

Christi simus, non nostri



Parish Annual Report

2022-2023



St. Columban Parish Yelm, WA



St. Peter Mission Tenino, WA



Fr. Brian Thompson
Priest Administrator



Matthew Tolar
Pastoral Assistant
for Admin,
Bookkeeping, and
Records



Gabriela Makinster
Pastoral Assistant for
Elementary & Adult
Faith Formation



Steven Slater
St. Columban
Maintenance



Jennifer Langham
Pastoral Assistant for
Admin, Liturgy,
and Music



Chad Lucero
Pastoral Assistant for
Youth Ministry &
Tech Support



Gilberto Espino
St. Peter
Maintenance

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

A Word from our Priest

Dear Parishioners,

Wow, we have had an amazing year! I really don't know where to begin really, and in this limited space, I don't really even have enough space to touch on everything, but I will try to hit some highlights. I do have to say, even in the midst of all the difficulties in the Church and the World and the ups and downs of our personal lives, I for one see and experience our parish as a small but mighty light in the midst of what can be at times a very dark and darkening world. Personally, I really do love it here; I have worked in many parishes, and we really have something uniquely good here. Enough gushing: on to the updates!

I hope you have noticed over the course of this last year the numerous improvements to our facilities, due to the hard work and dedication of our facilities staff and volunteers. Just to give a non-exhaustive list: The grounds team replaced and painted siding on some of our buildings (most notably the hall organ mechanical room); Volunteers from AA (and some parish staff/volunteers as well) repainted and improved the state of the annex house; we replaced and added fencing around the Annex and the back of the old hall/church to improve safety; we had the moss growth on the lawns removed; and we were the recipient of Joaquin Makinster's Eagle Scout project of adding a walking path around the outdoor Stations of the Cross. This is not to mention all the regular and ongoing generosity of our gardening, mowing, and church cleaning volunteers who save our community immense amount of time and money through their dedication to keeping our facilities and grounds so beautiful. Thank you all!

We have also had a handful of staffing changes this year. Early in the school year, Katie Hennigan resigned and we brought on Gaby Makinster, who has been doing a wonderful job leading our Elementary Faith Formation Program. Chad Lucero, having returned from deployment late in the 2021-2022 year was able to revive and reimagine our Youth Faith Formation program, and will be continuing to make adjustments to the program to meet the needs of our teens better in the coming year. Finally, our Pastoral Assistant for Bookkeeping and Records, Holy Dodd, moved on to another position late in the pastoral year, leading us to bring on Matthew Tolar, who has been doing a phenomenal job learning the (rather complex) workings of the parish's finances in a very short time. Also, not a staffing change but a point of pride, our Pastoral Assistant for Administration, Jennifer Langham, completed a Master's degree in church leadership this year: a set of skills and credentials that have been and continue to be a great boon for us. Our staff are really a great asset to our parish and enable so much of our distinctive ability as a parish to punch above our weight in terms of the vitality of our community.

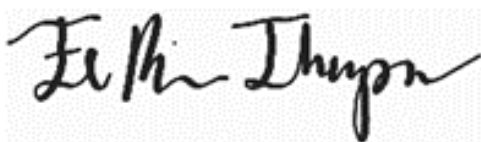
In this report, you will see the state of our parish both in terms of hard data points and numbers as well as more qualitative updates from some of our key ministries, and I hope that it is as encouraging to you as it is to me. From the Daughters of Mary and Knights of Columbus to Saint Vincent de Paul, the homeschooling group, prayer groups, and bible studies, we are incredibly active for such a small parish. Now, I know as a small parish the prospect of the Archdiocese's reorganization and what that may mean for us in the long term might be a stressor, I know it is for me, and I do not want to put lipstick on a pig or distract or diminish the reality that we, and nearly every single other parish in the Archdiocese, will be confronted with major changes in the coming years. At the same time, sustaining the work of living and proclaiming the Gospel here in rural Thurston/Pierce County is a value that the Archdiocese does not want to neglect (one of the key principles of this reorganization process is not to leave the rural communities high and dry in favor of big urban parishes). Also, it is important to remember that whatever happens with regard to priest leadership and parish boundaries and such is going to

begin, not end, with July 2024, and in the following years there will be ample opportunity to share with your words and share with your actions the potential of our parish and the need to increase and not diminish ministry here.

All that said, moving on to our annual stewardship drive, it is important for us to remain committed to the adequate support of our parish and its ministries with our time, talent, and treasure. We are fortunate to have recovered from the plague years in that we are in roughly a similar place with regard to Mass attendance and financial contributions from our parishioners as we were before the plague, and we continue to grow year over year in both regards, however time marches on as does inflation and so to remain successful and viable as a parish we do need to increase both bodies in the pews and, forgive the bluntness, dollars in the collection. I ask you to reassess your support of the parish and find a livable and sustainable level of support you can offer your parish. For some, this may be to maintain longstanding generosity, for others it might mean increasing or adopting a commitment to stewardship for the first time. Your stewardship should not be “set and forget,” but consciously and prayerfully reevaluated every year, even if the decision you come to is that you need to maintain rather than increase your giving. As I mentioned over the past few years, when I came here in 2021 I was accustomed to giving about \$25 a week to the parish, in reassessing my own stewardship, I now give \$50 weekly. Now, I was far under-supporting the parish in the past, frankly, so I am not per se asking people to make that kind of proportional increase. However, for those who can, even a \$5 or \$10 increase per week multiplied by our hundreds of families would make a major impact on reducing or eliminating the deficits we have been running the past several years; Indeed, if even just those who do not currently have a stewardship pledge adopted a \$5 or \$10 per week commitment, it would be a major impact. As I said last year: I am choosing not to reduce staff or program offerings to lower expenses because I have faith that we can make up our deficit if we come together and take on a greater sense of ownership and co-responsibility to enable all the great works of Christ being done in our parish. And, frankly, as I also said before last year: even if we reduced staff and programs, we would still need to call for increased stewardship. It is much easier to justify this sort of ask--although no more enjoyable for you than for me--with a vibrant parish full of programs and activities, than diminishing parish programs and staff to meager and lackluster and yet still sticking my hand out. We had a very good response to the stewardship campaign last year, and I hope to continue that trend this year.

We should always remember that in all our involvement with the parish, leading and participating in its programs, building and maintaining friendships, being nourished by the Sacraments and uplifted by worthy prayer and worship, and—yes—even our material stewardship, and any and all other things we might do in or as the people of St Columban Parish (both churches!) is all ultimately at the service of two supreme goals: to glorify God and to bring people to the gift of Salvation for which we ourselves so desperately hope. So, in this coming year, and into the rather unsure and understandably concerning future, I would like to praise God for all the good work he has begun in us, pray that he bring it to fulfillment, and encourage us all to spread the Gospel out here in rural Thurston/Pierce in our words and actions and attitudes and way of life.

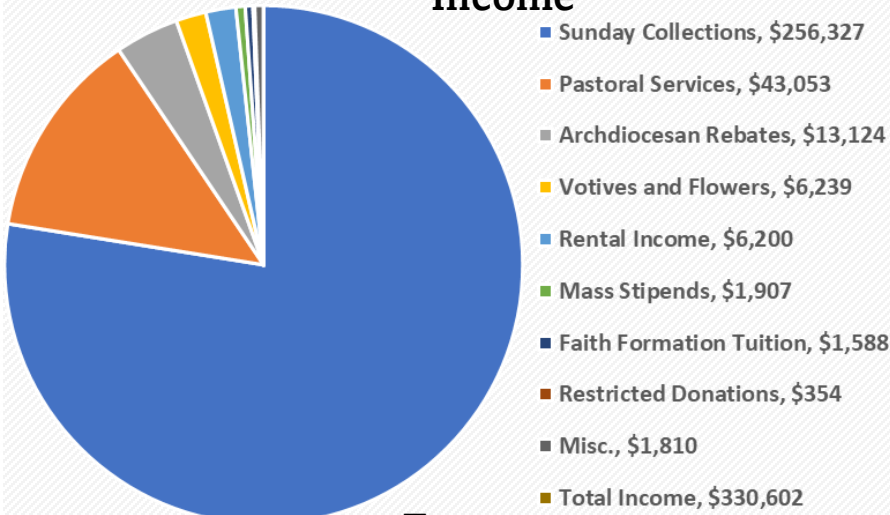
In Christ,



Financial Update

St. Columban Church ~ 2022-2023

Income



Bank Balances as of June 30, 2023

Checking Account	\$ 20,879
PRF Savings Account	\$ 38,914
PRF Building Fund	\$ 26,746
PRF Youth Savings	\$ 19,785

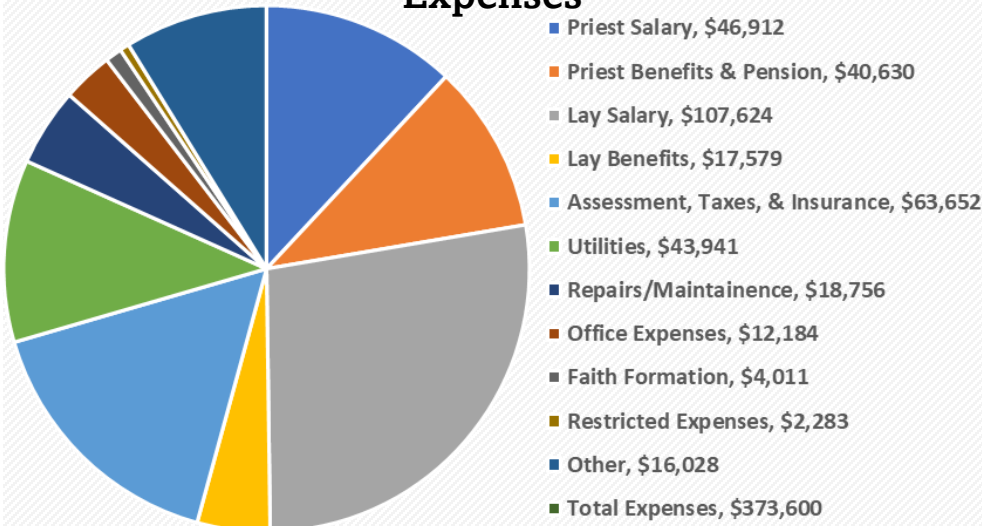
Notes

The parish ran a deficit again this year despite an increase in income (106% of budget), due to unexpected expenses (111% of budget).

Bills were covered by checking balance carried over from 2021-2022 as well as withdrawals from general PRF Savings, and a withdrawal from Youth PRF Savings to meet costs of restarting the Youth Program.

We were on track and even authorized some extra expenditures for facility upgrades, but several unexpected expenses were beyond parish control arose, mainly due to the cost of Archdiocesan bills such as the priest benefits, insurance, and the assessment (parish income tax) increasing substantially, as well as an alteration to how payroll taxes for the priest is handled, which required an additional one-time payment.

Expenses



Archdiocesan Collections

Archdiocesan custodial collections forwarded from the parish. Does not include funds directly sent to organizations by givers.

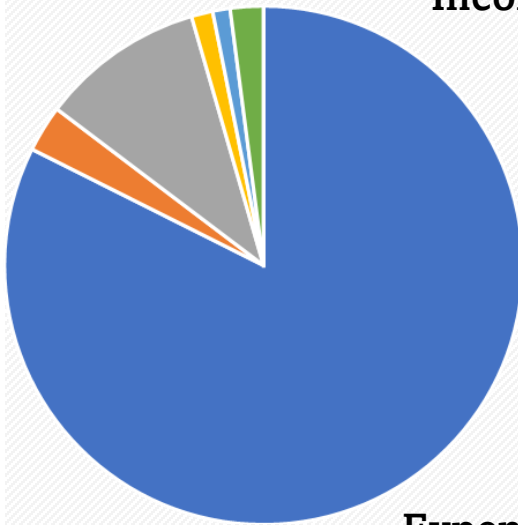
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 626
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 506
Northwest Catholic	\$ 513
Archdiocese for Military Services	\$ 898
Peter's Pence	\$ 467
Rice Bowl	\$ 1181
World Mission Sunday	\$ 386



Financial Update

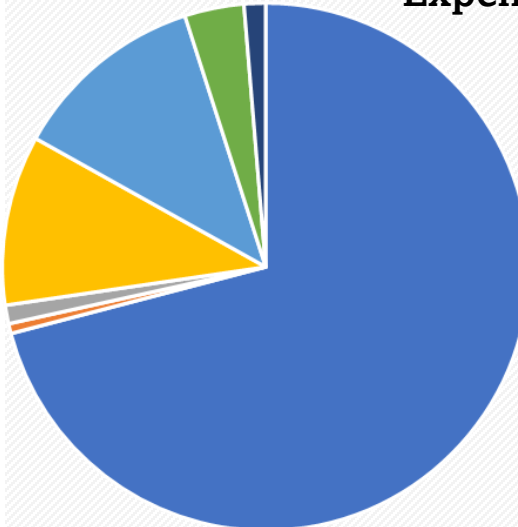
St. Peter Mission ~ 2022-2023

Income



- Sunday Collections, \$ 50,996
- Bequests, \$ 1,800
- Archdiocesan Rebates, \$ 6,319
- Votives and Flowers, \$ 827
- Mass Stipends, \$ 671
- Misc., \$ 1,282
- Total Income, \$ 62,791

Expenses



- Pastoral Services, \$ 46,443
- Office Supplies, \$ 396
- Sacristy, \$ 742
- Assessment, Taxes, Insurance, \$ 6,821
- Utilities, \$ 7,818
- Repairs/Maintenance, \$ 2,387
- Misc Expenses, \$ 865
- Total Expenses, \$ 65,472

Bank Balances as of June 30, 2023

Checking Account \$ 17,516
PRF Savings Account \$ 129,624

Notes

The mission had an over-budget income (111%) primarily due to a bequest received, an increase in loose cash in Sunday Collections, and exceeding expected Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate projections by more than double (which has been spent on facility upgrades).

There were also fewer overall expenses than estimated (97%).

One challenge these data do not communicate clearly is that Regular Sunday Envelope and Online contributions were down, which tracks with the loss of some long-time parishioners.

The difference between St. Peter Pastoral Services expenses (which represents St Peter's portion of shared bills such as the priest, rectory, office staff, and office utilities) and St Columban Pastoral Services income is due to how the salary, insurance, and payroll taxes for the St Peter custodian is accounted, as St Columban pays him and St Peter reimburses the parish.

Archdiocesan Collections

Archdiocesan custodial collections forwarded from the parish. Does not include funds directly sent to organizations by givers.

Catholic Relief Services	\$ 389
Northwest Catholic	\$ 160
Archdiocese for Military Services	\$ 55
Peter's Pence	\$ 207
Rice Bowl	\$ 134
World Mission Sunday	\$ 71
Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 140



Our Parish Year by the Numbers

Sacraments & Funerals



St. Columban Parish		St. Peter Mission
12 Baptisms		1 Marriage
8 First Eucharist	2 RCIA	3 Funerals
8 Confirmations	4 Funerals	10 Anointings
4 Marriages	20 Anointings	3 Burials



Demographics

	St. Columban Parish	St. Peter Mission
Registered Households/ Families	330	44
Households/Families receiving envelopes	191	51
Households/Families contributing ONLINE	21	5

Faith Formation Enrollment

1 Kindergarten
32 1st -5th Grade
12 Middle School (Grades 6-8)
4 High School (Grades 9-12)

May They Rest in Peace †

Karen Bellrose. John Heymann, Nicholas Loch, Patricia Meyer, Gabriel Contreras Sandoval, Maria Teresa Siegemund, and Gregory Steckler.

Liturgical Volunteer Count

St. Columban Parish	St. Peter Mission
8 Altar Servers	1 Altar Server
1 Choir (9 members)	2 Cantors
4 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	1 Choir (3 Members)
8 Readers	3 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
1 Master of Ceremonies	4 Readers
3 Sacristans	3 Sacristans
14 Ushers/Greeters	6 Ushers/Greeters
10 Church Environment Ministers (Altar Society)	1 Church Environment Minister
4 Rosary Leaders	3 Rosary Leaders



Holy Week &
Easter

Activities Summary

Prayer and Study

St. Columban Parish		St. Peter Mission
Eucharistic Adoration	Spanish Prayer Group	Bible Study
Latin Class	Tenebrae	First Friday Mass
Rosary Prayer Group	Vespers	Rosary Rally
Stations of the Cross		Stations of the Cross

Outreach

St. Columban Parish		St. Peter Mission
Christmas Giving Tree Project	Knights of Columbus (KofC) Baby Bottle Drive	Back to School Drive
Communion to the Homebound/Hospital	KofC Coats for Kids (November)	Christmas Giving Tree Project
Diaper Drive for PREPARES	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Communion to the Homebound/Hospital
Respect Life/March for Life (Virtual)	Winter Clothes Closet	Socktober Drive

Events

St. Columban Parish		St. Peter Mission
Daughters of Mary Fellowship (Monthly)	Lent Soup Supper (March-April)	Coffee Hour (Weekly)
Knights of Columbus Breakfast (Monthly)	Daughters of Mary Spring Bazaar (May)	Lent Soup Supper (March-April)
Parish Picnic & Ministry Fair (August)	KofC Annual Outdoor Sale (May)	
Oktoberfest (September)	KofC Annual Coats for Kids Car Show (June)	
SVdP Walk/Run for the Poor (September)		
Las Posadas (December)		

Please consider Online Giving!

Online Giving allows you to make donations, payments and pledges to help sustain your church. Please sign up today! Visit <https://saintcolumbanyelm.org/stewardship/> and choose "Give to St. Columban Parish" or "Give to St. Peter Mission." Or scan the QR codes below. You will then be directed to create or log into your Pushpay account. Help is also available by calling the Parish Office at (360) 458-3031.

Give to St. Columban



Give to St. Peter





First Communion Mass (May)



Confirmation Mass with Bishop Schuster (April)

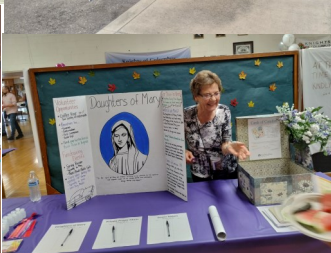
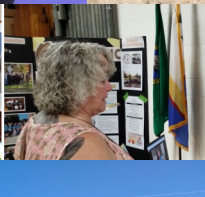
Spring Bazaar (May)



Walking Path for Outdoor Stations of the Cross

Eagle Scout Project by Joaquin Makinster (July)

Parish Picnic/Ministry Fair (August)



Year-end Reports

Consultative Bodies

Pastoral Council

Members: *Judy Cusick (Chair), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf*

No activity to report for Parish Year 2022-2023

Faith Formation & Liturgy Committee

Members: *James Briggs (Chair), Katie Hennigan, Jennifer Langham, Bonnie Geray, Nathan Ramos*

No activity to report for Parish Year 2022-2023

Finance Council

Members: *Joe Judge, Mari Evans (St. Peter)*

With the end of ST Columban's fiscal year, it is time to reflect on the financial aspect of what transpired. As we put the Covid Crises in the rear-view mirror, collections have climbed a bit but still were not sufficient to cover our projected routine expenses and projects. To complete the year, we had to access our savings account and defer some projects. For a weekly update of the financial stewardship, please refer to the Sunday bulletin for a weekly status.

We exceeded our goal for the Annual Catholic Appeal for (\$30,060 against a goal of \$25,690) but we only had a participation rate of 30%. St Peter's also exceeded their goal (\$6,415 against a goal of \$3,772). Participation was higher at 50%.

We hope in the coming year, everyone's financial situation improves and we can achieve the normalcy we all crave. Father Thompson and the Finance Council thank all of you for your support of time, talent, and treasure you gave to both St Columban's and ST Peter's Churches that you have given. Your efforts have made a positive and lasting impact.

St. Peter Mission Advisory Commission

Sherry Bachmann (Chair), Bernie Schwarz, Marilyn Ritter, Diane Weston, Bob Bacon

The St. Peter Advisory Commission reviewed and discussed issues and suggestions, made recommendations and helped implement projects and changes at St. Peter Mission.

- We replaced the standard height toilet with a new taller toilet in the handicap stall of the women's restroom. It was a private donation.
- St. Peter Mission again met and exceeded our Annual Catholic Appeal goal
- Mari Evans was appointed to the Finance Council at St. Columban to represent St. Peter.

All Advisory Commission members are actively involved in the parish, and represent the people and the community. Our hope is to make the worship experience at St. Peter as meaningful as possible and to address pastoral, spiritual and facility needs. The commission looks forward to our future opportunities as well as challenges. We humbly ask you to please pray for us.

Sherry Bachmann, Advisory Commission Chair
July, 2023

Ministries & Parish Groups

Daughters of Mary

Dawn Bauer, President; Theresa Gonzales Treasurer; Jennifer Langham, Secretary

In May of 2023 Katie Hennigan stepped down as Treasurer and Theresa Gonzales has taken her place as Treasurer. The Private Prayer Chain is now coordinated by Sandy S. in an ongoing effort to support private prayers requested. Cards of Comfort: Ongoing effort of signed encouraging cards from parishioners (NOT just the women) are distributed to residents of Rosemont and Easthaven. Fellowship after Sunday Masses continues on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Those that attend seem to appreciate the effort made.

Christmas Giving Tree evolved from parishioners purchasing individual requests for clothing or gifts to a variety of gift card amounts. This received a HUGE response from parishioners. Cards were distributed by St. Vincent de Paul.

Christmas Cookie social after the Christmas Eve Mass had at least 7 kids and their families in attendance. Annual Spring Bazaar was held in May in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus Outdoor Sale. Generous donations of baked goods, indoor and outdoor plants and a large assortment of books made the sale a success.

First Communion and Confirmation receptions in May and June. A total of 16 Communicants, Confirmands and their families were celebrated. Karena Peterson made beautifully decorated cookies as special gifts. Father's Day Brunch about 53 people total were served delicious quiche breakfast. During Yelm Prairie Days and the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids annual Car Show hot dogs, fries, chips, soda, water and snow cones were sold. Seven Sisters Apostolate; had a successful second year of praying for our Priest. Looking forward to more volunteers in this coming year.

Year-end Reports

Ministries & Parish Groups (continued)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

For the greater part of 2022/2023 St Columban Chapter of St. Vincent de Paul was comprised of 10 members and 3 associate members. They provide outreach assistance to the Yelm area, which includes Yelm, Rainier, McKenna, and sometimes Roy and Tenino, as well as occasionally to some of the outlying areas. Their money comes from St. Columban and the Walk for the Poor, although this year there were also grants from the Nisqually Tribe and Rice Bowl.

St. Vincent de Paul aided in the following areas:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| • Utilities \$ 6,854 | • Food/Gas Cards \$3,003 | Total Families Assisted: 119 |
| • Rent Subsidies \$ 11,753 | • Propane/Other \$1,922 | Total Amount of Assistance Paid: \$23,532 |

St. Vincent de Paul monetary resources came from the following areas:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • St. Columban and St. Peter: \$ 8,021 | • Rice Bowl Grant: \$500 | Total Deposits: 17,540.00 |
| • 2022 Walk for the Poor: \$ 2,282 | • Knights of Columbus: \$500 | |
| • Nisqually Tribe Grant: \$5,000 | • SVdP Fundraising: \$ 1,237 | |

We are very proud of our St. Vincent de Paul Chapter. Members prayerfully attempt to provide aid, resources and encouragement to families who find themselves in desperate need.

Winter Clothes Closet

Led by John Bauer

The St. Columban Winter Clothes Closet conducted its 5th year of operation. Its mission remained the same: To provide warm clothing to those in need, no questions asked". Despite some staffing limitations, due to our transition out of COVID-19 restrictions we were still able to provide support to over 160 people, which was twice as many people compared to the previous year. This was only made possible due to the generous contributions of our parishioners and the giving of time by our volunteers.

Knights of Columbus, St. Columban Council #17152

In our fifth year, the St. Columban council, 44 members strong, is an active one in service to the parish, the Archdiocese, the local community, and the state of Washington despite the limitations the COVID-19 pandemic created. We wish to thank our Pastoral Administrator/Chaplain Fr. Thompson, the Parish, The Daughter's of Mary, Saint Vincent DePaul society, the city of Yelm, and in particular the youth of our Parish for their support of our efforts. We also wish to thank our District

Deputy Darren Johnson for his consistent support by attending nearly all council meetings and providing us with guidance on how best to proceed with our activities. We supported our Parish by raising over \$13,000 and by donating over 424 hours of work to the operation and physical plant. Our Fourth Coats for Kids Car Show in conjunction with Yelm Prairie Days was a great success bringing in over 50 cars to show and raising over \$2000 that helped us provide over 200 Coats for needy Kids in the community through the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program.

In August we assisted in the setup and clean up for the Annual Parish Picnic which was well attended and dubbed a very successful event. We hosted a Parish Oktoberfest dinner and auction that brought in over \$800. Our council assisted with the decoration of the church for Christmas, purchased the Christmas trees and after Epiphany performed the cleanup in preparation for next season. In support of Pro-Life activities, we participated in the Baby Bottle Program and raised over \$2000 for the PREPARES Pregnancy and Parenting Support program. We hosted a Spaghetti dinner for the parish in February that brought in over \$2700 and conducted a Red Cross Blood drive to help with the shortage of Blood in the community and all appointments were filled. We hosted a Mother's Day brunch, conducted an Outdoor sale to help re-purpose items not needed by the parish and raised \$1900. We supported with funds and labor a parish family's son's Eagle Scout project to make our Prayer Garden more accessible by building a walkway around it.

We serve the Parish through Ministry work as Catechists, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Choir members, Catechists, and as members of our Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. We plan to continue our service to the Parish, the Archdiocese of Seattle and the community by raising money, assisting with activities, and supporting our Pastor and parish. Our Council supported now Fr. Chanda as a seminarian through the RSVP program. We plan to continue providing weekly support to our local Food bank, monthly breakfasts after mass, Soup suppers during Lent, and to support Parish celebrations. Continuing our journey to vibrancy.



New Mary Statue

Thanks to the funds raised from the Dunk Tank at the 2022 Parish Picnic we were able to replace the statue of Mary in the prayer garden dedicated to Fr. Terrence (between the church and the rectory) that had been vandalized back in 2020.

