

## PASTOR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Due to the snowstorm, we cancelled the Parish Council Meeting for February --- no in person and no ZOOM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 at 7 pm --- in person and ZOOM.

1. Advent Reconciliation (Confessions) was held on Monday, December 21 and the turn-out was low.
2. Christmas Eve Mass in English had an attendance of about 320; in Spanish about 120; on Christmas Day each of the 3 Masses had about 85 in attendance for a total of 700 for Christmas. Music was modified due to the corona virus but still helped us to celebrate the Birth of the Lord. Thanks to our musicians.
3. The Christmas Gift Collection was about \$28,000; the Flower Collection was about \$3100 --- both collections were up from 2020. Many thanks for the continuing financial support of the parish.
4. Celebrations for the 3 Kings and Our Lady of Grace were held in January at the 1 pm Mass. Thanks to the members of the Hispanic Committee for the special observances and the beautiful flowers and music.
5. Sister Patty in collaboration with Liz is offering twice a month senior citizen programs on Thursdays. Now with the Rainbow Club, there is an event every Thursday for our seniors. Thanks to Sister, the Divine Compassion Order and to our own Liz.
6. English as a Second Language continues to use de Chantal Hall on 3 mornings each week with a program for teaching English.
7. CCD continues to use de Chantal Hall for in person classes and virtual classes on Wednesdays. Many thanks to Ms. Christi and a great group of volunteer teachers including the parish priests.
8. The Knights of Columbus met in January and they are in the process of trying to re-establish themselves here in the parish.
9. Plans are being made to visit the school classrooms and the CCD program for the Blessing of the Throats through the intercession of St. Blaise on

February 3. Plans are also being made to do the same for Ash Wednesday on February 17.

10. Following directives and guidelines from the Archdiocese, the imposition of ashes will be different this year due to the corona virus. Decisions need to be made about sprinkling ashes on your head, imposition by cotton balls or q-tips, etc. Consult the bulletin for details. Also, the Archdiocese is encouraging limiting the number of services. Here at St. Frances we will have the 8 and 9 am Masses with ashes, school and CCD services, 5 pm service in English and 7 pm service in Spanish. The usual procedures need to be followed --- masks, distancing, hand washing, disinfecting the church, etc. You do not need ashes to begin Lent --- you begin with prayer, good works and fasting. Ashes are a traditional sacramental.

11. Stations of the Cross will be celebrated during Lent at 6 pm in English and 6:30 pm in Spanish.

12. Catholic Schools Week began with a family Mass on January 31 at 11:30 am. Sister Patricia spoke at the Mass and special congratulatory scrolls were presented to each family. There will be additional events in the school during the week. Also, a special virtual tour video was posted on the school webpage --- a great enrollment tool for the school.

13. Work in the cafeteria has been completed --- a paint job and new blinds. Work to re-do the stage floor and steps leading to the stage as well as new stage curtains and lights is in process. Thanks to a local community group for the funding. Once we are able to "open to the public" we will have a suitable ceremony to thank and to honor this generous group.

14. Thanks to RENEW+REBUILD a large portion of the support wall by the convent was repaired and re-enforced. Also, work on several of the school roofs was done to repair leaks. The school boiler is still being completed!

15. I have reached out to several of our politicians and community groups offering our facility for the vaccine distribution but so far the issue is the availability of the doses. We will keep trying.

16. Last but not least, thanks to the ladies of the Social Action Committee for the SOCKS drive. A success in so many ways!

17. If you have any questions, please send me an e-mail at the church and I will answer you. In the meantime, many thanks for all you do and we all want to do more but for the moment corona is challenging us.