

To: Father Paul
Joe Herschel
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

November 13, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's Report – November 13, 2017

Adult faith Formation

We have averaged about 12 people per evening participating in Bishop Robert Barrons' – Faith Clips on Monday evenings. We have received excellent feedback regarding the sessions completed so far. The sessions include scripture, prayer, song, a viewing of the Faith Clip Topic for the evening, and discussion. Topics covered to date are : God, The Trinity, Jesus, and Prayer. I asked Fr. Anthony to join us for the session on prayer and all appreciated Fr. Anthony spending some time taking us through Lectio Divina. The final session in this series will be on Monday November 20 and the topic is spirituality. Fr. Anthony may be able to join us again. The level of interest, participation and engagement among those attending our sessions at O.L.A. is encouraging and more will be planned for the spring.

Operation Archangel

Recent news stories underscore the importance of houses of worship taking steps to improve the safety of all who attend – 'hardening the target'- making it a less attractive/less easy target to exploit.. Periodic safety tips have been put in the bulletin. The special Orientation session for Ushers took place on Saturday October 14, with Bette Bonitz also in attendance. The meeting was led by Fr. Paul, myself, and Matt Ippolito, with Matt doing the Lion's share of it. While the safety of all was discussed, there was also emphasis on never losing sight of the fact that we are to continue to be a welcoming church. Some safety procedures and systems have been or are in the process of being put in place, none of which will appear in this report nor should appear in anything that might appear on the internet. We will be meeting shortly with a representative from the Sullivan County Sheriff to improve communication and further coordinate in case of an actual event, which we pray to God we never have to experience.

Ecumenical Outreach

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station for the homeless will be opening Sunday evening November 19 after a brief prayer service. Those wishing to volunteer for overnight stays, or who have contributions of new socks, underwear etc. should contact Marilyn Pierce at 845-346-6110.

The Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Service this year will be at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown on November 21st at 7pm. It has been tradition that the collection goes toward the GMIC Food Pantry hosted at St Paul's United Methodist Church.

This coming Saturday, November 18th at 9am there will be a prayer service for all, in the church, prior to the distribution of the Thanksgiving baskets. Those we serve have told us how much they appreciate the prayer service. If you can, please join us for the service, and join us in wishing those receiving the baskets a Happy Thanksgiving. A special Thank You to Chris Hershel, all involved in getting things together and distributing the baskets, and to all parishioners who contributed a basket, or money or helped in any way.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I would like to thank each of you for serving in the important ministry of Parish Council!

God bless you all,
Gary