

## Corpus Christi Parish

*We strive to radiate the presence of Jesus Christ  
in our parish and community  
and invite others to join us on our journey.*

Parish Newsletter

February 2020

February 5, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is my prayer that this winter newsletter finds you well. Please know that you are in my prayers daily! As we have concluded 2019 and are getting ready to file our taxes and in keeping with a great rhythm Fr. Don had with parish newsletters, I'd like to update you on a few things at the parish, touch base on finances, and also pass along your giving statement as well for your tax purposes.

### Good Things Abounding!

- Corpus Christi will soon be welcoming a new addition to its ability to serve our neighbors ... and indeed even some of the most vulnerable among us. **Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Center** will be moving into the Corpus Christi Activities Center this month. Their mission is to help pregnant mothers receive the support they need on their sacred journey of motherhood. This grass roots ministry is a "salt of the earth, meet people where they are at and love them where they are at" operation. I think they'll fit in beautifully with the culture of incarnational love here at Corpus Christi! Ways that we can support this beautiful ministry will be made known in the months to come. For now, our prayers for their sacred ministry are much appreciated.
- With the conclusion of 2019, we rejoice over the vibrant Christian service efforts that Corpus Christi has been a part of and continues to be committed to: reaching out to serve those in our neighborhood community through our work with summer programming, feeding the hungry, and caring for those in need through the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society - Corpus Christi Conference, the Christian Service Commission, and the Social Justice Committee.
- With the steady guidance of Mr. Gregory Spight, Ms. Carolyn Wilson and Mr. Don Salkowski, the roofing project initiated by Fr. Don has come to a blessed completion. The roof over the office area of the church and the wings of the church has been replaced. As most construction projects go, there were a few logistical hiccups with the project, but we can say now that **all is well** with the roofs that have been fixed. The main roof on the church, the tall one, is original and will one day come due for replacing, but as it stands, is holding up really well.
- The addition of a Leadership Team (Vickie Figueroa, Miriam Hudson, Homer McClarty, Curtis Simpson Jr, and Carolyn Wilson) to the parish structure at Corpus Christi has been really helpful with assisting the Corpus Christi Parish in beginning to take more explicit strategic steps (thematic/short-term goals) towards accomplishing its larger goals. The first thematic goal being pursued through February is **"to**

**cultivate the power of intercessory prayer to assist the parish in its mission.”** The Parish Pastoral Council and Commissions have been and will continue to be consulted regarding the thematic/short-term goals decided upon, as each one has a valuable voice and contribution to offer. Through great teamwork, we continue to labor together to see the fulfillment of our mission as Corpus Christi Parish, and — day in and day out — shine ever brighter.

- Recently, Henry Ford High School granted permission for bible studies to begin before and after school. I've been blessed with some private funding for good bibles, and will begin leading the studies soon, I hope. As time goes by, I plan to be able to integrate some other bible study leaders, but, out of the gate, the proposal has been approved under the agreement that I will be leading the studies. I believe Jesus has great plans for Henry Ford High School and I am thrilled that, as their next store neighbor, Corpus Christi will now be able to offer a regular ministry presence at the school.

Last year, we were blessed with a cumulative collection total of **\$422,814.13**, which equated to a weekly amount of **\$8,131.04**. As we worked with the budget for 2019-2020, the Parish and Finance Councils and priests agreed to a stretch goal of **\$438,048**, which equates to **\$8,424** per week in the collection. It was thought that given the current trend of giving over the last year, this goal was attainable and that with the budget we set, we'd be able to continue to have a strong staff, dynamic faith formation, and evangelization opportunities as we continue to grow and thrive as a parish. As it currently stands, a little over halfway through the year we are \$2,400 over for the budgeted amount for collections. We are indeed doing pretty good. However, prior to receiving a \$15,000 grant from the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, we were experiencing a fairly steady collections budget shortfall that was a little over \$10,000. With the trend of giving, I think a projected budget shortfall of about \$10,000 - \$15,000 might be a reality. The stretch goal was an increase of \$15,233.87, and so, while we may be headed for a shortfall, the sacrificial giving remains fairly on par with last year.

Thank you all for your generosity! I recall that Fr. Don shared with me (and also wrote back in a 2017 parish newsletter) that some challenges to the collection totals were: “Some of our elders who have been contributing generously for years are going home to the Lord. Another reason is that while we have 750 households in the community, only 425 donated funds some time to support the mission this past year. A third reason is that 10% of our households are donating 80% of the parish income.”

I'd like to invite us all to pray about our sacrificial giving. Perhaps the stretch goal is attainable. Perhaps there are people who are now entering a season of beginning to give regularly and/or increase giving after a time when they felt they couldn't. I can say in my own life, for God's glory my sacrificial giving has definitely increased over the last several years. Not because I'm making more, but that the Lord is making me more generous. I know I've got a way to go in being generous like God, but I'm glad to be growing. There's no shame in not being able to give — that's ok too — your prayers are most important and a real offering to the Lord indeed. Thank you!

Thank you again, dear sisters and brothers in Christ, for all that you bring to the beautiful family of God that is Corpus Christi! It's truly a blessing to be here with you. I'm excited to see what the Lord has in store for us. Let's keep up the prayers for the Corpus Christi Family and its sacred mission.

God bless you always,



Fr. Patrick Gonyeau