PASTORAL VISIT *of* HIS GRACE,
THE MOST REVEREND BRIAN J. DUNN
to GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

GOOD SHEPHERD
Catholic Parish

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
& SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024
THE SOLEMNITY OF JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE, YEAR B

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Second Pastoral Visit *of* His Grace,
Archbishop Brian J. Dunn *to* Good Shepherd Parish
Saturday, November 23 & Sunday, November 24, 2024

Saturday, November 23, 2024 @ Saint Agnes Gymnasium

- 9:30 A.M. Tea, Coffee & Refreshments
- 9:45 A.M. Parish Administrator's Welcome & Opening Prayer
- 9:50 A.M. Initial Remarks from Archbishop Brian Dunn
- 9:55 A.M. Remarks from the Chair of the PLT & Chair of PC
- 10:00 A.M. Presentation on Children & Youth Catechesis & Sacramental Prep
- 10:15 A.M. Presentation on Adult Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep
- 10:25 A.M. Presentation on O.C.I.A. Program
- 10:35 A.M. Presentation of Baptismal Preparation
- 10:45 A.M. Presentation of Liturgy& Music
- 10:55 A.M. Presentation of SVDP
- 11:05 A.M. Presentation of Other Outreach Initiatives & KOC
- 11:15 A.M. Final Remarks from Archbishop Dunn & Closing Prayer
- 11:20 A.M. Brief Time with the Archbishop, PC, PLT & Staff

There will be a break for lunch.

- 1:30 A.M. Meeting with Finance Council & Property Manager

Saturday, November 23, 2024 @ St. Thomas Aquinas Church

- 4:00 P.M. Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King
- 5:15 P.M. Celebration & Blessing of the New Building
    - *Followed by a time of food & fellowship*

Sunday, November 24, 2024 @ St. Thomas Aquinas Church

- 8:30 A.M. Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King
    - *Followed by Tea, Coffee & Muffins in the New Parish Centre*

Sunday, November 24, 2024 @ St. Agnes Church

- 10:10 A.M. Visiting the Religious Education Classes
- 10:30 A.M. Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King
    - *With the Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation for 2 Adults*
    - *Knights of Columbus Ice Cream Social Event to follow in the Gym*
- 12:30 P.M. Clergy Meeting

ADMINISTRATOR'S WELCOME

November 20, 2024

Dear Archbishop Dunn,

On behalf of our parishioners, ministers and leaders, welcome to Good Shepherd Parish! We are delighted that you are coming for your second Pastoral Visit to our Parish, the first having been on Palm Sunday weekend in 2023.

Shortly after that visit, I came to the parish following the reassignment of Fr. Irek, Bem who served as pastor from the summer of 2019.

Since arriving in the parish, the leaders and I have been continuing the work of amalgamation, striving to build into our parish identity, not only in theory, but in practice. We have been inspired by Pope Francis's words in his encyclical Evangelii Gaudium,

I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself.

This commitment has resulted in the change and reduction to our weekend Mass schedule and the ongoing amalgamation of existing parish ministries to work together for the common goal of making our parish a *Community of Missionary Disciples.* When I arrived in Good Shepherd Parish, I was delighted to discover so many ministries already underway with many committed parishioners involved. Our work with the various ministries over the last year has been aimed at building upon good their good work, reorienting their approaches and practices in light of our amalgamated parish, ensuring our ministries were inclusive and open to all parishioners, and many areas working towards a closer following of Archdiocesan best practices, policies and procedures.

Our parish was also privileged to play an important role in hosting the recent Eucharistic Congress, which was a blessing to the whole archdiocese, and very special grace for our parish.

I am grateful to the ministers, leaders, staff and leadership team for their hard work last year. What we have accomplished together has been the result of much hard work, a commitment to the work of renewal, and a reliance on prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. It has been a pleasure to serve as Administrator of Good Shepherd Parish these last sixteen months.

Fr. Patrick Salah
Administrator, Good Shepherd Parish

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Under the leadership of our former pastor, Father Irek Bem, the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) was made up of the pastor and five parishioners of GSP: Catherine Droesbeck, Kathleen Bekkers, Emma Vossen, Ian MacDonald and Patrick Sweet. When the new Parish Administrator (Father Patrick Salah) arrived, he worked with the same team members while discerning who would be a good fit for the PLT under his administration. By the end of the summer (August 2024), some changes were made to the team. The current team is made up of Father Patrick, Parish Administrator, Kathleen Bekkers, Chair, Catherine Droesbeck and Emma Vossen. Ian MacDonald and Patrick Sweet were thanked for their years of service and have moved on to roles in other ministries within Good Shepherd Parish.

The PLT typically meets weekly on Tuesday evenings for approximately two hours. There is a prepared agenda and minutes are taken and shared (via Google Drive). The PLT also participates in the Archdiocesan PLT In-Person Gatherings as scheduled during the year. It is more difficult for members to attend the Archdiocesan PLT Zoom meetings on Thursday afternoons as our PLT members are working.

As a PLT, we support Father Patrick in his decision making through prayer, discussions, and constructive debates. As Good Shepherd Parish continues to unite as one parish family (formerly the parishes of St. Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs and St. Agnes), operational decisions are often made that will affect parishioners originally from the two different church sites differently. The PLT has been intentional about being transparent with the decisions (example, Mass schedule) and has sought to give parishioners opportunities to have input and give feedback. Prayer and discernment are a priority when making these decisions.

The main areas of engagement/discussion at our meetings over the past year include:

- Changes in Mass times (Sunday schedule)
- Developing the Pastoral Council
- Building/growing faith formation programs
- Eucharistic Congress
- New building at St. Thomas Aquinas site
- General building maintenance

As we move into the new Liturgical year, we will be working on goals around:

- Best use of the new parish building
- Working closely with our new Pastoral Council in developing a long-term vision for our parish
- Supporting all ministries, especially with the development and growth of faith formation programs

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Bekkers
Chair, Parish Leadership Team

PASTORAL COUNCIL

During Fall 2024, there was much activity to reconstitute the Pastoral Council for Good Shepherd Parish. An original Pastoral Council was formed in 2021 but factors, mostly related to the impacts of the Covid 19 Pandemic conspired against the effective operation of the Council and having regularly attended meetings.

With the previous Pastor's announced relocation from the Archdiocese, and the self-described learning curve of our new Spiritual Leader, Father Patrick Salah, activity associated with a Pastoral Council was in abeyance from 2023.

After the passing of almost a year, Father Patrick indicated that it was time to have a Parish Pastoral Council re-established. Activity began with the appointment of a new Pastoral Council Chair in July 2024. In September, the discernment process for new members commenced. The remaining nominal members of the original Council were contacted and had opportunity to discuss whether they remained interested in serving on the Pastoral Council. Announcements in the Parish communicated a transparent process where interested parishioners could put their name forward, or nominate another parishioner(s) to serve on the Council.

Between the Thanksgiving weekend and the week of November 11th, interested parties continued their discernment which included conversations with the Chairperson after having read the Archdiocesan Guidelines for Pastoral Councils and the Archdiocesan Document, "Communities of Missionary Disciples."

Good Shepherd Parish was blessed to receive more nominations than could be accommodated for the new Council. The Council will also include one parish staff as well as one member of the Pariah Leadership Team.

Father Patrick concluded the discernment process in mid-November with invitations issued to join the Council, with a commitment of two years. The Parish Pastoral Council has 12 members in total. The list of members is found below.

Jim Abraham
Bill Barlett
Jennifer Komar
Fred Morley
Tracy Francis (Staff)
Father Patrick Salah
Manda Alvine
Elizabeth Craig
Ian MacDonald
David Salah
Catherine Droesbeck (PLT)
Deacon Bill Grady

Regular monthly meetings will begin in January 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ian MacDonald
Chair, Pastoral Council

CHILDREN & YOUTH CATECHETICS & SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Students & Catechists:

Registered Children in the Religious Education Program as of September 2024:

Elementary (Pre-primary to Grade 6) = 133
Junior High School (Grade 7, 8 and 9) = 42
Total = 175

Pre-primary	11
Primary	16
Grade 1	12
Grade 2	22
Grade 3	16
Grade 4	17
Grade 5	22
Grade 6	17
Grade 7	14
Grade 8/9 Confirmation	28
High School & University Youth Group	30

Registered and preparing for Sacraments:

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion = 26.
Confirmation = 28.

Catechists:

Elementary = 20
Jr High / Confirmation = 4
Children's Liturgy of the Word = 7
High School Youth Group = 4
Substitutes = 6

The past two years has seen an increase in families from India and Africa. This brings joyful diversity and opportunity to our Parish. We are learning about life in other countries, assisting our brothers and sisters in Christ in adapting to life in Canada and building relationships strong in our common faith.

The Religious Education Program plays a key role in bringing families new to Canada together, offering them the opportunity to support one another and grow in fellowship. It is beautiful to see our parish work together and take care of one another.

Program Materials:

Preschool to Grade 6

Stories of God's Love - RCL Benziger
Catholic Mom
Teachers Resource
Formed.org
Big Truth Bible Lessons
Broken Halo
Jared Dees Sunday School
Catholic Icing
Children's Liturgy Gospel Readings

First Reconciliation:

On Our Way with Jesus
Roman Missal Pardon and Peace
Roman Missal Reconciliation
We Celebrate Reconciliation
Parent Meetings and Retreat

First Holy Communion

On Our Way with Jesus
Roman Missal Eucharist – We Give Thanks
Roman Missal Eucharist – Do This in Memory of Me
We Celebrate the Eucharist
Rite of Enrolment – *usually Spring so we can hand out individual pray cards to parishioners.*
Parents Meeting & Retreat

Grade 7, 8 & 9

Youth Alpha Canada
RCL Benziger - Life of Christ in the New Testament
Formed.org
NET / HCC Retreats
Self-giving service / Outreach projects
Youth leadership and mentorship opportunities.
Ministry practice – Youth in Ministry Masses.
Emphasis on celebrating the sacraments.

Confirmation

Our Catholic Heritage – RCL Benziger
Roman Missal - Confirmation
What the church Believes – RCL Benziger
YOUCAT
Wild Goose video series
CHOSEN your journey towards Confirmation video series
The Search video series
Social Justice Outreach participation – Required.
Saint's Name Project – Required.
Lenten Gospel Project – Required.
Letter to Archbishop – Required.
NET or HCC Retreat – Required.
Reconciliation – Required.
Youth leadership and mentorship opportunities – Required.
Self-giving service hours (20 hours) – Required.
Participation in Ministry – Required.
Rite of Enrolment - *usually in the Spring so we can hand out individual prayer cards to parishioners*

High School Youth Group (Meets biweekly)

Open, safe discussions.
A variety of videos are used for reference on particular topics - Robert Barron, Chris Stefanick, etc.
We practice prayer methods.
Play Bible Games.
Share a meal.

Program Overview:

Weekly Religion Classes

Preschool – Gr 6 (Sundays 9:30am)
Gr 7 – 9 (Tuesdays 6:30pm).

- *We build the program around the Liturgical Calendar and Feast days.*

Other Components:

- Children's Liturgy is offered during the 10:30am Mass.
- Catechist Formation & Meetings- *we aim for two opportunities within the Catechetical year.*
- Friday Fun Nights - the last Friday of each month Sept.-May, for elementary children with Jr High / High School Youth Leaders. Opportunity for learning prayer methods, bible facts and mentorship.
- Elementary Rosary – 1st Sunday of each month we all gather in the church to pray the Rosary as a school. Family is invited to join us.
- Friends & Family Hike -We use one of the local trails. Boy Scouts & Knights serve hot chocolate and cookies.
- Family Advent Wreath Making - Friday evening before 1st Sunday of Advent.

- Little Church Christmas Bazaar and Knights of Columbus Chili Lunch - annual fundraiser to help achieve our financial commitment to the Little Church children.
- Christmas Concert – Sunday after Mass, before Christmas Break. The entire parish community is invited. We present class skits and singing on the true meaning of Christmas. A hotdog lunch is offered after the concert.
- Friends & Family Skate (free) – Dec. 31st at Centennial Arena (since 2005 as per Jack Poteri's special instructions). Jack was a long time Parishioner and gifted us with free ice time each New Year's.
- Youth in Ministry - training / scheduling. Last Sunday of each month youth serve in ministry roles at Mass.
- Little Church Missions - Social Justice awareness / fundraising / Bingo Canteen / prayer and corresponded. Supporting children through Chalice, Pathways to Progress, various schools in Uganda since 2006.
- Steubenville Conference - Weekend Retreat. Fundraising, group meetings and Parish awareness
- Retreats > NET / Holy Cross Chaplaincy for Confirmation Youth and Junior High.
- March Break Bible Camp (Proceeds support youth attending the Steubenville Atlantic Conference).

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanya Thompson
Director of Religious Education

ADULT FAITH FORMATION & SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

This fall we offered three in-person and one at-home Adult Faith Formation programs which include:

Symbolon, Part One (10-week program)

Symbolon is a systematic presentation of our Catholic Faith. This Bible Study will lead you through the "big picture" of the Catholic Faith by looking at the Creed. *Symbolon* brings together some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world to guide us through the richness of our faith.

There are 3 attendees participating in Symbolon on Wednesday evenings along with two helpers and the Facilitator. The group begins with prayer, watches the video and breaks out into discussion about the topic. They have fellowship and refreshments. It is approximately 1.5 hours each session.

Facilitated by Jill Cumby with helpers, MJ MacNeil & Anne Boudreau.

The Rescue Project (8-week program)

The Rescue Project is an 8-part video series that shares the compelling message of the gospel in an attractive and concentrated way allowing people to see reality, and to help make sense of the world, history and life that is vastly different from the story our modern culture tells.

This program comes from Acts XXIX, founded and led by Fr. John Riccardo, a priest from the Archdiocese of Detroit. Fr. Riccardo invites and urges us all to become missionary disciples. He wants us to clearly understand Jesus' commission for us. He says that when we dive into the Gospel together, our goal should not be to merely learn something, but to experience something; it is any opportunity to let God overwhelm us.

There are 14 attendees participating in the Rescue Project on Thursday evenings. There are two helpers along with the Facilitator. The group begins with prayer, watches the video and breaks out into discussion about the topic. We have fellowship and refreshments. It is approximately 2 hours each session.

Facilitated by Tracy Francis with helpers, Paula Layton & Anne Boudreau

The Chosen – Season 4 (8-week program)

THE CHOSEN is a dramatic series about the life of Jesus Christ from the point of view of those who met him. It tells the stories of ordinary people like Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, and the disciples like Matthew, Simon Peter and John They're all negotiating their own challenges and issues, but once they begin interacting with Jesus, their lives begin to change. As they become believers and are called into His service, they must also cope with the changes in their lives, and what lies in store for them as a result of this transformation.

There are 16 attendees participating in The Chosen on Sunday evenings. There are two helpers along with the Facilitator. The group begins with prayer, watches the episode and breaks out into discussion about the topic. We have fellowship and refreshments. It is approximately 2 hours each session.

Facilitated by Tracy Francis with helpers, Rachael Doherty & Anne Boudreau

Life Group (At home faith study)

This group began in April 2023 and continues to this day. A follow up from Alpha, members meet for fellowship, exploring faith and sharing. This group currently has six members with invited guests who join occasionally. Using the Formed website the group began with *The Wild Goose* episode series. Following the episodes, fruitful discussion takes place which helps in spiritual growth and deeper connection of The Holy Spirit in their daily lives. Next for the Life Group is to read a *book* by Lisa Miller, "*The Awakened Brain: The Psychology of Spirituality*". As was advertised in our church bulletin, several of the Life Group members were able to attend Dr. Miller's presentation at Sacred Heart School. Their plan is to read the book in sections, followed by meetings. They do social activities together. The Life Group breaks in June for the summer and begins in September. They break during Christmas with dinner together.

Facilitated by Ann Duffy & Betty Stock.

Marriage Preparation

At this time we do not have a formal Marriage Preparation Program. Couples interested in receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony have an initial meeting with Fr. Patrick to find out more about the Sacrament and the parish process. Those interested in proceeding complete an online Marriage Preparation Course, entitled Pre-Cana, and they continue to meet with Fr. Patrick regularly to discuss the content of the course, the nature of the sacrament, and to plan the liturgy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Francis
Office Administrator

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Participants

3 Catechumens
3 Adult Catholics needing sacraments

Team

The team is composed of myself: Mary Thérèse MacDonell, Joel Culina, and Cameron Craig. I directed family and adult faith formation at St. Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs Parish for 6 years. Joel Culina was a catechist in the Family Faith program for 7 years, and Cameron did the RCIA program as a catechumen.

Program

We use the newly revised Symbolon program from the Augustine Institute. Symbolon has 16 sessions and is based on the Creed. Other resources are the Catechism, and the Bible.
Recently we used a video of part of one of Archbishop Durocher's talks from the Eucharistic Congress. In the power point he used stick figures to explain our need for a saviour.
We incorporate Lectio Divina in the sessions. We plan to do "Opening the Word" with the Sunday gospel once we move to the new Parish Centre at St. Thomas Aquinas. We also plan to have parishioners come and talk about the ministries in which they participate at the parish and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Thérèse MacDonell
OCIA Team Leader

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Purpose:
The Baptism Preparation Program at Good Shepherd Parish is a key component of our Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation efforts, aligning with our parish's guiding principles of hospitality, belonging, and non-judgmental approach.

Hospitality: Our program invites families with warmth and compassion, encouraging them to feel at ease and open to exploring their faith.

Belonging: Through shared faith experiences and support, we help families feel they are part of a larger community, one that values each member's journey and nurtures their spiritual growth.

Non-judgmental Approach: Our program aims to make all participants feel accepted, loved, and supported, reaffirming that they are valued members of God's family.

First Steps:
To begin the preparations, families are required to schedule a meeting with our parish priest, Father Patrick Salah. This meeting is an essential first step to get to know one another, discuss the sacrament of baptism and to ensure that the parents are prepared spiritually for this beautiful sacrament. During this meeting, Fr. Patrick provides guidance on the significance of baptism, its responsibilities, and answer any questions they may have.

Baptism Prep Program:
In addition to the meeting with Fr. Patrick, some parents are required to participate in a Baptism Preparation program. This program is designed to welcome families into our parish life by cultivating meaningful relationships with other parishioners. We aim to help them understand the sacrament of baptism, and the role of parents and godparents in raising their child in the Catholic faith. This program also provides an opportunity for personal reflection where participants may examine their own faith and grow a deeper relationship with Jesus in a spiritual setting.

Program Structure:
Throughout the preparations for baptism, we follow a series of videos from Ascension Press called *Belonging* with Fr. Mike Schmitz. Prior to their meeting with Fr. Patrick, we ask that they watch the following videos:

Belonging Welcome video (2 minutes) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3O1R0bLedf4
Role of Godparents video (6 minutes) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqigCfhAMPY

The program consists of two evening sessions held at St. Agnes Church, beginning with a shared meal, provided by the Parish. This mealtime provides an opportunity for socialization and connection among families on a similar journey. Following the meal, we engage in a variety of activities to deepen our understanding of the sacrament.

Session 1: The focus is on understanding the sacrament through engaging videos and group discussions. We have been using portions of the video series *Belonging*.

Session 2: The Baptism Prep team leads the families through a guided reflection of their own faith journey and that of their child's, followed by a practical walk-through of the baptism ceremony. We provide families information on Parish life activities and outline the religious education program including the sacramental years.

Families are welcome to bring their children to the sessions, and we offer on-site babysitting to make the experience more convenient. Godparents are also welcome, though their attendance is optional, allowing them to share in this faithful journey if they wish.
Once the families have completed both sessions of the course, they are encouraged to schedule their child's baptism typically at Sunday Mass.

Recap:
Since August of 2023 we have had:

- 18 Baptisms
- 9 Families participated in the two Formation Sessions
- 9 Families were returning for the second or more time and simply met with Fr. Patrick

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie & Roy Longmire
Baptismal Preparation Team

LITURGY

The Good Shepherd Liturgy Committee has been in place for 5 years (as soon as amalgamation between the two former parishes happened). We currently have 14 people on the committee with Coordinators of the following ministries.

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Lectors
- Music Ministry
- Sacristans/Liturgy Assistant
- Youth and Adult Altar Servers
- Hospitality & Ushers
- Staff

This group generally meets every two months during an evening. The committee members have been very willing to come together as a group. Our vision is for all liturgical ministers to be comfortable serving at either site. This is a work in progress!

The change in our Sunday Mass Schedule was a big adjustment for many and in some cases there were people who decided not to change locations with their Masses. We are getting past this but continuing to seek new members to join some of the Ministries.

The biggest challenge, not unique to our parish, is the willingness of people to step up into leadership positions within the Ministries. We are grateful for those who are in leadership positions, many of whom have been in their role for many years.

These are the current numbers of members of each Ministry in our Parish

- Eucharistic Ministers – 24
- Lectors – 38
- Music – 30
- Sacristans/Liturgy Assistant – 8
- Youth Altar Servers – 18
- Ushers - includes ushers and members of KOC who serve as ushers at 10:30 mass
- Hospitality & Ushers – 20 *(Includes ushers KOC who serve at 10:30 Mass)*

What have we worked on in the past year:

- We introduced the Book of Gospels at both sites.
- We gave clear instructions on the postures for Mass.
- We continue to work toward consecrating the appropriate amount of hosts for each Mass and administer Holy Communion during Mass from that which is consecrated in that Mass.
- We had retreat/workshops for Extraordinary Ministers & Lectors.
- We trained and commissioned several new young altar servers.

What do you still need to work on:

- Ongoing training of young altar servers.

- Further training for Sacristans and Liturgy Assistants to ensure common practices amongst all members and at both sites.
- Develop our hospitality ministry to ensure it is effective and utilizing common best practices at both sites and at all liturgies.
- Needing additional extraordinary ministers for the 4:00 P.M. Mass and for Communion to the Sick.
    - Formation for those who bring Communion to the sick is needed as well as a change in the way Communion is given during Mass for this purpose.
- New albs & cinctures are needed for the altar servers as well as a serving schedule (since we have so many servers now!)

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Droesbeck
Chair, Liturgy Committee

LITURGICAL MUSIC

Liturgy at Good Shepherd Parish has been evolving over the past Liturgical Year under the guidance of Fr. Patrick Salah.

Mass times were adjusted to reflect the reality of one parish community. Consequently, there are now 3 weekend Masses.

In broad strokes, the Music Ministry Team has begun to regularly use the 'new' psalm settings in all our liturgies. Additionally, as a parish, we have been using the Alstott Heritage Mass Setting, both English & Latin Chant Settings, and more recently, in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress, Paul Benoit's Mass of a Joyful Spirit. Fr. Patrick regularly chants from the Sanctuary and the people of Good Shepherd Parish have become pretty good at singing all the responses. Who says Catholics can't sing?!

Saturday 4:00 Team: The 4:00 Mass is ordinarily served by a regular organist and a rotation of two regular cantors. (Other organists and cantors assist when needed). Musicians and repertoire for this Mass are coordinated by Lindsay O'Rourke, who serves as one of the cantors. The music is predominantly CBWIII with some hymns drawn from other sources.

Sunday 8:30 Team: This choir is led by Judi Beagan and continues to grow. Most recently, some displaced St. Theresa's musicians have found a new home with the 8:30 choir. Currently we are a group of 11 with 2 guitars,1 flute and 3 pianists. Five of the singers rotate cantoring duties. One of our pianists and one of our cantors are still in high school. This choir sings primarily from the CBW III. A recent upgrade of the projection system has allowed Antonia Mugisa, in her Good Shepherd IT Ministry role, to prepare and present lyric slides. This has made it possible to include hymns from other sources.

Sunday 10:30 Team: The 10:30 am choir is led by Emily Smith. This Mass is primarily a "family Mass" during which youth participation in ministry is encouraged, including the music ministry. Emily Smith is responsible for music selections and creates slides for congregational participation. Other aspects of the ministry include:

- Musicians include guitar, 2 violins, occasional flute, piano and cello
- One main cantor/leader of song
- Approximately 15 choir members of all ages, including a group of children who sing regularly
- Music chosen primarily from CBW III and Celebrate in Song, with occasional contemporary/worship music selections included

Other: In recent months Fr. Patrick has spearheaded the creation of 2 additional Music Ministry Ensembles: The Good Shepherd Funeral Choir and the Good Shepherd Schola Cantorum.

Good Shepherd Funeral Choir - Under the leadership of Judi Beagan, this 17-member, predominantly gray-haired choir has been formed to provide music ministry for, and be representative of the Good Shepherd Catholic Family, at parish funerals. This brand-new choir is starting out with guitar, flute, piano and singers and a repertoire drawn from traditional funeral classics, CBWIII, Glory & Praise, and with a sprinkling of contemporary hymns.

GS Schola Cantorum - The GSP Schola Cantorum is a burgeoning music ministry composed of choir members from our existing Mass-based music ministries and both of the churches within the parish. In an effort to reflect that we are *one* parish, and to more effectively elevate the celebrations of parish-wide liturgies, this group was brought together to provide music ministry in service to the parish at special masses and feast days, such as Holy Week, Midnight Mass, All Saint's Day and the upcoming pastoral visit from Archbishop Dunn. It is led by Vanessa Sweet, with additional support and leadership from the other music ministry leaders as needed - most especially during Holy Week. The group fluctuates in size depending on availability for rehearsals and liturgies, but has ranged from as few as 4 to more than 12. Most of the regular members of the GSP Schola Cantorum were in the Eucharistic Congress Choir as well.

The repertoire is selected in collaboration with Fr. Patrick Salah. In addition to well-known hymns, this music ministry also includes choral settings of sacred pieces and Mass parts as well as supporting the congregation in chant. The choir is typically accompanied by an organist.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judi Beagan, Lindsay O'Rourke, Emily Smith & Vanessa Sweet
Music Ministry Leaders

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Our Recent Amalgamation (process and outcome)
The process began under the guidance of Fr. Bem in 2019 with the anticipation of both St. Agnes and St. Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs parishes coming together. Initially that union was in name only as both SSVP conferences remained separate. The communities that each conference served were unique and it was felt at the time they would be better served in this fashion.

In 2023, with support of Fr. Patrick Salah, the participation of both former conference presidents (Michael Murphy and Patricia Doyle) and the leadership of Denise Morley, both conferences joined as one to become the Good Shepherd Conference. It should be noted that the executive of the Halifax Particular Council was peripherally involved in this process as well. The amalgamation took place in 2023. This gradual and purposeful coming together worked well as it allowed both groups of Vincentians to more clearly experience the value of working together and help all parishioners to see the importance of both churches being one.

The eventual amalgamation was the result of perhaps half a dozen small group meetings and planning sessions involving the individuals listed above.

Number of regular clients
In teams of two we weekly visit an average of 20-25 individuals.

Forms of support
Currently we primarily provide support to individuals in the form of $50 grocery cards (another $25 is provided for each additional person in the household). People can request help once a month. This amounts to roughly $4000-$5000 of food assistance per month. We have periodically helped people pay overdue power and phone bills and make every effort to meet people in person on our visits to talk and offer support.

Team makeup
We have 22 active members and an additional 4 or 5 'associate' members. Active members participate in home delivery of food cards and making phone calls to people requesting assistance. Our group is 70% women and 30% men with an average age of 55. Team leadership; President; Vice President/Treasurer; Secretary. One of our members produces a quarterly newsletter and two members will take on the challenge of creating a Social Justice Committee.

Demographics and situations of our clientele
Most of the people we serve are single men, however, there has been an increase over the last two years in single women and single parents seeking help. All of these folks are on some form government assistance and live in affordable or subsidized housing. Additionally, many new Canadians are seeking help with food and rent. Most of the men we serve live in rooming houses in the south end of Halifax. Many of those living conditions are

'deplorable'. Addiction, disability, mental health, physical health, lack of employment and poverty are issues that affect the majority of people we help.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ian Morrison
President, Good Shepherd SSVP

PARISH OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Good Shepherd Parish Little Church Mission Projects:
This outreach initiative is committed to providing education to children in various Countries. The Little Church Mission Project came to St. Agnes in 2009 with Tanya Thomson. It was initiated in 2006 at St. Pius X, now Saint Benedict. The Religious Education children are aware of how our prayers and financial support helps others outside our own Global region. This project is crucial in developing strong global citizens, compassionate to our brothers and sisters in developing counties.

These funds pay for education, school supplies, boarding, medicine, food, personal care.
NOTE: increased tuition amounts are underlined.

- *Valentino – Kisubi, Uganda* = ***$1500.00*** *(St. Henry's College) Total orphan*
- *Pauline – Kisubi Uganda* = ***$1500.00*** *(St. Teresa's Girls School)*
- *Mary Josephine – Kisubi Uganda* = ***$600.00*** *(St. Teresa's Girls School)*
- *Teddy – Gulu, Uganda (Watye Ki Gen)* = ***$1,500.00***
- *Blessings – Gulu, Uganda (Watye Ki Gen)* ***=$300.00***
- *Loyce – Gulu Uganda (Watye Ki Gen)* ***=$300.00***
- *Tracy – Gulu Uganda (Watye Ki Gen)* ***=$300.00***
- *Wilmer – Nicaragua (Pathways to Progress)* = ***$2,100.00***
- *Genesis – Nicaragua (Pathways to Progress)* = ***$2,100.00***
- *Chalice* ***–*** *10 children x $504.00* = ***$5,040.00***
  Total = $15,240.00

Saint Benedict Parish pays $3,000.00 in fees towards Valentino, Pauline, Mary-Josephine, Teddy, Blessings, Loyce and Tracy. Invoiced Jan. 27th 2024.
GSP Little Church responsibility in 2024 is $ 12,240.00
How we plan to obtain the funds: Amounts are estimated>

Sunday Little Church Collection	2,000.00
Bingo Canteen (26 bingos x $200.00)	5,200.00
Christmas Bazaar & Chili Luncheon	2,000.00
Parishioner Donations (best estimate based on 2023)	3,000.00
Parish Skate (free will donations to Little Church)	300.00

History of the Little Church – Began at St. Pius X in 2006 when parishioner Herman Ssebazza took his children to visit his old elementary school in Uganda. The school had become St. Teresa's School for Girls. While there, an elderly grandmother brought her 10 year old granddaughter to the school, to beg the Headmistress to allow her granddaughter a spot. They were very poor; grandmother was in ailing health and once she died the child would be a "total orphan." Sister Mary Valentine Nabbosa, the Headmistress did not have the funds to cover Gorreth's tuition and needs. Herman witnessed all of this and said he would ask his parish in Halifax to help. Herman still has homes in Uganda and visits annually, he elected to check in with the school each time he was home. St. Pius X merged with OLPH and St. Lawrence to form Saint Benedict. When I left Saint Benedict in 2009, for St. Agnes we decided (the two parishes) to support another girl, Josephine, and continue our commitment to sponsoring children in receiving an education. Both Gorreth and Josephine went on to graduate from College.

Gorreth's daughter, Mary Josephine attends St. Teresa's Girls School (Feb. 2023). We help with her tuition and Gorreth works at the school to offset the rest of her daughter's fees. The Little Church Mission projects have grown over the years to include Pathways to Progress, Chalice, Watye Ki Gen, while continuing with Sister Mary Valentine's orphans in Kisubi, Uganda. We helped a village in Sierra Leone through our parishioner Kathleen Martin. Kathleen visited the village of Kamakwie in 2011 with Doctors without borders NS and NB. Kathleen wrote a book about her experience there *Kamakwie: Finding Peace, Love, and Injustice in Sierra Leone.* Unfortunately, our contact there, Dr. Alusine who was running the hospital in the village died in 2021. We have not been able to establish a secure contact to provide help since then. During our time of support, we helped build a wing onto the hospital for children who have become orphans due to Ebola and accomplish repairs to their local church when an enormous tree fell in it during a storm.

The funds are paid via MoneyGram. The Good Shepherd Parish Finance Office looks after the payments and distributions of funds.

We receive report cards, letters, photos and updates on all of the children throughout their school year.

Good Shepherd Parish – Giving Tree Project 2024

Organization	Contact	Persons helped
Arbourstone Enhanced Care	*Eric Skinner*	50 residents receive gifts.
Birthrite of Halifax	*Marcia Yoeman*	Approximately 25 gifts.
Coverdale	*Stephanie Cook*	Approximately 50 gifts.
Elizabeth Fry Society – Mainland Nove Scotia	*Robin Cummings*	Approximately 50 gifts.
Father Eric Theriault Mental Health & Addictions	*Deacon Bill Grady*	Approximately 80 gifts.

GSP St. Vincent de Paul Society	*Denise Morely*	Approximately 35 gift cards.
Hope Cottage	*Lindsay*	Approximately 30 gifts.

- *Artificial trees are decorated with tags for each organization. Parishioners select tags and bring unwrapped gifts and the tag back by the due date.*
- *Trees go up the first weekend of Advent.*
- *Trees come down Monday Dec. 16th – All gifts required to be in by Dec. 18th*
- *Organizations to pick up gifts by Dec. 20th.*
- *Volunteers help move the gifts after Mass to a storage room. Volunteers help arrange the gifts according to the organizations for easy pick up.*
- *Financial gifts are kept in the safe in Tracy's Office. St. Vincent De Paul will require financial gifts before Christmas, Tracy will advise the Society each times gifts are brough in, for quick pick up.*
- *The Grade 5 students assist with this project.*

Hope Cottage Social Outreach
Four times a year. Jr High Youth prepare a meal for Hope Cottage.

Carolling at a Seniors Home
Every Christmas, Junior High youth visit a Seniors Home for singing and passing out Christmas Cards. This year we are visiting St. Vincent's Guest House.

Sunday Suppers
Sunday Suppers are led by Nancy Delaney & Pam Currie Yarr, provide a hot meal at St. Andrew's church which feeds approximately 350 people. Our responsibility for Sunday Suppers is four times a year.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
The Prayer Shawl ministry meets weekly to knit shawls, which are subsequently blessed and distributed to people in Nursing Homes, the Oncology Department at the Halifax Infirmary, and anyone who is unwell, infirm or experiencing grief.

Daily Bread Outreach
There are approximately 15 parishioners from Good Shepherd who volunteer every week to Daily Bread.

Veritas Catholic Books & Gifts
There are approximately 4 parishioners from Good Shepherd who volunteer at Veritas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanya Thompson & Tracy Francis
Good Shepherd Parish Staff

KOC — Good Shepherd Council

Our Council currently has 53 members, and we have been seeing regular growth. We are a younger Council, with a high level of engagement. We serve as the Hospitality Ministry for the 10:30 Mass on Sundays, and other liturgies when called upon. Many Knights serve in other parish ministries as well. In October of this year, we voted to change our Council name from Saint Agnes to Good Sheperd to better reflect our current parish reality.

We participate in a number of outreach initiatives, including Coats for Kits, we hold regular food drives, we cook and serve meals at Hope Cottage, we provide Christmas presents to children whose parents are incarcerated, we raise money and support Special Olympics, and many other initiatives.

We support the parish wherever possible. We have a special focus on children and youth, supporting their formation and fellowship wherever possible.

We also support the initiatives of the archdiocese, including providing support to Holy Cross Chaplaincy with food and supplies for their events, and supporting the Eucharistic Congress, with onsite logistical support throughout the weekend at Saint Agnes, and with the Eucharistic Procession.

<u>Awards & Recognitions</u>

- Star Council by Supreme for completing programs membership and insurance requirements last year.
- Supreme Award for membership increases last year.
- Columbian Award for programs.
- Founders Award this year.
- We have received awards from Supreme every year we have existed.
- Received State Award for Faith in Action programs the last two years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Bonner,
Grand Knight, Good Shepherd Council

FINANCIAL REPORT

Account Balances	(as Nov 21/2024)	GSP	**48,288.06**	
		Bingo	**41,766.87**	
Ordinary Revenue	(as Oct 31/2024)		**440,419.00**	(Budget 464,000)
Bequests			**445,749.76**	(plus $ 7,000.00 waiting for the cheques - received letters Jun 11/2024 and Sep 12/2024)
Monthly Collections			27,144	(Average monthly of the Sunday Envelopes, Loose & E-transfers)
PAD Monthly			14,771	(Average monthly)
TOTAL for both			**41,915**	(10,478.00 Average per Week)
Percentage of regular giving via PAD			**35%**	
Number of people registered for PAD			**135**	
Parish Deposit with Archdiocese	(as Oct 31/2024)		**3,620,190.00**	

Additional Information

New Parish Centre	**Jan-Oct 2024**	**Budget 2024**
Adninistration /legal fees	4,011.07	
contents/furnishing etc.	75,167.75	
Construction	2,967,427.44	2,550,000.00
Archetect/Design	62,694.27	
Total New Parish Centre Expenses:	3,109,300.53	2,550,000.00

Jim Kimber Construction
Progress Billing # 1' last invoice from them

Original Contract Amount	$4,726,230.00
Approved Change Order Amount to Date	$ 37,940.44
Revised Total Contract Amount	$4,764,170.44
Total Amount this Claim	$4,338,138.70
Total Amount Remaining to Invoice	$ 426,031.74

Work Completed	Previous Claims	This Claim
$ 4,338,138.70	$ 3,888,689.91	$ 449,448.79

This Claim	$ 449,448.79
Less 10% Holdback	$ 44,944.88
Sub-Total	$ 404,503.91
15% HST	$ 60,675.59
Total Invoice	$ 465,179.50

Respectfully Submitted,

Mariana Nutarova,
Bookkeeper

FINANCE COUNCIL

Council Members:
Father Patrick Salah
Andrew Miller, Chair
Kelley Polley
Jonathan Shrader
Tim O'Regan
Anthony Metlej

Highlights to Oct 31/23 (numbers rounded)

- Envelope collections down $30,000.00 compared to budget
- Misc. collections up $6,000.00 compared to budget
- Overall ordinary revenue down $24,000.00 to budget
- Total extraordinary income up $516,000.00 to budget
- Total revenue up $49,3000.00 compared to Budget.

Extraordinary income increase was largely due to a couple of large bequests that were received during the year which were not budgeted for ($434000) and an increased amount of interest earned on deposits with the Diocese.

Overall expenses were up by approximately $118,000.00 compared to budget stemming mainly from repairs and maintenance. This leaves the parish ahead of budget in net income of approximately $375,000.00.

Other major expenses which we consider to be capital in nature resulted in a budget overage of $580,000.00 due to costs involved with roof repairs, new doors (St Agnes site) and additional spending on the Carlo Acutis Centre.

At the end we are in an overall budget deficit of $205,000 compared to budget.

Major impacts for the coming period include:

- Completion of the Parish Centre, approximately $500.000.00
- Major roof work at both sites - amounts unknown
- Decrease in interest earned on deposit due to lower amounts on deposit with the Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Miller
Chair

PROPERTY MANAGER

St. Agnes and St. Thomas Aquinas have both undergone a comprehensive Building Condition Assessment by Capital Management Engineering Limited (CMEL), St. Thomas Aquinas in 2017 and St. Agnes in 2023. The reviews were commissioned to determine the condition of both churches in support of the Church`s long term asset management plan. These reports will be used to make planning level decisions as well as long range asset management of the property. The capital planning recommendations outlined in each report are periodically reviewed and completed on an ongoing basis.

Since August 2023 the following work has been completed at Saint Agnes.

- Three new garage doors and mechanisms for the rectory.
- Complete painting of the exterior of Saint Agnes Church
- Painting and restoration of bell tower at Saint Agnes.
- Refurbishment and repair of some bell actions and supports at Saint Agnes, which resulted in the restoration of the daily schedule of bell ringing from 8:00 A.M – 8:00 P.M. and before all liturgies. This work included the visual inspection of all bolts and supports and the replacement of bolts in the three large swinging bells and the repair of one support beam.
- Preliminary refurbishment and repairs to the marble steps and entry wall to the sanctuary at Saint Agnes. (Further work is still needed on the stair risers).
- 13 new oak doors for Saint Agnes Church.
- A new steel exterior door in the Saint Agnes Sacristy.
- A full lighting upgrade to Saint Agnes Church. This project benefitted from a significant rebate from Efficiency N.S.
- Plaster repairs in the Saint Agnes Church Foyer and Family Room.
- The pipe organ console was relocated from the front of the Nave to the choir loft at Saint Agnes Church.
- A new, high efficiency hot water heating system was installed to service the entire site. The system was designed to efficiently heat sufficient volumes to meet the demands of the entire Saint Agnes facility, including the rectory.
- Sections of the stone exterior of the church were inspected. Any areas where deterioration of mortar was evident were repointed, failed silicone sealant was removed and replaced.

Since August 2023 the following work has been completed at Saint Thomas Aquinas.

- Repair and refurbishment of the marble reredos in the sanctuary.
- The stone steps at the main entrance and the Cornwall entrance of the church were completely reset and repaired/replaced as needed.
- A new accessibility ramp was built at the Jubilee entrance.
- The 3 Rose windows were repaired and painted. Repairs to the adjacent stonework were done at the same time.
- Construction of the Carlo Acutis Centre has been ongoing and is near completion.

Roofing

Both structures are in need of significant roofing repairs. The roof at St. Thomas Aquinas is over 30 years old. Due to the absence of detailed maintenance records at St. Agnes we are unable to determine the exact age of the various roofs, a conservative estimate is approximately 25 years old. These repairs will come at a significant cost. Roof replacements at both locations are urgently needed in 2025.

Other Needs at Saint Agnes Church

- Two large windows in the stairwells to the choir loft and a third window in the baptistry are in need of replacement and/or repairs as they have been leaking for a long time.
- The concrete steps at the church and rectory entrances have been repaired several times and are in need of a total replacement.
- The Monsignor Campbell Multi-Purpose Centre (opened in 1992) which houses classrooms for meetings and formation is in need of a full cosmetic upgrade and installation of an HVAC system. Quotes for this project are around $100,000.00.
- New doors are needed for the Campbell Centre and the Leo Day Auditorium.

Other Needs at the Rectory

- New windows are needed throughout the rectory.
- Heat pumps would be an ideal addition.
- When the offices move to the Carlo Acutis Centre, a refresh of the office spaces at the rectory will be needed to restore them to useful living space for the clergy.

Other Needs at Saint Thomas Aquinas

- New or improved HVAC is needed to manage moisture in the basement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve McKenna
Property Manager