



Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Parish Council Newsletter

with Parish Office Staff News

Summer Edition

Dear Parish Family-

When I hear God saying, *"I will send you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently."* (Jer 3:15), I believe Him. I just never imagined so many of them would be getting their start here at Holy Redeemer. Hopefully you have enjoyed coming to know these young seminarians and priests who have generously entrusted themselves to God completely out of love. For me, they are a great sign of hope for the Church and a source of joy for our parish. At the same time, they have each treasured their time here and left with wonderful memories of this parish community. Please keep our recent shepherds in your prayers: Fr. Matt Fish, our summer seminarian Isaac Sagastume, Deacon Jim Doyle, as well as Fr. Andrew Clyne, our new Parochial Vicar.

We thank God, also, for another great school year. After finishing up with goodbyes to our students and faculty, we now enjoy the summertime with a little rest as well. I thought this might be a nice chance to catch you up on the work our Parish Council and Parish Office Staff implements, oversees, or coordinates.

Worship and Ministry

Our bond as a community and our commitment to service all flow from our relationship with God. For this reason, our work always begins with worship. We continue to focus on our primary work as a parish: worshipping God.

- ⇒ Fr. Matt offered a talk series on *"Full and Active Participation in the Liturgy"* explaining how this happens first by praying along with the Mass. Everything else follows.
- ⇒ A group of parishioners began a **Stewardship Committee** to work on furthering a spirit of giving to the Offertory Collection, proportionately and according to your means, out of gratitude for God's generosity to us. Their 'Stewardship Campaign' was held over three successive weeks, and parishioners responded with a large increase in weekly giving. Plans this year include a similar campaign to increase involvement within the parish ministries.
- ⇒ A Lenten encouragement to "Give Up a Little Sleep this Lent. Join Us at Daily Mass" saw a nice increase in our daily Mass crowd. A few school parents brought their HRS kids along to Mass which always finished right in time for them to be in their seats as school started for the day.

Our Community is Growing

- ⇒ This year we established a Welcoming Committee, who work to create a sense of belonging for new parishioners. They call each newly registered individual or family to personally welcome them or invite them to a New Parishioner Reception. The first one held in the rectory was an enjoyable evening.
- ⇒ 98 parishioners have attended our **Stir into Flame Retreat Program**. More retreats are planned.
- ⇒ Participation in our daylong pilgrimages, Wednesday night Adoration, and Lectio Divina has increased. Many have commented these have helped them participate more fully at Mass. Paul and Debbie Fontaine are heading our **Spirituality Committee** to keep these events coming.
- ⇒ Deacon Jim is working with Sue Wagner on our **Youth Group**.
- ⇒ Our parish continues to support our 87 year- long work of our school; educating young people from Pre- Kindergarten through 8th graders.
- ⇒ Our school has continued to align its mission even more closely with our parish mission.
- ⇒ Our school continues to shine, winning an Archdiocese of Washington Golden Apple / Teacher of the Year Award for three years in row, the latest for Mrs. Lauren Wisniewski.

Holy Redeemer

Parish Council Members

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**Executive Committee Member*

Leadership AND Stewardship

A healthy parish is less like a business and more like a large family. Led by the heart of the Father, every member is important and essential. **You belong here!** Our Parish Council members have found increased enjoyment of our parish as their involvement grew. Friendships have developed, faith has been deepened and life has become more fulfilling. At their encouragement, we have taken steps to make it easier to get involved. Here are three ways to get more involved:

- ⇒ Visit the recently updated "**Service**" tab on our website: parish.holy-redeemer.org. Now, all the ministries or groups who serve the parish are listed with their purpose, meeting times and contact person.
- ⇒ If you aren't a techie, just contact Marie Winterson, our Parish Secretary, who knows even more than our website.
- ⇒ Wait until October or December (TBD) for our Ministry Fair, sponsored by our new Stewardship Committee and Parish Council. There, all our parish ministries and service opportunities will be on full display and joining made easy.

A Five Year Plan

Strategic Plans are not easy but very important for both growth and unity. Our Parish Council has worked hard to adapt this business tool to fit the needs of our growing parish family. So far, they have put in countless hours and developed a beginning draft. We've run this past the Office Staff for input and the new draft is now with the PC Executive Committee for the next step. Hopefully, we will have a draft available soon for your thoughts as well.

Finance Report

Our Fiscal Year just ended on June 30th. Soon you will see a transparent, honest, clear year-end report on our parish finances. It will detail our income and expenses, as well as our progress on funding projects and our Emergency Savings for the parish.

I am deeply appreciative of our Parish Council members and our Parish Office Staff who serve our parish joyfully and wholeheartedly. Thank you.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,
Fr. Mark L. Smith & the Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings Schedule

Parish Council Meetings are held every other non-summer month. Our meetings for this year are: September 17, 2018, November 19, 2018, January 14, 2019, March 11, 2019, and May 20, 2019.

Executive Committee Meetings where the Agenda is set, are held at least one week prior. Those days are: September 10, 2018, November 12, 2018, January 7, 2019, March 4, 2019, and May 13, 2019.