



## State of the Parish - Thanksgiving 2023

Dear St. Rose of Lima Family,

Peace and Blessing!

As we enter a time of thanksgiving, I wanted to share with you the State of the Parish and how grateful I am to be a part of this wonderful family.

Since December 1, 2022, our family has grown with the Baptism of 59 children, and we were blessed to celebrate 13 couples falling in love and committing themselves to one another by getting married in our family home.

We also gave thanks to God for the lives 40 of our brothers and sisters as we celebrated their funerals and laid to rest an additional 4 other of our family members. God loved us so much that he sent these wonderful people our way!

As a family we continue to share the gift of our faith with our young as we have 274 children in Faith Formation. I am so very honored to let you know that 47 of our children will receive the Eucharist for the first time while another 56 will confirm the faith we share in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Due to your generosity with this past year's Annual Appeal, we were able to save a little over \$25,000 in assessments (taxes to the Archdiocese)! We received a rebate check of just over \$2,000 with another \$600 coming our way. We are continually working hard to be more fiscally responsible with our resources.

We have been very blessed to be able to offer a "Welcome" cart after the 9:30 mass. With the help of our parish ministries and the support of a parishioner, we are able to supply some fruit, coffee, water and light snacks. It is our hope to expand the cart to the other Masses as well. The parish is steadily moving forward.

In the next month or two, you will hear from members of our Finance Council as well as our Business Administrator, about the financial realities of our family.

As we move into the Christmas Season, I would ask that in prayerful consideration, think about support you may be able to offer to our St. Rose of Lima family. Though a lofty goal, if we could raise \$350,000 at Christmas, it would truly be a blessing. With the parish staff and Finance Council, I continue to try to repair the damage and neglect of yesterday while creating a stronger foundation for tomorrow.

I thank God for the gift of each of you and continue to be grateful for the privilege of leading such a loving and generous family.

In closing, I would also like to share, on behalf of Sr. Cecilia and the Little Sisters of the Poor, a heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous generosity of our family. Sister called to emotionally share that from our family, they received \$9,000 in their final visit to us. What a beautiful way to make a painful situation a little easier.

God bless each of you and a very Happy Thanksgiving! Truly, we have been given much and we share much!

With Love and Gratitude,

Fr. Larry Evans