CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER

Fiscal Year 2025–2026 | Parish Financial Report Summary

✦ STEWARDSHIP • GRATITUDE • MISSION ✦

Our Dear Little Flower Parish Family,

As part of our annual reporting to the Archdiocese, Little Flower has completed its Financial Performance Report for the fiscal year ending June 2026. This report gives us an opportunity to review our parish finances and share some of the factors that impacted our financial position over the past year.

While the report reflects a deficit of approximately $42,000, it is important to note that $14,000 of this amount represents improvement made to our church security system, Parish Center, and exterior grounds. These projects were funded with money previously set aside from our earlier church capital project. Although these funds were available and allowed us to complete these important upgrades, the associated expenses are reported in the current fiscal year. Excluding these improvements, the operating shortfall is closer to $28,000.

There were several other factors that contributed to the shortfall. Weekly collections were down, while expenses continued to rise. In particular, our Archdiocesan assessment increased, insurance premiums and utility costs were higher, and we faced unexpected snow removal expenses during the winter. While some of these costs were beyond our control, we have worked diligently to manage our resources with the utmost care and financial stewardship.

We remain committed to being responsible stewards of the generosity entrusted to us and to making thoughtful decisions that allow Little Flower to continue to thrive supporting our parish family, our ministries, and those in need.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON

	Jul '25 – Jun '26	Jul '24 – Jun '25	Favorable / (Unfavorable)
REVENUES			
Collections	648,861	643,136	5,724
Christmas Collection	41,219	45,568	(4,348)
Easter Collection	31,298	25,990	5,308
Other Revenues	249,999	278,757	(28,758)
Non-operating revenues	90,784	82,672	8,113
Total Revenues	**1,062,161**	**1,076,123**	**(13,962)**
ORDINARY EXPENSES			
Salaries, Benefits, Contract & Prof Services	614,362	608,657	(5,705)
Assessments	118,527	100,181	(18,346)
Insurance, Utilities, Supplies & Equipment	201,380	198,823	(2,557)
Religious Ed / Sacraments	25,260	29,115	3,854
Other Ordinary Expenses	144,403	131,261	(13,142)
Total Ordinary Expenses	**1,103,932**	**1,068,037**	**(35,896)**
Net Ordinary (Loss) / Income	**(41,771)**	**8,086**	**(49,857)**
Capital Projects Revenues – Priests Residence	73,867	134,088	(60,221)
Capital Projects Expenses – Priests Residence	73,867	134,088	60,221
Net (Loss) / Income	**(41,771)**	**8,086**	**(49,857)**

We are profoundly grateful for all our parishioners whose continued generosity and dedication through their time, talent, and treasure have helped make this year's accomplishments possible. As a parish family, we continue to bring the Little Flower Mission to life by welcoming individuals and families into our church and helping them grow closer to our Lord. We are thankful to see continued participation across our sacramental and faith formation programs, made possible by the commitment of so many who embrace our call to "Pass on our Catholic Traditions" and "Grow as a Welcoming Family of Faith."

We have also continued to make a meaningful difference in fulfilling another important part of our Mission Statement, "Serve Those in Need." Some of the many ways we have lived out this commitment throughout the year include:

- **Expanded opportunities for Adult Faith Formation and Fellowship:** We introduced several new opportunities for spiritual enrichment, including Faith Film Screenings, an Advent Parish Mission, celebrations for our Catechists and the Italian Apostolate, and visits from the pilgrim statues of Our Lady of Fatima and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, blessed by Pope Francis. We also continued many popular programs, including the Cornerstone Men's Retreat, Women's Spirituality Book Clubs, Little Flower Spiritually-Themed Cafes, Evenings of Reflection for our Ministries, Monthly Family Masses with hospitality following all Masses, Men's Breakfasts featuring guest speakers and parishioner witnesses, and our Theology on Tap faith-themed series. These gatherings provide meaningful opportunities to deepen our faith, build friendships, and continue our spiritual journey together.

- **Continued to develop our Little Flower Kindness Youth Ministry Team:** More than 70 teens are actively involved in this ministry, dedicating themselves to living out our Catholic mission of serving others. Together, they contributed nearly 320 hours of service throughout the year. Their efforts included preparing more than 300 sandwiches for those experiencing homelessness, assembling and mailing approximately 25 care packages to college students from our parish, and providing Thanksgiving meals to approximately 27 families. They also organized a hoodie and sneaker drive, with all donations benefiting those in need, assisted with our parish St. Patrick's Day Senior Lunch, and organized and hosted Family Bingo. Through their fundraising efforts, grants, and generous donations, the Kindness Team continues to grow and make a difference, putting their faith into action and sharing Christ's love through service.

- **Continued to fulfill our commitment to "Pass on our Catholic Traditions" through our sacramental and faith formation programs:** This year, we celebrated 4 weddings, 42 funerals, and 65 baptisms, with approximately 115 candidates preparing for First Communion and Confirmation. Our Religious Formation programs served more than 170 families and 354 children and youth. Adult faith formation reached more than 300 individuals through small faith-sharing groups, OCIA, OCIC, men's and women's ministries, and Bible studies.

- Welcomed more than 52 new families to our Little Flower parish community, engaging with them and providing opportunities to experience the warmth, love, and welcoming spirit of our parish community.

- Supported mothers and families facing difficult circumstances by providing hundreds of clothing items and essential childcare supplies through our partnerships with Mercy House and Catholic Charities.

- Provided meals to more than 1,200 individuals through our St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen Ministry and Family Promise of Union County.

- Continued to support approximately 30 families each week from Berkeley Heights and surrounding communities through our Food Pantry donations and collection drives. We also provided 65 complete holiday meals for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

- Shared the joy of Christmas with more than 400 families and individuals, providing gifts that benefited children, families, seniors, veterans, and those experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges.

- Brought the gift of the Eucharist to more than 100 individuals through our dedicated Eucharistic visitors, who serve the homebound, Autumn Lakes Nursing Home, Park Edge senior housing, and Runnells Rehabilitation.

- Hosted and participated in several community events that brought people together and provided opportunities for education, fellowship, and support. These included a Lunch and Learn program for Alzheimer's caregiver support, a Diabetes Conference in partnership with the Summit Lions Club, our St. Patrick's Day Senior Lunch, a pilgrimage to the Sight & Sound Theater, and a special Mass honoring our First Responders.
- Remained actively involved in the Berkeley Heights community through participation in local town events and community festivals. We also continued our partnerships with the Berkeley Heights Business and Civic Group and the Woman's Club in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

We are truly blessed at Little Flower, and we joyfully have fulfilled our calling to share those blessings within our parish, throughout our community, and beyond. Together, we continue to grow in faith, welcome others, and make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Despite the financial challenges we experienced this year, Little Flower remains in a strong financial position, thanks to the continued generosity and commitment of our parishioners. We recognize that many of you have faithfully supported both our weekly offertory and the Priest Residence Capital Campaign, and we are truly grateful for your generosity. As we continue toward the completion of the campaign in March 2027, we look ahead with confidence while remaining mindful of the ongoing needs of our parish.

May God continue to bless Little Flower and each of our parish families in the year ahead as we work together to Give Witness to the Gospel, Serve Those in Need, Pass on Our Catholic Traditions, and Grow as a Welcoming Family of Faith.

Your Finance Council and Your Parish Priest