



October 22, 2025
Memorial of Saint Pope John Paul II

Dear Friend in Christ,

Peace in Christ!

As we approach a season of gratitude and wonder, I write to you with both a challenge and a hope for our parish. For many years, the doors of our Church have opened to welcome the faithful, the curious, and the weary. Those doors have swung open for baptisms, weddings, funerals, confessions, and countless Sunday gatherings—moments when Christ has entered our lives and hearts. However, those very doors are now worn, weathered, and in need of replacement.

We are launching this year's **Parish Annual Appeal** with a clear and prayerful goal: to raise **\$70,000** to install **new, beautiful, and secure Church doors** that reflect the warmth and dignity of our worship and witness. The doors at the ramp will open automatically for the sake of our elderly and disabled members and visitors.

More than a practical improvement, these new doors symbolize what Pope Saint John Paul II called us to be—a Church that opens wide the doors to Christ. He urged Catholics to embrace a “new evangelization,” sharing the Gospel not only with words but through the visible beauty and hospitality of our faith communities. When someone approaches our Church—whether a lifelong parishioner or someone returning after many years—the first thing they encounter is our doors. Let them say, by their very appearance, “*Welcome home.*”

We cannot undertake this effort without you. Your generosity will help us replace the old doors, preserve the sacredness of our worship space, and keep our Church a place of safety, beauty, and welcome for generations to come. As you will see in the enclosed Annual Report to the Parish, the Parish Staff and I remain committed to being good stewards of all that you entrust to us, and I believe our Parish continues to be the community of faith, hope, and love that God needs us to be for Fox Chase, Burholme, and Rockledge.

Thank you for all you do for our Parish, especially your generous financial gifts. I am truly grateful. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to this year's appeal. Whether your contribution is large or small, it is your commitment that makes our parish strong. You can also dedicate a door to someone through a significant gift. Together, we can reach our \$70,000 goal and continue to build a community that opens wide its doors—to Christ, to one another, and to the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Christopher M. Walsh
Pastor

OUR VISION FOR SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Transforming lives through faith-inspired relationships.

OUR MISSION AS A PARISH COMMUNITY

Proclaim the Good News, embolden all believers, and inspire a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ so our parish will love and serve others generously.

OUR VALUES AS INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE PARISH

1. *Welcoming - To create an environment where all are invited to join the community and share in the Christian life. We will share our love of God with all people we encounter. We will exhibit respect for the God-given dignity of all in our midst. We will greet each other with joy as if greeting Jesus Christ.*
2. *Justice - As a return for all that God has given, we give God and neighbor the good that is due them. We will see all as equals, as God sees us. We will seek ways to amend injustices related to our parish. We will be stewards of our time, talents, and treasure. We will live out the Works of Mercy.*
3. *Faithful - Entrusting oneself to God and all that He has revealed. We will be prayerful. We will engage in parish life. We will demonstrate integrity as Christians. We will desire to strive for Heaven.*

PARISH LIFE

Without a plan, the people will perish. While Jesus gave us the “master plan” at the great Commission, as a Parish we must also choose our priorities in living out His plan. Saint Cecilia has completed our participation in the Next Generation Parish initiative that was launched in September 2022. The teams worked diligently to analyze data from the Disciple Maker Index Survey (DMI) and focus groups, creating a comprehensive Parish Pastoral Plan. This plan was implemented over the past three years, focusing on spiritual growth, outreach to young families, and opportunities to serve like Jesus. Based on the DMI taken in 2025, the plan was successful in the priority areas established. In addition, the data from the recent DMI and ongoing conversations with members of the Parish offer us insights on where we need to focus in the next few years:

Mass Attendance: We will invite people to enter the new doors of our Church and encounter Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our attendance in early October 2025 has been 1,228 per weekend (a 10% increase from last year). ***By October 2027, we will have at least 1,350 people praying with us every weekend for worship that is welcoming, engaging, and meaningful.***

Faith Formation: Our Bible Studies, Movie Nights, Retreats, Small Groups, and Book Clubs continue to draw healthy numbers of people to study, share, and become more equipped to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each season, more parishioners are stepping forward to lead these efforts and suggest unique ways to help our Parish be a community that knows the Lord and our Catholic Faith. ***By May 2028, we will be welcoming 100 new people each year to at least one faith formation opportunity throughout the year.***

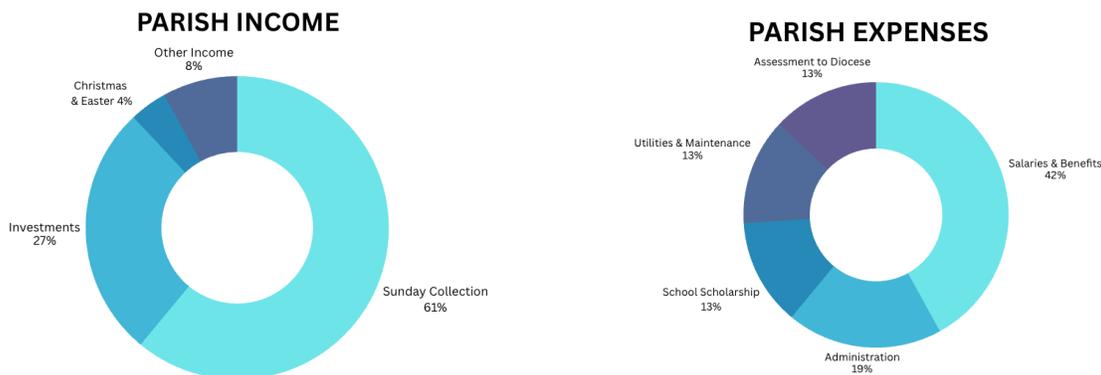
Service & Outreach: In the past year, Saint Cecilia Parish has collected and shared clothing, shoes, Christmas gifts, food, prepared meals, gift cards, and blessing bags with our sisters and brothers. Hundreds of parishioners have shared their time and talent with others. ***Through June 2028, we will offer at least one opportunity every month for people from St. Cecilia and our neighborhood to serve others, seeking to have one new person serving at each event!***

Evangelization: Jesus gave us clear instructions: go and make disciples! The good news continues to be shared on our campus and in our neighborhood. We are blessed with 12 adults preparing to encounter Jesus in the sacraments at Easter 2026. ***We will continue to invite others to know and love Jesus so that we have 14 adults receiving sacraments when we celebrate Easter 2027.***

Ministry to Young Families: Our Parish School enrollment remains strong, has been recognized for academic accomplishments, and is very healthy financially. Our Parish Religious Education enrollment has increased again this year and provides a robust opportunity for young people to encounter Jesus Christ. PREP and our Parish School will continue to be used to serve families in their lives with Christ, and we will initiate intentional programming for adolescents. ***Through our efforts as a Parish, we will grow the number of young disciples worshipping each week from 121 to 145 by October 2027.***

FINANCIAL REPORT & PHYSICAL PLANT

St. Cecilia Church remains in a very good financial position through your generosity and prudent choices. Our **Finance Council** and its Committees remain diligent in guiding the Parish in making good choices for today and tomorrow. At the end of **Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the Parish had a surplus of \$533,902** (like last year, this surplus was due to a great return on assets that are invested). At this moment in the Fiscal Year, our Sunday Collection averages \$19,670 towards our budgeted goal of \$19,135 (up slightly from last year).



Our “Buildings and Grounds Committee” continues to work on its Five-Year Plan to care for our buildings. We paved sections of our parking lot, pointed the original school building and front of the Church, returned the statue of our patroness to its original location, added new gardens at the Church entrance, installed our new LED sign, and the restoration of the restrooms adjacent to the Auditorium & Gym will be completed within a few weeks.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Through your Baptism & Confirmation you became a full member of the Church. We know that “membership has its privileges” but membership also has its responsibilities. In order for St. Cecilia to fully be the Parish God desires and our neighborhoods need, your Parish needs the following:

1. **Pray Daily** and gather with us to worship the Lord at Mass every weekend
2. Take advantage of ways to learn how to be a disciple: Bible Study, Small Groups, using Formed.org, and reading good books that build your faith (make use of the library in back of the Church).
3. Find a way to serve others as Jesus desires: volunteer in a ministry at Church or in the community and be generous in sharing your time and talent with others. Please complete the **Ministry Survey** so that we know your talents and can connect you with ministries that are of interest.
4. If you come to Mass each week, invite a relative, friend, or neighbor to join you; someone is waiting for your invitation. If you are not with us each weekend for Mass, commit to being here more often until you are with us weekly as God desires.
5. Look at your Sunday Offering; even in these difficult financial times, could you possibly **increase your weekly gift** to our Parish, even if by a few dollars a week? Can you enroll in electronic giving? Could you make a gift to St. Cecilia Parish or School in your Will as you make your estate plans? Please use the *free resource* to make a Will, which can be found on our website.
6. Please contribute to our Annual Appeal (formerly known as the Block Collection) using the enclosed envelope or through Parish Giving (easily found on our website or using the QR Code below). Your gift will allow us to install new doors to welcome all safely to our beautiful Church.

Jesus needs our parish. Our parish needs you. Saint Cecilia, pray for us!

Complete our Talents & Ministry Survey



Start Online Giving



2024-2025 Abridged Financial Statement for the Parish

INCOME

Sunday Collections	\$1,004,881
Christmas	\$ 44,141
Easter	\$ 25,499
Annual Appeal	\$ 43,034
Various Fundraising Efforts	\$ 29,474
Memorial Gifts	\$ 15,454
Donations from Baptisms, Funerals & Weddings	\$ 10,850
Parish Religious Education Registrations	\$ 10,058
Interest/Gain from Investments	\$ 442,598
Bulletin Advertising	\$ 6,373
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 13,754
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,646,116

EXPENSES

Annual Assessment to the Archdiocese	\$ 143,600
Salaries for Priests	\$ 75,411
Salaries for Employees	\$ 290,838
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$ 104,123
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 65,762
Real Estate Tax (Rectory Residence)	\$ 3,089
Fee for Payroll Services	\$ 1,630
Professional Services	\$ 58,982
Printing (including donation envelopes)	\$ 18,932
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 18,332
Supplies for Church	\$ 17,064
Religious Education (Children & Adults)	\$ 7,100
Operating Expenses for Rectory	\$ 6,666
Church Maintenance	\$ 58,299
Church Utilities	\$ 21,299
Rectory Maintenance	\$ 36,365
Rectory Utilities	\$ 21,724
Pastoral Administration	\$ 15,607
Parish Scholarship to our School	\$ 143,400
Misc. Expenses	\$ 3,991
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,112,214

NET GAIN FOR THE CHURCH FISCAL YEAR **\$533,902**