

THE COMMENTARY



November, 2015

Advent Issue

HAPPY TO BE BACK!

BY FR. KYLE SCHNIPPEL, PASTOR

So much had to happen in order for the Pastoral Region Plan to be implemented, and then it finally happened! But timing is never good, and then I was gone for my time of sabbatical, so I feel like I need to re-introduce myself to everyone again!

While I have now lived in Cincinnati for 16 years, at heart I am still just a kid from Botkins, Ohio, about 2 hours north of Cincinnati. It was a great small town for my five siblings and I to grow, learn, and be formed into who we are today. (In fact, my four older siblings still live in the area and are now raising their families there. My twin brother is now in central Illinois.) We grew up just a block north of the Catholic Church and it marked a significant portion of who we were as a family, so that by the time I got to college and recognized that God might be calling me to be a priest, it was not a terribly difficult transition. I entered College Seminary formation at 19 as a sophomore in College and continued on straight through from there. My first encounters with Corpus Christi Church were during my time as an intern at St. John the Baptist Church during my third year of Major Seminary (2001-2002). After my ordination in 2004, I taught at Elder High School and served at Our Lady of the Visitation in Mack for two years. After that, I worked as Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for eight years, living at the Cathedral for three years and then moving to Our Lady of Lourdes in Westwood for five. As many of you know, in May, 2014, I was appointed as Administrator of St. John Neumann Parish for a year, taking over as pastor of both Corpus Christi Church and St. John Neumann on July 1 of this year. I cannot express how happy and excited I am to be here!

I am extremely grateful for the work of so many while I was away on sabbatical to allow things to continue to run so smoothly here at Corpus Christi. Of particular note is the work of the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign Executive Committee. The generosity of the parishioners to this campaign is a great blessing not only to the parish, but to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as well. To continue the efforts of the Campaign, we have asked Joe Eppelen to chair a task force to make recommendations as to how the parish rebate money should be spent over the next five years. Again, I am very grateful he has agreed to do so and his leadership, so admirably displayed during the Campaign, will continue to bear fruit here in the parish.

Parish Council met on my first day back in the office, during which time we reviewed the ongoing Five Year Plan (which you can find elsewhere in this communique.) We will certainly continue to work through the remaining elements, especially those that gel with the goals of the Campaign, to bring the plan to a successful conclusion.

One piece that I would like to highlight that falls into a particular area of concern for me is Young Adult Ministry. It was a significant portion of my time away during sabbatical and I am already exploring ways to reach out to this group as we move forward as a parish. Please keep watch on this space for ongoing developments.

Please know of my prayers for you all as I traveled and my joy at coming back to be with you as pastor!

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN – THREE YEARS LATER

JIM ROSENBAUM, PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Three and a half years ago we embarked on our FYP. A series of 23 goals were developed for us to concentrate on. Corpus Christi's staff has directed a lot of time and effort to attaining these goals with help from many parishioners. Following is a look at some of the results and on-going efforts. All of the goals are categorized into one of seven Strategic Initiatives.

1) Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality

- a. We are seeing more young parishioners becoming Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.
- b. We are growing in awareness of the many different cultures in our community
- c. The Fall Evening of Renewal, for the 3rd year in a row, continues to grow in attendance
- d. Our Spiritual Liturgies and welcoming spirit continue to inspire our parish families and guests.

2) Education and Faith Formation

- a. "Make Straight" Adult Religious Education classes were held at CC in 2015 and we have offered to host again in 2016.
- b. With the help of the Stewardship Council we continue to invite new volunteers.
- c. We continually evaluate programs for their effectiveness.
- d. Started the "Our Catholic Faith" series, dealing with many topics of our faith. This series strives to bring the relevance of Faith to our lives.
- e. Ministries have been established for Separated and Divorced Catholics and Grief Support.
- f. A new program called "Formed" by the Augustine Institute will be introduced to the parish in November. This is a resource that all parishioners will be able to access from a home computer or mobile device as well as in groups at the parish. The series is designed to help adults grow in their faith at all levels – how we think, how we pray, how we live.

3) Leadership (Many of the goals in this Strategic Initiative are ongoing and addressed annually).

- a. Define and/or redefine Leadership roles
- b. We created a succession plan to share a pastor with St John Neumann.
- c. We provide resource support and leadership development for staff and lay leaders.

4) Communication

- a. A new Video connection in the Gathering Space provides information to parishioners.

- b. A cable hookup will provide live video stream from the altar so that overflow seating can more fully engage in the liturgy particularly at Christmas and Easter. It is scheduled to be ready for Fr Kyle's Installation Mass on November 22nd at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- c. We have established a Facebook link and are working on Twitter. We are looking for someone who can assist in setting up the Twitter account and demonstrating best uses.

5) **Outreach and Social Justice**

- a. We are always looking for ways to serve our larger community. Recently, improvements were made to the Food Pantry to help better serve the clients.
- b. Feasibility discussions are under way to convert the Parish Center into an Outreach and Education Center.
- c. We are actively identifying the needs of our Hispanic community and making recommendations to meet those needs. We are always open to input from parishioners.

6) **Community**

- a. Establish a task force to explore the possibility of hiring a Development/Technology Director. (Not financially feasible at this time).
- b. Identify all roles and responsibilities associated with a Development/ Technology Department. This goal has been identified as a 2016/2017 initiative.
- c. Determine which staff/volunteers can best fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a Development/Technology Director. This goal has been identified as a 2016/2017 initiative.
- d. A parishioner has been identified and is assuming a leadership role for Social Events. Much more can be done in this area and we continually evaluate other opportunities.

7) **Administration, Finance and Grounds**

- a. A Building and Grounds task force is being implemented and a parishioner has recently agreed to take a leadership role on the task force.
- b. One of their first tasks will be to evaluate the infrastructure of the rectory and identify costs related to the conversion of the rectory to a parish center for staff offices.
- c. Fund raising has changed at CC since the Festival was discontinued. Car Raffles have helped considerably. The \$2,500 Club has also helped. Other fund raisers are scheduled in 2016.

A Five Year Plan is an ongoing, vibrant blueprint that helps to set direction and bring about stability and consistency. It is a living document that provides a window into what CC can look like. We all know that we are blessed with the most talented, devoted and generous parishioners in the Archdiocese. Many of the goals that were set three-and-a-half years ago were already incorporated into the fabric of our community. But we can never rest on our laurels. God calls to continue to work toward the building of the Kingdom and care of His creation. To do this effectively, we need to continually evaluate our efforts and look for ways to improve them.

So, thank you for helping to put the plan together and offering your support for the future of Corpus Christi.

ADVENT SEASON

On Saturday and Sunday, November 28/29, we will begin our Church's celebration of the Advent season. These four weeks prior to Christmas are filled with the hustle and bustle of shopping, parties, etc. In the midst of all this is the Church's invitation to us all to reflect upon the voices of the Old Testament prophets calling us to "prepare the way of the Lord." While Jesus entered into our history some 2000 years ago, we know he will come again. Advent calls us to prepare for his coming, and to have our hearts prepared that we may go out to meet him on that great day.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

- (1) **Tuesday, December 1st**, there will be a Simple Supper at 6:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, followed by Taize Prayer at 7:00 p.m.
- (2) **Tuesday, December 8th** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses are at 8:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist, 12 Noon at St. John Neumann, and 7:00 p.m. at Corpus Christi.
- (3) **Tuesday, December 15th**, all are invited to attend the Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Neumann. It will be preceded by a Simple Supper at 6:00 p.m. in Daniel Hall.
- (4) **Saturday, December 19th**, immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass will be the blessing of the Outdoor Nativity. Come join us for this event.
- (5) Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be as follows:
Christmas Eve: 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Church
Midnight Mass will be celebrated at St. John Neumann Church
Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m., Corpus Christi Church
- (6) New Year's Mass schedule will be as follows:
New Year's Eve: 5:00 p.m., Corpus Christi Church
New Year's Day: 10:00 a.m., St. John Neumann Church



CHILDREN' CHRISTMAS LITURGY
BY PAM McLAUGHLIN

Each year, Children in kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to participate in the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Celebration. Prior to Mass beginning, the children share the wonderful story of the birth of our Savior.

Many young people are needed to help as lectors, servers, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Folks and the Holy Family. It's a wonderful opportunity for your children to help serve the rest of the community as we take time to remember the reason for this joyful Feast Day!

There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, December 12 from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Church. We also ask that the children arrive at 1:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve for the final rehearsal. We have costumes and accessories for all of our participants.

If you have questions, please call Pam McLaughlin at 513-825-0618 or pmclaughlin@corpuschristicommunity.org.



In Our Parish

NEW PARISHIONERS

Ms. Jennifer Amato
Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Gretchen Farwick
Mr. & Mrs. Enrique & Maria Gervacio
and Family
Ms. Terry Hobeika
Mr. Horacio Tello & Mrs. Nallely Gervacio
and Family
Mr. Javier Tello & Mrs. Maria Merlos
and Family

Welcome to Corpus Christi!

† IN MEMORY OF †

Audra S. Fedyk
Gregory Larbes
Betty J. Simmons
Norbert J. Panko
Joan C. Mueller
Jeanne C. Kistner
Martha Moody

Our Sincere Sympathy to Their Families and Friends

WELCOME OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED



Lucas Herman Carpenter
Makenzi Jo Austin
Mason Elisabeth Estes
Nova Rae Schaller
Griffin Nohea George Arnold
Majel Kealoha Raizel Arnold
Dulce Maria Perez
Andres Perez
Perla Itzel Mondragon

QUARTERLY BAPTISM WORKSHOP

BY PAM MCLAUGHLIN

The next scheduled quarterly Baptism Workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Church Gathering Space. If you are planning to have a child baptized prior to Lent, this is the last opportunity to attend a workshop. If you have any questions or need to schedule a Baptism, please call Becky Seibert at 742-1556.



GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

BY JOHN AND DIANA CAMARDO

Losing a loved one is a difficult and confusing time for family and friends of the deceased. The recovery time is different for each individual. The survivors of the deceased talk about their loneliness and wonder if life will ever get back to normal. Recovery is unique for each grieving individual. However this doesn't mean you have to travel this road alone. Corpus Christi, St. John the Baptist and St. John Neumann have formed a Grief Support Group. This support group meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the Chapel at Corpus Christi. The group is facilitated by John and Diana Camardo, parishioners of Corpus Christi, and Mary Ellen Thome, parishioner of St. John the Baptist. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and ends around 8:30 p.m. with an informal gathering of food and drink.

The group provides a safe non-judgmental place where individuals can express how they feel. Feelings of grief cannot be denied and attendance at our grief support meetings may help with your recovery. If you're struggling following the death of a loved one, consider joining our program. If you have questions please contact John or Diana Camardo at 939-2551 or at camardojd1@aol.com.

HONEYBAKED HAMS: Don't wait in the cold long line for your Christmas ham! Pick it up here at the parish. Order forms can be found in the racks in the Gathering Space or



in the Parish Office. All orders are due in the Parish Office by **Wednesday, December 16th** with pick-up on **Wednesday, December 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at Church. For more information or if you have any questions, you may call Amy Fedyk at 674-9802. Thank you for supporting this annual fundraiser!

DEACON LARRY'S WINTER BIBLE STUDY



The winter session of Deacon Larry's Bible Study will take place on **Tuesdays, January 5th through February 2nd, 7:00 p.m.** in Francis Hall (handicapped accessible). We will be exploring the Book of Job. Anyone who has an interest in the Bible is welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring your Bible and invite a friend to join us. All are welcome!!

PLEASE SEND US YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION!

Have you disconnected your land line? Do you only use cell phones? In an effort to keep our parish records up to date, we are asking for your assistance. If you have moved or have a new phone number, cell phone number or email address, please call the Parish Office at 825-0618 or you can email your updates to us at info@corpuschristicommunity.org.

One Faith, One Hope, One Love

By Deacon John Corson



The Archdiocesan Campaign, **One Faith, One Hope, One Love**, was introduced to a small group of parishioners on June 29th and officially concluded with Dedication Weekend on October 17/18. Your participation and generosity brought the campaign to its successful finale.

On July 6th, the following week, the Campaign Executive Committee was formed and specific tasks assigned. The committee members were Joe and Kevin Epplen, Jim and Pat Rosenbaum, Deacon Larry and Debbie Day, Deacon John and Sylvia Corson; and Business Manager, Bill Marshall, and while we were the face of the campaign, you the parishioners of the Corpus Christi were the heart and soul of it.

July 7th saw the CEC being trained for their specific tasks, and we reviewed and finalized the Parish Case, which is the general plan for the utilization of the funds that will be returned to the parish. We were also asked to consider our pledges to the campaign.

As mid-July unfolded we discussed how visits to parishioners would be accomplished, and making specific assignments of them (approximately 200). We continued meeting weekly and reporting pledges received. By the end of July our goal was already 12% complete.

Parishioners continued their generous response and by August 23 when **One Faith, One Hope, One Love** was formally announced to the parish at large, the goal marker was at 56% or \$447,000. The campaign liaison from the archdiocese suggested we consider eliminating 2 weeks from our schedule due to the overall success. The CEC thought that was a great idea. Weekly meetings and visits to members of the parish had the members showing signs of fatigue, but we were now at 69% of the goal.

September arrived and it was time to begin enlisting more volunteers to prepare for two evening phone-a-thons. They were designed to help get to 80% of goal in preparation for “Dedication Weekend”. Thanks to these volunteers and again your generous response we surpassed the goal, and everything on October 17/18, “Dedication Weekend”, was over the top.

As this is being written Corpus Christi has received pledges of \$892,605 from 228 donors. Quoting from Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, Act III, Scene 3, “Thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks” from Fr. Kyle and the Campaign Executive Committee.

**CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
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