

February 2025
Pastor's Report

Parish Vitality: Listed below is an update of our efforts this past month and moving forward to help accomplish some of the goals pertaining to our parish's vitality.

1) Service to Others:

- a. We have completed our 2nd on the 2nd program for 2025. There may be some adjustments as the year progresses as occasionally the archdiocese may have special requests that arise from time to time. This month is a good example of this--our scheduled February 2nd on the 2nd collection will be used in support of our parish sponsored Renewal Day for Persons with Disabilities to be held in March. Unfortunately, the second weekend of February is the same weekend the archdiocese has their annual appeal for Catholic Charities.

2) Sense of Belonging:

- a. Still no word on completion of our Parish Pictorial Directory. It has been a real test of patience this past year—and it is wearing thin. Hopefully we will see a miracle in February.

3) The Mass:

- a. Due to a decent turnout during our Advent Weekend Mass Scripture Reflection and Discussion sessions, we will offer the same type of program during the Lenten Season this year.

Parish events and program updates:

- Upon completion of the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey, we had about a 61.5% response rate based on our average weekend Mass count attendance. Thank you to all who participated and a special thank you to Raegan Reid who was our point person and organizer of this program for the parish.
- We will be updating our parish census throughout the month of February beginning with a letter that will be sent out to those whom we would classify as “inactive”. Throughout the years, people move, switch parishes, or stop attending Mass altogether. We simply need to update our census information and possibly address any needs or concerns some may have regarding their involvement.
- Preparations are progressing well for our Christian Experience Weekend Retreats (CEW). The Women's CEW is scheduled for the weekend of March 7, and the men's is scheduled for the weekend of March 14-16. Let's keep our retreat directors and team in our prayers this month.

- We had a very good turnout for the Beauty in Christ Women's Retreat sponsored by the archdiocese on January 25th. We were a host site for this livestreamed event and our parish leadership team led by Raegan Reid did an awesome job in making this a special and wonderful retreat experience. We received many compliments from those who attended. A lot of planning goes into this event on the archdiocesan level as well as the parish level and we are grateful for their efforts.
- We experienced a water line break at Holy Ghost early in January. The line break was in front of the rectory near the sidewalk next to Central Avenue. We were able to have it repaired for around \$7,000. Thankfully it was nothing too serious.
- We are still holding our own regarding parish finances. Our Adult giving continues to trend downward, but our offertory is up along with unrestricted giving. Additionally, we have been able to keep our expenses down from what was budgeted this fiscal year. This will enable us to continue to pay down our parish debt and address some of our building and ground needs moving forward. We have come a very long way since my arrival here at the parish. I can recall many sleepless nights during my first three years worrying about how we would be able to pay our bills and school assessment. We still have a ways to go but at least we can start to be a bit more proactive with our building and ground needs instead of being reactive all the time, cutting corners, and praying for the best. Thank you to our Finance Council, Jeff Jochum our Director of Parish Finances, Holy Family Catholic Schools (for finally reducing our assessment fee), and to all our parishioners who have made regular contributions to the parish. I believe we are heading in the right direction.

My continued prayers for a blessed February!

Please keep me in your prayers as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Steve