

## IMPACT



## REPORT

ST BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

## FROM THE PASTOR

FR. SEAN M. DOOLEY

**Hello friends,**

It is an honor to present my second and final Impact Report to our community. As you can see, the Holy Spirit has blessed our parish, school, facilities, and ministries this past year. While my time has been short with you, I will always remember your willingness to help, to make sacrifices, and to give of your time and treasure for the greater glory of God. I know that this same enthusiasm and love of the Lord will continue under the guidance of Fr Mike Lumpe.

One encouraging pattern in our parish this past year has been the number of inquiries looking to enter the Catholic Church. Our OCIA ministry accompanies people who have fallen away, those from other faith traditions or no faith at all. These have been rewarding moments for our parish. In addition, our middle school and high school youth ministries remind us that the Church is alive!

Finally, I want to thank the priests and deacons here at St Brendan. They have been patient co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord! You are in good hands for the next era. Thank you for your prayers and support!

**Sincerely yours in Christ,**


What an awesome trio of spiritual shepherds! #SquadGoals



The fathers stop by the school on the first day of classes.



A real maverick of filmmaking, we'll certainly miss Fr. Dooley's cinematic flair.

## FROM PAROCHIAL VICAR, FR. WELDIT ABAY

Time is flying. I have now reached three years here at St Brendan Parish, and I am truly nourished by the love of the St Brendan community. I am deeply grateful for the kindness, support, and friendship I have received.

I am especially thankful for the wonderful priests God has blessed me with — Fr Dooley and Fr Sam. They are among the most amazing priests I have ever known. Praying with them, recreating with them, and sharing meals together have been a true joy and blessing in my life.

The year 2025 has been very fruitful for our Ge'ez Catholic Eritrean Community. We had the opportunity to introduce our culture and traditional food during the St Brendan Festival, and we were able to hold a successful fundraiser. I sincerely thank the entire St Brendan family for making this possible.

Some families now travel from Cincinnati and Dayton to join our community. They are very happy to sing and chant in their own language, keeping our faith and traditions alive. Our choirs have been enriched with organs for the sacred liturgy, and many young people have joined them. It is truly amazing to see more children showing interest in participating in the choir. We are also grateful that many of our children are attending Catholic schools. For this blessing, we thank Bishop Fernandes.

This year, the Catholic Foundation once again generously granted us **\$4,000** to support our children's catechesis. This assistance allows us to provide children's Bibles, liturgical books from our home country, and spiritual guidance to help strengthen their faith.

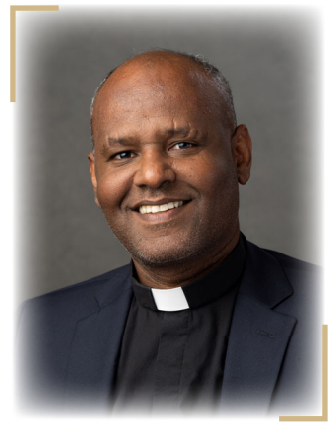
With heartfelt gratitude, I thank everyone who continues to support, encourage, and walk with our community. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and love.



Fr Weldit's favorite school subject? Phys-Ed.



The most athletic clergy in Columbus take in some Gaga Ball.



Father met Governor Mike DeWine in December!



Fr Sam being ordained by Bishop Fernandes on 05/17 at St. Paul Church.



Test driving Fr. Sam's Ordination gift.

## FROM PAROCHIAL VICAR, FR. SAM SEVERANCE

Greetings, St Brendan! This past year was probably the craziest of my life. Ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ is no joke! However, I feel truly blessed, as the Lord has provided me with so many gifts throughout these first few months as a priest. My first assignment here at St Brendan is near the top of that list! It has been a joy to get to know all of you, and I am thankful you have allowed me to be present in your lives (and your homes) during the first year of my priesthood. It has been a true blessing! From my perspective, I feel as though you have already left a bigger impact on me than I have on you. That said, thank you for all that you have done for me, and more importantly, for what you have done for the Lord Jesus.

I look forward to the year ahead, especially to my part-time assignment as Chaplain to Bishop Watterson High School. I know there are many alum and families of St Brendan school who will get to experience me in both environments. I hope to bring some of the joy and peace that I have experienced here at St Brendan to the Bishop Watterson community! Please know of my prayers for you all as we continue to journey together through this next year. I am interested to see what the Lord Jesus Christ has in store for us in the future. May we be guided by the Holy Spirit as St Brendan was so many years ago. God Bless!



Fr Sam settling in on his first day!

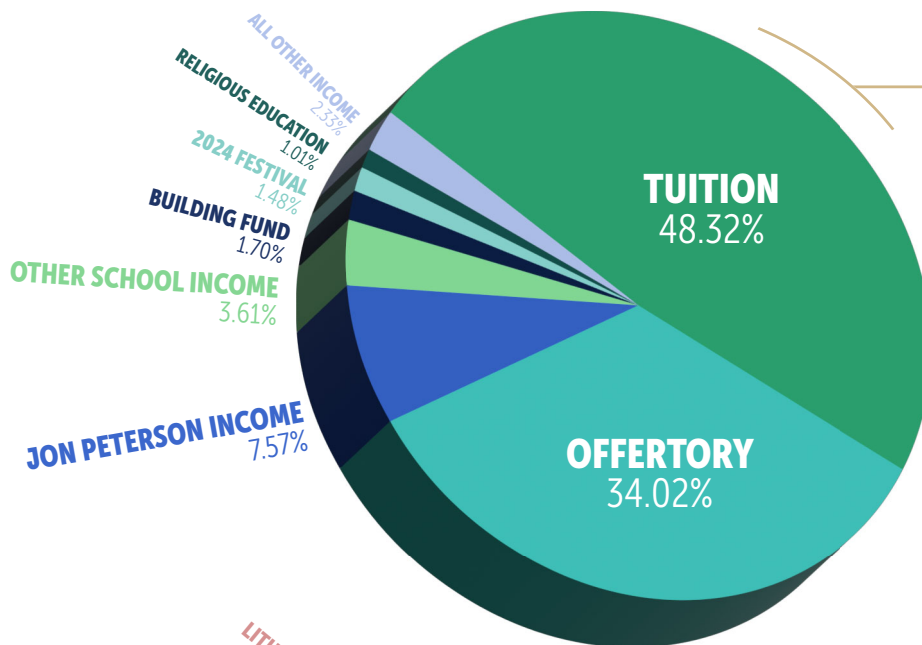
## REVIEWING FATHER'S NCAA PLAYOFF PICKS (2025)

In the 08/24 bulletin, Fr Sam published his preseason picks for the NCAA playoff:

	✗	7W-6L
	✓	2 SEED
	✗	10W-3L
	✗	8W-5L
	✓	3 SEED
	✗	7W-6L

	✗	10W-2L
	✓	9 SEED
	✗	9W-4L
	✗	7W-6L
	✓	5 SEED
	✗	7W-6L

Yikes! Better luck next year, Father!

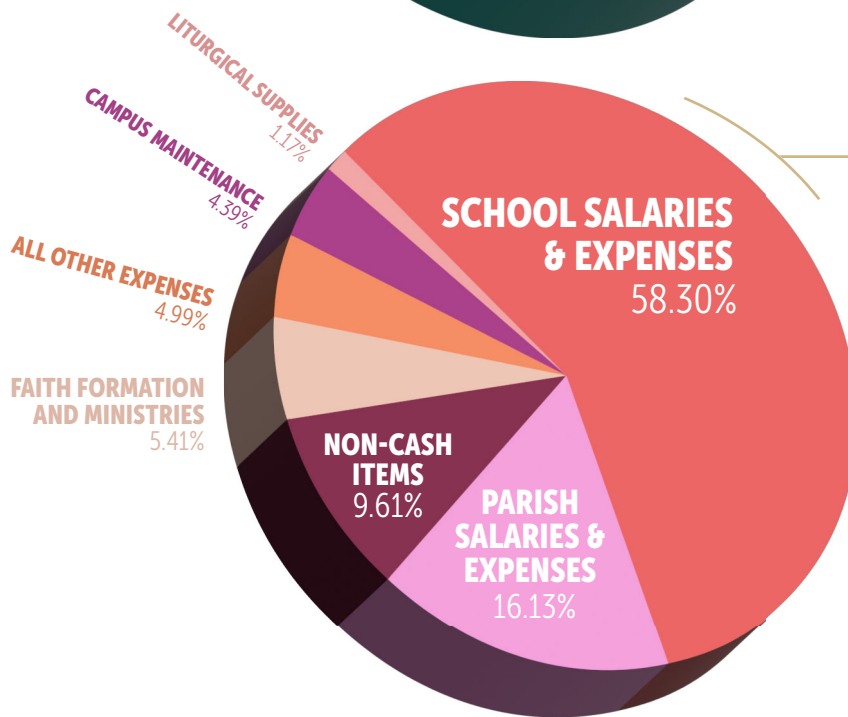


## INCOME (07.01.24 – 06.30.25)

\$7,225,761

### SECONDARY COLLECTIONS

Parish families stepped up to support over 20 additional outreach initiatives and secondary collections in FY 2024-25. Headlining these contributions were an incredible \$77,670 in Hurricane Helene relief funds that included several trips to rebuild homes in North Carolina. Beyond Appeal dollars, St Brendan raised an additional \$11,811 for our seminarians in the diocese. We're beginning to see the fruits of our support as the number of seminarians has increased from 18 to 43 in just 5 years! Praise God!



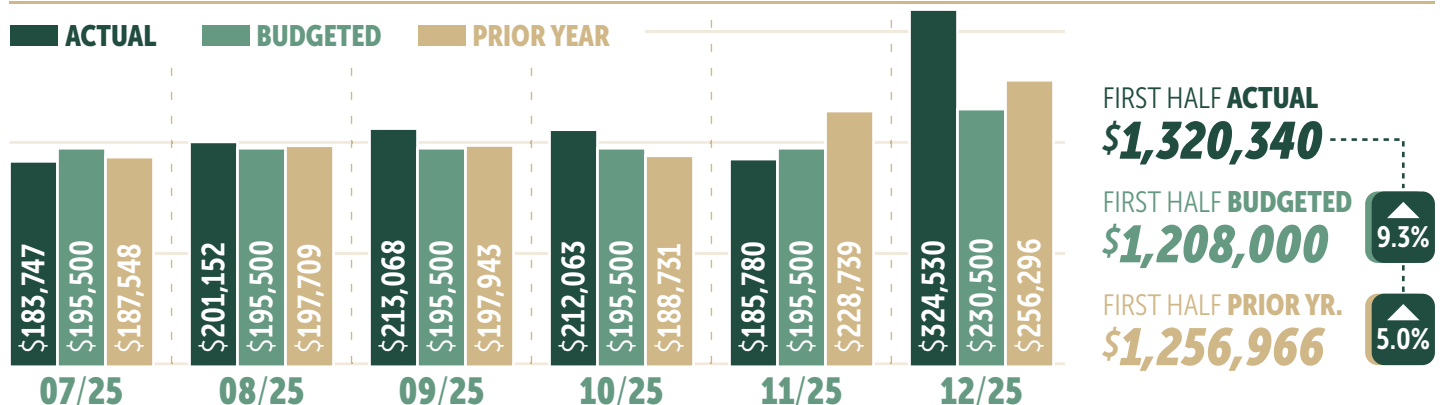
## EXPENSES (07.01.24 – 06.30.25)

\$6,676,363

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

Marquee projects and maintenance on the St Brendan campus included parking lot repairs and a major office renovation that unlocked a new counseling office for the school. Planned maintenance of the HVAC systems remain reliable expenses. A new but exciting undertaking was the 20' video wall in the school gymnasium. It has been used to great effect by the school, parish, Fish Fry, Festival, Auction, Vine, and more. It's already proven to be a great resource as we dive ever further into the digital era.

## FIRST HALF CHECKPOINT — CURRENT FISCAL YEAR OFFERTORY (2025-26)



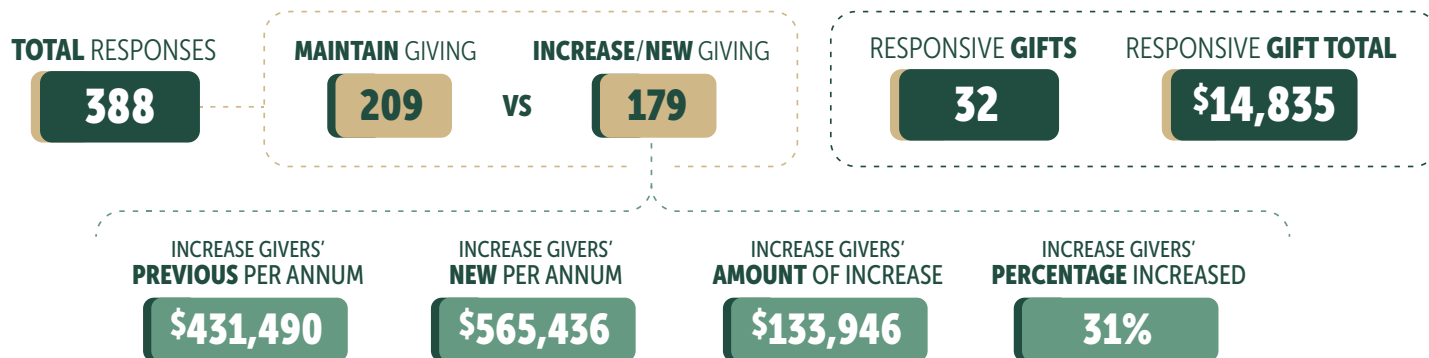


## FROM DIR. OF DEVELOPMENT BEN ROMAKER

Another year is in the can (a common filmmaking phrase). While my time of making movie parodies with Fr Dooley has drawn to a close, I reliably remain energized in service to this parish. My whole being overflows with gratitude to Fr Dooley for his servant leadership, uncommon approachability, and his exemplary dedication to his vocation. As such, I'm excited for his new flock, but am also optimistic about the momentum we've achieved here at St Brendan. When the rubber meets the road, our parish and school families embody Christian charity, giving selflessly of both time and treasure.

To that point, and to address rising costs from both organic growth and inflation, our parish launched into the **Faithful Stewardship Initiative** in August. The first of its kind in several years, this effort called upon families to prayerfully review their offertory — especially pertinent in the “set it and forget it” era of digital giving. All said, I can excitedly report the very clear and inspiring success of this initiative. I also echo a huge thank you from Fr Dooley to all families that took the time to review their giving.

### FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE — BY THE NUMBERS

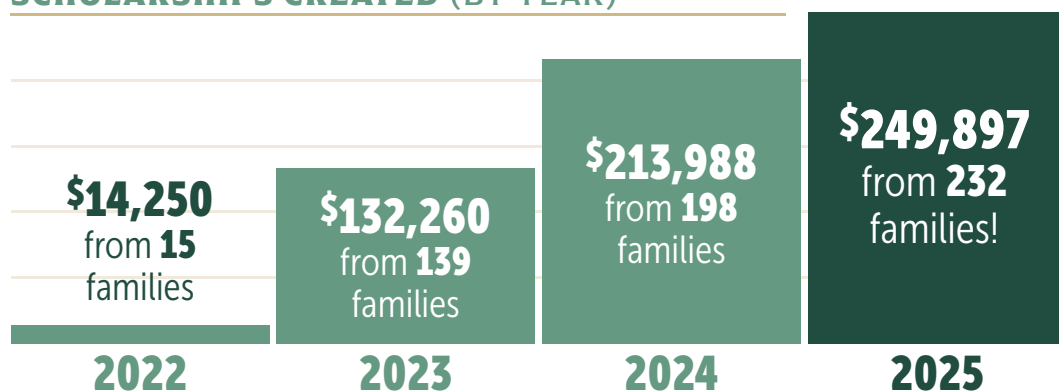


The dauntless generosity of our parish has placed us on a heartening path forward into 2026. Beyond the visible numbers and physical commitment cards, there is evidence of heightened charity from additional families that didn't fill out a card. Again, on behalf of our clergy and staff, please accept our gratitude for your thoughtful giving in support of our parish home, its ministries, and our Catholic mission of sharing the Good News.

As members of St Brendan the Navigator, we are tasked with supporting our parish, school, and diocese. To that last item, we are a house upon a foundation — and that foundation is the Diocese of Columbus. We are so close, but ultimately stuck at **99%** of our **\$330,000 parish goal** for the 2025 Appeal. If we don't reach goal after the pledges are paid out, our parish coffers will be assessed the difference. In support of our seminarians, Catholic social programs, evangelization efforts, *and our parish*, please make your contribution to The Appeal before March 31st.

Lastly, to end with a bang, thank you to the **232 families** that seized the initiative to convert their taxes into tuition assistance for St Brendan school families. Our school admins are thrilled to award **\$249,897** in financial aid next fall.

### SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED (BY YEAR)



## FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MIKE DEMASSIMO

St Brendan is absolutely the best! It has been a great start to the 25-26 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. We are lucky to have Jesus leading the way.

This year, we had our School Improvement Plan for the next 4 years approved 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. We have already begun the process of teacher-led professional development on this growth strategy and will unveil some of our plans to the students next school year!

Our student enrollment continues to be fruitful sitting at approximately **547 children**. Students are challenged daily both academically and spiritually. The House program shines under the tutelage of Mrs. Marguerite Arciaga and our

House Deans. We have also started to support after school clubs again at St Brendan, wanting to provide as many opportunities as we can for our students. 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, our Home & School Association, Finance Committee, Faith Formation, Athletics Program, and many others. The future is very bright for our entire campus and the families it serves. I thank you for your trust, patience, and prayers as we enter into 2026 with great excitement and momentum.



Taking in an OSU win at the Food Truck Tailgate!



## FROM DIR. OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS, JACOB DORAN

Our Family Faith Formation program this year serves over 200 children from over 130 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 the habits of discipleship and how to share their faith with others.

In the whole parish (both family faith formation and the school) we will have 105 students make their first Reconciliation and Holy Communion and another 106 celebrate their Confirmation.

Here are some kind words that I received through the 2024-2025 year:

"Just wanted to say thank you very much for a wonderful Jesus Day and First Holy Communion. We very much enjoyed the time and practice together on Jesus Day. Also, our families were very impressed with the First Communion mass, and our son was very very proud to be a part of it, at St Brendan's."

"Thank you for the opportunity to receive preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. For us, it was an excellent experience working with the boxes. Doing it at home with the parents and family was wonderful; it allowed us to share and spend more time as a family. I appreciate starting the topics based on reality and from there arriving at the message."

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 thrive by the grace of God! Throughout 2025, we had **346 unique high schoolers** attend Vine. In this current school year, we have seen our highest attendance rate of new students coming to Vine with **291 brand new students** attending for the first time! We are blessed to continue our Vine OCIA program for the many non-Catholic high schoolers who come to Vine and are interested in becoming Catholic. These metrics are largely due to **49 high school missionaries** who are in our formation program learning how to share Jesus with their friends and live out their faith! We had a great Fall Retreat and our annual mission trip to Cranks Creek, KY was the largest one yet! **80 missionaries** ventured to serve roughly **500 families** thanks to the generosity of our amazing parish. 2025 was extra special as we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Vine high school youth ministry! God has been so faithful to us!



A December tradition, the Vine converged on Crank's Creek bringing meals, toys, prayers, and holiday joy to 500 families.



## FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTER, ANNA MARINO

This year, our middle school ministry, The Roots, served roughly **110 middle schoolers** through youth group nights that encourage them to build community, foster faith, and, most importantly, encounter the living love of Jesus. Our parent volunteers continue to shine as amazing parts of our ministry, providing home-cooked meals for each Roots night with love and humility. Our core team of **10 members** has continued to intercede for the kids and their intentions by name.

Our Aspen small groups have also been flourishing in God's grace! We have been walking with **19 seventh and eighth grade students**, helping them deepen their relationships with Jesus by equipping them with practical knowledge and providing continued opportunities for prayer. These nights have also included joining the high school ministry, the Vine, for worship! This opportunity to worship as a community with the high schoolers is of prime importance for a few reasons. Primarily, because our students can encounter the love of Jesus more deeply for themselves. Additionally, they are encouraged to see the witness and example of older kids seeking intimacy with Jesus and learn different forms of prayer. This joint worship helps them feel comfortable in the Vine environment, so when the time comes for them to leave middle school, they are confident entering our high school ministry. Our team is so grateful for the support of many parents and families this year, and we look forward to seeing the ways God blesses our community in the years to come!

## FROM ADULT EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR, WENDY FERKANY

Our biggest new endeavor this year has been implementing three separate cohorts of OCIA! Baptisms and Confirmation for adults are not just at Easter anymore — they happen three times per year! The 2025 Easter Vigil had **2 adult baptisms** and **5 confirmations**. On the Feast of the Assumption in August 2025 we had **2 adult baptisms** and **4 confirmations**. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in December 2025, we had **4 adult baptisms** and **4 confirmations**. And on we go — we have **19 people** preparing for sacraments at the 2026 Easter vigil and we'll soon begin preparation with another group to receive their sacraments in August. It also takes a whole team to work with our catechumens and candidates during their preparation; cohort leaders, table leaders, sponsors and hospitality coordinators are all involved in the process! And we all learn together as we discover the richness of our Catholic Faith!



Adult Faith Formation beyond OCIA involves over **300 parishioners** participating in Women's Bible Studies such as the Chosen, Men's Group such as Esto Vir, Scripture studies such as the Gospel of John, small groups such as our book club and special events like the Catholic faith refresher sessions in the winter. We are definitely lifelong learners here at St Brendan! As we grow in knowledge we also grow in community and faith!



Our fruitful OCIA program is a true inspiration!



Summer Cohort field trip to the Catholic Museum.

## PARISH FESTIVAL — A TIME-HONORED TRADITION

2025 saw another remarkable Parish Festival with beautiful weather, sprawling crowds, great entertainment, and delicious food and drink. While revenue took a dip due to the lack of a silent auction, profits remained strong. We're grateful to our sponsors and the hundreds of volunteers that made the event possible. We're especially thankful to Festival Chair, Mike Lynch, who is retiring after years of leadership. St Brendan is pleased to announce the auction is returning for 2026!



We can't wait to celebrate with you at Parish Festival 2026!

