

## **St. Benedict's Pastoral Council Meeting Outreach Report March 11, 2025**

### **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.

### **Bereavement – Mary Ann Razzano.**

- \*There are at least six members who have assisted at the funerals, meeting with families, planning the readings, etc. present at each funeral.
- \*Hosting a Simple Supper on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Next Grief Support is tentatively scheduled to start April 14<sup>th</sup> and end May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- \*The Knights have been lending assistance when needed at the funerals including adult altar servers.

### **Book Club – Anita Harrison**

- \*Currently reading "Frozen River" by Ariek Lawhon and "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See.
- \*Next month is a non-fiction "Trust" by Herman Diaz.
- \*March's dinner meeting will be held at 201 West in Shillington.
- \*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.
- \* Winter Session is February 3rd-April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **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 "Valentines Celebration" on February 16<sup>th</sup> in the FLC.
- \*Planning a parish Easter Egg Hunt for Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **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.
- \*Cleaning up the flower beds and mulching will take place at the end of April.
- \*Recycling paper and magazines.

### **Knights of Columbus – Mike Maiers (Rich Conte)**

- \*Knights activities with the Parish are running smoothly.
- \*Designer Bag Bingo was February 1<sup>st</sup> in FLC.
- \*Night at the Races was March 1<sup>st</sup> in the FLC.
- \*First Crab Cake Sale (Pick up March 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>).
- \*March 14<sup>th</sup> – First Lenten Fish Fry.
- \*March 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary.
- \*Second Crab Cake Sale (Pick up April 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>).
- \*April 11<sup>th</sup> – Second Fish Fry.
- \*June 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Appreciation Breakfast (Hospitality Sunday by Knights)
- \*June 13<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing (\*Need contributions for raffle baskets/door prizes) Benefits St. Francis Home for Hospice Care.
- \*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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
- \*Prime Timers hosted Hospitality Sunday on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Simple Supper on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Mark Schrum is planning trips for 2025. A trip to Connecticut Valley is possible for September.
- \*The Annual Prime Timers Valentine's Day Luncheon was held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at Yoders. Guest, Father Tom Kuller, offered grace, and no one went home hungry.
- \*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.
- \*Planning for our annual picnic scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- \*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 published January 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Reading Eagle.
- \*March for Life in Washington DC was on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. We hosted a bus to the event.
- \*Lifeline Banquet is scheduled for April.

### **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.
- \*Planning a periodic review of the Emergency Plan and then brief our Pastor.
- \*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.
- \*Please sign-up to help when scheduled for Kennedy Soup Kitchen. We served meals February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Continue to check the bulletin to see when it is our turn to help again.
- \*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 soon.
- \*Lenten Packets prepared for distribution starting on Ash Wednesday.
- \*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**

- \*Messages of support and encouragement are sent at least once a month.
- \*Scheduled to host Hospitality Sunday on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Women's Club – Rosanne Weidner**

- \*Sold soup and pies in conjunction with the Knights selling of hoagies on Souper Bowl Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- \*March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> selling Irish Potatoes.
- \*Hosting a Simple Supper on March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- \*An Easter Candy Sale is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Assisting the Family Life Group for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- \*There will be a Women's Communion Breakfast /Mini Retreat in May.
- \*Presenting Bibles to the First Communicants in May.
- \*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.
- \*Youth Retreat was February 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. 2 Youth from St. Benedict's attended the retreat.
- \*Scheduled to serve at the soup kitchen the weekend of March 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.
- \*Will participate in a "Church Hop" after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. There will be a school bus leaving from Saint Catharine's to visit 7 churches.
- \*Planning to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

**CYO - Denise and Jason Leininger/Cassandra Jones**

- \*Basketball season was in full swing during the winter.
- \*Blessing Bags for our Christmas Project were assembled for the homebound in December.
- \*Kitchen Kapers was in January.
- \*Declamation is scheduled for March and April.
- \* Baseball, & Softball & Track are planned for the Spring.
- \*Art Show is scheduled for May.

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**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

**Hosts for Three Simple Suppers during Lent before Friday Stations of the Cross 2025**

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Prime Timers
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Women's Club
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bereavement

**\*\*\*PRESIDENTS MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 pm\*\*\***

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Ellie Albright  
Outreach Coordinator**