

Parish Council Reports ~ Jan. 2019

WITNESS COMMITTEE minutes PARISH OF MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Present: Fr. B. Maloney, B. Butterer, G. Frank, M. Frank, R. Lucas, J. Swanson

Angel Tree 2018

The final report for 2018 was shared with Witness Committee members (see below). It was noted that the religious makeup of the twenty-six (26) volunteers included members of Holy Cross, St. Francis Solanus, Jt. James the Apostle, Ovid Federated, Interlaken Dutch Reformed and Interlaken Baptist churches.

SouperBowl of Caring

Sunday, February 3rd, is Super Bowl Sunday and across this nation it is also the date for the SouperBowl of Caring. This year, all three churches that make up the *Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy* will be participating in this one day event. The idea is to collect donations of non-perishable food items and cash that would go directly to the local food pantries in each of the communities that make up our parish. This year the second year Confirmation students will assist in taking up a collection for monetary donations after Mass has ended at Saint James the Apostle Church as part of their community service project on February 3. Food items may be brought to the churches beginning the January 26/27 and the weekend of February 2/3, but the monetary collections will only be done on February 2/3. All items and monies collected will be going to our local food pantries to help those who have the need.

Backpack Project

This year all three churches that make up the *Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy* will be participating in the Weekend Backpack Program. This program was designed to assist lower income families in providing food for elementary students within our parish which is funded by the community. Food items donated must be single serving size: cereal, canned milk or juice, canned fruit and between February 9/10 and ending February 23/24.

St. Francis Solanus and Holy Cross Churches will be supporting this program for the local school districts (SSCSD & RCSD). There will be money collection jars at both churches. If you wish to write a check, write it to Weekend Backpack Program. You can put the check in our donation jar or mail it to Weekend Backpack Program, PO Box 340, Ovid, NY 14521.

St. James the Apostle Church will be collecting food items and monetary donations for the Trumansburg students.

Personal Care Products

During the month of May, we are asking all parishioners for donations of personal care items for the clients of our local food pantries. While many personal care items are donated to the food pantries throughout the year, during the month of May, additional attention is being paid to these items as being needed on a constant basis; these items are not covered by SNAP / Food Stamps. Personal care products that are needed include soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, toothbrushes, body soap or washes, shaving soap, razors, deodorants, etc. This special collection will be held only during the month of May, ending May 26, 2019.

School Supplies

The dates for the school supply collection or the Fill the Bus Drive on Seneca County have yet to be determined, but usually between July 1 and mid-August. It was discussed and decided

that our participation would coincide with the efforts of the local libraries. During the past three (3) years Seneca County United Way has managed the operation giving each local school district supplies and funds collected in proportion to the individual school's student population with each school district determining how and when to distribute school supplies to students who had need. This past year the libraries sponsored a distribution of supplies for students at the Ovid Fire Department before the school year began much to the gratitude of the parents and students.

Angel Tree and the Winter Coat Collection 2019

The Seneca County Community Christmas Project will resume planning for this year around mid-June with a final distribution date of December 11, 2019. This past year over fifty (50) volunteers of various churches helping from within the region of our parish.

Card Ministry

There are currently sixteen (16) parishioners either homebound or in Nursing Homes or other facilities who receive cards or notes from our parish on a monthly basis from our parishioners.

Other Items taking place within our parish under the Witness Committee include:

- **Suicide Prevention**
- **Crop Walk**, Trumansburg
- **Walk for Food**, Ovid
- **Right to Life**
- **Opioid Crisis**, Catholic Charities, Geneva
- **Diocesan Public Policy Weekend**, Catholic Charities, Tompkins County
 - *Please take a minute to speak out against the abortion expansion bill that will soon be introduced to the NYS legislature. We've been fighting this bill for many years, and there is a real risk that it will be voted on soon. This bill would allow for abortions in the third trimester of pregnancy and for non-doctors to perform abortions. Perpetrators of domestic abuse whose violence leads a pregnant woman to miscarry would no longer be held criminally responsible for the unborn child's death. So this goes well beyond the claims that it is just "codifying Roe v Wade."
 - *We're gearing up for Public Policy weekend, happening next month, so start learning about (or re-learning about) the **Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act**, which would finally give farmworkers equal labor rights—basic things like overtime pay and equivalent workers compensation if hurt on the job. We'll be gathering petition signatures on these issues to nudge our NY State Legislature to vote on this bill during this legislative session.

It was discussed and decided that as a parish we would work and support all Worship Committee activities as a whole parish, remembering that we might live in one community / one county but worship in another. Both counties, all communities have similar needs and concerns what we attempt can to address but possibly not at the same "calendar" time.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2019
11:00 am
Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish Center
St. Francis Solanus Church Annex



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT
for
SENECA COUNTY

2018 Report

Total Number of Households Served:	Interlaken/Lodi	33
	Ovid/Willard/Romulus	60
	Sen. Falls/Fayette/Tyre/Varick	130
	Waterloo/Border City/McDougal	<u>107</u>
		330

Total Number of People Served:	Interlaken	111		
	Ovid	234		
	Seneca Falls	524		
	Waterloo	<u>435</u>		
		1304		
			+ 26 Foster Care Children	
				<u>1330</u>

<u>Type of People</u>	<u>60 & over</u>	<u>Other Adults</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Children</u>
Interlaken	19	38	15	39
Ovid	19	97	28	90
Seneca Falls		199	51	274
Waterloo	<u>11</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>194</u>
	49 +	509 +	149 +	597 =1304 +

26=1330

(Working with the Division of Human Services of Seneca County we provided gifts for 26 Foster Care Children)

Type of Services:	<u>Food Certificates only</u>	<u>Food/Gifts</u>
Interlaken	10	23
Ovid	16	44
Seneca Falls	6	124
Waterloo	<u>15</u>	<u>92</u>
	47 +	283=330

Fellowship Report
Nov. 10, 2018

First of all, we are grateful to God for Father Bernard's recovery and that our prayers are being answered.

Fellowship had not had any meetings this quarter.

Much appreciation to all those who hosted socials for All Saints Day. Thank you Father for the pulled pork. That is one less thing you have to worry about!!!

I also want to thank individuals who attend the socials and make them special. Kudos to the clean uppers and you know who you are!!!!

Eagerly awaiting our next "assignment"!!!!
Janice McLaughlin, chair

Word Committee Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2018 6p

Attending: Tim Davis, Laurenda Denmark, Andy Morpurgo, Chairperson. Also Attending: Father Bernard, Helen Arco, Catechist.

Religious Education:

The committee discussed various options for online delivery of religious education at a grade level. All of the online programs have their positives and negatives.

MyCatholicFaithDelivered.com and CatechismClass.com are examples of pay per student online programs and are grade-specific. Some carry a yearly fee of approximately \$30 and others are perpetual for a particular student.

Various committee members had reviewed a customized plan from Richard Rasmussen, DRE of Immaculate Conception Parish. He had created his own online content that would be completed online and reviewed at a once per month lunch or dinner meeting of all students and parents. Fr. Bernard expressed concern on the theology basis for the program and others were worried that the program did not precisely follow accepted guidelines for content.

There was a variety of opinions related to general goals of an education program and content. Andy had presented the guidelines for K-6 education from the Archdiocese of NY. Some felt that a once a month program would be too streamlined, others felt the individualized 30 lesson model for each grade created too much redundancy and resulted in less focus and retention.

The committee agreed to proceed with the custom program developed by Mr. Rasmussen on a trial basis to determine whether it would be successful for our parish. Compensation for Mr. Rasmussen had not been previously discussed. Fr. Bernard in previous conversations with the pastor of Immaculate had expressed optimism that an agreement could easily be reached. Fr. Bernard will call Immaculate and initiate discussions with our parish finance committee.

RCIA:

Father Bernard stated RCIA meetings have started Wednesdays at 7p. There are currently four people attending including two candidates for initiation.

Addendum:

The Word Committee met in October and approved a web-based religious education program under the guidance of Rich Rasmussen, the DRE at Immaculate Conception Parish.

Meetings are held monthly, usually the first Sunday of the month. Participants are sent a link with an educational session, which they watch and answer questions about online. The parents are also doing this with their children. Once a month, there is a communal meeting where a meal is shared and the lessons are put into action. The feedback I have gotten has been very positive.

Worship Committee meeting 10/11/2018

Present: Fr. Bernard, Gerry Frank, Kathleen Rourke, Barb Willers, Tom Duff

Excused: Jacqueline Leidenfrost, Jessica Portillo

Accepted LPC proposals:

- 1) Scheduling Holy Day of Obligation Masses. Vigil Masses will be held at SFS at 6PM with the Holy Day Masses at 9:00am at SJA and 6:00pm at HC. The bulletin item announcing the All Saints Day vigil Mass (Oct 31) will include a request to be aware of small children engaged in 'trick-or-treat' that evening.
- 2) Daily Mass will be cancelled on days having a parish Funeral Mass.
- 3) Daily Mass will be cancelled when either school district (T'burg or South Seneca) cancels class due to weather.

Reviewed and accepted other items in LPC minutes from 9/19/2018 (attached).

Prayer Books:

- 1) Kathleen to draft guidelines to protect privacy concerns regarding requests; no personally identifiable information (e.g., last name, specific illness – see below)
- 2) Prayer request books are available in all three churches. The previous prayer request boxes will be removed.
- 3) The web-page will list requests for the previous week. Older items will be removed. A notation will be added to the end of the list asking people to continue to pray for those listed in the Prayer Books (exact wording TBD).
- 4) Need volunteer at HC to provide updates to Kathleen; Gerry will follow-up.

Lectors: Praxium will be held in small group sessions in November. Dates/Times TBD.

Cantor: Fr. Bernard is in discussions with a candidate.

Cleaning:

One firm expressed interest in a parish cleaning contract; issue remains open. The parish will seek volunteer(s) to handle small repairs on an 'as-needed' basis. (change lightbulbs, adjust kneelers, etc)

Suggested privacy notices:

Below are eight guidelines used at other churches to consider as a foundation for wording to be added to the prayer books and to the last paragraph on our prayer web page:

1. Everyone is encouraged to call the rectory to request prayer in the Prayers of the Faithful for someone seriously ill.
2. Public mention of a name will occur for two weekends. If prayer is desired after two weekends, one must call the rectory and make the request again.
3. We strongly insist that publicly mentioning a person's name may only be done with the permission of that person. So when you call for public prayer for someone, be prepared to assure the secretary that you have that person's permission to do so.
4. A Book of Prayer Intentions will be in the foyer of the Church and the community is encouraged to record in it the names of the sick.
5. The Book of Prayer Intentions will be carried into each Sunday Mass during the entrance procession as a sign of bringing to the Lord the intentions of those inscribed therein.
6. Each weekend at the Prayers of the Faithful we will intercede for all those written in the Book of Prayer Intentions."
7. Please respect the privacy of others. When asking for prayer for another, use only the first name or initials. We strongly suggest using only the initials if it is a sensitive and personal prayer request. For your protection, we may edit your submission to remove items like surnames and email addresses."
8. When you submit your petition of prayer, it will be posted on our public Prayer Page. Please do not include last names in your petition to preserve privacy.

Worship Committee meeting 12/06/2018

Present: Fr. Bernard, Gerry Frank, Kathleen Rourke, Barb Willers

Excused: Jessica Portillo, Jacqueline Leidenfrost

Prayer Requests:

The following privacy protection notice will be added to the on-line prayer request page, with printed copies for the three prayer request books:

"When you submit your petition of prayer, it will be posted on our public Prayer Page. Please do not include last names in your petition to preserve privacy."

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2019

The diocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs advised the parish of the above referenced opportunity. Options for participation were discussed; two actions were agreed upon:

- 1) bulletin announcements to raise awareness
- 2) prayer cards to encourage participation will be placed at SJA, SFS, HC
https://geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/index.htm

Issues for further discussion:

- 3) cancelling daily Mass when there is a Holy Day vigil Mass that day
- 4) feasibility of cycling cantors among the three churches
- 5) possible addition of a Music Director for the parish
- 6) discuss how long prayer requests should remain on the parish web-site

Tom Duff
01/07/2019