenge with only a few minutes of charity, such as:

- Sign up donors for our blood drives - 15 minutes after a weekend Mass
- Collect car seats and other donations for Car Seats for Christ - 20 to 30 minutes after a weekend Mass in December
- Collect used luggage - 20 minutes after a weekend Mass
- Serve donuts and coffee - 20 to 30 minutes after a 3rd Sunday weekend Mass
- Distribute baby bottles to support 1st Way Pregnancy Center - 15 minutes after weekend Mass
- Serve as ushers, Eucharistic Ministers or Lectors at Mass
- Help at the K of C Golf Tournament - 2-3 hours on a Sunday in March
- Attend That Man Is You - Saturday mornings at 6:30am
- Attend the monthly Council Meetings - 1.5 hours on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Meeting begins with the Rosary.

There are a variety of ways the knights can help men attain their Heavenly goal. The time commitment can be minor, but the reward great. Men who are not already a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 12144 should pray and seriously consider joining at one of our membership drives or at any time by talking to a member.

Seton Women's Society



Shortly after St. Elizabeth Seton was formed as a parish by the Diocese of Phoenix, the Seton Women's Society was formed as a women's ministry to support the Pastor with the needs of a growing parish community. Since then, the Seton Society has served in many capacities, including at funeral luncheons, parish receptions, fundraisers, and parish socials. In the past, even managing a parish gift shop. The Society has raised and contributed funds for many parish needs over the years, including automatic sliding doors in the church; handicap rails in restrooms; flooring and carpeting in the hall; bibles and educational needs for Faith Formation; as well as the marquee on Palmeras Drive.

Today, 50 years later, the Seton Women's Society thrives in large part due to a strong sisterhood developed through prayer and group teamwork. In service each year, the Society sponsors a large bazaar which is our largest fundraiser. We also organize various other fundraising events, such as dinners, luncheons, musical performances, inspirational speakers, bake sales, and socials, notably the Spring Tea Party and the Ice Cream Social in the summer. The Seton ladies do this as a labor of love for our parish as we strive to support St. Elizabeth Seton not only in raising money, but also in helping build a strong community in Christ.

In addition to raising funds, the Seton Women's Society provides a place where women can meet other women. The group offers prayer and support for one another and socialization. Friendships are formed at the Seton Society weekly gatherings and some of them become lifelong friendships. We become one family in Christ by working, praying, and serving together.