

2018

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

ACCOUNTABILITY

REPORT



## Reflection – Accountability Report 2018

*“And the One seated on the throne said, “See I am making all things new.” Rev 21:5*

My dear parishioners, I am pleased to present to you the first copy of our “Yearly Accountability Report,” for our new faith community, “Holy Spirit Parish.” For the former parishes of St. Augustine’s and St. Matthew’s, this report was previously known as our “Year End Report.”. Now that we are one community with two worship sites it will now be called “The Holy Spirit Parish Accountability Report.” In other words, a report on all that is going on in our parish at both worship sites...those committees and groups who help our community grow. As I sit typing this report, reflecting on our past year, so many emotions emerge: excitement, sadness, hope, hurt, celebration, grieving, welcoming and parting. In other words, it was a year of emotions...a year of change! The closure of three parishes and the emergence of one was no easy feat. When this journey started many years ago, we were ‘advised’ by the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) that this would not be an easy process and that this was the beginning of something that will be ongoing. In September of 2018, the parishes of St. Matthew’s, St. Rose and St. Augustine’s became Holy Spirit Parish. From this move came the closure of St. Augustine’s... a fixture in the community of Grand Bay Westfield for almost one hundred years. Although this was very difficult we chose to celebrate with a formal dinner at Westfield Golf and Country Club. And what a celebration it was! This ushered in the birth of our New Parish... “Holy Spirit.” What we had been talking about and preparing for became a new reality. Now a host of opportunities lay before us.

Within these pages, you will find many wonderful examples, just a fraction of opportunities that have come to fruition (and many more to come). But as well, examples of our baptismal ‘right’ or “Christian Accountability” in action. A new group that has led us through these changes and really come to the forefront is our “Revitalization Committee.” Formerly known as our “Transition Committee” was formed with 4 parishioners from each former parish. This group of 12 plus myself, Chaired by Patti Blake, was responsible for both the practical and spiritual preparations for our new parish. This included a lot of hard work, including reading the book, “Rebuilt” by Michael White and Tom Corcoran, Saturday Workshops and many meetings since last June. Finally, with our new parish in place, we decided that this ‘name’ did not reflect the vision of a revitalized Church living out our Baptismal Call found in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan: An evangelizing community that gives Jesus Christ to the world; Fuller Churches for weekend Mass, Intergenerational community of Children, teens, young adults, middle age, and senior; a community serving those on the margins; and a community that shares their faith, support one another and lead others to Jesus Christ. Therefore this past January we opted for the “Revitalization Committee,” allowing the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into our parish.

Another new group that has emerged over this past year is our Youth Ministry Group. Our Youth Minister, Kenneth Fury has been able to tap into a core group of young people who meet each Sunday Evening. With no prior experience, Kenneth is able to share his own faith and offer some direction to our youth. I am very proud of him and those who participate on a weekly basis. Be sure to look at Kenneth's report included within. As well, I want to thank Mark Palmer who offers ongoing supervision to Kenneth and Youth Ministry and for participating in our weekly meetings each Wednesday morning. Great ideas are surfacing for the coming year. Hospitality Committee continues to be a 'great' and 'visible' new presence at our open doors, offering 'welcome' and 'comfort' to both past and new parishioners! Keep up the great work! This year, Religious Education for St. Rose Worship Sited moved from St. Rose School to St. Rose Place (former rectory) where each class has their own classroom/space. This proved to be a very good move. At St. Matthew's Worship Site, students continue to be active as 'ushers' 'bringing up the gifts' and so on. I want to 'thank' Linda Spinney and Andrea McGrath, the coordinators and catechists who continue to sacrifice their time and other gifts for the formation of our younger companions.

As well, I want to thank our Financial Committee who worked so hard to ensure all accounts were properly in place and accounting procedures and statements were accurate. When we were unable to obtain guidance or help from the diocese, the Finance Committee recommended consultation with J.K. Whittaker who is auditing our books and will continue to act as both 'monitor' and a 'support' for our new parish. Also, the Knights of Columbus, CWL, Women's Group, Prayer Shawl, Liturgy, and all the other groups that help make up the frame work our parish. You know who you are-Thank You! If I have failed to mention you, it was not intentional. Without your commitment and ongoing dedication to your respective groups Holy Spirit Parish would suffer greatly!

Another 'thank you' that needs to be acknowledged is to our secretary Bernice Martin. This was a very challenging and difficult year for our administration. Bernice was the one who implemented the merging of various accounting procedures, meeting with our accounting firm, J.K. Whittaker as well as meetings with banks for the new parish. On top of this were the regular day to day administrative functions, plus helping to educate the grieving parishioners, the endless phone calls and other issues that needed address. We all owe a great deal of thanks to Bernice for all the extra hard work...and at the same time keeping her sense of humour in the forefront!

Once again, in this booklet, you will see many other, 'new things,' that have taken root and accomplished since Holy Spirit Parish inauguration. With the support of new subcommittees people have taken on different areas that needed 'formation' or 'redesigned'. I am astonished to how much work has been accomplished thus far. As a personal note, these various committees, leaders and many people are the ones who kept me 'grounded' and 'hopeful'

when this task became overwhelming. I know that I speak on your behalf when I say how grateful I am for their, counsel, support and of course, their gifts. Without them exercising their baptismal call, we would have never gotten this far!

Finally, I want to personally thank you, parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish! You are the ones who have stayed with us; you did not 'leave' or 'bail' when tough and difficult decisions were made and implemented. The CLI cautioned the clergy that some people would not support us and our new structure. Although I am sure that at times, it is tough to understand, you trusted. I am reminded of the sacred season of Lent. Every Lent, we are called to change...and yet 'Lent' is not just a season, it is a lifetime. We have embraced this great change and I am very proud of all of you! However, we need to continue to work together, moving forward; living our baptismal call to serve; welcoming back both new and former parishioners which is really exciting and can only aid in the growth of Holy Spirit Parish.

Therefore, I ask you to take this report to prayer with you... pray words of gratitude to God for the great work that is happening in our new parish. Then let the various committee reports speak to your heart. Can you see yourself part of anyone of these committees? Is there something that you are interested in and have not acted upon? Is there some sort of social outreach that we could be doing and have not? What would you like to try? Ask the Holy Spirit to open your own hearts and minds to see what other possibilities that could help make Holy Spirit Parish a viable and vital presence to the greater community!

*"God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you abound in every good work." 2 Cor 9:7-8.*

**God Bless You Everyone!**

**Fr. David Martin**

**Some of the accomplishments at Holy Spirit Parish thus far:**

- Modified Mass Schedule offering 3 fuller Masses and covered by one priest.
- Welcoming both new and former parishioners.
- New Signage for both Worship Sites.
- New Sound System at St. Rose Worship Site.
- Furnishings from the former St. Augustine's Church moved to St. Matthew's and St. Rose Worship Sites.
- Religious Education once offered at St. Rose School moved to St. Rose Place, the former rectory.
- Hospitality Ministry offered at both Parish Sites.

- Photos and Photo Book for Holy Spirit Parish.
- New Music Ministry for 4 PM Mass at St. Rose Worship Site.
- Back parking lot at St. Matthew's Worship Site Paid in full.
- New entrance to St. Augustine's Cemetery, Holy Spirit Parish.\*
- New Front lawn for St. Matthew's Worship Site.\*

**Future Goals and Projects:**

- More support to senior parishioners and shut ins, such as drives to Mass and parish events.
- A multipurpose space for St. Rose Worship Site for gatherings and parish events.
- New outside cross for St. Matthew's Worship Site.
- Monthly Potluck Dinners.
- Outreach and working with our neighbouring faith communities.
- Workshop for Readers.
- Adult Religious Education Program.
- Build on current website.
- Projects to help build community.
- Summer Program for our Youth.
- Mentoring Program: Matching Senior Members with Youth.

\* Inclement spring weather has held up the ongoing work for these projects.

**Holy Spirit Parish Statistics: 2018-2019**

	<b>St. Augustine</b>	<b>St. Matthew</b>	<b>St. Rose</b>
Number of Active Parishioners:	60	250	250
Number of Baptisms:	2	4	15
Number of Deaths:	4	12	34
First Communion:	1	4	13
First Reconciliation:	0	3	10
Confirmation:	0	14	8
Marriages:	1	0	9

## **Revitalization (Transition) Committee 2018**

Established in the spring of 2017, this committee was enacted to help in a wave of great change coming for our diocese. This group consisted of 4 parishioners from each former parish:

Mark Palmer, Susan Nichol, Sue Ogden, Barb Tracey-Laroque, Paul Riley, Stephen Parker, Eleanor Austin, Kenneth Fury, Sarah Butler, Kim McCormick, Alex Butler, Patti Blake, Angela Butler, Fr. David Martin

Meetings were held monthly, lasting 3 hours long, caring parishioners who did various 'brainstorming exercises' using Diocesan Pastoral Plan and Documentation from CLI. Time was spent, getting to know each other and ensuring that everyone was on the same playing field. In the summer of 2018, the Communications committee coordinated a full day workshop with a professional Project Manager, Margaret Carten, to launch the Revitalization Committee. Our small group spent the day dissecting the 5 mission elements to living our Baptismal call. Once again, we brainstormed immediate tactical items involved in the closure of St Augustine's but also larger strategic initiatives to revitalize our Parish.

To ensure that we had maximum attendance at the final St Augustine's mass and celebration dinner at the golf course, we produced numerous communications from an all welcome notice in the New Freeman, a phone blitz through to, and including, bulletin communications. A keepsake bulletin was created which included the medal of St Augustine's. A photographer was commissioned to capture memories of the event. A church picnic was coordinated and launched with overwhelming success. This will become an annual fall event.

From our brainstorming sessions, 3 possible new names for our new Parish came to the forefront. Parishioners in each parish were invited to vote on the name that they liked. This information was taken, counted and put forth to the Bishop. After several attempts to gain approval, the bishop gave his blessing to the name that gained the most votes: "Holy Spirit Parish". During this time, several other projects were ongoing:

- Our new website [www.holyspiritRCparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritRCparish.ca)
- Launch the final photo directory as a means of building community. A starting point was to know each other by name. Note: ministries or other group photos can still be sent to [pattiblake07@outlook.com](mailto:pattiblake07@outlook.com) to be included in the book.
- The launch of a prayer shelf, which will serve like a library on books about praying.
- A survey will be administered to determine how we are performing on each of our 5 mission elements and it will look to you for suggestions on where to prioritize. This will serve as a baseline so that we can continually improve.

- The creation of a logo for our Parish. It was decided that a beautiful stain glass window in the balcony of St. Rose Worship Site portraying the Holy Spirit would become our parish logo.
- We wish to build a more accurate directory (names, phone, and email) which will be essential for communication and in particular our goal of creating community through social media.
- We will be building a 5 part series featuring stories from our community to showcase how we are living each of our 5 mission statement elements (e.g. a community of growing disciples). These stories will be in the bulletin and we will try to get them in the New Freeman to showcase how Holy Spirit Parish is progressing on our revitalization journey.
- We wish to have an open house showcasing each of our ministries. This will be a way to learn about what is happening, how to get involved etc. as each group will have a table or display. We would also like to have an inspirational speaker(s) during this showcase.

### **Holy Spirit Parish Hospitality Committee Report**

(Submitted by: Kim McCormick, Susan Nicol, Sue Ogden)

### **Tasks and action items completed during Fall of 2018:**

#### **Closing St. Augustine's:**

- Ordered St. Augustine Medals for closing mass and dinner - glued medals to program.
- Prepared script for phone Blitz to invite parishioners to closing mass and dinner.
- Arranged for volunteers to complete phone blitz.
- Photographer for Mass & dinner
- Arranged photographer to take photos of inside and outside of St. Augustine's, St Matthew's and St Rose for Welcome letter/Brochure.
- Bishop celebrated final Mass and de-consecration of St. Augustine's.
- Following diocesan protocol for closed parish, locks were changed and signage removed immediately.
- New signage designed and in place.

#### **Holy Spirit Parish Picnic:**

- Organized a Fall picnic (donations, volunteers, food, prizes, decorations, set up, clean up, entertainment, games, bingo thank you cards...). This picnic was held with great success bring many people together, rekindling old friendships and making new ones.

#### **Holy Spirit Parish Ministries:**

- Recruited new greeters
- Created a "Greeters Brochure" to ensure consistency in both worship sites.

- Ordered name tags for greeters. This has proven to be very beneficial for both worship sites.
- Scheduled Greeter's training session.
- Coordinated ministry volunteers from all three worship sites into a yearly schedule. **We are still looking for people to join anyone of our ministries.**
- Continue to recruit new greeters and volunteers for other ministries.
- Continue to work with Religious Education directors to have youth involved in participating in ministries.
- Workshop for Readers.
- A need for someone to assist the priest with baptisms at St. Rose Worship Site (We still need someone or a couple. **NOTE: If no one comes forward to help, baptisms may have to be celebrated at another time.**)
- Going back to the purpose of our group: To Revitalize our Parish, using the 5 mission Elements (this was given to all parishioners) to bring our baptismal call to the forefront. **For the next year or so, this group will be acting in the name of a Parish Council.**
- Establishing a Maintenance Committee, to examine and prioritize ongoing maintenance of all buildings.

### **Youth Committee – Year End Report**

(Submitted by Mark Palmer – Youth Committee Chair)

The Youth Committee is going strong but is not acting as a committee at the writing of this report. When we commenced a year, or so ago we were a small tight knit group including the Butler family members Sarah, Alex and Angela, Kenneth Fury, Father David and myself, Mark Palmer acting as chair. The process began with a couple of meetings during which Parish members who had contributed previously through youth programs were asked for their advice and opinions. Parishioners that provided assistance were Patti Black, Marika Block, Melissa Marsden, Linda Spinney and Andrea McGrath.

Two major themes were decided upon – establishing a Youth Group and supporting the Religious Education Program.

As we moved forward with this focus it became obvious that the Parish needed to have a point person to create an identity for this mission and to take charge of realizing these goals. Kenneth Fury was the obvious choice and has done a great job as our Youth Minister – surpassing all expectation. Sarah and Alex were off to pursue their education and the committee ceased to meet as a group, out of necessity. Father, Kenneth and I meet most Wednesday mornings to deal with arising issues and to keep projects moving forward. Angela and myself have taken responsibility to chaperone the Youth Group activities in support of Kenneth each Sunday evening from 6-8 at St. Rose Place.

With respect to Religious Education, the Program at St. Matthew's Worship Site remains unchanged, while the St. Rose of Lima Worship Site program was moved (with much help from Kenneth and the Youth Group) to St. Rose Place from the school. This allows a greater freedom and ownership of the program and the space for the Catechists which appear to have been well received by everyone.

Much appreciated were donations specifically to the Youth Group from several parishioners totalling \$500.00 in support of this initiative and Kenneth's work. (Donations that included envelope numbers were able to receive tax credit)

The initiatives that have been undertaken have certainly proven to be positive and stimulating, however much is still to be accomplished. The Youth Committee needs to reconvene and access progress to date, re-establish goals for the upcoming year, add new members, etc.

Some of the challenges going forward include enhancing existing programs and opportunities for youth within the Parish while creating more cohesion and inclusion between worship sites as well as creating more diversity and visibility within the activities of the Youth Group. This initial year of operation has been very successful and much credit for these achievements must be given to Kenneth for all his hard work and dedication while breaking new ground within our Parish.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Revitalization Committee**

## **Finance Committee Ministry**

We are pleased to present the 2018 Financial Highlights for Holy Spirit Parish (formerly St. Rose, St. Matthew's and St. Augustine's) Our committee was active last year in performing our due diligence duties regarding the stewardship and execution of financial matters in consultation with Rev David Martin.

### **Activity Summary:**

- Consolidation of all accounts, investments...for all parishioners to view
- St. Rose of Lima Worship site steeple was stabilized and painted
- St. Rose Place and garage roof were repaired and shingled
- St. Matthew's Worship site back parking lot was upgraded and repaved
- New signage for both worship sites was installed
- Youth Minister position was created
- J. K. Whittaker & Associates was hired to integrate the financial records of the three previous parishes due to the realignment process.

### **Here are the procedures that J K Whittaker did on our behalf:**

J.K. Whittaker and Associates was engaged to provide assistance with the financial records for the year ended December 31, 2018 for Holy Spirit Parish. The following procedures were performed:

- Agreed cash balances to bank reconciliations and ensured there were no significant reconciling items outstanding
- Adjusted the HST recoverable balance to agree to the Q4 2018 HST claim
- Adjusted the IPLF investment and loan balances to agree with the Diocese's confirmation
- Adjusted the IPLF interest earned/paid, and assessment fee expense to agree with the Diocese's confirmation
- Reviewed the revenue and expenses compared to prior year and obtained explanations for any significant variances, reallocated revenue and expenses were needed.

### **Important Notes to the Financial Statements**

The salaries and benefit expense category included the following - Priest, Secretary, Summer Student, 2 Religious Education Coordinators, Youth Minister, 3 Housekeepers (Rectory, St. Rose Place, St. Rose Worship site) and 2 Music Ministers.

While we are blessed to have a positive cash/investment balance it should be noted that we only have access to the Holy Spirit Building account (former St. Rose and St. Matthews Building Accounts) for our ongoing maintenance and major building repairs. We thank-you for your

continued generosity and support to keep these balances on solid ground for protection against any unforeseen expense that might befall our parish.

In closing, I wish to personally thank all of our committee members for their dedication and hard work.

And finally I wish to thank-you the parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish for your continued trust in us.

**Yours in the Faith,**

**Robert (Bob) Gaudet**  
**Finance Chair Holy Spirit Parish**

**Members:** *Rev. David Martin*  
*Bob Gaudet –Chair*  
*Anita LeBlanc- Secretary*

*Roxanne Fairweather*  
*Paul Hebert*  
*Bernice Martin*

*Mike O'Brien*  
*Chris Thompson*  
*Phil Butler*

**Holy Spirit Parish  
Financial Highlights - 2018**

	<b>St. Rose</b>	<b>St. Matthew's</b>	<b>St. Augustine's</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Assets and liabilities as at December 31, 2018</b>				
Cash	16,992	24,088	38,221	<b>79,301</b>
IPLF - Deposits				
St. Rose School Rent Fund	766,185	-	-	<b>766,185</b>
St. Rose Building Fund	948,350	-	-	<b>948,350</b>
In Trust - Riley Manor	41,603	-	-	<b>41,603</b>
St. Rose Community Housing	6,464	-	-	<b>6,464</b>
St. Augustine Cemetery	-	-	93,666	<b>93,666</b>
IPLF - Loan	-	(33,306)	-	<b>(33,306)</b>
<b>Profit and loss for the year ended December 31, 2018</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Offertory collection	173,681	121,824	45,976	<b>341,481</b>
School rent	122,172	-	-	<b>122,172</b>
IPLF interest	43,612	559	3,220	<b>47,391</b>
Bequests and donations	27,704	8,140	3,538	<b>39,382</b>
Special collections	12,246	3,037	9,506	<b>24,789</b>
Building fund	-	12,397	4,431	<b>16,828</b>
Other	18,274	2,699	131	<b>21,104</b>
	<b>397,689</b>	<b>148,656</b>	<b>66,802</b>	<b>613,147</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Church	84,467	38,652	13,507	<b>136,626</b>
Salaries and benefits	54,730	47,798	32,571	<b>135,099</b>
Rectory	33,732	10,735	4,857	<b>49,324</b>
Diocesan assessment	19,909	10,092	7,770	<b>37,771</b>
Office	8,186	3,689	544	<b>12,419</b>
Hall	1,205	9,656	10	<b>10,871</b>
Special collections remitted	8,125	805	385	<b>9,315</b>
Other	26,574	10,765	16,323	<b>53,662</b>
	<b>236,928</b>	<b>132,192</b>	<b>75,967</b>	<b>445,087</b>
<b>Net surplus before other items</b>				
	<b>160,761</b>	<b>16,464</b>	<b>(9,165)</b>	<b>168,060</b>
<b>Other items</b>				
Exterior work for St. Rose	15,000	-	-	<b>15,000</b>
Parking lot for St. Matthew's	-	88,000	-	<b>88,000</b>
<b>Net surplus (loss) for the year</b>				
	<b>145,761</b>	<b>(71,536)</b>	<b>(9,165)</b>	<b>65,060</b>

## **Holy Spirit Parish Religious Education 2018 - St Matthew's Worship Site**

Total enrollment 67 students, Grade 1 through 8

Average Attendance 27, approximately 41%

Confirmation Candidates 15

First Communion Candidates 13

First Reconciliation Candidates 7, of which only 2 completed the program and received the Sacrament

Full time teachers 8

Support: 1 snack coordinator with her own assistants & 1 bathroom monitor

Working Budget, \$38 remaining from last year's budget, plus \$382 proceeds from Confirmation Class Bake Sale

Expenses incurred: occasional purchase of cookies to supplement our baker's donation, a donation of \$10 per attendee (\$130) to the hosts of the NET Confirmation Retreat in March, and supplies for the Confirmation and First Communion Receptions.

To date all supplies provided by teachers and helpers have been covered by the providers, with the option of providing receipts to claim for donations.

Monthly assembly style classes to coincide with the Knights of Columbus Brunches have allowed a group approach to learning the basics of the traditions and rituals of the Mass and the Church building, and attendance to these assemblies has been in line with overall attendance to classes.

The children have also been encouraged to take a more active part in the celebration of Mass, and many are eager and very proud to carry their gifts to the altar. Involvement in the Christmas Eve Children's Mass was enthusiastic and slightly chaotic, but well received.

The Confirmation Class attended the Bishop's Pilgrimage, the NET retreat, and a number of community outreach activities, such as serving at Romero House and raising and using funds to provide for a Family at Christmas, as well as staging a very successful Bake Sale in the church lobby before and after Mass. They also had a few occasions to attend Mass as a unit, taking part as greeters, carrying offering gifts and helping with collection.

In preparation for the 2019-2020 season, the current catechists all plan to return, with a few changes in grade levels, and we don't anticipate any change in format or content, but are trying to find new methods of encouraging registration and attendance. I will prepare email and poster campaigns during our summer break to promote enrollment and parent participation for next year, anticipating restart in mid-September.

**Linda Spinney**

**Religious Ed Coordinator – St. Matthews Worship Site**

## **Holy Spirit Parish Religious Education 2018 - St. Rose of Lima Worship Site**

The focus of this ministry is to help the children of the parish develop a deeper understanding of what it means to live in our faith and to serve our family, parish and community.

To achieve this, we meet every week on Monday evenings (confirmation classes meet on Sunday afternoon). At the start of this year we were based out of the school, but with the parishes support, after Christmas, we moved into St. Rose Place. This has allowed each grade to own their space and has allowed the Catechists to develop more in-depth lessons (ones that will carry over, week to week). The program should have started in September but due to the difficulty in finding volunteer Catechists, it started in October and it will run into May. There are six classes this year: Grade 1, 2, 3/4, 5, 6/7, and confirmation. Each grade follows the concepts presented in the Disciples and Me program and there are some activities that go across all grade levels.

The activities that go across all grades start with our helping hands initiative. This creates a focus on doing small, good deeds to help anyone they come across. Each student gets a sheet to track their good deeds and each class keeps a tally to show how much of an impact they can have with those small acts of kindness. The classes decided to participate in Operation Christmas Child again this year. Students made baked goods to sell before a few Saturday and Sunday masses to pay for sending the shoeboxes and to purchase of items to fill the “shoe boxes,” they also collected items to donate. One evening was dedicated to packing and labelling the boxes. This year we sent 24 boxes. During Advent, students received an Advent Deeds calendar that helped them focus on the meaning of the season. On the last class before Christmas break there was an evening of Christmas Carolling and cookie decorating. Moving into the end of the year, the classes will create Kindness Rocks that will be shared in the parish and around the community. Last year, grades five, six and seven manned the Stations of the Cross for the younger grades in the gymnasium of St. Rose School. This year, we have been unable to re-create that event. Hopefully next year, we’ll be able to do that again in our new space.

The two sacrament classes are grade two and eight. Grade two students learn about and participate in their first Reconciliation and first Communion ceremonies and the grade eight prepare for their Confirmation. The grade eight class participated in the pilgrimage for the diocese in November and are fulfilling volunteer requirements by working the L’Arche Saint

John breakfast at O'Leary's in March and they will be going to Romero House later this month to prepare for their Confirmation at the end of the month.

Moving forward in our new space, I would like to use the facilities to its fullest potential. Moving some classes to the second floor would be beneficial since the grade five, six and seven share a space in the basement. I would like to use the kitchen facilities more as well. With our parish supporting Avenue 'B', it would be nice if classes could take turns in the kitchen to make donations as well and to make the baked goods for the bake sale to support Operation Christmas Child or other organizations the classes would like to support. Even having classes make an evening treat to serve to the other classes, would grow that sense of community.

To try to encourage the children's engagement in mass, I would like to have a few things in place. First, I would want a teaching mass for each grade throughout the year. For example, grade one goes in September to learn from Father about the different parts of mass, grade two goes in October, etc. Secondly, I would also like a mass a month assigned to the Catechism where the students fill all the roles such as greeters, readers, offering, etc. Next, I would like to have a volunteer from the parish come in to the grade three/four, five, six/seven classes and teach them how to be altar servers then assign a mass for the students to serve at throughout the year. Lastly, having the children participate in the Christmas and Easter masses will help underscore the importance of these events for our religion. I feel giving the students a role in the mass will help connect them to the church and the parish. This concept goes along with our overall message of serving the family, parish and community.

The main way parishioners could help the program is by sharing their faith with the students and volunteering to be a Catechist. Ideally there would be more than one Catechist in each class. Currently, if a Catechist must miss a class I have to combine the class with mine or cancel the class for that evening. Having a team that would return year after year would be ideal to really grow the program and build on from the previous year. Besides committing to be a leader in the classroom, anyone willing to drop in and help with activities in the classrooms or the kitchen would be very supportive to the program and the students.

**Andrea McGrath**

**Religious Ed Coordinator – St Rose of Lima Worship Site**

## Youth Ministry Report 2018

Since the summer of 2018, I have gradually grown into the role of Youth Minister for Holy Spirit Parish. There have been trials and tribulations but the year in review reveals the blessings I've been lucky enough to have.

Firstly, it's essential to provide context. I took on youth ministry with no experience thus, the infrastructure and sheer existence of our youth ministry had to be built from scratch. This is not to say I was alone with this, ever. Those in and around the parish have done everything they could for me and more. Initially, I took to simply asking those around the parish what they thought a youth group needed. Core ideas of acceptance, love and availability became essential to our planning.

Though we have two worship sites in our parish, it was decided that youth group would happen at St. Rose Place. This was key as it gave the kids their own space as opposed to sharing space in the basement of St. Matthews Worship Site. With this, we reinforced the idea that youth group is unique and valid and deserving of its own identity.

Building the youth group was the greatest challenge for our early months. We planned to have pizza and a meetup at St. Matthews. Of the 18-20 kids who showed up, 14 of them ended up being regulars. That is to say, the core group would become 11 kids with others coming in and out. We had initially dreamed of having a consistent 10 so this is a success. Thought ideally we would be hitting closer to 15 every week, that's a new goal to achieve.

In the early months, I was always caught off guard with how much preparation went into each youth group session. After much trial and error, I have developed a formula. Every meetup begins with an open ended discussion where every kid is asked how they're doing. I hear many different things. But this establishes to the kids that I am there for them which is something so essential to the group it's hard to put into words. But in the want to do so, let me explain. The kids from youth group are able to contact me in case of emergency or if they truly need someone. When I ask them how they're truly doing each week, I'm often taken aback by how many kids seemingly have not been asked that recently by others. When the kids talk about their problems, they find mutual bonds with the others and me. Due to my younger age and laid back approach to conversation, they are able to relate to me and are always surprised that I've often had similar problems as them.

After prayer and discussion we would do an activity which took many different forms over the months. For some, planning new activities like helping out with church breakfast were ways to develop. In our youth I try to instil determination, perseverance and a want to understand and help the world more. One of my favourite activities we ever did was help decorate the church at Christmas time. As we did this, we talked about poverty in Saint John. Though it was small,

the eye opening conversations about real world issues was motivating. In going forward, this year would be great to capitalize on this type of want to improve and include more charity work.

My greatest success is to be able to claim that the group we have for the parish loves coming. I do my best to nudge them towards faith but never in a way that is uncomfortable. Those who have questions always know they can talk to me about it. I always encourage one of them to take either our opening or closing prayer. If no one will, I ask them to contribute things to pray for. Some make jokes and if they're appropriate in the sense of not being crude like "I'm praying for burger king" I opt to maybe include it somewhere in our prayer unexpectedly which throws them off and shows them that I am no zealot. As some of them journey into faith through their own personal quest or through confirmation, it revitalizes me and my faith.

Each week I attend a meeting with Father David and Mark Palmer whom both do all that they can for me. They encourage the development of my thoughts and planning of youth group. Each week they present me with insights and ideas. With enough challenge given to me, I am able to grow stronger in both my resolve and faith which allows me to do better for not only just our youth, but our parish. Also weekly, I take time to sit with the secretary, Bernice, of the parish and she has done nothing but continued to push and support me in my quest to be the best version of myself I can. Other than that, I visit other parishes to learn better about our community as a whole and to seek further opportunity for my youth group.

The greatest success of my time in Holy Spirit Parish has been the grand scale effort put into St. Rose Place. We were able to successfully move in catechism into our own space. This took months of planning. On numerous occasions we had to bring supplies ranging from tables to desks and spent other days moving prior existing materials around. This took priority for months and though the time consumption was large, the success is astounding. To watch new classrooms flourish is a blessing in the most beautiful sense of the word.

Working with youth can be challenging and yet so much more rewarding. Due to the back and forth nature, nights with smaller numbers or a more larger excited group leave the kids with a sense of togetherness that they may not be finding anywhere else. The kids are friends with each other and some have even made choices in their lives such as choice of high school due to their newly found friendships in youth group. This group has energy: which is great! And they like to eat! Considering I am not far from that age, we are able to connect. One of the greatest blessings I've ever been given by the church and faith is to have witnessed and continue to support these kids as they grow.

**Kenneth Fury,  
Holy Spirit Parish Youth Minister**

## **Responsible Ministry 2018**

The focus of this ministry is to ensure that the people involved with the Catechism program, vulnerable adults, and those in a position of trust, have a police record check done.

I work with the Religious Education Co-Ordinator, Linda Spinney, to determine when a Police Check must be done, i.e. when a new Catechist starts out. I keep a record of when the checks are done so I know when they must renewed, which is every five years. This year there were only a few new catechists and a few renewals.

It is a bit of an inconvenience to have this done, but it is necessary to protect our children and others.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Parker**

**R.C.I.A.  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 2018**

There were no candidates for 2018-2019

## Holy Spirit Women's Society Annual Report 2018

Holy Spirit Women's Society is a gathering of diverse women whose mission is to undertake projects that support our parish, its outreach, and enrich our community, while developing fellowship and friendship.

At the beginning of 2018 we were known as St. Augustine's Women's Society, but with the amalgamation of the three former parishes of St. Augustine, St. Matthew, and St. Rose, we became The Holy Spirit Women's Society. We are based in Grand Bay-Westfield, but all women in Holy Spirit Parish from both worship sites are welcome to join. We typically meet monthly, the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Holy Spirit Rectory Hall, which is below Fr. David's residence.

We are a small but busy group. Together with the parish, we physically & financially support the Avenue B Soup Ministry as well as the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We donate funds to help support various parish activities, such as religious education and parish picnics. We also organize fun activities, such as pot lucks and silent auctions.

We have a Facebook group; search Holy Spirit Women's Society. Please note, when you request to join you will be asked which worship site you usually attend. This is asked only to prevent scammers/spammers from getting in the group.

The women have been busy as usual this past year with the following activities:

- Avenue B Ministry was supported throughout the year. 464 containers of soup (approximately 2 cups each) and 1,355 biscuits have been made, frozen, and donated to Avenue B.
- Donations of personal care items were received from parishioners for Avenue B. Due to a decrease in donations; we were unable to fill backpacks as in previous years. Instead, the donations were packaged by categories and given to Avenue B to distribute as needed.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry was supported through fundraisers and donations. 8 baptism shawls, 17 pairs of socks, 96 hats, 35 pairs of mitts, 36 pairs of slippers, 3 prayer shawls, and 1 set of leg warmers, 1 purse, 2 facecloths, 29 scarves, 3 baby quilts, 3 receiving blankets, 2 baby booties, and 3 dishcloths have been knit, crocheted, and sewn. These items have been donated to Avenue B, St. Vincent de Paul, local elementary schools, and parishioners in need.
- Celebrations included pot luck dinners for St. Patrick's Day, the closure of St. Augustine's church, Christmas, as well as the "retirement" of our longstanding president of 24 years, Joanne Spencer.
- During the spring flood of 2018, the Women's Society gathered to make and deliver sandwiches for relief workers who were battling the flood affecting our area.
- A reception was hosted following the burial of a parishioner

The Women's Society relies on the kindness and generosity of our parishioners to support our outreach activities through donations of required items or money, as well as assistance behind the scenes. It is all greatly appreciated, thank you.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jill Robillard and Helen Parker, on behalf of the Holy Spirit Women's Society**

## **Holy Spirit Parish Bible Study 2018**

A Catholic Bible Study has been meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday evening from 7 – 8:30pm at the St. Rose Place since September 2018. Approximately 10 to 15 people from several different parishes attend this Bible Study group. All sessions are DVD presentations by Dr. Brant Pitre who has a PHD in Theology with a specialty in New Testament studies. He teaches scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. The presentations have been recorded at various parishes where Dr. Pitre gives talks on different aspects of the Bible. Consequently, the presentations are not overly academic. His expertise is in showing the Jewish roots of so much of the New Testament as well as of our Catholic faith. Dr. Pitre is a dynamic and engaging speaker with a great sense of humor. His teaching is always enlightening and up-lifting.

Over the past 8 months, we have done a 4 part series on the Gospel of Matthew as well as a fascinating explanation of what Jesus was doing on each of the seven days of Holy Week. Upcoming will be talks on the Jewish roots of the Death and Resurrection, the Jewish roots of the Eucharist as well as in-depth look at the Woman at the Well. Our last meeting before the summer break is June 3 and we resume on September 16, 2019.

If you have ever wanted to understand the scriptures a little better, please consider joining us. Whether you know little or nothing about the Bible or have studied it for years, there is something you can learn and be inspired by. For more information please contact Tilda Richard at 672-5046. The constant comment of those who attend the Bible study is “I only wish more people knew how enjoyable it is to hear Dr. Pitre speak and to gain such a new and inspiring understanding the Bible.

**Bible Study Group**  
**Holy Spirit Parish**

## **Holy Spirit Parish Prayer Group 2018**

We are a Prayer Group formed in Feb 2017 named, Remnant of The Garment of Jesus.

Our Focus is to Pray and Praise God, so we gather together as one body in Christ, every Thursday evening from 7- 9pm, at the St. Rose Place on Milford Road, weather permitting.

We sing, read scripture, seek & listen to God's Guidance and we intercede in Prayer for Healing of the Sick and the intentions of the people.

We are people from the Saint John and surrounding area, which have a heart for God. Our doors are open for others to "Come & See." & Praise & Thank God for His Marvellous Deeds.

We associate ourselves with the Atlantic Service Committee Catholic Charismatic Renewal, with full support of the Pope.

There are Spring & Fall meetings held annually at the Renewal Center in Amherst N.S. & with one Summer Conference held at Mount Allison University in Sackville N.B., with an invited Guest Speaker.

I, Anne Ouellette, was chosen to lead this Prayer Group and can be reached at 506-738-3113.

**God Bless,  
Anne Ouellette**

## **Holy Spirit Pro-Life Ministry Report 2018-2019 Saint Rose Worship Site**

Our primary goal in the past and to the present is to be an avenue of prayer for the Pro-Life Mission.

This mission has expressed itself in dedicating the fourth week of the month to Pro-Life Week, with the Pro-Life Rosary on the fourth Monday of the month 3:00 PM in the church, and helping the Knights with their Hour of Adoration and by placing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Patronise of the Pro-Life Movement) above the side altar during the fourth week of the month and for the whole month of December. This past year we have been involved in bringing new life to the Saint John Chapter of NBRL. We have hosted many meetings and been involve with the election of new Executive.

We have also hosted the monthly Pro-Life mass at Saint Rose Worship Site, Holy Spirit Parish. It is on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM followed refreshments and fellowship. Please join us in prayer and worship: Saint John Chapter of NBRL meetings.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Helen LeBlanc**

## Legion of Mary 2018

The Legion of Mary is a worldwide association of the lay Catholics under the leadership of Mary the Blessed Mother, with the guidance of the parish priest, to do works that are useful for the welfare of the church.

Our presidium (group) consists of six active members, and sixteen auxiliaries from Holy Spirit Parish.

The members are: Francine Doiron (president), Haroldine Chiasson (vice-president), Amanda Muise (secretary), Susan Smith (treasurer), Ellen Pelletier and Gary Osborne.

Our spiritual director is Father David Martin, our priest and pastor.

The goal of our presidium continues to be the visitation of the sick and shut-ins. This is to bring them Holy Communion and the love and support of our church communities. We also do many other works as needed in our parish.

We do these works for the love of Jesus in the Spirit and in union with Mary His Mother, and always with the permission of our parish priest. We are truly blessed to have Father David as our Spiritual Director. We appreciate his interest and his support in our mission.

Our goal for the coming year is to welcome new active members and auxiliaries. Should you have an interest in either one of these memberships, please contact any of our active members.

We meet every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm, after mass. Our meeting begins with the recitation of the Rosary to which members of our communities are more than welcome to attend. We are blessed to have members of our communities that are faithful in joining us for the Rosary.

*"...and so it is that we proclaim the most Holy Mary to be the mother of the Church, that is so to say, of all the people of God, of the faithful and their pastors."* – Excerpt from the Pope Paul VI: Discourse during Vatican council II.

**Respectfully submitted on behalf of the "Our Lady of Apostle" presidium  
Secretary – Amanda Muise**

## Holy Spirit Parish Liturgical Committee Report 2018

We started the Liturgical Committee in September with St. Rose Worship site and St. Matthews Worship site. We had representatives from both sites. As well, we share ideas and try new things between the sites. It makes us more cohesive as a Parish. The Liturgy Committee is a group to help assist our priest in preparing inviting liturgies for the gathered community. We had a very busy year, but also many blessings. In September, Seaside Park Elementary School warmed our hearts with their choir and 'now very popular hit song,' "We're Stronger Together" A song about the merging of three schools into one new one. With the merger of these schools into one offered both students and faculty many more opportunities with combined resources. Father David used this opportunity to show how we could do the same with our new parish... Holy Spirit, by uniting our gifts and talents together making us stronger...together.

For Advent, parishioners were invited to bring for the Light (Lucernarium) prior to each Mass. A reflective booklet was offered to help us during this time of preparation prior to Christmas. During Advent, we were 'Graced' with the presence of Saint John High School Choir, under the direction of our Saturday afternoon music minister, Trish Gallagher. The students were dressed in red gowns and black suits, and gave a beautiful evening of both sacred and contemporary song and music. Roughly 100 students took part in this concert and many were so happy that they came. An open invitation has been extend to this choir and to any choir who would like to come.

The Lenten theme for this year was, "You're invited to..." Each week, Fr. David preached on a certain theme relating to the Gospel for that weekend and the Lenten journey, leaving us with reflective questions in the bulletin each week, pertaining to each 'theme'. Unfortunately, A Lenten Booklet ordered for Lent was unavailable for whatever reason.

We planned our Lent with some Evening Prayer services that area only ½ long but are very prayerful, serene and helped clear our minds to have the best Lenten experience. Mass was offered each day during Lent. A special 'Thank You' to both Fr. Tom Fowler and Fr. Mike LeBlanc for helping out.

For the first time in several years, we celebrated two (2) Reconciliation Services, where other priests were invited to help celebrate reconciliation. This was a great success with many in attendance and asking, "Will we be doing this again?" Answer: Yes! We had a wonderful Easter season. Two members from each church went to the Cathedral to pick up the Blessed Oils to be used at our parish for our celebrations for the next year. The Good Friday service was both very moving and reflective with everyone adhering to the silent request. The Easter Vigil or Holy Saturday was a celebration with lots of different aspects of the evening. Easter Sunday was a

day of rejoicing, followed by something new: a party including Homemade Biscuits with various toppings and Easter egg hunting for our younger companions. Our Little People continue to lead each Mass with "Celebration sticks," certainly enhancing our Liturgies. All liturgies for the Easter Triduum were well attended and supported. It is important to note that donations for decorations in memory of loved ones. Many great compliments were received on how beautiful our worship spaces are during this celebratory time and other seasons as well.

Other notable events this past year included the Final Mass and De-consecration of St. Augustine held in September. In the month of November, we "Remember our Dead" with a beautiful candle-lit Mass, to remember the members of our church, this past year that have gone home to God. A book was placed for people to sign in their loved ones memory during the present year, we display the names of each deceased person at the front of the church. This past year, we decided to try something different. Instead of having the families place the candles, the candles were already in place, and the name was remembered during the Eucharistic Prayer. Many enjoyed this new format, while one expressed disappointment to the change. In all, it was a very solemn and beautiful ceremony, aiding in the grieving process.

The chalice, large Cross on the back wall of the former St. Augustine's Church and the statue of the Holy Family was moved to a renovated foyer of St. Matthew's Worship Site. Lighting was updated to help draw attention to these beautiful sacramental's. The other side of the foyer will be updated in the near future. New lighting, using LED lights were placed in the Sanctuary of St. Matthew's Worship Site. This gives a clearer light and helps reduce cost. The presider's chair from the former St. Augustine's Church and other items of need were brought to St. Rose Worship Site. For the time being, Baptisms have been offered at St. Rose Worship Site during Mass. However Fr. David is concerned that no one will come forward to help him. Rose Theriault and Teresa Mittelholtz help Father with baptisms at St. Matthew's Worship Site.

Both our Readers and Eucharistic Minister roster have some new faces on it which is nice to see people sharing their talents. We invite more to join as well. It is such a blessing to be part of the service. New candle stands and a more permanent cross is needed for St. Matthew's Worship Site. New sound system and Saturday Night Music Ministry continues to be very much appreciated.

We like to thank the arts and environment committee of both worship sites as they enhance the liturgy of the word each week and on our special occasions.

**Many Blessing,  
Charlene Parker**

## **Holy Spirit Report on Environment 2018-2019 Saint Rose Worship Site**

We have a beautiful worship site. In an effort to enhance our worship we have tried to decorate according to the seasons of the liturgical calendar and the seasons of the year. Last fall we used Mother Nature's beauty by decorating with long grass grains and Fall flowers. In November we had the very moving Celebration of Remembrance where we used purple cloth and purple candles with the framed names of those loved ones who had passed away during the year. The white stone placed among the candles comes from the Jewish Tradition of placing a stone on the grave during a personal visit.

Advent welcomed parishioners to bring forth the Light prior to Mass. The worship space was decorated with purple cloth alternated with pink on the third week of Advent. We had long vases with pine cones and white lights.

New to us this year, the Youth Group helped decorate for the Christmas Season (and to take down the decoration). As well, we tried to change the environment by moving the Nativity images around the three different stations. The use of real candles and lighting helped soften and make holy the display. Generous donation in memory of deceased loved ones added such beauty for Christmas Season.

For Lent we returned to the purple cloth, the large cross. Passion/Palm Sunday brought out the red altar cloth and beautiful mini Palm trees.

Holy Thursday purple cloths were removed and the main altar was very plain, in contrast on the side, a chapel of Repose for the Blessed Sacrament for our holy hour. It was turned into a beautiful glowing white altar complete with beautiful candles on loan from St. Matthew's Worship Site. This display really added to the sacredness of the moment and the call to watch and wait with the Lord the night before His passion. We also received 2 beautiful Ciborium's for the Holy Eucharist one from St. Matthew's Worship site and one from St. Augustine's. All of this is a sign of the blending of our worship into one parish: Holy Spirit Parish.

Good Friday we returned to the red theme. The environment for Easter was spectacular thanks to the generous donations from the parishioner in memory of their loved ones. The sanctuary was a glow with Easter Candle and flowers. The cross draped in white, with flower at its foot and a light to shine on it. Mary was also enveloped in flowers with a light to shine on her beauty. Even the entrance of the church reflected Easter glory with flowers and a palm tree. The white table cloth was placed on the table where place the gifts to be brought up in the offertory. A lovely flower was placed there. Many wonderful compliments have been received from many parishioners.

**Room for growth and future involvement:**

- We could use the flowers purchased for Easter and plant them outside the church. The florist said they could all be planted outside in our empty beds. We could bring our garden tools one day and plant them.
- Many of us have perennials at home that we routinely divide. We could bring them in and have a day of planting.
- Inviting parishioners to help decorated when needed.
- If you have a suggestion on environment. Pass it on, your contribution is important.

**Avenue B out Reach 2018-2019 Holy Spirit Worship Site**

During this past year we have provided more the 1500 cups of soup, as well and muffins, cookies, sweets and biscuits. The food is delivered frozen to Avenue B. Once or sometime twice a month we cook in Rose's kitchen. Some prisoners prepare the soup in their own home and delivered to us to put in cups and frozen. Once, after our Parish Appreciation Meal, there was Chinese food left over and we quickly packaged it up and delivered if frozen the next day. Of late the Knights have had leftovers from their catered dinners and we have delivered turkey meals with all the trimmings, as well as roast beef and ham dinners. We even made Sheppard's pie once with leftovers. The staff often comments how grateful their clients are for the food we bring. I see this sometime as well when I make delivers and speak with the clients, shake their hand and wish the a good day.

Many hands have contributed to this ministry. Local business donated cups for our soup. Grocery stores have donated food. Parishioners have donated food and money towards this project. Parishioners have saved their plastic containers to freeze the food in. The Lenten Folders and Boxes brought in \$2000. These monies were donated to Avenue B and received with great gratitude to aide them in their ministry. This truly is a community effort of loving service. How can parishioners become involved in this ministry? Keep doing what you have been doing as mentioned above.

**Potential for growth:**

The needs of the clients of Avenue B are many, particularly for men's and women's personal care items. We could do a drive similar to the one we do for Lone Water Farms if that is the desire of the parish. Also keep the staff and clients at Avenue in your prayers.

**Respectfully Submitted****Helen LeBlanc**

## **Prayer Shawl St. Rose Place 2018**

The prayer shawl ministry meet every week at the Rectory Saint Rose Site. We have quite a few members that are knitting from home but we have a few that meet every week, Diane Craig, Ronda Dow, Jean Gauthier, Mrs. Normandeau but some would rather remain not have their name listed. We have delivered 25 shawls and lap blankets so far at the Ridgewood Veterans.

Since we started, we have given 47 baptism blankets to our new parish members.

The Catholic Women League has been paying for white yarn for these blankets. We also have yarn donations that was done wish I want to personally thank them whoever they are. All donations whether with yarn or money is very appreciated. Cards are signed by Prayer Shawl Ministry.

All delivery of prayer shawls and blankets are accompanied with a card stating who has been making these items Holy Spirit Parish (Saint Rose Site) with a beautiful picture of our church.

Thank you for all the members knitting anonymously, please know that all delivers are well accepted by the receivers. If anyone has any question please contact me at 696-8963 or email [deliathibodeau140@gmail.com](mailto:deliathibodeau140@gmail.com)

**Yours truly,  
Cecile Deschamps**

**Catholic Women's League (CWL)**  
**Holy Spirit Parish St. Rose of Lima Worship Site**

Highlights of accomplishments by the CWL:

- Always available to assist anyone, where and when needed.
- We donate yarn for the Prayer Shawls and Baptism Blankets.
- We donate to the School Milk Fund.
- Supply goods to the Seafarer's Mission.
- Students receive bursaries from our Parish who are attending our church and are involved in our activities.
- We have CWL members who are involved in the Eucharistic Ministry and Hospitality Ministry.
- We also have members who diligently work at all the breakfasts that are served at The Assumptions & St. Matthew's.
- Our ladies help with St. Joseph's Auxiliary.
- For Remembrance Day, we supplied a wreath, attended the services at the cenotaph.
- Supply cakes for the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and Confirmation classes.
- Sent out cards of sympathy and get well for members of our parish.
- Charitable donations to different organizations and many more private activities.

Our CWL meetings are held at the Denis Morris Community Center on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month from Sept – June.

**Respectively Submitted**

**Yvonne Theriault**

## **Music Ministry 2018**

As I sit to write the year-end report, I always struggle to reflect upon a few tangibles to recall. So many feasts are celebrated, deceased honored, so many songs sung, that it is a tall order to consider only a few things that stand out. The most prominent memory of last year is one that affected everyone: the merging of three faith communities into one. This has been an interesting and exciting time for all. Personally, I am so proud that I was present to lead the music for the final Mass at St. Augustine's, a church that holds many memories from my childhood up to the very last Mass there. I introduced a song which will eventually be sung regularly I'm sure, "People of the River," and hope to have many more inspired pieces to offer you.

One of the things I am most proud of is the choir at the eleven o'clock at St. Matthew's worship site. I am always so proud of the music we make together, whether at Christmas, Easter, or Ordinary Time Sunday. They sound great, work hard, and are ever patient with me when I throw a new piece of music at them a week or so before we are to sing it. It's been interesting to me, though, that with the merging of the communities, none have joined us (please accept an open welcomed to anyone within the parish family to come and sing with us; we would be delighted to have you).

Finally, it is important to remember one of our beloved choral family members whom we lost this past year, Judy Lockhart. Judy was part of the choir for many years, and I believe she joins us in singing God's praises whenever we all sing together.

Here's to a bright future ahead, where we will be "joyfully singing" God's praise, today and every day!

**Your grateful Music Minister,  
Mary Rose Daigle**

## **Knights of Columbus Council 9176 (Based at St. Matthew Worship Site)**

The Knights of Columbus are committed to being a charitable organization. We do this in the community by serving at Romero House, donating 50/50 proceeds to the Food Bank, and by sponsoring and delivering Christmas food baskets. We also sponsored the Inglewood and Westfield Elementary Schools Soap Box Derby entries which then supported PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) In addition contributed to the fundraising for an inclusive playground at Westfield School. Roses were sold in order to support New Brunswick Right to Life.

For the church, the Knights donated \$2000 to assist with plowing, lighting and heating. Other Knights projects which serve the church include building and property maintenance/cleaning, organizing and sponsoring the Children's Christmas party as well as setting up the Nativity scene. You regularly see Knights taking up the collection at Mass while Knights are also greeters, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers. The Power Point announcements are prepared by a Knight. We also supply bibles to the Year 4 Religious Education class. After the flood in the church hall at St. Matthew last January, the Knights were central to the cleanup and restoration efforts. Last summer we spread crushed gravel on the path through the Way of the Cross. The Knights organize funeral receptions and make the church hall available for various church and community events.

Last spring, the Sunday brunches were restarted along with our brother Knights from Council 8094. We have operated Chase the Ace on Friday evenings as well as Cribbage on Wednesday evenings. Council 9176 has also financially supported various community projects and provided scholarships to family members of Knights. It has been a blessing for us to serve the parish and the community in the name of Jesus.

**Mike Murphy,  
Grand Knight**

## **Knights of Columbus Council 8094 (Based at St. Rose of Lima Worship Site)**

### Annual Report Fraternal Year 2018-2019

The following report covers the highlights of the Fraternal Year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The report covers the Donations to various Charities and Organizations in the Saint John area as well as our Volunteer hours donated by our Brother Knights. The report is divided into 5 areas of Activities; namely, Faith, Family, Community, Life and Hours of Volunteerism.

#### 1. Faith Activities:

- The Rosary Program is organized and conducted on the last Thursday of every month by the Knights and all are invited to attend
- The Marion Hour of Prayer is conducted once a year throughout the World in honour of Mary and is done in conjunction with the Blessed image which circulates throughout New Brunswick.
- Building the Domestic Church (our families) is Faith based education booklets that are available to the Parishioners to take home and read; then return for another in the series. Kiosk located at the back of the Saint Rose Church.
- Several of our Knights take part in the various Ministries at Saint Rose Worship Site.
- Donation to Devine Mercy Catholic School
- Christmas Basket donation Saint Rose Worship Site
- Donation to the Bishop's Picnic
- Donation to the Priests Annual Dinner
- Donation to Priest Retirement
- Donation to two altar servers to attend higher education

#### 2. Family Activities:

- Holy Cross Cemetery was identified as needing a new Cross at the Priests' Reflection Area. The Council initiated a funding Campaign with other K of C Council to raise the required \$10,200.00 to replace the old wooden one with a fine granite Celtic cross. The Council is still in need of approximately \$2000.00 to complete the Project. The Cross is finished and sometime in July, the Parishioners will be invited to a ceremony at the Cemetery.
- Keep Christ in Christmas is a Knights worldwide program to honour the true reason for Christmas. Council 8094 conducted three activities in this effort: purchase 5 weeks of digital signage at the corner of Catherwood and Fairville Blvd depicting the Joseph and Mary at the Inn with the newborn baby Jesus. Next, the Council enter the West Side Santa Parade with two floats, Carollers from Devine Mercy School and the other with the Holy Family. And third, the Council sponsors a drawing contest with the Religious Classes taking part with the winners receiving cash prizes.

- Each Mother's Day, the Council presents a rose to all women at the weekend Masses.
- Council 8094 lead the project to fund a new commercial stove for Romero House with many other local Councils donating to the project.
- Support of those requiring assistance. Donation toward the purchase of new beds, bedding and other furniture.
- Work with Council 9176 in Grand Bay-Westfield in restarting their Sunday Breakfasts.
- Anytime a Brother Knight passes, the Council gathers to say prayers at the Funeral Home for the family's benefit and makes a small donation to help defray some costs.

3. Community Activities

- The Council, together with another charitable group, purchased 96 winter coats for kids. The Council does this activity every year.
- The Council works closely with Food Banks and when Romero House identified that they rarely received fresh fruit, the Council initiated a bottle return activity in order to fund monthly supplies of fresh fruit.
- The Council, each November, assists the Legion in placing Canadian Flags at the graves of Veterans in all West Side Cemeteries.
- Saint Rose School was building a Wellness Park behind the school and asked our Council to fund a table and bench which we of course did.
- The Council will be putting on a BBQ for Saint Rose School in June.
- Sponsored a Saint John soccer team of new Canadians to travel to Moncton for a Tournament.
- Council has and will continue to support the Alzheimer's Café and it should be noted that one of our Knights founded the Saint John Alzheimer's Café.
- Donations to the following:
  - Romero House
  - West Side Food Bank
  - Saint Vincent de Paul
  - Bobby's Hospice
  - Empty Stocking Fund
  - Br 69 Legion (Park)
  - Saint John School milk fund
  - Two batteries for an electric wheelchair
  - Lester Landry memorial Golf Tourney

4. Life Activities: This is a new Program that Supreme HQ initiated last year and the Council is still working on the various activities within it.

- Donation to Right to Life.

5. Volunteer Hours by Council 8094

- Ridgewood Veterans Home; Mass, wood shop and social
- After School Program at Saint Rose School
- Rocmaura Nursing Home; mass and social
- Bobby's Hospice
- West Side Food Bank
- Saint Vincent de Paul
- Alzheimer's Café
- Romero House
- Seniors drives
- Parish Ministries
- Regional Hospital
- Council 6770 breakfast

Total Number of Volunteer Hours.....4895

Total Amount of Financial aid donated.....\$28,493.00

To learn more about the Knights of Columbus and their work, go to the web site:  
Kofc.org

**Blake Armstrong**  
**Grand Knight**