

Winter 2019 PAC Prereads

Crossroads Youth Ministry Report

Collette Doyle, Topher Fryzel, Katie Nicholson

- In the past few months, Crossroads teens participated in the following service opportunities:
 - Assisting the SJC Gardening Angels with fall clean-up
 - Collecting and distributing food on Harvest Saturday (November 17)
 - Making dinners for the communities at Inspiration Café in Chicago, Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center in Hines, and St. Blase in Summit
- The fall Kairos Retreat (October 25-28) hosted by St. Cletus and sponsored by the parish cluster of St. Cletus, St. John of the Cross, and St. Francis Xavier brought in 46 retreatants. These high school juniors and seniors spent a weekend connecting with others, exploring their relationship with God, and learning about themselves.
- The registration for the upcoming spring Kairos Retreat (March 14-17) hosted by St. John of the Cross is halfway full with 25 retreatants as of February 4th. Online registration will remain open until February 22nd or when spots are filled (a maximum of 50 junior and senior retreatants).
- Crossroads Youth Ministry will offer two work tours this summer:
 - Young Neighbors in Action- St. Louis (July 7-12)
 - Our Lady of Charity- Cicero (July 22-26)
- Crossroads work tours offer high school students of both Catholic and public schools an opportunity to serve their community for a week over the summer, building community with a group of our parish teens. Information and registration for summer work tours can be found online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
- Teen and adult coordinators of Crossroads' Service & Work Tours team are currently brainstorming opportunities to engage newly confirmed 8th graders.

Pastoral Ministry Report

Steve Weigand, Pat DeMars

Adult Faith & Spirituality

- Alpha Evangelization: Coordinator
 - January – April Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 p.m.
 - Between 50-65 participants
- RCIA 2018-2019
 - Collaborating with SFX with 3 candidates from SJC and 6 from SFX
 - Tuesday 7:00-8:30 Formation
 - Two service projects
- Lenten Small Faith Groups
 - Word on Fire Gospel Reflections
 - Lenten Book Study: Theology and Sanity
- Chicago Scripture School
 - Wed. 9:00 – 12:00 and Wed. 6:30-9:30pm
- Christian Meditation Retreat: April 8, 9, 10
 - New Harmony, Indiana

Pastoral Care

- Seasons of Hope Grief Support

- Jan. 12-Feb. 23
- Winter Seasons of Hope hosted by SFX Parish
- Divorce and Beyond' Support for separated and divorced
 - Sunday Jan. 6-Mar. 10 from 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Domestic Violence Committee
 - Hosted Non-Violent Communication Group Study
 - Pillars Human Services present after all masses
 - Print material and resources in Parish library
- Nourish: Ministry for Caregivers
 - Navigating Senior Care Conference
 - Nourish Caregiver Support Group Second Thursday: 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
- Ministry of Care
 - Eucharist to Infirm Homebound
 - Recruitment and training, scheduling
 - Communion Service at King Bruwaert House

Finance Council Report

Diana Januska, MJ Martin

- The Parish remains in good financial shape. We anticipate a break-even budget for Fiscal Year 2019. The Sunday Offertory Collection, SJC Fest Fundraiser, and the Annual Catholic Appeal are the parish's primary funding sources.
- As we reported during the annual report to the parish last November, we have set aside approximately 93% towards our \$1.2 million To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) obligation to the archdiocese. The bulk of these funds are comprised of the Annual Catholic Appeal Rebates since 2015. In May 2018, we made our first of five payments to the archdiocese to retire this debt. Each payment will total \$240,240.
- The 2019 Annual Capital Appeal has begun. In February our parishioners will have an opportunity to make a commitment to the Appeal during Masses. This year our parish goal is \$201,039. As in the past, any funds donated above our goal are rebated to the parish.
- As our parish fulfills its commitment to the TTWCI Campaign, the Finance Council plans to continue to hold Appeal overages in parish reserves. Our savings will be used to make improvements and upgrades to our buildings and grounds as necessary. A recent study of the roofs on the parish campus buildings indicate that portions of the school roof will need to be replaced in the next few years.
- We are currently in the process of finalizing the budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The budget will include a few capital improvement projects that will be completed over the summer. The budget also includes continued parish subsidies to the school, YC, and Crossroad programs.

SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT

Mike Francis, Kathleen Gorman

- The school year has ended its first semester with a busy but wonderful Christmas season now behind us.
- Catholic Schools Week took place beginning with weekend liturgies on Saturday January 26th and Sunday January 27th. Due to the Polar Vortex several events have been cancelled / postponed. As of the publication of this report, we are in the process of determining which events will be rescheduled. Catholic School Week will conclude on Friday February 1st with Spirit Day. The children look forward to this week as we came together and celebrated who we are as a catholic school.
- 8th graders will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on February 2nd while the 2nd graders are preparing for their first communion.
- 8th graders have also completed their Catholic Schools placement tests on December 1st, similar to last year. Acceptances will be issued on a rolling basis, more information will be provided in the Spring PAC update.
- We have applied for the Blue Ribbon Award. The paperwork was submitted by the deadline of 12/19/18.
- The Spring Gala occurs Saturday, March 9th at The Hampton Social in Burr Ridge. Once again the event will be cosponsored by the School Advisory Board and the Teacher's Recognition Trust.
- The School Board has begun the budget process for 2018 – 20189.
- We are also grateful for the children's part in the "Thumbuddy" Special" Service Project. The children raised \$2665.00.
- In our continued efforts to provide better transparency we have created a presentation for parents which describes the relationship between our two major fundraisers, the Annual Fund and the Winter Gala.
- We will be conducting a survey this month to solicit feedback from parents to inform our financial planning process. We will be seeking feedback in a fashion similar to the recently completed Archdiocesan strategic plan
- In summary, St. John of the Cross Parish School continues its exemplary educational programs with a focus on building community spirit. Tours are ongoing throughout the school year for anyone interested in finding out more!

OUTREACH REPORT

Bill Bright, Diane Harken

KOLBE HOUSE/ASSUMPTION PARISH (Chicago)

Deacon: Pablo Perez SJC Rep: Marilyn Cahill

- Accepting donated clothing; socks, T-shirts, underwear, winter items.
- \$1750.00 monthly support
- Computer entry assistance by two parishioners.
- New pastor to be named for Kolbe/ Assumption
- Share Christmas recipient, 20 boxes of toys
- Turkeys and Hams donated for Thanksgiving and Christmas

PRECIOUS BLOOD MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION (Chicago)

Director: Fr. David Kelly

SJC Rep: Shawn Sweeney

- Meals prepared at Parish Center, parishioner homes, and YC student groups
- Ongoing food donations collected and delivered; canned and dry goods
- Turkeys at Thanksgiving and Hams at Christmas donated for clients and some staff

- Garden shed and electrical work provided by SJC
- Diapers for infants collection as a part of Senior Holiday luncheon
- Use of Poor Box Collections to purchase baby diapers (ongoing)
- Monthly Financial support: (\$1000)
- Attendance and support of fund raisers
- Bicycles collected for PBMR clients (six each)
- Baby clothes, diapers and toys collected and delivered
- Share Christmas recipient

ST. GALL (Chicago)

Pastor: Fr. Rene Mena

SJC Rep: Cathy Pesch

- Monthly financial support (\$1750)
- Food pantry support (ongoing) through St. Galls' S.V.D.P.
- Turkeys and hams donated to St. Gall parishioners and staff for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- The SJC Choirs joined the St. Gall choirs for an October Liturgy and were treated to a wonderful reception, with great food, entertainment and hospitality
- St. Gall youth groups, (Warriors of Peace), joined Crossroads for Harvest Saturday taking many cases of collected food back to St. Gall. St. Mark Parish Youth Group participated, along with St. Gall.
- Annual Santa and his Elves visit to St. Gall School and Parish provided by SJC
- SJC kindergarten and first graders participated in a hat and glove collection for homeless people through Catholic Charities
- 80 + families were recipients of Share Christmas

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Director: Elma Kulovich

SJC Rep: Bill and Sheila McLaughlin

- Assist this Catholic Charities Program through financial support solicitation
- New mattress sets for each refugee with above donations
- Promotion and updates in SJC bulletin and website
- Ham/and turkeys donated to some staff and Refugee families
- Sponsored Fair Trade "LOOM" event at SJC. Largest "one day" sale (Dec. 2018.)

BEDS Plus (LaGrange)

SJC Rep: Bill Bright

- Site food preparation – Youth Catechesis and Individual Parishioners
- Financial support of food purchases for preparation here at SJC
- Shelter volunteers
- Share Christmas provided 30+ sets of sheets
- Support of Fundraisers by donation of volunteers time and money
- Clothing and toiletries donations (ongoing)
- Promotion on SJC web site and bulletin(ongoing)
- Beds Plus Staff provided at SJC for education program

HELPING HAND CENTER (Countryside)

SJC Rep: Diane Harken

- Share Christmas gifts for 30 individuals
- On-going publication in SJC bulletin and web site
- SJC adults and children volunteering at numerous Helping Hand activities
- Recognition of SJC support in Helping Hand publications
- Two Helping Hand clients employed at SJC School (ongoing)
- Volunteers from SJC working at both HH Centers

ST. AGATHA PARISH (CHICAGO)

Pastor: Larry Dowling

SJC Rep: Bill Bright

- Monthly financial support, \$1000 monthly
- Share Christmas provided for 80+ families
- Share Christmas 60 boxes of new toys
- Provided Turkeys at Thanksgiving and Hams at Christmas

SHARE CHRISTMAS 2018

SJC Rep: Lolly Maloney

FOOD PANTRIES SJC Director: Shawn Sweeney Reps: Sue Mazur & Ellin Wheelihan

- * Kolbe House
- * Mary Queen of Heaven
- * St. Barbara
- * St. Blase
- * St. Cletus
- * St. Francis
- * St. Gall

GOAL FOR 2019

- Recruit additional Outreach Committee Members
- Continue to establish support/relationship with Arch. of Chicago Office for Human Dignity & Solidarity – Immigration Ministry

Youth Catechesis Council Report

Jen Smykowski; Janet Caschetta

- Confirmation on February 2nd confirmed 184 youth by Bishop John Manz
- Souper Bowl Sunday Collection donated over 1300 non-perishable food items to St. Cletus and St. Francis Food Pantries
- Making A Difference – Family Event on Sunday December 9th was a huge success
- Christmas Gifts for our volunteers were well received – an ornament for their tree to remember how they touch the lives of children
- Prayers for First Finals – we mail prayers for our last year's Confirmation youth who are taking their first sets of finals before the break.

Grades 7-8

7th Grade: Comprised of 11 Small Groups, 131 youth, 26 leaders and 4 aides

- Small Groups had two meetings for the month of December.
- Small groups attended the "Discipleship" presentation by John Grossman on January 13th. John will speak to the youth on the meaning of discipleship, power of prayer and the importance of service to others.

8th Grade: Comprised of 10 Small Groups, 121 youth, 27 leaders and 1 aide.

- Small Groups had two meeting for the month of December.
- Small groups attended the "Discipleship" presentation by John Grossman on January 13th. John will speak to the youth on the meaning of discipleship, power of prayer and the importance of service to others.
- The remaining Confirmation requirements; 20 Service Experiences, Service Reflection Report and Letter to the Pastor were due Dec. 9th to the online tracking system.

Grades 3-6

During our December 16th/17th class Grade 5 taught our K-6 audience about the Jesse Tree. We chose 14 key figures of our Catholic faith, from Abraham to Jesus. In order to give each 5th Grader a role, we divided the activities so a 5th Grader could read us a passage about the significance of that person in our Catholic faith history, another 5th Grader described the ornament that symbolized that biblical figure and a third 5th grader displayed the ornament, then hung it on the Jesse Tree. We were able to involve every 5th Grader on both Sunday and Monday. This is a wonderful exercise as the Grade 6 curriculum next year focuses on the Old Testament figures that point to the coming of Jesus.

Grades K-2

- In Kindergarten, the kids were introduced to Meditation. They learned that meditation is another way they can pray. They enjoyed it as we focused on our blessings - people & things we are thankful for. The teachers said they may start using meditation in their classrooms as a way to calm and focus the kids.
The next several sessions talk about God giving them friends, neighbors and teachers. They will learn to appreciate these people and that they should pray for them and always be a good friend.
- In First Grade, we will be discussing how to give thanks to God and show love for God by being good and holy. They are introduced to the Lord's Prayer, learning it by heart thru different activities/games.
- In Second Grade, the Catechists will be given an outline to cover the booklet – Mass Prayers for Young Catholics. They will go through it with the kids this coming week and the next and then send it home with them so they can bring it to Mass each week. It is a really great step-by-step kid friendly outline of what happens at Mass and why. This booklet is helps prepare for First Eucharist.

Adaptive Catechesis

Our two December classes focused on the story of Mary, saying YES to the Angel Gabriel and the story of Jesus birth and the Visitors who came to see him. The children did many activities to really understand this story and relate the message to themselves. For the first time the children acted out the Nativity story, which was a lot of fun and a great way to really learn. In our two January classes we will follow the Gospel and focus on Jesus Baptism story and connect that sacrament to Confirmation. We continue to prepare Rosa for Confirmation as we connect our lessons to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Word on the Street from Apostles and At Large Representatives

Ann Gornik

Positive feedback:

- Some really liked the participation of the children during the parish school week.
- Two recent visitors to SJC were very impressed with the level and variety of programs our parish offers. Also noted was the strength of the lay leadership.
- Employees of the Archdiocese recognized the generosity and support of our parishioners to the Fair Trade Event this December. Our parishioners took great interest in the cause, the merchandise, and one parishioner even donated items such as sewing machines, materials and her own time.

Concerns:

- A broken record: Comments yet again that have been accented by the cold and snow is the access to the Parish. Aside from the sheer distance to walk, there have been complaints about the road not being wide enough so when people park in the U-drive, waiting to pick someone up, it is difficult to get past them, especially with two-way traffic. I think it has been determined that nothing can be done about this, but I wanted to relay it anyway.
- Several parishioners I have encountered expressed disappointment of how the Catholic Church (institution) has handled the sexual abuse cover-up. [cynicism even among the more active members] Anything SJC can do to acknowledge this problem/issue may help.
- Clarification and validating of this comment: "The archdiocese of Chicago's 'Renew My Church' program — nicknamed 'Ruin My Church' by Chicago Catholics — is ostensibly meant to spur growth and spiritual renewal, but Catholics say it has nothing to do with spiritual concern and is instead all about the bottom line: money. Catholics all over

Chicago have been forced to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep their parish open, only to be left scrambling once their parish closes, while the money from closures of schools and churches is pocketed by the archdiocese.

- Many comments came from the seniors on the parking lots. It would help if the north side was enlarged as there is not enough parking. Our senior population with handicaps is enlarging. On weekdays, it help if all who worked park to the South and West in the lot leaving more spaces close for seniors. Some have gone to St Cletus because of better handicap access.

Welcome

Elizabeth Russell-Jones

DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

1. We welcomed 146 new members in January (which is a small decrease from 2017 and 2018). All families receive a welcome letter from Father Reszel; then I contact them via phone (mostly to cell phone voicemail); and then email to say hello and extend an invitation to meet in the narthex at our monthly Meet and Greet or to visit the parish center.
2. We were able to meet with 60 families in person which means we have met 41% of our new members.
3. The age breakdown of our new members:
 - a. 25-40 year olds = 57%
 - b. 41-54 year olds = 21%
 - c. 55+ year olds = 22%
4. Locations of our new members:
 - a. SJC Boundaries = 92
 - b. St. Isaacs* = 11
 - c. St. Cletus* = 10
 - d. St. Francis* = 7
 - e. Other = 22 Darien (4), Downers (2), Cicero, Lemont (2), Oak Brook, Justice, Westchester (3), Brookfield (4), Riverside, Lisle, Willowbrook, Hickory Hills*Determined by member's address and NOT in our SJC boundaries
5. We continue to update our database based on our returned offertory envelopes.
 - a. Families we have made inactive (moved out of state, unable to forward, died) = 91
 - b. Families we have updated their address (not in boundaries) = 41
 - c. Families we updated address (moved within boundaries) = 80
 - d. Snowbirds/summer homes (noted on their envelopes as "temporarily away") = 73
6. We continue to host our monthly Meet and Greet in the Narthex usually at the 9:00 and 10:45 Masses. On average we meet with 3-5 families each month.
7. Several of our 55+ new members have relocated to be near their children. These adults are assisting in the day-to-day activities of their grandchildren while the parents are both working. Several attend morning Mass. They are looking to find others with similar interests to bond with in our faith community.
8. We have started a "First Friday Coffee" once a month after the 7:45 Mass which we will host for the school year. We average 25 guests (mainly 55+ years old) at each gathering. Volunteers bring home-baked items.
9. How can we engage our Future Church through our Millennials? Our Millennials are ages 22-37 which are over half of our new members. Can we ask more of them to join PAC so we can include more of their voices? Are we engaging them in social media

correctly? How can we offer things/prayers/events that work in their world (2 working spouses, children, travel sports, student loans)? Can we host a focus group for just their age by people that are their age?

10. How can we get people to Mass? How about renewing our faith through our sacraments by celebrating different events throughout the year and inviting our members:

Celebration	When	Sacrament	Group
Pentecost	June	Confirmation	Confirmation class/kick off the summer
Body and Blood of Christ	June	First Communion	First Communicants in their outfits
Respect Life	October	Baptism	Baptized families
All Soul's Day	November	Last Rites	Those that have lost a loved one
Feast of the Holy Family	December	Families	Multiple SJC Generations
	First Weekend of month	Marriage	Recognize marriage, significant relationships and healing from divorce

