



CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD LEADERSHIP REPORTS

January 2021

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ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

Mike Petruconis has settled into the position of parish administrator. Barry Weber has agreed to help out with the Administration Commission until a chairperson can be found. Thad Standley has agreed to take on the role of Stewardship Committee Chair. We are starting to see increased activity with optimism of a COVID vaccine on the horizon, and our finances are good.

Fr. Rick and the **Buildings and Grounds** committee decided to take advantage of the COVID period to move ahead with replacing the carpet and painting the ceiling in the worship space. This will put the final touches on the overhaul of the sanctuary.

With focus shifting to online/electronic **communications**, we have seen steady increases in subscribers to our weekly eblast, our Facebook followers and YouTube subscribers. In December we had 13,560 visitors to our website, with our online Mass page being a huge draw. Christmas Masses were announced through our social media, website, the bulletin and an ad in the Sun Current. We also sent a postcard to parishioners and all residences in a two-mile radius of the church (similar to last year). Up next is to discuss strategy for the upcoming Lent and Easter season with the worship team.

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION

Community Life is focused on planning a successful **Virtual Cana Dinner Event** that will be held on February 13; time to be determined.

The commission goals were reevaluated and changes were made to be in line with St. Edward's commitment to stay connected through the remainder of the pandemic and beyond, and to increase participation in community life events.

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

This month, our commission volunteered with Loaves & Fishes at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. We encourage all families to consider taking a shift and serving a meal together in a very fun, easy, and safe way. Meals are prepared ahead of time. They simply need to be packaged in "to-go" containers and a Loaves & Fishes staff member will run the drive-thru. Contact Therese Cassidy (therese.cassidy@comcast.net) for more information or to sign up!

While we worked, our commission discussed how we are engaging with families and students in the time of COVID—primarily through Zoom. We discussed the idea of possibly bringing back **Acts 29** and **Base Camp** (both high school ministries) to in-person gatherings beginning in February. Other grades/areas are being considered, but nothing has been decided at this time.

We will be holding a **Valentine's Day Drive-Thru** event for families, where we will have games, activities, and pass out Lenten Family Boxes. More information to come.

The sacraments of **Confirmation** and **First Eucharist** will be celebrated at private services in May at St. Edward, and **First Reconciliation** will be held on an ongoing basis, scheduled privately with Fr. Rick.

Although we are not able to have an on-campus **Fish Fry**, the Knights of Columbus have offered to host a drive-thru fish fry at the Bloomington Event Center on Friday, March 12, with proceeds benefiting St. Edward's faith formation program.

As we look to summer, nothing is set-in-stone. We will be continually monitoring health guidelines to see what's possible

PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

Hospital Ministry and **Nursing Home Ministry** are closed to visitors, so we are not providing services at the moment.

Memorial Garden Committee is going to be meeting in the next couple of months to plan spring and summer maintenance.

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Prayer shawls continue to come in and go out. Shawls are blessed outside of a Mass, and are being packaged differently to minimize handling and contact.

Stephen Ministers have been meeting with their care receivers over the phone since the beginning of quarantine. They have been given the go ahead to visit in person if both parties are comfortable, while following social distancing and wearing masks.

We are in need of people for the **Homebound Communion** ministry. Training will be provided.

We have had 11 **funerals** since our last leadership night meeting in November: Gingerich, Wahl, Dulas, Walker, Anderson, Flammang, Creagan, Frost, Johnson, Pavlak and now Donovan.

Fr. Rick continues to celebrate the **sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation** individually by appointment, and both Mia Ah Sani and Mary Kay Hird are available to provide individual communion by appointment should people feel uncomfortable coming to Mass in person, or if they are in a vulnerable population.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Our **Sister Parish** in Nicaragua has many needs for their rectory. The ministry has enough funds for the first two Feed My Starving Children half-containers of food. Fr. Rick would like to explore the possibility of having a Sister Parish priest come to St. Edward and speak to the parish in 2022.

We are uncertain whether we are able to travel to our **Sister Community** in the Dominican Republic for Campamento in 2021. Ministry is working on plans for in-person and virtual camp scenarios and will check into internet speeds and capabilities in order to have a better virtual connection with the home. We are considering funding a possible internet upgrade to better foster the relationship.

We are still funding **Loaves & Fishes** (\$700/month) and **Catholic Charites** (\$300/month in lieu of making lunches). The new Loaves & Fishes location is at Oak Grove Presbyterian church.

During the pandemic **Meals on Wheels** has had no problem getting drivers. However, post-pandemic they may need more help as current volunteers return to work and have less flexibility, and some previous volunteers feel unable to return.

The **Dudley Emergency Fund** has helped several people with rent, mortgage, and utility bills.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The month of December brought about many beautiful liturgies for the Catholic Church and here at St. Edward, we were happy to celebrate them with people in person and online. We started with Advent Sundays and moved to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The next week, due to a pandemic exception by the Archbishop, we celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation with general absolution. That brought us to two Christmas Eve Masses and two on Christmas Day. We quickly moved on to the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph followed by the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. All were meaningful and filled with beautiful music and prayer.

We hope you were able to take part in some way to experience the wonder and beauty of our Catholic faith by attending in person or watching online. We thank you for your support. We also thank the many people who took part in these liturgies as Musicians, Cantors, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors, CREW members, and AV assistants.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled Leadership Night is February 16, beginning at 7:00pm via Zoom.

All parishioners are invited to Leadership Night. Zoom links are published on our website as part of the event approximately one week in advance of each month's meeting. Use the "Events" tab in the top menu of any page to find upcoming Leadership Nights.