

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. THOMAS MORE**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

JUNE 17, 2019

OUR PARISH MISSION

We are a large and ever-growing parish, generously blessed with gifts, talents and diversity, blending traditions from our original community with the visions of our newcomers. We relish the gifts of our ministries and volunteers, welcoming all.

**We “*devote ourselves to the Teaching of the Apostles, to Community Life, to the Breaking of Bread and the Prayers.*”
Acts (2: 42)**

Table of Contents

40 Days for Life	5
Adult Servers.....	5
Altar Servers	5
Baptism	7
Bible Timeline.....	9
Card Social.....	9
Catholic Mom’s Group	9
Catholic Women’s League.....	9
Children’s Liturgy.....	10
Coffee After Mass.....	11
Counting Ministry	11
Culture of Life Ministry.....	12
Dust Angels.....	13
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	13
Eucharistic Study Group	13
Families of Nazareth Movement.....	14
Family Prayer Cells.....	14
Finance Council	14
First Holy Communion	14
First Reconciliation	15
Floral Design.....	15
Food Bank	15
FORMED	16
Funeral Lunches.....	16
Funeral Team	16
Gift Card Program.....	17
Greeters Ministry	17
Grief as a Journey	17
Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group (Catholic Renewal Services)	18
Hearts United: Holy Devotions for Today.....	19
Hospitality Committee	20
K4J (Kids for Jesus).....	21
Knights of Columbus Father Bonner Council 7599.....	22
Ladies Auxiliary.....	23
Lectors.....	24
Library Ministry	24
Light of Christ Drama	25
Light of Jesus – Edmonton Chapter.....	25
Liturgy Committee	26
Marriage Preparation.....	27
Marriages	28
Music Ministry & Sound Ministry.....	29
Nativity Play	30
Parish Pastoral Council	30
Pastoral Care Ministry	31

Prayer Shawl	32
Quilters Ministry	32
R.C.I.A. Adapted for Children	32
RCIA	33
Refugee Sponsorship Program	34
Sacred Art & Design	34
Sacristans – Linens Required For Mass	35
Scripture Study (Daytime)	35
Scripture Study (Evening)	36
Social Justice Ministry	36
Society of St. Vincent De Paul	36
Stewardship Committee	37
The Legion of Mary	37
The Lord’s Flock	39
Ushers	39
Vacation Bible School (VBS)	39
Wedding Rehearsals	40
Youth Lectors	40
Youth Ministry	41
Youth Ushers and Greeters	46

40 Days for Life

This ministry now falls under the Culture of Life ministry.

Adult Servers

The adult server is the liturgical minister who most closely assists the priest and deacon at Mass. Adult servers must be active members of the parish, 18 years or older, be current with their Sacraments (first Reconciliation, Communion; Confirmation; and attending Sunday Mass), and have a strong knowledge and interest in the elements and order of Mass.

The adult servers ministry at St. Thomas More consists of 18 active servers (plus two more currently on leave) who, collectively, are scheduled to cover the five weekend Masses (Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 noon, and 5:00 PM) as well as for other liturgies with high attendance, such as Easter Triduum and Christmas. There are a small number of additional adult servers under the umbrella of the funeral team who serve at those Masses. Adult servers are not normally scheduled for the regular daily Masses, but trained members of the ministry who happen to be at a daily Mass are welcome to serve.

Scheduling of adult servers is done using online tools including a simple poll for servers to indicate their weeks of availability and the schedule itself is generated using a Google Docs spreadsheet.

Current updates:

- There are currently four new candidates who have expressed interest in joining the ministry and are being scheduled for training in the upcoming month or so.
- The adult server's guide is currently being updated and a new training system being developed to help new members of the ministry have a smooth transition into this role.
- The formation of the Liturgy Committee has greatly helped inter-ministry communication and coordination.

Respectfully submitted by
Jeremy Sit, Adult Server Coordinator

Altar Servers

Under the guidance of Fr. Mitch Fidyka, and Fr. Joy Vadakkan Poulouse, the Altar Server ministry continues to successfully serve in the parish with 52 active servers.

Currently, the Altar Servers are male/female children and youth, ages 10 (must have received 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion) to 17 who are practicing members of the parish, assisting the ordained ministers at liturgical celebrations. This is an important and special ministry as God calls all Altar Servers to help in the celebrations to promote the spiritual well-being of his people as they come together in prayer.

We currently have a ranking system for servers as follows:

- The Altar Server **Aspirant rank** is for children under the age of 10 who wish to serve at the Altar. They may do so on weekdays only, and are not permitted to perform any of the normal Altar Server functions, but are there to observe and get used to being in the Sanctuary.
- New servers over the age of 10 are given the **Junior rank**, until they have gained one year experience, and have received the appropriate training, at which time they would be promoted to Senior rank. The distinction between the ranks is that of Liturgical function. Junior servers have fewer tasks to perform, and spend their first year serving, getting comfortable with their tasks in the Sanctuary, and observing the Senior servers.
- **Senior rank** servers perform the bulk of tasks that have been allocated to Youth servers, including carrying the candles, assisting with the dressing of the Altar, assisting with the cruets and lavabo, ringing the bells, and certain other tasks for special Liturgical celebrations. There are always two Senior servers and one Junior server assigned to each weekend Mass, availability permitting.
- The **Advanced rank** is for Senior servers who are 15 years of age and older. This rank is open to such servers by invitation, and is not a mandatory. Servers who opt into the Advanced rank receive training in the Liturgical functions belonging to the Adult servers, and also training in extra-liturgical rites, such as Adoration and Stations of the Cross. They are expected to be leaders among the Youth servers, and to take on more responsibilities, including volunteering to help at various Altar Server events, and to even lead some of the training sessions for the Senior and Junior practices.

Altar Servers are required to arrive 15 minutes before Mass to vest and prepare, to wear their Sunday best attire, and to be attentive and respectful during the liturgical celebrations. The server is a part of the celebration, and is expected to participate by listening and responding in prayer and song – being a leader in prayer. Whenever a scheduled server is unable to attend, a replacement must be found, or another server who is attending that same Mass ought to fill in, if available.

Altar Servers are required to attend two of the training sessions that are scheduled monthly throughout the year. Each year, we also offer two retreat days, and two socials. This year, the first retreat was cancelled at the last minute, and only a deputation ceremony was conducted. The second retreat featured a talk by Christopher Snaith on the Holy Name of Jesus, a period of silent reflection, and also some devotional prayers to the Holy Name, and the Sacred Heart. The December social was cancelled, and the second social is still scheduled to take place on June 21.

Thank you to our priests for their support, prayers and presence in this ministry; and thank you to Monica Bober for her wealth of knowledge, experience and assistance in some of the more practical aspects of running this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by
Christopher Snaith, Altar Server Coordinator

Baptism

Highlights of 2018 - 2019

Baptized children in 2018	- under 1 year old	99
<i>(July – December)</i>	- between 1 and 7 years	47
	<i>Total</i>	<i>146</i>
Baptized children in 2019	- under 1 year old	38
<i>(January – June)</i>	- between 1 and 7 years	35
	<i>Total</i>	<i>73</i>

This is an increase of 40 baptisms compared with the previous 18 month period.

With the exception of Advent, Lent, and the Summer, baptisms are celebrated 3 times per month; Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 12 pm and 2 pm Sunday Liturgy. Due to Confirmation taking precedence, Liturgy baptisms for November are often held on the 1st Sunday in Advent, which is usually the first weekend in December. We do not baptize at all during Lent. Typically, the Mass baptisms fall on the 3rd weekend of the month and the Liturgy baptisms are on the 4th Sunday of the month. Exceptions to this can occur depending on when Lent & Easter occur and in the month of May when we need to work around both Mother's Day and the long weekend. During July & August, the 5 pm Mass baptism and the 2pm Sunday Liturgy are held on the same weekend. We do not offer Sunday, 12 pm Mass baptisms during the Summer. For families who find themselves in difficult circumstances, baptism is available at any time.

Private baptisms can occur under certain circumstances, most typically when a priest or a deacon have family members desiring they baptize their children. Occasionally a private baptism can occur when parishioners have a close relationship with a particular priest.

In 2016, we determined that baptisms on the weekend between Christmas and New Year could occur when Christmas Day falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Having this condition is out of consideration for the baptism team members – to ensure they are free from volunteering at Christmas time when they are entertaining their own visitors or going to Mass at a parish of a family member. Families often wish to baptize at Christmas since they already have family coming around Christmas time. On December 29, 2018, 6 children were baptized. In 2019, we will again be able to offer baptism on the weekend between Christmas & New Year because Christmas falls on a Wednesday.

The baptism preparation procedure includes the following: completion of the Baptism Registration form by parents with supporting documentation attached; an Office Visit involves a welcoming conversation and an explanation of the materials they receive; and completion of the Baptism Preparation Sessions. Up until December 2018, Baptism Preparation classes were held twice a month (two evenings totaling 4 hours) or a 4 hour Saturday session before the child's baptism celebration date. Beginning in January 2019, under the direction of Father Mitch, the Baptism Preparation classes were reduced to 1 two-hour session but still offered on either a Saturday morning or a Monday evening. Under special circumstances, parents/godparents have been allowed to take the classes post baptism. Participants receive a letter stating they have completed the Baptism Preparation requirements, which is valid for 5 years.

Parents are encouraged to attend the classes again for their 2nd and subsequent children if upon gentle inquiry it is discovered that parents are not practicing what they promised they would at the baptism of a previous child. If parents requesting baptism have not attended the Baptism Preparation Sessions within 5 years, it is

mandatory to complete the sessions again. Parents are encouraged to attend again with the godparents, even when they themselves do not need it if their godparents have not taken it.

The baptism form completed by the parents includes testimony that the godparents are baptized, confirmed Catholics who actively practice their faith including regular Mass attendance, regular reception of the Sacraments and living a Catholic Christian life (married in the church or abstaining from Eucharist if not). Most parents have a lack understanding as to what a practicing Catholic is; consequently, this is explained using a simple, loving, encouraging but direct approach during the Office Visit and the Baptism Preparation Sessions.

Baptism Preparation consists of prayer, review of Mass & Liturgy Baptism instructions, demonstration of baptism items, 2 videos from Formed.org REBORN series, 1 clip from Catholics Come Home, opportunities to ask questions etc. in a welcoming & friendly environment. Refreshments of juice & cookies and a stretch/bio break are offered about half way through. Typically, there are 10 opportunities offered for baptism preparation per year with average attendance of 25 participants in a combination of parents & godparents. Children are welcome to attend with their parents though it is encouraged that children over 1 year of age remain at home with a sitter if possible.

Due to an increase in unmarried parents, parents married by Justice of the Peace or married in a denominational church, parents are asked to book an appointment with Fr. Mitch or Father Joy in order that the priests can educate, inform, invite and, at the same time, encourage them to rectify their present marital situation (e.g. convalidation, annulment, etc.). Many or most parents do not see the need or importance of following up to do this for reasons usually due to convenience, time, priority, or because family members not able to attend. They do not understand the fruit that will result in one's marriage by making it a sacramental one and thereby being able to receive Eucharist as Jesus said we must to have Eternal Life. Additionally, at the Office Visit and during the Baptism Preparation classes parents are gently informed to abstain from receiving the Eucharist until their marital situation is rectified.

A 'Godparent Information Card' is a gift to the godparent(s) on the day of their godchild's baptism. This was implemented to encourage and help the godparent to become more involved in his or her own faith formation. It is hoped that by this they are more inspired and equipped to assist the parents in passing on the faith to the child in their role and with the responsibility as godparent(s).

Our Baptism Team consists of 8 dedicated volunteers who have helped make this ministry visibly welcoming and spiritually inspiring for the families. We had two new members join in 2018, one in the Spring and another in the Fall. We have enough members now that when someone cannot take their usual turn there is someone available to swap with them.

The CWL provide two sizes of white garments for all the 7 years old & younger children who are baptized. These are wonderful keepsakes for the families and I am so happy to be able to tell the families that their children are prayed for by the CWL.

The baptism ministry is one that is very rewarding. Month by month, family by family, I see the spirit growing and people embracing the Catholic Faith. As well, I see God's newly baptized sons and daughters becoming members of the Body of Christ and our faith community here at St. Thomas More Church.

Three years ago the 'remaking' of the 'I am the vine; you are the branches' mural was initiated. It was completed, and protective coatings applied, all by volunteers, by the end of May 2019. It was decided that the 2017 & 2018 photos of the baptized children would go directly into albums rather than go on display briefly after the completion the mural. The 2019 baptized children will be displayed on a new & improved grape bunch that matches the style and color of the grapes on the mural. A plaque acknowledging the volunteers will be added to the mural wall by 2020.

In September 2017, the Edmonton Catholic School District provided a gift for every child 7 and under who was baptized at any parish within their district. The gift is a beautifully designed folder, which contains a letter signed by Archbishop Richard Smith and ESDS Superintendent Joan Carr explaining the effects of baptism and invitation to consider Catholic education, a book all about going to catholic school and a growth chart with a place to put Sacramental milestone dates.

Thank you to our priests, deacons, baptism team, parishioners, volunteer artists and staff who have made this wonderful ministry very welcoming for our parents and their children.

Respectfully submitted by
Diane Middleton, Sacrament Assistant – Baptism Ministry

Bible Timeline

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Card Social

The STM Seniors Contract Bridge Club continues as a friendly, fun-filled club with over 20 members. We meet every Wednesday in the Chapter Room. We manage to recruit a few members from the Parish by occasionally putting a notice in the weekly bulletin. Six new members joined this year. The group is self-sufficient from weekly funds of \$3.00 per week/member. This fund allows coverage for expenses such as playing cards, coffee, cookies, etc. Some amount from this fund is for weekly token cash prizes for winners and draws. Twice a year, in mid-June and before Christmas, we organize a pizza luncheon and day of fun competitions for bridge members. STM staff are invited to attend the luncheons.

We try our utmost to keep the Chapter Room and kitchen clean and in order. On behalf of all members, we would like to say Thank You very much to all STM staff for their assistance, kindness and for allowing us the use of the facility.

May God bless you all.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Bahry & Julie Oberst

Catholic Mom's Group

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Catholic Women's League

The St. Thomas More Council of the CWL has had a busy year. We elected a new slate of executive officers. Our fundraising activities were successful and provided us means to support five organizations such as The Back Porch; On Eagles Wings; YESS- Youth Empowerment & Support Services and the Catholic Near East Association. We prepared a Fall Spanish Family Dinner for the parish and assisted the Knights of Columbus with the Christmas Seniors' Dinner. We organized and oversaw the annual Advent Giving Tree in support of the

Laurana Shelter and gathered over 45 Stuffed Toques project that were delivered to the Marian Center in November. We continue to provide small gifts to all recipients of First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation and the RCIA candidates. We participated in the World Day of Prayer and will host the event in March 2020. We held a 12-hour Day of Prayer for Palliative Care. We participated in the All Saints Day event in the parish, providing children's activities, assisted by The Catholic Girl's League. The CGL is a subgroup of the St Thomas More Council for girls 7 to 15yrs. The group meets twice a month September to June and is lead by CWL members. We prepared the meals for the Marriage Preparation weekend in March.

Our council formulated and prepared a Resolution regarding the establishment of routine dental screening for all schoolchildren in Grades Kindergarten to grade 12. It was passed at the April 2019 Diocesan Convention of the Catholic Women's League and will go to the Provincial Convention in June 2019. If passed, it will be brought to the Provincial Government by the Provincial Executive Officers for consideration of implementation.

Outreach to our senior members is vital and ongoing. Members participate in most of the parish ministries.

Respectfully submitted by
Pam De Luca, St. Thomas More CWL President

Children's Liturgy

- This past year, we had 38 volunteers that assisted at different times throughout the year with delivering the Children's Liturgy.
- We delivered the Children's Liturgy for each Saturday 5:00 P.M. Mass and Sunday at 8:30 A.M. / 10:00 A.M. We have had a lack of volunteers to lead the Sunday 12:00 P.M.
- For this program to be successful, it is important for the volunteers to be able to fulfill their scheduled time throughout the year.
- We had many children that participated in the Children's Liturgy, with the Sunday 10:00 P.M. Mass having over 75 children on most Sundays.
- We plan to begin the Children's Liturgy again the third week on September 2019
- The program provided an opportunity for the children to relate to the message of the Mass from a child – friendly context.
- This year, we continued the process of completing the necessary paperwork and attendance at the Called to Protect for each of the volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by
Cheryl Shinkaruk

Coffee After Mass

The purpose of this ministry is one of hospitality and service. The parish provides coffee/tea/juice and cookies after the Saturday 5 pm Mass and after the regular Sunday Masses (8 am, 10 am, and 12 pm). This ministry is coordinated by the Parish Office with the assistance of about 10-15 volunteers. The Knights of Columbus volunteer on the second Sunday of the month and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul volunteers on the third Sunday of the month.

Our parish is very large and continues to grow. The hospitality of Coffee after Mass provides an opportunity for parishioners and those visiting us to interact spiritually, and a chance to get to know one another. This is vitally important for a large parish and a good way to welcome new parishioners.

One of the benefits of changing the Sunday Mass time from 8:30 to 8:00 am is that it has provided for more time before the next Mass (10 am) to allow for a less rushed coffee time and eased congestion in the parking lot as parishioners arrive for the next Mass. This also allows more time for the cleanup and preparation requirements between the 8 am and 10 am Masses. Special thank-you goes to Terry McGhee for coordinating this ministry.

We need a number of dedicated volunteers and are always looking for assistance; so please be generous of your time and your efforts. Additionally, we are also very grateful for those who continue to contribute to this ministry through their donations of coffee, cookies, cream, and supplies for the kitchen. Contact Christina Faitakis 780-433-1129 (faitakis@telus.net) or Terry McGhee at 780-434-3678 (jtmcghee@telus.net) if you would like to be involved in this wonderful service of hospitality.

Respectfully submitted by
Christina Faitakis and Terry McGhee, Coordinators

Counting Ministry

There are 47 confirmed members who participate in this ministry. Volunteers are scheduled on a team that counts for a period of one month. The Business Administrator of the parish coordinates the counting schedule, and assists the teams as needed.

Each team has a team captain along with three or four volunteers that assist in the counting of the weekly offerings. This procedure helps to ensure the financial integrity of the parish finances.

This past year we saw another 9 team members retire. At the Stewardship Fair, we were blessed to have two volunteers step forward to join this ministry. We are in need of new volunteers for this ministry, especially people who are willing to be captains.

Thank you to all members, veterans, retirees and newcomers for your dedication and fine work.

Respectfully submitted by
Christopher Snaith – Business Administrator

Culture of Life Ministry

The Culture of Life Ministry is a new parish initiative that started in Spring 2018 through the effort of the Family Evangelization Coordinator (Monica Bober) and coordinated by Rachel and Jason. Our mission is to promote and uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and service in the spirit of the Catholic Church. Some of the activities participated in over the year include:

- **Life Chain** on Sunday, September 30, 2018 (2-3 pm), outside St. Thomas More Parish at the Terwillegar Drive/23rd Avenue intersection.
- **40 Days for Life:**
 - Hosted the kick-off rally for Edmonton Pro-life on September 23, 2018 after the 12 pm Mass (guest speakers: Matt Britton, 40 Days for Life Board Chair and General Counsel, and Fr. Francis de Rosa, parish priest from Virginia, USA).
 - Participated in the Fall campaign (September 26 - November 4, 2018): St. Thomas More participated Friday, October 12, 8 am – 5 pm.
 - Participated in the Spring campaign during Lent (March 4 - April 14, 2019): St. Thomas More participated Friday, April 12, 8 am – 5 pm and Saturday, April 13, 11 am – 2 pm; ~40-50 people from STM and other parishes participated over the 2 days.
- **Movie screening:** 'Fatal Flaws: Legalizing Assisted Death.' (Guest speaker: Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition), Tuesday, Nov 20th, 2018 (7:30pm - 9:30pm in the hall).
- **Presentation:** guest speaker Amberlee Duteau, Alberta & Saskatchewan Campus coordinator with the National Campus Life Network spoke on the work needed in spreading the culture of life on our university and college campuses, February 11, 2019.
- **ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES:** May 3 - May 5, 2019, commit to 3 days prayer for the unborn; promoted by Saint Michael the Archangel Organization.
- **Alberta March for Life:**
 - Thursday, May 9, 2019, 9 am Mass at St. Thomas More Parish, 10 am Mass at St. Joseph's Basilica, Rally and March at the Alberta Legislature from 12 – 2 pm; it is estimated that between 30 and 40 parishioners participated.
- **Wilberforce Dinner:** St. Thomas More representatives filled 2 tables at the Wilberforce dinner (May 10, 2019) in support of prolife government initiatives.
- **UNPLANNED:** ~25-30 parishioners viewed the screening of this movie about the conversion of Abby Johnson on May 14, 2019 at the Edmonton Expo Centre.
- **Movie Screening:** HUSH (guest speaker: Drew Martin, Executive Producer), Friday May 31, 2019 (6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the hall).

The ministry works in union with other parish groups and organizations, especially the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League to promote the sanctity and respect of life from conception to natural death and is grateful for the support and guidance of our parish priests, office staff and our spiritual director, Fr. Mitch. We meet every second Monday of the month from September to June and invite anyone who is interested to join us. We are always looking for new members!

Respectfully submitted by
Christina Faitakis, Coordinator

Dust Angels

The Dust Angels are dedicated volunteer women and men who come every Monday morning (Tuesday if Monday is a statutory holiday) to clean the church. Not always a glamorous task to be done, we do so with joy in our heart for the love of our church. When all is completed, we gather to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for our individual intentions. This is followed by coffee and goodies. The Dust Angels work, pray and play together and support each other spiritually, physically and emotionally. We are a family.

Respectfully submitted by
Patricia Choma

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Over 90 members of our parish serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC). Several new members have joined our ministry over the past year and they were commissioned at Masses during September of 2018. Sadly, three ministers passed away during the past year—Lucille Dendwick, Jack Murray and Shirley Beliech. In addition, two former EMHC also passed away: Cathy Baas and Ken Johnstone.

Generally, we have been able to meet the needs of each Mass with the exception of the Sunday 5:00 pm Mass. The shortage of ministers for the 5:00 pm Mass has become a serious problem: sometimes only the Body of Christ can be offered at this Mass because there are not enough ministers to offer Communion under both species.

The Mass schedules are prepared four times each year: Winter up to Easter, Spring-after Easter to the end of June, Summer up until Labour Day, and Fall up until Christmas.

For the Christmas Season and Holy Week-Easter, members sign up to serve. Most members receive their schedules via email. However, printed schedules are always available for those members who do not have computers.

Suggestions regarding the distribution of the Eucharist would be most welcome. Assistance with recruiting new ministers to serve at the Sunday 5:00 pm would also be welcome.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Pisesky, EMHC Coordinator

Eucharistic Study Group

The Eucharistic group met every other Friday (but always on the First Friday of the month) from September until June at which time we had a parish day of recollection on the last meeting of the year. The day of recollection included talks by Rev. Father, Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and a Eucharistic Procession to three stations set up around the perimeter of the Church. This Procession ended with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The group read and discussed various books with reference to the Scriptures, other noted writers and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. As many of the group as so wished to, came to the Rosary at 8:25 A.M. the Chaplet at 8:45 A.M. and Holy Mass at 9:00 A.M., and then proceeded to the Library where we had our coffee-breakfast and then our prayer to the Holy Spirit and began our reading and discussion.

On the First Friday of each month, we stopped our reading and discussion at 11:00 A.M. so that those who wished could spend an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, which is exposed every First Friday.

The book we read is entitled: The Fourth Cup by Scott Hahn. (For those interested, this is a very simple book to read and, as is usual with Mr. Hahn, very comprehensive on his subject.)

Respectfully submitted by
Marcella Cloran

Families of Nazareth Movement

The Families of Nazareth Movement is a formation program designed to help its members achieve a closer union with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Father Andrew Bogdanowicz is the Moderator for the Movement in our Archdiocese.

Members from all over Alberta met monthly for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, Mass and a Retreat guided by Father Andrew. Members in individual parishes met weekly to pray and share their experiences as they encountered Our Lord in the spirituality of events.

Respectfully submitted by
Tracy Edmonds

Family Prayer Cells

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Finance Council

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

First Holy Communion

This school year, 264 children celebrated their First Holy Communion at STM. The spring session is generally for the child in grades 2-4. At times, we have older children celebrate prior to Confirmation, this year we had no elders in a fall program. Many of the children who celebrate in the fall are preparing for their Confirmation and are 'catching-up' with the sacraments.

Program - The Holy Communion program begins with a parent drop-in registration held on the first Saturday of the month Oct-Feb. Some materials are collected at this time. Parent/child meetings are held in February, March, April and May in preparation for the child's First Holy Communion. The meetings are a mixture of catechism, retreats and workshops that are specific to the sacrament.

First Holy Communion Celebrations - We are very happy with the way the celebrations ran this year. This year we chose four weekends and allowed children to celebrate at either the 5 pm, 10 am or noon Mass. The priests did homilies that included the children and their families, a perfect opportunity to remind these families of the awesome responsibility they have to raise their children in the faith. We are thankful to the CWL for the gift they give each child on their Holy Communion Sunday.

Moving forward Father Mitch has requested that Holy Communion be celebrated on fewer weekends.

We will charge \$20.00 for Holy Communion supplies provided.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathleen Eistetter, Sacrament Assistant

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is held in conjunction with First Holy Communion. Most children who celebrate their First Reconciliation are also preparing for their First Holy Communion. The majority of children celebrate the two sacraments in the spring; however, a few usually celebrate prior to Confirmation in the Fall. We always offer First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion to those who require to 'catch up' on the sacraments prior to Confirmation.

Program: We will continue in the future to schedule our First Reconciliation meetings and celebrations as we have done so this year. Beginning with drop in registration to get the paper work underway before we actually hold meetings Jan through May. We have catechism sessions and a retreat that focuses on Reconciliation.

First Reconciliation Celebration: We had one evening set aside in May for all 263 children to celebrate their First Reconciliation. We invited many priests to assist with this event. It was a very busy night in the parish and all reports from priests, children and parents were good. The children loved their first experience with Reconciliation. We are thankful for the gift that the CWL gives each child on this night.

We will charge \$20.00 for Reconciliation supplies provided.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathleen Eistetter, Sacrament Assistant

Floral Design

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Food Bank

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

FORMED

St. Thomas More Parish renewed the subscription for the website FORMED.org a third year in succession to continue providing our parishioners and schools with free 24/7 unlimited online access to spiritual movies, audio presentations, video based study programs and ebooks to understand, live and share the Catholic Faith.

During the period under review, we successfully undertook various measures, such as notifications in the weekly bulletins and the website of the parish in addition to bulletin board notifications and distributions of business cards, to increase the awareness of this website among the wider circle of the parishioners. This has resulted in around 25% increase in the registrants of our parish to FORMED.org

St. Thomas More Parish FORMED Committee offered a FORMED-based study programme titled “FORGIVEN” for four weeks on Monday evenings during the 2018 Lenten season for the benefit of the parishioners at the parish hall.

In addition to providing faith formation study programs, Presence, The Mystery of the Eucharist was shown following Friday morning Masses this year (2019) during the Lenten season and the attendance numbers were between 15 and 25 people.

Special efforts are continuously being made to bring more parishioners to log in to FORMED website by individually approaching individuals and families at different Masses and events, especially during Christmas and RCIA programme.

Respectfully submitted by
Monica Bober, FORMED Committee 2019

Funeral Lunches

When requested, funeral lunches are served by a dedicated group of volunteers. Since May 2017, Divine Creations Catering delivers the lunch as ordered by the family. We supply coffee, tea and punch. This time following the funeral service is very important to the grieving family to meet with family and friends. The Funeral Lunch team strives to ensure a calm relaxing atmosphere during this difficult time of grief.

Respectfully submitted by
Patricia Choma

Funeral Team

This past year the funeral team consisted of Joyce Mallett as the Funeral Coordinator, 2 Adult Servers with their team of 2 servers. As of March 2019, I am pleased to announce that Bev Heisler has joined the team as the alternate Funeral Coordinator in this ministry.

In these past 12 months, we have had 32 funeral Masses, 5 Liturgy Services at STM, and a Funeral Liturgy for a STM parishioner that was held at a Funeral Home. Divine Creations and the Lunch Committee volunteers served 24 funeral receptions in the hall, 2 families provided their own lunches (1 in the hall and 1 in the Chapter Room), and 2 families had private caterers (1 from the Italian Center and 1 was a roast beef dinner provided by a Red Seal Caterer). We had 2 funeral Masses in one day (1 at 11:00 a.m. and the other at 3:00 p.m., with receptions); overall it was manageable and the families were grateful.

The funeral fees at STM have been revised:

- For non-parishioners there is a Funeral fee of \$200.00, Music fee of \$200.00, Hall rental (if there is a reception) fee of \$250.00, Priest fee of \$200.00; for a total of \$850.00
- For registered parishioners there is a Music fee of \$200.00 and Priest fee of \$200.00; for a total of \$400.00

I am grateful for Family Coordinator, Monica Bober, for her assistance and support in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by
Joyce Mallett, Funeral Coordinator

Gift Card Program

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Greeters Ministry

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Grief as a Journey

We had two sessions of the Parish Grief Support Group in this past year. The first was based on a beta model of a program that we had been developing through the Office of Family and Life at the Archdiocese under the leadership of Steven Defer. The Fall Program ran from October 4, 2018 to December 4, 2018. The program began after the 7:00pm Mass on the Tuesday evenings. We had 6 participants. The feedback was very positive in terms of a better understanding of grief and the support the participants felt from others in the group.

From January 22-24, 2019, we were one of the parishes attending and participating in the new Grief as a Journey Workshop at the Pastoral Administration Office of the Archdiocese. There were 11 parishes present and the workshop was led by Steven Defer. We were asked to be presenters and facilitators for a couple of the sessions. New materials were distributed to the parish facilitators at that time and we have been using these since. The Winter/Spring session began on February 5, 2019. One of our facilitators had resigned and my wife and I joined facilitation with 2 members of the team at St. Teresa's Parish since they just had one participant and we had five. We worked well together and in the future if numbers in one parish are low we could combine again. The program ended April 9, 2019. This was also a successful program and ended with a short liturgy in the Adoration Chapel.

We have been finding it difficult to squeeze in a 2 hour program into an after Mass 7:40pm to 9:00pm time slot. To end later would make the evening too late. We therefore are going to request that the program move to a Thursday 7:00pm to 9:00pm time this Fall, so that we would be able to fully give the program.

Respectfully submitted by
Deacon Randy Abele

Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group (Catholic Renewal Services)

The Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group, is a Catholic charismatic prayer ministry established in St. Thomas More Parish in September of 2012. The ministry meets every Tuesday evening from 7:40-9:30 pm, right after the 7 pm mass. The ministry operates under the auspices of the Catholic Renewal Services of the Archdiocese of Edmonton and the support and blessing of St. Thomas More Pastor Fr. Mitch Fidyka.

Our Ministry's Vision

Our vision is that St. Thomas More Parish is home to a vibrant, Catholic, prayer community where members have a deep personal relationship with Jesus, are open and docile to the Holy Spirit, and have a deep love for our Heavenly Father manifested through an appreciation of the Word and the Sacraments and the willingness to serve God through acts of love and service.

Our Mission & Charisms

Our role and mission in St. Thomas More Parish is to promote prayer growth in the spiritual life of our members and encourage them to use their charisms in various ministries. The prayer group provides an atmosphere in which members can grow in their personal relationship with God through praise and worship, teachings, scripture reflections, communal and one-on-one prayer, and sharing of personal testimonies. Through our prayer meetings and a variety of renewal activities, members are able to identify and foster their charisms and use them for service. The Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group fits into the life and mission of the church by seeking to fulfill the church's mission of evangelization, sanctification and renewal.

2018-2019 Activities

The ministry's activities in 2018-2019 included the following:

1. Weekly prayer meetings from September 2018 through June 2019. Each meeting included praise and worship, teachings, scripture reflections, sharing of witness testimonies and intercessory prayers. Integral to each prayer meeting is lifting up of the needs of our pastors, our parish, and the needs of those who have requested for prayers.
2. Ministry members, with pianist Ania Romanowska, led the music at the Tuesday 7 pm Masses.
3. Assisted in the organization of Catholic Renewal Services Leaders Conference held on February 23, 2019 at St. Thomas More Parish.
4. Assisted and participated in the 2019 Archdiocesan Pentecost Vigil on June 8, 2019, led by Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz and celebrated Fr. Nilo Macapinlac held at St. Thomas More Parish.
5. The ministry also actively participated in the events and activities of the Catholic Renewal Services including hosting in the monthly prayer breakfasts, conferences and other events.

Respectfully submitted by
MaryAnn Sosa

Hearts United: Holy Devotions for Today

The purpose of the HEARTS UNITED ministry is to promote and reinvigorate the practice of beautiful and longstanding Catholic devotions within our parish community. HEARTS UNITED was established in the Fall of 2017 and regroups under its umbrella the pastoral and prayerful initiatives listed in this report.

Rosary Circles — The STM Rosary Circles began in the fall of 2013. Individuals, couples or families pray 1 decade of the Rosary a day. Currently there are 163 members belonging to 8 full Rosary Circles and a 9th circle is filling up. Twice a year (October and May), members meet and pray the Rosary as a larger group. Twenty participants make up one Rosary Circle with each Circle being given the name of a patron saint chosen by our pastor. So far, the patron saints of the Rosary Circles are: Pope St. John XXIII, Pope St. John Paul II, St. François de Laval, St. Marguerite d'Youville, St. Thomas More, St. Brother André Bessette, St. John Bosco, Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin, and St. Louis Grignon de Montfort. As requested by former pastors, each Rosary Circle prays for these intentions:

- For vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our parish
- For the intentions placed in the Prayer Petition Box located by the statue of Our Blessed Mother ** and the intentions posted outside the chapel at the Providence Centre
- For the families of the Parish
- For the youth of the Parish

**Petition Box located by the statue of Our Blessed Mother: This box is literally overflowing at the end of each month when it is emptied. Since last Summer, the petitions were collected and kept and then burned in the fire that commenced the Easter Vigil.

Rosary Lights and Chaplet Lights: Prayer Before Weekend Masses — Since Oct 2016, the Rosary has been prayed 30 minutes before all weekend Masses except before the Sunday 10 am Mass when the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed due to a lack of time. In response to Pope John Paul II's 2002 Letter on the Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, we pray the Rosary 1) to contemplate the mysteries of Christ at the School of Mary, 2) to pray for world peace, and 3) to pray for the cause of the family. With Fr. Mitch's arrival, a 4th intention was added: prayer for the sick of the parish.

October, Month of the Holy Rosary — October 12, 2018 Candlelight Rosary and Movie Event: there were about 300 people in attendance at the Candlelight Rosary Event with another 200 staying to watch the new rosary movie *Power in My Hands*. Many visitors were from outside the parish. In 2019, this event will take place on Friday, Oct 25: special guests to include Archbishop R. Smith, soloist Ariana Whitlow, and St. Thomas More Choir.

Also, this year Fr. Mitch requested a banner be made of Our Lady of Fatima for the center arch behind altar. This was done and the banner hung in the church for month of October.

May, Month of Mary & Nine Days of Prayer for Youth to Mary, Help of Christians — May 16-24th. Parishioners were invited to 'adopt' a youth to pray for during this novena, which culminated on May 24th, the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. Tools: *The Novena to Mary Help of Christians* composed by St. John Bosco (Father and Teacher of Youth) printed on postcards and a large box to collect names of youth being prayed for. These names were blessed and lifted in prayer at Mass on May 24th.

Also, Fr. Mitch approved new 2 banners of *Mary, Help of Christians* to be placed during May 1) in the center arch behind altar and 2) in the foyer.

First Friday Adoration — At present, First Friday Adoration begins following the 9:00 am Mass and concludes at 3:00 pm with Benediction. There is a need to increase awareness for Adorers and to educate parishioners regarding the purpose of Adoration and in this case on First Fridays in particular (The writings of JP II on Adoration and the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as given to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque are excellent resources to refer to).

First Saturday Devotion — The parish observes the First Saturdays devotion as Our Lady requested at Fatima in 1917, when she said, “I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite 5 decades of the rosary and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the rosary, with the intent of making reparation to me.” The First Saturday program is as follows: Rosary 8:40 am., Mass 9 am., 15-20-minutes guided meditation on one mystery of the Rosary in Chapter Room. Attendance for the meditation has been growing with about 50-60 people attending monthly.

Consecration to Jesus through Mary (Sat December 9, 2018) — The Annual Consecration to Jesus through Mary began in the fall of 2015. The Consecration is scheduled to take place on or near the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8 December) each year. Since 2015, about 360 people have made the Consecration. Participants undertake a ‘33 day personal retreat’ using the book “33 Days to Morning Glory” by Father Michael Gaitley. Participants prepare on their own; however, the group is linked by email. On December 8, 2018, all those who wished to make or renew their Consecration came together for Mass. At that time, the Consecration prayer was made as a group. A celebration followed and certificates were given to those who consecrated for the first time.

Projected date for 2019: Saturday Dec 7th at morning Mass.

Divine Mercy — Building on last year’s efforts, this year the Chaplet of Divine Mercy continued to be prayed communally 15 minutes before the Sunday 10 am Mass. Again this year, Day 1 of the Novena to Divine Mercy & Chaplet were led before all 2019 Good Friday services (9 am, 12 pm, 3 pm) and Day 2 was led before the 9 pm Easter Vigil. Day 3 was led before the 10 am Mass on Easter Sunday. Parishioners were encouraged to complete the Novena (printed on cards to take home) in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. On Divine Mercy Sunday, feast instituted by JP II in the year 2000, the DM banners were displayed in the church and the Chaplet of DM was led before ALL weekend masses, replacing the Rosary.

Respectfully submitted by
Christine Foisy-Erickson

Hospitality Committee

With the support of Fr. Antony Fernando, St. Thomas More held an Information Night in October of 2017 to consider forming a Hospitality Committee.

The Hospitality Ministry held their first committee meeting on May 1, 2018. Meetings are held on the first Monday evening every month (Summer months excluded). St. Thomas More Hospitality Committee Mission is “to create a hospitable (welcoming) parish where visitors and parishioners feel they belong and are appreciated”. There are currently 7 members that form the Committee and 2 parishioners coordinating the Greeters Ministry.

The Committee set a 3 year goal to accomplish. This will most likely take longer than 3 years. The goals are as follows:

1. Recruit more Committee members – personal invitation & announcement (ongoing)
2. Form Greeting Ministry
 - a. Greeters Coordinators (recruit, position description, training and greeters ministry plan)
 - b. Greeters (recruit, position description, training and scheduling and ongoing communication with greeters)
3. Complete Hospitality Audit
4. Coffee after Mass
5. Update Registration form & review brochure
6. Welcome Package for newcomers
7. Creating a children friendly church
8. Stewardship Ministry Fair – yearly in May (need a Coordinator)
9. Change & update entrance to make it more inviting, organized
10. Information Station in entrance
11. Welcome Night (3 x year – Oct/Feb/June)
12. Finding Your Gifts workshop

The Greeting Ministry was initiated for the 2018 Christmas Mass times to welcome parishioners and visitors. In the Fall of 2018, the Stewardship Fair collected a list of parishioners interested in being greeters. With this list, Greeting Coordinators Rosanna and Ian began contacting parishioners and scheduling was put in effect for the winter of 2019. Due to a number of details and volunteer time it takes to ensure the Greeting Ministry schedules families that will commit to be present as greeters for every Mass, the Hospitality Committee will be assisting the Greeting Coordinators to work out these details and a schedule with training will begin for the Summer or Fall of 2019.

Respectfully submitted by
St. Thomas More Hospitality Committee

K4J (Kids for Jesus)

K4J Program and K4J Captains Program (Kids for Jesus - 5 years to 9 years) continued for the 9th year. Classes were held October 2018 – May 2019 with a time change from 6:15 pm – 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Cost remained at \$50 per child.

K4J Program – This program teaches and motivates children with the tools they need to know and live the Catholic faith through a different virtue each month, through Missionary in Motion Catechesis, learning about the Saint of the month and a visit to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, prayers, participating in the monthly activity stations (songs, crafts, games & snacks) and completing the activity packs by living the virtue of the month at home and the class sessions.

K4J Captain Program – This year the Grade 3 & 4 Captains began each class with prayers, learning the virtue and saint of the month through Missionary in Motion Catechesis. Every other month, the Captains participated in the station activities (games, craft and snack) with the younger children and during the other months presented the virtue and saint through skits.

K4J Buck Program – The children are encouraged to earn bucks each month by returning their completed Virtue Activity sheets/cards (each monthly pack has one) and by displaying virtues with their peers and leaders during the K4J classes (ie. patience, attentiveness, charity, thankfulness) which the Certificate/Buck Coordinator passes out. Certificates and bucks are then presented at the end of each class to recognize the participants.

In May, the children use their bucks (kept in their own envelope in the church and given out to the children in May) to buy religious items and/or candy as a reward for all their hard work. There was less interest by the children this year in completing the Activity sheets and so there were less bucks and certificates given out.

Additional to the regular classes – The Remand Centre Prison Chaplains spoke to the children during the November class about the prison ministry and the Chocolate Bar Project that St. Thomas More has been involved in for a number of years.

Fr. Don Flummerfelt volunteered for the second time to be St. Nicholas during our December class in celebration of the saints Feast Day.

I am sincerely grateful to Fr. Mitch for his prayers and supporting this program. I would also like to acknowledge our volunteers as K4J program is totally reliant on our parents and/or parishioners to volunteer and lead each class. Without their generosity, dedication and time, K4J would not be able to function.

We had a total of 24 families, 32 participants and 20 volunteers participating in the K4J program.

Respectfully submitted by
Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator

Knights of Columbus Father Bonner Council 7599

Program offerings

Our programming focused in four main areas over the past year: community, culture of life, faith and family. In each of these areas, we have offered several programs, including many that have attempted to include the general parish membership.

Community

- Monthly pancake breakfasts
- Habitat for Humanity build days
- Marian Centre (Madonna House) help days
- Grocery card program
- Senior's Christmas dinner and dance
- Family pasta dinner and dance
- Purchase of sea can for SSVP

Culture of Life

- Novena for Life - Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12)
- Renovation project at the The Back Porch
- Participation in Alberta March for Life
- Participation in 40 Days for Life
- Mother's Day rose sale

Faith

- Catholic Information Service publication kiosk
- Support for seminarians
- Knights of Columbus Masses
- Support for RCIA
- Solemnity of St. Joseph (Mar 19) Mass and novena
- Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12)
- Veneration of the Cross at Good Friday Masses of the Presanctified
- Marian Mass (May 6)
- Consecration to the Holy Family

Family

- All Saints Day pumpkin carving party
- KofC basketball free throw program
- Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest
- Catholic youth leadership award
- Youth involvement in K of C programs

In summary, over the 2018-2019 pastoral year, our council has performed nearly 2,500 documentable man-hours of work in support of our parish and community. In addition, our Council has donated more than \$7,500 to charitable causes.

Respectfully submitted by
Matt Oryschak, Grand Knight, grandknight@kofc7599.org

Ladies Auxiliary

MAY WE DO WITH LOVING HEARTS WHAT GOD ASKS US TO DO

The LADIES AUXILIARY started their ministry in 1978, and continue to meet Wednesday mornings in the choir room from 9:30 am to 12 noon. We meet to socialize, to give support to one another and to work on projects that benefit the church and our community. We prepare knitted baby items and tied quilts for Wings and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. We have a roster of 17 ladies with 7-10 meetings on a regular basis, while others work at home. We thank you for the space provided for us to meet weekly.

Respectfully submitted by
Elaine Smith

Lectors

Lectors serve the parish by proclaiming the Word of God during the Liturgy of the Word. They proclaim the Word of God, with reverence and clarity, and work to make a connection to Jesus Christ. Those who serve in this Ministry are called to do so, and to share their gift with the parish community. I continue to be grateful for the efforts of our volunteers who serve as lectors.

St Thomas More is blessed to have more than 76 lectors who serve at four Masses over the weekend and during liturgical celebrations during the year. We also have four members of our community on our sub-list and three who have taken a leave but who wish to eventually return to our Ministry. Over the last year, we have welcomed new members to our Ministry, and sadly, this last year we also saw the passing of two of our long-serving lectors (Jacqueline Breault and Lucille Dendwick).

This last year, we held two workshops to continue to build a sense of community among the Lector Ministry, as well as to practice proclaiming the Word and using the opportunity to give each other feedback about our reading. In addition, over the last year, we worked closely with the Youth Lector Coordinator to share information and to collaborate and encourage each other in our work.

The objective remains to continue with regular workshops and Ministry formation so that we can develop and support those who have been called to proclaim the Word of God at our parish.

Respectfully submitted by
Marion Haggarty-France, Lector Coordinator

Library Ministry

During the past year, the following has happened in this ministry:

- We have received many donations, which we are in the process of sorting, labelling and cataloguing. Donations were solicited through the parish bulletin.
- We, with the assistance of several volunteers, continue the process of sorting and labelling the books, videos, and other materials, after which we will do an inventory of books in order to more easily keep track of borrowings. We continue to use the pen-and-paper system of signing out materials.
- Library Coordinator Theresa Seraphim has met several times with Family Coordinator Monica Bober in order to update the library's status and discuss next steps. These include both bulletin and pulpit announcements (over a single weekend) not only encouraging donations, but also providing information about the library to parishioners.
- We have purchased a cart to stock the children's books, making them more accessible and more neatly displayed.

Respectfully submitted by
Theresa M. Seraphim, Library Coordinator

Light of Christ Drama

This ministry was not active this year.

Light of Jesus – Edmonton Chapter

Light of Jesus is a Catholic community with chapters all over the world. It was founded by renowned international Catholic lay evangelist, Bo Sanchez, in Manila, Philippines more than three decades ago. The organization supports various ministries, including homes for abandoned elderly, a shelter for women in crisis, and a Prison Ministry.

The Light of Jesus holds prayer gatherings called “The Feast”, which includes lively worship and series of talks on practical Christian living. This year, the Light of Jesus Edmonton Chapter began holding its prayer meetings at St. Thomas More Parish. Having the parish as a home for the group has been very beneficial – it’s helped attract new members and enabled the group to attend Mass prior to the prayer meeting.

This has been a year of transition and building for the Light of Jesus in Edmonton. New people were encouraged to step up and lead the group, as previous community leaders wanted to inject some new ideas and enthusiasm. Most of the year focused on slowly bringing back members of our group, who had become less engaged. This has been a successful process, as we have established a core group of approximately 15 people that we will look to build on in the year ahead.

It was a year of establishing some consistency to the group’s activities: setting regularly occurring monthly meetings (last Saturday of the month); establishing processes for communication and planning; collection of love offerings; and connecting us into the broader Light of Jesus community.

We were also able to re-build our music ministry in Edmonton. We have come a long way in this regard. In our first Feast this year, three people attended and we listened to praise music on an iPhone. In the last few months, we have had a large band with singers, guitarists, and keyboard players, coming together to lend their musical talents to the group.

This year, the Light of Jesus Edmonton hosted seven meetings on a number of different themes, focused on providing practical lessons for members to apply in their daily lives. These included the following:

- **Breaking Bad:** As images of God, we are supposed to act like God. However, when sin enters into the picture, we act like beasts. Through this talk, we learned how to open ourselves up to God, and learn to be like Jesus and look like Jesus.
- **Nation Building:** We need for leaders who are selfless, who lead a life of sacrifice, and who are agents of change. The takeaway? That if we want to change the country, we need to change our hearts.
- **Courage:** Making 2019 your victory year
- **Bleedership:** Covers the challenges that come with leadership and how when you lead; you bleed.
- **Breaking News:** Talk series focused on the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the historical context with their work.
- **Newsfeed:** Social media, because it is such a powerful platform, amplifies everything inside us, both the good and the bad, including envy. Talk 2 presents the root causes of envy and how to deal with them.

- **Superpower:** A talk series about the Holy Spirit and how this is our super power to a great and blessed life.

This coming year, we look to take the next step in our group's maturity – putting together an annual plan; having regular monthly meetings throughout the year; increasing our membership and getting more involved in Catholic Renewal Services, the umbrella organization we fall under in Alberta.

We would like to thank St. Thomas More Parish, the priests, and the staff for supporting our group and giving us a home where we can grow closer to the Lord and bring others nearer to God.

Respectfully submitted by
Tyler Dewan, Feast Builder

Liturgy Committee

The St. Thomas More Liturgy Committee was established in September 2018 to facilitate open communication and collaboration amongst liturgical and pastoral ministries of our parish. Membership includes the following key contacts/leaders from these respective ministries:

- Fr. Mitch Fidyka, Pastor
- Fr. Joy Vadakkan Poulouse, Associate Pastor
- Jeremy Sit, Adult Servers
- Christopher Snaith, Altar Servers
- Cheryl Shinkaruk, Children's Liturgy
- Johanna Dietrich, Choir – Adult, Choir – Children & Youth, Sound Ministry
- Sharon Pisesky, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Wedding Rehearsal Team
- Joyce Mallett, Funerals
- Marion Haggarty-France, Lectors – Adult
- Angela Moreno, Lectors – Youth
- Lorna Gawlinski, Sacred Art & Design, Wedding Rehearsal Team
- Pat Choma, Sacristan
- Rena Khiamal, Ushers – Adult
- Tim Roth, Ushers – Youth
- Maisie Goh, Hospitality
- Monica Bober, Stewardship
- Christine Foisy-Erickson, Hearts United
- Ian Boothe, Greeters
- Deacon Randy Abele, Deacon
- Deacon Chris Ashdown, Deacon

Overall, committee meetings were structured to allow ministry leaders to share concerns, ask questions and share with each other to facilitate better coordination.

Specifically, the committee:

- Hosted in October a targeted ministry recruitment fair for volunteers in specific liturgical ministries after all Masses;
- Identified liturgical areas in need of improvement and developed ideas to address many of the issues, including coordination of volunteer recruitment and appreciation. Other areas have been identified as projects for future years;
- Worked towards better coordination of liturgical ministries for special event Masses (including the All Souls Mass, Christmas and Easter), striving to enable ministry participants to better contribute and work together; and

- Developed an online liturgical calendar to coordinate ministries and identify necessary requirements for liturgies.

Special thanks to Jeremy Sit who assisted with note-taking at meetings. Members of the Liturgical Committee look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively with each other to continually improve the beauty and prayerfulness of our parish liturgical celebrations, sacraments and devotions in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted by
Johanna Dietrich, Liturgy Committee Chair, Music Ministry Coordinator

Marriage Preparation

The Marriage Preparation program was March 15, 16 and 17, 2019. Twenty-two couples attended and as a whole group, we attended 12:00 pm Mass on Sunday.

We are very pleased to report that the evaluations came back very positive again this year.

We have been blessed to have many volunteers. During the weekend, five married couples took part as presenters and organizers. We were grateful to have Deacon Randy Abele join us on Saturday to give a talk to our engaged couples on the Sacrament of Marriage. Johanna Dietrich also joined us Saturday to talk to the couples about selecting music for their ceremony and other details about planning the liturgy. A lawyer came from the Estate House to speak about wills. We were also pleased to have a nurse and St. Thomas More parishioner, Louise Boychuk, give a presentation on Natural Family Planning. Thank you to Olivia Dias for making and printing the certificates for the engaged couples who completed the program with us.

There have been some changes to Marriage Preparation this year. For more than 15 years, couples attending Marriage Preparation at St. Thomas More have completed the FOCCUS on-line couples' inventory and met with a trained, paid facilitator to review the summary of their survey. In 2018, the facilitator indicated she would no longer be doing this work. Most programs in the Archdiocese use Prepare/Enrich as their couples' inventory. Steven Defer, the Director of the Office of Life and Family, suggested that we use the model used by the Basilica. This required a staff person to set up a parish account and purchase codes for use by the engaged couples to complete the survey. We are grateful to Monica Bober for doing this for us.

For the last several years, some ladies of the CWL made lunch for us on the Saturday. They did not have the volunteers to make lunch this year. We purchased lunch through a caterer and we were thankful to Peter Lema who made coffee in the morning, put out the lunch for us and did the dishes!

The Marriage Preparation coordinators, Michelle Dendwick-Spak and Andrew Spak, have been a part of the ministry for 15 years and lead couple for the last seven years. In 2018, Michelle and Andrew informed the team that they would like to step down as coordinators. With new pastors and changes in the parish office, they decided to remain on for one more year. The Marriage Preparation team is comprised of a strong group of committed volunteers who are very dedicated to the ministry. However, no one feels ready to take on this role. Michelle and Andrew are also committed to remaining part of this ministry as a facilitating couple, but feel the time has come to pass along the administrative portion of this ministry, such as managing registrations, room bookings, ordering program materials and food, etc. At this time, no one has come forward to take on this role.

Next year's dates will be March 13, 14 and 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by
STM Marriage Preparation Team

Marriages

The statistics for the marriages that took place from July 2018 to June 2019 are illustrated below:

	at STM	not at STM	Convalidations at STM	Total
July to Dec 2018	8	11	7	26
Jan to June 2019	6	5	10	21
Total	14	16	17	47

As the Receptionist in 2017, I also took on the paperwork for the Marriages while handling all the duties of the reception desk including the Bulletin and other miscellaneous duties that came my way.

There were a total of 47 marriage files created, completed and filed from July 2018 to June 2019. The marriages that did not take place at St. Thomas More were parishioners who got married at other churches or back home. Since they are our parishioners, the parish is required to complete their marriage documentation, which is then sent to the Archdiocese for dispensation and forwarded to the church of marriage.

Effective September 2018, the church rental fee of \$300 was discontinued and couples who get married at our church paid only for the music and the priest's stipend, which is \$250 each.

The number of Convalidations have increased from 2017 to 2018 due to repeated announcements made in the Bulletin and after weekend Masses. This created an awareness and a desire to have their civil marriage blessed in the Church and to have a sacramental marriage.

For convalidations, I identified very quickly the need to have a marriage preparation, tailor-made for couples who have been civilly married for a few years and therefore I organised two Convalidation marriage preparations, one in November 2018 and the other in February 2019. The speakers were Paul & Carol Quist from Holy Trinity Catholic church in Spruce Grove. At both the classes, we had an excellent turnout of about 8-10 couples each.

Documentation for marriages and convalidations are similar, however each of these files have to be sent to the Archdiocese so that dispensation is granted.

What went well:

- All of the marriage documentation was completed in time and accurately done.
- The convalidation marriage preparation was a great success with 100% attendance.
- We have identified from our own parish Deacon Christopher & Jean Ashdown to facilitate and present the Marriage preparation for couples who need convalidation.

What needs improvement:

- Finalise the dates for the Marriage preparation for Convalidation in advance so that when there is an inquiry we have the dates and times at hand. I have therefore scheduled and booked 2 dates, November 16, 2019 & February 8, 2020.
- Need for volunteers to help out for the Marriage preparation for Convalidation, to assist with the lunch and snacks.

- Need for a volunteer to take on the registration of couples for Marriage Preparation that takes place every year in March and the printing of the Marriage Preparation certificates. In the past, Michelle Spak has been doing this very efficiently. She would like to hand this over to someone.

Support Ministries:

We thank God for our Choir (Johanna Dietrich & her team), our Marriage Coordinators, Sharon Pisesky, Lorna Gawlinski and Agnes Lung, our Marriage Prep coordinators Michelle & Andrew Spak and their team, our Convalidation Marriage Prep speakers Paul & Carol Quist for their continued support to STM.

Welcome to our new Marriage Prep coordinators (for couples needing convalidation) Deacon Christopher & Jean Ashdown!

Respectfully submitted by
Olivia Dias, Pastoral Assistant for Marriages & RCIA

Music Ministry & Sound Ministry

Members of the St. Thomas More Music and Sound ministries continued to provide faithful service to our parish by encouraging the congregation's prayer through song. One who sings well prays twice.

Membership in the adult choir continued to hover around 70 members who regularly sing at one of the following Masses: Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 8 am (previously 8:30), 10 am or 12 noon. Regular accompanists were Violeta Borromeo, Renny Hendra, Cathy Jabusch, David Moret, Paulette Pelland and Indri Purwana. Additionally, the choir was sometimes accompanied for special occasions by parishioners Iggy Tian, Natasha Hendra and Michael Gust (and other visiting instrumentalists). One of 17 dedicated cantors led the psalm and acclamations at each Mass, in addition to making announcements before Mass.

A separate dedicated group of young singers and instrumentalists (piano, saxophone, flute, guitar, violin, etc.) provided the music at the Sunday 5 pm mass. Several young people served as cantors at this mass as well.

In addition to singing at all Sunday Masses, the choir provided music in 2018-19 for Sunday afternoon baptism services, special Confirmation Masses, weddings, funerals, Marian Masses, the October Candlelight Rosary, All Souls Day Mass, the Sisters of Providence Jubilee Mass, the parish Mission, Christmas Masses and all Easter Triduum services. This year marked the addition of an earlier Mass on Christmas Eve (4 pm) and a morning Good Friday service (9 am), adding to the number of services for which singers and musicians provided music.

Early in 2019, STM choir was proud to host a Catholic-Mennonite Hymn Sing in partnership with the Archdiocesan Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations. We hosted about 150 participants from various parishes and Mennonite congregations on Jan. 31 for an evening of hymn singing and reflections that explored our respective hymn traditions as formative vehicles within our two communities. The music-making was followed by a reception and fellowship in the hall.

Funeral Choir membership stayed consistent at approximately 20 members, some of whom also sing with the adult choir, as well as a handful of additional singers who are dedicated to this special ministry. Most funerals in 2018-19 were accompanied by David Moret. Of special note was the funeral for our beloved accompanist Paulette Pelland, who passed away in March. More than 60 singers and instrumentalists – her choir family – were honoured to attend and support the Pelland family by singing and praying the hymns Paulette had specifically chosen for her funeral Mass.

Joe Buijs and Joan Holloway continued to work with their dedicated group of volunteers to diligently and efficiently organize and maintain the choir's growing library of music. Their assistance is always very much appreciated.

The Children's Choir sang monthly at the 10 am and 12 noon Masses between October and May. Directed by Samantha Goerz and accompanied by Renny Hendra, approximately 20 children in Grades 3-9 rehearsed on Thursdays and sang regularly at Mass. Pat Theriault helped with logistics and sorting music. Several young singers have begun to develop their cantoring skills by proclaiming the psalm when the Children's Choir sings at Mass.

The Sound Ministry grew in number to 16 volunteers who diligently operated the sound board at all services throughout the year. Special thanks to Kirby Jabusch and Dale Petryk who have been working behind the scenes to continually improve the system and provide training. Thanks also to Cathy Jabusch also assisted with ministry scheduling. Upgraded speakers were installed just before Christmas, making vast improvements to the clarity and overall quality of sound in the Nave.

We are always looking for more singers, instrumentalists (especially pianists) and sound board operators. If you think music or sound ministry might be for you, please contact Johanna Dietrich for more information.

A heartfelt thank you to all members of the music and sound ministries for so selflessly sharing their time and talents with our parish.

Respectfully submitted by
Johanna Dietrich, Music Ministry Coordinator

Nativity Play

The parish nativity play was a tremendous success. Over 60 children of all ages participated as actors in the production, which is dedicated to Pope John Paul II, and has been held annually in Edmonton for 12 consecutive years. The organizer, Mena Jewell, was delighted with the positive response and the excellent performance, which saw Deacon Randy Abele as the Master of Ceremonies again this year. Other parishioners served as volunteers, and many attended the performance.

Numerous new friendships were made between participating parish families, and the Gospel-based play served as an enjoyable catechesis, preparing hearts for Christmas. The nativity play does not receive parish funding, and does not charge families a registration fee. Organizing the play is both a privilege and a mission from God, and is always the source of many blessings for both those who participate and those who genuinely support it. The organizer wishes to express her gratitude to those who have assisted the play over the years.

Respectfully submitted by
Mena Jewell, Nativity Play Coordinator

Parish Pastoral Council

Over the past year, Parish Pastoral Council completed a number of tasks including the following:

- Completion of a Parish Survey. Approximately 500 parishioners completed the survey. Over 2100 comments were provided. The results of this survey were presented to the parishioners in October.

- A short- term strategic plan was established based on survey results. These included dealing with parking issues, welcoming new parishioners, communications, financial matters, and youth. Actions on all these items have either been completed or are ongoing.
- Work on a long-term strategic plan has been started and should be completed over the next year.
- Membership of the council has been expanded and stabilized.
- Coordination of activities with other parish committees has been formally established.
- Goal setting workshops have been scheduled with the Archdiocese.

Respectfully submitted by
Randy Yatscoff, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Pastoral Care Ministry

We currently have 26 volunteers as well as 5 new volunteers who signed up and are now waiting to complete their training on June 14 & 15, 2019 at the Pastoral Care Centre.

The following are the senior care centres & senior residents that are receiving pastoral care:

- Good Samaritan Southgate – approximately 45 Catholic residents are visited weekly & Holy Communion is administered. Mass is celebrated once per month.
- Good Samaritan Wedman House – 9 Catholic residents are visited for lay liturgy & Holy Communion once per week.
- Devonshire Care Centre – 50 Catholic residents are visited weekly for lay liturgy & Holy Communion. Mass is celebrated once per month.
- Lifestyle Options Falconer Court – 18 Catholic residents are visited weekly for lay liturgy & Holy Communion. Mass is celebrated once per month.
- Lifestyle Options – 4069 – 106 Street – 18 Catholic residents are visited each week for lay liturgy & Holy Communion. Mass is celebrated once per month.
- Riverbend Retirement Residence – 29 Catholic residents are visited each week for lay liturgy & Holy Communion. Mass is celebrated once per month.
- Rutherford Heights Retirement Residence – 20 Catholic residents are visited each week for lay liturgy & Holy Communion. Mass is celebrated once per month.
- Shepherd's Care (Greenfields) – 6 Catholic residents are visited each week & Holy Communion is administered.
- Chartwell Heritage Valley – 12 Catholic residents are visited each week for lay liturgy & Holy Communion is administered. Mass is celebrated once per month.
- Mac Taggart Place – 15 Catholic residents are visited for lay liturgy & Holy Communion is administered each week. Mass is celebrated once per month.

- Chartwell Wescott – There are only 2 Catholic residents and they both attend Mass, so no service is offered until they have more Catholic residents.

6 Catholic shut-ins have received Holy Communion in their homes on a temporary basis. One Catholic resident has been receiving a visit and Holy Communion in her home for several years. There are a total of approximately 223 Catholic shut-ins are receiving Holy Communion once per week. Mass is celebrated once per month in several facilities.

Respectfully submitted by
Shirley Phillips, Pastoral Care Leader

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl ladies have been gathering every Friday, 9:30-11:30, at the parish to knit, crochet, pray and share ideas for making prayer shawls since 2007. In that time they have made over 1500 prayer shawls that have been made with prayers and blessed by a priest. The shawls (wraps) are recorded in the Prayer Shawl binder and given on request to friends, relatives and people in need.

This year we received a large donation of yarn/wool, which we used to make toques for the homeless. Also we made many baby blankets and shawls for the babies and women at the Gianna Center. This ministry is run strictly on donations, as Prayer shawls cannot be sold.

Respectfully submitted by
Linda Sorenson

Quilters Ministry

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

R.C.I.A. Adapted for Children

RCIA-C classes were held every Thursday evening beginning in October 2019 from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm (depending on the topic the class ended later). Children from the parish ages 8 to 15 were also welcome to participate for additional Catechism.

The RCIA-Children program began with 3 inquirers and 1 youth parishioner. On April 20, 2019 3 girls ages 3, 12 and 14 received the Sacraments of Initiation. Weekly classes, weekend Masses, all 4 Rites, Breaking Open the Word and Scrutinies were attended consistently by the girls and their families.

The Journey of Faith program is cohesive, comprehensive and flexible creating a practical and attractive formation process, for both the participants and catechists. Because there are forty-eight catechetical lessons, the program requires the participants to meet weekly.

Consistency, formation and relationship is the key to the success of the RCIA for children at the same time flexibility is a great asset. Because of the family dynamics drastically changing and ensuring the Coordinator and parish priest's work within certain parameters, each catechumen/candidate or family as a whole should be

considered as part of the curriculum development process for the RCIA child. This year was not a challenge as all three Neophytes and their parent(s) worked hard at being present for every RCIA-C date scheduled on the calendar.

Parent's involvement is key to the success of the child's formation while ongoing (weekly) support from the Catechist and the faith community in all areas of the family dynamics is also vital to help the family to grow in the Catholic faith together during the RCIA year and continue living the Catholic faith beyond Mystagogy. Journey of Faith handouts were given out to each child as a supplementary resource to take home.

I would like to thank Fr. Mitch Fidyka and Fr. Joy Vadakkan Poulouse for their prayers and support. I would also like to acknowledge both our priests Fr. Mitch and Fr. Joy, Fr. Don Flummerfelt, Deacon Randy Abele, RCIA seminarian Matt Schnitz and Gianni House Director Vera Fisher for being our Catechist presenters.

I am also sincerely grateful to Christina Faitakis, who assisted me and as one of the Catechist presenters throughout the year, and for Darlene Smigelski, RCIA Coordinator who has for the years I have been the RCIA Children's coordinator dedicated her time, great knowledge and experience in organizing the Pot Lucks, Rites and Easter Vigils year after year making my job easy in preparing our young parishioners for the Sacraments of Initiation.

Respectfully submitted by
Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator

RCIA

RCIA Process and Team:

Our Catechetical team included Darlene Smigelski (Coordinator) & myself, Olivia Dias (Assistant Coordinator) along with Catechists: Kathy Gust, Louise England, Tracy Edmonds, Cheryl Fisher, Tom Gust, Jeremy Sit, Sharleen Jackson and Seminarians Matthew Schnitzler and Giovanni Muraca. Unfortunately, Giovanni was not able to complete the year with us. We also welcomed new Catechist, Bosco Dias to the team. Father Don Flumerfelt once again this year greatly assisted the RCIA as a catechist, sponsor, retreat leader and confessor. We were grateful for the contributions of all of our dedicated team members.

We had our faithful volunteers, Anika Coco, Sherisse Schindle and Mildred Njiki who provided childcare, which enabled the participation in the RCIA of several of our Inquirers and Sponsors. It is because of our dedicated childcare team that many are able to embark on the RCIA journey.

The Inquirers:

Of the 66 inquiries we had by phone, email or in person, ultimately 30 were enrolled in the program, however only 21 **Adults and 4 of their children** were received and celebrated the Sacraments. 19 Adults and 4 children at the Easter Vigil and 2 Adults on June 8 & 15th, 2019 received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Of the **21 RCIA adults, 9 were Baptized, 6 made a Profession of Faith and 6 Catholics celebrated Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.** This year we had a regular showing of quite a few *'Companions on the Journey'* – those who wished to learn more about the Catholic faith – several of whom are Catholic. There were also 3 "RCIA-C" children (*RCIA Adapted for Children*) at the Easter Vigil prepared by our Priests and Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator.

Lesson Learned:

- Once again, this year Ephphatha House has served as a good place for the RCIA Retreat. As of the end of May 2017, **Ephphatha House came under the management of the Carmelites and is now called the Mount Carmel Spirituality Centre.** We will continue to have our Retreat at this location in future years.
- Our RCIA Alumni with Pat Choma acting as consultant hosted the Vigil Reception. We are grateful to Donna Molloy (Reception team-lead), Alfred & Alson Lumpini-Luankadi, Kevin Imlay, MaryAnne McGill, John Schmidt, Paola Rosnau, Joyce Boctor, Brenda & Cynthia for their time and effort to making this day a memorable one for our parishioners. The food for the Vigil reception was catered, however the RCIA crew set up, served and cleaned up afterward. It was a beautiful reception after the highest Mass of the year! We look forward to the RCIA Alumni organizing the reception in years to come.
- This year once again we enlisted the services of youth members of the Parish, Jude Dias and Felix Ikokwu to record the Easter Vigil Mass.
- A Parish Babysitting Ministry with numerous Volunteer Management approved adults would be helpful.

Highlights:

- Our annual ***RCIA Edition of Martha's Kitchen*** netted **101 meals** for those in need in our midst. This year the meals went to the *WINGS (Women In Need Growing in Strength)*.
- Once again, we had Paul and Carol Quist speak on the Sacrament of Marriage. Their continued education on the beauty of the sacrament is producing good fruit in couples.
- The online ***RCIA Presentation Series*** of audio and slides of all our teaching sessions continues to grow and is available on our new Parish web site.

Support Ministries:

We thank God for our Custodian, Arthur Connick, and Business Administrator, Christopher Snaith, for their support.

Respectfully submitted by
Olivia Dias, Assistant RCIA Coordinator

Refugee Sponsorship Program

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Sacred Art & Design

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Sacristans – Linens Required For Mass

Our primary objective, as Sacristans-linens, is to ensure that there is always a ready supply of clean linens (corporals, purificators, hand and baptismal towels, small tablecloths) for use during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The Sacristan-head coordinator assumes the washing of children's albs, other vestments, altar linens, credence tablecloth, etc. The adult servers are responsible for cleaning their own albs. The Sacristan-head coordinator also ensures that altar cloths are changed to the liturgical time of the year, for example, Advent, Lent, Ordinary Time.

Specifically, the responsibilities of the Sacristans-linens include: (1) gathering for laundering purposes all soiled linens at the beginning of the week (usually Monday), and (2) ensuring that the linens are washed according to instructions from the Missal that the water for the first wash is poured down to the earth since STM does not have a sacrarium. The soiled linens are then taken to the Sacristan's home, washed, ironed and returned to the Sacristy before the start of the weekend Masses. The usual time commitment for each week is approximately 3 hours.

Each Sacristan-linens undertakes the washing and ironing of linens for a period of one month or four weeks per year. The coordinator schedules the assignment. Currently (2018-19), we have nine sacristans, the count, including the coordinator. The coordinator assumes the washing and ironing of linens during the months when a sacristan is not available. Although we would like to have 12 sacristans to cover every month of the year, we have not been able to find reliable volunteers. It should be noted that the sacristans helping us currently have served faithfully for many, many years.

For questions regarding the role and activities of the Sacristan – head coordinator, please contact Pat Choma at (780) 438-4043.

For clarification regarding the activities of the Sacristans linens required for Mass, please contact Tayla Shen at (780) 434-4715.

Respectfully submitted by
Talya Shen, Coordinator, Sacristan-Linens Required for Mass

Scripture Study (Daytime)

This group meets in the Chapter Room every Wednesday after morning Mass from early September to early May. There are about 15 – 20 registrants, some of whom go south for the winter. This past season, before Christmas, we finished the DVD series “Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom”, produced by Ascension Press. From January to May we reviewed the Ascension Press series “Epic: Journey through Church History”, which we had done in detail several years ago. This fall we plan to do a DVD study from Augustine Institute, “Peter: Cornerstone of Catholicism”.

This is a great way to learn more about our Catholic faith in an atmosphere of fellowship and prayer and we welcome all parishioners interested in learning more about Holy Scripture. All DVDs are available for use by other groups in the parish.

Our group makes two charitable donations a year with proceeds from voluntary donations. We often support the Back Porch and have supported needy parish families in the past.

Respectfully submitted by
Annette Patterson

Scripture Study (Evening)

We had two sessions of the Evening Scripture Study this year. The Fall Session began Monday October 1, 2019 after the 7PM Mass. We had an information night and the study materials were distributed. We used the Catholic study guide called: “Amazed and Afraid: Discover the Power of Jesus”. This was a 6-week session that ended before Christmas. There were about 12-13 participants.

After the New Year, there was a second study entitled: “Jesus, the Compassionate Saviour”. This is a 10-week study and it began on February 4, 2019 and was designed to carry on through most of Lent. There were about 15 participants and I had to order more books that I had originally ordered.

Usually I have had a third study after Easter but because of the late date of Easter this year and the fact that attendance usually falls as the days get longer I decided to forgo it this year.

I think it continues to be important to have Scripture study groups as it helps us understand the Word of God and gives us a chance to share our faith with one another in a small group.

Respectfully submitted by
Deacon Randy Abele

Social Justice Ministry

No report was submitted for this ministry this year. It will not be an active ministry in 2019-2020.

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

While our main activity is serving the poor in our area of the city by responding to requests for food, furniture, limited financial assistance and referrals to other organizations, we are also involved in various outreach programs that stretch beyond our immediate area.

We have 3 outreach programs that involve parishioners:

1. North of 60 twinning with Fort Good Hope;
2. Outreach to the Cree Nations Community of Atikameg; and
3. Support to the pastor of Sacred Heart, Fr Sousai, in downtown Edmonton.

Activities that we ran to support our organization in the past year include:

1. Food drive in April.
2. Envelop donation program in November.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathy Maksymec

Stewardship Committee

With the invitation of the Archdiocese in September of 2017, Monica Bober, Family Coordinator attended the International Stewardship Conference in Atlanta and with the guidance of Deacon Gem Mella, she was able to begin the process of forming a Stewardship Committee at St. Thomas More Parish in the spring of 2018.

With the support of Fr. Sagayaraj Devadoss, our Parish Priest at the time, St. Thomas More formed the Stewardship Ministry and held their first meeting on April 17, 2018. Since the first meeting, 5 members have joined the committee (including Deacon Christopher Ashdown and the Associate Pastor) and faithfully committed to the monthly meetings which recently will now be scheduled twice a month.

The following has been completed or implemented over the year:

- a. Reflection and Study “Well done, good and faithful servant booklet by Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins
- b. Reflection and study of the 2 Pastoral Letters by Archbishop Richard W. Smith
- c. Monthly Stewardship quotes submitted for the bulletin
- d. Currently in the process of organizing fundraising for bibles to give newly registered parishioners, families of newly baptized children
- e. 3 of the Stewardship members attended the Western Canadian Stewardship Conference in Saskatoon.
- f. Awaiting submission of Stewardship Prayer by the Liturgy Committee for recitation at masses.

Respectfully submitted by
St. Thomas More Parish Stewardship Committee

The Legion of Mary

The Senior praesidium, Our Lady of Good Counsel, meets every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas More library. The Junior praesidium, Morning Star, meets every Saturday at 3:30 pm at the Small meeting room.

Membership: Spiritual Director - Fr. Mitch Fidyka
Active Members:
 Senior Praesidium: 9
 Junior Praesidium: 2
Auxiliary Members: 74

Mandate: The Legion of Mary intends to render its service, with the spirit and solicitude of Mary, to every person who is the image of Christ.

Activities:

Senior Praesidium - Pastoral Care consisting of visits to sick and shut-ins at home or at Extended Care facilities. Each week we visit approximately 90 Catholic residents offering lay-led liturgy and Holy Communion at the following centres: Good Samaritan Society – Wedman House, Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre, Shepherd’s Care Foundation, Lifestyle Options Riverbend, Riverbend Retirement Residence. Weekly Home visits are made on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday to bring Holy Communion to elderly Catholic residents

who are unable to attend Mass on Sundays. Mass is also celebrated once a month at Good Samaritan Southgate Centre, Lifestyle Options Riverbend and Riverbend Retirement Residence.

Late last year, we lost a member who was assisting at Devonshire Care Centre and Lifestyles Whitemud Crossing. We also lost the Catholic parishioners we used to visit at Windermere and Westcliffe Manor. Currently, our members are not visiting or assisting in these facilities.

Pilgrim Virgin Home Visitations – Two of our members bring the statue of Our Lady to the homes of our parishioners to propagate the Devotion to Mary and to encourage families to receive the Sacraments.

Junior Praesidium – Currently, there are only two members from the junior praesidium. We continuously try to recruit junior members despite the many challenges we meet.

Other Activities:

- We inform our Priests of those residents in extended care facilities who require anointing or Sacrament of Reconciliation especially at Christmas and Easter.
- Masses are offered for all deceased members of the Legion.
- Once per year, we attend volunteer appreciation functions at three of the care facilities.
- We led one Friday's Station of the Cross during Lent.

Weekly

- Senior Praesidium members meet every Thursday in the library, St. Thomas More Church at 7:00 p.m. We hold 52 meetings a year. During the summer months (July and August), our meetings are held at Providence Centre as the Church is closed for evening meetings.
- Junior Praesidium members meet every Saturday at the Small Meeting Room at 3:30 pm for the prescribed 52 meetings a year. During the summer months and whenever the Church is closed, members meet at the houses of two of the members.

Monthly

- Legion of Mary Curia meeting.

Annually

- Marian Mass in May – attending the meetings, arranging the flowers for Our Lady, leading the Rosary and participating in the Mass.
- Legion Functions: Acies Function, Praesidium Function, General Reunion, Outdoor Function and Annual Retreat

We are thankful and grateful to our Lord and to our Blessed Mother Mary for their guidance and protection; to our spiritual director, Fr. Mitch Fidyka, the office staff and all others for their help and assistance throughout the year. A special thanks to our active members who faithfully perform their pastoral works each week, and to our auxiliary members, for their continuous support through their daily prayers.

Respectfully submitted by
Alice M. Estacia, President of Our Lady of Good Counsel Praesidium

The Lord's Flock

The Lord's Flock Catholic charismatic community's mission is to help people encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit – using scripture, praise and worship, and fellowship.

In the past year, The Lord's Flock chapter at St. Thomas More reached out to parishioners, family, and friends through many spiritual events, as well as social activities. Highlights include:

- Weekly prayer meeting:
 - Met every Sunday for two hours, including long weekends, Easter, and Christmas time.
 - Increased attendees' knowledge of Catholic teaching and sacred scripture through catechism talks and Bible study.
 - Promoted rich spiritual life of attendees through intercessory prayer and praying Rosary.
 - Averaged 12 attendees.
- The Lord's Flock members regularly volunteered in other ministries at St. Thomas More, serving as lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, collectors, and coffee servers after morning Mass.
- Held social events for community bonding: picnic in the park, and Christmas party at St. Thomas More parish hall.
- The Lord's Flock members met regularly outside the parish as well, assisting in and attending events of Catholic Renewal Services such as:
 - Hosting a prayer breakfast once a year.
 - Monthly prayer breakfasts.
 - Retreat and Healing services held at St. Thomas More.

Respectfully submitted by
Lunn Bagunoc

Ushers

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School was held July 9 -13, 2018 from 9 am to 12 pm for children ages 4 to 10 and the Captain Program, ages 11 – 14. Cost was \$50.00 per participant and \$25.00 for Captains.

The Circus of Stars theme is one of four K4J Vacation Bible School programs currently produced. In this year's theme, the children are taught how to recognize that God is their Father who loves them with infinite love.

A Volunteer and Captain Orientation is held typically on the Thursday prior to VBS. Volunteers are introduced to the week's schedule while the Captains prepare for the first skit that will be presented on Monday morning.

Children are divided into age groups and meet each morning in the Chapter room for the Opening Prayer. All groups then meet in the church hall for the morning assembly (learning the day's gospel passage, virtue of the day & VBS songs) presented by the Captains. The groups rotate through several Activity Stations each day - Missionary in Motion (Catechesis and Saint of the Day) with Adoration, Games, Crafts, Snacks and Rosary. The morning ends with the children attending the closing assembly presented by the Captains. Groups then move back to the Chapter room for the Closing Prayer and parent pick up.

The Captains program meet in a central room where they work in their chosen squad and prepare for each day's assembly performances and assist in age appropriate leadership roles during the week and at the party. Missionary in Motion (Catechesis), icebreaker games, adoration, mission project, assembly preparation are all activities the Captains participate in throughout the week.

In addition, children learned about vocation to the priesthood and interacted with our parish priests and seminarian Jonathan Quist. They were also encouraged to collect money for St. Joseph's Seminary.

On the last day, K4J kids hold their own special "Circus of Stars" party beginning with Mass, a wrap up show performed by the Captains, thank yous from Family Coordinator and finally food, clowns, a Bouncy Castle, game and craft. Following the party, each child at K4J Vacation Bible School received a Take Home Treasure as a reminder of their VBS participation.

We had a total of 55 participants (ages 4 – 10), 16 Captains (ages 11 – 14) and 25 volunteers.

I am sincerely grateful to Father Sagayaraj Devadoss and Fr. Samson Anthony for their spiritual support, guidance and presence at VBS, seminarian Jonathan Quist for being our special guest presenter and to our wonderful volunteers & parents for their gifts, time, support and example. God has so richly blessed us! A special acknowledgement to Sara Dmitri, Youth Coordinator at St. Thomas More Parish for directing a dynamic and fun program for the Captains.

Respectfully submitted by
Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator

Wedding Rehearsals

A report for this ministry was not submitted this year.

Youth Lectors

The Youth Lector ministry served at the 6 PM Mass prior to the Mass changes on Palm Sunday and is currently serving at the 5 PM Sunday Mass. The Ministry proclaims the Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of Word and leads the Prayers of the Faithful. Training is required before they begin serving and prayerfully rehearse the Mass readings on their own or with parents, depending on their age. Children under the age of 13 are required to audition during training; nonetheless, there is no minimum age. To schedule Youth Lectors for the upcoming season, a mass email is sent out asking each volunteer to sign up for dates that fit with the schedule of the families of the lectors. They also choose which reading they will proclaim - First Reading, Second Reading, or Prayers of the Faithful. The desire is to proclaim the Word; parents, as well as the youth themselves, must agree that the reading can be read competently during Mass.

For the 2018-2019 year, we have had an average of 14 – 20 lectors scheduled every four months aged 9 – 25 years of age. Recruitment is done as needed, including during the Stewardship Fair and the summer months.

We have very devoted volunteers, but there have been times where Youth Lectors signed up with not enough notice. By approaching the situation critically, I determined how to reach out to the parents and volunteers. I also try to choose the fairest course of action so that committed Youth Lectors are not overscheduled.

I give genuine thanks to our Youth Coordinator, Sara Dmitri, and Family Evangelization Coordinator, Monica Bober. I am grateful for all our Youth Lectors who so delightfully proclaim God's love for us. They serve in a beautiful and vital ministry. Our youth are dutiful to their commitment, to their community, and the church. It is through them that God's Word is spoken with the voice of our youth.

Respectfully submitted by
Angela Moreno, Youth Lector Coordinator

Youth Ministry

This year of youth ministry was very fruitful, with many youth becoming involved after Confirmation, to a growing opportunity for youth involvement through different Parish organizations. We began Young Adult Ministry, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are constantly getting youth, young adults or parents interested in ministries or the Sacraments. Based on this year's ministry, I have come up with three goals for the upcoming year.

First, continue to grow in partnership with Knights of Columbus, Saint Vincent De Paul, and other ministries within the Parish, to continue to involve youth, families and organizations into the Parish community.

Second, grow our Young Adults ministry. Creating a foundation of faithful adults who are just out of school, in university or starting a career, gives great role models for the youth, and space for young adults to thrive and eventually become involved in youth ministry.

Finally, I would like to have a Youth Advisory Committee to help oversee the Youth ministry in the Parish. This will help focus the ministry, potentially providing more opportunities for parents, for spiritual guidance, and a more overarching commitment to Youth Ministry.

Overall, the ministry was successful in our mission and would like to thank all the volunteer hours and prayers that were offered for the success of the youth ministry program.

Conquest & Challenge Clubs

This ministry targets youth ages 11 – 14, providing opportunities for 14- 17 year olds to lead small groups, and adults to help run the program.

Highlights of 2018-2019

- Registrations per program

Conquest	22 students	7 volunteer leaders
Challenge	22 students	5 volunteer leaders
- Both Conquest and Challenge continued their apostolate of forming youth in the Catholic virtues through teen/peer leadership.
- Conquest grew in teen and adult leadership, engaging the high school students to plan topics, discussion points, teachings and lead small group discussion.

- Conquest and Challenge also have been active in various service and apostolic projects throughout the year.
 - The Conquest boys and Challenge Girls enjoyed a Christmas social which began with carolling in front of St. John the Evangelist Church/Candy Cane Lane
 - The Challenge girls, participated in making bookmarks for Prisoners, in our Church wide campaign
 - The Conquest boys made Christmas cards which were given to residence's at seniors homes
- The Conquest boys were invited to an evening at the seminary, where they got to grow in faith, friendship and discuss the topic of vocations and life in the seminary.
- Many of the Challenge and Conquest teen leaders will be coming back for 2019/2020 year. We will grow the opportunities for leadership in the younger girls, and have greater opportunities for apostolic projects

World Youth Day

This group is targeted towards Young Adults (18 – 35 yr olds) to attend a worldwide gathering of Catholic Young Adults.

Highlights of 2018-2019

- No Young Adults went to World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019. 6 Young Adults attended World Youth Day at Home, on January 23rd at St. Teresa's Parish.
- Preparations for World Youth Day 2022, in Lisbon Portugal have already begun. We had our first WYD Meeting on Tuesday, May 21st, 2019. 10 attended, 7 contacted me directly as they wanted to come, but could not. 30 others have said that they are interested.
- Fr. Mitch has indicated a goal of 100 young people to attend WYD 2022 and to have all of the costs covered, which is approximately \$200,000.

Youth Ministry Advisory Committee

This committee is intended to act as a guiding force for all youth ministry within St. Thomas More Parish. Committee members should include youth, those who are currently in programing, and those who have significant experience in youth programing.

The Youth Ministry Advisory Committee was encouraged to continue by Jonathan Quist when he left in 2017. I, Sara would like to restart this committee as a way to unify the Youth Ministry at the Parish.

The goal is to start the committee in August 2019.

Anchor Youth Group

This group is intended for youth 14 – 18 (Grades 9 – 12).

The Dominic Savio Senior Youth Group is a social/faith sharing group that meets every Sunday after the 6:00 PM Mass for students 14 – 17 years of age. This year we renamed the group to Anchor Youth, from St. Dominic Savio Youth Group, as there was confusion about whether the group met at St. Dominic Savio Parish. We have grown from 5 regular youth, to 10, and now have 3 young adult volunteers. The group is a safe space for youth who want to live out their Catholic faith, and can find support in how to deal with certain situations.

Many of these youth would have attended one of the Archdiocesan summer camps, Our Lady of Victory or Camp Encounter. As both of these camps are not running this summer, due to renovations, Anchor Youth will be taking a 4-day camp to Hinton. Hoping this will encourage and increase friendships, prayer life, and leadership skills.

School Outreach

Last year, school outreach took up 50% of the Youth Coordinator time. It had great value, however was a large commitment and took time from the Parish youth.

In September 2018, Fr. Mitch requested that school outreach shift to Priest visits, celebrating the Sacrament of the Mass with small groups (1-3 classes), at each school. This provided the children with a one-on-one encounter with the Eucharist, priest and getting to know the Mass - which for many is a very special experience.

The school Outreach for 2018/2019 includes:

Mass within the schools:

- Approx. 70 school Masses by Fr. Mitch and Fr. Joy, with group sizes under 80, usually around 60.
- Giving a more one-on-one experience of the Eucharist.

Liturgies within the schools:

- Deacons are invited to attend/celebrate liturgies for a variety of events.
- There were about 15 events throughout the year.

School Visits

- I attended schools for a variety of events, talking on points about the Catholic faith, in relation to the schools.
- Tried to keep focus on the sacraments or liturgical time of year.
- Approximately 25 classes visited.

School Outreach has continued to make a great connection with the schools, particularly with the schools and our priests. Amongst the greatest connection of bringing the Mass and the Eucharist to the students and teachers, there are many other wonderful outcomes of this program.

- St. Boniface, St. Teresa and Monsignor William Irwin, Elementary Schools all created a chapel space within their school. Having this chapel space has provided a special place of prayer for classes to easily attend and for small celebrations to take part in.
- Many schools requested the priests to come back to celebrate Masses for a second time – however due to availability, this could not occur.

Suggestions regarding this ministry:

- It is difficult to work this ministry into Junior High and High Schools. We need to be watchful of when the exam times are, and when possible opportunities for these events to occur.
 - Options for 2019/2020
 - Contact Junior Highs to schedule their Masses before Elementary schools.
 - For MMM, possibly offering one Mass a month at MMM.

I would also suggest possibly having a take home note/reflection that would go home to the parents (that would include the Church's contact information and Mass Times).

Confirmation

Confirmation is intended for students Grade 7 – 12 (after age 11). Parents and other volunteers are encouraged to become small group leaders and engage further in the studies of their son/daughter.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in our parish on November 18th, 2018 with, his Grace, Archbishop Richard Smith, who confirmed 150 confirmandi.

The Confirmation class was lead by the Youth Coordinators. Thirty volunteers were recruited to help with the program, leading small groups that were kept consistent over the 6 lessons. There was a training session to help prepare volunteers for servicing in this ministry.

The formation program schedule was new this year. It involved families choosing sessions either on Sunday (from 1:30-3:30 pm) or Mondays (6:30-8:30 PM), for 6 sessions. The program included a Parent night, a retreat hosted by Mike Landry, a night of reconciliation, rehearsal with parents and sponsors and a celebration after Confirmation. This timeline and schedule worked well for families and volunteers, and made the preparation sessions more personal as there were less than 100 in the group compared to the 200 in 2017.

Confirmation in 2019 will take place November 24th, 2019 and will be celebrated by Fr. Mitch Fidyka.

Some suggestions for 2019:

- Have a greater focus on community and connecting them to STM
- Continue engagement after confirmation
- Had a Confirmation Party in Advent – it was outside the scope of finances, but will be repeated next year. 65 attended
- Need more consistent opportunities to have kids/families volunteer, and get involved in the Parish life!

Confirmation 2019 will be on November 24th. Need to have more consistent opportunities to have kids/families volunteer, and get involved in the Parish life!

Young Adult Ministry

These ministries are intended for Young Adults aged 18 – 35 years old.

These ministries have all taken place since January 2019.

Starting in Lent, we ran Young Adults dinners on Tuesday nights, to create a space for young adults to meet, to eat, and to grow in faith. They were mildly successful as there were approximately 8 young adults at every meeting, with approximately 4 regulars.

While considering the groups future, it was decided that the group would continue to meet on Tuesdays from 7:30 – 9:30 pm, in a more casual setting, including spending time playing games, going out to eat, watching a movie or discussing a topic on faith. This has continued on until June and we continue to have new and interested young adults who come, many who attend adoration and/or Mass beforehand!

NET hosted a Young Adult retreat on April 23rd, 2019. There were 70 young adults in attendance from around the city. A database was made with the names and we now have a Young Adults newsletter with 115 names on it, who receive emails periodically, about 2 times a month.

This will be a great group to grow from for World Youth Day.

Youth Volunteer Ministry

Similarly run compared to 2017/2018 year, this ministry has seen multiple youth come back to serve at the Parish in different ways. This has provided a place for Confirmation students to return, or Catholics who are from our schools but are not practicing to experience time in the Parish. This is an open ministry, which invites junior and senior high students to drop by at the Church on Thursdays from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. These students have assisted in preparing documents for Confirmation, first Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Baptism, they have helped Arthur with maintenance of Church grounds (inside and outside) and with an array of other activities that assist with Youth Ministry programming.

Other volunteer opportunities for 2018/2019 included:

- KofC pancake breakfasts
- KofC Youth events: including pumpkin carving, easter egg hunt, Mother's Day flowers
- KofC: Seniors Dinner
- Saint Vincent De Paul: Painting the Sea Canister for North of 60 / Fort Good Hope
- Confirmation Lesson assistance
- Sandwich making for the Marian Centre

I suggest that this ministry continues to run in the 2019/2020 year. Often the volunteering involves Parents and Youth, or engages kids who need volunteer hours but are not encouraged by their parents to go to Mass! I would suggest growing a 'database' with the information of these volunteers, and invite them to other Church events or youth groups that run in the parish.

Youth Retreats/Events within the Archdiocese

Two retreats were organized and attended by the Youth Coordinators at St. Thomas More Church during the 2018/2019 year.

Holy Trinity Church in Spruce Grove ran a day long retreat on February 23rd, 2019. I organized a group of 12, from the parish to attend the retreat. Approximately 125 youth attended from around the Edmonton area. It was a wonderful day of prayer, talks, fellowship, mass and adoration. Many St. Thomas More youth shared some very inspirational moments that they experienced God's love throughout the retreat and were encouraged to grow more fully with God.

A NET Retreat was hosted on April 25th, 2019 at St. Thomas More Parish. Originally, it was planned for Grade 7 – 8, a way to invite those who have received Confirmation in the past two years, to come back to the parish. However, with a low interest from past Confirmation kids, it was extended to Grade 6 – Grade 9. 50 youth attended from either our Parish, Schools or Youth Groups. There were 4 High school volunteers. Many of those who came enjoyed themselves greatly.

If this was to happen again next year, I would suggest not having it the week after Easter, and to start promotion earlier on in the year. Also, consider running a weekend retreat instead.

Respectfully submitted by
Sara Dmitri, Youth Evangelization Coordinator

Youth Ushers and Greeters

YOUTH USHERS

Youth Usher and Adult Head Ushers serve at the 5 pm Mass by helping to establish a climate of welcome, helpfulness and order among those gathered for the Mass. Youth Ushers assist with the collection and usher for the faithful during Holy Communion.

All new youth and adult Head Ushers are trained by the Usher Coordinator and other Head Ushers. There is no scheduling for the youth ushers. Upon arriving 15 minutes before Mass begins, the youth ushers are asked to sign in with the Head Ushers (2), place their nametag on and follow directions of the Head Ushers for serving in the Mass.

For the 2018-2019 year, we had an average of **5-10 ushers** serve each Sunday at Mass and **10-15 listed as Youth Ushers**. The response from the youth being involved has been fair to good and therefore we need more ushers to serve in this ministry.

HEAD USHERS

A Head Usher for the Youth led Sunday Mass at 5 pm must be an adult 18 years of age or older.

Head Ushers arrive one half hour before the Mass preparing the collection baskets, organizing the ushers and finding a family to bring up the gifts. During Mass, head ushers are required to seat parishioners, oversee collection and the taking up of the gifts, bring the collection and placing it inside the church safe, usher for Holy Communion and ensure that those who are disabled have the Eucharist brought to them. At the end of the Mass, the Head Ushers put out the bulletins and when Mass is over, ensure everything is put away.

We currently have 7 Head Ushers, but more ushers are needed to assist scheduled head ushers when they are away or unable to volunteer.

I very grateful to our Head Ushers who give of their time and Christian witness in supporting our youth serving at these Masses.

I am also grateful to Tim Roth, one of our Youth Head Ushers for so kindly accepting to be the Coordinator for the Youth Ushers Ministry as of March 10, 2019. All scheduling of head ushers, training, reports, administrative and miscellaneous tasks regarding the Youth Usher Ministry will now be taken care of by Tim.

As of Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019, the Sunday Youth Mass time now begins at 5 pm.

Additional notes from Tim Roth are as follows:

I am planning to hold a social event this Spring to thank my ushers and to build a team atmosphere in the group. I am also considering future social interactions with the altar servers. I would invite Christopher to encourage any of the altar servers who attend the 5 pm Sunday Mass, but are not serving on that Sunday to consider signing up as an usher to help out on an ad-hoc basis. The youth lectors would also be more than welcome. I will speak with Sara to see what other youth activities are ongoing and encourage my team to participate.

Monica indicated that \$300 is available for 2018-2019 budget year. I will look into options for a social and estimate a budget.

Recruitment: I would like an opportunity to address the Sunday 5 pm congregation on a few Sundays throughout the year to solicit help from any of the youth and adults in our Parish. I am also happy to include and invite our youth to consider signing up as lectors, altar servers or in the choir as well. I think sometimes that youth require more encouragement and assurance of a welcome to any new ministry; so, periodic announcement (approximately 4 x per year) either before or after Mass will help to bolster the number of active youth participants.

Respectfully submitted by
Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator, and
Tim Roth, Youth Usher Coordinator