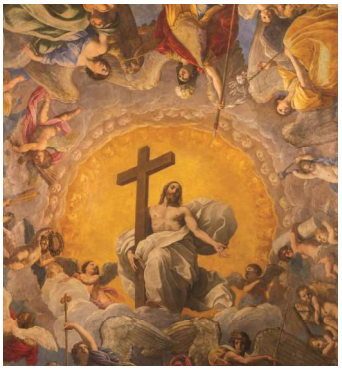
FR. FRANK'S FIRE / STATE OF THE PARISH

We are nearing the end of Ordinary Time – in just a couple of weeks, we shall begin the Advent Season. The scripture readings remind us of the end times. We often do not like to think about our own deaths nor the end of the world. While we may not want to acknowledge our own mortality, the scriptures call us to be prepared.

For faithful believers, the end of our lives or even the end of time is not something to dread. The scriptures remind us that God has prepared a place for us in eternity. We are to be ready to accept the call when it comes.

Today, St. Matthew tells us the story of the ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom to come with his bride so that they can go into the house and celebrate. The wise bridesmaids had extra oil for their lamps in case the wait was long. They were watchful even though they fell asleep. The foolish ones did not plan well, and were left out of the celebration because their lamps had gone out.



Matthew ends by telling us, *"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."* The Lord invites us to be alert, to be watchful, and to live with hope. Sometimes waiting can be tiresome and yet that is what we are called to do. If we live our lives as Jesus asked, we will be prepared for that day when the Lord calls us home.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Frank

State of St. Michael Parish

Each year, the pastor of every parish is called upon to report "the state of" the parish. In the pages that follow, you will see a glimpse of the financial position of St. Michael Parish for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026 and 2025. I want to begin by thanking you for your generosity to St. Michael Parish. I am aware that many sacrifice for the good of our parish and I am grateful.

The pastor is charged with the care of the spiritual needs of the parish; he is also entrusted with the parish's resources. I, like you, am called to be a good and faithful steward of the many blessings, resources, and responsibilities that God has entrusted to me. I do not take this lightly.

The major source of revenue for the church is the Sunday and Holyday Collections. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, total collections amounted to $1,874,394. Our total offertory for fiscal year 2025 was $1,850,371. If we compare fiscal year 2026 to fiscal year 2025 – our offertory is $24,023 or 1.3% higher than last year. Your continued support is a testimony to the generosity of our parishioners.

Overall, the financial results of the parish are good and are indicative of your generosity. The parish's net operating income for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 is $204,201.

St. Michael Parish has NO debt and all of our financial obligations are current. It is because of your generosity that we stand strong today able to face the challenges that tomorrow will bring.

St. Michael Parish will celebrate the 160th Anniversary of our founding in 2027. We have been a parish since 1867. Our current Church was built in 1969. Our parish buildings have gone through many renovations over the years but the fact remains that our buildings are aging and often need a little more maintenance and repairs. Some may say that the Church is making money, but we have some major projects ahead of us that will require significant investment.

STATE OF THE PARISH

You have heard me say this before, but the parking lot is a major concern. Our parking lot has been repaired, patched, and restriped for many years. The parking lot will have to be replaced. The delay in replacing the parking lot is the planned expansion of 143rd Street. It is unclear if our access from 143rd will be impacted; if so, the parking lot will have to be reconfigured and it does not make sense to do so until the construction is complete. The project appears to be moving forward as the Village of Orland Park is acquiring property to make this happen. We were told that construction would begin in September 2026, but that did not happen. We are in a holding pattern. It appears that to rebuild our parking lot, the cost will exceed $1,000,000. For the past 8 years, we have been putting money aside for this project.

St. Michael Parish has successfully completed the Generation To Generation: Answer the Call Campaign. Our goal was $2,405,000 and we have successfully reached our goal and exceeded it. Pledges are being paid over a five year period. We are already receiving payments, as of September 30, 2026 we have received $316,173.

The case presented was for a new organ for the church and to make the main entrance to the church accessible for those in wheelchairs, walkers, and those that need extra help. We engaged an architect and much to my surprise, there is not enough room to have the ramp that I envisioned, due to ADA requirements. The best option is to install an elevator. The architect has a design for the new entrance and the estimated cost is over $1,000,000. If the pledges are paid as agreed, we should have enough funds to complete both projects. If you have not pledged to the Generation To Generation: Answer the Call Campaign, there is still time to do so. Pledge cards are available in the parish offices and in the narthex.

There is so much more to St. Michael Parish than just its finances. It is through our Outreach Ministries such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Daybreak – Shepherd's Table Ministry and Pro Labore Dei – Feed My Lambs Ministry that the hungry are fed. St. Michael Parish offers a variety of programs, prayer experiences and resources to help with faith formation for all ages. Through our Liturgical Ministries, God is praised and worshiped each day. The Ministers of Care make sure the homebound and hospitalized remain connected to our community. Our parish school and religious education programs are forming the next generation of Catholics – the ones to whom the sacred deposit of faith will be entrusted. QUEST gives teenagers an opportunity to remain connected to the Church during their high-school years. New ministries are forming to meet the spiritual needs of our diverse parish community.

Through the ministry of the Church, we preached the Good News of Salvation, reconciled those in need of forgiveness, cared for the poor, the ill and the dying. We were the face of Christ to many and most of this work, the mission of Christ, is done by you – the parishioners of St. Michael Parish.

I would like to thank the current members of the parish Finance Council who help me sort out the financial details, offer advice, and help me to make necessary decisions. I am grateful for their wisdom and dedication to our parish. A special thank you to Diana Vitela, our Business Manager, for her hard and faithful work to St. Michael Parish – she helps keep the parish operations running smoothly and efficiently. The daily tasks and projects are completed because of her tireless efforts.

You may have noticed that included in your envelope packets is an envelope simply titled "Capital Improvements." This envelope is for those unforeseen costs that the parish often faces. Additional costs include roof repairs, repairs to or replacement of the heating and cooling systems, electrical issues and so on. These and other needs arise unexpectedly and are often not budgeted for – and are paid from parish savings. The "Capital Improvements" envelope will be used only for expenses such as these.

STATE OF THE PARISH

Thank you for your support and generosity. We have a rich tradition of faithful response to God's calling. We have much to be grateful for. Our past was amazing, and our present and future will be glorious if we continue to work together by sharing our time, talent, and treasure. We cannot expect someone else to do this for us. We must serve as one and be Christ to one another. St. Michael Parish is our spiritual home; I ask for your help so that everything we do may give true honor and glory to God!

Gratefully,

Fr. Frank A. Kurucz
Pastor

ST. MICHAEL PARISH
FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: July 1 – June 30

	Fiscal Year 2026	**Fiscal Year 2025**
Sunday and Holy Day Collection	$1,604,185	$1,600,516
Christmas Collection	162,364	141.156
Easter Collection	85,245	81,929
Other Collections	25,600	26,770
Stipends and Stole Fees	94,488	84,887
Interest & Investment Income	361,358	191,531
Tuition and Fees	3,856,439	3,664,189
Fund Raising (Net)	136,803	136,950
Other	21,580	116,355
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	**$6,348,062**	**$6,044,283**
Salaries	$3,144,935	$3,087.692
Employee Benefits	1,054,240	991.576
Books & Supplies	213,824	140,507
Administrative Expenses	383,467	414,494
Utilities	132,376	125,163
Maintenance & Building Repairs	485,373	369,768
Altar and Liturgical Supplies	55,753	46,305
Furnishings & Equipment	47,539	52,785
Archdiocesan Assessments	305,947	294,387
Insurance	197,331	186,405
Other Expense	123,076	139,348
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	**$6,143,861**	**$5,848,430**
NET OPERATING INCOME	**$204,201**	**$195,853**