

Annual Report 2025



St. Chrysostom's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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Agenda

ST. CHRYSOSTOM'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, 2026 at 11:30 am

The Rev. Dr. Ian Burch, *Chair*

AGENDA

11:30a Call to Order

11:32a Appointment of Clerk & Tellers

11:35a Approval of 2025 Meeting Minutes

11:45a Election of New Members and Officers of the Vestry

SLATE

Officers

Mr. Robert Valente (Sr. Warden, one year), Ms. Christina (Chrissy) Cox (Jr. Warden, one year), Mr. Quinn McCarthy (Treasurer, one year term), Mr. Jack Denison (Clerk, one year term)

Three Year Term

Ms. Amanda Rutledge

Mr. Taylor Sevier

Ms. Deborah Alexander

Mr. Adam Cramton

Two Year Term

Ms. Patricia Grauf

Mr. Aaron Fershee

Outgoing Vestry Members

Ms. Angie Yorath

Ms. Karen Meader

Mr. Jeff Dykstra

Ms. Sara Helfers

Mr. Jack Butler

12p Day School Report

12:10p Finance Committee Report

12:30p Rector's Report

12:45p Associate's Report

12:50p Sr. Warden's Report

1:05p Vestry Size Announcement

1:10p Closing Prayer

1:15p Adjournment

Ms. Megan Gagliardo, *Interim Head of School*

Mr. Jeff Dykstra, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Dr. Ian Burch

The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff

Mr. Robert Valente

Rector's Report

Friends in Christ,

In other places in this annual report, you'll be able to see numbers, ministry head reports, pictures, and financials. In other words, you'll be able to look granularly at our shared Christian life through several different lenses, using different metrics. My job, as the Rector, is to tell us the story of ourselves—what is good, what is difficult, what is hopeful, and, if I'm really doing my job, where we see God at work among us. So, the following is our story, as I see it, from 2025.

2025 was our first full year as priest and people, working together to build up the people of God in the city of Chicago. There are many things about which I am incredibly proud, but I will list the major ones here, from my point of view.

St. Leonard's Ministries

One of my goals for 2025 was to audit our Outreach ministries. As happens with all big-steeple, legacy churches like St. Chrys, over the years we end up with many ministry partners. As the people who began those partnerships leave, retire to warmer climates, die, or in some way become unable to lead those ministries any longer, the parish ends up with more ministry partners than we have the capacity to support properly. So, I have been slowly auditing our ministry partners to make sure that the partnerships are vibrant, relevant, and still have resonance with the parish. While that work continues this year—with the help of our new Outreach Chairperson John Pickford—it became clear to me that one of the places of the most energy in our parish is our long-standing partnership with St. Leonard's Ministries. Rev. Chana and I have hosted tours, brought new members into the work, attended fundraisers, brought families and children to volunteer, and I recently joined the board of directors. We also hosted an event for their capital campaign, which was well attended. I think we leave 2025 with a much stronger partnership than when we started, and I am proud of the anti-recidivism work done by SLM; I look forward to deepening our relationship with that worthy organization in 2026.

Street Dedication

Our block of Dearborn was dedicated the Honorary Mary Ellen Christy Way by Alderman Brian Hopkins on September 12, 2025. The ceremony and party were well attended, and it was an ideal way to commemorate a beloved member and the founder of our school. Special thanks go out to Chrissy Cox, who spearheaded the effort, as well as Genevieve Hillis and Brian Kocinski who underwrote the celebration.

Episcopal 101

I taught 3 installments of the Episcopal 101 class, with about 35 people coming through the program in 2025. Newcomers' classes such as this one are vital to a growing church. They do two really important things: 1. They ensure that anyone visiting is never more than about 8 weeks away from an opportunity to learn more about St. Chrysostom's, our diocese, and the Episcopal Church; and 2. They help maintain

and strengthen our Episcopal identity by filling the pews with members who have been trained in church history and governance. Our Episcopal identity is our strength, and it's important for us to understand it well as a community.

Staff

The staff has largely been stable in 2025—apart from the leaving of Tom Colao, Assistant to the Director of Music, who was able to take a Director of Music position closer to his home. My proudest moment as a rector this year was when the results of the Mutual Ministry Review showed a staff that was greatly satisfied with working here at St. Chrys, with one another, and with me. If you come here during the week, you'll find a group of competent, fun, and engaging workers going about the business of the church and school. Their entire job is to support YOU in your ministry, and they do it well.

Church and School Relationships

There have been times of great equanimity between church and school and times of tension. I'm incredibly proud that 2025 has felt to me like a time of equanimity. I credit this largely with the excellent work of senior leaders: Megan Gagliardo, Meg Leydon, Tim Crum, and the Day School Chaplain, The Rev. Chana Tetzloff. This team has had to tackle complex issues: tragedy in the school family, physical plant emergencies, a few high maintenance parents, a maternity leave, and an impending Head of School change. They have done it with grace and verve, and I am so pleased by the friendly environment that I feel when I walk through the halls and offices of the school. All the teachers came to my house for a Christmas party, and while I heard them laughing and playing games in my living room with a bit of wine, I thought, "that is exactly what you want to hear from your staff." Additionally, our own Alex Jacobs has been working diligently with one of the school parents to update the Day School Charter, which is about 25 years out of date. The collaborative nature of that work, I think, is a reflection of the renewed spirit of cooperation in our hallways.

Stewardship

Stewardship will have its own report, but I want to say here that the team, under the able leadership of Frances DeBlasio, ran an excellent campaign, and I think it bodes well that new leadership is happy to step into essential lay roles at the church, and I hope to see even more of this kind of strong, new leadership in 2026.

Connecting Faith and Life

A small but committed group of parishioners met with me in 2025 to share their concerns and laments about some of what they see in our world—political climate, war, famine, economic uncertainty, and a certain incivility in our common life. We discussed ways to invite members of St. Chrysostom's to connect the Gospel they hear on Sunday with their everyday lives on Monday. That conversation has led to three presentations—the Seraj Library Project, the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and a presentation on Martin Luther King Jr.—all invitations to find meaningful ways to connect faith with this geo-political moment. Look for more opportunities like this in 2026.

Opportunities in 2026

I want to build on our successes in 2025. We continue to need high level lay leaders in several areas of our shared life—a head usher, more coffee hour captains, more Sunday School and Confirmation support from lay people, a stronger group of acolytes, and a champion for weekly adult education after the 10:15a service. I anticipate that these roles will slowly be filled in the next year, and if you feel a call on your heart for any of them, contact me.

Our building is cleaner, our sanctuary is fuller, our children are better cared for, our mission is stronger, our staff is happier, our students are better catechized, our lay leadership is better supported, and our outreach is more impactful. There is always more that can be done to make the world look more like the world that God would imagine for us, but even so, I am deeply proud of what we have been able to do together in 2025. To God be the Glory!

Your Rector,
Ian+



Associate's Report

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through our second year together – time flies when we're having fun! It takes a year to get to know a place, and what makes it tick. As we continue to experiment with what programming best meets the needs of our families, I am delighted that in 2025 we completed our first full program year of offerings for children active at all age levels. I'm astounded by the growth that took place both programmatically and spiritually.

First, a HUGE thank you to our volunteer teachers without whom none of this good activity could happen: Katie Baker, Lauren Dent, Jeff Dykstra, James Elbaor and Kim Trautmann, Joe Flippin, Jim Fredericksen, Matthew Griffin, Lauren Rector, Waihay Wong and Andrew Lawton, and Rev. Ian Burch who serves as backup.

We successfully met last year's goals. Attendance improved, with more consistent participation presence of children and families in both worship and education. We have an up-to-date list of families who participate regularly. We offered a family newsletter for the first time and held activities with "something" for each age group, even if not every Sunday. In 2026 we hope to strengthen and empower our teacher pool, evaluate and implement safety plans, and improve program communications. We would also love to strengthen parent formation opportunities and connections as we continue to grow.

Nursery:

- Offered nearly every Sunday of the year (except Easter and the Sunday after Christmas) barring illness or emergency.
- Rotation of 4-5 regular paid caregivers who serve often enough for children to know and recognize them. At this age, experiencing love, trust and acceptance is key to nurture healthy faith development. Our caregivers are wonderful providers for this foundation.

Children's Ministry (PK-5th grade)

- Trained and onboarded full year Sunday School and simple summer chapel teacher rotation (first time we've offered summer programming)
- Sunday School topics covered this year included On the Way with Jesus (Stories from Luke) from the Shine curriculum, object lessons on the lectionary readings during the summer, and Godly Play modules on Prophets, Saints, Church Year, Elements of Eucharist, and Advent in the fall.
- 3rd-5th Peacemakers: began in September, typically offered on the second Sunday of the month explores finding peace with God, our selves, neighbors, and the world (Shine curriculum).

Youth Confirmation Cohort: A Great Experiment Confirmation is a ritual touchstone in our community, but regular youth programming is challenged by rhythms of family travel, extracurricular teams and increased school responsibilities for this age group. Feedback from members noted that a "requirement" to participate, with flexibility within that requirement, would be more meaningful. This year, we structured

confirmation as a 2-year program to build appropriate spiritual instruction to claim a mature faith, as well as a culture of participation. A flexible menu of options to participate in the wider community of faith allows participants to choose their level of involvement. An additional incentive was generously offered by Sacred Heart School; completing our program gives them school credit for their religions class. Youth meet weekly for spiritual exercises from the Rite 13 Episcopal curriculum, and serve in a variety of ministries including cooking and serving meals at St. Leonard's, serving Neighbors in Need, assisting with worship, the Day School Holiday Faire, Halloween Event, Advent Wreath Making, and the St. Egidio community luncheon.

Partnership with Sacred Heart: In addition to offering course credit, I serve on a cohort of ecumenical clergy who plan and facilitate an assembly for the Week of Christian Unity (for 300+ students of all ages) and Rite of Reconciliation (for second grade students).

Day School: Our relationship between church and day school is growing through daily contact with families/staff at morning drop off, weekly Staff and monthly Advisory Board Meetings, offering pastoral presence and care in crisis events, and attending school fellowship events. This relationship has grown spiritually, too. This past year, for the first time, we offered Imposition of Ashes for the school community and introduced a monthly Family Chapel for parents to experience worship with their children (now attended regularly by 20+ parents), as well as providing training on Stages of Faith Development for our teacher's professional development day.

Additional events/activities included:

- Baptism Preparation for 11 families
- WOSC family game night – families representing 3 age cohorts supported the inaugural event, with a lot of fun had by all. We hope this will continue annually!
- Epiphany Minecraft group (January/February)
- Kids Club Fellowship (3rd-6th): 11 individual children in 7 families participated in Girl's Sleep Under and Boys Day Out, and Movie Nights. (March/April)
- Ashes on the Way offered for Day School and Neighborhood Community
- Lent Programming (Weaving God's Promises in Prayer) explored types of prayer with 22 participants across 9 families (including individual adults) in the directed activities, additional adults joined in Prayer Loom
- Easter Flowering of the Cross (25 participants) and Egg Hunt (handed out 34 goodie bags and 25 gathering bags. Over 650 eggs distributed.
- Kickoff Sunday with teacher/student blessing, balloon-twisting, and festive coffee hour. (September)
- Advent Wreath Making had 24 families participate across both services (November)
- St. Egidio had 5 families participate (December)
- Christmas Eve Pageant
- St. Leonard's Family Field Trip
- Latin School Service Fair and Student Graduation Recognition
- Formation Recognition of new Ministry Leaders



Senior Warden's Report

Dear friends,

Each year the Annual Report provides an opportunity for the leaders of our ministries, committees, and other initiatives to reflect on the previous year and report about the focus of their work. Since those reports will appear in the pages to follow, I will primarily use this opportunity to provide a view into the areas where the Vestry will be focused in 2026, rather than stealing the thunder of our volunteer lay leaders about their accomplishments in 2025.

The most frequent feedback I hear from the congregation is about the new people showing up to services every week. This is, indeed, an extremely welcome and positive indication. The ongoing challenge for the Vestry is to create strategies to engage these new people in ways that are meaningful to them, keep them coming back, encourage participation in the life of the parish, and support our mission through financial pledging. Our diverse volunteer base continues to be an asset, but we are still working to cultivate lay leaders to make our worship ministries and other groups more self-sufficient with scheduling, etc. While our financial outlook is much improved over previous years, we still miss the mark in convincing many parishioners that meaningful financial support is necessary from everyone. The misconception that our parish is replete with families writing six-figure checks leads many to under-pledge. The biggest opportunity for St. Chrysostom's to achieve financial stability sits with the bottom third of pledgers, not the top third. Additionally, the total number of pledges this year is not indicative of the number of families who call St. Chrysostom's their home parish. In 2026 the Vestry and Stewardship committee will focus on ways to promote pledging by exploring giving levels, as well as recognition for repeat pledgers and increases in giving year over year. More robust pledging needs to be an area of significant focus if we're to be successful with our mission.

Following the Mutual Ministry Review last summer, the Vestry and clergy will continue to focus on the areas of opportunity identified during that process to work together in alignment on the mission of the parish. The objective of supporting clergy to do what they do best will continue in 2026, with particular emphasis on growing our ministry for youth and families. We have given considerable resources to Rev. Chana to build and grow that program, in recognition of the importance that demographic plays in a thriving parish. Many of you have asked that emphasis be placed in this area, and I'm pleased with the enthusiasm and support the Vestry has given to it. We've also focused on solidifying our organizational structure, where committees advise the Vestry and clergy, but the responsibility for execution lies with the Rector, Wardens, and the Director of Operations. We hire professionals for their experience and expertise, and we're being more consistent about exercising the talent for which we pay by giving them the right advice and support to deliver on the needs of the parish.

The relationship between the Church and Day School is stronger and more collaborative than it has been in years, and I look forward to continuing that trajectory when a new Head of School is called in the coming months. I wish Megan Gagliardo the very best as she departs from our staff at the end of the Spring term. Megan has been a steadfast and equitable partner, and has become a dear friend. St. Chrysostom's is richer for the impact she's had on so many of us; adults and children alike.

I would be remiss without expressing deep gratitude to Wende Fox-Lawson, who will step down after three terms as Junior Warden. Wende stepped up to help lead the Vestry during a critical time. She faithfully served alongside John Bankhurst during the interim between rectors, and alongside me after Ian was called as our rector. Working so closely, we have developed a wonderful friendship and I'm grateful for her passion, generosity, and experience with non-profit boards. I have always believed that people are what make St. Chrysostom's a special place, and Wende personifies that belief.

I remain committed to serving as your Senior Warden for another term, and look forward to working closely with the new members joining the Vestry this year. Truly, the best years of our parish lie ahead and I'm honored to share in the responsibility for taking us there.

Yours in Christ,
Robert P. Valente



St. Chrysostom's Day School 2025-2026

Megan Gagliardo – Head of School
Pam Larsen – Enrollment/Operations Manager
Meg Leydon – Director of Development

St. Chrysostom's Day School is in its 51st year and is a significant outreach ministry of the Church and to the larger Chicago community. Currently we serve children in more than 15 zip codes. The Day School offers nine developmentally appropriate programs for children ranging from eight months to five years, including Tiny Tot's through Junior Kindergarten. We currently have 159 children enrolled and continue to refine and diversify our program offerings. This year our programming includes Full Day JK, Full Day Fours, and Half Day Preschool with the option to stay for an extended day. In addition, we offer 4 Tot's Programs. Our full day programs offer two snacks, a hot lunch, rest time and enriched offerings in the afternoon.

The school is proud of its Episcopal Identity and is an active member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. We are working with NAES to expand our DEI efforts for early childhood programs. We offer a weekly chapel program for our Preschool, Fours and Jr Kindergarten classes. We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff as our Day School Chaplain.

We continue to look for new ways to offer exciting and creative programming that will keep St. Chrysostom's Day School at the forefront of outstanding preschools in the city of Chicago. We are offering after-school activities on Tuesday and Wednesday and an Open Gym Class for Tot's on Monday & Fridays.

Preferential placement is given to members of Saint Chrysostom's Church and to siblings of current families. The Day School is governed by an Advisory Committee composed of Vestry, Alumni, Faculty and Parents. The Day School operates under a Day School Charter and reports directly to the Vestry. The Day School and the Church have agreed upon shared services allocation which contributes to the cost of operating expenses and maintenance of space used by the Day School.

The annual operating budget for the 2025/2026 school year is approximately \$2.18 million. When we celebrated our 50th anniversary an Endowment was created. An Endowment Committee has been established to oversee the fund. The school operates as a "not for profit" entity aiming to break even on a cash basis. This year we hosted our annual Holiday Faire in addition to a Preview night. We also hosted a Gingerbread House event in December. We are planning an Auction Gala on February 7, 2026.

Once again, the Day School partnered with St. Chry's Kitchen to provide decorated gift bags for the Thanksgiving dinner guests. This has become an annual project for the children and their families and brings great joy to the Day School community. The Day School sponsored families this year through the wonderful program that St. Chrysostom's Church participates in: The Revive Center for Housing and Healing Holiday Gift Basket program, which provides gifts, food gift cards, and other necessities to 100 local families and seniors in need during the holiday season.

We remain grateful for the prayers and support of the entire St. Chrysostom's Community.

Online Admissions are available through TADS on the Day School website: saintc.org/day-school/. Questions regarding enrollment and observations are scheduled with the Head of School by calling the Day School Office at 312-642-3422.

A detailed description of the programs follows:

PARENTS & TINY TOTS PROGRAM

CLASS SCHEDULE: Parent or caregivers and their child attend one day per week. Parent/care giver remains in the classroom and enjoys many new experiences with their child.

AGE REQUIREMENT: By September, child must be between 8 and 14 months old.

PARENTS & YOUNG TOTS PROGRAM

CLASS SCHEDULE: Parent or caregiver and their child attend one day per week. Parent/care giver remains in the classroom and enjoys many new experiences with their child.

AGE REQUIREMENT: By September, child must be between 15 and 21 months old.

PARENTS & TOTS PROGRAM

CLASS SCHEDULE: Parent or caregiver and their child attend one day per week. Parent/care giver remains in the classroom and enjoys many new experiences with their child.

AGE REQUIREMENT: By September, child must be between 22 and 27 months old.

TOTS TWO-DAY PROGRAM

CLASS SCHEDULE: All children attend two days (Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs) per week from 9:00-11:00am. Children will be in the classroom with a lead teacher and a teacher's assistant.

AGE REQUIREMENT: By September 1, child must be between 28 and 33 months old.

THREE-YEAR-OLD HALF DAY PRESCHOOL

CLASS SCHEDULE: All children attend five days per week from 8:30-11:30am.

AGE REQUIREMENT: Must be 3 years old by December 1, child must be toilet trained

THREE-YEAR-OLD EXTENDED DAY PRESCHOOL

CLASS SCHEDULE: All children attend five days per week 8:30am-11:30am with the option to extend to 3:30pm one, two, three, four or five days per week.

AGE REQUIREMENT: Must be 3 years old by December 1, child must be toilet trained

FOURS FULL DAY PROGRAM

CLASS SCHEDULE: Children attend five days per week from 8:30am - 3:30pm

AGE REQUIREMENT: 4 years old by December 1st. Must have one-year Preschool experience.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN FULL DAY PROGRAM

CLASS SCHEDULE: All children attend five days per week, from 8:30am - 3:30pm.

AGE REQUIREMENT: 4 years old by September 1st. Must have one-year Preschool experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Gagliardo

Day School Search Committee

Members: John Bankhurst (Chair), Chrissy Cox, Michelle Lau, Meg Leydon, Aaron Martell, Elizabeth Olsen, Bridget Tully

In Fall 2025, Rev. Dr. Ian Burch formed the Head of Day School Search Committee to lead the process to find the next Head of School after the current Head announced her resignation at the end of the year. A group of Day School Advisory Committee members, staff, parents and Church members came together to develop position requirements, a job description. This was posted in late November, and the Committee is currently reviewing the over 40 applicants for the position. Initial interviews will be held in late January and early February, and finalists will be interviewed on-site in March.

The Committee will make a recommendation to the Rector for his review and confirmation, with the plan to have a new Head of School in place before the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

Treasurer's Report

St. Chrysostom's ended 2025 with Operating Income of \$1,251,043, coming in \$96,857 below our budget of \$1,347,900. The shortfall was primarily attributed to lower-than-expected Other Income, Pledges Receipts, and Investment Income from operating accounts. Operating Expenses totaled \$1,338,976 or \$13,273 above budget, mainly due to higher building-related costs. We ended the year with Net Operating Income of -\$87,933 for our ministries versus a budget of 22,197.

Including gains on restricted investments and depreciation, Net Income was -\$26,975, favorable to the 2025 budget of -\$122,803 and directionally consistent with the Vestry's medium-term goal of balanced Net Income and long-term capital planning.

Total assets increased to \$9,028,219 (from \$8,898,070). Liabilities increased to \$3,593,591 (from \$3,437,367) and Equity fell to \$5,434,628 (from \$5,460,702). In December, the Vestry approved a 2026 operating budget of \$1,377,125 with a balanced Net Income. This represents a 2.8% increase over 2025 actual expenses.

Thanks to members of the parish for their ongoing stewardship of St. Chrysostom's and to our staff and Finance Committee for their dedicated service this year.

Faithfully,

Jeff Dykstra, *Treasurer*

Director of Operations' Report

"Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name..." Book of Common Prayer, p. 852.

The prayer I have begun my report with this year is one for guidance in work, found towards the end of our much-loved Book of Common Prayer. This is a good prayer for a Director of Operations to know, as so much of what we do, while done to the Glory of God, is unpredictable and often requires some tough decision-making and a high degree of care. This was just as true this past year. My routine work marched on: the budget process and Finance Committee and Vestry meetings; mending leaks, cracks, and burst pipes; maintaining our myriad systems on campus – in other words, doing all those things which demonstrate fidelity to our community and the financial and physical health of our institution. What I'd like to highlight for you, though, are a handful of things my office handled this year that are probably more visible and tangible to you. Below is a sample of the things, some big and some small, that were accomplished.

Before I share this list, I must first express gratitude to our tireless Sexton, Christian Muratalla, who makes the execution of so much of my work possible. He is my right hand and his dedication, adaptability, and love for the people and property of St. Chrysostom's cannot be understated.

- Managed the financial and operational aspects of the Property Committee's 2025 projects (see their report to learn more about our exciting work!)
- Transferred and sold a Philadelphia School of Needlepoint altar frontal acquired in 1898 to the Philadelphia Museum of Art with the assistance of the Rev. Sam Portaro, our Controller, Nancy Motomochi, and parishioner Pam Bardo
- Received a generous Hunt McCormick Family grant for weekly cleaning of the kitchens and Harding Room to improve the environment, cleanliness, and food safety of our feeding ministries
- Sorted and cleaned out both basement boiler and electrical rooms
- Created a storage space for the Lay Weeders, led by parishioner Judith Stockdale, to store our gardening equipment in one place (contact Judith to volunteer this Spring!)
- Outfitted the shared Church & School gym closet to increase storage by 30%
- Reorganized and outfitted three sexton utility closets for functionality to address high-frequency maintenance needs
- Worked with the Rev. Chana Tetzlaff to recarpet, paint, and redecorate a space to serve as the new youth recreation room upstairs to compliment the youth education room downstairs
- Repainted the shared Church & School elevator
- Worked with our Sexton to improve facilities operations, time-tracking, and task management
- Repainted exterior cloister doors and courtyard stair railings
- Served ex officio on the Columbarium Committee, chaired by parishioner and new Junior Warden Chrissy Cox, managing finances and helping execute the committee's vision, including adding eighty-

four new two-urn niches, a raised floor to be ADA-compliant, installed new flooring, recessed cove lighting and overhead fixtures, fresh paint, and a restoration and redecoration (almost complete, so check back soon!)

- Installed air conditioning and anti-bird netting in the carillon tower
- Replaced six HVAC condenser units and piping that serve the ground floor and church sanctuary
- Repaired courtyard lampposts, made lighting uniform, and added additional electrical resources to courtyard
- Reestablished outdoor water access in courtyard
- Removed old excess wiring from cloister and repaired cloister lighting fixtures
- Installed new flooring in the Campeau Room and redecorated the space
- Managed a large 36-hour emergency, multi-system failure during first major Chicago snowfall and deep-freeze of the year.



MUSIC AT ST. CHRYSOSTOM'S

RICHARD BARRICK HOSKINS - DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

THE CHOIR

ST. CHRYSOSTOM'S SINGERS

JAMES FACKENTHAL - CARILLONNIST

2025 was a brilliant year of music as we continued our 132 year-old tradition of musical excellence. It is a joy to share the richness of our musical heritage with Chicago and the world.

OUR CHOIRS

Our choirs continue to uphold the high standards of musical excellence. Our professional choir sings a wide variety of splendid choral music at all Sunday morning services, for Holy Week and Christmas, and other special occasions. St. Chrysostom's Singers, our parish volunteer choir, joins the Choir each month to sing at the 10:15 A.M. service and for special services.

Thanks to the continued support of many generous parishioners our choral music continued through the summer season. I thank each of these donors whose love of our choral music made summer choral and instrumental music possible.

CONCERTS AT ST. CHRYSOSTOM'S

Our 2025 concert season offered varied programs.

These included concerts by our Resident Artists:

- Ars Musica Chicago
- La Caccina
- Cupid's Bow
- Stare at the Sun
- Vox Venti - choral concert

Concerts which we produced:

- Olivier Latry – Organiste Titulaire de Nôtre Dame, Paris
- Bach & Vaughan Williams sung by members of our choir with string quartet
- Couperin's Les Trois Leçons de Tenèbre sung by members of our choir
- Hannah De Priest, Soprano, with Violin & Piano
- The Summer Carillon Festival

Candlelight Carols brought a jolly group of carolers to the Harding Room, raising over \$3,000 for Music at St. Chrysostom's. I thank each of you who contributed.

Concerts at St. Chrysostom's are supported by the generosity of parishioners and friends. I thank each of the generous donors who made our concerts possible.

THE CRANE MEMORIAL CARILLON

Our Gillett & Johnston-Royal Eijsbouts carillon was heard each Sunday before and after the 10:15 A.M. service, for weddings and funerals, and hosted three splendid concerts in our Summer Festival by guest carillonnists. On December 21st we hosted a large group of cheerful singers here in the courtyard for Caroling with the Carillon. I express my great thanks to Jim Fackenthal, our resident carillonnist, for his wonderful artistry.

MY THANKS TO:

I send my great thanks and admiration to our marvelous and dedicated singers who bring their joyous commitment to making our worship so beautiful. I thank our parish leadership who support music as an essential ministry here. I thank each of you who have supported our Music Ministries this year through our annual music budget and funding our summer choral music and concert series. Thank you all!



As I write this report on the Feast of the Epiphany and my 42nd anniversary as your Director of Music & Organist, I am filled with gratitude for the rich musical legacy this parish supports and for the opportunity to create music here. We will continue to make music for the Glory of God and will rejoice as we sing the Lord's song together.



St. Chrys' Kitchen/Closet

St. Chrys' Kitchen Feeding Ministries had a very productive 2025.

The Wednesday bag lunch ministry, started in 2020, just weeks into the COVID crisis, continues with strong support from parish, day school and neighborhood donors. 2025 lunches totaled almost 16,000! We have a loyal crew of volunteers who collect and transport lunches every Wednesday morning, but can always use additional support. Purchasing water is another way to support this program. More information is available weekly in the bulletin or contact Mike Sammon at mike@saintc.org.

The 3rd Tuesday dinner has been serving sit down meals to our most vulnerable neighbors for decades. We have opportunities for volunteers to serve in many capacities for that meal, starting at 8:30 am with our chefs. Work continues throughout the day with the clean-up crew finishing in the evening. Stop in for an hour, the morning, final prep and set up, or after work for serving and clean-up. Any amount of time you have to give is appreciated. If you feel called to feed those in need contact Liz Kohlbeck at Elizabethkohlbeck@yahoo.com or text 920-254-4735.

The Wednesday following the 3rd Tuesday meal our feeding ministry takes a meal over to Deborah's Place on Sedgwick. We feed 2 of their small residential programs, approximately 25 women. We encourage you to read about the work DP does in support of chronically homeless women in Chicago. Most of the food is cooked in conjunction with the 3rd Tuesday meal, but we could use volunteers for supplemental cooking, packaging, and/or delivering to their location. Contact Liz Kohlbeck for information.

St Chrys' Closet

St. Chrys' Closet had a busy and productive 2025 and will be celebrating our 3rd anniversary in March. The Closet was initially created as a Christian/humanitarian response to the severe refugee crisis that Chicago was facing in early 2023. We were geographically close to several large migrant shelters and the 18th police district which at critical points had 200+ temporarily living on their campus. This ministry has morphed to serve Chicago homeless and those who are food/clothing/shelter insecure as well as local elderly living on very low fixed income in CHA subsidized housing in our neighborhood, very much the population our feeding ministries have served for years. We help hundreds of people each week. Our volunteers, a number of them your fellow parishioners, also put in, collectively, hundreds of service hours a week. Many in our parish also donate individually and our efforts have been appreciated with financial support from St. Chrys' Good Samaritan Committee. We have partnered with many well-respected nonprofits, sacred and secular, throughout the greater Chicago area. We have been recipients of much benevolence and have also been benefactors. The partnerships are too numerous to mention, but those relationships have become deep and meaningful. Thank you to everyone who has touched this ministry and thank you from all of our volunteers for giving us the opportunity to serve. Elizabeth Kohlbeck, Coordinator of St. Chrys' Closet.

Property Committee

In 2025 the Property Committee either took a leadership role or actively contributed to the following projects:

Redesign and supervision of Fornengo Music Room renovation, music library, music offices, and the warming kitchen; new air conditioning for the Guild Hall; assisted with the Columbarium remodel; new hardwood flooring in the Campeau Room, removal of specified trees, bollards and rusted fencing along the garden strip and replacement with new or reconstructed fencing; refreshment of the elevator and other ADA access locations; campus-wide evaluation and re-engineering of drainage systems; repair and repainting of the cloister staircase to the second floor; repair and repaint of the metal fire escape.

In addition to the above, it was another year of expected repair and maintenance. Roof leaks, equipment maintenance and replacement, carpentry/electrical/plumbing updates, safety and esthetic improvements. St. Chrysostom's is a multiplex of needs, usage, principally served in a venerable historic building.

The PC would like to thank our beloved Pattimac (Pat White) for her many years of service to the Property Committee both as a longtime member and former co-chair. Over the years she has served with unbounded time, energy, and insight from her historical knowledge of St. Chrys and its campus. The new hardwood floor in the Campeau Room was a parting gift from Pat.

The 2025 Property Committee was served by Pat White, Paul Cavalli, John Craib-Cox, Pat Schenk, Jonathan Boyer, and Tom Kohlbeck, with ex officio members Tim Crum, Megan Gagliardo and Rev. Ian Burch.

Good Samaritan Committee

Created as an outreach to the community over 25 years ago, the Good Samaritan Fund receives \$12,000 from the church budget, approved by the Vestry, to give to a variety of local and international projects where church volunteers are giving their hard work and sharing their knowledge of that community. Our St. Chrysostom's Closet with funds to buy coats in the wintertime, a pantry in Chiapas, Mexico, St. Leonard's Ministries, the Career Transitions Center and more, projects are reviewed by a committee of Church and Day School representatives.

The Thirty Days of Easter Campaign was established by the Committee several years ago to give gifts in kind to local projects such as our St. Chrysostom's Closet. For the second year Day School students and parents prepared backpacks filled with toiletries and other essentials for residents of St. Leonard's Ministries bringing home at a very young age how important compassionate caring is.

Stewardship Committee

As of Thursday, January 22, we have 145 pledges for 2026, totaling \$842,474, which means we are 91% to our monetary goal and 78% to our goal of pledges. While the campaign was officially over on December 14, 2025, we will push to reach our ultimate goals of \$925,000 and 185 pledges.

Our 2026 theme was "Faith at Work" with the focus on ways parishioners can practice and grow their faith through Worship, Music, Education, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, Outreach, and the Guilds. During the fall campaign, several parish members and families generously shared their unique faith experiences at St Chrysostom's

We added new visual reminders of our "Faith at Work" Stewardship Campaign with homemade "beehives" in the Harding Room along with "The Buzz" highlighting the various ways parishioners can get involved in activities and events happening throughout the church year. We had a wall of "thanksgiving" in the hall leading to the Harding Room and, as in previous years, the names of pledgers were posted in the Narthex.

Weekly updates of our progress were posted in the church's weekly email and service bulletin, with the intention of keeping parishioners informed with the latest information. Of course, if you have not yet made your 2026 Pledge, please do so now. As a thank you to our pledgers, please be sure to pick up your jar of honey after the Annual Meeting, if you haven't already received one.



Stewardship Committee: Frances DeBlasio, Lauren Privitera, Jack Denison, Meg Flippin
Ex officio: Rev. Ian Burch & Robert Valente

WOSC

The Women of St. Chrysostom's is one of the most long-standing groups at our church, with camaraderie and contribution key to its mission. In 2025, our goals also included a membership survey of what we most wanted to do and WOSC moves forward acting on those recommendations. Family night bingo began the year that saw events with the highest attendance in recent history such as the all-parish Lenten Breakfast, the Spring Luncheon and the Toast to Fall, the latter two held at the Casino. The WOSC board voted key financial contributions to the church, including blinds for the Music Room and Campeau Room in honor of its late President Mary Ellen Christy. A request from the Property Committee that we join in funding renovations to our garden spaces resulted in a \$6000 gift to extend the wrought iron fence at the front. Underscoring the importance of working with other church committees to meet financial needs, the WOSC board is exploring how it can be involved in funding much-needed lighting for the garden. **WOSC kicks off the New Year today, January 25, with a Bingo and pizza party and we hope all at the Annual Meeting will attend.**

Flower Guild

The work of a church Flower Guild is dedicated to enhancing the worship space with flowers, plants, and dried materials to reflect the passing seasons of the year as well as the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the long post-Pentecost season through the summer and autumn months. You will note that the Crane altar is now being used as a distribution point for communion on Sundays and therefore we try to have a floral presence there as well as the high altar and chancel area.

Just as plant life evolves, we personally strive to continue to grow and evolve our knowledge of new plant varieties and how best to use them in the work of the Guild. Shared information during our work times as well as structured workshops provide the means to continue our own growth as designers.

We welcomed Raquel Brown and Margaret Webb as two new guild members this year, and Ryan Kin returned to active status after taking a short time away from guild activity. Adrienne Arlan, Kevin Baldwin, Jeff Dykstra, Mark Fisher, Roger Stanley, Judith Stockdale, Angie Yorath, and Ina Zhang continue as dedicated members of the guild.

Another aspect of Flower Guild activity is that of ministry, especially for funerals, memorial services, and weddings. We are able to guide families at these major life events as they seek advice on how best to incorporate flowers for joyful times and times of sorrow.

We are grateful for the generous monetary donations that enable the work of the guild. Also know that we gladly welcome your requests for special dedications throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Yorath and Roger Stanley, Flower Guild Co-Chairs

Good Shepherds' Society

During 2025, the Good Shepherds' Committee worked to promote and strengthen the Good Shepherds' Society, the parish's existing program to encourage planned giving during one's lifetime and by bequests in an estate plan. Planned gifts are an important supplement to annual stewardship pledges that can build an endowment to:

- † Continue and/or initiate programs and ministries
- † Ensure the continuing financial security of St. Chrysostom's Church in perpetuity

On May 18, 2025, the Society hosted a Festal Choral Evensong and reception. On September 25, 2025, the Society hosted a discussion of estate planning developments by Christopher Floss, an estate planning attorney with ArentFox Schiff, LLP. Both events were open to the entire parish and attended by many.

The Committee is developing periodic communications with the parish about planned giving issues and hosting other events. A presentation by a financial advisor is planned for May, 2026. Committee members are available to answer your questions, suggest planned giving resources, and assist you in recording your intention to give in the Church's records.

We welcome all to join the community of donors committed to the long-term support of the missions of the Church and Day School. If you have already made a planned gift or are interested in learning more about the opportunities and means to do so, please contact a member of the Committee. Members of the Good Shepherds' Society Committee are Mark Fisher (chair), William Fairbanks, Martha Proctor Gano, John Covell, William Herzog, John Craib-Cox, Robert Valente.

Additional Ministries/Programs

Some of the other ministries and programs that we ran this year include:

- Book Clubs (Both the Rector's book club and the hybrid parish book club)
- Fabric/Fiber Arts Club
- Website Committee (for the creation of our new website, hopefully launching soon!)
- Columbarium Committee (go upstairs and look at their impressive work!)
- Young Professionals (YoPros)
- Sunday morning Bible Study
- Adult Formation
- Episcopal 101
- Grief Circle
- Men's Group
- Lay Weeders
- Guilds/Worship ministries:
 - o Altar Guild
 - o Ushers
 - o Lectors
 - o Acolytes
 - o Chalice bearers

If you are interested in participating in any of these programs, or have any questions, please reach out to Emily Birks in the office at emily@saintc.org, or call 312-944-1083.

St Chrys by the Numbers

