

## 2020 PAC WINTER PRE-READS

### YC

Confirmation is February 8<sup>th</sup> – 182 youth will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit between 10:30am Mass and 1:30pm Mass. Bishop Rojas will preside.

Souper Bowl of Caring is February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a large service event for the YC families and parishioners as a whole. Donation may be dropped off during YC classes, at the Parish Center or in the Narthex of the church. Donations collected will be given to St. Cletus and St. Francis Food Pantries in LaGrange.

179 youth received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> for the first time. They began with a half hour retreat, followed by a beautiful prayer service and Reconciliation.

### SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT

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 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>. Catholic School Week will conclude on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> while the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are preparing for their first communion.

8th graders have also completed their Catholic Schools placement tests in December, similar to last year. Acceptances will be communicated in the next few weeks, more information will be provided in the Spring PAC update.

The Spring Gala occurs Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at Eddie Merlot's 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 2020 – 2021.

OCS will administer a survey to parents, students and staff mid-February regarding the different aspects of the school programming. More to follow.

Our Advent Project, Thumbuddy Special, netted \$1637.47. Part of this total came from the Pictures with Santa sponsored by Student Council and the rest of it from the children.

Our first Homework Committee Meeting occurred on Thursday 1/22.

The second Coffee with the Principals occurred last Thursday, 1/16. It focused on school policies and included an open floor for questions. It was a successful event

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!

## MEN'S CLUB

Fall events went well.

- Annual BBQ and Bags Tourney (14 two-man teams and about 40 men overall)
- Meet the Deacons (thanks to our 3 deacons, sorry it was sparsely attended)
- Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast moved to October from November
- Sunday Night Bears Game (about 25 men enjoyed pizza watching the Bears lose on the big screen)
- Catholic Wisdom on Tap (about 40 men and women came out to hear Fr. Brendan speak on Keeping Kids Catholic)
- Trivia Night (28 tables sold x 10 = 280 trivia players)

Upcoming events

- SAM Feb 22 on Preparing for Lent
  - Fish Fry March 6 benefiting the High School Youth Ministry
  - Joint event with Women's Club in April(?)
  - CWOT/SAM event in April
  - Golf Outing in June
- Our only fundraising event is the Trivia Night, with most donations returned to the Boy Scouts, High School Youth ministry and other SJC groups.
- While we have 8-10 guys showing up for Board Meetings, we really need the next generation to get more involved to take over.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

ALL-Teen Nights in the Gym –these were First Sundays, October through January, following 5PM Mass, 6:15-7:30PM for games, dinner, lesson and small group discussion. Attendance varied, but ranged from 21-45. Junior and Senior Leaders have occasionally helped lead our small group discussions.

ALPHA for Teen –Began January 12 and will continue weekly for 9 weeks, on Sundays, following 5PM Mass, 6:15-7:30PM. Dinner, Video/talk and then small group, grade level discussions are led by a team of 14 ALPHA for Teen Adult Leaders. ALPHA for Teens is open to all high school teens and St. Cletus and St. Francis teens are invited, as well. We have 45 officially registered, we have had a total of 52 teens try it over the first two weekends.

Harvest Saturday –We filled two trucks and three cars to deliver to 10 food pantries. Great turnout for both Flyer Day and Harvest Saturday.

Church League Basketball –we have 141 teens on 13 teams, which is our highest to date. Games are Saturday evenings in the Gym. Regular games continue until February 29 and then tournament play begins.

Kairos Retreats –K34 was full (45 retreatants) for the November 14-17, 2019 sponsored by St. Cletus. K35 registration is open now for March 12-15, 2020, sponsored by SJC.

Frosh-Soph Retreat –A Lock-In Retreat will be offered this year at SJC Parish Center February 28/29. This retreat is offered jointly through St. Cletus, St. Francis and SJC. Registration opened January 20.

Upcoming:

ALPHA for Teens continues weekly until March 8.

Fish Fry, a collaboration with the Men's Club, is March 6.

Confirmation Reception will be hosted by Youth Ministry on February 8.  
Girl Church League Basketball begins in March/April.  
Summer Mission Trip to Detroit with Young Neighbors in Action is June 21-26. Local dates TBA

#### Youth Ministry 6 month Summary

We have continued our attempt at reaching out to the SJC Parish Family through the bulletin, emails to parents, winter study break packs to all teens at Masses (with program date and information) Parish E-blasts, and soliciting interest and volunteers at Women's Club and Men's Club events. We have also made an effort to collaborate with St. Cletus and St. Francis on various projects, which helps with all of our collective attendance at events. This will continue. We are looking into LifeTeen, a Catholic Youth Ministry program that provides training, summer camp opportunities, leadership conferences (for teens and adult leaders), and includes middle school and high school teens.

#### FINANCE COUNCIL

The Parish remains in good financial shape. The weekly offertory, SJC Fest Fundraiser, and the Annual Catholic Appeal (Appeal) remain the parish's primary funding sources.

As previously reported, we have set aside nearly all of the funds needed to retire SJC's \$1.2 million To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) obligation to the archdiocese. The bulk of these funds are comprised of Appeal rebates received since 2015. In May 2020, we will make our third of five payments to the archdiocese to retire this debt. Each payment totals \$240,240.

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal has begun. During the month of February, our parishioners will have an opportunity to make a commitment to the Appeal during weekend Masses. This year, SJC's Appeal goal is \$165,178. 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 the Appeal overages in parish reserves. Our savings will be used to make improvements and upgrades to our buildings and grounds as necessary. A 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 2020-2021 fiscal year. We anticipate a break-even budget.

#### WELCOME

In 2019, we welcomed 162 new families. A family is described as a household whether married or single. Families are welcomed with a letter from Fr. Reszel, followed by a phone call and letter from me.

The age breakdown of our new families:

25-40 year olds = 58%

41-54 year olds = 22%

55+ year olds = 18%

Location of our new families:

SJC boundaries = 88 families

St. Isaacs = 18 families

St. Cletus = 17 families

St. Francis = 9 families

Other (not in SJC boundaries) include: Chicago, Clarendon Hills, Willowbrook, Darien, Summit, Naperville, Downers Grove, Westchester, Brookfield, Riverside, Joliet, Glen Ellyn, Mokena, Bolingbrook and Willow Springs.

\*Several of our new families have admitted to “church shopping” and felt St. John’s was a great fit.

Reason for registering:

Families register with our parish for many reasons. We can make a correlation between registering with the parish AND for other reasons including: registering for our school, YC, baptism and even pending health issues that lead to funeral arrangements.

YC = 46

Baptism = 24

School = 11

Funeral = 2

Two-income families: *(which might prohibit availability for programs or volunteering)*

Two income parents = 93

One stay @ home parent = 25

Retired = 10

Movement within Parish (based on offertory envelopes)

Moved within our boundaries = 53

Moved outside of our boundaries = 18 (Chicago, Lombard, Clarendon Hills, Downers, Woodridge, Oakbrook, Riverside)

Made inactive = 68 (moved out of state, unable to forward or died)

Temporarily Away = 34 (average from March/April offertory envelopes-mostly snowbirds)

In 2020, we have welcomed 10 families.

Our monthly First Fridays are well received. We average 25 parishioners (mainly 60+ year olds). Those that attend are engaged in our parish and looking to stay involved in the parish.

We continue to host our monthly Meet and Greets in the Narthex. We will be at a different Mass times each month. We need more members for our Welcome Committee.

Our new members are interested in family service and “giving back”. I am working with Katie Pruitt, YC, the school and Bill Bright to offer Parish Service Events including the Easter Baskets project in March. I am also working with Laura Ozark to staff the St. Blasé Wednesday Suppers. I will be involved in the Family Fest planning meetings focusing on volunteers.

## OUTREACH

The Outreach Advisory Committee, comprised of 15 parishioners, meets monthly to guide our parish outreach ministry efforts under the direction of the Director of Outreach and the Pastor. St. John of the Cross supports several sharing parishes and ministries, reaching out with financial support, donations of food, clothing and other items and helping to build relationships so as to live in solidarity with all those we serve.

Kolbe House Rep: Marilyn Cahill

SJC provides monthly financial assistance, donations of food and clothing, and Share Christmas gifts

PBMR Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation    Rep: Diane Harken  
SJC provides monthly financial assistance, donations of food, Team Cuisine cooked meals, clothing, diapers, wipes and Share Christmas gifts; SJC sponsors projects such as garden refrigerator and related electrical work

St. Gall            Rep: Cathy Pesch  
SJC provides financial assistance, sponsors the Back to School Program for the community, and Share Christmas gifts

St. Agatha    Rep: Bill Bright  
SJC provides monthly financial assistance, Share Christmas gifts, and donations of clothing

Refugee Resettle Program            Rep: Bill McLaughlin, Kerri DiMonte  
SJC provides financial assistance, an annual zoo trip for refugee children and parents, and supports refugee women through a Loom Sale each year, provide mattress sets for incoming families

Food Pantry Collection            Rep: Susan Mazur  
Nonperishable food items and household products are collected daily in the Narthex and delivered monthly by a team of volunteers to the following local food pantries: Kolbe House, Mary Queen of Heaven, St. Gall, St. Blasé, St. Cletus, and St. Francis Xavier. SJC and YC students also participate in this beautiful ministry of caring for the poor by bringing food to all school masses and to class.

David's Garden            Rep: Kerri DiMonte  
A vegetable garden installed behind the Parish Center produces fresh vegetables that are brought to area food pantries. Volunteers plant, water, and harvest.

Team Cuisine            Rep: Ada Novi, Anna Maria Brotto  
A group of parish volunteers cook 12-15 entrees which are frozen and delivered to PBMR, Kolbe House, and St. Blase.

Turkey-Ham Delivery  
Each Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter 250 donated turkeys or hams are delivered to families in need at SJC and through our sharing Parishes and food pantries.

Share Christmas        Reps: Jeannine Sur and Colleen Murphy

The Share Christmas Program provided gift and food cards over 230 families and individuals at the following parishes and organizations: Blessed Sacrament, St. Agatha Blessed Sacrament, St. Gall and Helping Hand. In addition, over 125 gifts were delivered to the Little Brothers and Sisters and Friends of the Elderly. St. Blase, St. Gall, and St. Agatha received boxes of new toys. Beds Plus received new sheets to be used at their shelters. Diapers and wipes were donated to Caring Network and Precious Blood. Share Christmas also received financial donations that were used to purchase food and gift cards for people requiring assistance in our community.

Future Outreach Goals: Continually evaluate our priorities and encourage new members to join our committee. Rekindle efforts to support the Arch. of Chicago Immigration Reform Program.

## Adult Faith & Spirituality

### Alpha

- January 16-March 25
- 20 adults & 14 team

### RCIA

- SJC: No Candidates Two prospects for fall 2020
- SFX: 1 Candidate
- Collaborative team approach remains unchanged

### Advent Soup for the Soul

- Offered at Noon & 6:00 p.m.
- Avg. 15-20 @ Noon / 8-10 @ 6:00 p.m.

### Lenten Yoga/Meditation

- Tues. March 2 – March 30
- 6:15-7:30 p.m.

### Winter/Spring Book Study

- The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers
- Dates TBD

### Pastoral Care

#### Seasons of Hope Grief Support

- Monday: Jan. 27 – March 9<sup>th</sup>
- 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- 5 part

#### Divorce and Beyond Support

- Thursday: Jan. 16 – March 12
- 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 12 part

#### Nourish for Caregivers

- Monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
- 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

#### LOSS Suicide Support

- Monthly on 2<sup>ns</sup> Thursday
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

#### Domestic Violence Committee

- Advocacy and Education
- Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues (4:00 p.m.)

