

DIVINE MERCY PARISH 2024/25 YEAR END FINANCE REPORT

The financial year for Divine Mercy Parish and the Diocese of Gaylord is July 1st through June 30th. Divine Mercy Parish is responsible for financing the operation of Saint Joseph Church, Parish Center, Office/Rectory; Mount Carmel Cemetery; Guardian Angels Church, School, Rectory, and Convent; and the Manistee Catholic Central property. The finances of the Rosary Society, the Food Pantry, and the Men's Club are included in the Divine Mercy finances. Also, Divine Mercy extends ministries for bereavement, homebound, Manistee Medical Care Facility, Maple Ridge Manor, Green Acres, the jail and the prison.

In June of 2024 we welcomed back to Manistee, Father James Bearss. He has been a welcome guiding light not only through our religious services, but he is a stable force in helping us transition from the closing of MCC to instituting the strategic plan for our parish's future.

Divine Mercy's revenue comes from the generous donations from our parishioners in weekly collections, bequests, specified donations, income from dinners, fund raisers, sale of cemetery plots, and burials, Guardian Angels restoration efforts, endowments, and special collections.

The routine portion of the expenses go toward the upkeep of the buildings and cemetery, and the payment of employee wages and benefits. However, the expenses associated with ownership of the Catholic Central School building, i.e. utilities, insurance, etc. fall under unusual expenses with no income source. Fallen trees cleanup and equipment maintenance put a drain on the cemetery budget, but special collections and donations from the Men's Club helped to offset a portion of these added expenses. With the resignation of the cemetery sexton, we are in the process of evaluating how the ongoing care and maintenance of the cemetery is handled, as well as how burials are done.

During the fiscal year 24/25, significant capital improvement projects were done to our aged facilities. They included repairs to a section of the roof, drains, and gutters of St. Joseph Church as well as caulking the building; the bell tower was worked on, but not completed; the boiler at Guardian Angels was repaired; the alarm system was installed at MCC; and audio/video equipment was installed in St. Joseph Church to broadcast masses and services for the homebound.

The CSA goal for Divine Mercy was met. And through some adjustments and refunds, the balance owed to the Diocese for prior years has been significantly reduced. We continue to make the payments on the loans from the Diocese and the MCC Foundation. Father Bearss has initiated Endowment Funds and to date there are two, The Cemetery and Divine Mercy Buildings, with the hope of keeping Divine Mercy Parish solvent for years to come. The Finance Council adopted and sent to the Diocese a Divine Mercy balanced budget for FY 25/26.

A more thorough report of FY 24/25 expenditures and a condensed copy of the FY 25/26 budget can be viewed on the Divine Mercy website. For parishioners without access to the website, copies are available in the parish office.