



## Commitment of Fidelity 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since the fall of 2019, before I arrived at Sacred Heart, the Commitment of Fidelity that Father Sirico asked each of you to make has been a Providential blessing to our Parish. It allowed us to continue operations largely unscathed by disruptions of 2020, but has also allowed us to make investments in many areas of Parish life, from exciting things like the music program, Authenticum, and the Academy, to the more mundane like maintenance, repairs, and much more—your commitment to intentionally give to support the mission of our Parish and its apostolates as a way of supporting the mission of the Church has been invaluable. To be a good steward of your investments and help them to be as fruitful as possible, I have been working hard with the staff and key volunteers to bring budgets into balance and raise funds from outside the parish. While these efforts behind the scenes are not always easy or particularly glamorous, they are essential to building a firm foundation for the future of our Parish. Recent announcements about the gift of a new organ and major gifts toward the restoration of the sanctuary are only made possible because of the strength of your commitment, which people external to our community see and are inspired by. So too, our lawsuit is being additionally supported by those outside of our community who want to help protect what we have built here.

I write to you therefore to ask you to consider again what you are able to do to support the work of God here at Sacred Heart. You will note that the Commitment of Fidelity campaign is occurring a few months later than last year. The reason for this is that after consultation with the school board and finance council, the commitment this year will be independent of consideration for Academy tuition assistance. Change is always disruptive and a risk, but so is thoughtlessly staying the same. While we need your support to pay our Parish and Academy staff living wages, and to make a Classical Catholic education affordable to the families of the Parish, the Commitment of Fidelity really should be an examination of just that—our personal faithfulness to the mission of Jesus Christ and our desire to cooperate with it through Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. For this reason, we decided to move the Commitment of Fidelity to the Holy Season of Lent, so that we can consider our commitment in the context of the Lord's forty days of preparation in the desert and His invitation to take up our Cross and “follow me.”

It's our intent in the 2024-25 year to give every family who requests financial aid the same generous multi-child discount as well as any additional aid we can afford, whether or not they promise to support the Parish. However, to continue to do this, we need you, the parishioners and friends of Sacred Heart Parish, to continue your intentional generosity to the Parish so that this and the rest of our good work is possible. We have been very blessed to receive some immensely generous gifts recently, but it is important to note that most of these monies are already spent or were restricted by the donor who gave them. Your ongoing support toward the Parish allows us to continue the sometimes mundane, but spiritually far more important, work of God: teaching, serving, and blessing.



Although the financial component is, of course, important, the Commitment of Fidelity must start with a commitment to prayer. During this year when our Bishop has asked us to undertake a Eucharistic Renewal, it's so important to spend more time with our Eucharistic Lord. Time, after all, is our most precious commodity in this busy world. Whether it's making time for weekday Mass, or a Eucharistic Holy Hour, or just stopping in for a quick visit to the Church and tabernacle, your prayer and the witness of your prayer to others, especially the young, does more than any dollar amount to support the mission of the Church. All of our buildings may one day be laid waste, but if there is still Eucharistic faith in the hearts of families then the Church will remain strong.

Likewise, while we speak Cor ad Cor (heart to heart) to God in prayer, particularly through the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we serve Him in our neighbors. There are so many things that we do and even more that we want to do to make Christ present to our community and to all those who come into contact with Jesus through our Parish. This year the Advancement Team is looking for a commitment to generosity with your time, rather than to a particular apostolate. The Commitment of Fidelity will allow you to state skills and interests that you have so that the leaders of our apostolates can reach out to you personally when you might be a good fit for a volunteer opportunity.

Of course, the world is what it is, and requires finances to keep the lights on and our doors open. This year, in light of the difficult financial situation in the world, I ask you to be particularly thoughtful about your financial commitment to the parish. Our financial limitations have weighed heavily on me this past year, particularly because of the significant increases in the cost of living for our employees. Last year, your generosity allowed us to increase wages by 5%. However, with inflation still in the 6-7% range, it's my desire to do better for our staff. With most of our current large projects paid for by donation, my hope is to be able to pay off shortfalls from previous years through our community's commitments, and then invest in our employees so that they can provide for themselves and their families and continue to assist the Parish in so many integral ways.

As we approach the Sacred Feast of Easter, I invite you to spend some time in the coming weeks praying individually, with your spouse, and as a family to consider how you are being called to cooperate with the Lord. Take stock of His goodness to you and ask what He is asking you to give back. Remember, no matter what you discern you are called to give, *it is in giving that you receive*. We will be exceedingly grateful for anything you decide to contribute to God's work here at Sacred Heart, but it is most important to us that you do so prayerfully!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Ronnie Paul Floyd, STL



The “Parish Commitment of Fidelity” model of sustaining and growing our truly Christian community is both a gift and an expression— it is a gift to be able to consider ourselves, our neighbor, and our parish in such a deliberately prayerful and human way; so too it is an expression of the extraordinary nature of this parish, the people in it, and the way of life we are trying to foster as faithful members of the Body of Christ. We ask that you use this packet to contemplate in an act of praise and thanksgiving the gifts that God has given you, and to humbly discern what He is calling you to this coming year.

**You do not need to return this packet, but instead please use it as a guide for prayerful discernment. Once you have had time to reflect, please visit [sacredheartgr.org/fidelity](https://sacredheartgr.org/fidelity) to confirm your commitment.**



## Spiritual Inventory - 2024

*"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." - Phil. 2:1-2*

### Opening prayer:

After making the Sign of the Cross, take a few moments to enter into silence, then read the verse above. Spend a few minutes in silence, brushing away preoccupations and anxieties as they arise. Pray together the Our Father three times, pausing after each for a few moments before praying: *"Jesus meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine."*

### Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✘ How does our home embrace a family culture that helps us to live out our faith?
- ✘ How does my household observe the Lord's Day as set apart for prayer and rest?
- ✘ Are we faithful in attending Mass?
- ✘ Are we careful to prepare for the liturgy by prayer and observation of the Eucharistic fast?
- ✘ Are our words and actions reverent before, during, and after Mass?
- ✘ Are we consistently well-disposed to receive the Eucharist?
- ✘ Do we frequently access the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- ✘ Have we cultivated our desire to receive Christ in the Eucharist?
- ✘ Are there ways in which we can more actively engage in the liturgical life of the parish?
- ✘ Do we pray for the needs of our parish, diocese, bishop, and nation?
- ✘ How does my family pray with the Church outside of Mass?
- ✘ Do we ensure that we are devoting time daily to personal prayer, particularly in gratitude?
- ✘ Do we regularly spend time reading Scripture?
- ✘ Do we celebrate Solemnities and the patronal feasts of our family members?
- ✘ How can we make loving sacrifices or offer up personal sufferings in more intentional ways?
- ✘ Is there a particular habit of virtue or sacrifice that would challenge us to more fully rely on Christ's grace and provision?

### Personal Notes: What steps will we take to conform our hearts more fully to Christ's Sacred Heart?

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## Appraisal of Gifts - 2024

*“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.” - Matt 11:29*

### Opening prayer:

After making the Sign of the Cross, take a few moments to enter into silence, then read the verse above. Spend a few minutes praying exclusively in gratitude for God’s providential love and care for you. When you begin to pause and search for what to add to the list, wait in silence for the Spirit to bring you the greater depth of insight that flows from earnest gratitude. End your time in prayer with a family litany to your personal patrons and namesakes.

### Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✠ How has God blessed our family?
- ✠ What makes each of us unique in our personality, gifts, and perspective?
- ✠ How have we built on these natural gifts by good stewardship and growth in virtue?
- ✠ What activities excite us and bring us energy?
- ✠ What activities tend to drain and discourage us?
- ✠ Are we most joyful when working with people, ideas, or physical things?
- ✠ How have we been uniquely situated to love specific people?
- ✠ In what ways do our gifts and contributions complement those of our neighbors?
- ✠ What are each of our roles in the body of Christ?
- ✠ How have we been prepared by God’s providence to serve Him and the Church?
- ✠ When have we witnessed our gifts coming together in a way that they are greater than the sum of their parts?
- ✠ How can we continue to grow in knowledge of ourselves and God’s will for us?
- ✠ What is one concrete way we can use our gifts to more fully serve our God and neighbor?

### What gifts has God given us that He is calling us to return to Him?

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## Examination of Fidelity - 2024

*"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for  
a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart..." - 1 Peter 1:22*

### Opening prayer:

After prayerfully contemplating the verse above, bring to mind God's love and providential care for you. Take some time to listen to the Spirit as He guides your mind and heart.

### Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✠ Is my faith animated by acts of love for my neighbors?
- ✠ Does our family serve the Body of Christ through the seven corporal works of mercy— feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; visit the imprisoned/ransom the captive; bury the dead?
- ✠ Does our family serve the Body of Christ through the seven spiritual works of mercy— instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; admonish the sinner; bear wrongs patiently; forgive offenses willingly; comfort the afflicted; pray for the living and the dead?
- ✠ Do I advance the mission of the parish to bring Christ and His Mercy to others?
- ✠ Do I feel equipped to do so?
- ✠ How do I currently serve in our parish?
- ✠ Do I intentionally pray for our bishop, pastor, and the work of our parish apostolates?
- ✠ Does our family provide financial support for the material needs of the Church?
- ✠ Does the support we provide for the parish come from our firstfruits? Is it dependable in frequency and amount?
- ✠ Do I take advantage of opportunities to grow in and share our faith beyond satisfying the precepts of the Church?
- ✠ Do I give of my time and resources in a way that is generous, sacrificial, and proportionate?

### How can we sustain or deepen our practice of the Works of Mercy in our parish?

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# Sacred Heart Apostolate List

**Please review and commit to serving today!**

**Our list of opportunities for involvement in the parish is not exhaustive— if you don't see what you're looking for, please contact the parish office.**

**Volunteering is absolutely essential to our work as a parish. Below are our apostolates which need members and/or volunteer assistance.**

<u>Name of Apostolate</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>	<u>Email/Phone</u>
Altar Boys	Joseph Scoville	<a href="mailto:shjservers@gmail.com">shjservers@gmail.com</a>
Apostles of Mercy	Alan Dunst	<a href="mailto:alandmuse@sbcglobal.net">alandmuse@sbcglobal.net</a>
Building Maintenance Crew	Noelle Divozzo	<a href="mailto:ndivozzo@shgr.org">ndivozzo@shgr.org</a>
Cor Dei	Jim Dirkes	<a href="mailto:jvdirkes2@protonmail.com">jvdirkes2@protonmail.com</a>
Cor Jesu	Mike Tober	<a href="mailto:dre@shgr.org">dre@shgr.org</a>
Choirs (9:30am & 11:30am)	Jonathan Bading	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@shgr.org">musicdirector@shgr.org</a>
Church Cleaning/Grounds	Noelle Divozzo	<a href="mailto:ndivozzo@shgr.org">ndivozzo@shgr.org</a>
Faith Formation	Mike Tober	<a href="mailto:dre@shgr.org">dre@shgr.org</a>
Family First Saturday	Greg Guest	<a href="mailto:gregoryiguest@gmail.com">gregoryiguest@gmail.com</a>
Homebound Ministry	Sr. Mary Daniel	<a href="mailto:srmariydaniel@shgr.org">srmariydaniel@shgr.org</a>
Hospitality	Matthew Baker	<a href="mailto:battmaker@gmail.com">battmaker@gmail.com</a>
Knights of Columbus	Jackson Bargaenquast	<a href="mailto:jacksonbargaenquast@gmail.com">jacksonbargaenquast@gmail.com</a>
Lectors	Noelle Divozzo	<a href="mailto:ndivozzo@shgr.org">ndivozzo@shgr.org</a>
Meals for Moms	Lisa Guest	<a href="mailto:emguest87@gmail.com">emguest87@gmail.com</a>
Pillar Men's Group	Laurent Morin	<a href="mailto:laurent.morin2@gmail.com">laurent.morin2@gmail.com</a>



## PARISH COMMITMENT — of Fidelity

Prayer Chain	Janet Brown	<a href="mailto:queenbeemi@protonmail.com">queenbeemi@protonmail.com</a>
Sacred Heart Academy PTC	Maria Regan	<a href="mailto:ptcpresident@shgr.org">ptcpresident@shgr.org</a>
Sacristans	Joseph Scoville	<a href="mailto:shjservers@gmail.com">shjservers@gmail.com</a>
Security Team	Jim Dirkes	<a href="mailto:jvdirkes2@protonmail.com">jvdirkes2@protonmail.com</a>
St. Ignatius Prayer Group	Annie Connette	<a href="mailto:anne.connette@gmail.com">anne.connette@gmail.com</a>
St. Vincent Neighborhood Mission	Katie Ugolini	<a href="mailto:katieugolini@msn.com">katieugolini@msn.com</a>
Troops of St. George	Darren Krakowski	<a href="mailto:dakflyer@gmail.com">dakflyer@gmail.com</a>
Ushers	Stanley Sedore	<a href="mailto:stanley.sedore@aya.yale.edu">stanley.sedore@aya.yale.edu</a>
Youth Ministry	Mike Tober	<a href="mailto:dre@shgr.org">dre@shgr.org</a>

## Supporting and Sustaining Our Apostolates



### Did You Know?

- If everyone supported the parish at 5%, we could sustain our current apostolates, invest in the infrastructure of our campus, and meet the needs of our community for the corporal works of mercy.
- If everyone supported at 8%, we could eliminate *additional* fundraising for our ministries and invest in the growth of our vibrant and increasingly anti-fragile parish.
- Currently, half of registered parishioners support our mission with gifts of at least 5% of their income.

### Have You Reflected?

The Christian faithful are obligated to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers. (CIC 222, sec. 1)

- *All that we have, we have received as a gift from God, for "the LORD's are the earth and its fullness: the world and those who dwell in it." (Psalm 24:1)*

The fifth precept of the Church is for the faithful to provide for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability. (CCC 2043)

- *Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. (Luke 6:38)*



## Support Our Mission

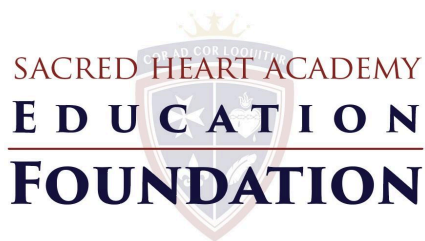
*If your pre-tax household income is:*

*Then a weekly gift to the parish at different percentages is:*

Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Annually		2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
\$10	\$400	\$1,733	\$20,800	➡	\$8	\$16	\$24	\$32	\$40
\$12	\$480	\$2,085	\$25,000	➡	\$10	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48
\$15	\$575	\$2,500	\$30,000	➡	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58
\$17	\$675	\$2,915	\$35,000	➡	\$13	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67
\$19	\$770	\$3,335	\$40,000	➡	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77
\$24	\$960	\$4,165	\$50,000	➡	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96
\$34	\$1,345	\$5,835	\$70,000	➡	\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135
\$48	\$1,925	\$8,335	\$100,000	➡	\$38	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192
\$72	\$2,885	\$12,500	\$150,000	➡	\$58	\$115	\$173	\$231	\$288

Please confirm your support by March 31, 2024.  
Visit [sacredheartgr.org/fidelity](https://sacredheartgr.org/fidelity) today!

## Another way to give...



This foundation is a Type II supporting organization and its own registered 501(c)3 non-profit. Its sole purpose is to grow gifts given to the academy and support general operations, teacher salaries, and student scholarships—our greatest ongoing areas of need. You can give directly to the Foundation by check, or through one of the ways discussed on the next page.



# Give More, Save More

Give more and save more on taxes!

Additional modes of giving to Sacred Heart and SHA Education Foundation:

**Appreciated Stock Donation**— donation of stock to charity that has increased in value significantly

**Qualified Charitable Donation**— donation directly from an IRA to a charity

**Donor-Advised Fund**— a special giving account set up with a sponsoring organization that lets taxpayers make large one-time gifts that can be spread out over time

If you have additional questions about the above avenues of giving or anything else contained in this packet, please contact Amber Hiske, Director of Strategic Advancement, by email at [ahiske@shgr.org](mailto:ahiske@shgr.org)

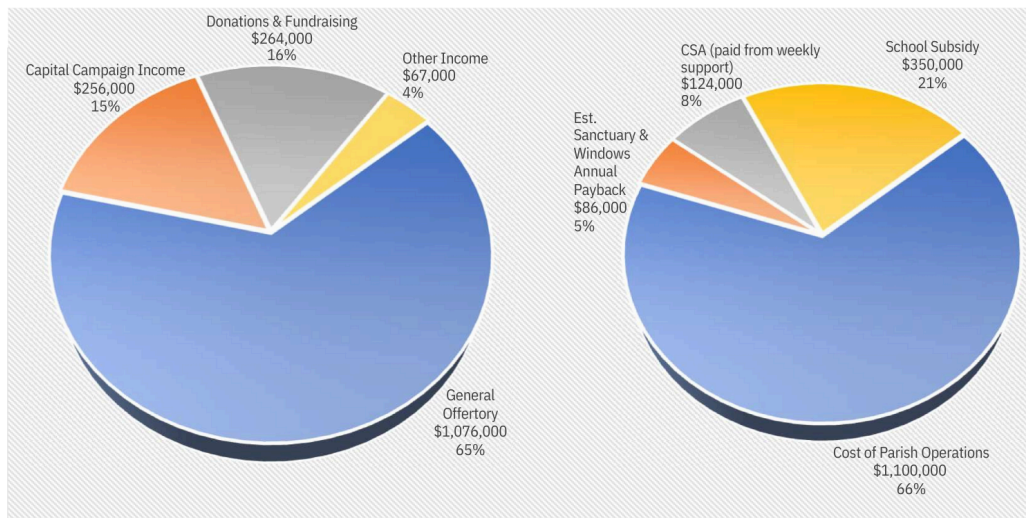






## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023-24

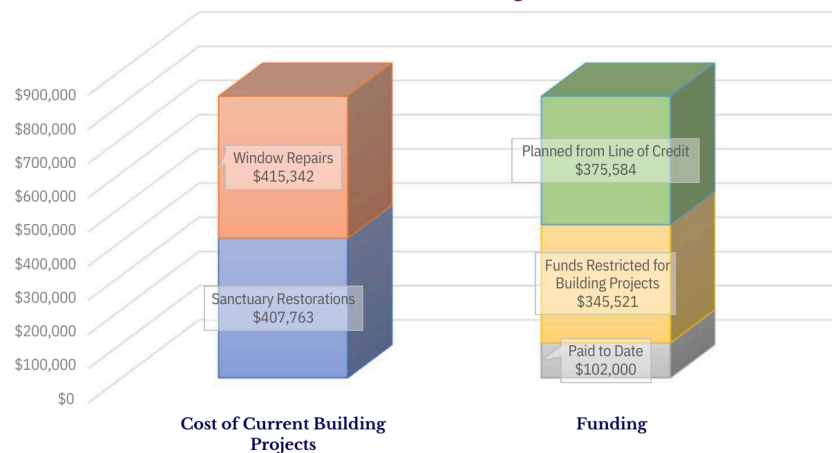
### SACRED HEART PARISH



Parish Revenue FY '24

Parish Expenses FY '24

### Restoration Projects



Thank you for making the good work of Sacred Heart of Jesus possible!