

2026 Annual Report

Corpus Christi - St. Bernard Parish

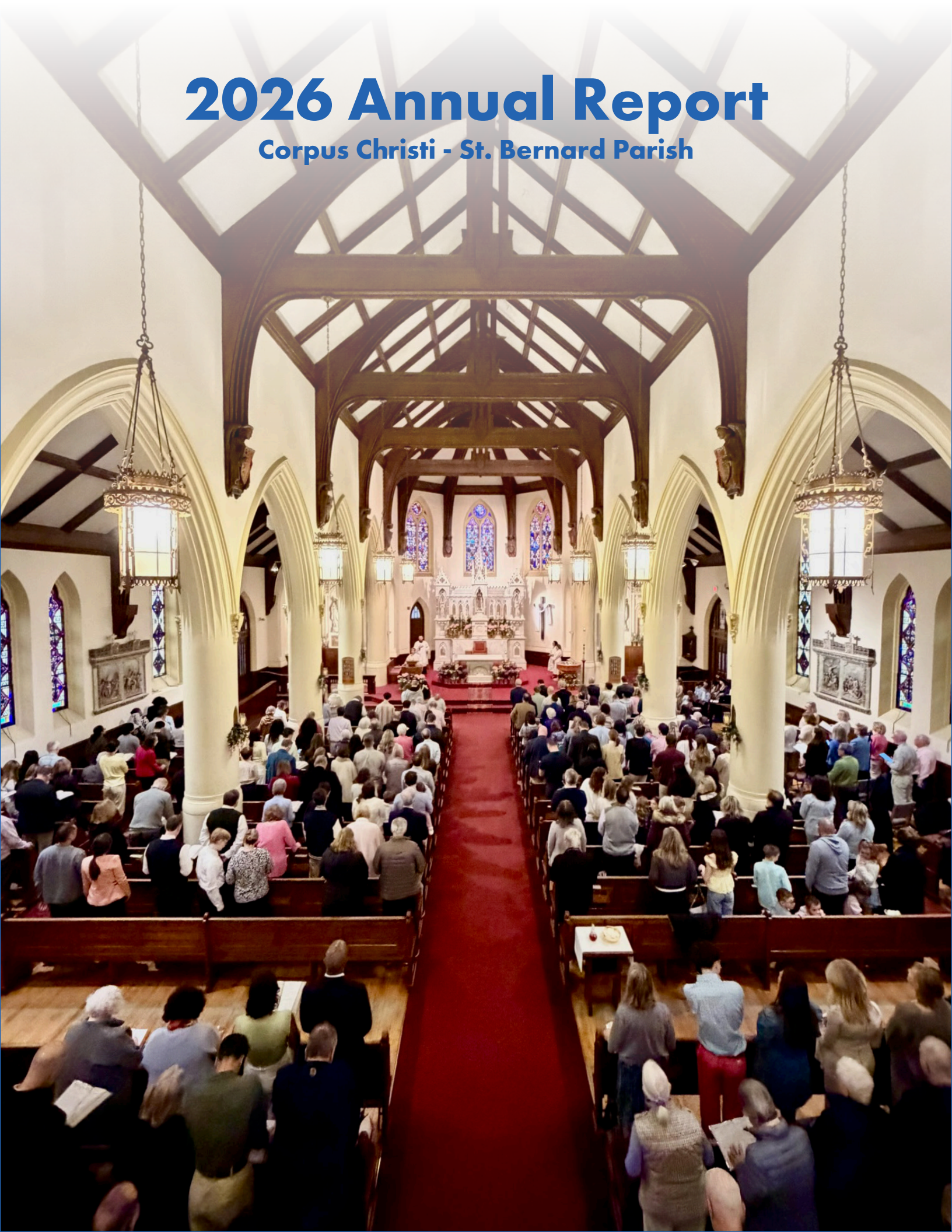


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A Letter from Father Dan

“I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.”

Matthew 25:35

My Dear Friends,

Welcome to this year's Annual Report. Once again, these pages offer a glimpse of the life of our parish and a reflection of all that has taken place within our community over the past year.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus continually reaches out to those who might otherwise be overlooked, as well as to His disciples. His welcome was never simply a polite greeting; it was an invitation into a community of faith, hope, and love. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to reflect that same spirit of hospitality and welcome in our parish.

I often hear from newly arrived parishioners that one of the reasons they chose Corpus Christi-St. Bernard Parish as their new parish home was the warm welcome they received on their first visit to our church. Whether it was a friendly smile before Mass, a kind greeting, an invitation to become involved, or simply the kindness of being noticed, these small gestures often made a lasting impression.

A welcoming parish does not happen by accident. It is created day by day through the openness, generosity, and kindness of its people. Every member of our parish contributes to an atmosphere where others feel that they belong, where faith can grow, and where the love of Christ becomes visible in our community.

As we reflect on the past year with gratitude, I want to thank all of our parishioners for helping to make our parish a place where everyone feels truly welcome. Your witness to the Gospel continues to build a community that reflects the heart of Christ.

May we always remain a parish where every person who walks through our doors encounters not only a warm welcome from one another, but also the loving embrace of Jesus.

Blessings,
Fr. Dan O'Connell
Pastor
Corpus Christi-St. Bernard Parish

@FrDanOConnell



Bringing the Gospel Home: Building the Domestic Church

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20)

If you look around our church on any given weekend, you’ve probably noticed new faces in the pews. In the last few years, churches across the globe have seen a rise in attendance. On the heels of the pandemic, the Holy Spirit has been at work reminding us that “it is not good for man to be alone” (Gen. 2:18a). At weekend Mass, we see hundreds of other people each with their own story, yet we come together united for one cause: worshipping God. Gathered as the Body of Christ, we are nourished by the Word and the Eucharist and sent on mission. The mission, to “glorify God by our lives,” is primarily strengthened by our participation in the Sacramental Life of the Church but is secondarily strengthened by the daily invitation from God to draw closer to Him. By bringing church home, we continue to radiate the love of God that nourishes us each weekend at Mass.



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* speaks clearly to the church at home when it says, “In our own time, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith” (CCC, 1656). The family is the first herald of the Gospel, called in a particular way to foster the faith of those entrusted to them. As members of our own *Ecclesiae domesticae* (domestic churches), we continue to build up the Church on Earth each time we invite Jesus into our midst. Inviting Him into our everyday lives does not have to be a mighty task whereby we overextend ourselves in Holy Hours, Rosaries, Divine Mercy Chaplets, or Devotions. These are all good practices that we should take up in our spiritual lives, but our primary motivation in prayer should be encountering the Lord in the ordinary moments of our lives. In the First Book of Kings, we read the story of the Prophet Elijah who, after having fled to Beer-sheba, encounters the Lord not in the violent winds, nor the earthquake, nor the fire, but in a whisper (cf. 1 Kings 19:11-12). Building up our own domestic churches is rooted in intentionally seeking God out. Intentionally seeking Him means to make space to listen for His voice, to learn about where He is leading us, and to live as Jesus lived – bringing the love of the Trinity to the world.

What role do listening, learning, and living play in our individual lives? Living out the commission to “glorify the Lord by our lives” always begins with making sure the home of our soul is in order. As husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, grandparents, sons, or daughters, we each bring to our respective “domestic churches” gifts and abilities unique to who we are as children of God. The more time we spend in prayer listening to and learning from God, the better able we are to live in Christ and use our gifts to strengthen the life of the Church in our homes.

The roadmap for developing our “domestic churches” as extensions of our nourishment at Mass comes to us

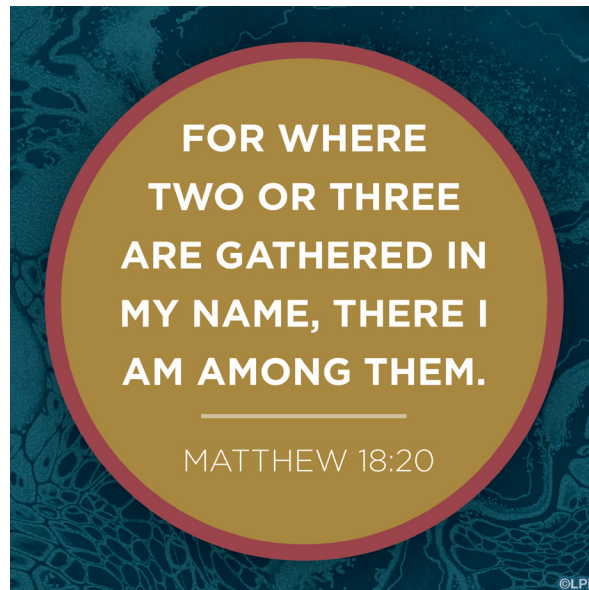
from the gifts of the Holy Spirit which we receive in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which we were sealed with on the day of our Confirmation need continual strengthening, each according to our need. Whether we seek greater Wisdom, more Knowledge, a deeper sense of Fear of the Lord, we must go to God in prayer

to ask for a deepening of these gifts. David Ortiz did not magically wake up able to hit 54 homeruns in 2006; Tiger Woods was not divinely given the ability to win 15 major championships in golf, nor was Tom Brady given the gift from God to play quarterback for two decades. Each had to devote hours to their respective craft to reach the top echelon in their sports. When we desire to grow in our relationship with God, we have to devote

ourselves to getting to know God, see where He is calling us, and ask for the grace to respond to His call.

At the heart of our “domestic churches” is bringing the Gospel home with us, making space to listen, learn, and live with Christ,

and putting our faith into practice in our homes. Our parish needs each and every one of us to cultivate the mission to “glorify the Lord with our lives.” We hope the pages of this year’s Annual Report will spur your heart toward more conversation with God, to seek out where He is calling you to bring Corpus Christi-St. Bernard Parish into your “domestic church.”



2025-2026 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.



A moment of prayer during the Candelight Service at the Easter Vigil.

Eucharistic Ministers

Betty Bruhmuller	Alain Mathieu
Luisa 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

Maeve Albano	John Griglun
Nora Allen	Luke Griglun
Suzanne Arbing	Sarah Heine
Betty Brumuller	Theresa Heine
Janet Carvelli	Alyssa Jarry
Lourdes Connolly	Kayla Jarry
Ann Cornaro	David Pleyner
Max Fernandez	Ann Purcell
Nihyla Fleurimond	Teresa Senatore
Nizaro Fleurimond	Dana Vecchione
Nancy Gagnon	

Homebound Ministry

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

Ushers

Jason Albano	John Greeley
Suzanne Arbing	Regina Joyce
Marco Bossolo	Doug Koch
Janet Carvelli	Michael Manosh
Yveline Charles	Diane McGlame
Lourdes Connolly	Sharon Okuaro
Albie Alvarez Cote	Ethel O'Reilly
Jim Cote	Antonio Tonti
Ashish Fernandes	

Sacristans

Kelsey Albano	Regina Joyce
Betty Bruhmuller	Mary Lewis
Ann Cornaro	Leona Malone
Melanie Kappadakunnel	

2025-2026 Liturgical Ministry Volunteers

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
Samuel Gelso
Aren Gerdon
Matthew Heine
Bob Larner
John Mahoney
Leona Malone
Donna Mazzola
John McBrine
Will McBrine
Tim Moran
Mary Pajak
Ann Purcell
Don Snyder
Elena Vitug

Children's Choir

Bennet Martinelli
William Martinelli
Samantha Callahan
Kamay Chirayil
Leonard Cucchi
Lydia Cucchi
Cecelia Coniker
Daniel Coniker
Mihika Fernandes
Marie Heine
Peter Heine
Theresa Heine
Delaney Hughes
Aurelia Gibbons
Geradina Ricchiuti
Teresa Senatore

Choir

Bill Beal
Mick Carr
Julio Carrera
Paige Carroll
Paula Chesbrough
Sue Conkey
Cyrus Dahmubed
Jeremy Fiset
Parker Fiset
Sr. Jeanette Gaudet
Linda Hamel
Brenda Madden
Leona Malone
Donna Mazzola
Anna McBrine
John McBrine
Ann Ormond
Susan Parente
Jim Reilly
Angela Siciliano
Cindy Wooley



Music is an important part of how we pray as a community.

Left: the Children's Choir prepares to sing on Easter Sunday. Below left: the Choir warms up at Christmas; Below right: First Holy Communicants share a song with the congregation, led by our Music Director Mary Nolan.



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.



Guild members present medallions of the newly beatified Saint Carlo Acutis to this year's Confirmandi.

Ministry Coordinators

Community Activities Ministry

Mary Lewis and Claire Palmer

Liturgical and Pastoral Ministries

Paula Chesbrough

Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Tim DeRosa

Social Justice Ministry

David Pleyner

Parish Pastoral Council

Ann Cornaro, Co-chair

Donna Mazzola

Mary Pajak

Tim Moran

Program Coordinators

Scripture Study

Bob Larner and Betty Bruhmuller

Men's Prayer Group

Doug Koch

Liturgical Environment Ministry

Janet Carvelli

Parish Finance Council

Janice Bourque, Co-chair

Anthony Caruso

Paula Chesbrough

Doug Koch

Liturgy Committee

Betty Bruhmuller

Janet Carvelli

Ann Cornaro

Leona Malone

Lucille McEvoy

We Remember

Between July 2025 and June 2026 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

Claire Burke	Patricia O'Brien
Ann Caggiano	William M. O'Donnell
Roland Caira	Mary Pacione
Peter E. Caruso	Francis S. Parisi
Robert Chagnon	Thomas Ryan
Mary Lou DeSouza	Isabella Sinopoli
Brian McGlame	Martin J. Walsh
Richard P. McGrath	Paul Ward, Jr.

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	Ann Purcell
Mary Lewis	Joanne Vosnak
Vincent O'Connell	

We Celebrate

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

Baptisms

Ava DiStefano
Camila Vargas Fung
James Luca Howard
Nicholas Richard Mastroianni
Liliana Marie Muniz
Owen Luke O'Leary
William Ford O'Leary
Ruby Isabella Webb
Lilly Rose Weideling
Parker Dale Weideling
Alice Wholey
Kathryn Kiley Wholey

Baptism Ministry

Sr. Suzanne Fondini, mfc
Dana Vecchione



Weddings

Steven Joseph Liakos & Avantika Mehta



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.

First Holy Communion

Scarlett Albano
Kamaya Chirayil
Alessia DePascale
Thomas Doherty
Emma Dunne
Nimard Fleurimond

Camila Fung
Anna Jarck
Samuel Kozak
Charles Levy
Sienna Nicolazzo
Jason Peter

Confirmation

Jill Butler
Zachary Callahan
Lara Carey
Henry Clark
Orla Cleary
Nora Devaney
Violetta Engel
Maximiliano Fernandez
Linnea Goksor

Alyssa Jarry
Anna McBrine
Kira Mitchell
Christopher Quinn
Sebastian Quintero
Sophia O'Donnell
Anna Selig
Mario Carbone



The Sacrament of First Communion is conferred.



First Holy Communicants being recognized by the congregation with Fr. Dan.



We welcomed Bishop Reed back to our church to celebration Confirmation.



Following an injury that prevented one student from attending Confirmation, the entire class came together again on Pentecost to join in the confirmation of his faith.

Faith Formation Ministry

Brendan Belschner
Lauren Belschner
Albie Alvarez Cote
Jim Cote
Iwona Dobler

Klaus Dobler
Regina Joyce
Camai Mazulla
Tim Shea
Dana Vecchione

Finance Council Report - Fiscal Year 2026

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.

Corpus Christi - Saint Bernard Parish Financial Statements are prepared on a cash basis and the 2026 fiscal year ran from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. All money received and all expenditures paid are recorded for the date executed.

	Actual	Projected Budget	Variance to Budget		Budget FY 2027
	July 2025 - June 2026	July 2025 - June 2026	July 2025 - June 2026	July 2025 - June 2026	July 2026 - June 2027
			(In \$)	(In %)	
Income					
Offertory	\$245,959	\$211,000	\$34,959	16.57%	\$230,000
Grand Annual Appeal	\$134,870	\$100,000	\$34,870	34.87%	\$115,000
Sacramental Offerings	\$15,756	\$17,500	-\$1,744	-9.97%	\$15,200
Gifts, Bequests & Other Donations	\$49,781	\$0	\$49,781	N/A	\$0
Religious Education	\$4,580	\$4,500	\$80	1.78%	\$4,000
Interest & Dividends	\$7,041	\$9,690	-\$2,649	-27.34%	\$7,000
Shrines, Candles & Flowers	\$3,926	\$3,500	\$426	12.17%	\$4,000
Lease - Rental Properties	\$766,700	\$776,381	-\$9,681	-1.25%	\$711,564
Fundraising Activities	\$24,342	\$24,825	-\$483	-1.95%	\$24,000
Other Revenue	\$8,720	\$2,700	\$6,020	222.96%	\$15,800
Total Income	\$1,261,675	\$1,150,096	\$111,579	9.70%	\$1,126,564
Expenses					
Salaries & Benefits	\$403,190	\$365,000	\$38,190	10.46%	\$387,668
Office	\$56,393	\$51,508	\$4,885	9.48%	\$54,734
Insurance	\$87,047	\$85,467	\$1,580	1.85%	\$94,737
Facility / Maintenance	\$168,275	\$156,603	\$11,672	7.45%	\$178,955
Utilities	\$102,284	\$100,559	\$1,725	1.72%	\$112,015
Household Food & Supplies	\$5,802	\$7,620	-\$1,818	-23.86%	\$6,000
Travel, Development & Education	\$143	\$1,000	-\$857	-85.70%	\$1,000
RCAB IFRC Tithe	\$30,882	\$30,888	-\$6	-0.02%	\$32,280
Net Rental Income Tax	\$113,579	\$113,580	-\$1	0.00%	\$121,812
Pastoral & Liturgical	\$28,559	\$31,300	-\$2,741	-8.76%	\$32,050
Fundraising	\$5,392	\$7,500	-\$2,108	-28.11%	\$5,500
Total Expenses	\$1,001,546	\$951,025	\$50,521	5.31%	\$1,026,751
Net Gain (Loss)	\$260,129	\$199,071	\$61,058	30.67%	\$99,813
Capital Expenditures	\$124,946	\$100,000	\$24,946	24.95%	\$65,000
Total Net Gain (Loss)	\$135,183	\$99,071	\$36,112	6.44%	\$34,813

Significant Variances to Budget

- Offertory exceeded budget by \$34,959 due to an overall increase in giving.
- Grand Annual Appeal exceeded budget by \$34,870 due to parishioner generosity.
- Gifts, Bequests & Other Donations exceeded budget by \$49,781 due to unanticipated (yet welcome!) larger gifts from parishioners over the course of the year.
- Salaries & Benefits Expense is over budget by \$38,190 due to delay in implementation of office restructuring.
- Facility / Maintenance Expense is over budget by \$11,672 due to unanticipated severity of winter storms and resultant snow / ice removal expenses.
- Capital Expenditures exceeded budget by \$24,946 due to higher than anticipated costs associated with the completion of the Parish House Rehab Project.

Finance Council Report

Actual 2026

We had an overall actual net gain of \$135,183 versus a projected net gain of \$99,071. Actual capital improvements totaled \$124,946 and consist primarily of expenses associated with the rehab / renovation of the parish house. We are happy to report that the new Parish Center is completed and up and running - housing our Faith Formation classrooms, meeting rooms and kitchen facilities. On a solely operational basis excluding capital improvements, our parish had an actual operating gain of \$260,129 versus a projection of \$199,071. Offertory (in-pew and online) and other financial gifts totaled \$295,740 versus budget of \$211,800 and our Grand Annual collection exceeded budget by \$34,870. We continue to exceed budget on Offertory and Grand Annual collections as well on Gifts, Bequests & Other Donations; however, it is important to note that the goal of the Offertory is to raise the funds needed to “run” the parish, including both clerical and lay salaries and benefits (keeping in mind that

we pay a just and sustainable wage to your parish staff), building and grounds repairs and maintenance, utilities, charitable works and more. Your contributions in all areas and components of stewardship, largely supplemented by lease income, have allowed the Parish to complete the second phase (interior) of the rehab of our Parish Center and allows us to now focus on other projects throughout our parish campus.

The depicted pie charts provide a visual allocation of our actual revenues and expenses for 2025 - 2026. Please note that Lease Income continues to represent over 60% of our total parish revenue, while Staffing Expense and Facilities / Utilities 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.

Fiscal Year 2027

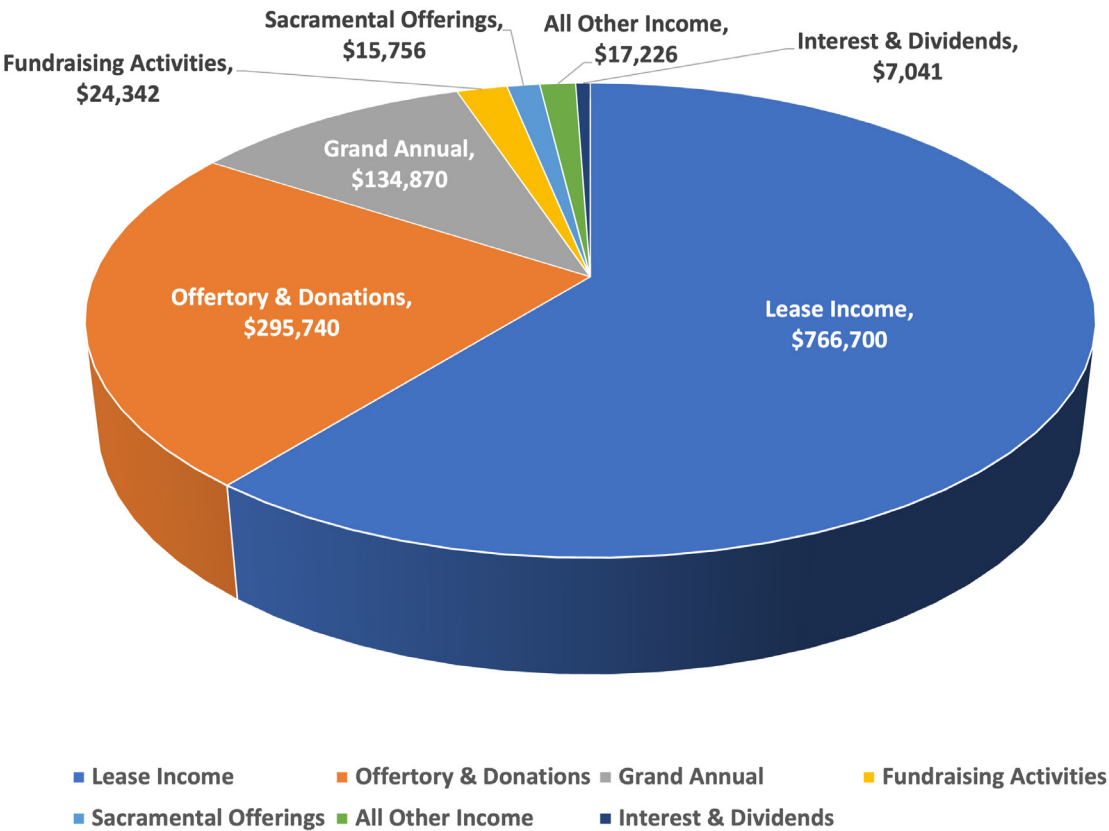
Again, both the Offertory and the Grand Annual are key sources of revenue for our Parish. While the Grand Annual continues to exceed expectations year over year, we continue to remain conservative with a budget of \$115,000. Our goal for Offertory and Other Giving is \$230,000. With an influx of new young families into our parish community, we have begun to see an increase in our Offertory; however until we see an ongoing trend, we must 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 finalizing negotiation of a new lease with Learning Prep School, as the existing lease expires in August 2027. 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 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 \$1,026,751 as compared to actual Operating Expense of \$1,001,546 for the past fiscal year as there are no significant changes anticipated in Staffing or Facilities & Utilities Expense for the coming year. Capital Improvements are projected at \$65,000, as we step back upon completion of the parish house and continue to triage other potential needs and initiatives around our campus. Accordingly, we are projecting a net total gain of \$34,813 for the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027.

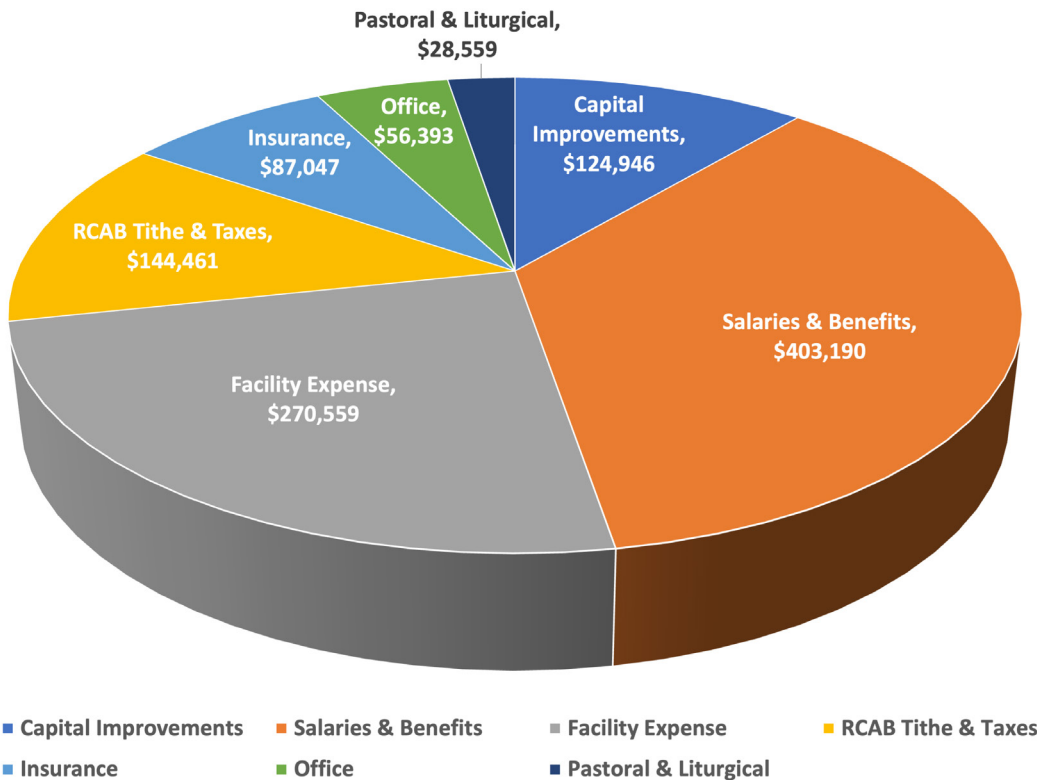
With a committed pastor who envisions the future of our parish ministry activities to be about giving to others while building a commitment to sacrificial giving, a dedicated staff, active volunteers and ministry committees, a strong Faith Formation program, and most importantly, faith-filled parishioners, Corpus Christi - Saint Bernard Parish will continue to grow as a vibrant Catholic community.

Finance Council Report

FY 2026 Total Revenue - What We've Taken In



FY 2026 Total Expenses - What We've Paid Out



Photos from Our Year



Scenes from Holy Week



Gilligan's Island Party



The Guild's Spring Hat Decorating Event



The grand opening of the Faith Formation Center



Our Season of Creation Tree

Young families gathered for a picnic in the park



Bishop Reed celebrated Confirmation with us



Easter Egg Celebration



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

Parish Staff

Fr. Dan O'Connell
Paula Chesbrough
Tim DeRosa
Anthony Caruso
Paige Carroll
Mary Nolan
Jay Porter
Sr. Suzanne Fondini, mfc

Pastor
Pastoral Associate and Director of Liturgy
Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
Pastoral Associate and Director of Finance/Operations
Coordinator of Parish Services
Music Director
Consultant for Facilities
Baptism Catechesis

CORPUS CHRIS|I
S|BERNARD PARISH