

St. Benedict's Pastoral Council
Outreach Report
March 12, 2024

AD - Cursillo - Joy Bandy

- *Ultreya's are held the first Saturday of the month after 8:00 AM Mass.
- *The Men's and Women's Weekends were held in September at Mariawald Retreat House (Berks County).

Bereavement – Mary Ann Razzano

- *A "Grief Support Group" of six sessions is planned for April.
- *Easter remembrance cards are being sent to those who lost a love one this past year with a Support insert.
- *Members assist at the Funerals, meeting with the families, planning the readings, etc.
- *The Knight lend assistance when needed at the funerals including Adult Altar Servers.

Book Club – Anita Harrison

- *Book Club is currently reading novel "A Week of Warm Weather" by a local author, Lee Bukowski. Lee will come in the near future to St. Benedict's for a book talk.
- *Club will be creating next year's reading list from a long list of book suggestions.
- *The final novel for this year is "Lanternfly" by another local author, Jenns Arcaro.
- *Parish Library is organized and open for borrowing.
- *Book Club is a Social Group that is open to all. Looking for local authors to come and present their book
- *Members continue to support other church committees with book sales, raffle baskets, volunteering and prayer.

Caregiving Support – Mary Newhams

- *Meet the first Saturdays of the month, recite the rosary, pray Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours), Pray for our parish family, and responds to messages sent from Eastern Atlantic National Leaders.
- *Read, study, prepare for Sunday and the coming month.
- *Profess vows yearly.

Catholics Divorce Ministry – Joseph Boylan

- *Open to St. John's Parish & St. Benedict's.
- *12 week session with DVDs and discussions facilitated by Joe Boylan (St. Benedict's).
- *There is a session that meets weekly which started January 8, 2024 and runs through March 25, 2024.

Disabled Advocate Committee – Brooke Frech

- *Constantly working on improving conditions for the disabled.
- *Several parishioners are experimenting with hearing devices during Mass.
- *Looking forward to "push pads" on the front doors of the church.
- *Looking forward to concrete modification on the right side of the church for handicap access.

Family Life – Gene Raser

- *There was a Pot Luck Dinner and Trivia Night on Saturday, February 10th in the FLC.
- *An Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday March 24th after the 11:00 AM Mass in FLC.

Friendly Visitors – Dennis Brizick

- *The group have been contacting persons on the Call List to determine if they are agreeable to receiving phone calls from volunteers. Have made numerous calls.
- *No in-person visits.
- *Eucharistic Ministers are currently visiting parishioners to administer Holy Communion.

Gardens/Stewards of Creation – Tony Diederich

- *The beautiful gardens were put to sleep for the winter months.
- *Recycling paper and magazines.

Knights of Columbus – Ron McClure

- *Supported Kennedy House on January 27th/28th.
- *Held Night at the Races-February 3rd.
- *There was a Hoagie Sale with Perogies and Chicken Corn Soup with the Women's Club on Super Bowl Sunday February 11th.
- *Traditional Lenten Activities: two Crab Cake Sales and two Lenten Fish Fries- scheduled for February 23rd & March 22nd.
- *Designer Bag Bingo will be Sunday Afternoon April 21st in FLC.
- *Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, May 17th.
- *Planning Parish Celebration for the Ordination of Aaron Scheidel June 1st.
Need help from other organizations such as Prime Timers-Drinks? Women's Club-Desserts? Wine???
- *Parish Pancake Breakfast on June 9th.
- *White Rose is given to parents at Baptism.
- *Provides assistance to any Parish Function, when needed.

Landings – Kelly Leininger

- *There are no current sessions planned at this time.
- *Open to help anyone who wants to come back into the Catholic Faith.

Prime Timers – Charlie Jones

- *The K.I.T. Program (Keeping In Touch) to reach out to members who are sick, homebound or in a nursing/hospital environment continues to be well received.
- *A Valentine Luncheon was held at Yoder's Restaurant.
- *Speakers are being considered for 2024. Topics such as "Planning Ahead for Funerals- Things to Consider", Health Insurance. And Drug Coverage.
- *A donation of \$100.00 was sent to LaSalle Academy in honor of the Religious of the Parish.
- *Day or overnight trips being considered for 2024.
- *A planned trip to ARK Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky was put on hold to hopefully generate enough interest.
- *New members are always welcome. This is a nondenominational Club.

Property Committee - John Bergandino

- *Repairs are being made on the Parish Campus, as needed.

Respect Life - Mary Newhams

- *December & early January were the Life Ad/March For Life sign-ups.
Ad was Published in the Reading Eagle on January 22nd.
- *January 19th was the March For Life in Washington DC.
- *Hosting a Simple Supper scheduled for March 13th in the FLC.

Safety Committee – Rich Conte

- ***Reminder:** Evening Meetings- lights in church and hallway need to manually be turned off (lights in the FLC hallways go out automatically except for main hall directly).
Doors need to be locked overnight. Church FRONT DOOR right side have levers that need to be locked to be effective.
- *NEVER LOCK FRONT DOOR WHEN PEOPLE ARE INSIDE – Fire Safety Hazard.
- *Request for Funding for a number of Safety/Security Upgrades submitted October 9th (determination to be made in January 2024).
 - 1.New front door with handicap access, crash bar exit, keypad access.
 - 2.Concrete replacement on the right side of Church for the handicap exit in emergency.
 - 3.New locks for outer door with limited key distribution, organizations need to use key pads at doors.
 - 4.Surveillance cameras for the facility.
- *Planning to do a periodic review of the Emergency Operating Plan.

St. Vincent de Paul – Andy Terifay

- *Continues to support the needs of the poor whether by food, paying bills etc.
- *Collecting non-perishable food items as well as hams for their Easter packages for our neighbors in need.
- *Looking for volunteers to help deliver food to the Morgantown/Reading area.
- *Please sign-up to help when scheduled for Kennedy House Soup Kitchen. Check bulletin for details.

Stewardship - John Bergandino

- *There is a booklet section in the Gathering Space. Many topics concerning the Church and world. All materials are “Free Suggested Donations”.
- *Three members personally call each new member/family to welcome them to our parish.
- *Planning to have a New Parishioners Meeting.

Vocations - Mia Miller

- *Aaron Scheidel will be ordained a Priest in June 2024.
- *Mark Brezina, will be ordained a Deacon September 14th 2024.
- *Messages of support and encouragement are sent at least once a month.

Women’s Club – Rosanne Weidner

- *Teamed with the Knights for the soup/sandwich/pierogi sale for Super Bowl Sunday.
- *Hosted a Simple Supper March 6th in the FLC.
- *Planning a bus pilgrimage to Our Lady of Czestochowa on March 12th. Open to the Parish.
- *There will be an Irish Potato sale March 15th/16th.
- *An Easter Candy sale is scheduled for March 23rd /24th.
- *There will be a Women’s Communion Breakfast on April 14th.
- *Presenting Bibles to the First Communicants in May.
- *Sponsors a Franciscan child for Catholic School in Jerusalem.
- *Offers a Funeral Luncheon for any parishioner who has a death in the Parish.

Youth Group- Marci Zambito (St. Catharine’s)

- *There are several members of this group who have been sharing activities with Saint Catharine’s and now also with St. Ignatius. On weeks when not meeting at St. Catharine’s, the group meets at St. Ignatius with Tim Wood and their Youth Group. The SCS group now meets in the school cafeteria.
- *February 23rd-25th was the Youth Retreat. 22 youths, 7 teen leaders, and 12 adults attended.
- *March 10th the group attended the movie “Cabrini” at AMC Berkshire theater.
- *Serving at Kennedy House Soup Kitchen March 23rd/24th.
- *Registration is now open for Steubenville Main Campus 3 July 12th thru 14th. Permission forms are available, space is limited, first come, first serve.

CYO - Denise and Jason Leininger

- *Winter basketball season went well.
- *January 27th was Kitchen Kapers at LaSalle Academy for 6th, 7th, 8th Graders. February 10th was the County Competition at Sacred Heart.
- *Hosted a Simple Supper on February 28th in the FLC.
- *5th & 6th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments were the first two weekends in March.
- *Planning the Annual Cash & Prize Bingo on Sunday March 17th at 2:00 PM in FLC.
- *School Declamation is on March 26th.
- *County Declamation is tentatively scheduled for April 5th at Berks Catholic.

PRESIDENTS MEETING IS TUESDAY APRIL 9TH IN CLASSROOM #2

HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS 2024

January 7 th	Bereavement
February 4 th	Prime Timers
March 3 rd	CYO
April 7 th	Vocations/LMC/Caregivers
May 5 th	Women's Club
June 9 th	Knights of Columbus
July 7 th	Family Life
August 11 th	Music Ministry
September 1 st	OCIA (RCIA)
October 6 th	Gardeners
November 10 th	St. Vincent de Paul
December 1 st	Respect Life

SIMPLE SUPPERS 2024
(Wednesdays-5:30 PM)

*February 28 th	CYO
*March 6 th	Women's Club
*March 13 th	Respect Life

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Albright