

SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH • HEBER CITY

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND POSITION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR-ENDED ON 6/30/2025

As our primary source of operational funding, offertory donations brought in \$167,000 this year—an increase of \$12,000 from last year and part of a steady upward trend in recent years. Total Mission income reached \$366,000, bolstered by generous subsidy gifts from the Thrift Store that supported essential maintenance. As giving has grown, so too have the costs of daily operations, with total expenditures this year reaching \$335,000. While we are blessed to receive special gifts from IRAs and other one-time contributions, the long-term stability of the Mission depends on consistent, recurring giving. This steady support sustains our day-to-day ministries and operations—needs that have become especially tight since the spring.

Although an official building proposal for a new church has been submitted to the Bishop in accordance with Diocesan procedures by the preliminary building committee, we still have an obligation to care for what we have as good stewards and recipients of such a beautiful faith. This past year, we focused on rehabilitation and essential maintenance, including installing a new furnace this past winter and new pews. These updates were made possible through the incredible generosity of the Thrift Store, which contributed \$97,000 toward approved projects, as approved by the Bishop. Please be sure to show your appreciation by supporting the Thrift Store, also by donating to either the Thrift Store or directly to the Mission. One final, approved maintenance project yet to be completed is the brick repointing at a cost of \$25,000, for which we still need enough funds to complete.

As part of the Diocesan building proposal process, CCS, the consultant group we contracted with, provided an encouraging assessment that inspired both CCS, the Bishop, and the building committee. Their findings revealed broad community support for the vision of a new church when the time comes. The current estimated cost of such a project ranges from \$12 to \$18 million. In a recent personal conversation, the Bishop expressed his own hope to me for a new church in light of the proposal. However, the timing will ultimately depend on Diocesan priorities, increased fundraising, and the Mission's ability to sustain the day-to-day operational stability required to qualify for the Diocesan 60% loan. This stability is essential not only to building but also to sustaining a larger parish facility into the future. While we rejoice in the enthusiasm and encouragement surrounding this dream, we must hold it in balance with a realistic understanding of what is needed financially to make it possible. As Christians, we give out of love for our Church and in the hope that our generosity will bear fruit for generations—even if we may not see the final outcome ourselves. The Bishop and the Mission remain deeply grateful to all who continue to give to this cause, faithfully supporting both our present needs and our long-term vision. More official information and updates will be made available by the preliminary building committee or the new pastor as we learn more.

The building fund now totals \$750,380, of which \$730,000 is held in our Diocesan Loans & Savings account, where it earns interest. By policy, no parish or institution may hold more than what is needed for immediate operational expenses in regular accounts; the rest must be kept in savings. This past year, \$39,000 was added to the building fund, with roughly half coming from our 2024 Fall Festival.

Looking ahead, this year's Fall Festival, to be held on September 13, promises to be even more successful, thanks to the generosity, creativity, and dedication of so many in our community who are already giving their time, talent, and resources.

Lastly, on a personal note, it is with a bittersweet heart that I share that I will be transitioning from my role as Administrator to serve the Diocese as Director of Safe Environment—a position that will allow me to begin applying my Canon Law degree, which I have pursued each summer and in the early mornings during the school year. While I had hoped to spend at least another year or more here, both to assist with the transition of our new pastor, Fr. Dass, and our newly ordained parochial vicar, Fr. Kenneth, as well as to focus on completing my studies, God's timing has opened this opportunity now. I will remain with the Mission for much of the first half of the new fiscal year, working closely with our clergy and the community until a successor is hired and trained, to ensure as smooth and seamless a transition as possible.

Serving this community has been an immense privilege. St. Lawrence will always be the foundation of my ministry in the Church and the place where I began living out the vocation I have long dreamed of—serving the Church here in Utah. The Mission has taught me invaluable lessons, given me community, and given me opportunities to assist other parishes and ministries throughout the Diocese and even during my time in Washington, D.C. I will carry the knowledge, wisdom, and faith I have gained here into every parish, with every priest, and in every ministry where I am called to serve Christ and His people. Though my path is now leading me forward, St. Lawrence will forever hold a special place in my heart. I am deeply grateful for your trust, your support, and the joy of walking alongside you in faith.

The Mission remains deeply grateful for the generosity and dedication of our close-knit community. We joyfully welcome Fr. Dass and Fr. Kenneth, and with equal gratitude, we thank Fr. Gray for his steady administrative leadership as Pastor and Fr. Paul, now at St. John the Baptist in Draper, for the love, sacrifice, and service they have given to our parish. Your faithfulness sustains and strengthens our local Church, its ministries, and the many people it serves—especially here, in the parish family to which you belong. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Le Melle.