



## 2024 Goals

Our goal in 2024 is to achieve a balanced budget. This will allow us to hire a Director of Youth Formation during the year in addition to the staff already serving us. To achieve a balanced budget, we will need to increase our pledge income by 15%. To meet this goal, we ask you to prayerfully consider the following action steps: pledge for the first time if you have not previously pledged to St. Christopher's, increase your personal or household pledge for this year, and act boldly in inviting people to check out this extraordinary place and the people who gather here.



**Growing Community**  
Focus on Stewardship • 2024

545 S. East Ave • Oak Park, IL 60304  
[www.stchristophersoakpark.org](http://www.stchristophersoakpark.org)

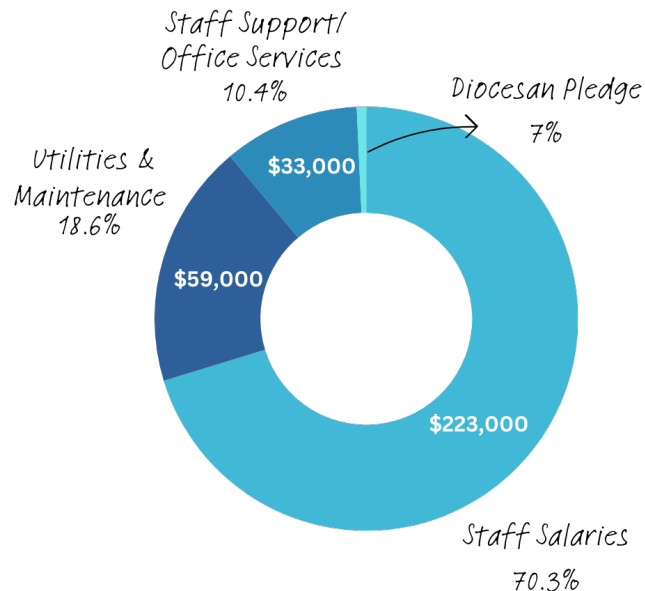
**St. Christopher's**  
episcopal church



## Where we are now

At the beginning of 2023, we recognized we would not collect sufficient revenue to cover our costs. In fact, we projected a deficit of more than \$70,000, which would reduce the church's endowment. We elected to proceed with the planned staffing costs, knowing this was a short-term solution and would not sustain this church in the long-term. Thanks to an outpouring of support from the congregation and lower than expected costs, we have narrowed the shortfall in 2023, but there is still work to be done.

## 2024 Estimated Expenses



## How we give to our community

Community service is near to our hearts, and as a congregation, we are active in caring for our neighbors. We support two non-profits with our time, talents, and occasional special offerings. **Beyond Hunger** provides food to hungry people across Cook County and St. C's has supported Beyond Hunger's mission for the last decade. Currently, we have a dedicated spot on the second Saturday each month for 10 parishioners to volunteer at the food distribution.

**Housing Forward** provides a wide range of permanent solutions to homelessness. St. C's has a long and active history with this organization, including opening the church building for overnight shelter. Currently, we prepare and package lunches and meals for Housing Forward's Oak Park sites.



## Why pledge?

A pledge is a promise between the giver and God shared with the church for the purpose of being more faithful, accountable, and generous. Annual pledges are the financial foundation of our church, the single most important source of funding. Our pledges enable us to create a viable budget—something random giving simply cannot achieve. The budget determines our year's activities and what we can accomplish as a church both for ourselves, for the community we serve, and ultimately for God and God's Kingdom.

