

St. Benedict's Pastoral Council Meeting Outreach Report November 25, 2024

AD - Cursillo - Joy Bandy

- *Ultreyas are held the first Saturday of the month after 8:00 AM Mass either at St. Benedict's or at St. Catharine's.
- *At the Cursillo Weekends, we had 1 man and 3 women attending from St. Benedict's. We have 1 team member from St. Benedict's.
- *The Men's and Women's Weekends were held at the end of September at Mariawald Retreat House (Berks County). Men's Sept. 19th/22nd Women's Sept. 26th/29th

Bereavement – Mary Ann Razzano

- *There was a "Grief Support Group" of six sessions September 23rd – October 28th. There were 6 participants. The group also visited Psalm 23 Prayer Garden near New Holland.
- *Mass of Remembrance was Saturday All Soul's Day at 9:00 AM. 20 Souls were remembered.
- *Thanksgiving remembrance cards are been sent out the week of Thanksgiving.
- *There are at least six members who have assisted at the funerals, meeting with families, planning the readings, etc. and present at each funeral.
- *Three people signed-up for the group at Spirit Weekend.
- *The Knights have been lending assistance when needed at the funerals including adult altar servers.

Book Club – Anita Harrison

- *Spirit Weekend brought 5 prospective members.
- *December's meeting will be our cookie swap.
- *Currently reading "One Star Away" by Imogene Salva.
- *December's novel is "Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting" by Claire Poole.
- *Book Club is a social non-denominational group that is open to all.
- *Members continue to support other church committees with book sales, raffle baskets, volunteering and prayer.

Caregiving Support – Mary Alice Newhams

- *Currently researching resources which can provide information to any caregiver in the parish.
- *Looking to reorganize to help provide services to caregivers in our SB community perhaps combining with the Respect Life Group.

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 and Pete Guerrieri.
- *Next Winter Session will be January 6-March 24, 2025.

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

- *Held a successful Trunk or Treat for Halloween with Hot Dogs, Hay Ride, Saint Bingo, Gaga Pit and more games.

Friendly Visitors – Dennis Brizick

- *The group is currently conducting phone visits. There are currently no in-person visits from the group.
- *Eucharistic Ministers are currently visiting parishioners to administer Holy Communion.

Gardens/Stewards of Creation – Tony Diederich

- *The gardens were put to sleep for the Winter.
- *November 9th was Fall clean-up.
- *Recycling paper and magazines.

Knights of Columbus – Mike Maiers (Rich Conte)

- *December 7th Light Up For Christ at the Manger Scene and Complimentary Spaghetti Dinner.
- *December 13th Annual Advent Fish Fry Fundraiser for Pro Life Activities.
- *December 28th-29th Feast of the Holy Family – Consecration of Families to the Holy Family (5th Sunday Rosary)
- *January 16-24 - Novena For Life.
- *January 24th - March For Life in Washington DC working with Respect Life.
- *February 1st – Designer Bag Bingo
- *February 9th – Souper Bowl Sunday. Selling Hoagies, Soups, and Pies with the Women’s Club.
- *White Rose given to Parents at Baptism.
- *Provides assistance to any Parish function, when needed.

Landings – Kelly Leininger

- *A Fall Session started October 6th for 7 weeks. Meeting in the Adoration Chapel on Sunday afternoons.
- *Open to help anyone who wants to come back into the Catholic Faith.
- *It was suggested that maybe in addition to the bulletin, invitational messages could be put on the Parish Website and Facebook besides word of mouth.

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.
- *Mark Schrum volunteered to chair future trips for Prime Timers.
- *The first annual Chili Competition was held at the October meeting. Pat Walton won the initial trophy.
- *Katrina Boyer from the PA Department of Banking and Securities will speak at the November meeting on senior fraud.
- *Election of 2025 officers will be held at the November meeting.
- *The Annual Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at the Holiday Inn in Morgantown.
- *A men’s breakfast is held every second Monday of the month at 9:00 AM at the Breakfast Hut in Exeter Township. All are welcome.
- *New members are always welcome. This is non-denominational Club.

Property Committee - John Bergandino

- *Repairs are being made on the parish campus, as needed.
- *Various lights are being repaired on our campus.
- *Some areas in the Rectory are being repaired.
- *Maintenance was completed on the septic system.
- *Updated the Fire System in the Family Life Kitchen.
- *Future Planning to update the roof on the Church.

Respect Life - Mary Alice Newhams

- *Respect Life Team will continue the billboard ministry (The Adoption Alternative to Abortion – Real Alternatives). The Baby Bottle Campaign helped to fund the billboard.
- *Life Chain was October 6th (Respect Life Sunday) in Morgantown.
- *October 23rd – World Mission Sunday.
- *November 17th – World Day of the Poor.
- *There will be an Angel Tree in the Gathering Space for Advent starting Nov. 30th/Dec. 1st

- Items will be donated to Mary Shelter and Lifeline of Berks County.
- *Sign-ups for Life Ad will be in December and January.
- *Life Ad is in January.
- *March for Life in Washington DC is on Tuesday, January 24th. We will host a bus to the event. Sign-ups in December and January,

Safety Committee – Rich Conte

- ***Reminder:** Evening Meetings
 - All manual lights out (FLC Main Hall, Church and Gathering Space Hallway)
 - Lights in FLC Hallway go out automatically.
 - Doors need to be ***SHUT*** and locked overnight. Church FRONT DOOR right side needs to have the levers engaged or it won't lock properly.
 - Please make sure to close any doors that are propped open so they can be locked.
 - Thermostats in the Hall should be "system off" third button to the right.
- *Projects on HOLD pending funding (second state request denied):
 1. Right side of Church exit ramp for Handicap during emergency.
 2. New door keys with limited distribution but Organization access to key boxes.
 3. Front Door Replacement is pending a new estimate and state funding.
 4. Surveillance cameras.

St. Vincent de Paul – Andy Terifay

- *Continues to support the needs of the poor whether by food, paying bills etc.
- *Collecting food items for Thanksgiving Baskets is in full swing and already closed for Thanksgiving. We have started to put together Christmas Baskets. There are at least 60 families who receive baskets. All paper bags are at the St. Joseph's Table in the Gathering Space.
- *Please sign-up to help when scheduled for Kennedy Soup Kitchen. Check bulletin for details.
- *SVDP distributed over \$80,000.00 to needy parishioners and neighbors in need these past 12 months and hundreds of pounds of food. Check bulletin insert (Nov.17th) for more details.
- *Food items are always accepted throughout the year.

Stewardship - John Bergandino

- *Stewardship (Spirit) Weekend was October 12th-13th. It was a successful event. Over 30 new sign-ups for the various groups.
- *There is a booklet section in the Gathering Space. Many topics concerning the Church and world. All materials are "Free Suggested Donations".
- *Planning to have a New Parishioners Meeting.

Vocations - Mia Miller

- *Mark Brezina was ordained a Deacon September 14th 2024. He was assigned to Minister to Saint Benedict's.
- *Deacon Brezina celebrated his Ordination with St. Benedict's at the 11:00 Mass on Sunday September 15th followed by a Parish Luncheon in the FLC.
- *National Vocation Awareness Week is in November.
- *Adopt a Priest Weekend is scheduled for December 14th & 15th after all Masses. Make a card/s for our retired priests. This will coincide with Breakfast Sunday.
- *Messages of support and encouragement are sent at least once a month.

Women's Club – Rosanne Weidner

- *Annual Book Sale was September 28th-29th in the FLC.
- *Hosted light refreshments for after the 5:00 Mass on October 5th for the Installation of Father Stan as our Pastor.
- *Fudge Sale was at the Bazaar Nov.2nd-3rd.
- *Raffle Baskets were at the Bazaar Nov.2nd-3rd. Funds Vacation Bible School.
- *Planning a Cookie Sale December 17th.
- *Planning the Annual Women's Holiday Christmas Party in January.
- *Selling soup and pies in conjunction with the Knights selling of hoagies on Souper Bowl Sunday February 9th.
- *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, St. Ignatius, and Holy Guardian Angels.
- *The group meets every Sunday evening at either St. Catharine's, St. Ignatius, or HGA.
- *Every third Sunday is iWorship at HGA from 5-6:30 pm. Open to all.
- *We attended Mast Farms Corn Maze in Morgantown in October as well as our annual Nerf Wars night.
- *In November, we provide service at Lifeline of Berks County.
- *Celebrated Friendsgiving and 1st Annual Turkey Olympics on November 24th.
- *On December 8th, we will host a youth night at the Marian Grotto at St. Catharine's.
- *December 14th is our Christmas Party.
- *A core group of adults are meeting November 25th to plan some type of winter youth retreat.
- *Scheduled to serve at the soup kitchen the weekend of March 22nd-23rd.
- *Planning to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference July 25th-27th.

CYO - Denise and Jason Leininger

- *September 25th was the Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Victor Emmanuel's.
- *October 30th was Kauffman's Chicken Sale.
- *Basketball season will begin with practices and 7th and 8th Grade games after Thanksgiving.
- *Blessing Bags for our Christmas Project will be assembled for homebound in December.
- *Developmental Basketball games for Grades 3 to 6 will begin in January.
- *Kitchen Kapers will be scheduled for January.

Hosts for Hospitality Sundays 2025

January 5	Bereavement
February 2	Prime Timers
March 2	CYO
April 6	Vocations & Lay Ministers of Charity
May 4	Women's Club
June 1	Knights of Columbus
July 6	Family Life
August 10	Music Ministry
September 7	OCIA (RCIA) & Landings
October 5	Gardeners
November 9	St. Vincent de Paul
December 7	Respect Life & Caregiver

**Respectfully Submitted,
Ellie Albright
Outreach Coordinator**