

St. Gertrude Parish  
**FY 2025-2026**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

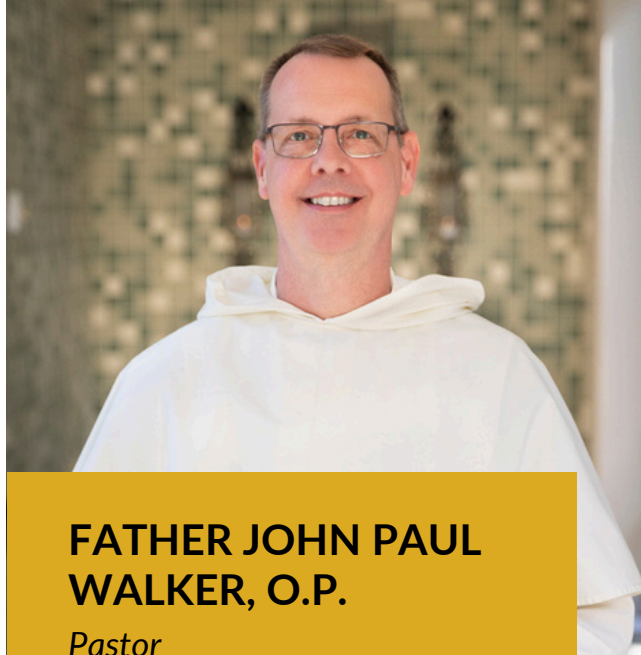




# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR | 1 |
| MISSION & VISION       | 2 |
| WORSHIP                | 3 |
| EVANGELIZATION         | 4 |
| SCHOOL                 | 5 |
| STEWARDSHIP            | 6 |
| OPERATING SUMMARY      | 7 |
| MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE   | 8 |

# LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



**FATHER JOHN PAUL  
WALKER, O.P.**

*Pastor*

## *Dear Parishioners,*

This past fiscal year has been one of **extraordinary growth**. Between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, we added over 150 new households to St. Gertrude Parish, totaling 426 new parishioners. More people means more attendance at Sunday Mass—this past year, the average Sunday Mass attendance topped 2,100 people per week.

Our parish is also a parish of life—new life! We had 104 of our people (infants, children, and adults) receive rebirth through water and the Spirit in the sacrament of Baptism. These numbers are just a snippet of the growth we have seen during the previous 12 months, and I encourage you to read this whole report to get the entire picture.

This past fiscal year is also one that will go down in the history of St. Gertrude Parish. After a period of careful deliberation and a positive response to our feasibility study, we made the decision to launch upon a major capital campaign and building project, Building for Mission. It is our response to the incredible growth we have been seeing. We have the opportunity in the coming years to truly do something great for God—something that will benefit the people of our parish now and for decades to come.

God bless,

*Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.*



**2,015**

Registered Households

**156**

New Households

**426**

New Parishioners



# MISSION & VISION

## *Who We Are & Who We Aspire to Be*

### *Mission*

We are a Roman Catholic parish of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that is shaped and enlivened by the charism of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans). We teach and preach the Truth, reverently celebrate the liturgy and sacraments, and gather as a community so that all may encounter Jesus here.

### *Vision*

To be a community of disciples united in our Eucharistic Lord and sent to transform the world in the light of the Gospel.

## PARISH STAFF

**4** Clergy  
3 priests, 1 deacon

**8** Full-Time Staff

**7** Part-Time Staff



# WORSHIP



**FATHER LUKE  
VANBERKUM, O.P.**

*Parochial Vicar, Director of the Office  
of Worship*

## SACRAMENTS

**104** Baptisms (all ages)

**83** First Communion  
*Includes school and  
faith formation*

**99** Confirmations  
*Includes school, faith  
formation, and adults*

**23** Weddings  
*Includes convalidations*

**114** Anointings

**34** Funerals

## *God Is Truly at Work Here*

We are immensely grateful to God for the work he is doing at our parish. His greatest work is the palpable living faith that is present in your hearts. It is not only the number of sacraments received but also *how*—with reverence and as an act of discipleship—they are received that testify to God's work. We are also grateful to God for sending us a much-needed administrative assistant for the Office of Worship and for blessing a truly remarkable choir tour in England this past summer. We beseech the Lord's continued blessings!

**2,159**

Average Sunday Mass  
Attendance

## MUSIC



Music is not merely an adornment of our liturgies—it is integral, seamlessly woven into the fabric of divine worship.

**90** Total Choristers

**1,426** Sacred Music  
Series Attendees

**8–76** Age Range of  
Choristers

**18** New Choristers

# EVANGELIZATION

## *Pillars to Guide Our Mission*

Evangelization is at the heart of our parish's mission and is summed up in our motto, *Encounter Jesus. Transform the World.* Over the past year, the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation has identified four strategic pillars to guide our mission going forward: promoting a pathway of discipleship for adults, marriage and family evangelization, young adult evangelization, and fostering a culture of hospitality and invitation.

Our renewed focus on adult evangelization led to an increase in offerings, such as Alpha, Omega, Called & Gifted, book studies, and more. Additionally, we reimaged our Becoming Catholic process (OCIA) in a year-round format with an emphasis on personal accompaniment. Our marriage and family efforts led us to a renewed preparation for the sacrament of matrimony through the Witness to Love program and a greater emphasis on the primary role of parents in handing on the faith to their children through our Rooted: Family Baptism Formation. The young adult ministry has solidified and continues to grow. Finally, our evangelization and hospitality team continues its important mission to create a culture of welcome and belonging. I am grateful to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit over the past year, as evidenced by countless stories of people "dropping their nets" to follow Jesus. Let us pray that we will continue to be receptive to the Lord's plan for our parish and, by his grace, work faithfully to bring it about!



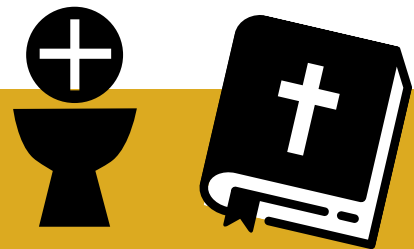
**TYLER CASTRUCCI**

*Director of Evangelization*

**33** People Who Became Catholic  
*27 adults, 6 children*

**280** Children in Faith Formation  
*CGS, Family Faith, Confirmation*

**379** Adults in Faith Formation  
*Alpha, Becoming Catholic, Cana, Bible studies, and more*



**520** Drinking with Dominicans  
Attendees  
*125 average each night*

**93** Kids Who Attended Damascus  
Formerly Catholic Youth  
Summer Camp (CYSC)

# SCHOOL

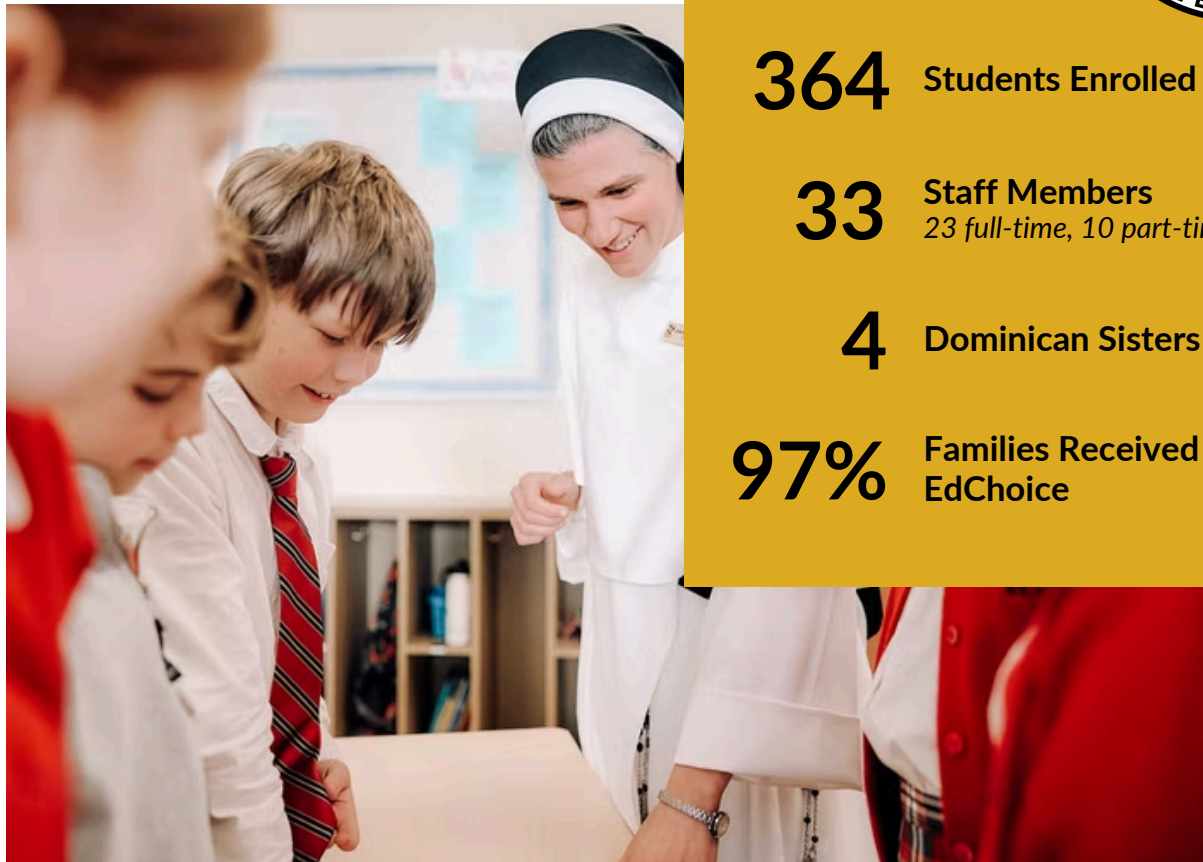


**MR. TRAVIS JOHNSON**

*School Principal*

## *Rooted in Truth and Ordered Toward Christ*

The 2025–2026 school year was one of tremendous blessing and growth at St. Gertrude School. Under the mantle and protective care of Our Lady and guided by our Dominican mission, our parish school continued to flourish spiritually, academically, and as a community. As St. Gertrude Parish's school, we are entrusted with a particular responsibility: to assist families in forming children whose education is rooted in truth and ordered toward Christ.



**364** Students Enrolled

**33** Staff Members  
*23 full-time, 10 part-time*

**4** Dominican Sisters

**97%** Families Received  
EdChoice

# STEWARDSHIP

## *You Are Inspiring*

When I came to St. Gertrude Parish almost two years ago, I was amazed at the number of people who volunteer and give to the regular offertory. Since arriving, I have met so many incredible parishioners who make me want to be a better person. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure is truly inspiring.

This past year, I saw the Holy Spirit at work during our Stewardship Renewal Sundays. People who had never been part of a ministry got involved after the Stewardship of Talent and are now active parish volunteers. After the Renewal of Treasure, your financial gifts took us from a budget deficit to meeting our annual budget. The Renewal of Time was the nudge many people needed to become adoration guardians, open their Bibles, or join a prayer group. We have grown in the number of volunteers, prayer warriors, and sacrificial givers, and I know God is doing amazing things here and through all of you!



**HOPE RAMUNDO**

*Director of Stewardship*

## MINISTRIES

|            |                                                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>63</b>  | Ministries for Adults                          |
| <b>240</b> | Adoration Guardians                            |
| <b>19</b>  | Parish Community Groups                        |
| <b>9</b>   | Prayer Groups                                  |
| <b>24</b>  | Service Groups                                 |
| <b>6</b>   | Ministries for Children and Youth              |
| <b>5</b>   | Music Ministries<br><i>2 adult, 3 children</i> |

## STEWARDSHIP

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>1,217</b> | Census Participants |
| <b>235</b>   | SGO Donors          |
| <b>1,299</b> | Giving Households   |

**508**  
**Volunteers**

# OPERATING SUMMARY

## PARISH

|                              | FY 2025            |                    | FY 2026            |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CHURCH REVENUE               | ACTUAL             | BUDGET             | BUDGET             |
| Sundays & Holidays           | \$2,518,708        | \$2,500,000        | \$2,600,000        |
| Other Offerings & Gifts      | \$100,881          | \$85,000           | \$119,000          |
| Liturgy & Music              | \$154,571          | \$52,325           | \$46,500           |
| Evangelization               | \$35,959           | \$48,750           | \$47,300           |
| Fundraising                  | \$151,245          | \$85,500           | \$86,000           |
| Interest & Dividends         | \$82,175           | \$62,860           | \$82,185           |
| All Other Income             | \$46,025           | \$34,400           | \$34,300           |
| <b>Total Church Revenue</b>  | <b>\$3,089,564</b> | <b>\$2,868,835</b> | <b>\$3,015,285</b> |
| CHURCH EXPENSES              | ACTUAL             | BUDGET             | BUDGET             |
| Wages & Benefits             | \$1,328,859        | \$1,293,692        | \$1,394,501        |
| Archdiocese Assessments      | \$265,794          | \$261,750          | \$273,750          |
| Subsidy to School            | \$480,000          | \$480,000          | \$300,000          |
| General & Administrative     | \$223,957          | \$196,260          | \$221,395          |
| Liturgy & Music              | \$318,530          | \$161,675          | \$148,550          |
| Evangelization               | \$71,293           | \$81,810           | \$86,015           |
| Fundraising                  | \$50,776           | \$35,250           | \$38,150           |
| Other Parish Activities      | \$49,712           | \$52,750           | \$57,750           |
| Facilities                   | \$326,550          | \$329,350          | \$346,775          |
| Capital Expenditures         | \$110,810          | \$100,000          | \$55,000           |
| <b>Total Church Expenses</b> | <b>\$3,226,281</b> | <b>\$2,992,537</b> | <b>\$2,921,886</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>            | <b>(\$136,717)</b> | <b>(\$123,702)</b> | <b>\$93,399</b>    |

## SCHOOL

|                              | FY 2025            |                    | FY 2026            |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SCHOOL REVENUE               | ACTUAL             | BUDGET             | BUDGET             |
| Tuition & Fees               | \$2,473,612        | \$2,477,200        | \$2,650,000        |
| Admin Cost Reimburse         | \$150,130          | \$154,063          | \$156,134          |
| Grants                       | \$100,793          | \$102,500          | \$2,500            |
| Donations                    | \$248,628          | \$175,000          | \$200,000          |
| Subsidy from Parish          | \$480,000          | \$480,000          | \$300,000          |
| All Other Income             | \$39,545           | \$40,500           | \$29,500           |
| <b>Total School Revenue</b>  | <b>\$3,492,708</b> | <b>\$3,429,263</b> | <b>\$3,338,134</b> |
| SCHOOL EXPENSES              | ACTUAL             | BUDGET             | BUDGET             |
| Wages & Benefits             | \$2,098,545        | \$2,149,425        | \$2,465,517        |
| General & Administrative     | \$253,970          | \$246,620          | \$160,920          |
| Instructional & Library      | \$48,947           | \$54,050           | \$55,800           |
| Technology & Lab             | \$59,114           | \$64,250           | \$51,390           |
| Facilities                   | \$541,886          | \$523,124          | \$566,870          |
| Capital Expenditures         | \$81,460           | \$80,000           | -                  |
| <b>Total School Expenses</b> | <b>\$3,083,922</b> | <b>\$3,117,469</b> | <b>\$3,300,497</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>            | <b>\$408,786</b>   | <b>\$311,794</b>   | <b>\$37,637</b>    |

|                                         |                  |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>NET INCOME (Church &amp; School)</b> | <b>\$272,069</b> | <b>\$188,092</b> | <b>\$131,036</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|

# MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

*Dear St. Gertrude Parish Family,*

As we begin a new fiscal year, we want to thank each of you for your generosity, prayers, and commitment to the St. Gertrude Parish and School mission. Every time you worship with us, volunteer your time, support our ministries, or make a financial gift, you help bring Christ's love to others and strengthen our parish.

We are grateful to share that our parish remains on solid financial footing. We enter the new fiscal year with a carefully balanced budget and a commitment to responsible stewardship. We have worked to keep the parish's annual giving request stable and predictable while continuing to maintain and strengthen the programs, ministries, and staffing that serve our growing parish community. At the same time, we were able to hold school tuition flat for the 2026–2027 school year.

We are also blessed that growing school enrollment and the Ohio Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) Tax Credit program have strengthened our school finances. This has allowed us to provide our teachers with a second consecutive salary increase above inflation, bringing them to the highest pay tier in the archdiocese.

There are a couple of simple ways everyone can help ensure our parish's long-term financial vitality:

1. **Continue to support the Sunday offertory.** It provides the vast majority of resources needed to sustain our ministries, worship, and parish staff. Even a small annual increase in your giving, as your circumstances allow, helps us keep pace with inflation.
1. **Consider participating in the Ohio SGO Tax Credit program.** This program provides scholarships that make a Catholic education affordable for more families while strengthening St. Gertrude School's financial health. Every scholarship dollar received through the SGO program is a dollar that does not have to come from parish operating resources. As a result, the program helps preserve parish funds for worship, ministries, and other parish priorities. Because the contribution can be offset by an Ohio tax credit, most taxpayers can choose to direct to the parish the money they would otherwise pay in state taxes.

Thank you for believing in the mission of St. Gertrude Parish. Together, through prayer, generosity, and faithful stewardship, we are building a financially healthy parish and a vibrant community where lives are transformed by Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

St. Gertrude Parish Finance Council



Encounter Jesus.  
*Transform the World.*



St. Gertrude  
PARISH

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