



# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

“Joyful Word”



Oh, Star of the Sea show us that you are our Mother  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Pray for us.

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# CLERGY & STAFF

## Pastor

Rev. Robert Aliunzi

## Parochial Vicar

Rev. Gabriel Terrill

## Deacons

Deacon David Knebelsberger  
Deacon Ramon "Chito" Zamora

## Executive Assistant

Kelly Martin

## Finance/HR

Rita Villegas

## Parish Business Manager

Jenn Blackstad

## Development Director

Ashley Hall

## Front Office

Sandy Balistreri  
Sandy Consiglio

## Infant Baptism

Peter Parian

## Liturgy

Joseph Malzone

## Maintenance

Jim Blasko  
Daniel Aguilar

## Music/Communications

Dan Ballinger

## Adult Faith Formation

Kathy Egle

## Children's Religious Education

Jennifer Green

## School Tuition & Scholarship

Shauna Alaska

## Annulments

Karen Shepard

## Youth Coordinator

Miguel Nunez

## School Principal

Dr. Kelly Shewbridge

## School Office Manager

Enedina White

## Preschool Director

Monica Ferrance

- Click here for [full list of contact information](#)



*A Year's Overview by Father Robert Aluinzi*

## STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS

Dear Parishioners,

It is a little over a year since I became your pastor and since then, despite the obvious challenges of transition, I have had a great and very exciting time with you. During this period, three things have consistently stood out for me as your shepherd, and that is:

One, I love you.

Two, I love you.

And Three, I love you so, so much.

I feel so blessed to be your pastor at this point of my priesthood. During the past 33 years of my life as a priest, I was fortunate to have had experiences of serving both in school administration, as a high school principal and in parish pastoral life as pastor of two other parishes in our diocese before being assigned here. In my current assignment among you, I hope to be able to combine these experiences to serve both our parish and school communities as best as I can. I am particularly grateful to God for the gift of our children in our school and parish. I love our children; I love our great school.

So, with these experiences, I come among you, not with the mindset of “achieving” or making an “impression,” but to love you and to serve you with kindness, dedication and joy. I intend to continue doing this through building relationships among yourselves and above all, with God. My ultimate goal in doing this is to lead you all to heaven. We will do this through our focus on the Eucharist and devotion to our Mother Mary after whom our parish is named. Therefore, adoration will be a significant feature of our parish especially as we are soon completing the construction of our perpetual adoration chapel. This is why I am so passionate about this construction project of the chapel. We will also give great prominence to the feasts of our Blessed Mother and especially to our parish feast day, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, which usually falls on July 16th every year.

Lastly, I will also be emphasizing making stewardship a way of life here in our parish. I will be repeatedly inviting you to consider all the things that you have: your time, talent and treasure (money) as a gift from God. I will ask you to share these generously with your parish.

Reflecting on this past year, there is no doubt in my mind that God has been at work in our parish in amazing ways through the different sacraments, ministries, projects and events that we celebrated. In our parish, we are blessed to have 26 active ministries. Some of these are already expounded in detail in this document by the ministry and department heads. Other ministries are still less known, but we will work on that.

### **LIFE TEEN/EDGE:**

Our Life Teen program was run by our very dynamic and multi-talented coordinator Miguel Nunez and his very dedicated core-team members. We currently have 30 high school and 40 middle school teens attending faith formation activities weekly. During this past year, Miguel and our core team also planned a series of retreats and conferences for them. Details of these are in his report.

### **ADULT FAITH AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION:**

In order to keep our adult community continually engaged in their faith and spiritual growth, and in keeping with the spirit of our parish, we have been able to host a series of talks on the Eucharist and on Mother Mary throughout the year and during the Lenten and Advent Seasons. Kathy Egle oversees this department. More talks and activities are planned for the months to come especially on the Eucharist. See the article written by Kathy for details.

### **MUSIC:**

Our choir members under the directorship of Dan Ballinger, assisted by Nick, Nicki, Jordan, and fourteen other musicians, continue to provide us with excellent music. They all did a fantastic job this past year. Currently there are 25 in the adult choir, 46 in the children's school choir and 19 musicians.

# STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS

## **LITURGY:**

Liturgy is the bedrock of our faith and worship. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist remains the source and summit of our faith. That is why we have tried our best to provide the best possible liturgical experience for you through lively music and inspiring homilies. We are blessed to have very dedicated liturgical ministers and volunteers. To ensure a well-organized liturgy, we recently hired a Liturgy Coordinator, Joseph Malzone. Joseph not only has vast experience but also knowledge of liturgy. We have 205 liturgical ministers and volunteers serving with him who keep our liturgy lively and inspiring. We have recently updated the sound equipment to provide us with a clear sound experience.

## **STAFF, COUNCILS & MINISTRIES:**

Our parish is perhaps one of the most active ones in the Diocese of Phoenix served by highly talented staff, councils and ministries. Please refer to the Clergy & Staff page (pg.2) for a list of staff who help me serve you. Their contact information is listed on our parish website if you need to contact them. I am advised by the Pastoral, Finance and School Advisory Board Councils. Please refer to the Council page (pg. 20) of the report for a complete list of council members. Additionally, we have over 20 active ministries in total that serve our community. You may read descriptions of each ministry on the Ministry page (pg. 11-12) and I will offer details on each one of these separately in future articles.

## **SCHOOL:**

We are so blessed to have a very vibrant Catholic School led by equally a very competent principal, Dr. Kelly Shewbridge and Tony Groseta her assistant principal. Our school, one of the largest elementary schools in the Diocese of Phoenix boasts a student population of 530 in preschool through 8th grade. Our students are respectful and faithful led by dedicated teachers and staff. Being the largest ministry of our parish, we take great care to ensure that our students get the best education. Refer to the School's Annual Report and school website for more information.

## **PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL:**

Please see the Adoration Chapel page (pg. 5) for an update.

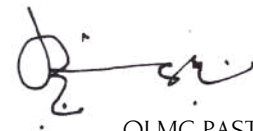
## **PARISH CENSUS AND SURVEY:**

Please see the Census and Survey pages (pg. 17 -18) for a full summary of the census & survey.

As we move forward into this new year, we look forward, with greater optimism, to getting better in all that we do with the sole purpose of getting us all into heaven. Our perpetual adoration chapel which is about to be completed will be a prominent treasure for our parish to aid us on this journey.

As pointed out earlier, we are also going to emphasize stewardship as a way of life here in our parish. Led by our staff and supported by our Pastoral and Finance Councils, Ministry Leaders and volunteers, we will be planning and implementing a series of activities so as to strengthen the sense of community and brotherhood for which our parish has been known. We will strive to maintain a warm and welcoming atmosphere among ourselves and with our visitors here in our parish. Remember, as our stewardship prayer emphasizes, our parish will be only as good as we are. So, join me on this journey by playing your part as a good steward so that we can make our parish what we want it to be.

I love you!



OLMC PASTOR



*A Year's Overview by Deacon Chito Zamora*

## DIVINE MERCY ADORATION CHAPEL UPDATE



A very significant event that took place towards the end of last fiscal year was the groundbreaking for our long-awaited adoration chapel. This event, graced by Bishop Dolan, took place on June 2nd 2024. Since then, construction has commenced, and it is expected to be completed by February/March 2025 timeframe. Let us continue to pray for its unhindered progress. Refer to the article on the Adoration Chapel by Deacon Chito for details. Alongside the adoration chapel project, we are also going to repaint the entire church so as to give our sanctuary a newer look.

-Father Robert Aliunzi

Appropriately named the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel, as it will most certainly be filled with God's loving mercy, we look forward to when our chapel doors will finally open. Jesus does not need us to adore him; rather, his loving invitation for us to spend time with him is simply his gift to us. God has made us for himself, and our heart is restless until it rests in him (Saint Augustine of Hippo).

As part of our transition toward Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, you may soon be receiving an invitation, either by phone, email, or in person, to commit to a weekly appointment with Jesus. We already have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day on Wednesdays and overnight during First Fridays, but will soon be adding more daytime adoration hours, beginning with first Fridays and Saturdays. We also have designated holy hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, following the 6:30am Masses. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Bea Zamora at (650)291-9163 for information and to get signed up.

In the meantime, please pray that God will continue to open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to recognize even more clearly, how much we really need to remain close to Jesus, who truly desires that we come and spend time with him. In his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist, is fullness of joy, far beyond our understanding. Aside from the Holy Mass, there is really no other place where we can receive so much grace and so many blessings. Just come and see. Jesus awaits us in this Sacrament of Love. Let's not allow ourselves to miss out, and let's not keep Jesus waiting.

-Deacon Chito

[Click here to read Deacon Chito's full article titled "Partners In Grace".](#)



*A Year's Overview*

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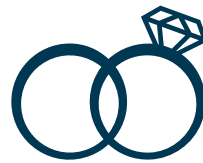
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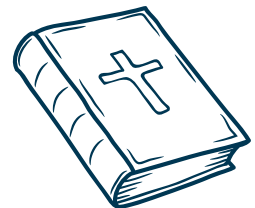
LIFE TEEN & EDGE

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OCIA

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*A Year's Overview by Kathy Egle, OCIA Coordinator & Jennifer Green, RE Coordinator*

## FAITH FORMATION

In the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), we journey with adults seeking baptism, Christians seeking to enter the Catholic Church and Catholic adults ready to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. We accompany these men and women as they seek to come closer to our Lord through the sacraments. We invite them to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus, experience the beauty and richness of the faith, and learn what it means to be a disciple within the Church. This year, we walked with 25 men and women as they deepened their journey with the Lord.

-Kathy Egle



If you or an adult you know is interested in entering the Church or completing the Sacraments of Initiation, we would love to connect with you! Please reach out today at [ocia@olmctempe.com](mailto:ocia@olmctempe.com).



If a child you know is interested in entering the Church or completing the Sacraments of Initiation, we would love to connect with you! Please reach out today at [re@olmctempe.com](mailto:re@olmctempe.com).

As we begin our faith-filled journey, coming to know God and His Church, we begin to wonder about all the things in this world and how we are connected to them, both individually and as a community. As children begin to form ideas about what they are learning about the world from parents, teachers and friends, they begin to ask questions about who God is and His creations. Our Religious Education provides knowledge, wisdom and opportunities to understand God's Word, and how He has developed a loving relationship with mankind. Through the catechetical teachings, children are able to build their own relationship with God by the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the Sacraments of His Holy Church.

Blessings and Peace,

Jennifer Green



*A Year's Overview by Miguel Nunez, Coordinator of Youth Ministry*

## LIFE TEEN & EDGE



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Youth Ministry engages over 200+ middle school and high school teens each year.

Life Teen International recently shared a 2024 report - The State of Catholic Youth in America. "Today's teens navigate a barrage of pressures that were intensified by the pandemic—social media's dominance in their lives, depression, gender dysphoria, and political division. These pressures lead to disillusionment and a profound lack of genuine connection. This complex landscape offers a pivotal opportunity for Catholic ministry." Our team has seen that these pressures are real in our parish. We strive to offer life-changing experiences with Jesus in hopes of being holy men and women. "Young people today are more open to spiritual exploration and spiritual experiences than previous generations. This presents an opportunity to shepherd this desire for faith into a deeper understanding of Christ and His Church." (State of Catholic Youth in America)

Life Teen International has highlighted five critical areas impacting Catholic teen discipleship: working through anxiety, finding belonging and seeking community, purposeful connection, the need for family and navigating loneliness.

Young people, do not be afraid to be holy!  
- Holy Father Pope John Paul II For The VI World Youth Day

Our core team walks with our teens in their faith, ensuring all teens know they can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and respond to the call to live a life of intentional discipleship. We do this by offering weekly nights of Catechesis, three high school retreats, five middle school retreats, three core formation retreats, guest speakers like priests, seminarians, religious sisters, and organizations like Aid to Women Center.

"The importance of engaging young people in our faith cannot be overstated. Previous generations returned to their faith in adulthood, this does not hold true with today's generation of youth. Instead, the youth need to be actively engaged during their pivotal teen years. Our outreach must be urgent, thoughtful and pastoral. We must meet them where they seek connection and belonging. As ministers, it is our responsibility to help them encounter Christ and nurture their faith through discipleship. We are the "first responders" in faith, guiding, supporting, and inspiring them on their journey within the Catholic community." (The State of Catholic Youth in America, 1)



Having the opportunity to walk alongside the faith and life of a middle school and high school student on a weekly basis is an incredible journey to witness.

—Miguel Nuñez , Coordinator of Youth Ministry

*A Year's Overview by Jennifer Blackstad, Parish Business & Finance Coordinator*

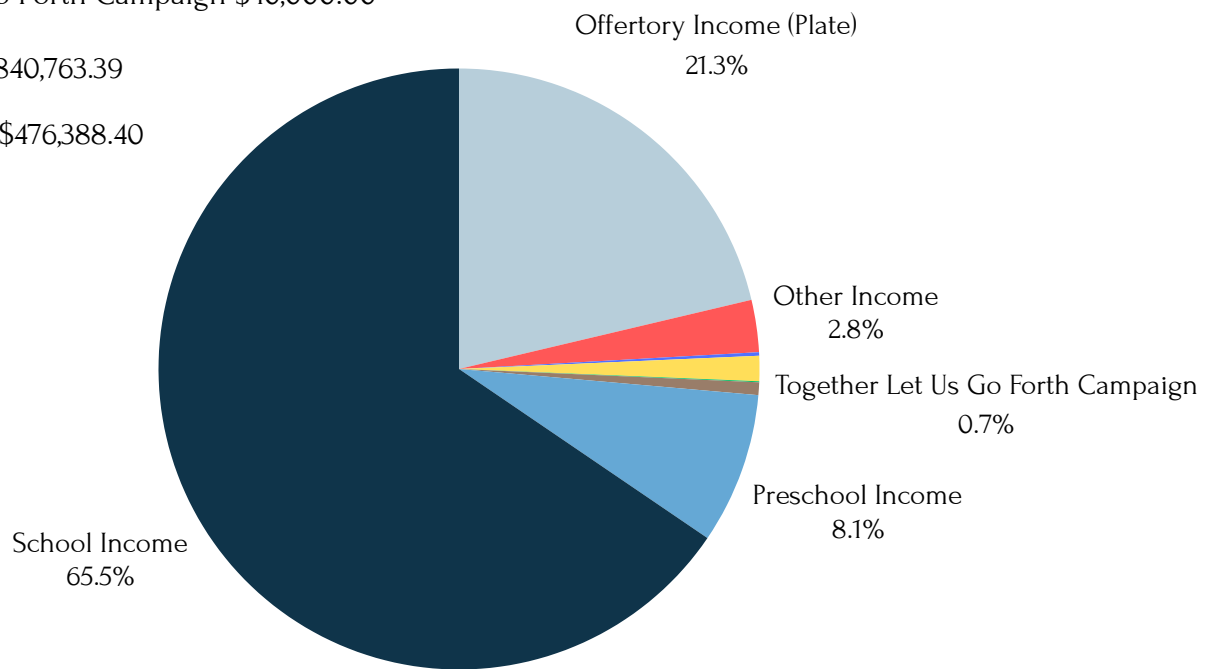
# FINANCIAL UPDATE PARISH INCOME



Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Total Income \$5,864,721.11

- Offertory Income (Plate) \$1,249,389.55
- Other Income \$164,465.23
- Religious Education Income (RE) \$11,115.05
- Youth Ministry Income (Life Teen and EDGE) \$79,554.49
- OCIA Income \$3,045.00
- Together Let Us Go Forth Campaign \$40,000.00
- School Income \$3,840,763.39
- Preschool Income \$476,388.40



## Social Outreach, Gifts made by OLMC:

The Catholic Church has been called to be outwardly focused since Jesus sent out his disciples. Did you know OLMC passes along a portion of the blessing it receives? Our parish not only encourages you to tithe, but it also practices what it preaches.

- St. Vincent de Paul- \$26,036.89
- Gospel of Life/Respect Life: \$3,039.00
- Religious Retirement: \$500.00
- Holy Land: \$101.00
- Black and Indian Missions: \$1,786.35
- School Lenten Project, E3 Africa: \$10,242.15
- African Churches: \$1,576.60

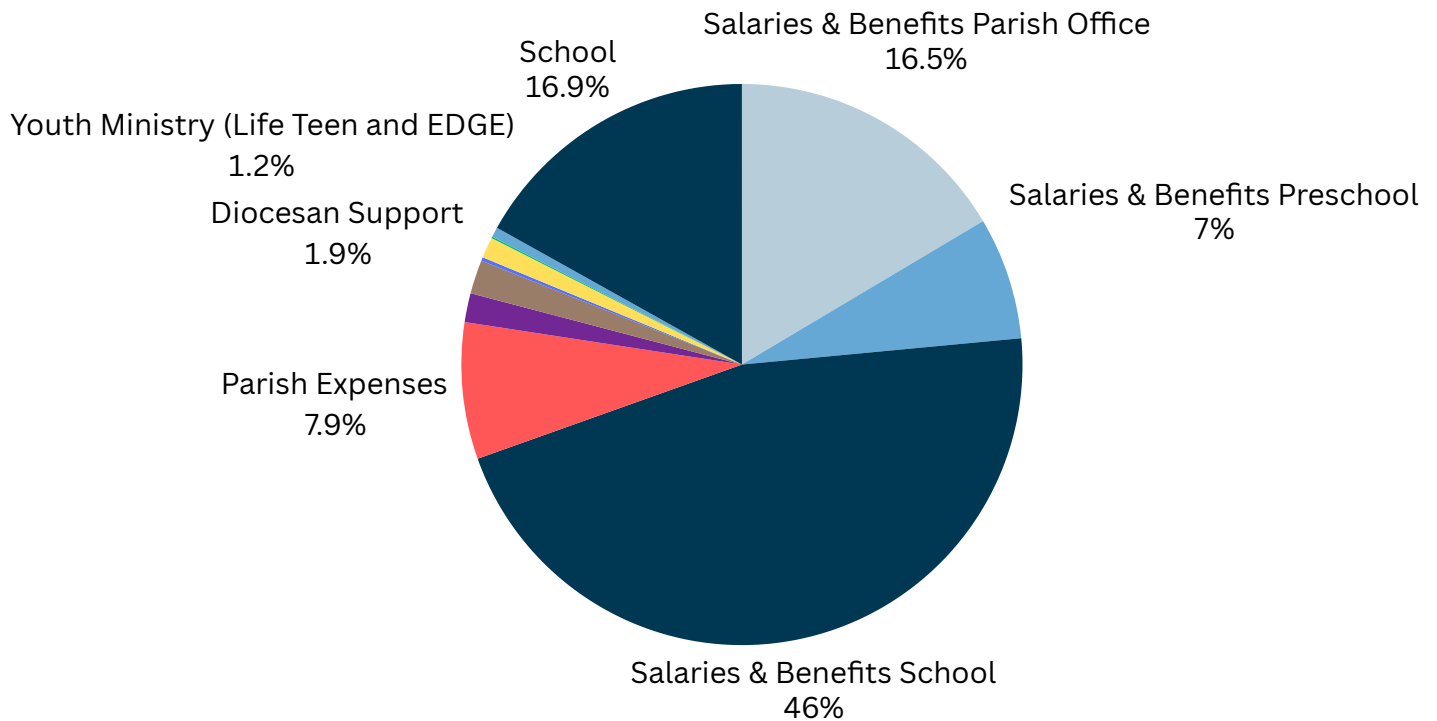
*A Year's Overview by Jennifer Blackstad, Parish Business & Finance Coordinator*

# FINANCIAL UPDATE PARISH EXPENSES

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

Total Expenditures \$5,353,117.62

- Salaries & Benefits Parish Office \$881,052.51
  - Salaries & Benefits Preschool \$377,150.07
  - Salaries & Benefits School \$2,464,926.28
  - Parish Expenses \$421,372.83
  - Depreciation \$89,250.50
  - Diocesan Support \$104,307.48
- Religious Education (RE) \$10,970.20
  - Youth Ministry (Life Teen and EDGE) \$64,436.81
  - OCIA \$4,727.51
  - Preschool \$30,560.62
  - School \$904,362.81



### **Bishop's Annual Charity and Development Appeal 2024**

CDA Parish Goal was \$161,000

235 OLMC Parishioners donated a total of \$200,556 exceeding our goal.

### **Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel**

Restricted Adoration Chapel \$64, 257.09 collected during the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

In total, 223 people have pledged to the chapel, for a total amount of \$906,253.81 of which \$887,222.21 has already been collected. There is a remaining balance of \$19,031.60 in outstanding unpaid pledges as of September 1, 2024.

*A Year's Overview***PARISH MINISTRIES**

OLMC parish is a vibrant and active community with ministries available to all ages and stages of life. To contact a ministry coordinator visit: [www.olmctempe.com/ministries](http://www.olmctempe.com/ministries)

**Our Lady's Men of Christ**- Provides opportunities for Christian fellowship with Catholic men while focusing on education, prayer and evangelization.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel lay Dominican Saint Pope Pius V Chapter**- Bringing souls to Jesus through the teachings of Dominican Saints and others. Being pro-life from conception to natural death while at all times being authentically Catholic.

**Ministry of Ushers and Hospitality**- The ushers are servants for the Mass - we provide ease, comfort and security to the Parish. We greet the parishioners, help with seating or communion needs, secure the offering and provide oversight for the Mass in case anything is needed

**Prayer Teams**- The first Sunday of every month, prayer teams are available after the 9am and 11am Masses to pray over people for their needs.

**Iron Maidens**- Every Sunday, an assigned volunteer picks up the purificators and the hand towels in the Sacristy. We wash, dry and iron the purificators and return them by Wednesday.

**Ministers of Care**- Ministers of Care visit the hospitalized and the homebound in the name of Christ and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. We serve the Catholic patients at Tempe St. Luke's Hospital and the homebound of our parish that request the Eucharist be brought to them.

**Ministry of Annulments**- Individuals in Catholic parishes who are divorced have the right to submit a petition for an annulment. The Diocese of Phoenix Tribunal initiates petitions at the parish level, with and through the assistance of trained Nullity Ministers.

**Adoration Ministry**- As Catholics we believe Jesus is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the sacred Host, so spending time before Him is a wonderful aspect of our Eucharistic life. Adorers can spend time before the Lord in silent prayer, meditation, reading prayer books, reading the Bible, praying the rosary, or just sitting and enjoying the peace that comes from being in the Presence of God.

**Women's Studies Ministry**- The OLMC Women's Studies Ministry is dedicated to helping women grow in their relationship with God through fellowship, scripture teachings and group discussions.

**St. Therese Group**- St. Therese Group aims to work closely with parish leaders, school administration and teachers to identify opportunities to strengthen and promote our Catholic Identity throughout Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and Parish.

**Women's Sodality**- We foster a devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. We care for the needs of the parish through our personal service, prayer groups and raising funds for various projects. We meet once a month.

**Divine Mercy Group**- To encourage awareness and understanding of the Divine Mercy Message. To coordinate the celebration of The Feast of Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday.

**The Feast of Pentecost Ministry**- To prepare for Pentecost with the Holy Spirit Novena and coordinate the celebration for Pentecost Sunday.

**Advent Tea**- To prepare ladies for the coming of Jesus and honor our Blessed Mother.

*A Year's Overview***PARISH MINISTRIES**

**St. Vincent de Paul**- We are committed to serving people in our community who find themselves in a difficult situation. Visiting them in their homes, we assess their individual needs and provide emergency food boxes, help pay rent and utility bills, offer clothes and furniture vouchers, and refer them to other organizations.

**Knights of Columbus**- The Knights of Columbus are “practical Catholic” men over the age of 18 interested in serving Christ, the church and the community about two-four hours a month. The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to providing charitable services, promoting Catholic education and actively defending Catholicism in various nations.

**Rosary Makers**- The Carmelitas of Our Lady of Mount Carmel gather once a month in prayer and community to produce rosaries for distribution during outreach, hospital visits, homebound visits and special events at Mount Carmel.

**Shaw Ministry**- Care and the love of knitting (and crocheting) have been combined into this prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted/crocheted into every item.

**Bereavement** -This ministry provides comfort to parishioners who have lost a loved one. The opportunity to share, read, and reflect, in a small group setting, helps those in attendance find encouragement for changes in their lives while working through their grief journey.

**Mom’s Rosary Group**- If you would like to join a group of OLMC mothers in rosary, we would love to pray with you! We usually meet on a school-day morning. Any parent who would like to join is welcome and you are welcome to bring children.

**Living Rosary Group**- The Living Rosary Group honors Our Blessed Mother by praying the rosary, and we serve the church by praying for fallen away Catholics, parish convert work, spiritual and temporal welfare of priests, sisters, seminarians, deacons and brothers.

**Unitas**- Unitas is designed to aid engaged couples in gaining additional insights into their relationship and involve them in the parish community. This fulfills Diocesan marriage preparation requirements.

**Lectors**- Lectors at Our Lady of Mount Carmel are well-spoken men and women comfortable speaking to large audiences and interested in proclaiming the word of God during Mass.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are individuals with a deep love for the Eucharist, willing to serve the body and blood of Christ during Mass.

**Celebrate Recovery**- Celebrate Recovery is a Christ Centered 12-step group where it is understood your higher power is Jesus Christ. Anyone struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups is invited to join.

**Respect Life Ministry**- This ministry assists by helping to make the parish a center of life, a place where parishioners understand the issues and the importance of meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable - especially mothers and their unborn children and those who are seriously ill or dying and their families.



*A Year's Overview by Julian Natividad, St. Vincent de Paul*

## PARISH MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 by a student named Antoine Frederic Ozanam in response to taunts from fellow students: What is Christianity doing to help the poor and suffering? The group recruited as their model and patron the great French saint and champion of the poor, St. Vincent de Paul. The first U.S. conference was in 1845, the Society was established in Arizona in 1946, and OLMC SVDP Conference was established in 1953.

The vocation of the Society's members who are called Vincentians serve in hope. No work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. SVDP gives priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. Our parishioners, benefactors, and our OLMC Falcons all help to make sure we live up to our mission statement: FEED, CLOTHE, HOUSE, HEAL.

Join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in our mission to serve the poor and provide others with the opportunity to serve! We're calling out to compassionate souls who are willing to lend a helping hand.

Here's how you can get involved:

- Assist us in taking client requests for essential needs such as food, rent and utilities over the phone.
- Our lines are open Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.
- Fluency in Spanish is a plus, as many of our clients communicate primarily in Spanish.

Yours in Christ,

Julian Natividad  
President SVDP-OLMC



Other volunteer opportunities include:

- Answering the telephone for 2 hours once a week at the pantry
- Delivering food boxes to those in need for 1-2 hours once a week
- Visiting families in their homes to deliver food and assess eligibility for financial assistance
- Helping in the pantry with the preparation of food boxes

If you or a family member have a strong desire to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others and connect with "A community joined by faithful action and pursuit of the common good," we want to hear from you!

Your time and effort can truly change lives. Let's come together to spread hope and support those in need. Reach out to us today to learn more about volunteering with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Together, we can make a difference!

Please send an email to Elizabeth Clements, [secretary@svdp-olmc.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:secretary@svdp-olmc.phxcoxmail.com) or call (480) 966-1974 to volunteer.



*A Year's Overview by Julian Natividad, St. Vincent de Paul*

## PARISH MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The mission of the society of St. Vincent de Paul is to join together in a bond of friendship and to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.



We provide numerous services to help our neighbors in need. With the assistance of our parish members, volunteers, OLMC School, our Pastor, United Food Bank and many other benefactors. In this **fiscal year we have provided:**

- Food Boxes: 1806 food boxes delivered to hungry families.
- Rental Assistance: 107 families helped, an average of \$421 per family.
- Utility Assistance: 67 families helped, an average of \$180 per family.
- Furniture Vouchers: 28 families helped, an average of \$278 per family.
- Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes: 213 dinner boxes with turkey delivered to families.
- Adopt a Family Christmas: 41 families adopted, 88 adults & 126 children.
- Lenten Soup & Bread: Provided homemade soup and bread for the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for faith and fellowship, and fun.

St. Vincent de Paul members serve the needy, listen to their challenges, offer humble advice, assist where possible, pray with them and offer hope and love.



*A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal*

## STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

The theme of this school year is “Love one another as I have loved you.” We are all made in the image and likeness of God. He is visible in the beautiful diversity in our students. They have different strengths and experiences and challenges. Some of these challenges may sometimes make it difficult for some to learn. Or to feel Christ’s love. Or to love others. “Love one another” seems simple, but it asks us to love everyone. Always.

Christ gives this New Commandment in the Gospel of John. In the Great Commissioning in the Gospel of Matthew, Christ asks us to teach his commandment to everyone. In all 3 Synoptic Gospels he commands us to let the children come to Him.

At OLMC, this is our mission. It is different from the mission of public or charter schools that aim to educate and create good citizens. We must reach out to “all the world” and bring the children to Him so they can know His love and love others. While we cannot reach everyone, we have worked really hard to be able to serve more students than traditional Catholic schools by accepting students from many different walks of life.

When students come to OLMC they are safe, they receive kind words, smiles, hugs, or high fives from our faculty and staff. They are also challenged academically. They receive small group, differentiated instruction and hands-on learning. They are enriched spiritually and grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They are loved and accepted and see God’s love all around them. They learn to love one another through the examples set before them. This is what makes us so special.

It is a beautiful gift to get to work at OLMC, with such an amazing staff on such an important mission. I am incredibly proud of how our school has grown in this mission. In the past decade, the school has grown steadily each year—challenging and loving and bringing more students to Christ than ever before. With this growth comes the challenge of maintaining our high standards of excellence. This report highlights the school’s updates to continue pushing our students on their academic and faith journeys.

[You may view the school’s full Annual Report here.](#)

*Dr. Kelly Shewbridge*

-Dr. Kelly Shewbridge  
OLMC Principal





*A Year's Overview by Monica Ferrance, Little Lambs Preschool Director*

## LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL

Kindergarten is a big step in a young child's life. Our preschool breaks it all down into smaller steps to help make the transition easier. Our daily curriculum covers faith formation, social and emotional skills, and academic foundation.

Our preschool is a Christ-centered, play-based, learning environment. We learn about the Holy Family, saints, feast days and prayers. On our Blessed Mother's feast days, the children and staff process around the elementary school campus with music and ribbons or flowers to honor her. In addition, the children participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and we incorporate the Baltimore Catechism weekly.

We believe that in a caring and positive atmosphere a child will develop at his/her own pace and to his /her fullest potential. Part of our curriculum engages students in large or small group activities that facilitate respect, sharing, listening, cooperation and problem solving. Also, our preschoolers are paired with OLMC fourth graders as "buddies" and attend Mass with them on occasion. As our preschoolers enter kindergarten, they have friends in the upper classes as well as in their own grade.

Our curriculum covers ages 3s, young 4s, and pre-k. We provide age appropriate activities to develop kindergarten readiness. Activities include listening, language development, problem solving, group interaction, letter and sound recognition, counting and number recognition along with small and large motor activities, dramatic play, creative art, literature and music. In conclusion, our preschool is unique due to our faith formation, social and emotional positive environment and kindergarten readiness academic foundation. We are a ministry to families of young children and are dedicated to providing a quality Catholic preschool program to meet the needs of our community.

God love you,

Monica Ferrance  
OLMC Preschool Director



Please visit our website: [olmlittlelambs.org](http://olmlittlelambs.org)  
or email [monica@olmctempe.com](mailto:monica@olmctempe.com) for more information.



*A Year's Overview by Ashley Hall, OLMC Director of Development & Stewardship*

# PARISH CENSUS & SURVEY

To determine the size and needs of our parish, we conducted a census and survey which came up with very good pointers about our parish's needs. I was elated to note that many of the things desired by the community are either already being implemented or need to be improved upon and communicated better. However, what stood out very prominently and which I am going to be considering are needs for:

1. Young adult ministry.
2. More faith formation opportunities through speaker series.
3. Strengthening women ministries.

In collaboration with my Parish Leadership Team and the Pastoral Council we shall be working on developing a strategic plan for meeting these needs.

-Father Robert Aliuinzi

## Parish Census Results:

Our Parish is made up of:

- 2,076 Families (6,361 Individuals)

## Parish Survey Results:

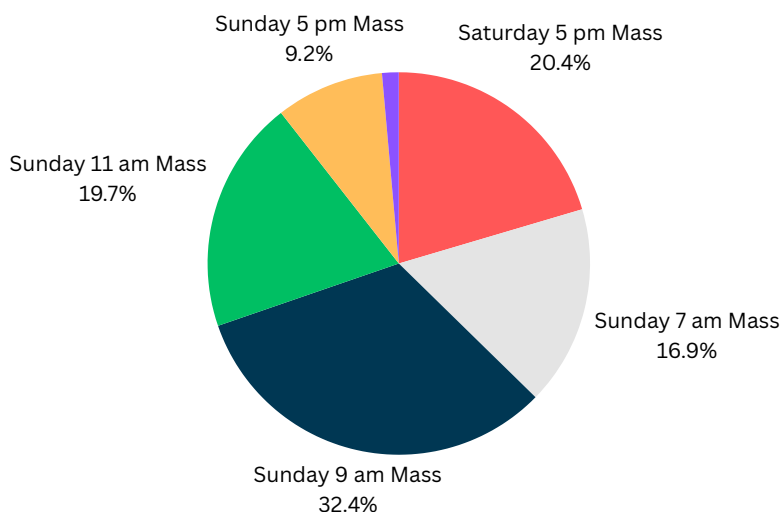
**146 people** filled out the Parish Survey

- 115 were Parishioners
- 31 were Parishioners & School Families
- 75% of our Parish does NOT volunteer
- 50% of Parishioners' children do or did attend the school at one time

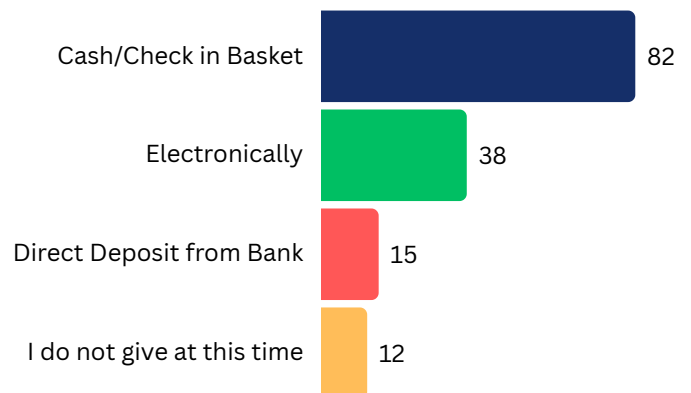
## Top three formation activities requested by those 146 responses:

- Guest Speakers
- Life Teen & Edge, Young Adults
- Men's / Women's Groups

## What Mass those 146 Parishioners attend:



## How those 146 Parishioners tithe:



*A Year's Overview by Ashley Hall, OLMC Director of Development & Stewardship*

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP AND CENSUS

Dear OLMC Community,

I am pleased to present the OLMC Stewardship Report. This report highlights the important work of our community of 6,361 individuals (2,076 families), whose good works span over 25 ministries, committees, programs, and services that impact the lives of our parishioners and community.

I truly believe OLMC is special, our community is unmatched and home to many. As a life-long parishioner and alumni of OLMC school I can tell you without a shadow of doubt that my formative years spent at OLMC impacted who I am today and the work I do now. We are forming youth who will be the future of our church. Our job is hard but OLMC is up to the challenge! One of my favorite homilies asks the question "What's your why?" Why do we do what we do, what drives us? Personally my why is this church, this community, this school and these people. When the work is hard, tireless or seems monumental I think of all those before me who gave their all for OLMC and made it what it is today. We give of our Time, Talent and Treasure and we are rewarded tenfold by this beautiful community.

I am keenly aware of the hard work and sacrifices made by the parishioners of OLMC. In order for us to determine the needs and desires of our community we conducted a census and survey. Some of the results are listed here. As Father Robert said, we will be preparing a strategic plan for the next 3-5 year timeframe to accomplish new goals for our parish and community.

Thank you for continuing to serve the OLMC community by your tireless support, your presence, and prayers. I am grateful for this community and the generous support you have given to our beautiful parish. I look forward to the future and all we can accomplish together!

When asked my why? I say, YOU are my why, this church is my why, this school is my why, HE IS MY WHY!  
What is your why?

Blessings,  
Ashley Hall  
Director of Development & Stewardship



### What does OLMC do well according to our Parishioners:

-Everything! Adoration, youth groups and adult formation, concerts and festivals/school events. You have a welcoming church and environment.

- love OLMC!!!! Music is amazing/uplifting/encouraging; 9 am greeters at the entrance are so wonderful/welcoming. Our Priests' positive energy!

-OLMC makes all feel truly welcomed and openly received. Hospitality is true and present whenever we go to OLMC.

-Faithful to Catholic teachings. Good community- Fr. Robert especially makes everyone feel so loved.

-Our community, the parishioners and school families are the core of our faith life. Our music at Masses has always been exceptional, keep it up! Parish festival and other community building events.

-Our school is excellent! The pastor, principal, teachers, and staff are doing an amazing job and the school is thriving because of Father Robert and Dr. Shewbridge's hard work and dedication to our students. OLMC is a beautiful faith-filled community to raise your children.

# ADVISORY COUNCILS

## **Parish Pastoral Council**

1. Carey Anthony – Council Chair
2. Dominic Conn
3. Michael Pabst
4. Jamon Reval
5. Marc Stern
6. Chris Broglia
7. Hugh White
8. Laura Files
9. Duane Washkowiak
10. Heather Johnson

The Pastoral Advisory Council is a group of 10 active OLMC Parishioners that serve in an advisory capacity to Fr. Robert. We hold monthly meetings to discuss parish business and work to address the needs of our wonderful parish and parishioners. Along with Fr. Robert we work to strengthen our vibrant parish community and guide it into the future. It is more important now than ever to ensure that we have a strong parish legacy to continue to pass to the future generations. This comes with planning and strategic thinking. Our recent parish census has helped start the discussions for OLMC's future and how to best serve our community. Our goals include praying for the Catholic Church, collaborating with our Pastor to create a pastoral plan for our OLMC community, attending and supporting OLMC events and ministries, and participating as leaders in the initiation of OLMC's goals. We are a visible, working body that supports our Pastor and fellow Parishioners to the best of our abilities.

## **Finance Council**

1. Paul Trapp – Finance Chair
2. Robert Blackstad
3. Gary Monteilh
4. LeAnne Cardenas
5. James Casey
6. Trey Pitman
7. Paul Carolan
8. Dr. Kelly Shewbridge (Ex- officio)
9. Julie Flanigan (Ex-officio)
10. Jenn Blackstad (Ex-officio)

The Parish Finance Council's role is to support Fr. Robert in his stewardship of the parish's financial health. The Finance Council meets monthly with Fr. Robert to review essential financial documents and projects, ensuring transparency and accountability in all financial matters. This collaborative effort allows for informed decision-making regarding construction projects, budgeting, and overall financial management.

According to Canon 537, the establishment and functioning of the Finance Council are guided by norms set forth by the diocesan bishop, ensuring that the parish aligns with broader diocesan policies. The council's consultative nature means it provides insights and recommendations, while the pastor retains ultimate responsibility for all decisions.

These regular monthly reviews of cash flows, accounts payable, revenues, expenses and balance sheets help the parish remain financially sound and prepared for future needs.

## **School Advisory Board**

### Voting Board Members:

1. President: Katie Vallecorsa
2. Vice President: David Wirth
3. Carrie Lopez
4. Claire Stern
5. Allison Hall
6. Matt Kochis
7. Ashley Navarro
8. Cortney Elder
9. Michelle Ortega

The School Board functions as an advisory board to the pastor and principal in matters relating to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School.

### SAB Mission:

The school board promotes a clear understanding and communicates the mutual educational responsibility of parents, teachers and administrators. It assists the school in achieving the goal of providing a quality Catholic education to students by integrating the teachings of the Catholic Church throughout the educational process, and guiding students toward a conscious choice of living a responsible Catholic life.

*A Year's Overview-By Dan Ballenger, Marketing & Communications*

## COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY



"The communications media have acquired such importance as to be the principal means of guidance and inspiration for many people in their personal, familial, and social behavior. We are dealing with a complex problem because the culture itself, prescinding from its content, arises from the very existence of new ways to communicate with hitherto unknown techniques and vocabulary."

- Pope St. John Paul II (Apostolic Letter Concerning the Media)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a vibrant, multi-generational Catholic faith community. Our communications strategy has been designed with this in mind. Though the ways our parishioners receive and use information have changed throughout our parish's nearly 150-year history, the mission remains the same.

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15b)

Through timely words, beautiful images, and informative videos, parishioners of every age and origin can connect deeply with the Sacramental life of the Church and the good work of our parish both inside and outside of Mass.



### How to Connect with us:

#### Website

- [olmctempe.com](http://olmctempe.com)

#### Newsletter

- Parish Newsletter, sent out every Friday morning
- Sign up to receive the [newsletter here](#)

#### Social Media

- [facebook.com/olmctempe](https://facebook.com/olmctempe)
- [instagram.com/olmctempe](https://instagram.com/olmctempe)