



ST JOHN PAUL THE GREAT

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT

2019
PARISH
LIFE
REPORT



Report from your pastor—Fr. Emmanuel



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I greet you in the name of our savior Jesus Christ!

A major mission of our church is to *meet the spiritual and physical needs of our parish family and community through prayer, faith formation, stewardship, fellowship and outreach.*

This parish life report shares some of the concrete ways we lived and walked this mission through various ministries in our parish in 2019.

Because you prayed, served, and generously gave your time, talent and treasure, we were able to provide the spiritual needs of so many in our parish. Here are some examples:

Bringing children to Jesus is a priority for us as a parish.

- a. **We saved our school St. John Paul the Great Academy.** We believe that here in our local community, Saint John Paul the Great Academy is the most effective way to bring, form, and make disciples of Jesus all of God's children. We turned our school into an **ACADEMY**, began to infuse **STREAM** into the curriculum and **grew enrollment from 81 to 105.**
- b. Our parish welcomed **61 babies** into the faith by way of baptism last year.
- c. **38 children** received their first holy Communion in 2019.
- d. Over **150 children** were taught about Jesus in our **religious education** program.
- e. **31 teenagers** received the gift of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of **confirmation** last year.
- f. We helped our **teens and tweens** to encounter Jesus Christ through prayer, adoration, praying the Rachel Rosary, and retreats and conferences. We welcomed nationally known speaker David Calavitta for an engaging retreat day. We **Marched**



Providing Spiritual Needs...

for Life in Washington, DC with several teens and we attended the Steubenville East **Catholic Youth Conference** with **34 teens**.

- g. Our confirmation students put their faith in action following the Corporal Works of Mercy: **Feeding the Hungry** – preparing meals for local homeless shelters, helping at a local food drive, and distributing food at Thanksgiving and Christmas to those in need; **Clothing the Naked** – distributing over 900 winter coats; **Sheltering the Homeless** – by participating in our Cardboard Box City and collecting donations from our generous parishioners; and **Visiting the Sick** – spending time with residents at local convalescent homes and enjoying many fun times with our friends at LARC.

Discipleship: We make disciples

- a. Last year our parish welcomed **63 new families (150 new registered members** if we count spouses and children).
- b. **5 couples** were married in our parish.
- c. **4 adults** embraced our Catholic faith through baptism.
- d. **6 adults** received their first holy Communion.
- e. **6 adults** received the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

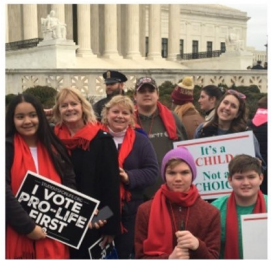


- f. We provided **416 weekend Masses** and **220 weekday Masses** (holy days of obligation not included).

We also provided material needs for so many in our parish and beyond through the parish **Social Justice Outreach**. Here are some examples of what we did in 2019:

- a. We fed the poor for Jesus. Last year, we served **1,312 meals** through Kevin's Place.
- b. **52 homebound parishioners received 280 visits** last year from their pastor and eucharistic ministers.
- c. **Our eucharistic ministers** made a total of over **160 visits** to the residents of Valerie Manor, Litchfield Woods, Wolcott Hall and Regal Care nursing homes as well as Keystone and Atria assisted living and Tarringford West facilities.
- d. Our **Bereavement Ministry** served **98 families** in 2019.
- e. From the money raised, **Social Ministry** gave **\$816** to Friendly Hands Food Bank, Inc. and **\$825** to FISH NWCT. From the **701 bags of food (3,505 lbs.)** collected in 2019, Social Ministry made the following donations to various local agencies in our community:
 - ♦ **342 Bags** of food to FISH
 - ♦ **339 Bags** of food to Friendly Hands

Providing Material Needs...



- ◆ **18 Bags** of food to Catholic Charities
- ◆ **12 Bags** of food to Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center
- ◆ **Over 450 toys** were collected for FISH and Friendly Hands during our Christmas in July toy drive.
- ◆ We collected **over 700 gifts** for our Christmas Giving Tree with the gifts going to FISH, Friendly Hands, Two Hearts, Susan B. Anthony Project and area nursing homes.
- ◆ Our parish took part in "Undies Sunday" for Operation Overflow, collecting new socks, t-shirts, underwear, etc., for the homeless.
- ◆ We had **2 baby supplies drives** for Two Hearts, one in May and the other in October.

We also took care of our church, office & rectory buildings:

- a. St. Francis Church
- b. Parish Center Building
- c. St. Peter's Church
- d. St. Peter's Rectory
- e. St. Peter's Kitchen

Our parish did so much more that is no less worthy of mention but is not included in this report due to want of space. Thank you for all that you do as members of Saint John Paul the Great Parish family. It is only through your weekly, monthly and annual sharing of your resources, your time, talent and treasure, and your loyalty to the teachings of Christ that we are able to fulfill our mission. Without you and your support, we would have no parish, and none of these accomplishments would have been achieved.

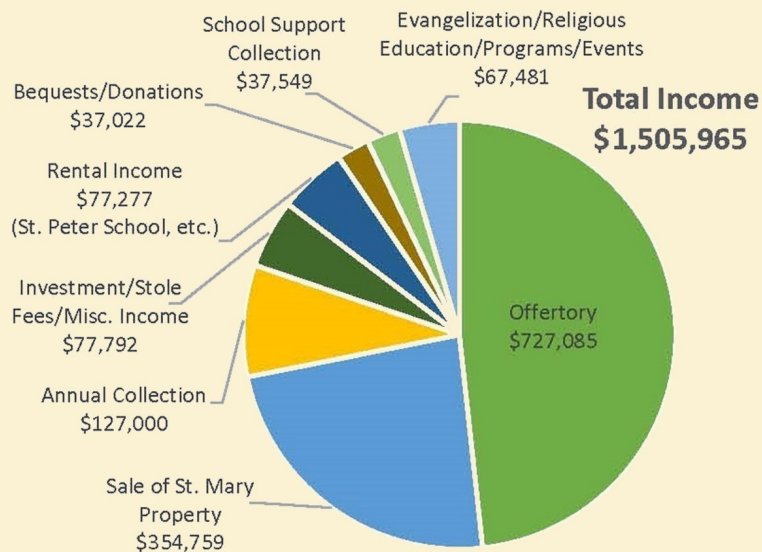
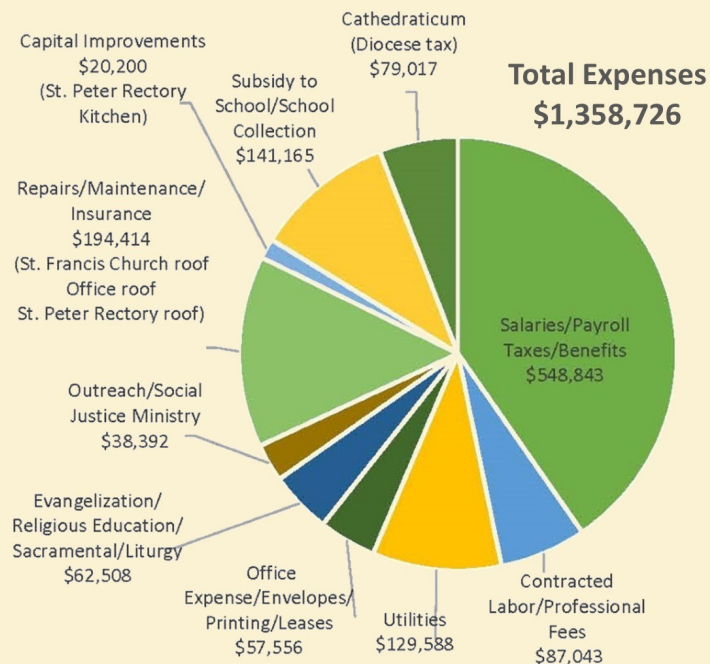
On behalf of our entire staff and parish family, I thank you for your generous support.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu, PHD, NCC
Pastor



2019 Financial Report



It is only through your weekly, monthly and annual sharing of your resources, your time, talent and treasure, and your loyalty to the teachings of Christ that we are able to fulfill our mission.

Thank you for your generous support.

Snapshot of St. John Paul the Great Parish last year...



**OUR SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
GREW FROM 81 TO 109**



**OUR PARISH WELCOMED
63 NEW FAMILIES**



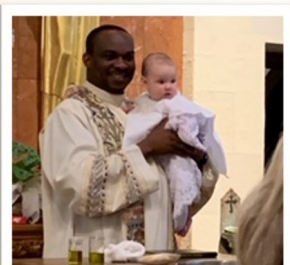
**5 COUPLES WERE MARRIED
IN OUR PARISH**



**WE SERVED 1,312 MEALS
THROUGH KEVIN'S PLACE**



**OVER 700 GIFTS COLLECTED
FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**



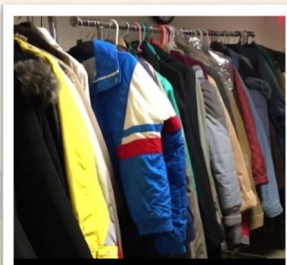
**61 BABIES WERE BAPTIZED
INTO THE FAITH**



**SOCIAL MINISTRY COLLECTED
AND DISTRIBUTED 701 BAGS
OF FOOD (3,505 LBS.)**



**31 TEENS RECEIVED
THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION**



**OVER 900 WINTER COATS
WERE COLLECTED AND
GIVEN TO THE NEEDY**



**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY
SERVED 98 FAMILIES**

OUR WORSHIP SITES: **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI** - 160 Main Street **ST. PETER** - 107 East Main Street

OFFICE: Pope St. John Paul II Pastoral Center 160 Main Street Torrington, CT 06790

PHONE: 860-482-4433

FAX: 860-489-4070

SaintJohnPaulTheGreatParish@gmail.com

JohnPaulGreatParish.com