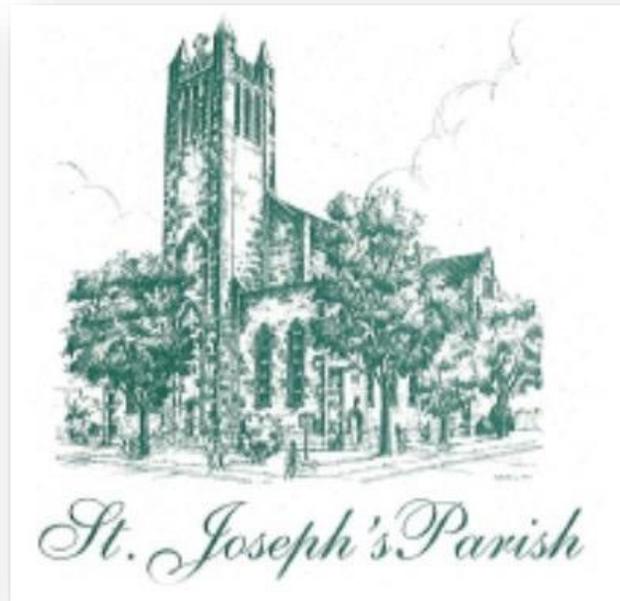


# ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH



## ANNUAL REPORT

June 13, 2021

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\* All reports included in this document were voluntarily submitted by ministries who chose to provide an update on their activities.

## Pastor's Report

Contact: Fr. Jim Bleackley, *OMI*

Once more St Joseph's Parish will gather by means of Zoom in order to hold our Annual General Meeting, but hopefully with the sense that next year we will be able to gather in person enjoying one another's company as we discern the future direction for the parish. It appears that after this third lockdown, there is light at the end of the tunnel, that with more people receiving their second vaccination, the parish will be able to celebrate vibrant liturgies with choir and congregational singing and with the different ministries more actively involved. Services which reflect the creative ways St. Joseph parish response to our baptismal call to witness to Christ's mission in ways that brings transform for us and for the those who come to our door looking for help, dignity and community.

Also, I look forward once again to the positive influences of the many clusters, especially those who during the pandemic were not as active in calling, forming and commissioning people for the different ministries in the parish. During the lockdown, I have asked some members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to extend their term of service until we can re-establish the clusters and the normal process for calling and electing people to the different parish committees. I am very thankful to all those who accepted to extend their term for another year; I appreciate your generosity and commitment.

As the parish entered into the second and third lockdown, the parish leadership team continue to connect with parishioners by means of the internet, and when we were not able to celebrate Eucharist on Sunday, to provide by way of Zoom, a prayerful Liturgy of the Word which included an introduction, music, readings, and reflection. Many thanks to Christopher Adam & Jamie Loback who spend many hours putting these sessions on the website each week. Also, this past year Andrew Pump provided a Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word for families who were not comfortable gathering outside their bubble during the pandemic. This special liturgy helped many young families in the parish stay connected and involved during this difficult time. He has also provided many resources and a Sunday Lectio Divina for Young Adults Group. I'm truly grateful for the time and energy the Leadership Team spent to make these resources available for the parish.

Even though Ontario entered another partial lockdown on Saturday before the Easter Vigil, the parish was still able to celebrate the Triduum, albeit with limited numbers in the church. The protocol we needed to follow changed the ritual which meant using some very creative ideas in our celebrations. Even though the services were simpler, I found them to be very beautiful and

prayerful. Many thanks to the many people who worked behind the scenes to insure we celebrated these sacred moments meaningfully. The highlight for me was to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with our two catechumens and three candidates at the Easter Vigil. Hopefully, when the pandemic is over, we will be able to have a proper parish reception to welcome their presence among us.

As society begins to reopen, the PPC is exploring what we need to do to reconnect with parishioners who have not been physically present for the last fifteen months. We look forward to your ideas and suggestions at the AGM on June 13<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bleackley, *OMI*

## **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**

Contact: Donna Rietschlin, *Chair*

The Mission of the Parish guides the work of the Parish Pastoral Council.

This report is based on life in our parish from Oct 2020 through early June 2021. Because of the ramifications of Covid-19 throughout the past 15 months, many of our parish ministries have been modified significantly. People have learned to reach out to one another in different ways. We have had online liturgies of the Word via Zoom on Sunday mornings. Our meetings have been conducted via Zoom and other platforms. We are most aware that our church is about a community of people and their relationships and actions, prayer, and spiritual life more than about a building. Many of us have longed for Eucharist and in-person celebrations and that has been possible to a limited extent. Fr Jim and our parish team have created opportunities for us to gather safely when provincial Covid-19 regulations allowed. Please join me in thanking all members of the parish team and heads of various ministries and groups within our parish community for their ongoing dedication to our well-being and for holding us together as a body of Christ.

You will notice that there are fewer ministry reports in this annual report than in the past. This reflects the times we are living. I want to take this opportunity to thank the group that ensures our liturgical space is decorated to enhance our Eucharistic celebrations. We were able to gather at Easter and at other times throughout this year and their work helped us celebrate. The music ministry created beautiful and professional videos; these are available on the parish website. Speaking of which, the parish website has a new look. It is much easier to navigate. If you have not had a chance to see it, check it out at <http://www.st-josephs.ca/>.

Thank you to the Health and Wellness Committee that created sessions for us to gather and share both challenges lived, and gifts received during this pandemic. Sincere thanks to Dr Phil Richie, a parishioner, who spoke at these sessions.

Thank you to the members of our parish who created and led our Advent series through the month of December 2020. The variety of presentations and the opportunity to gather and reflect nourished many of us.

Thank you to the people who helped us reflect together on Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis' third encyclical which calls us to embrace one another as sisters and brothers and to work for the common good of all. Special thanks to Eleanor Rabnett and Andrew Pump for hosting and

organizing this.

Some of the ministries at St Joe's receive support from external groups. We gratefully acknowledge the City of Ottawa's Grant for the Women's Centre. The City of Ottawa grant in 2020 to the Women's Centre is called Renewable Community Funding and amounted to \$367,000.

The Parish Pastoral Council began two new initiatives since our last AGM. In December members of the PPC sent Christmas cards to all registered parishioners. And, after opening our meeting with prayer, we intentionally name members of our St Joe's community that we want to thank. Personal thank-you cards are sent each month to some members of our faith community. We are more intentional about recognizing the many contributions many people make to our parish community.

The Parish Pastoral Council also made the decision not to hold elections this year. In these extraordinary times we thought it best for the community if we continued to carry our responsibilities rather than attempting to hold meaningful elections. Graciously members of Council agreed to carry their roles until we can hold elections. We did bid farewell to our former Chair, Brian Ouellette. We are grateful for the many gifts he shared with us and the way he led the Parish Pastoral Council. Thank you, Brian. We will have elections when it is possible to meet in person on a regular basis. In the meantime, please consider if you or some people you know in our parish might be available to offer their gifts to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council in the future.

In recent meetings, the Parish Pastoral Council has reflected upon the future ministries and outreach that will support all of us to live our faith. We are grateful for the work done by the Women's Center and the Supper Table and recognize they are essential elements of our parish. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers of both of those programs. You have adapted throughout the pandemic and continue to make a difference in the lives of many. We have spoken about prison outreach, violence, housing for all and engagement with indigenous peoples.

It is painful to write about our engagement with indigenous peoples. By now everyone is aware of the findings of unmarked burials of over 200 children at the Kamloops residential school run by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. This heartbreaking uncovering is tearing open wounds suffered by the indigenous communities of Canada. The legacy of settler privilege and the harm done to the first peoples of this land demands justice, prayer, reparation, humility, and an apology. This will impact us at St Joe's in a particular way as we are an Oblate parish. Work is

begun by a small committee of parishioners. We will have had a first gathering open to our parish members and others by the time of our June 2021 AGM. At this time, we don't know what shape this work will take, nor its outcome. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council ask that all of us carry this painful situation in our prayers and intentions as we listen deeply to our indigenous sisters and brothers and learn from them. We desire to be part of the healing process and to walk with our indigenous sisters and brothers.

In thanking some publicly, I realize I have missed so many others who have created and supported opportunities within our parish community this year. Please accept my sincere apologies if this has caused hurt to anyone.

Blessings,

Donna Rietschlin, *Chair*

## Finance Committee (Treasurer)

Contact: Robert Sykes, *Treasurer*

### INTRODUCTION

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Once again, I would like to begin by thanking all of the staff at our parish for their patience and continued efforts while we dealt with another year of upheaval caused by COVID disruptions. Both those that continued to work through our closure, and those that graciously stepped aside while we dealt with the social and fiscal complications it presented.

As a parish, we should also recognise the not-insignificant role that the City of Ottawa, the Ottawa Food Bank, and particularly as a result of COVID, the federal government have played in the continued financial health of the parish. Without their support our social programming would look very different.

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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Somewhat surprisingly, despite the effects of COVID we again managed to finish the year with a balanced budget; with a revenue of \$1,455,237.00, and expenses of \$1,274,613.00. However, this year it is worth noting that our \$180,624.00 surplus was primarily the result of an increase in government aid in COVID-related grants. So, while we finished especially strong, this was made possible because of funding we cannot rely on for the future. Overall our parish financial assets are up.

Again, we passed our audit without any major concerns. This year's audit went smoother than last, now that agencies have been getting used to operating under COVID restrictions.

Once again the most notable concern in the audit is the prospective impact that COVID restrictions will play on the future year(s). Last year I spoke of the fundraising subcommittee having their work cut out for them as our financial reality evolves. However, the reality in our near future is that overt fundraising, while necessary, is unlikely to prove sufficient for our nominal parish operations. It is imperative that we recognise that our normal sources of income are significantly down (ex. reductions in fundraising over \$40k, rental income of almost \$50k, parking over \$130k, general collections over \$90k). Parking and rental can probably be expected to rebound, if and as COVID restrictions are lifted. However, with fundraising and general collections also down, and the cost of operating the parish – while in some ways decreased, in others continuing to have consistent hard costs, government grants are what kept us operating these past two years. This is to say, as a parish we need to commit to our continued financial health, whether we can return to our normal Sunday worship soon or not. Of course the Finance

Committee will continue to work with both Father Jim and E.D. Chris Adam as we push past the parish's new normal and look towards our future spiritual and financial sustainability.

## YEAR-TO-COME

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Once again, new PFC appointments for the coming year have not been garnered so as to help to preserve continuity as we continue to hopefully push through the last of our community's willing isolationism.

As with last year, for those concerned about the financial impact COVID has had on the parish; wage subsidies, as well as modestly reduced operational overhead, and special grants to the Women's Centre and Supper Table, have allowed us to remain on budget and then some. While this did not pose the problem last year that we anticipated, for the following year it is unreasonable to expect such good fortune from government coffers. Twenty-twenty saw \$214,040.00 in federal wage subsidies, and \$366,906.00 and city community funding respectively; accounting for 91% of the \$636,478.00 in public funds we received. While the latter amount is on par with what we historically receive from the city – for the Women's Centre – this funding is up for review, with stiffer competition for twenty-twenty-two and beyond. We continue to keep this in mind even as programming and new forms of outreach will be needed as part of our financial commitments in the coming year. Certainly both the Super Table and the Woman's Centre are taking this reality to heart and adapting and looking at growth for both their programs and financial security; our general parish finances are another matter.

Again as mentioned last year, slowing of parish activities (willing or not) does not slow the impact of age. In this regard, Finance Committee's Building Working Group has moved forward on repairs to the front entrance as well as infrastructure in the church proper. Having received estimates and proposals for the first of an expected two to three phases of work on the front entrance, we know that these will not be small, or cheap. Still we have managed to budget for this and can cover it with our reserves as well as our current surplus. Simply relying on our reserves may not be ideal, and in the near future we will need to address the members of the parish on how they can help to ensure we continue to maintain a healthy operating standard. Regarding the aforementioned infrastructure, we are moving forward with a project that many of us will be able to directly appreciate should regular Mass attendance resume this summer. We have working closely with a company to replace the existing, largely non-functional, ceiling fans with quieter, more efficient and powerful new fans. For those that remember the industrial floor fans we have had to use in previous years, you should appreciate how much less intrusive and effective proper air circulation will be. This will help with our comfort in the summer as well as contributing to more efficient heating in the winter. While COVID has in now way been a convenience over the past two years, we are hoping to take advantage of its quieting impact to move forward on these intrusive projects with less disruption than they would normally cause.

Once again I would like to thank our staff and volunteer members on their continuing flexibility in these uncommon times. Here is to hoping we come out of this a stronger community than ever.

## **Executive Director**

Contact: Christopher Adam, *St. Joseph's Parish Executive Director*

Over the past nine months since I last shared a report at our fall AGM, the pandemic has continued to challenge us to live the Parish's mission of being a social justice-oriented inclusive community in new ways. As staff, we are grateful for the graciousness you have shown in continuing to support our Parish, in participating in our community's life to the extent possible and for your patience with us, as we tried, and still try to navigate this period in our history, often learning as we go.

Thanks to your continued support and to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, through which the Parish has received more than \$214,000 in assistance from the federal government in 2020, we were able to retain most members of our staff during this period of uncertainty. In 2021, the Parish has continued to collect these federal wage subsidies each month that we were eligible, receiving over \$65,000 in federal assistance thus far this calendar year, and allowing us to retain our employees.

At the same time, we have had to reconsider some of our expenses and operations. Front office hours have been changed and reduced at different times during the pandemic. Before the initial shut-down of March 2020, our office was staffed Monday through Saturday. We no longer have a Saturday shift and since April 2021, our front office hours have been reduced to a single weekday shift from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This reflects both the changing operational needs caused by the pandemic (ex.: no on-site meetings, very few volunteers and public health restrictions limiting who can be present in the workplace), as well as the financial reality of a Parish that is currently reliant on temporary public funding, as many of our own revenue streams, especially the parking lot, room rentals, fundraising and Sunday offerings have not yet recovered. Kathleen Strader and David Trepanier, our front office employees, have been open and flexible to the many rounds of changes over the past year, and I am thankful for their patience. The same can be said for our bookkeeper, Georgeta Mutu, who has become accustomed to working remotely when this was required and has prepared the many documents needed for our remote audit earlier in the spring. We hope that as the province reopens gradually and as the pandemic begins to recede, the vibrant life we once had in our Parish returns and that as a staff team, we will be able to continue to serve our community.

In the past months, our working relationship with Sacré-Coeur Parish has deepened. In fall 2020, the St. Joe's Maintenance team took responsibility for the maintenance needs of our neighbour Oblate parish. Many thanks to our Maintenance Manager, Nick Cacciato, for overseeing this new

and on-going project.

While we continue to maintain our physical infrastructure, the pandemic has shown us the importance of good digital infrastructure as well. Earlier this year, a malware attack on our website required us to immediately replace the custom designed WordPress template that we have been using for the past six years and rebuild many elements of our site. This reminded us of the importance of cybersecurity, but also that our website and Facebook page serve as the public “face” of our community, even more so at a time when churches have not been able to gather.

In the coming weeks and months, there will be more work to be done on our website’s functionality and design. Certainly, its usage warrants such investment. Since January 2021, we have logged an average of 5,100 views per month to the website. As was to be expected, April – which is when we celebrated Easter – had the most views logged, notably 7,142. Similarly, December 2020 – when we celebrated Advent and Christmas -- attracted more views than average, namely a total of 6,700. Our social media presence, especially Facebook, also draws people to our website. Between June 2020 and June 2021, Facebook has referred internet users to the Parish website 2,863 times. At the same time, ensuring that our website is easy searchable and that it is regularly “crawled” and indexed by Google has meant that the world’s largest search engine has let internet users find content on our website 11,919 times in the past 12 months. As we have a practice of archiving and not deleting content on our site, there is a rich pool of keywords that draws internet users to our web presence. Both our website and our Parish Facebook page are some of the most important tools at our disposal when it comes to reaching out to our own community, but also beyond. The need for good, digital content, and a well-designed digital infrastructure, will continue well past the pandemic. I should note here that all of this also relies on St. Joe’s having technological support for our computers, modems and routers. Bob Sunday, a St. Joe’s parishioner, continues to volunteer his time every week in problem-solving any technological issues and glitches that come up. Our staff team is very thankful for his continued help.

A major part of our online content has been audio-visual material, particularly recorded reflections and music. I am appreciative of the care that Jamie Loback has put into coordinating our music ministry and producing content during the pandemic, and the many contributions of members of this part of our parish community. For instance, even as the pandemic continued, our Organist Tom Fagan has not only continued to perform organ music but has taken the lead in caring for our Casavant organ, so that future generations in our parish will have this valuable instrument too. Some of the music recording videos have resonated not only within our own community, but far beyond. For instance, the recording of “He Is Risen” this past Easter was

viewed 1,103 times, while the choir's virtual performance of "Child of the Poor/What Child Is This?" last Christmas was seen 1,565 times.

Over the past year, as a parish we have become more accustomed to, and comfortable with online gatherings, using Zoom. Andrew Pump has taken the lead on initiating several on-going opportunities for parishioners to gather for prayer and reflection, including Lectio Divina and Children's Liturgy of the Word. As well, an average of 65 households have been joining Sunday Liturgy of the Word via Zoom each week this spring, since the cancellation of in-person weekend liturgies.

As we move forward in the coming months and begin the process of gathering a parish that has not been able to come together fully for more than a year, community learning initiatives may be one way to do some of what has been at the heart of St. Joe's over the decades: reflective, lay-led learning and discussions about our community, our church and broader society. The Advent Learning Series of December 2020 was the first step in making community learning more of an intentional part of our parish programming. Eleanor Rabnett continued with community reflection and learning through the Fratelli Tutti Discussion Group that she facilitated this winter and spring. In several cases, people connected with St. Joe's for the first time through these initiatives.

Both the St. Joe's Supper Table and Women's Centre have continued to operate during the pandemic as essential services. Ryan Mitchell, as well as students working in the Supper Table, and Marsha Wilson and her Women's Centre staff have demonstrated creativity in reimaging our outreach and continuing to offer services to the marginalized.

One of the challenges on the horizon for the Parish will be the renovation of our front entrance at 174 Wilbrod. We have begun consulting with engineering firms. The project will involve the creation of architectural drawings, rebuilding the steps, creating a new ramp for accessibility purposes, some landscaping and new entrance lighting. This will be a significant, multi-phase project, requiring us to work on replenishing the Capital Asset Renewal Reserve. I appreciate the know-how that Robert Sykes, our Treasurer and coordinator of our Building Working Group, has brought to the planning of this project and other work on our physical plant.

Over the past year, I have been grateful for the continued work and engagement of Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee, which moving forward will be known as the Parish Finance Council. Members of both councils have continued to share their knowledge and experience, caring for the Parish in times that have been deeply challenging.

On a somewhat more personal note, the past months have been a time of growth for me too. In

fall 2020, I had the opportunity to complete the Pastoral Care Training Program, a local ecumenical initiative. In February 2021, I was invited to join the Advisory Committee of the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program as this Committee's Roman Catholic representative. I have also been asked to assist with the Program's website. This year, I am completing my second two-year term as a Member of the Board of Directors of Jewish Family Services (JFS). Over the past year, I have been invited twice to give the reflection which opens each meeting. This is both a challenge and an opportunity for me to explore and express the interconnectedness of our Jewish and Catholic Christian faith traditions. Thankfully, there are many great resources that I have been able to draw upon. Something that has also helped is that this spring, I completed a five-month certificate program in liturgy from the Newman Theological College, giving me a new understanding of our liturgical practices.

Working with Fr. Jim has been a wonderful experience for me. With five decades in ministry, Fr. Jim has a special capacity to always remind me of seeing all our work through a pastoral lens.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Adam, *Executive Director*

## **St. Joe's Supper Table**

Contact: Ryan Mitchell, *Manager of Operations*

The past year for the Supper Table has been one of faith, provision, and patience. Last year we completed a close to \$50,000 renovation that allowed us to commercialize our kitchen and food bank services. With private grant contributors and public sources providing essential funds, the small surplus from 2019 became a \$25,000 surplus in 2021. With this backing we were able to start 2021 with amazing stride. This work could not have been done without the countless hours of community meetings, and small partnerships that have developed into strong friendships and still deepening roots.

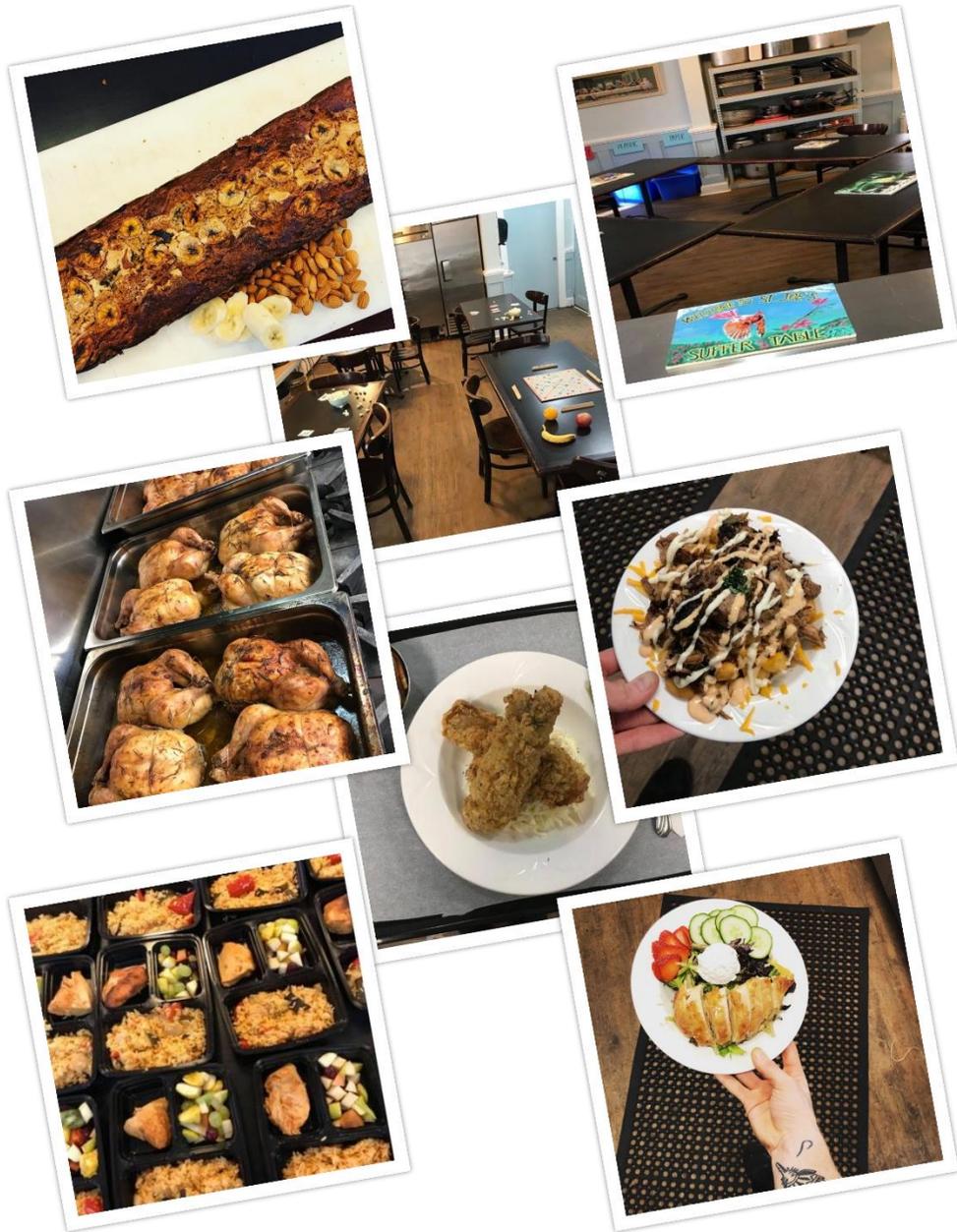
The past year was also a year for change. With our community unable to come together on a large scale, we could not reach out to the 120-person volunteer list, though we were still able to offer a take-away service with small crews, some familiar faces and new ones helping to provide hot meals and food bank to over 450 families in our region of Ottawa. Because of COVID-19 we saw a drastic increase in the use of our food bank, not only at our primary location but at the Strathcona Community Housing, our satellite location as well. With needs changing and potential for growth, we worked closely with the community staff within Ottawa community housing of Strathcona heights and have developed a strong partnership with a large-scale providing partner. This partnership should fund the Supper Table's operations in the Wiggins community for the next five years; a true heavenly provision and sign that God is allowing his fruitful works to continue.

As the seasons changed God was instructing the Supper Table to change as well. With the help of Canada Summer Jobs, we recruited three dedicated students seeking to help better themselves by bettering the community around them. We discussed our operations and how our ability to teach and offer skills to those around us so they can one day succeed with our support, and understood that a new time was beginning in our kitchen. This has led to the creation of our student works program. We are currently employing five students at different times over the next 12 months with the goal of mentoring, supporting, and encouraging our young students to take leadership roles, become beacons of light, and create a true sense of community with our guests.

This pilot project had such success we have hired Hannah Janzen, as our community and sustainability coordinator. She has already created two pilot projects for the Supper Table. One being sustainability in green waste, working closely with the City of Ottawa and local partnerships to improve our gardens and green waste. The second is a balcony garden project with the

intention of providing a balcony garden (tomato, cucumber, and pepper plants) to allow for home grown fresh produce to alleviate financial strain as fresh produce is often expensive to purchase in stores. This will eventually offer the participants proper ways to preserve foods they grow themselves.

There was so much, and almost too much to write about so I'll let the pictures from the past year speak for themselves.





## St. Joe's Women's Centre

Contact: Marsha Wilson, *Director of St. Joe's Women's Centre*

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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**Total Visits:** 14,800

**Total Meals Served:** 11,175

*Thank you to the Ottawa Food Bank for their generous support towards our grocery and meal programs.*



We believe that community collaboration and partnerships are essential to our daily operations and enhance our abilities to provide the best services to the population we serve. Collectively we work together for the greater good of the community. These partnerships, which include direct service delivery and outreach services, enable us to meet our clients' social needs, maximize their potential for development, and enhance community well-being. By embracing these partnerships and valuing their mandates and expertise, we are reducing program service/delivery duplication within the community.

#### **New and Existing Community Partners:**

- ❖ A New Day
- ❖ AIDS Committee of Ottawa
- ❖ Algonquin College
- ❖ Around the Rainbow – Family Services Ottawa
- ❖ Caldwell Family Centre
- ❖ Canadian Association of Music Therapy
- ❖ Centre 454
- ❖ Centre 507

- ❖ Cornerstone Women's Shelter
- ❖ Immigrant Women's Services
- ❖ Kids Up Front
- ❖ Minwaashin Lodge
- ❖ National Art Gallery – Art Therapy Program
- ❖ OMI Lacombe Canada
- ❖ Ottawa Food Bank
- ❖ Ottawa Humane Society
- ❖ Ottawa Network for Education
- ❖ Royal LePage Team Realty
- ❖ Royal Ottawa Hospital
- ❖ Sharing and Caring Exchange
- ❖ Shepherds of Good Hope
- ❖ Shoebox Project for Shelters
- ❖ Sophie's Place
- ❖ St. Joe's Supper Table
- ❖ St. John's Ambulance – Pet Therapy Program
- ❖ St. Joseph's Parish
- ❖ St. Luke's Lunch Club
- ❖ Stepping Stones
- ❖ The Well/La Source
- ❖ Tungasuvvingat Inuit
- ❖ University of Ottawa
- ❖ Youville Centre
- ❖ Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

**And many more.....**

## **CHALLENGES – PANDEMIC UPDATE**

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The Covid -19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the way the Women's Centre operates each day. A maximum of 6 clients can access the Centre for one hour at a time. Food Bank, hygiene products, baby/children's necessities, washrooms, showers, phone calls, supportive counselling and to-go lunch and beverages are offered. These services are being offered under the guidelines of the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health, all while practicing

social distancing and with use of PPE. Clients are offered a variety of PPE upon entrance to the Centre.

As an organization we take pride in working from a Client Centred/Strengths based approach. We do this by adapting our services due to the pandemic, in order to ensure our clients are being best served. This has created an environment where those that are facing inequality, marginalization and/or are hard to reach, feel a sense of comfort access services. The following are more specific measures taking to support those populations:

- ❖ Outreach/Delivery & To-Go Services
- ❖ Staff training on marginalized populations
- ❖ Creating partnership with community resources/agencies/outreach workers
- ❖ Social Media updates
- ❖ Supportive counselling via phone/email
- ❖ Anonymous referrals/basic need support services

## FINANCES

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**2020 City of Ottawa Grant Funding: \$ 363,000**

**Covid 19 Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF): \$30,400**

*We gratefully acknowledge the financial support The City of Ottawa.*



### **2020 Major Financial Contributors:**

**Canadian Women's Foundation: \$25, 000**

**Ottawa Community Foundation: \$6740**

**Upper Room Home Furnishings: \$4000**

*Thank you to all community members and parishioners for your continued support to the Women's Centre through monetary donations.*

## YEAR AHEAD

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In the year ahead our focus will be the re-implementation and adaptation to programs and services, in alliance with the pandemic restrictions. Like many, our hopes are that the restrictions will continue to losses and the Women’s Centre will be back into “our new normal.”

We are looking forward to hosting “socially distanced” health & wellness themed activities; such as yoga, mindfulness walks and art in the park.



## St. Joseph's Young Adult Ministry

Contact: Andrew Pump, *Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry & Faith Formation*

### ACOMPLISHMENTS

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#### **University Mass: 7PM every Sunday from September to April**

- ❖ Prior to COVID lockdown in late Spring of 2020 we had 80-100 students, young adults and visitors each week. The Pastoral Team decided to maintain the University Mass, even with the lack of returning students. Without the possibility of a University Mass Choir, Jamie Loback and Andrea McWilliams returned to provide us with wonderful liturgical music. During the pandemic University Mass attendance fluctuated between 20 and 35 people each week.

#### **Young Adult Leadership Team:**

- ❖ In the Summer of 2020 new students reached out to us letting us know they were coming to Ottawa U in the Fall and looking to get active. In late August we formed a Young Adult Leadership Team consisting of 12 members. While most were university students, we also had a number of new Catholic teachers and young professionals.

#### **Young Adult English Conversation Group:**

- ❖ Of the students still around during the Fall of 2020, a number were international students and immigrants who were interested in meeting to practice their English. Although there were on-and-off prohibitions around indoor gatherings throughout this time, we managed to keep this ministry going for the whole year. In the middle of the Winter 2021 semester, we switched to half English and half French. At the end of the school year, we had around 6 regular attendees. We meet every week before the University Mass.

#### **Trained Regular Ministers to serve at our University Mass:**

- ❖ We moved away from a weekly sign-up sheet system for liturgical ministers (lectors, eucharistic ministers, greeters, etc.) and instead trained those interested in those positions from the Young Adult Leadership Team. This helped the mass run more smoothly and improved the overall quality of the liturgy. Every week in the Young Adult Ministry email I included a call to join us in serving at the University Mass for those who would like to get involved but who maybe weren't present at the beginning of the semester.

**St. Joseph's Young Adult Ministry Health and Nutrition Program:**

- ❖ Before the COVID lockdown we had started a new Vegetarian Cooking Program on Saturday Afternoons where we used the Supper Table Kitchen to cook a huge vegetarian dish. We made enough to provide food to everyone in a reception after the University Mass each week, and also enough for the Supper Tables Monday dinner. This will start again in September. Another part of this program was a small swimming group that tried to meet twice a week at the University of Ottawa's Sports and Recreation Open Swim.

**Chaplaincy at the University of Ottawa:**

- ❖ The Coordinator responsible for Young Adult Ministry also joins the Multifaith Chaplaincy Team at the University of Ottawa to hold regular chaplaincy hours at the school. Andrew did this each week up to the school's COVID shutdown. The Chaplaincy Team has already meet and continues to meet over the Summer to plan the reopening of our Chaplaincy Services at the University. Part of the Chaplaincy position involves coordinating and attending events and panels at the school with the other Chaplains.

**St. Joseph's Parish Young Adult Ministry Teacher Gatherings:**

- ❖ Our Spring 2020 Teacher Gathering happened right before the Lockdown and we had a good turnout of 15 young teachers and student-teachers. We were not able to gather in the Fall of 2020 or the Spring of 2021. However, on top of all the young teachers and student teachers in our community, we also had new teachers reach out to us wanting to get involved. In the Fall of 2020, we had them record Children's Reflections to supplement the online material that we were putting out for use at home.

**Young Adult Weekly Writing Café:**

- ❖ Since Kathleen, one of our Front Office staff was using the library each week to write her thesis, we decided to invite any students who needed time and structure to join us and get some work done. This was a weekly occurring event until the Spring 2020 lockdown, and we will start again when we are able.

## CHALLENGES

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**Young Adult Small Group Faith Sharing:**

- ❖ We had started a small faith sharing group after the University Mass in the beginning of September 2020; but either due to the small amount of returning students or concerns over gathering in general, there were small turnouts. In October we had the first of many

recurring restrictions around indoor gatherings which spelled the end of the group. As part of our post-COVID plans, we will explore what types of Faith Formation Groups and Models would fit our community best.

**Keeping our Young Adult Community Engaged and Involved:**

- ❖ A major setback due to the COVID restrictions was keeping the newly formed Young Adult Leadership Team engaged. Since there were no gatherings or possibilities of events, they were only able to help with the University Mass. The teachers in the group helped me with Children's initiatives during the year.

## FINANCES

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Private donations from special benefactors cover most costs associated with our Young Adult Ministry. Most costs stem from purchasing beverages and snacks for events.

## YEAR AHEAD

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One thing that has been a blessing has been the amazing young Catholic Teachers who have really stepped up to the plate. In late January we started a Virtual Children's Liturgy of the Word over Zoom each week; and during the gathering a team or pair of our teachers provides a reflection activity in place of the homily.

We have continued our University Mass up to the new Spring 2021 Lockdown and will return in September. At that time, we will have our Young Adult Leadership Team on hand, with new and returning members, to relaunch our past activities and events as well as explore new ones. These include the University Mass of course, our Language Conversation Group, our Saturday Vegetarian Cooking for the Supper Table, weekly Writing Café, and either an Advent and Lent Faith-Sharing Program or a weekly faith sharing group.

## Faith Formation

Contact: Andrew Pump, *Coordinator of Young Adult & Faith Formation*

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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7 children celebrated **Confirmation** on January 19, 2020.

7 children privately celebrated **First Communion** with their families in 2020

- ❖ We had just finished our First Communion Course before the Spring 2020 Lockdown. As the children were ready to receive eucharist, over the Summer and Fall we went ahead and celebrated with the families at our small weekday noon Masses.
- ❖ Every week during their preparation the children paired-up with a Eucharistic Minister to shadow during Communion.
- ❖ Parents also finished their course that ran parallel to the children's class. It was the first time running a newly designed course for the Parents and the response was overwhelmingly positive! For that course I had a different older visiting parent start by sharing their experience on a given topic for the week, we would then move into a discussion centering around a small book titled "10 Things Pope Francis wants you to Know about the Family".

There was no **First Reconciliation** Retreat for the First Communion Children this year due to the pandemic. The parents of those who received First Communion will come for reconciliation as a family when they are done their preparation at home.

RCIA:

- ❖ Our head RCIA minister, Michele Babin, stepped down after 10 years of service to the ministry and we celebrated her work alongside an initiation in the Fall of 2020.
- ❖ We had three RCIA Candidates who were to be welcomed into the Church at our 2020 Easter Vigil that was cancelled. One was received in the Fall during a special Sunday Mass at our Church, one moved to a different Catholic Church, and the other joined our new RCIA batch.
- ❖ After Pentecost we started forming a new group of seekers for RCIA and over the remainder of 2020 added two more, bringing the total of our catechumens and candidates to 5.

We had three **Adult Confirmation** Candidates who were meant to celebrate at the Cathedral on

Pentecost in 2020. Although their preparation is complete and they can be received, due to the pandemic they decided to get married secularly and hence no longer feel the need to finish their Catholic initiation.

## CHALLENGES

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In accordance with the Archdiocese protocols around COVID 19 and the provincial recommendations, all Children's Sacramental Preparation Programs were cancelled this year. That means that there was no Fall 2020 Confirmation Course, and no Winter 2021 First Communion Family Program. There was also no 2020 or 2021 First Reconciliation Retreat. As mentioned above, the families that finished our 2020 First Communion Course celebrated privately at a weekday noon mass of their choosing.

During the Summer of 2020 we tried a new RCIA program entitled "Journey of Faith" with two new people seeking baptism. In the Fall we decided to continue with the Journey of Faith material and brought in our other three candidates to join us. This constituted a move towards a structured program, and although the Journey of Faith material was used as a reference occasionally in the past, there was not a scheduled use of a program like we have now. We now have a full year course that corresponds to the unfolding of the liturgical seasons and the RCIA's movement within those seasons. The response to the new course has been overwhelming positive.

## FINANCES

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Registration fees help offset the costs of books, supplies and gifts. We may need to increase the course fees and start charging a fee for Adult Initiation Programs like RCIA and Adult Confirmation. As for now we use an honor system and tell our seekers to put some extra in the collection to cover the cost of their package.

## YEAR AHEAD

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There was no First Communion Family Course this Winter, but depending on the state of the

pandemic, we will plan for Confirmation class this Fall/Winter.

The RCIA program moved into the new year and we welcomed all 5 of our seekers at the Easter Vigil. Throughout the season of Lent, we journeyed with the parish community by sharing with our parishioners interviews and recordings of our team and their experience of the RCIA. We continued after Easter and completed an entire Mystagogy program with our new members. Already we have another 5 seekers starting with us in early June 2021.

## **Marriage Preparation**

Contact: Andrew Pump, *Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry & Faith Formation*

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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St. Joseph's Marriage Preparation involves three components: A workbook that the couple completes at home, an in-person course that is structured like a weekend retreat, and the FOCUS online inventory which one of our trained facilitators reviews with the couple after it is completed.

Spring 2020 Marriage Preparation Course had 4 couples who completed an online program with us over the Summer since the in-person weekend retreat was not possible. Many of the other couples rescheduled their weddings in light of the pandemic.

Fall 2020 Marriage Preparation Course continued online and had 13 couples.

6 parish couples volunteer as "facilitator couples" during the Marriage Preparation Weekend Course and each couple presents on a topic. All these lead couples helped with the online course.

5 FOCCUS Facilitators work with couples on their FOCCUS Inventories.

### **CHALLENGES**

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Due to the pandemic many couples rescheduled their weddings to latter dates, however we still have four couples that needed to complete their marriage preparation. We did a modified course online over Zoom with the help of our facilitator couples. A number of lead couples had stepped down and finding new facilitator couples was always a challenge in the past. Fortunately, we were able to find people to fill in for these topics.

### **FINANCES**

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Registration fees helped offset cost of supplies.

## YEAR AHEAD (2021 SO FAR)

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Spring 2021 Marriage Preparation Weekend continued over Zoom with 18 couples.

Found new and enthusiastic facilitators to help our ministry moving forward.

## Small Group Faith Sharing

Contact: Joy Heft

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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**LENT 2020**, Nine persons had signed up for the sessions and met on only two occasions before the advent of the pandemic. Thereafter, the resource was sent out weekly to this group who were invited to post further reflections by email if they felt inclined. I normally did post, and occasionally others sent in comments as well. During **ADVENT 2020** we held the sessions on ZOOM with perfect attendance by a total of eleven participants each week. Unfortunately, attendance had to be limited since by definition it is meant to be a small group as we normally share very personally. The criteria for inviting people were that they had participated with consistent attendance in the sessions of at least two seasons within the previous five years. Fourteen people were initially invited. The same group was invited to participate in the **LENTEN 2021** sessions with consistent weekly attendance by nine or ten persons. At the conclusion of the season, one participant wrote "For those of us involved it is a special time to share and deepen our faith. It is grace filled and spirit filled as we reflect together on the presence of God in our lives."

### CHALLENGES

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While we were not able to meet for Lent 2020, switching to ZOOM sessions seemed to facilitate regular attendance once the ZOOM glitches were overcome. Thanks to Andrew Pump and Chris Adam who facilitated the use of the parish ZOOM account for this purpose. After a few sessions it became apparent what worked or did not work well on ZOOM. We reduced the duration of the sessions, so the facilitator decided what or what not to include each week and we experimented with the duration of the sessions. Initially during Advent we met for one hour but increased that during Lent 2021 to closer to 1.5 hrs. allowing time to meet and greet as well as deal with practical matters and to end by 9:00 p.m.

### FINANCES

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There was no cost to the parish on this occasion. A personal donation was sent to the Congregation of the Resurrection for access to their resource and participants printed their own material for use during the sessions.

## YEAR AHEAD

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It is to be expected that if restrictions continue, we will continue to meet on ZOOM. The bonus of that is that it is easier for some participants to participate by means of this method whereas meeting at the church in the evening, especially given inclement weather during some seasons, is sometimes a challenge. For those who continue to participate the seasonal opportunity to reflect and nourish our faith by this means as well as build community is a valued experience.

## **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Contact: Andrew Pump, *Coordinator of Young Adult & Faith Formation*

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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According to last years report completed by Toni Tarasco-Myers, our previous Children's Liturgy Coordinator, we saw before COVID an increase in the number of children and families attending the 9:30 mass. COVID has shut-down all children's programs, but in the Fall of 2020 we included in our electronic liturgical resources a reflection for children and families done by one of our Catholic School Teachers every week.

### **CHALLENGES**

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Our past coordinator mentioned that finding reliable volunteers was a continuing issue. We are also still looking for a replacement coordinator. Moving forward and reopening might mean moving toward a new model and new leaders.

### **YEAR AHEAD**

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In January 2021 we started up a Virtual Children's Liturgy of the Word over Zoom. Meaghan Wheeler and John Cuddihy started a weekly Zoom Gathering last year during the Spring Lockdown that was well loved but ended in the mid-Summer. Inspired by their work, we attempted to recreate that gathering with the material that we prepared each week. Instead of the usual reflection, we had our Catholic Teachers coordinated to provide interactive reflection activities for the children and families each week while each week a different family would lead us in the liturgy.

We will look to reopen for the fall; throughout the summer Andrew will reach out to consult with each of our families about what they would like to see in our Children's Liturgy.

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

Contact: Angela McCanny, [angela.mccanny6@gmail.com](mailto:angela.mccanny6@gmail.com), (613) 567-1552

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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One of the joys of serving as a Eucharistic Minister is that it is very personal ministry. We look into another's eyes, hold each other in communion as the Body of Christ, and share bread and wine.

During the COVID pandemic, however, the closeness of serving another in this personal way has meant that each Eucharistic Minister has needed to discern their own comfort regarding returning to Mass and serving the Eucharist.

For each of the three weekend liturgies, a dedicated team of Eucharistic Ministers has returned to active service with 4 active Eucharistic Ministers for the 5:00 pm Mass, 2 for the 9:30 am Mass and 5 for the 11:30 am Mass. More will be added to the schedule as Eucharistic Ministers feel comfortable in returning to weekend Masses.

Due to reduced capacity in the church and the desire to keep everyone safe, new protocols for the distribution of the Eucharistic were created by the parish staff, with modifications during the early weeks, in response to input from the Eucharistic Ministers. At present, only one Eucharistic Minister is required to distribute the bread for each of the celebrations.

### **YEAR AHEAD**

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New Eucharistic Ministers are always welcome and needed. Training will be provided for the current COVID protocols and the new practices for serving when restrictions loosen.

## Music Ministry

Contact: Jamie Loback, *Music Director*

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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2020-2021 has been a challenging, yet creative year for the Music Ministry at St. Joseph's. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Music Ministry had to adapt to circumstances that do not permit congregational singing nor the ability to regularly gather for rehearsals in person at the church. The Ministry has served the parish community in several different ways during this period:

1. Weekend Mass: From June to December 2020, St. Joseph's was permitted to reopen for weekend masses at 30% capacity. A cantor, pianist, organist, and additional instrumentalists provided music during the mass in the following parts of the liturgy:
  - ❖ Prelude (organist)
  - ❖ Responsorial Psalm (cantor/pianist)
  - ❖ Gospel Acclamation (cantor/pianist)
  - ❖ Preparation of the Gifts (instrumentalist or cantor/pianist)
  - ❖ Communion Procession (cantor/instrumentalist/pianist)
  - ❖ Postlude (organist)

The Entrance Hymn and Recessional Hymn were omitted as the congregation is not permitted to sing. The Penitential Rite, Gloria, and Eucharistic Acclamations were all spoken by the assembly in order uphold the principle of full, conscious, and active participation to the best extent possible. Liam Kennedy-MacDonald served as cantor at the Saturday 5pm and Sunday 9:30am and 11:30am Masses. Andrea MacWilliams served as cantor at the Sunday evening University Mass. Tom Fagan performed preludes and postludes on the parish's Casavant Pipe Organ. Additional instrumentalists were included in the weekend masses up until December 2020. These instrumentalists are also choristers in the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir which rehearses at St. Joseph's. Catherine Mennill performed arrangements of hymns on Cello and Sarah Driediger played violin. The addition of these instrumentalists enhanced the celebrations.

2. Weekly organ recordings: Each week, Tom Fagan, recorded a prelude and a postlude which were posted to YouTube and were incorporated in the Liturgical Resources for those parishioners celebrating at home.

3. Hybrid Rehearsals: During October and November 2020, the choirs began rehearsing in a hybrid format. Approximately 12 choristers would assemble in the church (masked and practicing physical distancing) while other members would join the rehearsal on Zoom and sing from home. The focus of these rehearsals was to sing through new liturgical repertoire that will be integrated into the Mass post-pandemic.
4. Advent 2020: The song “Holy is His Name” is an important part of the parish’s musical tradition and is typically sung on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This year, Kathy Crowe and members of the Music Ministry recorded the song and released it on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2YnkwicXkw> (Liam Kennedy-MacDonald produced the recording. Kathy Crowe also performed the song during the in-person masses on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.)

5. Service of Lessons and Carols: Since concert performances are prohibited during the pandemic, the Music Director organized a service of nine lessons and carols featuring a small choir from the loft on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The collection of the service was donated to St. Joe’s Supper Table. This is a service that could become a tradition in the parish.
6. Christmas 2020: The Music Ministry provided a small, physically distanced/masked choir for the 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve as well as at the Mass on Christmas Day. The choir sang from the organ loft and included students from the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir. Before the Christmas Eve 5pm mass, the Music Ministry sang traditional carols in the parking lot as the congregation arrived. Some members were unable to sing indoors due to personal considerations pertaining to the pandemic. This outdoor caroling provided an opportunity for them to be connected on this important evening. Members of the Capital Chamber Choir (an ensemble that also rehearses at St. Joseph’s), sang from the loft at the 7pm Christmas Eve Mass and Andrea MacWilliams served as cantor at the 9pm Mass. The song “Child of the Poor” is traditionally sung on Christmas Eve at St. Joseph’s. To reach our parishioners unable to attend in person liturgies, the Music Ministry created a virtual choir recording of this piece, featuring as soloists Liam Kennedy-MacDonald, Daniela Gunn-Doerge, Andrea MacWilliams, and instrumentalists Jim McIntyre (guitar), Heather MacDonald (oboe), and Nollaig Walsh (violin), and Jamie Loback (piano). Orange Crow Productions, under the leadership of Liam Kennedy-MacDonald, produced the recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK27ayWWq0U>

7. Liturgy of the Word on Zoom: The second lock-down of the pandemic took place in January and February 2021. During this time, the Music Ministry began meeting for a Sunday morning Liturgy of the Word on Zoom as a test run before becoming a wider event for the community. By mid-January, the Zoom Liturgy of the Word was offered to the parish community and visitors. This online service has provided a much-needed outlet for parishioners to connect socially and spiritually. The Zoom Liturgy of the Word has become an important offering in the extended third wave lockdown which began in early April 2021 and is likely to remain in place until mid July 2021.
  
8. Lent/Easter 2021: Between the second and third lockdowns of the pandemic, the church was permitted to return to in person weekend masses. Because of the restrictions on congregational singing, a cantor sang the parts listed in point #1 of this report. The Music Ministry provided a small choir in the loft on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Andrea MacWilliams served as cantor at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. Liam Kennedy-MacDonald, Allison Kennedy, and Andrea MacWilliams served as cantors at the Easter Vigil, accompanied by Tom Fagan on the organ and Jamie Loback on the piano. The wider Music Ministry created a series of virtual choir recordings for Lent/Easter:

- Ashes – Tom Conry (Ash Wednesday)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3FJIUUjoQ4>

- Jesus, Remember Me – Taizé Community (Passion Sunday)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiofsmmsVtk>

- Ubi Caritas – Taizé Community (Holy Thursday)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DqAw41eeRE&t=4s>

- Behold the Wood – Dan Schutte (Good Friday)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCe0IGnvbtE>

- He is Risen – Eugene Englert (Holy Saturday)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pynS8df9B1A>

- Jesus Christ is Risen Today (Easter Sunday)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AC7oquGrZbU>

- Veni Sancte Spiritus – Taizé Community (Pentecost Sunday)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CF7kD2HvSKk>

These recordings were produced with the technical expertise of Orange Crow Productions, an audio-visual firm consisting of Liam Kennedy-MacDonald, Eileen Kennedy-MacDonald, and Aiden Downie-Cheetham. Cantors Andrea MacWilliams and Liam Kennedy-MacDonald created the various vocal tracks that were then sent to choir members & instrumentalists to record their parts at home.

9. Instrument Maintenance and Upgrades: During the third lockdown in Spring 2021, maintenance on the parish's grand piano took place. The hammers and felts on the instrument need to be replaced with new components. This maintenance project cost \$3000 and was funded jointly by the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir and the Capital Chamber Choir. At the beginning of the third lockdown the Casavant pipe organ was upgraded with a new mixture stop which will enhance the instrument's capacity to support congregational singing. A total of 150 new pipes were added to the instrument. This sizeable project of \$7000 is funded by an anonymous donor.

## CHALLENGES

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Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on choral and congregational singing.

Rebuilding and expanding membership post-pandemic.

## FINANCES

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The Music Ministry will be undergoing a sizeable renewal and restructuring post-pandemic. This will require more funding for new music for integration into the liturgical life of the parish, funding for additional instrumentalists (primarily music students), as well as a scholarship program for students to sing in the choir and learn about liturgical music ministry.

## YEAR AHEAD

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With the ongoing pandemic, it is difficult to predict what will or will not be possible in 2021-2022; however; with vaccination rates on the rise it is likely that the parish will be able to resume in

person masses in the summer and that there will be more opportunities for the Music Ministry to provide cantors and choirs at various masses safely. As the pandemic moves into its later stages, it will be important for the Music Ministry to present high-quality material in liturgy as this will assist in drawing in new parishioners from the wider community.



Hybrid Rehearsal, November 2021

## Reflection Ministry

Contact: Eleanor Rabnett, [rabnete@gmail.com](mailto:rabnete@gmail.com)

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Because of the ongoing COVID Pandemic this past year has been difficult for all parish ministries and the Reflection Ministry has been challenged in its own ways. While we continue to proceed with the Reflections each weekend participation has been cut in half because of the effect of COVID-19. And yet we are still able to meet the demands that are a part of the ministry of “breaking open the Word”.

In spite the challenges presented to us many have stepped forward to return to church Sunday evenings to share their reflection with those who are a part of the University Mass. This is a specific inclusion of those who attend this liturgy of the Eucharist as living members of St. Joe’s parish.

One of the specific challenges that has arisen in the past year is that of people being comfortable videoing their Reflection (whether that be done from their home or by coming to the parish office to be videoed). Even during the times that we were able to come together as community in person for the Saturday night and Sunday liturgies we continued to video our reflections so that they would be available to those who were not comfortable returning to the Church in person. It is hoped that we will be able to continue this once the pandemic is under control so that all who are unable to get to church on a given weekend may be able to be present with us in a new and different way.

A special note of thanks must be given to Chris Adam and Jamie Loback for working with us to ensure that we are able to continue in this vital ministry that is so much a part of our liturgical celebrations at St. Joe’s. And we give thanks to all who have been able to continue to share with us despite the challenges that are offered during these challenging times.

## Development & Peace (Caritas Canada)

Contact: Joan O'Connell, [joanoco@rogers.com](mailto:joanoco@rogers.com), (613) 296-9287

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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**Solidarity Sunday 2020** (March 28-29, 2020) – A member of the parish Development and Peace committee prepared the Sunday liturgy Reflection planned for all week-end masses. As well, a Way of the Cross through the lens of the crisis in the Amazon was planned and advertised to take place after the 11:30 mass the same day. But because of the province-wide shutdown due to Covid-19, worship services and all in-church activities were cancelled, including the Way of the Cross and the Share Lent collection in the church. Nonetheless, the Solidarity Sunday Reflection was recorded on YouTube and was included with the package of liturgy materials sent out to parishioners for use at home that week-end.

**Special Collection** (Recovering Together) - Due to the cancellation of worship services in March 2020 for the entire country, the national Share Lent collection was in effect cancelled, although Development and Peace nationally had pivoted to run a virtual Share Lent campaign leading up to Solidarity Sunday to replace the usual slate of in-person activities. The lack of in-church collections across Canada on Solidarity Sunday had a devastating effect on D&P revenues necessitating temporary layoffs of D&P staff, early retirements and reduced hours for remaining staff. The shortfall in revenues was approximately \$3 million. To help this shortfall, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops authorized a special collection to take place in the month of November and was part of Development and Peace's Recovering Together education and fundraising campaign. This was promoted in the parish and took place on November 15 and 16 – the World Day of the Poor. Because so many parishioners had yet to return to in-church services, it was anticipated that this would affect both envelope and cash donations to Development and Peace at St. Joe's. To help mitigate this, a Development and Peace option was added to the drop-down menu on the St. Joe's Canada Helps page. As well, information on how to donate directly to Development and Peace was included in the weekly parish updates leading up to the November 15-16 week-end. A personal testimonial from a St. Joe's Development and Peace member was also included with the weekly parish update sent out via email. Proceeds from this special collection along with other donations that were received throughout the year, amounted to \$2310, not counting donations made directly to Development and Peace. This is slightly higher than the amount collected during the 2019 Share Lent collection at St. Joe's.

- Other Activities – The parish committee publicized and promoted a number of other

activities that Development and Peace either sponsored or partnered in, or that were related to the mission of Development and Peace. Some of these overlap with the Care for Creation Working Group. These included:

- ❖ a virtual gathering to learn about the Recovering Together (Fall 2020) campaign;
- ❖ publicizing the many virtual opportunities associated with Laudato Si' week in May, one of which was organized by Development and Peace in conjunction with the Global Catholic Climate Movement and the Canadian Religious Conference;
- ❖ an invitation to participate in the For the Love of Creation fall forum series in November sponsored by Kairos, Development and Peace, Citizens for Public Justice and other faith-based organizations.

## CHALLENGES

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The number of active members of the St. Joe's Development and Peace group has diminished in the past couple of years and most of the remaining members also hold positions on the Ottawa Diocesan Council for Development and Peace. The Ministry therefore needs to attract some new members. How to do this will be a topic at the next gathering, date to be determined.

## FINANCES

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Fair Trade coffee sales for Development and Peace – A small, dedicated group of parishioners have been selling fair trade coffee from Almonte-based Equator Coffee Roasters after week-end masses for a number of years as a fundraiser for Development and Peace. This was primarily after the 9:30 mass but the roster of sellers was expanded thanks to the initiative of Maria Virjee. Coffee was sold after the 11:30 mass thanks to Maria and periodically after the 5:00 mass. Maria also hosted a wine and cheese gathering at her home in January 2020 to introduce the D&P coffee sellers and other D&P members to Fr. Jim. Many thanks for your hospitality, Maria. Once Covid-19 hit, coffee sales were halted even when in-church services continued. This resulted in a substantial number of bags of unsold coffee. Efforts were made to sell most of it to the D&P community at St. Joe's and family and friends. All funds raised were forwarded to Development and Peace in Montreal along with the proceeds from the November 2020 special collection. The price charged (\$15 per bag) is more than we pay to Equator but less than the retail price in most locations around Ottawa. We are hopeful that coffee selling can resume post pandemic. Interestingly, it also served a social function as acquaintances were made with our "regulars" and

interesting conversations often ensued.

## YEAR AHEAD

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Until we can all meet together regularly, the Ministry will continue to use the parish's weekly update to share information about Development and Peace's Share Lent and education campaigns – and how to participate - as well as information about our partners in the Global South and any humanitarian crises that arise.

Information about issues that Development and Peace engages in with Canadian partner organizations (such as the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability, Mining Watch Canada, Citizens for Public Justice, Kairos, etc.) will also be shared with the parish.

The Ministry was also asked to participate in Terry Byrne's parish history video series and will do so once the stay-at-home order has been lifted.

## **Funeral Ministry**

Contact: Andrew Pump, Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry & Faith Formation

Funeral ministers are privileged to help the families of deceased loved ones as they come to us with overwhelming pain. We enter the lives of families at one of the most difficult and sorrowful times of their lives when the ache of loss is so profound. We strive to be attentive to the pain in their hearts as we walk them through the funeral preparations. Our goal is to ensure that grieving families are welcome, accepted and comfortable as we help them prepare the funerals of their loved ones. We strive to bring compassion, comfort, and support and to ensure that funerals are meaningful, positive, healing experiences for families.

We guide the family in the selection of the readings, the prayers of the faithful and their choice of music and logistics of a funeral. We are present to support, guide, and assist the family at the funeral with all that a funeral entails. We are often called upon to assist the family for a wake and the reception in the church.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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Before the COVID 19 Lockdowns we helped 5 families prepare funerals for their loved ones. With COVID restrictions in place, most families have opted to wait till after restrictions are lifted to celebrate the lives of their loved ones. However, with restrictions in place we managed to prepare and perform 2 small services.

### **CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS**

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Our Memorial Mass on All Souls Day was again cancelled, this time due to COVID

### **FINANCES**

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Funerals, along with Weddings, are a source of revenue for the Parish.

## YEAR AHEAD

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When restrictions are lifted on gatherings and funerals, we will need to reengage the funeral team, which consists of the head ministers and helpers, to work once again to comfort and help the families that we minister to.

## Refugee Outreach Committee (ROC)

Contact: John Weir, [jhnwr99@yahoo.ca](mailto:jhnwr99@yahoo.ca)

The ROC is comprised of 11 members, including the leadership team of Margie Cain and Angela Murphy (co-chairs), Jane Armstrong (secretary) and John Weir (treasurer). A group of additional volunteers, dubbed the Settlement Support Team, also pitch in regularly.

The ROC connects in different ways with 28 people – families and individuals – who are at various stages of the immigration process or integration into Canadian society. We have:

- ❖ sourced and provided computers and tablets,
- ❖ delivered food, books, school supplies and Christmas gifts,
- ❖ distributed donated furniture,
- ❖ helped in navigating medical, educational, legal and income support processes,
- ❖ served as a source of information and connection to existing community/government supports, and
- ❖ offered encouragement and friendship.

A dedicated team led by Deborah Dorner continues to provide regular tutoring to children and adults. These efforts were in place prior to the pandemic, but expanded as schooling switched to online learning. Jennifer Gallant is in the process of assuming Deborah's role as education coordinator.

ROC appreciates the ongoing support of St. Joseph's parish, including:

- ❖ Joan O'Connell, our cluster representative for pastoral care and social justice;
  - Donna Rietschlin, coordinator of the OMRA grocery card program, and her volunteers;
- ❖ the staff and volunteers at St. Joe's Supper Table;
- ❖ the staff of the St. Joe's Women's Centre; and;
- ❖ the many parishioners whose generous donations make our efforts possible.

Although the one-year sponsorship period for the Syrian family of seven we welcomed to Canada ended in October 2020, we retain close ties. This family has adapted to life in Canada remarkably well, no doubt helped by the fact that they were met in Ottawa by relatives who were sponsored by the ROC a few years ago.

Given the success of these two sponsorships, the ROC has begun the application process to sponsor nine additional close relatives now living in a refugee camp in Jordan: A mother and two

teenage daughters (their father is part of the application but is not likely to come to Canada); and a couple and their four children. Sponsorship funds for the two families -- to cover the start-up and monthly income costs for one year -- have already been raised (\$64,200). Over and above this, we anticipate adult dental, travel loan, and interpretation costs of about another \$10,000.

(As well, the ROC holds in trust funds for a co-sponsorship application for a family of four Eritrean refugees living in Israel, but is not responsible for the settlement.)

With the Covid-19 pandemic, refugee sponsorship programs have been delayed and are backlogged. With tens of millions of refugees seeking a safer life, we pray that things will begin moving again in 2022 and that these applications will be processed and come to fruition.

The ROC welcomes new members. In December, the ROC presented one of the parish's Advent narratives around the theme I Don't Know What it's Like, which reflected upon the meaning of opening our arms to people fleeing from harm's way. In video testimonials, some of our newcomers spoke touchingly of how their lives have been changed by coming to Canada. We would be happy to talk to anyone who would like to find out how their time and talent might align with the ROC's endeavours.

## FINANCES

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Financial support is gratefully accepted through the following link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/131771990RR0006-saint-joseph-parish/>

Monthly or one-time donations can be made by credit card by choosing **Refugee Outreach Committee** from the drop-down menu under **APPLY YOUR DONATION TO A SPECIFIC FUND SET UP BY THIS CHARITY**. Complete the Donor, Tax Receipt and Payment information and receive your receipt immediately.

For more information, please contact Dona Bowers, ROC Parish Coordinator, at [dona-bob@rogers.com](mailto:dona-bob@rogers.com)

## Working Group on Care for Creation

Contact: : Joan O'Connell, [joanoco@rogers.com](mailto:joanoco@rogers.com), (613) 296-9287

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- ❖ On January 19, 2020, approximately 30 parishioners met to discuss how we at St. Joe's could reinvigorate our efforts to take better care of the Earth and to do so while embracing the rich and ever evolving social teaching of the Catholic church. The ideas arising from this meeting were shared with the parish:
  - Parishioners were invited, as part of their 2020 Lenten observance, to consider participating in the Citizens for Public Justice campaign, Give It Up for the Earth, by committing to a personal climate action and by signing a postcard to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change asking the federal government to invest in a national just transition and decarbonization strategy.
  - As well, they were asked to consider signing a letter to the Prime Minister urging the Government of Canada to take swift and concrete steps to address the climate emergency as part of a "Catholics United for Climate Change" campaign.
- ❖ Unfortunately, shortly after the initial meeting, the Covid-19 pandemic hit and the group has not met since. However, related and relevant information and activities continued to be shared with the parish throughout the year via the parish's weekly electronic updates. These included:
  - An invitation to participate virtually in a whole slate of Laudato Si' week activities in May, including the world-wide moment of prayer;
  - An invitation to take the Development and Peace pledge for Our Common Home.
  - An invitation to participate through prayer and action in the Season of Creation which ran from September 1 (the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to October 4 (the feast of St. Francis of Assisi). Links and sign-up instructions to many virtual webinars, prayer services, videos, etc. were provided.
  - An invitation to participate in the For the Love of Creation fall forum series in November sponsored by Kairos, Development and Peace, Citizens for Public Justice and other faith-based organizations.

### CHALLENGES

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To succeed in keeping this initiative alive, there needs to be a core leadership team. The Parish Pastoral Council advised that the group should have a firm plan in place before moving forward in order to ensure sustainability and longevity as past parish initiatives related to environmental stewardship eventually died out. Such a plan should include identification of a core leadership team, Initial priorities, next steps and lead parishioners identified for each step. A couple of original working group members expressed interest in joining the leadership team but no action has been taken with respect to the development of a plan since the onset of the pandemic.

## YEAR AHEAD

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Keeping parishioners informed about relevant events such as World Water Day, Earth Day, Laudato Si' week, etc.

We hope to be able to offer other opportunities to better care for Creation in the coming year and would welcome the participation of any parishioners interested in engaging in efforts - both personal and parish-wide – in taking better care of God's Creation – our common home. Once gathering restrictions are lifted, we hope to have a meeting to flesh out an action and leadership plan as well as next steps.