



St. John Paul the Great

Roman Catholic Parish

Torrington, Connecticut

FISCAL YEAR 2026 • JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

PARISH LIFE REPORT

OUR WORSHIP SITES:
St. Francis of Assisi - 160 Main Street
St. Peter - 107 East Main Street



FROM YOUR PASTOR: A STORY OF FAITH, MISSION, AND STEWARDSHIP

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John Paul the Great,

Each year, our Parish Life Report gives us an opportunity to look back with gratitude at what God has done among us. It is more than an accounting of income and expenses. It is the story of a parish family living its faith—in worship, in service, in formation, in care for the vulnerable, and in the ordinary work of keeping our parish strong for the future.

Behind every number in this report is a person. A child was welcomed through Baptism. A young person received Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist. A grieving family was accompanied through the loss of someone they loved. A homebound parishioner, unable to join us in the pew, was visited and given Communion. A family in need received food, or a gift, or simply the assurance that their parish had not forgotten them. All of this was made possible through the faith, service, and sacrificial generosity of our parishioners.

I also want to be honest with you, as I always try to be. This was a year of real growth—and it was also a financially demanding one. Our expenses outpaced our income by more than we had budgeted. Some of this year's higher expenses reflect the professional costs associated with launching our first major capital campaign. Other increases came from the rising cost of staffing and benefits, heating, insurance, maintenance, and the ordinary work of operating our parish. I explain this more fully later in this report, along with the concrete steps we are already taking to bring our recurring expenses into closer alignment with recurring revenue.

I don't want to minimize the financial challenge. I also don't want you to read this report and conclude that our parish is in decline—because it is not. This was also a year of growth, new ministries, sacramental life, service, and new people choosing to make St. John Paul the Great their spiritual home.

As you read what follows, I hope you will see more than statistics. I hope you will see your parish at work—and recognize the part your prayers, your service, and your generosity played in making that work possible.

Thank you for continuing to build St. John Paul the Great Parish with us.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu, PhD



I. A Year of Life and Growth

Welcome and Growth

More than 140 new households and over 430 individuals joined our parish family this year. That kind of growth doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people who walk through our doors find a parish that welcomes them. Many of our newest parishioners have told us just that. And it happens because our own parishioners invite others in and help create a community where people can encounter Christ and find a spiritual home.

Sacraments and Pastoral Care

Our sacramental life was strong this year, with a sharp rise in first Communions and three-year highs in both baptisms and adults entering the Church through OCIA.

Beyond the sanctuary, our care for one another continued quietly and faithfully. More than 250 homebound visits mean more than 250 moments when someone who could not come to church was reminded that the Church would come to them—with the Eucharist, prayer, companionship, and the assurance that they had not been forgotten.

Nearly 90 grieving families entrusted some of the hardest days of their lives to this parish and allowed us to walk beside them through funeral liturgies and pastoral care. This ministry of consolation has remained remarkably steady over the past three years.



Deepening Our Faith

This year brought new ways to encounter Christ. A weekly Bible fellowship gave parishioners an ongoing place to go deeper in the Word of God together. Monthly Encounter Nights opened space for prayer, healing, and restoration. Our Latino parish family launched a Catholic Charismatic Renewal ministry, opening another path toward the Holy Spirit for our community.

Our faith also moved beyond the walls of our churches. Our Good Friday Via Crucis and Corpus Christi procession carried our public witness to the streets of Torrington, with a police escort and a dedicated lane on key downtown streets.



Serving Our Neighbors

Our Social Justice Ministry collected approximately 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of food for area pantries through monthly drives. At Christmas and through our Christmas in July drive, parishioners donated several hundred gifts, diapers and toys to FISH, Friendly Hands, Two Hearts Pregnancy Center, local nursing homes, and others in need.

The Knights of Columbus Solidarity Council #55 raised more than $2,000 for Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center through their Baby Bottle Drive, with additional support made possible through matching funds. The Holy Rosary Society collected warm clothing for local organizations while supporting MaryCare, parish renovations, Faith Formation, and confirmation students.

Community and Fellowship

Our Knights of Columbus and Holy Rosary Society remained an important part of parish fellowship and service—from the Knights' annual pancake breakfast benefiting St. John Paul the Great Academy and Faith Formation, to support for a seminarian, to the Holy Rosary Society's prayer, fellowship, fundraising, and sponsorship of two young people attending the Steubenville Youth Conference.

At Pentecost, our Taste of St. John Paul the Great Parish Picnic brought our parish and wider community together to celebrate the beautiful diversity of our parish and our city. Local restaurants joined us with cuisines reflecting that diversity, and the celebration also became an opportunity to give thanks for twenty years of priestly ministry.

We also experienced changes in parish leadership and staff, saying farewell with gratitude to those called to new assignments and welcoming new clergy and staff who will help us continue the work ahead.

II. Stewardship: An Honest Accounting

How Your Gifts Were Used





- $68,465.24 for sacramental and liturgical life—the music, worship materials, altar supplies, flowers, and care that support our worship and sacramental celebrations.
- $14,164.35 for religious education—supporting adult faith formation, youth ministry, sacramental preparation, curriculum, and related formation expenses.
- $33,370.41 in direct parish support for St. John Paul the Great Academy.
- $15,760 for charity and vocations, including $10,000 for vocations sponsorship.
- $59,864.06 in repairs and maintenance across our churches, parish center, rectory, school, office, and parish vehicle.
- $130,390.20 in utilities, including $72,740.55 for heating oil alone—the cost of keeping our buildings open and usable.
- $69,146.34 in property, casualty, and automobile insurance—protecting what generations before us built.

None of this happens without you.

A Year of Financial Challenge—and Context

I want to explain this year's numbers as plainly as I can.

Financial Measure	Actual	Budget
Total Offertory	$746,564.83	$750,000.00
Total Revenue	$998,683.63	$986,860.00
Total Expenditures	$1,318,711.90	$1,104,667.00
Operating Result	($320,028.27)	($117,807.00)
Other Revenue	$110,110.16	$4,000.00
Other Expenditures	$63,622.11	$54,366.00
Final Net Result	($273,540.22)	($168,173.00)

Your generosity did not waver. Parishioner offertory finished at $746,564.83—within $3,435.17 of our $750,000 budget, less than one-half of one percent short. Total revenue actually exceeded budget by $11,823.63.

What changed was on the expense side. Total expenditures came in $214,044.90 above budget, producing a larger operating deficit than we had planned for. Investment gains and other non-operating revenue reduced the year's final result to a deficit of $273,540.22, but that does not erase the underlying operating challenge. For our long-term health, recurring parish operations need to be supported by recurring, sustainable revenue.

Some of this year's higher expenses reflect an important investment in the future of our parish. Professional fees totaled $89,427.05, including $62,375.93 in consulting. This consulting expense includes professional services associated with preparing and conducting our first major capital campaign. Other increases came from areas such as staffing and benefits, heating, insurance, maintenance, and the ordinary work of operating the parish.

We are not simply reporting these increases; we are acting on them. A member of our Finance Council is working with parish leadership to review and renegotiate major service contracts—including heating oil, snow removal, and maintenance—with the goal of achieving meaningful, lasting savings and exercising careful stewardship of every dollar entrusted to us.

I share all of this not to alarm you, but because you deserve an honest picture of our parish finances. Good stewardship requires generosity from our parish family and careful management from parish leadership. We are committed to both.

III. Investing in Our Future

For the first time in a very long time in our parish's history, we launched the "Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future as One" Capital Campaign, with a goal of $1.5 million. This campaign will help repair and beautify St. Peter and St. Francis Churches and create a new adoration chapel—a place where Jesus will be more accessible for prayer and adoration for generations to come.



This campaign is an investment in the buildings that carry our mission. It allows us to address major long-term needs without losing sight of the ordinary annual giving that sustains parish life week after week.

IV. Challenges & Goals

Rising operating costs → Our Finance Council is actively reviewing and renegotiating major contracts—including heating oil, snow removal, and maintenance—in pursuit of meaningful, lasting savings.

Bringing recurring expenses into alignment with sustainable revenue → We will continue strengthening stewardship through consistent offertory support, recurring online giving, planned gifts, and careful expense management.

An aging physical plant → Our capital campaign will address major needs at St. Peter and St. Francis while ongoing maintenance continues to protect our facilities.

Engaging younger families and young people while faithfully serving our elderly and homebound → We will build on this year's growth by helping new households become more deeply connected to parish life while continuing our steady ministry to those who are homebound.

Supporting the long-term vitality of St. John Paul the Great Academy → The parish will continue direct support and shared planning for the future of Catholic education in our community.







Your Generosity, Our Shared Mission

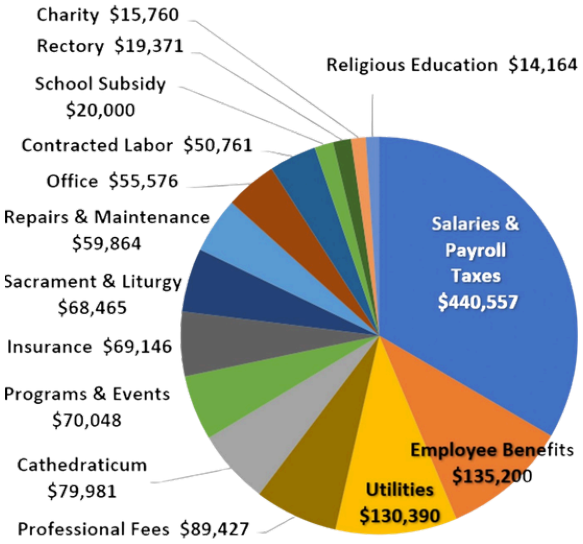
When you give to St. John Paul the Great, you are not simply paying bills. You are placing the Eucharist into the hands of the homebound. You are forming children and young people in the faith. You are welcoming families at baptism and walking with them through grief. You are feeding the hungry, clothing the cold, and helping a young person attend a Steubenville youth conference or supporting a man discerning the priesthood.

You saw it all in this report — and it was possible because you made it possible.

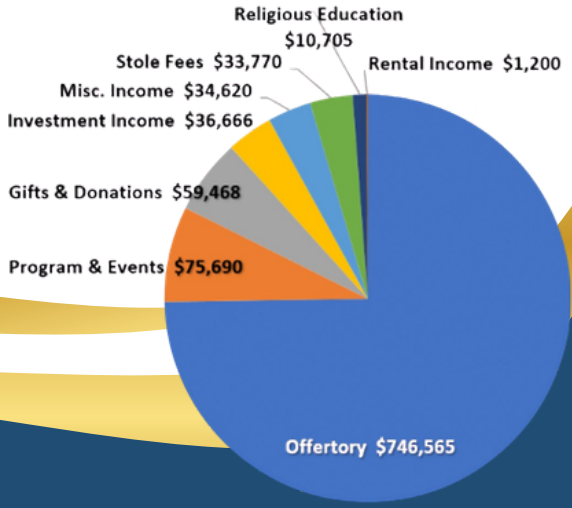
This was also a year that asked something more of us —a year of real growth alongside real financial challenge. I am confident in where we are headed because I have seen this parish family's faith and generosity firsthand, and because we are taking concrete steps to steward our resources more carefully for the road ahead.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrificial giving. Together, let us continue to honor our past, live our mission faithfully today, and build a future rooted in Christ.

Total Expenses $1,318,710



Total Income $998,684



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