

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

December 11, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report December 11, 2017

Adult faith Formation

We have averaged about 12 people per evening participating in Bishop Robert Barrons' – Faith Clips on Monday evenings. 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. The photos were taken after the last session on Nov 20, which was a lower attendance as there were some who did not have a ride and one who had to work and one who could not get a baby sitter.



Fr. Anthony joined us twice.

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. On Wed December 6th, members of the safety team met with representatives of the Sullivan County Sherriff's Office -Lt. Pratti, and Edwin Simon, E.S.U. Commander (SWAT Team) 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 opened Sunday evening November 19 after a brief prayer service. They have been averaging 22 guests with a high of 27 guests one evening. 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 Brass Concert at St John's Lutheran Church Dec 10th raised about \$2000.00 for GMIC W.S.

The Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Service this year was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown on November 21st at 7pm. As in the past, the various faiths were well represented and the collection was to benefit the GMIC Food Pantry hosted at St Paul's United Methodist Church.

The prayer service at O.L.A. that was conducted by Fr. Anthony and Gary Texter November 18th at 9am in the church, prior to the distribution of the Thanksgiving baskets, was successful with about 40 of the families and some parishioners attending. Those we serve have told us how much they appreciated the prayer service. The distribution of the baskets went extremely well, with Jennifer Zupetz and Maria Wise Coordinating families in the Church and Chris Herschel and the team in the parish center distributing the food. Many thanks to all who participated that day, and to those who donated the food, and or money to be able to serve the families. I'll leave it to Chris to tell the number of families served.

I wish you all a blessed Advent and a blessed and joy-filled Christmas!

God bless you all,
Gary