

2025 Annual Report

Corpus Christi - St. Bernard Parish



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A Letter from Father Dan

Dear Friends,

As your pastor, it brings me great joy to welcome you to this year's Annual Report Booklet. These pages are more than a collection of facts and figures—they are a living reflection of who we are as a parish family, and how the Holy Spirit continues to move among us.



As you look through the photos and read the stories, you'll see moments of grace - in our worship, our outreach, our celebrations, and our daily efforts to serve one another in Christ's name. Each page speaks of faith in action, offering a glimpse into the vibrant spiritual and social life we've shared over the past year.

You'll also find a clear summary of our parish finances. This report reflects the responsible stewardship of the gifts you so generously provide. Your support allows us to grow in mission and ministry, and to care for both our people and our parish home.

St. Paul reminds us, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). From Baptisms to Poinsettia Festival, Holy week to our Annual Outdoor Mass, this booklet is a testament to that spirit of giving and serving.

Thank you for all you do to make our parish a place of welcome, witness, and worship. May this report inspire both gratitude for what has been and hope for what is yet to come.

Grace and Blessings,
Father Dan
Pastor

@FrDanOConnell

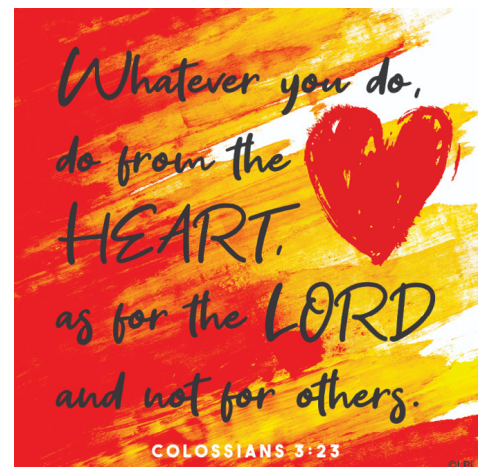
The Spirituality of Stewardship

Anthony Caruso, Parishoner and Director of Finance

Are you a faithful steward of God's grace?

Scripture defines stewardship as the responsibility to faithfully manage and care for everything God has entrusted to us, understanding that God is the ultimate owner of all things. Let us pray for the capacity and desire to listen to God's word, to learn where we and our resources fit in His plan, and to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. This begs a good question: *Which resources might I share and how might I share them?*

Time. One of the best gifts we can give to Corpus Christi Saint Bernard Parish is the gift of our time and it doesn't cost anything! There are so many opportunities to support the parish with simply your presence: Liturgical Ministry, Guild, Activities and Social Justice Committees just to name a few. *Is Jesus calling you?* Remember He knows everything about you – who you are, what you are, what you do best and, most importantly, He knows God's plan for **you**. In the midst of our busy lives, with family and work obligations, community activities and even our down (rest and pleasure) time, He is with us, asking us to share the Good News with others in all that we say and do. Perhaps you are being called to respond by sharing your time with Him, either by becoming (*or in the case of those who are already sharing*) by remaining actively involved in parish life.



"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7: 7-8).

Talent. Everyone is good at something! *What are your favorite pastimes? What activities in your life bring you pleasure?* Take some time and truly think about your answers and then reflect on how and where your talents and skills may be used here at Corpus Christi Saint Bernard. Perhaps you have a teaching background, you may have experience in the real estate, finance or insurance industries, or maybe you just don't know how to use your talent, craft or skill within the context of parish life – **that's okay too!** We guarantee there are ways to answer His call, ways to help with His work, and ways for you to find the right place or activity to do what you do best!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4: 10-11).

Treasure. Ah, yes, its time to talk money! *Ever wonder how the bills get paid? Like myself, do you enjoy a warm church in the winter and a cool one during summer months?* As you'll see further along in this Annual Report, our parish is quite dependent upon our rental income to cover our operating costs. That's not what Jesus intended. The goal of the weekly Offertory is to raise the funds needed to "run" the parish, including both clerical and lay salaries and benefits, building and grounds repairs and maintenance, utilities, charitable works and more. When you consider your Offertory donations, are you starting from what is "left over" after all the expenses are covered – both bills and leisure ones – or

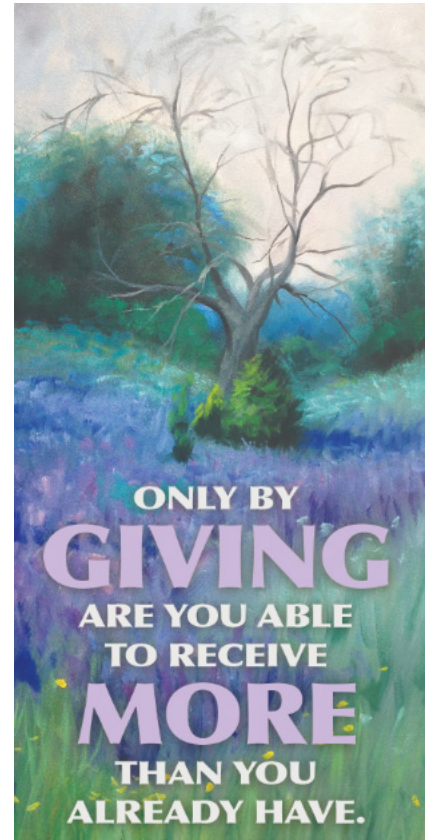
are you giving from the "first fruits?" Remember, we are here to answer His call, to do His work, to promote and bear witness to the Holy Gospel through *all* we say and do, both individually and as a parish. This, of course, speaks of sacrifice; and this is what our Church means when we hear her speak of "sacrificial giving." Reflect on this idea. Pray over this idea. Discuss this idea with other members of your family. *How can you, as a household unit, be sure you are giving from first fruits, understanding how that helps us continue to be a vibrant community of disciples of Jesus aspiring to be secure in our faith and willing to bring the light of Christ to others?*

The Old Testament reminds us:

"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you" (Deuteronomy 16:17).

Jesus Himself, in the Holy Gospel, reminds us:

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).



2024-2025 Liturgical Ministry Volunteers

Thanks to our many volunteers who provide the valuable gifts of their time, talents, creativity, and compassion to our Parish. To participate in any lay ministries or activities, contact the office at 617-244-0608.

Eucharistic Ministers

Betty Bruhmuller	Alain Mathieu
Louisa Caira	Nancy McQuaide
Mike Callnan	David Pleyner
Janet Carvelli	Ann Purcell
Lourdes Connolly	George Romano
Ann Cornaro	Ellen Ryan
Albie Alvarez Cote	Eric Saunders
Nancy Gagnon	Kathleen Trachy
Mary Lewis	Valerie Vermette

Altar Servers

Nora Allen	Sarah Heine
Suzanne Arbing	Theresa Heine
Cecelia Coniker	Alyssa Jarry
Betty Brumuller	Kayla Jarry
Janet Carvelli	Vincent O'Connell
Lourdes Connolly	David Pleyner
Ann Cornaro	Ann Purcell
Max Fernandez	Teresa Senatore
Nancy Gagnon	Dana Veccione

Ushers

Suzanne Arbing	Regina Joyce
Marco Bossolo	Doug Koch
Janet Carvelli	Mary Lewis
Lourdes Connolly	Brian McGlame
Albie Alvarez Cote	Diane McGlame
Jim Cote	Ethel O'Reilly
John Greeley	Antonio Tonti

Homebound Ministry

Betty Bruhmuller	Bob Lerner
Mike Callnan	Janet LeBlond
Janet Carvelli	Joan McGrath
Mary Joyce Cerra	Ann Purcell
Lourdes Connolly	George Romano
Judy Dore	Eric Saunders
Nancy Gagnon	Valerie Vermette



Morning light crosses the altar during the Easter season.

Lectors

Suzanne Arbing
Brendan Belschner
Lauren Belschner
Betty Bruhmuller
Clara Caruso
Anthony Caruso
Lourdes Connolly
Jim Cote
Iwona Dobler
Klaus Dobler
Joseph Drake
Jeremy Fiset
Philip Gelso
Aren Gerdon
Matthew Heine
Bob Lerner
John Mahoney
Leona Malone
Donna Mazzola
John McBrine
Will McBrine
Christine McMorrow
Tim Moran
Mary Pajak
Ann Purcell
Don Snyder
Elena Vitug

Choir

Bill Beal
Paige Carroll
Paula Chesbrough
Sue Conkey
Cyrus Dahmubed
Jeremy Fiset
Parker Fiset
Sr. Jeanette Gaudet
Linda Hamel
Leona Malone
Donna Mazzola
Ann Ormond
Jim Reilly
Angela Siciliano
Cindy Wooley

Children's Choir

Samantha Callahan
Cecelia Coniker
Daniel Coniker
Mihika Fernandes
Vihaan Fernandes
Peter Heine
Theresa Heine
Geradina Ricchiuti
Teresa Senatore

Sacristans

Betty Bruhmuller
Ann Cornaro
Regina Joyce
Mary Lewis
Leona Malone

Councils and Ministries

Our councils and committees provide guidance and support the vitality of our Parish. Many thanks to their members and our program coordinators - we are all enriched by their generous gifts of time and talent and their assistance in spreading the Good News of the Gospel.



Members of our Liturgical Environment team serve our parish community by beautifying our sanctuary for the Easter Vigil.

Ministry Coordinators

Community Activities Ministry

Mary Lewis and Claire Palmer

Liturgical Ministries

Paula Chesbrough

Pastoral Ministries

Sr. Suzanne Fondini, mfc

Faith Formation

Tim DeRosa

Social Justice Ministry

David Pleyner

Parish Pastoral Council

Ann Cornaro, Co-chair

Donna Mazzola

Mary Pajak

Tim Moran

Parish Finance Council

Janice Bourque, Co-chair

Doug Koch

Bob Parente

Program Coordinators

Scripture Study

Bob Larner and Betty Bruhmuller

Men's Prayer Group

Doug Koch

Liturgical Environment Ministry

Janet Carvelli

We Remember

Between July 2024 and June 2025 we remembered the lives and mourned the loss of the members of our faith community listed below. They and their families remain in our prayers and thoughts, and the influence they have had on our lives continues to be with us.

Funerals

Jean Marie Abbruzzese	Bruce Landers
Dorothy Boughan	Paul Leone
Lee Bourque	Edward Marchand
Leopoldo Butera	Beverly McAndrews
William Burke	Judith McNeal
John Corcoran	Geraldine Montgomery
Mary Devane	Pauline Mulvaney
Jean DiBenedetto	James O'Rielly
Alfonso Ferrera	Alberto Rametta
Russell Gasdia	Edward Reilly
Carolyn Kelley	Joseph Rizza
Gordon King	Kathleen Sarkarati
Natalie King	Ellen Zakshevsky

In addition to these, we offer our prayers to all those who have died and those who have lost a loved one in the past year.

May you be consoled by the Lord in your grief.

Funeral Ministry

Theresa Gallivan	Vincent O'Connell
Mary Lewis	Ann Purcell
Leona Malone	Joanne Vosnak

We Celebrate

This year we celebrated the entrance of new life with Christ through the Baptism of a number of new members of our faith and the union of three couples in their Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Baptisms



Luke Brendan Belschner
Lillian Lam Cucchi
Lisa Michelle Durant
Leonardy Santiago Ortiz Franco
Eleanor Olivia Glynn
Karter Elijah Lawrence
Juliet Joan Morand

Baptism Ministry
Dana Vecchione

Weddings



Matt James Quinn & Elyse Marie Gentile
Timothy Shea & Katherine Flanigan
Joseph Webb & Zoe Gelinias

Marriage Ministry
Nancy Gagnon

We Believe

In the spring of this year, our First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes affirmed their belief in Christ and the teachings they have learned through participation in our Faith Formation programs.

Confirmation

Orla Carey	William McBrine
Jon Czmur	Alex Moran
Luke Devaney	Nicolas Quintero
Lisa Michelle Durant	Charles Scheffler
Michael Harden	

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, eleven of our young men and women confirmed their faith through the sacrament of Confirmation.



First Holy Communicants joined in to celebrate the annual May Crowning tradition on Mothers' Day

Our newly renovated Parish Center, appearing in the background, will be the hub of our Parish's Faith Formation program, and host a variety of wonderful community gatherings and events.

First Holy Communion

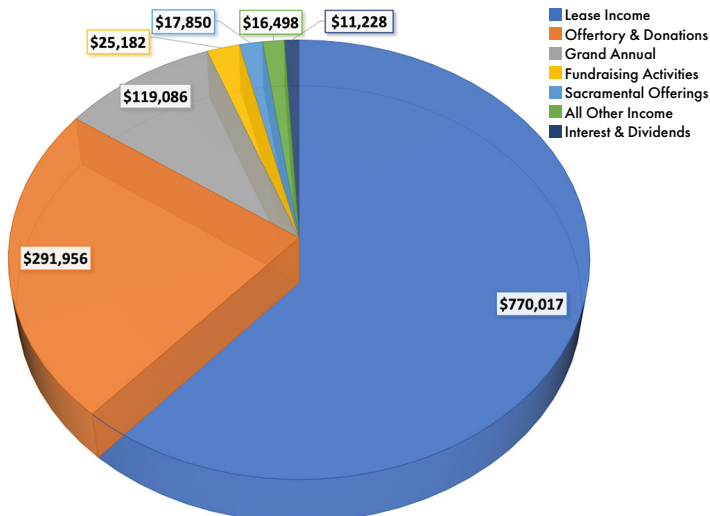
Anabelle Ashkouri	Delaney Hughes
Christian Ashkouri	Emmanuel Mazzulla
Jozef Dobler	William Morand
Lisa Michelle Durant	Nicholas Nicolazzo
Michael Engel	Arianna Trujillo
Lucas Griglun	



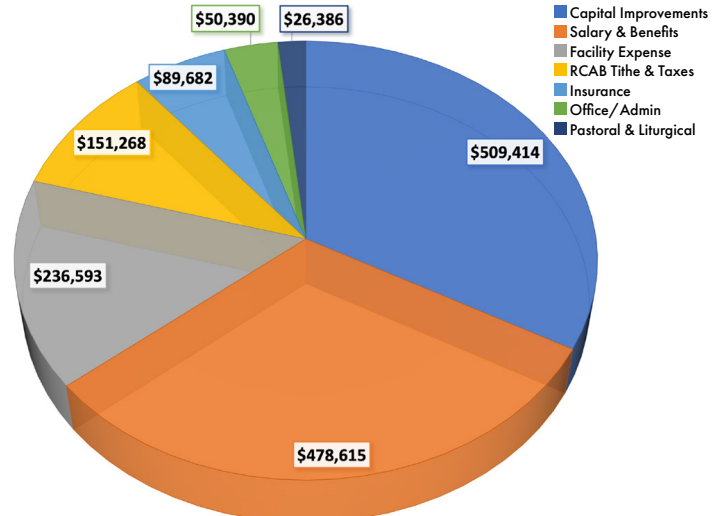
Finance Council Report - Fiscal Year 2025

	Actual	Projected Budget	Variance to Budget		Budget FY 2026
	July 2024 - June 2025	July 2024 - June 2025	July 2024 - June 2025 (In \$)	July 2024 - June 2025 (In %)	July 2025 - June 2026
Income					
Offertory	\$225,882	\$189,300	\$36,582	19.32%	\$211,000
Grand Annual Appeal	\$119,086	\$100,000	\$19,086	19.09%	\$100,000
Sacramental Offerings	\$17,850	\$13,460	\$4,390	32.62%	\$17,500
Gifts, Bequests & Other Donations	\$66,074	\$16,500	\$49,574	300.45%	\$0
Religious Education	\$4,385	\$4,000	\$385	9.63%	\$4,500
Interest & Dividends	\$11,228	\$8,550	\$2,678	31.32%	\$9,690
Shrines, Candles & Flowers	\$2,826	\$3,400	-\$574	-16.88%	\$3,500
Lease - Rental Properties	\$770,017	\$770,197	-\$180	-0.02%	\$776,381
Fundraising Activities	\$25,182	\$18,350	\$6,832	37.23%	\$24,825
Miscellaneous	\$9,287	\$180	\$9,107	5059.44%	\$2,700
Total Income	\$1,251,817	\$1,123,937	\$127,880	11.38%	\$1,150,096
Expenses					
Salaries & Benefits	\$478,615	\$488,823	-\$10,208	-2.09%	\$365,000
Office	\$50,390	\$50,682	-\$292	-0.58%	\$51,508
Insurance	\$89,682	\$98,553	-\$8,871	-9.00%	\$85,467
Facility / Maintenance	\$146,830	\$126,790	\$20,040	15.81%	\$156,603
Utilities	\$89,763	\$84,218	\$5,545	6.58%	\$100,559
Household Food & Supplies	\$6,689	\$7,200	-\$511	-7.10%	\$7,620
Travel, Development & Education	\$18	\$2,000	-\$1,982	-99.10%	\$1,000
RCAB IFRC Tithe	\$30,162	\$30,156	\$6	0.02%	\$30,888
Net Rental Income Tax	\$121,106	\$121,104	\$2	0.00%	\$113,580
Pastoral & Liturgical	\$26,386	\$24,570	\$1,816	7.39%	\$31,300
Fundraising	\$6,157	\$5,000	\$1,157	23.14%	\$7,500
Other Expenses	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200	NA	\$0
Total Expenses	\$1,046,998	\$1,039,096	\$7,902	0.76%	\$951,025
Net Gain (Loss)	\$204,819	\$84,841	\$119,978	141.42%	\$199,071
Capital Expenditures	\$509,414	\$371,000	\$138,414	37.31%	\$100,000
Total Net Gain (Loss)	-\$304,595	-\$286,159	-\$18,436	6.44%	\$99,071

FY 2025 Total Revenue - What We've Taken In



FY 2025 Total Expenses - What We've Paid Out



Finance Council Report

Finance Summary

The Finance Council along with the Business Manager prepares the annual budget, reviews revenue and expenses, determines the Grand Annual and related capital expenditures, negotiates and reviews contracts, advises the pastor, Fr. Dan O'Connell, and reports to the parishioners on all parish financial matters.

Actual 2025

We had an overall actual net loss of \$304,595 versus a projected net loss of \$286,159. Actual capital improvements totaled \$509,414 and consist primarily of expenses associated with the rehab / renovation of the parish house. On a solely operational basis excluding capital improvements, our parish had an actual operating gain of \$204,819 versus a projection of \$84,841. Our Grand Annual collection exceeded budget by \$19,086 and our Offertory (in-pew and online) and other financial gifts totaled \$291,956, versus budget of \$205,800. During this past fiscal year, we saw a significant increase (17%) in Offertory. Gifts, Bequests & Other Donations increased considerably as well. Your generosity in all areas and

Fiscal Year 2026

The Offertory Collection and the Grand Annual are key sources of revenue for our Parish. While the Grand Annual continues to exceed expectations year over year, we remain conservative with a budget of \$100,000. Our goal for Offertory and Other Giving is \$211,000; until we see an ongoing trend of increased Offertory, we remain rather conservative in our expectation. We are ever grateful for unanticipated gifts and donations, and have been able to use these funds for other improvements, repairs and maintenance throughout our campus. We continue to encourage our parishioners to contribute online as this form of giving provides a stable and predictable cash flow for the parish during vacations and poor weather. We are in the process of negotiating a lease with Learning Prep School, as the existing lease expires in August 2026. As requested, LPS has identified enhancements and improvements they wish to make to the campus, and we are willing to assist them with their plan. The school has clearly expressed their desire and intent to remain

Corpus Christi - Saint Bernard Parish Financial Statements are prepared on a cash basis and the 2025 fiscal year ran from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. All money received and all expenditures paid are recorded for the date executed.

components of stewardship have allowed the Parish to substantially complete the second phase (interior) of the rehab of our Parish House in 2025.

The depicted pie charts provide an excellent visual allocation of our actual revenues and expenses for 2024 - 2025. Lease Income continues to represent over 60% of our total parish revenue, while Capital Improvements and Staffing Expenses account for the majority of our expenses. We remain committed both to safely and effectively maximizing the use of our buildings as well as to retaining and structuring sufficient staff to meet the ever-changing needs of our parish.

here at Corpus Christi - Saint Bernard Parish and hopes to make improvements that will promote their mission while increasing the value of our asset. Our operating expenses are budgeted at \$88,071 lower than last year's actual expenses due largely in part to changes in personnel coupled with the reassignment of certain responsibilities to other team members. Capital Improvements are projected at \$100,000, as we step back upon completion of the parish house and triage other potential initiatives around our campus. Accordingly, we are projecting a net total gain of \$99,071 for the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026.

With a committed pastor who envisions the future of our parish ministry activities to be about giving to others, a dedicated staff, active volunteers and ministry committees, a strong religious education program, and most importantly, faith-filled parishioners, our parish will continue to grow as a vibrant Catholic community.

Significant Variances to Budget as shown on previous page

- Offertory exceeded budget by \$36,582 due to an overall increase in giving.
- Grand Annual Appeal exceeded budget by \$19,086 due to parishioner generosity.
- Gifts, Bequests & Other Donations exceeded budget by \$49,574 due to unanticipated (yet welcome!) larger gifts from parishioners over the course of the year.
- Salaries & Benefits Expense is under budget by \$10,208 due to change in office structure and the resultant

reduction in benefits expense.

- Facility / Maintenance Expense is over budget by \$20,040 due to campus-wide tree removal and pruning and porch repairs / painting at the Allen Place facility.
- Capital Expenditures exceeded budget by \$138,414 due to higher than anticipated costs associated with the Parish House Rehab Project.

Our Mission

We are a welcoming community of Catholics striving to be one body in Christ.

As a faith community centered in the Eucharistic celebration, we give witness to our baptismal rights by committing ourselves to learn, love, and live the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Empowered to share our faith, gifts and talents, we dedicate ourselves to genuinely embracing our diverse community, compassionately serving those in need, and ardently working for justice and peace.

Strengthened through Word and Worship, Community and Service, we pledge ourselves to be a parish where all feel welcomed and inspired to participate.



Contact Us

Corpus Christi-Saint Bernard Parish Office

1523 Washington St.
West Newton, MA 02465

617-244-0608 www.ccsbparish.org
info@ccsbparish.org

Join Us

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:00 am
Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 am

CORPUS CHRISTI
|
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