



Saint Bede
Catholic Church

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Disciple of Jesus and Saint Bede Family Member,

Pope John Paul II highlighted in *Familiares Consortio*, what was already a long-held belief in the Church that “The family is the Domestic Church,” or in other words, family life is the context in which most parishioners live out their faith. The family is a school where each member learns how to receive and share love. Pope John Paul II also noted that “As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the world in which we live.” A strong and healthy family is the backbone for a healthy and just world. The family is essential to society and that is why Saint Bede makes the mission of supporting and helping families an essential element of our call and duty. Our parish supports you and your family in a variety of ways. Through formation for youth and adults, community service, liturgies and sacraments, we help build disciples. Our Annual Parish Appeal provides us an opportunity each year to grow as a community of disciples who live in and for Jesus. Through our parish appeal, we have the opportunity to support and strengthen families through the service the parish provides, and to become more fully members of our parish family by taking ownership and responsibility. In this Jubilee year dedicated to Hope, we have the opportunity to offer Hope to one another in the various challenges each family faces, through the support of our Parish Stewardship efforts.

Here are some of the needs and goals that parish leadership has identified this year:

- Enlist and train more liturgical volunteers, teachers and facilitators
- Continue to build our formation offerings to meet the needs of our parishioners
- Increase our family activities and involvement
- Expand community outreach

God asks us to use our talents for the good of all. Where do I see myself fitting in to these goals?

We can do more, however less than 10% of our parishioners are involved as volunteers in any capacity.

- We are investing in building stronger Christians through our Faith Formation offerings; we can do more by providing more access and topics by training more facilitators and expanding the times of the sessions.
- We are investing in Community Service; we can do more by helping through the many volunteer opportunities through House of Mercy and the many other community groups we connect with currently.
- We are investing in Youth Leadership; we can do more by having parents and teens involved in our weekly activities as well as our work camp, youth conferences and formation opportunities.
- We are investing in Facilities to increase access for all so we can achieve our mission; we can do more by expanding our facilities to include a small play area for young ones and additional gathering space for events that are less formal. We want families to come here and find what they need to help them grow the Domestic Church.

It also helps to remember that growth needs to be nurtured, cultivated and managed, which requires Wisdom. What we do now will bear great fruit beyond our days if we prepare. Many of you have made plans for your families. Have you also made plans for the parish and church to help us grow in the future?

- It is projected we will see a 50% increase in the number of local Catholics over the next 25 years
- We need a strong, forward looking, future focus for a healthy Catholic Community
- We need to continue our emphasis on assisting all of our neighbors who live in need

As part of our Annual Parish Appeal please take this time to look at your commitment to the mission of the Church here at Saint Bede. We use this commitment for purposes of establishing our annual plan and budget. Please prayerfully consider your level of support, complete the enclosed card and bring it with you to Mass on November 1st/2nd. Only you can know what your faith-filled response should be, based on your own response to the love of Christ. Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

Yours In Christ,
Very Rev. Eric J. Ayers

2024-2025 Highlights

- Over 50,000 hours of service annually to the parish and community
- More than 340 young people and over 600 adults take part in Faith Formation preparation on our campus.
- Our Youth Ministry has new vibrance and energy, over 100 young people are participating in our Sunday gatherings.
- Our active liturgy and music volunteers are now over 900 strong and more than 100 are young volunteers.
- Our Women's Bible Study, *Walking With Purpose* continues to thrive and provide a wonderful formation and fellowship opportunity for the women of the parish.
- Our Hispanic community is growing both in Mass attendance, stewardship, and service to our community. The Multicultural Fiesta in October draws in over 600 people.
- Our Men's Ministry gatherings continue to grow as do the ranks of our Knights of Columbus and other service groups here in the parish.
- Over 150 young people serve at Mass as Alter Servers, Greeters and Choir members.
- We continue to support local organizations like the Williamsburg House of Mercy, FISH, Williamsburg Faith in Action and others with volunteers and gifts.

Check out Our Numbers:

(3,336) Families in our parish
(8,283) Catholic Individuals
(2,651) Average weekend Mass attendance this past year (about 96% pre-covid)
(4,419) People attended Mass Christmas
(4,814) People attended Mass Easter
(650) Masses in our Church each year

Our Offertory Report:

- Number of parishioners receiving envelopes: (2,123)
- Number of parishioners using envelopes on a regular basis: (910)
- Number of parishioner families who give electronically: (510)
- Number of donors who use donor advised fund or IRA's: (156)
- Average Offertory Gift: (\$2,126)

*Parishioners who pledge their offertory gift each year help us to accurately plan our budget expenditures. We are especially grateful to those parishioners who have consistently pledged and given increased offertory gifts for the last several years.

Saint Bede Parish includes:

Saint Bede Catholic Church, DiLoreto Parish Office, Ministry level and Kaplan Parish Hall at 3686 Ironbound Road. Downtown Catholic Center- The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, 520 Richmond Road, and the Saint John XXIII Center which houses the Williamsburg House of Mercy and Catholic Campus Ministry for the College of William & Mary at 10 Harrison Ave.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Much will be required of the person entrusted with much - Luke 12:48

Fiscal year 2024-2025 was a good year financially for our parish. Income was up year over year by 2% driven by increases in offertory (up 1%), Annual Diocesan Appeal (up 33%) Ministry Donations (up 30%) and other special donations (up 26%). Compared to budget income was favorable 4% exceeding target in most areas except offertory where we came in slightly under target.

During the year we paid down our Parish debt on buildings by \$339,353, resulting in a remaining debt level of \$3,287,460. We replaced the church HVAC controller system and made repairs to the Shrine all of which totaled \$160,060. Our expenses in total were essentially flat with the prior fiscal year and 2% under budget driven mainly by payroll savings including a second Youth Minister vacancy. The net income less expense was favorable both Year-over-Year and from a budget perspective.

As we look to the coming year we will be making further investment in our HVAC equipment, replacing aging components which require replacement. We will be installing another eight mosaic panels, two of which are on site and the other six that are being worked on in Italy. We are targeting late 2026 for completion. We will continue to revisit and try to afford our wish list for our Ironbound campus, which includes additional parking, gathering space for some of our growing ministry groups, and re-purpose some of our existing space to better accommodate the needs of our ministries.

The church will continue to invest in Evangelization and Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Children's Faith Formation and Social Ministry activities. There are countless opportunities to be a participant and or lead. Don't miss out on getting to know your fellow parishioner, to share your experiences, grow your faith and the faith of others.

There are so many members of this Saint Bede community, coming together to pray, to worship and give glory to God. If we could all do just a little more, get a bit more involved multiplied by all members, the impact would be enormous.

I ask for your prayerful reflection on how you might be able to do a little more in your commitment and response to our Annual Parish Stewardship Appeal.

Thank you.

Jim Beckert

Chairman, Finance Council



Saint Bede Catholic Church Annual Financial Report

Statement of Activities

	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget
Income		
Offertory	\$3,351,288	\$3,527,000
Parish Charities Collections	445,790	425,000
Other Donations and Income	332,106	169,750
Columbarium	190,472	145,334
Building Fund/Debt Reduction	94,496	95,250
Ministry Donations, Fundraising and Fees	109,443	94,407
Annual Diocesan Appeal - Parish Share	124,146	104,000
Facility Rentals	22,369	28,000
Unrealized Investment Inc/Loss	38,430	13,060
Total Income	\$4,708,540	\$4,601,801
Expenses		
Clergy, Admin, Parish Life, Pastoral Services	\$885,042	\$1,066,883
Liturgy and Music	370,281	424,354
Evangelization and Faith Formation	371,689	329,718
Youth Ministry	106,684	205,598
Childrens Faith Formation	75,844	97,811
Social Ministry	440,463	428,000
Capital Items/Reserves	160,661	60,000
Debt Principal and Interest	513,132	457,400
Facilities Rental, Maintenance and Utilities	972,446	1,047,071
Diocesan Support	551,339	544,483
Total Expenses	\$4,447,581	\$4,661,319
Income - Expenses	\$260,959	-\$59,518

Statement of Financial Position

	2025
Assets	
Cash, Checking, Savings	\$2,758,000
Investments	1,313,671
Property, Plant & Equipment	12,985,543
Total Assets	\$17,057,213
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Operating/Capital Funds	\$2,316,429
Restricted Funds	188,150
Columbarium	1,384,712
Endowment Fund	322,046
Social Ministry	48,484
Current Liabilities	1,300
Notes Payable	3,287,460
Net Assets	9,508,633
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$17,057,213
Special Projects	2024-2025
Sacred Art Donations	\$326,327
Sacred Art Expenses*	227,586
*Total Project: Donations - \$1,513,193 Expenses - \$1,343,279	

PARISH INVESTMENTS 2026 & BEYOND

- We are investing in building stronger Christians through our Faith Formation offerings
- We are investing in Community Service
- We are investing in Youth Leadership
- We are investing in Facilities to increase access for all



Church Activities



Thank You.

As a stewardship parish, Saint Bede is grateful for God's gifts of our parishioners and community. Thank you for sharing your gifts.

Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

1 Peter 4:9-11

