



St. Peter's Parish Annual Report 2025

TO LOVE EACH OTHER AS CHRIST LOVES US



2900 Second St E, Cornwall, ON K6H 6R2

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Fr. Theo Nnorom SMMM, PhD



Dear Friends,

With deep gratitude and humility, I look back on the many activities and blessings of this past year as we step into a new one.

To God—the author of life, our faith, and our hope—we offer praise and adoration for guiding us throughout this Jubilee Year of Hope. We have truly seen His hand in all that we were able to accomplish together as a parish family. We also honor Mary, Queen of Heaven and our Mother, and St. Peter, the patron of our parish, for their loving intercessions.

I am profoundly grateful for your support, collaboration, sacrifices, and generosity toward our beautiful parish. Your tireless dedication to parish life brings enthusiasm and joy to my ministry. Together, we have accomplished much this past year, and we look forward to building on that progress in the year ahead.

To our many volunteers: you are the engine that drives every aspect of parish life. Because of you, our parish remains welcoming, vibrant, and engaging to all who walk through our doors. May God reward you abundantly with His love and blessings, both now and always.

Living Our Mission and Vision

Our diversity and the presence of many young families continue to be two of the greatest strengths of our parish. These blessings make us an engaging and dynamic faith community. For this reason, much of our focus this year has been directed toward welcoming and supporting newcomers, young families, and our youth while continuing to care for our seniors.

Building on these strengths, we strive to be a truly missionary parish that keeps the faith alive through inspiring liturgy, strong catechetical formation, and meaningful outreach.

In concrete ways, we:

- established a new youth group and hired a youth coordinator,
- provided material, financial, and pastoral support to young and immigrant families,
- invested in our liturgical and catechetical programs,
- organized (to develop) a parish mission, and
- established the “Go-Team” to help guide and measure our progress as we embrace the Archdiocesan missionary vision: *to go out, go deep, and go together.*

Parish Building and Maintenance

Our parish building remains a great blessing. Thanks to my predecessors, it has been well maintained. In continuing that tradition, we contracted a firm through the Archdiocese to conduct a comprehensive review of our property. The resulting detailed report outlines current needs and anticipates future repairs and replacements.

Some minor repairs and maintenance were completed this year. Following the recommended priorities, we will continue to ensure the proper upkeep and care of our parish property.

Looking to the Future: Our 50th Anniversary (1978–2028)

We are approaching an important milestone in the life of our parish—our 50th Anniversary. We will begin the events of the celebration in 2027 that will culminate in 2028.

Our vision and pastoral activities in the coming year will increasingly focus on this jubilee celebration. In due time, we will share more details about the projects and events planned to mark this historic occasion.

Gratitude and Blessings

Thank you once again for your faith, dedication, and love for our parish community. May God continue to bless you and your families abundantly in the year ahead.



CATHECHESIS & EVANGELIZATION

The Connect Groups Report by Rick Abel

The Connect Groups by Rick Abell There are currently four active Connect Groups. The Connects are part of the design of the Alpha program. They are meant to provide a possible 'next step' once people have finished with Alpha and want to continue with the fellowship and spiritual growth they experienced in the program. Sometimes whole Alpha groups just evolve into a Connect and sometimes people from various Alphas will come together to form a Connect group. All aspects of the Connect are entirely self-directed by its members: scheduling, leadership and facilitation, location (typically in homes), content of the faith material that is used, number of participants, food, membership (open/closed) and so on. Some of these groups have been meeting for years. Three of our current groups meet monthly while one meets irregularly.

Monday Night Bible Study Report by Terry Boissonneault

The present topic is Missionary Discipleship by Stephen Binz. The group includes 20 participants when they are all present. The group meets from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, from September to June, with holiday breaks.

Men's Faith Sharing Group Report by Rick Abel

This group of men meet on the same weekly schedule as the women but in a separate space in the church for faith sharing and studies. Some of the study materials include 'The Search', a seven-part DVD series put out by the Augustine Institute. It has been well received. The group is currently looking at a range of faith materials for the new year, as there is a strong interest in continuing this group.

Cornwall Interfaith Partnership (CIP) Report by Rick Abel

CIP has been in existence in the city of Cornwall for over 10 years. It brings together members of a variety of faith traditions: Christians (various denominations), Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Bahai, and others. The main activity of this group is to organize public sessions where interfaith perspectives can intersect with issues that are socially current and do so by way of talks and presentations, dialogue, and the building of interpersonal networks. Some of the recent dialogue topics include Civil Conversations, Stewardship of the Land, and the Role of Faith in End-of-Life.

CATHECHESIS & EVANGELIZATION

Women's Faith Study Group Report by Natalie Desrosiers

Women of the Bible is a 12-week faith study to help women go deeper in their discipleship journey. The group focused on accomplishing two goals. The first was to develop new group leaders. This was accomplished by pairing 4 experienced leaders with 4 new leaders resulting in 4 people who will be able to lead a future faith study independently.

The second goal was to reach new people. The group successfully added 15 new participants who joined its 40 members. These new participants have never been in a bible study or small group on an ongoing basis.

This Faith Study is an inter-parish event as there are several members from St Francis Parish.

Baptism Preparation Report by Debbie Primeau

The Baptismal course is being offered to parents and godparents using the Starting Point (Dynamic Catholic) program which contains a dynamic three-videos program that all participants visibly appreciate. This program is also offered free online. Baptisms are being performed during the 4 pm Mass on Saturdays. There were 65 baptisms performed in 2025.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Program Report by JoAnn Hickley

On April 19, 2025, during the Easter Vigil, 11 individuals received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist and are now full members of the Catholic Church.

A new RCIA group of 3 catechumens and 1 full member of the church wanting to learn more about their faith, began in September 2025. The group meets every two weeks for an hour and a half and the program follows the Liguori Publications "Journey of Faith."

St. Peter's RCIA program is open to accepting individuals from other parishes who do not offer the program.

In addition to the foregoing there were 43 Confirmations administered by Bishop Yvan Mathieu and 28 First Communions.



CATHECHESIS & EVANGELIZATION

Little Disciples Report by Julie Ballem

Little Disciples is a weekly parish children's ministry serving students from grades 1 to 8. The program meets every Friday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and currently has 42 children registered with average weekly attendance between 15 to 25 participants. During this past year, 13 sessions were held from March to June and 12 sessions from September to December.

Each meeting follows a consistent structure inspired by the Salesian Sisters' youth ministry model: free play, catechetical teaching, large-group games, and shared snacks. Activities take place across several parish spaces with outdoor games used whenever weather permits. The program provides children with an opportunity to build friendships across grade levels and to experience parish life beyond Mass and school settings.



The ministry is supported by 8 teen leaders who take on increasing responsibility in planning and running games, setting up and cleaning spaces, supervising children—including five children with special needs—and fostering positive relationships. Adult supervision continues to be a challenge however the program is currently supported by 4 adult supervisors, with 2 additional adults scheduled to join in January. Snacks are provided by a team of 6 volunteer bakers who rotate weekly and coordinate coverage independently which has contributed to the program's smooth operation.

Looking ahead, priorities include improving communication with parents through the parish website or social media and creating a visible bulletin board at the church entrance to share program information, schedules, and highlights.

*The only thing we have to ask
God for, in prayer, is the desire
to be holy.*

Bl. Carlo Acutis

LITURGY & HOLINESS

Children's Ministry Report by Donna Nielsen

The program is structured around the Gospel of the Sunday. Presently, there are 7 teachers for 2 sessions. Additional teachers are needed. Attendance at the 9:30 Mass includes up to 15 children aged 3-13 and at the 11:15 Mass there are up to 30 children aged 3-13. The Christmas Pageant is a highlight for the children.



Altar Servers Report by Steve Ballem

The number of young people varies as once the children receive First Communion, they are eligible to serve. Currently there are 13 altar servers, 4 of who serve during funerals.



School Report by Terry Boissonneault

St. Peter Catholic Elementary School attended Mass in the parish 6 times in 2025.

Fr. Theo Nnorom visited Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School for Mass on 3 occasions and the Grade 12 students attended Mass at the parish for the blessing of medals.

Additionally, Fr. Theo visits both schools regularly.

Sacristans Report by Margo Schwerdtfeger

There are presently 3 Sacristans on the team with 2 more expected for training in 2026.

Music Ministry Report by Karen Torrie-Racine



There are 3 diverse groups providing music for our Eucharistic Celebrations. Each group presents its own form from solo guitar to praise and worship, to a traditional organist led choir. Each style assists the parishioners in drawing closer to God.

LITURGY & HOLINESS

Ushers and Greeters Report by Divina Fraser

Presently there are 37 volunteers. They are a diverse group of ages and ethnicities all with the goal of serving the Lord.

Prayer Ministry Report by Martha & Barry Franklin

There are 25 Prayer Warriors, an increase of 2 since September 2025. Updates are requested monthly. There are 42 people on the intentions list. Reports have been received of numerous amazing recoveries and consolations over the past year. God is truly good.



GoTeam Report by Marilyn Bergeron

The GoTeam continues to lead our parish's participation in the diocesan missionary vision: *Go Out, Go Deep, and Go Together*. Drawn from a crosssection of parish ministries, the team works collaboratively in identifying opportunities for growth, renewal, and enhanced missionary outreach.

Building on the *parish mission and survey* completed last year, the GoTeam is actively implementing the synthesized priorities that emerged from that process. Their efforts include proposing meaningful initiatives, supporting ministry leaders, and helping to guide the parish toward a unified missionary direction.

Eucharistic Ministers Report by Carmen Mascarenhas

There are 33 extraordinary ministers, and another is being co-trained by Sandra (former leader) and Carmen.

Lectors Report by Elizabeth Spagnolo

The number of members ranges from 15 to 20 throughout the year. Each lector completes the required surveys and is responsible for finding a replacement if their schedule changes. Because many have selected the 9:30 a.m. Mass, we sometimes need to schedule two lectors at that time. In contrast, the 4:00 p.m. Mass has fewer readers which provides those members with more frequent opportunities to proclaim. Overall, our team remains enthusiastic, dedicated, and joyful in their ministry of sharing the Word.

Members of the GoTeam are available at the *information kiosk in the church foyer* where they offer assistance, answer questions, and provide resources connected to both spiritual formation and social services available within the parish and the wider community.

The team is currently consulting with ministry leaders to determine areas requiring support and to encourage collaboration and synergy among the various ministries of the parish. They are also spearheading the plans for the City Lenten Retreat to be hosted by our parish.

SOLIDARITY & COMMUNITY

Hospitality Ministry Report by Donna Nielsen

Regularly after each Mass, a group of approximately 25 dedicated members contributed by donating delicious homemade treats and beverages. Members also assisted with setup and cleanup, ensuring smooth gatherings. These events created a warm and welcoming environment that encouraged fellowship. Hospitality events were well attended, offering opportunities to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

Two special celebrations were also held. We honored Deacon Richard's retirement with gratitude and joy and celebrated Father Theo's birthday together as a parish family.

Looking Ahead: Hospitality 2026

Hospitality will continue to be a cornerstone of parish life with gatherings scheduled after the 4:00 pm Mass on the third Saturday of the month when baptisms are celebrated and after all three Masses on the third weekend of the month to recognize:

- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- Valentine's Day
- Easter
- Summer Celebration



A parish picnic was held in August and was a joyful gathering welcoming parishioners and guests of all ages. The picnic included a delicious barbecue by the Knights of Columbus, sweet treats from the Hospitality Ministry as well as games and prizes. The event was supported by a number of generous volunteers and organizers. It was a day filled with fellowship, laughter, and community spirit. The event strengthened bonds among parishioners and guests, fostering a deeper sense of belonging.



SOLIDARITY & COMMUNITY

Videographers (Livestreaming) Report by Norm Fontaine

Since its introduction during the COVID-19 pandemic, the livestreaming of St. Peter's Masses continues to serve as a form of outreach particularly to homebound individuals, those who are ill, current and former parishioners.

Four parishioners ensure the livestreaming of the 9:30 am and 11:15 am Sunday Masses on an alternating basis. Special Masses such as the First Communion, Confirmation and the annual Daisy Mass were also livestreamed.

This year, St. Peter's was also honored to host and livestream the annual Catholic Education Week Mass to all schools within the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario.

Fundraising Committee Report by Doug Lachance

2025 saw two successful parish fundraising activities:

- The first ever June 14th Luau raised just over \$9,000. The evening featured a Hawaiian theme where a delicious Hawaiian buffet was served. Participants later danced the night away to a karaoke DJ. June 13, 2026, has been earmarked for the next event.

- A turkey supper was held on September 21st and \$8,000 was raised from this event. No date has been set for the next parish supper.

Community Outreach Report by Norm Fontaine

The large influx of new immigrant families into the parish has created the need for assistance in their integration into the Cornwall community and the parish.

A five-member parish outreach committee has been created to help with this integration.

The Go-Team will see to the creation of an information kiosk which is now located in the church entrance. Using an iPad, users have access to a database of local service agencies aiding with the integration in the community.

Parish outreach volunteers will also act as a liaison with these agencies for the new parishioners. Pamphlets containing valuable information will also be provided at the kiosk.

Our large elderly population may at times be homebound especially during the winter and flu season. Plans are to distribute the parish bulletin to keep them informed on the various parish activities. The livestreaming of the Sunday Masses has also proven to be a valuable tool in connecting with these individuals.

SOLIDARITY & COMMUNITY

The Knights of Columbus Report by Norman Fontaine

Traditionally, the Knights of Columbus have been considered the “Right Arm of the Church”. In 2025, Ontario Council 755 lived up to this reputation by providing financial help and resources for several activities. Approximately 30 council members provided assistance while also being active in the various parish ministries such as lectors, eucharistic ministers, altar servers and ushers.



Financial support:

- In collaboration with Council 5068, the Bishop Brodeur 4th Degree Assembly 0877 and Council 755, \$1,000 was contributed towards the installation of a yard light to light up the grotto at night. These 3 groups originally collaborated in the late 1990's to build this grotto. It is now a gathering point for parishioners to gather either as a group or individually to recite the rosary and conduct silent personal prayer.
- In 2025, two successful parish fundraising activities were held. Council 755 paid for the rental of the upstairs hall for the June 14th Luau and donated \$1,000 towards the food costs of the September 21st turkey supper. In addition, the Cornwall Columbus Club waived the costs of the upstairs and downstairs hall rental, at a cost of \$590 for this event.

Resources:

The Luau, Fall Turkey Supper and August picnic would not have been successful without the support provided not only by the Knights, but also from the St. Peter's CWL

as well as many parishioners and the parish office staff.

Council 755 members helped cook the hot dogs for the parish picnic. They also help prepare and serve the meals for the Luau and Turkey Supper.

Outreach:

Charity is one of the main principles of the Knights of Columbus. As part of the parish's community outreach, Council 755 provided:

- *Coats for Kids:* With the cold winter weather upon us, warm winter parkas were provided to students at St. Peter's School and some parishioners in need. Council 755 also provided coats to students at the Bishop MacDonell and Central Public Schools.
- *Food for Families:* Christmas food baskets were delivered to 4 parish families.
- *Rose Sunday:* Each year in support of Pro-Life, the Knights of Columbus sell the small stick-on roses. This year \$667 was raised and donated to Pro-Life Cornwall.

SOLIDARITY & COMMUNITY

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) Report by Diane Scott

St. Peter's Catholic Women's League has been a long-time pillar of support for the parish. In 2025, the following activities were held:

January:

- Supported Holy Childhood/Chalice
- Participated in the Cornwall Service Club bowling tournament

February:

- Served pancakes at St. Peter's School on Shrove Tuesday
- Hosted World Day of Prayer (Cook Island) \$430

March:

- Organized a Literacy and Essay Contest at St. Peter's School and donated \$100 as a prize

April:

- Ruffled fundraiser Easter baskets
- Attended Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel

May:

- Provided First Communion gifts.
- Donated \$100 to the Children's Treatment Centre
- Prayed the Rosary at Holy Trinity High School
- Attended a Cornwall Diocesan CWL Convention

June:

- Attended the Blessing of Coins
- Provided bursaries to Holy Trinity High School
- Organized a Mass for the Unborn
- Attended a Mass for Truth & Reconciliation
- Organized a pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory

September:

- Participated in a Cornwall Service Club mini-putt event
- Volunteered at the Blood Donor Clinic
- Organized a pilgrimage to Ste Anne de Beaupré
- Provided gifts for monthly Baptisms

October:

- Held a Bake Sale Fundraiser and raised \$1,400
- Organized a Rosary Rally
- Prayed the Rosary at Holy Trinity High School weekly
- Celebrated Birthdays at Glen-Stor-Dun Lodge

November:

- Attended a Cornwall Service Club fundraiser
- Collected 311 Jello boxes for Christmas baskets
- Collected socks and toiletries for Riverview Manor

December:

- Dropped puck at Sisters' Cup
- Packed Christmas Baskets
- Held a Christmas Banquet
- Organized a Quilt Draw and raised \$940
- Delivered 76 Christmas bags, provided snacks, sang songs at Riverview Manor
- Provided donations to Hospice, Baldwin House and Children's Christmas Fund at \$100 each

Support was also offered to our clergy and those in formation to the diaconate.



STEWARDSHIP



Report by Divina Fraser

Collection Counters

Seven (7) volunteer parishioners count the weekly Sunday envelope collections, including the special envelopes, Christmas, New Year's and Easter celebrations.

Parish Staff

Our three (3) Parish Staff are always hard at work making sure our Parishioners needs are met.

Building Maintenance

Our Building Maintenance Staff have been keeping our Parish clean & safe.

Finance

The Team has welcomed 2 new members at the beginning of the year. After a member stepped down in July, a replacement was added for a total Finance Team of 9, composed of 4 women and 5 men.

Financial Report for the Calendar Period Ending Dec. 31, 2025

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 2024</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 2025</u>
<u>Collections Special</u>		
Development & Peace	\$ 2,727.00	2,892.00
Vocations	1,358.00	1,389.25
Papal Charities	766.50	1,285.00
Propagation of Faith	1,370.00	1,335.00
Diocese of Moosonee	739.90	1,045.85
Holy Lands (Good Friday)	1,449.00	2,602.50
Needs of Canadian Church	1,113.00	1,477.10
Indigenous	650.15	450.00
	<u>\$ 10,173.55</u>	<u>\$ 12,476.70</u>
<u>Collections General</u>		
Sunday Collections	246,076.06	256,125.18
Loose Collections	21,991.90	23,419.06
Initial Offering	995.95	969.00
New Year Offering	2,985.00	3,122.00
Easter Offering	3,661.00	3,945.00
Christmas Offering	6,873.00	6,195.00
	<u>\$ 282,582.91</u>	<u>\$ 293,775.24</u>

Support Expenses

Wages Lay People	51,513.04	46,359.84
EI	1,202.02	863.88
Mileage	3,656.50	2,214.80
Flower Expenses	<u>155.91</u>	<u>—</u>
	56,527.47	49,438.52

Parish Evangelization

Liturgical Items	2,654.39	6,727.89
Subscription	340.27	223.21
Parish Activities	1,043.10	2,717.48
Catechesis	<u>1,782.67</u>	<u>10,230.18</u>
	5,820.43	19,898.76

General Expenses

Administration Tax	36,003.40	39,307.00
Bank Service Charges	-	503.87
Other Expenses	1,146.49	773.25
Office Expenses	8,191.21	11,369.92
Donations General	1,260.00	450.00
Donations-Outreach	5,194.50	7,500.00
Donations-Bursary	<u>-</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
	51,795.60	61,404.04

Building Expenses

Telephone	3,817.14	4,438.48
Internet	585.35	941.28
Alarm	311.16	311.16
Heat	6,955.76	6,315.48
Hydro	13,989.21	15,410.77
Insurance	9,560.62	10,000.00
Water	2,156.10	1,798.55
Municipal Taxes	1,978.77	2,051.53
General Maintenance	20,553.50	25,796.89
Snow Removal	18,429.60	16,460.42
Lawn Care	<u>4,820.79</u>	<u>3,742.40</u>
	83,158.00	87,266.96

Total Operating Expenses

<u>\$ 304,505.05</u>	<u>326,185.85</u>
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Collections Special-Remittance

Development & Peace	\$ 2,727.00	2,892.00
Vocations	1,358.00	1,389.25
Papal Charities	766.50	1,285.00
Propagation of Faith	1,370.00	1,335.00
Diocese of Moosonee	739.90	1,045.85
Holy Lands	1,449.00	2,602.50
Indigenous Collection	1,113.00	450.00
Needs of Canadian Church	650.15	1,477.10
	10,173.55	\$ 12,476.70
Total Disbursements	\$ 314,678.60	\$ 338,662.55
Net Receipts	\$ 33,006.88	\$ 21,662.47

Budget for Calendar Year 2026

<u>Expenses</u>		
Clergy & Personnel		\$ 157,028.00
Building Expenses	-	89,543.00
General & Administrative Expenses		61,706.00
Parish Evangelization/Renewal		30,400.00
Liturgical Items/Music		15,700.00
Total Budgeted Expenses		\$ 354,377.00
<u>Receipts</u>		
Collections General		\$ 280,540.00
Other Income/Donations		25,000.00
Room & Board		16,440.00
Fundraising Goal		17,397.00
CY2025 Forecasted Surplus		15,000.00
Total Forecast Receipts		\$ 354,377.00
Prepared & approved by:		
<i>Fr. Theo & Finance Council</i>		