



THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Annual General Meeting Report 2017

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Alpha program during Lent 2017, and looks forward to running Alpha programs in upcoming fall and spring. Another highlight was the Living Your Strengths seminar where any interested parishioners were invited to see how God is calling them to use their particular gifts and talents to share the Gospel. This coming year, we also hope to offer “Formed” – an incredible online resource of Catholic AV material - to the entire parish. Do you feel called to grow in your relationship with Jesus, and to share your faith with others? We’d love to have you join us!

3. Social Gatherings Committee

The Social Gatherings Committee is responsible for promotion, organization, and carrying out of various social gatherings throughout the liturgical year. These events are designed to promote fellowship and community building within the Good Shepherd Parish. This past year, events have included a volunteer appreciation lunch at the AGM, our first annual Dessert Sunday on the feast of Divine Mercy, the annual BBQ, the welcome celebration post Easter Vigil, and several Coffee Sundays per month. In the coming year, we hope to offer movie nights, potlucks, and are open to other events. The more volunteers we have, the more we’re able to do! Please come and join us if you feel so called.

David Bourrier, Alan Dunham, Nicholas Jaz, Sarah MacDonald-McLean, Chris McMullan, and
Marilyn Olsen

II. Ministry Reports

1. Baptism Preparation Program

From June 2015 through May 2017 baptisms were predominately conducted on the last Saturday of each month starting at 3:00 pm. 66 children have been baptized at our parish through the month of May. The Rite of Baptism outside of Mass is normally celebrated by Deacon Wayne Lee.

Parents are obliged to attend a preparation course over two sessions prior to the baptism. The course has multiple goals:

- Meet all participants where they are on their faith journey without judgment and welcome them to the parish with love;
- Inform the parents and godparents of their duties and obligations by agreeing to have their child baptized;
- Give them an understanding of what they can do to bring their child up in the faith;
- Witness to the participants through personal testimonies (our experiences as Catholic Christians) and by proclaiming the Kerygma ;
- Give parents and godparents an understanding of the theology, signs, and symbols of the rite and the way in which the rite will be conducted at Good Shepherd; and
- Answer all questions openly and honestly; even if it is just to say that you don't know.

Although there is no fees associated with baptism, a suggested donation of \$80.00 from those able to give helps to cover administrative costs and items which are given to the family, which are as follows:

- Booklet on baptism
- Certificate of Baptism
- Baptismal candle and box
- White stole
- Bottle for Holy Water
- Handouts

Deacon Lee leads the baptismal preparation team. Mr. David Bourrier stepped down from his role as coordinator and handed over the responsibilities to Mrs. Andrea Paolucci. Mr. James Palmer assists Mrs. Paolucci as member of the team. One or two members of the team assist at the sacrament. The parish secretary (Bonnie) carries out all administration and document preparation and schedules the families for their baptismal preparation and baptism date.

2. Bible Study

Scripture study lights the way to understanding the message of the Bible, developing a more personal relationship with God and a deeper relationship with others in your faith community

1) Psalms for All Seasons – John F. Craghan

In the Fall of 2016, we spent 14 weeks with the Psalms:

- Psalms of Descriptive Praise
- Psalms of Trust or Confidence
- Wisdom Psalms
- Royal Psalms
- Laments
- Psalms of Declarative Praise

To deepen our prayer of the Psalms, we began each session praying the Divine Office of the day.

Two of the discussion questions from the final session was:

- a) Of all the psalms, which is your favorite? Why?*
- b) Do you have any new favorites as a result of your study of the Psalms?*

2) Reflections on the Mysteries of the Rosary – Mark G. Boyer

After Easter, we resumed with a 5-week program that began with an introductory session and then spent 4 weeks praying and deepening our understanding of each of the mysteries of the Rosary.

We also were introduced to the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II: *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*

The final discussion question was: *Consider your own life as a reflection of the mystery of Christ. What kind of mystery is it?*

3) Pilgrim People – Clifford M. Yeary

This is our final study for this season and is a 5-week course which will include:

- The Call of Abraham and Sarah
- Exodus and Entry
- Exile and Return
- Come, Follow Me

The final discussion question for this course is: *What does it mean today to be part of a people whose very identity is rooted in the belief that they belong to God and that their lives are a pilgrimage of faith?*

3. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

CGS is a Christocentric program that introduces children to biblical and sacramental themes in a way that embraces their youth, joy and capacity for prayer. The program takes place in a Montessori environment called an atrium. The Good Shepherd Parish is currently offering Level 1 of the CGS program which welcomes children ages 3-5. This fall, we will also be offering Level 2 to 6-9 year olds, and we anticipate that in the coming years, we will be able to offer Level 3 of the CGS program to children aged 9 – 12.

Last summer, the atrium space in the rectory basement was fully renovated, and we embarked on another year of prayerful and joyful work. Our 1.75 hour sessions ran on Thursday and Saturday mornings from mid-October to early May and the catechists were happy to welcome 21 children (from 15 families) into the atrium. The children explored life in the church, including altar nomenclature, the life of Jesus, including Biblical geography, and the parables, including the parable of the Good Shepherd which is central to level 1 in the atrium. The children also had the opportunity to wonder about the sacrament of baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The catechists feel so blessed to be working with the children in the atrium and to be helping them discover the beauty of their relationship with God. Please pray for us this summer as we embark on our training and prepare the materials for our Level 2 Atrium. Registration for both Level 1 and 2 during the 2017-2018 year will begin this summer.

Sarah MacDonald McLean, Beth Jaz, and Liz McNeil

4. Christian Meditation

The Christian Meditation group meets every Monday afternoon from 1:30pm to 2:30 pm.

Our group is a contemplative prayer group which uses a word “MARANATHA” which enables our minds to be still & silent. Prayers are repeated before & after the meditation as well.

We currently have 12 members in our group.

Throughout 2017, the Ottawa Christian Meditation committee offered four events: Introduction to Christian Meditation, Advent retreat, retreat weekend for Lent & a year end event.

These events are attended by other meditators in the Ottawa area.

Everyone is welcome to come & meditate with us.

5. Deacon’s Discretionary Fund

At the request of Dn. Wayne, the parish has set up a Deacon’s Discretionary Fund in order to assist individuals and families in dire financial need. Since it’s establishment in the spring, it has already been used to assist several people in need of money for food or who have had difficulties in making payments for house utilities, heat, rent, etc. This fund does not provide a stable monthly source of income to such families and individuals but was set up to help those with one-time needs for a particular emergency situation. Parishioners have been generous in contributing to this fund, and we are thankful that we can use it to help the most needy members of our community.

6. Faith Study

Fr. Shroff leads a Faith Study every Wednesday morning from 9:30 - 11:00 am. This weekly Faith Study is well-attended. It is not a Catechism class but a systematic study of the doctrines of the Catholic Faith. Since beginning this past September, the topics covered have included: Divine Revelation; the Authority of Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium; the Church and its Authority; the Roman Pontiff (Pope); Faith; Proofs of the Existence of God; the Nature of God as One; the Blessed Trinity; Creation, Original Sin and the Fall. The Faith Study will end on Wednesday, June 21 and will pause for the summer. It will resume in September beginning with the topic of the Incarnation.

7. Finance Council

Dear Parishioners,

On the back of this page is a statement of the parish's revenues and expenses as of the end of May 2017 and the same results to the end of May 2016. The end of May is a good time of the year to compare results as Easter and First Communions have generally been completed by then.

Thus far in 2017, revenues are coming in higher than they did in 2016. Of note, donations to the Deacons' Fund have increased Miscellaneous Revenues considerably, although collections from masses are down and PAC and credit card revenue is slightly higher.

Operating expenses thus far in 2017 are above 2016 levels, mainly due to higher administrative and utilities and maintenance expenses.

The parish has yet to incur any Extraordinary Expenses

In total, the parish is running a deficit at the end of May of \$6,815 – well below the small surplus that was being run in 2016.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Please remember to keep the parish's financial needs in your mind over the summer. You may be on holiday, but the expenses are not.

Sean Keenan

The Good Shepherd Parish
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
For the month ended May 2017

	Actual	to	Actual	to
	May 2017		May 2016	
Operating Revenue				
Collections from Masses	\$90,292		\$94,117	
PAC & Credit Card Revenue	58,383		57,645	
Masses, Weddings and Funerals	6,216		4,430	
Miscellaneous Revenue	11,477		5,664	
Parochial Organizations	2,770		3,120	
Total Revenue	169,139		164,976	
Operating Expenditures:				
Administration	70,044		63,056	
Utilities & Maintenance	43,045		35,153	
Cultural and Pastoral	8,804		7,494	
Diocesan Tax	7,046		5,535	
Parochial Organizations	1,453		1,163	
Mortgage Interest & Bank Charges	13,105		14,671	
Masses, Funerals & Weddings	1,538		1,635	
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,495		3,798	
Total Expenditures	146,530		132,504	
Operating Revenue over Expenditures	22,609		32,472	
Extraordinary Expenditures:				
<u>Major Repairs or Replacements</u>				
Furniture for Rectory				
Unforeseen repairs				
Other Outflows:				
Mortgage Payments (principal repayments)	29,424		28,132	
Total Revenue over Outflows	(\$6,815)		\$4,340	

Table 1 – Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

8. The Good Shepherd Parish Liturgical Committee

Chair: Alma Haggart

The Liturgical Ministries carried out their duties faithfully and efficiently during this past year.

The Ministry Coordinators speak for themselves through their Reports

Ministry Coordinators:

Sacristans: Donna Dunham

Altars Servers: Chantal Alden

Lectors: Marilyn Olsen

Music: Steve Chow

Greeters: Hilary Als

Ushers: Dennis Rideout

Children's Liturgy: Patty MacCarthy:

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Barb Paquette

Liturgical Decorator: Adele Pierce

FROM THE CHAIR: We experienced a few changes this year:

Anne Gannon has left the position as Coordinator of the Altar Servers Ministry.

We are sorry to lose Anne. We wish her well and thank her for her many years of service. The Altar Sever Ministry grew and flourished under her guidance. We hope she continues to offer her abundant talents in Ministry at The Good Shepherd Parish.

Chantal Alden has generously stepped forward to take over as Coordinator.

Presently, we do not have anyone to act as Training Assistant. Hopefully, that position will be filled this year. Thank you, Chantal for taking this very important Ministry and Welcome to our Liturgy Team

The Welcoming Committee name is changed to Greeting Ministry. The Good Shepherd parishioners are not welcomed to their own church – but Greeted warmly as they arrive.

The Ministry Description Forms were updated last year and submitted to Father Shroff. I have reviewed them again and with minor changes are submitting them to you. I would respectfully suggest that we do not wait fourteen years to update them in the future.

Appreciation:

I would like to acknowledge and thank other Parish Groups and Ministries who assist Liturgy most generously and efficiently. Most notably these are the CWL, The Knights of Columbus and our Youth Ministry. Many Ministries on Liturgy are staffed by people from these groups.

Along with Helen and Wilf Lemoire representing Cursillo, the CWL, Kights and Youth led the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent.

The Youth are an integral part of our Music ministry. As well as singing on the monthly music schedule, this year they provided the music on Good Friday for the additional 12 o'clock service.....as well as for the Confirmation Mass.

There are Youth serving as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and in Children's Liturgy.

And they assist in Liturgical Decorating

As for the CWL and Knights, they also serve as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers. They too have choirs on the monthly music schedule.

Behind the Scene:

- under Cliff Seibel's watchful eye, the Knights set up and take down chairs for all large gatherings especially the Easter liturgies.
- Mark McAvoy ensures the Easter fire burns brightly.
- It is also not uncommon to see many Knights setting up Christmas trees, assisting with parking at Christmas or moving chairs as the floor is being cleaned

I have not covered everything – but you get the idea. Liturgy involves many people –

those we see during mass - and those we do not see.

The very reason we are here today is because of Liturgy!

To all supporters of Liturgy: Your contribution is valued and appreciated!

A heartfelt Thank You on behalf of all Parishioners of The Good Shepherd Parish

Following are Ministry Reports submitted by Ministry Coordinators.

a. Altar Server Ministry:

Since Easter Vigil 2017:

Anne Gannon has stepped down. Chantal Alden has been doing the scheduling, booking practice and communication with parents.

Father Murray and Chantal Alden are in charge of Training the children. Father Shroff has trained the children for the Easter Masses.

A new routine to serve Mass has been established by Father Shroff in September 2016. It was upgraded again to help reduce the confusion with other ministries and to suit the needs of the parents. The routine has been fully approved in December 2016.

A schedule has been posted. The children are encouraged to get along by the Sacristan. One of the Sacristans joined the ministry in late summer 2016 to help the children to feel excited to serve the Lord and to restore unity. Father Murray has joined in late fall 2016.

Rules have been emphasized to promote, patience, teamwork, respect and sharing.

The children have been encouraged to pray for each other.

The beautiful miracle of the Eucharist has been explained to help the children to feel and to acknowledge the Lord's presence in the tabernacle and during the consecration at Mass. This was discussed on their first day of their training. **The children were given the opportunity to spend one minute in the tabernacle with the Lord.**

Reverence is greatly emphasized during practice as the knowledge of this great privilege and honor to serve the Almighty God during Mass.

We have one child volunteering for the Saturday Mass on occasion. As for the 9 am Mass and 11h15 Mass, it is now balanced. We are hoping to have more to cover Saturday. Sacristans seem happy to fulfill this duty with an adult parishioner if needed or simply they do it as a week Mass.

During Mass, observations are made to determine the routine that seemed difficult for the children. We value and listen to the needs of the children, the parents or the questions they may have which are used as pointers to develop and to plan a new strategy for the next upcoming practice. Children are always reminded not to worry of making mistakes. They are encouraged to do their best and to serve the Lord with great reverence. During practice, we strategize to make it easy for them to remember the routine and to get comfortable.

Future goals:

Now that the majority of the children are comfortable with the new routine approved in December 2016, we are planning to incorporate more fun through creative activities and games during practice.

Specialized practice such as Thurifer or MC will be scheduled if needed. Normal practice will continue to be scheduled on a monthly basic but a more flexible time will be offered to parents.

We are doing well with training new Thurifers and we are hoping to have a few more children to master this duty. We have about seven children that are comfortable in the role of MC and only one that is comfortable with the Thurifer duty. Five children have received multiple trainings with the Thurifer duty and three of them will be given an opportunity to have their first duty as Thurifer for the Ascension of the Lord Mass, the Pentecost Mass, the Trinity Mass and the Corpus Christi Mass.

There will be a schedule during summer season as it used to be years ago. There will be practice offered during the summer for the children that feel the need to refresh, but these practices will not be mandatory.

Private practice has been offered to accommodate parents with busy schedules and it will continue to be available as needed.

As the experienced children have fully integrated the new routine, they will be welcomed to step in and join in with the training, leading fun activities and games for the younger children.

Chantal Alden

b. Children's Liturgy

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." **Matthew 19:14**

Overview:

The Children's Liturgy Ministry has been led by an enthusiastic and stable group of four volunteer leaders from September 2016 to June 2017. We were lucky to have three assistant leaders as part of our team. This has been a huge blessing.

Generally, each leader volunteered once/month. All felt that this time commitment was very manageable. Planning meetings were held bi-monthly to discuss seasonal changes and to share ideas.

The number of children attending ranged from a high of 28-30 in September to 15-20 after Christmas. This was likely due to Grade 2 children attending sacramental preparation classes and the natural fluctuation of family life.

The feeling among the leaders is to continue to focus our efforts at the 9am Mass only. We would need to double the number of volunteers if we were to expand the program and that would be difficult. Three assistant leaders for September 2017 are presently required.

Having such dedicated and talented volunteers has made this year fun and joyful and we are looking forward to another great season together.

Last children's liturgy before summer vacation: June 25, 2017.

First children's liturgy of new season: September 10, 2017.

Patty MacCarthy

c. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Currently, we have 27 active ministers out of 31, down 7 from last year.

Many of our Ministers are getting on in age.

Barb Paquette

d. Greeting Ministry:

This ministry is supported by a very welcoming and enthusiastic group of volunteers. From what I can see our parishioners really enjoy the warm greeting they receive as they come through our doors, **many 'are called by name.'**

I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah: 43:1

Hilary Als

e. Liturgical Décor:

This year, the third I have been leading this ministry, has been a success. I kept below my allotted budget, in great part thanks to the incredible generosity of parishioners in making donations towards Easter Lilies at Easter, and poinsettias at Christmas time.

I have enjoyed the great help of my own children and their friends in decorating for the major feasts: Christmas and Easter, and this year we have two new regular volunteers to the ministry: Andrea Allen-Cortez and her daughter, Maya.

Goals for the rest of 2017: to purchase a new Advent wreath for the Sanctuary and to purchase a new Nativity for Christmas-time.

My ultimate goal in working in this ministry is to bring beauty to the church for all Feast days and celebrations so that liturgical décor becomes a way of evangelizing and helping people to love attending Mass at our parish.

Adele Pierce

613-824-0907

f. Lectors:

Presently there are 36 ministers who Proclaim the Word or take the role of Moderator at the regularly scheduled Sunday Masses, on a monthly 4-week rotation. Over the past year- seven ministers stepped down from active ministry including spares. Currently only seven ministers are on the “spare” list.

- There are currently nine persons who will be attending a Training session in June; six of these are youth and that is very encouraging. Being on the spare list allows flexibility for those who are unable to commit to a regular spot; it also provides a pool of replacement ministers as vacancies arise. The parish provides a Sunday Missal to each minister to enable their prayerful preparation of their readings. Workbooks for Lectors are ordered for those ministers who request one; these are paid for by each individual.
- All lectors are always generous with their time when requests are sent out for myriad liturgies such as Holy Week, Pentecost Vigil Mass, Reconciliation Services as well as the extra Masses over Christmas. All ministers are to be commended for their dedication to this ministry. Their prayerful preparation and commitment to the schedule, as well as to stepping up to fulfill short-notice vacancies is a wonderful example of the Christian spirit. The parish is very well served by their contribution to our liturgies.

It is a great honour to serve the parish in this ministry. Thank you.,

Marilyn Olsen

g. Music Ministry:

The Good Shepherd Parish Music Ministry provides music for all Parish masses and liturgies The Ministry is fortunate to be able to provide this service with a solid base of over 30 dedicated volunteers: instrumentalists, singers, choir directors and music coordinators

These volunteers provide music at regular weekend masses, Christmas and Easter masses, as well as any other special masses/services during the year such as Reconciliation Liturgies, First Communion masses, and Confirmation masses.

The music ministry continues to look for interested and talented individuals, especially any instrumentalists such as pianists, organists, or guitarists.

Steven Chow

h. Sacristan Report:

At The Good Shepherd Parish we are now operating with **eight Sacristans**. Some serve only at weekday Masses, while others serve both during the week and on weekends.

These eight sacristans prepare for and serve some 365 regularly scheduled Masses;

- Set up and serve for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Morning. They prepare for and serve at Funerals and Memorial Masses, Wedding rehearsals and Weddings.
- Prepare for and assist during the Triduum, additional Masses at Christmas, Reconciliation services, Confirmation; and at times, special devotions such as Stations of the Cross and Adoration on the Feast of Divine Mercy.

All this is done in an effort to provide a prayerful environment for parishioners and to assist our priests, Father Shroff and Father Greg and other visiting priests.

Donna Dunham

i. Ushers:

Highlights

- We were able to cover all extra masses during Christmas and Easter
- Several Ushers along with Knights, assisted setting up for the Pro-life mass
- Assisted with the Confirmation mass
- On several occasions, this past year ushers assisted parishioners in medical distress, providing first aid until paramedics arrived

Dennis Rideout

9. Marriage Enrichment

BELOVED, the Marriage Enrichment Course by Lighthouse Media/Augustine Institute, is a new program to Good Shepherd Parish this spring, 2017. So far it has been a great success, with 6 parish couples participating and 7 parish couples taking turns facilitating the course and helping to prepare for each evening, "Beloved" is proving to be a fruitful way for all of these couples to each grow in their faith and in their marriages and also to grow in friendship with one another as a small community of parishioners.

The course began in April, with meetings taking place twice a month in the social space. With 6 lessons this spring and 6 in the fall, the entire course will come to a conclusion by the end of November 2017.

Goals for 2017/2018: to ask current participants to give testimonies to parishioners following Masses in early 2018 in order to encourage more couples to sign up for the course so that it can be offered again in April of 2018.

Couples facilitating **Beloved** together:

Gillian and Sean Keenan
Celeste and David Bourrier
Adele and Adrian Pierce
Julie and Kamil Tracz
Beth and Nick Jaz
Christiane and Chris McMullan
Sarah and Dave McLean

10. Marriage Preparation

The Marriage Preparation Program for 2017 concluded on March 21st. It was a success, with 8 engaged couples being prepared for marriage. This year we partnered with St Mary's Parish to lead the program and as in past years, enjoyed the excellent participation of Father Shroff and of a number of married couples from Good Shepherd Parish providing talks on various subjects during the course of the seven evenings: Beth and Nick Jaz, Julie and Kamil Tracz, Ernest and Stephanie El Zarka, Adrian and Adele Pierce.

Participants in the course express real satisfaction with the course material and presentation, especially with the effectiveness of the various testimonies shared by speakers. We hope that in years to come, more engaged couples taking the course will belong to Good Shepherd Parish so that once they have completed the course, they can truly make their lives in our Parish and raise their families here.

Next year's Marriage Preparation Course will once again take place beginning in January or February and will last 7 or 8 weeks.

Adele and Adrian Pierce

Marriage Preparation course facilitators

11. Parish Gardens

Thanks to a great turnout from parish families and individuals in June-August 2016 who helped to develop and then to care for our new small gardens leading up to the main doors of the parish, this space now looks beautiful and welcoming and will look better and better with each year.

Particular thanks to Helen Lemoire, Stephen Swift, Susan Roberts and others who came whenever they were able to in order to care for the gardens and outdoor landscape and to the families who signed up to water the property each week throughout the hot summer months last year.

Goals for 2017:

To have families sign up again to care for the gardens and to water throughout the summer.

Adele Pierce/Helen Lemoire

Outdoor environment

12. Pastoral Care

Our pastoral Care group this year numbered 9 members. One member from last year resigned, and 2 other members did not belong to this parish, so it was decided with the agreement from Father Shroff, that only those belonging to Good Shepherd Parish should be the ones to visit. One former member rejoined and of this report one more has finished Pastoral Care course and will join us in September.

A meeting was held on September 28th and it was decided we would strictly focus on visiting the sick and bringing Holy Communion. Though other ministries such as Food bank and St Vincent de Paul Society though Pastoral in nature, are not really part of pastoral care and come under their own ministry.

At meeting it was Father's express wish that we go back to visiting with a partner if we visit in someone's home. Nursing homes and hospitals exempted.

We instituted having forms filled out whenever a visit took place and left in envelope on bulletin board for Carol to collect. She then photocopied and gave to office.

We had hoped to host 2 masses this year, one to be a healing mass and the other for anyone having experienced loss. Tentative dates were given. However father not comfortable with term healing mass and wished to think about it. The Mass for those experiencing loss will take place in Advent 2017, date to be confirmed.

It was noted at beginning of year we would only have 2 meetings at most, information could be conveyed by phone or e-mail.

Our next meeting will take place in September when plans will be started for mass during advent.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Faure

13. Pro Life

- The Good Shepherd Parish participated in the 2016, 40 Days for Life Campaign by our prayerful presence at an Ottawa abortion facility for a twelve hour period. Father Shroff, Father Murray and Deacon Lee proclaimed the Word on our parish day and parishioners continued to witness at the site throughout the entire 40 Days.
- Father Shroff and some parishioners joined about 15,000 others at the National March for Life in May.
- The third Spiritual Adoption Program was started in January 2017. Instead of weekly reports on the fetal growth and development quarterly reports will be issued. Parishioners are asked to pray for a spiritually pre-born baby who is in danger of abortion. Our new spiritually adopted baby is due to be 'be born' in the fall at which time parishioners will be asked to suggest the name.

- The Parish sponsored a family of six in Action Life's 'Hike for Life' fundraiser. Total raised: \$814.75.
- During the Lenten and Easter season a baby bottle fund raiser was completed for the Miriam Centre. Total raised: \$2296.42.
- The pro-life corner of the bulletin requests prayer relevant to weekly Gospels and informs the parish of community resources that provide help with life issues. It should be noted that prayers are frequently requested for parliamentarians so that they would enact laws to protect human life from conception to natural death.
- Dr. Patrick MacGillivray spoke to our parish about conscience protection for health care providers. Two hundred petitions from our parish were personally delivered to the office of the MPP for Orleans asking for amendments to the bill that legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia so that a provision for conscience right of doctors would be granted. The Ontario government wilfully disregarded the conscience rights of healthcare professionals when they voted to defeat Bill 129 (An Act to amend the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991) Sadly, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is effective in granting rights only in so far as those words are respected in action, which, on this issue, was not the case.
- An assortment of literature including pro-life books, pamphlets and post cards related to current media and legislative initiatives is maintained and displayed in the vestibule and washrooms.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Snell

14. RCIA

This past year 2016-2017 was a long and difficult year for RCIA.

In September we welcomed 2 members, 1 for Baptism and 1 for Confirmation, Holy Eucharist. Within 2 weeks our members had grown by 2 more, another for Baptism and another for Confirmation, Holy Eucharist. It was difficult because we had our Priest's mother enrolled, who lived a great distance, and with all the storms we had this year, which were many, could not always get to meeting. Though there was never any pressure put on us, we all felt our every move was watched within the Parish.

For our Lenten project this year several recipients were put forward, but candidates chose our Syrian refugee family as one they wished to collect money for. In my years with RCIA this was the most money raised. We hope to present money when our final candidate is received into the church.

The candidates and catechumens were welcomed to our church before Lent, then to the Cathedral on the first Sunday in Lent, and finally at the 3 Scrutinies. It was only after all these rites we were told there was a problem and 3 out of the 4 possibly would not be accepted at Easter Vigil. At that time our difficulties began. This was not of Father Shroff's doing, but rather came from Chancery who felt papers presented were not in order. Luckily the other catechumen was able to get her papers in order in time and both she and Mrs Shroff were accepted at a very beautiful Easter Vigil. We had all hoped our remaining 2 candidates would be accepted at Pentecost, sadly only one candidate was accepted into the Church on Pentecost Sunday.

Again it was a lovely personal ceremony at the 11.15 Mass, so much so that we have asked Father to consider this for next year and just have those being Baptized accepted at Easter Vigil. As this report is being written I have finally been told our last candidate, probably one of the most worthy candidates to ever wish to join the Catholic Church, will be accepted. The team will have yet to undergo another rite and reception thus the reason I said was a long and difficult year.

Normally RCIA is supposed to continue to Pentecost Sunday however with candidates being young and having families it is progressively difficult to have them come after the middle of May. RCIA is also one of the only ministries that meet every week from September to May, so is a commitment on everyone's part.

Shortly before the end of RCIA when we go through all the ministries within the Church in hopes our candidates will join one, we had the pleasure of having 2 former candidates for testimony. As it turned out though not planned, one was from my first year with RCIA 13 years ago and one from the previous year. We also had one write a letter in testimony as he and his wife were attending a pre-natal class and could not be in attendance. The previous year they had acted as sponsors. This was the first time this had been tried and proved very successful. This will be my last year with RCIA. I have loved every minute of it, every year there are different dynamics and the candidates have taught me far more than I could ever have taught them. I leave it in good hands, and will still be around if ever needed. Times change and new people need to be involved to allow for growth.

I thank my team for being so understanding; the CWL who presented the candidates with Catechisms and put on the coffee for final reception. I also thank Legion of Mary who had a Mass said for candidates. I thank the Parish who welcomed the candidates and prayed for their journey. Lastly to the candidates themselves who found themselves in a very difficult position but persevered in their intentions to join the Catholic Church, they are to be commended and admired for keeping the faith. None of this would have been possible without the help of the Holy Spirit who guided us all and Father Shroff who went beyond what a Priest should do to make everything personal, special and above all holy.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Faure

15. Responsible Ministry

I started in the Responsible Ministry approximately 7 months ago.

This Ministry maintains, under its umbrella, a record of all volunteers within the various ministries for the Good Shepherd Parish. It ensures that each volunteer has completed a Time and Talent form as well as provide a duly completed and signed Code of Conduct form in compliance with the Archdiocese requirements. Depending on the level of risk, some volunteers must provide references and/or police check.

By introducing recently an electronic version of the Time and Talent form, as well as the Code of Conduct forms, I was able to speed up the process of obtaining the necessary forms from the various coordinators which proved to be quite effective.

This Ministry is evolving and updating its records as volunteers come and go on a continuous basis, as well as amending its records to include new ministries.

Presently, we total approximately 285 volunteers within the various ministries. Some volunteers serving in more than one ministry. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my utmost thanks to all the volunteers for their service to our Parish. I also wish to thank in particular all the coordinators for your continuing support and cooperation towards helping me carry on with my duties in the Responsible Ministry.

Kindest regards,

Magda Baillot

16. Sacramental Preparation

Good Shepherd Parish Sacramental Preparation team consisted of two parts, a team that prepared the children for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, generally considered the grade two Sacraments and a team that prepared the children for Confirmation.

The first team welcomed the grade two children in the fall as they registered in the preparation program. We had a total of 54 children register. The cost of the program was \$50 which covered the cost of materials including two workbooks, a cross necklace, certificates and refreshments throughout the program. The children were expected to attend a total of six lessons. They occurred during the latter part of the 11:15 Mass on four occasions. The remaining two meetings occurred in the evening to which we invited the parents to attend. Father Murray spoke to both parents and children about the importance of the Sacraments at the first of these evening meetings. For the second evening meeting, Father Shroff spoke to both parents and children about the beauty of the Mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated Saturday, April 29th for the majority of the students. (A slight problem with the air conditioner required a delay from the originally scheduled Reconciliation service on Thursday, April 27th). The handful of students who were not able to attend on the 29th made their First Reconciliation on May 6th. The children then received their First Holy Communion on April 30th or May 7th at one of the four Sunday Masses. After each of the Masses, there was a small reception in the hall where cake, juice and coffee was provided. Each of the children was given a certificate signed by Father Shroff to indicate that they had received their Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

The second team welcomed the grade six children in the fall to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Charity Corbett, our Youth coordinator, led this program. There were 40 children who registered. The cost of this program was \$30 to cover expenses. The children met for six classes at the parish and chose either Saturday afternoons or Sunday. Both options included attendance at Mass. Bishop Terence Prendergast celebrated Mass and Confirmed the children at Good Shepherd Tuesday, May 9th. After the Mass there was a reception in the hall where cake, juice, coffee and tea were provided.

This ministry involves the entire parish indirectly in the sense that many of the children and parents who attend the Masses for the preparation may be unfamiliar faces. Each time a parishioner makes

an effort to smile, or say hello to them it can be considered to be a part of the welcome that we are trying to extend every time they join us. Thank you for your part in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Keenan

17. Good Shepherd Syrian Family Welcoming Committee

Vision:

Our dream is to realize the Pope's and Archbishop's vision of the 2016 "Year of Mercy" to serve our brothers and sisters in need and help welcome them into Canada with acts of corporal and spiritual mercy. We thank the Lord for this opportunity to serve.

Following last year's AGM report, our parish community and the GSSFWC patiently awaited the arrival of the Syrian Family that our Parish is sponsoring in collaboration with the Deaconate Community of Ottawa.

For unknown reasons, the files of the three family members got separated in processing at the International Office for Migrants (IOM) in Lebanon. Thus, Mrs. Krait was scheduled to travel to Canada from Lebanon, on her own; she arrived on 18 August 2016. She, along with her son Shadi Al Khalil (who had arrived in Ottawa some 5+ years earlier on a student visa, that was changed to refugee status on the outbreak of the Syrian War) settled into the apartment our parish committee had furnished and prepared for the family.

Again the bureaucratic process continued at the IOM until Fairuz Al Khalil (daughter of Mrs. Krait) and Deacon Wael Al Nouri (husband of Fairuz) were given notice their travel to Canada was finalized... they arrived in Canada on 17 November 2016.



Our parish welcomed all the newcomers at a Parish Potluck Dinner held in December that was organized by the GSSFWC, led by Helen Lemoire and Nora Caputo. This dinner was very well attended and was a visible sign of the parish's support and warm welcome to this dear family.

A daughter and another son (with their respective spouses and children) of Mrs. Krait were also sponsored by other Catholic Parishes in Ottawa a few years prior. They live in the west end of Ottawa (one on Carling and one at Bayshore), quite a distance from the apartment where our family lived (just off Montreal Rd at Bathgate). Hence our family asked for assistance to relocate to a more central accommodation – so that Mrs. Krait could more easily have her grandchildren visit with her.

Thus, at the conclusion of the one-year lease at the apartment in February, our family moved to a townhome just off Carling at Merivale. This has helped them immensely with respect to their family

gatherings and their rebuilding of their extended family interactions. Our committee helped with this move, led by Penny and Barry MacLeod, along with members of the family. Even though their new home is a distance from The Good Shepherd Church, they still consider this their parish. They attend Mass here on a semi-regular basis, while attending other Churches from time to time so they can be with their other family members.

Committee members have met with the family regarding job search strategies, assistance with résumé preparation, medical and dental needs/appointments, etc. Dental services have been provided pro bono through the efforts of one of our committee members. This has helped these newcomers immensely.

They are seeking opportunities where they might be able to volunteer within the parish or the wider community (Fairuz, for example, will be joining the Children's Liturgy Ministry to assist with that ministry). Ongoing efforts continue regarding the job search and both Fairuz and Dn Wael are open to consider any/all options. Committee members stand ready to meet with them to discuss these options/opportunities; they are eager to be employed.

Regarding language, all three speak Arabic, while Fairuz has a very good command of English; Dn Wael has a good command of French and some English; and Mrs. Krait speaks only Arabic. It is planned to get her enrolled in English in a Second Language course shortly.

At the agreement of the Parish Pastoral Council, the parish financial commitment to this family commenced on the arrival of Fairuz and Dn Wael, in November 2016; it will be completed in November of this year. Our personal and spiritual commitment to this family, however, will definitely endure as they are truly members of The Good Shepherd Parish. They plan to continue to be participating and engaged members of our parish faith family. We have a prayer that we pray at our committee meetings and I close this report with that prayer:

Prayer for Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers

*God, no one is stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.
In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,
those separated from their loved ones,
those who are lost and those who have been exiled from their homes.
Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, who too was a refugee and a migrant
who travelled to another land searching for a home. Amen.*

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Olsen, Chair
GS Syrian Family Welcome Committee
June 2017

18. Youth Ministry

Youth ministry at Good Shepherd includes activities for youth that reach a number of different people. The youth group runs weekly on Friday nights for about 4 hours, and sees between 20 and 25 youth per night. The nights are focused on fellowship, and having a relationship with Christ. Through youth and music ministry, 8 older teens are being prepared in leadership positions, the preparation for which includes beginning to understand the liturgy in a deeper sense, learning to write and give testimonies and talks, becoming adept at relational ministry, planning youth events, and deepening their own prayer lives. Vacation Bible School for elementary students in the summer is a great team effort that usually has about 40 participants on top of a team of 15 people without whom the camp could not run. Children participate in games, catechesis, music, and arts and crafts to learn about Jesus. Sacramental preparation for grade 6's enrolled in confirmation, of whom there were 40 this year, takes place through a retreat and 6 classes over the school year. As is the case with many sacramental prep ministries, this is an incredible opportunity to reach children and families who have a traditional connection to the church, but not more. As such, the program is split into a questioning phase in which children go begin to have an understanding of salvation history, and a mission phase in which the children begin to understand their role as confirmed members of the Church. Finally, the youth ministry program includes outreach activities at schools like retreats and classroom visits throughout all the grades, that reach a number of children who would otherwise have no connection to the church.

As I have been recently hired at Saint George's parish in the same capacity, the hours for my position will be split, and the parish will hire a second youth minister to take on half of the hours, with the intention of building his or her experience in youth ministry at the parish, and perhaps taking on the full position in a year's time. Whatever happens, the program will continue to work within these areas: to catechize adolescents who are in the church, to strengthen ties with school communities and continue outreach to adolescents who otherwise have not heard the Gospel, to prepare teens to function in ministry positions in the parish, and to be Catholic leaders in their communities capable of dialogue who will take on the work of evangelization outside parish walls.

Charity Corbett

19. Welcome Ministry

We continue to call and welcome all new parishioners to GS Parish. This allows us to assist with any needs these folks may need coming to a new community and or parish. It gives us the opportunity to ensure all family information is complete. This is also a unique opportunity to invite these folks to get involved in the parish by volunteering in a ministry whether now or in the new future.

When a new parishioner says how welcome GS has made them feel that is what makes this ministry so necessary.

Hilary Als

III. Autonomous Organization Reports

1. Cursillo

2016 was a success in that the Ottawa Cursillo movement of Ottawa has reached their goal of monthly \$10.00 contributor for the next 3 years. This contribution has made it possible for anyone wanting to do a weekend the fee will be \$200.00 per person as oppose to the \$300.00 fee in 2015.

More contribution is needed to build a good base in the accounts to be sustainable for a long period of time.

However, the Good Shepherd parish Cursillistas have been a low to nil attendance to our monthly Ultreyas. This is due to lack of support from the pastor, when a pastor promotes a program the parishioners seem to feel that his endorsement has more value.

To promote a movement in the Catholic Church the present pastor has to have knowledge of the movement by making a Cursillo weekend himself.

There has been 2 successful weekends one last February of which I was on team and have to say that it was well attended, mostly people from annunciation of our lord parish. The last one was a men's weekend in April, the rector was the cousin of father Denis Hayes who is the Cursillo spiritual director of Ottawa for Cursillo.

Respectfully submitted

Helen Lemoire
GS Cursillo representative

2. Knights of Columbus

The 134th Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus was held in Toronto, Ontario during August of 2016. It's theme – *A Light to the Nations* – was inspired by a verse from the 49th chapter of Isaiah: "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth." It also echoes the call of Pope Francis to "go forth from our comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel."

This became our "light" as we entered into our 2016-17 Fraternal Year, and as a single Council we realize that we can only affect our small corner of this nation through our corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

To that end I am pleased to report that we have equaled our charitable distribution of last year. Our total of just over \$12,400 brings our past five-year contributions to \$60,000. Many thanks need to be given to the dedication and hours of volunteer work of the members within our Council.

Our activities align with the six Service Programs of the Knights of Columbus: Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family and Youth. Some are major activities, others are minor, but each is of equal value and reflects upon our principles of charity, unity, and fraternity.

- Christmas Food Hampers: A collaborative effort between the Knights and the Good Shepherd Conference of St. Vincent de Paul provided food for 32 families within the area and toys for their children. The Christmas Charity Auction netted \$6,200 for the hampers with the surplus funds allocated to the local food bank.

- Garage Sale: A cooperative event of the Parish's Knights and CWL; after expenses proceeds are equally divided between the two groups and the local food bank. This year the portions were approximately \$1,200.
- Funds raised from our multiple events support a number of programs and charities with a religious, community, and/or church focus. Designates include our own Parish, Pro-Life organizations, Coats for Kids program, graduate bursaries, housing for the homeless (including homeless veterans), and seminarians.
- Activities aren't all money raising events. A Memorial Mass follows our founder's mission (Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney) – to honour our fallen brothers and support their widows and children. Our participation in Pro-Life campaigns and events reaffirms our commitment to defending the right to life. The Basketball Free-Throw and Substance Abuse Poster Contest programs involve the youth of our Parish schools.

Our volunteer hours do not stop with Council activities. Many of our members can be seen participating in church ministries (Mass ushers, Eucharistic ministers, Lector readers, and choirs), and on various parish committees.

The Council has an established set of successful programs and events, our charitable works *are a light* to our small corner of this nation demonstrating a love of God and neighbor. The Executive for the 2017-18 Fraternal year has a good base from which to operate, the Order's Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish will continue to be our mission as we strive to enhance *the light of faith* within the Council, our families, and in the Parish.

Mike Goulet

Grand Knight – Council 9005

3. Legion of Mary

Active members: 7 (increase of one over 2016)

Auxiliary members: 84

The Legion of Mary Praesidium at the Good Shepherd Parish is named Our Lady of Guadalupe. Meetings are held weekly in Our Lady of Guadalupe Room and our work is assigned by Father Shroff our spiritual advisor. Assigned works is always focused on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Highlights of work done June 2106 – May 2017.

- Door to Door Visitation – 120 homes were visited in our church community with the goal to evangelize. We leave a current bulletin at each door and offer rosaries, rosary pamphlets and Miraculous Medals to those we meet. We invite residents to come to church and point out the various ministries the parish has to offer. Depending on our conversations people are encouraged to meet with Father Shroff to discuss specific issues. We encounter (too) many former Catholics, a good number who express regret for not practicing their faith. During our visits one Legionary speaks while the second is praying.
- Bus Ministry – this year was fruitful in finding two single moms who eagerly accepted an invitation to attend the children's Christmas Mass. Like home visitations one legionary prays while the second converses with passenger(s). These conversations have the same goal as home visits.

- AMICA senior's residence – is visited weekly to pray the rosary with residents immediately before the weekly mass or Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. Residents lead decades of the Rosary, they read or otherwise assist Father Shroff, Father Murray or Deacon Lee. We provide the parish bulletins and religious literature.
- Chapel Hill Retirement Residence – visits started in February where we read and discuss the book Fatima Today by father Andrew Apostoli. The Rosary is prayed with decades in English, French and occasionally a decade is said in Latin. To conclude, we sing a Marian hymn and spend some time visiting with the residents.
- Coordinate Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of each month.
- Lead Divine Mercy Devotions every Friday at 3pm.
- Coordinate Divine Mercy Devotions on Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Lead the rosary before weekday and First Saturday masses.
- A Legion of Mary information stand is supplied with rosaries, Miraculous Medals, Catholic literature and Legion of Mary information.
- A lending Library is maintained
- Stations of the Cross are led on a weekday morning following mass and again on Fridays at 2:45, except on the First Friday of each month when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.
- Christmas greetings are sent to each of our auxiliary members. These members are very important to the success of the Legion of Mary.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Snell

4. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (Good Shepherd Conference)

MISSION

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect justice and joy.

VALUES

The Mission of the SSVP implies that as Vincentians we:

- see Christ in anyone who suffers
- come together as a family
- have personal contact with the poor
- help in all possible ways

The SSVP Conference at Good Shepherd meets for about an hour on the second Monday evening each month from September to June in the social space. Our home visits continue throughout the year. Between 6 and 9 dedicated members attend regularly, depending on availability. Father Greg serves as our spiritual advisor. This past year members have been active carrying out home visits, taking part in the Christmas project, Angel tree gifts to be included in K of C Christmas hampers and

working with other conferences in Ottawa in the North of 60 Project to collect and fill 2 sea containers of food for Rankin Inlet. For the first time this June, Good Shepherd Conference will be represented at the SSVP National Conference in Quebec City.

We are thankful to Father Shroff and Father Greg for their ongoing spiritual guidance, to Bonnie in the office who is often the first person to respond to people in need, and to our mentors in the SSVP and everyone in the parish who supports the conference through their prayers, actions and financial contributions.

We welcome all parishioners wishing to join us.

