**Pulse of the Parish**

**January 2021**

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| **Parish Council Member** | **Summary** |
| **Christina** | * **Girl Scouts need help with ‘My Faith’ pins- like guest speaker. Father will mention in letter.** * **Youth ministry is back- Feb 7 in Byrider, retreat 2/19 and 20** * **Brenda Pier-Beck new Foundation President.** * **Sept 16- 50th Anniversary event for Foundation- focus on Arrow Society. Please donate.** * **Chalk the Walk successful fundraiser.** * **Garden - planning plant sale after masses** * **Young Adults meeting online, wanting to meet in person.** |
| **Jennifer** | * **Cry Room- is it open? Some people will return to Mass if it is open.** * **Can we push the EMHC schedule to move online like servers?** * **Annette Brady would like to have more people in the parish prayer group. All people have to do is send her their email and she will send them the request as she receive them. Her email is abrady2057@gmail. com** |
| **Jack** |  |
| **Ed** | **SVDP:**  **Bernie Smith reports a slight reduction in requests for assistance due to public funding available to help pay for utilities and the eviction moratorium, so fewer calls to SVDP at present. All visits being done by telephone with no home visits due to Covid. Donations were on par for holiday season and finances are okay for now.**  Respect for Life:  Pat Varga reports the Right to Life Signature and Media Campaign, 01/9-10/2021, was successful despite reduction in Mass attendance with just over $2000. collected; highest amount received in many years!. Fewer signatures recorded but average donation was higher. NEO Right To Life is most appreciative of Fr. Valencheck and the people of St Sebastian Parish.      **Legion of Mary:**  **Ro Reed reports Legion of Mary website is active and getting hits @** [**www.lomoloh.org**](http://www.lomoloh.org)  **for access to: daily meditation videos, consecrations to Our Lady and rosary recitation calendar. The site is also accessible from the parish website under the CHURCH tab. Also in this year of St. Joseph the site will soon contain the Consecration to St. Joseph (Terror of Demons). She further reports sign-ups for the Pilgrim Virgin Statue Visitation Program explained in recent Sunday bulletins. The Lady of Fatima (traveling statue) itself was donated specifically for this purpose. The site is well worth a visit.**  **Planning a parish-wide rosary event for Memorial Day and maybe an event for the Spring as well.** |
| **Marcy** | * **New Praise and Worship Ensemble Director - changes to more contemporary** |
| **Tracie** | * **PreCana Chair Committee will have Zoom meeting in February to decide if Pre-Cana will be held in April. Will contact Loyola to see what they are doing.** |
| **Ivan** | * **Prayer Warriors ongoing- doing well.** |
| **Natalie** | **Julie Billiart :**  **\* Currently working on setting up a screening process for new applications to JBA. The screening process will begin next month and is for applications for the 2021-2022 school year.**  **School Band:**  **\* No report**  **Mr. Rohr:**  **\*Looking into improving the recycling program in the Byrider parking lot with the River Valley Paper Company.**  **\* CSW will be a bit different this year. We will help support Akron Snow Angels and spread the warmth to help keep our homeless friends warm this winter. Anyone can drop off materials to support our drive initiative. Items will be collected during the week of February 1 to February 5. Look for more information in the bulletin.**  **\* No tuition increase for next school year, HASA fees cut in half as well.**  **\* Our Science Fair winners will be moving on to the District Science Day competition.**  **SAC- ongoing.**  **HASA- Santa Shop raised almost $10K, no dance, hoping to do walka-athon, looking for new board members.** |
| **Jennie** | **Marketing:**   * **Registration forms and website being updated for day school and preschool** * **School Virtual Tour has recently been updated to reflect upgrades in the school** * **Tours are continuing after school when students are no longer in the building** * **Spectacular will be virtual this year on April 24th** * **A video page with different videos have been added to school website** * **Virtual Open House for Catholic Schools Week** * **Bulletin cover for January 31st will reflect Catholic Schools week** * **New sign for Forest Lodge will be here soon.** * **St. Padre Pio Chapel sign is in production.**   **Finance Council:**   * **Collections are down 3% across the Diocese** * **Strong Donations in November & December – still getting Christmas donations due to delay in mail** * **Continuing to look for government resources for the school to cover expenses** * **Discussed sending out contribution statements at the end of the year. Change in tax laws make it unnecessary to have a paper under a specific threshold. If over the threshold, then statements will be sent out automatically.** * **Facilities**   **o 3 new boilers are working well – contest to name the boilers.**  **o School security – gathering quotes for updating the school entry way for security. Installed demo class shut down/lock down equipment. Testing in 2 classrooms. Funds from Spectacular will raise money for entrance of school and classrooms.**   * **Spectacular – 2.5-week event – event/non-event; Looking to get more people involved, more details to follow. Purpose is to raise awareness of the school.** |
| **Matt** | * **From Keith Johnson:**   **We’re doing some new things with high school youth ministry. There’s a survey on the parish website on the youth ministry page. We’re inviting high school kids and their parents to take the survey. Even those with kids heading into high school in the next year or two could do it. The page also lays out activities for February.**   * **Extraordinary Ministers Committee:**   **expressed concerns about the people not wearing mask and that the mask debate was creating division in the parish.** |
| **Alex** | * **Sanctuary Society:**   **Is considering an international festival in May.**   * **Art and Environment - From Ro Reed:**   **This year Karen and I spent a day working the large bulb lines to the 4 trees.**  **It made the job of transporting and setting up so much easier.**  **In fact, trees and wreaths were up in 45 minutes with the helm of many volunteers!**  **Believe it or not Easter flowers have been ordered already.**   * **Welcoming Committee - From Ro Reed:**   **I haven’t been receiving new parishioner**  **registrations through COVID—I used to offer a tour and invite them to upcoming events.**  **The Legion of Mary is thinking of taking this over —I will be presenting our plan to Father shortly.**   * **Little Flower Garden Club:**   **A member has COVID.**  **A Christmas letter was sent out, and there are plans for lunch in the future.** |
| **Tiffany (if necessary)** | * **Where can one find factual news about what the Pope says? Vatican website** * **Is the monstrance staying on the tabernacle?For now** * **Is an act of spiritual communion in a livestream ‘equal’ to receiving Holy Communion in-person mass? Next best thing** |