

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council

Witness Committee Report

April 6, 2017

Rice Bowl Catholic Relief Services sponsors this program during Lent and has done so for more than 40 years. The program is an effort to help the hungry and those most in need throughout the world. The work of Catholic Relief Services touches communities in 101 countries. Through CRS Rice Bowl the hope is to change lives. Our parishioners are encouraged to take a CRS Rice Bowl home and place it where it can be easily seen. Family members can then place in the bowl money saved from their Lenten sacrifices. Our religious education students are participating in this Lenten CRS program as well. The money collected is given to Catholic Relief Services and supports programs around the world. Twenty five percent of the monetary gifts donated help organizations in our local communities ease hunger and poverty.

Personal Care Item Collection We are collecting personal care items throughout the month of May for donation to our local food pantries. A bulletin announcement speaking to this effort will be placed in mid April.

The next Witness Committee meeting is scheduled for May 4th at noon at St Francis, Interlaken. We will begin a discussion on the school supplies collection.

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish
Parish Council Fellowship Committee Report

April 6, 2017

Advertising for Holy Week: An ad was placed in the Seneca County Shopper. The ad will run in this week's issue, (April 3rd) and in the issue of April 10th. Many thanks to Eileen Heptig as she took over placing the ad in the Ithaca Journal.

Brunch at Holy Cross: Kathy Sinkiewicz will be coordinating a brunch to welcome our "snow birds" back from the warmer climates. She is tentatively looking at Pentecost Sunday, June 4th after the 9:30 Mass. It will be open to everyone. She will be discussing this with Father Bernard.

Through the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Nancy Shumway
Chairperson

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish

Word Committee Report

April 6, 2017

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, YOUTH: The Religious Education teachers met for a year-end meeting on March 29, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to look at the past year and see what worked, and what didn't, and to plan for the year ahead. First, all the teachers were commended for the great job they did at organizing, and starting the Religious Education Program at Mary, Mother of Mercy. We only have a few classes left!

What didn't work: 1. Two locations for religious ed. It is recommended for the 2017-18 year to meet at one location. Class time would be around a 50 minute "hour", slightly less for the Kindergarten-1st grader group. 2. The registration process. Recognizing the difficulties of the new Parish starting a new Religious Ed Program, the registration process still had a lot of problems. The teachers did not really have contact information for a lot of their students unless they got it themselves. We are looking into some software based registration, so the contact info (emails, cell phones) can be distributed to the teachers. This could be done at the parent meeting before the start of the year (or in June).

2017-18 Religious Ed: Registration, it is hoped, will begin BEFORE school lets out, in May or June. It is proposed that a nominal registration fee be collected (20-25 dollars) to help cover supplies, books. Assuming one fee per family, but not clear. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. One of the ideas we would like to pursue is a Summer program (the week of August 7-11?) with five 4 hour teaching sessions. A children's mass to end the program? Then, there would be 10 more sessions to have during the school year, probably once a month. We would like to survey the parents to get their feedback. First Communion students may need a little more. We discussed this summer school option instead of a Vacation Bible School session, which has been moribund for several years, and poorly attended prior to that. We will need to begin planning the registration process, and a night for the parent meeting. Other topics we talked about included an Easter egg hunt (in the past, Life's So Sweet had donated the filled eggs for this, but not sure about this year) and the Parish picnic, proposed for this summer. Not sure if we are participating in the TAC Palm Sunday march this year. Not sure if there is a march with TAC. Finally, I was asked to bring this to PC by the teachers, although it would fall under fellowship. Several of the teachers have thought it might be nice to have a reception, for lack of a better word, for the parishioners with school age children. As we cover several school districts, the parents don't often interact. Summer Mets Bus: will need to explore the economic feasibility of this, but may not have the time to fundraise. (July 20 or August 9 would be the daygames)

The Word Committee itself currently has 4 members from the parish council, but really only two active members. After the new parish council forms in June, will need to see if there are members interested in serving on the Word Committee. We have a youth group that we need to look after, as well as adult catechesis.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL: Confirmation classes are held at St. James the Apostle and are taught by Fr. Bernard and Gerry Frank. Gerry is coordinator for the Confirmation Program. Confirmation for current ninth graders will be May 3 at 7 pm at St. Stephen's church (Part of Our Lady of Peace Parish) in Geneva. Retreats for the second year students have started, first year students are upcoming. Gerry to return for 2017-18?

RCIA: Classes are held Sundays at noon at St. James. Classes are taught by Fr. Bernard. Candidates to receive the Sacraments on the Easter vigil.

ADULT CATECHESIS: Would like to explore the idea of a Summer movie series, 3 movies, one at each church. Religious themed (A Man for All Seasons, Of Gods and Men, The Sound of Music, etc) with a brief introduction. Discussion and dessert after?

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Report to Parish Council
On Behalf of the Worship Committee
April 6, 2017

Lent and Ministers

We are in need of altar servers for all Triduum services. An announcement has been included in the bulletin. We are in need of 12 parishioners who would like to participate in Footwashing (having their feet washed) at the Holy Thursday Liturgy. Preferably, we'll have 4 from each church.

Liturgy Planning Committee

LPC met March 16, 2016 and discussed the following:

Order of palms has been received

Special considerations for the liturgies on Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil

Elections for a chair of LPC will take place at our next meeting on April 26, 2017 @ 6pm. The LPC chair will report to the Worship Committee who in turn reports to the Parish Council.

All are welcome to join the Liturgy Planning Committee

Previously requested Adoration after 9am mass at St. James - is not feasible at the moment

Request for an additional mass on Easter Sunday at St. James has been denied due to priest availability

We discussed several possible dates for the Parish Festival – we are continuing this discussion

Music

The parish choir continues to rehearse for Lent and Triduum services.

All are invited to join the parish choir.

The parish choir will be taking a break and will not rehearse in May, June, and July. We will resume rehearsals in August.

A piano was donated to our parish from the Coretti family in Auburn. The piano was delivered to Holy Cross last week. We have scheduled the piano to be serviced and tuned this Friday at noon.

Worship Committee: Amy Panek, Gerry Frank, Michele Barr, Jessica Portillo, chair