

Dear Parishioners,

This is the third time I've had the privilege of delivering the Annual Report to the parishioners of St. Nicholas of Myra Parish. I am pleased to report that, although there are areas for growth, overall, we continue to labor effectively for the Kingdom of God. As always, the Sacraments are the font of life and grace of our parish. Since the last report, 15 people have been baptized, 14 received their first Holy Communion, 35 were confirmed by our bishop, and 26 have been laid to rest. Attendance at Mass has improved, mostly. It is gratifying to see so many faces and hear so many voices lifted up to God in worship, especially the little one on Sunday whose "Thanks be to God!" after each of the readings resounds through the Church, to the delight of all.

The fundamental purpose of any Catholic parish is to make the sacraments available. The very life of God is given to us when we receive them, and they allow us to lead lives that go beyond the cares and concerns of the world. A sacramental life is a life that is connected to God, the source of all life and creation. It is a life keyed in to the love that builds communion and allows us to be our best selves, serving God and neighbor and striving to show to all the Kingdom of God and the path to it. The Mass, in particular, is our primary point of contact with the divine. At Mass, the veil between Heaven and earth is lifted, and there, on the surface of the altar at the moment of consecration, they touch, and a miracle of love is performed for us in the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of the Savior. Please make this a priority. Our time with the Lord Jesus is never wasted, and in that time we are with Him, if we are open, He provides us, His people, with the love and the tools we need to live lives of outstanding holiness, and to work with Him in the salvation of the world.

As you know, we've had some personnel changes this year. Fr. Nunes has been given the care of a parish of his own. I know that the prayers of our whole community go with him and his community in East Freetown. Mrs. Brawley's role has also changed from Director of Religious Education to Coordinator for Safe Environment, and the parish is pleased to welcome Mrs. Mary Ann Prunier as our Director of Religious Education. Mrs. Prunier had been serving as an instructor in our confirmation program, and has agreed to take the helm of the entire project. On behalf of the entire parish, I would like to extend our thanks to both Mrs. Brawley, and Mrs. Prunier for their continuing dedicated service to our parish. The parish's appreciation also goes to all the volunteers who make the parish the community it is, the prayer groups, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Garden Club, our religious ed teachers, ushers, sacristans, servers, the Knights of Columbus, the Supper Club, The Rosary group, the Men's and Women's Prayer Groups, Fundraisers, the Boy Scouts, the Women's Guild are models of Christian service to whom our parish owes a great deal, and I'm so happy that after Masses we've been able to share with everyone how active of a place we are.

The change in clergy availability has, as you are intimately aware, necessitated a change in the Mass schedule. This was not a decision taken lightly, indeed, I was loath to change it, but sadly, the fundamental laws of physics denied my application for a waiver. The parish council was reformed to help come up with a solution that would be as minimally disruptive as possible,

and I think it's been working well. Going forward, I will be working with both the parish and finance councils to make our parish the best it can be.

Maintenance and repair of our facilities is ongoing. The gutter and loading dock issues in the parish center have been handled. However, as the saying goes, "into every life, a little rain must fall." In our case, it did, through the roof in front of the baptismal font due to a leak in the cupola. Getting that fixed has been a challenge, as several days of no rain are required, and although the leak is fixed, there are some structural repairs to the cupola itself that will be addressed as soon as possible, as will the repair to the interior ceiling.

Last year, through your generosity and sacrifice, we were able to raise \$44,319 for the annual Catholic Charities Appeal, which, as always, goes to fund the charitable works of our diocese, among which are shelters, hospital chaplaincies, and other relief efforts. Regarding parish finances, the picture is more mixed. We were able to generate \$319,040.10 in revenue, an additional \$10,726.09 from FY 2023. There were \$315,934.18 in expenses. However, the repairs to the roof mean that we are behind on our payments to the Diocese by \$10,568.48. Although we're ahead \$3,105.92, much work must still be done. Maintenance issues will continue to arise, as they do with any structure, and in order to keep our facilities well maintained, we will need the resources required to meet those challenges head-on.

Our parish remains committed to the missionary mandate of the Lord Jesus to "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." To aid in these endeavors, and to further the mission of the Gospel, I am asking you to prayerfully consider a contribution to our Annual Appeal. Enclosed with this report is a return envelope and a donation card. Your generosity and commitment to our parish are appreciated and help so many. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

As always, we are pleased to offer, free of charge, FORMED. An online collection of videos, audio, podcasts, presentations, books and studies, FORMED is a tremendous aid for one to grow in faith and understanding of our religion. All material can be accessed by visiting [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org), and works on all devices. Their app is available wherever you get your apps and is very easy to use.

As I say every year, thank you for all that you do and are. St. Nicholas of Myra is a very special place, and I am very proud to be with you to serve. Being with you has helped me to be a better priest, and a better Christian. If there's any way that we can be of service, please give us a call at (508) 822-1425, or visit us at [www.stnicholasofmyra.org](http://www.stnicholasofmyra.org). I am, as always honored to be

Devotedly Yours in Christ

Rev. David C. Deston, Jr.  
Parochial Administrator

**Finance Council Membership  
St. Nicholas of Myra - N. Dighton**

Mr. Brian Brown - Regional Sales Manager - Electronic Components

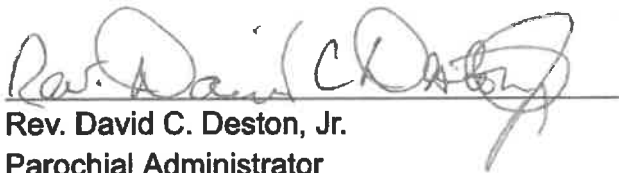
Mrs. Sue Cordeiro - Retired bookkeeper


Rev. David Deston - Parochial Administrator

Mr. Brian O'Leary - Instrument & Regulation

Mrs. Colleen Simpson, Chair - CFO St. Vincent de Paul *SAINTE VINCENTIS SERVICES*  
*MS. RUTH ANDRADE - BOOKKEEPER*

The financial report issued to the parish was deliberated and approved by the Parish Finance Council

  
Rev. David C. Deston, Jr.  
Parochial Administrator

  
Mrs. Colleen Simpson  
Chair - St. Nicholas Finance Council

**St Nicholas of Myra  
Financial Report 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2023**

**REVENUE:**

**Church Collections:**

Collections	159,274.01
Shrines, Candles, Boxes	1,068.47
Monthly Debt	11,256.22
Gifts & Bequests	50.00
Special Collections	17,847.75
Annual	32,972.41
Christmas	2,091.00
Gifts & Bequests Restricted	9,834.69
Special Coll. - Assessment	2,961.00
Other	11,243.13
<b>Total Church Collections</b>	<b>\$248,598.68</b>

**Diocesan & National Collections:** \$9,976.90

**Total Diocesan & National Collections** \$9,976.90

**Other Revenue:**

Interest - Banks	19.55
Hall Rental	4,050.00
Fundraising/ Societies	28,715.22
Religious Education Fees	10,595.00
Holy Days	3,470.75
Stipends	7,565.00
Flowers	2,738.00
Other (Youth/Adult Ministry)	3,311.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$60,464.52</b>

**TOTAL REVENUE** \$319,040.10

**EXPENSES:**

**Administration:**

Salaries Clergy	37,574.00
Salaries Secretaries	20,866.61
Salaries - Other	650.00
Contracted Services	4,079.82
Telephone	2,969.93
Bank charge	415.00
Budget Envelopes	4,288.05
Postage	1,186.36
Office Expense	4,132.25
Other	5,684.97
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$81,846.99</b>

**Other Church Expenses:**

Liturgical Supplies	8,312.79
Liturgical Music Stipends	15,550.00
Social Work & Charity	
St. Vincent DePaul	1,442.24
Altar-Sanct. Decoration	1,683.00
Adult Ministry	1,999.00
Fundraiser	12,819.99
Other (Stipends)	3,200.00
<b>Total Other Church Expense</b>	<b>\$45,007.02</b>

Year End 6/30/2022	\$8,844.16
<b>Total Year Receipts</b>	<b>\$319,040.10</b>
<b>Total Year Expenses</b>	<b>\$315,934.18</b>
<b>Current Balance as of 6/30/2023</b>	<b>\$3,105.92</b>

FY 2022 Debt \$612,817.36  
FY 2023 Debt \$602,425.99

**EXPENSES CONTINUED**

**Rectory Expense:**

Custodial expnse		1,880.00
Supplies & Materials	N/A	
Utilities	N/A	
Heating	N/A	
Food		3,650.94
Maintenance of Equipment	N/A	
Electricity	N/A	
<b>Total Rectory Expense</b>		<b>\$5,530.94</b>

**Diocesan School Subsidy:**

Subsidy		0.00
<b>Total Diocesan School Subsidy</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**Religious Education:**

Salaries - Rel.Ed. Director. & clerk		14,700.00
Program Fees		534.84
Supplies & Materials		1,321.74
Books & Pamphlets		3,107.79
Other		270.00
<b>Total Religious Education</b>		<b>\$19,934.37</b>

**Operation & Maintenance:**

Maint. Grounds-Snow removal		3,735.00
Utilities		3,435.36
Heating		5,707.89
Maintenance of Equipment		10,722.88
Electricity		2,636.29
Maintenance of Alarms		1,924.35
Equipment Rental		242.00
Maintenance - Bldg.		\$773.00
<b>Total Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>		<b>\$29,176.77</b>

**Parish Center:**

Utilities		780.76
Heating		5,548.55
Maintenance of Grounds		330.00
Maintenance of Equipment		874.33
Electricity		7,241.71
Maintenance of Alarms		
Other		157.50
<b>Total Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>		<b>\$14,932.85</b>

**Fixed Charges:**

Diocesan Assessment		27,498.11
Clergy Pension		7,499.63
Health & Dental Clergy		22,987.29
Health & Dental Laity		5,563.61
Insurance		10,999.24
Employees pension		657.15
Employers Fica		2,604.26
Other		80.88
<b>Total Fixed Charges</b>		<b>\$77,890.17</b>

**Other:**

Extraordinary Repairs		
Principal		18610.76
Interest		13,920.74
<b>Total Other</b>		<b>\$32,531.50</b>

**Transfers Diocese Collections** \$9,083.57

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$315,934.18

**Diocese Depository Fund for St. Nicholas**

**Total** \$436,031.73