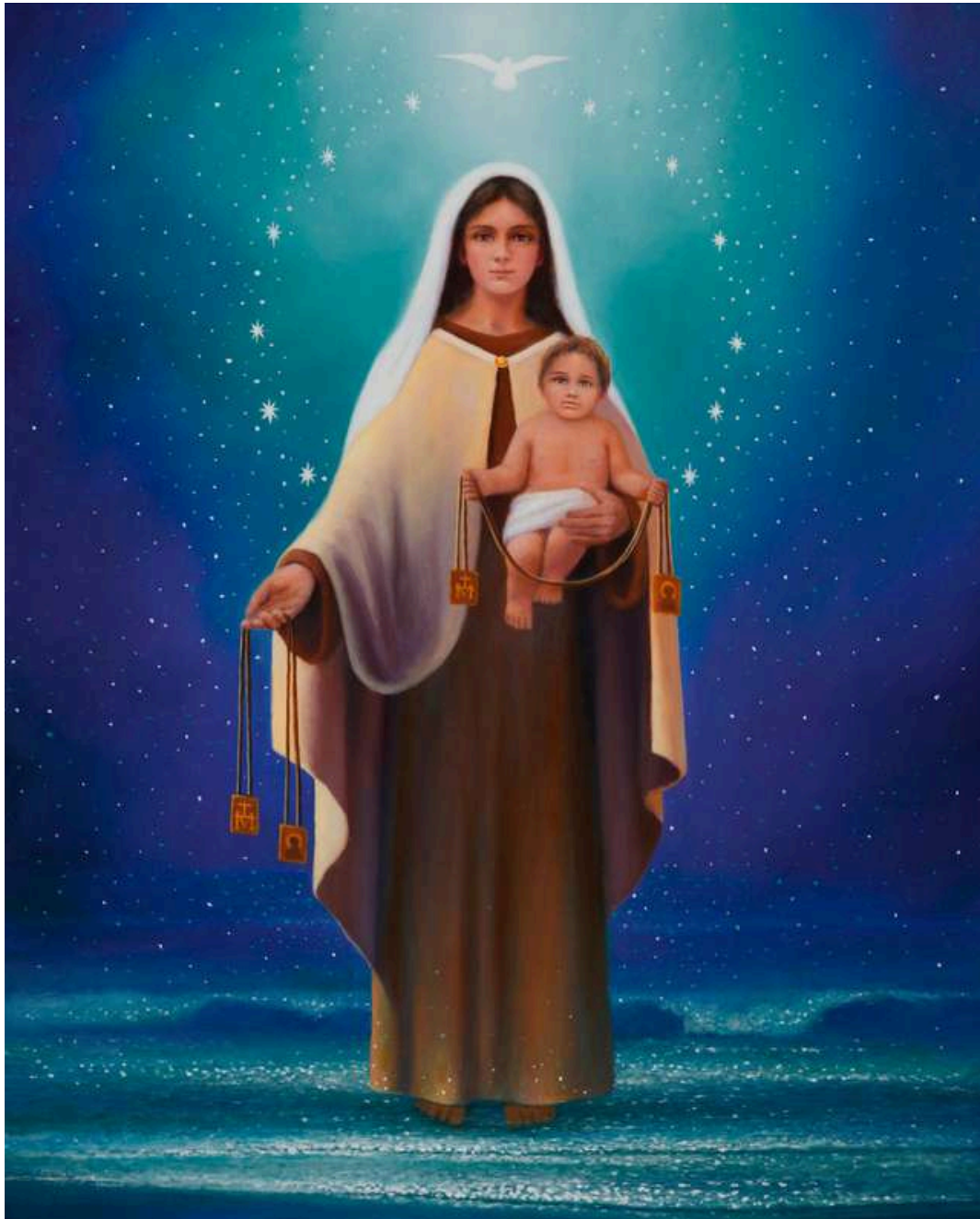




# Our Lady of Mount Carmel

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

# CLERGY & STAFF

## Pastor

Rev. Robert Aliunzi

## Parochial Vicar

Rev. Paul Lokunume

## Deacons

Deacon David Knebelsberger  
Deacon Ramon "Chito" Zamora

## Executive Assistant

Fify Juliana

## Front Office Coordinator

Monica Lopez

## Finance/HR

Rita Villegas

## Parish Business Manager

Jennifer Blackstad

## Development Director

Ashley Hall

## Infant Baptism

Peter Parian

## Liturgy

Joseph Malzone

## Maintenance

Jim Blasko  
Daniel Aguilar  
John Lemmon

## Music/Communications

Dan Ballinger  
Jordan Webb

## Finance Office

Toni Logan  
Beth Runey

## Adult Faith Formation

Brenden Bell

## Children's Religious Education

Jennifer Green

## Marriage Prep Coordinator

Deacon Dave Knebelsberger

## Annulments

Karen Shepard

## Youth Coordinator

Miguel Nuñez

## School Principal

Dr. Kelly Shewbridge

## School Office

### Manager

Enedina White

## Preschool Director

Monica Ferrance

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





# STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS

Dear Parishioners,

It has now been two years since I became your pastor, and I continue to thank God daily for the privilege of serving you. So far, it has been an exciting moment with you. From the very beginning, I have told you three things that drive my ministry here among you and which have remained unchanged even today.

They are:

One, I love you.

Two, I love you.

And three, I love you so, so much.

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for all that God is accomplishing in our parish. Together, we have seen many blessings and have continued to grow as a community of faith, rooted in love of the Eucharist, and devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

This past year we completed one of our greatest treasures: the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel. What began as a dream is now a reality despite many challenges faced along the way. Indeed, we now have a sacred place where parishioners can spend time in the Real Presence of Christ, day and night. Already, this chapel has become the spiritual heart of our parish. To date, we have over 500 committed and registered adorers covering the adoration slots twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week, uninterrupted. Still, I encourage those of you who have not registered for a particular slot to take advantage of this beautiful gift God has given our parish.

While we 'lost' Fr. Gabriel, our associate pastor, we were also blessed to welcome Father Paul Lokunume as our new Associate Pastor. His presence, pastoral care, and priestly ministry have already been a great gift to our community. Fr. Paul is indeed a humble and holy man whom I feel so blessed to have as my assistant. Alongside this, we added several new staff members to both our parish and school teams, strengthening our ability to serve you more effectively and support the growing needs of our community. In order to strengthen our team spirit and grow in our faith, we had a joint school and staff retreat in July and a pilgrimage to the chapel in Sedona in June. They were both very rejuvenating.

I also took important steps to strengthen the safety and security of our parish and school. New lighting, updated security cameras, and additional staff trainings have been implemented to ensure that all who come here to worship, learn, and grow can do so in peace and with confidence.

Our parish school continues to be one of our greatest blessings. With 477 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade and 62 preschoolers, our school is flourishing. Under the able leadership of Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, our principal, Tony Grosseta her assistant, and our dedicated teachers and staff, our children are receiving not only an excellent academic education, but also a strong foundation in the Catholic faith. Truly, our school remains the largest ministry of our parish and a source of great pride and joy.

Looking at all these blessings, it is important to remember why we exist: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel exists to get everyone who walks through our doors to heaven. This is the heart of our mission. To get everyone to heaven!

# STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS

To achieve this, how must we behave? We commit ourselves to three core values:

- Welcoming Spirit – treating all who enter our doors with hospitality, warmth, and compassion.
- All In – taking passionate ownership of our mission.
- Team Player – remaining humble, collaborative, and focused on the team over ourselves.

What do we do? We educate and form disciples, serve the needs of our community, and worship God through the celebration of the sacraments.

How will we succeed? By keeping our doors open to all, by building holy families, and by prioritizing our school and youth.

Using these strategic anchors, we will continue to grow our parish ministries and mission opportunities in the coming year. Already, our ministries are thriving: From our liturgies, enriched by our choirs, musicians and altar servers, to our vibrant Life Teen and EDGE programs, to the many adult faith formation opportunities that deepen our love for the Eucharist and Our Lady. In the coming year, we are especially committed to building a strong Young Adult Ministry—a place where young adults can grow in faith, form friendships, and serve the Church together. This will be a vital part of forming the next generation of Catholic leaders and disciples in our parish.

In addition, we will also strive to update and maintain our facilities and Church in order to provide a beautiful and welcoming environment for us to worship in. Our parish buildings and Church are already showing their age. To be able to do our maintenance timely and consistently, we will be taking a restricted collection the third Sunday of every month for our Maintenance and Development fund. Please, continue to be generous.

As we look ahead, our focus remains the same: to grow in holiness, to deepen our devotion to the Eucharist, to honor Our Blessed Mother, and to make stewardship a way of life here in our parish. I will continue to invite you to share your time, talent, and treasure generously, acknowledging that all that we have is gift as we have shared in our reflections and witness talks the entire month of September. Remember, our parish will only be as strong, as loving, and as faithful as we make it together.

Let us continue building a community where everyone feels welcomed, where Christ is at the center, and where we strive, above all, to lead one another to heaven.

I love you!

In Christ and Our Lady,  
Fr. Robert Seraph Aliunzi  
Pastor,



\*Father Robert with the Religious Education children.

# DIVINE MERCY ADORATION CHAPEL UPDATE

“Behold the Lamb of God!” Those were the words spoken by John the Baptist, upon seeing Jesus approaching along the Jordan River. They were words directed toward everyone who was there; but more than anyone else, they were intended for two of his own disciples, Andrew and John, who would soon become disciples of Jesus himself. John understood that Jesus must increase, and he must decrease; and in humble adoration, he directed all attention away from himself, so that God alone would be glorified. There was only so much that he could teach Andrew and John; In order for them to continue to grow in faith, in prayer, and in holiness, they would have to follow God himself. And that is exactly what they did.

Today, we are still invited by those same words. We are called to the same faith, and the same mission as those very first disciples of Christ. At each and every Holy Mass, we still hear the same invitation: “Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb.” And we are indeed so blessed. At each and every Holy Mass, Jesus approaches us, and invites us to follow him. He becomes really, truly, and substantially present to us in the Holy Eucharist, so that he can be as close to us as possible. And we receive him in Holy Communion, so that we can be united with him in a most special and intimate way.

When Andrew and John first came to Jesus, their very first question was “Where are you staying?” And Jesus simply said, “Come and you will see.” Many who constantly seek to grow closer to Jesus everyday, have likely asked that same question. “Lord, where are you staying?” What do we do when we are not at Mass? We can, of course, continue to pray on our own, but wouldn’t it be so much better if we could remain in Christ’s presence as much as possible, never leaving his side, and always keeping him company? As it turns out, that has always been God’s plan.

In addition to the gift of the Holy Mass, God has provided one other way for us to remain close to Jesus, and for Jesus to remain close to us. In Holy Eucharistic Adoration, he continues to make himself available to us, in the Most Blessed Sacrament. He waits for us to accept and respond to his invitation to come over, and see where he is staying. Our own journey to discipleship begins with our “yes” to him, but can only continue if we choose to stay by his side, as Andrew and John did.

Thankfully, he has made it so easy for us to do just that. In our very own Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel, here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Jesus waits for each one of us to come and visit him. He waits for us to come to him as family and community, but much more than that, he waits for each one of us to come to him as his one very special guest. Yes, we pray as a Church, and we pray as families; and that is very pleasing to him. But he also calls each one of us aside, each on our own, and invites us pray to him as if we were each his one-and-only personal favorite – because we are! He wants us to each have our one-on-one with him, as often as possible. God’s heart is big enough to love everyone in that very personal way, and he would want nothing more than to be visited by the one who is most special to him – You!

-Deacon Chito









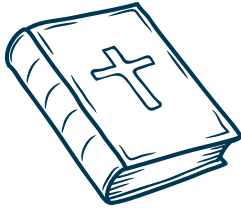
[\\*Click here to read Deacon Chito’s full article.](#)

[\\*Click here to learn more about the Adoration Chapel and register to become an adorer.](#)



\*OLMC Divine Mercy Chapel Dedication

PASTORAL SERVICES OF THE PARISH

<p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>96</p> 	<p>FIRST RECONCILIATIONS</p> <p>81</p> 	<p>FIRST COMMUNIONS</p> <p>99</p> 
<p>CONFIRMATION</p> <p>74</p> 	<p>HOLY MATRIMONY</p> <p>15</p> 	<p>FUNERAL / MEMORIAL MASSES</p> <p>38</p> 
<p>ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p>54</p> 	<p>YOUTH MINISTRY</p> <p>120</p> 	<p>OCIA</p> <p>16</p> 



# FAITH FORMATION

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process by which an adult joins the Catholic Church and receives the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and/or First Communion (Eucharist). G.K. Chesterton, an early 20th Century convert to Catholicism, said, “The Church is a house with a hundred gates; and no two men enter at exactly the same angle.” We accompany men and women from all walks of life and faith traditions as they seek to enter or return to the Catholic Church. We share the teachings of the Catholic faith in a friendly and open atmosphere, facilitate authentic discussions, and provide opportunities for fellowship. Last year, we walked with 22 men and women, and this year we will be guiding another 22 men and women in their journey with the Lord.

-Brenden Bell

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).



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

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).

## YOUTH - LIFE TEEN & EDGE



OLMC Youth Ministry engages over 200 middle and high school students each year, guiding them to grow in faith, leadership, and discipleship. This past summer, we raised over \$15,000 to provide scholarships and discounts, enabling 17 middle school students to attend a 6-day summer camp, more than 40 high school students to participate in Steubenville West Conference with over 2,000 peers, and 6 high school students to attend the Life Teen Leadership Conference at Benedictine College in Kansas, where they learned what it means to be a Catholic student leader at home, at school, and in the wider community.



Our core team of 20 adult volunteers and 8 upperclassmen high school leaders walk alongside teens in their faith, ensuring every student knows they can have a personal relationship with Jesus and respond to His call to live as intentional disciples. We offer weekly catechesis nights, three high school retreats, five middle school retreats, and three core formation retreats for student leaders. Teens also engage in service projects such as Feed My Starving Children, summer Bible studies, and opportunities to hear from priests, seminarians, religious sisters, and Catholic ministries, including the Aid to Women Center and St. Joseph Counseling.



Through the guidance, support, and prayers of our volunteers, parents, and parish community, OLMC Youth Ministry continues to form young men and women of faith who are prepared to serve the Church and the world with love and dedication.

As a youth minister, my role goes beyond serving students in formal “Youth Program” activities. We are here for every 6th–12th grade student—whether they attend our school, are active in the parish, or are part of the broader community. Sometimes our ministry is hands-on through programs and retreats; other times, it is through prayer—lifting each teen up to God.

“Young people want to be seen and to know they belong. Providing a youth ministry for your teens is how you say: we see you, you matter, you belong here, and God’s got a plan for you. Teens grow into adults who serve, lead, and love the Church” -Life Teen Kickstart



The importance of engaging teens in their faith cannot be overstated. Their teenage years are pivotal, and our outreach must be urgent, thoughtful, and pastoral. We meet them where they seek connection and belonging, serving as “first responders” in faith—guiding, supporting, and inspiring them on their journey within the Catholic community.

With the continued support of our Pastor, parents, staff, school leadership, and generous donors, OLMC Youth Ministry remains one of the strongest in the Diocese of Phoenix, serving the Kingdom, our children, and the glory of God. It is a true gift to witness these young people grow into holy men and women of this generation.

—Miguel Nuñez,  
Coordinator of Youth Ministry





## YOUNG ADULTS (18-30'S) - Y.A. MINISTRY



In response to our parish's commitment to prioritize our youth and young adult community, we launched a new Young Adult Ministry—and it's already thriving! What started as a fun social night with dance lessons, music, and community quickly grew into a movement—drawing over 80 young adults to the first Country Dance Night and over 100 to every dance since.

With so many young adults (ages 18–30) participating, it became clear there was a need for an ongoing ministry tailored to this group. In May 2025, five young adults came together to plan a weekly ministry. They recognized a gap in the young adult community: some had recently returned home from college, many from the ASU Newman Center had no local ministry, and others who regularly attended Mass at OLMC were seeking a sense of connection and belonging. With prayerful discernment, they began coordinating a ministry designed not only for OLMC young adults but for anyone in the surrounding community and Diocese.

The ministry launched with a GroupMe chat open to all young adults ages 18–30. Within four days, over 60 young adults had joined, all eager to participate. The goal was simple: gather young adults for Jesus and fellowship throughout the summer. Every Wednesday in June and July, the young adults met for: confession, Vespers, Mass, Fellowship and dinner/social. The first Wednesday night welcomed over 50 young adults, and the momentum has only grown from there!

Seeing the excitement and need for social opportunities beyond Wednesday evenings, the team began hosting weekly community volleyball nights and

occasional service opportunities at Feed My Starving Children. As the summer ministry period was drawing to a close, several team members committed to continuing the ministry through the end of December. They are also planning a trip to Columbus, Ohio, for the FOCUS SEEK Conference, January 1–5, 2026, which brings together over 21,000 young adults and college students.

Today, the Young Adult Ministry has grown to over 160 members in its GroupMe messenger, allowing the team to quickly communicate and invite young adults to upcoming events and gatherings. Many continue to meet on Mondays for volleyball, attend Wednesday Mass and off-site socials, and have begun small group Bible studies, building both faith and community.

There is a real need to serve this age group, especially as young adults transition from high school or college and search for their place in the Church. These formative years are crucial for spiritual growth, life decisions, and even vocational discernment, making this ministry an essential part of our parish life.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers, and encourage young adults to get involved via our website: [olmctempe.com/youngadults](http://olmctempe.com/youngadults) or Instagram: @YAOLMC.

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us.  
AMDG

—Miguel Nuñez  
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

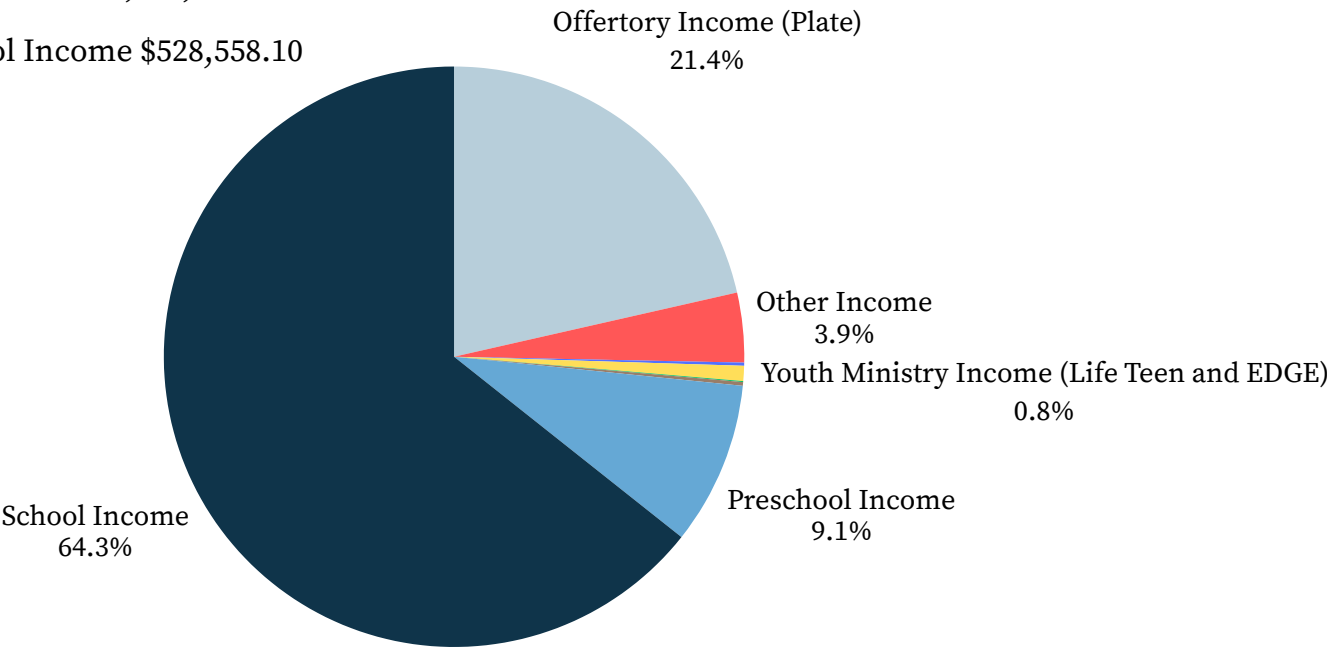


# FINANCIAL UPDATE PARISH INCOME

Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Total Income \$5,923,411.68

- Offertory Income (Plate) \$1,336,864.39
- Other Income \$225,665.17
- Religious Education Income (RE) \$10,245.00
- Youth Ministry Income (Life Teen and EDGE) \$49,110.36
- OCIA Income \$3,080.00
- Together Let Us Go Forth Campaign \$12,000.00
- School Income \$3,747,344.33
- Preschool Income \$528,558.10



## 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.

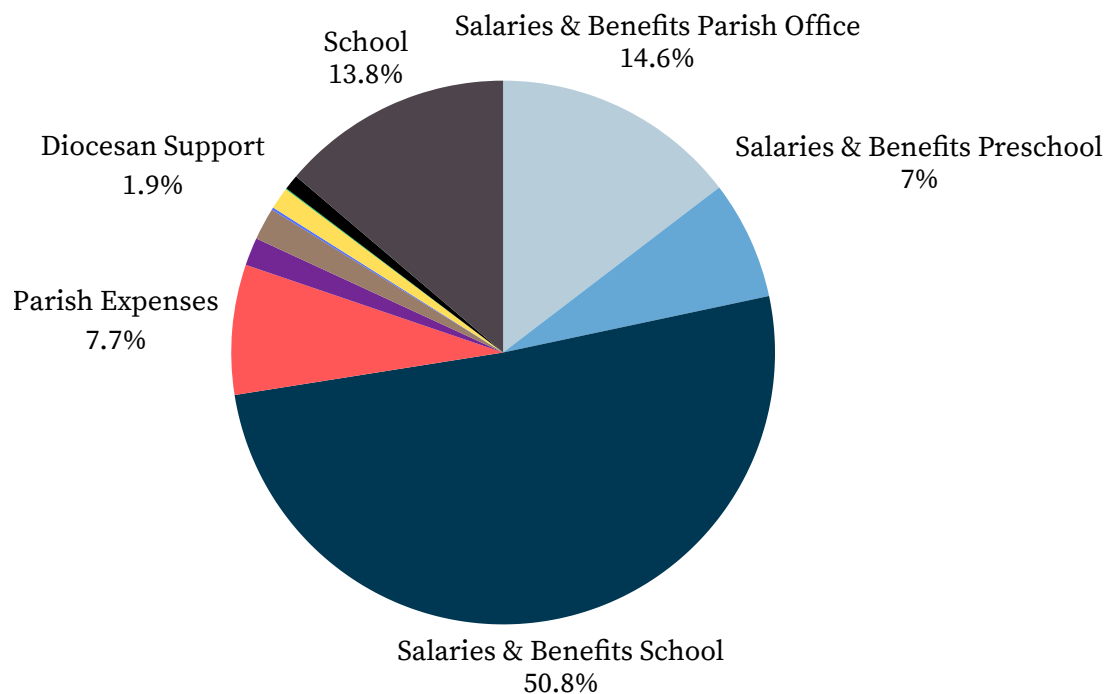
- St. Vincent de Paul- \$17,650.58
- Gospel of Life/Respect Life: \$195.00
- Holy Land: \$2,138.25
- Black and Indian Missions: \$1,785.00
- African Churches: \$40.00

# FINANCIAL UPDATE PARISH EXPENSES

Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.

Total Expenditures \$5,900,867.35

Salaries & Benefits Parish Office \$836,011.93	Religious Education (RE) \$8,,117.47
Salaries & Benefits Preschool \$403,110.93	Youth Ministry (Life Teen and EDGE) \$74,922.37
Salaries & Benefits School \$2,,906,977.29	OCIA \$3,206.53
Parish Expenses \$441,826.72	Preschool \$51,550.80
Depreciation \$95,000.04	School \$788,120.58
Diocesan Support \$109,892.62	



## Bishop's Annual Charity and Development Appeal 2025

CDA Parish Goal was \$135,257

188 OLMC Parishioners donated a total of \$183,968.00, exceeding our goal.

## Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel

In total, 223 parishioners have pledged to the chapel, for a total amount of \$906,253.81.

There is a remaining balance of \$26,335.50 in outstanding unpaid pledges as of September 1, 2025.



## PARISH MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, the Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney to bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled, and needy.

Today, with more than 2.1 million members worldwide, our mission is to empower Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work, and in their communities. We accomplish this goal through a vast array of programs designed to help and heal the suffering, protect the vulnerable, strengthen families, and build the Church throughout the world.

We are men who lead, serve, protect, and defend, whether working with the youth, lending a hand in disaster relief efforts, supporting local pregnancy centers, providing top-quality financial products, or serving our local parishes.

The Knights of Columbus has:

- Funded more than 1,865 ultrasound machines (valued at \$88.9 million) enabling more than 1 million mothers to see their unborn children
- Financially supported men and women pursuing vocations to the priesthood or religious life with more than \$100 million
- Distributed more than 1 million coats to children in need
- Supported more than 1,224 pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes
- Donated more than \$10 million to support new mothers
- And provided more than 8.5 million pounds of relief supplies to war torn countries.

Last year alone, state and local Knights of Columbus Councils:

- Donated more than \$146 million to those in need
- Provided more than 47.5 million volunteer hours
- Donated 12,000 wheelchairs
- Helped organize 4,000 Special Olympics competitions
- And provided over \$1.5 million in scholarships to students attending colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Last year, Fr. Severn Westhoff Council 6627 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel:

- Hosted an Ultrasound Fundraiser, and with the help of 3 other local Councils, raised nearly \$25,000 toward the purchase of a new ultrasound machine.
- Supported a variety of worthy pro-life and other causes with the proceeds from our pancake breakfasts and fish fries while building community within our parish.
- Supported hospital patients in need with 3 blood drives.
- Led the parish in prayer at our 5th Sunday Rosaries.
- Humbly held the canopy for multiple Eucharistic Processions.
- Helped keep Christ in Christmas with our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- Supported 3 local seminarians with \$1,800 in financial support.
- Awarded a \$500 scholarship to a deserving OLMC student.
- And supported the parish (and school) with our participation in the Parish Festival.



# PARISH MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



Joining the Knights of Columbus has been one of the best, most rewarding decisions of my life. The Knights has embraced me with mentorship from good Catholic men, provided me with opportunities to grow in my Faith, offered me leadership opportunities with guidance and feedback, made me a better man and father, and fostered friendships that will last a lifetime. My only regret is that I didn't join sooner!

So sign up today at <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html> or email me for additional information at [GrandKnight@kofc6627.org](mailto:GrandKnight@kofc6627.org). Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See.

Vivat Jesus,

Jim Fitzsimmons

Grand Knight

Fr. Severin Westhoff Council 6627

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church





## STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Welcome to the 2nd Annual, State of the School Report!

The goal is to keep parents informed of the happenings and changes at the school. The theme of this school year is “Shine with the Light of Grace.” This is more than just our theme. It is how we encourage our students to live each day. It means letting God’s love shine through their words, actions, and choices.

To “shine” means to stand out by doing what’s right. Be kind, honest, respectful, and loving. The “light of grace” is God’s gift to us. His love and guidance helps us grow into the people He created us to be. Jesus says, “You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”  
(Matthew 5:14, 16)

So when we say we want students to “Shine with the Light of Grace,” we’re helping them grow in faith, character, and love. All of this guided by the example of Jesus and the teachings of the Church.

It is truly a beautiful gift and privilege to teach in a Catholic school, and especially here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. At OLMC, we are blessed to walk with our students not only academically, but spiritually. Each day, we have the opportunity to share the message of Christ, to pray together, and to witness firsthand how faith transforms hearts and lives. Teaching here means planting seeds of faith and watching them grow. Our children are nurtured by a community deeply rooted in love, service, and grace. It is a calling we embrace with joy, knowing that every lesson, every moment, can reflect God’s light.

Thank you for being a part of our school family and for supporting our mission.

\*Click here to read the complete [OLMC School Annual Report](#)



*Dr. Kelly Shewbridge*

-Dr. Kelly Shewbridge  
OLMC Principal





# 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, attend weekly Adoration, and we incorporate the Baltimore Catechism.

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:  
[olmclittlelambs.org](http://olmclittlelambs.org) or  
email [monica@olmctempe.com](mailto:monica@olmctempe.com)  
for more information.



# PARISH STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Dear OLMC Community,

It is my great joy to share with you this year's OLMC Stewardship Report. Our community of 6,361 individuals (2,076 families), who continue to serve Christ and one another through more than 25 ministries, committees, programs, and services. Each act of service—big or small—has a profound impact on the lives of our parishioners and beyond.

I have always believed OLMC is special. Our community is vibrant, welcoming, and deeply rooted in faith. As a lifelong parishioner and alumna of OLMC School, I can say without hesitation that my years here shaped who I am today. They gave me a foundation of faith, a sense of belonging, and a heart for service. Now, I see our parish and school forming the next generation of youth who will carry that same light into the future of our Church.

This past year has reminded me more than ever that our parish thrives because of the willingness of so many to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure. From the greeters who welcome us at Mass, to those who teach our children, care for the sick, organize food drives, or quietly set up for parish events—your service is the heartbeat of OLMC. Each volunteer act is a prayer in motion, a gift of love to God and neighbor.

As we look ahead, our mission will be guided by three anchors that reflect who we are and who we strive to be:

- Welcoming Spirit – treating all who enter our doors with hospitality, warmth, and compassion.
- All In – taking passionate ownership of our mission and giving generously of ourselves.
- Team Player – remaining humble, collaborative, and focused on the good of our parish family.

These anchors aren't just words—they describe what makes OLMC strong. I see them lived out every day in our volunteers, in our ministries, and in the countless ways parishioners step forward to serve. When we embody these values, we don't just keep our parish alive—we help it flourish.

Thank you for your prayers, your support, and especially your willingness to serve. OLMC is strong because of you, and I am filled with hope for all that lies ahead.

With gratitude and blessings,

Ashley Hall  
Director of Development & Stewardship



## Updates made to our Parish

### Campus:

- Completion of our beautiful Adoration Chapel
- Parking lot resurfacing and striping
- Additional campus lighting
- Additional campus cameras
- Upgraded church sound system
- Replaced AC Unit at Parish Office and Rectory

## Updates made to our School

### Campus:

- Remodeled Prayer Garden with additional landscaping, planters, pavers, & travertine inlay rosary
- Paver breezway entrance and addition of concrete planters
- Move Flagpole and add paved area with seating.
- Additional Campus Cameras
- Softball fencing
- Replaced the playground rubber surface
- Added mesh to the fence near the Preschool and Flagpole area
- Added 2 large sheds to the field for storage

# ADVISORY COUNCILS

## Parish Pastoral Council

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

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. Joan Spechcock
4. James Casey
5. Trey Pitman
6. Paul Carolan
7. Dr. Kelly Shewbridge (Ex- officio)
8. Julie Flanigan (Ex-officio)
9. 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: David Wirth
2. Claire Stern
3. Allison Hall
4. Courtney Elder
5. Michelle Ortega
6. Katrina Rousher
7. Carla Berg
8. Alysse Grubbs
9. Megan Pfaffenberger

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.



## PARISH SAFETY & SECURITY

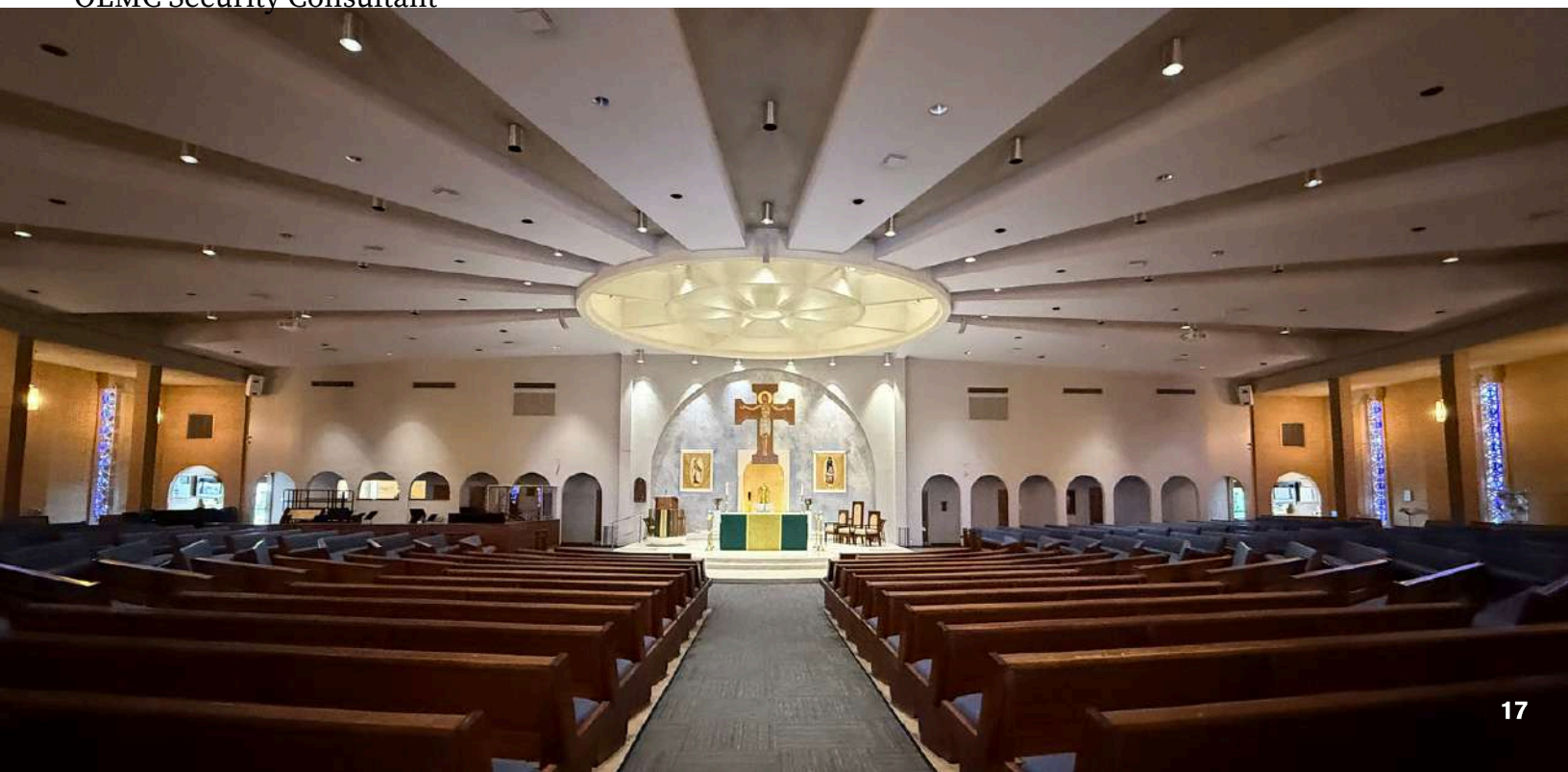
Parish safety and security is coordinated between the pastor, parish administration, and retired police commander, Hugh White. Since 2023, Mr. White has revised and updated the parish's critical incident policies and procedures to enhance the parish's overall security posture to conform with industry best practices.

Mr. White trained the parish staff in August 2025. This year, training focused on both de-escalation techniques and active assailant threat response. The Critical Incident Policy was also reviewed and revised with parish administration. Fr. Robert and Mrs. Blackstad meet with Mr. White regularly regarding security and safety related issues throughout the year, addressing concerns as they arise. We are very proud of the many safety and security enhancements made over the last several years, to include both physical security barriers and updated camera systems.

In August and September 2025, Mr. White trained weekend Mass ushers on the same de-escalation and active assailant threat response that was presented to the parish staff.

Some notable security enhancements this year include the deployment of two-way radios for key staff to communicate quickly with each other during emergency situations. Mr. White developed a Security Ministry Plan with the goal of establishing a robust safety and security team of volunteers for Mass, School, and Parish events. The safety and security of our parish remain the top priority for Fr. Robert and school leadership.

-Hugh White  
OLMC Security Consultant



# 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. Although 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)

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

### 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)