

**Mary, Mother of Mercy,
Parish Council Committee Reports for March 12, 2020**

Worship Committee

Worship Committee meeting 1/16/2020

Present: Tom Duff, Jackie Leidenfrost, Charlie Mullins, Fr. Bernard, Kathleen Rourke, Barb Willers, Gerry Frank

Excused: Marc Albanese

1. 2019 Christmas Masses:
 - a. generally well attended
 - b. began discussion regarding the schedule for 2020.
2. Music ministry meeting:
 - a. lightly attended; only one attendee plus Fr. B
 - b. Organist is available to provide music at SFS and parish funerals; has discontinued involvement with Liturgy Planning
 - c. Ronnie F and Mark S will handle planning for Lent and Easter
 - d. Fr. B discussed SJA parishioner concerns with choir members
3. Discussed need for volunteer ministers at Holy Day masses.
 - a. E-mails will be sent two weeks prior asking for volunteers
 - b. Continue practice of asking ministers in attendance to serve
4. Communion for home-bound
 - a. Fr. B has been visiting the home-bound. Volunteer EM are welcome to assist with this ministry. A description will be provided in the bulletin and e-mailed to existing Eucharistic Ministers.
5. Lenten Planning
 - a. Ash Wednesday
 - i. 8:30am Mass at SFS with distribution of ashes
 - ii. 12:15pm distribution of ashes at HC
 - iii. 7:00pm Mass at SJA with distribution of ashes
 - b. Stations of the Cross
 - i. HC - Thursdays at 6pm
 - ii. SJA - Fridays at 3pm with Benediction
 - c. Holy Thursday - 7pm at HC
 - d. Good Friday - 7pm at SJA
 - e. Easter Vigil - 8pm at SFS
 - f. Lenten Day of Penance and Mercy – to be discussed at next meeting
6. Next meeting is scheduled for 7pm Tuesday March 3rd in SJA Pine Room

Worship Committee meeting 3/04/2020 Report

Present: Tom Duff, Jackie Leidenfrost, Charlie Mullins, Fr. Bernard, Kathleen Rourke, Barb Willers, Gerry Frank

Excused: Marc Albanese

1. Diocesan Lenten Day of Penance & Mercy, April 1:
 - a. Confession at SFS April 1st 10am-12n, 2pm-4pm, 6pm-8pm.
 - b. Fr. Bernard offered to hear confessions on a couple of Fridays during Lent either before or after the Stations of the Cross.
Dates and times will be announced.
2. Weekly attendance :
 - a. Kathleen Rourke provided graphs of attendance at the three churches as well as a combined parish graph from January 2018 through January 2020 (attached). Shared with PiP committee.
3. Request for EMs for visits the homebound posted in the bulletin.
4. Music Ministry
 - a. The SJA choir will be led by either an organist or a guitarist on alternating weeks.
 - b. Easter music planning is in process.
5. Triduum schedule planning is being finalized.
6. There was a brief discussion regarding impact of the coronavirus on practices during Mass. We await guidance from the Diocese.

The next Worship committee meeting is scheduled for 7pm Tuesday April 21st at the Parish Center.

People in Pews Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2019 6:15p

Attending: Tom Duff, Susan Guydosh, Nancy McGourty, Andy Morpurgo, Kathleen Rourke, Barbara Willers, Tim Davis (Chairperson).

Discussion:

- Meeting was focused on a communication strategy to reach both active and inactive parishoners. The group felt that because of the different age groups involved, we must communicate by different means – mailings, email, and social media.
- Kathleen provided a chart of parish attendance, surprisingly peaking in the summer months but having a steady overall downward trend for the past two years.

- Susan reported that the amount of registered families in the parish is above 400. We do have addresses, but email contact information is weak and likely not complete. About 70 people have followed the parish facebook page. Susan would have to work with Fr. Bernard to go through the parish database to prepare for any mailing.
- Kathleen outlined a communication plan where we would invite parishoners to Holy Week services, and at that time also solicit email addresses for more regular but free communications from the parish (either the Pastor or parish council members).
- Once we start to gather an electronic means to communicate, we would consider another mailing at the end of summer to encourage parishioner participation and also include a survey on their thoughts about our parish. Tim would think about how to frame the survey and be in charge of collecting and collating the information.

Actions:

- Kathleen to prepare post card design for mailing to registered parish members inviting them to Holy Week services. It was thought the post-card would have to go out around Mar23.
- Tim to investigate whether services for post-card printing, mail merge, and distribution were economical versus brute force method.
- A bulletin insert would be prepared to ask parishoners or attendees to Easter service to provide updated address and email information so we can update the parish database and prepare for more frequent electronic communication.
- Start to frame a parish survey survey that would provide feedback on our parish back to parish council.

Witness Committee

Minutes for meeting on 21 January 2020

Present: M. Frank, R. Lucas, J. Swanson, J. Roach, L.A. Fox, B. Butterer, J. Corcoran, L. Kawczenski, R. Pell, L. Stager, G. Frank, Fr. B. Maloney

Seneca County Community Christmas Project

No food certificates were distributed this year due to a book keeping anomaly. Additional sources for funds for next year are being explored.

Card Ministry

There are currently seventeen (17) individuals who receive cards or notes on a monthly basis from members of this committee. A new volunteer from St. James the Apostle Church has joined the Card Ministry group.

SouperBowl of Caring – February 2, 2020

Donations made at our parish's churches will be taken to the local food pantries as soon as possible after the collection.

Backpack Program – February 9 – March 1

Holy Cross & St. Francis Solanus Churches will conduct a drive for South Seneca School District's Backpack Program through the month of February. Food items donated must be single serving size: cereal, canned milk or juice, canned fruit and pudding cups, microwaveable individual meals and popcorn are some examples.

Romulus and Trumansburg School Districts have an in-house program not requiring community support.

Personal Care Items for Food Pantries – Month of May

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 apparently not covered by SNAP / Food Stamps. Personal care products that are needed include soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body soap or washes, shaving soap, razors, deodorants, etc.

While the donations collected in Seneca County go directly to the local food pantries, the items collected in Trumansburg go the Catholic Charities in Ithaca.

Diocesan Petition Drive

Will take place the weekend of February 8 and 9, 2020. Mark Scibilia-Carver took the completed petitions to the Ithaca Catholic Charities office.

Trumansburg / Tompkins County Outreach

L. Stager indicated that she was interested in the Birthright and Right to Life programs in the St. James and Trumansburg area.

Fellowship Committee

March 12, 2020 Report

Holy Cross Church:

- Celebrated St. Valentine on February 16th after the 10:30 am Mass with a mini brunch.
- They will celebrate St. Patrick Day on March 15th with the same format.

St. James Church

- Continues to hold "coffee hour socials" after the 9:00 am Mass every second Sunday of the month.
- They held a social after Mass this past Sunday, March 8, in honor of St. Patrick Day.

St. Francis Solanus

- On March 14 there will be a St Patrick's Day social after the 5 p.m. Mass.

Word Committee Report

March 12, 2020

The Word Committee met January 23, 2020 at the Parish Center. On the agenda was the educational program we use for catechism. The current system which is home based and uses the Sadlier “We Believe” series of books does not seem to be meeting the needs of the parents of the students enrolled in the program. We have gotten a lot of negative feedback regarding the books and it is hoped a new series will better meet the parent’s needs. Currently we are looking at the “Faith and Life Series” of catechetical books.

First Penance is scheduled for a Friday night in March at St. Francis Solanus and should happen soon. Extra training sessions would be needed for the children to be ready to receive the Sacrament. Initially members of the word committee were volunteering to assist, but another parent with some experience will do the extra training sessions. Likewise, there will need to be extra training sessions for First Holy Communion, which will be on a Sunday during Eastertide. These sessions will also be handled by the parent volunteer.

Discussions were also made regarding things needed to be accomplished for First Holy Communion: banners, etc. The religious ed coordinator Susan Guydosh will spearhead these efforts.

Plans are currently in place for an educational movie for the children on Palm Sunday at St. James after the 9 am mass. Plans are being made for an Easter Egg Hunt after the 9 am mass on Easter Sunday. We are watching for recommendations about the Coronavirus about The Easter Egg Hunt

The parish continues to show the 10 part series produced by Bishop Robert Barron, “Catholicism” at the Parish Center. There were Lenten reflections at all parish churches published by *The Word Among Us*.

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee