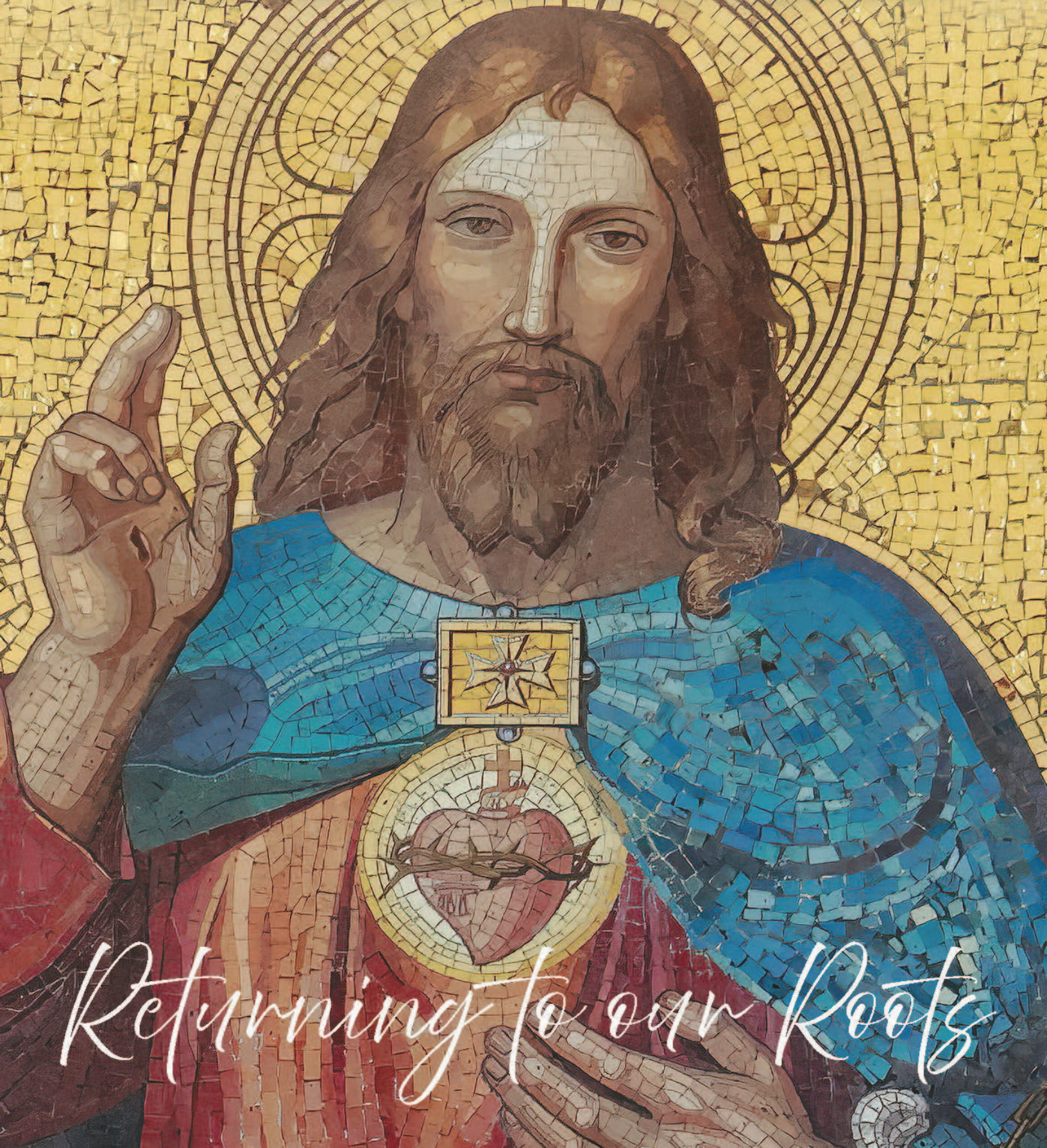


# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH ANNUAL REPORT 2026



*Returning to our Roots*



# A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Over the past year, there have been many documentaries, news articles, and digital and television specials celebrating our country's 250th anniversary, taking us back to the roots of our country. Our freedoms did not come easily. Our country was built, and continues to be built, by those with a vision enshrined in our constitution, with hope that their vision would be a source of strength and guidance for years to come.



Similarly, this year, the bishops of our country have asked us to go back to the roots of our faith, roots that lie not in a constitution, but a person - Jesus Christ. The roots of our faith are depicted in the image the Sacred Heart of Jesus demonstrating the Lord's passionate and unconditional love for us - a love that continues to flow through the Church.

Our Church, our parish in particular, has and will continue to be a conduit through which the love of Christ will be manifested, not only through the sacraments but in our desire to help and serve others, through our faith formation program, our outreach, and our desire to welcome all people.

None of this could be accomplished if it were not for your support, encouragement, and financial assistance. This year's Annual Report demonstrates our parish's vitality, engagement, faith, and financial status. This past year, we reduced the annual deficit by cutting back on maintenance projects and focused more on developing and expanding our ministries. We continue to make every effort to cut costs and expenditures. The good news is that our offertory, Annual Appeal collections, and donations are trending upward. THANK YOU.

I have also noticed that an increasing number of people, often children and young adults, who have been disaffiliated from the church are expressing interest in returning to Jesus Christ, our Church and our faith. Many of them have been influenced by their peers and/or friends who have found great meaning in Jesus Christ and His Church. May the love of Christ continue to flow from the heart of Jesus through you and I, the Church. The Church was built on the love of Jesus Christ who had a vision and a mission that it would be a source of God's strength and grace for years to come. Thank you for believing in and supporting that mission.

- Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor



*One of our four 2025-2026 Confirmation Masses*



*One of our four 2025-2026  
First Holy Communion Masses*





*Newly Baptized and Confirmed adults with their sponsors at the Easter Vigil*



*Our beautiful Easter altars decorated by our Church Decorating Committee*



## A NOTE FROM FR. JOHN

What a joy it is to arrive, a new priest of Jesus Christ in a new Parish with such wonderful people. Praise be to God! Thank you all for the incredible welcome you've given me so far. Your generosity and kindness have helped me begin to establish roots here in Bridgewater, ones that build on and help me return to the roots of prayer, discipline, and service that were cultivated in me through many years of Seminary.

These roots are not just personal, but truly the foundational roots of Christian spirituality throughout the millennia. Just as during Lent we practice prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, so too should we root ourselves year-round in those practices of prayer, discipline, and charity that keep us connected to Jesus Christ himself, Our Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit, Bond of Love. Practices that you all have been using to welcome me since before I arrived in Bridgewater. What a grace to come to a parish with people so ready and willing to give of themselves, not just to me but to all those around them.

Though I don't have much to report about our year's activities, I can say I am hopeful and excited about the year to come. With so many ministries, youth events, prayer services, and other things to be involved in, I can't wait to serve along side you as together we work to evangelize Bridgewater and bring the love of Jesus to all those we meet through that very same prayer, discipline, and charity that you've all shown me so far. May God continue to bless you all abundantly, and know of my unceasing prayers for you!

*- Fr. John Saniuk, Parochial Vicar*



*2026 Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission Trip - July 2026*







# A VIEW FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,  
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:10*

College campus ministry is important to me. I had my first experience participating in a church music program when I moved to Boston for graduate school. I volunteered both as a choir member and accompanist at Saint Ann University Parish in the Back Bay for many years. That formative experience undeniably led me to where I am today.

Over the past year, more college students at BSU have become involved in the music ministry at Saint Basil's chapel. I wholeheartedly welcome and encourage this! These young singers and musicians sharing their faith and talent is an inspiration and blessing to our community. Their gifts enhance our liturgy and are testament towards living out the Gospel. My prayer is to see this ministry grow.

We are blessed to have among our cantors at Saint Thomas Aquinas some very gifted music educators. They are highly skilled and knowledgeable, especially pertaining to the music of the church. This past spring, one of our cantors led a choral singing session with some of the college students. There is an incredible opportunity for growth here, and I intend to organize more of these sessions on campus throughout this coming year.

We have a responsibility to use and share the talents we have been given by God. I see part of my responsibility as music director to be a facilitator of just that. *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven. - Matthew 5:16*

- Paul Hoffman, Music Director



**Adult Choir**



**Children's Choir**



**BSU students Ania, Jack, Garrienne,  
and Adam (not pictured) share their  
musical talents at St. Basil's Chapel.**



**Soprano and Conductor Stephanie Beatrice  
led a choral workshop for BSU students this past Spring.**



# FORMING FAITH-FILLED LIVES

This past year, our faith formation program for Grades 1 - 7 continued to use the *Finding God* curriculum. With its engaging multimedia approach and at-home tools, families were able to easily access the information to help their children grow in their relationship with God. We were particularly encouraged by higher attendance in Grade 3, a grade where we typically see a dip in participation.



Our volunteers, who generously shared their love of God and His Church with our young disciples, are the bridge between home and parish. Their dedication and creativity spark learning and connection not only to concepts but also to Christ. Our Grades 8 and 9 Confirmation candidates benefited immensely from excellent speakers, small group mentors who walked alongside them, and a transformative retreat at Spellman High School.

Beyond the classroom, we have witnessed families making a greater effort to incorporate Sunday Mass into their weekly schedules, recognizing the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. With the help of a grant from the Archdiocese, we invested in forming a youth group – STEPUP – to connect newly confirmed students to their faith and parish. Our meetings include fun and faith as we dive into the Bible and find God in our midst. Looking ahead, we are energized and committed to the essential work of making disciples - forming young hearts to know, love, and serve Christ and His Church with joy and conviction. - *Debbie Hill, Faith Formation Director*



*Grade 4 Faith Formation students make Nativity ornaments to share with nursing home residents.*



*2025-2026 Confirmation Teachers*



*2025 Christmas Pageant Volunteers*



*2025 Christmas Pageant Cast*

## GRATEFUL...THANKFUL...BLESSED



This past year, I have had the blessing of not only continuing my work in the front office, but, in the absence of a Ministries and Programs Coordinator, also working more closely with our ministry heads. When I speak with staff members from other parishes, they are astounded to learn that we have 36 ministries and over 300 active volunteers. Our ministries could not exist if it wasn't for our devoted volunteers.

Our parish is strengthened by you, our parish family, through your faith in and love for the Lord, your commitment to serving in Jesus' name, and your willingness to answer the Lord's call, even when it involves a personal sacrifice. I thank you for all you are and all you do. I am honored to have the ability to support all of you, and am eternally grateful for the support you all give me. - *Tina Larson, Administrative Assistant*



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

| ST. THOMAS AQUINAS<br>PARISH               | FY25 (LY)<br>ACTUAL | FY26 (TY)<br>ACTUAL | FY26 (TY)<br>BUDGET (\$) | FY26 (TY)<br>VS. BUD. (\$) | FY26 (TY)<br>VS. BUD. % | COMMENTS                                                 | BUDGET (\$) |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>OPERATING INCOME</b>                    |                     |                     |                          |                            |                         |                                                          |             |
| OFFERTORY                                  | \$526,393           | \$545,002           | \$510,000                | \$35,002                   | 6.86%                   | Inc. in Offertory vs. conservative Budget FY26           | \$582,000   |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT                        | \$65,368            | \$62,868            | \$55,000                 | \$7,868                    | 14.31%                  | Better performance vs. conservative Budget FY26          | \$65,000    |
| GRAND ANNUAL                               | \$210,700           | \$212,741           | \$190,000                | \$22,741                   | 11.97%                  | Strong Grand Annual performance FY26                     | \$210,000   |
| SACRAMENTAL/FLOWERS                        | \$40,935            | \$42,465            | \$43,600                 | (\$1,135)                  | -2.60%                  |                                                          | \$42,000    |
| GIFTS/BEQUESTS/DONATIONS                   | \$12,562            | \$174,048           | \$12,000                 | \$162,048                  | 1350.40%                | Several unexpected donations in FY26 totalling \$137,000 | \$25,000    |
| CATHOLIC APPEAL REBATE                     | \$13,342            | \$16,299            | \$0                      | \$16,299                   | N/A                     | Increased rebate for Catholic Appeal FY26                | \$12,000    |
| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION                        | \$54,810            | \$37,772            | \$50,000                 | (\$12,228)                 | -24.46%                 | Lower enrollment FY26                                    | \$59,500    |
| MINISTRY FUNDRAISING/OTHER                 | \$96,250            | \$103,517           | \$90,960                 | \$12,557                   | 13.80%                  | Increases in weddings, Inspire Program                   | \$103,950   |
| INCOME TOTAL                               | \$1,020,360         | \$1,194,712         | \$951,560                | \$243,152                  | 25.55%                  |                                                          | \$1,099,450 |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>                  |                     |                     |                          |                            |                         |                                                          |             |
| SALARIES/BENEFITS                          | \$549,655           | \$470,032           | \$542,418                | (\$72,386)                 | -13.35%                 | Dir. Of Ministries open/Housekeeping 2/3 year            | \$591,260   |
| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXP.                   | \$102,156           | \$94,541            | \$104,664                | (\$10,123)                 | -9.67%                  | Savings on supplies/Retreat costs                        | \$93,396    |
| PASTORAL/LITURGICAL                        | \$52,894            | \$62,795            | \$64,200                 | (\$1,405)                  | -2.19%                  |                                                          | \$86,123    |
| OFFICE/ADMIN/HOUSEHOLD                     | \$44,750            | \$53,486            | \$52,200                 | \$1,286                    | 2.46%                   |                                                          | \$61,200    |
| UTILITIES/HEAT/ELEC/W&S                    | \$82,758            | \$93,224            | \$93,100                 | \$124                      | 0.13%                   |                                                          | \$107,100   |
| PROPERTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE               | \$56,020            | \$55,066            | \$56,500                 | (\$1,434)                  | -2.54%                  |                                                          | \$56,800    |
| MAINTENANCE                                | \$41,623            | \$56,447            | \$47,900                 | \$8,547                    | 17.84%                  | Differential driven by Snow Removal FY26                 | \$50,000    |
| MINISTRY CENTRAL TITHE                     | \$65,426            | \$66,658            | \$68,000                 | (\$1,342)                  | -1.97%                  |                                                          | \$66,000    |
| OTHER                                      | \$49,153            | \$54,193            | \$58,100                 | (\$3,907)                  | -6.72%                  |                                                          | \$49,168    |
| EXPENSES TOTAL                             | \$1,044,435         | \$1,006,442         | \$1,087,082              | (\$80,640)                 | -7.42%                  |                                                          | \$1,161,047 |
| NET OPERATING INCOME/ (LOSS)               | (\$24,075)          | \$188,270           | (\$135,522)              | \$323,792                  | -238.92%                |                                                          | (\$61,597)  |
| <b>NON-OPERATING INCOME &amp; EXPENSES</b> |                     |                     |                          |                            |                         |                                                          |             |
| NON-OPERATING INCOME                       | \$60,611            | \$87,742            | \$48,000                 | \$39,742                   | 82.80%                  | FY26 Includes Investment Market performance              | \$66,000    |
| NON-OPERATING EXPENSE                      | \$139,631           | \$51,693            | \$50,000                 | \$1,693                    | 3.39%                   | HVAC project for the Parish Center                       | \$182,000   |
| NET NON-OPERATING INCOME/ (LOSS)           | (\$79,020)          | \$36,049            | (\$2,000)                | \$38,049                   | -1902.45%               |                                                          | (\$116,000) |
| NET INCOME/ (LOSS)                         | (\$103,095)         | \$224,319           | (\$137,522)              | \$361,841                  | -263.11%                |                                                          | (\$177,597) |

Parish Operating Balance as of 6/30/2026: \$ 342,701.29

Chapel Operating Balance as of 6/30/2026: \$ 62,561.75

| ST. THOMAS AQUINAS<br>CEMETERY             | FY25 (LY)<br>ACTUAL | FY26 (TY)<br>ACTUAL | FY26 (TY)<br>BUDGET (\$) | FY26 (TY)<br>VS. BUD. (\$) | FY26 (TY)<br>VS. BUD. % | VARIANCE OVER \$10,000<br>COMMENTS          | FY27<br>BUDGET (\$) |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                              |                     |                     |                          |                            |                         |                                             |                     |
| INCOME TOTAL                               | \$140,949           | \$143,329           | \$146,000                | (\$2,671)                  | -1.83%                  |                                             | \$127,250           |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                            |                     |                     |                          |                            |                         |                                             |                     |
| EXPENSES TOTAL                             | \$114,024           | \$116,539           | \$124,600                | (\$8,061)                  | -6.47%                  |                                             | \$130,395           |
| NET OPERATING INCOME/ (LOSS)               | \$26,925            | \$26,790            | \$21,400                 | \$5,390                    | 25.19%                  |                                             | (\$3,145)           |
| <b>NON-OPERATING INCOME &amp; EXPENSES</b> |                     |                     |                          |                            |                         |                                             |                     |
| NON-OPERATING INCOME                       | \$17,894            | \$32,200            | \$0                      | \$32,200                   | N/A                     | No Market Gain/(Loss) budgeted for FY26     | \$14,000            |
| NON-OPERATING EXPENSE                      | \$60,000            | \$65,450            | \$0                      | \$65,450                   | N/A                     | No Non-Operating Expenses budgeted for FY26 | \$15,000            |
| RECEIPTS FOR PERPETUAL CARE                | \$6,930             | \$12,910            | \$7,000                  | \$5,910                    | 84.43%                  | More Sale of Lots FY26                      | \$9,500             |
| NON-OPERATING INCOME/ (LOSS)               | (\$42,106)          | (\$33,250)          | \$0                      | (\$33,250)                 | N/A                     |                                             | (\$1,000)           |
| NET INCOME (LOSS)                          | (\$15,181)          | (\$6,460)           | \$21,400                 | (\$27,860)                 | -130.19%                |                                             | (\$4,145)           |

Operating Balance as of 6/30/2026: \$ 161,864.01





## FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

For fiscal year 2026, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish achieved strong financial results, reporting a net income of \$224,000, compared with a budgeted net loss of \$138,000. This favorable performance was primarily driven by the continued generosity of our parishioners, including a combined \$65,000 increase over budget in weekly offertories, the Grand Annual, and capital improvement contributions. The parish also unexpectedly received more than \$160,000 in gifts and bequests, along with modest increases in our new Inspire program and wedding fees. These contributions have been instrumental in supporting the ongoing operations and growth of our parish.

St. Thomas Aquinas also remained diligent in managing expenses, with most categories tracking close to budget. The primary exception was salaries, where delays in hiring for Youth Ministry and the continued vacancy of the Director of Ministries position resulted in \$72,000 in savings. In addition, the parish maintained its focus on managing capital expenditures within budget, further strengthening our overall financial performance.

We enter FY2027 with continued optimism, and our budget reflects this confidence. We anticipate higher capital-related expenses over the next several years, including a new HVAC system for the Parish Center in FY2027 and anticipated repairs at St. Basil in the following year. Nevertheless, we remain confident in the parish's financial outlook, supported by the continued generosity of our parishioners and our ongoing commitment to careful and responsible expense management.

- Sheila Whitaker (Chair), James Gale, Katie Gomes, Brian Hynes, Brett Lunardini, Marc Papasadoro, and Scott Smith



## FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

This past year showcased our parish's energy, diversity, and growth. For many years, we have worked to be faithful stewards of your generosity by upgrading and improving our facilities so we can better serve you. With guidance from the Parish Maintenance Council, support from the Parish Finance Council, and leadership from Fr. Bill, we have completed many needed improvements across our properties. These efforts have built a strong foundation that allowed our ministries to grow and thrive this past year.

Ministries have grown in size while more and more of our parish family are getting involved. Let's look at the numbers: 36 active ministries, 335 volunteers and over 2,700 registered families...all here and working together in faith...our parish family. This kind of success is happening through the hard work of many people and a lot of moving parts, all coming together with a powerful love of God.

As Finance and Operations Officer, my role is to ensure we are the best stewards of your generosity, in addition to helping to make our parish safe, welcoming, and a place where we can all come together to share our faith. Your support is the lifeblood of everything we do, and we are forever grateful.

- Peter Vitagliano, Finance and Operations Officer





***Volunteer Sign-up Weekend - September 2025***



***Annual Block Party - September 2025***



***Trunk or Treat - October 2025***



***Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner volunteers - November 2025***



***Christmas Bazaar volunteers - November 2025***



***Giving Tree volunteers - December 2025***



***Valentine's Dinner Committee - February 2026***



***Volunteer Appreciation Social - March 2026***



***Annual Golf Tournament and Auction Dinner Fundraiser - June 2026***