

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2024 - 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a blessed year this has been! When people in my life outside the parish boundaries ask me how things are going in the parish, I often draw a blank. Now that may just be my slowness of mind, but I think it is also because there are so many blessings and fruits that I am not sure what to say.

For example, for years I wanted us to partake more fully in the work of the John Paul 2 Healing Institute but always found it hard to accomplish. Yet this year somehow this came to fruition with our Prayer Team coordinating their Healing the Whole Person Retreat for 30 members of our parish.

Or again, I have been blown away by the number of people who have sought to become Catholic or return to the Church. It amazes me how God continues to draw people to Himself and the Church, often in spite of us. Perhaps what most confounds me is that it is people from many walks of life and different generations.

As well, the many men of our parish have taken on the spirit of intentional fraternity, both in terms of starting and committing to small group communities but also gathering for large men's events, like BBQs or St. Joseph's Feast Day. Many parishes struggle to get men involved and engaged in their faith. Yet I continue to see men leaning into their relationship with Christ and a desire to do that together.

This is not to leave the women of our parish out. They impress as well with their commitment to small groups and events that gather many women together, especially out at the vineyard.

That said, as many of you note, I also walk away impressed by our young people who take their faith seriously. Whether it is the leadership of our Catholic Clubs or our Youth Ministry Core Team or their service in a myriad of parish ministries, I am always wondering at how good our kids are in choosing Christ and leading by example.

This is but a sampling of the fruit but I can tell you, there are such beautiful things happening all around us. It is rooted in a culture we continue to build around our Core Values of Generous Service, Welcoming Arms, and Open Hearts. By our willingness to serve, invite people into our parish community, and love them most especially by our prayers, our parish is moving in greater harmony with the Holy Spirit.

What should our response be? Gratitude. Gratitude that moves the heart to be a gift to God and our neighbor. I pray as you spend some time pondering this last year of parish life, you too may rejoice and in thanksgiving, commit to another year of stewardship as disciples and as parishioners of St. Katharine Drexel Parish.



Rev. Colin Wen
Pastor

OUTREACH

"The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel." - Pope Leo XIV

One of the most important aspects of our parish life is how we love the poor among us. I am exceedingly proud of the efforts of so many of you to care for those among us who have great material needs.

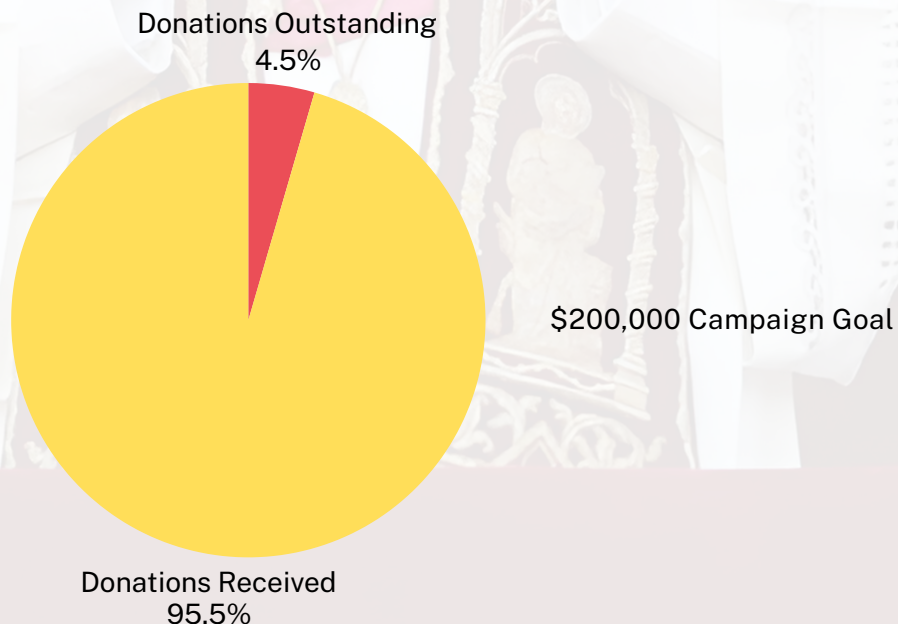
This past year the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has served 1,730 people in need and distributed over \$93,000 in assistance.

Break Bread with Friends has served over 4,000 meals on Saturday mornings over this last year to those in need. This parish ministry that includes many from different Christian communities in our county is a beautiful reminder of our common faith in Christ.

St. Patrick Pantry has served over 3,500 meals on Thursday evenings over the last year, including for Thanksgiving Day. It has been a blessing to see so many people from our parish and beyond wanting to provide a warm meal to those in need.

PARISH CAMPUS RENOVATION

Thank you for your generous support for Phase 1 of our Parish Campus Renovation Project. While it has taken a bit longer than expected, the results have been stunning. The additional area out front with ease of access for drop offs, the landscaping, the new fountain, extra gathering spaces, and overall softening of the hardscape has been transformational to say the least.



CLEAR PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP

What is the Clear Path of Discipleship?

The Clear Path of Discipleship is the framework so Missionary Disciples can grow in our parish. It provides the path for someone to come to know Christ and to make Him known in our local community. There are four steps on this Path that lead people to cross over thresholds of faith to friendship with Christ. At the Connect Step, one grows in trust of fellow Christians and becomes curious about the Christian life. At the Encounter Step, one has the opportunity to encounter the living God and say yes to His friendship. At the Grow Step, one is given the opportunity grow in friendship with Christ and live the Christian life. At the Thrive Step, one is given the strength to lead others into friendship with Christ and help them become Missionary Disciples. All of these steps help us to fulfill our Parish Mission to come to know Christ and make Him known to all.

CONNECT

We have hosted many Connect Events like our Advent Bazaar, Graceful Gatherings in the Vineyard, Men's BBQ, Movie Nights, Picnics, and a Camping Trip.

ENCOUNTER

We have had 98 people participate in Foundations of Faith and have received 16 people into the Church this year.

GROW

We have grown to 22 Small Groups with about 200 parishioners participating across different ages from 14 to longevity from our diverse community & 80 parishioners attend Following or Sharing Christ.

THRIVE

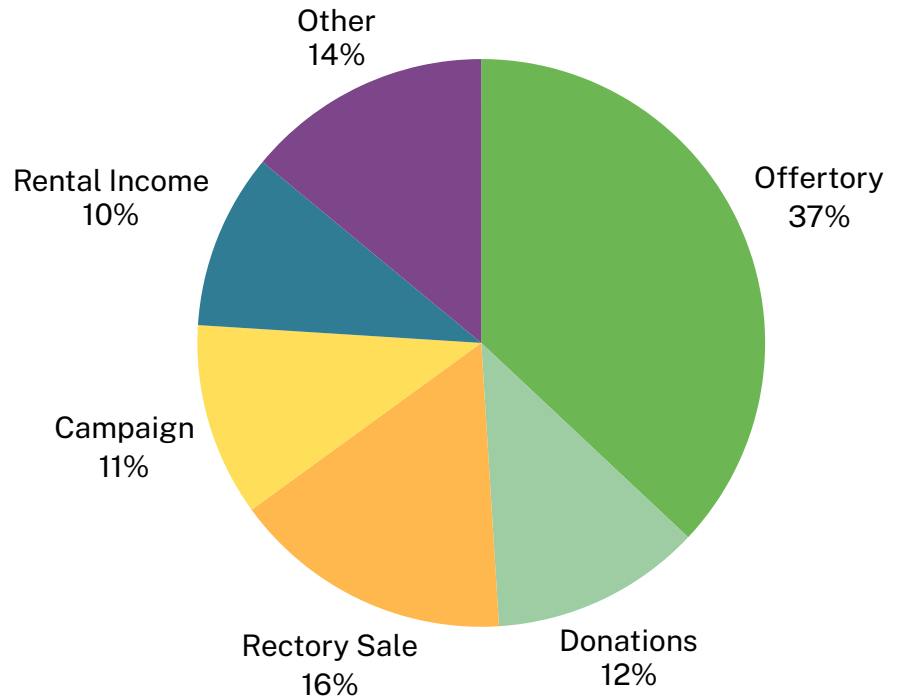
We have 7 Discipleship Quad groups of 4 people meeting weekly over a year as they grow deeply in the habits of Christian discipleship.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To know Christ and to make Him known

FINANCIAL GIVING

INCOME: \$1,717,280



EXPENSES: \$1,836,224

