



ST. LAWRENCE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ANNUAL REVIEW

July 2025 — June 2026

Tampa, Florida

A WORD TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

Dear Familia of St. Lawrence,

As we begin a new academic year, I'd like to take the opportunity to share with you a review of the good things which have happened over the last year. This booklet offers a look at the many changes, milestones, and graces of the past year — from new faces who have joined our clergy and staff, to new ministries taking root, to the ongoing care of our beautiful church and school.

None of this is possible without you — your prayers, your generosity, and your willingness to serve. Thank you for continuing to make St. Lawrence a *Familia*. May God bless you and your loved ones in the year ahead.

Fr. Chuck Dornquast

Pastor

CLERGY & STAFF

New Clergy

St. Lawrence welcomed a new pastor and parochial vicar in July of 2025:

- Fr. Chuck Dornquast, Pastor
- Fr. Zachary Brasseur, Parochial Vicar
- Fr. Alex Agbata in residence and assisting with masses

In October of 2025, we also welcomed a new permanent deacon:

- Deacon Dixon Braden

Parish Staff

Karen Micko joined the parish in a new part-time role coordinating our outreach ministry efforts, overseeing emergency assistance requests and coordinating with Mt. 25, Home Makers for Hope, Tampa Hope, Angel Tree, and other partners.

Maddy de Aquino was hired as Director of Ministry and Evangelization, overseeing the ministry side of parish life and working directly with the pastor. She now oversees Martha Montero (Youth Faith Formation Coordinator), Luisa Long (Hispanic Community Coordinator and Adult Faith Formation Coordinator), and Karen Micko (Outreach Ministry Coordinator).

Shared Parish & School Staff

St. Lawrence restructured portions of its staff this year to bring greater clarity and effectiveness to parish operations. Glenda Paschall now serves as Director of Operations, overseeing parish and school finances, maintenance, and human resources — including two newly hired maintenance team members, Alan Petit and Abel Pinillos (part-time).

Keishla Espinal joined as our new Director of Communications, following our former director's move to Tampa Catholic. At the close of the fiscal year, Director of Development Danah Lee submitted her resignation; a replacement for this position is currently being discerned.

Key Vendors

Our long-standing relationship with our I.T. support continues, even as our vendor Guardian underwent internal staffing changes. In June of 2026, the parish also welcomed a new lawn maintenance company.

FOCUS ON THE LITURGY

Because the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, significant attention was given this year to the beauty and reverence of our liturgical celebrations.

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, St. Lawrence was able to acquire new liturgical items that add to the dignity of our sacramental life:

- New ciboria and chalices
- New chasubles and dalmatics
- A new thurible and boat

We also introduced the Church's proper antiphons for Holy Communion and other moments of the Mass, and our 7:00 p.m. Mass has incorporated more traditional musical elements, including entrance and communion antiphons and the ICEL mass parts. With this change at the 7pm mass we have seen a marked increase in attendance.

SCHOOL

Ms. Patricia Fruend retired at the end of the 2026 school year after 9 years of dedicated service.

Mrs. Kelly Kearney was hired as the new principal of St. Lawrence Catholic School. Mrs. Kearney has served at St. Lawrence previously as campus minister, assistant principal and interim principal.

St. Lawrence school is operating with a waiting list and over the last year we have witnessed an increase of school families becoming involved in the life of the parish.

MINISTRY LIFE

This year brought thoughtful changes to several of our ministries, as we sought to be good stewards of our time, talent, and resources.

Youth Ministry

Due to limited interest and resources, EDGE youth ministry was suppressed this year. In its place, we redirected energy toward strengthening our altar server program and launching two new ministries for high school teens:

- Knights of the Holy Temple — for high school young men to serve as emcees at our liturgies and grow in fraternity.
- Daughters of Veronica — for high school young women to serve as sacristans at Mass and grow in fellowship.

Young Adult Ministry

Fr. Zach and the leadership of Thrive, our English-speaking young adult group, discerned together that it was time for a pause — an opportunity to prayerfully consider what the next chapter of young adult ministry should look like.

Meanwhile, our Spanish-speaking young adult ministry, A Su Imagen, continues to flourish and grow. They began a monthly night of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the church for the benefit of the whole community.

Ministries for Women & Men

A group of women in the parish took the lead in launching “She Shall Be Called Woman,” a new weekly gathering for women to grow together in faith and community.

After conversation with parish leadership, “That Man Is You” has added a second weekly meeting, making it possible for more men of the parish — including those unable to attend the morning session — to take part.

St. Lawrence Outreach Ministry

St. Lawrence has a long history of caring for our neighbors through the Matthew 25 food pantry, Meals on Wheels, the Angel Tree, My Brother's Keeper, and emergency assistance. This year, these efforts were unified under one umbrella: the St. Lawrence Outreach Ministry.

- Formalized a process for reviewing and qualifying parishioners' requests for emergency assistance
- Formed a partnership with Catholic Charities, including engagement with its Tampa Hope homeless program
- Began working with Home Makers of Hope to establish a dedicated St. Lawrence team

PARISH LIFE EVENTS

This year we made a concerted effort to offer our parish family more regular opportunities to gather. This effort was done in conjunction with our parish’s renewed focus on stewardship. In addition to our existing traditions, we added several new events to our calendar:

- Mamma Mia — an evening of faith sharing, fellowship, and beautiful music
- St. Lawrence Clean-Up Day
- And He Dwelt Among Us — an Advent prayer night
- A Lenten concert
- The Parish Ministry Fair
- Chant Class — an opportunity to learn the history of liturgical music and the art of chant

FACILITIES

After several years in progress, the replacement of the church roof was finally completed this year — a major milestone for our campus.

The school installed a vertical platform lift to better serve students and faculty who are unable to use the stairs.

A lightning strike in July of 2025 prompted us to increase lightning protection on our bell tower. The strike also damaged the organ and the wiring for the pipe chests in the church. Thanks to insurance coverage and the generosity of parishioners, the organ was replaced and upgraded, and the organ pipes were sent for refurbishment.

New kiosks were custom-built for the church in order to better present the various ministry opportunities and resources for the faithful to take home.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

This past year was rich in sacramental grace across our parish community:

221 Newly Registered Families	128 Baptisms	117 First Communions	108 Confirmations
32 Weddings	234 Emergency Anointings	<i>A parishioner of St. Lawrence, Joseph Castro, was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of St. Petersburg.</i>	

FINANCIAL REPORT

In collaboration with the Finance Council, the parish has continued to provide quarterly updates on our financial situation. We are pleased to report that St. Lawrence performed better this past calendar year than in several previous years.

- Offertory increased by \$77,240 during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- Weekly average collection: \$27,824.62

While this increase is a significant victory for our parish, there is still more growth needed for St. Lawrence to become the parish we dream it can be.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR GOALS

Ministry

We have noticed a growing number of high school-aged youth attending Mass who are not part of Catholic schools. We believe the time is near for a dedicated youth ministry program to help our young people encounter Jesus Christ and grow in relationship with Him.

School

We are blessed with an excellent Catholic school, and we look forward to continued growth in the involvement of school families in the broader life of the parish.

Facilities

- Concession Stand — In partnership with the school's parents' club, we hope to renovate the piazza around the gazebo, including a new enclosed concession stand for post-mass gatherings and school events.
- Perpetual Adoration Chapel — We hope to convert the historic Christ Child Chapel into a perpetual adoration chapel, a project that will require significant investment in both the building and a sustaining culture of adoration.
- Campus Master Plan — This spring, we hope to begin forming a master plan for our entire campus, addressing needs such as updated school plumbing, more space for students, teachers, and ministries, a quieter sanctuary, and more energy-efficient doors and windows — guiding our decisions for the next 5–8 years.

Financial Goal: Weekly Collection increase to \$35,000

A projected continued increase in collections will allow our parish to grow in its evangelizing efforts — particularly in reaching those within our parish boundaries and in youth ministry. If our average weekly collection were to reach \$35,000 over the coming year, it would allow St. Lawrence to continue growing as a parish community, caring for the buildings entrusted to us, and better evangelizing our local community.

THANK YOU

To every parishioner, volunteer, and staff member who gave of your time, talent, and treasure this year — thank you. St. Lawrence continues to grow and thrive because of your faithfulness.

The best is yet to come for us here at St. Lawrence. It is a privilege to serve as pastor of a parish that desires for its greatest days be ahead of it and not behind it.

Please keep our parish, our clergy, and our staff in your prayers as we look forward to all that God has in store for us in the year ahead.

May God bless you and your families.
