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2026 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE 158TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

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158th Annual Meeting Agenda

Church of Our Saviour | 2026 Annual Meeting
February 1, 2026, at 11:30am
530 W Fullerton Parkway, Chicago Illinois 60614

1. Opening Prayer and Call to Order
2. Welcome and Appointment of Clerk
3. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members
4. Rector's Report
5. Warden’s & Treasurer's Report
6. Fundraising Committee's Report
7. Election of Vestry Members & Convention Delegates
8. Commissioning of 2026 Vestry
9. Final Questions & Conversation
10. Closing Prayer & Adjournment
11. Blessing & Dismissal

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes (Approved by the Vestry at the February 2025 Meeting)

Church of Our Saviour | 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2025, at 11:30am
Salvatore's Event Venue, 525 W Arlington Place

Opening prayer and Call to Order – Meeting called to order by the Rev. Alan James (Interim Rector) at 11:30am and a quorum was declared. Fr. Alan welcomed the congregation present and offered the opening prayer before appointing Br. Will White, CMJ, as the Clerk for the meeting.

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members – Fr. Alan asked Brandon Cox (outgoing Sr Warden) and Karen Slimmon and Rebecca Elfring-Roberts (outgoing vestry members) to come forward. They were each thanked for their great service and presented with a gift. Mark Watson and Shirlene Paul were also thanked for their service but were not present. A gift will be given to each of them as well. Brandon Cox also thanked his wife, Nissa Cox, for her support during his time as Warden.

Willie Cade (incoming Jr Warden) also offered his great thanks to Brandon and Nissa and presented them with a gift certificate from the parish in gratitude for their service.

Interim Rector's Report – Fr. Alan offered his report to the parish noting the nature of his work as interim rector and highlighting several of the milestones accomplished in the past year under his leadership. These events were also listed in his official report included in the 2025 Annual Report. Fr. Alan drew attention to the spirit of joy present in the COS community and encouraged them to treasure it. He thanked the staff and the music team for their good work as well and offered a blessing over the parish.

Treasurer's Report: 2024 Year-End Financials and 2025 Budget – Rich Gray (Treasurer) shared information from the Treasurer's Report and year-end financials which were included in the 2025 Annual Report. Specifically, he noted that the 2025 budget represents a balanced budget with a modest surplus of just under $3,000. This coming year, as this past year will remain financially challenging as the building project continues in 2025. There were increases in our endowment fund as the markets did well in 2024. No withdrawals were made from the endowment in 2024. He then opened the floor to questions. There were none. He also reminded the parish that he can be reached at any time with questions about the congregation's financials. Fr. Alan thanked Rich for his many hours supporting the parishes' finances.

Wardens' Report, Including Parish Center Update – Brandon Cox and Willie Cade offered updates from their report which was included in the 2025 Annual Report. Their report was focused on acknowledging the efforts of various members of the congregation throughout the year and thanking them for that work. Willie specifically wanted to note the amazing work being done by the building project contractor (Norcon) and the subcontractors. He noted that they have been great partners throughout that project. They both continued thanking various members of the parish for administrative and ministry related work. Brandon concluded by thanking Willie Cade for the tremendous volume of work he has contributed, especially given some difficult personal challenges including the loss of his wife, Carol Cade, and his brother this past year. Willie, too, offered his thanks for the opportunity to work with Brandon over the last two years.

Fr. Alan shared a quick update on the columbarium project. The columbarium has arrived and is onsite, though it has not yet been fully installed. The Vestry has set the price for each niche at $2,500 and is finalizing the contract before accepting any deposits or payments. This work should be complete in the next couple of months.

Election of Wardens, Vestry Members, and Diocesan Convention Delegates – Fr. Alan reviewed the slate of candidates which had been approved by the Vestry and one addition by petition. The Vestry candidates are Willie Cade and Peter Civetta (Wardens), Greg Gleason, Kathy Nolan-Watson, and Joel Spear (3-year Vestry Term), Keith Olsen (1-year Vestry Term). He also listed the delegation candidates for the 2025 Diocesan Convention Carol Blendowski, Kay Huff, and Kevin Kamraczewski, and by petition Davi Bambino (Alternate). Given this is an uncontested election, Fr. Alan asked for a vote by acclamation of the individuals for their respective positions. The vote passed unanimously. With this election there are three classes of three on the Vestry, making up nine members of the Vestry, plus the two Wardens and the Rector.

Commissioning of 2025 Vestry – Fr. Alan asked all the newly elected members to come forward. He then led the congregation in the examination and commissioning of the Vestry and the newly elected diocesan delegation.

Final Questions and Conversation –Br. Will White, CMJ, Gregory Peebles, Cate Mascari, and Chuval Adams were invited to come forward as Fr. Alan thanked them for their service and commitment to the congregation. They received a standing ovation from the congregation. There were no questions or further discussion by those present.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment – The final payer and blessing was offered by Fr. Alan, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:24pm by unanimous consent.

RECTOR REPORT

The Rev. Charlotte Johnson, *Rector*

Dear People of COS,

What a joy it has been to be your rector this year! From my first interview with your search committee in the fall of 2024, I sensed that you were a uniquely joyful, courageous, and compassionate parish. Indeed, your commitment to live faithfully and with a spirit of celebration has carried us through a year of massive visible changes in our parish and in the broader community we serve.

All change, even desired and planned-for change, involves some loss. This year, you said good-bye to Rev. Alan James, whose skilled interim leadership prepared you so well for the weeks until I arrived and for our beginning ministry together. And we said good-bye to beloved members lost to death or relocation, as well as to those who have felt drawn to worship elsewhere. Each of those people who have made this their church home for any length of time has blessed the community with their presence. May they know themselves held in God's tender love.

Looking back on 2025, we have much to celebrate. Along with the completion of our Parish Commons and our return to worshipping in the church, we welcomed many visitors who quickly became part of our existing and new ministries. We've celebrated confirmations, baptisms, beach mass, pet blessings, and our Bishop's first visitation to Church of Our Saviour, when Bishop Paula received three adults into the Episcopal Church. Our Advent and Christmas seasons were rich with opportunities to wait expectantly for Christ's arrival, and the Longest Night service provided time for healing community prayer.

Our focus this year has been on growing in understanding of who we are and who God is calling us to be now. That discernment work has happened "undercover" through small group Home Eucharists and the dozens of formal and informal one-on-one conversations I've had with you. It's also happened in vestry meetings, weekly staff meetings, and in every bible study, Catechesis session, Adult forum, youth group, Eucharist service, ministry team meeting, and prayer group that takes place online or in person. When we seek the Spirit's leading and follow, we grow.

Coming back into the church, we've seen the revitalization of ministries like the altar guild and the acolyte guild. More ushers and greeters have stepped forward to welcome worshippers into our space, and many of you have begun baking Communion bread for Eucharist. We've added a team of people gifted in external and internal communications and social media. 2025 saw the birth of our Antiracism Committee and beginning conversations around strengthening our pastoral care ministry.

We are so blessed to have a small dedicated and gifted staff. Cate Mascari, Brother Will White, Gregory Peebles, and Chuval Adams bring their unique skills to COS as ministers, not just employees. Deacon Jess's call to "bring the needs of the world to the church and the church to the world" is expressed in all the ways Jess leads here. Wardens Peter Civetta, Betsy Sharpe, and former warden Willie Cade have served with commitment and love. Treasurer Rich Gray, Assistant Treasurer Keith Olsen, Greg Kamieka (buildings and grounds), and Clerk Greg Gleason served faithfully and patiently, and I'm so grateful for their work. Indeed, the entire vestry has carried much this year!

Outside our red doors, Church of Our Saviour was part of starting up Witness Wednesdays, a weekly prayer service offered at Federal Plaza to lift up the needs of immigrants and all of us for true justice and peace. Brother Will graciously convened Lincoln Park area clergy for the start of conversations around how we can work together to care for our neighbors. And with Care for Friends back at 530 W. Fullerton, we are intentionally working to keep up a strong partnership of care and trust.

This past year was full, and COS, you've done great! As we move into 2026, I'm looking forward to the start of two new committees: our worship committee and our pastoral care committee. Both of these will be meeting for the first time in the coming weeks, and you'll hear more about their activities as we discern our path forward. I'll also be continuing conversations with area clergy on possible opportunities for collaboration.

Friends, in her sermon at our Celebration of New Ministry on January 17, the Rev. Linda Taylor called on us to pay attention to the reality of what is and to see opportunities instead of barriers. She said, "As you continue in your journey as a community of faith, I know you'll pay close attention to the things you carry with you because you've demonstrated that ability over the years. As you plan for your future, I know you will continue to look at who you are, who you have been, and just as important, who and what God is calling you to be and do now. Beloved people of COS, you are a blessing to this community, to the people who have known you over the years and to those who have yet to meet you. You are a blessing. You've not got to worry. You've got this!"

And so we pray,
Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect for Epiphany 3A)

With gratitude,
The Rev. Charlotte Johnson

From our prayer of dedication, October 18, 2025:

Holy One, your generosity and kindness are always flowing toward us and all that you have made. This building is a living testament to your grace. May the words we speak this day lead us beyond mere expressions of gratitude for past gifts, but help us to see in this building creative opportunities to serve the common good and welfare of all people, particularly our most vulnerable neighbors. May it be a safe place of solace and healing for the hurting. May hungry hearts and minds be fed, and may the lonely find a home. May our Parish Commons be known as a place where compassion, generosity, courage, justice, and peace are lived out in practical and hope-filled ways. Bless the work of our hands, O God, and help us to continue it with joy. All this we humbly ask in your holy name. Amen.

WARDENS REPORT

Peter Civetta & Betsy Sharpe, *Wardens*

It has been a tremendous year at Church of Our Saviour; in fact, it may have been one of the most consequential in our history. We began the year saying farewell to our excellent interim rector, the Reverend Alan James, while still worshipping in Salvatore's Restaurant. We are grateful for the work that he did helping us to stabilize some processes and think through who we are and what we want to do moving forward. In the spring, we welcomed our 15th rector, the Reverend Charlotte Johnson, who has helped to revitalize our spiritual and worship life including adult forums and pastoral care. We are so honored and excited to have her with us at COS.

In the fall, we were finally able to end our wilderness experience and resume worshipping in our glorious sanctuary. We also moved into the new Parish Commons building, a project that spanned literally decades, while we also renewed our collaboration with Care For Friends, with whom we share this beautiful new building. We held a grand dedication blessing and party in October, and it was great to be able to celebrate this enormous accomplishment with friends, old and new, along with elected government representatives who are supportive of this project and our parish. In that same time period, the vestry voted to consolidate our Sunday worship to two services to enable us to build back up our community together. Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday school moved into their new rooms in the Parish Commons, and a new Youth Group Leadership Council was formed to help redevelop programming and support for junior and senior high school aged children. We are grateful to Rebecca Elfring-Roberts for leading that new group. We formed an Anti-Racism Committee that is doing tremendous work (and is open for new members). We also faced the unexpected resignation of a warden for personal reasons when all of this change was happening in the fall. It proved a major challenge, but we were blessed by the willingness of other leaders to step forward and help, ultimately leading to Betsy Sharpe's decision to assume the rest of the expiring warden term. In the midst of all that, we had Easter and Christmas and baptisms and weddings and funerals and laughter and sadness and joy and struggle. Yes, it was quite a year indeed.

Moving forward, we face significant challenges, but ones that we feel can lead to great opportunities for the growth and development of our parish and congregants. When the building project was approved by the vestry years ago, there was an awareness of the challenging finances that would lay ahead of us. We are incredibly grateful for the tremendous fundraising work done by Angie Allen and Karen Slimmon that made this building possible. However, due to rising costs (COVID supply chain disruptions among other reasons), the vestry knew the final cost would exceed the amount raised, even including the funding received by Care For Friends from the State of Illinois for their portion of the building. The vestry approved the ability to secure a loan to cover the difference, and this year we obtained a loan for $1.5 million. We have begun loan payments which is putting significant stress on our overall finances.

The vestry appointed a Finance Committee to address the challenges, and we have discerned three primary means to address them. First, we can use endowment funds over time to cover the additional expenses. Second, we can secure new sources of income through the rental of church spaces. Third, we can begin a fresh round of fundraising to help eliminate the debt. It is our goal to use all three means; ideally, we will use as little of the endowment as possible.

God has provided us with great abundance, including three lovely buildings, and we want to ensure that we continue to be good stewards of God's gifts. A Space Utilization Committee was created in the fall. We now have two contracts in place to rent out parking during times of low use. We have also purchased a new-to-us grand piano for the Sanctuary to attract more community organizations, university students, and engaged couples to rent out our church. We have updated our website to promote the many beautiful spaces of our campus. In addition, we have also engaged realtors to learn about a variety of possible long-term leases that could provide COS with consistent income. A spreadsheet outlining some of our options is below.

Morag Fullilove and Mike Mascari have agreed to lead a new fundraising campaign focusing directly on paying down the loan as quickly as possible. They will speak about these efforts during today's meeting. The primary goal to get rid of the debt in order to allow us to focus on the work of God as church in this community. We are so grateful to them for their leadership and vision, and if you would like to get involved in their critical work, please reach out to them directly.

Working with the Finance and Fundraising Committees, we believe we will be able to chart a path through the challenging financial situation we are currently in.

It has been a challenging year in our country and in our church. Yet we feel a strong sense of renewed energy and enthusiasm. There is a dynamic excitement in the parish, and we are thrilled to be able to support the work of our church and the amazing community within it. As always, we remain open to speaking with you about your needs and concerns about the church, so feel free to contact us.

With deep care,

Peter Civetta and Betsy Sharpe, *COS Wardens*

Space Utilization Options

	Rent Entire Rectory as a Home	Rent 3rd Floor Rectory as Offices	Rent 3rd Floor of New Building	Rent out Parish Hall and Sanctuary Short-Term
Monthly Estimated Revenue	$8,000 to $11,000	$1,200.00	Up to $3,750	$2,300 - $4,800*
Timeline	5 month lead time	15 to 24 months	12 - 24 months	Immediately
Anticipated Outlay Costs	$50K - $60K for safety and other property improvements	$3K - $5K for safety upgrades	$12K for Realtor and Rezoning of Building	Would be nice to refurbish Sanctuary floors ($50K)
Pros	Large, consistent monthly income; improved property value; can take back when debt paid off.	Consistent monthly income.	Consistent monthly income.	Option available regardless of what is done with Rectory.
Cons	High up-front costs; COS staff must move to new building; may have to give up a parking spot.	Must move Rector office; tenant must be non-profit; privacy/ security concerns for COS staff.	Lose access to any Sunday School rooms that are rented out.	Advertising and administrative costs associated with short-term management.

**Assuming 1 sanctuary rental, 3 parish commons rentals, and 10 conference room rentals per month*

TREASURER REPORT

Rich Gray, *Treasurer*

2025 Operating Results

Overall, Church of Our Saviour's operating cash flow was slightly negative in 2025, as our lower expenses (vs. 2024) were offset by lower revenue inflows.

2025 Receipts	**2025**	**2024**
Pledge Receipts	$443,000	$468,000 (5%)
Plate/Other Gifts	$32,000	$23,000
Special Offerings	-	$4,000
Subtotal Offerings	*$475,000*	*$495,000 (4%)*
Parking	-	$1,000
Other/Building Use	$10,000	$11,000
Total Receipts	**$485,000**	**$507,000 (4%)**

2025 Operating Expenses	**2025**	**2024**
Personnel Costs	$276,000	$276,000
Worship Expense	$62,000	$103,000 (40%)
Property Expense	$90,000	$85,000
Gen/Admin/Programs	$39,000	$54,000 (28%)
Diocesan Support	$28,000	$20,000
Special Offerings	-	$2,000
Total Operating Expenses	**$495,000**	**$540,000 (8%)**
Net Operating	**($10,000)**	**($33,000)**

Operating expenses were down in 2025 as numerous changes were made as we transitioned to changes in worship, music, and staffing. G&A expenses decreased without 2024's audit payment, and vestry search expenses. Diocese support increased closer towards our ask level.

We continue to expect changes in our expenses again in 2026 as we have a full year with our new rector and parish commons in service.

Additional Financial Budget Impacts	**2025**	**2024**
Investment Income	$49,000	$69,000
Endowment Transfer	$35,000	-
Loan Payments	($80,000)	-
Other Net	+$4,000	+$69,000

2026 Operating Budget

Total Revenue is expected to increase in 2025, as offerings/pledges increase a bit more than inflation, and we expect to realize 'other' returning streams of income in 2026. This additional potential comes as we fully use the new parish center, regain parking income (incl Salvatore's), and seek to hold more events in house.

2026 Operating Budget	2026 Budget	2025 Actual
Pledge Receipts	$460,000	$443,000 (+4%)
Plate/Other Gifts	$25,0000	$32,000
Special Offerings	-	-
Subtotal Offerings	$485,000	$475,000 (+2%)
Parking	$16,000	-
Care for Friends	$18,000	-
Building Use/Other	$32,000	$10,000
Total Receipts	**$551,000**	**$485,000 (+14%)**

Overall operating expenses are expected to increase as we transition back into our campus and have full year with a new rector and changed worship. G&A expenses are lower without vestry search expenses.

2026 Operating Expenses	2026 Budget	2025 Actual
Personnel Costs	$309,000	$276,000 (+12%)
Worship Expense	$51,000	$62,000*
Property Expense	$98,000	$90,000
Gen/Admin/Programs	$24,000	$28,000
Special Offerings	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	**$521,000**	**$495,000 (+5%)**

**one service*

This budget leaves us with an operating surplus of $30k, which combined with interest from reserves $15k, will be well short of our parish center loan expense estimated at $245k. ($1.5 mil - 7-year loan). The resulting cash shortage of $200k will be the focus of the vestry, trying to raise additional funds, reduce the loan payments (longer term/mortgage), and using our endowment funds as backstop.

Financial Assets/Reserves

COS financial assets are held in accounts at 2 institutions. Wintrust has most of our Operating funds in checking and savings accounts ($1.2 mil). Wintrust is also our lender with a loan balance ($1.4 mil). Fidelity holds a brokerage account which has part of our Endowment plus a small operating component (used to receive financial asset donations) - totaling $250k.

These financial assets fall into the following accounts.

End of Year Assets	2025	2024	Notes
Capital Campaign	($1,081,000)	$922,000	Spent $3.4M more than received in 2025, less loan
Endowment	$935,000	$859,000	
Property/Stewardship	$55,000	$102,000	Several large rectory projects
Other Restricted Funds	$200,000	$160,000	Moved sabbatical liability to vestry allocated funds*
Unrestricted Funds	$1,340,000	$1,141,000	Will need to zero out with Cap Campaign
Total Financial Assets	$1,449,000	$3,184,000	
Loan Balance	($1,436,000)	-	

**per audit recommendation*

INVESTMENTS & ENDOWMENT FUND

Rich Gray, Chair, Betsy Sharpe, Greg Kameika

The COS Endowment fund ended 2025 at a record high amount, over $930,000, closer to our long-standing goal of realizing a sustaining endowment of over $1 million supporting our long-term financial health. Our objective remains unchanged, to build a substantial long-term asset base to provide ongoing income to support our activities and a reserve against a future unforeseen crisis.

In 2023 considering the near-term COS needs to support construction of a new Parish Commons, we modified our investment objectives to provide income to help meet payments on an expected loan. We allocated thirty percent of the fund to equity-based income generation stocks (dividends will help support the interest expense of the project). We also invested twenty percent of the fund in fixed income funds to provide a readily available contingency fund, preserve capital and generate income. The remaining fifty percent of the funds remain invested to optimize growth and track overall market returns, with high Ethical, Sustainable, and Governance [ESG] investments. ESGs should outperform markets in the long term while championing ethical business behavior, sustainable business models and leading corporate governance practices.

As approved in the 2025 budget, we took a distribution of $35,000 from Endowment funds, consistent with earned investment income, in order to provide additional support to Operations during a challenging transition year for the parish.

In October, we made a very significant move by liquidating $700,000 in funds at Fidelity and moving those funds to our Wintrust savings account. This was done in order to meet security requirements for the loan we secured in September, freeing up those funds to be used for making Parish Hall project payments. That leaves $234,000 in Endowment funds at Fidelity and $700,000 in Endowment funds at Wintrust. The Endowment Fund Committee continues to track the performance of the current portfolio, review the needs of COS, and we will consider adjustment in strategy periodically.

The endowment received a very significant contribution in 2023 from the estate of Dr. Ruth Seeler. There have been no other contributions to the Endowment fund during 2024 -25. Investment gains and losses, although they run through the Church income statement, are retained in the fund, and do not contribute to net operating income or expenses.

Other COS Investments

In 2023 we consolidated our other COS investment holdings in a single account at Fidelity – this account in addition to the Endowment fund holds fixed income money market funds on behalf of the COS operating account, where they get a higher interest rate than with our bank deposits. These investments are recorded separately in both our Fidelity records and on the books of COS.

Giving to the Endowment

Please consider the COS Endowment as part of your planned giving. Here are some ways to contribute:

- Designate COS as a beneficiary in your will, trust or Donor Advised Fund
- Designate COS as a beneficiary in your 401(k), IRA or brokerage or bank account
- For those over 70 1/2, a qualified charitable donation (QCD) from your 401(k) or IRA
- A gift of securities or cash at anytime

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT

Cate Mascari, *Director of Music*

Each Sunday morning, I am privileged to work with a group of musicians whose creativity, artistry, and joy is incredibly special. Our core ensemble – Anton Hatwich (double bass), Michael Mascari (guitar, cello, and voice), Kari Nelson (clarinet and voice), Justin Peters (percussion), and David Washington (voice) – took on the challenges of holding services at Salvatores for 18 months with positivity and humor, as well as a spirit of flexibility that opened up new possibilities for worship at the Chicago lakefront, the front steps of the church, and even the 2nd floor of the rectory!

Over the past year the music program has also taken an important leap forward with the expansion of our choir. Longtime choir members Margaret Post and Deborah Vonderhaar were instrumental in welcoming Henry Palmer and Chloe Pope-Levison to the group during our time at Salvatore's, and more recently Cindy Trubey and Natasha Chrisandina have stepped forward to add their musical gifts. It has been wonderful hearing from parishioners how much they enjoy the addition of these fabulous voices to the sound of our liturgical music program. I feel blessed to work with each of these exceptionally fine musicians, who serve the COS congregation so enthusiastically and generously.

I am also truly grateful for the congregation's openness to exploring the full possibilities presented by centuries of sacred and secular composition, the broad and rich scope of global faith and cultural traditions, and a colorful palette of instrumental and choral sounds. Of course, it is important to acknowledge that we are all disappointed by the delay in reintroducing the glorious sounds of our pipe organ to Sunday morning worship, but please know that Charlotte, the Vestry, and I are committed to having the organ operational again as soon as possible.

I am excited for the music program to begin a new chapter of musical outreach in 2026 as we open our sanctuary and parish commons doors to our Chicagoland community. Many of you remember with great fondness the brilliant leadership of William Ferris during his time as Music Director, and so I cannot imagine a more fitting ensemble to launch a new concert series at COS than the William Ferris Chorale. I hope you will all mark your calendars and join us on February 21 at 7:30pm so we can together welcome this remarkable ensemble back to Church of Our Saviour.

This is a very special time at COS with a great deal of possibility, and I am so blessed and proud to be sharing this journey with you.

Cate Mascari, *Director of Music*



Mass on the Lake

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY REPORT

Gregory Peebles, *Director of Ministry*

What a difference three months makes!

Having been back in our historic worship space since October, it's already hard to remember our time "in the wilderness" at Salvatore's, but so much of 2025 happened there. For ¾ of the year, every Sunday we converted a restaurant into a holy space, regularly assembling a church, only to store it again, all the while acting like it was no big deal. In that strange situation, which became our "new normal", we celebrated the New Year, facilitated our annual meeting, underwent Holy Week, experienced the season of Resurrection, and settled again into ordinary time. All the while, we prayed and learned, looking ahead to our homecoming.

No matter where we are, when I look at COS, I see an active community of faith and an engaged community.

To that end, I am happy to report that liturgical volunteerism is up, and that volunteers for worship are once again managed by lay leadership. At this time, Tom Walker manages the acolytes, Morag Fullilove manages the greeters, and Margaret Post manages the readers/intercessors. Additionally, our altar guild, currently managed by Michael Shoenberger, is once again staffed with volunteers to support the work of the Holy Table. Previously, this was managed by staff, but the evidence is clear: lay leadership is back, and strong. It is my hope that in 2026, this engagement will become even stronger, with more volunteers, more attendance at COS's event-offerings, and with even more COSers taking ownership of the opportunities available.

COS has a full weekly calendar of church-supported opportunities to pray, study, and connect. These opportunities are effectively managed by lay community leaders, Weekly Compline prayer on Monday evenings, started by Peg Taylor and now facilitated by Carol Blendowski, is still offered online, and remains open to all. Also, Senior Conversations, led by Joyce Poole, is a space where folks nearing or entering retirement can come together over food and fellowship to make connections, find support, and explore topics of interest. This group meets monthly and is open to parishioners. Please allow me also a moment of gratitude to Ingrid Burnett, Betsy Peterson, Joyce Poole, Mark Watson, and Joan Roberts for their leadership on Book Club, Morning Glories, Senior Conversations, and Education for Ministry (EfM). Likewise, Youth Group, led by Alice Kovacik, Clare Nolan-Long, Davi Bambino, and Jess and Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, is plugged in to acts of care and service, with action days every 4-6 weeks.

2025 was packed full with Adult Formation, beginning with a series of small group discussions on the Gospel of Luke, spearheaded by Nancy Paradiso. For Lent, as your director of ministries, I coordinated a 4-week session on contemplation. A series of guests with expertise in spiritual imagination offered attendees virtual instruction and guidance in practices like Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, The Examen, and even Bibliodrama.

Next, we explored the idea of call with another 3-session series I led entitled, "Spiritual Vocation: Call | Response | Dialogue", and The Rev. Charlotte Johnson, meeting our difficult national moment, closed our formation sessions at Salvatore's with a guided conversation on The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde's book, "How We Learn to Be Brave." That conversation began a dialogue in earnest that eventuated in the establishment of our antiracism team, and I express particular gratitude to the members of this committee, chaired by Rich Trubey, for this important initiative. This group is open to any interested COSers.

Once back at home, lay leaders took the opportunity to inaugurate the new space with a series on "stewardship" in which we asked probing questions about how we use our available resources as they relate to issues important to COSers. This conversation included the ways in which we might offer the space of the Parish Commons to renters in the community, and how we want to make use of it on our own. Sincere gratitude is due to Steve Peterson, Peter Civetta, Betsy Sharpe, and The Rev. Charlotte Johnson for their leadership in these conversations.

To close the year, I led another 4-session conversation considering the intersection of Mary, Advent and Music as a way to prepare us to receive, as much as we are able, the miracle of the Incarnation. COSers supported all adult formation sessions with their presence, with compelling conversation, and with prayer.

Throughout Eastertide and into Ordinary Time, house eucharists, hosted by parishioners, helped folks get to know new rector, Charlotte Johnson, and to celebrate the sacrament of eucharist in an intimate setting. In fact, in 2025, eucharist at COS was incredibly flexible. We worshipped outdoors on the lakefront in August and welcomed walk-ins from joggers and pets, with our October St. Francis Day celebration bringing us into contact with more Fullerton Ave passers-by and their furry friends.

Also, of major note regarding eucharists: once we were back in our historic worship space, we had our first episcopal visitation by The Rt. Rev Paul Clark. We invited the bishop to take the seat of her office in a worship service where she celebrated and received new members into the church, and we all came together for our first major celebration in the new Parish Commons.

Pivoting back to active ministries, this year, the Christmas ReVIVE basket effort, led again by Nissa Cox, was another huge success. The thank-you cards we received confirm that COS's love of neighbor ensured a blessed Christmas for those who wouldn't otherwise have had a material reason to celebrate.

Our ministries – such as Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Adult Forums – are alive and growing in the new Parish Commons. COS would be a very different place without its Sunday School ministry in the atria by Betsy Peterson, Peter Civetta, Robecca Elfring-Roberts, Todd Young, and Joan Roberts, and I cannot thank them enough for their strength in leadership and for their dedication to forming the next generation of Christians.

I would also like to take this moment to offer my thanks to Sue Watts, ACSW, for initiating a grief support group. This group was well received by those who made use of the opportunity. It is my hope that even more parishioners will step forward to offer to lead more sessions or groups that support fellow parishioners. There is so much wisdom and experience among COSers that we can all benefit from the available professional experience and varied points of view.

As director of ministries, it is clear to me that COS has a hunger to understand our Christian tradition and a strong social charism. Now, through years of combined efforts of clergy, vestry, and lay leadership, it has a brand-new space in which to live out that invitation to the community, and I look forward to being one of your means of support in the year to come.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Br. Will White, CMJ, *Director of Operations*

2025 was another busy year for COS as we continued working on the construction of the new Parish Commons building. Services continued at Salvatore's with our weekly programming, meetings, and Sunday School occurring in the rectory. Outside groups, like the Monday Men's AA group, also continued to meet in the rectory. Thank you to my colleagues for supporting of all the good work God has given us to accomplish together.

We held our 2025 Annual Meeting at Salvatore's and Easter services at DePaul, as we had in the previous year. A huge thank you to Fr. Alan for his leadership at the start of the year as we prepared to greet our new rector, the Rev Charlotte Johnson. Another huge thank you to our wonderful musicians, under the leadership of Cate Mascari. Their flexibility and skill never cease to amaze— from pop up worship at Salvatore's to the DePaul campus, to a lakefront service in the summer, they always bring creativity and professionalism.

With operations primarily restricted to the rectory for most of 2025, we focused on keeping things well organized and available to parish needs while maintaining the office space necessary for the staff to function. By the later part of the summer, we began making plans to return to the church space which required a large amount of cleaning and moving. During the construction phase, many of our materials and storage items were organized in the pews and loft space. It was a tremendous task getting those items moved into the new building, and to get our worship space cleaned in time for the first Sunday back in the church in October 2025. Thank you to all the parishioners who volunteered to help with moving and cleaning over multiple days.

I hoped to strengthen our community ties by reaching out to nearby faith communities to create the Lincoln Park Association of Religious Communities (LPARC) which will foster greater communication and support between our communities. Pastor Charlotte has taken the lead on this venture and will continue to build momentum around common ministry sharing in the area.

Ahead of the completion of the building project, COS underwent a certified audit which allowed us to review our financial processes and procedures. It was encouraging to learn that overall; we have strong practices in place which help with the proper handling of donor funds and record keeping.

Our official return to the church space and opening of the Parish Commons was punctuated by the ribbon cutting and dedication event which gathered parishioners, neighbors, community partners, and elected officials to COS. It was a wonderful event which included Pastor Charlotte leading a blessing on each of the floors of the new building. COS enjoyed a little more of the spotlight as our Parish Commons and COS history were featured in WBEZ's *What's the Building* segment. COS also continued to greet visitors from near and far, including Dr. Vicki Garlock, who won the Guinness World Record for the most houses of worship visited in a single month, visiting 185 different places of worship in Chicago (including COS).

In late 2025, I also began working to organize information for rental spaces across our campus. The rentals page on our website went live in early 2026. This will need to be a focus as we seek to maximize revenue while continuing to support the ministries of the parish. We also hope to promote weddings at COS in 2026, which we have not done previously. We also anticipate designating a few parking spots for late night/overnight parking by use of a parking app system. This will also help bring in some additional funds.

It was unfortunate to discover that the organ console acquired two years prior had been rendered inoperable by a lightning strike while we were out of the church. We began an insurance claim in December of 2025, and we anticipate applying the funds received towards the purchase of a new(er) console for future use.

The new building brings new technologies and vendor contracts to support the elevator, fire safety, septic pumps, and a sophisticated HVAC system, along with some new gathering spaces for our community. With the completion of a long-awaited columbarium space, we can now begin to schedule committal services for some of the cremains we have been carefully holding and offer niche space for COS parishioners going forward. This addition, along with new landscaped lawn space along Fullerton, are welcomed community assets for COS and the neighborhood.

I look forward to the coming year as we continue to grow into our new and renewed spaces together as we welcome new families and members into the COS family. It will also be a delight to host community programming, events, fundraisers, and our own ministries in facilities that are both gracious and accommodating. In 2026, we will focus on organizing and expanding our communications strategies, solidifying property procedures across the newly completed campus, and building a new and sustainable fundraising strategy to ensure the future of this wonderful parish for generations to come. As always, it is a joy to support the good work of this spiritual family, and I relish the opportunities to preach and pray with you all throughout the year.



Witness Wednesdays – a weekly gathering at Federal Plaza to pray for justice and compassion for the marginalized

MINISTRY REPORTS

Altar Servers

Tom Walker, *Ministry Lead*

The Acolyte ministry at Church of Our Saviour is a vital part of our worship life. We serve as a bridge between the clergy and the congregation, helping our services run smoothly and with reverence. This year, we've focused on being a reliable presence at the altar, whether for a quiet Sunday morning or a major feast day.

We currently have thirteen acolytes on our roster.

- The Core Team: I am especially grateful for the three or four members who serve "on the front lines" one to two times every month. Their consistency is the backbone of our ministry.
- Special Occasions: Our wider team stepped up beautifully this year for Bishop visitations and Major Feast Days. Additionally, I have been glad to step in for funerals and memorial services to ensure our liturgy remains a comfort to families during shorter-notice events.

The most encouraging update from this year is the addition of two new acolytes to our regular rotation. They have jumped right in, making themselves available and consistently signing up for services. Seeing new faces take on these responsibilities with such initiative has been a highlight for me as Lead Acolyte.

Our biggest hurdle right now is consistency. Because many of our members only serve a few times a year, it can be hard to keep everyone's training fresh and our signup sheet full. We are looking at ways to make participation feel more "second nature" for everyone involved.

To help our guild grow, I'm working on two main goals:

1. Simplified Scheduling: I am looking into a free signup app to make it easier for everyone to see open slots, receive reminders, and respond to "extra hand" requests on short notice.
2. Flexible Role Training: I am developing a "role breakdown" guide so that whether we have two acolytes or five, everyone knows exactly what to do. I want every member to feel confident and familiar with every duty at the altar.

I have come to say regularly that it is a joy to serve. We are all called to serve God and one another in love, and the Acolyte Guild is a unique space that continues to bridge the ordained and lay ministries. This is a tradition that stretches back to the ancient house churches, and it is my sincere desire that we continue to serve our leadership and one another with that same ancient joy.

Sunday Greeters

Morag Fullilove, *Lead Greeter*

Greeters are the first people one meets when arriving at COS. While we were worshiping at Salvatore's, the greeters were critical in conveying a sense of community to both established parishioners, visitors and newcomers. There was less ushering to do in the smaller space, but even more need for a friendly smile when arriving.

I wish to thank the faithful band of greeters during the past year which included David Bambino, Carol Blendowski, Peter Civetta, Nissa Cox, Greg Gleason, Kris Gleason, Richard Gray, Richard Harvey, Shaung

Huang, Kevin Kamraczewski, Nancy Paradiso, Rebecca Roberts, Campbell Sharpe, Mark Shields, Annie Snow, and Peggy Taylor.

Now that we have happily returned to the church, our greeters are slowing back to broader ushering duties at the 10 am Sunday service including assistance with communion and collecting the offering, but welcoming is still our most important role. With the Rector and the Worship Committee, we are updating our written guidelines and gradually training the new group of greeters. We are always looking for new volunteers.

Greeting is a great way to meet parishioners and is vital to the growth of the parish. All greeting requires is arriving 30 minutes before the service and staying a few minutes after to help with clean up and security. We try to have two greeters for each Sunday and will pair an experienced greeter with a new one to make sure all are comfortable with the routine. Our goal is to have enough greeters so that each person only needs to serve once every 5 weeks. If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please let Gregory Peebles (ministries@chicagocos.org) or me know.

And we look forward to greeting you at future services.

Morag Fullilove, Lead Greeter
moragf@comcast.net
1 312 953 1118

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Joan Roberts & Mark Watson, *EfM Mentors*



The year 2025 brought a healthy maturation to the Education for Ministry (EfM) group at COS. We are happy to report the addition of two new participants that are following the year one curriculum of the Old Testament scriptures. The returning portion of the group has been working with the year two curriculum of the New Testament. As we proceed into the future, participants will move to the year three curriculum of the history of the Christian church, while fourth year participants will follow the year four curriculum of ethics and spirituality.

There are 11 of us that meet weekly in a two-semester academic format. Each week there is an assignment for studying the scriptures, reading a textbook commentary, discussing and analyzing the reading material, and finally participating in the organized reflection on a unique topic—with an eye toward viewing it theologically.

So why do we need EfM at COS? Paraphrasing the Book of Common Prayer, in the closing prayer of the baptismal covenant…we confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection and share with him in his eternal priesthood. For each of us, whatever our ministry might be—and it will be as unique as the uniqueness of every baptized Christian—EfM seeks to provide tools that will inform our efforts in meeting that challenge. Our plan in 2026 is to continue following the academic year calendar, taking the

summer off, and resuming in the fall. We hope that you will consider joining Education for Ministry in the fall of 2026.

COS Book Club

Ingrid Burnett, *Ministry Lead*

The COS Book Club gets together once a month to discuss the book that had them curled up and turning pages for the previous month. But we don't just discuss the book that we loved/hated/didn't read. Each of us also brings something yummy to share with the group.

With the new building, we also have a new meeting room which is the small group meeting room on the second floor. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00, following the 6:30 Eucharist in the Church. For those who are unable to attend in person, a Zoom link is offered. Although we don't meet during the summer months, we do read a longer book that we discuss at our September meeting, when (as a group) we choose the books that we would like to read for the upcoming months.

The people that make up the COS Book Club are (in alphabetical order):

Carol Blendowski, Ingrid Burnett, Linda Commons, Dee Jarrett Dow, Deirdre Hastings, Kay Huff, Tristan Kervin, Janis O'Neil, Margie Palmer, and Trask Prinz. The Book Club is open to both Parishioners and Non-Parishioners.

Care for Friends

Helen Valkavich, *COS Liaison*

Coming Home to Church of Our Saviour

This has been an incredible year for Care for Friends (CFF), and a meaningful moment to reflect on our history, growth, and journey back home to Church of Our Saviour (COS).

As many in our community know, CFF began as a small, informal COS mission, preparing delicious, from-scratch meals once a week on Saturdays, then expanding to pasta-centric Mondays, and eventually filling a critical gap by adding a third weekly meal on Thursdays (thank you, Charles Stewart). Along with meals, the program also provided foot care services, clothing, and toiletries for neighbors in need.

By 2012, Food for Friends had evolved beyond a COS mission into an enterprise involving the wider surrounding community, with volunteers and guests from the Lincoln Park neighborhood and beyond. Reflecting this growing connection outside the church walls, Care for Friends' original board members J.D. Miller, Annette Moore, Carol England, and Rev. Brian Hastings took the program to the next level by incorporating as a nonprofit and formally registering with the State of Illinois. This step positioned the small but mighty mission to expand its outreach and impact.

In 2016, Care for Friends governing board hired its first paid employee, Executive Director Gary Kenzer. CFF also launched its first formal fundraisers, including the February Sleep Out and the annual September Power Hope Gala—both of which have grown in impact every year since their inception. In 2019, Hope Pavich became CFF's Executive Director and amplified every aspect of the organization's outreach and services.

Care for Friends did not miss a beat—or a meal—during the pandemic. Volunteers continued to prepare warm, thoughtfully made meals, which were served outdoors. CFF expanded its health services to include not only foot care, but also health screenings and substance use education clinics. Turning challenges into opportunities, when the Greater Chicago Food Depository sought community partners to distribute large volumes of food assistance during the pandemic, CFF created the CarePack Program. This initiative built and delivered grocery boxes directly to the homes of children and families identified by Chicago public schools as experiencing food insecurity.

Then came the long-awaited building project. By 2021, Care for Friends was in a position to seek significant grant funding from the State of Illinois to support the creation of space dedicated to CFF's work. Now an independent nonprofit with its own board and staff, CFF had grown beyond its COS roots while still being deeply supported by COS members and alumni. The organization also built a strong network of volunteers from across the city and partnerships with other service organizations.

CFF's long history with COS culminated in an extraordinary collaboration to fund the construction of the new Commons. CFF used state grant funds to build dedicated program space on the lower level and contributed to the building's supporting infrastructure. Once again turning challenges into opportunities, during construction CFF temporarily relocated its operations to the Church of the Atonement in Edgewater, where it built a new and thriving outreach community.

In August 2025, rather than simply moving back "home," CFF expanded in remarkable ways. In less than twelve months, the organization grew from one location to three: opening the new Community Hub at its historic Lincoln Park home, welcoming the South Loop Community Table (SLCT) into the Care for Friends family, and continuing its steadfast presence in Edgewater.

2025 Highlights

- 13,181 three-course meals (complete with appetizers, mains, and desserts) were thoughtfully served to more than 1,800 guests.
- 1,737 visits were made to on-site food pantries.
- Over 2,500 neighbors from 654 families were served through the CarePack Grocery Delivery Program.
- More than 70,000 pounds of food were distributed across all CFF programs.
- 678 guests benefited from health screenings, Medicaid enrollment events, foot care, and partner referral clinics.
- 212 guests accessed affordable housing support and resources.
- CFF's work is now showcased on the Wintrust Mural Building along the Kennedy Expressway, where a stunning David Lee Csiscko mural shares the CFF story with the entire city.

Reuniting with our founder, Church of Our Saviour, truly feels like coming home. The Community Hub is alive with food pantries, shared meals, food rescue, health clinics, partner meetings, and redetermination events. CFF's return was met with incredible neighborhood enthusiasm—from a joyful ribbon cutting to food drives led by Oscar Mayer Elementary School and the 43rd Ward, which filled U-Hauls with essentials for our guests.

Care for Friends cherishes its beautiful partnership with the Church of Our Saviour and looks forward to many years of serving and caring for our larger community together. With our shared values, this partnership continues to be a powerful expression of faith in action.

Communications Team

Kris Gleason, Alice Kovacik, Chloe Pope-Levinson, Trask Prinz, Tom Walker, Br Will White, CMJ

In 2025, we launched a more targeted effort to communicate Church of Our Saviour events and activities to the broader community by adding a branch to our existing Communications Team that focuses on external communications.

Our initial focus was the new building dedication and open house in October. For this event, we refreshed our list of media contacts, drafted a media alert on the Parish Commons, and completed outreach to a variety of media outlets. Our efforts in partnership with Care For Friends led to a feature of the new building on WBEZ's "What's That Building?". Other communiques were issued to the alderman, the Diocese, and Episcopal News Service.

Recently, we issued announcements about the New Ministry Celebration to Episcopal organizations, local non-Episcopal clergy and local community organizations.

In the new year, we plan to more fully integrate this external communication initiative with our existing Communication Team by:

- Initiating regular meetings to plan website, eNews, social media, etc. postings
- Develop a comprehensive calendar of upcoming events to facilitate timely promotion of Church of Our Saviour activities.
- Identify opportunities to help the broader community "get to know" Church of Our Saviour.

Building & Grounds

Greg Kameika, *Vestry Lead*

It was a monumental year at COS with the completion of our long-awaited Parish Commons. The building is essentially complete, except for the solar installation and fine-tuning a couple of minor items. As you have no doubt noticed, there is a lot more technology than in the old parish hall, which has increased the complexity of operations. If you see something broken, please bring it to the attention of Brother Will, or Greg Gleason, the new vestry Buildings and Grounds lead in 2026.

While construction was going on our efforts on the rest of the campus were mainly focused on just fixing things as they broke, but we did complete two major projects. With the assistance of Bruce Beavis, the Columbarium was installed in the breezeway between the church and rectory, and the red doors in front of the church were restored and received a new coat of paint.

As we move into 2026, while we have a long wish list of projects and upgrades, we will be taking a pause on most things so that available resources can go toward paying off the loan for the Parish Commons.

ReVive Christmas Baskets

Nissa Cox, *Ministry Lead*

COS has supported ReVive Center for Housing and Healing for decades by participating in their Christmas Basket program. Parishioners volunteered onsite in the summer to help with registration and again in December with distribution. This year we had over 30 parishioners sponsor 17 families (the most families we've ever supported) to provide gifts and grocery gift cards for 56 people. Our COS Youth Group sponsored a family, went out shopping for the gifts and wrapped them. They also helped with boxing everything up to get ready for the ReVive truck pickup. It was truly a team effort from our parish to brighten the Christmas season for all involved!



ReVive Christmas Baskets

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Betsy Peterson, *Vestry Lead*

And a child shall lead them . . .

This Advent the children and catechists processed from the rectory (where we've had Sunday school for two years) to our beautiful new atria on the second floor. What a gift to be in light-filled rooms, our handmade materials (essential to our Montessori pedagogy) out of packing boxes and onto their shelves. It was like seeing old friends again.

We will continue to learn with the children, leaning in together to hear the Holy Spirit. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides just what the children need at each stage of development, presenting to them the face of Jesus they most need to see.

As they hear the marvelous Word of God, (we read it right from the Bible, never dumbing it down), and work with the materials to go more deeply into the mysteries, our children see that God has a plan, a Cosmic plan of love for all of God's creation. They know they are a part of this wonder-filled plan for a time when God will be all in all, and every voice will be lifted up in a song of praise to God.

Morning Glories

Betsy Peterson, *Ministry Lead*

The Morning Glories are espresso for the soul! Each Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. we meet in the Conference room and study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. We've been a group for 16 years and are beginning our 6th go-round with the 3-year lectionary cycle. It's amazing how you can read the Holy Scriptures year after year, always seeing and hearing something new. To have fellowship together, meditating on things eternal, what is true and just and beautiful, is a great gift. It is a mystery we have seen to be true, that when we read the Bible, we in turn are read by it.

We give glory to God for his Word which does not return empty, but will accomplish what God pleases, and prospers where God sends it.

Young Adult Ministries

The Rev. Jess Elfring-Roberts, *Ministry Lead*

The Millennial and GenZ COSers continue to meet periodically to build community through faith, fellowship and food. Gathering in local restaurants and member's homes, the group is working to strengthen relationships and build a community of the faithful that serves our church and larger community. Goals for 2026 include continuing annual gatherings like celebrating the Pride Parade and a Fall Bonfire Night, but also including service projects and faith formation geared toward the unique individuals we all are.

COS Youth Group

In 2025 the COS Youth Group (consisting of Jr. and Sr. High) met monthly to participate in both social and service activities. Service activities ranged from making valentines to share with COSers, packing Easter eggs and goodie bags for the younger kids, sending care packages to college kids and folks who have recently moved, and heading up the ReVive Christmas Basket wrapping and packing efforts. The group focuses on living out their faith through action in community and is planning to do a service day in late Spring 2026.

The Youth Group leadership team includes Davi Bambino, Peter Civetta, Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, Jess Elfring-Roberts, Alice Kovacik and Clare Nolan Long.

COS Antiracism Committee

Richard Trubey, *Chair*

The Committee had its first meeting August 13 after Rev. Charlotte Johnson put out a call for volunteers in response to the bishop's request for each parish to form an antiracism committee that would formulate a plan and budget. The committee continued to meet throughout the rest of the summer, fall and winter of 2025. Richard Trubey has been Chair, and the other members are Margaret Palmer, Mark Shields, Deacon Jess Elfring-Roberts, Davi Bambino and Cindy Trubey.

Committee members shared their personal stories about the impact of racism that they had witnessed. The Committee studied materials from the Antiracism Commission of the diocese and St. John's parish in the Chicago diocese which the bishop highlighted as a parish that has addressed racism for a number of years. In October, three members of the committee attended a day long program (Animating Antiracist Ways of Being) from Cross Roads, an organization recommended by the diocese that has addressed institutional and societal racism for many years. "Beyond Diversity, Building a Truly Antiracism Organization," was a webinar by Crossroads that the whole committee found to be useful and to be a call to action by the parish. The committee felt it was important to help the parish address both personal prejudice and systemic racism. The committee found the following definition of racism to be useful during its meeting: racism= race prejudice + misuse of power within institutions.

After considerable discussion, the committee drafted a charter, mission, and vision for the Committee which was adopted by the Vestry. A budget has been submitted and approved for the coming year to support the efforts of this committee's work.

An ambitious program for 2026 has been adopted by the committee. First, additional members will be sought for the committee from the parish through announcements, written appeals and personal

requests. Discussions with leaders of major parish activities/missions/committees will be held to obtain ideas for how the committee and those activities can work together to address racism. Following the lead of the diocese and St. John's parish, the committee will draft a history of Church of Our Saviour's efforts and/or silence about systemic racism. Based on discussions with the bishop during her visit to COS, the committee will work with Rev. Charlotte to reach out to St. Martin's in Austin, a predominately black parish, to form a partnership in the antiracism work. Margaret Palmer will narrate a film of "Richmond's Unity Walk" in early 2026 for the parish. Deacon Elfring-Roberts will offer a 7-part series for the adult forum on antiracism during Easter in 2026. Cindy Trubey is organizing an antiracism bookstore/library to be displayed in the parish hall. The committee will work with the Christian Education Committee to prepare some materials for education of children and youth in the parish. The committee plans to submit brief articles in the weekly parish eNews about its activities and opportunities for parishioners to participate in Cross Roads training.



Church of Our Saviour Antiracism Team

Our working definition of Racism is:
Racism = Race Prejudice + The Misuse of Power by Systems and Institutions

The Antiracism Team of COS actively seeks to

- **Identify**
- **Disrupt, and**
- **Dismantle Racism**

We are looking for people to join the COS Antiracism Team.

We meet: first Wednesdays of each month on Zoom. The structure of our group is nonhierarchical and leadership is shared. Level of involvement is decided by the member.

We are involved in

- education of ourselves and each other in the congregation,
- increasing racism awareness in the congregation and community,
- fostering relationships with people of diverse races, faiths, and cultures.

Margie Palmer	chimarg@aol.com
Mark Shields	markcshields@hotmail.com
Cindy Trubey	cindyreinderstrubey@gmail.com
Rich Trubey	richard.trubey@gmail.com
Jess Elfring-Roberts	deacon@chicagocos.org



Christmas Pageant Participants



The Newly Confirmed









COS welcomes Pastor Charlotte

ELECTION SLATE

The vestry accepted and approved the following slate of candidates recommended by the Vestry Nominating Committee.

- Vestry member (3-year term) – Tristan Kirvin
- Vestry member (3-year term) – Trask Printz
- Vestry member (3-year term) – Katie Roeck
- 2026 Convention Delegates – Margie Palmer, Davi Bambino, Carol Blendowski

Vestry Candidate Bios



Tristan Kirvan – Tristan Kirvin joined The Church of Our Saviour when she moved to Chicago in 2019. She was born and raised in Upstate New York and studied English at Boston College and history at New York University. At COS, where she's an "8 o'clocker," she has participated in the Monthly Book Club, as well as Bible Study and other small groups (she's leading an Epiphanytide reading group on the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* this year). She looks forward to applying her experience in fundraising, grant writing, and community outreach toward growing our parish. She lives in Logan Square with her partner Sam and their cat Lupe.



Trask Printz – My name is Trask Printz, and I have been a member of COS for about 1.5 years. I was born in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, grew up there and did medical training in Virginia and Tennessee. While I was working through some very challenging times, I ended up attending an Episcopal church and shortly after was confirmed in Feb 2021. I met my partner Grant while he was working in Tennessee and after some time together, he was slated to move back to his old stomping grounds in Chicago. Despite being accustomed to a town of 1700 people and having never been to Chicago, knowing no one here, I followed Grant to this strange new place. Our first Sunday in a new city was spent at COS which was still meeting at Salvatore's, and we were quickly embraced by the community. Now Grant and I, along with our two cats Lottie and Flavel (bonus points if you can tell me who they were named after) live happily in Chicago. Outside of church things, catch me thrifting, spending time with chosen family and friends, doing hot yoga and traveling. For many Queer people, The Episcopal Church stands in sharp contrast to some of the teachings we receive. The mix of ancient tradition and wide accepting arms is a place where I and many with me have found a home. I love the work and mission of the church, and I consider it an honor to be asked to serve on Vestry.



Katie Roeck – I grew up in Neenah, Wisconsin, and have been a lifelong Episcopalian. Mike and I have been married for 50 years, and our faith has always been central to our family life. We joined Church of Our Saviour in 1988, when Father Reed was still the pastor. At the time, the Episcopal church we were attending opposed the ordination of women, and as the parent of both a son and a daughter, I could not accept the idea that only one of my children might be called to the priesthood.

Our two children reflect the diverse paths that faith and vocation can take: Gretchen is now an Episcopal priest serving in Minnesota, and Sam works as a studio manager for a New York–based artist. After many years as a homemaker, I returned to school at the School of the Art Institute,

where I earned a BFA, a teaching certificate, and later an MAE. Teaching art became a deeply meaningful vocation for me. I taught for 12 years at Lincoln Park High School, 10 years at Sacred Heart Schools, and finished my teaching career with two years at Beacon High School before retiring.

My primary involvement at Church of Our Savior, in addition to attending the 8:00 service, has been icon writing. I worked closely with Carol Cade, writing icons with members of the congregation and participating in three icon-writing retreats, including one in England. What I hope to bring to the Vestry is the perspective of a long-time member of the 8:00 service — someone who has lived through significant change in the church, values tradition, and deeply desires to see Church of Our Savior continue to grow and welcome new members.



First Day of Sunday School, 2025

PARISH STATISTICS

Statistic Type	2025	2024	2023
In Person Average Sunday Attendance Total	**70**	**81**	**93**
Total In Person Attendance Easter Weekend	166**	177**	272
Total In Person Attendance Christmas Eve & Christmas Day	181	168	234
Total Sunday Masses	114*	144	161
Total Weekday Masses (Not Sunday)	49	30	26
Baptisms	2	6	6
Confirmations	11	0	4
Receptions	3	0	0
Marriages	1	0	0
Funerals/Burials	4	4	2

**Moved to two Sunday services mid-year* ***No Easter Vigil liturgy offered these years*

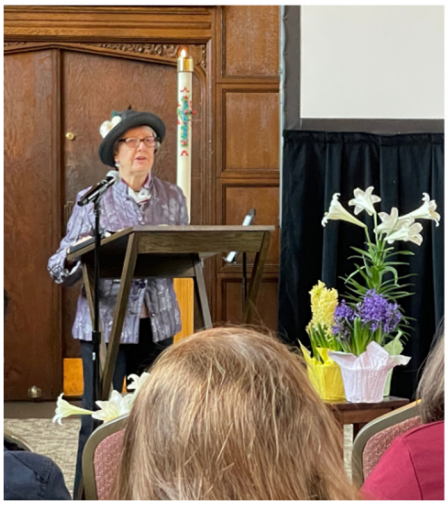
CONFIRMATIONS
Greta Cox
Mimi Cox
Blake McCracken
Emma Stephens
Kate Stephens
Anderson Ingley
Asher Ingely
Will VanStee
Ava Wehland
Bella McCracken
Vivian Wehland

RECEPTIONS
Tristan Kirvan
Cindy Trubey
Richard Trubey

BAPTISMS
Elliot Carrol Kim
Beatrice Florence Calloway

DEATHS
Lars Wilhelm
Edward (Ted) Long
Clarise Hearne
John Notz
Peter Eklund






Easter 2025, DuPaul's Cortelyou Commons

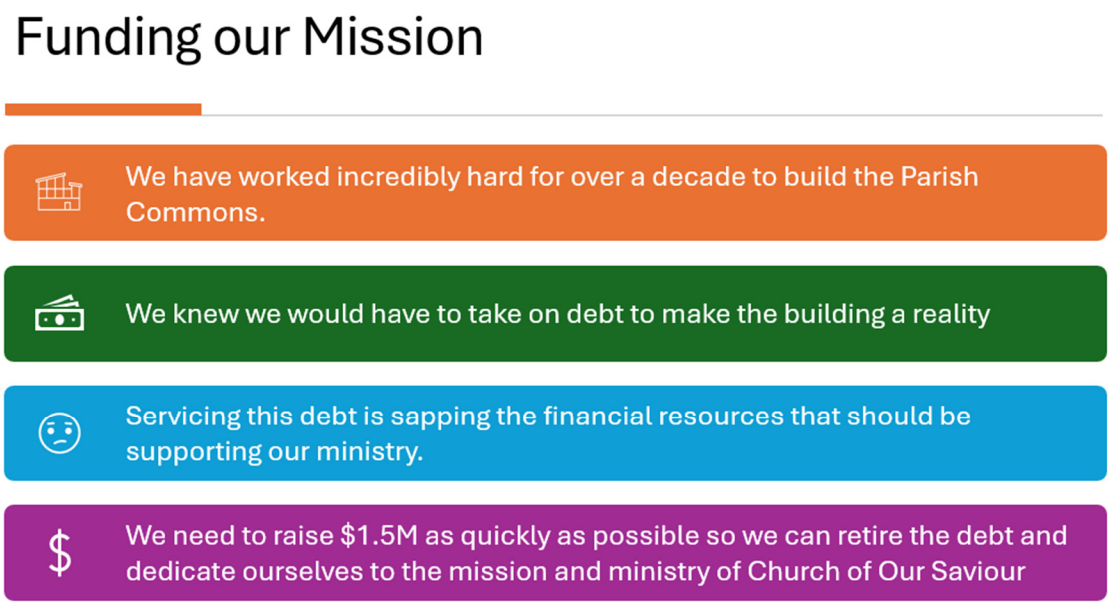
FUNDING OUR MISSION

Morag Fullilove & Mike Mascari, *Fundraising Chairs*

For over a decade, Church of Our Saviour parishioners have dreamed of a space that would do more than just house our congregation; we sought to build a hub for the neighborhood. Through years of capital campaigns, strategic grants, and a partnership with Care for Friends, that dream is now a reality. Our new Parish Commons building is a testament to our stewardship—economically designed, thoughtfully constructed, and already serving as a vital home for our partners and our parish. We successfully replaced a crumbling parish hall with a vibrant, useful, and attractive community center.

We knew from the beginning that bringing this decade-long project to completion would require us to take on a $1.5 million loan. While this investment allowed us to open our doors, the financial weight of the debt is now our most pressing concern – in addition to our usual operating costs, we need to come up with $22k a month to service this loan. We are in "survival mode" while the loan payments sap the financial resources that should be supporting our ministry. Just as we spun Food for Friends off into its own successful independent non-profit (Care for Friends) to ensure its growth, we must now liberate our own budget from the constraints of this debt. We cannot fully discern our next chapter of service while our resources are tied up in interest and principal.

The goal of this campaign is simple and urgent: to raise $1.5 million in the next two years to retire this debt. This is not just about paying off a building mortgage; it is about funding our mission. Every dollar we save in interest is a dollar that can be used to fund future programming and outreach for Church of Our Saviour. We followed the Holy Spirit in building the building, knowing that funding would come because we were responding to the Spirit's work among us. In full transparency, the longer we carry this debt, the more we are shackled to smallness, unable to live into the fullness God desires for our ministry.



You Can Help!



Want to help bring campaign ideas to fruition? See us!

There are only two of us on this committee...



Got any fundraising ideas? See us!



Got a spare $1.5 Million? See us!

LEADERSHIP CONTACTS

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Keith Olsen	*Concluding February 1, 2026*
Greg Kameika	*Concluding February 1, 2026*
Rich Gray (as a voting member)	*Concluding February 1, 2026*
Betsy Peterson	*Concluding 2027*
Michael Shoenberger	*Concluding 2027*
Kay Huff	*Concluding 2027*
Greg Gleason	*Concluding 2028*
Kathy Nolan-Watson	*Concluding 2028*
Joel Spear	*Concluding 2028*

2026 LIST OF PLEDGING HOUSEHOLDS

List as of January 27, 2026

Angie & Bernie Allen
David Anderson & Sharon Hausault
Helen Valkavich & Terry Badger
Bob & Sharon Barton
Kathleen & Bruce Beavis
Carol Blendowski
Ingrid Burnett
Tom & Holly Ccarr
The Carrier/Smolenski Family
Florence Chan
Anonymous
The Civetta Family
The Cox Family
The Donatelli Family
The Elfring-Roberts Family
Joan Flanagan
The Fullilove Family
Michele Dupré and Chad Gehlbach
Kris & Greg Gleason
Rich & Judy Gray
Isabel Guzman-Barron
The Halstead Family
Barbara & Gene Harris
Richard & Marilyn Harvey
Deirdre Hastings
Bob Hoyler
Kay Huff
The Rev. Charlotte Johnson
Anonymous
Greg Kameika
Kevin & Mary Beth Kamraczewski
The Kim Family
Anonymous
Tristan Kirvin
Bob Lewis
The Marcovitch Family
The Mascari Family
Meg Mattsson
Trisha & Kenji Muro
The Nolan Long Family
Janny Notz & Ian Watson
Denise Olsen
Janis O'Neill
The Page Family
Margaret & Henry Palmer
Shirlene Paul & Arun Antony
The Peterson Family
Chloe Pope-Levison
Margaret A Post
Trask Printz
Anonymous
Toby & Joan Roberts
The Roeck Family
Carolyn Sacksteder
Campbell Sharpe
The Sharpe Family
Mark & Nikki Sheilds
Grant Shillington
Michael Shoenberger & Shuang Huang
Karen & Andrew Slimmon
Joel Spear & Cathleen Watt
Salme Harju & Michael Steinberg
The Stephens Family
Leo Stopa
Don & Peg Swanton
Peggy Taylor
The Terry Family
The Trubey Family
The VanStee Family
Deb & Bill Vonderhaar
Mark & Kathy Watson
Robert & Susan Watts
The Tabacchi/Wehland Family
Susanna Krentz & Scott Williamson
John Dally & Todd Young
Mina Dulcan & The Rev Richard Wendel, PhD