Saint Stephen Pastoral Council

Q4 2019 Report

***Council Summary***

* In October, the new Welcome (CHRP 2.0) men’s and women’s ministries were held. A very successful event attended by 24 men and 35 women. The next Men’s Welcome weekend retreat is scheduled for March 28-29; the Women’s April 25-26.
* Parish welcomed our new Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Joanna Jewell. Joanna was born in Chile, a graduate University of South Florida and has ministry background in RCIA, Confirmation, First Communion, Praise and Worship, and Youth Ministry (among others). Before coming to Saint Stephen Joanna was the Youth Minister at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Seffner and has worked in Catholic Education.
* The Parish Data Base update project was completed with approximately a thousand families being move to the inactive rolls and hundreds updates made to active parishioner information.
* 57 new families joined the parish during the quarter

***Ministry Reports***

***Discipleship Ministries***

**Faith Formation Programs – Enrollment / Attendance Summary**

All Faith Formation Programs – 1100 enrolled

* We have approximately 213 children who will be celebrating their First Holy Communion Saturday, May 2 & May 9, 2020.

Edge Middle School (grades 6 & 7) Meet on Monday evenings -165 students enrolled

High School Life Teen (grades 9 – 12) Meet on Sunday evenings - 20-25 attending

8th Grade Confirmation, High School, SSCS Grade 8

* Meet on Wednesday evenings - 174 students enrolled (including 4 adults)
* Retreat – January 25th at Mary Help of Christians

Young Adult Ministry

* Theology on Tap – East Hillsborough 40-60 total from all surrounding areas (20% St. Stephen); Working with Nativity Catholic Church for upcoming 2020 year.
* Bible Study - Tuesday evening (Bill Cardenas – Facilitator)

RCIA & RCIY – 2019-2020

* 18 Candidates (including 7 Catholic Candidate)
* 1 Catechumen

**School**

School enrollment as of start of second semester (Jan 6th): 290

Student Re-enrollment

* Re-enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year begins on Thursday, January 16.
* Approximate cost to educate students at St. Stephen this year is $7,700 per pupil (an approximate 4% increase). We continue to have two tuition rates – active parishioners and full tuition. Financial support from St. Stephen Parish and other parishes that our families attend allow us to offer a discounted “Catholic” rate for families who practice their faith and attend Mass weekly. Proof of parish support is required.
* Tuition for next year will be determined in March based on Mass attendance from August 2019 through March 2020.

Class projections for next school year

* Two third grade classes
* Two second grade classes
* All other grades: one class
* Pre K-4 will become a full-day program

**Upcoming school events**

* **Diocesan Science Fair (STREAM)**. January 23rd. Eleven students from St. Stephen will be participating. Four volunteers from St. Stephen will be participating as judges.
* **St. Stephen Walk - a - Thon**. January 31st. This is an annual St. Stephen Catholic School PTCO (Parent Teacher Community Organization). Fundraising goal is $15,000.
* **Community Day**. January 27th. (9:00 – 11:00 am). The purpose of this event is to invite all interested persons and organizations to engage/learn about the great things happening at our school, and encourage those interested to participate in future events (such as Angels’ Among Us, pledging funds, etc).
* **Pancake Dinner**. February 25th at the FLC. Planning for 400 in attendance.
* **School Raffle**. Begins February 20th, and occurs during Parish events such as Sunday Coffee and Donuts after Mass, Fish Fry and Parish Pancake Dinner. Drawings will begin March 23rd.

**Facilities Update**

* Roof repairs were recently made to the Angel’s Wing during the Thanksgiving break. The sealant that was applied has a 50- year warranty. Cost of the project was approximately $42,000.
* Due to increases in health insurance coverage for the school’s teachers & staff, the replacement of the awning by the playground has been temporarily delayed. The awning project has been quoted at approximately $6,900.

***Family Ministries***

* Catholic Moms sharing- Meet regularly on Sundays from 7-9 and Wednesdays at 9:15. Beginning a study on **Saint John Paul the Great** by Jason Evert.
* Columbiettes- Preparing for the Incredibull games on February 28th at Bloomingdale High school supporting our special needs community. Helped with a number of holiday events at the parish.
* Knights of Columbus- Concluding a very fruitful year at Raymond James which has enable the Knights to donate funds to “Coats for Kids”, operational support of the Knight’s Women’s Center, hurricane relief in Bermuda, and the St Vincent de Paul food pantry. The Knights also hosted the St Nicholas Breakfast in early December.
* Men’s Basketball- Their primary goal is to encourage Catholic fellowship in an active setting. Play every Tuesday night at 7:30 regularly 12-15 guys. Looking for more.
* Men’s Club- Will be doing the cooking for our School Sponsored Pancake dinner on Tuesday February 25th and are gearing up for the Lenten Fish fry beginning on February 28th

***Stewardship and Community Outreach Ministries***

**Outreach**

The Outreach Ministry continues its focus in reaching out to newly registered and existing parishioners to obtain feedback on how the parish is satisfying differing needs. This past quarter, the ministry held one meeting and a social event in the Family Life Center on November 8th. Fifteen families joined Fr. Dermott and the volunteers to learn how they could get more involved in the Parish.

This quarter the Ministry is planning to: 1. Continue calls/texts/e-mails to new and existing parishioners, 2. Engage the attendees on Ash Wednesday as they enter & leave the services, 3. Try some home visits promote the Parish in the greater community. The Ministry is currently comprised of 17 volunteers.

**Respect Life**

The Respect Life Ministry & Knights of Columbus Baby Shower Donation Drive was an wonderful success! The parish provided overwhelming support through the donation of an abundance of baby supplies. Foundations of Life gladly accepts donations all the time! Respect Life, in collaboration with many St. Stephen Ministries, will be actively supporting the USCCB initiative to help all pregnant mothers and parenting families in need.

***Ministries of Mercy***

**HOPE - Justice Ministry:**

We have 14 members this year plus several other parishioners participated in the listening meetings. We submitted a goal of 30 to attend the Nehemiah Action gathering in April 2020 as each ‘member’ is expected to bring 3 more to the Action meeting.

**Meals on Wheels:**

The ministry prepared and delivered 276 meals in October, 171 meals in November, and 230 meals in December for a total of 677 meals.

In December, we participated in Greater Brandon MOW “Shoeboxes for Seniors” program.  During the year, our volunteers donated toiletries, stationery items, activity books, socks, and packaged snacks.  We filled 50 plastic shoeboxes with these items and the boxes were delivered to MOW clients the second week of December.

As a result of the Ministry Fair last fall and a couple of new parishioner referrals from the Church office, Meals of Wheels welcomed 6 new members to the ministry

**Faith Community Nurses:**

Faith Community Nurses continue to provide community services full year results are as follows:

Total Direct Clients Seen 1,135

Total Indirect Contacts 4,122

Total Clients Seen 5,257

Total Referrals 164

Total Hours Served 1,834

Total Value to community (based on rate of $32/hr) $58,840

***Liturgical Ministries***

The focus during this period was on preparations for Advent and Christmas Liturgies. One of the areas of particular attention was identification of Families to light the Advent Wreath Candles at all Masses, and subsequently, placement of the Christ Child in the Creche at all Christmas Masses. With the assistance of the Faith Formation Office, the Parish Family Ministry, and Clergy, we were able to identify families and individuals who’ve been of great service throughout the Parish for this special honor. We’ve continued to leverage the capabilities inherent in the Ministry Scheduler Pro application which has exceeded our expectations for scheduling, communicating with Ministry members, thus allowing Coordinators to focus on improving service and growing our Liturgical Ministries.

* **Altar Servers** - Lead and Senior Altar Server Servers reviewed procedures, identified areas for improvement and refinement and organized themselves for the upcoming Periodic Training Weekend during the Leader Coordination Meeting held on 2 November. These servers planned and executed the sustainment training and indoctrination of newly registered Altar Servers at the Altar Server Weekend occurring on 8 and 9 November. Including those welcomed at this Training, we maintain 103 Altar Servers on our Rolls.
* **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) and Lectors -** In coordination with our Pastor, identified and refined procedures to more effectively serve our parishioners in anticipation of increased attendance expected during the Christmas Liturgies.
* **Sacristans –** Coordinated with Pastor and participated in a comprehensive walk-through of proper procedures for purifying sacred vessels in the Sacristy following Masses. This session served as the catalyst for codifying procedures and standardizing service requirements across the Ministry. Scheduled and conducted training to ensure all Sacristans are working off the same standard.
* **Arts & Environment -** In Coordination with the Pastor, Ministry members prepared for and created beautiful environments, both in the Main Church and The Family Life Center, that truly enhanced our Christmas Liturgy.
* **Hospitality -** Although there still is no single Ministry Coordinator, the Mass Group Leads continue to work together to effectively and consistently provide a welcoming environment to Parishioners and especially those visiting our Parish Home over Advent and Christmas Liturgies. These 5 Mass Group Leads met on several occasions to coordinate and synchronize their efforts across all scheduled Masses.