

Fr. Paul

Sam Osborne

O.L.A. Parish Council

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report – March 20, 2023

Stations of the Cross

I'm happy to inform you that we have seen a steady growth in attendance during the Friday evening Stations. Attendance started out on Friday February 24th with 9 people, Friday March 3rd was cancelled due to weather concerns, then we had 12 at the March 10th Stations and 17 on March 17th. We have 1 more evening of Stations coming on March 24th leading to the Tennebrae Service on March 31st which Bette Bonitz will lead. Gail is doing a great job with her reading each Station. I have reached out to those who have come, to vary who gets to carry the cross or candle, intentionally having folks participate who may never have in the past.

Bereavement

Bridget and I, along with Alice Cross who recently completed Bereavement Facilitator training, will put together a gathering for those who attended our groups last year to check in with each other and share how the journey is going. I was able to find a podcast series called, "All There Is", which I shared with Vinny DaSilva from the Family Life Office. He communicated that it is quite a find, and we will use one of the podcasts as a resource. We will look at the church calendar for a date in May or June, probably a weekday afternoon, which worked so well when we did weekly sessions. You all know another beloved member of our faith community (Janet Murphy) passed on to God recently. We will extend an invitation to Rob to attend, if he feels the time is right for him. At any rate, we will be available to meet him where he is, according to what his needs are and in a time he feels is right.

A need for more Lay Liturgical Ministers

As I communicated last month : in listening to coordinators of our various lay liturgical ministries, I hear a need to add a few more to those who already generously participate. Over the years, there has been some attrition for a variety of reasons including relocation, death, COVID, and burnout. After speaking with Father Paul, I'm happy to let you know that we are having a Liturgical Ministry Fair after the weekend Masses on June 3rd and June 4th. The dates are selected to allow for Coordinators or their designate to briefly describe their ministry at Masses beginning Divine Mercy Sunday until the date of the Ministry Fair, as well as to have a brief description of 1 ministry per week in the bulletin. (Ministry of the Word, Extra- Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Music, Ushers, Altar Society- Liturgical Environment, Altar Servers, possibly Sacristan and Greeters.)

I will invite the coordinators to a gathering right after Easter to discuss the details and layout of the ministry fair after both Masses June 3rd and June 4th as well as to have them prepare for their brief talks after the Masses.

Ecumenical/Interfaith Outreach

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station for the Homeless is hosting a dinner on Tuesday April 11th at 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 58 Main Street, Middletown. It is for all who volunteered or helped in any way. If you helped prepare food, stayed overnight to supervise our guests, you delivered the bakery items, volunteered for the laundry, donated in any way, or gave any help at all, or prayed for those who did and those we serve, you are invited. If you wish to come, you can call or text Marilyn at 845-346- 6110.

Wishing you good days during the remainder of Lent, to make your Easter even more special!

God Bless you all

Gary