Gratitude

We are so grateful to our Good Shepherd Parishioners for the many ways that they give to our parish community through their time, talent and treasure!

We hope that through this opportunity to pray, reflect and discern our call to give financially to our parish, that all of us will grow in a spirit of gratitude; for all that God has given to us, for our many blessings, for our parish community and for all our brothers and sisters.

Together let us pray for the flourishing of Good Shepherd Parish and for a deepening of our call to be stewards of all God's gifts.

Stewardship Prayer

Almighty God I give thanks for all that I have and all that I am.
Most of all I give thanks for the great gift of your Son, Jesus.
I pray that I may be a good steward – that I will follow faithfully,
serve joyfully, give generously, live responsibly and possess sensibly.
In gratitude for the abundant gifts You have so graciously given to me;
I return to You the first fruits of these gifts, through acts of service
and by generously sharing all that You have entrusted to me.
Heavenly Father, by your Holy Spirit – give me knowledge
and understanding, and help me to be a gift to others
through the Most Holy Name of Your Son,
Jesus Christ, my Lord.
Amen.

GOOD SHEPHERD
Catholic Parish

6903 Mumford Road
Halifax, NS, B3L 2H4
Tel. 902-454-8200

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

BOOKLET



Image: Christ the True Vine, 17th century Greek painting by Leos Moskos

I Am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

John 15: 5, 16

A Message from Fr. Patrick

Dear Good Shepherd Parishioners,

"Stewardship" is the responsibility to care for the gifts that God has given to humanity. Together we are called to recognize all that we have as having come from God, and to use these gifts to support and serve all of creation as we commit ourselves to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ; to make disciples.

"Stewardship of Treasure" entails the wise care of our financial resources. As people of faith, we are called to commit a portion of our treasure to the fulfilment of Jesus' total mission of healing, reconciliation and invitation. Grounded in the Good News of the resurrection, we proclaim the message of Christ's sacrificial and redeeming love.

These last few weeks have been an occasion for us to reflect on how our financial giving directly supports the Church's mission right here in Good Shepherd Parish. Our financial offerings are a sacrificial gift made in union with our sacrifice of self as we join with the One Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross, made in freedom and love for the salvation of all the world.

It is my hope that the information contained in this booklet will help us to prayerfully reflect on our personal approach to stewardship of our treasure and to deepen the thoughtfulness and intentionality of our giving; be it in the form of time, talent or treasure.

As we continue to grow together as one community of faith, I pray that together we will call on the intercession of Saint Agnes and Saint Thomas Aquinas to support us in the mission of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

In Christ,

Rev. Patrick J. Salah

Fr. Patrick Salah
Good Shepherd Parish, Administrator

Ways to give to Good Shepherd Parish

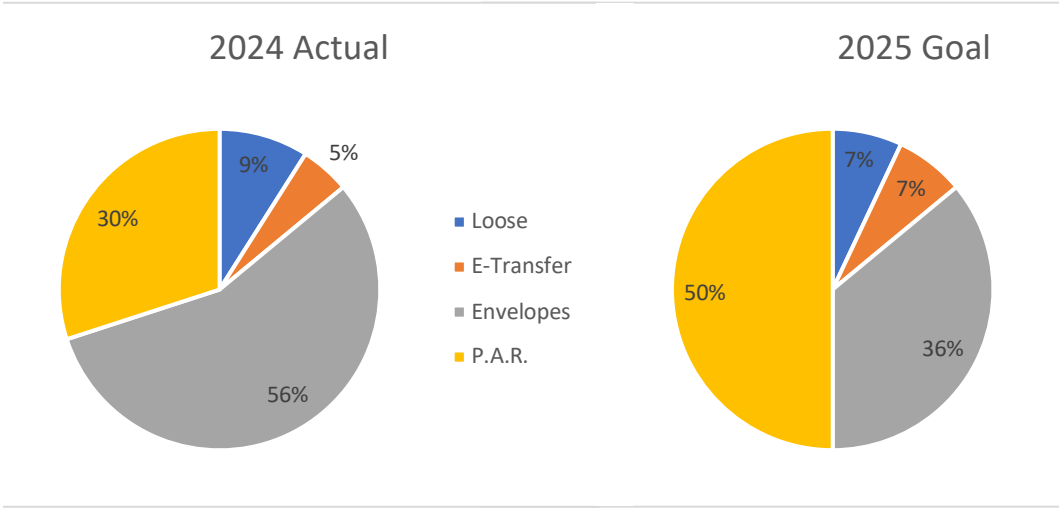
There are four ordinary ways to give to Good Shepherd Parish:

- Loose cash
- E-transfers
- Parish Envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Remittance (P.A.R.)

If you give to our parish with loose change, did you know that you are missing out on a tax receipt at the end of the year? We encourage all parishioners to use one of the other three options for giving rather than placing loose cash in the collection.

Pre-Authorized Remittance (P.A.R.) is a safe, secure process for automatic withdrawals from your bank, and it gives you the flexibility of choosing weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly donations. The consistency of P.A.R. is incredibly helpful when it comes to budgeting for the parish. *We are pleased to be introducing P.A.R. for special collections beginning later this year!*

To assist with the financial stability of Good Shepherd Parish we are **setting a goal** to receive 50% of our Sunday giving through P.A.R. by the end of 2025.



Giving to Good Shepherd Parish

How much should I give to Good Shepherd Parish?

Every financial gift to Good Shepherd Parish is valuable and appreciated. Our hope is that every parishioner will contribute financially to the mission of the Church.

We encourage all parishioners to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider how much they are called to give to the mission. The right amount will vary from person to person. Some helpful tools for discernment are to consider your giving in relation to your annual household income, and to consider if the amount you give is being experienced as a sacrifice to God. Are you giving out of your first fruits or out of your leftovers?

Proportional Giving

You may consider giving in proportion to your annual household income. To calculate a proportional gift, take your annual household income, choose the percentage you would like to give annually, then divide the amount by 52 weeks of the year to generate a proportional weekly offering. The following chart provides examples.
(Rounded to the nearest $ amount)

Annual Household Income	1%	5%	10%
$20,000	$4	$20	$40
$25,000	$5	$25	$50
$30,000	$6	$30	$60
$35,000	$7	$35	$70
$40,000	$8	$40	$80
$50,000	$10	$50	$100
$60,000	$12	$60	$120
$70,000	$14	$70	$140
$80,000	$16	$80	$160
$90,000	$18	$90	$180
$100,000	$20	$100	$200
$120,000	$23	$115	$230
$150,000	$29	$145	$290

Capital Projects Planned for 2025

We are committed to ensuring that our parish facilities are maintained and able to serve the mission of Jesus Christ and Good Shepherd Parish for many years to come.

Presently the roofs of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church and Saint Agnes Church & Complex are due to be replaced. For the past year, parish teams have been looking at the roofing needs along with other capital repairs to plan for a major building project to address many of the more significant and pressing maintenance and repairs needed in our buildings.

The roof replacement at our Saint Agnes site is more extensive and will involve more components:

- Replacement of the siding and windows on the south wall of the Gym, which connects two roofs.
- Elimination of the nearly 20 skylights in the sacristy, hallway, kitchen and former office area. Filling in the ceilings and upgrading the interior lighting in the same areas.

We are also hoping to complete much needed cosmetic upgrades in the Campbell Centre and the Rectory. This will include:

- Replacing old windows, including some inefficient single-pane windows.
- Replacing aged flooring, washroom fixtures, and fluorescent tube lighting systems.
- Installation of air handling systems to better manage moisture and air quality.

The Parish Finance Committee has budgeted 2 Million Dollars for these Capital Projects which will be carried out in the Spring and Summer months. We are currently working with the Archdiocesan Building and Finance Committees, to ensure that we are able to get as much value for our money as possible. We will be providing regular updates in the coming weeks and months.

A Financial Update

Receipts	Budget 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
Sunday Offerings	612,000	594,503	627,385	618,734
Donations	12,000	14,728	44,387	9,584
Room and Board	46,200	52,420	31,250	36,709
Lease and Hall Rental income	41,750	35,062	35,102	25,351
Capital Projects Collections	5,000	6,130	35,433	31,763
Religious Education/Faith Formation	7,500	9,169	10,151	8,538
Bingo Income (net of expenses)	18,600	10,803	23,089	6,332
Miscellaneous	20,700	27,666	23,599	31,266
Total Receipts	763,750	750,481	830,396	768,276
Disbursements				
Property Maintenance	421,504	425,675	355,906	298,121
Community (Admin, Priests, mission etc.)	197,758	186,444	194,036	205,906
Diocesan Assessment	110,000	108,724	106,026	103,587
Residence expenses	73,951	89,038	82,234	71,364
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry	72,340	79,599	63,562	60,194
Liturgy and Music Ministries	56,500	84,815	61,016	42,360
Hall expenses	0	147	789	17,877
Total Expenses	932,053	974,443	863,569	799,409
Operating Deficits	(168,303)	(223,962)	(33,173)	(31,133)
Other Income:				
Interest Investment Income	100,000	256,240	263,121	228,478
Bequests	0	447,750	11,098	105,889
Total surplus (deficit) before Capital (larger) Expenditures	(68,303)	480,027	241,046	303,234
Hall/Kitchen Project – St. Agnes Site	0	0	0	(12,319)
New Parish Center – St. Thomas Site	(800,000)	(3,510,477)	(1,380,183)	(608,557)
2025 Capital Projects	(2,000,000)	(206,899)	0	0
Net Surplus (deficit)	(2,868,303)	(3,237,349)	(1,139,137)	(317,642)

Cash Balances	Projected	Dec 31 2024	Dec 31 2023	Dec 31 2022
		$	$	$
Bank Balance		181,319	225,257	275,848
Deposit held at the Archdiocese		3,397,095	6,424,259	7,476,682
	710,111	3,578,414	6,649,516	7,752,530

A Financial Update Continued

Like all Canadians, Good Shepherd Parish has encountered higher costs in recent years. Between 2022 and 2024, our parish's operating costs climbed 22% while our revenue has declined more than 2% over the same period. In 2025, we expect operating expenses—the day-to-day cost of operating our parish—to exceed operating revenue for the fourth straight year.

We have been blessed to receive multiple significant bequests (also known as "extraordinary revenue") in recent years that have helped to mask these financial shortfalls. While we hope to continue to benefit from additional bequests in the coming years, we cannot assume they will occur or consider them when budgeting as the timing and magnitude of any potential future bequests are unknown.

As a parish, we have also greatly benefited in recent years from interest paid by the archdiocese on the large cash balance our parish inherited from the sale of Canadian Martyrs' Church, the proceeds of which were always intended for improvements at St. Thomas Aquinas. Thanks to the merger of St. Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs Parish with St. Agnes Parish in 2020, our combined Good Shepherd Parish has received more than $1,000,000 in interest income that—like the bequests—have made up for the ongoing operating losses of our new parish. With the long-planned renovations/rebuild at our St. Thomas Aquinas property now largely complete and paid for, interest income is expected to be significantly lower going forward; we are projecting $100,000 in interest income in 2025 (vs. $256,240 in 2024). This lower amount of interest income dollars will not be enough to offset our expected operating loss of $168,303 in 2025. This additional source of "extraordinary revenue" will fall even further in 2026 as our cash balance on deposit with the archdiocese goes toward funding necessary capital repairs at both our St. Agnes & St. Thomas Aquinas properties in 2025.

We have and continue to use the proceeds of the sale of Canadian Martyrs to rejuvenate our properties and invest in the future of our parish. Our challenge going forward is to increase our ordinary revenue to support the ongoing needs of our parish and ensure its long-term financial viability.