

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear Parishioners:

May the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be in your hearts.

At the beginning of our new year we make an effort to highlight how we have been doing in meeting the pastoral needs of our parish. For many of us, this past year has been a labor of love. The difficulty has been what love demands: **sacrifice and trust**. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for responding so generously in sacrificial love during these difficult fiscal times. Allow me to remind you that your generosity certainly does not go unnoticed by God. It is my hope that this short Pastoral Report from the different ministries and committees of our parish of Holy Comforter will remind us all of what makes Holy Comforter a place of **worship and care** for the needs of those around us. I hope that as we read and reflect upon this Pastoral Report, all of us will have a deeper appreciation of what makes up the **body and soul** of Holy Comforter on a day to day basis. We are all needed to make a positive contribution to give life to our parish and keep the Gospel alive.

We are abundantly blessed here at Holy Comforter. Time and time again, we are impressed by how God makes things work impressively in our vibrant liturgies, social outreach, ministries, religious education programs, and other social activities, throughout our beautiful parish and beyond. None of this happens without the ministries' and committees' planning, participating and sharing. Though there is need for more volunteers to be engaged in the different ministries and committees, a number of you are engaged in ministries that serve, educate, and provide the smooth flow of things here in this parish. You spend your time, skills and knowledge, and financial contributions to make our parish the place where we all can learn about our faith, grow in our understanding of how to live our faith in this world, connect with each other as a community, and love each other by caring about our struggles and our triumphs. Much like in our personal lives, this last fiscal year has provided Holy Comforter Parish with both joy and struggles. By the grace of God, our parish continues to thrive and grow. I very much thank you all. Please take a moment to offer thanks to one another as brothers and sisters united in Christ.

We have seen our parish staff continue to serve the parish and its people with dedication and

professionalism. We have continued to encounter the Lord in the celebration of the Sacraments, and in our daily and weekly participation in the Masses here at Holy Comforter. It is my desire and appeal that each one of you use every opportunity of grace provided to grow in your personal spiritual life and grow as a community of faith. Again, thanks to all of you and your families for all you have done for Holy Comforter in the year 2016.

May we always live in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives!

Yours in service of the Lord,

Fr. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, Pastor



STEWARDSHIP FAIR MARCH 18-19

Our Parish continues to celebrate opportunities for stewardship, based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus. It is a way of thanking God for all the blessings He has given us by returning to Him a portion of time, talent and treasure. Stewardship can change the spiritual lives of both individuals and the parish as a whole. We hope you are enjoying the Ministry presentation prior to each Mass. Mark your calendar to attend our Stewardship Fair on March 18-19th.

GIFTS FROM GOD

Offertory January 28-29, 2017 (Plate)	\$4,627.50
Respect Life	\$156
Flowers	100
Christian Formation	45
Justice and Peace	46
Weekly Offertory Budget	\$7,173.00
Offertory Received	4,627.50
Deficit	\$2,545.50

CHRISTIAN FORMATION END OF YEAR REPORT February through December 2016

Children and Youth Formation:

Pre-K-8th grade:

Currently 56 students enrolled and 7 catechists teaching.

Events which took place in 2016:

- Children's Stations of the Cross
- May Crowning May 1, 2016; participation by the First Sacraments class
- Pentecost recognition and celebration, May 15, 2016.
- All Saints Pageant
- St. Nicholas celebration
- Christmas Children's Mass – 16 children participated
- Children's Masses held the 1st Sunday of each month at the 8:30 AM Mass.

High School Youth Ministry

- Currently 6 students attending regularly w/4 adults assisting
- Doing a combination of catechesis, service, and social activities, meeting every other Sunday at 4:00pm

Sacraments

- **Baptism:**
Since June, four persons/couples have received preparation for Baptism and 4 Baptisms took place
- **First Eucharist/Reconciliation:**
13 children received First Sacraments
- **Confirmation:**
In April, 2016 one student was confirmed; 4 students currently enrolled for 2016-17 year (Confirmation will take place on Sat. May 6, 2017 at Incarnation); two college students were confirmed at 8:00 am Mass by Fr. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016.

CRE/Catechists' trainings were attended

Adult Formation Events:

- A DVD series by Fr. Michael Reninger on "The Year of Mercy"
- About 7 adults participated in the Diocesan sponsored Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors in Richmond and Norfolk on June 25th
- A talk by Kevin Hart on "The Prodigal Son"

- An 8-week DVD series, "Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible"
- A presentation for parents on family Advent activities was given during the RE time
- Kate Burke's talk on Lection Divina/Scripture of the Heart
- Gloria D'Alessandro's talk on Forgiveness

Other

Library:

3 volunteers and I have spent considerable time purging and reorganizing the library with the goal to make it family and user friendly. We hope to brighten the area a bit once the cabinets in the Outreach area are moved.

One Church One Mission

Attended this conference on "Cultural IQ" with Theresa Lynch on 12/14/16. Will attend a follow-up meeting in February and work with other ministries to identify and implement goals.

Virtus (Safety of Children):

Virtus training was held on Oct. 20 for staff and others. We will need to ensure that all staff and volunteers are certified.

Goals for the coming year:

- Increase interest and participation in the Children's Masses. It was changed to 8:30 Mass since more children seem to be present at this Mass. Would like to include "Children's Liturgy of the Word."
- Grow the Youth Ministry program; explore ways to create more interest; find ways to encourage 11th-12th graders to participate after Confirmation. Encourage youth to participate in the Diocesan Summer Work Camps.
- Begin registration for the 2017-18 school year in May of this year. Begin RE classes after Labor Day.
- Consider the possibility of a summer Vacation Bible School Program.
- Explore the possibility of offering child care for children under age 3 during the Sunday Masses.
- With the help of the CF Committee, formalize the Adult Formation program. Work in tandem with the New Evangelization Committee to identify needs.

Submitted by
Sue Dougherty
Coordinator for Religious Education
January 2017

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please call the parish office at 295-7185, to arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Fr. Joseph Mary.

THE ILL & HOME BOUND:

Parishioners: Normand Auger, Mike Charlie, Frances Charlie, Clyde Pax, Jack Andrews, Shawn Simpson-Smith, Mary Fusco, Eileen Foster, Jack Valloric, Tam Nguyen, Rachel Witt, Jack Andrews, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Ron Lavis, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, Mary Ann Williams, Rose Bowker, Hermann Ortmann, Katherine Russo, Charley Moore, Kitty Moore.

Friends and Relatives: Thomas Johnson, Brenda Gayle Johnson, Sue Newman, Ron Lavis, James Worley, Carolyn Ann Davis, Andy Gillespie, Michael James McNeil, JoAnn Fox Klein, George Lilly, The Campbell Family, Fred Crane, Bill Eddy, Susan Steeby, Lisa Marshall, John Lank, Susan Straub Martin, George William Polhill, II, Claudia Hartland, Betsy Boyce, Michael Norton, Josephine Nampijja, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill & Marie Jones, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Mrs. Jessica Viglietta, Pam D. Goines, Charlie Previtali, Nicole Shaw, Jean Clayton, Rich Hawkins, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, Kristin Fagan, June Atherton, Natalie Potter, Harper Grace, J. Sloan, Paul Hillard, Dale Evans, Marie Johnston, Suzanne Lank, Diane Schmidt, Earl Scheetz, Shirley O'Rourke, Xavier Van Bastelaer, Mary Griffin, Makala Thomas, Sibylle Llewellyn, Duncan Nixon, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Elaine Roberti, Benedict Pax, Jerry Colgate, Timothy Lee Smith, Ned Foss & Jennifer Rinehart, Janet Dunham, Fr. Michael Hann, Fr. Joseph Torretto, Mike Charlie, Joel Rivera, Pam Heron, Elizabeth Scott, Kwasi Johnson, Marianne Rossner, Angie Lee, Residents of Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail, Residents of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention, In memory of James Brazell.

Members of the Military: Tom Logan, William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, David Alvey, Brian Fagan, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARISHIONER

Zane Jones

MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Come join us in praying the rosary every week in the Chapel at 6:15 on Wednesday evenings. The Rosary is considered a scriptural prayer. It is the greatest summary of the most important elements of the life of Jesus and in the faith of the Church. All are welcomed to come pray with us. We look forward to meeting you and having you join our prayer group family. Please add your intentions to our intention book which is outside of the Chapel. We pray for your intentions every week.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Altar Flower Ministry: The beautiful flowers on the altar are purchased by the office staff from parishioner donations and arranged by volunteers. The process requires 1 1/2 hours of time per month to create the four vases. This ministry is such a rewarding one. You spend quiet time in God's house working with the things He has created. Please consider helping with this ministry. For more information, please contact the office or Colette Hall colettehall@embargmail.com.

Sacristans Needed: Help is needed to maintain our sacred space. Time commitments from as little as one hour per week for one month out of the year. Training provided. Please contact the office or Suzanne Bailey slank@ntelos.net; 296-5033 for details.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT FORMATION

You are still welcome to join our adult study on Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, *The Joy of Love*. We meet following the 8:30 AM Mass in the chapel. Pope Francis has an important message for families, and it is a great way to spend the hour while your children are in Religious Education classes!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Your next Youth Ministry meeting will be held **THIS Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm** in the Bernard Moore Room. We will continue to explore our CHOSEN series in the topic, "The Person and Mission of Christ." All high school youth, regardless of whether you have attended previous meetings, are welcome to join us!

FIRST SACRAMENTS

The next First Sacraments preparation class will meet on **Sunday, February 12 at 9:45. Reconciliation Lesson 6** should be taught at home and brought to class along with their backpack of materials. The children who are participating will be recognized at the 8:30 Mass that day. All parents are asked to meet with Sue Dougherty following the Mass for a "checkpoint" discussion of the home lessons.

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

February 5 St. Agatha
6 St. Paul Miki and Companions
7 St. Colette of Corbie
8 St. Jerome Emiliani
9 Blessed Marianus Scotus
10 St. Scolastica
11 Our Lady of Lourdes

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 4
8 AM Special Intention (Lisa Schneider)
5 PM †Robert Miller (Anna and Ed Stelow)
Sunday, February 5
8:30 AM †John O'Brien (Helen Crowley)
11 AM Members of our Parish
Wednesday, February 8
NOON †Shirley O'Rourke (Steve Cady)
Saturday, February 11
5 PM Birthday of Anna Witkowski (The Witkowski Family)
Sunday, February 12
8:30 AM †Hamilton C. Davis (Beth and Matt Quatrara)
11:00 AM Members of our Parish
1:30 PM Members of and Visitors to our Parish

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading
Sirach 15:15–20
The eyes of God see all he has made.
Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 17–18, 33–34
Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord.
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 2:6–10
God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit.
Gospel Reading
Matthew 5:17–37
I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them.

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA (IN THE COMMONS)

Glory Stories

In these true stories of vision and bravery, fierce determination, and loving service to God, Blessed Jose Sanchez and St. Joan of Arc set examples for youngsters... and teach parents at the same time!
Recommended for ages 5 and up

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (2/4)

8 AM: MASS
3:30-4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
5 PM Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/5) FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
8:30 AM: MASS
9:40-10:50 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Pre-K-8 Christian Formation (*Lower*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Adult Formation:
Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love (*Chapel*)
11:00 AM: MASS
4 PM: High School Youth Ministry (*Bernard Moore Room*)

MONDAY (2/6)

10:30 AM: Divine Will Prayer Group (*Chapel*)
NOON: MASS

TUESDAY (2/7)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (2/8)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: MASS
NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)
6:15 PM Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group (*Chapel*)
7 PM: Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY (2/9)

8 AM: MASS
NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (2/10)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
8 AM: MASS
NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

SATURDAY (2/11)

8 AM: MASS
3:30-4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
5 PM Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/12) SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
8:30 AM: MASS
9:40-10:50 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Pre-K-8 Christian Formation (*Lower*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Adult Formation:
Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love (*Chapel*)
11:00 AM: MASS
1:30 PM: Latin MASS
4 PM: Confirmation (*CRE Office*)