

Saint James Parish

A Catholic Community on the Pilgrimage of Holiness

Stewardship Report 2023-2024

A Message from Msgr. Joe

Thanks to your commitment to stewardship—the generous sharing of your time, talent and treasure—St. James Parish has continued our illustrious tradition of providing the Catholic Community of the Red Bank area, the opportunity of worshipping the God of Jesus Christ, growing in knowledge of our faith throughout the lifespan and to be of service to the gospel of life.

I hope that the information provided over these pages confirms the faithful living out of the mission of our parish community and honestly confronts the opportunities and challenges that we face in supporting this mission.

We continue to put effort into building community and encouraging a greater participation in the sacramental life of

the Church, particularly Sunday Mass. From 2022 to 2023 our average weekly attendance based on the diocesan required count for two weekend in October increased 8% to 948. Emphasis was placed on increasing volunteers as lectors, altar servers, music ministry and eucharistic ministers. Our music ministry continues to grow our children's choir to and will soon begin forming a teen choir. We continue to encourage Eucharistic adoration each Friday morning. We continue to support community through monthly gatherings following the Sunday morning masses through our hospitality committee's Coffee and Donut Sundays.

Our parish outreach to the local community with our Food Drives, Our Daily

Bread Ministry and Jesse Tree project continues to be a powerful witness to our commitment to the gospel of charity. Our parish's Knights of Columbus Council is growing and continuing to offer an opportunity for Catholic gentlemen to grow in their faith and offer them opportunity for charity works.

Once again, thank you for all you do in the way of supporting your parish. We are called to stewardship of the resources and gifts that God entrusted to us for our mission. I ask you as you read this report to prayerfully consider what you can do in support of our community. Each individual gift of time, talent and treasure is evident every day in our liturgies, many ministries and vibrancy of our community. It is my hope that as a family you may reflect on your commitment for the next year. With over 3,000 registered families even a modest increase in contributions and volunteering from each family will have a significant impact. May I also ask that you consider your financial commitment through our online giving program through Parishsoft. It takes many hands and hearts to carry on Christ's mission. Your sacrifices are greatly appreciated.

Our Parish Mission

*We are here to walk with you
in your relationship with God wherever
you are on life's journey.*

*We invite you to join with us
in the celebration of the sacraments,
prayer, learning and serving so that each
person can grow in discipleship and together
we can witness the Kingdom of God.*



Our Finances

Michael McKee
Business Manager
mmckee@sjredbank.org

Finance Council
Walter Brasch
Michael Collins
Marianna Lamson
Kurt Meinert
Kevin Murphy
Charles Perry

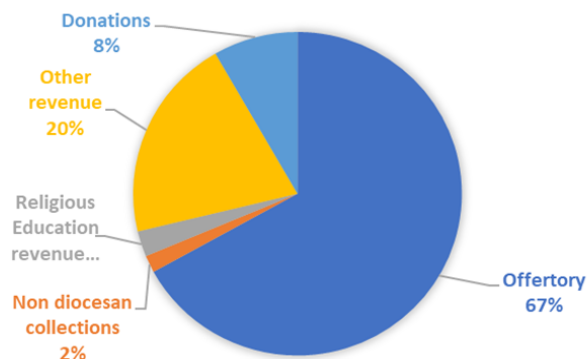
St. James Church ended fiscal year June 30, 2024, with an operating loss of \$96,441. However, with the benefit of non-operating revenue – specifically investment income, the Church was able to generate a net surplus of \$74,455. This is down \$151K from prior year due to several factors: (1) FY '22-'23 had the benefit of a non-recurring bequest of almost \$76K, (2) Due to the age of the church, rectory, and convent buildings – ongoing building maintenance is required, resulting in an increase of \$45K from prior year, with brick-pointing of the structures among the biggest projects of FY '23-'24, (3) Property and liability insurance was up \$35K from prior year, following a reassessment of values, (4) The Church's two biggest collections – Christmas and Easter declined a combined \$28K from prior year, but fortunately - regular weekly collections increased to soften that shortfall. Please be aware that the biggest gap

Statement of Church Operating Income and Expense			
	Budget FY 24-25	Actual FY 23-24	Actual FY 22-23
Income			
Offertory	\$914,854	\$896,916	\$875,490
Non diocesan collections	\$23,487	\$23,026	\$17,500
Religious Education revenue	\$38,295	\$34,135	\$44,178
Other revenue	\$177,538	\$273,572	\$212,729
Donations	\$113,648	\$111,419	\$111,749
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,267,821	\$1,339,068	\$1,261,646
Parish Operating Expenses			
Salaries and benefits	\$614,627	\$606,830	\$580,982
Bldgs & Grounds/Vehicles	\$63,760	\$81,321	\$36,686
Professional fees	\$12,768	\$12,396	\$10,774
Utilities	\$83,527	\$81,094	\$102,283
Choir Expenses	\$135,521	\$129,632	\$106,274
Church supplies	\$142,224	\$139,509	\$137,025
Diocese assessment	\$171,105	\$153,513	\$130,488
Property and liability insurance	\$94,383	\$138,588	\$103,350
All other	\$110,059	\$92,627	\$54,728
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,427,975	\$1,435,509	\$1,262,590
Operating surplus (deficit)	(\$160,153)	(\$96,441)	(\$944)
Non-operating revenue			
Investment income	\$174,314	\$170,896	\$150,100
Bequests	\$0	\$0	\$75,844
Total non-operating revenue	\$174,314	\$170,896	\$225,944
Net surplus (deficit)	\$14,161	\$74,455	\$225,000

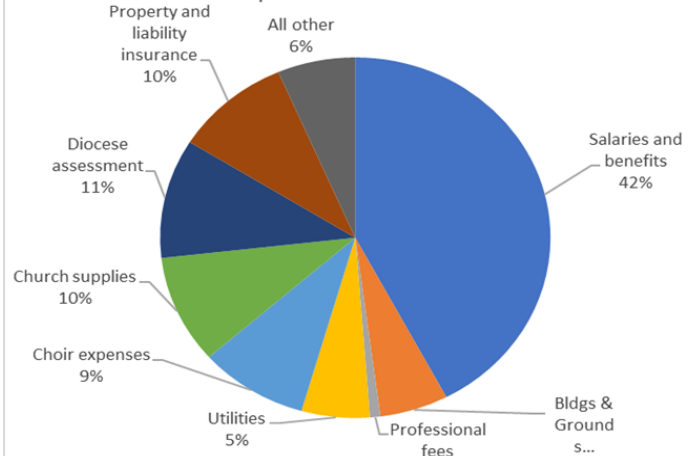
between our offertory collections and related expense lies in the Diocesan

Assessment – a predetermined amount which the parish is required to

REVENUE 2023-2024



Expenses 2023-2024



Church Balance Sheet

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$1,334,345	\$587,538
Investments	\$5,390,988	\$5,211,837
Receivables	\$0	\$415,775
Total Current Assets	\$6,725,333	\$6,215,149
Other Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	\$4,204,412	\$4,080,893
Prepaid expenses	\$79,567	\$6,360
Total Other Assets	\$4,283,979	\$4,087,253
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,009,312	\$10,302,401
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payables & Accrued Expenses	\$21,958	\$20,643
Intercompany payables	\$631,141	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$653,099	\$20,643
CAPITAL		
Church net assets	\$10,281,759	\$10,056,758
Annual profit	\$74,455	\$225,000
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$10,356,214	\$10,281,758
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	\$11,009,312	\$10,302,401

remit to the Diocese, regardless of what our monthly Diocesan Assessment collections are. The Diocese had

assessed us \$153,513 in fiscal '23-'24 – for which we brought in only \$17,815 from our monthly diocesan collec-

tions; a gap of \$135,698. This collection funds the ministry of the Bishop and supports the offices of the diocese providing leadership for vibrant parish ministries and benefit management for diocesan employees. We therefore ask for your generosity in closing this large gap moving forward.

The Sisters of Mercy vacated the convent in August of this year, resulting in a loss of future rental income. Therefore, a decline in operating revenue is being budgeted for fiscal '24-'25.

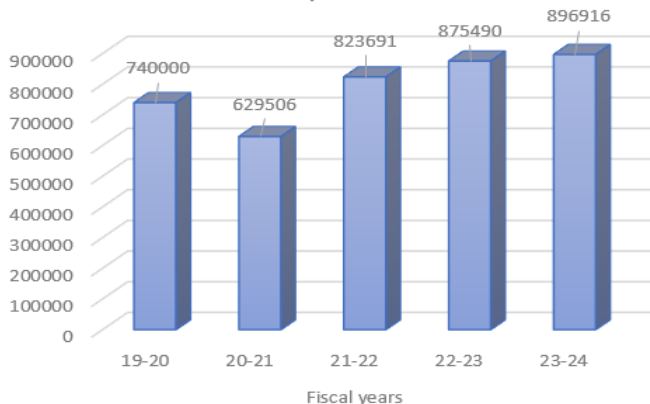
Overall expenses are projected to decline slightly in fiscal '24-'25, largely from reductions in property and liability insurance due to a good experience rating, and building & grounds as a result of certain non-recurring charges from prior year. As a result of these revenue and expense movements, the operating loss is projected to grow to \$160K, but with the aid of non-operating revenue from investment income is projected to result in a net surplus of \$14K for the new fiscal year.

Finally, average mass attendance has been on the upswing since the covid shutdown and increased 7.8% this year over last.

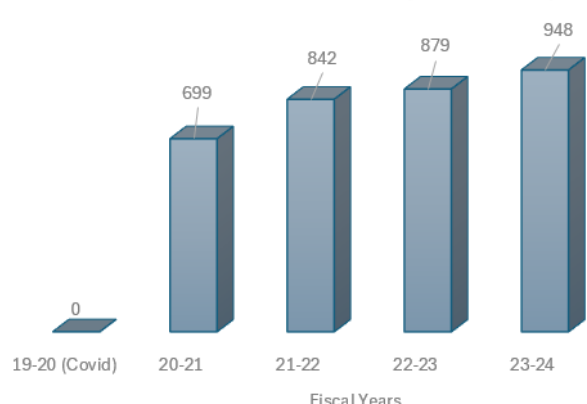
Parish Snapshot July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

- ♦ Registered Households: 4,081
- ♦ Identifiable Donors: 1,183
- ♦ Baptisms (infant & adults): 110
- ♦ Receptions Full Communion: 2
- ♦ First Communions: 64
- ♦ Confirmations: 82
- ♦ Marriages: 53
- ♦ Anointing of the Sick: 240
- ♦ Funeral Services: 129

Offertory Collections



Average Mass Attendance (Oct. Count)



Our Religious Education Program

As we progress into the 2024-2025 school year our Religious Education Program remains strong as changes are implemented to bring more organization while offering new opportunities for faith formation at all levels of the family.

The Saint James Religious Education Program is a weekly in person program serving the children of Saint James Parish in grades Kindergarten through 8. Classes are held each Sunday from 9:00 am to 10:15 am. This schedule encourages families to attend the 10:30am Mass directly after religious instruction. Our Sacramental Preparation Program includes the Grade 2 and Grade 8 students in both Saint James Elementary School and the Religious Education Program. Our current enrollment for 2024-2025 is 270 students which reflects a small drop in grades 4 through 6 but an increase in all other grades. The Children's Liturgy of the Word is flourishing with upwards of twenty "little Catholics" accompanying Mrs. MacMullin and Mrs. Trezza to hear the gospel each week.

Several changes have been imple-

mented in the Religious Education program that are designed to increase the overall organization and safety of the program as well as to bring faith to the children of the parish in a more engaging way. First and foremost, a new formation program, "Gospel Weeklies" is being implemented in grades kindergarten through grade 7. The program, published by Pflaum, teaches the tenets of our Catholic faith through an age level appropriate treatment of each week's gospel. Designed with an eye to a weekly faith formation program, the lessons are presented in a "magazine" format with a supplemental booklet. Lessons are easy to follow and are developed to coordinate with the gospel each week, following the liturgical year. As our Religious Education students leave their classes, and head to Mass they will already have an understanding of the gospel they will hear proclaimed. Further, the program is easily adaptable for use in a homeschooling situation, or to make up missed classes online. In addition to the change in the formation program, there have been changes to drop-off and pick up. In

*Pastoral Associate for
Faith Formation
Mrs. Lynda Fiorenza*

*732-747-6006
lfiorenza@sjredbank.org*

prior years, students went directly to their classrooms when they arrived for Religious Education. Beginning this year, all students gather with their respective classes in the Saint James cafeteria and join in morning prayer, lead by one of our priests or deacons. Parents are encouraged to join us as we pray, and students are then dismissed to their classes. At the end of class, parents are required to come into the cafeteria to sign their children out, thereby limiting the chance of any mishaps in a busy parking lot. Finally, each class will have at least one opportunity to attend the 9:00 am Sunday Mass with their class. Class Masses have been scheduled throughout the year to be attended in lieu of their religious education class for the speci-

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Spotlight: Hospitality Ministry

We believe that the church Jesus founded is a happy church, a community of love, brotherhood and friendship. Let the people of St James not be strangers to one another. Let there be fellowship as we worship together.

How? The members of the hospitality ministry reach out and greet parishioners as they enter the church introducing themselves and asking others their name, welcoming them to St. James Church. Ideally, the church doors should have a greeter at each door, especially the handicap door. They also seek to assist parishioners at the conclusion of Mass. The members are identifiable by wearing their St James Hospitality Badge.

Other responsibilities of the St James Hospitality Committee: is to host First Saturdays Breakfast and Rosary. Another responsibility is to be available for Coffee/Donut/Bagel Sundays. Our responsibility is to prepare the tables

(tablecloths and centerpieces), plate the donuts and bagels, check on the coffee supply and have fellowship with those who attend, and clean up. Finally they may be called upon for other parish needs. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Snow who coordinate our Hospitality Committee at 908-309-1711.



Members of the Hospitality Committee at celebration for Deacon Tom's ordination.

Red Bank Catholic High School

Red Bank Catholic: Where Dreams Soar and Futures are Forged

In the heart of our community stands a venerable institution that has weathered the storms of history and emerged stronger and more vibrant than ever: Red Bank Catholic (RBC). For well over a century, RBC has been a bastion of academic excellence, unwavering faith, and community engagement. Today, as we stand on the precipice of a new era, it is worth celebrating the enduring legacy and the promising future of this esteemed institution.

A Legacy of Excellence: Founded in the late 1800s, Red Bank Catholic has stood as a beacon of learning and faith through some of humanity's most challenging times, including World Wars and pandemics. Its resilience and dedication to providing a high-quality education have become hallmarks of the institution, inspiring generations of students to reach for the stars.

Academic Prowess and Holistic Development: What sets RBC apart is not just its academic rigor but its commitment to the holistic development of its students. With a brand new, state

of the art STEM Room and a wide array of programs, including Dual enrollment classes, Advanced Placement courses, specialized pathways and Capstone opportunities, RBC ensures that every student is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate an ever-changing world.

Community Engagement and Social Responsibility: Beyond the classroom, RBC students are instilled with a strong sense of social responsibility. Through various outreach programs, charity initiatives, and community service projects, they actively contribute to making the world a better place. Whether it's supporting local food pantries, raising funds for charitable foundations, visiting hospitals and nursing homes, or organizing toy drives, RBC students learn the value of giving back and compassion for others.

Setting New Records: In the pursuit of academic excellence, RBC has shattered records. This past year alone, students have been accepted into hundreds of colleges and universities, a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the exceptional education they have received.

What's more, these talented graduates have been offered an astounding \$31,441,717 in scholarships, recognizing not just their academic achievements but their potential to make a difference in the world.

Looking to the Future: In 2022, the establishment of the RB Catholic High School Foundation marked a

*Mr. Robert Abatemarco
President*

*Mrs. Karen Falco
Principal*

*Mr. Michael Ientile
Vice-Principal*

732-747-1774

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new chapter in RBC's journey. With a vision to ensure the school's future for the next hundred years, the foundation is a testament to RBC's commitment to evolving with the times while preserving its core values.

Joining Hands for a Bright Tomorrow: As we witness 707 students thriving within its halls and applications for the next freshman class continuing to increase daily, it's evident that RBC continues to be a school of choice for families seeking not just education, but a nurturing environment where young minds, hearts, and souls flourish.

Red Bank Catholic welcomed Dr. Vanessa Pereira as our new Principal. She comes with enthusiasm and an extensive professional resume as teacher and administrator. New faces in the Advancement Office continue the work of securing RBC's future as we engage and partner with graduates and parents. Cheryl Podmajersky and Julie Shapiro were welcomed this year. Kathleen Daly, Director of Advancement is enjoying a new baby girl on maternity leave.

RBC is committed to financial responsibility seeking to provide an excellent Catholic secondary education mindful of family financial obligations. The annual budget for FY 23-24 was \$13.3

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St. James Elementary School

Educating Hearts and Minds for Life

*Mrs. JoAnn Giordano
Principal*

*Mrs. Catherine Golden
Vice-Principal*

*732-741-3363
www.mysaintjames.com*

A Heartfelt Thank You

Saint James is more than just a school; it is a family. Our collective efforts help ensure that Saint James continues to be a place where students thrive. Family involvement, whether through volunteering, attending school events, or simply staying engaged makes a difference. Due to your support, we have continued to make improvements to our curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and building.

This year we:



- Enhanced the Spanish program with a new curriculum in 4th and 5th grade
- Painted preschool classrooms, installed new lighting and flooring
- Purchased seventeen smart boards and fifty Chromebooks
- Painted all school bathrooms

Education in Faith and Service

Saint James considers community service to be an essential part of a child's education. We believe that learning and service are connected to the intellectual and moral development.

Through service, our students become more connected with the world around them and gain a sense of empathy for others.

Students raise awareness by organizing events to benefit those in our community.

Last year, our students raised over \$6,000 dollars and collected toys, socks, food, and other requested items.

Numerous organizations benefited from our students prayers and generosity:



Tunnel to Towers
No Limits Cafe

Holiday Express
Our Missions

Lunch Break
Mary's Place

Blessing Bag Brigade
Unterberg Children's Hospital

Your Invited!

Our school has planned many opportunities for SJS families and the parish community to come together.

Keep an eye out in the church bulletin for upcoming events.

Nov. 4th thru Dec. 7th - Jingle Bell Jackpot

Dec. 7th - Christmas Tree lighting

Feb. 2nd - Polar Plunge

Feb. 28th - Mark the Melody

March 28th and 29th - Into The Woods A Musical Production
TBA - 5K Run



New Extracurricular Activities

Saint James is pleased to announce the following **new** activities:

Saint James Parish Football Team
Girls Volleyball
Science Explorers
Crochet
Heroes of the Bible
Silly Science



Ministry Spotlight: Lazarus Ministry

The mission of our Lazarus Ministry is to walk with families as they commend their beloved deceased to the Lord. This ministry seeks to offer its support by assisting families at the time of the passing of a loved one with the details of planning a funeral liturgy and planning a yearly remembrance celebrated on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. It is a goal of this ministry to organize a bereavement support groups for those who have experience the passing of a love one. As the Rite of Christian Burial explains: The faith of the Christian community in the resurrection of the dead brings support and strength to those who suffer the loss of those whom they love. Members of the community should console the mourners with words

of faith and support and with acts of kindness.



Our Religious Education Program

(Continued from page 4)

fied date.

Saint James is a community of believers which includes families in both our Religious Education program as well as families whose children are enrolled in Saint James Elementary School. Part of the goal of faith formation is to encourage and strengthen our faith community. Last year, as part of the Confirmation program, candidates were provided with several opportunities to get to know one another prior to the day they celebrated their sacrament. This year we are continuing and adding to the formation process. Confirmation Candidates have been randomly assigned to "Confirmation Teams", (Philippians, Romans, Jeremiah, etc.) who compete earning points for things like turning in assignments on time, participating in Confirmation activities, and doing extra service hours. A number of activities are planned, including a movie night, and an evening of Monster Mini Golf.

Preparation culminates with the Confirmation Retreat, an engaging thoughtful day of prayer. Our First Reconciliation and First Communion programs are designed to encourage families to joyfully participate as they bring their children to these most beautiful sacraments. Events include parent formation presentations to help parents truly understand the mercy and truth of reconciliation and the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. The children will make First Communion Banners, work on "Acts of Random Kindness" and participate in the First Communion Children's Retreat in April. Finally, this year we have added a Parish Family Reconciliation Service in March. Since First Reconciliation is in November and Confirmation and First Communion are in May, families from both Religious Education and Saint James Elementary School with children in grades two and eight are strongly encouraged to participate. Moving forward, we are working on

developing an Evangelization Team. The goal is to help invigorate the parish through catechetical events, liturgical opportunities and outreach. This could include a speaker series, parish-wide "teen" evening of Adoration, parish food drive, and many other ideas. Activities such as these would not only encourage new parishioners and lukewarm Catholics to join us but would help in the development of a summer Religious Education Program by planning family catechetical events. The summer program envisioned would be a "hybrid", offering a summer "parish camp" as an enhancement to the full time Religious Education program, with an option to commit to other parish events if a family chooses the summer program in lieu of the full-time program. Beginning with grades 3 through 6 the plan is still in its infancy, but with prayers and patience, it will come to fruition. As always, with our eyes turned to God, we are working to spread the seeds of our faith to young and old.

Red Bank Catholic High School

(Continued from page 5)

million and was balanced. The high school does not receive a direct subsidy from the parish.

Red Bank Catholic is not merely a school; it's a community, a family, and a legacy. It's where traditions meet innovation, where faith meets knowledge, and where dreams take

flight. As we move forward, let us celebrate the remarkable journey of Red Bank Catholic and look forward to the promising future it continues to build for generations to come.

