

St. Benedict's Pastoral Council Meeting Outreach Report January 14, 2025

AD - Cursillo - Joy Bandy

- *Ultreya's 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 had 1 team member from St. Benedict's.

Bereavement – Mary Ann Razzano.

- *15 remembrance cards were sent out the week before Christmas.
- *There are at least six members who have assisted at the funerals, meeting with families, planning the readings, etc. present at each funeral.
- *Next Grief Support is tentatively scheduled to start April 14th and end May 15th.
- *The Knights have been lending assistance when needed at the funerals including adult altar servers.

Book Club – Anita Harrison

- *Currently reading "The Junk Lottery" by local author Mickey Getty. She talked to our group several years ago about her first novel "Soot".
- *February's novel is "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins.
- *The religious library section in the hall towards the Gathering Space has been utilized by many Parishioners.
- *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 February 3rd-April 21st.

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

- *Hosted a "St. Nicholas Celebration" December 1st. It included a cookie swap and ornament making.
- *Planning a "Valentines Celebration" on February 16th in the FLC.
- *Planning a parish Easter Egg Hunt for Palm Sunday April 13th.

Friendly Visitors – Dennis Brizick

- *The group is 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.
- *Recycling paper and magazines.

Knights of Columbus – Mike Maiers (Rich Conte)

- *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.
- *March 1st – Night at the Races.
- *First Crab Cake Sale (Pick-up March 6th-9th)
- *March 14th – First Lenten Fish Fry.
- *March 28th -29th 5th Sunday Rosary
- *Second Crab Cake Sale (Pick-up April 10th-13th)
- *April 11th - Second Fish Fry.
- *White Rose given to Parents at Baptism.
- *Provides assistance to any Parish function, when needed.

Landings – Kelly Leininger

- *There was a Fall Session starting October 6th and ran for 7 weeks. Meeting in the Adoration Chapel.
- *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 Annual Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon was 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.
- *Future Planning is 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.
- *There was an Angel Tree in the Gathering Space for Advent. Items were donated to Mary Shelter and Lifeline of Berks County.
- *Sign-ups for Life Ad were in December and ending January 15th.
- *March for Life in Washington DC is on Tuesday, January 24th. We will host a bus to the event.

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 closed 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.
- *Collected food items for Thanksgiving Baskets and 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. .
- *Food items are always accepted throughout the year.

Stewardship - John Bergandino

- *Working with the Parish Council to have a Welcoming for new parishioners.
- *Planning to have a New Parishioners Meeting.
- *There is a booklet section in the Gathering Space. Many topics concerning the Church and world. All materials are "Free Suggested Donations".

Vocations - Mia Miller

- *National Vocation Awareness Week was in November.
- *Adopt a Priest Weekend was December 14th & 15th after all Masses. All Retired Priests in the Diocese were adopted with special cards.
- *Messages of support and encouragement are sent at least once a month.

Women's Club – Rosanne Weidner

- *Held a Cookie Sale December 14th & 15th after each Mass.
- *The Annual Women's Holiday Christmas Party was in the FLC on January 7th.
- *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.
- *Currently planning a Youth Retreat for February 21st-23rd.
- *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

- *Basketball season began with practices and 7th and 8th Grade games after Thanksgiving.
- *Blessing Bags for our Christmas Project were assembled for the homebound in December.
- *Developmental Basketball games for Grades 3 to 6 began in January.
- *Kitchen Kapers is scheduled for January.
- *Declamation is scheduled for March and April.
- *Art Show is scheduled for May.

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**