



2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

8300 OLD COLUMBIA ROAD, FULTON, MD 20759

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FR. MICHAEL DEASCANIS, PASTOR

If someone asked us, "Why would I want to join St Francis Parish?", how might we reply? We continue the work of Jesus in 5 areas of our parish life.

1. We worship our God.
2. We learn our faith.
3. We teach our children.
4. We serve our neighbor.
5. And we build our friendships.

On behalf of myself and our Associate Pastors, Fr. Katafiasz and Fr. Andrades, we are pleased to present this Annual Report. It provides a snapshot of the good things happening here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. We can take pride!

You will also see a financial statement of our Income & Expenses from this past fiscal year, July 2025 - June 2026. Thank you for supporting our parish financially.

One particular focus this past year was celebrating the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, and the Jubilee Year of St Francis. Our parish was a designated pilgrim spot, helping people receive plenary indulgences. We had guest speakers, pilgrimages, movies, and books. We love St. Francis!

Fr. DeAscanis



WORSHIPING OUR GOD

Each Sunday, 770 of us gather at Mass to encounter Jesus. This year we were also blessed with many Sacraments, liturgical events such as Adoration Encounter nights, and many generous volunteers. Beyond our regular liturgies, St. Francis continued to offer meaningful opportunities for worship and spiritual enrichment throughout the year.



For Christmas Eve and Day Masses, we welcomed 1,400 parishioners, almost doubling our average weekend attendance, reflecting the continued growth of our parish in Fulton and throughout greater Howard County.

Our liturgical ministries also continued to grow, welcoming several new ushers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and media ministers who now help welcome and serve parishioners at Mass. The Music Ministry flourished with more than 40 adults participating in the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir. Looking ahead, an expanded music ministry area and the addition of a new Allen Organ will further enhance our Masses and broaden our musical repertoire.



We hosted our annual Christmas Concert, welcoming more than 300 attendees, as well as the Pastorate Liturgical Ministry Retreat and Pastorate Music Ministry Retreat. Our parish celebrated Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter with special liturgies and devotions, including Stations of the Cross, Palm Sunday, the Sacred Triduum, and Christmas Eve and Easter celebrations.



BY THE NUMBERS . . .

18 Baptisms

22 First Holy Communions

19 Confirmations

770 Weekly Mass Attendance

1400 Attendees at Christmas Masses

42 Adults became Catholic at Easter (in our pastorate)

RAISING OUR CHILDREN

Our Family Faith Formation program continues to grow! This past year we had 290 students in the program for both parishes, 18 students in SPRED (for children with special needs), and 50 volunteers to make it all happen!



We hosted our first annual Martin Luther King, Jr Day of Service making lunches for the poor. This Lent, we packaged 300 boxes for the Apostleship of the Sea to assist sailors and their families coming through Baltimore.

The Faith Formation team also prepared over 100 students for their First Holy Communion, as well as hosted two retreats for Family Life Catechesis.



Our Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) for both parishes is strong, with more than 100 teens attending Youth Nights twice a month and 40 teens serving on the High School Leadership Team. We are supported by 20 committed adult core team volunteers and 2 high-school interns.



This past year, 76 teens from both parishes received Confirmation into the Church, 36 of whom chose to pay it forward by applying for retreat and leadership teams after Confirmation. CYM ran our 2nd year of Clarksville Youth Summer Camp for children, employing 26 teens and college students from our parishes.



BY THE NUMBERS . . .

100 Teens participating in Youth Nights (nightly average)

40 Teens on youth ministry leadership team

290 Students enrolled in our Family Faith Formation program

26 Young adults serving at Clarksville Youth Summer Camp

SERVING OUR NEIGHBOR

Our parish Outreach Ministry is an active community serving people from all walks of life—particularly the poor. Last year, we gave over \$187,000 to those in need. In January, 126 volunteers served over 3,300 meals to those who are homeless at the Grassroots Cold Weather Shelter.



We partnered with St. Benedict Neighborhood Center, assisting the Missionaries of Charity religious sisters there, providing support for the food pantry monthly and the new Catholic community outreach center nearby.

Parishioners maintained our St. Francis community garden to grow food, serving the hungry and students in our community through



the LindaBen Foundation. We also collected and delivered Back-to-School supplies in the summer for Prepare for Success-Howard County and the LindaBen Foundation.

Our Mission Support ministry continued to serve our local and global neighbors, allocating funds to various charities which align with the pastorate's mission.



BY THE NUMBERS . . .

126 parish volunteers serving meals for Grassroots Cold Weather Shelter for two weeks (annually)

52 desserts and **780** bagged lunches for residents of a transition home (weekly service)

400 frozen casseroles and **500** desserts for Our Daily Bread in Baltimore (monthly service)

50 pillowcases, **60** blankets, and **45** scarves for cancer patients, expectant mothers, poor families, and military personnel (ongoing)

Thanksgiving meal items for **50** families in Baltimore (annually)

Christmas gifts for **100** residents in Baltimore (annually)

CHARITABLE GIVING

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal	\$78,274
Haiti Collection	\$20,857
Poor Box and Mission Support Collections	\$88,254
TOTAL CHARITABLE GIVING	\$187,385

LEARNING OUR FAITH

As Christians, we continue to study the words of Jesus in the Gospels and the teachings of our Catholic religion. This is true for adults as well as for children. The Church decreed 2026 a Jubilee Year of St. Francis making our parish a pilgrimage site where people can receive a plenary indulgence from the Pope. We have hosted events and produced materials to learn about Francis, how to model his virtues, and the Jubilee Year. These include a three-day pastorate mission and monthly talks on St. Francis's life.

multiple spiritual mentorship meetings for parishioners, and weekly parish ministry meetings for faith and fellowship.



We learned about our Catholic ties to American history, celebrating 250 years of American independence, by promoting various resources and going on pilgrimages to historic St. Mary's City and the Baltimore Basilica.

St. Francis hosted the weekly women's Bible study and an 8-week Lenten bible study series. We also hosted one-off talks on topics including discerning your gifts,



BY THE NUMBERS . . .

540 Pastorate Mission attendees (over 3 nights)

150 Adult Bible Study participants

55 Pilgrimage to Ireland attendees

40 Members in the Exodus 90 men's group

60 Attendees of the pilgrimage to historic St. Mary's City

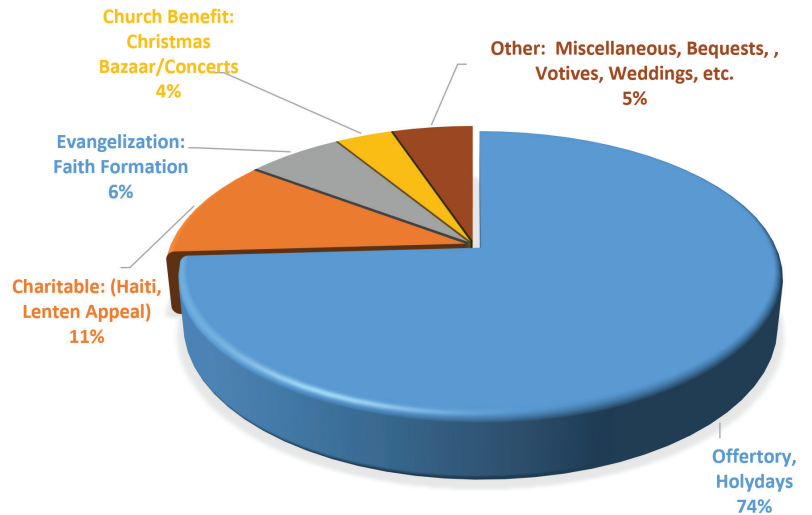


PARISH FINANCIALS

JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

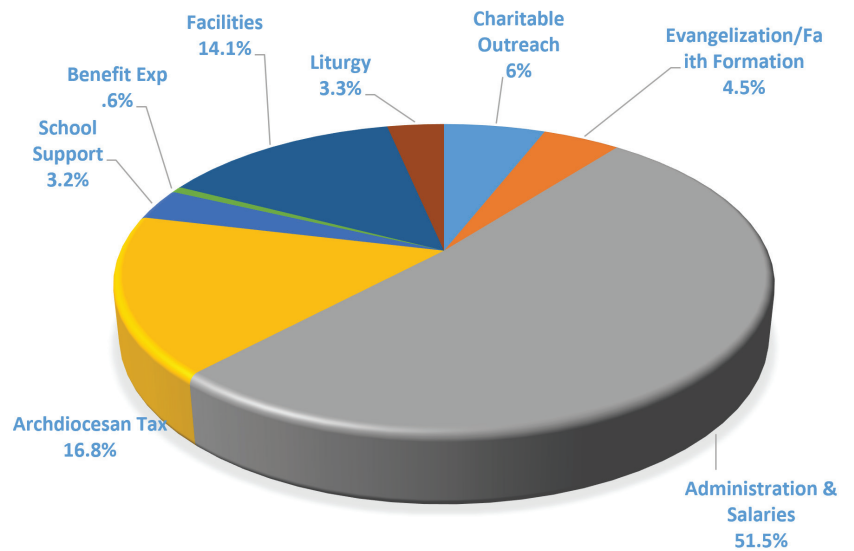
INCOME

Offertory, Holy Days	804,640
Charitable:	
Haiti	20,857
Archdiocesan/Mission	
Support	87,981
Lenten Appeal	+ 12,276
	= 121,114
Evangelization/Faith Formation	65,533
Church Benefits:	
Christmas Bazaar/Concerts	38,934
Other:	
Miscellaneous, Bequests, ,	
Votives, Weddings, etc.	56,080
TOTAL INCOME	1,086,301



EXPENSES

Charitable Outreach	73,221
Evangelization/Faith Formation	56,140
Administration & Salaries	635,755
Archdiocesan Tax	206,887
School Support	40,000
Benefits Expenses	7,991
Facilities	173,442
Liturgy	40,928
TOTAL EXPENSES*	1,234,364
NET OPERATING INCOME	-148,063



*Depreciation of \$124,348 is not included above.

These numbers do not include the income and expenses for the church renovation.

NOTES

BUILDING OUR FRIENDSHIPS

This past year was full of friendship and community activities. The St. Francis Festival brought 250+ people together for a family-friendly celebration of our patron saint.



The Christmas Bazaar brought a large crowd and we raised more than ever for our parish! The program added evangelization features including a Rosary series and a Nativity scene in the church. Thanks to all who made this event possible.

We also hosted our annual bike rally, St. Francis Christmas Concert, and Knights of Columbus Mardi Gras pancake dinner.



We also initiated a monthly Sunday tailgate outdoors after Mass bringing our parish together with food, music, and recreation to get to know one another including our priests.



BY THE NUMBERS . . .

250 People at the St. Francis Festival

2 Sunday tailgate picnics hosted

300 Served pancake dinners for Mardi Gras before the start of Lent

40 Bikers participated in the annual bike rally