

Spirituality Advisory Group Spring 2013 Report

Ongoing formation and prayer opportunities at our parish include: 4 meditation groups, spiritual journaling, Adoration, daily prayer of the Rosary, and Tuesdays with Mary Rosary. Other recent efforts to engage adult parishioners in life-long formation include:

- In order to reach our hospitalized and homebound parishioners, our parish has 70 trained ministers of care who visit, pray and bring communion. 8 new parishioners will be trained this May.
- Our Parish special Lenten offerings included distribution of 1000 Little Black Books, 11 small faith sharing groups focusing on Thomas Merton Bridges or Sacred Space for Lent from the Irish Jesuits, weekly Stations of the Cross, Taize prayer, a co-sponsored Lenten retreat at the Well, a morning and evening of Meditation, a special Saturday with individual confessions (additional priests available over an extended time) and the Parish Reconciliation Service.
- We collected \$7,692 in donations for CRS Rice Bowl. Fr. Filbert led this initiative for the second year. About \$700 more was collected compared to last year.
- Fr. Bob Colaresi led our parish Lenten Mission which was attended by over 300 people. The Mission was the lead-in to our new adult retreat program, The Beloved Retreat, which is based on the popular retreat given at Old St. Pat's. The retreat which will be held at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in October, 2013 will be led by Fr. Bob and Terry Nelson Johnson from OSP. In preparation, a small group of SJC parishioners has attended the OSP Beloved Retreat to help facilitate our parish retreat. This initiative is led by Marianne Firlit and Andrea Gagliani.
- We welcomed 5 people into the faith at the Easter Vigil. 2 were baptized and completed the sacraments of initiation, 2 were received into full communion with the Church, and 1 was confirmed. Fr. Filbert led the RCIA Program this year.
- Roughly 5000 people attended Easter Mass at our parish. This figure is a little lower than last year, but the counts are approximate. Parishioners were asked to give feedback to the Liturgy Committee about Palm Sunday and Holy Week experiences via an online survey.
- On Sunday, April 14th Fr. Frank Sasso and our sharing parish, St. Thaddeus, joined us at the 5pm Mass. There was a light dinner after in the parish center.
- New this spring is the study of The Creed, a 12 week study of the first of the four pillars of Catholicism. 25 parishioners are attending one of two sessions. This initiative is led by Madonna Muscarello. Participants purchased the study book used in the class.
- Our parish is offering a grief support group this spring for adults who have experienced a loss. Similar to the fall, this 6 week session is led by Andrea Gagliani and Kathleen Broderick.
- Flourish (Women's Club group) ended their successful year-long faith sharing group in mid-April. At their last session the women took part in holy yoga, sent pink balloons up in the sky and had a pot luck lunch. Flourish will continue in the fall with more emphasis on bible study.

The Spirituality Advisory Committee is beginning to explore programming possibilities for the coming year. Special attention will be given to the continued formation of parents who are the focus of the third year of the archdiocesan strategic plan. New ideas currently being explored include:

- A steering committee is beginning work on a small faith sharing group program for couples that will start in the fall. This initiative is led by Mary Dorsey and Liz Williams.
- There has been some interest in a men's bible study group for the fall, however, a second leader needs to be identified.