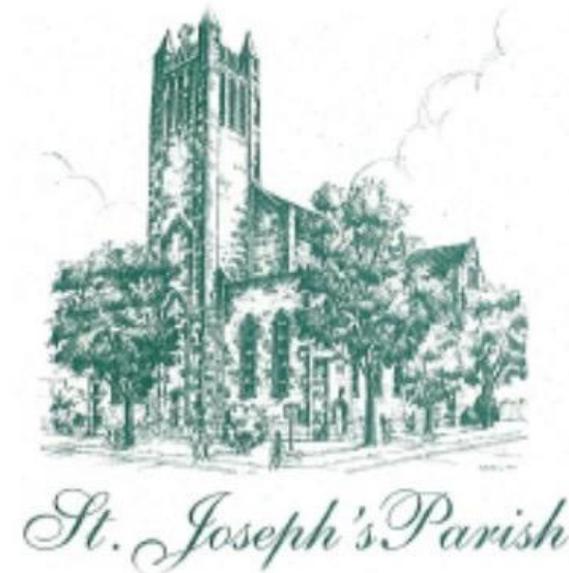


# *St. Joseph's Parish*



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) REPORT

June 15, 2022

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### GENERAL

Pastor's Report	3-4
Parish Pastoral Council Report	5-7
Finance Council (Treasurer) Report	8-10
Executive Director Report	11-14
St. Joe's Supper Table Report	15-16
St. Joe's Women's Centre Report	17

### COMMUNITY BUILDING CLUSTER

Young Adult Ministry & Faith Formation (combined)	18-19
Synodality	20-21
Welcome Ministry	22-23

### FAITH FORMATION & INITIATION CLUSTER

Small Group Faith Sharing	24
---------------------------	----

### LITURGY & MUSIC CLUSTER

Liturgical Environment Ministry	25
Music & Liturgy Ministry	26-27
Reflection Ministry	28

### PASTORAL CARE & SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Care for Creation Ministry	29-30
Development and Peace Ministry	31-34
Funeral Ministry	35-36
Reconciliation Ministry (+ Summary)	37-40
Refugee Outreach Ministry	41-42

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Contact: Fr. Jim Bleackley, OMI

On June 15, 2022, the parishioners of St Joseph's Parish will be invited to attend the Annual General Meeting in order to discuss and discern the direction for the parish next year. This is an important meeting for us because it gives us the opportunity to look at the different areas of our parish life and evaluate how well we are meeting the needs of all who come and worship in our faith community. It also gives us a forum to discern how well we are serving those who come to our doors looking for help, dignity and community. Every year we need to ask ourselves if our present programs and structures continue to meet the needs of those who come to our doors, especially those on the periphery of church and society. Hopefully our time together will give the new Parish Pastoral Council a mandate to guide these efforts on our behalf when they meet in September.

This past year we continued the parish ministries and outreach programs under the ongoing pandemic restrictions which meant changes to our liturgical celebrations and the way we provided those services. Yet the staff of the Women's Centre, St. Joe's Supper Table, and Pastoral Team found creative ways to continue these ministries during this difficult time. Hopefully in September, the remaining restrictions will be lifted, and the parish will be able to return to a level of services which were the norm before the pandemic. For parishioners who have been away from the parish for last two years out of concern for their well-being and safety, it will be important to have social activities to help them to reconnect with the community and rebuild the welcoming spirit that has defined our parish. I believe the Synodal Process which the parish undertook this year was a vital step to gather us as faith community in order create a space where we could listen to each other's concerns and explore ways to strengthen our bond of communion with one another. The report the committee who guided the synodal process in our parish shared with the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall could be another tool for re-engaging the parish in the fall.

This past year most of the parish's ministries and activity were shaped by the painful trauma many people felt as they dealt with the terrible news of the unmarked graves found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. The shocking news had us gathering in prayerful reflection and committing ourselves to walk the path of healing and reconciliation by listening to Indigenous voices. This commitment became the mandate for the Parish Pastoral Council for the rest of the year as they kept this concern alive in our

minds and hearts. Their efforts have resulted in the parish connecting and supporting the Kateri Native Ministry in Ottawa and offering a special Reconciliation Discussion Series to help people learn about the history of colonialism in our country and giving us the opportunity to hear Indian Residential School Survivors' talk about by the abuses they experienced in those schools. This was a good beginning, but we realize that we have a long journey ahead of us as we try to respond to the Call to Actions as outline by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The other area that impacted our ability to provide ministries and services this past year was the loss of staff members which meant the remaining personnel were required to add many more activities to their workload to ensure that the programs such as Faith Formation and Young Adult Ministry would continue as we sought to hire a person for this position. I'm happy to report that after a year we have found and hired a person with the knowledge and experience to activate these ministries in the Fall. We look forward to Paul Dansereau and his young family moving to Ottawa from Alberta and joining the Pastoral Team in August.

For some of you this will be old news, but for those who have not heard, at the beginning of August, when my current obedience comes to an end, I will be leaving Ottawa and going West to join the Oblate community at Pandosy Place in Vancouver. As I prepare to leave, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the parish for your warm welcome and care you have shown me over the past three years. Being pastor of St. Joseph's Parish has being an honour and a privilege for me.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

Contact: Donna Rietschlin, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

Dear fellow St Joseph's parishioners,

It is a pleasure to look back over the preceding year and share some highlights with you. We lived another year of Covid-19, with openings and closings and various health measures in place. We continued to be a proclaiming, welcoming, discerning and ministering parish.

Your Parish Pastoral Council met at least monthly, using Zoom for all but one of our meetings.

As you know, the Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory body to the pastor and supports the pastor to ensure the mission of the parish is lived as fully as possible.

To that end, I will use our Mission Statement to frame my report for the 2022 AGM. I will use point form to highlight the many ways we continue to embrace our mission.

### MISSION STATEMENT

We who choose St. Joseph's Parish are called, as part of the Body of Christ, in the Archdiocese of Ottawa - Cornwall to be:

- A **Proclaiming community** which is a living witness to Christ in the inner city and in partnership with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate proclaims the Good News to the poor.
- The Supper Table transformed from offering 1 evening meal to offering a takeout brunch with a variety of options made to order and a takeout dinner.
- The Women's Centre remained open, following public health guidelines.
- All our welcome in our church. The church is open for private prayer, reflection and Mass Wednesday to Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Staff walk through regularly to ensure people using the space are well. We have naloxone kits on site and have used them.

A **Welcoming Community** which is gathered together in weakness and strength by the Spirit of Jesus to nurture its faith by sharing the Word and breaking the Bread, remembering and celebrating God's love for us.

- Zoom gatherings for Sunday morning prayer for many, many weeks. Thanks to Jamie who created the scripts and all the people who attended and who contributed to our time together, especially the readers, the women and men offering the reflections, the choir.
- Sincere thanks to all staff: Kathleen Strader, David Trepanier, Jamie Loback, Chris Adam and Fr Jim Bleackley. Many people contribute so much and remain behind the scenes: Bookkeeper Georgeta Mutu, the Maintenance Manager, Nick Cacciato, the Caretaker, Normand Emond, the Women's Centre Director Marsha Wilson and the Supper Table Assistant Patsy Stevens.
- Chris – welcoming - On May 25th, chaplains affiliated with the French Catholic School Board visited the Parish to learn about our social justice programming and our faith community. Sister Mona Mreiche, a pastoral animator in the school board, has reached out to Chris twice to organize such a visit. The first one occurred in April, and involved over 20 secondary school students, as well as teachers. Chris provided them with a tour and presentation and did the same on May 25th. The school board made a donation to the Parish on May 25th.
- Maintaining our church in good repair – upkeep and financial objectives to take care of this heritage building. Both Nick and Norm work hard every week to maintain this large building and property. The Parish Finance Council offers wisdom and support to Fr. Jim and Chris to ensure our money is spent wisely and the property is maintained.
- Christmas card mailout – again this year member of the Parish Pastoral Council sent Christmas cards to all registered members of the parish on behalf of St Joe's.

**A Discerning Community** which inspired and led by the Holy Spirit on a journey of Faith, encourages the gifts of individuals to flourish;

- The Oblate provincials of the American and Canadian provinces visited St. Joe's and Sacre Coeur on November 1-2, 2021 to explore the possibility of a mission centre in Ottawa. I joined Fr. Jim and Chris at these meetings. The U.S. Provincial attended one of our weekend liturgies as well.
- The Synodal process in our parish led by Eleanor Rabnett and the team of facilitators and scribes so that parishioners contributed to the world-wide synod opened in Oct 2021 by Pope Francis.
- Many parishioners found ways to continue to offer service in ministry at St Joe's throughout 2021, even though the pandemic meant doing things very differently. In addition to volunteering time and talent to our parish, many parishioners are volunteers in other places in the larger community.
- The Parish Pastoral Council worked on the Terms of Reference. We discovered two documents we needed to consider and then asked John Renken, a canon lawyer, for

some help. This work is now deferred until the fall of 2022 as there wasn't time to do it well once we got advice from Dr Renken.

- In 2021 members of the Parish Pastoral Council included Joan O'Connell, Marion Kizas, Renée Liss-Siraco, Mireille Brosseau, Robert Sykes, Chris Adam, Fr. Jim Bleackley and me. I want to thank each of them for their intentionality and prayer as they made recommendations and carried responsibilities for the pastoral well-being of our parish.
- In 2021 members of the Parish Finance Council included John Mark Keyes, Nancy Keyes, Paolo Siraco, Joe Gunn, Chris Adam and Fr. Jim Bleackley. Please thank each one of these members of our parish.

**A Ministering Community** which serves the needs of its people and reaches out in solidarity, especially to those who are poor and marginalized in the community at large.

- The many ways parishioners learned about Reconciliation and listened to our indigenous sisters and brothers to learn how best to support healing opportunities. (See document about Reconciliation in our annual report.)
- Reconciliation Series – Sue-Anne Hess, facilitator
- Advent reconciliation – The theme was the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation process.
- The City of Ottawa continues to support the Women's Centre financially, and we are grateful for this renewable day programme funding.
- We don't often recognize the support that the Supper Table and Women's Centre receive from other parishes in the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, as well as from religious congregations and provinces. It is good to remember the generosity of other Catholic communities in supporting our programmes. In several cases, we are the recipient of regular annual donations. In December 2021, our social outreach programmes were supported by St. Faustina Parish, St. Basil's Parish, Sacré-Coeur Parish, the Knights of Columbus, OMI St. Peter's Province, the Congregation of Notre Dame – Visitation Province and Lay (Secular) Franciscans. In March, the Anglican Church of the Messiah made a generous donation to the St. Joe's Supper Table as well.

In naming specific groups and people, there is always the danger of failing to thank a group or a person who has contributed to the parish. Any errors or omissions are mine and I ask your forgiveness. As you read through the annual report you will discover the way many ministries in our parish continued to serve throughout 2021.

## FINANCE COUNCIL (TREASURER) REPORT

Contact: John Mark Keyes, Chair of Parish Finance Council

### INTRODUCTION

The Parish Finance Council is a permanent advisory body to the Pastor and the St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council. It is responsible for ensuring they are well-informed in all their decision-making with respect to financial matters. The Council's terms of reference were revised in June of 2021.

### COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

The Council has seven voting members: John Mark Keyes (chair), Robert Sykes (Treasurer), Nancy Keyes, Paolo Siraco, Joe Gunn, Joanne Kellerman and Kathleen Keenan. Joanne and Kathleen have just joined the Council and Paolo is leaving after having served for six years. Melanie Forget has also been a Council member since 2019, but she stepped down earlier this year. The Pastor (Father Jim Bleakley) and the Executive Director (Chris Adam) are ex officio members of the Council.

Since the AGM in June 2021, the Council has met nine times. The meetings mainly involve reviewing and commenting on quarterly financial statements, the operational reports of the Executive Director and draft audited annual (2021) financial statements. It also reviewed the draft 2022 operational budget prepared by the Executive Director and has prepared a 5-year capital budget (2021-2026).

The Council also conducts annual reviews of Parish policies relating to financial matters. It has recommended changes to the Parish Investment Policy to align it with environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria, which the Pastor approved in January 2022. The Council is currently working on a Parish Statement of Investment Policies and Guidelines to provide further direction on the investment of its monetary assets.

### AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 2021

The financial statements of the Parish for 2021 were audited by the firm of Marcil Lavallée, which was appointed at the last AGM to perform the audit. The auditors have provided a qualified opinion that Parish's financial statements for 2021 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Parish on December 31, 2021 in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The basis for qualifying

the opinion is that donation revenue was not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. This is a common qualification on not-for-profit audits and has been made in Parish audit statements for previous years, including 2020.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The statement of operations shows a surplus of \$180,402, which is very close to the surplus for the previous year (\$180,624). These surpluses are, in large measure, due to government funding relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, which totaled about \$300,000 in 2021 (\$255,000 in 2020). Without this funding, there would have been a substantial operating deficit. Another revenue item is private contributions (basically, non-government donations other than the Sunday collection). In 2021, it increased by about \$50,000 to \$427,515. Similarly, investment revenue increased by about \$50,000, largely reflecting the substantial increases in the stock market in generally 2021.

The revenue increases were offset by revenues for parking and hall and room rentals, which continued to be less than half the pre-pandemic revenues.

Expenses in 2021 increased by about \$200,000, due to salary costs, principally for food and staff hired to provide Supper Table services that had been previously provided by volunteers (but which were suspended because of the pandemic). The Parish also matched donations to the Kateri Ministry (Assistance to Indigenous groups) for a total donation of \$16,500.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

In 2021, the Parish's assets increased by about \$192,000, largely due to the operating surplus.

The General Fund, which is unrestricted (can be used for any type of spending), contains \$613,000 while the Capital Asset Renewal Fund (which is to be used as the name suggests) contains about \$138,000.

There was little capital spending in 2021 and capital assets declined about \$47,000 (due to depreciation) to \$514,000.

The St Joseph's Women's Centre Fund contains \$513,000, much of which results from substantial donations that can be used only for expenditures related to the Women's Centre.

## BUDGETS FOR 2022 AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The 2022 Operating Budget balances revenues and expenses for a modest surplus. Although no further government pandemic funding is available, the budget anticipates increases in revenue from Sunday collections, the parking lot and hall and room rentals. It also anticipates reductions in salary expenditures.

The Capital Budget provides for about \$305,000 in spending in 2022, mainly on repairs to the front steps of the church (\$300,000) and the parking lot (\$4,400). These amounts are based on bids received from contractors. After reviewing the bids, the Council recommended the Parish go ahead them. The substantial amount for the front steps reflects the extensive work that needs to be done to provide safe and accessible access and preserve its heritage features.

The Council is also working with the Pastoral Council on a fundraising campaign to provide for future needs of the Parish and its outreach ministries.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Contact: Christopher Adam, Executive Director

Over the past two years, we've been learning how to serve our parish faith community and the guests of the Supper Table and Women's Centre in a time of pandemic – a period that required flexibility and attention to ever-changing public health restrictions. The past 12 months also saw a gradual transition back to more in-person gatherings in our church, as well as increased capacity and in-person meal service in the St. Joe's Women's Centre. I am grateful for parishioners, volunteers and staff who have shown patience and understanding as we navigated the many changes and restrictions -- often implemented at short notice.

### STAFFING

Staffing proved to be both a challenge and an opportunity this past year. In September 2021, Andrew Pump, our Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry and Faith Formation, left the Parish staff team to pursue a new career. We launched a hiring process for this important pastoral position in the fall and over the course of several months, we interviewed five short-listed candidates. The hiring committee included Fr. Jim, Donna Rietschlin, Jamie Loback and myself. After a lengthy and rigorous recruitment process, we hired Paul Dansereau to join our team. He currently lives in Alberta and recently visited our parish to get a better sense of our community. Paul holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Newman Theological College in Edmonton and comes with several years of parish pastoral experience from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Revelstoke, BC. Over a period of eight years, Paul served as the pastoral assistant and coordinator of catechism, liturgy and safe environment. I am excited to welcome Paul to our parish – he and his young family will be relocating to Ottawa this summer and he begins his ministry with us on August 1, 2022.

In the past months, we also expanded our music programme. We have hired Andrea MacWilliams on contract as our Assistant Director of Music, working alongside Jamie Loback. Andrea will continue to serve as our Cantor and in her new role, she will also launch a children's choir in the Parish, as well as develop the University Mass music ministry. Stay tuned for more information from Andrea on this exciting new children's choir initiative that we hope will draw young families back to our parish this fall.

In October 2021, Dan Handfield -- our long-time carpenter -- retired from the staff team. On May 26, 2022, Dan died at age 63. Just about anywhere we look, we can see how Dan applied his gifts to our parish – from the cabinetry in the Sacristy, to the Oblate and Women's Centre kitchens, to the railing and storage space in the sanctuary – and, of course,

the confessional kitchen near the entrance of our church. These are just some of the ways Dan improved our facilities over the past 15 years. We will remember Dan for being an integral part of our Parish team for 17 years, for his diligence, care for our property and his many gifts. We held a funeral Mass for Dan in our church on June 11, 2022. Although we have not hired a new staff person for our maintenance team, Nick Cacciato and Normand Emond work hard to make sure that our property remains in good working order and in the service of our many ministries.

In 2021, the St. Joe's Women's Centre welcomed a new Program Coordinator, Jane Tenthorey, as a permanent, full-time employee. At the same time in March 2022, the Centre said good-bye to Kathryn O'Meara who has decided to pursue post-secondary studies.

New sources of government and private funding, including pandemic grants, allowed us to employ eight people in the St. Joe's Supper Table at various times in 2021. These included summer students and other employees on part-time or short-term contracts – the extra assistance allowed the Supper Table Manager to expand our meal service from the traditional dinner offering, to a breakfast and lunch service as well. Ryan has been on leave since January 2022. We continue to keep him in our prayers. In his absence, Kathleen Strader and Sue-Anne Hess are sharing the role of Interim Supper Table Coordinator.

## PARISH FACILITIES

Our current church, rebuilt in 1931 after a fire, is over 90 years old. Over the past decade, our largest capital projects included a complete rectory roof replacement, a partial church roof replacement and the purchase of a new boiler. Additionally, we have rebuilt the rectory deck and redesigned the Women's Centre, Supper Table and Oblate kitchens. In 2021, we began preparations for the upcoming reconstruction of the church entrance at 174 Wilbrod Street, including the installation of a new accessibility ramp. The condition of the front steps and front pad has deteriorated over the years; it is now a safety issue and one that must be addressed if we are to continue allowing public access to the church through the main entrance. Additionally, the wooden ramp does not meet current accessibility standards and codes. This impacts members of the community with reduced mobility, and especially ones who enter the church using an electric wheelchair or scooter.

In 2021, the Parish contracted the engineers of J. Cooke & Associates to offer us consultation and project management services, as well as produce architectural drawings for this capital project. In January 2022, J. Cooke & Associates launched a bidding process for the project and then reviewed the submitted proposals. They recommended that the Parish proceed with a bid from Waterdon Construction Ltd. – the lowest of three bids and a firm that Cooke has worked with in the past. The other two bids were well beyond the financial means of the Parish, while Waterdon's bid of \$281,000 – although still higher than we had initially expected -- was one that we could afford using the church's existing reserve. With

engineering and consulting costs, the total capital project will exceed \$300,000. In May 2022, the Parish submitted a permit application to the City of Ottawa for this project and we await approval in the coming weeks. The Parish also applied to the City of Ottawa for a heritage grant to assist with the costs of this project. The City has awarded the Parish \$20,000 to help fund this capital expense.

The benefit of having a reserve – developed over the years through bequests and accumulated surpluses – is that we can proceed with this essential project. We can do so without first fundraising for it. However, we need to be mindful of capital work that will be necessary within the next five years. This includes the replacement of the second boiler, replacement of the church’s flat roof on the east side above the healing space and repairs to water damage inside the sanctuary. Capital projects like these are in addition to the on-going basic interior and exterior maintenance of this property, which in 2021 cost \$85,426, not including maintenance team staffing costs. Income from Sunday offerings plays a crucial role in sustaining the general operations and ministries of the Parish. The rental of our facilities to external groups, parking lot revenue and private contributions from people and organizations outside our parish also help to sustain the Parish’s operational costs. These regular revenues, however, are not enough to cover capital expenses.

We are grateful for on-going support of our ministries and operations from within the Parish community and beyond. We are currently developing a fundraising appeal that will address how we can continue to care for our parish faith community, as well as serve the broader community around us.

## CHALLENGES ON THE HORIZON

In both 2020 and 2021, the Parish was the recipient of significant government funding through multiple channels -- including a total of \$357,000 as part of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and \$198,000 from the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF). The CEWS has been phased out and SSRF funding for the Parish’s outreach ministries is also coming to an end this year. In order to continue our current level of service to the most marginalized, fundraising initiatives and additional private contributions will have to replace many of the government supports that we received in 2020/21.

In 2020, our Parish began offering maintenance and bookkeeping services to our sister Oblate parish, Sacré-Coeur. In 2021, these services expanded to include assisting with Sacré-Coeur’s annual charitable return and maintaining their donor database, alongside maintenance services. St. Joseph’s Parish staff have taken on this additional work within their regular work-day and Sacré-Coeur has paid for these services, providing St. Joseph’s Parish with additional revenue. This has developed into a positive relationship, but if the scope of collaboration increases, it may become necessary to add staff hours or to add staff in order to meet the expanded needs.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the Parish learned for the first time that the University of Ottawa was scheduled to proceed with major renovations to the Soloway residence located directly across from the rectory beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing until at least August 1<sup>st</sup> and possibly as late as August 15<sup>th</sup>. The news came as a surprise and a source of much concern to the Parish administration, as access to the through-way, the rectory building and parts of the parking lot would all be negatively impacted. The University acknowledged with regret that due to staff vacancies and high staff turn-over, University employees failed to notify the Parish and to consult with us on this capital project. I have been meeting regularly with Tim Ambery, the Project Manager and engineer overseeing this work for the University, to express our concerns and to find solutions. The University will financially compensate the Parish for lost parking revenues.

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

I'm grateful to both the Parish's conscientious staff team, as well as for the many parishioner volunteers I have had a chance to work with this year. In particular, I'm thankful for the continued commitment of Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council – both of which have met and worked throughout the pandemic in a collaborative spirit.

Since October 2017, I have served on the Board of Directors of Jewish Family Services – a social justice agency that is a natural partner to much of the outreach work that we do at St. Joe's. My two consecutive terms on the Board come to an end in October 2022, but I hope to continue exploring opportunities for collaboration between JFS and St. Joe's. In 2021, I became the Treasurer of the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program – an ecumenical Christian educational initiative that over the years has trained many staff and volunteers from St. Joe's in pastoral care. Finally, this spring, I have been invited to join the Board of Directors of Jericho Road – an addiction recovery program. Earlier this year, Jericho's podcast featured an hour-long interview with me on the social justice outreach that St. Joe's continues to offer in Sandy Hill.

Despite a difficult two years filled with much uncertainty, St. Joe's continues to be a thoughtful, engaged faith community that strives to share Jesus' message of redemption through life-giving action.

## ST. JOE'S SUPPER TABLE REPORT

Contact: Kathleen Strader & Sue-Anne Hess, Interim Coordinators

### COMMUNITY

As you may be aware, COVID restrictions meant that The Supper Table had to halt its volunteer schedule for most of the year. In addition, we were required to move to a “take-away” model of food service, rather than our usual (and preferred) “dine-in” option. Ryan Mitchell, our Manager, kept us going, assisted by Patsy on a part-time basis. The Supper Table also received funds to hire an additional eight staff on short term contracts to ensure that we provided a consistent food service despite the restrictions.

### SERVICE

In 2021 we were able to meet increased demand, and offer not only the usual supper service, but also a lunch and hot breakfast as well. This is thanks to additional funding that became available to us in response to the pandemic, as below:

#### Government funding

- Social Services Relief Fund (to assist with staffing and food costs): \$112,470
- Federal government support for the summer student work experience program: \$24,467

#### Private Contributions – Major Organizational Funders

- Food Banks Canada (food and staffing): \$60,000
- Ottawa Community Foundation / Canyon Foundation Fund (for operational costs): \$30,000
- Ottawa Food Bank (food and staffing): \$20,000
- Parkdale Ottawa Community Food Partnership: \$13,300
- Anglican Church of the Messiah: \$3,100
- St. Elias Church: \$2,300
- Visitation Province: \$1,000

#### Fundraising

- Jam and baked goods sales & Christmas concert: \$9,100

### Sunday offerings:

- Thank you to parishioners for providing the Supper Table with \$11,933 in support through the Sunday collection plate.

### On-going partnership and in-kind contributions:

- Thanks to the Parkdale Ottawa Community Food Partnership, the Supper Table was provided with healthy, professionally prepared meals during dinner service through all of 2021.

### 2022

This year, we have cut back from three, to two meals per day, offering a hot breakfast and supper service only. However, we are still offering approximately 40 breakfasts and 50 suppers per day.

With Ryan now on leave, Kathleen Strader and Sue-Anne Hess are sharing the role of “Supper Table Coordinator” in an interim capacity for the summer. We are working towards reconnecting with the parish, re-engaging our volunteers and returning (in a limited capacity) to the community-based model that has been so beloved over the years. We will also be making a major cleanout of our storage and working spaces and recommencing our fundraising activities and grant applications. It is a testament to the generosity and patience of the parish and the Supper Table Community that this service has managed to thrive and flourish, despite trying circumstances. It continues to provide much needed meals and company to those in our community.

## ST. JOE'S WOMEN'S CENTRE REPORT

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

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

City of Ottawa Funding, new programs, Centre Survey, City of Ottawa SSRF-COVID-19 funding. Recipient of Costco funding (\$5,000.00) and Stocks from a supporter in the amount of \$10,000, and a donation of \$5,000. Women Moving Forward: the committee will donate \$5,000.00 to an Indigenous program. Centre statistics have increased each month. Fundraiser Dinner under the Stars netted \$7,000. The members of the Steering Committee are working on our Strategic Plan: job descriptions, Fundraising, new members. Funding for Food Security. Volunteers cooking meals for special celebrations.

### CHALLENGES

- Staffing: challenging to hire a new staff as the starting pay is relatively low;
- Costs of food: ordering more from the Ottawa Food Bank;
- Programs are now sometimes held in the Parish Hall as our primary space is limited;
- Donations are down: need to explore other funding options.

### FINANCES

- Quality of Life: 2021 netted \$5,000 for programs.
- Quality of Life 2022 scheduled for Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

### YEAR AHEAD

- Free haircuts program reinstated;
- Programs in the Parish Hall;
- Summer outings reinstated;
- Allowing more women in at time;
- An appeal letter for donations to Catholic religious communities;
- Attending external fundraisers to raise the Centre's profile;
- Securing a partnership with an Indigenous program in Vanier.

## FAITH FORMATION & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Contact: Christopher Adam, Executive Director

### UNIVERSITY MASS

Beginning in September 2021, Fr. Jim, Jamie Loback and I stepped in to oversee faith formation and young adult ministry in the absence of a full-time staff member assigned to this position. The pandemic and the suspension, and then the partial suspension of in-person classes at the University of Ottawa led to a decline in attendance at our Sunday 7:00 p.m. University Mass. On average, 25 to 30 people attended University Mass each week in 2021. Many thanks to one of our young adults, Henry Mann, who served as the lector at nearly all the Masses between September and April. We're appreciative of Henry's commitment to the St. Joe's young adult community and wish him the very best as he pursues graduate studies at the University of Toronto this coming school year. Thanks as well to our cantor, Andrea MacWilliams, who served at the evening liturgy throughout the school year.

While the pandemic limited our ability to offer students social and community gatherings before and after Mass, we did hold an end-of-semester pizza party in December 2021. In September 2022, we plan to relaunch our community and social gatherings for young adults and to attract new students, especially as the University returns to full capacity.

### FAITH FORMATION

In 2021/22, a total of 4 candidates and 2 catechumens were welcomed into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Thank you to Andrew Pump who continued to be involved in the weekly RCIA program as a volunteer facilitator, as well as to a small team of volunteers that assisted alongside Fr. Jim. The pandemic required RCIA preparation to meet weekly via Zoom, but we look forward to returning to an in-person program this fall.

### SACRAMENTAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR 2021

- Baptisms: 18
- First Communions: 2
- Marriages: 11
- Funerals: 10

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Due to the staff vacancy in the Faith Formation office, the Parish had to cancel its fall 2021 and spring 2022 marriage preparation courses. We look forward to relaunching the program this coming fall.

## WELCOMING PAUL DANSEREAU

Beginning August 1, 2022, Paul Dansereau will be joining our Parish as the new Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry and Faith Formation. For more information on Paul, please see the Executive Director's report. Moving forward, Paul will be working with many of you who are involved in various ministries.

## SYNODALITY MINISTRY

Contact: Eleanor Rabnett

St. Joseph's is an inner-city parish adjacent to Ottawa University. It is a parish of choice for many parishioners who come from the suburbs and beyond seeking an adult spirituality. The parish supports many ministries in the areas of Liturgy & Music, Community Building, Faith Formation & Initiation, Pastoral Care and Social Justice. The St Joe's Supper Table and Women's Centre which are funded by parish donations, grants and the City of Ottawa.

The parish Synod sessions took place online as the city was slowly opening from COVID restrictions with a facilitator and a note taker at each session. Sessions involved 54 people, representing about 10% of the parish, in twelve groups including focus groups for staff and for the LGBT community. (Most groups had two 90-minute sessions. A few non-parishioners joined the discussions.) University Students were unable to take part because meetings were held after the final semester.

In your group's discussion, which points of view seem to be held in common on the experience of Church? Include other points of view mentioned less but are noteworthy.

- Parishioners are positive about St. Joe's parish, finding it welcoming, non-judgemental and supportive, as contrasted with experiences elsewhere.
- Many are sad that friends and adult children no longer attend Mass. The language of the Liturgy can be a stumbling block for some. We heard calls for more catechesis, teaching masses, liturgies targeting children & young adults, and more opportunities for interaction, participation and non-traditional liturgies.
- Some newcomers find it difficult to volunteer in parish ministries and the progression to belonging is unclear.

What did the Participants say about areas where the Church is in need of healing and conversion?

- People want to belong and fully participate in the life of the Church. Many do not feel accepted or included. Catholic Theology on Sexuality and Family Life harms people who are divorced, women, and people who identify as LGBTQ+.

- Women expect to have a voice and be treated with respect and equality. Women expect to participate in all areas of the Church; for some this includes ordination.
- The Church has much to learn from other faiths and traditions. Listening, engaging and forming relationships is key to ecumenism becoming a lived reality.
- We want to see strong leadership from the Bishops in the areas of reconciliation and healing with Indigenous Peoples and care for creation.
- Authentically involve both the laity and clergy in Church governance at all levels.
- Many support married clergy.

Through listening to the dreams, desires, and aspirations for the Church expressed by participants and through discernment, in what ways is the Holy Spirit guiding the Church to grow in synodality.

- Those who joined in our sessions loved the opportunity to give to the whole Church. They appreciated being asked these questions and so, spoke from their hearts. They also listened and felt transformed.
- Through encounter with others, we are converted to a deeper sense of God and are hopeful for church to be meaningful.
- We recommend that Synodality become the heart of our community life.

## WELCOME MINISTRY

Contact: Patricia O'Grady

Due to the pandemic, the Welcome Ministry in 2021 has consisted in my welcoming by email new parishioners who registered through the parish office. This occurred thanks to the help of the parish staff to whom I offer my sincere thanks. I had the pleasure of contacting new parishioners by email and receiving their interesting responses. The Welcome Ministry had included previously a form of welcome at the back of the church for each mass. This aspect of the ministry has been cancelled since the beginning of the pandemic.

At the moment, I am the only parishioner designated under the Welcome Ministry, though of course many parishioners offer a welcome in various ways at every mass. Our pastoral team is at the very heart of the welcome received by anyone who comes in contact with Saint Joseph's parish. I will not be in a position to continue in this ministry as of September 2022. I would like to offer a few comments that might be helpful going forward.

Each mass community could have its own Welcome Ministry team, given that each community is special. I believe that the growth of the Welcome Ministry should be organic. It should develop as each mass community feels the need for it and defines what is sustainable under our present circumstances. New parishioners often indicate which mass they plan to attend when they register. It would be appropriate that they be welcomed by a member of that mass community.

Prior to the pandemic, the Welcome Desks that were present at the back of the church after the Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday, 9:30 a. m. and 11:30 a. m. masses were having difficulty in finding new volunteers and relied on a small core. I would not recommend that the parish return to that format, but that is only my opinion. This form of welcome was also paper intensive and the parish has moved towards a more paperless approach for information and registration for various activities, due to our present circumstances.

There remains the very simple gesture of greeting people at the door as they arrive. Again, I think that each mass community would have its own way of assessing that need and responding to it.

I would suggest that a conversation occur within the Parish Pastoral Council on this matter, thinking in terms of what could be in place by September 2022.

I wish to thank Maria Virjee who introduced me to the Welcome Ministry with such warmth before moving onto other areas of service. It has given me an opportunity to meet

wonderful people and to appreciate the remarkable contribution of St. Joseph's pastoral team in so many ways.

## SMALL GROUP FAITH SHARING MINISTRY

Contact: Joy Heft

**Accomplishments:** Our group met once again during Advent in the fall of 2021 and for Lent in 2022. The Lenten season marked the 15th anniversary of this ministry which began during Lent of 2007. Once again we resorted to Zoom on Wednesday evenings and for both seasons had consistent attendance by nine participants who looked forward to our weekly sessions. Four others received the weekly resource and were in touch from time to time. Members expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet and share their faith while reflecting on The Word and supporting one another in prayer. It was a Spirit filled time for those who participated. Meeting on Zoom proved a benefit for those who may otherwise have been prevented from participating because of the challenge of meeting at the church in the evening especially during inclement weather. As the war in Ukraine began near the beginning of Lent we opened each session with a prayer for peace and for the safety of the people of Ukraine.

**Challenges:** Now that we have become used to Zoom, most of the challenges have disappeared and if anything participation is more consistent; it is likely that we will continue on Zoom in the future. While it is not quite the same as meeting in person, people were able to log on about 15 minutes early if they felt inclined as many did in order to catch up on news or share personal stories. There developed a great sense of community in the group as a result which was especially appreciated when COVID restrictions kept us otherwise isolated.

**Finances:** There was no cost to the parish for this ministry. We were supported technically by Chris Adam who assisted in setting up the Zoom sessions through the church. A personal donation was made to the Congregation of the Resurrection for the resource and the material was sent out electronically to participants who accessed the material on their own computer.

**The Year Ahead:** It is expected that we will continue to meet during Advent and Lent during the coming year most likely again via Zoom. For many it has become a seasonal ritual which allows us to nourish our faith as we build community within the parish. Many comment that they look forward the sessions.

## LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Contact: Wayne Moyle

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Liturgical Environment Ministry works very hard to create an environment that emphasizes the areas of liturgical action – the altar, the ambo(s), and the gathering space. We try to create an environment that prayerfully invites worshipers into the mystery of the Eucharist. and to prepare a visual environment that contributes to the intention and reflection of the liturgical season. The members of this ministry very much appreciate feedback from parishioners. Contact any member of the team to express your opinion.

### CHALLENGES

Our ministry looks forward to a return to processions and one ambo and eagerly anticipates the full involvement of all the Liturgical Ministries, hopefully, in the very near future.

### FINANCES

Our annual budget is \$1000, however we seldom spend that much on supplies. The team very much appreciates parishioner donations of flowers at Christmas and Easter.

### YEAR AHEAD

Our team of 11 committed volunteers is always open to new members. No experience is required. Please get in touch if you would like to join our team.

## MUSIC & LITURGY MINISTRY

Contact: Jamie Loback, Director of Music and Liturgy

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing over the past year since the parish's last AGM, liturgy and music was limited due to the necessary restrictions to keep our parishioners and staff safe. Communion was and continues to be distributed in the form of the host only and in a single communion line with the west side of the church receiving first, followed by the east side. Shaking hands is discouraged and face masks were mandatory for all in attendance at mass. This restriction has since been lifted. Homilies and lay reflections were offered in person at mass and a pre-recorded version was distributed for those parishioners not comfortable attending in person mass. A single lector rather than multiple lectors has become the practice during the pandemic to avoid sharing microphones. Throughout the past year, the Liturgical Environment Ministry has remained very active in creating a warm, welcoming, and liturgically appropriate atmosphere for the various seasons of the church year. Throughout the pandemic, music has been extremely restricted in the weekend mass. Up until autumn 2021, congregational singing was prohibited, and a cantor sang some parts of the mass (Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Offertory, and Communion Procession) while the congregation spoke most of the normally sung acclamations. The choir resumed rehearsals in October and resumed singing at the Sunday 11:30am mass and on the higher feasts of Christmas and Easter. The choir rehearses and sings from the loft as there is more space for physical distancing. This new placement of the choir has highlighted the acoustics and architectural intent of St. Joseph's building as the ensemble carries better from this location and has achieved an elevated sound/tone. Tom Fagan provided preludes and postludes on the church organ and prepared recordings for parishioners at home. Instrumentalists and cantors continued to lead the music at the 5:00pm and 9:30am Masses. A highlight for the Music Ministry was the second annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas. This service is an element of the parish's musical life that is evolving into a tradition that we hope to promote more widely in 2022.

### MUSIC MINISTRY: MOVING FOREWARD

As mentioned in my 2021 report, the Music Ministry will be restructured in 2022-2023. Rather than multiple adult choirs, we will re-focus with a single ensemble that will rehearse on Thursday evenings. This ensemble will be augmented with student singers who will be expected to serve as section leaders in the choir. To date, this new model has worked very well. The choir will sing primarily at the 11:30am mass but will also sing once per month at

the 9:30am mass and once per season at the 5:00pm mass beginning in September 2022.  
When

the choir is not singing at a mass a cantor will lead the singing with instrumental support/augmentation. The primary role of the Music Ministry is to promote and support congregational singing and we will use several new techniques beginning in September to encourage this. Since congregational singing resumed, the assemblies at all the masses have participated with enthusiasm. The placement of the choir will be more flexible than prior to the pandemic and will be based on weekly programming and the specifics associated with each Sunday. In addition to the changes noted above, Andrea MacWilliams has been hired as an Associate Music Director and will be responsible for re-establishing a children's choir as part of the 9:30am Mass Children's Liturgy program as well as a Student Choir at the University Mass on Sunday evenings. St. Joseph's Parish has not had a children's choir for several years and we believe this initiative will add another element of new life to our parish community.

## CHALLENGES

Recruitment – This will be a particular focus for the reflections ministry. Over 50% of the reflectors have not yet returned to in person mass, leaving a void in this ministry. It has also become for difficult to fill the reflections schedule. In this case, Fr. Jim has provided homilies more frequently than usual.

## REFLECTION MINISTRY

Contact: Eleanor Rabnett

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Similar to last year, the Reflection Ministry has managed with approximately half of their members being active in their ministry during the ongoing pandemic. While things have opened up somewhat, not all of our parishioners have returned to in-person church and worship.

Reflectors who have remained active have been incredibly generous with their time and sharing their reflections in-person as well as creating a video for those who have not yet returned to active praise and liturgy at St. Joe's or others who are no longer able to come to in-person liturgy.

### CHALLENGES

N/A

### FINANCES

N/A

### YEAR AHEAD

We have begun once again to try and recruit new Reflectors which includes a period of some formation, as well as renewal for ongoing members as they continue to serve St. Joe's parish.

## CARE FOR CREATION MINISTRY

Contact: Joan O'Connell

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2021, St. Joseph's joined the Creation Care network of parishes set up by the Archdiocese under the leadership of John Dorner from our sister parish, Holy Canadian Martyrs. Mireille Church is currently coordinating the work of the Care for God's Creation office while John is away on medical leave. The network meets virtually from time to time to share information, resources and experiences thereby avoiding duplication of effort.

Efforts were made to keep the parish informed, via the weekly electronic parish update, of key events and opportunities for participation related to care for Creation, climate change, etc., during the last year. This was greatly assisted by information provided by the diocesan Creation Care office. These included:

Season of Creation (September 1-October 4, 2021) –

- The theme of the 2021 Season of Creation was A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God.
- Some parishioners attended the “Stations of Creation” Way of the Cross event at Holy Redeemer parish in Kanata on September 1, the launch of the Season of Creation.
- Weekly bulletin inserts shared information, practical suggestions, reflections, prayers, advocacy ideas, etc., regarding this annual period of reflection for Christians around the world, focusing on renewing our faith in the God of Creation and joining in prayer and work for the care of our common home.
- Walk or Bike to Church Sunday on October 2 and 3 was promoted.
- Parishioners were invited to attend (or watch via live streaming) the archdiocese's closing mass for the Season of Creation at Holy Redeemer parish on October 4.

COP26 – October 31-November 12, 2021

- Inspired by parishioner, Norah McMahon, an earth prayer network was publicized with the goal of surrounding world leaders at the UN Climate Conference with prayer so that the Conference would be a success. A link was set up on the parish website, diocesan website (via the Creation Care network) and shared with various like-minded networks and partners such as the Laudato Si' Movement, Green Churches Alliance, Development and Peace and Galilee Centre.

- Webinars on: Divestment from Fossil Fuels, and the Spirituality of Laudato Si'; sponsored by the Archdiocesan Creation Care Office.
- World Water Day – March 22 - Ideas on how to observe this annual day to reflect on the gift of and sacredness of water, including webinars on Sacred Water – an Interfaith Conversation; and water stewardship in eastern Ontario.
- Webinar on The Contribution of Catholicism to Global Sustainable Development with keynote address by Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J.; sponsored by Centre Oblat. Joe Gunn from both St. Joe's and Centre Oblat was one of the panelists.
- Earth Day – April 22 – Ideas on how to mark this annual day to reflect on our common home included a webinar, a call to action, photo challenge and prayer.

## CHALLENGES

There are few active members of this ministry which will be especially challenging when parishes are called to start work on their own 7-year Laudato Si' Action Plan in the fall.

## FINANCES

Nothing as yet although it is possible that the future parish Laudato Si' 7-year action plan may have some financial implications, which could also include savings.

## YEAR AHEAD

It will be necessary to strike a parish Laudato Si' action plan working group to start work on this initiative of Pope Francis and endorsed by the Association of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.

## DEVELOPMENT & PEACE MINISTRY

Contact: Larry Martin & Joan O'Connell

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### 2021

##### Share Lent

- The Share Lent campaign was virtual again in 2021 due to the pandemic. The theme was Share Love, Share Lent, inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical Fratelli Tutti.
- The DPCC national office organized many virtual events for the campaign including a Way of the Cross and a live Solidarity mass on Salt & Light TV on Solidarity Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Lent, which is the day of the annual collection for DPCC in all the parishes across Canada. All these events were publicized in the parish weekly update along with other resources like the interactive solidarity calendar.
- The campaign also sought to increase the number of monthly, "Share Year-Round", donors, thanks to a large fund created by a number of religious institutions - including the Oblates of Mary Immaculate - where new monthly donors would have their contributions matched for one year. Increases in monthly donations from existing Share Year-Round donors would also be matched for one year. This was highlighted in our weekly electronic parish updates during Lent.
- As is the parish's tradition, the Solidarity Sunday reflection was offered by a member of the parish Development and Peace committee for all week-end masses.
- To provide another way for parishioners to donate to DPCC, the parish added Development and Peace to the list of funds that donors to St. Joe's can choose from on its Canada Helps page.
- The parish collected \$2,452 in contributions to DPCC in the Share Lent collection. This does not include donations made directly to DPCC, amounts contributed by Share Year Round donors, or cheques made out to Development and Peace (which the parish forwarded to DPCC). This was up slightly from the 2020 collection of \$2310.

##### Education and Action Campaign

- The fall 2021 education and action campaign had the theme People and Planet First. The focus was on the need in Canada for mandatory human rights and environmental

due diligence legislation that would hold Canadian companies operating abroad accountable throughout all parts of their operations and supply chains.

- Parishioners were invited, via the weekly on-line bulletin, to an on-line workshop conducted by DPCC staff and members to learn more about the campaign, hear stories from DPCC partners and communities who have been harmed by companies operating in the Global South and learn about the Parliamentary Petition directed to the Minister of International Affairs requesting that Canada bring in this type of mandatory legislation.
- The parish DPCC committee met virtually to discuss the campaign and decided that it would, with parish permission and appropriate Covid safety protocols, invite parishioners to sign this petition on the week-ends of November 20-21 and 27-28. Committee members were at all masses to assist and answer questions. In all, 142 signatures were obtained. As a result, the parish Committee decided to seek meetings with four local Members of Parliament representing St. Joe's parishioners to ask them to present these petitions in the House of Commons.

## **Into 2022**

### **Share Lent**

- Easing of Covid-19 restrictions allowed for more in-person opportunities in 2022.
- Short articles about DPCC, its partners and the campaign were included in the parish electronic update each week during Lent.
- The Share Lent mini-magazine, containing stories of DPCC partners, was handed out to parishioners at all masses by members of the parish DPCC committee on the 1st Sunday of Lent.
- An in-person Solidarity Way of the Cross was conducted over three Sundays in Lent in between the 9:30 and 11:30 masses, with five stations of the cross focused on each week. A small but committed group of parishioners (10-12) attended each week. The first week was held in the church but with Fr. Jim's help the following two Sundays were held in the quieter parish library. Attendees took turns reading the various parts and all enjoyed a brief period of reflection afterwards. Participants endorsed continuing this model during Lent next year.
- On Solidarity Sunday – the 5th Sunday of Lent – a Symbols of Solidarity procession was held at the start of each mass, replacing the Introductory Rites. Members of the parish DPCC committee participated in the procession or read the text describing each of the symbols and linking them to partner groups of DPCC and their lived experiences. Parishioners other than committee members were also recruited to participate in the procession. Comments were received after mass from a number of parishioners who found it very moving. Many thanks to Fr. Jim for his

wholehearted support for this. As has been the tradition at St. Joe's, the reflection at all masses was given by a member of the DPCC committee.

- This year's Share Lent collection amounted to \$3303 which was a significant increase over the preceding year. Parishioners were thanked in the weekly electronic update.
- We have a few new members of the DPCC committee this year and other parishioners have expressed interest. This has helped greatly with all the actions that were taken during the Share Lent campaign.

#### Education and Action Campaign update

- A meeting was held on May 4, 2022, with Anita Vandenberg, MP for Ottawa West-Nepean and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development. She was not able to accept the petitions because of her position as Parliamentary Secretary. Nonetheless, it was a positive meeting and she indicated that holding Canadian companies accountable for their actions when operating in the Global South is an issue that is important to her, in part due to her experiences working in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Meetings with three other local MP's have been requested and appointment dates are still pending.

#### Other

- DPCC was the subject of one of the videos in the parish's ongoing Parish History Series. Joan O'Connell from the parish DPCC committee shared her knowledge and experiences with Development and Peace and how it is through Development and Peace that she feels she most fully lives out her faith.
- Information on the devastating August 14, 2021 earthquake in Haiti and how some of DPCC's partners were able to immediately swing in the action and assist was included in the weekly update.

You might be interested in this ministry if:

- Catholic Social Teaching speaks to you;
- you are concerned about injustice with respect to people and the planet generally and inequality between the Global South and countries of the northern hemisphere in particular;
- you would like to be part of a democratic, social movement of international solidarity created by the Canadian bishops over 50 years ago that seeks to effect real change.

## CHALLENGES

It was a good year, greatly assisted by a return to in-person worship and eased Covid-19 restrictions.

## FINANCES

See ACCOMPLISHMENTS above for Share Lent collection amounts.

## YEAR AHEAD

The committee is hoping to resume its sale of fair trade coffee after the week-end masses. In the past, this has resulted in an additional \$1000 being raised for Development and Peace each year.

## FUNERAL MINISTRY

Contact: Dona Bowers, Pat Shaughnessy, and Dianne Taylor

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Funeral Ministry meets with the family of the deceased to facilitate and guide in the liturgical planning of their loved one's funeral. Our goal is for the family to feel welcome and comfortable, as we collaboratively ensure a meaningful, healing, Christian experience.*

### HIGHLIGHTS

There were very few funerals at St Joseph's Parish during the course of the pandemic. Many celebrations of life were postponed until after any possibility of a "lock down" and people felt safe when gathering. This has been very difficult for families. There was very little opportunity for people to grieve publicly while being surrounded by family and friends. Some opted to have graveside services that included only immediate family members. Unfortunately, the parish was not always involved.

We did however celebrate the lives of 12 parishioners. Those funerals would be recorded in the parish directory. There was no gathering after the liturgy.

In January of 2022, Dona Bowers, Pat Shaughnessy and Dianne Taylor met with Fr. Jim, Jamie Loback and Chris Adam to outline and review the purpose of this ministry. It was also an opportunity to discuss future needs of the ministry.

As a result, we were able to establish clearer roles for the staff before and during a funeral. Based on the parking concerns that have arisen during a funeral, some welcomed changes have occurred. The new parking signs are very effective and are respected by all those using the lot.

Our meeting also resulted in the team successfully welcoming new members. Pat, Dona and Dianne agreed to personally mentor all of the new members.

These few changes have resulted in our being able to better serve the families as they process their grief and prepare a meaningful liturgy for their loved ones.

### FINANCES

We have no financial needs at this time.

## LOOKING AHEAD

There have been several requests to hold a planning session for fellow parishioners. A date will be set later.

Hopefully we will have another Memorial service in November to honour the many friends and relatives who have died during the past few years.

The support and assistance that we are able to provide is welcomed by the grieving families as they search for a way to celebrate the lives of their loved ones through a meaningful and reflective liturgy.

Thank you to all who participate in the preparation and celebration of the life of someone in our community. The contribution that is made by each staff member and each member of this ministry does not go unnoticed.

Many former parishioners request to have their funeral back at St Joe's. This is wonderful tribute to the legacy of the parish.

## RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

Contact: Sue-Anne Hess

In response to the discoveries made in Kamloops and elsewhere in the summer of 2021, St Joe's Parish chose to make Reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters a pastoral priority for 2022. An initial evening of sharing and reflection was held in November, when St Joe's hosted Donna Naughton from Kateri Native Ministry as our guest speaker. Donna shared powerfully about Kateri, and of the inspiration and leadership of her late brother, John. This event was well-attended, with approximately seventy participants and \$17,000 raised to support the ministry. Equally, the event demonstrated the sincere desire of St Joe's parishioners to listen and learn.

In February 2022, St Joe's commenced a Reconciliation Discussion Series that ran every second Monday through March, April, and May. Sue-Anne Hess hosted the series with a team of committed facilitators. Having previously worked with Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Australia, Sue-Anne was able to integrate those experiences and insights, which share many elements in common with Canada. The facilitation team, which were from both Canadian Martyrs and St Joe's parish, met regularly to share feedback on the series, new ideas, and suggestions.

Using an adult-learning model, this series had the following aims:

- To facilitate instances of authentic and open dialogue
- To provide an opportunity to learn more about the colonization of Canada and the injustices that arose from this process
- To grow an awareness of and understanding of white privilege and racial injustice in Canada today
- To listen to experiences and stories of Indigenous Canadians as they strive to heal from the colonization experience
- To build an experience of "walking with" in a spirit of community, commission, and fellowship
- To offer moments of prayerful intercession, seeking God's Will and Guidance in our journey together

Five of the seven sessions were held via zoom, which allowed us to gather safely as we became more comfortable with COVID restrictions easing, and the warmer weather returning. Using zoom, we were able to share slideshows and links, video clips and we also had the capacity for breakout rooms for smaller group discussions. Attendance ranged from thirty participants to fifty-nine, with a total of eighty-five participants registered over the

course of the series. It was uplifting to see that attendees were not only from St Joe's parish, but also Canadian Martyrs, St Basil's, and other Christian denominations.

Initially, we had intended to have each session build on the previous (like a short course), but as we progressed, we realised that each session had a "stand alone" quality and we were therefore able to welcome new participants to each session.

## SESSION SUMMARY

1. Story – understanding the powerful ways that hearing and sharing our stories can create connections between us, and help us to find our common human experience with others
2. Past, present and future – understanding how historical injustices have led to profound inequalities today. Reflecting on new ways to walk forward together
3. 94 Calls to action and The Moral Imagination – how do we respond to all that we have learned?
4. The Jesuits and Reconciliation – Fr Peter Bisson
5. An Indigenous Catholic priest – Fr Daryold Winkler
6. The Blanket exercise (Kateri Native Ministry) – Donna Naughton
7. What now? Our wrap-up session and potluck barbeque

Towards the end of the series, participants were asked to complete a survey designed to provide some structured feedback for the parish. Here are a few highlights:

- All respondents reported an increase in their understanding of Reconciliation in Canada over the course of the series
- Participants were particularly moved by the personal stories and experience shared by the speakers. Group discussions and sharing circles were also popular, as well as the experiential Blanket Exercise
- Going forward, there was strong interest in further collaborative projects between parishes, particularly Canadian Martyrs and St Joe's. Ongoing education, volunteering (and acts of service), and involvement with Kateri Native Ministry were also standout hopes for the future participation.

The series was designed to be just one part of the ongoing activities designed to further Reconciliation efforts. On April 24th, St Joe's once again welcomed Kateri Native ministry

who facilitated our Sunday Mass service. Following the service, we were thrilled to be able to share a small reception together and to enjoy one another's "in-person" presence.

Finally, on April 1st, the global church witnessed a Papal apology to Canadian Indigenous communities during their visit to Rome. While we understand that the Reconciliation journey will take more time, we embrace this recognition of historical wrongs, and we look forward to Pope Francis' visit to Canada later in the summer. We pray that whatever small seeds have been sewn through our coming together these past months may bear fruit in days to come.

### **Summary document of parish pastoral support of Reconciliation process through May 2022 – Prepared by Parish Pastoral Council**

June 4 2021 Documents on St Joe's website QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

June 6 2021 Fr Garry Laboucane & Fr Jim Bleakley: A Conversation

June 8 2021 Parish Pastoral Council committed to focus on Truth and Reconciliation throughout the pastoral year

June 9 2021 A Gathering for Prayer and Reflection in Light of the News from Kamloops

Sept 15-Oct 6 2021 Engaging Oblate Parishes in Truth and Reconciliation Action

Sept 30 2021 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Nov 18 2021 Donna Naughton, Executive Director, Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa – spoke at St Joe's about the ministry

Advent 2021 (Nov 28-Dec 24) Special collection to support Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa – funds donated by parishioners and matched by parish to support the Kendaasawin Program – 85 participating households and some parishioners sent funds directly to KNMO. In total, St. Joseph's Parish provided over \$17,000 in support.

December 13 2021 - Reconciliation Services for Advent - the theme was the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation Process.

Dec 2021 or Jan 2022 – Parishioner offered her services to support the Diocesan Indigenous website Parish approached to offer volunteers to assist with the Indigenous resources section of the Diocesan website.

Mar 9, 2022: The St. Joe's Women's Centre earmarks \$5,000 from its Women Moving Forward Program as a scholarship to be provided an Indigenous woman beginning college or university studies in Fall 2022.

Apr 24 2022 Kateri Mass follow by reception and fellowship

Feb 28-May 23 2022 Reconciliation Series offered by St Joe's and hosted by Sue-Anne Hess with guest speakers, reading lists, conversations and reflection and blanket exercise hosted by Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa.

May 8 2022 Parish invited parishioners to sign letter of support for ongoing lease of land at Fitzroy Harbour by Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa.

## REFUGEE OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINISTRY

Contact: Margie Cain (Chair), Jane Armstrong (Secretary), and John Weir (Treasurer)

### SPONSORSHIPS

In December 2021, the ROC submitted two new sponsorship applications with the Anglican Archdiocese Sponsorship Agreement Holder. They are for two Syrian families currently living in Jordan who are related to families in Ottawa that we sponsored. The current processing time is over two years.

We are now working on two more sponsorships for a 78-year-old mother and her adult daughter related to a family sponsored in 2019. After fleeing Syria in 2013, they travelled to Jordan where they face living without income or family support. Our goal is to organize a settlement team and raise the \$33,000 required to cover the sponsorship start-up costs and 12 months of income support.

### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

From June 2021 through May 2022, our team of 17 ROC members has:

- Presented a reflection for the liturgies celebrating World Refugee Day.
- Provided finances, transportation and help in registering children for summer day camps
- Arranged picnics and visits with families.
- Donated funds for quarantine arrangements required by new arrivals to Canada.
- Delivered household items donated by parishioners to people moving into new apartments.
- Continued ESL and educational tutoring of a number of adults and children.
- Delivered Christmas gift bags of donated items and gift cards to 14 women and men.
- Organized a winter skating party for 25 ROC members and newcomers at Rideau Hall.
- Assisted an expectant mother through pre and post-natal phases.
- Responded to a request for funds and baby items for another expectant newcomer.
- Donated funds to a young mother facing stressful and costly family circumstances.
- Assisted a family in accessing medical and other resources for their child.
- Helped arrange and finance dental needs.
- Donated 20 x \$50 OMRA food cards to Ukrainian newcomers to Ottawa.

- Helped with the book launch of Ordinary People, Extraordinary Actions: Refuge through Activism at Ottawa's St. Joe's Parish, to be held outdoors on the Tabaret Lawn, Monday, June 20, 2022, 2 pm-4 pm. All are invited.

## FINANCE

We are grateful to our Parish for the financial support from the annual special collection on World Refugee Day. Financial support is gratefully accepted through the following link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/131771990RR0006-saint-joseph-parish/> or by contacting [jhnwr99@yahoo.ca](mailto:jhnwr99@yahoo.ca)

## YEAR AHEAD

Anyone interested in volunteering and exploring how their time, talent and treasure might help can e-mail ROC Ministry Contact Dona Bowers at [dona-bob@rogers.com](mailto:dona-bob@rogers.com)

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END OF REPORT