



SACRED HEART  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
(704) 633-0591

[www.salisburycatholic.org](http://www.salisburycatholic.org)



SACRED HEART  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
(704) 633-2841

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# 2024-2025 Annual Report

Father John Eckert, pastor

Mrs. Erin Brinkley, principal

# Dear Friends,

Our theme this year in the school is "Perseverance!" This succinct motto of the year developed out of the advice that we have to move from a place of Trying to Love, to the unshakeable disposition of Loving to Try. Just changing that word order ever so slightly makes an incredible difference, and it is that difference that we think summarizes what makes our blessed parish community stand apart. This is not the perfect place, but it is filled with people who see the challenges around them, know at the heart of it all that God is with us, and love to keep trying.

After a great deal of perseverance over the last many years, we have reached some incredible milestones. Our debt has been paid off, our school enrollment is nearly at capacity, our rectory project is completed, and our kneelers in the church have been replaced (thanks for persevering through that challenge). We are enjoying the fruits of the fidelity, hard work and sacrifice of those who went before us, and many of us have been blessed to do our part along the way as well. It is a joy to stop for a second, reflect, and thank God for all that has been accomplished. We hope this report gives you the same sense of gratitude that it does us.

Strengthened by these fruits of a lot of hard work, perseverance is still the theme of the day. We have had incredible growth here at Sacred Heart, increasing our parishioner count by 35% in the last three years. Of course, with more people, programing and perseverance comes more expenses, which have increased by 25% in the last three years. And herein lies the biggest challenge, with all of that growth, our offertory has only increased by 15% in the last three years.

Strengthened by the example of what we have already accomplished, we know that everyone will pitch in, do their part, and continue to make this the best parish around. We know it takes perseverance, but it has been a joy to practice that virtue up until now and we are excited to continue to love to try each day right here at Sacred Heart.

With gratitude and prayers for all of our families, we remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**FR. JOHN ECKERT**  
**PASTOR**



**MRS. ERIN BRINKLEY**  
**PRINCIPAL**



# Queridos amigos,

Nuestro lema de este año en la escuela es: ¡Perseverancia! Este lema conciso surgió del consejo de que debemos pasar de simplemente intentar amar a tener la firme disposición de amar el esfuerzo. Un simple cambio en el orden de las palabras marca una diferencia increíble, y creemos que esa diferencia resume lo que distingue a nuestra bendita comunidad parroquial. Este no es un lugar perfecto, pero está lleno de personas que ven los desafíos a su alrededor, saben en lo más profundo de su corazón que Dios está con nosotros y aman seguir esforzándose.

Después de mucha perseverancia a lo largo de los últimos años, hemos alcanzado logros increíbles. Hemos saldado nuestra deuda, la matrícula escolar está casi completa, el proyecto de la casa parroquial está terminado y hemos reemplazado los reclinatorios de la iglesia (gracias por perseverar ante ese desafío). Disfrutamos de los frutos de la fidelidad, el trabajo arduo y el sacrificio de quienes nos precedieron, y muchos de nosotros hemos tenido la bendición de contribuir también. Es una alegría detenernos un momento, reflexionar y dar gracias a Dios por todo lo que se ha logrado. Esperamos que este informe les transmita el mismo sentimiento de gratitud que a nosotros.

Fortalecidos por estos frutos de mucho trabajo, la perseverancia sigue siendo el tema principal. Hemos experimentado un crecimiento increíble aquí en el Sagrado Corazón, aumentando el número de feligreses en un 35% en los últimos tres años. Por supuesto, con más personas, programas y perseverancia, vienen más gastos, que han aumentado un 25% en los últimos tres años. Y aquí radica el mayor desafío: con todo ese crecimiento, nuestras ofrendas solo han aumentado un 15% en los últimos tres años.

Fortalecidos por el ejemplo de lo que ya hemos logrado, sabemos que todos colaborarán, harán su parte y continuarán haciendo de esta la mejor parroquia de la zona. Sabemos que se necesita perseverancia, pero ha sido una alegría practicar esta virtud hasta ahora y nos entusiasma seguir amando el esfuerzo cada día aquí en el Sagrado Corazón.

Con gratitud y oraciones por todas nuestras familias,

Atentamente en Cristo,

**P. JOHN ECKERT**  
**PÁRROCO**



**SRA. ERIN BRINKLEY**  
**DIRECTORA**





# 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The 2024–2025 year was filled with many exciting developments and blessings for Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



84

Baptisms



120

Confirmations



21

Marriages



130

First Holy Communions



36

Funerals



147

New Registered Families

34

Average Age of All Parishioners



**FIDE**

Formation in Discipleship & Evangelization

- ✓ Hosted 7 Family Nights & Dinners
- ✓ Served over 200 people per dinner
- ✓ Offered parent & child faith classes
- ✓ Held 3 retreats for 200+ students
- ✓ Distributed 125 Bibles to students of the church & school.

## TOP VIEWED POSTS



Sister Mary Robert's devotion to our Lord, through service to our community continues to this day at Sacred Heart.



Sacred Heart's Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts raised over \$14,000 and 6 truckloads of supplies.



Updates on the construction of our new Rectory garnered lots of love online and in person.



Parishioners look forward to all of Fr. Eckert's broadcasts on Relevant Radio.



# 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Sacred Heart Catholic School experienced a wonderful year of faith, learning, and exciting achievements during 2024–2025.



**386**

prayers spoken as a whole student body

**32**

students received Sacraments of Initiation



**40**

students scored 95 percentile or higher on standardized testing

**387**

collective years of teaching among our 21 certified teachers



**1st Place**

champions of the JV basketball PECSAA championship

**2nd Place**

champions of the Girls' Cross Country PECSAA Conference



**\$126,058**

funds raised for our 2024-2025 annual fund

**94%**

family participation in the 1882 fund

## TOP VIEWED POSTS



7<sup>th</sup> grade helped their Pre-K buddies with STEM activities.



Bishop Martin checked out 5<sup>th</sup> grade's water cycle projects.



Kindergarten visited Lazy 5 Ranch while learning about animals and their habitats.



Students took the stage in our spring musical, Finding Nemo Jr.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

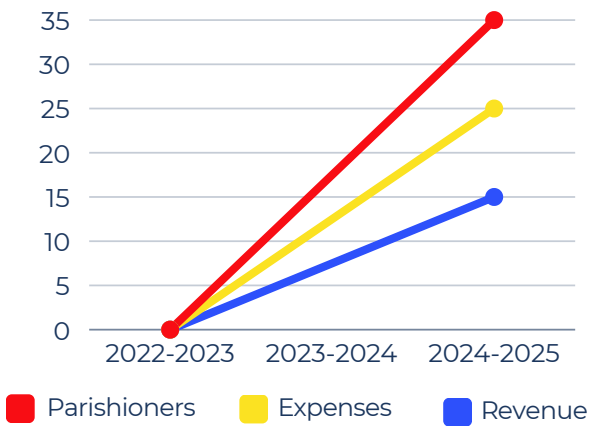
## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH OVERVIEW

### GROWTH - 3 YEARS

15%  
increase in  
Revenue

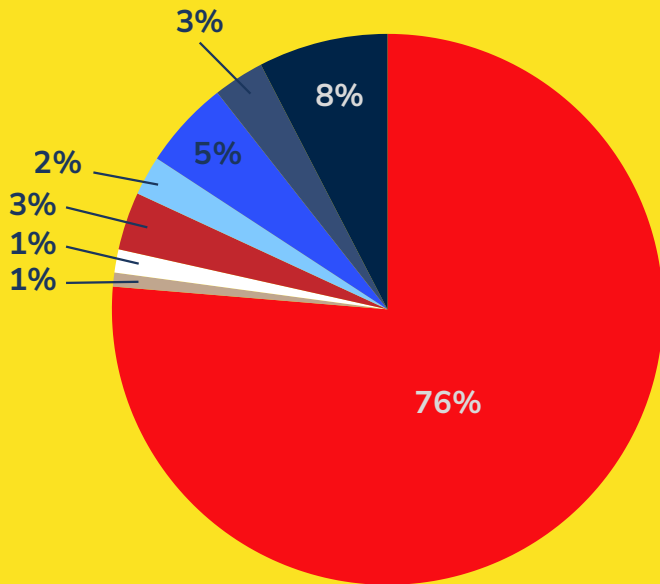
25%  
increase in  
Expenses

35%  
increase in  
Parishioners



### ANNUAL BUDGET: REVENUE

- Offertory
- Capital
- Other Parish Programs
- Endowments
- Charity & Outreach
- Cemetery
- Religious Formation
- Ministry & Liturgy



### ANALYSIS

- Over the past three years, our parish population has grown by 35%.
- Our expenses have increased by 25% to provide for the needs of our growing community.

Although Sacred Heart's revenue has not matched the growth in our community, with your increased financial support, we have the opportunity to make a real and substantial impact on the lives of the faithful at Sacred Heart.

# DIOCESAN FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS **\$240,355**

Diocesan assessments represent a major annual investment in ministries, clergy care, communication, and administrative operations. While these commitments are significant, they remain essential to both the diocese and the parish. These assessments highlight Sacred Heart's partnership with the larger diocesan community and the shared responsibility of sustaining ministries and services that extend far beyond the parish level.



## DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA)

An annual appeal that provides funding to over 50 diocesan ministries and programs.

**\$92,993**

**118**

Families that donated to the DSA.

**78%**

Percentage of DSA covered by donations.

**\$20,000**

Amount of DSA covered by offertory funds.



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT

An annual assessment that provides funding to all the administrative activities of the diocese.

**\$68,714**



## PRIEST RETIREMENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE

An annual appeal that provides health insurance, retirement benefits and life insurance to priests.

**\$36,024**



## OTHER ASSESSMENTS

Presbyteral Council Dues, ParishSOFT Fee, General Insurance, Permanent Diaconate Assessment, Tribunal Advocacy, and Hispanic Ministries

**\$23,125**



## CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

An annual subscription that provides funding to the print, online, multimedia, and social media work.

**\$19,499**

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**\$58,920**

Second collections provide essential funding for many charitable and mission-based initiatives. This year, these include:

- Combined Mission
- Seminarian Education
- National Combined Collection
- World Mission Sunday
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Retirement Fund for Religious
- CRS Rice Bowl
- Archdiocese for the Military Services
- Sister Parish Support
- Mission Appeal
- Hurricane Disaster Relief
- Fire Disaster Relief

These collections help sustain the Church's outreach, support communities in need, and respond to urgent humanitarian crises.





# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities ending June 30, 2025

## ASSETS

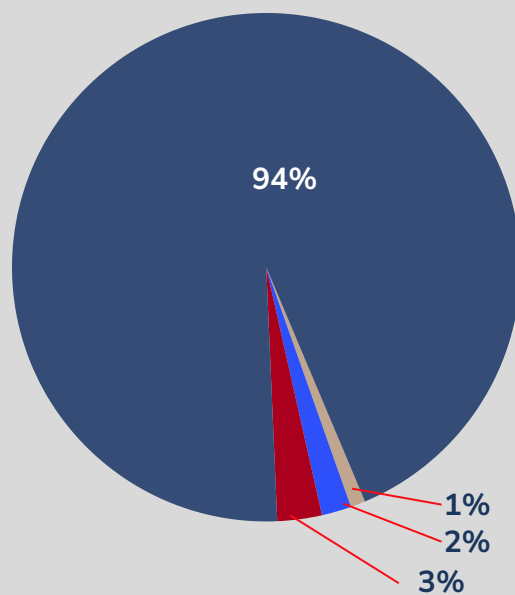
Cash, unrestricted	\$1,280,257	
Cash, restricted	\$409,823	
Total Cash	\$1,690,080	11%
Endowments	\$533,234	4%
Receivables	\$30,321	<1%
Property & Equipment	\$11,400,494	85%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$13,654,129</b>	<b>100%</b>

## LIABILITIES

Payables	\$69,018	<1%
Custodial Obligations	\$85,440	1%
Unearned Income	\$528,255	4%
Total Liabilities	\$682,713	5%
Net Position	\$12,971,416	95%
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Position</b>	<b>\$13,654,129</b>	<b>100%</b>

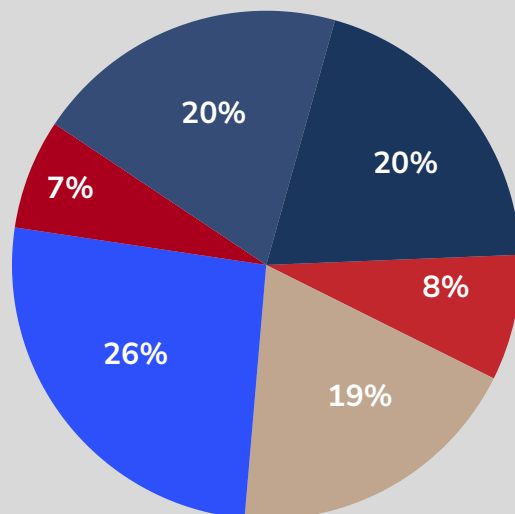
## REVENUE

■	Offertory	\$1,100,099	94%
■	Ministry & Liturgical	\$16,563	1%
■	Religious Formation	\$19,926	2%
■	Other Parish Programs	\$34,702	3%
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,171,290</b>	<b>100%</b>



## EXPENSES

■	Ministry & Liturgical	\$270,018	20%
■	Religious Formation	\$104,614	8%
■	School Subsidies	\$261,579	19%
■	Facilities	\$357,673	26%
■	Diocesan Assessments	\$88,991	7%
■	General & Administrative	\$275,295	20%
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,358,170</b>	<b>100%</b>
■	Net Loss	(\$186,880)	
	<b>Total Expenses &amp; Net</b>	<b>\$1,171,290</b>	



# PARISH OPERATIONAL COSTS

Sacred Heart thrives through many essential efforts. Whether through charitable outreach, faith formation and sacramental services, liturgical celebrations and supplies, education, or facility support, each contribution sustains the heartbeat of our community.

- **GENERAL OPERATIONS**

**\$275,295**

General Operations costs cover the everyday essentials that keep our parish and school running smoothly, including payroll and benefits, professional services, office and tech expenses, postage, processing fees, and other day-to-day operational needs.

- **MINISTRY & LITURGICAL**

**\$183,504**

Ministry and Liturgical costs include the necessary items needed for Mass and the Sacraments, such as candles, hosts, and wine. This also includes payroll and benefits for our priests.

- **MUSIC**

**\$78,893**

Music costs support the heart of our worship—covering payroll and benefits, instrument repairs and tuning, music subscriptions, special programs, and sheet music.

- **CHARITY**

**\$34,716**

Charity costs support Sister Mary Roberts Ministry Food Baskets, financial and burial assistance, the pregnancy center, Heart to Heart Christmas Tree, Rowan Helping Ministries, and other community needs.

- **EVANGELIZATION**

**\$7,621**

Evangelization costs include payroll and benefits, Advent and Lent resources, website and history projects, church literature, prayer cards, Pro-Life efforts, and rosaries.

- **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

**\$104,614**

Religious education costs include payroll and benefits, adult faith formation, FiDE, sacramental prep for Confirmation and First Communion, marriage prep, Totus Tuus, Bibles, the Jamaica Mission, March for Life, Saints Alive, and Youth Group activities.

- **SUBSIDIES**

**\$261,579**

School subsidy costs help active, practicing SHCC parishioners with the expense of providing their children a Catholic education within the schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

- **CEMETERY**

**\$38,017**

Cemetery costs include grounds maintenance, surveying, processing fees, accounting program, monuments, and other expenses needed to care for the cemetery and columbarium.

- **FACILITIES**

**\$357,673**

Facility costs cover the essentials that keep our church, offices, and rectory cared for—payroll and benefits, repairs and maintenance, equipment and furnishings, janitorial services, and utilities.



# Sacred Heart Rectory

We are thrilled to share that the new Sacred Heart Rectory at 365 Lumen Christi Lane is officially complete! The priests have moved in, the house is fully furnished, and it truly could not have turned out better.

Stout Studios—who also designed our beautiful church and school buildings—created a warm and welcoming home that fits perfectly with the natural beauty of our property and matches the architectural style of the entire campus. Central Piedmont Builders (CPB) brought that design to life with great skill and care. As with any project, there were a few small bumps along the way, but the CPB team was wonderful to work with and delivered a truly exceptional final product.

We are also grateful to parishioner Jayne Helms, our realtor, who is assisting us with the sale of the old rectory. Once it is sold, the full profit will go toward our loan.

Most importantly, we want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who helped make this project possible. Every donation—large or small—played a part in providing a beautiful home for our priests now and for many years to come. All of our parishioners should feel proud of what we have accomplished together.

The completion of this project is a wonderful reminder of our parish motto:

***Ut in omnibus glorificetur Deus — That in all things God may be glorified.***



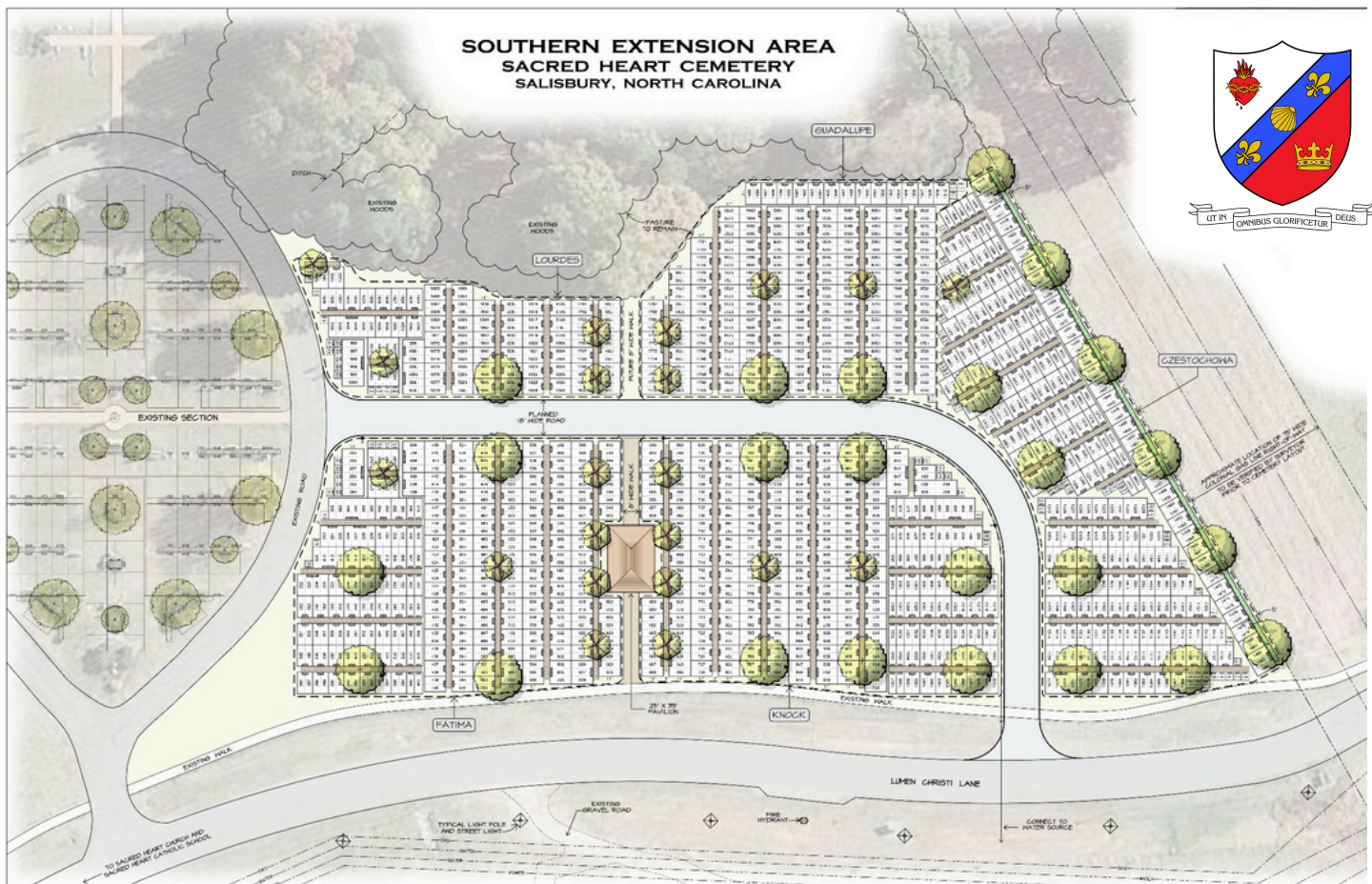
# Sacred Heart Cemetery

We're happy to share an update on our cemetery expansion. The Fatima Section is now open and has 393 plots available for purchase. Central Piedmont Builders have finished putting in the road and water line, and we're excited to be working with Godley's Garden Center as they begin the landscaping for this area.

Thanks to a very generous anonymous donation made in memory of Jeannine Lucey, we've also begun preparing the next area, the Lourdes Section. This section will offer 165 plots. We'll be sure to share an update in the bulletin as soon as these additional plots are ready for purchase. With Lourdes open, we will have nearly doubled the capacity of our cemetery.

The remaining three sections—Guadalupe, Knock, and Czestochowa—will be opened later as the need arises.

If you're interested in purchasing a plot or have any questions, please feel free to contact us in the church office. We are always happy to help.



# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

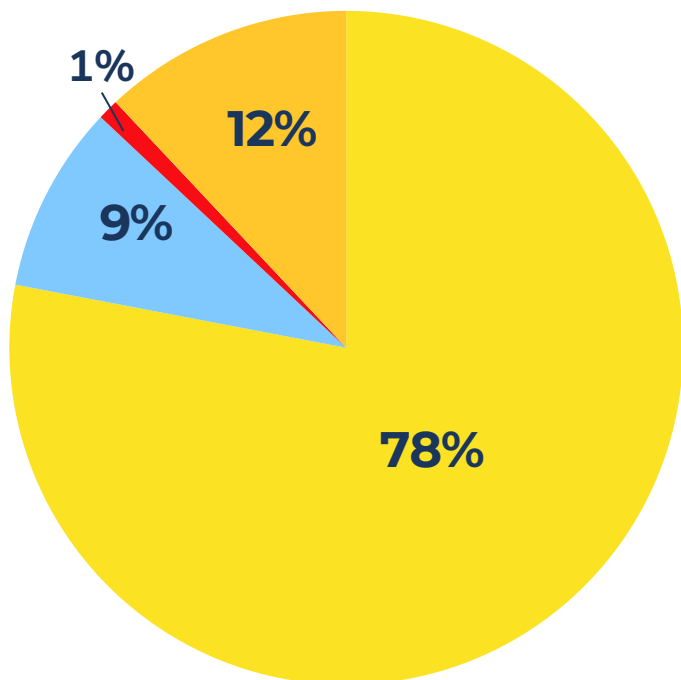


## MISSION STATEMENT:

Rooted in the Catholic faith and academic excellence, Sacred Heart forms Virtuous Leaders who strive to serve God and neighbor with compassion and integrity.

## COST PER STUDENT ANALYSIS

Total Students	204 ↑ 7%
Total True Cost, per Student	\$10,269.00
Parish Support, per student	\$975.00
Diocesan & Gov't Grants, per student	\$110.00
Remaining Total True Cost, per student	\$9,184.00
Tuition & Fees, per student	\$8,039.00
Net Deficit, per student*	\$1,145.00



- Tuition & Fees, per student  
\*The NC Opportunity Scholarship covers 58% of this out of pocket cost for parents.
- Parish Support, per student
- Diocesan & Gov't Grants, per student
- Additional Need, per student  
covered by the 1882 Fund

The Cost Per Student analysis shows that the total cost to educate each child at SHCS is \$10,269, with tuition covering 78% of that amount. Parish support and diocesan or government grants provide meaningful additional assistance, yet an unfunded balance of \$1,145 per student still remains. This gap is addressed through the generosity of our families, parishioners, and the broader community, whose continued support reflects a shared dedication to the mission and vitality of Catholic education at SHCS.

\*Contributions to the 1882 Fund play a particularly important role in this effort. This fund enables the school to provide essential financial aid to families, ensuring that an SHCS education remains accessible to students from a wide range of backgrounds. Additionally, it helps close the remaining funding gap required to sustain the high-quality academic programs, faith formation, and enriching student experiences that define our school. Through this collective generosity, SHCS is able to uphold the commitment to nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth of every child.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities ending June 30, 2025

## ASSETS

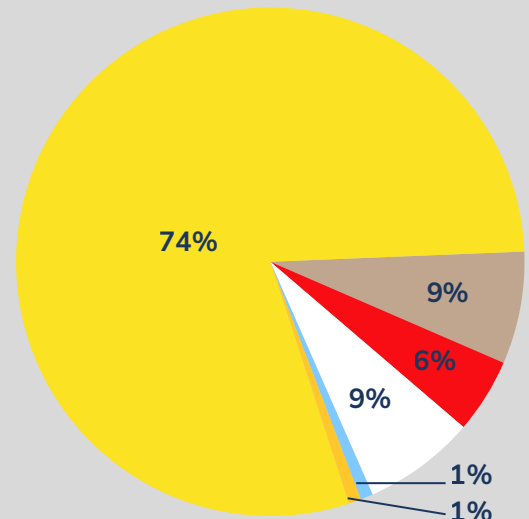
Cash, unrestricted	\$827,345	
Cash, restricted	\$34,538	
Total Cash	\$861,640	22%
Endowments	\$128,464	3%
Receivables	\$1,570,000	41%
Property & Equipment	\$1,282,269	34%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,842,373</b>	<b>100%</b>

## LIABILITIES

Payables	\$5,160	<1%
Custodial Obligations	\$1,453,920	38%
Unearned Income	\$1,400	<1%
Total Liabilities	\$1,460,480	38%
Net Position	\$2,381,893	62%
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Position</b>	<b>\$3,842,373</b>	<b>100%</b>

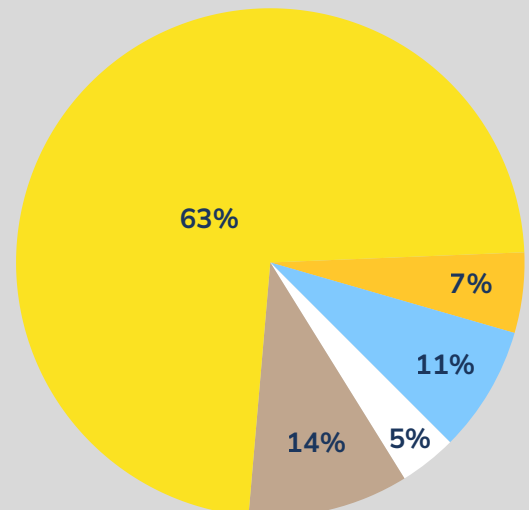
## REVENUE

Tuition and Fees, net	\$1,640,022	74%
Program Fees	\$190,883	9%
Donations, net	\$124,053	6%
Parish Subsidy	\$198,991	9%
Diocesan & Gov't Grants	\$22,340	1%
Other	\$23,729	1%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,200,018</b>	<b>100%</b>



## EXPENSES

Payroll and Benefits	\$1,389,714	63%
Curriculum & Administrative	\$142,474	7%
Technology, Facilities, & Utilities	\$248,106	11%
Other	\$117,943	5%
Total Expenses	\$1,898,237	86%
Net Revenue	\$301,781	14%
<b>Total Expenses &amp; Net</b>	<b>\$2,200,018</b>	<b>100%</b>





# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Financial Analysis and Reflection

Sacred Heart Catholic Church enters the upcoming fiscal year in a strong financial position, supported by well-managed resources and mission-driven stewardship. However, several trends highlight the importance of continued attention and parish-wide engagement. Over the last three years, the parish community has grown by 35%, a positive sign of vitality and expanding ministry reach. During that same period, expenses have increased by 25% as the Church continues to provide essential services such as charitable outreach, faith formation and sacramental preparation, liturgical celebrations and supplies, educational support, and the ongoing maintenance of parish facilities.

While the offertory remains the primary source of operational revenue, its growth of 15% over three years has not kept pace with the growing demands of a larger and more active parish community. Each ministry and service offered by Sacred Heart requires financial resources to sustain the quality and accessibility parishioners have come to rely on.

As the Church looks ahead, it is clear that it will take the collective commitment of the entire community to keep the Heart of Sacred Heart beating for many years to come. Continued engagement, generosity, and shared responsibility will ensure that the parish can meet both present and future needs while remaining a vibrant center of faith, service, and fellowship.

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Financial Analysis and Reflection

The financial overview shows that the school is in a strong and healthy position. Ending the year with a 14% surplus demonstrates careful management and a solid foundation for the future. Tuition remains the largest source of income, making up about three-quarters of total revenue, while program fees, parish support, and donations also provide important contributions that help balance the budget. On the expense side, most of the funds are invested in payroll and benefits, reflecting the school's commitment to attracting and retaining excellent teachers and staff. Other costs, like technology, facilities, and administration, are thoughtfully managed to ensure the school runs efficiently.

The balance sheet reinforces this positive picture, with substantial assets in property and receivables that support long-term stability. Moving forward, continuing to diversify revenue sources and maintaining strong community support will be key to sustaining this momentum and ensuring the school can continue delivering the exceptional education families expect.

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Análisis y Reflexión Financiera

La Iglesia Católica del Sagrado Corazón inicia el próximo año fiscal con una sólida posición financiera, respaldada por una buena gestión de recursos y una administración orientada a la misión. Sin embargo, varias tendencias resaltan la importancia de la atención continua y la participación de toda la parroquia. En los últimos tres años, la comunidad parroquial ha crecido un 35%, una señal positiva de vitalidad y expansión del alcance del ministerio. Durante ese mismo período, los gastos han aumentado un 25%, ya que la Iglesia continúa brindando servicios esenciales como actividades caritativas, formación en la fe y preparación sacramental, celebraciones y suministros litúrgicos, apoyo educativo y el mantenimiento continuo de las instalaciones parroquiales.

Si bien el ofertorio sigue siendo la principal fuente de ingresos operativos, su crecimiento del 15% en tres años no ha seguido el ritmo de las crecientes demandas de una comunidad parroquial más grande y activa. Cada ministerio y servicio que ofrece el Sagrado Corazón requiere recursos financieros para mantener la calidad y la accesibilidad que los feligreses esperan.

Al mirar hacia el futuro, es evidente que se requerirá el compromiso colectivo de toda la comunidad para mantener el Corazón del Sagrado Corazón latiendo por muchos años. El compromiso continuo, la generosidad y la responsabilidad compartida garantizarán que la parroquia pueda satisfacer las necesidades presentes y futuras sin dejar de ser un centro vibrante de fe, servicio y compañerismo.

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Análisis y Reflexión Financiera

El resumen financiero muestra que la escuela se encuentra en una posición sólida y saludable. Cerrar el año con un superávit del 14% demuestra una gestión cuidadosa y una base sólida para el futuro. La matrícula sigue siendo la principal fuente de ingresos, representando aproximadamente tres cuartas partes de los ingresos totales, mientras que las cuotas de los programas, el apoyo parroquial y las donaciones también aportan importantes contribuciones que ayudan a equilibrar el presupuesto. En cuanto a los gastos, la mayor parte de los fondos se invierte en nómina y beneficios, lo que refleja el compromiso de la escuela de atraer y retener a docentes y personal de excelencia. Otros costos, como la tecnología, las instalaciones y la administración, se gestionan cuidadosamente para garantizar el funcionamiento eficiente de la escuela.

El balance general refuerza este panorama positivo, con importantes activos en propiedades y cuentas por cobrar que respaldan la estabilidad a largo plazo. De cara al futuro, la diversificación continua de las fuentes de ingresos y el sólido apoyo de la comunidad serán clave para mantener este impulso y garantizar que la escuela pueda seguir brindando la educación excepcional que las familias esperan.



# THANK YOU!

*Thank you to all the families, parishioners, and community supporters of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Catholic School. Your prayers, generosity, and continued commitment strengthen our mission and enrich the life of our parish and school. We are deeply grateful for your support and for the vibrant faith community we share.*

*May God bless you abundantly for all you do.*

## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor	Fr. John Eckert
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Matthew Dimock
Deacon	Rev. Dr. James Mazur
Director of Operations	Michael Becker
Finance Manager	Ashley Illiano
Pastoral Secretary	Sharon Burges
Administrative Assistant	Sonia Pleitez
Director of Evangelization	Peg Fisher
Music Director	Flora Lester
Facilities Manager	Jim Brincefield
Facilities Assistant	Noe Sifuentes
Ministry for the Sick	John Baughman
Finance Council Chairman	Rick Hajda
Sr. Mary Robert Ministry	Debbie Guimond
Cemetery Sales	Julie Kovalsky

## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal	Erin Brinkley
Assistant Principal	Jason Finnerty
Finance Manager	Ashley Illiano
Administrative Assistant	Shannon Patella
Director of Communications	Carson Shepherd