

ST. KEVIN'S PARISH 2012 - 2017

A FIVE YEAR PASTORAL PLAN

***Note: SK=St. Kevin's Worship Site; OLP=Our Lady of Peace Worship Site

WORSHIP

AN OVERVIEW:

Mass is celebrated on Saturday night at SK at 5pm, Sunday morning at SK at 9:30am, and Sunday morning at OLP at 11:30am. This is a new arrangement (Fall 2011), following the amalgamation of the two 'stand alone' Parishes into one. It was a difficult transition for SK, as they went from three Sunday Masses to two, and it was a difficult transition for OLP, as they went from (historically) two Sunday Masses to one. That being said, there was never a need (at least in the last decade) for three Masses and two Masses, respectively, as the numbers attending did not justify it. Since the 11:00am Mass at SK was historically cancelled during the summer months, it seemed to be logical to cancel that Mass permanently. And since OLP preferred a Sunday Mass to one on Saturday, moving the Mass there to the 11:30am time slot seemed the best way to serve the worship needs of Capreol. It also allowed the amalgamated Parish of St. Kevin to move from the anomalous situation of having two Saturday Masses and one Sunday Mass (transition period in 2011) to having a more normalized schedule of one Saturday and two Sunday Masses. Currently, there are less than 100 worshippers attending the Saturday night Mass. The 9:30am Mass is the best attended, with about 200 worshippers. There are about 150 worshippers at the 11:30am Mass. There is a seating capacity at SK of 314 (can be increased, if needed, to just over 500 by using the hall). There is a seating capacity at OLP of 414 (can be increased, if needed, to over 460 by using the choir loft, and to over 600 by using the hall).

Currently, all three Sunday celebrations have a music ministry. On Saturday, there is a guitarist/vocalist who is often accompanied by a pianist/vocalist. At 9:30am, there is a pianist who accompanies the choir. At 11:30am, there is a pianist who accompanies the choir. All three groups use as their primary resource the "Breaking Bread" Missal (annual subscription) and rarely use the CBW III.

There is a children's liturgy program offered at our 9:30am Mass, which is attended by about a dozen children. Coffee is offered following the 5pm and 9:30am Masses (this is new) and is currently slow to catch on. There is very little socialization following Mass – the anomaly seems to put the emphasis on socializing before Mass. This is encouraged at SK by the 'hall like' atmosphere of the worship space.

Weekday Masses are celebrated at 9am (currently) four days each week, alternating between SK and OLP. Attendance at SK is between 5 – 12 people, while at OLP it is about 24 people.

STRENGTHS:

Very committed and capable music director OLP site;
Committed musicians/choirs;
Healthy number of volunteers for various liturgical functions (Lectors, EMHEs, adult servers);
Presence of three Deacons and one DOW.

CHALLENGES:

Low Mass attendance;
Little sense of community in Valley;
Sense of the sacred absent;
Disconnect between active faith and Sacraments;
No children's liturgy OLP;
Absence of youth;
Elevator OLP needs new operators trained;
Insufficient number of Extraordinary Ministers in Capreol

FIVE YEAR PASTORAL GOALS:

Children's Choir/Music;
Worship Space SK – more a sense of the sacred (see future planning);
Children's Liturgy at OLP;
Increase Mass attendance (10%, which is 45 people)
Increase number of Extraordinary Ministers – an issue for Capreol, especially since we started Communion under both Species at all Masses

MEANS/STRATEGIES:

Personal invitations (for specific ministries ie. Children's Liturgy, Extraordinary Ministers, etc.)
Ministry specific invitations in bulletin ie. Anyone want to take on ...?
Letter writing ie. After Sacraments, on anniversaries of Sacraments, etc.
As to Mass attendance ... personal invitation of neighbours/family/friends
Be a more warm and welcoming community

PASTORAL CARE

AN OVERVIEW:

There is a concerted effort shown to minister to the needs of those who are sick or shut-in by bringing Eucharist to them, and so there are a good number of Extraordinary Ministers who serve in this way. A significant amount of this is done by members of the CWL and K. of C., and this is true, in general, for every aspect of Parish life: both of these organizations form the primary basis of all Parish activity. If not for them, there would be virtually no activities in the Parish outside of Mass.

Both worship sites are fully accessible, either through an elevator or by being at ground level. At both sites, members of the community are available before Sunday services to assist those in need. Bereavement cards are sent to those who are ill (by the CWL), visits are made and communion is brought to those living at the two senior's complexes in the Parish. Concerted effort is made to feed the hungry, through food collection, and to clothe the naked, through the collection of clothing items and, in an annual focus, through the collection of socks and underwear during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Lunch is provided, if requested, following all Parish funeral celebrations. Rides are provided to Church for those unable to walk.

OLP is used weekly for the Alcohol Anonymous group in Capreol. Community needs have been met whenever they have been presented.

STRENGTHS:

Ministers who bring Eucharist to shut in, nursing homes and hospital;
Particularly strong sense of community outreach in Capreol

CHALLENGES:

Need for new and younger members, more volunteers, partnerships with other local agencies.

FIVE YEAR PASTORAL GOALS:

Strengthen and support what we have.
Encourage involvement of others in this ministry

MEANS/STRATEGIES:

Appreciation Dinner as a show of support.

Public mandates for this ministry ie. At Mass.

Invite younger parishioners into Eucharistic Ministry first, and then into Pastoral Care once they are 'into it'.

Catechesis ie. Around the Sacrament of the Sick ... educate about what services we provide.

FAITH FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY

AN OVERVIEW:

There are well motivated and well trained teams of Parishioners who are involved in various forms of Sacramental preparation in the Parish. One team is responsible for Baptism preparation, and does this primarily through an evening session offered in advance of the actual time of Baptism. One team is responsible for preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist, and one team looks after preparing candidates for Confirmation.

There have, historically, been offered various courses, seminars, and educational opportunities in the Parish. It seems, at least in recent years, that these have been poorly attended. It remains to be seen if there is a need or desire for those types of services. Missions, historically, have also been offered, although it may be noted that now these are more accessible on a regional basis where economies of scale may be enjoyed.

As previously noted, the primary venue, outside of Mass, for faith formation and spirituality is within the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League.

STRENGTHS:

Prayer ministry is strong (OLP);

Sacramental Preparation teams are well trained and devoted to their ministry.

CHALLENGES:

We recognize the need to accept everyone as God has accepted us – unfinished, sinful, angry, bearing burdens that are heavy, unwilling to change, etc. This, while also engaging in our task of evangelization and forming others, proclaiming truth and conversion, and pointing to a God Who calls for change and repentance. There is a tension here not always easy to resolve.

Need to develop a greater sense of unity within our “blended family”.

Lack of interest or incentive.

FIVE YEAR PASTORAL GOALS:

Offer retreats/courses/seminars

K. of C. and CWL Masses to help increase membership

MEANS/STRATEGIES:

Have a survey to discover the interest of Parishioners re: topics for educational opportunities in the Parish.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

AN OVERVIEW:

Money is donated to the poor through the CWL, K. of C., and various local organizations. There is strong support of the three local food banks; food is collected at both worship sites. Money is raised for the poor through the community dinner at OLP. Many parishioners volunteer at the Sudbury Soup Kitchen and St. Vincent de Paul. We enthusiastically support Operation Christmas Child – shoe boxes for third world. We use the Giving Tree during Advent to provide gifts for the local poor. We collect Food hampers at Christmas. AA uses OLP Hall for their weekly meetings. There is an active prayer group for those who are sick or in need. The Parish actively participates in World Day of Prayer and Day of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Stone Soup Supper at OLP has a long tradition of providing for the needs of the poor. The parish supports Development and Peace, especially during Lent, and Socks for the Sole during Advent and Christmas.

STRENGTHS:

Parishioners are eager, generous and willing to participate in any suggestions made to assist the poor, those suffering from disasters, etc. The presence of St. Vincent de Paul in our Parish is helpful in allowing us an avenue to assist the poor in our area.

CHALLENGES:

Aging Parishioners
Difficult to find volunteers

FIVE YEAR PASTORAL GOALS:

Deepen partnership with SSVP
Increase the number of Socials/Parish events (community building/fund raising)

MEANS/STRATEGIES:

Strengthen our own community first, through after Mass coffee, Spring BBQ, Special events (Seder Meal, Soup Suppers, Parish Breakfasts, Shrove Tuesday, Appreciation Dinner). Use these events to partner with other community agencies as fundraisers or simply networking opportunities. More partnering could be done with D & P, or SSVP.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

AN OVERVIEW:

There is a perception that this is an aging community, although the demographics reveal Capreol and Valley East to be a very young community, as evinced by the high numbers of students in all our schools. What is true, however, is that these young people do not practice their faith. That being said, there is a core group of faithful younger parishioners. Part of the challenge, of course, is time of celebrations. With the combining of our two Parishes into one, SK was reduced to one Sunday Mass, and OLP had its Mass moved from Saturday to Sunday. This seems to have been youth friendly for Capreol and less so for the Valley.

There are a handful of Altar Servers, although they are not present at all Masses. There are youth readers at both sites. NET has been present in the community each year. There have been youth representatives to World Youth Day. Children's Liturgy was mentioned above as a Sunday morning activity.

STRENGTHS:

Monthly School Mass OLP, pastoral visits/liturgies at Immaculate Conception and St. Anne; Crying room (OLP) with potential crying room (SK).

Dedicated youth readers, some youth in choir (OLP), Christmas pageant, Socks for Souls, World Youth Day, Sacramental Preparation.

CHALLENGES:

Very low Church Attendance

Few altar servers at present

Disconnect between faith and sacraments.

Finding volunteers for youth groups, children's choir, children's liturgy (OLP), etc.

Possible closure of St. Mary's School

Lack of parental volunteers for Sunday catechesis proposal (Amy James)

FIVE YEAR PASTORAL GOALS:

Children's Liturgy at OLP

Catechesis program for youth (as per Amy James)

NET Retreats

Comprehensive Youth Ministry - Ensure Parish is "Ministry Friendly" to youth – no ministry is off limits to them.

Increase Youth Attendance (10%)

MEANS/STRATEGIES:

Youth Readers at Mass – personal invitation

More Altar Servers – Letter to kids who have celebrated First Communion

After Confirmation, invite those Confirmed into a Parish Ministry of their choosing. Follow up letter ministry.

Have current ministers 'witness' in the Parish to why they do ministry.

FUTURE PLANNING

AN OVERVIEW:

It seems the most pressing need going forward is to build a greater sense of unity between the various geographic regions of the Parish. Capreol has a long history and has developed a unique kind of close bond between its members that is often experienced in small communities built around a common source (the railway in this case). Valley East is a sprawling region consisting of several autonomous communities with little in common beyond their geographic locale and their inclination towards the city for work, shopping and entertainment. With this blending of communities in the last year, there is still very much an “us” and “them” mentality that will be very difficult to overcome. Both historic Parish families are justifiably proud of what they have built and accomplished, of their unique sense of community, of their worship space, and of their history. The desire is to build a greater unity that respects what is unique to each region.

Both worship sites are well maintained, albeit overly large for their current needs. Issues of ongoing maintenance will need to be addressed. This is complicated by the reality of a small parish stream of revenue having to maintain two significant structures. While it is easy enough to share worship experiences between our two sites, the reality remains that this only results in the decreased use of large buildings that are already under-utilized.

The SK site was built with a view to creating community through an architectural design that emphasized the collective worship of the priestly people of God. The tendency, however unintended, has been to create a hall like atmosphere, rather than a worship space, and this was particularly highlighted through the decision to exclude kneelers, devotional art (Stations of the Cross) and the Blessed Sacrament from the worship area. The result of this experiment, ironically, has been a Parish with a reduced sense of faith community as evinced by the severe lack of Parish activities. Granted, this is due to several other factors, including the secularization of culture and the ‘bedroom community’ mentality that is present in the Valley. That being said, it is clear from the current liturgical norms that the emphasis of Catholic worship is the entering into the sacred as the one people of God in order to build up the Body of Christ.

STRENGTHS:

Strong and committed Finance Committee
Strong and committed Building Committee (SK)
Very dedicated volunteers OLP who look after infrastructure upkeep.

CHALLENGES:

No building committee OLP

FIVE YEAR PASTORAL GOALS:

Blend two sites more effectively re: sense of unity;
Strengthen the Parish family as a faith community;
Increase a sense of the sacred ... Parish as a focal point of faith, worship, and community ... transcendence.

MEANS/STRATEGIES:

SK Stations of the Cross into Church – art moved to hallways
SK Relocate Blessed Sacrament to Bell Tower Alcove
SK Statue? Votive Candles? Religious art to heighten the sense of the sacred in our worship space.
OLP Cry room to cloak room? Or restore it to cry room? Do something with this space. If cry room, remove confessional and put in larger window.
OLP Stained glass windows in entranceway?
OLP Air conditioning?
Increase Parish events/activities/community building
Upcoming anniversary (can't place undue focus on SK – how?). Parish album
Parking lot issues at both worship sites (repairs at SK, and enlarge and pave at OLP)
Prepare for large future expenses ie. New shingles on roof.
Ongoing maintenance issues ... strengthen the building committee in Capreol.