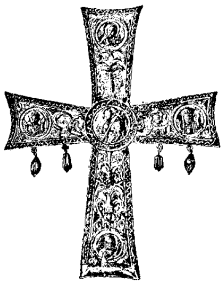


CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

REPORT OF THE RECTOR
TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

1. METRICS FOR THE YEAR 2025

Baptisms: 13	Marriages: 0	Catechumens: 22
Chrismations: 11	Marriage Blessings: 0	Funerals: 1

Official Census: Submitted to the Diocese on February 6, 2026: 100 members.

2. MAJOR EVENTS OF 2025

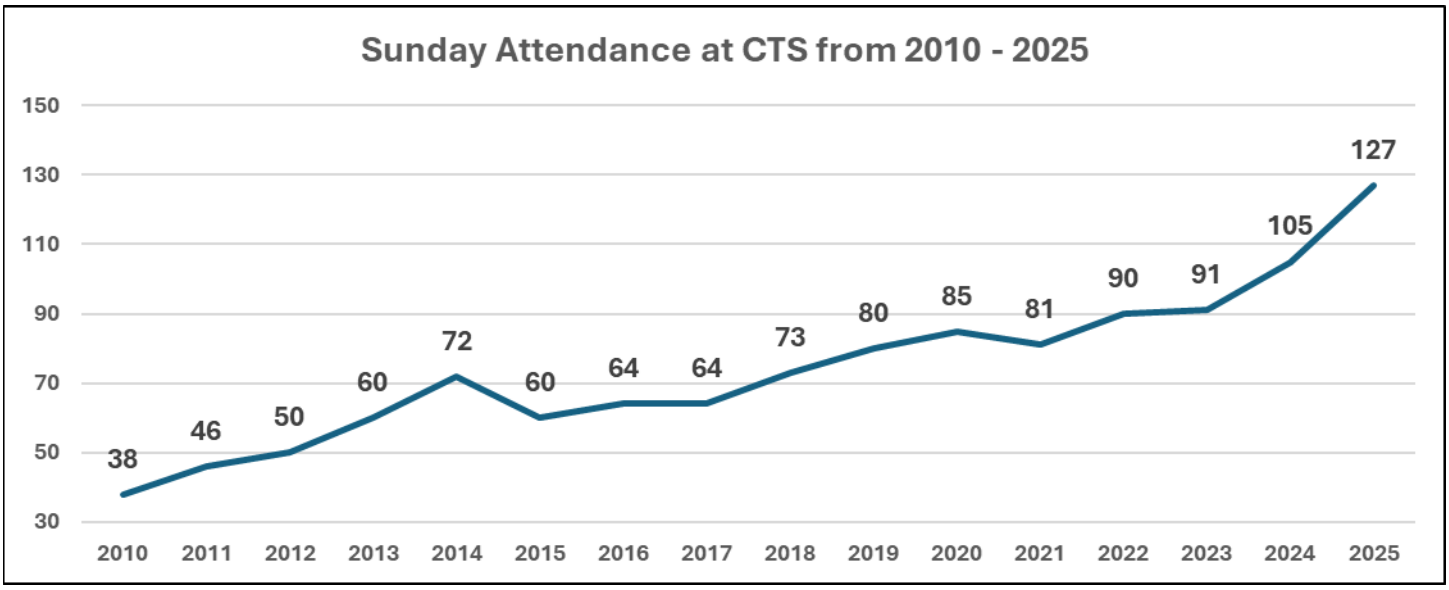
January	5	100K Matching Donation Announced
	12	Rectory Blessing / Open House
	18	Baptism of Amelia Kate Tatiana and Chrismation of William Wilkinson
	24	March For Life @ Washington DC
	26	2025 Annual Parish Meeting
February	21	Movie Night: St. Joseph the Hesychast
	23	Installation of Parish Council
March	2/9	Forgiveness Sunday / Sunday of Orthodoxy
	23	Baptism of Emmalin Pearl Marina Harmon
	30	Blessing of Candle-Makers / Cornhole Tournament
April	6	Baptism of Annice DeArmitt
	8	Funeral of Jimmy David Bendfeldt
	12	Lazarus Saturday / Chrismations of Kaleb Evans and Emily Tamosaitis
	13-20	Sunday / Great & Holy Week / Pascha
	25	Paschal Party / Open House @ DeArmitt's
	26	Women's Psalter Group Dinner @ Milite's
	27	Children's Egg Hunt / Basketball Game
May	18	Baptisms of Eva, Miliana Magdalena, and Maxim Michael
	18	Cross Dive / Pool Opening
	31	Choir Workshop
June	8	Holy Pentecost
	15	Prayer for Graduates
	29-5	St. Tikhon's Camp @ South Canaan, Pennsylvania
July	5	1-Year Memorial for Matushka Annice Olevnik
	14-18	OCA All-American Council @ Phoenix, Arizona
	20	Blessing of Chariots
	27	Chrismations: Brad, Kaila, and Kirra Wright / Leave-taking of Samuel Olevnik

	27	100K Matching Donation Reached! / Greek Festival @ St. George's in Ocean City
August	10	Blessings for Iona Klimitchev and Samuel Doyle as They Begin Bootcamp
	10	Baptism of Bradley Allen Derrickson
	23-24	25th Anniversary Celebrations with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
	30	Outing to Splash Mountain
	31	Blessing of Teachers/Students
September	21	Baptisms of Maya Mihaela, Damascene, Maximus and Marina
	27	Archdiocesan Assembly @ St. Mark's in Bethesda, Maryland
October	5	75th Birthday of Archpriest Joseph Olevnik / Church Musician Sunday
	19	Baptisms of Thomas and Joseph Scruggs
November	2	Blessing of Healing Ministries / Special Parish Meeting and Building Update
	8	Parish Center Maintenance Day
	9	Leave-taking of Vera Yevsukov / St. Michael's Party & Parish Thanksgiving
	14-15	Teen Fall Retreat @ Camp Hebron Retreat Center in Halifax, PA
December	25	Nativity of Our Lord

3. A Review of 2025

Liturgy

Appreciation is offered to our Liturgical Team: Clergy, Altar Servers, Choir Director/Members, Readers, Live-Streamers, Greeters, Cleaners, Ushers, Chapel Cleaners, Candle Makers, and Prosphora Bakers. May God bless them all!



Education

- Sermons/Homilies
- Bible Study
- Workshops
- Movie Nights
- Catechesis
- Church School
- Meetings with the Priest
- Orthodoxy 201

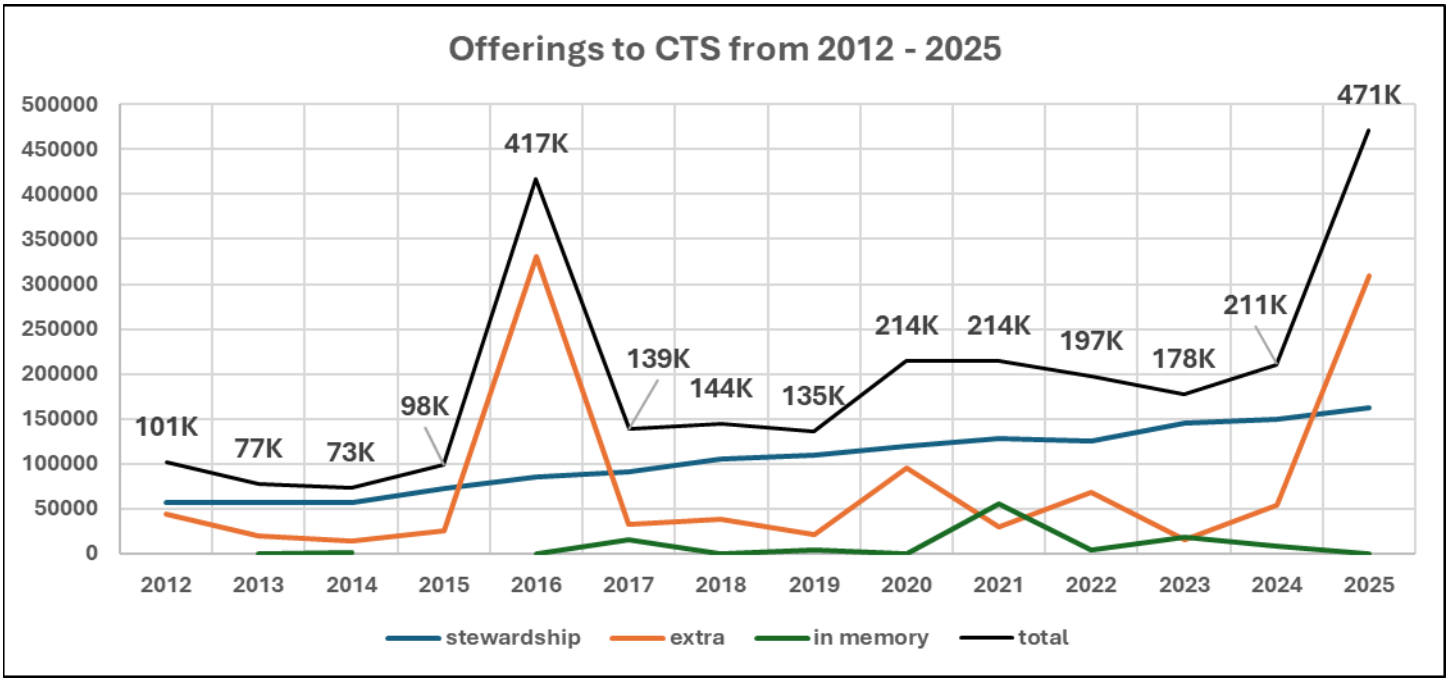
Fellowship / Outreach

- Coffee Hours (50+)
- Open Pool / Night Swims
- Knit Nights
- Men/Women/Youth/Waterpark Outings
- Parish Beach Days / Park Days
- Cornhole Tournament
- Firepit Nights
- Open Houses
- Women's Psalter Group Dinner
- Children's Egg Hunt / Basketball
- St. Michael's Day Party / Parish Thanksgiving
- St. Tikhon's Summer Camp / Teen Fall Retreat

Appreciation is expressed to the newly formed Kitchen Team, organizers, cooks, servers, cleaners, and attendees of the coffee hours, festal meals, men's and women's outings, beach days, festival meals, barbeques, birthday celebrations, and other such events which bind our community together through fellowship. May the Lord bless!

Stewardship

Thanks to the generous and sacrificial offerings of our donors, our general stewardship totaled some $162,042 and we were able to complete the year in the black with a surplus of approximately $7,188. Additionally, approximately $309,452 was given for various capital improvements, charitable initiatives, memorial offerings, and other earmarks, bringing total income to $471,494. Glory to God! Thank you for your strong support!



* Mortgage burning in 2016: $318K donation

25th Anniversary Celebrations

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the 25th Anniversary celebration of Christ the Savior Orthodox Church such a joyful and memorable occasion. Special appreciation is offered to Georgianne Mathews and the 25th Anniversary Committee for their dedicated planning, as well as to our clergy, choir, servers, and volunteers who labored with love in so many ways. The weekend was a beautiful expression of gratitude to God for His blessings over the past twenty-five years and a joyful witness to the unity and faith of our parish family. Glory to God!

Building Fund & Matching Donations

As our 25th anniversary year began, we were blessed with a generous gift to help kickstart our fundraising efforts for our new temple. A parishioner pledged to match every dollar donated to the Building Fund during the 2025 calendar year, up to $100,000, doubling the impact of each gift and encouraging broad participation across the parish.

By God's grace, this initial $100,000 matching challenge was met within the first seven months of the year. At our anniversary celebration, we announced that an anonymous donor had offered an additional $150,000 matching challenge. By year's end, we received $35,000 toward this new matching opportunity.

We are deeply grateful to all who have given so generously, faithfully, and sacrificially. Your support, prayers, and commitment are helping make the vision of our new temple a reality.

Brokerage Fund & Investment Management

CTS has established a parish brokerage account through Charles Schwab, in partnership with Montgomery Financial Services (MFS), to receive and manage funds designated for the construction of the new temple. The Parish Council has formally accepted the Investment Policy Statement (IPS), which provides clear guidelines for the responsible stewardship of parish funds. Both the $100,000 matching gift from our anonymous donor and the $100,000 raised by parishioners and friends have been transferred into the brokerage account. As a result, the account currently holds $200,000, plus accrued interest, and is being managed in accordance with the IPS.

Special Parish Meeting – Sunday, November 2
On Sunday, November 2, 2025, Christ the Savior Orthodox Church held a Special Parish Meeting following the Divine Liturgy. Fr. John thanked the Long-Term Planning Committee, chaired by Tom Mathews, for presenting a comprehensive update on the new temple project.

The committee reviewed the parish's growth since 2000, highlighting that average Sunday attendance has increased from 38 to approximately 130. Architectural plans prepared by CJK Design envision a traditional 4,000-square-foot Orthodox temple, including expanded parking and a covered walkway. Reflections during the meeting emphasized the importance of faith, clear communication, and teamwork as the parish continues to move forward together.

75th Birthday of Archpriest Joseph Oleynik
Many blessed years to Fr. Joseph! We extend our warm thanks to everyone who helped make his 75th birthday celebration such a joyful and meaningful occasion.

Directory of Parishioners and Friends
Our sincere thanks to Vera Yevsukov, Lisa Wu, and Elisabeth Parsells for their work on the parish directory. The directory will be available both online and in print.

Church School Program
Our Church School program serves children from Pre-K through high school, meeting each Sunday from October through May. Classes follow the Divine Liturgy and are designed to deepen our children's knowledge and love of Christ and His Church through prayer, Scripture, and participation in parish life. Teachers include Matushka Emily Parsells (Early Childhood), Kelly Hageman (Elementary), Cecilia Wyant (Upper Grades), Alexis DeArmitt (Choir), and Fr. John Parsells (Spiritual Guidance). Parents of children under 5 assist in class, with additional volunteers helping with crafts, music, and special events. May the Lord bless!

Orthodoxy 201 – Adult Class
This catechetical and apologetics series explored foundational questions of truth, philosophy, worldview, and culture, moving from ancient philosophy and modern ideologies to science, morality, and the challenges of the post-Christian West. The course also provided an in-depth study of Orthodox theology and Church history, including the Apostolic Age, the Ecumenical Councils, the Holy Trinity, Christology, salvation, and the major theological divisions within Christianity. Throughout the year, the class aimed not only to inform, but to form an Orthodox mind, showing how the Logos unites truth, reason, history, and revelation.

Communication
Connect via our email list (266), WhatsApp group (68), website updates (66), Facebook, YouTube, and Livestream.

Archdiocese of Washington – Restructuring
The Archdiocese of Washington is currently undergoing a restructuring process to incorporate the Stavropegial Institutions and Chaplains. As part of this transition, parishes and missions have been assigned a new Dean, Archpriest Gregory Safchuk of St. Mark's Church in Bethesda, Maryland. Additional information is forthcoming.

Thank You to All: Fellow Clergy / Parish Council / Supporting Committees / "Unknowns"
I would like to thank Mat. Emily, Ella, Alex, and Nicholai, together with Archpriest Joseph Oleynik, the parish council, and supporting committees, and all who served the Lord in so many ways. Likewise, gratitude is expressed to those coming off the council: Mirona Bendfeldt and Cheryl Kokkinos.

4. A VISION FOR 2026

This year the Rector and Parish Council will focus on:

1. Building the New Temple.
2. Increasing outreach and evangelism to the local community.
3. Securing the Parish's future through good stewardship and maintenance of infrastructure.
4. Learning, living, and loving our Orthodox Christian Faith.

Fr. John Parsells

Rector