

Sharing Our Hearts and Hands with the Parish



HOLY CHILD ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

***Due to restrictions resulting from Covid-19,
the Parish Annual General Meeting
will be postponed until we can gather safely,
and without restrictions,
as a community.***

Holy Child Parish Annual General Meeting
TBD

Mission Statement - We, the people of Holy Child Parish, are a community of Baptized Catholics living in the eastern sector of Regina. We believe we are called to build the Kingdom of God through worship, service and education, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the direction of the Archbishop, and the leadership of the Priest given to our Parish.

Chairperson: Charlene Rogalski Secretary: Maureen Wild

1. Opening Prayer - Father Brian
2. Adoption of Agenda for Annual General Meeting
3. Adoption of March 8, 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes
4. Annual Meeting – reports from parish groups:
 - a) Liturgy temporary rep – Marian Grady; report submitted by Fr. Brian
 - b) Social Justice Agnes Parisloff, Faye Helmerson
 - d) Finance (incl. Bldg/Grds) Paul Ponak, Dave Helmerson
 - e) Hall/Catering Wayne Matt
 - f) Deanery Representative Sharon Bender
 - g) Members at Large Kathy & Jamie Schneider
 Gary & Tina Bojczuk
 Laurie Kirkness
 - i) Special Events Sr. Anna Aulie
 - k) Men's Club Wayne Matt
 - l) K of C Wayne Matt
 - m) Parish Team Marian Grady, Sr. Anna Aulie,
 Deacon Dennis Ziegler, Fr. Brian Meredith
- 4.1 Questions from the floor
- 4.2 Elections:
 - Chairperson (3-year term) – Charlene Rogalski (1st term ends in 2021)
 - Vice-Chairperson (3-year term)
 - 1 Member at Large position – Tina & Gary Bojczuk (2 terms of 6 years ends in 2021)
- 4.3 Other Concerns or comments
- 4.4 Pastor's Remarks
5. Closing Remarks
6. Suggested date for AGM in 2022: Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. in the hall or the Balzer Room.
7. Motion to Adjourn
8. Closing Prayer

Written Reports

From

Parish Groups

2020 PARISH STATISTICS

19	Baptisms (infant)
9	RCIA (Adult Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist)
2	RCIA (Full Communion – Profession of Faith/Confirmation/Eucharist)
47	Confirmations
45	First Eucharist
3	Marriages
20	Funerals
998	Total number of households in parish
2,562	Total number of parishioners

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

	<i>Original Budget 2020</i>	<i>Covid Budget 2020</i>	<i>Actual 2020</i>	<i>Covid Budget 2021</i>
Revenue:				
Sunday Collection (Envelopes, Loose)	290,000	182,000	216,676	203,000
Catering revenue	37,500	2,606	4,046	0
Wage Subsidy (Federal Government)	0	50,000	53,420	20,000
All other revenue	35,000	45,500	59,081	25,000
TOTAL REVENUE	363,000	280,106	333,223	248,000
Expenses				
Remuneration (Staff Wages, Workshops, Benefits)	220,000	220,000	216,498	215,000
Church (Repairs, Supplies)	25,000	31,000	33,377	12,500
Hall (Cook, Grocery, Supplies, Repairs)	20,000	3,000	2,926	1,000
Rectory (Utilities, Supplies, Taxes)	9,200	9,500	13,093	11,000
Office (Supplies, Photocopier, Telephone)	10,000	11,000	15,730	8,000
Assessment/Priest Pension	53,000	52,353	52,353	43,500
Occupancy (Utilities, Insurance, Security)	38,000	34,000	37,614	33,000
Grounds (Maintenance, Garbage Disposal)	5,000	7,200	8,533	6,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	380,200	368,053	380,124	328,000
OPERATION SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(17,200)	(87,947)	(46,901)	(82,500)

Designated Funds Collected in 2020:

Families In Need	\$4,600	<i>(\$2,900 was used for Christmas food hampers)</i>
Building Fund	\$3,773	
Share Lent	\$775	
Education of Seminarians	\$775	
Needs of Canadian Church	\$700	
Holy Land	\$475	
Propagation of Faith/Mission	\$450	
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$355	
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$300	

Annual Appeal for 2020:

Parish Target:	\$41,167
Parish Raised:	\$39,353 (96% of target)

FINANCE REPORT

Parish operations in 2020 showed a significant shortfall (\$46,900), primarily due to the Covid-19 situation (*including additional expenses to comply with SHA regulations*). To address the pandemic impact to the operations, Fr. Brian revised the yearly budget anticipating a shortfall nearer \$90,000. The resulting loss, however, is approximately **\$41,000** less than the anticipated amount of \$87,947. Thus, there are still some *positives* that can be taken from this most unusual & unexpected year!

The 2021 budget reflects a significant deficit. Not ideal to 'plan' for a shortfall, however in the present time, a shortfall is a realistic result. In spite of current deficits, Holy Child Parish is strong financially. The Parish can withstand the negative results being encountered.

The Parish has continued to engage an independent party to do a review of its financial accounting – bank reconciliations, payroll, etc. This same individual has been used for the past few years & has a good understanding of the procedures/processes within the Parish. He offers recommendations, etc. in areas where they can be beneficial to operations. He is satisfied that the office is following sound financial practices in the day-to-day operations.

Gathering restrictions implemented throughout the year (& in 2021), including places of worship, affect the normal collections by our Parishioners. We are just not able to attend Masses as regularly as we are used to, and our usual weekly giving is disrupted. To enable your ongoing [contributions to the Parish](#), although you may not be attending Mass, several options are available. Pre-authorized debit & eTransfer are popular options. For more information on these options, please contact the Parish office at 306-789-8276 or email holychild@sasktel.net. Also, the [CanadaHelps](#) website enables giving using a credit card, if this is your preference.

To close, a HUGE thank you to Fr. Brian for his guidance & leadership and to the office staff for their dedicated efforts during these 'trying times' and making Holy Child Parish a Welcoming place.

LITURGY

Normally, the task of the liturgy committee is to work with the parish team to help plan and prepare the Sunday liturgies as well as seasonal liturgies that are held at our parish.

The liturgy committee includes 8 members that take on the task of training and scheduling their particular ministry. Before Covid-19 entered Saskatchewan, we needed approximately 60-70 people (not including music ministry) each weekend to help at the three liturgies so the more volunteers we had, the easier it was for everyone. A challenge for our parish was making sure each of the ministries were filled for each celebration.

When Covid-19 entered Saskatchewan, we entered a quite different type of parish life and liturgical life. With the 2-meter distancing requirement, and various other directives, the number of people at each liturgy was greatly reduced. Each celebration required registration. Also, due to the pews being of various lengths, specific seating plans had to be charted for every Mass.

With the drastic slowdown in parish and liturgical life, Cecile Hebert took the opportunity to step down as Liturgy Chairperson and has moved to another parish to celebrate with other members of her family. We thank her for the many years of generous service in the parish in liturgy and many other areas.

To ensure consistency and to reduce the possibility of confusion, Marian Grady graciously agreed to coordinate the process for registration and seating. She has also generously accepted the position of Liturgical coordinator during the period of Covid-19 restrictions and will act as Liturgy Chairperson during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Lastly, on December 26th, [Peter Dielschneider](#), our Coordinator of Decorating, passed away. We are grateful for his generous service and for his joyful and welcoming presence in the parish community. May all who have passed away rest in the peace of Christ. Our condolences and prayers are extended to those who have lost loved ones. May the Holy Spirit grant comfort and peace to all who mourn.

Social Justice Committee Report

‘I truly tell you, just as you did it to these who are members of our family, you did it unto me.’

Needless to say, 2020 has challenged everyone and our Social Justice did as best we could amid the challenges.

Our food basket donations were the usual food donations in January and February to Marian Centre, Visitation House, Carmichael Outreach, Transition House and Chili For Children. In April and May we gave them monetary donations.

Our Giving Tree project was also monetary. Our parish generously supported us with a total of \$1,190 which was divided between Marian Centre: Sofia House, Visitation House and Transition House.

Other financial donations over the year were to our sponsored Chalice child; Regina Open Door Society for a bursary; Luther College High School for their Christian Ethics project in the community of Carasque in El Salvador.

Members of our group attended Community Connections meetings and volunteered in the kitchen at the event held March 8th, 2020, where the cultures of our community were celebrated.

Our sincere THANK YOU to our Holy Child Parish family: Fr, Brian, Office Staff, and the Social Justice Committee members.

May God Bless all of you and we pray for a safe and brighter 2021.

Co-chairpersons, Agnes Parisloff and Faye Helmerson

‘Those who shut their ears to the cry of the poor will themselves also cry and not be heard.’

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sacramental Programs:

- **Baptism, Confirmation/First Eucharist and Reconciliation**: Sacramental preparation for children is centered in the home with support from the parish and the Separate Schools. During this time of pandemic, monthly packets of home materials are distributed for families to journey together on the various topics. Communication is enhanced through e-mail and phone calls.
- **R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is a process where those interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This is a time for spiritual growth and reflection on our call to a life of ministry and service in Christ. During this time of pandemic, prayer and reflection materials are distributed to individuals as well as communication via e-mail and phone calls.

Spiritual Formation:

- **Wednesday**: A group meets weekly on Wednesday morning, using special reflection materials, focusing on prayer and scripture. Unfortunately, this was discontinued due to the pandemic restrictions.
- **Bible Study Program**, a group meets weekly to study the scriptures readings, “Sunday by Sunday”. This was interrupted by the pandemic. During the months of nicer weather, some of the group were able to meet outdoors with social distancing. In the fall, the group met a few times in the parish hall with social distancing; this was discontinued due to pandemic concerns and restrictions.
- **Parish Home Ministry** assist the sick, dying and grieving members of the Parish. With the pandemic, this ministry of care was discontinued in most institutions and home situations. In some cases, family members or friends in the same ‘bubble’ are bringing communion to the sick and homebound when appropriate and safe to do so.
- **Advent, Lent & Easter**: During Advent and Lent prayer materials, bulletin inserts and reflection times appropriate to the season are made available. With pandemic concerns, these materials are not available at the parish at the present time; however, parishioners are encouraged to order materials from companies directly, or purchase them at Burns Hanley Church Supplies.
- **Archdiocesan Lay Ministry Formation**: Members of the parish are invited to participate in this program which is designed to build up interest in learning and loving your faith and ministry. Click [here](#) for more information.



ARCHBISHOP O'NEILL COUNCIL # 8896



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Archbishop O'Neill Council of the Knights of Columbus (Chartered May 08, 1985) is a Catholic family fraternal service organization - centered in Holy Child Parish. The Council has approximately 115 members who support a variety of agencies/organizations through their fund raising and programs.

Archbishop O'Neill Knights of Columbus conducts a number of activities within the Parish and Community. These activities include:

- Church Programs
- Youth Programs
- Family Programs
- Community Programs
- Council Programs

Certainly, the on-going pandemic has impacted many of our 'normal' Council activities & events. Hard to dance or prepare a banquet when you have to maintain a 2-meter separation.

However, even during this time our Council was involved in delivering clothing items for the Angels4Warmth organization – some 11,000+ articles delivered to 22+ agencies in September, October & November. As well, volunteered at the modified Truck Convoy for Special Olympics. So, we were still able to find ways to Leave No Neighbour Behind (LNNB) – an initiative started at the beginning of the pandemic by our Supreme Council.

Some stats – in 2020 our Council donated over \$6,300 to programs plus 8,400 volunteer hours were expended by members. In a year of significant restrictions, we are proud of these accomplishments! As an Order, membership has surpassed the 2M mark residing in some 10+ countries. Records were set with world-wide donations in excess of \$187M & over 77M volunteer hours. See the full report given by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson (retiring March 01, 2021 after 20 years) at last year's convention [here](#).

The Knights of Columbus Order was founded in 1882 by a Parish Priest, in the midst of a pandemic. Father Michael McGivney lived simply, his sole purpose the care & well-being of his Parishioners. In his apostolic letter of September 13, 2020 Pope Francis decreed that “the Venerable Servant of God, Michael McGivney..... be given the title of Blessed.....”. Blessed Michael McGivney's beatification took place on October 31, 2020 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn. He is one step from being elevated to Sainthood! To get a glimpse of this extraordinary man please view this short 5-minute [video](#). Now is a great time to 'take a look' at the Knights of Columbus! Online registration is available – at no cost and no obligation. Simply go to www.kofc.org/joinus and enter promo code: mcgivney2020.

Our Council of Archbishop O'Neill looks forward, as does our Parish and community, to a more 'normal' 2021 where gatherings for worship, socializing and just shaking a hand are things we can do once again.

Thank you Fr. Brian for your support & leadership for our Council. Thank you also to the Parish staff who do excellent work for all of us!

The following websites have a great amount of information - www.kofc.org or www.kofcsask.com
Also, don't hesitate to contact:

Wayne Matt - Grand Knight (GK) @ matt.wayne99@gmail.com ; 306.789.1009

Norbert Philippe – Program Director (PD) @ norphi@sasktel.net ; 306.789.0073

Paul Ponak – Financial Secretary (FS) @ prponak@sasktel.net ; 306.790.9317 (H) ; 306.550.5035 (C)

MEN'S CLUB

The Holy Child Men's Club is a group of parish men that meet once a month to foster fellowship and support our Pastor and Parish for the progress and the well-being of the church.

Our meeting consists of 30 minutes of business and finishes up with games and fellowship. The business portion is very important to help organize our activities, and field the many requests for sponsorships and donations. We meet the third Sunday of the month and always welcome new members.

Highlights of the past couple of years include:

- * Assist the parishioners as requested by the pastor
- * Parish Breakfasts January and March
- * Financial support for Sr. Anna & the children's choir, as requested
- * Grey Cup Raffle
- * Joint Christmas potluck supper and a June BBQ with the C.W.L.
- * Provide assistance to St. Theresa and St. Catherine elementary schools

DEACON DENNIS

Before the pandemic started, I did some hospital visits of the parishioners I knew were in the hospital.

When the pandemic started in March, and we were unable to gather as a parish community, the pastoral team decided to reach out to all the parishioners via a phone call. With help from my wife Karen, we got through my portion of the parish list at least two times. This was a very rewarding experience. I found most people really appreciated the contact. Some calls lasted well over 20 minutes as they wanted to talk about how they were feeling and share what they were going through during these challenging times of the pandemic. Some called me back to share that they just lost their jobs, and others to just talk again. I would listen and encourage them as I could, and also provided information to them regarding the parish as things evolved through the months.

Due to the various restrictions that were implemented when we were able to gather again for Mass, I started preaching again in mid-August and preached generally every second Sunday and Friday at Mass.

Karen and I facilitated an Advent retreat from November 22 to December 20 called "The Inner Peace In Divine Love". It was a four-week structured retreat with daily personal prayer exercises based on St. Ignatius of Loyola's First Spiritual Exercises, designed to bring the participants into a deeper relationship with God. The nine retreatants fully participated in the daily prayer and the sharing times.

PASTOR'S REMARKS

During 2020, the gospel of Saint Matthew was used throughout the year. Matthew's gospel ends with Jesus saying to his disciples, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Those words are extremely important for us during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. With so much uncertainty, change, confusion, and suffering, it can often be difficult to see the presence of Christ in the world. And yet Jesus is with us at all times, to the end of the age.

Jesus is present with us in many ways: in those who are experiencing suffering from illness, poverty, homelessness, and job losses; in those who feel isolated and alone; in those who are experiencing mental health difficulties; in those who are experiencing abuse; and in those who are suffering from grief. Jesus is also present with us in the caring and compassionate care of people involved in the health care system, and in those who reach out with mercy, kindness, and love to those in need. Jesus is present with us through the people in each of these situations because they are all sisters and brothers of Jesus - and loved deeply by him. (*see Matthew 25:40*)

As followers of Jesus, let us take some extra time this coming year to recognize and treasure Christ's incredible presence within the community. May the Holy Spirit help us to acknowledge Jesus' presence by reaching out with actions of mercy and compassion to those who are suffering in any way. And let us also give thanks to the Father for the ongoing abiding presence of Christ's love, compassion, and mercy shining through numerous people in our community during these challenging times.

Lastly, thank you to all the parishioners, the parish staff, those on the parish councils, those involved in the various parish groups and committees, those involved in various ministries in the liturgy, and those in the schools, for all your support, generosity, and openness to change and adapt on a regular basis during this past year. It has been a challenging and difficult time during the pandemic, and I appreciate your understanding, patience, cooperation, and perseverance! I am deeply grateful for your faith in Jesus and for your prayers! May Christ continue to strengthen you in faith, and may God bless you with peace, renewed hope and strength.

**Minutes from
Annual General
Meeting
on March 8, 2020**

**Holy Child Parish Annual General Meeting
Sunday, March 8, 2020
Minutes**

In attendance: Father Brian Meredith, Charlene Rogalski (chairperson), Melanie Chan, Nick Cruz, Marian Grady, Cecile Hebert, Faye Helmerson, Anne Herperger, Cindy Howat, Carol Kaip, Jim Kaip, Laurie Kirkness, Gail Kraft, Norbert Philippe, Yvette Philippe, Dianne Poitras, Lynda Putzlocher, Maureen Sinnott, Gord Willenborg, Rita Wingert, Maureen Wild (secretary)

1) Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 12:30 with Fr. Brian leading praying of the Our Father.

2) Adoption of Agenda for Annual General Meeting

Moved by Norbert Philippe and seconded by Rita Wingert that the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

3) Adoption of March 3, 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Moved by Laurie Kirkness and seconded by Cecile Hebert that the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented. Carried.

4) Annual Meeting

4.1 Questions from the floor to Parish Council Members

- a) Liturgy – Cecile Hebert
- b) Social Justice – Agnes Parisloff, Faye Helmerson
- c) Ecumenism – Marian Grady
- d) Finance (including Building and Grounds) – Paul Ponak, Dave Helmerson
 - Fr. Brian noted there is a budgeted operating deficit in order to keep services the same. This creates stability. Of the approximately \$29,800 deficit in 2019, almost \$18,000 was for unexpected but long-term items including \$4,500 for the lights outside and over \$6,000 for a new phone system.
 - The parish is financially stable with over \$850,000 in investments plus checking. When Fr. Brian came to Holy Child, he was told the roof might need replacement at a cost of one million dollars. It was fixed for about \$5,000. The parish received \$450,000 from the sale of St. Joseph in 2014/15. The sale of the St. Joseph rectory in 2001 was for \$74,000 which, with interest, has grown to over \$100,000. A commitment of \$100,000 to Resurrection was cancelled in 2003.
 - All investments will be in the Inter-parochial Fund which earns interest at a rate of 3% rather than the 1.25% the investments were getting from the banks. The Fund is not assessed by the archdiocese or for priests' pension plan resulting in saving an additional 16%. The Fund helps the diocese as a whole for various capital projects.
 - The parish is also stable in terms of its connection with schools and people who are joining the church. There will be seventeen with the possibility of two more receiving sacraments at the Easter Vigil. In the past, about thirty children were Confirmed and received First Eucharist. This year the number is fifty.

- e) Hall/Catering – Wayne Matt
- f) Deanery Representative – Vacant
- g) Members at Large – Kathy Schneider, Gary & Tina Bojczuk
- h) Special Events Committee – Sr. Anna Aulie
- i) CWL - Shirley Campbell
 - The CWL was dissolved at the end of 2019 making this their last report.
 - A Women’s Group is meeting on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30.
 - Marian Grady indicated that events such as Advent and Lent Retreats and World Day of Prayer will continue - just not as a CWL activity.
- j) Men’s Club – Wayne Matt
- k) K of C – Wayne Matt
- l) Parish Team

4.2 Elections

Members at Large

- There were two vacant positions. Although not in attendance, Jamie and Kathy Schneider had previously indicated they would consider another term. Laurie Kirkness agreed to let her name stand. There were no other nominations from the floor.
- Jamie & Kathy Schneider and Laurie Kirkness were elected by acclamation.

Vice-Chairperson

- In the Constitution and By-Laws, it reads that the vice-chairperson shall have Holy Child Pastoral Council experience. Fr. Brian pointed out this does not mean “must” in church language. **Clarification from Fr. Brian: The phrasing used did not properly express the concern and meaning that was intended. As a parish, we need to be pastorally flexible when needed (e.g., when no one who has pastoral council experience comes forward to be vice-chairperson). Although the parish updated its Constitution in 2015, Fr. Brian has expressed concern that no formal approval was received from the Bishop’s Office regarding its Constitution. When a parish Constitution differs from the Guidelines of the Archdiocese, the proper route is to obtain formal approval from the Bishop’s Office. In this particular case, the Guidelines of the Archdiocese uses the word “should” instead of “shall” regarding the Vice-Chairperson having Pastoral Council experience. The Guidelines of the Archdiocese are thus more pastorally flexible than the parish’s Constitution.**
- As no one expressed interest in the vice-chairperson position, it will remain vacant for a year. At the next meeting, Pastoral Council will determine how to fill it during the coming year.

Deanery Representative

- Sharon Bender had previously expressed interest in the deanery representative position unless someone else wanted it or is interested in sharing. Sharon is currently working at the Archdiocese but is retiring at the end of June. Fr. Brian indicated there is no conflict of interest at the Pastoral Council level. Sharon is aware that both the Deanery and Archdiocesan Pastoral Council need change and redevelopment. No one else came forward with interest in this position.
- There was no objection to Fr. Brian appointing Sharon Bender as deanery representative.

4.3 Other Concerns or Comments

- The Archdiocese will be putting out directives in the coming week regarding the coronavirus.
- There has been no one in the youth member at large position for quite some time. In the Archdiocese Guideline document, this is an optional position, if appropriate. Fr. Brian said he will try to develop a youth ministry.

4.4 Pastor's Remarks

- The stability of the parish is incredibly important as it affects parishes around us and schools. It also allows Fr. Brian to mentor young priests and do other work in the Archdiocese. Fr. Brian is on the following Archdiocesan Committees: Chairperson of the Organization Facilitation Committee (which replaces the Organization and Development Committee and the Stewardship Committee of the Archdiocese, and expands the mandate of the areas that are addressed), Ex-Officio member of the Council of Priests, member of the Diocesan Finance Council (which oversees the Annual Appeal and the Capital Campaign endeavors), member of the Diocesan Administration, and member of the Operations Committee. The support, encouragement and prayers of the parishioners and parish staff have made it possible to carry out his diocesan responsibilities.
- The parish, and in particular the Mass Captains, appreciates the consistency of replacement priests.

5) Closing Remarks

- Charlene thanked everyone for coming out.
- The parish staff was thanked. The parish could not survive without them.

6) Next AGM will be on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 12:30 in the Balzer Room *(Note: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions, this meeting has been postponed until the community can gather safely and without restrictions.)*

- There was a suggestion to change the start time to 12:15.
- Notices about the meeting should include that refreshments are served.

7) Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Cindy Howat and seconded by Cecile Hebert that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

8) Closing Prayer

The meeting ended at 1:15 p.m. with praying the Glory Be.