

SPIRITUAL & FINANCIAL

IMPACT



REPORT

ST BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

FROM THE PASTOR
FR. SEAN M. DOOLEY

Hello friends,

It is a great honor to bring you the Annual Impact Report of 2024. I am blessed to be the Pastor of this generous and dedicated parish community. I want to take this time and thank you for welcoming me as I learn about our history, traditions, and the general layout of our parish and school. In this report, the dedicated parish staff provide snapshots on our various ministries and a heartbeat on our finances. Your sacrificial giving of time, talent, and treasure have made it possible to use our resources for the preaching of the Gospel and charitable works.

I am also happy to share that our new principal, Mr. Michael DeMassimo, provides us with an update on our busy parish school. We stand ready to share the light and joy that only Christ can give us in this world. Please enjoy this report and take in all that the parish has to offer for your spiritual growth. Please pray for me that I may listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and conform myself to Christ every day.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Sean M. Dooley



Fr. Dooley was formally installed as our Pastor on 11/16.



Our 2024 Festival set new records in nearly every metric!



We raised nearly \$70,000 to rebuild homes lost to Hurricane Helene. [Read:](#)

INCOME (07.01.23 – 06.30.24)

\$7,254,138

SECONDARY COLLECTIONS

Parish families stepped up to support 21 additional outreach initiatives and secondary collections in FY 2023-24. Gifts made through the parish office or PushPay totaled **\$153,606!** Headlining these contributions are **\$43,090** to the annual Cranks Creek mission trip and **\$63,033** to our St Vincent de Paul chapter. This total doesn't include gifts made to The Appeal or Emmaus Road. Once again, the stunning generosity of St Brendan was on full display! **Thank you!**

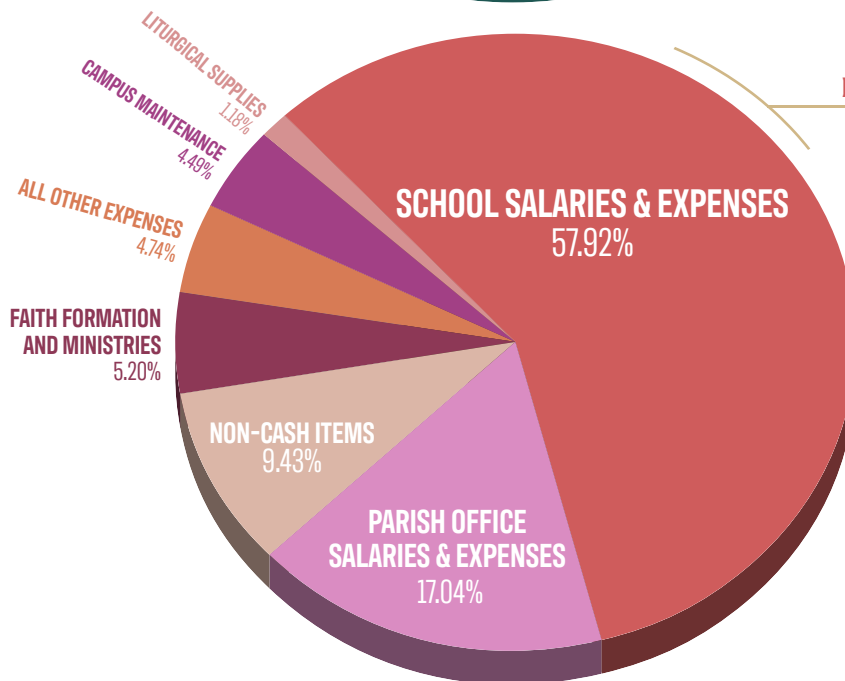
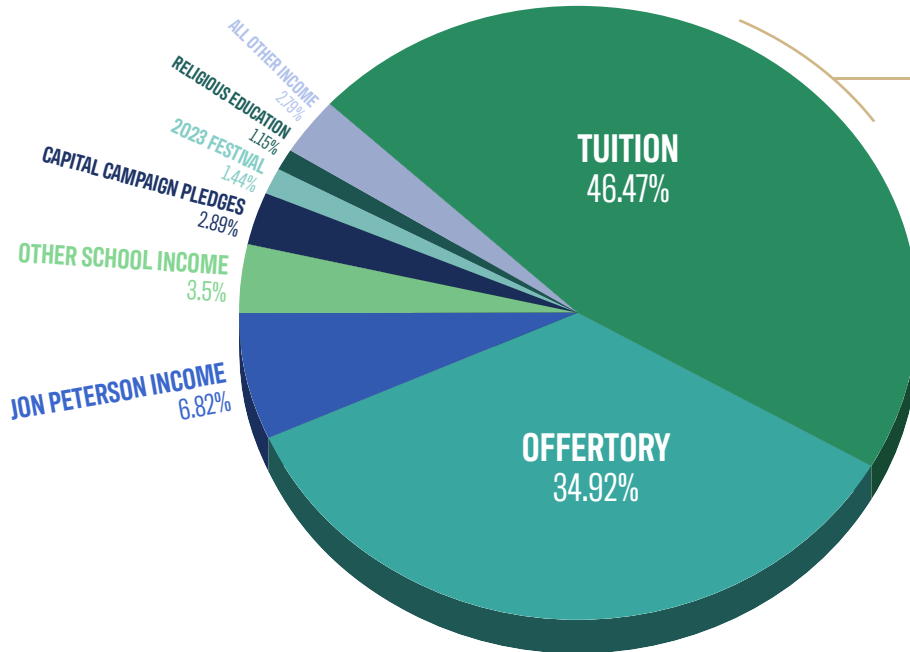
EXPENSES (07.01.23 – 06.30.24)

\$6,202,232

CAPITAL PROJECTS

While we managed to avoid another natural disaster like Christmas 2022, there was no shortage of capital projects across our campus, including:

- Adoration Chapel Renovation
- Church Air Handler
- Rooftop HVAC Units
- Baptismal Font Renovation
- Sanctuary Flooring and Lighting
- Organ and Choir Renovations
- School Classroom and Gym Renovations
- Campus Security Updates
- ... and much more



FROM BUSINESS MANAGER, TOM KOLLAR

We live in exciting times at St Brendan as we adapt for the future. I am very appreciative of our various ministries, volunteers, school families, advisory committees, faculty, staff, and business partners. Every year we are presented with unforeseen challenges to our campus. We allocate funds as part of our capital improvements in order to maintain a safe and welcoming environment. Our parish staff manages these projects to keep our buildings and grounds up-to-date and in tip top shape.

Working with the input of Fr Dooley, the Finance Committee, and staff, we always seek to be good stewards of the parish offertory when we select and prioritize capital projects. Thank you for your financial support which enables this important and difficult aspect of navigating parish life.



FROM PAROCHIAL VICAR, FR. WELDIT ABAY

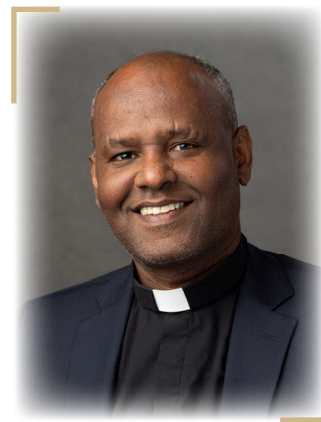
By the grace of God, we are nearing the end of 2024, and as we look ahead to the new year, 2025, we do so with hope and joy. As Christmas approaches, let us prepare our hearts to receive the good news of Christ's birth, while also giving thanks for the blessings of the past year and praying for Christ to be born anew in our hearts.

Faith is a living experience—once we encounter it, we cannot remain indifferent. It is a gift available to everyone. Over the past year, I have learned so much about faith, generosity, prayer, love, and friendship, especially from both the St Brendan community and the Eritrean faithful who so warmly welcomed me. When I first arrived, I was taken aback by the talent and dedication of the Eritrean community. I witnessed how they elevated the liturgy by inviting priests from all around to celebrate major holidays. Our people have found great joy and happiness in their worship, particularly using musical instruments.

The Second Vatican Council described the musical tradition of the universal Church as a treasure of great value, greater than any other art form. Sacred music becomes even more sacred when it is closely tied to liturgical action. As the council emphasized, music expresses the "soul of the people" and should be promoted, especially in the singing of liturgical texts. [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*]

Thanks to the generous support from the Catholic Foundation, last year we were blessed with vestments and other items that have become an important source of encouragement for our growing congregation. This year, we were further blessed to receive **\$4,000** from the Catholic Foundation, which we have used to purchase musical instruments for the church choir. It fills my heart with joy to see our children growing in faith, eagerly stepping forward to worship and praise God with sweet songs and prayers.

I am deeply grateful to all those who have supported us and continue to help us flourish in our spiritual journey. May God bless you all abundantly in the new year.



Visit Fr Weldit at St John Chrysostom sometime!



FROM DIR. OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS, JACOB DORAN

Our Family Faith Formation program this year serves **250 children** from over **150 families**. We have families in the Seek & Root course who have children that are just starting their journey of faith formation. Other families are working to prepare their children for first Reconciliation, first Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Finally, there are also families in the Continued Growth course that are learning about and doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

In the whole parish (both family faith formation and the school) we will have **103 students** make their first Reconciliation and Holy Communion and another **86** celebrate their Confirmation.

Here are some kind words that I received throughout the 2023-24 year:

"Thank you for all your guidance throughout this process. Our son said after Confirmation that he felt 'complete.'"

"The experience has been wonderful for us. It makes us slow down and discuss our faith as a family. It provides the kids with a better understanding of the teachings and how it applies to their everyday life. The activities are fun but they also learn a lot in doing them. We are enjoying these family meetings."

"What a nice celebration for the children on Saturday. It was simple, filled with joy for the children receiving their first Reconciliation."

Thank you for your support of Family Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation at our parish!

FROM HIGH SCHOOL MINISTER, KARA DAY

The Vine high school youth ministry program continues to flourish here at St Brendan. So far in the 2024-25 school year, **246** high schoolers have attended The Vine. Every single week, new faces join us for their first time. The Vine is impacting the city at-large, reaching youth from **27** different high schools. **21%** of the teens attending The Vine were not raised Catholic. As a result, this year we have started an OCIA group for those who are interested in becoming Catholic. Dozens of high schoolers also regularly attend daily Mass at St Brendan on Friday mornings before class.

This year, we have a record number of **63** high school leaders who are in our High School Missionary Formation program where they learn how to share Jesus with their friends. The teens in this program are set up to be lifelong missionary disciples who do not fall away from their faith. Our most recent stats show that **89%** of them are still practicing during college, dramatically above the national average. We had a wonderful Vine Fall Retreat, and we look forward to both our Cranks Creek Winter Mission Trip and Vine Spring Retreat. God continues to bless our youth ministry each day.



FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTER, AVERY COLMAN



This year, our middle school ministry, The Roots, served roughly **105 middle schoolers** by providing the children of our faith community with a place to have fun, build relationships with peers, and grow their faith. With the help of parent volunteers we have been able to offer the youth a home-cooked meal made with love and intention. This year, with our **7 Core Team members**, we have prayed for each youth by name, offering up their prayer intentions in front of the blessed sacrament each month.

Our middle school small groups, Aspen, served **18 youth**. Each pod of 6-8 youth have a pair of adult leaders to help them dive deeper into their faith. This deeper encounter with Christ includes joining the Vine most evenings for worship and adoration. We look forward to next year as we continue to nurture the love of Christ growing in our middle schoolers, provide a safe environment to meet new friends, and bring additional youth into the fold.

FROM DIR. OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP, JEN RICE

This year has been one of new prayer, formation, community, and service opportunities as we continue into the third year of the Eucharistic Revival — a Year of Mission. We are engaging in prayer more than ever with Adoration, now offered **63 hours** a week over 7 days. Our First Friday overnight Adoration is now in its second year! We are beginning to expand our prayer teams and deepen our understanding and practice of intercessory prayer with workshops and other offerings.

Adult faith formation continues to thrive as **250 women and men** experienced The Chosen, That Man Is You, Eucharistic, and Scripture studies in small groups and special events to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus, then take these gifts out on mission to serve others in need. We recognize the need to seek the lost and invite others to find Jesus here, increasing our outreach with the St. Monica Prayer service and ongoing follow-up events and education through Inviting Catholics Home.

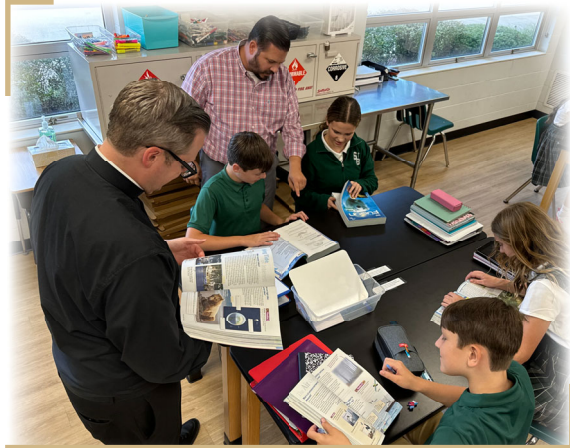
On the pastoral care side, our Care & Consolation team supported **32 families** in their time of bereavement through planning and presence at funerals of loved ones as well as grief support thereafter. **250 homebound** or retirement center residents were visited weekly to receive the Eucharist and we continue to supply them with monthly publications of daily scripture readings and reflections. We actively ministered in **17** independent, assisted living, and nursing facilities.



FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MIKE DEMASSIMO

I am so excited to be a part of St Brendan! It has been a great start to the 2024-25 school year and it has been a blessing working with our faculty, staff, parents, parish, and most importantly, our students! I get so much energy from them.

This year, we finalized our School Improvement Plan for the next 4 years and took part in a very thorough evaluation by The Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association (OCSAA). The purpose of the OCSAA is to strengthen Catholic school identity and mission, and to engage Catholic schools in the ongoing improvement of student performance. Our School Improvement Plan centers around transitioning from a 'fixed' mindset to a 'growth' strategy.



Mike & Fr Dooley on the first day of classes.

Our student enrollment continues to be fruitful sitting at approximately **540 children**. Students are challenged daily both academically and spiritually. The House program shines under the tutelage of Mrs. Marguerite Arciaga. Leadership opportunities are robust and students are constantly being exposed to our 6 Pillars: Leadership, Service, Community, Faith, Preparation, and Spirit!

I will continue to work with and foster relations with our various stakeholders, the School Advisory Board, Home & School Association, Finance Committee, Faith Formation, Athletics Program, and many others! Working in close collaboration with Fr Dooley and the parish staff, I can say for certain that the future is very bright for our whole campus and the families it serves. I thank you for your trust, patience, and prayers as we enter into 2025 with great excitement and momentum.



FROM DIR. OF DEVELOPMENT BEN ROMAKER

I'm fulfilled to have served this parish throughout another fruitful year teeming with fellowship, new faces, charitable works, and inspired giving. Thus far, our congregation has pledged an incredible **\$314,202** towards The Appeal 2024. At the kickoff luncheon in the spring, Bishop Fernandes described St Brendan as a shining example of "a parish that goes forth boldly to proclaim the joy of the Gospel." Thank you for answering the call to nurture the vibrant network of Catholic initiatives across Central Ohio — and thank you to our Appeal Chairperson, Kevin Quinn, who is stepping down after an astounding **30 years** of service to the Bishop's Annual Appeal! Your dedication is commendable.

Our collaborative parish, St Margaret of Cortona, continues to be a great source of joy for me as I enjoy finding new ways to serve every Thursday. The preschool has reached **record enrollment** en route to adding a **new classroom** and **full-day** programming. I can't speak highly enough of the wonderful staff, and would strongly encourage any young families to consider St Margaret Preschool.

Highlighting the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund has become my December tradition. There is simply no method more efficient in supporting this campus and its school families. Those who give to Emmaus Road receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit, meaning you can create a scholarship with money you would have otherwise paid into taxes anyway! We inspired **139 families** (myself included) to create **\$132,260 in scholarships** for this current school year. Across a campus of 2,500 families, we could make a Catholic education virtually free. Please join me in seizing this admittedly unbelievable opportunity. It's very real!

I'm tremendously blessed to be a member of this remarkable parish staff that is made possible by a famously generous faith family. Our clergy, staff, faculty, volunteers, and parishioners all coalesce to build the Kingdom of God brick by brick. I can't wait to report what another year of hard work, zeal, and charity will bring. **Thank you.**