

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED AUGUST 2024

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MARIA

Welcome to Our Lady of Peace Annual Report. I hope and pray that the information in this report will give you a snapshot of the growth of our parish over the past year. Please take a look inside for more details. I would like to bring to your notice the modification of Our Lady of Peace Parish after the merger of three churches(St. Patrick, St. Theresa and St. Antony) in September 1, 2018 and later merger of Our Lady of Fatima on January 8, 2023 by Bishop Robert Harris and Bishop Chritian respectively.

Since then our parish has large boundary modified by Bishop Christian (CIC, canon 515 # 2). The north side of the Saint John River at Portobello Road to Noonan through the Nashwask Valley to Ward's Settlement, west to Stanley, then northwest of the transmission line to Birdton, down to Burt's Corner and Keswick along highway 105 to Douglas along the Saint John River to include Nashwaaksis, Devon, Lower St. Mary's along Riverside Drive back to Portobello Road, going west along the Queensway to Bell Street South.

Over the years we have seen many new faces in the Parish with the merger of churches and the increase of immigrants from all over the world and people moving from the west to our province. Since endemic Our Parish is becoming multicultural we see that in our pews, in our choir, lectors and altar servers in our weekend masses. It's clear to our eyes that the involvement of these people in each ministries, henceforth I encourage the same involvement in the Leadership of our Parish.

I am grateful for your support to Our Lady of Peace, the increased offertory, your involvement in various ministries, choir, lectors, catechists. I am happy to serve you for your spiritual nourishment. I like to serve you as we continue to grow in faith under the protection of Our Lady of Peace.

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

PASTORAL COUNCIL



Back Row: Joanne McWade, Wesley Deane (Secretary) , Marilyn Brennan, Fr. Maria Arokiam Front Row: Rochelle Ivey (Chair), Darren Richard , Julie Gallant-Daigle (Vice-Chair) , (missing Ken Harris and Ricarda Bradley)

In the Fall of 2023 our Parish participated in the Disciple Maker Index Survey, lead by the Diocese. The participation from our parishioners was wonderful and truly appreciated. The information gathered in this survey has been compiled and an advisory group has been established to look at the survey results and propose a plan of action and direction for the growth of our parish.



217 total surveys completed

79% of 275 (average Sunday mass going parishioners)

172 online surveys completed

79% of total surveys completed

45 paper surveys completed

21% of total surveys completed

In the Spring a few members of our parish were chosen to participate in Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality. This initiative for the Catholic Church is to collaboratively chart a path in the modern era, emphasizing listening, discernment and mission. This consisted of several reflection sessions with other parish representatives in the Diocese, using the guidelines of Spiritual Conversation.

As members of Pastoral Council, we have been called to use our gifts to represent and discern the needs of our whole parish community and set parish direction by prayerful reflection and discussion. We are honoured by this privilege that has been bestowed upon us and we strive to serve our faith community.

Throughout the year pastoral council members discerned on many different opportunities and options to present to our parish community. Through Advent and Lent we called on our various groups and the generosity of individuals to work together and help charities in our local community. The generosity and support of all involved has been overwhelming!

We supported and encouraged formation initiatives such as Movie and discussion evening, Catechist retreat, Family Faith Formation, The Catholic Parent sessions, Life Groups ministry, and free access to Formed.org a Catholic content platform that hosts thousands of movies, children's programs, eBooks, and more.

In celebration of Our Lady of Peace Feast Day a Grand celebration was hosted by your pastoral council and held in Stanley. The Stanley Fair Grounds was just the right size to have Sunday Mass and a catered lunch with entertainment for young and old.



SACRAMENTS

The Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Article 2

The Paschal Mystery in the Church's Sacraments

1113 The whole liturgical life of the Church revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments. There are seven sacraments in the Church: Baptism, Confirmation or Chrismation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony...

1114 "Adhering to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures, to the apostolic traditions and to the consensus... of the Fathers," we profess that "the sacraments of the new law were... all instituted by Jesus Christ our Lord".(Council of Trent)



In our parish we celebrated many Sacraments with members of our community:

11 Baptisms

19 celebrated their First Holy Communion

19 celebrated their First Reconciliation

12 youth were Confirmed

8 Celebrations of Life (Funerals)

Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist

On April 28th, nineteen children received their 1st Holy Eucharist at the 11:00 am Mass at St. Theresa's Church. A reception was held after Mass for children and their families assisted by the CWL and parishioners.

Children are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist through a combination of at home lessons completed with parents, in person sessions with catechists and family workshops.



Confirmation Preparation

On June 2nd Bishop Christian Riesbeck confirmed twenty-nine youth, including 6 Our Lady of Peace Parish youth, at a Regional Confirmation Mass at St. Theresa's Church.

A Confirmation Retreat for Confirmation Candidates from Our Lady of Peace, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parishes was held on May 11th with Sr. Karen Kelly as retreat facilitator and Confirmation Catechists assisting.

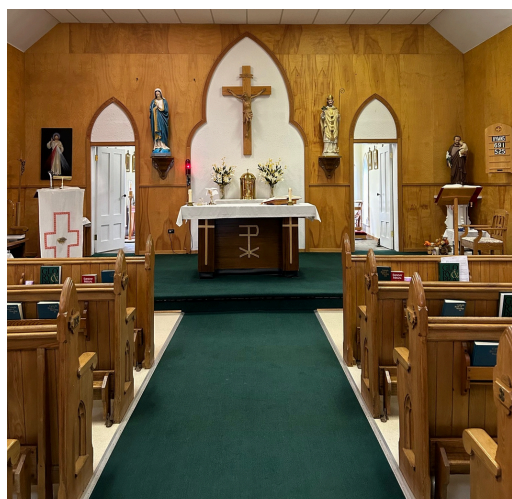
In the fall of 2023, thirteen youth registered to begin the two-year Confirmation Preparation program and completed a 11-week online Alpha Youth Course with Confirmation Candidates and leaders from the Fredericton region (Our Lady of Peace, St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. John Paul II Parishes). A retreat was held on November 25th at St. Theresa's Church. In January they began meeting monthly with Confirmation Leaders.



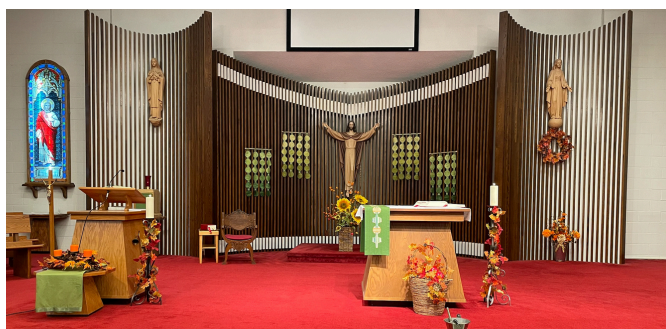
LITURURICAL MINISTRIES

Liturgy Team

Cathy Bowlen, Allison Wrynn, Mary Hay,
Sharon Cormier, Nancy Vellenoweth,
Patty Cameron, Fr. Maria Arokiam



To carry out our weekly Sunday Masses as well as all other celebrations we rely on our liturgical ministers – altar servers, lectors, eucharistic, hospitality, sacristans, and choirs who willingly volunteer their time to enhance our liturgies. We are always looking for more people to take part in these ministries and would encourage anyone interested to contact the office.



While we have 3 churches, we are one parish, Liturgical ministers are welcome and encouraged to serve in any of our 3 churches.

The Liturgy Committee of our Lady of Peace Parish consists of 6 parishioners of the parish and Fr. Maria. The Committee meets approximately 8 times a year. The focus of the committee has been the development of liturgies for various celebrations throughout the church year, the primary ones being our annual Mass of Remembrance in November, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We are also committed to developing liturgies for special Masses, such as our Patron Saint Feast Days, Indigenous Days, and Development and Peace.

MINISTRIES

HOSPITALITY

The hospitality team is the face of our parish, Our teams have the gift to see Christ in all people, making strangers feel welcome and leaving our regular parishioners with the feeling of belonging at each of our churches.

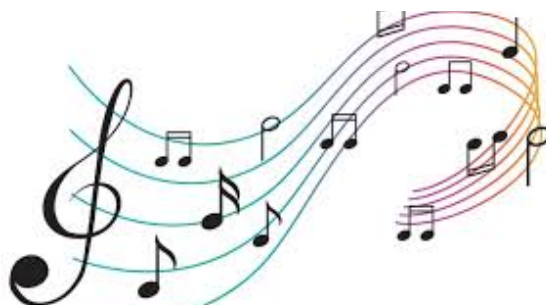
“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matt. 25:35).

Our parish has welcomed many newcomers to our community from around the world. Our hope is that we have made them feel welcome, included and they develop a true sense of belonging to our parish. We truly value the richness in faith that all have brought to our community.

“New to the Fredericton region we visited a few Catholic churches, once we were greeted at St. Theresa’s we knew this is where we belong”
Andrew and Lesley Lawlor

“I knew many of the parishioners that greeted me when I entered St. Anthony’s. I was asked if I wanted to have my name submitted to be on this Ministry. As I am a friendly person I have enjoyed doing my weekly duty on Hospitality.”

Bonnie Bowlen O’Donnell



MUSIC MINISTRY

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Music evokes a personal response from individuals and enhances our relationship with God. Many hours of practice and planning goes into providing wonderful music to our Masses, the song and music encourages participation of all in the Mass. Our parish is truly blessed with an abundance of talent shared in this ministry. We thank all of those who volunteer their time and talent to lead us in lifting our voices to God.





LECTORS

Our Parish is blessed with many wonderful lectors. Being a lector is not just being able to read, the Word is to be proclaimed, yet not with theatrical show. This proclaiming the Good News is truly a gift that brings the Word of Christ and evokes worshippers to listen intently. This cannot be done without the belief that God's presence is in that Word.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers are called to minister the Body and Blood of Christ, and to have and maintain a strong faith, and an inclusiveness of others as the foundation for their ministry. They must be comfortable in establishing a relationship with each communicant

Eucharistic Ministers are also asked to bring Holy Communion to people within the parish community who are sick and/or homebound. The experience in bringing the Body of Christ to others, who can not attend mass due to illness or other limitations, is truly a gift from God.

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers are a vital part of the liturgical ministry. They assist the priest at Mass, while at the same time help the faithful to prayerfully celebrate the Mass. This commitment is more than a task, responsibility or an honour, it is a holy service to the People of God. We are proud of the dedicated children and adults that we have serving in our churches.



SACRISTANS

The role of Sacristan is to prepare the Sanctuary for the Mass this includes place chalices and ciboria, set out the bread and wine for offertory, light the candles, and dress the Altar with the correct colour. This may seem like a dull task but with our hands and our hearts these dull things become instruments of transformation.



PARISH OUTREACH

Through various outreach opportunities Our Lady of Peace Parish has encouraged parishioners of all ages the opportunity of serving, giving and showing mercy. Aimed at making positive impact in the lives of individuals and groups outside of the church's immediate circle we have extended the hand of fellowship, support and love to our community.

OUTREACH COLLECTIONS

Back to School

Canned pasta sauce and canned meats were collected to support the backpack program.

- 85 cans of pasta sauce
- 109 cans of tuna and salmon
- 82 can of meat



Advent

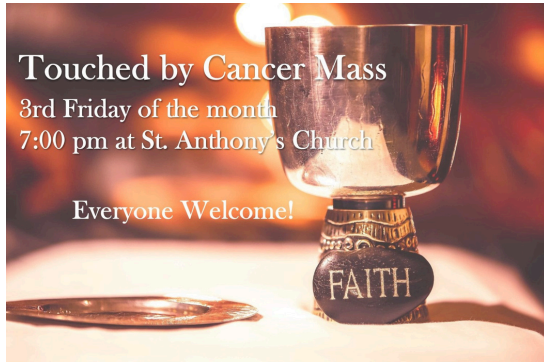
With your help we were able to make Christmas better for people who rely on the homeless shelters and youth in transition programs. Donations included gift cards and new small gift items and new and gently used warm winter clothing.

Living Lent

Weekly collections throughout Lent to support the good work of local organizations.

- Women in Transition \$1,530.00 in gift cards
- Fredericton Community Kitchen 99 cans of coffee
- The 12 Neighbours Community \$3,000.00 cash donation
- Fredericton Food Bank 190 packages of pasta and 165 cans of pasta sauce
- Social Work Department at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital \$1,130.00 in gas gift cards

Together we can make a difference in our community!



TOUCHED BY CANCER MASS

Touched by Cancer Mass takes place the 3rd Friday of the month at St. Anthony's Church. These monthly Masses provide comfort and prayers of healing for those whose lives have been affected by cancer in any way.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Several ladies in our parish gather once a month from October through May to knit shawls. These shawls are knit with love and prayers, and donated to the parish to be given to comfort those who are sick, grieving, or in need of solace. Once the shawls are completed they are blessed at our "Touched by Cancer Mass". If you or someone you know would be comforted by one of these shawls, they are available at the parish office free of charge.



MINISTRY OF CARE

In March of 2024 we have been able to resume having Mass at York Manor following the pandemic. With the help of the Knights of Columbus and Lay Presiders. We are looking forward to offering Masses at Windsor Court, Eden Hall, Paradise Villa and Neil Hall once a month in starting in the fall.

Allison Wrynn is part of the Spiritual and Care Department at the DECH, and as such he visits patients and brings with him Prayers and Holy Communion to Catholic patients. He also visits Catholic's in our community requiring home care and residents at The Veterans Health Unit.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency, parish volunteer Steve Linton prepared and filed income tax returns for individuals who have a modest income and simple tax situation. This year he assisted 106 individuals to complete and file their income tax.

LIFE GROUPS

The OLP Life Groups Ministry consists of smaller communities within the Parish (ideally groups of 6-12 parishioners) who desire to grow closer to Jesus in their walk of faith as His disciple. Participants desire to (1) grow in holiness, (2) respond more fully to the grace of the Holy Spirit, (3) strengthen each other in their spiritual journeys, and (4) mature in their understanding and living of their Catholic faith and the Gospel. Participation in OLP Life Groups offers meaningful encounters in sharing one another's faith journeys and can satisfy the desire for greater intimacy and fellowship among parishioners. Additionally, in response to the DMI, Life Groups Ministry will strive to develop participants' skills and confidence in giving witness to their faith and the Lord's work in their lives.

Weekly meetings were held on Thursday evenings between late September 14, 2023 - June 20, 2024. All meetings EXCEPT the third Thursday of the month were held on Zoom from 8:00 - 9:30 PM. Zoom meetings are open only to registered participants in the ministry. Meetings on the third Thursday of each month were in-person and open for anyone to join, typically by invitation by current participants. Meetings begin with participation in the Parish's Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30-7:30 PM; then all go out for a relaxed time of socializing in a local pub/restaurant in the community and the world.



Weekly Zoom meetings ranged from 4-12 participants, with an average of 6 people. Typically there were 2-3 men and 3-4 women at each session. The session opens with welcoming participants as they join the call, informal chit-chat, followed by an opening prayer, a reading, (video-based) content for individual reflection, a group discussion, and closing group prayer for the ministry participants' intentions as well as those of the parish, our community and the world.

OLP Life Groups Ministry Team
Patty Cameron, Wesley Deane, Steve Horsley, and Tracy Horsley.
The Team met in August 2023.

FAITH FORMATION

Family Faith Formation (Catechism - Kindergarten to Grade 7)



During the 2023/2024 Formation year the parish continued with Family Faith Formation style delivery for catechism for families with children in kindergarten to grade seven. This model for faith formation focuses on family catechesis and coaching families to share and grow in faith together. Families met once or twice a month for in-person sessions at St. Theresa's Church using resources from Growing Up Catholic "Faith Stories." Attendance for sessions averaged twenty to thirty per session. Materials for home use were made available to families who were not able to attend sessions at St. Theresa's Church in person.

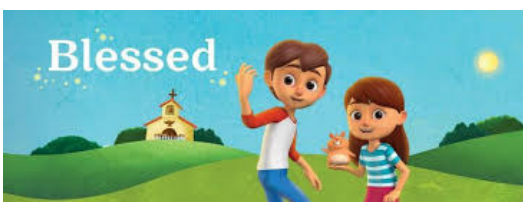
Throughout the summer of 2023 we participated in Diocesan meetings to share our experience of family catechesis and to look at options for adopting the model for the Diocese of Saint John.

Family Faith Formation Catechists

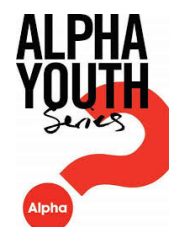
Rochelle Ivey, Michelle Adams, Anna Horsley, Ann Deane Julie Gallant-Daigle, Patty Cameron

Sacrament Preparation

In conjunction with our Family Faith Formation program we prepare children in grade 2 (and up if needed) to receive their 1st Eucharist.



Youth in grade 8 are invited to join our Confirmation Preparation program.



Sacrament Preparation Catechists

Patty Cameron, Rochelle Ivey, Kendra Van Leeuwen, Leah O'Keefe, Amy Murdock, Marc Daigle

Retreats and Conferences



2023 Steubenville Atlantic Youth Conference

Five school age youth from the parish attend the 2023 Steubenville Atlantic Conference in Halifax on the weekend of July 7th to 9th. Fundraising in preparation for the conference took place in the spring.

NET Retreat

Ten parish youth attended the NET Team Retreat on Saturday, November 18th hosted at St. Dunstan's for sixty youth in the Fredericton Region from grades 6 to 12.

“Going to the catechist retreat is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow catechists and experience God’s word on a deeper level”
Michelle



Parish Pentecost Retreat

Our Lady of Peace parishioners and people from the Fredericton region were invited to a Pentecost Retreat on Wednesday, May 15th at St. Theresa’s Church. The retreat was an intimate evening of song, teaching and reflection on the Word of God. Jim Anderson from the Diocese of Saint John facilitated the retreat. The retreat was well attended with forty-six in attendance.



Diocesan Catechist Retreat

In January 2023, 5 parish catechists and others involved in parish ministries attended the annual Diocesan Catechist Retreat led by Jim Anderson, Director of Missionary Discipleship Formation for the Diocese of Saint John, at the Villa Madonna Retreat House.

SPECIAL FORMATION EVENTS

"It was a really fun experience to be honest because the people there were really nice, we had a lot of activities like running games, zipline, etc! I had a lot of fun! It has been my best summer experience I have had ever. You should also try this experience it is really cool and you can get a lot of new friends!" Miranda



Diocesan Youth Rally

On Saturday, August 27th, 2023 fourteen parish high school youth and three leaders attended a Youth Rally hosted by the Diocese of Saint John and the Villa Madonna Retreat House.

Movie Night

Lent 2024, parishioners were invited to weekly sessions throughout Lent to watch and discussion season one of the series "The Chosen."



Three children from our parish spent a week at Camp Shel Drake in 2023. This was a wonderful experience for them to attend a Catholic based non-profit New Brunswick organization, under the auspices of the Diocese of Saint John. Located in Miramichi serving all New Brunswick, it is responsible for the operation of summer camp for youth between the ages of 6-17 years.

Family Lent Event

Families were invited to an afternoon activity on Saturday, March 23, 2023 to watch a movie and create a resurrection garden to take home to watch grow over Holy Week. Unfortunately, the event was cut short when a rainwater drain pipe broke and water was coming into the hall.

The Catholic Parent

During lent we offered a video and discussion series using the video series "The Catholic Parent" on the FORMED platform. This series shared the daily struggles and victories of real Catholic families, and encourage parents as they embrace their God-given role to form their family in the richness of the Catholic faith.

Alpha Course

In the spring a small Alpha Course was offered as a way to prepare future Alpha leaders from Our Lady of Peace and St. Mary Magdalene Parishes.



MAINTENANCE

Thank you to Les Clements, Greg Feener, Frank O'Donnell, Judy McAloon, Jim Canney and Lisa Hayes for volunteering their time effort and talents in ensuring that maintenance items were dealt with promptly.

As we do not have a formal Parish Property Management Committee, these dedicated parishioners have been able to deal with many issues at the three properties. They have ensured that the buildings are in good repair and necessary fixes have been done promptly and economically.

We have had emergency situations caused by wind storms, broken pipes, and flooding that required quick action and dealings with insurance. These emergency situations were dealt with promptly and things were back to normal in no time. Preventative maintenance was carried out at all three churches without disruptions to our Masses and events.

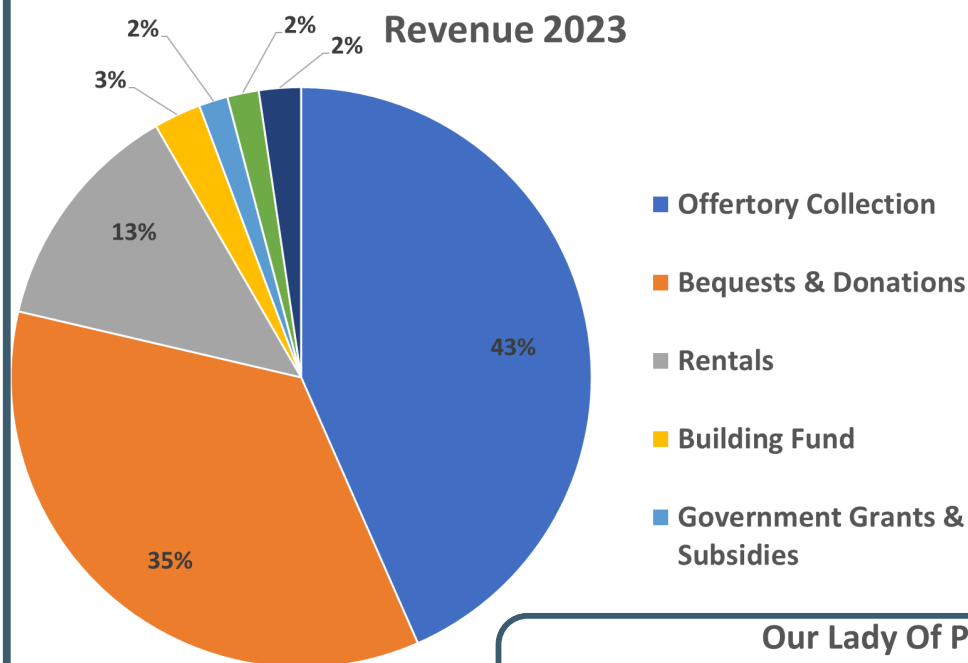
With St. Anthony's and St. Theresa's being large properties with other buildings on them we have been blessed to have Mike Crouse and Richard Hogan on staff to deal with day to day maintenance and cleaning items. In the fall of 2023 Mike Crouse stepped down from his position, we would like to thank him for his years of service as caretaker at St. Theresa's. Thank you to all who carried out general cleaning, snow removal, and flood clean up while we searched for a new caretaker and the forming a new maintenance committee. We would like to welcome Tony Nguyen as the caretaker of St. Theresa's church.



FINANCE COUNCIL

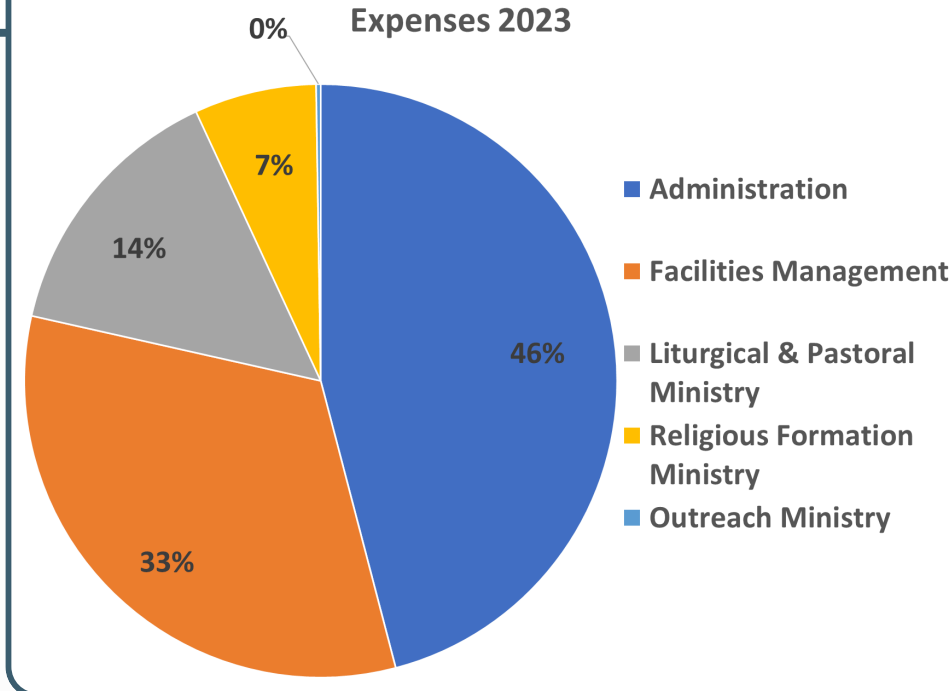
The Parish Finance Council assists the pastor in the administration of parish temporal matters. Our Lady of Peace Parish Finance Council has maintained accurate financial records of income, expense and payroll. The following reports have been prepared to show the revenues and expenses incurred in our parish in 2023.

Our Lady Of Peace Parish Revenue 2023



Finance Council Members
Steven Horsley (Chair)
Steve McDonald (Co-chair)
Amy Murdock
John Walsh
Dan Leonard
Tim McWade
Fr. Maria Arokiam

Our Lady Of Peace Parish Expenses 2023





CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAQUE

The Catholic Women's League is parish-based organization connected to Canada's largest women's organization. Members of the CWL embrace Catholic core values and teachings of the Catholic Church leading them to act through prayer, faith development, ministry, service, education, and advocacy on social justice issues. Women of all ages and diverse backgrounds are welcome join where together all grow in faith and witness the love of God through ministry and service.

ST. PATRICK'S CWL

This past year St. Patrick's members had a tough decision, with membership dwindling and the formation of Our Lady of Peace Parish, they met in March to discuss their options. We are happy to share that St. Patrick's CWL will continue to serve the community and church as we grow in faith and witness to the love of God.

Service

The Ladies hosted a celebration breakfast for Stanley consolidate School Graduate Floyd Hawks and his family.

A number of funeral receptions were catered at St. Patrick's church

Prayer Life

Members hosted the Baccalaureate Service for the graduates from Stanley High School.



ST. THERESA'S CWL

This past year St. Theresa's members volunteered their time and talents in our parish community and with other service and charitable organizations. The women are continually active in our community, doing receptions for Funerals, 1st Eucharist celebrants and Confirmation candidates.

Service

Card parties were hosted and tickets sold for a Mother's Day basket to raise money to continue good works such as awarding two Bursaries to High School

Receptions were provided for various celebrations throughout the year.

In the fall they held a Twilight Retreat inviting members of our parish community.



Prayer Life

Members hosted the World Day of Prayer Service, which included a bible study in preparation for this service.

During Lent they offered "Mary's Way of the Cross" and in May they prayed the Rosary together once a week.

The ladies participated in the week of Prayer for Palliative Care with each member doing a Meditation for an hour through out the day.



In June a closing ceremony was celebrated including a Mass, dinner, and the presentation of Service pins.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights have been very involved in our parish and our community at large. They had many projects in the past year including a deep prayer life, outreach to those in need along with participation and support in parish activities.

Prayer Life

- Sacred Heart of Jesus men's group
- Remembrance mass for deceased Knights
- Led locally the Call to Prayer and Discernment at the Villa Madonna Retreat House



Outreach

- Supports Our Lady of Fatima Gift shop
- Provided support to two families struggling with illness
- Donations to; Canadian Conservation Corp future leader program; E.L.F; MIRA
- Purchased a cross for Remembrance Day ceremonies at Marysville
- Provided a bursary to one deserving UNB student and sponsored 2 students to attend the Steubenville Atlantic Youth Conference

Parish Involvement

- Some Knights took the Food Safety course to support Parish food events
- They have supported many events and activities in the parish by providing manpower for set up and cleanup
- Purchased a wide variety of supplies and equipment for the kitchen at St. Theresa's
- Lead the clothing drive initiative as part of the parishes Advent and Lent donations to local charities
- Assembled the creche at St. Theresa's for the Christmas Season
- Hosted a Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday with funds going to ?
- Hosted a great community family event called Nerf Ambush.
- Hosted a Mothers Day brunch
- Presented carnations to all mothers in the parish on Mothers Day.



THE YEAR IN PICTURES



YOU ARE INVITED!

**As our parish community grows,
opportunities to be involved are growing too.**

If you would like to learn more about our parish community events, programs, ministries or ways to share your personal gifts and talents, please feel free to contact any of the people listed below.

Parish Priest - Fr. Maria Arokiam
Phone: 506-444-6070 (leave message)

Parish Administration - Irene Jewett
Phone: 506-444-6010
Email: parishoffice@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca

Faith Formation - Patty Cameron
Phone: 506-444-6018
Email: pattycaeron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca

Pastoral Council
Email: olppastoralcouncilfredericton@gmail.com



Our Lady of Peace Parish is pleased to offer our parishioners
a free subscription to the Formed Platform
for more information email pattycaeron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca

FORMED

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