

Saint James the Greater Parish
109 Owens View Avenue
Apollo, PA 15613

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Dear Parishioners,

Peace and blessings to you all!

It is with a grateful heart that I offer this year's annual report, *ThanksGIVING for Our Parish*. As we reflect on the blessings and growth of our faith community, we are reminded of Pope Leo XIV's inspiring call for every parish to recognize its vital role within the universal Church. Our parish is not simply a local gathering spot; it is a living part of the Body of Christ, united with the Holy Father and Catholics worldwide in mission, prayer, and service.

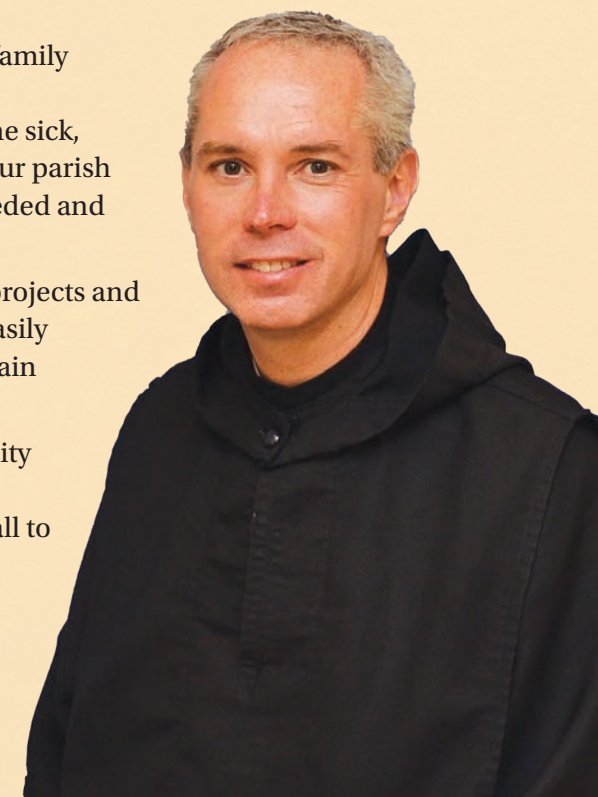
Bishop Larry J. Kulick has challenged us to build a strong and vibrant parish community that will flourish well into the future — rooted in faith, hope, and charity. Our parish has responded generously to this call by nurturing discipleship, deepening faith formation, and reaching out with Christ's love to those in need.

Through your prayers, time, and generosity, we continue to grow as a parish family united in Christ's mission. Our educational programs inspire the young, our sacramental preparation strengthens hearts, and our outreach ministers to the sick, the poor, and the elderly. We encourage you to explore the many ministries our parish has to offer and consider joining us in this joyful work. Your gifts are truly needed and welcomed!

Looking ahead, we are grateful for your support as we undertake numerous projects and programs. For your convenience, a Giving QR Code is included to help you easily participate in online giving or make a year-end gift. Traditional offerings remain deeply appreciated as well.

Our parish is a blessing, not only to each other but also to the wider community and Church. Let us move forward together with thanksgiving in our hearts, confident that by strengthening our parish, we are answering the universal call to be a living witness of Christ's love in the world.

With gratitude and prayers,
Father Vincent Zidek, O.S.B., Pastor



thanks GIVING for Our Parish



GIVING QR Code

**Saint James the Greater Parish
Annual Report 2025**



Our Shepherds

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church

Pope Leo XIV, elected in 2025 as the first American Pope, hails from Chicago. Before his election, he was Cardinal Robert Prevost. Known for his pastoral heart, theological clarity, and commitment to evangelization, Pope Leo brings a renewed focus to the vital role of the parish in the life of the universal Church. Pope Leo spent more than two decades in Peru, where he became a naturalized citizen and served as a missionary and Bishop. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese, and also reads Latin and German.



The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., Bishop of Greensburg

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., is the sixth Bishop of Greensburg, having been appointed by Pope Francis on December 18, 2020, and consecrated on February 11, 2021. He is the first native Bishop of the Diocese, hailing from Leechburg. His episcopal motto is *Christus est veritas* ("Christ is the truth"), reflecting his deep devotion to truth rooted in the Gospel. He is steadfastly committed to strengthening and nurturing our parishes, ensuring they remain vibrant centers of faith and service for generations to come.

Father Vincent Zidek, O.S.B., Pastor

Father Vincent Zidek, O.S.B., a native of East Vandergrift, is a member of the Benedictine Monastic Community of Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe. He made his solemn vows as a Benedictine monk in the Archabbey Basilica in July 1989. He was ordained in the Basilica in May 1991. He is in his eighth year as Pastor of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, and Saint James Parish. He is deeply dedicated to fostering and enriching the spiritual and prayer life of the parish community by guiding the faithful toward a closer union with Christ through prayer, devotion, and community.



Our Parish by the Numbers:



Registered Households
2025: 365
2024: 361
2023: 364



Baptisms
2025: 1
2024: 2
2023: 3

First Holy Communions
4



Confirmations
3

Weddings
2025: 2
2024: 3
2023: 1



Funerals
2025: 12
2024: 9
2023: 16

Households that Give
234

Households that Don't Give
131

A Call to Serve

We truly need your help to serve our parish family. Whether as altar servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, greeters, or catechists, choir members and instrumentalists, your ministry brings Christ's light to our community. Please prayerfully consider answering this call, and do not hesitate to reach out to the parish office — we are here to guide you through every step, including the clearance process, so you can share your gifts confidently and joyfully.



Ministries in Action

This year our partner parishes launched a MOMS Group (Ministry of Moms). The group is for mothers-to-be through mothers of school-age children. The group meets once a month. The moms can bring their kids to the meeting or leave them with Dad or a sitter. They pray for each other's needs, talk about the joys and challenges of parenting, and participate in a book club, discussing one chapter of the chosen book at each meeting. When one of the moms has a newborn, the others participate in a meal train for a week. Twice a year, for Christmas and a summer picnic, the members invite their spouses and children to join them. And, occasionally, the moms will plan a ladies-only night out. All mothers-to-be and mothers of school-age children of our partner parishes are welcome to attend.



Parish Financials

	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Offertory	\$ 276,926	\$ 265,144	\$ 259,187
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	4,725	2,925	8,392
Extraordinary Income ** <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	45,274	36,644	116,701
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund *	74,230	37,008	119,830
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)</i>	14,855	12,560	9,961
Special Collections	<u>99,138</u>	<u>49,563</u>	<u>97,328</u>
Total Income	\$ 515,148	\$ 403,844	\$ 611,399
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 86,507	\$ 82,354	\$ 78,905
Church	28,692	20,549	23,462
Rectory	6,802	5,463	2,958
Education and Ministry	45,731	58,946	81,525
General Expenses	153,799	153,207	156,212
Special Collections	100,878	46,517	82,953
Extraordinary Expenses ***	75,156	39,696	143,268
Total Expenditures	497,565	406,733	569,283
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 17,583	\$ (2,889)	\$ 42,116

* DLA for FY25 includes \$54,000 for a new organ.

** FY23 included a bequest in the amount of \$89,695.

*** Included a downpayment of \$26,719 for the organ in FY25.

Giving With Gratitude

This is our Giving QR Code. By scanning it, you can easily enroll in online giving, make your first gift, increase your weekly offertory, make a year-end gift, or donate in honor of or in memory of someone you love.



Or visit our website, StJamesApollo.org, click the Saint James the Greater tab, and scroll down to DONATE, which will take you to the Online Giving button at the bottom of a new page. Of course, traditional check or cash donations are always deeply appreciated too. Mail your gift to: Saint James the Greater Parish, 109 Owens View Avenue, Apollo, PA 15613.

