

Sacred Heart Parish – Pastoral Council

Activities - Year in Review (2019)

- Year-Round (Continuous) Activities
 - Parish Library Cart
 - Since beginning this project three years ago, we have both maintained a high level of use by parishioners, and kept adding high quality resources to the library. This year, upon the recommendation of Father Jarzecki, we purchased about 20 different titles of Catholic adult and youth fiction. (March 2019)
 - This year one of the parishioners volunteered to take over as ‘parish librarian.’ In this function she is both keeping track of circulation/returns and offering bi-monthly book reviews in the parish bulletin to attract people to read some of our offerings.
 - Formed.Org
 - Throughout the year we’ve continued advertising our Parish’s account on this excellent Catholic resource. We now have over 80 parish families signed up to use the platform. Emails, flyers, and announcements all remind parishioners that they have free access to all the great material on Formed.org.
 - Couples for Christ
 - Ongoing contact with Couples for Christ leaders and missionaries from Calgary, as we seek to establish some sort of effective working relationship between our parish and CfC. We have a great number of Catholic immigrants from the Philippines, but we recognize that we have not yet begun to serve them effectively as a parish.
 - Parish Planning
 - Over the year we began to discuss the 5-year plan that Bishop McGrattan recommended we undertake at his pastoral visit in 2018. This entailed reviewing his Pastoral Visitation Report, reading the new Pastoral Council Guidelines from the Diocese, and reading a number of sources (books/articles) on Parish Evangelization and planning.
- Calendar Year Activities and Events
 - January-June
 - Adult Catechesis and Formation Bible Study: *Manna from Heaven A Bible/Faith Study of Exodus, Hebrews and the Eucharist* (Made use of Formed.org video series as well as print resources.)
 - February-March
 - Planned and assisted in running Lenten and Easter activities in the Parish, especially the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

- April
 - Code of Conduct review for all parish committees. Pastoral Council assisted Father in collecting information as needed.
- May
 - Assisted in planning with Holy Cross Collegiate and Sacred Heart of the joint annual May Crowning on May 9th. K-12 students and parishioners all welcomed.
 - Assisted in planning and logistics for the Parish Eastertide Mission led by the Divine Mercy Sisters. CWL booked their group, and Pastoral Council assisted with organization of venues, timing, advertising, etc. The mission was attended by approximately 30 parishioners each evening of the three days – May 13th to 15th, with daily Mass, veneration of St. John Paul II's relic, Benediction and Eucharistic Adoration, and the opportunity to go to Confession. Childcare was also available, enabling parents to attend.
 - Joint planning with SHA and HCC of a day of Eucharistic Adoration (12 hours) during May and during November.
 - Recommendation to explore new parish website possibilities. Diocesan officials have noted that we need a more effective and up-to-date website for evangelization and to help garner interest in our building project.
- June
 - Assisted in planning and running the His Building Golf Tournament (i.e. poster creation and sponsor recognition.)
 - Evangelization at Strathmore Newsy Neighbour Sidewalk Festival (June 22nd)
 - For the second straight year, our Parish had a tent and booth set up for this local event, inviting all those who walked by to learn about the Parish, about our building plans, and about the Catholic Faith. Volunteer families welcomed all passers-by, and handed out saint medals, crucifixes, rosaries, booklets, and Parish information postcards.
 - Formed.org – Presence Series
 - In preparation for Corpus Christi, we welcomed all parish families to participate in watching one of the videos every week for the three Sundays leading up to Corpus Christi Sunday.
 - 3rd Annual Corpus Christi Procession and Parish BBQ (June 23rd)
 - With three altars set up around the town by various parish groups, we processed with Our Lord in the monstrance through Kinsmen Park and along some downtown streets, bringing our Eucharistic King to His people. Even though the weather was wet and chilly we still had over 100 in the procession. Following the procession we had our annual Parish BBQ, with plant sales, and games for children.

- September
 - Stewardship Sunday - September 22nd. This year we ran a successful event that welcomed a number of new volunteers into various positions in the parish and its committees/groups. This was run in conjunction with the CWL and Knights.
- October
 - Our annual October Rosary procession, on the Sunday nearest October 7th, was postponed this year due to inclement weather.
 - Discussion of possibilities for the start/development of some sort of discipleship-based Parish Youth Ministry. Positive response from the Diocese, as well as various volunteers (Stewardship Sunday), show that we may be able to offer something to our youth soon. Logistics and proper safety precautions need to be sorted out, as does the general format of activities. A key meeting with Diocesan officials will also need to be had prior to any sort of start-up.
 - Discussion of Sacred Heart Parish “Branding”. Continued need for a new website, as well as looking into the possibilities of new logoing for letterheads, new church signage, etc.
- November-December
 - Altar Server Practice/Training
 - After 3-4 years without any formal sessions to train new altar servers, 10 servers attended a session on the 3rd Sunday of Advent.
 - Assisted in planning and running parish Advent and Christmas activities. (i.e. Gym set up and decoration.)
 - New website up and running in draft form, still awaiting final approval from Pastor. (<https://www.sacredhc.ca>)