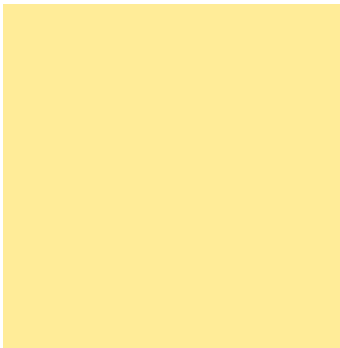

Pastoral and School Plan



**Lee's Summit and Blue Springs
Parishes and Schools
Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph**

December 23, 2024



Contents

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP.....	1
I. INTRODUCTION	2
II. VISION AND PRIORITIES.....	3
III. CRITERIA FOR THE DETERMINATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS	4
IV. PARISH DESIGNATIONS.....	5
V. LEE’S SUMMIT PASTORAL PLAN	6
MAP OF PARISHES.....	6
PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARISHES OF LEE’S SUMMIT	7
VI. BLUE SPRINGS PASTORAL PLAN	11
MAP OF PARISHES.....	11
PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PARISHES OF BLUE SPRINGS.....	12
VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PASTORAL PLAN	15
VIII. LEE’S SUMMIT AND BLUE SPRINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	16
MAP OF SCHOOLS	16
OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL DATA AND OBSERVATIONS	17
ST. JOHN LALANDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL DATA AND OBSERVATIONS	20
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DATA AND OBSERVATIONS	23
ADDITIONAL SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS	27
SCHOOL SURVEY DATA AND OBSERVATIONS	28
SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS.....	29

APPENDIX

Appendix A: School Survey Data

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

December 2024

Dear Faithful of the Parishes in Lee's Summit and Blue Springs,

Beginning in February of 2024, 5 parishes and 3 Catholic schools in Lee's Summit and Blue Springs were the subject of an important study. The purpose of the study was to review community demographic projections and forecasts as well as parish data trends to determine a pastoral strategy which will lead to greater vitality for the future. We also took into account the future availability of resources within the diocese. The study has now been completed with the finalization of a pastoral plan.

The parishes and schools in this study represent the greatest future population growth in the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph. One of the parishes is already among the largest in the diocese and the two elementary schools are nearing their enrollment capacities. The study has provided an opportunity for all the parishes and schools to look to the future with hope and renew the commitment to carry out the mission of the Church.

The guiding vision for the plan comes from our diocesan vision – **One Family: Restored in Christ, Equipped for Mission**. The plan is a guide for new vitality among the deanery parishes and a path to carry out mission and ministry more effectively in the surrounding neighborhoods. The plan also incorporates the specific goals of the vision: **Growing God's Family, Using Resources Wisely, and Healing our Family**.

This plan was developed collaboratively and in the spirit of subsidiarity. Each parish and school was asked to select two representatives as part of the Deanery Planning Committee, along with their pastors. This committee met monthly. Parish pastoral and finance councils were also consulted. The plan was developed by the Deanery Planning Committee in collaboration with a Diocesan Leadership Team, involving deanery and diocesan officials. We proceed with the conviction that the Holy Spirit has guided this process and inspired those involved to discern a future filled with hope.

This plan recommends a new model within the diocese for managing the growth of the Church in Blue Springs and Lee's Summit. Pastors and leaders from both communities have agreed to collaborate on various ministries and to assist one another as facilities are renovated and constructed. If successful, this is a model which may have potential uses at other locations in the diocese.

Many parishes experience growth with their establishments and then maintain their memberships as the area changes residents. These parishes and schools have been blessed with a second growth opportunity. The opportunity is now for the parishes in each deanery to focus on building up the Church by casting our nets wider and deeper. Please pray that all who work on the implementation of this pastoral plan be blessed and all the plans for greater parish vibrancy be realized.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr., DD, JCL
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

I. INTRODUCTION

As the Synod on Synodality concluded in October of 2024, the universal Catholic Church will now implement its recommendations. Already in July of 2020, the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy issued new instructions on parish reform. The document is titled, "The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelizing Mission of the Church." Its stated goal of parish reform is to move parishes from a "self-preservation" model to one of "evangelization." The document further encourages parishes to become less "interested in preserving a nostalgia of former times as opposed to looking to the future with courage." The pastoral plan for each deanery will emphasize both evangelization and courage when looking to the future.

The study of the parishes and schools in Blue Springs and Lee's Summit is an effort to bring new vibrancy to the 5 parishes, two elementary schools, and one Catholic high school in the image suggested by Pope Francis. The study is conducted by Meitler, a Milwaukee-area based national consulting firm that has focused on Catholic school and parish strategic planning, in collaboration with diocesan and parish leaders, for over 50 years.

Beginning in February of 2024, community demographics, parish and school data were collected and studied. In April of 2024 interviews were conducted with pastoral and school leadership and parish representatives. These interviews produced many ideas about the future direction the plan should take. Each parish and school campus were visited, and the buildings were toured.

Much has been learned about the makeup of the area and the two communities as well as their projected and forecasted futures. The population in both communities will continue to grow over the next ten years. From a faith and religious perspective, over three-of-five residents do not belong to or participate in any religious community or congregation. The complete collection of the information is in the *Key Findings and Observations Report* posted on the diocesan website.

Diocesan and parish leaders alike should look to this plan with optimism and hope. The plan is bold in many ways but is designed to build up every parish as well as expand the opportunities for Catholic school education. The plan moves forward with confidence in the promise which Jesus left with His disciples and all His future followers – "I am with you always." (*Matthew 28:20*)

II. VISION AND PRIORITIES

One of the pioneers of church planning, the late Fr. George Wilson, S.J., rooted his zeal for parish planning in the death and resurrection of Jesus. All parishes and dioceses experience dying and rising in their histories. Without dying, there can be no new life. Planning, according to Fr. Wilson, is an act of hope – dying parishes can be resurrected and good parishes can become better through a commitment to a life-giving vision and plan.

As this planning process unfolds, it is apparent that there is a need for a vision which will guide the strategy for the next five to ten years and beyond. The vision for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph – **One Family: Restored in Christ, Equipped for Mission.** – offers the essential inspiration to provide the best spiritual and pastoral care for the people of this area of the diocese. There are three key priorities in the vision.

Growing God’s Family – *Activating our baptismal call to holiness and being missionary disciples*

The path to growth in the future will be different than the paths which led to the amazing growth of the Church in the United States. The Church has grown significantly through immigration, the migration of peoples, and baptism. Heralded by all the Popes since the 1960’s, the Church must now be focused on a new evangelization. Catholics do not automatically join parishes, have their children baptized, nor attend Mass as regularly as in the past. Parishes must become more intentional about inviting and welcoming people into their communities of faith as well as forming them into missionary disciples.

There are conclusions which can be drawn from the deanery’s demographics and parish data: the population is increasing, there is diminishing connection with any religious denomination, the population is aging, and there is declining sacramental practice. To create an environment for growth over the next decades, a plan will need to emphasize the consolidation of resources and the establishment of operational efficiencies.

Every parish will be impacted by the plan in some way. The diocesan vision will serve as the measure of how effectively the plan will help parishes carry out the mission of Christ and the Church.

Using Resources Wisely – *Aligning God’s gifts for the Church’s life and mission*

The smaller a parish is, the more difficult it is to fund staff positions and to offer a full range of ministries. The plan must provide every person in the area with the opportunity to experience the mission of Jesus in its fullness.

Healing Our Family – *Tending wounds and accompanying hearts to freedom in Christ*

The areas served by the parishes in Blue Springs and Lee’s Summit have experienced change and transition over the past decades. Parishes in the future must be prepared to be in the forefront of a response to those in need.

III. CRITERIA FOR THE DETERMINATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Making recommendations about the future of parishes requires some objective criteria or indicators of vibrant ministry to guide the decision-making process. Five areas have been identified as ways of evaluating not only how well each parish has conducted itself recently but to assess the parish's capacity for growth in the future. The criteria are listed below and, even though they are numbered, the numbers do not represent a priority of importance.

1. **Parish membership, sacramental life, involvement of parishioners in councils and other ministries.**

What do the parish data trends tell us about the current state of the parish and its future?

2. **Financial stability of the parish.**

What is the financial condition of the parish and what are the financial trends? Has the parish significantly reduced its ability to rebound by cutting staff and ministries?

3. **Potential for population and membership growth and other demographics.**

Is the parish located in an area where growth and other hopeful demographics are projected and forecast? Does the parish have the capacity to attract new people to the parish?

4. **Seating capacity of the church and the capability of other facilities to support vibrant ministry.**

Does the parish have the physical capacity to accommodate more worshippers? Are there adequate facilities and fixtures to support ministries which are needed today?

5. **Condition of the facilities and capability to update and renovate.**

Has the parish practiced deferred maintenance? Are the facilities able to be updated and does the parish have the financial resources and support to fund any building projects and ongoing maintenance?

These criteria are used to determine which parish designations would have the greatest long-term impact for the parishes in the deanery. The parish designations are described on the next page.

IV. PARISH DESIGNATIONS

Parish life has become more complex and culturally diverse. Both church law regarding parishes and the collective wisdom of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have provided some potential strategies for parishes to better serve their people. The following designations have been identified for use in the diocese. They are either already in use or may be used in the future.

STAND-ALONE PARISH

A traditional parish with its own pastor, parish church, finances, finance and pastoral councils, parish staff and office.

PARISHES SHARING A PASTOR

One pastor is assigned to serve more than one parish. In many cases, the sharing of the pastor and the pastor's salary are the only ways collaboration takes place between the parishes.

MISSION PARISH

In church law, this is a parish which is not yet ready to be formed as a parish, usually because of its smaller size and financial resources. Technically, it is called a quasi-parish. In many dioceses, a mission parish is designated as such because a parish's membership and finances have declined to the extent that it is no longer able to support its own pastor as well as other ministries and may be closed when those resources are no longer able to sustain the site. The designation is not as important in this plan, but the condition of the parish still needs to be addressed.

CLUSTERED PARISHES

Two or more parishes are designated to collaborate to various extents on personnel, ministries, and resources. Eventually, the parishes will be served by one pastor, have a shared parish pastoral council, and schedule their finance councils to meet on the same day. Each parish retains its own finances and buildings.

MERGED PARISHES

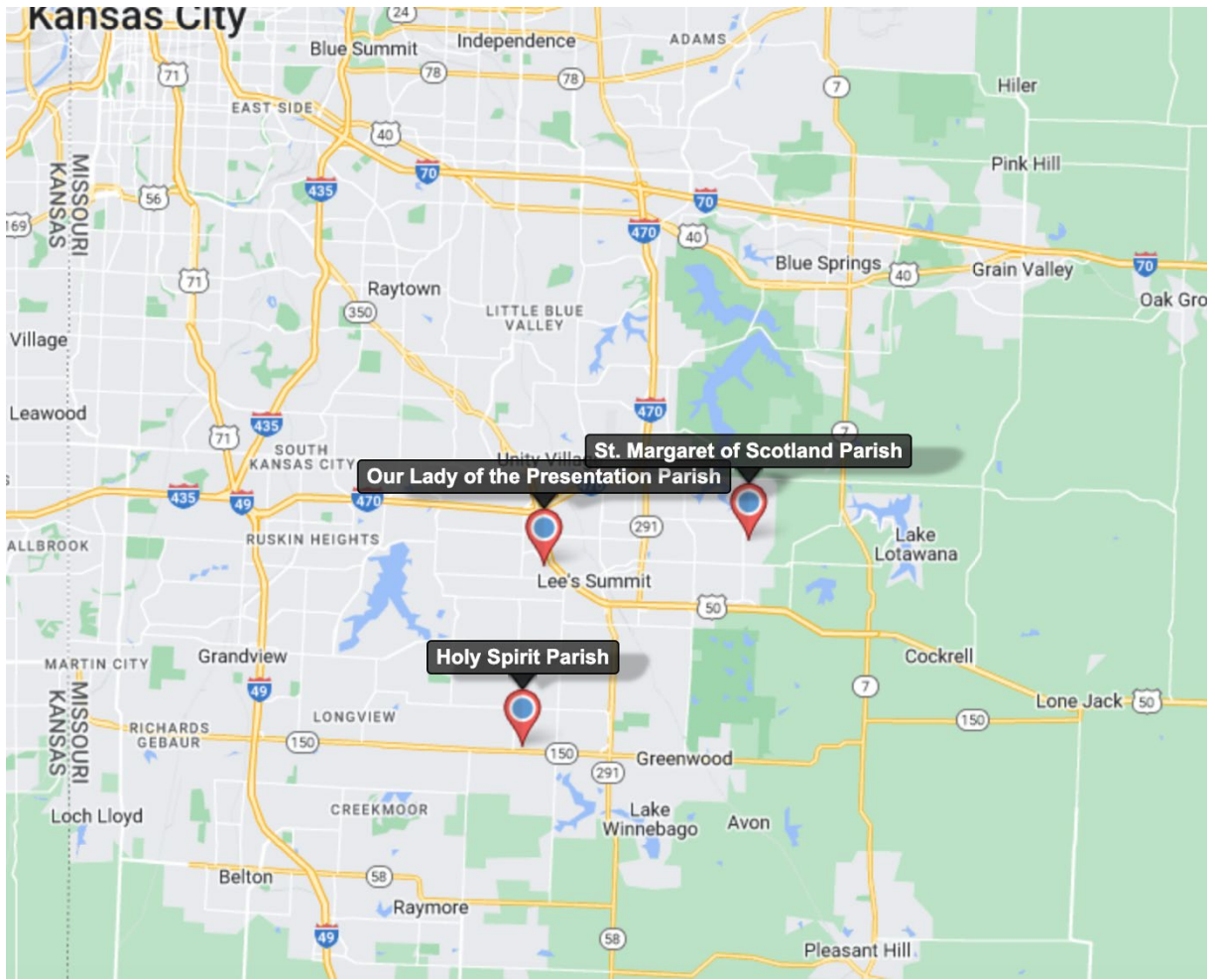
One type of merger has two or more parishes being combined into an existing parish. The parishes are closed, and the churches can either be closed or serve as worship sites. Another type of merger has the merging parishes combined into one parish with a combination name formed from those of both parishes. The third type of merger has two or more parishes become a new parish with a new name, one pastor, finances, finance and pastoral councils, parish staff and office. One church is identified as the parish or "primary church." There can be additional sites for Mass and other celebrations which are referred to as "secondary churches."

SHARED PARISHES

A shared parish is one in which two or more languages or cultural contexts are present in the ministerial life of the parish, and they worship and share their common faith under the same roof. The Conference of Bishops prefers this strategy to the designation of a parish for a particular culture, ethnic or racial group.

V. LEE'S SUMMIT PASTORAL PLAN

MAP OF PARISHES



PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARISHES OF LEE’S SUMMIT

1. OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION PARISH, ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND PARISH, AND HOLY SPIRIT PARISH WILL FORM A FAMILY OF COLLABORATING PARISHES.

- A. Our Lady of the Presentation Parish will remain a stand-alone parish but will collaborate with St. Margaret of Scotland Parish and Holy Spirit Parish to support their building projects and to develop shared ministries.

Parish Facts

Our Lady of the Presentation Parish, Lee’s Summit

Parish data	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Change 17/18-22/23	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	74	83	54	56	89	84	10	14%
Youth First Communions	112	106	102	98	97	120	8	7%
Youth Confirmations	90	78	79	54	75	58	-32	-36%
Youth Catechumens	8	7	8	12	12	8	0	0%
Adult Catechumens	10	3	5	9	5	20	10	100%
Number of Candidates	23	22	5	13	28	14	-9	-39%
Marriages	21	14	20	11	21	14	-7	-33%
Deaths	44	42	28	32	30	49	5	11%
Registered Catholic households ¹	2,301	2,376	2,487	2,532	2,628	2,687	386	17%
Average Mass attendance	2,178	2,343	765	1,353	1,653	1,941	-237	-11%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	216	206	230	153	167	201	-15	-7%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	56	132	10	89	25	25	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2024 is 2,698.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

Our Lady of the Presentation Parish Recommendations

1. Revise and update the master site plan of the parish facilities.
2. Consider the emerging and long-term need for additional seating capacity in the church.
3. Study the options for a larger capacity parish hall on campus.

- B. St. Margaret of Scotland Parish will remain a stand-alone parish but will collaborate with Our Lady of the Presentation Parish and Holy Spirit Parish to support building projects and to develop shared ministries.

Parish Facts

St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Lee’s Summit

Parish data	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Change 17/18-22/23	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	8	13	12	8	8	2	-6	-75%
Youth First Communions	32	15	13	20	6	8	-24	-75%
Youth Confirmations	20	23	6	16	12	7	-13	-65%
Youth Catechumens	1	1	0	0	8	0	-1	-100%
Adult Catechumens	2	4	1	6	2	0	-2	-100%
Number of Candidates	0	2	1	6	2	1	1	
Marriages	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0%
Deaths	15	3	4	6	6	2	-13	-87%
Registered Catholic households ¹	589	570	536	530	540	540	-49	-8%
Average Mass attendance	713	821	196	325	405	357	-357	-50%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	143	142	121	111	59	12	-131	-92%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2024 is 540.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Recommendations

1. Develop a membership growth plan with an emphasis on newcomers to the area, hospitality efforts, and the orientation and engagement of new members.
2. Proceed with plans for the renovation and update of the parish church.
3. Develop a funding and construction plan for the next phase of site development.
4. Develop a master site plan which includes possible future projects.
5. Hire a Director of Stewardship to oversee parish stewardship and communication efforts.

- C. Holy Spirit Parish will remain a stand-alone parish but will collaborate with Our Lady of the Presentation Parish and St. Margaret of Scotland Parish to support building projects and to develop shared ministries.

Parish Facts

Holy Spirit Parish, Lee’s Summit

Parish data	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Change 17/18-22/23	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	37	37	38	28	30	22	-15	-41%
Youth First Communions	41	33	25	40	30	23	-18	-44%
Youth Confirmations	51	51	52	23	22	30	-21	-41%
Youth Catechumens	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	
Adult Catechumens	2	5	9	1	3	2	0	0%
Number of Candidates	3	3	4	4	1	4	1	33%
Marriages	9	9	9	6	8	7	-2	-22%
Deaths	24	25	26	24	24	11	-13	-54%
Registered Catholic households ¹	1,681	1,640	1,603	1,570	1,567	1,584	-97	-6%
Average Mass attendance	1,110	1,110	331	681	811	766	-344	-31%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	191	188	186	120	127	90	-101	-53%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	10	11	12	15	4	0	-10	-100%

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2024 is 1,600.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form

Holy Spirit Parish Recommendations

1. Proceed with a strategy for debt reduction.
2. Conduct a study regarding the opening of a Catholic elementary school at the parish site, which includes enrollment potential, use of existing facilities, additional facility needs, and financial capacity to operate the school on an ongoing basis.
3. Develop a master site plan to accommodate future needs for parking and other ministry needs.

Recommendations for the Parishes of Lee’s Summit

1. Determine a schedule for regular meetings of pastors/priests of the parishes and any staff who will be involved in shared ministries. **(Councils priority)**
2. Identify how the parish pastoral councils will be involved in the ongoing planning and activity of the collaboration among the parishes. **(Councils priority)**
3. Study the need for a financial assessment of the parishes for any collaborative staff or ministries. The parishes might consider a formula based on the number of households in each parish.
4. Proceed under the assumption that the collaborative efforts are currently viewed as short term, extending over a period of 3-5 years, dependent upon the evaluation of the bishop and the pastors.
5. Determine the extent of collaboration which will be needed, particularly during the renovation of St. Margaret of Scotland’s worship space.

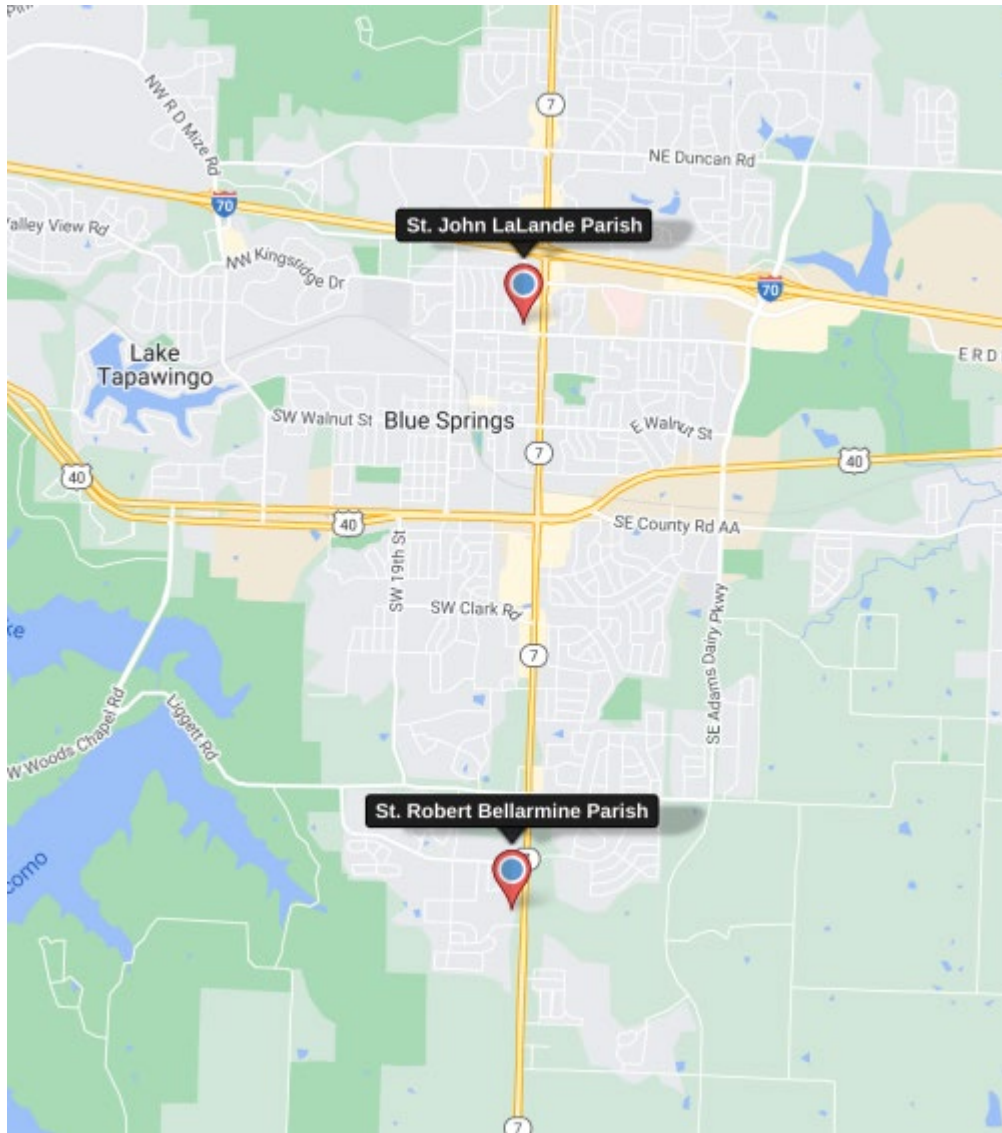
6. Develop a plan to provide pastoral care to the many nursing homes and care facilities in the three-parish area. Most of these facilities are located near Our Lady of the Presentation but serve people from all three parishes.
7. Study the benefits of having a shared rectory for priests at all three parishes.
8. Establish a young adult ministry, working with the Diocesan “City on a Hill” and funded by all three parishes. **(Councils priority)**
9. Identify, initially, key youth ministry events which can be shared by all three parishes, in addition to local events and activities at each of the individual parishes and explore the potential for a city-wide youth ministry. **(Councils priority)**
10. Consider the establishment of a common communication platform for collaborative activities among the parishes.
11. Study the potential for parishes to use a common stewardship approach in each individual parish. **(Councils priority)**
12. Develop a shared approach to the catechetical component of RCIA with each parish celebrating the liturgical rites in their respective parishes.
13. As parish memberships continue to increase, study the feasibility of adding a fourth parish in Lee’s Summit in the vicinity of St. Michael the Archangel High School. The establishment and growth of this parish could follow a similar model of collaboration among all the parishes as introduced in this plan.

Projected Impact of the Recommendations for the Parishes of Lee’s Summit

1. All parishes will benefit from collaboration on some key ministries. Together, these parishes represent approximately 4,838 households as of January 2024 and have financial resources of approximately \$5,219,957. While most of those financial resources are dedicated to facilities, personnel, and programs, there are some funds which can be shared to maximize the use of staff and the further development of ministries.
2. The population in the area will continue to grow, meaning there are opportunities for all the parishes to support one another in their construction efforts and build stronger ministries for Lee’s Summit.
3. With good planning and leadership, all the parishes in Lee’s Summit should experience membership growth which will enhance their viability and sustainability.

VI. BLUE SPRINGS PASTORAL PLAN

MAP OF PARISHES



PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PARISHES OF BLUE SPRINGS

1. ST. JOHN LALANDE PARISH AND ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE PARISH WILL FORM A FAMILY OF COLLABORATING PARISHES.

- A. St. John LaLande Parish will remain a stand-alone parish but will collaborate with St. Robert Bellarmine Parish to support building projects and to develop shared ministries.

Parish Facts

St. John LaLande Parish, Blue Springs

Parish data	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Change 17/18-22/23	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	16	28	24	16	27	14	-2	-13%
Youth First Communions	32	42	32	45	43	49	17	53%
Youth Confirmations	30	51	34	3	25	44	14	47%
Youth Catechumens	0	1	1	3	7	2	2	
Adult Catechumens	1	4	3	6	2	2	1	100%
Number of Candidates	4	9	4	5	15	3	-1	-25%
Marriages	11	7	6	5	3	3	-8	-73%
Deaths	27	26	13	35	31	18	-9	-33%
Registered Catholic households ¹	1,206	1,264	1,027	987	1,071	1,038	-168	-14%
Average Mass attendance	1,005	1,133	400	673	753	852	-152	-15%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	139	152	136	111	102	110	-29	-21%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2024 is 780.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

St. John LaLande Parish Recommendations

1. Develop a plan for membership growth which includes an emphasis on newcomers to the area, increased hospitality efforts, and the orientation and engagement of new members.
2. Proceed with the planning for the proposed capital campaign.
3. Study the potential for increased Catholic school enrollment in the area.

- B. St. Robert Bellarmine Parish will remain a stand-alone parish but will collaborate with St. John LaLande Parish to support building projects and to develop shared ministries.

Parish Facts

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Blue Springs

Parish data	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Change 17/18-22/23	
							Number	Percent
Infant baptisms	26	15	18	17	17	17	-9	-35%
Youth First Communions	21	15	19	24	26	26	5	24%
Youth Confirmations	15	32	24	24	12	11	-4	-27%
Youth Catechumens	<i>1</i>	4	1	0	1	0	-1	-100%
Adult Catechumens	2	4	0	5	1	1	-1	-50%
Number of Candidates	2	4	0	0	1	3	1	50%
Marriages	6	6	2	2	3	13	7	117%
Deaths	12	10	14	13	10	13	1	8%
Registered Catholic households ¹	699	948	1,066	1,159	625	614	-85	-12%
Average Mass attendance	907	963	345	606	641	683	-225	-25%
K to 8 Parish School of Religion Enr.	145	138	102	89	101	97	-48	-33%
9 to 12 Parish School of Religion Enr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

¹ Number of registered parish households as of January 1, 2024 is 637.

Number in italics indicates estimate based on trend as data was not provided.

Source: *Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Spirituality Reports and parish data form*

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Recommendations

1. Develop a membership growth plan which emphasizes newcomers to the area, hospitality efforts, and the orientation and engagement of new members.
2. Conduct a feasibility study regarding a new school which includes enrollment potential, facility needs, and the financial support required for the ongoing operation of a school.
3. Conduct a capital campaign strategy to fund a one-time or multi-phase construction project.
4. Develop a master site plan which addresses future needs for parking and/or facilities.

Recommendations for the Parishes of Blue Springs

1. Determine a schedule for regular meetings of pastors of the parishes and any staff who will be involved in shared ministries. **(Councils priority)**
2. Identify how the parish pastoral councils will be involved in the ongoing planning and activity of the collaboration among the parishes. **(Councils priority)**
3. Study the need for a financial assessment of the parishes for any collaborative staff or ministries. The parishes might consider a formula based on the number of households in each parish.
4. Consider the development of a city-wide RCIA process with liturgical celebrations in each parish. **(Councils priority)**
5. After a year of transition to a younger age group, develop a city-wide approach to Confirmation preparation.
6. Collaborate on an area evangelization strategy, incorporating the Legion of Mary, young mothers' groups, and parish welcoming committees.

7. Develop a city-wide youth ministry program which includes Confirmation preparation and joint retreats.
8. Develop a city-wide young adult ministry for ages 20 through 40, which includes the parents of young children.
9. Study the potential for conducting a joint summer faith day camp for preschool and elementary-aged children. **(Councils priority)**
10. Expand homebound ministries, ministries to all the nursing homes and care facilities, and other ministries for seniors. **(Councils priority)**
11. Strengthen city-wide outreach ministries, in consultation with the Parish Outreach Manager at Catholic Charities.
12. Study communication efforts at both parishes to ensure that they are reaching both older and younger Catholics effectively and to identify any potential for shared communications.

Projected Impact of Recommendations for the Parishes of Blue Springs

1. Both parishes will benefit from collaboration on some key ministries. The parishes have a combined membership of 1,417 households as of January 2024, with revenues of \$2,692,928. While most of those resources are directed to facilities, personnel, and programs, there are some funds which can be shared to maximize the use of staff and the further development of ministries.
2. With a sizable landscape for further housing projects in Blue Springs, the population in the area is likely to continue its increase. These developments should enhance the sustainability and vibrancy of both parishes.

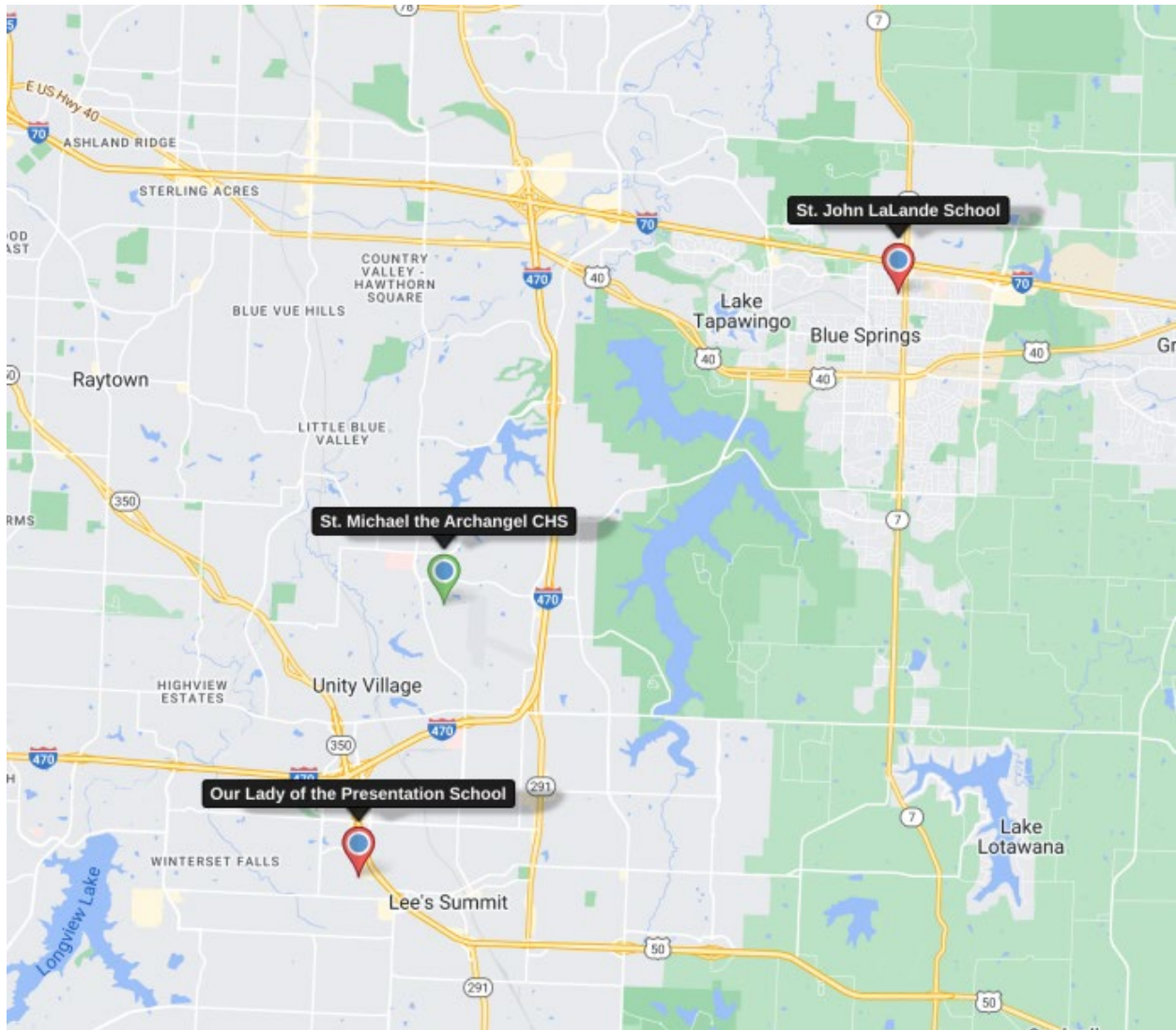
VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PASTORAL PLAN

With the approval of the pastoral plan in January 2025, the full implementation of the plan will begin. The following groups will play an important role in the pastoral plan's implementation.

1. The terms and roles of the Deanery Planning Committee representatives who have shaped the pastoral plan will end in January of 2025, with the approval of the plan by the Bishop.
2. The parish pastoral councils will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan on the parish level.
3. Joint pastoral council meetings should be convened to discuss and act upon recommendations for the group of parishes.
4. Joint pastoral councils may choose to establish task groups in certain areas of ministry. Bringing together appropriate staff or ministerial leaders to help develop collaborative ministry will be most helpful.
5. The priests in the deanery and parish staffs should monitor the progress or lack of progress on the implementation of the plan at their regularly scheduled deanery and parish staff meetings.
6. The implementation of the recommendations for the establishment of collaborative relationships rests with the Vicar General for Pastoral Affairs and the pastors assigned to the parishes.

VIII. LEE'S SUMMIT AND BLUE SPRINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

MAP OF SCHOOLS



OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL DATA AND OBSERVATIONS

Enrollment Trends

By Grade	Actuals						Capacity % of Cap.		Change 19-20 to 24-25	
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	by Grade	2024-25	Number	Percent
K	50	53	60	68	63	60	63	95%	10	20%
1	52	56	55	55	66	62	63	98%	10	19%
2	55	57	58	60	56	67	63	106%	12	22%
3	53	56	62	62	60	52	63	83%	-1	-2%
4	52	56	60	63	63	63	63	100%	11	21%
5	53	53	61	61	63	64	63	102%	11	21%
6	47	47	55	61	63	64	63	102%	17	36%
7	47	47	50	57	63	62	63	98%	15	32%
8	59	59	51	51	56	61	63	97%	2	3%
Total K-8	468	484	512	538	553	555	567	98%	87	19%

Source: Our Lady of the Presentation School

Enrollment at Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic School is strong. It has been growing for the last several years (up 19% from 2019-20 to 2024-25). The school is very close to capacity (98%) and has waiting lists in several grades.

Retention Rates

Net Gain/Loss by Grade	From:	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Average
	To:	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
K to 1st		6	2	-5	-2	-1	
Net Retention Rate from K to 1st		112%	104%	92%	97%	98%	101%
1st to 2nd		5	2	5	1	1	
Net Retention Rate from 1st to 2nd		110%	104%	109%	102%	102%	105%
2nd to 3rd		1	5	4	0	-4	
Net Retention Rate from 2nd to 3rd		102%	109%	107%	100%	93%	102%
3rd to 4th		3	4	1	1	3	
Net Retention Rate from 3rd to 4th		106%	107%	102%	102%	105%	104%
4th to 5th		1	5	1	0	1	
Net Retention Rate from 4th to 5th		102%	109%	102%	100%	102%	103%
5th to 6th		-6	2	0	2	1	
Net Retention Rate from 5th to 6th		89%	104%	100%	103%	102%	99%
6th to 7th		0	3	2	2	-1	
Net Retention Rate from 6th to 7th		100%	106%	104%	103%	98%	102%
7th to 8th		12	4	1	-1	-2	
Net Retention Rate from 7th to 8th		126%	109%	102%	98%	97%	106%
Total Gain/Loss		22	27	9	3	-2	

Source: Our Lady of the Presentation School

The net retention rate, which considers both the number of students leaving and new students joining after kindergarten, is above 100% for almost all grades. This means that the number of new students joining is equal to or greater than the number of students leaving.

2023-24 Source of Enrollment by Parish

Parish	City	# Enrolled in 2023-24
Our Lady of the Presentation	Lee's Summit	461
Nativity of Mary	Independence	1
Holy Spirit	Lee's Summit	22
Holy Martyrs	Kansas City	4
St. Robert Bellarmine	Blue Springs	1
St. Sabina	Belton	3
St. Mark	Independence	8
Cathedral	Kansas City	1
St. Margaret of Scotland	Lee's Summit	23
Other Catholic/unknown		18
Total Catholic		542
Non-Catholic Students		11
Total Enrolled		553

Source: Our Lady of the Presentation School

A high majority of the students at Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic School are members of Our Lady of the Presentation Parish, but the school does enroll some students from other Catholic parishes, as well as a small number of non-Catholic students.

Tuition Rates

Rates	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Tuition Rates						
Catholic parishioner						
1 student	\$5,175	\$5,305	\$5,360	\$5,470	\$5,745	\$6,030
% increase		2.5%	1.0%	2.1%	5.0%	5.0%
2 student family	8,635	8,855	8,945	9,125	9,580	10,060
3 student family	11,115	11,435	11,550	11,780	12,370	12,990
Non parishioner						
Per student	\$6,380	\$6,540	\$6,605	\$6,740	\$7,080	\$7,435
% increase		2.5%	1.0%	2.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Registration Fee	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350

Source: Our Lady of the Presentation School

Our Lady of the Presentation has separate tuition rates for parishioners and non-parishioners, and a multi-child discount for parishioners. Tuition has increased each year between 1.0% and 5.0%.

Tuition Assistance and Scholarships

Type of Assistance	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	# Students	Dollars	# Students	Dollars	# Students	Dollars
MO Scholars or Bright Futures Scholarships			20	\$100,665	20	\$121,934
School-funded tuition assistance	34	79,154	31	63,784	28	67,625
Other tuition assistance						
Total	34	\$79,154	51	\$164,449	48	\$189,559

Source: *Our Lady of the Presentation School*

In 2023-24, there were 20 Our Lady of the Presentation parish students receiving tuition assistance through the MO Scholars program, and 28 students receiving school-funded tuition assistance. In all, 8.7% of students received some form of tuition assistance.

ST. JOHN LALANDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL DATA AND OBSERVATIONS

Enrollment Trends

By Grade	Actuals						Capacity % of Cap.		Change 19-20 to 24-25	
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	by Grade	2024-25	Number	Percent
PK-3	17	2	14	14	8	4	10	40%	-13	-76%
PK-4	11	12	14	7	6	11	10	110%	0	0%
K-Prep	10	0	0	10	10	10	10	100%	0	0%
K	17	22	18	23	25	21	25	84%	4	24%
1	19	15	22	20	22	25	25	100%	6	32%
2	18	20	16	25	22	22	25	88%	4	22%
3	13	15	24	21	25	22	25	88%	9	69%
4	20	14	17	25	22	25	25	100%	5	25%
5	23	22	16	20	25	20	25	80%	-3	-13%
6	16	21	22	19	22	24	25	96%	8	50%
7	18	19	23	23	25	20	25	80%	2	11%
8	29	18	16	22	19	23	25	92%	-6	-21%
Total K-8	173	166	174	198	207	202	225	90%	29	17%
Total PK-8	211	180	202	229	231	227	255	89%	16	8%

Source: St. John LaLande School

Enrollment at St. John LaLande Catholic School is strong. It has been growing for the last several years (up 17% in grades K-8 from 2019-20 to 2024-25). The school is close to capacity (89%) and has waiting lists in several grades.

Retention Rates

Net Gain/Loss by Grade	From:	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Average
	To:	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
K to 1st		-2	0	2	-1	0	
Net Retention Rate from K to 1st		88%	100%	111%	96%	100%	99%
1st to 2nd		1	1	3	2	0	
Net Retention Rate from 1st to 2nd		105%	107%	114%	110%	100%	107%
2nd to 3rd		-3	4	5	0	0	
Net Retention Rate from 2nd to 3rd		83%	120%	131%	100%	100%	107%
3rd to 4th		1	2	1	1	0	
Net Retention Rate from 3rd to 4th		108%	113%	104%	105%	100%	106%
4th to 5th		2	2	3	0	-2	
Net Retention Rate from 4th to 5th		110%	114%	118%	100%	91%	107%
5th to 6th		-2	0	3	2	-1	
Net Retention Rate from 5th to 6th		91%	100%	119%	110%	96%	103%
6th to 7th		3	2	1	6	-2	
Net Retention Rate from 6th to 7th		119%	110%	105%	132%	91%	111%
7th to 8th		0	-3	-1	-4	-2	
Net Retention Rate from 7th to 8th		100%	84%	96%	83%	92%	91%
Total Gain/Loss		0	8	17	6	-7	

Source: St. John LaLande School

The net retention rate, which considers both the number of students leaving and new students joining after kindergarten, is above 100% for most grades. This means that the number of new students joining is equal to or greater than the number of students leaving.

2023-24 Source of Enrollment by Parish

Parish	City	# Enrolled in 2023-24
St. John LaLande	Blue Springs	93
St. Robert Bellarmine	Blue Springs	7
St. Mark	Independence	11
Our Lady of the Presentation	Lee's Summit	1
Nativity of Mary	Independence	2
St. Margaret of Scotland	Lee's Summit	1
Sacred Heart-Guadalupe	Kansas City	1
Holy Rosary	Kansas City	1
Total Catholic		117
Non-Catholic Students		24
Total Enrolled		141

Note: Data is unavailable for a large number of students.

Source: St. John LaLande School

For 2023-24, St. John LaLande has data on student parishes for only 141 out of 207 students. Of those 141, a majority are members of St. John LaLande Parish. The school does enroll some students from other Catholic parishes, as well as at least 24 non-Catholic students.

Tuition Rates

Rates	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Tuition Rates						
Catholic parishioner						
1 student	\$5,045	\$5,200	\$5,330	\$5,650	\$5,791	\$6,115
% increase		3.1%	2.5%	6.0%	2.5%	5.6%
2 student family	8,903	8,903	9,030	9,572	9,811	10,255
3 student family	11,158	11,480	11,760	12,466	12,777	13,160
Non parishioner						
1 student	\$5,900	\$6,075	\$6,375	\$6,758	\$6,927	\$7,285
% increase		3.0%	4.9%	6.0%	2.5%	5.2%
2 student family	10,488			12,257	12,563	13,090
3 student family					16,458	16,952
Registration Fee	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200

Source: St. John LaLande School

St. John LaLande has separate tuition rates for parishioners and non-parishioners, as well as a multi-child discount for both parishioners and non-parishioners. Tuition has increased each year between 2.5% and 6.0%.

Tuition Assistance and Scholarships

Type of Assistance	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	# Students	Dollars	# Students	Dollars	# Students	Dollars
MO Scholars or Bright Futures Scholarships	0	\$0	13	\$87,685	32	\$201,577
School-funded tuition assistance	24	34,250	30	38,200	8	13,937
Other tuition assistance	23	66,301	21	82,951	18	71,007
Total	47	\$100,551	64	\$208,836	58	\$286,521

Source: St. John LaLande School

In 2023-24, there were 32 St. John LaLande students receiving tuition assistance through the MO Scholars program, 8 students receiving school-funded tuition assistance, and 18 students receiving tuition assistance from other sources. In all, 28% of students received some form of tuition assistance.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DATA AND OBSERVATIONS

Enrollment Trends

By Grade	Actuals						Capacity % of Cap.		Change 19-20 to 24-25	
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	by Grade	2024-25	Number	Percent
9	89	89	107	121	132	116	135	86%	27	30%
10	98	93	88	105	121	136	125	109%	38	39%
11	85	97	95	90	104	120	115	104%	35	41%
12	67	77	98	88	88	97	105	92%	30	45%
Total	339	356	388	404	445	469	480	98%	130	38%

Source: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

Enrollment at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School has been growing for the last several years (up 38% from 2019-20 to 2024-25). The school is close to its staffing capacity (98%), so if there is much more growth the school will need to hire more teachers. The building capacity is slightly larger (about 550 students).

Retention Rates

Net Gain/Loss by Grade	From:	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Average
	To:	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
9th to 10th		4	-1	-2	0	4	
Net Retention Rate from 9th to 10th		104%	99%	98%	100%	103%	101%
10th to 11th		-1	2	2	-1	-1	
Net Retention Rate from 10th to 11th		99%	102%	102%	99%	99%	100%
11th to 12th		-8	1	-7	-2	-7	
Net Retention Rate from 11th to 12th		91%	101%	93%	98%	93%	95%
Total Gain/Loss		-5	2	-7	-3	-4	

Source: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

The net retention rate, which considers both the number of students leaving and new students joining after 9th grade, is around 100% for most grades. This means that the number of new students joining is equal to the number of students leaving.

2023-24 Source of Enrollment by Parish

Parish	City	# Enrolled in 2023-24
Our Lady of the Presentation	Lee's Summit	129
St. John LaLande	Blue Springs	54
Nativity of Mary	Independence	36
Holy Spirit	Lee's Summit	17
St. Mark	Independence	15
St. Thomas More	Kansas City	15
St. John Francis Regis	Kansas City	12
St. Robert Bellarmine	Blue Springs	9
St. Elizabeth	Kansas City	8
St. Margaret of Scotland	Lee's Summit	7
St. Anthony	Kansas City	3
St. Bridget	Pleasant Hill	3
Holy Cross	Kansas City	2
Our Lady of Lourdes	Raytown	2
St. Ann	Independence	2
St. Catherine of Siena	Kansas City	2
St. Mary	Independence	2
Church of the Santa Fe	Buckner	1
Guardian Angels	Kansas City	1
Our Lady of Good Counsel	Kansas City	1
St. Jude the Apostle	Oak Grove	1
St. Therese Little Flower	Kansas City	1
Other/undecided		16
Total Catholic		339
Non-Catholic Students		106
Total Enrolled		445

Source: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

About three-fourths of St. Michael students are Catholic, coming from a wide range of parishes. Of the 339 students who are Catholic, about 64% come from the five parishes in Blue Springs and Lee's Summit, while the other 36% come from Catholic parishes in other communities.

Source of 9th Grade Enrollment by Feeder School

Elementary School	City	9th grade in:	
		2022-23	2023-24
Catholic			
Our Lady of the Presentation	Lee's Summit	36	37
St. John LaLande	Blue Springs	10	20
Nativity of Mary	Independence	13	15
St. Thomas More	Kansas City	7	8
St. Elizabeth	Kansas City	3	5
St. Regis	Kansas City	3	2
Holy Cross	Kansas City	2	1
Queen of Martyrs	Illinois	0	1
Visitation	Kansas City	0	1
St. Therese	Parkville	1	0
Total Catholic		75	90
Total from public schools		37	32
Total from other private schools		7	8
Total from home school/other		2	2
Total Enrolled		121	132

Source: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

About two-thirds of St. Michael 9th grade students come from Catholic schools, with the remainder coming primarily from public schools. Of the 90 Catholic freshman students in 2023-24, 57 of them (63%) came from Our Lady of the Presentation and St. John LaLande.

Tuition Rates

Rates	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Tuition Rates						
1 student	\$9,995	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$10,600	\$11,200	\$11,800
% increase		2.1%	0.0%	3.9%	5.7%	5.4%
2 student family	19,490	19,900	19,900	20,700	21,900	23,100
3 student family	19,490	19,900	19,900	20,700	21,900	23,100
Fees						
Registration fee	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$400	\$400	\$400
Technology fee	0	0	0	0	0	200

Source: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School tuition has increased each year (except for 2021) between 2.1% and 5.7%. There is a small tuition grant for Catholic parishioners, as well as a small discount for a second child enrolled at the school. Tuition for a third child from a single family enrolled in the same year is waived.

Tuition Assistance and Scholarships

Type of Assistance	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	# Students	Dollars	# Students	Dollars	# Students	Dollars
MO Scholars or Bright Futures Scholarships	0	\$0	7	\$44,625	21	\$133,875
School-funded tuition assistance	141	339,350	155	282,445	179	390,370
Annual or semi-annual pay discount	191	13,350	1	100	0	0
Diocesan employee discount	20	19,500	16	16,000	17	17,000
SMA employee discount	6	63,375	6	67,175	5	58,488
Multiple student discount	58	29,000	105	71,900	111	77,000
Parishioner discount	303	212,100	249	174,000	277	194,000
Outside scholarships	170	254,745	170	323,234	154	231,380
Total		\$931,420		\$979,479		\$1,102,113

Source: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

In 2023-24, there were 21 St. Michael the Archangel students receiving tuition assistance through the MO Scholars program, 179 students receiving school-funded tuition assistance, and 154 students receiving tuition assistance from outside sources.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS

As part of this planning process, Meitler met with each of the principals of the three existing Catholic schools to discuss strengths and opportunities.

- All three principals stated that Catholic identity and core academics are strong at their schools.
- The two elementary schools have not needed to develop robust marketing programs.
- The two elementary schools do some fundraising but do not have formal advancement/development programs and do not conduct an annual fund appeal. St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School has more substantial advancement/development activities, but because it is a newer school with a small alumni base, it has not yet developed a consistent annual fund appeal.
- The MO Scholars program is seen as a positive opportunity to help the schools financially and help them to serve families that they might not otherwise have been able to serve. The program is not a panacea, however, because many families do not qualify.
- Principals at Our Lady of the Presentation, St. John LaLande, Nativity in Independence, and St. Regis in Kansas City meet regularly. The relationship is positive, and there is informal collaboration as needed.
- Principals at Our Lady of the Presentation and St. John LaLande do not feel there is strong interest in a shared middle school for the region.

SCHOOL SURVEY DATA AND OBSERVATIONS

As part of this planning process, Meitler conducted a survey of parents in the region, including not only parents with children in the Catholic schools but also Catholic parents from area parishes whose children are not enrolled in the Catholic schools.

1. Many respondents who did not have their children in Catholic schools had taken some sort of action to learn about Catholic schools before making their decision: looking at a Catholic school website, speaking with other parents about a Catholic school, requesting information from the Catholic school, and/or taking a tour of a Catholic school. These responses demonstrate that a good number of Catholic families who ended up not enrolling in Catholic schools were open to the possibility.
2. Many respondents who did not have their children in Catholic schools thought that several things were stronger in their current school than in Catholic schools: athletics, diversity, extra-curriculars, learning support, convenient location, and STEM programs. At the same time, many of them thought there were several things that were stronger in Catholic schools: academic programs in general, caring environment, class size, classroom discipline, safety and security, and values and character formation. These parents recognize some of the strengths of Catholic schools, even though they have chosen to enroll their children elsewhere.
3. Parents with children in Catholic schools were most likely to identify academic quality, commitment to Catholic education, and the values of the school aligning with the values of the family as their top reasons for choosing the Catholic school. Parents with children in non-Catholic schools were most likely to identify academic quality, finances, and location/convenience as their top reasons for choosing the school they did.
4. Parents with children in Catholic schools were asked how important various educational factors were to them. Several factors were very important to almost all parents: caring teachers, safety/security, quality teaching, a sense of community, development of study habits and learning skills, high academic expectations, and good communication. Other factors were very important to smaller numbers of parents. For example, factors having to do with Catholic mission and identity (effective teaching of Catholic faith, strong Catholic culture, centrality of prayer and Mass) were very important to between 58% and 65% of parents. This information about parent priorities can inform Catholic school marketing efforts. It is also a reminder of the vital opportunity a Catholic school has to help families grow in their appreciation of the importance of the Catholic faith during their time at the school.
5. Parents with at least one child in Catholic schools were then given the same list of 17 educational factors and were asked to rate each one, on a scale of 1 to 4, in terms of how effective their Catholic school is in that area. The six things that had the highest average effectiveness score included four of the factors that were rated highest on importance: safety/security, caring teachers, a sense of community, and good communication. High academic expectations, the quality of teaching, and the development of study habits and learning skills were seen as slightly less effective. This suggests an opportunity for Catholic schools to work both on continually improving academic quality and on communicating to parents how that academic quality is present in the education their children are receiving.
6. The survey also asked several questions related to enrollment potential at a possible Catholic school at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish. Those results and an enrollment potential analysis have been provided to the Diocese in a separate report.

SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the Schools of Lee's Summit and Blue Springs

1. Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic School and St. John LaLande Catholic School should maintain their current size, seeking to be as close to 100% capacity as possible. St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School should continue to grow until it reaches its building capacity. Do not be afraid of waiting lists – they are a sign of school health, and not necessarily evidence of enough interest to make the leap to being a larger school.
2. Healthy enrollment should never be taken for granted, so Our Lady of the Presentation and St. John LaLande should continue to work on improving their marketing strategies and recruitment systems.
3. Catholic identity should never be taken for granted, so all three schools should continue to work on the faith formation that they provide to faculty and staff. Frequent opportunities should be provided for faculty and staff to learn more about Catholic identity and reflect on how they integrate it into their daily work.
4. Academic quality should never be taken for granted, so all three schools should continue to work on professional development for teachers, using data to improve instruction, using standards to align curriculum and instruction, and seeking resources to improve areas such as STEM and learning support.
5. Each school should work to increase the number of students participating in the MO Scholars program through targeted communication with prospective parents.
6. To strengthen a balanced funding model and decrease reliance on tuition, each school should work on improving its advancement/development efforts, including implementing an annual fund appeal.

APPENDIX

Appendix A

School Survey Data

Information about Meitler’s survey was distributed to parents at all three of the Catholic schools and all five of the Catholic parishes in the Blue Springs and Lee’s Summit area. In addition, the information and survey link were also shared with three other parishes (St. Mark in Independence, St. Jude in Oak Grove, and St. Bridget in Pleasant Hill). The survey was conducted online in late April and early May 2024.

Additional survey data that was specific to each school was shared with the school’s principal. The survey data here is relevant to the Catholic schools as a whole.

Survey Respondents by Parish

Parish	Count	Percent
Holy Spirit	38	7.4%
Our Lady of the Presentation	244	47.7%
St. John LaLande	58	11.4%
St. Margaret of Scotland	29	5.7%
St. Robert Bellarmine	30	5.9%
St. Bridget, Pleasant Hill	7	1.4%
St. Jude, Oak Grove	6	1.2%
St. Mark, Independence	14	2.7%
Other Catholic Parish	40	7.8%
Catholic, not registered	5	1.0%
Subtotal	471	92.2%
Other Christian denomination	29	5.7%
Not a member of a church	11	2.2%
Total Respondents	511	100%

By a significant margin, the highest number of responses came from parishioners of Our Lady of the Presentation – almost 48% of total responses. Responses from the other parishes of Blue Springs and Lee’s Summit made up about 30% of total responses. About 14% came from other Catholic parishes, and about 8% are not Catholic.

School (K-8)	Respondents (Households)
Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic School	176
St. John LaLande Catholic School	50
Other Catholic elementary school	12
Local Public School	107
Private, non-religious school	4
Non-Catholic religious school	5
Home school	8

Among respondents who had children in kindergarten through 8th grade, the largest number (176) had children enrolled at Our Lady of the Presentation. The second largest number (107) had children enrolled in a public school.

School (9-12)	Respondents (Households)
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School	177
Other Catholic high school	9
Local Public School	30
Private, non-religious school	1
Non-Catholic religious school	0
Home school	1

Among respondents who had children in grades 9-12, the largest number (177) had children enrolled at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School. A much smaller number (30) had children enrolled in a public school.

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Looked at a Catholic school website	78	59.1%
Contacted a Catholic school for information	52	39.4%
Took a tour of a Catholic school	55	41.7%
Spoke with other parents about a Catholic school	79	59.8%

R= 132

Note: Respondents could select more than one option.

Respondents who did not have their children in Catholic schools were asked if they had taken various actions to learn about Catholic schools before making their decision. Almost 60% had looked at a Catholic school website, and a similar percentage had spoken with other parents about a Catholic school. Over 40% had even taken a tour of a Catholic school before deciding to enroll elsewhere.

Value	Stronger in Catholic Schools		Equal		Stronger in Current School		Don't Know	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Academic programs in general	45	34.1%	47	35.6%	26	19.7%	14	10.6%
Athletics/Sports	22	16.7%	32	24.2%	52	39.4%	26	19.7%
Caring environment	62	47.0%	42	31.8%	17	12.9%	11	8.3%
Class size	70	53.0%	36	27.3%	11	8.3%	15	11.4%
Classroom discipline that supports learning	68	51.5%	40	30.3%	9	6.8%	15	11.4%
Competent and qualified faculty	28	21.2%	67	50.8%	25	18.9%	11	8.3%
Diverse staff and students	11	8.3%	27	20.5%	70	53.0%	24	18.2%
Extra-curricular activities (non-sport)	13	9.8%	26	19.7%	66	50.0%	27	20.5%
Learning support for students who need extra help	21	15.9%	25	18.9%	58	43.9%	28	21.2%
Location/convenience	14	10.6%	33	25.0%	80	60.6%	5	3.8%
Safety and security	50	37.9%	51	38.6%	16	12.1%	15	11.4%
Science, math, and technology programs	25	18.9%	34	25.8%	48	36.4%	25	18.9%
Values and character formation	85	64.4%	34	25.8%	9	6.8%	4	3.0%

R=132

Respondents who did not have their children in Catholic schools were asked whether they thought certain educational elements were stronger in Catholic schools, in their current school, or about equal. For each element, there were some people who thought that element was stronger in Catholic schools while other people thought the same element was stronger in their current school. There were six elements that a significant number of respondents thought were stronger in their current school: athletics, diversity, extra-curriculars, learning support, convenient location, and STEM programs. There were also six elements that a

significant number of respondents thought were stronger in Catholic schools: academic programs in general, caring environment, class size, classroom discipline, safety and security, and values and character formation. These parents recognize some of the strengths of Catholic schools, even though they have chosen to enroll their children elsewhere.

Reason for Choosing Current School	In Catholic Schools	In Other Schools
Academic quality is high	43.5	39.6
Before/after school program	0.3	2.2
Caring environment	12.7	4.4
Class size	13.3	1.1
Classroom discipline that supports learning	9.6	1.1
Commitment to Catholic education	45.8	0.0
Diverse staff and students	0.0	7.7
Faculty are highly qualified	1.1	12.1
Financial (affordable, or no tuition)	2.2	57.2
Learning support for students who need extra help	3.6	7.7
Location – close to our home	7.5	40.7
Opportunities outside classroom - athletics, extra-curriculars	3.6	6.6
Safety and security	8.0	2.2
Values of the school align with the values of our family	43.8	5.5
Other	5.3	12.1

All parents with children enrolled in school (whether in Catholic or non-Catholic schools) were asked their top two reasons for why they chose the school they did. They were given a list of 14 answers, as well as an option for “other.” For both Catholic and non-Catholic schools, academic quality was a very common reason for the parents’ choice. Among those who chose Catholic schools, 43.5% identified academic quality as either their number one reason or their number two reason, while among those who chose non-Catholic schools, 39.6% identified academic quality as one of their top two reasons. For those parents who chose Catholic schools, the other two reasons that were chosen by a large number of parents were commitment to Catholic education and the values of the school aligning with the values of the family. For those parents who chose non-Catholic schools, the other two commonly identified reasons were finances and location.

Factor - By Importance	% choosing 4 - Very	Average Importance
Teachers care about the students	94.8	3.95
Safe, secure learning environment	94.5	3.94
Quality teaching methods are used	90.4	3.90
Students feel a strong sense of community	86.9	3.86
Children develop good study habits and learning skills	86.6	3.86
There is an expectation of academic excellence	86.6	3.85
Good communication from the school	85.2	3.84
Classroom discipline is good	72.1	3.69
Well-rounded education (with art, music, etc.)	67.7	3.63
Quality STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)	65.7	3.59
Resources for students who need extra academic challenge	67.2	3.57
Resources for students who need extra academic support	65.1	3.54
Catholic faith is taught in engaging, effective ways	64.8	3.52
Prayer and Mass are central parts of school life	61.0	3.44
Strong Catholic climate and culture in the school	58.3	3.41
There is a clear dress code that is enforced	45.6	3.19
Standardized test scores show my child is learning	23.3	2.72

Parents with at least one child in Catholic schools were given a list of 17 educational factors and were asked to rate each one, on a scale of 1 to 4, in terms of how important that factor was to them. There were seven factors that were very important (4) to almost all parents:

- Teachers care about the students
- Safe, secure learning environment
- Quality teaching methods are used
- Students feel a strong sense of community
- Children develop good study habits and learning skills
- There is an expectation of academic excellence
- Good communication from the school

A number of other factors, including factors having to do with Catholic mission and identity, were very important to a smaller group of parents.

Factor - By Effectiveness	% choosing 4 - Very	Average Effectiveness
Safe, secure learning environment	58.7	3.51
Prayer and Mass are central parts of school life	55.8	3.50
Teachers care about the students	57.6	3.48
Students feel a strong sense of community	55.2	3.44
Strong Catholic climate and culture in the school	47.4	3.39
Good communication from the school	50.6	3.37
Catholic faith is taught in engaging, effective ways	44.6	3.32
There is a clear dress code that is enforced	44.8	3.30
There is an expectation of academic excellence	40.4	3.28
Classroom discipline is good	41.0	3.22
Well-rounded education (with art, music, etc.)	32.8	3.13
Children develop good study habits and learning skills	28.5	3.11
Quality teaching methods are used	30.8	3.05
Resources for students who need extra academic challenge	23.3	2.96
Standardized test scores show my child is learning	18.3	2.95
Resources for students who need extra academic support	23.3	2.95
Quality STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)	18.6	2.79

Parents with at least one child in Catholic schools were then given the same list of 17 educational factors and were asked to rate each one, on a scale of 1 to 4, in terms of how effective their Catholic school is in that area. The six things that had the highest average effectiveness score included four of the factors that were rated highest on importance: safety/security, caring teachers, a sense of community, and good communication. High academic expectations, the quality of teaching, and the development of study habits and learning skills were seen as slightly less effective.