



## Annual Report 2023

Dear Friends,

Thinking about the past year in our network of parishes, my thoughts were drawn to this morning's Gospel.

*"While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him."* Luke (5:1-11).

This last year we have seen scores of people grab their nets and get back into the boat with Jesus and with each other! And called by God, what a catch we've had. Take a few minutes to read this report and let yourself be just as astonished as Peter by all that has happened. And know this: there is still more to come, and you are called to join in!

My prayer for us all this year is the Prayer of Sir Francis Drake!

*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity*

*And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.*

Hear Christ calling you to grab your nets and put out into the deep water with us this coming year! We need every boat... including yours...to bring the catch safely ashore!

With Him, In Him and Through Him,

**Fr. Rick**

# The Synod on Synodality – Year 2

## Returning to our Roots as a Listening Church



To hold a "synod" means to walk together. I think this is truly the most wonderful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with their Lord who walks among us. We are not alone; we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together.

*Pope Francis*



### The Synod Committee from July 2022-June 2023

#### Activities:

- Reviewed what we learned during 2022 listening sessions
- Identified areas of interest and concern
- Identified areas for additional educational and spiritual formation
- Recognized existing strengths on which to build
- Worked with individuals and groups to enhance the fire of their faith and passion for service
- Supported the faith community in shaping and developing a synodal Church.
- Followed up with respondents to clarify concerns and gain greater insight about specific needs
- Continued to listen openly and share feedback with the Pastoral Council, Parish Staff, Ministry leaders and parishioners.
- Developed a list of focus areas for the short and long term
- Planned for the first phase of implementation during the Summer of 2023
- Planned how to continue to work as synodal Church in the next quarter and beyond.
- Continued to meet as an inter-parish committee for prayer and discernment about how best to animate the spirit of synodality within each parish and collaboratively among us.

#### Accomplishments:

##### Educational materials designed, prepared, and shared with the community:

- Synod information and prayer Bookmarks
- Seven Attitudes of Synodality Booklets
- Guides for Setting the Stage for our Conversations
- Informational Posters and regular bulletin and media announcements
- Provided ongoing updates on Local, Diocesan, Regional, National, and Continental Synod activities, sharing links to Vatican documents, press releases and other synod information.

##### Actions in response to expressed needs at Listening Sessions:

- Weekly/Biweekly Interparish Synod Committee Meetings to continue the Synod Process
- Added faith formation programs including the Chosen video series
- Program held to provide information about Divorce and Annulment
- Listening session was held and new LGBTQIA+ Listening group is being formed
- Young Adult Group began
- Participation in inter-parish Women's Retreat
- Planning for a parish-wide retreat during Lent 2024
- Participated in Ministry Fairs at Christ the King and St. Matthew's as outreach to the communities about ongoing process of becoming a synodal Church.

#### Next Steps:

Continue to use the synthesis of our Listening Sessions as a guide to action. In the coming year, we will focus on:

- Educational/formation programs around the Year of the Eucharist. This may include teaching about the Mass, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, etc.
- Continue to hold Listening Sessions to foster communion and participation of all
- Listening sessions/videos/discussions on the topic of Women in Ministry
- Offering Spiritual Direction and experiences of different prayer forms
- Expanding Family activities
- Supporting newly formed Young Adult and LGBTQIA+ groups
- Expanding media presence and programming about faith-related topics
- Examine environmental issues and our response as a community of faith.

*Synodality is a way of praying, listening, discerning together where God is leading us. It creates the opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit and one another. It brings to light the palpable sense that all of us are on a common journey towards our God.*

## Pastoral Council

- † A Pastoral Council member contacts & welcomes each new parishioner.
- † Pastoral Council members are liaisons to the various ministry heads
- † Post COVID welcome back cards distributed for parishioners to encourage those that have not returned to the Mass to return.
- † Ministry fair, new parishioner welcome dinner, and Parish Picnic planning.
- † Easter evangelization invitation cards were distributed to Parishioners to encourage the return to the Church of those that have left.
- † Discussed volunteer and fundraising opportunities for Haiti and Walking with Moms.
- † Prep for NYS Eucharistic Congress at Auriesville in October 2023
- † Diocesan Bankruptcy & Child Victim Act updates.
- † Discussed the addition of St. Lucy's/St. Bernadette's to Father Lesser's purview.
- † Discussed/Reviewed proposed updates to the Knight's Chapel to make it a better venue for meetings and faith formation. Added a TV for presentations and we are looking at the acoustics.
- † Implemented a security plan and other measures throughout the campus.
- † Discussed Parish volunteer support of the Family Promise Program at St. Matthew's.
- † Minor updates were made to the Strategic Plan, available on the website.
- † Put in place a procedure to hold a celebration (Liturgy of the Word, with pre-consecrated hosts) in the absence of a Priest.

Parish Trustee's: Connor Kasuba and Colleen O'Hehir.

Submitted by:

Lina Abu Judom  
 Amber Marino  
 Margaret Carle  
 Bob Murphy  
 Vanesa Goldberg

Dave O'Hehir  
 Marie Hartigan  
 Dr. John Potenicano  
 Patty Kasuba  
 Rick Ronda

There is something about walking in the Holy Land that brings new insights and experiences to our faith. In January, 100 pilgrims from our parish network and beyond walked where Jesus walked.



## CTK Early Childhood Center

*2023: Growth & Continuity*

### **Nurturing children. Engaging curriculum. Community Service. Diversity & Inclusion. Faith foundations.**

These five phrases highlight all that has been accomplished in our faith based early educational programs at Christ the King Early Childhood Center. Serving nearly 200 students, our community of dedicated teaching staff, involved families, professional collaborations, and a specialized administrative staff allow this mission of the parish to thrive, continuing our service to children and families as we end our 13th year of operation.

*Collaborations: New & Continued*

In late 2022, the ECC embarked in a collaboration with the Guilderland Central School District as we implemented two UPK classrooms for 40 students. Our expertise in research-based tools and practices which promote equity and diversity made CTK the perfect setting for this district initiative.

We were also excited to unite with the Early Childhood Education Center to create an integrated classroom for general education and special education students! The benefits for both populations are fantastic and help to express the sentiment "All are welcome" at Christ the King.

We established an Early Childhood Advisory Council to gather opinions on important matters related to center operations. Stakeholders and professionals within the parish and community meet quarterly to learn about our progress and areas of opportunities for positive change.

We have completed 11 years of participation in Quality Stars NY, an improvement & rating system for Early Educational settings within the state. Benefits include funding for staff professional development and high-quality classroom curriculum and tools, equipment and materials.



*Milissa Cantanuuci, Center Education Coordinator with her first Pre-K Class at CTK...now they are all college bound!*



*Our Executive Director, Stacie Boelkins with students during Egyptian History Week.*



*Community Art Mural, "The Runaway Bunny" designed by Kailin Curtin; artwork courtesy of early childhood students.*

### **Important Components of the ECC Programs**

- Music instruction with Mrs. Suji Kwon
- Service projects to help those in need
- Weekly Community Prayer Service
- Library, Science & Gym classes
- Assistance with CPSE referral process
- Research based curriculum and assessments
- Dynamic, engaging relationships & environments

**We are grateful for the opportunity & privilege to serve children and families by helping to set solid foundations in faith, academics and social emotional education.**

## Faith Formation and Youth Ministry



In 2022-2023, we joyfully welcomed 36 new families to our **Faith Formation program** – bringing our total family enrollment to 158. 52 children received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, and 28 candidates were Confirmed.

We were also blessed with one RCIA catechumen who was baptized, Confirmed, and received the Eucharist; two young brothers who were Confirmed; and one seventh-grader who received the Eucharist (all at our Easter Vigil).

**Adult Faith Formation/“Coffee & Conversation”** offered numerous faith-enriching activities, from a vocations talk by Fr. Dan McHale and the Bible study series “No Greater Love” to tackling the topics of annulments and the LGBTQIA+ community.

“Creation Celebration” **Vacation Bible School** took place July 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, with 33 children participating (preschool through Grade 5). Four adults and 15 teen leader also helped. Each day (9 a.m. to noon) explored what God created on that day, with outdoor games, arts and crafts, Bible lessons, service projects, and themed snacks.

New during Lent was “**Stations & Psalms of the Cross,**” where each station was led by a different Faith Formation family and offered a family-centered psalm reflection.

Also in March, guest speaker Grace Fay gave a **mental health awareness workshop** for teens and parents as part of our vicariate’s “Rooted” series of events focusing on Eucharistic Revival.

Many young people helped with our **Ash Wednesday Soup & Bread Supper** before our 7 p.m. service.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, preschoolers through Grade 5 celebrated “**Noon**” **Year’s Eve** – counting down to noon instead of midnight with fun “minute to win it” games, food, and a sparkling cider toast!

Our Youth Ministry team presented a “**Halloween Bash & Movie Night**” for children in our newly renovated Rectory lower level, complete with costumes, pizza, popcorn, Halloween cookie decorating, crafts, and fun treat bags.

CTK’s **Service Week** included projects such as dog chew toys and collecting pet supplies for the humane society, soap sacks for Grassroot Givers, fleece blankets, collecting children’s books for Mary’s Corner, and more.

We continued our **Youth-Led Masses** each month, with young people of all ages serving in ministry roles (greeters, lectors, gift bearers, etc.).

### Media

In March we hired a media coordinator to bring together the Evangelization Ministry of our different media outlets: the parish website, weekly bulletin and newsletter, Facebook, and the introduction of YouTube. This fiscal year we had...

An estimated reach of 45.4K profiles on Facebook. Our weekly newsletter currently reaches 962 contacts with an open rate of 62% which is 17% higher than the industry average. Our highest performing Facebook post was, understandably, the announcement of Fr. Jim’s passing - reaching an estimated 22.5K profiles, followed by our Triduum and Easter paid ad inviting the local community to come to CTK to pray and enjoy our parish reaching an estimated 2.9K profiles. Our YouTube Channel was introduced in May 2023 as an avenue to store long and short form videos that were shared via our newsletters and Facebook. One video was published this fiscal year; Fr. Lesser’s Diocesan Appeal video, had an estimated 321 views and 7.1 hours of watch time.

### Buildings & Grounds Accomplishments

\*North/South Church Vestibule - new Hydronic Heaters\*Church Fire Alarm Panel inspection and Church Sprinkler Inspection and recommended repairs\*Instahot water heater in working sacristy replaced\*Termite bait stations installed around perimeter of Parish Center for one year to eradicate colony.\*Lawn sprinklers - new programming completed, and sprinklers active; future repairs required to be addressed\*Outdoor garden fountains repaired and in service\*HVAC PM contract and Church Fire Sprinkler PM contract\*Gathering space fireplace PM and cleaning\*Church handicap doors inspected and re-certified.\*Rectory basement redesign and construction\*Rectory HVAC humidifier repairs\* Removed two deteriorated sliding glass doors in the rectory and replaced with windows\*Renovated Rectory kitchen with new countertops and appliances\*Replaced leaking fire suppression pipe in the Gathering Space\*Replaced cast iron plumbing lines in rectory basement.\*Modifications of boy’s bathroom in Parish Center to conform to State PreK requirements.\* Repaired water damage and replaced flooring in the Music Room\*Replaced the sidewalk and repaired the porch in front of Rectory

## Financial Operation July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

I would like to thank all of you, for it is through your continued faithfulness and financial support, that the parish of Christ the King thrives and creates an environment where all are welcome. However, like most families, Covid affected the parish deeply, both emotionally and financially. Still, we have seen increases in both attendance as well as collections, so we remain optimistic that things will continue to recover and improve.

Our Early Childhood program continues to thrive and support our community after going through some challenges due to Covid.

Our Faith Formation Program also continues to serve the youth of the community by helping to develop their faith. We renovated the rectory basement to include additional classrooms to support the needs of the Faith Formation Program.

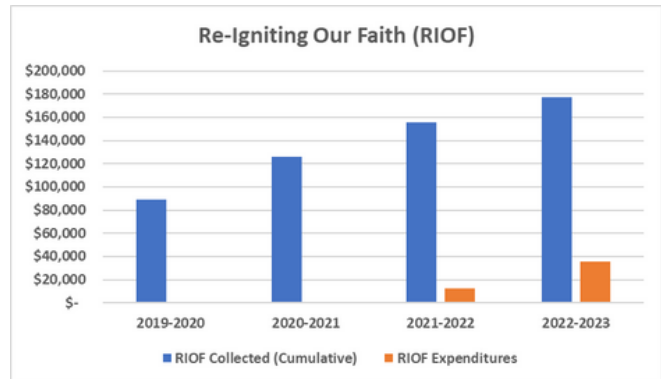
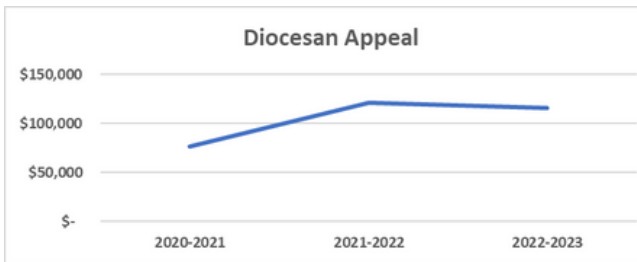
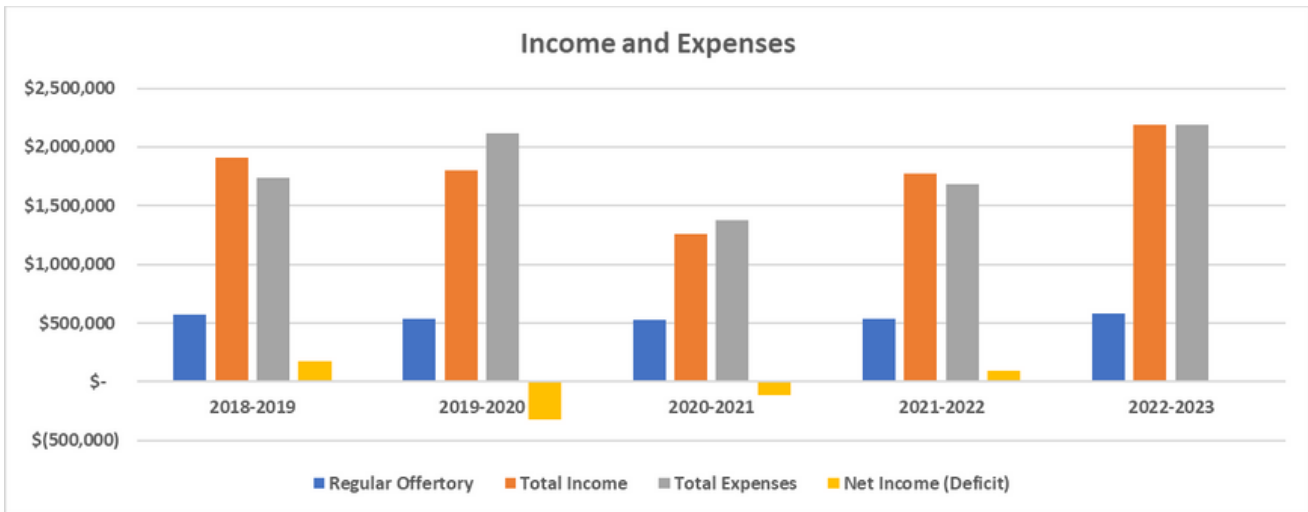
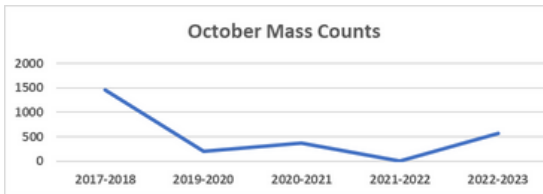
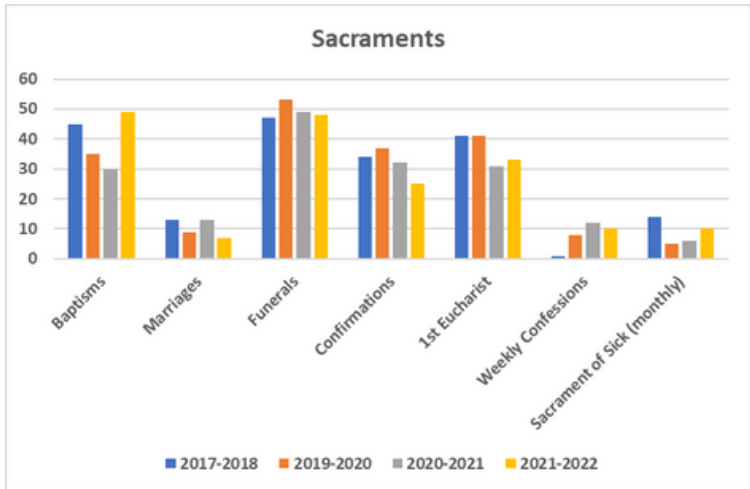
Like most families, we continue to be challenged by the ever-increasing costs of maintaining parish operations. I would like to thank all of you for your continued financial support. For those who are able, I ask that you prayerfully consider increasing your contributions so that we may continue to serve the needs of our community.

Offertory Collections	623,435
Donations - Church	56,005
Donations - Bldg Maint	34,362
Candles/Poor Box Receipts	25,574
Faith Formation Receipts	15,285
Early Childhood Receipts	1,429,681
Other Income	8,013
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,192,356</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	1,686,574
Supplies: Altar, Office, Household	118,648
Maintenance & Repairs	131,114
Utilities	39,891
Property Insurance	29,123
Subscriptions including Evangelist	10,395
Programs & Support Services	64,543
School Assessment	35,879
Other Expenses	70,629
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,186,796</b>
<b>Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>5,560</b>
<b>Extraordinary Items:</b>	
Reigniting Our Faith Income	21,091
Insurance Claims	28,316
ERC Credit	594,932
ERC Fee	70,280
Early Childhood Grant	45,232
Early Childhood Grant Costs	21,200
Capital Improvements	187,068
<b>Operating Income Including Extraordinary Items</b>	<b>416,583</b>



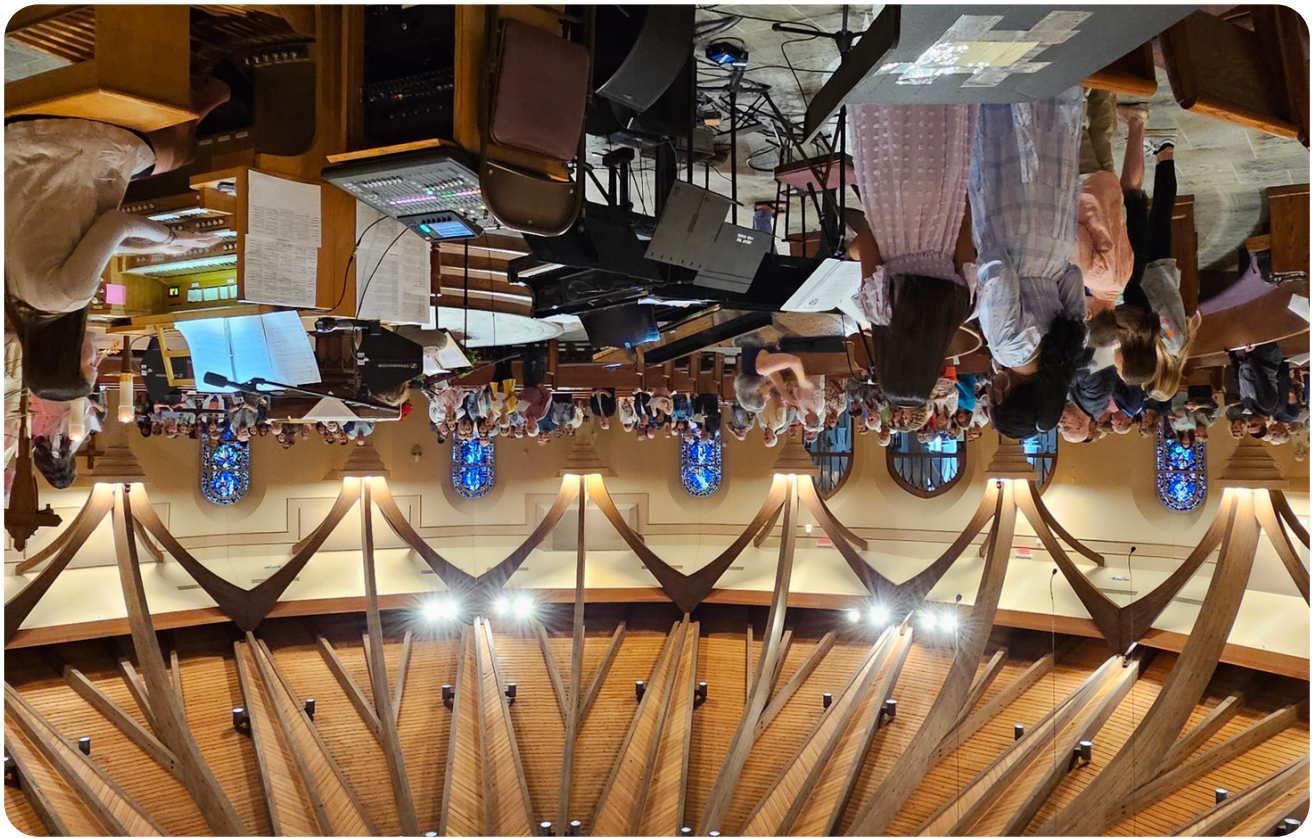
## Parish Profile and Financial Trends

PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS	
Total registered families	1778
Envelope Users	588
E-Givers	147



Balance Sheet		
	2021-2022	2022-2023
Total Assets	\$795,762.75	\$1,223,221.22
Total Liabilities	\$ 392,696.56	\$403,572.46
<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 403,066.19</b>	<b>\$819,648.76</b>

Potential Capital Improvement/Delayed Maintenance	
Rectory	\$ 10,660
Parish Center	\$ 7,240
Church Security System	\$ 11,195
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,095</b>



## CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

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