



The Good Shepherd Parish
is a Catholic community
rooted in the Gospel
where all are invited
to encounter Christ,
grow in holiness,
and proclaim His Good News
to the world.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Annual General Meeting Report 2022

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1. Baptism Preparation Program

The baptism of children in the parish usually occurs on the last Saturday of each month at 3:00 p.m. Parents are obliged to attend a preparation course prior to the baptism. The course usually occurs on the second Saturdays of the month from approximately 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. (noon). The course continues to uphold the multiple goals previously established for the preparation session:

- Meet all participants where they are on their faith journey without judgment and welcome them to the parish with love;
- Inform the parents and godparents of their duties and obligations by agreeing to have their child baptized;
- Give parents an understanding of what they can do to bring their child up in the faith;
- Witness to the participants through personal testimonies (our experiences as Catholic Christians);
- Give parents and godparents an understanding of the theology, signs, and symbols of the rite and the way in which the rite will be conducted at Good Shepherd; and
- Answer all questions openly and honestly; even if it is just to say that you don't know.

Although there are no fees associated with baptism, a suggested donation of \$80.00 from those able to give helps to cover administrative costs and items which are given to the family, including: Booklet on baptism; Certificate of Baptism; Baptismal candle and box; White stole; and Bottle for Holy Water.

Presently Deacon Philip Tang leads the Baptism Ministry along with parishioner John Villarosa.

2. Bible Study Ministry

Over the Pandemic period the Bible Study took a pause to assess if and how we could proceed. Once it was confirmed that no “in-person” activities at the church were possible, it was decided to try out a study online using Zoom. This turned out to be a real blessing for all participants. While in-person studies are rich, there seems to be an intentional listening/sharing when our gatherings are conducted via Zoom. We have been holding online Bible studies since Fall of 2020 and have just recently returned to holding two sessions in-person (Wednesday mornings and afternoons), while continuing the Wednesday evening sessions via Zoom. With Zoom we were able to have folks (Catholics but not parishioners) attend from as far away as Florida and Saskatchewan. The online experience really enhanced the gatherings from this perspective.

Generally, Bible study is offered in the parish twice a year – in the Fall beginning the week after Labour Day and again in the Spring after Easter. Approximately 25 people have been participating in the Bible study which is offered at three different times during the week: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am and Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm; and Wednesday evenings.

The program uses material from the Little Rock Scripture Study, a ministry of the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas. Each participant receives a commentary and a study guide. The study guide provides approximately 10 discussion questions for each lesson. We usually select 5 questions for group discussion each week. Some of the questions call for a factual answer straight from the commentary; other questions encourage the participants to relate the course material to their lives today.

Each session begins with the discussion questions and then we watch a video lecture – usually about 20 minutes long. And then we select the discussion questions for the following week.

We are currently in the midst of two 4-week studies on “The Panorama of the Old Testament” and “The Panorama of the New Testament”.

In his book, "Called by Name, Sent in His Name", Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher says: "For many Christians, participating in a Bible study group has become an essential activity in their lives. They meet with other believers who want to hear the voice of Jesus speak to them. They gather regularly either in the home of one of the members or in a public space for an hour or two to meditate on a text from scripture, to enlighten each other, to share how it challenges them. These groups often become true communities of faith where deep friendships and trust are forged." (p. 40)

That certainly is the experience of our Good Shepherd Bible study groups, both in-person and online.

Charlotte Gupta
Good Shepherd Bible Study Ministry Coordinator

3. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

With the pandemic this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back for in-person parish activities this ministry continues to become reactivated.

CGS is a Christocentric program that introduces children to biblical and sacramental themes in a way that embraces their youth, joy and capacity for prayer. The program takes place in a Montessori environment called an atrium and is broken down into three levels: Level 1, for the 3 – 5 year old child, Level 2, for the 6 – 8 year old child and Level 3, for the 9 – 12 year old child. We run sessions for all three levels during the course of a week, with morning, evening and weekend sessions, beginning in mid-October and ending in late April. The children explore life in the church, including altar nomenclature and the parts of the Mass, the life of Jesus, including Biblical geography, and the parables, including the parable of the Good Shepherd which is central to Level 1 in the atrium. The children also have the opportunity to wonder about the sacraments and of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our five catechists feel so blessed to be working with the children in the atrium and to be helping them discover the beauty of their relationship with God.

In the 2022/2023 year, we will be welcoming 55 children (up 11 children from last year) over the three levels of the program. We also wish to run atrium sessions for adults in the parish with the hope of sharing the beauty of this program more broadly at Good Shepherd Parish.

If you are interested in helping out or have any questions on this rich program please contact Sarah (smacdo03@gmail.com) or Beth (beth.jaz4@gmail.com).

Beth Jaz

on behalf of the CGS catechist team

4. Catholic Women's League (CWL)

During the pandemic in-person meetings were not possible and meetings via Zoom were held intermittently. The General Meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month, from September to June.

Now that the pandemic has somewhat subsided, we are looking at holding hybrid meetings (some attending in person and some on Zoom). We are now reviewing the possibilities of fundraising given the challenges post-COVID. Our annual Craft Fair was put on hold during the pandemic, and we are now assessing a modified Craft Fair to ensure the safety of our members and of those attending the fair. We also participate in the Annual Parish Garage Sale in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus (KofC).

Monies raised during these fundraisers enable us to continue our good works of supporting those receiving the Sacraments with Mass Books, Catechisms and Bibles (jointly with KofC). We also donate generously to worthy charitable causes. We regularly give to help homeless women and children, among many other things. We continue to offer two bursaries to students of Lester B. Pearson High School and are once again offering the Good Shepherd Scholarship of \$300. We also continue to support our pastor, Fr. Virgil, and offer whatever we can contribute as the need arises within the parish.

Of course, central to our very essence is our Spiritual Life. We begin each meeting with prayer and participate and/or lead in various parish liturgies, Rosary evenings, Way of the Cross to name a few. We have a Mass offered each month for present and deceased Members and Spiritual Advisors. And most important of all, we pray for each other daily!

If you would like more information on the council at our parish, please contact me at doreendumont@hotmail.com.

Doreen Dumont, President

Good Shepherd Catholic Women's League Parish Council

5. Christian Meditation Group

With the pandemic this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back for in-person parish activities this ministry continues to become reactivated.

The Christian Meditation group meets every Monday afternoon at 1:00 pm. At our gatherings each week, we open with prayer; listen to a talk given by Fr. Laurence

Freeman, a Benedictine monk, or another Christian meditator; play a couple of minutes of music; and then 25 minutes of silence so that we can focus on being in the presence of God; then a couple minutes of music and a reflection is then read; the Lord's prayer is recited and then we have a closing prayer. A discussion may follow our meditation with regards to the talk, depending on the group's wishes. If anyone wishes to join our group on Monday afternoons, please feel free to do so as all are welcome.

Charlotte Gupta
Christian Meditation Coordinator

6. Communications Ministry

Our parish website has been up and running since 2019 thanks in a very large part to Bruce Robin. With Bruce's advice and expertise, our parish website is a great resource for parishioners and visitors alike; we use an "off the shelf" software from e-Catholic. Bruce has recently stepped down from this leadership role and our parish owes him a huge thank you for getting our website looking as professional as it does.

During the height of the pandemic period, Bruce navigated all the many challenges with organizing our in-person Masses and the requirement for contact-tracing. He assessed options and then proceeded with installing the EventBrite software for parishioners to register for Mass and then for the parish to hold these records for 90 days in case of illness and subsequent contact-tracing. While it was generally user-friendly to the parishioners, it took a lot of effort on the part of Bruce and, again, the parish owes him a debt of gratitude for his setting this up and providing the lists on an ongoing basis.

The committee is not "officially" constituted at this time but there are ongoing projects that fall under this ministry. Key one is the "Smart Church" project and Mark McAvoy (incoming Chair of the PPC) has the lead for this. Mark is gathering a number of parishioners to shepherd this project and they continue to assess the requirements for:

- improving all areas of sound in our church (updating the sound system and its components, etc);
- developing a list of requirements for new additions to the communications within the church. For example, projecting liturgical info during the Mass (words to hymns, prayers, etc.) on the two walls behind the altar (installing flat screens on these two walls is being considered); flat screen monitors in the Gathering Space that will have current information posted, linking it to the website; etc.

The list above is not complete and there may be more ideas brought forward. The intent is to consider all possibilities, given our facility; costs would be assessed against all ideas. A request for a decision would be brought to Parish Pastoral Council before any final plans are confirmed. Given the anticipated costs, a

dedicated fund-raising would be the likely way to raise the funds for this project. More information will follow as the committee work progresses.

If anyone in the parish has skills/knowledge in this area and would like to help out on this committee, please contact Mark McAvoy markmcavoy@bell.net.

7. Cursillo Movement

Cursillos in Christianity (in Spanish: Cursillos de Cristiandad, short course of Christianity) is an apostolic movement of the Roman Catholic Church. It was founded in Majorca, Spain by a group of laymen in 1944, while they were refining a technique to train pilgrimage Christian leaders.

Cursillo has resumed and weekends take place in Hawkesbury, ON. The weekly gatherings are now biweekly at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church every second Wednesday, Mass starts at 7:00 pm with a gathering in the hall after mass. Application to attend a weekend are always welcomed. Please contact Helen Lemoire for more information at helensl@bell.net.

Helen Lemoire
Good Shepherd Parish Cursillo

8. Finance Council – October 2022

Dear Parishioners,

As was mentioned in March, in the Finance Council update to the parish, the last two years have been a challenge for the finances. With the church being closed for extended periods of time, and many parishioners and visitors not returning, regular collections have been lower than in pre-pandemic years. Expenses have also been lower, but the parish has relied on one-time revenues from Enbridge's rental of the parking lot (\$25,000 in 2020) and the federal government's Emergency Wage Subsidy (\$42,000 in 2021) to maintain a reasonable fiscal balance. All told, the parish had a small surplus (\$8,000) in 2020 and a deficit (\$17,000) in 2021.

On the next page is a statement of the parish's revenues and expenses as of the end of August 2022 and the same results to the end of August 2021. As you will see, the parish is running a deficit of over \$20,800 two-thirds of the way through the year. This is not surprising given that our extraordinary revenues are much lower than they were last year, and expenses are up.

In order to balance the budget, the parish will need additional contributions and some continued good luck with respect to the heating unit. While no major expenses were planned for this year, the heating unit that keeps the social space warm is being closely monitored. It is at the end of its life and will need to be replaced if it stops working.

At the end of August 2022, the parish's mortgage balance dipped below \$200,000. Each year, the parish spends just under \$100,000 in principal and interest to pay for the mortgage that was taken out when the church was built. In 2022, the interest portion will be down to \$10,000 a year. By October 2024, the mortgage will be completely paid off.

If you aren't already a PAC contributor (Pre-Authorized Contributions), please consider this option.

The Finance Council is also looking for new members. The work is not difficult, requiring a willingness to attend a monthly meeting and share your wisdom to help with the management of the temporal affairs of the parish. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Finance Council, please contact Sean Keenan (seant.keenan@gmail.com).

+ Thank you for your continued generosity.

	Actual to August 2022	Actual to August 2021
Operating Revenue		
Collections from Masses	\$79,190	\$62,737
PAC & Credit Card Revenue	92,481	95,418
Masses, Weddings and Funerals	8,840	6,790
Miscellaneous Revenue	13,149	48,915
Parochial Organizations	4,655	1,610
Total Revenue	\$198,315	\$215,471
Operating Expenditures:		
Administration	82,796	76,778
Utilities & Maintenance	49,424	43,610
Cultural and Pastoral	8,109	3,460
Diocesan Tax	10,974	15,031
Parochial Organizations	1,241	1,139
Mortgage Interest & Bank Charges	9,318	11,943
Masses, Funerals & Weddings	1,260	1,588
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,828	1,614
Total Expenditures	164,950	155,163
Operating Revenue over Expenditures	38,406	60,315
Extraordinary Expenditures:		
<u>Major Repairs or Replacements</u>		
Unforeseen repairs	--	--
	--	--
Other Outflows:		
<u>Mortgage</u> Payments (principal repayments)	59,266	56,663
Total Revenue over Outflows	\$(20,860)	\$3,652
Miscellaneous Information:		
Mortgage Balance	\$199,899	\$288,140

9. Knights of Columbus

During the pandemic in-person meetings were not possible and meetings via Zoom were held on a regular basis.

With no in-person meetings we had to consider other ways of serving the parish and assisting in our wider community. With respect to fundraising, in-person events were out of the question. So, we turned our efforts to using the online options that were safe for everyone in terms of gathering community, separately, yet together.

And so, we held an online one-hour Christmas Music Production that was put on by members of the Good Shepherd Music Ministry. This was super well-received as folks in our community realized the need to gather even though COVID restrictions remained a challenge. It was so uplifting to be received in that way, and the funds raised were considerable and went to serve those less fortunate in our parish and in our wider community.

We have now returned to meeting in person, and we just resumed hosting our monthly parish breakfasts. This was again well-received, and well-attended. Folks were hungry not only for food, but for the in-person gathering as well.

We continue to help the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference with the Christmas Food Hampers (gift cards due to COVID) and lead the parish Garage Sale in collaboration with the Catholic Women's League. We have also participated in community fundraisers that support Ukrainian refugees.

Funds raised support a number of programs and charities with a religious, community, and/or church focus. Designates include our own Parish, Pro-Life organizations, Coats for Kids program, graduate bursaries, housing for the homeless (including homeless veterans), and seminarians.

Activities aren't all money raising events. A Memorial Mass follows our founder's mission (Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney) – to honour our fallen brothers and support their widows and children. Our participation in Pro-Life campaigns and events reaffirms our commitment to defending the right to life. The Basketball Free-Throw and Substance Abuse Poster Contest programs involve the youth of our Parish schools.

Our volunteer hours do not stop with Council activities. Many of our members can be seen participating in church ministries (Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Music Ministry, etc.), and on various parish committees.

If you would like to consider joining us or want more information on the council at our parish, please contact me at steven.j.hughes@icloud.com.

Steven Hughes
Grand Knight – Council 9005

10. Liturgical Committee

The Liturgy Committee at The Good Shepherd Parish is made up of: Chair; Pastor; and Coordinators of each Liturgical Ministry. During the height of the pandemic this committee was not operating as in-person Masses were not permitted.

The Chair of this committee has recently changed and so now that we are back with in-person Masses, this committee will resume meeting to ensure all aspects of our weekend Sunday Masses, along with other liturgies and special Masses throughout the year are conducted in an inclusive and prayerful manner. In this Parish, we are blessed with committed and generous people, who carry out their Ministry faithfully, efficiently, and reverently.

The Mass you attend whether Sunday or weekday; funeral or wedding; Healing or Memorial or in a Nursing Home, involves many, many people; some you see and some you don't. Be assured, however, that many people have done their part in bringing the service to life.

MINISTRY REPORTS

A. Altar Server Ministry

With the pandemic this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back for in-person Masses this ministry continues to become reactivated. We have approximately eight altar servers. Servers are trained as required, or on a one-on-one basis, or when someone new is joining.

Parishioners (particularly school-age persons) are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at louis.osezua@gmail.com to arrange for a training session.

Louis Osezua
Altar Server Ministry Coordinator

B. Greeting Ministry

With the pandemic this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back at in-person Masses, we continue to regroup as a ministry. Members of this ministry consist of warm and friendly parishioners. They are good at what they do and those entering our church for the weekend Sunday Masses really like the welcome they receive.

Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at stacch@rogers.com to discuss.

Hilary Als
Greeting Ministry Coordinator

C. Music Ministry

During the pandemic this ministry continued to serve the parish through our virtual Masses. This was a challenge given Zoom/YouTube, etc., but the feedback was that it was a welcome way to hold our faith family together and so we continued despite the challenges. Now that we are back to “in-person” Masses we continue to seek out new members, be they singers or musical accompanists (piano/organ/guitar).

The Music Ministry is a team of dedicated volunteers who use their skill and training as singers and musicians to lead the assembly at Good Shepherd Parish in song at mass and at other liturgies. As in past years, the Music Ministry as a whole gathers to form ad hoc choirs and groups to provide music for the Christmas Season and for the Easter Triduum.

Any trained accompanists (piano/organ/guitar) interested in joining are invited to consider sharing their gifts with the parish through service in this ministry. To discuss the commitments and details, please contact the Music Ministry Coordinator at gsp.music.coordinator@gmail.com.

Maureen Ahern
Music Ministry Co-ordinator

D. Lector Ministry

Presently there are approximately 20 ministers who proclaim the Word or take the role of moderator at the regularly scheduled Sunday Masses. With the pandemic and the virtual Masses, this ministry continued to serve the parish. Now that we are back to in-person Masses this ministry continues to navigate the scheduling challenges. With the pandemic we reduced the number of “per Mass” ministers to “one” minister who proclaimed both readings, as well as read the Prayers of the Faithful. Given not all of the ministers (pre-pandemic times) are ready to return to Mass in-person, we continue to seek out new members for this ministry. Ideally it is hoped that we can return to three ministers per Mass, one lector to proclaim the First Reading, one to proclaim the Second Reading and a third minister to read the Moderator’s introduction to mass and the Prayers of the Faithful. Until there are enough members, the schedule will continue to use one minister per Mass.

The parish provides a Sunday Missal to each minister to enable their prayerful preparation of their readings. Workbooks for Lectors are ordered for those ministers who request one; these are paid for by each individual.

This ministry is very rewarding as all members are committed to their prayerful preparation of the readings. All ministers are to be commended for their dedication to this ministry. Their commitment to the monthly schedule, as well as to stepping up to fulfill short-notice vacancies is a wonderful example of the Christian spirit. There are also a number of other liturgies (Confirmation Mass, Reconciliation Liturgies, etc.) where they

may also participate. The parish is very well served by their contribution to our liturgies.

Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at mabolsen@rogers.com to arrange for a training session.

Sincere gratitude is extended to Mike Chippa who managed this ministry during my recent extended absence following a death in my family. Thank you.

Marilyn Olsen
Lector Ministry Coordinator

E. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Ministry

During the pandemic, this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back at in-person Masses, we continue to regroup as a ministry. At present we have approximately 13 people serving as Eucharistic Ministers for all three weekend Sunday masses. We are still challenged at the 5:00 pm and 11:15 am masses. We were able to provide enough people for all Christmas, Triduum and Easter weekend masses.

Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at barb@barbpaquette.com to arrange for a training session.

Barb Paquette
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Ministry Coordinator

F. Usher Ministry

During the pandemic, this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back at in-person Masses, we continue to regroup as a ministry. This Ministry ensures that all masses and special events have Ushers present.

Ushers, along with the Knights of Columbus members, assist Liturgy in setting up and taking down chairs for Christmas and Easter masses.

There are approximately only 11 Ushers in this ministry and volunteers are always needed. If you are able to serve at one Mass per month that would be a great help. Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at rideout.dh@gmail.com to arrange for a training session.

Dennis Rideout
Usher Ministry Coordinator

G. Sacristan Ministry

During the pandemic and virtual Masses, this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back to in-person Masses, we continue to regroup as a ministry. Presently we have 8 active Sacristans, some serving at

weekday Masses, others serving both during the week and on weekends. Sacristans prepare for and serve more than 300 regularly scheduled Masses; and they prepare and serve at Funerals and Memorial Masses, Wedding rehearsals, Weddings and school Masses.

We also continue to prepare, in advance, the liturgical vessels and items required for the Triduum, additional Masses at Christmas, Reconciliation services, Confirmation and other liturgies. All this is done to provide a prayerful environment for parishioners and to assist our pastor, Fr. Virgil, to offer the Sacraments to the faithful.

Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at noelineedwards@rogers.com to discuss.

Noeline Edwards
Sacristan Ministry Coordinator

H. Children's Liturgy Ministry

During the pandemic and virtual Masses, this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back to in-person Masses, we are trying to reconstitute this ministry.

Children's Liturgy occurs at the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. During the parish Mass, the children process out to the office foyer where a Liturgy of the Word is held for them in an environment that is aimed at young children. On conclusion of this liturgy, the children return to the main worship space and continue to pray along with the main assembly.

Parishioners (especially parents of young children) are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at 613-513-9594 to discuss

Diana Corbeil
Children's Liturgy Ministry Coordinator

I. Liturgical Décor Ministry

We have been blessed with Mike Chippa who has taken up the lead for the Liturgical Décor Ministry; he is ably assisted by his spouse Andrea as well as Lorraine and Mike Goulet. With their creative, prayerful gifts at work, since we have returned to "in-person" Masses, the Church has been decorated for each Liturgical season.

Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at michaelchippa@gmail.com to discuss.

Mike Chippa
Liturgical Décor Ministry Coordinator

11. Parish Administration

With the pandemic the parish offices were closed until the regulations permitted us to reopen, all while following the stringent COVID restrictions. Now that these regulations have been lifted, our parish office is once again open to all. The office hours are Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am to noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

The parish has recently purchased a new computer desktop for the office; the old one was over ten years old and was not performing the required functions. I would like to thank Mark McAvoy who is installing it and is helping with ensuring all works well. I would like to also thank all the volunteers who are here on a daily basis, providing me with assistance.

Bonnie Kobner
Parish Secretary

12. Pastoral Care Ministry

With the pandemic this ministry was completely on hold. With restrictions easing, we are now resuming some limited visits.

During COVID and for a time afterwards do you remember how it felt not to be able to attend Mass or receive Holy Communion? For many people this is a way of life. The Pastoral Care team is in desperate need of a few more people who would be able to bring communion to the sick and to those in retirement homes in our area. At the present time we are not doing home visits and hopefully that will resume in the new year. However, we do take Communion to both Bearbrook and Blackburn Lodge whose occupants are extremely grateful for our visits and our bringing them the Blessed Sacrament. The criteria is that you have empathy for those who are ill or unable to attend Mass, as well you should have the ability to respect Privacy Laws and maintain confidentiality. You will receive training in the giving of Holy Communion if you are not already a Eucharistic minister. You will also be encouraged to take the Pastoral Care course in the spring. The Parish pays half the cost of the course. If you have an hour to spare on Wednesdays, we would truly love to have you on the team in this very necessary and fulfilling ministry.

Residents from both lodges are very grateful for our visits and look forward to us coming. For further info please call the parish office (613-824-4394) or Carol Faure at 613-824-0693.

Carol Faure
Pastoral Care Ministry Coordinator

13. Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. The PPC meets to gather information on all parish, ongoing and proposed, parish activities.

With the onset of the pandemic, it became clear that in order to hold our faith family together we would have to use technology as the medium to gather, while ensuring little or no extra costs be incurred. With no “in-person” Masses our weekly collections dropped dramatically. With many skilled parishioners assisting the parish with finding

and implementing new ways to help, this has mitigated the worst of the financial crunch the parish experienced. Sincere gratitude goes to our outgoing Parish Webmaster, Bruce Robin. With his skill and expertise, we have the “Canada Helps” capability on our parish homepage for parishioners and visitors may contribute to our parish in an easy process. Even though we have returned to “in-person” Masses and activities this continues to be a preferred method for some parishioners and so this capability continues to help our parish.

With the return to “in-person” Masses and activities your pastoral council continues to assess how we can best meet the needs of our parishioners, with a view to how we can conduct outreach to invite those members of our community who may wish to consider our parish as a home for their expression of faith. This is an ongoing process.

Two planning activities occurred since our last AGM. The first one was the Flourishing Congregations Online Survey in which a number of our parishioners responded to the survey and the report was provided to your pastoral council just as the pandemic shut us down. The second one was more recent, it was the Synodal Process in which Pope Francis called all the Universal Church to participate. There were a number of parishioners and groups who participated in this important conversation. The results of our parish small group gatherings (most held via Zoom, but some were in person) were compiled and will be addressed separately to the AGM. A consolidated report was provided to the Archdiocese who in turn prepared a submission to the Ontario Catholic Bishops and onwards, to eventually feed into the report that is being compiled for Pope Francis. This final complete report (from the Universal Church) will be discussed at the upcoming 2023 Synod of Bishops in Rome. We will pray for those conversations as their outcomes will/may impact the way we live out our faith.

That said, the Synodal Process Parish Report and the Flourishing Congregations Online Survey Report will inform your pastoral council with respect to strategic planning. Now that we have had inputs on myriad questions, from all aspects of expressing our faith here in our parish, your council will propose a strategic five-year plan that will address the activities, the hopes and dreams for our parish, for the short-, mid-, and long-term. Additional information will be given at the AGM; both reports (Flourishing Congregations Survey and our Parish Synodal Process Report) will be posted on our parish webpage very shortly after the AGM.

We regret not being faster to have these important documents posted on our webpage, but your council has been preoccupied with navigating the pandemic ongoing regulations and restrictions. It was also important that your elected council members had a chance to review and discuss these results, and then to propose a way ahead for activities in our parish. That, unfortunately, took more time than we hoped.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Virgil Amirthakumar, President
Marilyn Olsen, Outgoing Chair
Mark McAvoy, Vice-Chair
Doug O'Reilly, Secretary
Barb Paquette
Mike Chippa

14. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

During the pandemic and virtual Masses, this ministry was completely on hold. Now that we are back to in-person Masses and general parish activities this ministry is once again active. There will be RCIA sessions ongoing in our parish and these will be advertised in our parish bulletin.

As facilitators in the program we are not philosophers or theologians; we're simply delivering the message. We're grateful to be able to do that with the support of Fr. Virgil and Good Shepherd Parish.

Marilyn Dunn
RCIA Ministry Coordinator

15. Sacramental Preparation

This now falls under the leadership of the Youth Minister Coordinator.

Over the COVID years, the preparation and instruction was conducted via Zoom. Sacraments (First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) were held, respecting all the COVID restrictions for those liturgies. While it was a challenge, we sincerely offer a heartfelt thank you to Gillian Keenan and to our outgoing Youth Ministry Coordinator, Kate Keenan. Between them and their small but engaged team, the youth of our parish were well-prepared to receive these rich sacraments despite COVID.

16. Safe Environment Ministry

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it." (1 Cor. 12:26)

On direction for the Archdiocese, the "Responsible" ministry has been renamed the "Safe Environment" ministry. The focus of the ministry is to create a "culture of safety" and ensure the following: Standards are clear; Standards are enforced; Everyone knows safety is part of their ministry; Everyone takes warning signs seriously; Personnel report their concerns; Morale is high; and Quality is institutionalized.

The Diocesan Safe Environment Office has reviewed and updated Diocesan codes of conduct and policies, procedures for safe screening, supervising, monitoring, reporting and investigating claims as well as their intent to institute an extensive program of training and education. It was explained that the Archdiocese is working closely with Praesidium, a team of experts focused on improving abuse prevention practices.

The first step of this process is the implementation of Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) – a comprehensive Canadian criminal product. E-PIC facilitates a search of adult convictions held within the RCMP National Repository of Criminal Records and a local Police check for additional information, which may be relevant within both national and local police data sources. Clergy and diocesan staff completed E-PIC in summer 2018. Spring of 2019 the program was extended to include parish staff and volunteers. Good Shepherd's core staff/volunteers have completed the process. The rest of our volunteer community will be gradually asked to participate in this simple and quick process

once these initial checks are completed across the Archdiocese. The ultimate goal is to allow members of the community/parish to easily identify any policy violations, interrupt and report them and thereby ensure a safe environment – free from both violations and false accusations for the entire community.

17. Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) – Good Shepherd Conference

Mission: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is: To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect justice and joy.

Values: The Mission of the SSVP implies that as Vincentians we: see Christ in anyone who suffers; come together as a family; have personal contact with the poor; and help in all possible ways

The SSVP meets on the second Monday evening each month from September to June. We have approximately 8 members and welcome new members at any time. This year within our parish we responded to several calls for home visits with grocery vouchers, clothing, or furniture. Members extend their service to other conferences when requested since two Vincentians attend each home visit.

Members also make visits to lonely seniors in a local retirement home. Along with other parishioners, members help collect and transport food to the Life Centre food bank on Innes Rd. The reverse Advent project was carried out (despite COVID) in December/January in our Parish; this was a special food collection to replenish supplies in the new year and our parish supports this wholeheartedly and the results are so appreciated by our local Food Bank.

We are thankful to Father Virgil for his ongoing spiritual guidance, to Bonnie in the office who is often the first person to respond to people in need, and to our mentors in the SSVP and everyone in the parish who supports the conference through their prayers, actions and financial contributions.

Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also a way to serve our wider community. Please contact me at drideouts@rogers.com to discuss.

Sharon Rideout, President
Saint Vincent de Paul Conference

18. Syrian Family Welcoming Committee (SFWC)

A Syrian Family has recently arrived, the sister of Issa El Deeb. There is a mother, father and two children (girl and boy). The Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus (KofC) have made a generous donation to help settle this new family. Brand new twin beds and new mattresses were purchased by parishioners Penny and Barry MacLeod; a complete bedroom set was donated by a KofC member. The family deeply appreciates the generosity of the parish and individual parishioners. On Oct 2nd, the family was settled into their new accommodation with the assistance of Issa, Penny and Barry, and Wilf and Helen Lemoire. Additional donations of furnishings will be sought out from Matthew House Ottawa, who provide free furnishings to refugees or to homeless

persons. The parish will be updated via the Pastoral Council as further information becomes known.

Parishioners are asked to consider serving on this committee – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also a way to serve and be welcoming to our immigrant families. Please contact me at helensl@bell.net to discuss.

Helen Lemoire, Chair

Good Shepherd Syrian Family Welcome Committee

19. Youth Ministry

In June of 2019 we hired Ms. Kate Keenan to serve as our Parish Youth Ministry Coordinator. She served in this capacity until just recently when she advised that she would soon be marrying and moving to another parish. We thank her and wish her many rich blessings in all her future endeavours.

With the pandemic this ministry had to shift and gather online. They gathered weekly on Zoom and, while it was not ideal, it was something the parish could offer young people to maintain that faith connection with their church and with the parish youth. It was a challenge to grow the ministry during COVID times and it is hoped that this ministry will grow in the weeks/months ahead. With restrictions easing and with the hiring of a new Youth Ministry Coordinator, it is planned that this ministry will shortly resume activities in-person.

This ministry also has the lead for the Sacramental Preparation for parish youth who will be receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Youth Ministry Coordinator is guided by our Pastor Fr. Virgil with respect to ensuring all children are well-prepared to receive these sacraments