

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



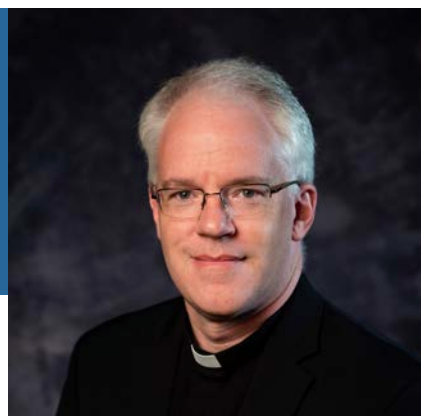
The Work of Our Hands



PRINCE OF PEACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

FR. JON CHALMERS



Dear Parish Family,

Our broader Prince of Peace community is always posing questions to our parish. Many of these questions were posed at the Parish Planning Sessions we hosted at the beginning of my appointment as pastor just over two years ago. Some are expressed every day in our community's journey of faith. Some deal with emergent crises, others with ongoing challenges.

At their heart, many questions are about how we are happy, healthy, and holy people especially in our suburban context where so much of our lives is seen through the windshield of a car or the screen of a computer. How do we express the life-giving faith in and of Jesus Christ in our time and place?

As pastor, I think of these questions as being about participation in the faith, in the Church, in our God who became human so we could become like God. All parishes support the practice of the Catholic faith but at Prince of Peace we want to go further. When we participate in our parish, we are changed, and the parish is changed. Our participation supports our individual growth toward holiness, our community's growth toward greater witness, and our parish's contributions to the common good. Pope Saint John Paul II wrote extensively on the philosophy of participation that led to his later theological work, including *Theology of the Body*.

Many of the ways we answer these questions are found in this annual report. Many more answers are being developed by our Pastoral and Finance Councils, our School Advisory Board, our Columbarium Board, and our dedicated volunteers and parish staff. I invite you to join as you are able in contributing your time, your talent, and your treasure. We are more together than we are apart!

Asking your prayers and assuring you of mine,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fr. Jon Chalmers
Pastor

Giving is the heartbeat of our church community, reflecting our shared commitment to love, support, and serve one another. Through generous contributions, we sustain our ministries, maintain our sacred space, and extend a helping hand to those in need. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can contribute—whether through time, talents, or financial gifts—trusting that every offering, no matter the size, helps us grow together in faith and purpose. For more information, please visit our website at www.popcatholic.org/give or scan the QR code.



2024 Highlights



884

Regular Masses offered



11,284




People fed through outreach programs



20,000

Meals packed for RISE Against Hunger International

1,400



Weekly views of online Sunday Mass

572

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration



231

Baptisms



500+

Hours of confession provided



Growing in Faith

Worship

Reverence encompasses a profound and humble respect for the sacred aspects of faith. It contributes to creating an atmosphere conducive to worship, spiritual growth, and a sense of the divine presence within the church community.

Welcome Team

Our ushers and greeters add a wonderful layer of hospitality to every Mass.

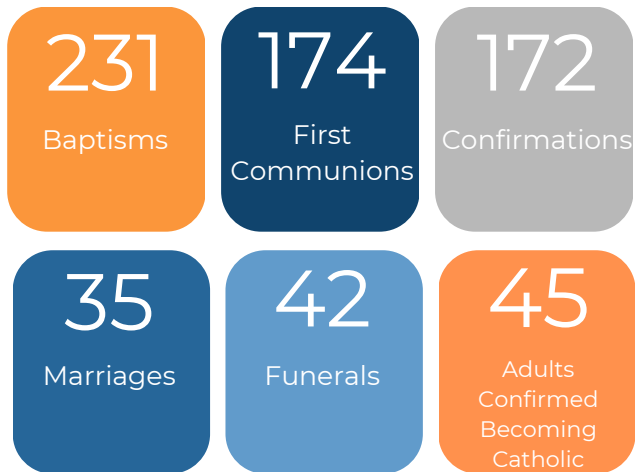
"It's fulfilling knowing that our usher team contributes to the welcoming atmosphere at Prince of Peace. I take great joy in being a part of one of the ministries that parishioners see and hear, some for the first time, to warmly welcome them to Mass."

-Vic Graffeo, lead usher

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

In 2024, our dedicated readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were instrumental in enhancing worship services. With unwavering commitment, they delivered Scripture readings and facilitated communion, making each Mass a transformative experience. In 2024, 115 readers and 185 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion served at our Masses. Their efforts fostered a meaningful and enriching worship atmosphere for our church community.

Sacrament Highlights



Altar Servers

Beginning in the fourth grade, children are eligible to train as altar servers and serve at Mass. Many serve at Mass alongside their siblings. Oftentimes, their parents are also serving in one of our weekend Mass ministries.



Choirs

Our choirs have grown in 2024, and members grew personally in their musical journey, harmonizing, and singing together better each week. We have music at all of our weekend Masses, both English and Spanish, represented by 17 different choir groups and 73 choir members/musicians.

73
Choir
Members

8
Weekend
Masses with
Music

17
Choirs



Livestream

In 2024, we produced 52 Sunday Mass livestreams and seven funeral livestreams. Mass livestreams averaged 1,400 views across our website, YouTube and Facebook channels providing the homebound a way to attend Mass and stay connected to their church.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic adoration, the act of worshipping God as He is present in the consecrated Eucharist, is an important part of our faith life. Every Thursday, the monstrance is placed in the day chapel where anyone can come to spend time with the Lord. In 2024, we offered 572 hours of Eucharistic adoration.

A special highlight of the year was our participation in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage San Juan Diego route. Hundreds gathered for Mass at Prince of Peace Catholic Church on June 17, 2024 and then participated in a one-mile Eucharistic procession along Preserve Parkway with the San Juan Diego pilgrims. Those on the walk recited prayers and prayed for an increase in the love for the Eucharist by all. Bishop Steven Raica of the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama offered a beautiful bilingual Mass at 5pm on Sunday, the evening before the Eucharistic procession.



Growing in Faith

Adult Formation

Spiritual formation is the intentional journey of nurturing a profound connection with God, fostering personal transformation to live more like Jesus. Practices of attending Mass, prayer, Bible study, and community engagement, lead to spiritual growth and a closer relationship with God.

Parish Life Nights

Our Wednesday night program offered a delicious meal, engaging teaching and discussion creating a warm environment for spiritual growth. Beginning in the fall of 2024, we offered eight Wednesday parish life nights with average attendance of 75 per night. Speakers included our clergy, an archbishop, and a documentary producer and the documentary star. These engaging sessions involved teaching, reflection, and discussions, creating a warm environment for spiritual growth.

Sunday Bible Studies

Between the morning Masses on Sunday, the 55andBetter Group as well as another adult Bible study group met to study scripture each week.

Women of Worship

The Women of Worship Ministry met weekly during the school year for a Bible study and fellowship. This group of about 57 women continues to grow and also offers a Zoom meeting option. In 2024, the group explored scripture, church history, and theology through study, prayer, worship, and reflection.

They also completed three large service projects, serving Food for Our Journey, the Catholic Center of Concern, and the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama.



8

Parish Life
Nights

55

Sunday Bible
Study
Attendees

57

WOW Bible
Study
Attendees

MOMS Group

The MOMS Group had a successful 2024, meeting weekly during the school year for Bible study and fellowship. This group offers a place for all mothers regardless of their schedule, children's ages, or childcare needs. They met on Friday mornings during the school year (nursery is provided), and offered a four-week Wednesday night book study. This group provides a loving support group for its members.

Becoming Catholic

During the 2023/2024 school year, 45 adults were confirmed in the Catholic Church through our Becoming Catholic program. We offered two sessions of this program held on Sunday mornings between the morning Masses. The group supported each other through prayer and Bible study, nurturing a strong sense of community and spiritual growth.

Young Adult Group

This ministry offers Hispanic young adults (18-35 years of age) a peer group to study the scriptures, the teachings of the Church and creative ways to inspire, form and encourage young people to build a community that keeps them connected to their roots. This group of 25 also worked with the Poor of Jesus Christ and La Casita Multicultural Social Services on biannual outreaches.



40
MOMS Group
Members

20
Small Groups

19
Lunch & Learn
Sessions

Small Groups

Launched midway through 2024, our new small groups concept has taken root across the parish with over 20 different groups studying and enjoying fellowship. The groups began with studying the book *Becoming Eucharistic People* and continued with other formative books through the end of the year. Parishioners are welcome to join existing small groups or start their own with the assistance of the office of parish life.

Lunch & Learn

Our lunch time program provided parishioners with an opportunity to explore the topics of prayer, the kingdom of God, Jesus and the Apostles, the books of Jonah, Ruth and Lamentations, and grief. About 35 parishioners attended each of the 19 sessions offered.

Divine Mercy Group

This adult Hispanic formation, prayer, and study group had 22 participants and held 22 classes, 11 prayer nights, and one retreat in 2024.

Cursillo Group

The Hispanic Cursillo Group members have received spiritual formation training through the diocese and met to serve, study, and pray. In 2024, the group had 35 participants and completed six studies.

Kindergarten - Grade 12

Children's Formation

The children of Prince of Peace had a great year, engaging in their religious education studies and participating in our summer vacation Bible school to “dive into friendship with God.” Our catechist team focused on teaching God’s love to all levels of learners by employing diverse educational strategies.

Our Sunday morning “Kids’ Church” presented the Word of God to children ages Kindergarten through second grade during the 8:30am and 11am Masses. During this special time, children learn how God is calling them in the readings of the day.

Children in grades Kindergarten through 12 enjoyed religious education classes on Sunday, developing a personal relationship with Christ while learning their faith.

Throughout the year, our youth were encouraged to increase their engagement in personal faith formation, participation in the life of the Church, and community service activities as they journey toward adulthood and sainthood.



539

Parish School of
Religion
Enrollment

180

Campers at
VBS

193

Catechists/VBS
Volunteers

Grades 6 - 12 Youth Ministry



45

Middle School
Youth Group
Members

12

Events &
Community
Service
Projects

40

High School
Youth Group
Members

Growing Prince of Peace's youth ministry program is a joyful journey for our church! Our team fosters excitement, commitment, and fellowship while witnessing unexpected enthusiasm for community service. In today's age, providing a space for youth to grow in faith together is crucial, and that's precisely what we are cultivating. Elevating the youth group to more active engagement, hosting numerous events, and adapting to better serve families have been key accomplishments.

Our mission is to provide a community for youth where activities and events are founded on the teachings of Christ. Here they build relationships with other young people that support living our shared faith.

We provide a safe space for Catholic kids to just be together. Kids can count on this time together. Service is built in to our program and the events are an extra bonus.

"The middle school youth do much to care for our parish. They volunteer with cleaning and setting up for large parish events and they collaborate periodically with our pastoral care ministry writing inspirational cards during special holiday seasons for nursing homes. This year we had our first coat drive and collected over 30 coats for middle school students in need." - Hugo Castillo, middle school youth director

Camp Tekakwitha

Our summer camp trip to Camp Tekakwitha in Springville, AL led by Middle School Youth Director Hugo Castillo was transformative. The days offered faith formation lessons, relationship building, and opportunities for personal encounters with Jesus at Mass and Eucharistic adoration. The camp provided many faith enrichment opportunities for our youth group members. It also offered a leadership experience for our high school youth group members.



Growing in Faith

Prince of Peace Catholic School



Prince of Peace Catholic School was again named the best school in Hoover in 2024 by *Hoover's Magazine*. Our students received a world class education from dedicated, highly qualified, and supportive teachers in a dynamic, faith-filled environment. We continued to instill a love of learning through a rigorous Catholic faith-based curriculum that engaged our students in the interdisciplinary lessons of science, technology, religion, engineering, the arts, and math (STREAM).

Through the generosity of school and church families and the PTO, a "Gratitude Grove" of maples was planted along the school's fields in recognition of our school's 25th anniversary and school founder Fr. John Fallon, pastor emeritus.



The school maintained its certification as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. It holds accreditation by Cognia and membership in the National Catholic Education Association and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

The Adventure Ark Playschool

The Adventure Ark Playschool staff of nine professionals provided loving, Christian childcare to 45 families and 49 children through our mother's day out program in 2024. The Playschool held two diaper drives which resulted in 7,469 diapers donated to Bundles of Hope diaper bank.



Supporting the Parish and Community Outreach

Throughout 2024, Prince of Peace continued its heartwarming mission of nourishing the community with food, necessities, gifts, and the Eucharist - feeding souls with God's love. We expanded our roster of dedicated outreach leaders and strengthened connections with local schools and care facilities. In addition to enhancing our regular events, we joyfully responded to increased requests, readily extending a helping hand. Thanks to the strong bonds forged by our liaisons and the generosity of our parishioners, who donated food, time, and money, Prince of Peace stands out as a well-known community provider.

Highlights



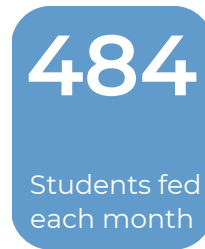
Feeding the Community

Weekender Backpack & Food for Our Journey

In 2024, the Weekender Backpack Ministry and the Food for Our Journey Ministry made a wonderful impact in fighting food insecurity in our community. We provided weekend food for 484 students each month during the school year across three local schools, ensuring no child went hungry when they could not access school meals. Our Food for Our Journey Ministry provided lunch to 6,144 homeless adults in 2024.

In addition, 20,000 meals were also packed for the international food support organization RISE Against Hunger.

Prince of Peace continues to make a meaningful impact in the fight against hunger.



"I wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your support of our students. Your generosity in providing the weekender food bags and jackets has truly touched the lives of so many in our school community. The students and their families are incredibly thankful for your kindness, and your thoughtful contributions are making such a big difference in our students' lives. Beyond meeting essential needs, your efforts are creating a sense of caring from the greater community. It's heartwarming to see the positive impact your support has on our students.

Thank you once again for your kindness and dedication. "

*Warm regards,
Walter Womack
Principal, Simmons Middle School*



Serving the Community

"We have a large family for whom the coats were invaluable and very timely. We have targeted this family as one of the most needy. The weekend bags went a long way with them during recent cold and snowy days. There are 10 kids in this family ranging from 3 to 17 years in age. There are others, but this one stands out.

Each gift from POP has been much needed and appreciated. The kids don't always know what it all means, but they know how these gifts make them feel. Obviously, the parents are extremely grateful and appreciative. It makes Catholicism look good in the eyes of many." - Mac Johnston, Holy Family Catholic School

300

Winter Coats
Donated

7,469

Diapers
Donated

970

Blankets
Donated

"The good Lord knows where the blanket is going to end up. We often hear that the blanket was the perfect color, it matched their decor or was the recipient's favorite color." - Pam Ozeki, Caring Needles Ministry leader



The POP Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary provided parishioners the opportunity to grow in their Catholic faith as they participated in service and charitable outreaches to our church and the community. 2024 highlights include providing \$51,000 for seminarians through the "Pennies From Heaven" campaign, building a tenth Habitat for Humanity house, awarding a scholarship for John Carroll and supporting local organizations that feed, house and/or support the vulnerable.

Serving One Another

Our Outreach to the Homebound

"I was asked about a year ago if I would be willing to sit with an elderly man who had dementia. He was living at home and being cared for by his wife. It was not safe to leave him alone, so by spending an afternoon with him ever so often, his wife could go knitting at the Hoover Library with her friends, or do errands, or whatever she wished. He is a small man, made smaller by hunching over. He used a cane to move from room to room in the house.

The first several times I was not sure how we would spend the four hours together. My friend was a talker, but because of his dementia, his stories ran on a loop, and his questions for me were of the same nature each time. 'What did you do for a living,' or 'Where did you grow up?'

After the first several afternoons, I brought some games, but he wasn't interested. We watched a little TV, but I felt my purpose was more than to be a sitter. I prayed, 'What is it, God, that I can do for my friend?'

Then the thought came to me, 'I'll just bring my banjo when I spend the afternoon with my friend. Maybe he will like it, and I'll get a little practice in.'

My friend loves sitting out on his back porch, watching the squirrels and birds, and commenting on the weather. I pulled up a chair next to him and started to play my banjo. As I played, he slapped his hands on his lap to the beat, nodding his head up and down, and at the end of each tune would cry out, 'Yee Haw!'

One afternoon as I was playing and we were both singing, he jumped up out of his chair, his cane falling to the floor, and he began clog dancing - an old-time style of dancing.



Just then, his wife and daughter came out and witnessed this little back-porch hoedown. After the song was finished, they cried out, 'Way to go Dad!' His wife said he used to clog dance but hadn't in many, many years, and never thought she would see it again.

It is amazing what remarkable things God does when we just show up with whatever little we have to give. I think of the boy with only a few loaves and fish who gives it over to Jesus, only to see 5,000 fed from that gift. We may not think we have much, but it's not up to us to judge. It's up to us to give what we can."

- Bob Toohey, *Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion*

206

Parishioner
Visits

42

Extraordinary
Ministers
of Holy
Communion

7

Care Facilities
Served

Serving One Another

The MOMS Group

“When I was asked to co-lead MOMS this year, I made the assumption I would be supporting the group, but the true gift this year has been the way MOMS has supported me. The women involved in this ministry are ready to step up at a moment's notice and support each other and this parish in any way asked. MOMS know how to love and support each other and my family has been blessed by their support during the past year.

In the summer of 2024, my husband Michael and I had the joy of learning we were expecting again. To our surprise, we were blessed with not only one baby, but two! We were thrilled with this news and, to be honest, a little overwhelmed. Early in my pregnancy, I had COVID and I was also diagnosed with hyperemesis gravidarum (HG). After recovering from COVID, I remained very weak from HG and was unable to adequately eat and drink. I lost twenty pounds in the first ten weeks of pregnancy. I was placed on bed rest, prescribed multiple medications, and received IV infusions twice a week.

My husband was running his business, caring for me, our four-year-old son, Ryan, and maintaining our household. We have a wonderful and supportive extended family, but unfortunately, they all live out of town. They would come when possible but the large burden was placed on Michael. It didn't take long before the MOMS stepped in, as they always do, without being asked. MOMS were delivering meals three times a week, offering to pick Ryan up from school or care for him anytime we needed, and checking in daily to ask how they could help. We don't like to ask for help, but we needed it and we were overwhelmed with the love we felt coming from our church community.



Our MOMs Group offers parish mothers an opportunity for support and social, spiritual, and service activities.

What people considered small acts of kindness, were huge blessings in our day. As my pregnancy progressed, I had good days and bad days, but I always looked forward to Friday MOMS meetings.

On December 30th, my husband woke up with severe abdominal pain and I drove him to the ER at 4:30 am. As he was still waiting to be seen, I went to my regular OB appointment at 9:30 am. My exam revealed that I was six cm dilated and the babies needed to be delivered 11 weeks early. I was taken directly to the labor and delivery unit. Michael was treated and joined me for an emergency C-section.

Matthew and George were delivered at 29 weeks gestation, required respiratory support at birth, and are expected to be admitted to the NICU until Mid-March. On one of the scariest days of our lives, MOMS lifted our family in prayer and gathered the troops. We had a basket of postpartum essentials, snacks for the hospital, and even presents for big brother Ryan delivered to our home. **We feel covered in prayer and love and are beyond grateful for this group. We look forward to the day we can return the favor by supporting another POP family in their time of need.**

- Katelyn Staley, MOMS Group Co-Chair

Fellowship & Events Community

Prince of Peace cherished the opportunity to celebrate events with our parish community. Here's a snapshot of the enjoyable activities we participated in together throughout 2024:

- Christmas Sing-a-Long
- Pancake Breakfasts
- Date Night Dinners
- Ladies Bunco
- Special Needs Family Nights
- Pet Blessing
- Ladies Valentine's Day Luncheon
- Senior Lunch and Bingos
- Minus One Bereavement Luncheons
- 55+ Better Halloween & Christmas Parties
- Catholic Gentlemen Socials
- First Friday Socials
- St. Catherine Support Group



Keeping Prince of Peace Beautiful Building & Grounds

Throughout the past year, Our Curb Appeal Ministry tackled special projects to beautify our parish grounds. They planted trees, shrubs and flowering plants. The volunteers also pruned or removed diseased plants and relocated poor performing plants.



Building Uses

Prince of Peace continues to be a welcoming space for a variety of local community groups.

Scouts

Several local Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops call Prince of Peace 'home' for their meetings. Two young ladies earned their Girl Scout Silver Award by constructing a Stations of the Cross trail on the parish campus. The Girl Scouts also offered parish families an annual family dance.

Catholic In Recovery

This support group met weekly at the church to assist its members overcome various addictions.

Diocesan Toy Bowl

After school hours and on weekends, the diocesan Toy Bowl league held practices and games in our school gym. In 2024, gym usage ran from August through February encompassing basketball, volleyball and cheer events and practices on about 196 days.

46

Scout Meetings

52

Catholic in Recovery Meetings

196

Toy Bowl Gym Usage Days

Connecting the Community

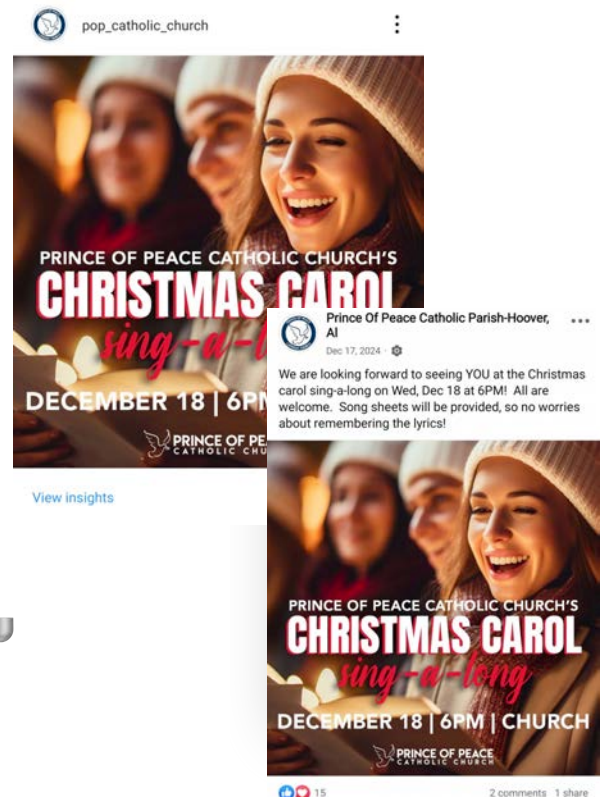
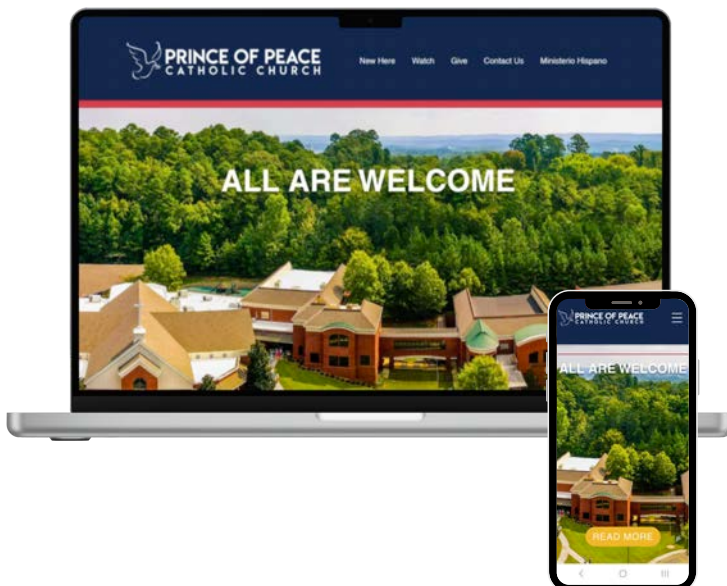
Online Engagement

Our existing website launched in late 2023, with its sleek new look and eye-catching graphics, has become a go-to resource for our parishioners and the wider community. Our improved web presence has greatly increased the ease of access to information about Prince of Peace's programs, events, and special Masses.

We continue our social media engagement on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, delivering news and interacting with the online community.

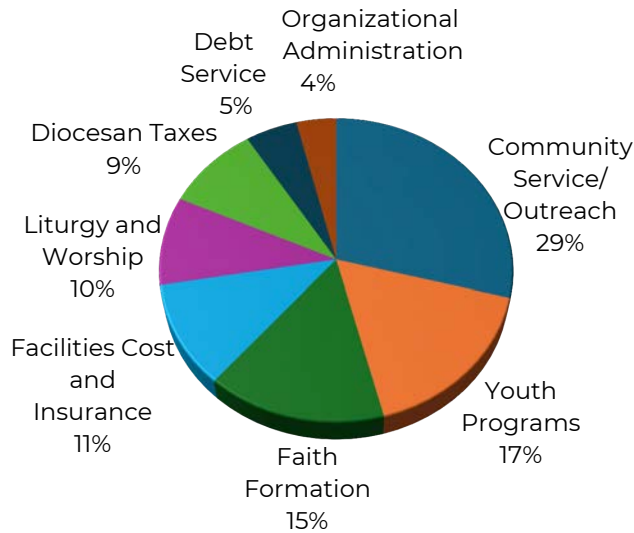
Our weekly "News to the Pews" digital newsletter keeps our parishioners and subscribed friends up to date reaching almost 3,000 emails per week.

These digital tools have allowed us to reach more people within the Prince of Peace community and generate greater awareness about all the fantastic things happening here.



STEWARDSHIP

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT



At Prince of Peace Catholic Church, we take seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. The Finance Committee, in collaboration with Father Jon Chalmers and parish leadership, meets regularly to review financial statements, ensure fiscal responsibility, and maintain transparency in all financial matters.

Our parish maintains strong internal accounting controls, ensuring that every dollar is accounted for and used wisely in support of our mission. We are pleased to report that we recently passed an audit conducted by the Diocese of Birmingham, affirming the integrity of our financial practices. This audit serves as an additional layer of accountability and reflects our commitment to sound financial management.

As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to prudent budgeting, responsible stewardship, and the continued financial health of our parish. Thank you for your generosity, which allows us to serve our community, grow our ministries, and continue the mission of the Church.

If you ever have any questions about the parish's financial position, please feel free to reach out. We appreciate your trust and support.

Bill House, Chair
Finance Council

2024 INCOME/EXPENSES

Income	Amount	Expense	Amount
Regular Collection	\$3,357,191	Community Service/Outreach	\$948,027
Columbarium Revenue	60,002	Youth Programs	553,214
PSR, Youth & Sports	77,372	Faith Formation	503,941
Donations to Outreach Programs	97,255	Facilities Costs & Insurance	359,118
Wedding/Memorial Income	39,439	Liturgy & Worship	308,415
Interest Income	138,085	Diocesan Taxes	302,977
Special Contributions	59,621	Debt Service	166,380
		Organizational Administration	127,107
TOTAL	\$3,828,965	TOTAL	\$3,269,178



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