

St Joseph Financial Overview

September 5, 2025

This is the first Financial Overview from Fr. Tom Morgan, Deacon John Carter, Fr. Andrew, Fred Kraus, and the St. Joseph Finance Committee (Michele Corr, Bruce Harris, James Jackson, Skipper Peek, Kareem Sandy). Its purpose is to provide you with insight into the financial position of the Parish and the achievements as we all work to ensure the sustainability of the Parish and our ministries.

A Challenging Year

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024

The financial position of the Parish at the start of the year, though challenging, was being addressed with resilience. As of June 30, 2023, our St. Joseph parish was over \$500,000 in debt to the Diocese. This debt accumulated over time as the Diocese covered St. Joseph's operating budget shortfalls, unpaid operating expenses, insurance, and administrative costs, as well as funding necessary repairs.

In addition to our debt, our losses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, were nearly \$150,000. We had our work cut out for us, but we were facing these challenges head-on.

Initial analysis suggested that the Parish could not financially support a dedicated pastor and may not survive.

St. Joseph no longer had an immediate need for the home it owned in Tropical Shores that had served as the rectory for former Pastors. Consequently, Fr. Tom requested the Diocese's approval to sell the Tropical Shores rectory. The Diocese approved Fr. Tom's request.

We incurred unanticipated facility expenses, but through the generosity of St. Joseph's parishioners and benefactors, we finished the fiscal year with a loss of just under \$6,000. Without the unplanned facility expenses, the Parish would have had a positive year. A significant positive change of almost \$140,000 from the prior year. And more importantly, we did not have to incur any additional debt!

Unfortunately, due to our financial strain, we were unable to address more of the deteriorating physical condition of St. Joseph's campus during that fiscal year.

Positive Changes Abound

Fiscal Year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Based on progress made the previous year, Bishop Parkes directed Fr. Tom to continue as Administrator of St. Joseph and increase the utilization of the Cathedral's clergy team and staff to support St. Joseph's with basic sacramental and pastoral care, and administrative needs. During the year, we worked diligently to reduce expenses and provide the services as directed by the Bishop's Decree. This is why you saw more of Fr. Tom and Fr. Andrew to assist Fr. Padilla.

We successfully sold the Tropical Shores property in August 2024, thankfully before Hurricane Helene arrived. The Diocese allowed St. Joseph Parish to retain a substantial portion of the proceeds to address facility needs and potential operating shortfalls. These funds provided a financial cushion, enabling us to complete several projects.

We dedicated some of these resources to enhancing the interior of our worship space by marbling the columns and restoring the "Stations of the Cross."

While the year presented continuing challenges, including hurricanes, termites, mold, pests, air conditioning issues, and more, we were blessed to have received your continued offertory and donation support. The amount of our online giving was increasing, which provided a more stable revenue stream to meet operating expenses.

Our goal was to complete the restoration of the sanctuary floor by Easter. As with many construction projects, we encountered several surprises that extended the timeline. We greatly appreciate your understanding in this matter.

During the year, we were blessed with a substantial bequest of \$160,000, which will be extremely helpful as we strive to revive the facilities to their intended glory and expand our ministerial services for our parishioners and those in need.

Our Food Pantry and Friday Hot Meals ministries are flourishing thanks to the ministry heads, their volunteers, and wonderful donors.

Financially, we achieved a significant milestone. For the first time in many years, we finished the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, with positive income. As of June 30, 2025, we have reduced our debt to the Diocese from \$523,000 to \$406,000 and continue to make gradual progress. This remarkable turnaround is a testament to your gracious support and what we can achieve through our collective efforts.

The transfer of Fr. Padilla to his new position as Pastor of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish in July 2025 created a sense of uncertainty and disappointment. Fr. Andrew, Deacon John, and Fr. Tom continued to provide sacramental and pastoral care to parishioners. We also began utilizing more of St. Jude's existing staff and infrastructure to assist with Parish administrative needs while working to reduce costs. While this solved some immediate needs at St. Joseph, it also put additional responsibilities on individuals who already held positions serving the congregation at St. Jude Cathedral.

Fred Kraus, Business Manager at the Cathedral, continued the work he began with Fr. Padilla, ensuring we are paying St. Joseph's current bills, slowly chipping away at the debt, identifying how to address the physical deterioration of St. Joseph's campus buildings and grounds, and working to establish a sustainable financial plan for the Parish. His planned retirement at the end of 2025 will leave a void that Fr. Tom and the Diocese are working to fill.

Improving and Engaging Fiscal Year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

Offertory and donations are stabilizing and showing a slight increase, providing St. Joseph with the resources needed to address campus projects with minimal financial support from the Diocese.

We plan to continue improvements to the facilities with the following projects:

- Restore the 22nd Avenue entry doors and replace others to improve both functionality, security and appearance.

- Restore exterior windows, including frames, glazing, and caulking.
- Improve exterior landscaping.
- We will also continue to make other necessary repairs and improvements as resources allow, including repairing our carillon bell system, which was damaged during the hurricane, and installing a livestream system so that our homebound members and nursing home residents can view our Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

In August, Deacon John published a draft St. Joseph Catholic Church Vision Plan via Flock Notes for Parishioner review, comments, and discussion.

Fr. Tom will be scheduling a Parish Meeting in the near future. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss recent accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and plans. We also aim to gather your feedback and suggestions for further improvements. **Your participation in this meeting is crucial, and we look forward to your involvement. More information will be available in the Bulletin and via Flock Notes in the coming weeks.**