OUR LADY of the LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Annual Stewardship Appeal

September 20, 2026

My Dear Parishioners:

As St. Paul wrote to the early community at Corinth, *I give thanks to God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus* (1Corinthians 1:4). We are all part of an amazing parish, with many active ministries, which are changing lives! We can be grateful and proud of that impact. But, as I write this annual stewardship letter to you, I must ask for your help. We are struggling to meet our operational budget. The parish staff is reviewing expenditures to see where we can cut and not compromise our mission to proclaim the Gospel—especially in these critical times.

One reason for the expected operating budget shortfall is that we are in the middle of a Capital Campaign to fund our needed church and social hall renovation. So many of you have already generously pledged and given $11 million toward our $13 million goal. Our Campaign Cabinet has a great plan to reach that goal knowing the project will impact ourselves and future generations. But we still need to cover our parish operating expenses.

A second reason for why offertory is not keeping up with expenses is that Sunday Mass attendance has been lower during construction and while we are in the gym. We expect contributions to increase after we are back in the church. A member of our parish's Administrative (Finance) Council, put it this way: "our operating budget contributions appear to be in a slump until we get through construction in February." But we need to get to February.

A third impact on our operating budget is a required increase in our annual parish income Archdiocesan assessment for their operations. After several years of no increases, this year the rate is moving from 8% up to 12%. All parishes contribute, but this year's increase comes at a difficult time for our budget.

I ask that you prayerfully consider:

- If you are not yet giving to our parish on a regular basis, please start. We are all in this together, not just for the big projects, but for the day-to-day ministry of bringing hearts to Christ.
- Please consider a significant increase in your regular contributions. If you spread it out monthly or quarterly it can provide a big gift over the year.
- If you are giving by cash or check, please consider giving electronically through automatic deduction from your checking account called ACH, which we prefer, or on your credit card (which charges the parish fees). Members of our staff can help you make that change.

Of course, if you are in a difficult financial year yourselves, I certainly understand if you need to stay the course or cut back on your gift to the parish. But please pray for us to make ends meet. I also profoundly appreciate all the generous service and ministry in which so many parishioners are engaged. Being involved like that actually deepens one's faith.

Enclosed you will find information about last year's expenses and how we managed. Please consider what all the parish has meant for you, and give accordingly.

Thank you for taking this seriously. And thank you for the commitment that you and your family have made to this parish. God will get us through.

You and your family remain in my daily prayers.

Rev. John W. Kerns, Pastor

Annual Stewardship Appeal - Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Envelope number:_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Please do not send text messages.

Email: _____

My Offertory Pledge:

Weekly Gift $_____

Monthly Gift $_____

Quarterly Gift $_____

Annual Gift $_____

☐ Weekly or Monthly Envelopes

☐ Online through ollparish.com/give

☐ IRA-Qualified Charitable Contribution

☐ Charitable Giving Fund

☐ Stock Transfer

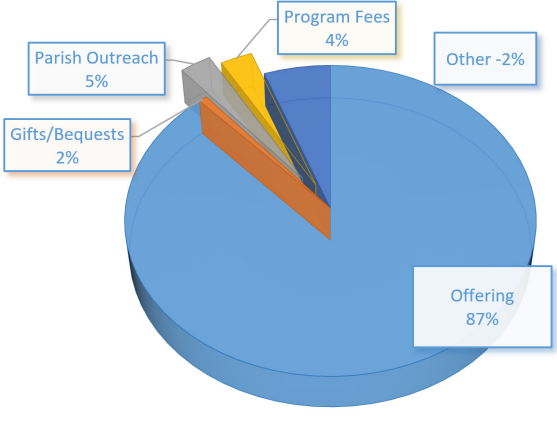
If you have questions or need more information regarding ways to give, contact the parish office at 503-636-7687 or office@ollparish.com.

Please return by December 1, 2026.

Thank you for your gift!

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2025-2026 Fiscal Year
Income - $2,157,894
Budgeted Income - $2,294,698
Shortfall - $136,804



Income Shortfall - $136,804
Budget Surplus - $55,976
Overall Budget Shortfall - $80,828

2025-2026 Fiscal Year
Expenses - $2,431,275
Budgeted Expenses - $2,375,299
Budget Surplus - $55,976

