

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council

Witness Committee Report

November 9, 2017

School Supply Collection

Seneca County United Way of Seneca County collected over 1,000 dollars for the 2017 *Fill the Bus* campaign. The monetary donations were given to the school districts proportionate to the number of students.

Tompkins County The 2017 *Day of Caring* on Wednesday, September 13th yielded over 100 boxes of nonperishable food items and they were donated to the United Way of Tompkins County. Personal care items, along with pet and school supplies were also collected for donation.

Winter Coat Collection

Seneca County The winter coat drive at Holy Cross and St Francis started the weekend of September 17th and ended the weekend of October 1st. Volunteers met with 16 families on Saturday, October 7th at the Ovid VFW. A total of 36 children received coats, gloves, mittens and scarves. This number is down from previous years. The above average temperatures this fall might have been a factor. Coats donated by Holy Cross and St. Francis parishioners are shared locally. Children's coats left are taken to the Romulus Central and South Seneca Central school districts. Adult coats left are taken to the South Seneca (Ovid) Food Pantry and the Interlaken Food Pantry for distribution to their clients.

Tompkins County Catholic Charities of Ithaca/Tioga run an annual cold weather clothing drive - *Share the Warmth*. They are in their 25th year of collecting donated coats and winter accessories from the community. This year the campaign kicks off on November 2nd with donations accepted throughout the month at numerous locations. Distribution is in December through the Samaritan Center, free of charge to individuals in need of those items. St. James parishioners can donate new or gently used winter clothing and blankets. A collection bin at St. James will be available and will be accessible until the end of the month. Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers to help with the event and more information regarding the particular needs will be forthcoming. The hat/mitten/scarf tree donations at St. James are also taken to Catholic Charities.

Thanksgiving Food Drive The Witness Committee meets this Thursday. We will talk about an organized food collection for the Ovid and Interlaken pantries in Seneca County, and the Trumansburg food pantry in Tompkins County to assist those families in need this holiday season.

Christmas Project

Seneca County Three days remain for taking applications. Volunteers will be at the Ovid Food Pantry on Monday, November 6th and at the Interlaken Food Pantry on Fridays, November 3rd and November 10th. The angel trees should be up by Thanksgiving at both Holy Cross and St. Francis.

The Christmas distribution will be at the Ovid VFW and is still set for Wednesday, December 13th.

Tompkins County The St. James Women's Guild will again sponsor an Ulysses Christmas Bureau family and the St. James Youth Group will again do all the shopping. Marina Delaney is assisting the youth group in this effort.

We would like to continue with the *Reverse Advent Calendar*. It is a nice family Advent activity and a creative way to give to those in the community. Families collect for the food pantry by adding a food item or personal care item to a basket or box in the house each day of Advent. A bulletin announcement will be submitted.

Seneca County Social Justice Ministry Deacon Gregory Kiley has scheduled this ministry meeting and has invited parish members from Seneca County churches. It will be an opportunity to hear what the Diocese and Catholic Charities are doing and what they are proposing. The meeting will also be an opportunity for parish committees to bring their "ideas, proposals and hopes to Catholic Charities and Diocese as a whole". Deacon Gregory would like these social justice committee meetings to be held monthly. We need to discuss representation and participation.

Fellowship Committee Report

October 30, 2017

by Janice McLaughlin

On October 4th at 3 pm, two committee members and one volunteer met to begin planning a Parish Spring Dinner Dance. We discussed possible dates and times, locations and entertainment. No definitive plans have been made at this point. We are in search of more team members and a Chairperson for the Event.

Father Bernard has placed a weekly notice in the bulletin for more support.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 6th at 6 pm at St. Francis Solanus. The agenda will be to plan a Saturday Night Dinner Dance with a different band and a different location than the past two Parish Dinner Dances. We hope to select a date and a Chairperson.

Fellowship Committee members and other parishioners are in the process of planning and implementing Socials after the masses for the Holy Days of All Saints Day on November 1st and The Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on December 8th.

Fellowship Committee members and other parishioners are also supporting the Ministry Fair with food and beverages following the masses on the weekend of November 4th and 5th. We also hope to sign up more volunteers to assist in Fellowship events.

Next scheduled meeting for the Fellowship Committee is Wednesday, December 6th, 2017 at 6pm at St. Francis Solanus.

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy

Word Committee Report

November 9, 2017

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, YOUTH: The teachers for the Religious Education Program met this past weekend to discuss the year ahead. Tanya Grove, Jennifer Sharp, Michele Tingue, Jeannie Wiggins and Helen Arco will be the teachers. Tanya Grove has graciously volunteered to teach the First Communion year. We are finalizing "catch-up" curriculum and home study lessons for the parents of children who missed the summer program. The new educational sessions will begin Sunday November 19 at 9:30 at ST. James the Apostle.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL: Confirmation classes are ongoing with Gerry Frank and Father Bernard Sunday evenings at ST. James the Apostle

ADULT CATECHESIS: Am not aware of any RCIA candidates. Always open to any suggestions for catechetical opportunities

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee

