



May, 2026

Subject: Saint Rita Parish & School Update

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of St. Rita Catholic Church, I'd like to share a brief update on our parish and school. Parish Council is preparing a more detailed "State of the Parish" report for September—this is a snapshot of where we are and where we're heading.

First, thank you. Your faith, time, and generosity continue to sustain and grow our parish community.

Guided by our mission—

Joyfully living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus, we welcome, worship, inspire, and serve with love—
we've made meaningful progress over the past three years.

Welcome

We continue our efforts to ensure every person feels at home here. From celebrating First Eucharist during weekend Masses to growing our hospitality ministry, you can feel that spirit at the doors. Donut Sundays, monthly breakfasts, parish events, and outreach ministries like COME dinners, Holy Beginnings, and our sensory-friendly Mass are helping us connect more deeply. Most importantly, many of you are personally reaching out to new faces—thank you for making St. Rita so welcoming.

Worship

The Eucharist remains at the heart of our parish. Through teaching Masses and ongoing formation of liturgical ministers, we've deepened our focus on the beauty of the liturgy. Mass attendance has grown by over 20% in the past three years, with strong participation at our monthly family Masses. Our music ministry continues to elevate our celebrations, and expanded prayer opportunities—like 40 Hours Devotion and Holy Hours—invite us into deeper relationship with Christ.

Inspire

We are called to grow in faith together. Participation in adult faith groups, Bible studies, youth programs, faith formation, and sacramental preparation continues to increase. Our recent focus on Catholic Social Teaching has helped connect faith with daily life, encouraging all of us to live with greater faith, hope, and charity.

Serve

Service remains a defining strength of St. Rita. The launch of Rochester Hope has been a powerful addition, alongside ongoing efforts like Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas Angel gifts, and support for local outreach partners. Within our parish, ministries like companions in grief, prayer shawl, health ministry, meal trains, and homebound communion reflect the care we show one another. We are also grateful for those who help take care of our parish through gardening, decorating, cleaning, and other projects.

While participation in our ministries has grown, there is still room for more volunteers. We are especially in need of faith formation teachers, altar servers, and help with parish life events like Breakfast at St. Rita. Please contact a staff member or the parish office and let us know of your interests and we will connect you to the appropriate ministry.

St. Rita School (Pre-K–Grade 5)

Our school continues its strong resurgence. Enrollment has grown 49% over five years, with expanding class sections and improved learning spaces. Thanks to parish support and strong family commitment, the school is now on more stable financial footing and positioned for continued growth.

Financial Update

A few years ago, we faced declining attendance and financial strain. Thanks to your generosity, collections have increased 24% over the past three years, helping stabilize our parish and allowing us to invest about \$350,000 in much-needed improvements—from parking lots and safety systems to classrooms and technology.

At the same time, rising costs—insurance, utilities, maintenance, and healthcare—continue to challenge us. To sustain our progress, we need to grow collections by 5–10% annually.

We ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your offertory giving as we begin the new fiscal year on July 1, 2026. Every gift—no matter the size—makes a real difference in supporting our mission.

To add or change an electronic donation, please go to the St. Rita website <https://www.saintritawebster.org/give-online/> or contact the finance office for more details (Email: webironfinance@dor.org)

Looking Ahead

We also want to hear from you. In the spirit of listening encouraged by the Synod, we invite your thoughts on priorities for the year ahead. Your voice matters and helps shape our path forward. Feel free to contact any member of our staff or email us at wstritap@dor.org.

Thank you again for being part of this vibrant parish community. I look forward to sharing a more detailed report in September.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "FR 9/14".