
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 43 Issue 5

August, 2020

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Fr. Chuck Barthel 894-1373
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The Status Animarum

It's called the Status Animarum, which is translated "Status of the Souls." Every year, each parish of the Archdiocese prepares a report which contains some of the parish's data from the past fiscal year. This data provides a thumbnail sketch of a parish.

As of July 1, 2020, our parish has 1143 households, with a census of 2530 individuals. That number is a net loss of 34 households (3%) from the previous year. There can be various reasons for that net loss: For example, parishioners transfer to other parishes, our census was updated via the phone calls that were made earlier this spring or parishioners die. At the same time, 22 new households registered with the parish.

Regarding sacramental celebrations, 12 infants were baptized, 13 received the Eucharist for the first time, 8 young people were confirmed, and 4 weddings were celebrated here at the parish. There were also 14 funerals here at the parish.

Although a parish is so much more than data, this gives you a small snapshot of who we are.

TO LOVE IS TO SHARE.



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

As a founding member of this parish, she is currently a lector, a Eucharistic Minister and a member of a choir. Over her many years with Mary Mother, she was the chair of the Athletic Commission on Parish Council and has participated in 3 ACTS retreats. She helps with Christmas and Summer food drives, gives her time to the Sandwich Shoppe, and is involved with SVDP. She participates in Adoration and a ladies prayer group. She is our Coordinator of the Comfort Meals Program that serves parishioners after hospital stays. She worked as a special education teacher at Oakville High School for 16 years and now volunteers at Nazareth Living Center because she loves the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the charism they displayed her special teens. Her 4 adult children grew up in Mary Mother.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Gary Leiendecker
pcchair@marymother.org

During these difficult times, it has been hard for the Parish Council to gather; however, we were able to meet in the Parish Activity Center with masks and social distancing in June. I would like to thank Dick Roseland, Karen Karr, Judy Peckham, Carl Cooper, Steve Rothermel, and Alex Norrenburns for staying on an extra month to help get the new Council members become acclimated.

The following are the new positions for the current Council: Vice-Chair, Dave Baranowski; Christian Formation, Kim Blackford; Ad/Fin, Mary Gudinas; and Evangelization, Jeanne Rothermel.

We hope to have a time for reflection during the month of August and to begin to plan for the upcoming year and future possibilities.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Council members.

I pray that all of you and your loved ones will stay healthy during these trying times and that this virus can be eliminated, so we can all, once again, gather around the table of our Lord in community.

* * * IMPORTANT!! * * *

If you would prefer not to receive a printed copy of the Update and to access it on our Mary Mother website (www.marymother.org), please indicate that preference below. You can send it to the parish office, marking it ATTENTION: Jackie Wilson, or email at wilsjmar@charter.net.

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PARISH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Dave Baranowski
pcveep@marymother.org

“The Parish as a School of Prayer”

In Fr. Scott Traynor’s book “The Parish as a School of Prayer” he suggests four habits to grow in intimacy with God.

Acknowledge – “be aware of the thoughts and feelings moving in your heart.” When friendships are superficial and lack depth, they are not important to us. Be humble, venerable and specific when talking with God.

Relate – “gather what is on your heart and honestly talk to God.” Doing this allows us to become aware of our own brokenness and our dependence on God. We become less self-centered and more God-centered.

Receive – “when we share our thoughts and feelings with God, it opens our heart to receive everything that God desires for us.” We have to receive God’s love, mercy and forgiveness first before we can share it.

Respond – “when we say ‘yes’ to God’s love, His grace will inspire, direct and sustain a concrete and particular response of response.” When we experience God’s love in a profound way, we want more of it.

Teaching another person how to pray is the best gift that we can give someone. Let’s make that our parish challenge - each one of us select one or two people and teach them how to pray.

PARISH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Sandra & Howard Hoffman
pcsec@marymother.org

Parish Council Minutes May 2020

Opening Prayer: Consecration To The Holy Spirit

Review and Approve February Minutes

Follow-up from discussions / presentations at previous meetings

Items that might need quality time for discussions

Voting for Vice-Chair: Voted for Dave Baranowski

Ad/Fin – Mary Gudinas
Christian Formation – Kim Blackford
Evangelization – Jeanne Rothermel

Commission chairs need to use Zoom or using social distancing at parish hall or classrooms.

Parishioners to meet new Parish Council members and Parish Council retreat: undetermined date.

Ed, Ken and MaryAnn will have a closure on June 27-28. Bigger celebration at undecided date.

Commission minutes recap and new information

Admin/Finance: Carl Cooper:

2020-2021 MAJOR PROJECTS

Additional security cameras on building exterior
Church up-grade camera/ laptop for homily recording
Replace shingles on Annex roof, minor repair of other shingle roofs, repair membrane roofs, clean/repair gutters
Replace HC door operator at Vestibule/Office
PSR intruder alert system 911 GUARD app to be evaluated for this use

Repair or replace portions of Rectory deck.

Replace HVAC roof top unit on PA

Annex basement – water infiltration has reappeared.

Repair and replace where needed.

FINANCIAL

Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Budget Performance, Summary of Accounts and Major Projects Funds distributed to all Ad/Fin members.

Parish received an Archdiocese Grant of \$10,000—will update video and sound systems in the church.

Parish received a Personnel Payment Protection (PPP) loan with 100% forgiveness if used for personnel and utilities. Steps taken to prove that the funds were used as allowed.

Athletics: Judy Peckham

Christian Formation: Karen Karr

Christian Service: Rob Telthorst

Evangelization: Steve Rothermel

Health: Mary Ann Schulte

CPR/AED CLASS – No date set at this time.

Grief Share Program – Watching the videos online. Discuss online. On Monday 7 were in attendance.

Liturgy: Carol Mason

Director of Liturgy - Ken Barnes: He and Carol are looking for successor for Environment.

Liturgical Planning - Jane Goeke: This year's Lenten team interest in planning Advent. Jane will follow up with them.

Hospitality Ministry: Vacancy: Deacon Randy reported that John Schumacher might be interested in leading Hospitality Ministry.

Servers - All newly trained servers are on the schedule now.

Social: Becky McDonnell

Youth: Alex Norrenberns

Pastor: Fr. Chuck

DRE: Ed Lewandowski

Vice Chair: Gary Leiendecker

Chair: Dick Roseland

What’s the Buzz? Social Media guidelines will have to be looked at in the future

Next Meeting: June 25, 2020 - 7:00 PM



**DIRECTOR OF LITURGY
AND MUSIC**

*Nate Jackson 894-1373
njackson@marymother.org*

Hello, Mary Mother of the Church Parish!

For my first Update article, I thought I'd just tell you a little about myself: I am originally from the Chicago area and moved to St. Louis in 1999. I received my Bachelors Degree in Piano from Truman State University and Masters in Piano Performance from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I have three children – Halle, who is a sophomore at Mizzou, and Reid and Ryan who are a senior and sophomore at SLUH. We live in South St. Louis in St. Joan of Arc Parish.

I've been involved in music ministry all my life - from singing in Children's Choir as a youth and playing organ in church for the first time in seventh grade - but my life as a full-time music minister began when I was hired as Director of Music at Christ, Prince of Peace in 2003. After being there for 6 years and at Sacred Heart in Valley Park for 12, I'm excited for my next assignment here as your Director of Liturgy and Music.



**DIRECTOR OF
FAITH FORMATION**

*Cheryl Degenhart 894-1373
cdegenhart@marymother.org*

Hello, Mary Mother of the Church parishioners. My name is Cheryl Degenhart. I am the "new" Ed Lewandowski. I am very excited to be at Mary Mother as the Director of Faith Formation and am looking forward to meeting all of you.

A little bit about myself... My husband and I have been married for 41 years and have 5 grown children. We presently have 2 grandchildren and are expecting our third grandchild sometime in March 2021. My home parish is St. Anthony of Padua. St. Anthony is also where I began my teaching ministry. For the past 13 years, I was the Director of Religious Education at Sacred Heart in Valley Park.

Presently, I am working on PSR registration and how PSR is going to look in the fall. With our community still in the midst of the pandemic, adjustments to the program have to be made for the safety of our children; so thinking "outside the box" is necessary. Families will be receiving information from me soon.

Peace and God bless!

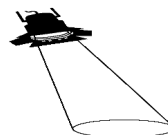
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

*Michele Venable 894-1373
parishnurse@marymother.org*

Our community remains strong through the changes we are facing. Our students at all levels are learning how to adapt, with many challenges. Members of families continue to make sacrifices for one another. Neighbors help neighbors with everyday needs. These and so many other works of Charity are the pulse of our lives! God bless our Mary, Mother of the Church family as we support and love one another! If I may be of help, please call or email me. You are in my prayers. May Our Lord's peace be upon you!



**Serve
the Lord
with
Gladness.**



THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON.....

LORI FICK

Wow! What a wonderful person and servant of God!

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO
FOR OUR PARISH.**

Submitted by Carol Mason

**LORD,
MAKE ME
AN INSTRUMENT
OF YOUR
PEACE**

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMISSION

Mary Gudinas
adfin@marymother.org

Hello! My name is Mary Gudinas. I replaced Carl Cooper, whose term expired. Thank you Carl for a job well done! I have been a parishioner at Mary Mother for 18 years. I attended Southwest High School, received my Under Graduate Degree from St. Louis College of Pharmacy, and earned my Master's Degree from Webster University. I retired from Schnucks Pharmacy and currently work part time at Midwest Regional Bank. Enough of me, now for the business.

The budget for the fiscal year 20/21 was approved at the Parish Council meeting in June. As Father Chuck stated in his Stay at Home Order #28, we are going into the new year with a deficit of \$50,000. But, our parish did receive a PPP forgivable small business loan due to the pandemic. We do have some unfinished business: Intruder Preparedness Program, a Geo fence around the property, and maintenance of the buildings. Our commission will meet in August. Should you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Peace and Love!



**LORD,
MAKE
ME
AN
INSTRUMENT
OF
YOUR
PEACE.**

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION

Rob Telthorst
service@marymother.org

I want to start the update by thanking all those who organized and participated in our "Parade for Racial Equity" last month. We had a caravan of parishioners who drove from Mstu Mother down Lemay Ferry road to the old K-mart. Our parade goers honked their horns while displaying signs urging awareness to racial equity. The parade was one answer to the question, "how do we remain active in our Christian mission while exercising proper social distance.

The Christian Service Commission needs more input on how we answer this question. We are very accustomed to gathering when we want and how we want in order to learn more about the causes we promote or, to directly promote those causes. We have plenty of speakers lined up, seminar materials to delve into, etc. but we need more ideas on how to do any of this safely. For instance, should we have a Zoom conference on racial equity, should we try an outdoor conference? Should we read a book or workbook on social justice and then have a phone discussion? Please pray for these matters and let me know your thoughts.

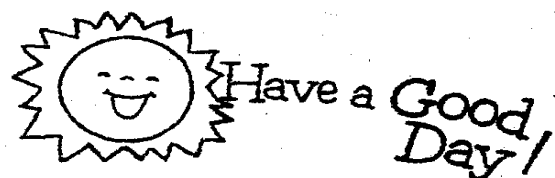
In the meantime, don't forget that our many ministries offer opportunities to serve safely right now. Although Mike Jarvis and those active in prison ministry are not allowed inside prisons at this time, they welcome your cards and letters of encouragement to prisoners which they will then mail in bulk.

St. Vincent dePaul continues to serve many of our neighbors who are out of work or isolated because of the Covid virus. Your direct help with the SVDP pantry, or a financial contribution to SVDP would be appreciated.

Mary other parishioners continue to work with the Rock Church and St. Anthony of Padua food pantries, again there are many opportunities to work in small groups or alone. The Sandwich Shoppe continues to make sandwiches for many missions. We need more sandwich makers! Contact Mike Jarvis if you can help. Thanks to those of you who have continued to contribute to Bridge Bread, even though we are not selling their product after mass. Your contributions have insured that the Bridge Bread Mission can continue; and those funds have allowed the Sandwich Sshoppe to make sandwiches with fresh Bridge Bread.

I look forward to hearing from you as to how we can continue our mission during our time of isolation.
Email me at: service@marymother.org

Peace.



HEALTH MINISTRY

Mary Ann Schulte
health@marymother.org

Does anyone practice the style of prayer called “Contemplative?” It seemed like such a waste of time?! I’ve only been to a few of the sessions and loved them. I’ve avoided group gatherings since COVID came into our lives; but I still practice on my own at random times. My experience with this practice has been productive. Yep. While I’m sitting still and quieting my mind, thoughts come around and stir me to “act” on my thoughts,” like “I need to make more of an effort.” All of the thoughts during contemplation encourage me to help or contribute. None of my thoughts during contemplation encourage me to be rude or impatient. Those actions come from our human nature and failings. God bless.

**HAVE YOU TOLD
SOMEONE
TODAY
THAT YOU
LOVE THEM?**

YOUTH COMMISSION

Maura Clancy
youth@marymother.org

Hello Mary Mother Parishioners,

My name is Maura Clancy; and I am your new Youth Representative for the Parish Council. I am an upcoming sophomore at Lindbergh High School. I have been an active member of Mary Mother my whole life. I attended PSR, made my First Communion and Confirmation; and I was a server. Now I am in the Hospitality Ministry; and I am involved with our Youth Group.

This summer we have not had any Youth Commission meetings due to Covid19, but we have had prayer group and youth group activities. Every Wednesday we have our prayer group from 7-8 on Zoom. On Sundays, we have Youth Group activities such as scavenger hunts, logo games, and many more fun games.

Every year our Youth Group attends the Steubenville Retreat with the support of Mary Mother parishioners. This year's retreat is virtual; and we will be attending in the PAC. There are 15 youth attending with the help of Clare Ernst, Mark Stevison, Lisa Klempert, Deacon Randy Howe, and my mom, Maria Clancy. This retreat is always a highlight for our Youth Group.

TITHING

May 2020 - 5 Sundays
\$1,091 each agency

St. Agatha Center – Ministers to the poor within parish boundaries, includes food pantry and education center.

Sisters of Divine Providence (LaPosada) – Provides housing and shelter for indigent immigrants in San Benito, Texas.

Health Resource Center – Provides free healthcare access for North St. Louis community using supervised medical students from St. Louis University. Includes clinics for pediatrics, well women, healthy living, diabetes, cardiology, asthma, allergies and foot care.

St. Louis University Prison Program – An educational college prison program aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty and recidivism. SLU offers an Associate’s Degree program to the incarcerated, as well as prison staff, with a demonstrated reduction in repeat offenses from 65% to 15% for those who complete the program.

St. Stephen Catholic Church – Provides general assistance for a very poor rural parish in Richwood, MO.

English Tutoring Project – Supports the teaching of English to children from immigrant and refugee families at four Catholic elementary schools in the metro area.

Blood of Christ Parish, Bolivia – Provides missionary presence in the rural area of La Paz. Sangre de Cristo is one of the many priestless missions in Bolivia.

June 2020 - 4 Sundays
\$1,033 each agency

Carondelet Betterment Foundation Food Pantry – Supports the city neighborhood through multiple social programs and in particular, through their food pantry, serving hundreds of families each month.

Redemptorists in Thailand – Assists children who have been orphaned or abandoned by parents with AIDS. Mothers and children who have the disease are also under care.

Sisters of Divine Providence (Room at the Inn) – Assists their Room and the Inn shelter for homeless women and children in St. Louis.

Father Bob’s Outreach – Offers financial assistance and counseling for utility and rental obligations and provides assistance to families in bereavement.

Center for Women in Transition – Assists women as they transition from the criminal justice system back to their families and community.

Pink Ribbon Girls - Supports women with breast or other female cancers, offering meal delivery, transportation to treatment and professional housecleaning services.

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

Jeanne Rothermel
evangel@marymother.org

As I transition into this new experience of being on Parish Council for the first time and chairing the Evangelization Commission, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Jeanne Rothermel. My husband, Steve, and I (along with our four children) have been members of the Mary Mother community for 33 years (how did I get this old??). I am a retired special education teacher and administrator and currently work as a special education compliance consultant for the state. I did not grow up in St. Louis so have no burning need to tell you what high school I attended; but I will tell that I grew up in Cape Girardeau so that should narrow it down. I have been involved in parish life in a variety of ways over those 30+ years from teaching PSR, serving on a number of committees, being involved with the ACTS retreats and chairing the Christmas enhancement team. I am excited to serve the parish in this new way and to work with the groups in this commission.

YOU
are important
in
GOD'S PLAN

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Kim Blackford
Formation@marymother

I am excited to begin my time on Parish Council with the Christian Formation Commission. I am grateful to Karen Karr for her support; and I am sure I will continue to call for her wisdom and experience going forward.

My husband, Rich, and I have been parishioners for 28 years. We have two grown sons, Isaiah and Jacob. Rich and I are both lectors and hospitality ministers. We were very involved with ACTS, and, when our sons were in high school, I volunteered in the youth ministry. Going way back, Rich and I served on Parish Council with the Christian Service Commission and as Homecoming chairs.

Between Covid and social injustice, this year has tested us all. The effects and possibilities that these events bring to our Church, offer us many opportunities for true Christian Formation. I leave you with these words from Pope Francis.

“ We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.”

SOCIAL COMMISSION

Becky McDonnell
social@marymother.org

These dates are still on our calendar:

September 12: Sensational Senior Victorian Tea and Antique Evaluation

October 11: Pasta Dinner

October 24: Trunk-or-Treat Oct. 30 Bunko

December 4: Advent Glow

December 13: Happy Birthday Jesus Party for Families

January 30, 202: Progressive Dinner

(50th Jubilee Kick-Off)

We will see how the rest of the year rolls out.

I'd also like to promote our Vacation Bible School; it's quite sociable.

VBS Home Edition- “God is Wonderful”

Sign up to get a free music CD and packet for Vacation Bible School at home. Parents Or Grandparents, we will reserve an envelope packet for you to pick up from the front of church. **Sign up is available** through August 7 on Sign up Genius and is **open to anyone**, not just Mary Mother parishioners. Packets contain a CD, teaching guide that is adjustable for ages 3-13, activity pages and some craft supplies. The goal is for the kids to have fun in summer while learning about God's love.

- Questions, call Becky McDonnell at 314-236-1421.

- If you would like to help defer the costs of this program, you may send a donation into the church office. Checks payable to Mary Mother with VBS written in the memo section. Mail to 5901 Kerth Rd.; St. Louis, MO 63128.

-Thanks to your donations; we will be able to launch this program at St. Anthony Padua Food Pantry!



Don't say
“Our Father”
on Sunday
and act like an
orphan during
the rest of the
week.

LITURGY COMMISSION

Carol Mason
liturgy@marymother.org

My husband constantly asks me why the flowers? His mother is a Baptist and yes, the money could be spent another way. However, especially this year, they are a sign of hope. They intend to reach out to all parishioners, especially those who cannot be at mass except through live streaming. They remind us of many things beautiful, especially the others with which we worship.

We have so many wonderful people in our parish! It is a joy to be a part of this “something bigger”. Many people help to bring the liturgical environment together, and as chairperson for this 2 year term, I am grateful for all from whom I learn, share, and get to know. All are true blessings...Father Chuck, Deacon Randy, John Schumacker and the Hospitality Teams and those who help bring decorations and flowers together, like Carol Drury, Barb Foley, Lisa Raglin and Kathy Newbold. Thanks to these special people and others for helping to fill the gap after Jane Hacker and Lois Scully moved to other things.

*God bless you
with health
and happiness.*

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

In order to practice good health measures while operating during the current Covid-19 pandemic, the St. Vincent de Paul Society has had to make changes to our way of doing things. In order to grow spiritually, we offer person-to-person assistance to those who are in need or suffering. Usually this involves help with rent, basic utilities, and/or food. When we receive a request for assistance, we normally meet with the neighbor at their home to get a better understanding of their situation and needs and to give the neighbor a sense of who we are and what we can do to help. We can no longer make home visits to interview neighbors in need who request our help. Now we have to be more thorough in gathering information over the phone, and explaining who we are, what we can do, and why we are doing it.

We also can no longer hold our regular meetings to pray, discuss current neighbor in need situations, and look for more ways we can provide help. Instead we are meeting virtually through Zoom; and we use the internet more to transmit information on District and Council programs and program changes.

PRO-LIFE

Leslie Najjar
leslieanajjar@gmail.com

Missouri Governor Mike Parsons has renewed the \$6.46 million in funding for the state’s Alternatives to Abortion Program on July 1. The program benefits parents in need who choose life for their preborn children. This is great news as we focus on Walking with Moms in Need! Please continue to pray for moms in need every day.

Visit missourilifepac.org to find out which candidates running for election are pro-life.

Watch EWTN Pro-Life Weekly on TV or online to hear the latest pro-life news.

The Pro-Life Committee will meet via Zoom on Wednesday August 5 at 7 pm. For an invitation to join the meeting, email leslieanajjar@gmail.com. All are welcome.

“Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love is abortion.” St. Theresa of Calcutta



PARISH CALENDAR

LOOK FOR THE CALENDAR IN THE PARISH WEBSITE TO SEE IF MORE EVENTS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE CALENDAR. NOW THE MASSES, ADORATION AND PICKLEBALL ARE ON THE



BRING A CHILD

UP IN THE WAY

OF THE LORD.

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Fred Kotcher
Ellen Guerrant
Robert Treptow
Dorothy Thornton
Raymond Drete

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Bob & Maryclare Stephens
Justin Pickett & Van Vu
Jazmine, Journie, Bao Nam

FAREWELL:

Terri Thornton
Joe & Mary Beveridge

