

Corpus Christi Parish



“As members of the Body of Christ, Corpus Christi Parish celebrates the presence of God in all people through our thoughts, words and deeds. We answer Christ’s call as a community of believers to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and love one another.”

June 28, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Immaculate Conception Church

**Holy Redeemer Church
St. Anthony Church**

**Msgr. John J. Sempa,
Pastor**

**Corpus Christi Parish
605 Luzerne Avenue
West Pittston, PA 18643**

**Phone (570) 654-2753
Fax (570) 654-9244**

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:00PM St. Anthony

5:30PM Immaculate Conception

Sunday

7:30AM St. Anthony

9:00AM Holy Redeemer

10:30AM Immaculate Conception

Confession

Saturday

3:00PM to 3:30PM

St. Anthony Church

Daily Mass Schedule

Mon 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

Tues 7:30AM Immaculate Conception
8:30AM Holy Redeemer

Wed 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

Thurs 7:30AM Immaculate Conception
8:30AM Holy Redeemer

Fri 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

Watch Sunday & Daily Mass at-
www.corpuschristinepa.com

Weekly Collection

June 21, 2026

**Weekly.....\$11,729.49
E Giving.....\$2,482.50
Total \$14,211.99**

Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity to our parish

Second Collection This Weekend

This weekend at all Masses we will take up the diocesan collection which will benefit Peter's Pence. The Peter's Pence collection is an annual worldwide special collection where the Catholic faithful donate to support the Pope's charitable works and the operations of the Holy See. Your generosity is appreciated.

Parish Flea Market

Our parish Flea Market is in full swing this weekend!! If you did not get there yet, you can still stop by tomorrow, Sunday morning between **8:00AM and 12 Noon**.

Save the Date!! Tuesday, **July 7th between 6:00PM and 8:00PM....everything left will be FREE!!!!**

Social Concerns Project: “Back to School”

If you have school age children, you know how expensive it is to get them ready for school. Not considering clothes and shoes, it is costly to get the supplies a child needs. For a low income family, this could be impossible. Once again, our Social Concerns Committee is conducting a back-to-school drive to collect school supplies and personal hygiene products for kids in Pre-K through high school. Listed below are the suggested items we are asking for this week from our “Back-to-School Calendar of Giving.” Your donations may be left in the vestibules of the churches, in the boxes provided, or dropped off at the rectory. As always, thank you for your kindness and help with this project.

- June 28 **Dividers/Glue Sticks**
Canned Tuna or Chicken**
- June 29 **Scientific or Simple Calculators**
Pasta/Sauce**
- June 30 **High School Backpacks (Boy)**
Body Wash/Shampoo (Boy)**
- July 1 **Pencil Pouches/Colored Pencils**
Deodorant (Boy or Girl)**
- July 2 **Water Bottles (Boy or Girl)**
Body Wash/Shampoo (Girl)**
- July 3 **2-Pocket Folders**
Hot or Cold Cereals**
- July 4 **High School Backpacks (Girl)**
Breakfast Bars**

Help for “Back-to-School”

If you or someone you know is struggling financially and could use help with back to school supplies, personal hygiene products and non-perishable food, please contact Joyce at the rectory 570 654 2753 or e mail jceconi50@gmail.com.

On Line Giving

My E Offering is a service which gives you the ability to send your weekly offering online. Once you sign up for E Offering, we will stop your envelopes. To sign up, just go to www.corpuschristinepa.com then click on the icon. For help signing up, call 877 393 3330 Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information, call Lori at the rectory 570 654 2753 or e mail Lori at lkasisky1@epix.net.

Courtesy News

JOIN THE CELEBRATION GIVE BLOOD

Gavin Feeney Eagle Scout
Community Blood Drive
West Pittston Moose Lodge
Exeter Avenue
Wednesday, July 1, 2026
1:00PM-6:00PM

To schedule to donate, please visit redcrossblood.org
and use Sponsor Code: WPML.

250th Anniversary of the United States of America Concert

On Monday, June 29 at 7:00 PM, St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 William Street in Pittston, will host an Independence Day Concert in celebration of our 250th Anniversary. A combined choir with friends from the surrounding area will lead us in song. We will also welcome the choir of Holy Rosary School in Duryea. Guest instrumentalists will include a brass quartet (Dale Chase, Dan Coyle, Chuck Smith, and Geoff Speicher), flutist Cindy Thomas, and percussionist Monica Spishock. A free-will offering will be accepted.

St. Nicholas-St. Mary Parish Summer Bazaar

Will be held at St Nicholas Church grounds, 226 S. Washington St, Wilkes-Barre on Thursday & Friday, July 16 & 17 5:30PM-10:30PM & Saturday, July 18 5:00PM-10:30PM. We will feature a large variety of Traditional, Ethnic, Mexican and Caribbean foods, a "Giant Flea Market" on Thursday 1:00 PM-9:00PM & Friday & Saturday 3:00PM-9:00PM, plus Bountiful Baskets, games, and many different booths for all ages. Live music daily 7:00PM-10:30PM. Thursday- "Flaxy Morgan", Friday - "Popstar Drive", and Saturday- "Kartune". For more information, please call the Parish Office (570-823-7736).

Prince of Peace Parish Take-Out Chicken Dinner

Take-Out Roasted Chicken Dinner, Basket Raffle and 50/50 Drawing on Sunday August 16th from 11:00AM TO 3:00PM at

Arcaro and Genell Parking Lot, Main Street, Old Forge. The dinner will be prepared by Arcaro & Genell. Cost is \$17 which Includes ½ Roasted Chicken, corn, pasta salad, roll and dessert. For Tickets Call the Rectory 570-457-5900



Saturday, August 8th

DOORS OPEN AT 10:00AM

BINGO FROM 12:30PM TO 3:30PM

\$25 pre-sales; \$30 at the door

Includes 20 games of BINGO

Regular Game Prizes of \$100

Specials (\$5 ea) \$300-\$1,000

(extra games may be purchased)

Food & Beverages will be available for purchase.



Space is limited!

For tickets contact St. Maria Goretti Parish Office
at 570-655-8956 - Mon. thru Fri. 9AM - 2PM



Mass Intentions

June 29 through July 5, 2026

- Mon 7:30AM (ICC) Thomas C. Carr**
By John Carr & Family
- Tues 7:30AM (ICC) James J. Pizano, Sr.**
By Peter Pizano & Family
- 8:30AM (HRC) Francis & Valeria Callaio**
By Children & Families
- Wed 7:30AM (ICC) Donald Fetsko**
By Family
- Thurs 7:30AM(ICC) Paul Gillespie**
By Daughter, Quinn
- 8:30AM (HRC) Anita Wanat**
By Husband, Tom
- Fri 7:30AM (ICC) Teresa Cravatta**
By Daughter, Phyllis
- Sat 4:00PM (SAC) Dec'd Membs of the Gatti Family**
By Family
- 5:30PM (ICC) Jack & Carmella Salvaggio**
By Children & Grandchildren
- Sun 7:30AM (SAC) Health & God's Blessings John Barancho**
- 9:00AM (HRC) George Mason**
By Wife
- 10:30AM (ICC) Karen Potoski**
By Family

Candles

The following candles will burn this week in loving memory of:

Altar Candles at ICC

Margaret & Jack Hoover.....By Family

Holy Family at ICC

John & Elizabeth Sabol.....By Bernadine & Ann

Altar Candles at HRC

Christine & Bernie Martin.....By Children & Grandchildren

Sanctuary Candle at HRC

Donald KreseskiBy Wife, Pat, Children & Grandchildren

Altar Candles at SAC

Charles & Carmella Cupani.....By Daughter, Antoinette Consagra & Family



June 27 & 28, 2026

Dear Parishioners of Corpus Christi Parish,

One of the things I have always appreciated about our parish is that we get things done.

When families in our community need food, we respond. When children need school supplies, we respond. When someone is homebound and struggling, we respond. When floods devastated our area, parishioners stepped forward to help our neighbors in need. Through countless acts of generosity, we have always focused on carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ.

These ministries matter. They are the reason the Church exists.

As you all know, over the last several years, our parish has been participating in the Diocese of Scranton's *Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process*. While I will be the first to admit that I am not a great lover of lengthy processes, I do believe in facing reality honestly and making responsible decisions when they need to be made.

For many months last year, members of our Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Buildings and Grounds Committee reviewed a great deal of data and information. We looked at priest availability, Mass attendance, sacramental activity, parish finances, and the condition of our buildings and properties.

The conclusion we reached is simple: Corpus Christi Parish cannot continue to operate indefinitely in the same manner that it does today. That statement is not meant to alarm you. It is simply an acknowledgement of reality.

Like every parish in our Diocese, we face challenges. The number of priests available for ministry continues to decline. Father Michael Drevitch's recent appointment as Pastor of Saint Maria Goretti Parish means we now have one fewer priest serving our parish. While our attendance remains strong, we continue to maintain three worship sites and numerous buildings. Financial resources are tighter than they once were. At the same time, studies of our facilities indicate that millions of dollars in repairs and improvements are needed in the years ahead.

None of these realities developed overnight. They have been building for some time. The question before us is whether we address them now or leave them for someone else to address later.

I believe now is the time to act.

As a result, parish leadership has completed what I would call the first phase of this process. We have reviewed the data and examined the realities facing Corpus Christi Parish. Much of what we have examined is contained on the following pages. Based on that review, we believe it would be simply irresponsible to continue operating exactly as we are today without seriously evaluating our long-term future.

Now, we are entering a second phase.

Over the coming 3-4 months, our Councils and the Building & Grounds Committee will carefully study data regarding each of our worship sites. We will dive deeper into building conditions, projected maintenance needs, repair costs, and the long-term sustainability of each campus. We will also consider how any future decisions would affect the life and ministry of our parish.

I want to be clear about something.

No decisions have been made at this time regarding any specific worship site and its potential closure. That work is still ahead of us. We are committed to conducting this review carefully, thoughtfully, and honestly.

At the same time, this process cannot go on forever. At some point, decisions must be made.

My hope is that this review can be completed over the next several months so that parish leadership can help me discern a recommendation to pass along to Bishop Bambera later this year regarding the future direction of Corpus Christi Parish.

I understand that these conversations will not be easy. Our churches hold many memories and have played important roles in the lives of countless families. Strong feelings are understandable and should be expected.

But I also believe we have an obligation to think beyond ourselves and consider what will best serve the future of our parish.

Our goal can never simply be about preserving buildings. Instead, we must look to our mission statement which reads: "*We as members of the Body of Christ, through our thoughts, words and deeds, celebrate the presence of God in all people. As a community of believers, we answer Christ's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and love one another.*"

I ask for your prayers as we begin this next phase of our work together. Most importantly, I ask that we keep our focus where it belongs – on the future of our parish and the mission that Christ has entrusted to us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Monsignor Sempa

Priority Driver 1: Availability of Clergy

One of the most significant realities facing Corpus Christi Parish is the declining number of priests available to serve throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

In 2003, the Diocese had more than 200 priests in active ministry. By 2021, that number had declined to fewer than 100. While the Diocese is encouraged by an increase in men currently discerning the priesthood and entering seminary formation, it takes many years for a seminarian to complete his preparation for priestly ministry. The positive signs we see today will not immediately offset the number of priests retiring from active ministry.

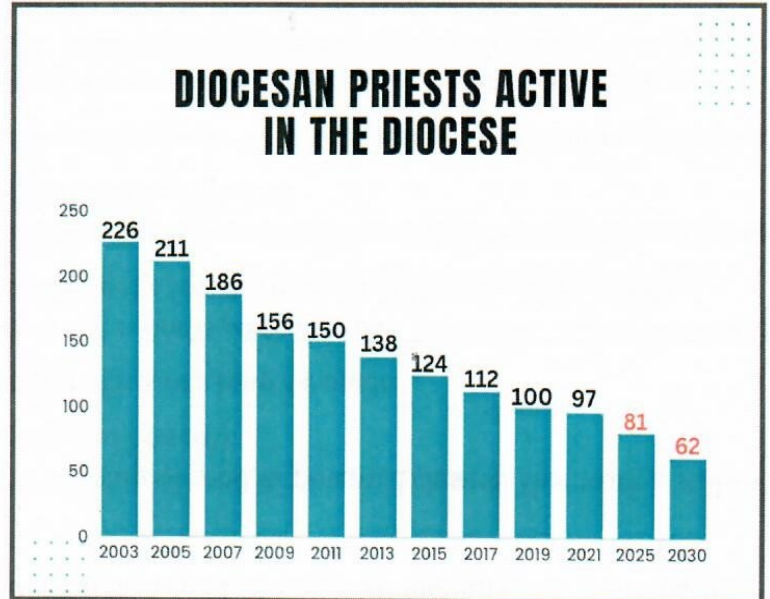
The impact of this reality is already being felt.

On June 1, 2026, Father Michael Drevitch, who served for many years as Assistant Pastor, was transferred and became Pastor of Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin. Due to the limited number of priests available, no replacement priest is available to serve as Assistant Pastor at this time.

At the same time, Monsignor Sempa will celebrate his 72nd birthday this July and is approaching the Diocese's traditional retirement age of 75 himself.

While parishioners most often see priests celebrating Mass, their responsibilities extend far beyond weekend liturgies. Priests celebrate baptisms, weddings, and funerals, visit the sick and dying, provide spiritual guidance, administer parish operations, and respond to pastoral needs at all hours of the day and night.

As our parish plans for the future, the reality of fewer available priests must be considered alongside every other priority driver. Corpus Christi Parish must ensure that its facilities, ministries, and pastoral responsibilities can be effectively supported not only today, but for many years to come, with likely only one priest.



Priority Driver 2: People

One of Corpus Christi Parish's greatest strengths is its people.

Each weekend, on average, more than 1,000 people gather for Mass across our parish's three worship sites. While attendance has not fully returned to pre-pandemic levels, Corpus Christi remains one of the most active parish communities in the region. The commitment of parishioners to the celebration of the Eucharist, parish ministries, charitable outreach, and faith formation continues to be a source of great encouragement.

Looking to the future, we must acknowledge that our population remains lower than what it was a decade ago. Prior to consolidation, combined Mass attendance across Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes exceeded 1,500 people before the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent years, attendance has stabilized at approximately 1,000 faithful each weekend. While this represents a strong and engaged faith community, this decrease is part of the consideration of why change is needed.

Sacramental activity also reflects both the strengths and challenges facing the parish. During the last five years, more than 320 baptisms were celebrated, a hopeful sign for the future. During that same period, however, more than 590 funerals were conducted. In 2025 alone, the parish celebrated 125 funerals – an average of one funeral every three days.



Faith formation remains an important priority. While parish religious education enrollment has declined in recent years, the number of parish children attending Wyoming Area Catholic School has steadily increased.

The size of each worship site must also be an important component of planning. Saint Anthony of Padua Church can hold 675 people; Immaculate Conception Church 574 people and Church of the Holy Redeemer 254 people. Any future changes must provide sufficient space for current parishioners while supporting future growth and evangelization efforts. Our goal is not simply to accommodate today's parish community, but to create a strong foundation for future generations of Catholics.

Priority Driver 3: Finances

When parish leaders review the financial condition of Corpus Christi Parish, the question is not whether the parish can pay its bills today. The question is whether the parish can remain financially strong and sustainable for the next 10, 20, and 30 years.

The first full fiscal year following the consolidation of Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes resulted in an operating loss of approximately \$43,000.

While that figure was impacted by several unusual expenses, it demonstrated how quickly financial margins can tighten when operating multiple campuses and maintaining numerous buildings.

Using projections for the last two months of the current fiscal year, Corpus Christi Parish is on track to end with a modest surplus.

While that is encouraging, Finance Council members remain concerned because parish finances continue to fluctuate significantly from month to month. Some months generate positive results, while others operate at a loss. More importantly, the parish has not been able to significantly increase its savings or reserves since the consolidation.

Parish leadership is also mindful that recent financial results have benefited from circumstances that cannot be expected every year. Large bequests and special gifts are a blessing, but they are not a predictable source of income for future budgets.

These realities raise an important question: Is it prudent to continue directing limited financial resources toward maintaining multiple campuses and buildings when those same resources may be needed to support ministry, outreach, cemetery obligations, and the long-term future of Corpus Christi Parish?

The goal of this process is not simply to reduce expenses. The goal is to ensure that Corpus Christi Parish remains financially stable and able to carry out its mission for generations to come.

2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL INCOME:	\$1,228,486.85
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$1,271,867.44
LOSS:	(\$43,380.59)

2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR

(Projections Used for May & June 2026 to date)

TOTAL INCOME:	\$1,086,527.07
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$1,040,862.67
PROJECTED SURPLUS:	\$45,664.40

Other Considerations:

Cemeteries

One of the responsibilities Corpus Christi Parish assumed through the consolidation with Saint Barbara Parish was the long-term care of Saint Cecilia Cemetery and Saint John Cemetery.

Over the last two years, parish leadership has worked diligently to better understand the financial and operational needs of both cemeteries. As part of that review, it became apparent that cemetery record keeping and financial management practices from previous years did not always provide the information necessary to ensure long-term planning and sustainability.

We have recognized the need to establish a reliable source of perpetual care funding for both cemeteries. Unlike parish buildings, cemeteries require maintenance forever. Grounds must be cared for, records preserved, and services provided to families for generations to come.

Because of this obligation, a significant portion of the proceeds received from the sale of Saint Cecilia Church may need to be dedicated to the creation of a perpetual care fund for the cemeteries. While those funds remain an important parish asset, they may not be available to offset operating deficits or fund future parish building projects.

This responsibility is one more example of the long-term financial obligations that parish leadership must consider as it plans for the future of Corpus Christi Parish.

Insurance Costs

Every building owned by Corpus Christi Parish must be insured.

Insurance protects parish property against risks such as fire, lightning, storms, vandalism, theft, and liability claims. It is an essential expense and a necessary part of responsible stewardship.

For the coming year, insurance costs are expected to increase by an additional five percent. As a result, the parish will spend more than \$72,000 annually to insure its churches, rectories, school building, vehicles, and other facilities.

These costs are incurred every year regardless of how often a building is used. As long as a facility remains open, it must be properly insured and protected.

When viewed individually, insurance costs may not seem overwhelming. However, when combined with utilities, maintenance, repairs, and other operating expenses, they become a significant part of the overall cost of maintaining multiple campuses.

The 2026-2027 Insurance Costs for only our buildings are as follows:

Immaculate Conception Church	\$17,976
Holy Redeemer Church	\$16,265
St. Anthony of Padua Church/Hall	\$28,700
Immaculate Conception Rectory	\$3,744
Holy Redeemer Rectory	\$1,869
Immaculate Conception School	\$900

Priority Driver 4: Parish Infrastructure

One of the most significant factors influencing the future of Corpus Christi Parish is the condition of its buildings and facilities.

In July 2023, an independent third-party company, Quandel Enterprises, conducted comprehensive Facility Needs Assessments on all of the parish's churches, rectories, and other major properties. Those assessments identified projects requiring attention in the short-term (1-2 years), mid-term (3-4 years), and long-term (5-10 years). At that time, the estimated cost of addressing all identified needs was approximately \$3 million.

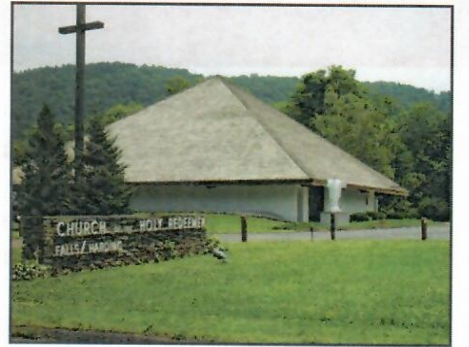
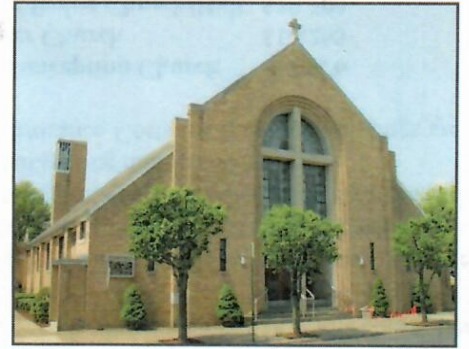
Since then, members of the parish Buildings and Grounds Committee have carefully reviewed those assessments, updated cost estimates to reflect inflation and rising construction expenses, and identified additional projects and concerns that were not fully reflected in the original reports. Based on this updated analysis, the committee now estimates that the parish could face more than \$5.3 million in infrastructure needs in the years ahead.

These costs include much more than routine maintenance. They represent major investments that will eventually be necessary to preserve parish facilities for future generations.

As parish leadership enters the next phase of discernment, it is important to recognize that infrastructure decisions involve more than simply comparing repair costs. Each potential scenario carries additional considerations that may not be reflected in a facility assessment report. Accessibility needs, rectory accommodations, ministry space, parking, and other practical concerns must all be evaluated before any final recommendation would be made.

For example, if there was serious consideration of closing Saint Anthony of Padua Church, a new elevator would need to be installed at Immaculate Conception Church - and likewise if there was serious consideration of closing Immaculate Conception Church, a new rectory would likely be needed or some other accommodation made for clergy housing.

For this reason, parish leadership is committed to reviewing not only the condition of our buildings, but also the broader implications of any future decisions. The goal is to identify a path forward that is financially responsible, pastorally effective, and capable of serving the needs of Corpus Christi Parish for many years to come.



Most Significant Infrastructure Projects and Costs By Worship Site or Building

Immaculate Conception Church (Total Cost For All Projects: \$1,335,300)

Elevator Installation	\$800,000
HVAC Upgrades	\$199,700
Sealing of Exterior Brick Veneer	\$75,000

Holy Redeemer Rectory and Garage (Total Cost for All Projects: \$91,050)

HVAC Upgrades	\$37,335
Roof Replacement on Garage	\$25,000
Electrical Updates	\$13,380

Immaculate Conception School (Total Cost For All Projects: \$171,300)

HVAC Upgrades	\$43,100
Window Replacement	\$36,000
Sealing of Exterior Brick Veneer	\$30,000

Saint Anthony of Padua Church (Total Cost For All Projects: \$2,231,550)

Parking Lot Pavement Replacement	\$800,000
Roof and Domed Skylight Replacement	\$632,500
HVAC Upgrades	\$334,300

Immaculate Conception Rectory (Total Cost For All Projects: \$121,150)

HVAC Upgrades	\$53,400
Sealing of Exterior Brick Veneer	\$30,000
Electrical Updates	\$17,500

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish Center (Total Cost for All Projects: \$880,200)

HVAC Upgrades	\$334,250
Roof Replacement	\$346,200
Electrical Updates	\$108,250

Holy Redeemer Church (Total Cost For All Projects: \$470,500)

HVAC Upgrades	\$211,600
Roof Replacement	\$97,500
Electrical Updates	\$75,800

TOTAL PROJECTED COST OF ALL PROJECTS
\$5,301,050