

Pastoral Associate Report: Steve Weigand

Adult Faith & Spirituality

- Adult Book Study
 - New Seeds of Contemplation: Thomas Merton
 - Wed. Evenings through June 5
- Summer Book Study
 - The Universal Christ; An Archetype for Everything
 - TBA
- Alpha
 - Evaluation
 - Setting Fall / Winter 2020 dates
- RCIA
 - 4 Candidates fully initiated at Easter Vigil on April 20
 - Remaining Mystagogia sessions thru May 14
 - Team Evaluation and Preparation for 2019-2020

Pastoral Care

- Seasons of Hope Grief Support
 - Mondays: May 6 - June 10 (7:00-8:30 p.m.)
- Divorce and Beyond Support
 - Thursdays: May 2 - June 20 (7:00 – 8:30p.m.)
- Nourish for Caregivers
 - Monthly 2nd Thu (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)
- Domestic Violence Committee
 - Monthly 2nd Tues (4:00 p.m.)
- (LOSS) Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (**NEW**)
 - 8 week support group (summer)
 - TBD

Liturgy

- Weekly Communion Service @ King Bruwart Senior Center
- Vicariate wide Training for NEW Lectors and Communion Ministers (**May 18th**)
- Weekly presence at Sunday liturgies

WELCOME CENTER 2019 Elizabeth Russell-Jones

1. We have welcomed 50 new members since January (which is the exact same number of new families as 2018 and 2017).
2. We hosted a Welcome Picnic on Sunday, April 14. We celebrated spring with our new members inside while it snowed outside. I invited 150 families—those families that were “new” as of 12 months ago. We had 12 families join us for a total of 40 adults and children. Several ministries were represented: Men’s Club, Women’s Club and the Family Fest. I believe it was a successful event that we would like to try and repeat in the fall.
3. We continue to host our monthly Meet and Greets in the Narthex usually at the 9:00 and 10:45 Masses. On average we meet with 3-5 families each month. Our next meeting in the Narthex will be Sunday, May 19.
4. Our “First Friday Coffee” has been successful. We will continue to host through the summer and for the next school year. We average 25 guests (mainly 60+ year olds) at each gathering. Volunteers bring home-baked items and I bring over our beloved coffee from the kitchen which is a HIT! Many of the First Friday Coffee parishioners are actively involved in volunteering and would like to continue to be involved in opportunities.
5. 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 include more of them in PAC so we can hear 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?

6. Other – Our parish hosted a VERY successful campaign to support Off the Street Club Camp Mathieu. We collected an incredible amount of items to support the kids from the West Side. Thank You!

Finance Council Report to the PAC – Spring 2019

Diana Januska, Finance Council Chair

The parish remains in good financial shape. We continue to budget conservatively and anticipate a break-even budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020. The Sunday Offertory Collection, SJC Fest Fundraiser, and the Annual Catholic Appeal (Appeal) remain the parish's primary funding sources. The budget includes continued parish subsidies to the school, YC, and Crossroad programs.

Our To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) obligation to the archdiocese was \$1.2 million. A debt pay-down schedule was implemented. The first installment of five \$240,240.00 payments was made in 2018 and the second payment was made last month. We have sufficient funds set aside to cover the remaining \$719,520 balance.

As mentioned in the Winter PAC Update, 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.

The Finance Council plans to begin looking at the number and timing of fundraisers initiated on behalf of the parish and the various ministries.

YC Council Notes for PAC Meeting

Jen Smykowski

-First Communion parents/student prep day happened on Saturday, April 6th and First Communion will be happening on May 4th and May 11th. There are 178 YC students making their First Communion this year.

-Registration for 2019/2020 YC is ongoing and we have approximately 73% of our current re-registered. We will continue to reach out to all regarding registration.

-Maureen Hill, Coordinator for K-2 YC will not be returning next year. Janet is currently interviewing to fill her role.

- The appreciation luncheon for YC volunteers was Sunday, April 7th. It was a huge success, well attended, and enjoyed by all. All YC volunteers received a seed packet in the shape of a heart with a warmly written note of thanks from the YC staff.

-Vacation Bible School is not happening this year. We were unable to secure someone to run the program during that time in June.

-We will be adjusting the YC Calendar/Sessions to meet the needs of busy families and to offer parish opportunities/service projects to our families. This change will go out in a letter to families in August. We will change to 18 YC classes from the current 21 YC classes and add the requirements of a Family Concert event, 2 Family Home Lessons, 3 Parish/Service Events and monthly mass reporting to our curriculum.

-Four council members are retiring from the council in May. Jeannine Palm, Mike Coglianese, Meg Vorpahl and Tim Woods have offered their time and service to the YC Council for the 2019/2020 year.

OUTREACH UPDATE : BILL BRIGHT, DIANE HARKEN

KOLBE HOUSE /ASSUMPTION PARISH (Chicago)

Director: Mary Claire Birmingham

SJC Rep: Marilyn Cahill

- Accepting donated seasonal clothing; socks, T-shirts, underwear, and food
- Monthly financial support, \$1750
- Computer entry assistance by two parishioners
- Hams donated for staff and clients
- Planning picnic for summer 2019

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
- Hams donated at Christmas for clients and some staff
- Garden shed and electrical work provided Poor Box Collection
- Use of Poor Box Collections to purchase baby diapers (ongoing)
- Monthly Financial support, \$1000
- Baby clothes, diapers, and toys collected and delivered (ongoing)
- Attendance and support of fund raiser on May 1st by Diane Harken

ST. GALL (Chicago)

Pastor: Fr. Rene Mena

SJC Rep: Cathy Pesch

- Monthly financial support, \$1750
- Food pantry support through St. Gall's S.V.D.P.
- Hams donated to St. Gall parishioners and staff for Easter
- The St. Gall Choirs will join with SJC adult choir on May 19th at 10:45am Mass, lunch reception following Mass
- Donated \$2500 for purchase of new rectory entry doors

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Director: Elma Kulovich

SJC Rep: Bill & 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
- Hams donated to some staff and refugee families
- Planning summer 2019 field trip to Lincoln Park Zoo with refugee children

BEDS Plus (LaGrange)

Director: Tina Rounds

SJC Rep: Bill Bright

- Site food preparation
- Financial support for food purchases for preparation here at SJC
- Shelter volunteers
- Support of Fundraisers by donation of volunteers time and money
- Clothing and toiletry donations (ongoing)
- Promotion on SJC website and bulletin (ongoing)

HELPING HAND CENTER (Countryside)

SJC Rep: Diane Harken

- 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 Helping Hand Centers

ST. AGATHA PARISH (CHICAGO)

Pastor: Larry Dowling

SJC Rep: ☹ Open Position

- Monthly financial support, \$1000.00

FOOD PANTRIES

SJC Rep: Shawn Sweeney, assisted by 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 (three new members in 18-19)
- Continue to establish support/relationship with Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Human Dignity & Solidarity – Immigration Ministry

Men's Club: John Cisek, Dan Montgomery

Men's Club concludes another successful year. Accomplishments:

Service:

- BoyScout Pancake Breakfast
- Crossroads Fish Fry
- help with Harvest Saturday delivery
- help with Women's Club Garage Sale (coming in June)

Social

- BBQ and Bags Tourney
- Trivia Night
- Golf Outing Scramble (coming in June)

Spirituality

- 6 SAM sessions
- 5 men attended the Man Among Men Conference
- Owned and 'staffed' 6 Stations of the Cross

Via Trivia Night fundraiser we are able to donate funds to several SJC orgs

- CrossRoads
- BoyScouts
- SJC Family Fest
- Gardening Angels
- Caritas
- YC lunch
- SJC teacher lunch
- school tuition fund for needy students

Word on the Street Summary from Apostles and At Large Representatives

Submitted by Ann Gornik, PAC Apostle

Positive feedback:

1. Praises for the Easter Triduum music and liturgy.
2. Praises for the celebration of Fr. David 's life
3. The changing Mass schedule was very well communicated.
4. Many people like the variety of programs that SJC offers: the food and coat donations, the carnival (seeing all the families participate) and the number of volunteers that help with all the programs.

Concerns:

1. Lack of understanding as to why the Mass schedule was changed.
(communicated well in Fr. Marc's "Letter from the Pastor "on 5/5/19)
2. Many parishioners are unhappy about the daily 7:45 am mass being changed to 9:00 am every day. Concerns of traffic, parking and not being able to attend due work.

3. Concerns on why both Fr. Peter and Fr. Bill are leaving at the same time. (communicated in Fr. Marc's "Letter from the Pastor" on 5/5/19)
4. Why have the announcements the end of Mass gone away? This offers a personal touch and not everyone takes home a bulletin.
5. Dropping off bins in parish center are not always available.
6. Concerns on the absence of a crucifix in our church expressed by parishioners, visitors and ex-parishioners. Can we have a discussion if a permanent crucifix (corpus on a cross) be near or over the altar? Is the reason financial, aesthetics or philosophical/theological? A broader discussion about the aesthetics of the church and how they fail to reinforce our Catholic identity would be welcomed.

Women's Club Update

The SJC Women's Club has had an amazingly successful year. All events were well attended, Holy Yoga, Advent By Candlelight (over capacity attendance), Dine and Demo Mexican themed cooking night and Women's Club Retreat in Woodstock at Loyola Retreat Center.

The Fr. Joseph McDonnell High School Scholarship Fund awarded 13 recipients scholarships to Nazareth and Fenwick. Our Spring Drive for women's accessories was well received by our recipient, the Hope Chest. With our parish women emptying their closets and drawers, they were able to refill them at our Boutique Night Shopping Event on April 4th!

This week our flowers will be delivered and distributed with a record number of sales. May 22nd our new Board will be installed at a Prayer Service followed by dinner at Solstice. We still have an opening or two for our Publicity Committee.

Our next event, the biggest for the Women's Club, is the Garage Sale. We have two rooms that need chairs...Floral/Crafts and Children's Clothing. The summer will be busy with planning our November 8th Fashion Show at Ashton Place! We still have chair openings for the Silent Auction, the Big Auction and volunteers for the night of the Fashion Show. As you can see the Women's Club is vibrant and an asset to our Parish and surrounding communities and charities.

SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT: Mike Francis

St. John of the Cross Parish School is heading into the final few weeks of the academic year, finishing up the goals of each classes' curriculum. During May, so much occurs within our curricular program as we come to an end of the school year. **Grade 1** highlights the writing program of their young students with **Author's Day**. The many books the children wrote throughout the year will be on display.

Periodically throughout the year, our different grade levels work on a Service Project. Some of the work they do is part of our expectations, i.e., our 7thgrade helping change the music selection in church prior to the start of a new calendar division. Our 4thgrade helps the Welcome Committee by thoughtfully decorating bags for new families. Each year, **grade 5** attends **Northern Illinois Food Bank** while **6thgrade** attends **Feed My Starving Children**.

The students got the chance to show off their many talents through the school play, **Shrek the Musical Junior**. We are proud of our children who rose to the occasion, sang and danced with a high energy, enjoyment, and successfully portrayed the DreamWorks Theatrical Production.

The children continue to pursue their journey of faith at all grade levels. The 2nd graders have prepared for their First Communion in May. Grade 6 begins their first steps of the Confirmation process. And both the 8th grade and 2nd grade will participate in the upcoming annual May Crowning. Following the ceremony, our 8th grade receives their school ribbons on Monday, May 13th.

Our **School Awards Assembly** occurs on **5/28 at 9:15 AM** in the gym. The 8thgrade Award Ceremony takes place that evening. These two assemblies are a culmination of the year's academics where students are recognized in different areas.

Our 8thgrade receives their diplomas on Thursday evening, **5/30, with Graduation after their Graduation liturgy**. We are so proud of our 8th grade class as they plan for these year-end liturgical moments.

During this 2018-2019 school year, in addition to continuing the Annual Fund Drive and Parent Association fundraisers, including the new Fun Run, multiple efforts were made by various groups to keep tuition increases to a minimum despite the absence of some usual financial support. The "Time, Talent and Treasure" effort has been a great success and we greatly appreciate the many contributions put forth by the families of St. John of the Cross. This requires school families to participate in the Parish Community as a whole in order to receive the Parish subsidy, which directly reduces a family's tuition cost. St. John of the Cross continues its exemplary educational tradition. Tours are ongoing throughout the school year for anyone interested in finding out more!