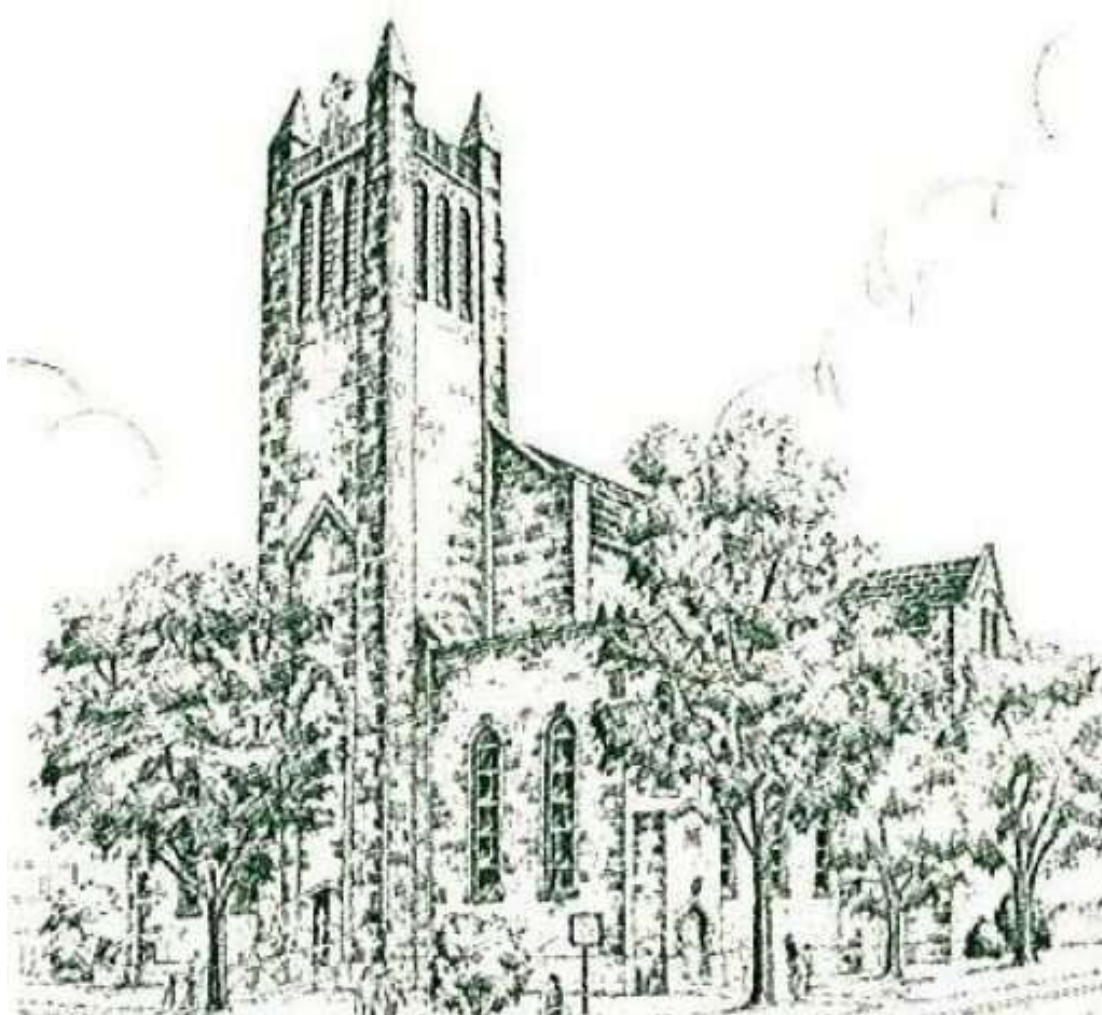


Step Up: Living our Faith & Building Our Future



*St. Joseph's Parish – A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary
Immaculate*

Advent 2022

A word from our Executive Director

St. Joseph's Parish is renowned for its warmth, hospitality and welcoming of the stranger. We want to ensure that we stay true to these values by improving the accessibility of our Church for all members of the community. Therefore, St. Joseph's Parish is embarking on its largest capital project in a generation: the reconstruction of the front entrance area of the church at 174 Wilbrod Street and the creation of a new accessibility ramp. The cost of this essential project is \$320,000.



This is a great opportunity to focus our thoughts on our journey so far, how we've evolved as a parish, how we strive to attend to the social justices needs of our neighbours, and how we share our building with the broader community. We can also begin to envision our future. This will ensure that we continue to provide a safe space to gather -- one that serves our parish and our diverse community partners, particularly our outreach programmes to the marginalized. We have a big task ahead of us, aiming to raise \$500,000 over the next three years. This is why I'm pleased to launch our St. Joe's Step Up Community Fundraising Initiative. We can do it, together.

Christopher Adam

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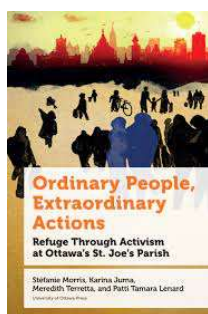
Standing on firm foundations: Our History

St. Joseph's Parish holds a special place in the hearts of many in Ottawa and beyond. People of faith have come to our doors seeking a parish that embraces an adult spirituality, challenges itself to live Christ's message of service to the poor and welcomes those who have been marginalized. The desire to live the social teachings of the Church in prophetic ways and the support of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate who continue to serve our community have created a dynamic parish that is active seven days a week.



St. Joseph's Church has stood on these grounds since 1856. Our current neo-Gothic church was completed in 1932, replacing a previous structure that was destroyed by fire. The presence of St. Joseph's over the centuries is one of the constants in Sandy Hill. But that doesn't mean that St. Joe's itself hasn't changed and evolved with the world around it.

In 1978, Oblate pastor Fr. Fred Magee established St. Joe's Supper Table. Today, a dedicated team of lay people continue this mission by serving a meals five days per week and by operating two food banks. In 1984, the St. Joe's Women's Centre opened its doors to marginalized women – offering day programmes, meals, and essential services in a non-judgmental environment. The St. Joe's Refugee Outreach Committee got off the ground in 1990 and has since sponsored hundreds of people from around the world seeking asylum in Canada and has played a leading role in refugee advocacy.



Alongside our social justice outreach programmes, the Parish has a responsibility to care for the heritage church that was passed down to us by earlier generations of parishioners. Today, St. Joseph's Parish is a multi-purpose grassroots community space, the home of meaningful, inclusive liturgies and where we welcome and help those in need. Our first priority is to serve people -- including our neighbours and our communities. But we can only continue our ministry of service if we have a safe and well-maintained building.

Over the past ten years, our largest capital projects included:

- Installation of a new boiler for the church
- Extensive repairs to both the church and rectory roof
- New kitchens for the Women's Centre and Supper Table.

We were fortunate to have received major bequests from late parishioners, allowing us to proceed with essential capital projects that we could not fund through our regular revenues. As we look to make our church entrance more accessible and explore environmental innovations for our property, such as a car charging station, we also need to be mindful of replenishing our reserves.



Where We Are Today: An Affirming Community

St. Joe's is a special place. We live our values and strive to "walk the talk" of Christian discipleship by

- Recognizing Jesus in the stranger standing at our door and in our midst;
- Welcoming Pope Francis' call to collaborative leadership and true synodality involving both laity and clergy;
- Embracing the call of the Second Vatican Council to full, conscious, and active participation of the laity;
- Empowering women in our church and in our liturgical community;
- Recognizing the intrinsic dignity of LGBTQ2S+ Catholics;
- Committing ourselves to the on-going journey of Truth and Reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters;
- Inviting students and young adults to grow in their faith in an encouraging environment;
- Responding to Pope Francis' call to care for Creation;
- Welcoming all without judgment, wherever they may be on their personal faith journey;
- Creating a space where the gifts of individuals can flourish.



Our Community Partners

Like most church communities, St. Joe's has experienced a decline in the number of active parishioners over the past two decades. Even so, St. Joseph's is also the home of an array of non-profit community groups who share our space under lease agreements. Yet these groups are not only our tenants. They have become our partners and friends as we seek new ways to build community and to serve the city in which we live.

Their presence contributes to our parish in another important way: income from these on-going rental agreements helps us cover the growing costs of maintaining our programmes and building. We are blessed by their presence, their energy, diversity, and enthusiasm.

- A.A. Sandy Hill
- Cantata Singers of Ottawa
- Capital Chamber Choir
- Drum Circle - Naawakwe Singers
- Ewashko Singers
- Music & Beyond Festival
- Ottawa Campus Christian Reformed Chaplaincy
- Ottawa Children's Choir
- Ottawa Regional Youth Choir
- Ottawa Swing Dance Society
- Thirteen Strings Chamber Orchestra
- University of Ottawa Community Choir
- University of Ottawa Orchestra



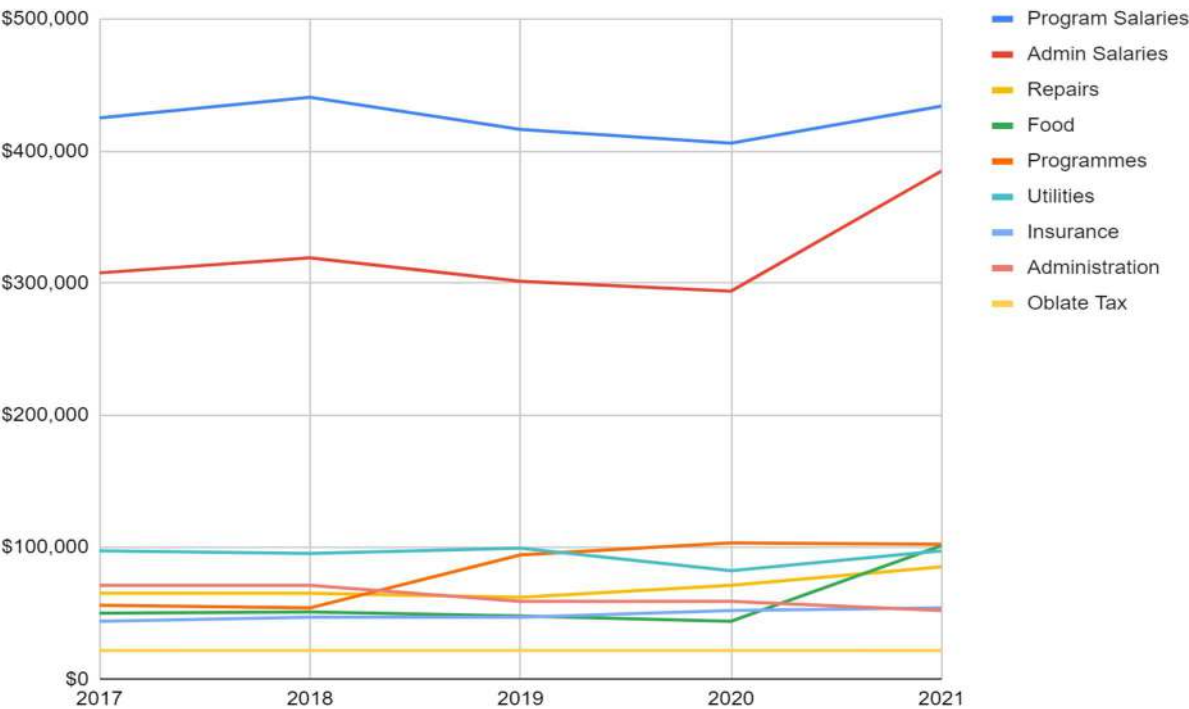
Good Stewardship

Our Parish is mindful of our expenses – both in terms of on-going operations and capital projects. When we decided to proceed with the restoration of our front steps and the construction of a new ramp, we worked closely with our engineer consultants to scale back the plan to only the essentials for a safe and accessible entrance. In our daily operations we monitor our expenses carefully. We review and renegotiate contracts, ensure that we obtain multiple quotes for larger expenditures and we offset some of our costs by collaborating with our sister parish across the street, Sacré-Coeur.

Most major expense categories have been steady over the past five years. Salaries and benefits, the largest expense, declined between 2018 and 2020. In 2017, salaries totalled \$733,000. In 2020, this decreased to \$700,000 – in part due to temporary pandemic lay-offs. Salaries increased temporarily in 2021 to \$819,000 due to pandemic-related grants that allowed us to hire short-term front-line staff for the Supper Table and Women’s Centre. Food-related expenses remained steady from 2017 to 2019 and then declined in 2020 due to pandemic shut-downs, before seeing a temporary increase in 2021 as a result of additional grant-related funding in our social outreach programmes. Our insurance costs have been increasing by modest increments each year, utility expenses have been stable throughout the past five years, while our spending on important social justice programming has gone up and our administrative expenses have declined in this period.

An area that has continued to see an increase in costs is non-capital maintenance and repairs, from \$65,000 in 2017 to \$85,000 in 2021. Our ageing building requires more frequent repairs. These are in addition to major capital projects, such as the reconstruction of the front steps and accessibility ramp, boiler replacements or roof replacements.

Expenses 2017 - 2021



Supporting the Community

Since 2012, the Parish as a whole has maintained balanced budgets – in most years, our revenues exceeded our expenditures by modest amounts, providing for a sustainable framework for our faith community and social justice outreach. When our parishioners and supporters donate to our parish, they can choose to support the different ministries and needs of this community. We make sure to track and allocate these donations according to the wishes of our donors.

Among the key parish funds accepting donations are the church's general fund, the capital asset building fund, the Women's Centre fund, the Supper Table fund and Refugee Outreach.

The Supper Table

In 2017, the Supper Table was about to celebrate its 40th anniversary but it was no longer sustainable. For many years, the Supper Table ran at a deficit -- accumulating a large negative balance in its fund. The Supper Table's accumulated deficit reached \$285,000. At that time, close to 100 people relied on the Supper Table's dinner service each weekday, as well as on its food bank. Of our clients, an estimated 40 percent were Indigenous. Despite the clear need for this service, the Parish had to explore all options -- including closing the Supper Table. The future of the Supper Table looked uncertain. However, thanks to healthy Sunday collections and facilities revenues, the Parish provided the Supper Table with a total \$342,000 in support. Without this, the Supper Table would no longer be operating today.

Beginning in 2019, the Supper Table began running balanced budgets thanks to a proactive effort to apply for all available grants and increased fundraising. During the pandemic, the Supper Table was also the recipient of government funding for the first time.

Our ability to continue our social justice outreach depends on the monetary support of both parishioners from



within our parish, as well as fundraising that draws in people from the broader community. This is especially the case with the end of temporary government funding. With the decline in Sunday offerings and the need for essential capital repairs to our church, the Parish can no longer contribute to the sustainability of the Supper Table as it did in 2017-2018.

Reconciliation Efforts

Over the past eighteen months, we are proud of our proactive efforts to continue the reconciliation journey. In January 2022, the parish presented Katari Native ministries with \$17,000 to demonstrate our support of their work. In addition, our recent collection in support of the Diocesan Reconciliation Fund well exceeded our goal of \$5000, by raising over \$7,600.

Diversifying Our Revenues - Adapting to Challenge

In 2021, St. Joseph’s Parish revenues exceeded \$1.6 million. Sunday collection plate offerings comprised 16% of the Parish’s total revenues. Various forms of government funding, including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the Social Services Relief Fund and City of Ottawa grants for the Women’s Centre totalled 43% of Parish revenues. Most of this funding was temporary pandemic relief and is no longer available to the Parish. Private donations from organizations and individuals mostly outside the Parish totalled 26% of annual revenues. Facility and parking rentals accounted for 8%. Fundraising income comprised 2% of all parish revenues.

Over the years, we have addressed the growing cost of maintaining our programmes alongside declining collection

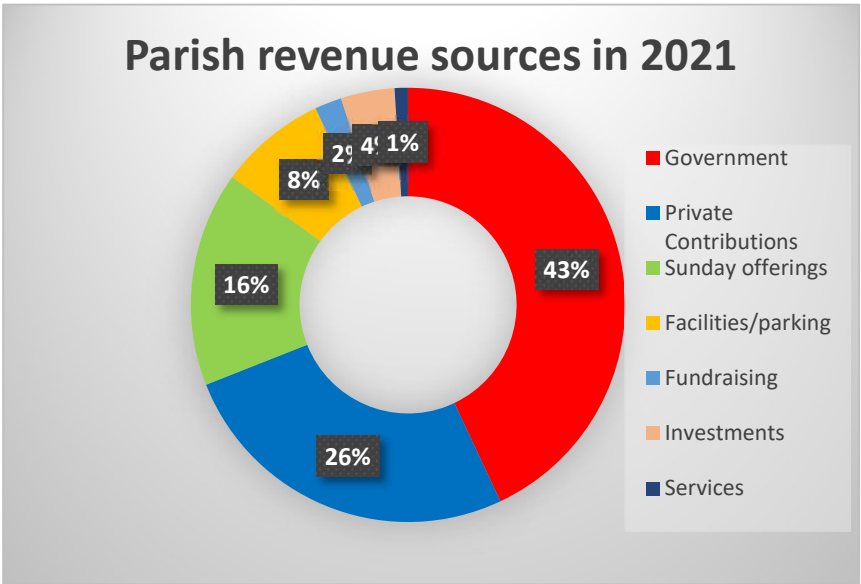
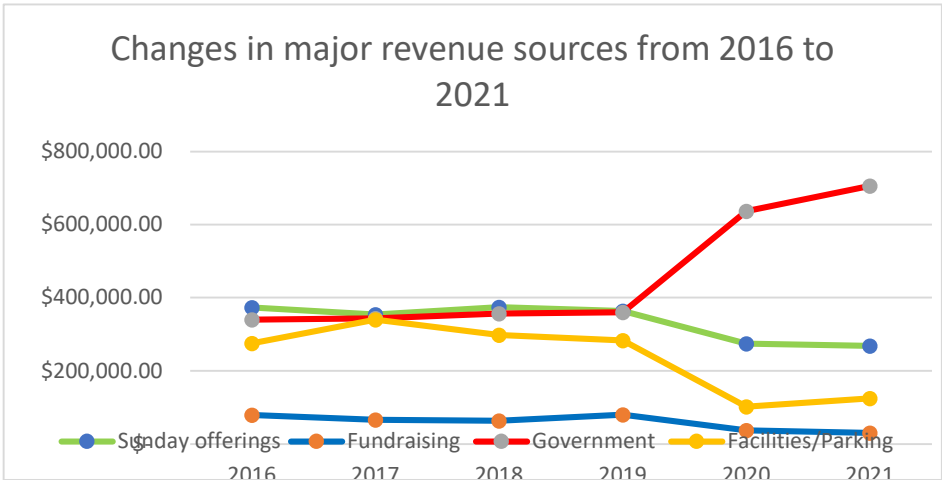


plate offerings by diversifying our revenue streams. In the past ten years, we signed long-term leases with seven non-profits. We have made more effective use of our paid parking lot by adding a self-service meter. In our social justice outreach, we sought to make the Supper Table sustainable by seeking private and government grants, while building on our-going relationship with the City of Ottawa, which funds the St. Joe’s Women’s Centre.



Our challenge as a community coming out of the pandemic is to re-engage our parish, welcome and fully include new parishioners in the life of our church and grow our base of supporters as we transition away from government assistance. Parish staff continue to apply for grants to support the social justice work of the Supper Table and Women's Centre. We also anticipate higher revenues from the parking lot and facility rentals – two areas hit hard by the pandemic. But maintaining our meal, food bank and day shelter programmes when the need is greater than ever before and caring for the building that allows us to live our mission requires greater support through fundraising initiatives and Sunday offerings.

Partner with Us

Over the years, we've been blessed by so many gracious and generous donors, not only from the parish, but the broader community. This love is demonstrated in different ways – volunteering, by sharing their talent and by contributing to the Parish financially. We are grateful for this on-going support.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will be turning to you to consider how you might help the Parish mission remain sustainable in the years to come. While we recognize that these are difficult times for many in our community we know that our parish has a big heart.

There are so many great ways to support us, both through one-time donations and on-going commitments. Here are the ways you can support St. Joe's financially:

- **Auto-debit contributions:** Sign up to make auto-debit donations to the parish on either the 15th or the 30th of each month or on both days.
****If you are already donating to us by auto-debit, please consider reviewing and raising your contributions****
- **Sunday envelopes:** We can provide you with a box of envelopes for each Sunday of the year and for special collections. You can then enclose cash or cheques and contribute through the Sunday collection plate.
- **Canada Helps:** Would you like to donate to St. Joe's using your credit card? Canada Helps offers a convenient way to make contributions safely and securely online. Canada Helps also issues tax receipts for these donations directly to donors. Visit here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/131771990RR0006-saint-joseph-parish/>
- **Donate securities:** Donating stocks, bonds and mutual fund units is a particularly tax-effective way to contribute to St. Joe's. You can find more information here: <https://www.st-josephs.ca/donations/donation-of-securities/>
- **Bequests:** Consider supporting St. Joe's and its outreach programs in your will. A gift in your will brings meaning, dignity and purpose to a life well lived. It can also significantly reduce the tax burden left to your loved ones. And, it will ensure St. Joe's and its programs are available for future generations

All donors receive a tax receipt for their contributions to the Parish. And in addition to contributing to the Parish using one of the methods above, you can support our ministries by attending our fundraising events. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events in 2022 and 2023.

Thank you for being a part of our journey! With your help, we know that our Parish -- active in Sandy Hill for more than 165 years -- will remain a vibrant, prophetic community for years to come.

For more information on this appeal and to discuss contributing, please contact Christopher Adam: cadam@st-josephs.ca - Tel.: 613-233-4095, ext. 223).