



THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Annual General Meeting Report 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 3
2. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 4
3. BAPTISMAL PREPARATION PROGRAM..... 5
4. BIBLE STUDY..... 5
5. CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD 6
6. GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY 8
7. OTTAWA CATHOLIC CURSILLO MOVEMENT 8
8. CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE (CWL) 9
9. FINANCE COUNCIL 11
10. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS..... 12
11. THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH LITURGICAL COMMITTEE REPORT..... 13
A. ALTAR SERVERS: 14
B. GREETING MINISTRY 14
C. MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT: 15
D. LECTOR MINISTRY: 15
E. EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY 15
F. USHER MINISTRY: 16
G. SACRISTAN REPORT:..... 16
H. CHILDREN’S LITURGY: 16
I. LITURGICAL DÉCOR:..... 17
12. PASTORAL CARE 17
13. RCIA 18
14. GOOD SHEPHERD SAFE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY 18
15. THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SSVP – GOOD SHEPHERD CONFERENCE) 19
16. GOOD SHEPHERD SYRIAN FAMILY WELCOMING COMMITTEE (GSSFWC)..... 20

Table of Figures/Tables

No table of figures entries found.

1. Good Shepherd Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. The PPC meets to gather information on all parish, ongoing and proposed, parish activities. Our parish continues to grow in all areas – this is evident by the number of persons involved in the many ministries and organizations; they are all to be commended and thanked for their devoted service in their respective areas. This individual involvement culminates in a faith-filled community of loving service, all done under the banner of love of Jesus and the building up of God’s Kingdom.

Items of note of the 2018/2019 year:

- Farewell to outgoing Pastor, Fr. Hezuk Shroff to retiring Deacon Wayne Lee and his wife Claire Lee
- Welcome to our new Pastor, Fr. Virgil Amirthakumar
- Corbin Blanchard, the Youth Minister that had been hired to follow Charity Corbett decided that he was not able to fulfill this role and he departed. A Youth Minister Hiring Committee was formed with a view to assessing the role, hours, pay scale, job description, etc. This committee met and the position was advertised; this resulted in no hiring as we concluded we needed to revisit the requirements and the process. At this time we are again going through the process and it is anticipated that we will have a minister in place in the near term.
- Your council is reviewing the PPC Constitution and Bylaws with a view to updating them.
- PPC and Finance Council met in November for a 5-year planning session. Ongoing information to the parish will be provided.
- Time and Talent weekend was held in September resulting in a number of new volunteers in various ministries; going forward this weekend will be named “Faith in Action”.
- In the Fall of 2018, our parish clergy leadership consisted of our Pastor Fr. Virgil and Deacon Dan Careau, Deacon Michael Seath and Deacon Philip Tang. We said farewell in May to Deacon Michael who is now on a planned one-year sabbatical (Deacons are permitted to request a one year sabbatical every 10 years of service).
- Our new website continues to enhance the communications within our parish – it is still a work in progress in terms of adding content, keeping it up-to-date and key is having the respective leads empowered to update their own content.
- We said a farewell to some of the members of the Syrian Family that our parish sponsored – Deacon Wael Al Nouri and his spouse Fairuz Al Khalil are now living in Windsor ON. Deacon Wael is serving as a Deacon in the Melchite Rite at a parish in that city.
- Parish Potluck in December was well attended and was a great atmosphere of community.
- Our parish boundaries have been redrawn and they are:
The Good Shepherd Parish boundaries have changed to include, North – From Green Creek east on St. Joseph to Belcourt Blvd, south on Belcourt Blvd to Jeanne D’Arc Blvd south, southeast on Jeanne D’Arc south, continue south on Mer Bleue Road to Brian Coburn Blvd and east on Brian Coburn to Trim Road East – From Brian Coburn Blvd, south

on Trim Road, project Trim Road south to Sand Road, continue on Sand Road to Highway 417 South – From Sand Road west on Highway 417 to Innes Road West – From Highway 417 east on Innes Road to Green Creek, northeast on Green Creek to St. Joseph Blvd. Parishioners may register in any parish outside their territorial parish if they wish.

- A one-day Lenten Day of Reflection was organized with members of the parish KofC, CWL and the PPC. It was well attended by our parishioners as well as a number from outside the parish.
- PPC will be looking to hold elections in the early Fall with a view to adding two additional persons to the PPC. More to follow in the bulletin and on the parish website. All parishioners are invited to consider serving on PPC.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Virgil Amirthakumar, President
Marilyn Olsen, Chair
Mark McAvoy, Vice-Chair
Nick Jaz, Secretary
Alan Dunham
Barb Paquette
Sarah MacDonald-McLean

2. Administrative Report

In 2018, we welcomed Father Virgil to our Parish. Changes were made to the weekly Mass schedule which has been well received.

Our Parish continues to grow with the expansion of our new Parish boundaries.

Our new Parish software that allows me to enter the donations is extremely user friendly and has reduced the amount of time that I have spent on entering to donations.

A new phone system has been installed with a multi-line option. Father Virgil wanted to have parishioners contact him directly, the new system allows for caller to hear mass times or contact the Administration office or Father Virgil.

We also have a new Parish website that allows groups to directly enter meetings in the calendar.

I would also like to implement an online entry system to register for the Sacraments. This will be an ongoing process.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who are here on a daily basis, providing me with assistance and a few laughs along the way. Without them, the Parish would not be able to run as well as it does.

Bonnie Kobner

3. Baptismal Preparation Program

The baptism of children in the parish usually occur on the last Saturday of each month starting at 3:00 p.m. 58 children have been baptised at our parish since May 2018 through to May 2019. As of November 2018, the Rite of Baptism outside of Mass is normally celebrated by either Deacon Michael Seath or Deacon Philip Tang.

Parents are obliged to attend a preparation course prior to the baptism. The course usually occurs on the second Sunday of the month from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.. The course continues to uphold the multiple goals previously established for the preparation session:

- Meet all participants where they are on their faith journey without judgment and welcome them to the parish with love;
- Inform the parents and godparents of their duties and obligations by agreeing to have their child baptized;
- Give parents an understanding of what they can do to bring their child up in the faith;
- Witness to the participants through personal testimonies (our experiences as Catholic Christians);
- Give parents and godparents an understanding of the theology, signs, and symbols of the rite and the way in which the rite will be conducted at Good Shepherd; and
- Answer all questions openly and honestly; even if it is just to say that you don't know.

Although there is no fees associated with baptism, a suggested donation of \$80.00 from those able to give helps to cover administrative costs and items which are given to the family, including:

- Booklet on baptism
- Certificate of Baptism
- Baptismal candle and box
- White stole
- Bottle for Holy Water

In December of 2018 Andrea Paolucci stepped down from the role of Baptism Coordinator and handed over the responsibilities to Amanda Montague. Amanda facilitates the Baptism preparation class, often assisted by one of the two deacons and Mrs. Anne Seath. Amanda also acts as the Assisting Minister to the Celebrant at the baptisms on the last Saturday of the month. The parish secretary (Bonnie) carries out all administration and document preparation and schedules the families for their baptismal preparation and baptism date.

Amanda Montague

4. Bible Study

Bible study is offered in the parish twice a year – in the Fall beginning the week after Labour Day and again in the Spring after Easter. Approximately 30 people have been participating the Bible study which is offered at 3 different times during the week – Monday evenings at 7:30 pm, Wednesday mornings at 10 am and Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm.

The program uses material from the Little Rock Scripture Study, a ministry of the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas. Each participant receives a commentary and a study guide. The study guide provides 18 discussion questions for each lesson. We usually select 6 questions for group discussion each week. Some of the questions call for a factual answer straight from the commentary; other questions encourage the participants to relate the course material to their lives today. For example, we are currently studying the book of Job and one of the questions is "What are the great values of your life, for which 'solid gold cannot purchase' (Job 28:15-19)?"

Each session begins with the discussion questions and then we watch a talk on a DVD – usually about 20 minutes long. And then we select the discussion questions for the following week.

In the Fall of 2018, we had a 10-week course that introduced us to Women in the Old Testament. We met Sarah and Hagar, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel and their maids, Dinah, Tamar, the midwives in Egypt, Moses' mother, Pharaoh's daughter, Miriam, Zipporah, Rahab, Deborah and Jael, Jephthah's daughter, Samson's mother, Samson's wife, Delilah, Ruth, Naomi, Orpah, Henna and Peninnah, Michal, Bathsheba, Tamar, Queen of Sheba, Jezebel, Eve, Wisdom/Sophia, Judith, Susanna and Queen Esther. Many of these women were very formidable, indeed!

We are currently in the midst of a 7-week study of the book of Job, which explores the universal question "Why do bad things happen to good people?" The discussions have been very interesting.

In the Fall of 2019, we will study the Letters of Peter, James and Jude.

At the end of each session, the DVD remains with the parish as potential resource material. So far, the accumulated material covers: The Gospel According to Mark; The Acts of the Apostles; Letters from Prison (Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1st & 2nd Thessalonians); Genesis, Psalms I, Psalms II, Isaiah, Galatians and Romans, First Corinthians, Second Corinthians, Touching the Mysteries: Scripture and the Rosary; Pilgrim People, Women in the Old Testament.

In his recent book, "Called by Name, Sent in His Name", Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher says:

"For many Christians, participating in a Bible study group has become an essential activity in their lives. They meet with other believers who want to hear the voice of Jesus speak to them. They gather regularly either in the home of one of the members or in a public space for an hour or two to meditate on a text from scripture, to enlighten each other, to share how it challenges them. These groups often become true communities of faith where deep friendships and trust are forged." (p. 40)

That certainly is the experience of our Good Shepherd Bible study groups.

Charlotte Gupta

5. Catechism of the Good Shepherd

Catechism of the Good Shepherd continues to grow and thrive in our parish and in the Ottawa region. Thanks be to God!

During the past year, Good Shepherd Parish is offered 2 Level 1 sessions (Thursday and Saturday mornings), and 2 Level 2 sessions (Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons). Parish children and a parish catechist also joined the Level 3 at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in anticipation of beginning a Level 3 Atrium in the fall of 2019. We had approximately 40 children are enrolled in the sessions. What a joy these sessions were each week, and what a gift it is to accompany these children as they deepen their relationships with Jesus the Good Shepherd.

After last summer's formation courses, we now have 7 parishioners who are working in Level 1, Level 2, and/or Level 3 atria.

In particularly exciting news, catechist Beth spent much of 2017-18 bringing Atrium materials to local Good Shepherd Catholic school for the Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. It was so well received by children, staff, and parents that the school has gave permission and space to set up a permanent Level 1 Atrium at the school, with plans to expand to all Levels over time. The Ottawa catechist community and friends donated and supplied so many items to help equip this Atrium; God will not be outdone in generosity. The 3 catechists who volunteered at the school spent the year co-listening to God with 95 Kindergarten and Grade 1 students, and will be pondering scripture with another 55 Grade 2 students.

Training and Collaboration

Good Shepherd Parish, Ottawa hosted Level 1A training during July 2018. Susan Perna, joined by CGSUSA formation facilitator Annette Witte, led the course for our 31 prayerful and eager participants from Ottawa and neighbouring areas. All are looking forward to part B of the course, due to take place at the parish from July 8-13th. Four participants from our parish are taking part in this formation, and are working as catechists at the parish and/or school.

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in nearby Russell hosted Level 2B training in August 2018. Three participants took part in this formation, and are working at Level 2 catechists in the parish

Sarah travelled to Guelph, Ontario in July 2018 to complete her Level 3 formation. She spent the year co-leading a Level 3 Atrium in Russell with several of our parish children attending. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish will be hosting Level 3 formation in August of 2019 and 2020, with assistance from Good Shepherd Parish catechists. This formation will allow for the training of other parish catechists and for the Level 3 Atrium to open at Good Shepherd Parish in Fall 2019.

Over the past year, catechists from Good Shepherd Parish, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, and St. Maurice Parish worked together to simultaneously make materials each parish's new Level 3 Atria. It was such a joy to share in the work together, and to help a fellow catechist from North Vancouver gather Level 3 material for her parish's Atrium as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah MacDonald-McLean and Beth Jaz
Co-Lead catechists

6. Good Shepherd Communications Ministry

On the arrival of our new Pastor, this committee met with Fr. Virgil to discuss the way forward. He encouraged us to proceed with getting the new site up and running with a view to making adjustments as needed. He indicated his support for the cost to subscribe to e-Catholic. The new site went “live” on 31 January 2019 and has been well received by all. Training continues as needed for all ministry/organization leaders/coordinators for their respective areas. Now that the website is fully operational, this committee will be meeting to assess and see what next steps remain regarding improvements in website content, timeliness of postings, accuracy, etc.

The committee then turned its attention to an important item that emerged as a result of the new website, i.e., the need to assess the communication/sound needs of our church itself. This has been identified as the “Smart Church” project and Mark McAvoy has the lead for this. Mark is gathering a number of parishioners to shepherd this project and they are assessing the requirements for:

- improving all areas of sound in our church (updating the sound system and its components, etc);
- developing a list of requirements for new additions to the communications within the church. For example, projecting liturgical info during the Mass (words to hymns, prayers, etc.) on the two walls behind the altar (installing flat screens on these two walls is being considered); flat screen monitors in the Gathering Space that will have current information posted, linking it to the website; etc.

The list above is not complete and there may be more ideas brought forward. The intent is to consider all possibilities, given our facility; costs would be assessed against all ideas. A request for a decision would be brought to Parish Pastoral Council before any final plans are confirmed. Given the anticipated costs, a dedicated fund-raising would be the likely way to raise the funds for this project. More information will follow as the committee work progresses.

Communications Ministry members:

Carol-Ann Alphonse-Trudel
Mark McAvoy
Marilyn Olsen
Bruce Robin
Eric Sharf

7. Ottawa Catholic Cursillo Movement

Cursillos in Christianity (in Spanish: Cursillos de Cristiandad, short course of Christianity) is an apostolic movement of the Roman Catholic Church. It was founded in Majorca, Spain by a group of laymen in 1944, while they were refining a technique to train pilgrimage Christian leaders. You can also attend an Annual event in Halifax N.S. in June 2019.

The Good Shepherd Parish hosted the youth Challenge group of Cursillo, last March 2019. The Challenge group was very appreciative, and everything went well despite the Spring flood in the entrance hall of our Church.

To keep people interested in making a Cursillo weekend, we ask that our Parish Cursillestas share your Weekend experience with your potential candidate. Tell them how it has affected your life and your relationship with God. Your witness and encouragement will be an integral part of their decision. Your friend will get the most from their weekend if they are open to a closer relationship with God. Are they active in Church? Would they be likely to follow through on a Fourth Day commitment? Do they demonstrate a love of God, family, and a concern for others? Pray for them and invite them to pray about it too to better discern if God is calling them to this weekend currently in their life.

Fee: Currently candidates are being asked to pay \$280 toward the cost of their weekend. The actual cost of a weekend is in excess of \$350 per person and the Movement relies on the Cursillo Community's donations, through the Palanca In Kind Program, to pay the additional costs and to cover the expenses of those unable to pay. No one is denied a weekend because they are unable to pay. A small price to pay to learn so much about our faith.

OUR GOAL

To have as many people from this Parish attend a weekend and grow in Faith and create a monthly Parish group.

- The next Fall 146th Women's Cursillo is October 17-20, 2019
- The next Fall 142nd Men's Cursillo is November 7-10, 2019

Make a weekend and see what the Buzz, Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ is our Motto.

Helen Lemoire

8. Catholic Women's League (CWL)

The Good Shepherd Council of the Catholic Women's League presently consists of 78 members. Of that number there are 20 to 25 ladies who are actively involved. The League is pleased to have Father Virgil as their Spiritual Advisor. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month except during the summer. The second Tuesday is a General Meeting and the fourth Executive. We also attempt to hold 2 or 3 meetings/events a year during the day to accommodate our older members who are hesitant to come out after dark.

We continue our fundraising efforts - Craft Fair, Garage Sale and, new this year, Electronic Recycling. Funds from these activities enable us to continue our good works of supporting those receiving the Sacraments with Mass Books, Catechisms and Bibles (jointly with K of C). We also donate generously to worthy charitable causes; last year, our main focus, to aid those affected by the tornadoes. We regularly give to help homeless women and children, among many other things. We continue to offer two bursaries to students of Lester B Pearson High School and are once again offering the Good Shepherd Scholarship of \$300. We also continue to support Fr.

Virgil and offer whatever we are able to contribute as the need arises within the parish. This year our theme is Care for Our Common Home. With this in mind we are collecting milk bags to be woven into mats, eye glasses for those in third world countries and empty ink cartridges to be recycled. The parish has been invited to assist in these efforts.

Of course central to our very essence is our Spiritual Life. We began our year with Mass and start each meeting with prayer. We hold Rosary evenings and sponsor Stations of the Cross during Lent, among other things. We have a Mass offered each month for present and deceased members and Spiritual Advisors. And most important of all, we pray for each other daily!

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Dumont,

President, Good Shepherd Catholic Women's League

9. Finance Council

The Good Shepherd Parish
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
For the 12-month periods ended May 2017, 2018 and 2019

Operating Revenue	June 2016 to May 2017	June 2017 to May 2018	June 2018 to May 2019
Collections from Masses	207,558	204,860	196,552
PAC & Credit Card Revenue	140,084	149,442	146,260
Masses, Weddings and Funerals	13,636	14,675	14,640
Miscellaneous Revenue	23,138	35,302	25,903
Parochial Organizations	10,510	12,184	10,840
Total Revenue	394,925	416,464	394,195
Operating Expenditures:			
Administration	165,841	159,588	112,009
Utilities & Maintenance	88,492	81,565	71,173
Cultural and Pastoral	21,053	22,639	17,861
Diocesan Tax	33,838	37,241	36,449
Parochial Organizations	3,231	2,771	7,305
Mortgage Interest & Bank Charges	34,044	29,315	26,008
Masses, Funerals & Weddings	2,738	2,535	2,838
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,371	8,149	24,581
Total Expenditures	352,607	343,803	298,223
Operating Revenue over Expenditures	42,318	72,661	95,971
Other Outflows:			
Mortgage Payments (principal repayments)	69,704	72,906	76,255
Total Revenue over Outflows	-27,386	-245	19,716
Loan balance	621,930	549,024	472,769

10. Knights of Columbus

With the beginning of our fraternal year, a new direction was started – Faith In Action and this became our “New Light” as we entered into our 2018-19 Fraternal Year, and as a single Council we realize that we can only affect our small corner of this nation through our corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

To that end and with the Parishioner’s help, I am pleased to report that we have met our charitable distribution of this year. Our total of just over \$14,600 and brings our past seven-year contributions to just over \$89,000. Many thanks need to be given to the dedication and hours of volunteer work of the members within our Council.

Our Council activities now align with the four pillars of the Faith in Action Programs of the Knights of Columbus: Faith, Community, Family and Life. Some are major activities, others are minor, but each is of equal value and reflects upon our principles of charity, unity, and fraternity.

Christmas Food Hampers: A collaborative effort between the Knights and the Good Shepherd Conference of St. Vincent de Paul provided food for 34 families within the area and toys for their children. The Christmas Charity Auction netted \$5,400 for the hampers with the surplus funds allocated to the local food bank.

Garage Sale: A cooperative event of the Parish’s Knights and CWL; after expenses proceeds are equally divided between the two groups and the local food bank. This year the portions were approximately \$1,200.

Funds raised from our multiple events support a number of programs and charities with a religious, community, and/or church focus. Designates include our own Parish, Pro-Life organizations, Coats for Kids program, graduate bursaries, housing for the homeless (including homeless veterans), and seminarians.

Activities aren’t all money raising events. A Memorial Mass follows our founder’s mission (Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney) – to honour our fallen brothers and support their widows and children. Our participation in Pro-Life campaigns and events reaffirms our commitment to defending the right to life. The Basketball Free-Throw and Substance Abuse Poster Contest programs involve the youth of our Parish schools. This year the council undertook the following – Novena for Life prayer program, a Spiritual Lenten Retreat, and on June 15 and 16th. Special masses will be offered for the Consecration of the Holy family.

Our volunteer hours do not stop with Council activities. Many of our members can be seen participating in church ministries (Mass ushers, Eucharistic ministers, Lector readers, and choirs), and on various parish committees.

The Council has an established set of successful programs and events, our charitable works are a light to our small corner of this city and country demonstrating a love of God and neighbour. The Executive for the 2019-20 Fraternal year will have a good base from which to operate, and to continue the Order’s Faith in Action Program which will help in Strengthening Our Parish and

will continue to be our mission as we strive to enhance faith within the Council, our families, and in the Parish.

Roger Sweet

Grand Knight – Council 9005

11. The Good Shepherd Parish Liturgical Committee Report

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Liturgy Committee at The Good Shepherd Parish is made up of:

Chair; Parish Priest and Deacons; Coordinators of each Liturgical Ministry.

The Committee meets five times during the Liturgical year to discuss, plan and schedule all aspects of upcoming liturgies.

In this Parish, we are blessed with committed, competent and generous people, who carry out their Ministry faithfully, efficiently, and reverently. I speak here of the Coordinators; Volunteers and all people, the Lord has sent our way!

The Mass you attend whether Sunday or weekday; funeral or wedding; Healing or Memorial or in a Nursing Home, involves many, many people; some you see and some you don't. Be assured, however, that many people have done their part in bringing the service to life.

This year, we welcomed Father Virgil as our new Pastor and Diana Corbeil as Children's Liturgy Coordinator as well as Deacon Michael Seath and Deacon Phil Tang.

We are still in search of a Liturgy Chair and a Liturgical Decorator

Thank you to all Ministry Coordinators and their Volunteers; thank you to Bonnie, our Parish Secretary and Phil our Custodian;

Thank you to the CWL, the Knights, Bible Study and Meditation Groups and anyone who assisted in any public Devotional Prayer offered in the Parish.

Thank you to our Deacons Dan, Philip, and Michael. Unfortunately, for us, Deacon Michael will not be with us this coming year.

Thank you, Father Virgil for your knowledge and gentle guidance. You bring many gifts and talents! We are blessed and so very, very happy to have you as our Pastor.

Alma Haggart
Chair

MINISTRY REPORTS

a. Altar Servers:

We have a total of 33 altar servers. The amount of training has been reduced significantly. Children are trained as required, or on a one to one basis, or when someone new is joining.

Difficulties have been scheduling and keeping the altar server robes organized in the closet (too high for the children). For scheduling, one option was shared to use and have the parent schedule on line. This wouldn't work for our needs, as it will have to be redone every month. We will look into a simpler method and perhaps using a form saved to a Gmail account.

Since the beginning of this year, they have received one training in preparation for Easter and a review of the normal Mass. Only the highlights of the new changes have been emphasized, along with the areas of difficulty. Also included, was a reminder of the reverence while serving and learning about the Mass.

The training was assisted by Deacon Philip, Louis Osezua and Joseph Thottungal. Children seem to love coming to training, as it is an opportunity for them to socialize while doing fun games together.

The space and room for the training wasn't available until close to Easter. We were obliged to condense two trainings into one, while respecting time to play, and having a break in between. A brief summary of the Triduum and Easter Vigil was prepared in advance for the MCs, and though, we had scheduled a rehearsal time on Wednesday before the Triduum and Easter Vigil Mass, they felt the notes were enough and didn't feel the need to come to the rehearsal.

Children have been wonderful to volunteer for any extra Mass that aren't normally scheduled. Saturday Mass is no longer an issue and we have children to cover. It would be wishful not having to change the routine to avoid confusion, but the children have been flexible to the new changes at the time of the arrival of the new Pastor.

The children work well together and share gladly any task with others, while knowing how privileged they are to serve God.

Chantal Alden

Coordinator

b. Greeting Ministry

We have a group of warm and friendly ladies.

They are good at what they do and parishioners really like the welcome they receive.

Our challenge is to recruit more people for the 5 pm mass.

Hilary Als

Coordinator

c. Music Ministry Report:

The Music Ministry is a team of dedicated volunteers who use their skill and training as singers and musicians to lead the assembly at Good Shepherd Parish in song at mass and at other functions in the parish. Currently, 12 cantors, 8 accompanists, and approximately 30 choir members form the 3 choirs and 6 smaller groups that provide music at the weekend masses. And, as in past years, the resources of the Music Ministry were pooled to form ad hoc choirs and groups to provide music for the Christmas Season 2018 and for the Easter Triduum 2019.

Following the departure last year of two of our accompanists, the Music Ministry is seeking new members to join this ministry as an accompanist. Any piano players interested in accompanying a choir are invited to consider sharing their gifts with the parish through service in this ministry. To discuss the commitments and details, please contact the Music Ministry Coordinator at gsp.music.coordinator@gmail.com.

Steven Hughes
Co-ordinator

d. Lector Ministry:

Presently there are 31 ministers who proclaim the Word or take the role of moderator at the regularly scheduled Sunday Masses, all on a monthly 4-week rotation. Over the past year three ministers have moved from a regular rotation to be on the spare list. There are now 19 ministers on the spare list. There are three parishioners who will be trained soon and will also go on the spare list.

The parish provides a Sunday Missal to each minister to enable their prayerful preparation of their readings. Workbooks for Lectors are ordered for those ministers who request one; these are paid for by each individual.

This ministry is very rewarding as all members are committed to their prayerful preparation of the readings. All ministers are to be commended for their dedication to this ministry. Their commitment to the monthly schedule, as well as to stepping up to fulfill short-notice vacancies is a wonderful example of the Christian spirit. There are also a number of other liturgies (Confirmation Mass, Reconciliation Liturgies, etc.) where they may also participate. The parish is very well served by their contribution to our liturgies.

Parishioners are asked to consider this ministry – it is a great way to serve your parish and is also very personally enriching. Please contact me at mabolsen@rogers.com to arrange for a training session.

It is a great honour for me to serve the parish as coordinator of this ministry. Thank you.

Marilyn Olsen
Coordinator

e. Eucharistic Ministry

At present we have 48 people serving as Eucharistic Ministers for all 3 masses.

We are still challenged at the 5:00 pm and 11:15 am masses.

We were able to provide enough people for all Christmas, Triduum and Easter weekend masses.

We will be looking for new E.M. as our borders are expanding, we hope to recruit during Time and Talent weekend.

Barb Paquette
Coordinator

f. Usher Ministry:

This Ministry ensures that all masses and special events have Ushers present.

Currently there are approximately 20 Usher. The number has remained constant over the past few years. New volunteers are always needed.

Ushers along with Knights assist Liturgy in setting up and taking down chairs for Christmas and Easter masses.

Dennis Rideout
Coordinator

g. Sacristan Report:

This year we had nine active Sacristans, some serving at weekday Masses, others serving both during the week and on weekends. Despite sickness and surgeries among our Sacristans, we were able to have a Sacristan for every liturgy this year. Sacristans prepare for and serve more than 300 regularly scheduled Masses; and they set up and serve at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday Morning. In addition, they prep and serve at Funerals and Memorial Masses, Wedding rehearsals, Weddings and school Masses.

We also continue to prepare, in advance, the liturgical vessels and items required for the Triduum, additional Masses at Christmas, Reconciliation services, Confirmation and monthly, special devotions such as First Saturday Mass.

All this is done to provide a prayerful environment for parishioners and to assist our priest, Father Virgil, and other visiting priests to offer the Sacraments to the faithful.

Donna Dunham
Coordinator

h. Children's Liturgy:

After an absence of 3 months, Children's liturgy started up again in Dec 2018. It is going really well but more volunteers are needed.

Currently there are four people who lead the program, which is offered every Sunday at the 9 am mass.

The last Children's Liturgy before the summer break is June 23.

We will restart September 8, 2019

Diana Corbeil
Coordinator

i. Liturgical Décor:

Throughout the year the Church was decorated for each Liturgical season.

It was a learning experience for those of us who undertook the task. However, under Father Virgil's direction the experience was a pleasant and enjoyable one!

Special thank you to all who helped. Special appreciation to Cliff Seibel who built the Crèche for the newly purchased Nativity scene. A man of many talents, Cliff also built the Tomb which was placed in front of the altar at Easter. Cliff seems to appear every time there is a problem. With his help - problem solved! Thank you, Cliff!

Alma Haggart
Interim Coordinator

12. Pastoral Care

This past year was a busy one for Pastoral Care. Not only did we visit those asking for us to bring the Holy Eucharist on a one on one basis, we also had ongoing visits from ill members of our church. We also set up for Masses at Bearbrook Lodge every Wednesday. A schedule was set up and 5 member of the Pastoral care team brought the Holy Eucharist on a rotating basis, plus did readings for the residents at both the Lodges when Father Virgil did not say Mass. Residents from both lodges were very grateful for this service and looked forward to us coming.

Father Virgil gave us permission to hold a healing Mass in February, this was followed by a small reception after. It was well attended.

A notice was put in the bulletin in late fall asking for help with visiting the sick as our team having only 7 members was at times spread rather thin. Four members of our Parish came forward in answer to this plea for help, and the agreement was they would always accompany a member of the Pastoral Care Team who would take the lead, on a once in a while basis. So far two of these members have been trained and the other two will be trained shortly. It has helped immensely as we were visiting people as well as setting up for Mass every Wednesday. We were also fortunate in that two new members have taken Pastoral Care course this Spring, bringing team to nine and the two other members will be joining us shortly.

In the past it was rather daunting to take the eight week Pastoral Care course and have a police check done while paying for course on one's own. Father Virgil has since told us that the Parish would pay half of the fees for those now taking the course, thus making it easier to attract new members.

Since last year we have done:

- 47 on going visits to a member of our Parish who is unable to get to Mass and is confined to his house

- 21 visits to two members with Alzheimer’s Disease at Blackburn Lodge as well as at Glebe Centre. Though not receiving communion, these ladies look forward to our visits
- 239 visits to Bearbrook Lodge and three visits to Blackburn Lodge for Mass and to bring the Holy Eucharist to anywhere from 8-13 residents, most former members of our Parish

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Faure

13. RCIA

2018-2019 was a beautiful time for the RCIA ministry at Good Shepherd parish. Co-facilitators Kimberley Waara, Marilyn Dunn and Eric Sharf shared the gift of journeying with four individuals seeking to become full members of the Catholic Church. Our group was very diverse in terms of Christian and Catholic ‘experience’ which made it all the richer. With the exception of unforeseen circumstances (including freezing rain!) we met every Thursday evening at 7:00pm. We began in September by discussing Salvation History and the story of God’s family. Through the approx. eight months the group explored topics such as the Mass, Liturgy, the Creed, Prayer, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the sacraments just to name a few. Each week we would read and discuss the readings for the coming Sunday; these were particularly special exchanges. The insights and perspectives of the catechumens/candidates were inspiring and humbling.

Our largest expense was the purchase of bibles which was done in a ‘bulk order’ as it proved to be a significant saving over buying individual bibles each year. The Catholic Woman’s League very generously provided each catechumen/candidate with a copy of the Catechism of Catholic Church.

Easter Vigil was a joyous celebration but was not the end of the journey –it is only the beginning for the new members of the Good Shepherd’s flock! As facilitators we are not philosophers or theologians; we’re simply delivering the message. We’re grateful to be able to do that with the support of Fr. Virgil and Good Shepherd Parish.

Kimberly Wara
Coordinator

14. Good Shepherd Safe Environment Ministry

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it.” (1 Cor. 12:26)

On direction for the Archdiocese, the “Responsible” ministry has been renamed the “Safe Environment” ministry. The focus of the ministry is to create a “culture of safety” and ensure the following:

- Standards are clear;
- Standards are enforced;
- Everyone knows safety is part of their ministry;
- Everyone takes warning signs seriously;

- Personnel report their concerns;
- Morale is high; and;
- Quality is institutionalized.

The parish held its annual Time and Talent weekend 22-23 September 2018. During that weekend, and over the weeks to follow, over 30 parishioners (in addition to our existing core of volunteers) offered their particular talents to the various parish ministries. Offers ranging from willingness to serve as liturgical Ministers to members of our music Ministry to altar servers.

On 11 October 2019, the Diocesan Safe Environment Office held a Pastoral Day focused on the Responsible ministry. Priests, deacons, secretaries and administrative assistants, youth ministry coordinators, high school chaplaincy leaders, and especially parish representatives for safe environment/responsible ministry were encouraged to participate. Carol-Ann Alphonse-Trudel, Good Shepherd's Save Environment coordinator attended as the parish representative. Attendees were introduced to the Diocesan Safe Environment Office (DSEO), which has as its aim to support a safer, more just, accountable and transparent Church.

Information was provided about the DSEO's efforts to review and update Diocesan codes of conduct and policies, procedures for safe screening, supervising, monitoring, reporting and investigating claims as well as their intent to institute an extensive program of training and education. It was explained that the Archdiocese is working closely with Praesidium, a team of experts focused on improving abuse prevention practices.

The first step of this process is the implementation of Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) -- a comprehensive Canadian criminal product. E-PIC facilitates a search of adult convictions held within the RCMP National Repository of Criminal Records and a local Police check for additional information, which may be relevant within both national and local police data sources. Clergy and diocese staff completed E-PIC in summer 2018. This spring the program was extended to include parish staff and volunteers. Good Shepherd's core staff/volunteers (including the Safe Environment coordinator) have completed the process. The rest of our volunteer community will be asked to participate in this simple and quick process once these initial checks are completed across the Archdiocese. The ultimate goal is to allow members of the community/parish to easily identify any policy violations, interrupt and report them and thereby ensure a safe environment – free from both violations and false accusations for the entire community.

Carol-Ann Alphonse-Trudel
Coordinator

15. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP – Good Shepherd Conference)

Mission

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect justice and joy.

Values

The Mission of the SSVP implies that as Vincentians we:

- see Christ in anyone who suffers
- come together as a family
- have personal contact with the poor
- help in all possible ways

The SSVP meets on the second Monday evening each month from September to June. We have 17 members and welcome new members at any time. This year within our parish we responded to 43 calls for home visits with grocery vouchers, clothing or furniture. Members extend their service to other conferences when requested since two Vincentians attend each home visit.

Members also make visits to lonely seniors in a local retirement home. Along with other parishioners members help collect and transport food to the Life Centre food bank on Innes Rd.

The reverse Advent project carried out in December/January in our Parish was a special food collection to replenish supplies in the new year.

Once again in December we coordinated with the K of C to include Angel tree gifts delivered with K of C Christmas hampers (for 31 families, 73 adults and 78 children) . And this spring thanks to parishioners generous support, along with other conferences in Ottawa, we participated in the North of 60 Project collecting pancake and cookie mixes for 40 families living in extreme poverty in Rankin Inlet.

We look forward to celebrating Saint Vincent de Paul feast day on September 27 and to observing World Day of the Poor in November.

We are thankful to Father Virgil for his ongoing spiritual guidance, to Bonnie in the office who is often the first person to respond to people in need, and to our mentors in the SSVP and everyone in the parish who supports the conference through their prayers, actions and financial contributions.

We welcome all parishioners wishing to join us.

Susan Roberts

16. Good Shepherd Syrian Family Welcoming Committee (GSSFWC)

The family that we are sponsoring with the funds provided by the Franciscan Missionaries are still awaiting the immigration process. Their file is now slowed down since it was learned that the mother (Georgina) has been diagnosed with stomach cancer. She is receiving treatments but it is not clear how this impacts their file. Our contact at the Catholic Centre for Immigrants (CCI) has not encountered this issue in her over 20 years of working in this area so she has advised that we can only continue to wait and see how it evolves. The funds for this family have been moved to an account with the Archdiocese so that it will draw greater interest; it is available to us when we need it for this family. At this time we are asked to please pray for Georgina and the whole family, that the treatments are successful and that they are cleared for immigrating to Canada.

We have been approached by our contact at CCI to see if we would consider accepting funds from another parish. This parish has some funds they had raised (\$20K) but for various reasons their committee has disbanded. They asked CCI to find another parish that would accept their funds with a view to using them towards sponsoring a Syrian family. Our committee is in general agreement that this may be a possibility but we all agree we do not want to put any financial obligation on our parish.

At this same time the CCI contact asked if we would consider helping the sister of Issa Al Deeb (sister Nirvat Aldib, her husband Tawfik Alrasi, 10-year old daughter Marita Alrasi and 8-year old son Fayez Alrasi); he advised that he would be very willing to come up with the balance of the required funds (\$5K) should a sponsoring parish be found. We are examining our options and considering what we as a committee can agree upon. We all agree that if both families arrived at the same time (or very close timing) we likely could not support that.

Fr. Virgil is in agreement as long as our committee is in agreement and also that there be no financial obligation asked of the parish. We will keep the Pastoral Council informed as to decisions that we take bearing in mind the two points posed by our Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny & Barry MacLeod
Co-Chairs, GS Syrian Family Welcome Committee