Annual Report

St. James Cathedral Parish, July 2025-June 2026

Dear Friends,

Each year at this time, we publish a report on the financial condition of the parish. As you reflect on how you will support St. James Cathedral in 2027, we want to be accountable to you about how your donations are spent. The report details not only the dollars and cents, but also some of the ministries and activities which are made possible through your support.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, total parish income was $6,485,789.

- Sunday and holy day collections (51%)
- Gifts, bequests, program revenue (31%)
- Business income (including land lease, fundraisers, Cathedral Bookstore) (18%)

Total expenses for the year were $6,495,670.

- Salaries, benefits and other personnel-related expenses (57%)
- Parish assessment by the Archdiocese (5%)
- Our annual support of four central area Catholic schools and parish scholarships for Rainbow Schools and high schools (5%)
- Supplies, operating costs for the maintenance and improvement of the Cathedral, other parish buildings, and grounds, etc. (33%)

This left us with a small deficit in 2025-2026 of $9,881, which we covered out of our reserves.

Looking at the projected budget for 2026-2027, you will see that we anticipate a surplus, thanks in part to several generous bequests which will arrive during this fiscal year. It is impossible to express the depth of our gratitude to these parishioners who remembered the Cathedral in their estate planning. During the month of November, when we pray for all our beloved dead, we give thanks for their generosity.

I want to take a moment to note that our Finance Council, consisting of five of your fellow parishioners, meets monthly to monitor the finances of the parish and to advise me on financial matters. I am deeply grateful to them for the way they share their time and expertise.

Our Life as a Parish, 2025-2026

We are a vibrant and diverse parish with 3,194 registered households, comprising 6,077 individual members. Our parishioners come from across Western Washington. More than 800 individual volunteers are involved in dozens of parish ministries.

Income and Expense	Projected 2025-2026	Actual 2025-2026	Projected 2026-2027
Collection Revenue	$3,284,000	**$3,305,383**	**$3,415,000**
Gift and Bequest Income	1,089,600	**1,347,202**	**1,740,390**
Business Income (including land lease, Bookstore)	1,243,515	**1,196,760**	**1,208,833**
Program Revenue	466,649	**636,443**	**517,382**
Total Income	$6,083,764	**$6,485,789**	**$6,882,605**
Staff Salaries	$2,768,058	**$2,892,804**	**$3,014,489**
Benefits	833,220	**820,231**	**871,113**
Supplies	236,800	**266,301**	**248,185**
Operations and Maintenance	226,000	**192,959**	**214,000**
Contracted Services	493,925	**434,200**	**510,000**
Business	314,000	**387,320**	**339,000**
Utilities	309,360	**349,561**	**347,500**
Travel	89,752	**83,482**	**84,673**
Appreciation	179,500	**122,288**	**108,600**
Assessments	340,884	**340,884**	**383,501**
Total Expense	$6,215,270	**$6,495,670**	**$6,629,664**
Surplus (Deficit)	($131,506)	**($9,881)**	**$252,941**

Note that this year we have adapted our accounting to follow a standard format for all parishes in the Archdiocese, so some categories have changed.

This year, 783 households made Sacrificial Giving pledges to the parish, and 1,343 made contributions in the course of the year.

Partners in the Gospel

This was our second year as one parish family with Immaculate Conception and Christ Our Hope. In addition to numerous shared activities with our parish family, much work has gone on behind the scenes. Our Family Leadership Team, consisting of staff from all three parishes, and a Parish Family Vision Council, consisting of committed parishioners from all three parishes, have met regularly to plan and implement the re-envisioning of parish life that is Partners in the Gospel.

In our second year, we have taken time to explore the question "Who is God calling us to become?" Extensive listening sessions were offered during Lent to invite reflection on this question. Many of you took advantage of the opportunity to share your concerns as well as your dreams for our parish family.

The Vision Council studied and prayed with the feedback over a period of several months to create a vision for our parish family as we look to become one canonical parish in 2027. The Vision Council also identified initiatives which you, the parishioners, highlighted as priorities. In the months ahead, these initiatives will be developed into a "one parish plan," a roadmap for the next several years.

One member of the Vision Council, Fred Verzosa, put it this way: "What gives me hope is the vision we shaped together. If we continue to root our work in that shared call, I believe we will help shape a future that is life-giving."

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have made it a priority to participate in the work of Partners in the Gospel. I find the vision that was developed powerful and moving, and I am confident that the Holy Spirit will be with us as we navigate the months and years ahead.

Liturgy, Music, and Special Events

During the past fiscal year, more than 730 Sunday and regular daily liturgies were celebrated, not counting special liturgies for Holy Days, the Sacred Triduum, and ecumenical and interfaith services.

Mass attendance, as you have probably observed, continues to grow. The Cathedral has been blessed to welcome visitors from around the world, especially during the summer months.

Twenty-seven children and 17 adults were baptized; 13 people baptized in other Christian traditions made their Profession of Faith and were received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Forty-seven confirmations were celebrated, and 31 children received their First Holy Communion. During the year 28 weddings and 25 funerals were celebrated.

As the Cathedral Church, we are privileged to host special events which gather Catholics from across Western Washington, including Rites of Election, the Chrism Mass, Ordinations to the Priesthood, Madre de las Americas, and Simbang Gabi. The Cathedral also hosted Baccalaureate Masses for O'Dea High School, Holy Names Academy, Seattle Prep, and Seattle University.

On September 14, 2025, I was formally installed as pastor of St. James Cathedral, Immaculate Conception, and Christ Our Hope. Parishioners of all three parishes gathered at St. James Cathedral for this memorable Mass with Archbishop Etienne.

On October 19, 2025 we marked another significant moment in the life of the Cathedral parish when we gathered to bless and venerate a stunning new icon of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks. This beautiful addition to the Cathedral's artistic treasures is the result of months of dialogue with members of the Native American Catholic community, the Cathedral's Racial Solidarity Team, and artist Patricia Brintle. The icon now has a permanent place in the Cathedral's north aisle.

Our new Portico at the Cathedral's Terry and Marion corner was honored this year with two notable awards: the 2025 Award of Honor from AIA Seattle, and the Honor Award for Religious Architecture: Renovation from Partners for Sacred Places. Congratulations to architects (and parishioners) Christopher and Misun Gerrick.

Our stellar Cathedral music program offered a full schedule of exceptional sacred music concerts, partnering with many first-rate ensembles. And the Youth Music Program continues to grow, with our annual Choir Camp each August being a highlight (and my favorite week of the year!).

Outreach, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation

Our beloved Cathedral Kitchen continues to serve an average of 150 people of all ages and races a hot, nutritious meal, lovingly prepared in the Cathedral Hall each weeknight—over 40,000 meals a year. As one of our cooks said recently: "What I love best about the Cathedral Kitchen is the simple act of handing a full plate of food to a hungry person, with deep appreciation of just how much time, energy, and money went into creating that plate. It's created and given with love and the guests know it! More than one has said we have the best food in town."

The Sunday Early Breakfast continues to feed over 100 people every Sunday morning. In addition, our Cathedral Kitchen Garden is thriving at Madison and Terry, on land provided by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

The St. James Immigrant Assistance Program, now in its 50th year, has continued to grow and to develop new outreach to immigrants and refugees. Our Mental Health and Wellness Ministry offered a variety of services, including prayer, grief support, educational events, and social activities.

Many homebound parishioners received communion in their homes each week, allowing them to remain connected to the liturgical life of St. James, and many more connected with the Cathedral via livestream. Cathedral parishioners took communion to patients at First Hill Hospitals every week, a quiet but deeply impactful ministry.

Our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation programs for youth are thriving. This past year we were able to accomplish a goal we have had for several years and hired a part-time Youth and Young Adult Minister for our three parishes. In addition, opportunities for ongoing enrichment, prayer, and education for adults were offered throughout the year.

All of this was made possible by your generous contributions. We want you to know that, under the oversight of the Cathedral's Finance Council, there has been careful stewardship of the financial resources of the parish. We look forward to accomplishing even more with your support and with the help of God's grace in the coming year.

In Christ,

Fr. Gary F. Lazzeroni

Father Gary F. Lazzeroni
Pastor