

2019  
HOLY SPIRIT PARISH  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
REPORT



## Accountability Report 2019

*“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 seniors; a community serving those on the margins; and a community that shares their faith, support one another and lead others to Jesus Christ.” (Pastor Plan, Diocese of Saint John)*

My dear people, I am pleased to present to you our Holy Spirit Parish Accountability Report for 2019. I thought it best to start with our parish/diocesan mandate that you see written above. Over the past couple of years, you have heard it many times from our Revitalization Committee, through homilies, bulletin reflections, Web page and now our parish Facebook (Faithbook). In this report, you will see how we attempt to fulfill the above mandate through the ongoing work and dedication of Holy Spirit Parish. As I write this, I think of the many meetings, the dedication of members who have taken responsibility for these different ministries; those who have implemented them and you who continue to support them. As we continue to grow and ‘get to know one another,’ the Holy Spirit will continue to bless our endeavours to promote the Good News. Although I am very pleased with our progress thus far, we are always looking at ways to enhance our faith community, the opportunity to be “church.” “Who” or “What” is the church? It is first and foremost you, the people. It is also an institution, but as with any institution it needs people or a community. Therefore, the church is us. A major principle adopted by the Second Vatican Council is embodied in its teaching that the church is the whole People of God. In other words, the church is not only the hierarchy, the clergy, and/or members of religious communities. It is the whole community of the baptized. And that community is marked by a rich diversity of gender, class, education, social status, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and culture. It includes saints and sinners alike. One of the council's most important affirmations, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, known by its Latin title as *Lumen Gentium*, (Light of the Nations) declared that charisms, or gifts of the Holy Spirit, are available to all the faithful, “of every rank” (LG n. 12). In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, “I will build my church” (Matt 16:18). The original Greek word is ‘ekklesia’ and it basically means ‘an assembly or congregation.’ The first believers met in homes. As their numbers grew they began to use structures intended for large gatherings. When these structures were built specifically as a meeting place for the congregation they were called ‘church buildings.’ As time went on this was shortened to ‘church,’ and for most people today the word church refers to a building. Our parish, still in its infancy, has helped draw us back to the original meaning of church “ekklesias” ‘an assembly of people called out of their homes into a meeting place. When we apply this to Christians, it refers to people who are called out of the world into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore, in Sacred Scripture the word “church” always refers to the body of believers who have given their lives to the Lord, and not to a building in which we gather from time to time. When Jesus said, “I will build my church” he was not talking about construction of

buildings. He was talking about creating a world wide body of believers, who would live what was celebrated at the 'assembly'. Therefore, it is what we do when we leave the 'formal assembly' and put into practice the faith, morals and love that constitutes "church". Within this report you will see beautiful examples of 'ekklesia' or 'church'. Within these pages you will see first-hand how people have taken their God-given gifts and have put them at the service of others (LG#12), both within and beyond our borders. I am grateful to both God and to you, the people to whom I serve. As your spiritual leader, it is such a grace to see the Eucharist that which we celebrate, take root within the lives of the worshippers. On your behalf, I want to thank each committee, and those who support their endeavours. As your parish priest, I too, am nourished by the hard work that happens within each committee of service. Let us be mindful of those who are not 'formally' acknowledged as a 'committee'. For example, those who offers support to those in need: the one who drops off a casserole to another because of an illness or death; the phone call made to someone who is lonely; those who do extra work without the rest of the community knowing about it; those who count our weekly collections and those who 'fix' or 'clean' those things that need attention. Or those who spend time praying for our faith community in so many ways. Formal or informal, this is you... this is the Church! I now invite you to reflect on this report, and to share it with your family and friends. Has something 'tugged' at your heart? Is there a committee that you would like to be part of? Is there a need not being met? Is there a committee or group that you would like to create? If there is, no doubt the Holy Spirit is at work in you. I invite you to bring your idea to our Revitalization Committee so that we may offer support and in turn enrich our faith community with your gift(s). Last fall we undertook a parish survey. The response was so great that it has taken much time to process. The results of this survey, which you will receive shortly, offer opportunities and areas for us to look at. As we continue to work on our mandate, I encourage you to keep up your great work everyone. As well, I encourage you to keep on being "church" for one another, for that is how the "Good News" takes root in the hearts of others. *"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus..." (1Cor1:4).*

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

- Bus Ministry for parishioners who do not want to drive and for shut ins.
- Updated website along creation of a new Facebook (Faithbook) page.
- Strengthen communication between office and ministries.
- Youth Ministry now part of communications.
- Expansion of Communications Committee.
- Investment of some of our funds held by diocese to yield a better return.
- Completion of a more welcoming cemetery entrance.

- Installation of ‘automatic’ door for St. Rose Worship Site.
- Completion of Parish Survey.
- Completion of front lawn for St. Matthew’s Worship Site.

**Future Goals and Projects:**

- Hire a ‘Pastoral Associate,’ with the appropriate pastoral credentials and experience to offer support to various parish ministries, pastor and to help build up Holy Spirit Parish.
- Publish results of Parish Survey.
- To start some sort of Adult Educations Program.
- Outreach to other faith communities and address larger projects.
- More support and follow up work for those who are ‘newly baptized’ or ‘mourning’ or ‘sick’.
- Workshop for various liturgical ministers (servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers).
- Create a multi-gathering space for St. Rose Worship Site.
- New exterior doors for St. Matthew’s Worship Site.
- New Roof for Rectory.
- Sign for “St. Rose Place” (former St. Rose Rectory).
- Addressing excess buildings no longer needed.

Your Pastor,

Fr. David Martin

**Holy Spirit Parish Statistics: 2019-2020**

<b>Number of Active Parishioners</b>	<b>950</b>
<b>Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Number of Deaths</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Communion</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>First Reconciliation</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Confirmation</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Marriages</b>	<b>9</b>

## Revitalization Committee 2019

*Our members are:* Mark Palmer, Barb Tracey-Laroque, Stephen Parker, Susan Nicol, Eleanor Austin, Patti Blake, Bernice Martin, Father David Martin, Kim McCormick, Kenneth Fury, and Angela Butler

Jan – July: Sue Ogden, Paul Riley, Sarah Butler, Alex Butler

Our purpose is to build a Revitalized Church by living our baptismal call. We keep the following 5 mission elements as our spiritual guide:

- An evangelizing community that gives Jesus Christ to the world
- Full churches for Sunday mass
- Intergenerational community of children, teens, young adults, middle age and seniors
- The center of the community life serving those on the margin and most in need
- A community of growing disciples who share their faith, support one another and lead others to Jesus Christ

2019 was our second year in existence and we continued to make progress through the *following initiatives:*

- A survey was created to establish our starting point or rather a 'baseline'. Without the ability to measure, how do we know how we are doing? Collectively, we highly recommend Holy Spirit and Father Martin received high praise for his leadership and likeability. Conversely, negative impacts from the closure of St. Augustine's continue to be felt. It is also agreed that we have a significant challenge in attracting and engaging our youth.
- Significant energy was spent to ensure that many religious artifacts ( e.g. Altar, Stations of the Cross and statues) from St Augustine's were honored with new homes in places of prominence.
- A new photo directory was launched highlighting over 175 families, couples or individuals
- On June 9, Pentecost Sunday, we hosted our Feast Day celebration with many of our parishioners dressed in red. The reception following masses was well attended.
- We hired a summer student, Alex Johnson, who did many things including work in our cemetery as well as extensive clean up at St Augustine's.
- Thank-you to Stephen Parker and Paul Riley for their oversight on many building and maintenance issues prior to the formation of a dedicated committee.
- Many people participated in the fall picnic, a popular tradition brought to Holy Spirit from St Augustine's. We appreciated all of the feedback so that we can improve at our 2020 event. In particular, we plan to do a better job promoting the event so that more can participate.

- Along with members of the Finance and Liturgical Committees, many of us enjoyed a retreat on Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at the Villa Madonna lead by Sister Mary Beth McCurdy and Sister Pat Poole. We left invigorated to continue to serve Holy Spirit throughout 2020.

*Some of our priorities for 2020 are:*

- To welcome Bishop Christian Riesbeck to join us one weekend for each of our 3 masses
- To report on the full survey results complete with all comments by participants
- To strengthen our youth ministry
- To improve how we communicate updates
- To determine the future of our Parish properties. As an example, many have asked about the pews at St Augustine's, so we plan to determine a process for former parishioners to be able to acquire them
- To once again celebrate our Feast Day on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Pentecost Sunday
- To host a fall picnic which will include a new element: an open house to showcase our many active ministries
- To engage our intergenerational community in the selection of a 'project' that we can all get behind. Coming together as a group, we will be using our many gifts hence living out our Baptismal call

*How can you get involved?*

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the preparation and hosting required for any of our events. We also welcome all ideas and support in helping us achieve our 5 mission elements in becoming a Revitalized Church. Finally, we thank everyone for your openness, support and feedback as we try new things. We are learning and growing together.

Patti Blake  
Revitalization Committee Chair

## **Holy Spirit Parish Religious Education 2019 – St. Matthew's Worship Site**

In Religious Education, we focus on Faith Formation and enhancing involvement, awareness and knowledge of our Catholic Church in the youth of our Worship Site and Parish. With an age range of approximately 6 to 14 (school grades 1 to 8) we attempt to make this information available in an age appropriate way, and encourage active participation in the daily activity of the Church and weekly participation in the Liturgy, again in an age appropriate way.

During the current school year, we have made a few changes in our method and approach, in an effort to coordinate with our Sister Worship Site, St Rose Worship Site, and as a result, plans are underway to combine the classes from both Worship Sites for the First Communion and Confirmation Celebrations, with the first taking place at St Rose of Lima, and the second at St Matthew's Worship Site, resulting in a more united Parish approach. Coordinating with Marijke Blok and Andrea McGrath, we have already sent our Confirmation students with those from St. Rose Worship Site to the Annual Bishop's Pilgrimage, and plan a combined presence at the upcoming NET retreat as well.

We also took a very assertive approach and a massive effort from “Miss Angie” for the First Reconciliation class this year, in an attempt to provide the Sacrament for a number of students who, for various reasons (mostly scheduling) have been unable to complete the program in the past. As a result, most of the current students up to Grade 5 have completed their First Reconciliation at a large gathering just before Christmas. In order to prevent future problems, which seem to be in large part due to increased school activity in Grade 3, we will, in future, have the First Reconciliation in the first term of Grade 2, followed by First Communion in the second term of the same year.

Our students also took a very active part in the Christmas Liturgy of the Family Mass on Christmas Eve, together with a number of students from St. Rose Worship Site, and the result was a very active Mass, which the children seemed to thoroughly enjoy and involve themselves in. On a weekly basis, the children have been eager to be involved in age appropriate activities to assist with the celebration of Mass, and many of the even younger siblings are offering, which is very much in line with our overall Philosophy of involving the youth, and making their Faith a natural daily part of their lives.

We continue our monthly Assemblies, with talks on subjects of general knowledge of the function and routines of the Church and Mass. I have been pleased to see some of the adult members of the Congregation join us, and they have been most supportive in their comments.

During the upcoming year, on a personal level, I am attempting to provide a library of prepared lesson plans for all grade levels, as well as a collection of our teacher's lesson plans, for future use in the event of a teacher's absence, so that a substitute can pick up a plan for any class with

little preparation. This should also make it less daunting for any new volunteers who wish to start teaching. Another possibility for the coming year is an amalgamation of some classes with low enrollment, to allow our limited number of teachers to cover all grades. We are also working on any and all possibilities to improve attendance, since so far this year, not counting storm days, attendance in some classes has been very poor.

We currently have 7 dedicated Catechists, Melissa Garland, Angie MacDonald, Erin Spinney, Alex Wilkes, Paul Cormier, Eugene Roy, and Sam Wilkes, as well as our faithful “hall and bathroom monitor” Kim MacDonald, and our much appreciated “Snack Lady” Dawn McGarity. Mary Rose Daigle also offers her musical expertise whenever asked, and Haroldine Chaisson presents a beautiful lesson on the Rosary on behalf of the Legion of Mary, who also provides a lesson and special Rosaries for the Confirmation Class. We also coordinate with Kenneth Fury, our Youth/Communication Minister, who has always been ready to help when needed. As always, our Parish Secretary, Bernice Martin, has been an invaluable help on so many ways.

We have been supported financially by the Ladies Society, and plan a small fundraiser this year to both augment their generous donation, and to have the youth take an active part and become aware of how they can help provide for their own needs.

We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer, either as a teacher, to help provide Dawn with tasty snacks or the ingredients required, or to donate in any way to our craft and stationary supplies. We are also open to suggestions and support for possible methods of youth friendly fundraisers (donated articles for raffles, silent auctions, bake or craft sales, etc.).

Submitted by Linda Spinney,  
Coordinator, Religious Education,  
Holy Spirit Parish, St Matthew's Worship Site



## **Holy Spirit Parish Religious Education 2019 - St. Rose of Lima Worship Site**

The focus of this ministry has continued to be around helping 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 at St. Rose Place, beside the church (confirmation classes meet on Sunday evenings starting in January).

The program began early in September and was set to end in the first week of April due to the availability of the grade two catechist. It has been put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are four classes this year: Grade 2, 3/4, 5/6/7, and confirmation. I reached out to the previous grade four students to see why such a drop in attendance occurred and the common response was that the new school year brought a new schedule that did not accommodate attending. I have been unable to ascertain why there weren't enough students to have a grade one class. It may have to do with the online registration that I was never able to gain access to, or it could also be a scheduling issue, I know of two students who will attend next year in grade two. 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 the entire student body engages in are: Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoebox campaign, Christmas cookie decorating and caroling, the Youth Mass, and Kindness Rocks. This year the Catechism classes, with support of the parish, were able to raise enough money to fill and send 27 boxes through the Shoebox campaign. Students helped sell baked goods that they made or that were donated before and after mass across two weekends, then they all gathered to help pack the boxes during class one evening. The Christmas cookie decorating and caroling was held in the church this year and it was a lovely evening led by Ellen Palmer and her friend. Next year, I would like to open offer it to the entire parish to take part in as well. The Youth Mass has been a great success with students volunteering to serve on the altar, read, take up gifts, gather the collection and usher the parishioners during mass. The kids are excited to have roles in the mass, thanks to Helen LeBlanc and her help in training the students; they have begun a different relationship with the Mass. Hopefully we will be able to pick it up again next year. The Kindness Rocks initiative is about decorating rocks with inspirational and motivational pictures or sayings and then either giving them out or hiding them around the church and neighbourhoods of the students for people to find. This year we haven't been able to complete this project as a group, but the students will be asked to still complete this at home, now is a very good time to give each other hope and support.

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 two class completed their first Reconciliation before Christmas and were set to have their first communion before Easter in April. There has been no

date rescheduled yet. The grade eight class participated in the pilgrimage for the diocese in November and have been working on their volunteer requirements as well as attending classes. Their classes have also been put on hold.

We have still been settling into our new space (St. Rose Place) this year. We have moved some classes to the second floor so there are no longer any double grade rooms which are very nice. We haven't been able to incorporate the use of the kitchen facilities but it is still the plan to have the students support the parishes initiative with Avenue 'B' by helping make soup, to make the baked goods for the bake sale for the shoebox campaign, and to support other organizations the classes would like to support or make treats for the other classes and their families.

To build on the children's engagement in Mass, I would still want a teaching Mass for each grade throughout the year. For example, grade one goes in September to learn from Father David about the different parts of Mass, grade two goes in October, etc. As mentioned previously, Helen LeBlanc came to the classes a couple of times, we went to the church and she took the students through the different jobs in the Mass. I would still like to have a volunteer from the parish come into the older grades, grade three up, and teach them how to be altar servers then assign a Mass for the students to serve at throughout the year. Having the children participate in the Christmas and Easter Masses help underscore the importance of these events for our religion. 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

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

For the year 2019 our brother knights have been involved in cleaning and maintenance of the church and property, we installed new lights in church hall, kitchen, Knights room and bathrooms. We donated to the church \$1500.00 for snow plowing and Hydro. We continue to look after the rentals of the hall for funerals and special occasions by providing our services and putting on coffee and tea. Every year we provide a Children's Christmas Party and treats for the children. Also we sponsored 16 families for Christmas baskets. We started up the brunch's again in October 2019 with some added specials for the small children. We fixed the bottom part of the Highway sign. Many of our knights work in the different ministries and church activities. We are doing crib parties on Wednesday evenings and Chase the Ace with a 50/50 draw for the food bank on Friday evenings we gave them \$1,798 dollars in 2019. The winnings from Chase the Ace on our first endeavor some twenty-four thousand dollars went towards the newly paved parking lot out back. The list below is some of what the Knights from Council 9176 are involved in. We direct, coordinate or support financially or by volunteering.

**Pat Chaisson,  
Grand Knight**

### **Special and Ongoing Activities of the Knights**

Brunch / Supper	Children's Christmas party
Romero House	Remembrance Day wreathes
Relay for Life	Care for needy and disabled parishioners
Christmas Food Baskets	Volunteer Fire Department
Snow plowing / Heating at Church	Food bank
Maintenance / Cleaning	School playground
Support to disabled or needy brother	Cribbage
Mass – Greeters – Servers –	Roses for Life
Eucharistic ministers – Collection	Announcements
Setting up Nativity scene	Community Cleanup
Support refugee family	Bibles for Religious Education
Visit hospital/nursing homes	Keep Christ in Christmas
Chase the Ace	Parish Picnic
Winter clothing for children	Scholarship program
Garbage removal	Church picnic
Soap box derby	

**There could be new activities with your involvement.**

**Would you consider serving the church and the community as a member of the Knights of Columbus?**

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

The following report covers the highlights of the Fraternal Year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. 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.
- Several of our Knights take part in the various Ministries at St. Rose Worship Site and St Matthew's Worship Site.
- Donation to Devine Mercy Catholic School
- Christmas Basket donations to Saint Rose Worship Site
- Donation to the Bishop's Picnic
- Donation to the Priests annual dinner

### **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 Councils to raise the required \$10,200.00 to replace the old wooden one with a fine granite Celtic Cross. The Council raised all the required monies to complete the installation of the cross at the cemetery. With the in-kind donations from several local businesses the Council was able to install the Cross on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Many thanks to brothers, Fearon Currie & Harold Peddle for spearheading this project. Sincere thanks to members of both the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Assumption Parishes for their support of this project. A special thanks to Council 6770 for their ongoing support and partnership with Council 8094. A partnership that we hope will be long lasting and a benefit to the faithful in Saint John West.
- Keep Christ in Christmas is a Knights worldwide program to honour the true reason for Christmas. Council 8094 conducted two activities in this effort: purchase 5 weeks of digital signage at the corner of Catherwood and Fairville Blvd depicting Joseph and Mary at the Inn with the newborn baby Jesus. Next, the Council entered the West Side Santa Claus Parade with two floats, Carollers from Devine Mercy School and the other with the Holy Family.

- 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 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.
- The Council put on a BBQ for Saint Rose School in June.
- 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
  - Lester Landry memorial Golf Tourney

### 4. Life Activities:

- 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
- Council 6770 breakfast

Total Number of Volunteer Hours.....3261  
Total Amount of Financial aid donated.....\$22,897.00  
To learn more about the Knights of Columbus and their work, go to the web site:  
Kofc.org

Blake Armstrong  
Grand Knight

### Keep Christ in Christmas Billboard



### New Granite Cross at Holy Cross Cemetary



## Holy Spirit Parish Liturgical Committee Report 2019

The liturgy committee is a committee to help assist our priest in preparing inviting liturgies for the congregation. The Liturgy Committee has members from both worship sites that meet regularly to discuss, discern and implement our liturgical gatherings. We are blessed to have so many wonderful gifted and talented people with vision help move us into prayer and worship. Once again, we had a very busy year but it was filled with so many blessings.

**LENT:** Our Lent theme, announced Ash Wednesday 2019 was, **“You’re invited to...”**

Each week, our faith community was offered a different ‘spiritual invite’, connected to the Gospels. They included: You’re Invited To : “Wonder in the Wilderness” “Be held by God” “To the Feast” “To be a New Creation” “To find Joy in the Wilderness” “Extravagant Love”

**Holy Week:** Palm Sunday: We were invited ‘to the Cross’

Holy Thursday “To Serve and Remember” Good Friday “To Follow”

Holy Saturday “Invited to Remember” Easter Sunday: “Invited to a New Beginning”

Along with our Lenten and Easter Celebrations we also planned both Evening Prayer and Taize services that helped us to accept or embrace the weekly invitation. These services we led by members of our parish with the aid of both Mary Rose Daigle and Trish Gallagher. These Prayer Services are only ½ hour long, very serene and definitely help clear the mind and heart for the ongoing Lenten experience.

**Reconciliation Service:** New to us for the first time in many years was a Reconciliation Service. Once again, using the Theme, we invited our community to “Experience God’s Mercy.” Several priests availed themselves to be part of this service. Many were moved to tears to have this wonderful Sacrament celebrated in a communal way. We had a wonderful Easter season.

**Chrism Mass:** Two members from each worship site went to the Cathedral to pick up the sacred oils to be used for our celebrations for the next year. The Good Friday service was very reflective with everyone adhering to the silent request. Easter Saturday was a celebration with lots of different aspects of the evening and we welcomed new members to our Faith Community. Sunday was a day of rejoicing, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Easter egg hunting for the young ones. Donations made in memory of loved ones so we could purchase some hypo-allergenic flowers to beautify our worship spaces during this celebratory time.

**Pentecost Sunday:** We celebrated our Feast Day with great love and energy. Parishioners were invited to wear “red” for the occasion and many did! Following every mass, there was a reception and in Holy Spirit Parish Style, most people stayed to socialize. Pictures were taken by our own Joanie Marks and other parish groups helped to oversee these gatherings.

**Parish Picnic:** In September, following the 11 am Mass at St. Matthew’s Worship Site, we celebrated a ‘tradition’ that was brought with us from the former St. Augustine’s Parish: The Parish Picnic. It was wonderful to see both worship sites gather for a BBQ, food, Face Painting,

Games and Music. Great fun was had by all. (Pictures of this event and others are found in parish office).

In the month of November, we have a **Remembering our Dead** services, a time to give thanks and gratitude to the members of our church that have gone on to be with their Saviour. A book is 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, and the family was asked to place a candle in their honour. It is a very solemn and beautiful ceremony. As well our community celebrated the **Sacrament of the Sick** service. Once again, priests were invited to come and help with the anointing.

**Advent:** Once again, various parishioners were invited to bring forth the Light for our Advent Wreath. During this time, we celebrate another Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare us for Christmas. This service began in the darkness, with the reading of the creation story from Genesis. During this reading, the Light of Christ was brought in procession. A beautiful Examination of Conscience led us to individual confessions with priests available. We concluded this celebration with a reception at the back of the church. Many positive comments were received and a 'true spirit' of renewal prevailed. Towards the end of Advent, we hosted Saint John High School Choir, under the direction of Trish Gallagher. This is the second time this group has come to lead us in song, sacred, seasonal and some contemporary. It was a windy and rainy night but that did not stop SJHS from attending nor Holy Spirit Parish's support. Former students in attendance and the assembly took part in various songs. Over \$ 1700 was raised by a free will offering. These monies are used to help support the choir and their expenses, such as competitions. The evening concluded with a reception, hosted by Holy Spirit Parish. Definitely, this has become a most welcomed 'new tradition' for our parish!

**Christmas:** As always, our Christmas liturgies were well attended and celebrated. New to us this year at St. Matthew's Worship Site was a Children's Pageant at the 4 pm Mass. Included here was a children's choir and quartet music! At St. Rose Worship Site, we were blessed to have students from Saint John High School Choir and many different instruments to help lead both the 6 and 8 pm liturgy. These masses included a candlelight song following communion with Silent Night!

It is important to note that the Liturgical Committee do so much behind the scenes and without their dedication and efforts we could not have the beautiful celebration that we have. This includes our Sacristans (those who set up for Masses) Altar Servers and Ministers of Hospitality! During our meetings, we share ideas and try new things between the sites, such as incorporating our Religious Education classes and our Youth into our liturgies. As well, Liturgy allows us to contribute with our own participation, and collection of 'school supplies, food, items for needy and monies. All of this has helped make us more cohesive as a Parish. Our Readers and Eucharistic Ministers list 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 various services. We like to thank the Arts and Environment people at both worship sites as they continue to enhance our liturgies through prayer and creativity.



## **OUR FUTURE GOALS INCLUDE...**

Workshop for both Readers and Eucharistic Ministers.

Create storage space at St. Rose Worship Site for various Art and Environment items.

Have committee to take part in a Liturgical Conference.

To be open and sensitive to the talent present in our assembly/congregation and to encourage involvement in various committees.

Encourage parishioners to support the various prayer services held throughout the year.

**Many Blessing,**

**Charlene and Stephen Parker, Cathy Thornton, Vonnie Dowling, Helen LeBlanc, Sue Ogden, Amanda Muise, Anita LeBlanc, Rhonda Dowd, Fr. David Martin.**

## **Holy Spirit Parish Catholic Women's League (CWL)**

The Holy Spirit CWL Chapter celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2019, we received a certificate to commemorate the event from our provincial committee. The CWL women are involved in many parish activities such as:

1. Eucharistic Ministry
2. Liturgies (Readers)
3. Greeters
4. Saint Rose Prayer Shawl Ministry
5. Preparation of soup for Romero House
6. Yearly we collect monies for the school milk fund.
7. We place a wreath every November 11th at the Cenotaph
8. We have a yearly bursary for a student who is graduating

We have a monthly meeting every 1st Monday of the month, weather permitting, from February - June. We collect dues from each attending member. As well, we have a 50/50 draw to help cover the costs of yarn for our Baptismal Prayer Shawls.

We have one major fund drive and that is in December when we sell tickets on a Christmas basket which is drawn in the beginning of December. The members pay their dues of \$22.00 per year. They do not have to attend our monthly meetings to belong to the CWL. New members are always welcome if they are interested. Please contact our president, Yvonne Theriault, or any member of the League.

### **Committee Members:**

President: Yvonne Theriault	Treasurer: Ida Mersereau
Recording Secretary: Cecile Deschamps	Corresponding Secretary: Doreen Goguen
Spiritual Development: Gloria Ernst	Christian Family Life: Colleen Boucher
Community Life: Roseanne Melanson	Education and Health: Joan Guitard
Communication: Doreen Beale	Parish Activities: Rose Murphy

Members of the CWL are always available when needed and always willing to help in any way to make our parish flourish.

We assist at the yearly World Day of Prayer.

When one of our member dies or their husband we have a Mass said or the Sanctuary Lamp is lite in their honour.

Respectfully submitted by

Cecile Deschamps, CWL record secretary

## Holy Spirit Women's Society 2019

The mission of the Holy Spirit Women's Society is to undertake projects that support our parish, its outreach, and enrich our community, while developing fellowship and friendship.

The Women's Society is based in Grand Bay-Westfield, but all the women of Holy Spirit Parish from both worship sites are welcome. 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. Notices are placed in the bulletin for the monthly meetings, to serve as both a reminder and an invitation.

The Women's Society has had a very productive and fulfilling year.

- **Avenue B Soup Ministry:** Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning, 6 to 10 women gather to make biscuits and hearty soup (turkey, chicken, ham, hamburger soups as well as chili). The soups are frozen in 2 cup containers and delivered to Avenue B, along with the biscuits, for their distribution. This past year we produced 501 containers of homemade soup, 1315 biscuits, as well as 32 muffins. Avenue B speaks of the generosity of our parish and how appreciative their clients are of a hot nourishing meal.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** This ministry meets in the Rectory Hall every Wednesday, 10am to 130pm. Everyone is welcome, whether you knit, crochet, or would like to learn. The yarn is provided, through donations and fundraising events. Every project worked on is made with love and prayers. Shawls are handmade, blessed, and provided to those who are in need of comfort. Approximately 12 people are involved in making the items. There are 2 very special ladies who crochet baptismal shawls for all who are baptized in the Holy Spirit Parish. The ministry has started making knit dolls which have been given to the Westfield RCMP detachment, for children in need of comfort. Suggestions for distribution of the dolls are always welcome. The following items have been made over this past year, and distributed to our local schools (Westfield Elementary, Grand Bay Primary, Morna Heights Elementary, Harbour View High School), Holy Spirit Christmas baskets, Coverdale Centre for Women, Avenue B, Lonewater Farm:

55 prayer shawls	7 baptismal shawls	42 pairs of slippers
94 pairs of mittens	34 pairs of socks	7 hat and mitts sets
27 scarves	206 hats	31 face cloths
40 comfort dolls	9 miscellaneous items (cowls, fingerless gloves, etc)	

- The Women's Society has coordinated the cleaning of the Hall, in order to appropriately care for this welcoming space we are able to work in. Cleaning was initiated in October with a thorough job being carried out. It will continue on an as-needed basis.
- In July the Women's Society connected with the River Valley Food Bank, and organized a donations drive for specific items needed by the Food Bank.

- In August and September the focus was on Harbour View High School (HVHS), to help students in need. Donations drives were first held for school supplies in August and then non-perishable food items for the Sunshine Café in September. The generosity of our parish was overwhelming; the staff and volunteers at HVHS were extremely grateful.
- 2 fund raisers were held, a lotto board raffle as well as a quilt raffle. Both of these events were very well supported by both worship sites. The money raised supports all activities of the Women's Society.
- November and December brought our attention to Lonewater Farm. The donations received were once again overwhelmingly heartwarming and generous.
- 2 pot luck suppers were held, one in June and one in December. Both were well attended, with great fun, food, and fellowship as always.
- The Women's Society was able to provide financial support to the parish towards the power bill as well as the parish picnic.

The Women's Society relies on the kindness and generosity of our parishioners to support our outreach activities through donations of required items or financial assistance, as well as help and support behind the scenes. What we do could not be done without the support we receive from both worship sites. It is all greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Jill Robillard - Chair  
Holy Spirit Women's Society

## **Youth Ministry Report 2019**

Youth Ministry has finally surpassed its most difficult period. In our second year, we struggled to find new ways to engage with disconnected youth. Attendance began to dwindle. However, that has truly begun to change.

After much analysis and reflection with my mentor figure, Mark Palmer, we began to carve a new path for our ministry. We have devised plans to use media as a way to engage with the youth. Prior to the virus outbreak, we had planned to create videos about happenings and ministries around the parish. We would be teaching and learning alongside the youth. As we began organizing with youth in our community, we got great response and saw new turnouts. Once the quarantine period is over, we will resume our halted activity.

In the meantime, we are engaging with the youth in a new way. Through the period of quarantine, I will be contributing thought pieces to be accessible by either social media or our website. These pieces will be sent to our youth after approval from Mark Palmer, in which we will encourage them to grapple with the material and respond.

Overall, Youth Ministry has surpassed its growing pains and has begun to flourish. Effort and diligence will be of the utmost importance going forward. I would like to thank everyone who has supported and believed in me and the work I have been trying to do.

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

## Avenue B Outreach 2019

### **Mission Statement of Avenue B:**

- Mission Statement – “To use harm reduction to reduce the incidence of HIV, Hep C and sexually transmitted and blood born infections in Saint John”
- Vision – “A compassionate community that promotes diversity and inclusion by embracing harm reduction as an evidence-based strategy that saves lives and creates a safer community

### **Holy Spirit Parish Ministry to Avenue B:**

Many hands, from within the parish and other organizations, work together to provide soup, muffins, cookies, even complete turkey and roast beef dinners to the Clients at Avenue B:

- Parishioners are generous in donations of vegetables, canned and frozen, leftover meat carcasses, split peas, rice and noodles. Basically we accept anything that can go into a healthy cup of soup. We have storage for these donations: freezers, fridge and dry storage.
- We have enough cups and covers for soup to last us the whole year, thanks to donations from Esso Gas Station (Main St.) Irving Gas Station (Main St.) Deluxe French Fries (Main St.) Subway Sandwiches and Salads (Fairville Blvd).
- The Knights of Columbus Council 6770 Assumption Parish and The Saint John Y’s Men often donate leftover food and sweets from the banquets they cater to.
- Individual parishioners make cookies, muffins and soup at home.
- Parishioners make financial donations so we can buy supplies.
- Sweets have been delivered after funeral and family gathering.
- Medium size plastic containers are donated for serving food.
- We cook at Rose’s kitchen once or twice a month. Notice will be printed in the bulletin. Our regular schedule date will change to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 1:00 pm.
- A parishioner has knitted socks and slippers for the clients at Avenue B.

### **How can parishioner become involved in this ministry?**

- Keep doing what you have been doing as mentioned above.
- If you think of a new service we could provide let the parish know.
- Avenue B would like donations of plastic bags to package the items they pass out to their Clients.
- Donations of personal care items are appreciated for men and women.
- Because Avenue B is a needle exchange, they want large empty liquid laundry soap containers with covers for the safe disposal of used needles.
- Keep the Staff and Clients of Avenue B in your prayers.

We, the Parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish, should be grateful for the many acts of kindness we are sharing with the Clients at Avenue B! May the Holy Spirit continue to grace us with these Acts of Charity!

Respectfully Submitted: Helen LeBlanc

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry 2019**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every week at Saint Rose Place (former St. Rose Rectory) weather permitting from January to July. We try to meet from 11 to 1 every week, but this was not possible this year as I broke my arm in October and was unable to drive until late January.

We have a few members that attend but most of the knitters work from home and turn their shawl in when finished to the church.

Father David Martin blesses them and we deliver the shawl to the elderly and the sick.

Last year we gave Prayer Shawls to the veterans residing at Ridgewood. They were very happy to receive them.

One was done for Phyllis Hebert for Christmas which was well received and she was very surprised to see that someone cared enough to make one for her.

The members include: Diana Craig, Muriel Normandeau, Ronda Dow and some that want to remain anonymous.

We have a few Baptismal Shawls available but anyone who would like to make some for our parish we can supply the yarn and the pattern. If you are interested in joining this ministry or donating yarn or monies for yarn please call 898 2349.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cecile Deschamps,  
Coordinator Prayer Shawl Ministry

## **Legion of Mary 2019**

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 five active members, and thirteen auxiliaries from Holy Spirit Parish.

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

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 Pro-Life Ministry Report 2019

**Our Primary Goal:** To be an avenue of prayer for the Pro-Life Ministry.

**We accomplish this by:**

- Dedicating the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month to our Pro-Life Ministry.
- We move the image of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (patroness of the Pro-Life Movement) to the side altar during the week to encourage parishioners to pray for respect for life from conception to natural death.
- Pro-Life Rosary is prayed at Saint Rose Worship Site. The day has been changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 11:30. We place prayer cards in the church for people to take home and participate in this very important prayer ministry. We are in the process of updating these cards to reflect our name as Holy Spirit Parish.
- We assist the Knights 8094 with their Holy Hour on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. We are updating the program to reflect our name Holy Spirit Parish.
- We have been involved with the local Saint John Chapter of NBRL as well as the Provincial Office of NBRL. This year the K of C Council 9176 are helping us to host the AGM for the Provincial office at St. Matthew Worship Site. A parishioner has donated several items for the silent auction at the NBRL AGM.
- See [nbrighttolife.ca/saintjohn](http://nbrighttolife.ca/saintjohn) for information about what is happening with the Pro-Life Movement throughout the province.

**Goals for the coming year:**

- Continue to invite the Holy Spirit Parish to be involved in our Pro-Life Prayer Ministry.
- Invite St. Matthew's Worship Site to become involved.
- Work with K of C Council 8094 to invite Gradon Nicholas to come and give a presentation on the significant of the apparition of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (patroness of the Pro-Life Movement).
- Form a committee to pray together the Liturgical Readings for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and write the Prayers of Faithful for Pro-Life Sunday with a Pro-Life Theme.
- We welcome new ideas on how we can promote a Culture of Life at Holy Spirit Parish.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Helen LeBlanc**

## **Building and Maintenance 2019**

In 2019, as an extension to the Revitalization Committee and following the practice of former parishes, a formal committee was formed to oversee Maintenance of the many properties under the stewardship of Holy Spirit Parish. The volunteers came together 3 times to discuss arrangements for plowing of the parking lots, shovelling of walkways, and lawn and building maintenance. This committee will continually monitor our properties/buildings/rectory for repair needs. It has initiated repairs to worship site entrances, steps/doors, and performed general upkeep and servicing of furnaces. Recommendations were made to the finance committee on larger expenses of a capital nature, e.g. Roof Replacement, long term heating and cooling needs.

All consideration is given to utilizing the services of church members or their business (a buy local policy), while balancing the need for value of church money. To that end, significant expenditures will first be quoted by no less than three providers (as available) as due diligence, before a recommendation is made to Finance. The parish has been blessed with numerous generous benefactors (groups and Individuals) willing to make direct contributions to particular needs. This has allowed for a secondary heat source for the Rectory, expedited upgrade to an electric door for Saint Rose Worship site, to name just two. Holy Spirit Parish encompasses more than 11 separate properties with a total assessed value (for Taxes) of well over \$7 Million dollars, so the financial stewardship is significant.

We ask for the prayers of our parishioners that the Holy Spirit guide the wisdom of our committee as we tend God's kingdom here on earth.

Respectfully submitted,

The following is a list of projects that have been completed or are ongoing at St. Rose Worship Site as recommended by the Building Committee:

- Stairs left side of church repaired and the handrails were raised to meet code
- Side door right side of church had an auto assist door opener installed
- Roof repaired 2 leaks developed over the winter
- Repair to be made to the base of steeple 2 small boards missing
- Contractor did a walk around the exterior of the church as well the interior over all he said church was in good shape, suggested that the windows should be caulked, trim should be scraped and painted
- A review of the exterior lighting on the church property was done it covered parking lot lights, spotlights that shine on the steeple as well small exterior lights attached to church and rectory

- Building committee is also actively working on various projects that would see changes to
  - 1) Ramp front of church
  - 2) Renovate bathroom
  - 3) Create a large common/ gathering area at the front of St. Rose Worship Site

Building & Maintenance Committee Members:

Stephen Parker – Acting Chair

Wayne Connell

Pat Fairweather

Leo Malone

Fr. David Martin - Pastor

## **Responsible Ministry 2019**

The purpose of Responsible Ministry is to ensure that those entrusted to the care of the children of our parish and the vulnerable as well as those in a position of trust have a police record check. The catechists have all had their checks done, as well as the members of the Legion of Mary who administer Communion to shut-ins.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Helen Parker**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE 2019

We are pleased to present the 2019 Financial Report for Holy Spirit Parish. Again, our school rent and IPLF interest has allowed us to show a net surplus for the year.

Our mandate, in cooperation with our Pastor, Rev. David Martin is to be the stewards of our church's financial assets and expenses.

Accomplishments for the past year include:

- Gathering our parish finance accounts into one systemized program for our parish secretary to use on daily basis.
- Having J.K. Whittaker to perform annual audits to ensure all procedures are followed accurately.
- Utilize a scholarship program for our parish graduates.
- Invested monies held by diocese in order to obtain a greater yield.
- Moving all maintenance and repairs for church buildings and properties to the newly established Building and Maintenance Committee.
- Hired company to removed snow and ice from all walkways surrounding St. Rose Worship Site and St. Rose Place (former rectory).

Goals for 2020:

- Continue to monitor and evaluate the financial situation for our parish.
- Prepare Yearly Budget Program for all existing committees and potential new ones.
- To hire a resource person to assist Father David in future parish endeavours.
- To offer students potential summer job opportunities through government programs and grants.
- Approve a new roof for the rectory.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, we want to thank you, our parishioners, for your ongoing financial support. Without your generosity and commitment to Holy Spirit Parish, we would not be able to 'serve' you and the greater community with ongoing projects. If you know of a way to assist us or have an idea of a 'fundraising project' to assist the growth of our community, please let us know. Once again, God Bless you for your dedication to our parish!

Yours in Faith,

Rob Gaudet  
Finance Committee Chair  
Holy Spirit Parish

### Committee Members:

Rev. David Martin – Pastor	Bernice Martin – Parish Secretary
Bob Gaudet – Finance Committee Chair	Roxanne Fairweather
Anita Leblanc – Finance Committee Secretary	Phil Butler
Chris Thompson	

**Holy Spirit Parish**  
*Financial Highlights - 2019*

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>Assets and Liabilities as at December 31, 2019</b>		
Cash	55,618	79,301
IPLF - Deposits		
St. Rose School Rent Fund	938,189	766,185
St. Rose Building Fund	890,295	948,350
In Trust - Riley Manor	27,049	41,603
St. Rose Community Housing	96,033	6,464
St. Augustine Cemetery	42,654	93,666
IPLF - Loan	- 71,000	- 33,306
 <b>Profit and loss for the year ended December 31, 2019</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Offertory Collection	316,813	341,481
School rent	124,110	122,172
IPLF interest	48,806	47,391
Bequests and donations	33,554	39,382
Special collections	12,683	24,789
Building fund	27,964	16,828
Other	20,519	21,104
	<b>584,449</b>	<b>613,147</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Church	128,309	136,626
Salaries and benefits	165,270	135,099
Rectory	22,511	49,324
Diocesan assessment	39,373	37,771
Office	9,581	12,419
Hall	7,744	10,871
Special collections remitted	8,093	9,315
Other	60,523	53,662
	<b>441,404</b>	<b>445,087</b>
 <b>Net surplus before other items</b>	<b>143,045</b>	<b>168,060</b>
 Other items		
Exterior work for St. Rose	-	15,000
Parking lot for St Matthew's	-	88,000
 <b>Net surplus (loss) for the year</b>	<b>143,045</b>	<b>65,060</b>