

Fellowship Committee Report by Janice McLaughlin
November 2019

Many volunteers helped with the socials at all 3 churches for the Ministry Fair in October.

This is my last meeting and I want to thank each of you for being caring, supportive leaders of Parish Council. (PC)

I will be turning over the Lifetouch Packets with information on Photo Directories for Parishes. I'm also passing on the "Donations Accepted" poster for socials, if anyone wants to use it.

Some unfinished business includes incorporating the newly signed up folks for fellowship into future planning. The next Holy Day is Monday, Dec 9th, for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, (if Father Bernard wants socials.)

Other topics that were not pursued which were mentioned in previous meetings and included in my PC notes:

- Having an event to thank all volunteers
- Paying a tribute to Charlotte
- Considering a fundraiser for our Parish
- Having Anniversary Celebrations on the dates of the founding for each of the 3 Churches
- Youth Group Formation

There are many other duties listed under Fellowship.

I regret not doing more in those categories.

For the record, I enjoyed each and every moment of all the socials. CARRY ON

Happy Thanksgiving, Janice

Word Committee report for Parish Council meeting Thursday 11/12

RELIGIOUS ED, CHILDREN: Currently, there are 8 families with 13 children enrolled in the Religious Ed Program. As mentioned last month, the children are using the Sadlier We Believe Learning System. There is a group meeting once monthly on the Third Sunday of the month at St James. Feedback is ongoing. Of the 13 children, two are signed up for First Communion in the Spring. There are plans for a Christmas pageant at St James pending release of the Christmas Mass Schedule

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Wednesdays at the Parish Center at St Francis, they have been showing the "Catholicism" Series developed By Bishop Robert Barron. It is an excellent series.

There also have been booklets available at every church written by Bishop Barron, "Letter to a Suffering Church," in response to the sex abuse crisis.

Also, for Advent, there are "The Word Among Us" booklets to help adults with daily reflections during the Advent season. There are short 3 minute reflections on the day's readings from mass. Some days the reflections are from the Gospel, sometimes the Psalm, sometimes the First or Second Reading. The passages are listed so if the reader is unable to attend mass, they can read the readings and then read the reflection. Small donations to defray the cost of the booklets have been suggested.

I am unfortunately unable to attend Thursday's meeting, as I am in San Antonio TX for a conference. I have enjoyed exploring the 18th century Franciscan missions built along the river, but the local temperature is 30 degrees below usual for mid November. Monday, after I have returned, the temperature is supposed to return to the low 70s. Sigh.
Andy Morpurgo, chair

Worship Committee 9/25/2019 Joint meeting with Fellowship Committee

Present: Marc Albanese, Tom Duff, Jackie Leidenfrost
Scott Hamula (F.C.) Janice McLaughlin (F.C.)
Absent: Charlie Mullins

Executive Committee:
Fr. Bernard, Kathleen Rourke, Gerry Frank, Barbara Willers

Ministry Fair:

Held following Masses on the weekend of Oct 26/27

SJA: six people signed up for 1 or more ministries

Fellowship – 3

Lectors – 1

Decorators – 1

Religious ED – 1

Ushers (counter) – 1

HC: five people signed up for 1 or more ministries

Fellowship – 3

Cleaners – 2

Ushers – 1

SFS: no sign-ups

Mass schedules

A parishioner's suggestion to rotate the weekend Mass schedule among the three churches on a yearly basis was presented. After discussion the decision was made to continue the current schedule.

Music ministry at SJA

In order to preserve an environment for prayer and reflection prior to Mass, the Worship committee requests that pre-Mass music practice take place in the Pine Room, or elsewhere.

Discussed:

- schedule for Confession; decided to retain status quo
 - Fridays 6:30 – 7:00pm St Francis Solanus Church
- explanation of the Mass
 - be attentive pamphlets present in the churches

- Adoration on First Fridays after 9:00 am Mass
 - At this time there will not be public adoration
- Weekday Mass (Thursday) at Holy Cross
 - in late Fall until late Spring the Mass will be in the rectory

Worship Committee report: 11/13/2019

Present: Tom Duff, Jackie Leidenfrost

Excused: Marc Albanese, Charlie Mullins

Executive Committee:

Fr. Bernard, Kathleen Rourke, Barbara Willers

Proposed Christmas Mass schedule:

Tuesday December 24th Masses: SJA 4:30 p.m. & HC 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th Mass 9:30 a.m. at SFS (9:00am pending input from music ministry)

Proposed New Year's Day Masses

Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 p.m. SFS

Wednesday, January 1, 9:00 a.m. SJA and HC 10:30 a.m.

(request Ushers track attendance)

There are two proposals regarding the weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday).

1) move time of all Tue-Fri Masses to 8:30AM

2) weekday Masses centrally located at SFS

(Monday Communion Service at 9:00 a.m. at SJA would be unchanged).

Other...

Advent decorations ... Fr. Bernard will touch base with the three groups.

Next meeting...tba

Witness Committee Report

November 2019

1. Sign-ups have been completed for the Seneca County Community Christmas Project which were taken at the Ovid and Interlaken Food Pantries beginning in late September.
2. There were nine (9) individuals taking the applications, of the nine, eight (8) application takers are members of the Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy.

3. On October 26th, there was a Coat Distribution at the Ovid VFW. The distribution included coats, hats, mittens, and scarves for children and adults; applications for the Christmas Project were also taken while the children were being fitted for coats. The coat distribution was open to all Seneca County residents. Eligibility was based both on residency, the individual families needed to be residents of Seneca County and income. Of the sixteen (16) individuals participating, eight (8) were from our parish. A similar distribution was undertaken in the north end of Seneca County on October 5th at Saint Mary's School building in Waterloo.
4. The Angel Trees will be set up at both St. Francis Solanus and Holy Cross Churches before Thanksgiving. The gifts must be returned **no later than Sunday, December 8th**. All presents will be picked up Monday morning, December 9th. The gifts are not to be wrapped in order for the parents need to see what has been given for their children. Distribution for gifts will be Wednesday, December 11th. Volunteers will be sought to help with the distribution of gifts via the Sunday bulletin.

The Seneca County Community Christmas Project is an all-volunteer organization that is privately supported through donations; it receives no funds from the state, county or villages. The concept behind the SCCCP is to help ensure that children, though economically disadvantaged, have an opportunity to enjoy Christmas with gifts to open on Christmas morning.

Families that sign-up also receive a voucher for food items based on the number of members in the family. Here in the south end of Seneca County, the food vouchers are from the Ovid Big M and in the north end of the county will be from Tops Markets. Individuals over sixty (60) may also sign-up for food certificates for Christmas.

Addendum to the Witness Committee Report

Date: November 14, 2019

Mark Bauman of the Trumansburg Rotary Club asked the Parish of Mary Mother of Mercy if his organization could use the St James Rectory porch as a drop off point for winter clothing items to be distributed by the Rotary Club in Tompkins County.

The Witness committee and Father Maloney concurred with the opportunity to assist the Rotary.

Kathleen Rourke contacted Mr. Baumann informing him of our decision and a pickup box is already in place on the rectory porch.

The Rotarians will be responsible for the pickup and distribution of the Winter Clothing Items