

Sacred Heart Parish, Lake George, New York

REPORT TO THE PARISHIONERS – STATE OF THE PARISH - January 2019

Once again it is that time of the year to report on the “State of the Parish” from the Pastor’s perspective. What follows are some thoughts on the trends, needs, accomplishments of this past year as well as a direction for the future. I thank you for your support and prayers. **Please see our website for other statistical information.**

■ STATE OF THE PARISH

Like all Churches we as a Catholic community are being to “age out”. Fewer people are involved in ministry. Actual Church attendance numbers are down, as well as revenue. Yet, those who are supporting the Church are very generous. **Stats on our website**

■ PARISH COUNCIL AND MINISTRY

- **The Parish Council** this year has taken up the challenge to re-evaluate ministry in the parish.
- A meeting was held with Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors in January (2019) to review practices.
- The Altar servers meet also in January. A manual was given out for the procedures, vocabulary and importance of this ministry.
- Food Pantry – need for more helpers. Create 2 teams to ease the burden.

■ PARISH FINANCE

The parish finance committee continued to work hard on the budget and finances of that parish. The diocese has forgiven the debt owed of \$97,300.

The Diocesan Capitol Campaign will begin this spring. The goal is \$339,299.00 for Sacred Heart Parish. Father will ask the Pastoral Council to brainstorm the needs.

We have been able to reach our Bishop’s appeal goal in these past years. We face an increase of 2% for 2019-2020 appeal.

■ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious education continued with the **Family Faith Formation program**. Father Busch was able to do the monthly presentation for the Adults. The numbers have held, those involved have been positive. **Stats are listed on our website.**

For Adult Education 2 presentations were given. In the Fall, **A better understanding of the Mass** using Bishop Robert Barron’s THE MASS video. Then in Lent, using the Augustine Institute’s video **FORGIVEN** on the Power of Confession.

■ SAFETY CONCERNS

There has been much emphasis on **safety and security**. The Caldwell Presbyterian Church had professionals from Warren County come to address this issue particular to their church. Hopefully we will accomplish this this year at Sacred Heart.

■ STAFF

- **Regina Newell** took on the job of Music Director at St. Cecilia's Church in Warrensburg. **Marilyn Buehler** took both jobs of Music Director at OLA, Queensbury and Sacred Heart, Lake George.
- Both **Deacon Ryan McNulty and Deacon Frank McNulty** have helped by preaching the first weekend a month at both OLA and Sacred Heart. However, both are limited in the amount of time they can be here.
- **To be able to continue with the same Christmas Mass schedule for both OLA and Sacred Heart Parish in Lake George**, Msgr. James Moroney [friend of Fr. Busch's and the rector of St. John's seminary in Brighton MA], helped to celebrate 3 of the Masses. Fr. Nellis helped with 1, Fr. Busch also celebrated 3. For Christmas 2019, Msgr. Moroney will not be available, and Fr. Nellis will be 92 years old. A revision of the Christmas Mass schedule for 2019 will be needed
- Fr. Busch continues to serve the diocese as **Episcopal Vicar** for the Adirondack Vicariate. He is the secretary of the Presbyterial Council.
- **The monthly community meal** (October through May) had to be cut back to once a month due to a lack of volunteers able to cook and serve the meal. Those who have do so have been very faithful. However, people have dropped out and those left are aging out. A second week is provided by Pastor Ali (Caldwell Presbyterian Church) who approached local restaurants to provide the food – members of her congregation help serve and clean up.

■ BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

A list of projects which have been completed so far and future concerns can be found on our website. Money from the capital campaign will help. The furnace / boiler for the rectory and the chapel date back to 1960 – and will need to be replaced.

■ CONCERNS / GOALS

- As the average age of the priests in the diocese continues to increase and more retiring than being ordained, more cuts in Mass schedules will occur. This will mean a decrease in revenue. With the campaign, *Re-igniting our Faith*, there is hope that we can become financially stable, be able to make the building repairs, and work on evangelization.
- Lake George is a vacation spot. The trend has been for tourists to come only on weekends - rather than staying whole week at a time. This could also have an effect on the finances.
- We need to increase the number of people in ministry - ie. Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers - both adults and children
- We need to continue to work on a balanced budget. We still have some major expenses to contend with – the heating system for example.
- The question of the use of the Rectory is still open. We will be getting a Seminarian this summer who will live there.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pre-K		5	0	0	0	1	3
K	19	2	3	3	1	2	1
1		3	8	7	4	2	5
2		9	10	8	8	8	5
3	25	8	10	2	4	8	6
4		3	11	8	4	3	7
5		6	6	7	7	7	3
6	23	6	7	2	8	5	5
7		3	11	7	3	6	4
8		5	3	11	4	2	7
9	27	5	6	4	13	3	2
10		6	2	10	5	14	8
11		17	10	9	7	3	11
12		0	15	1	0	0	4
Total		94	78	102	79	68	71

Sacraments

Baptism	25	12	18	18	19	6	14
Marriage	21	16	26	15	19	19	35
Eucharist	12	19	12	11	8	11	9
Confirmation	10	20	11	7	17	4	25
Funerals	22	21	22	24	19	18	17

- For 2019 our destination weddings are down. 2018 was a banner year.
- Confirmation was held at Sac Heart for the Cluster, hence then increase in number.

COLLECTION and COUNT

Sacred Heart in Lake George Monthly Average - Collections

Numbers in red indicate amount decreased from previous year



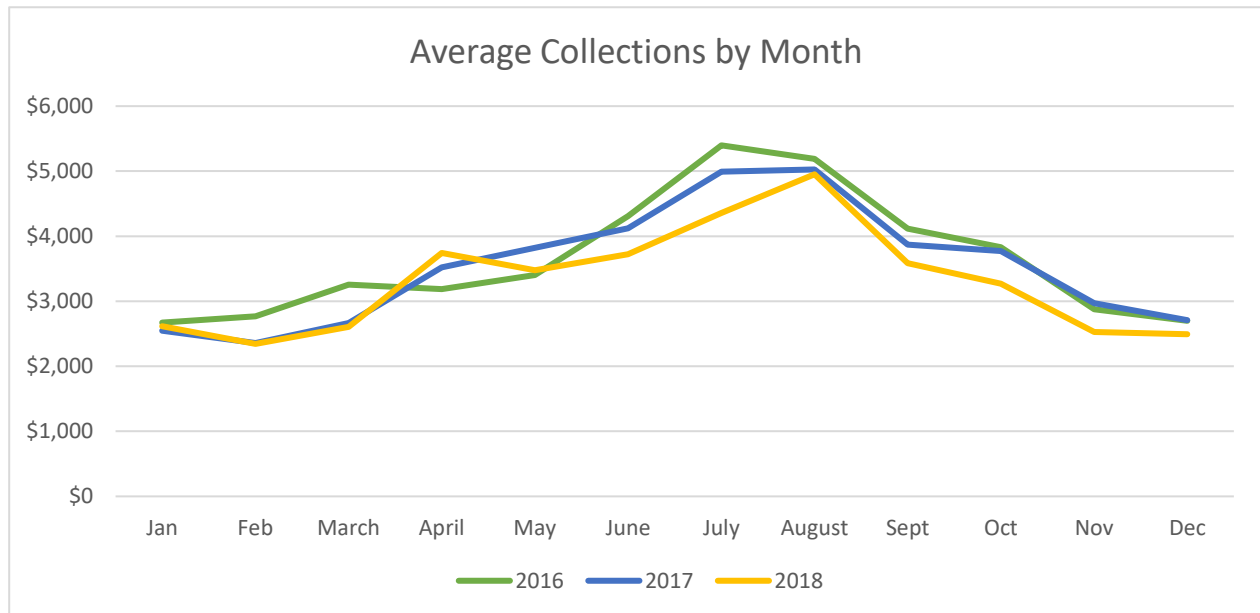
	2016	2017	2018
Jan	\$2,672	\$2,548	\$2,617
Feb	\$2,767	\$2,358	\$2,345
March	\$3,255	\$2,664	\$2,605
April	\$3,189	\$3,520	\$3,742
May	\$3,405	\$3,824	\$3,477
June	\$4,308	\$4,124	\$3,724
July	\$5,397	\$4,990	\$4,360
August	\$5,190	\$5,026	\$4,952
Sept	\$4,119	\$3,871	\$3,585
Oct	\$3,831	\$3,773	\$3,271
Nov	\$2,877	\$2,972	\$2,527
Dec	\$2,697	\$2,712	\$2,495
Xmas	\$6,225	\$8,269	\$7,056

Overall

\$3,642


\$3,532

\$3,308

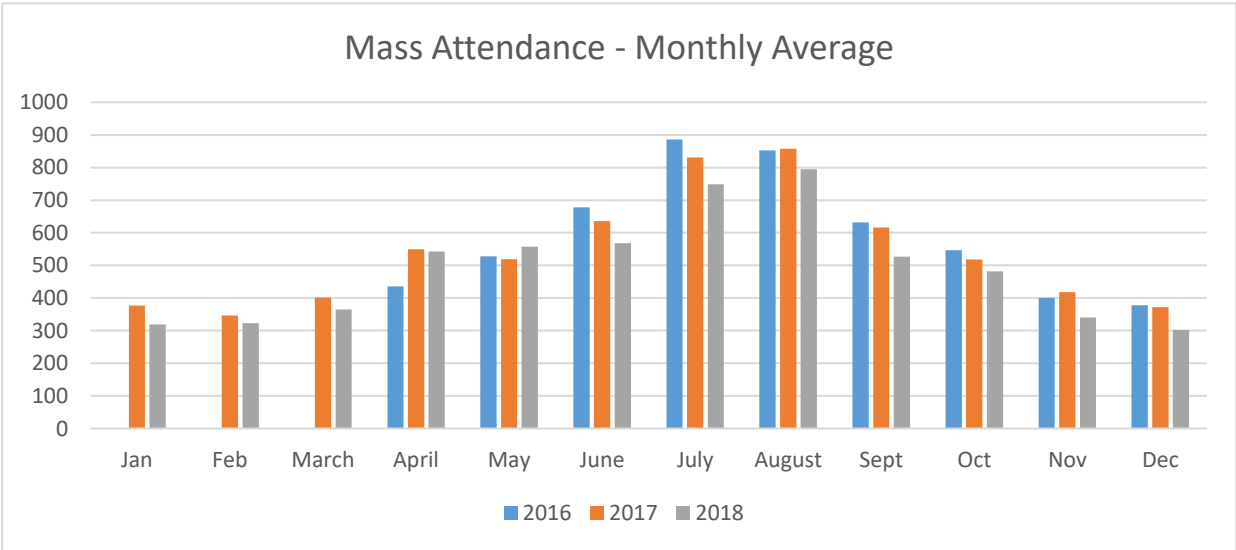


Monthly Average Count (People Attending)

Numbers in red indicate amount decreased from previous year



	2016	2017	2018
Jan	n/a	377	319
Feb	n/a	346	323
March	n/a	401	366
April	436	549	543
May	528	519	558
June	678	636	568
July	886	831	748
August	853	858	795
Sept	632	616	527
Oct	546	518	482
Nov	401	419	340
Dec	378	372	303
Xmas		835	881
Overall	445	537	489



Sacred Heart Catholic Community							
Stmt. of Financial Position (Bal. Sheet) for 12/2018							
				12/2018			12/2017
ASSETS							
CASH A/C'S							
100		CASH OPERATING	\$12,236.86				\$22,692.28
103		CASH, BISHOP'S APPEAL CK ACC.	\$10.00				\$10.00
TOTAL CASH A/C BALANCES				\$12,246.86			\$22,702.28
SAVINGS A/C'S							
110.10		Savings	\$20,493.25				\$19,367.94
TOTAL SAVINGS A/C BALANCES				\$20,493.25			\$19,367.94
CD A/C'S							
INVEST./MM A/C'S							
130.10		Investments - Raymond James - Church	\$22,329.43				\$6,365.26
TOTAL INVEST./MM A/C'S				\$22,329.43			\$6,365.26
OTHER REC. A/C'S							
TOTAL ASSETS				\$55,069.54			\$48,435.48
LIABILITIES & FUND BAL.							
600		A/P CONTROL ACCOUNT	\$2,836.55				\$0.00
602		Diocesan Self-Insurance Fund Payable	\$14,374.53				\$6,732.00
604	*	PARISH ASSESSMENT PAYABLE	-\$1,000.00				\$8,077.00
605	*	SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PAYABLE	-\$1,000.00				\$92,484.00
609		Pension - Lay Employees	\$2,370.64				\$6,770.64
640		NYS PFL WITHHOLDING	-\$63.93				\$0.00
651		Dental Insurance Payable	-\$541.79				-\$1,377.13
812		DIOCESAN, CATH.RELIEF SERVICES	\$0.00				\$24.00
814		DIOCESAN, HOLY FATHER	\$0.00				\$4.00
823		DIOCESAN, BISHOP'S APPEAL	\$0.00				\$10.00
825		CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS	\$0.00				\$4.00
829		Disaster Relief 2018	\$0.00				\$12.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES				\$16,976.00			\$112,740.51
FUND BALANCE							
900		FUND BALANCE	\$15,329.89				\$35,839.78
901		BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$227,673.65				-\$100,144.81
TOTAL FUND BALANCES				\$38,093.54			-\$64,305.03
TOTAL LIAB. & FUND BAL.				\$55,069.54			\$48,435.48

* Parish and school Assessment Payable - reduced \$97,300 [Debt Forgiveness] - See Letter from Bishop Ed.

Buildings and Grounds Projects Completed – January 2019

PARISH HALL

- Clean up Parish Hall – removed plastic trees at entrance, throw out “free stuff” left on tables in hall way
- **Pressure washed mold** off Parish Center
- Parish Center hallway – cleaned – throw up “free stuff” left on tables / bulletin board cleaned up / remove all paper taped to windows and doors, office walls
- **Repaired doors on Parish Center / locks changed**
- Trim shrubs around Statue of St Isaac Jogues

CHAPEL / CLOISTER AREA

- **Replaced sidewalk – cemetery side of Chapel**
- Replaced rotten wood in side of Chapel by entrance door – cemetery side
- **Mary Statue moved** away from Cloister – new foundation
- **New doors on side entrance to cloister**
- **Tree – by cloister / remove light and take down**
- **New lighting purchased** for cemetery side of chapel – not yet installed
- Shrubs around cloister / chapel
- Cloister / breezeway – painted

RECTORY

- **Replaced slate steps**
- rectory basement cleaned
- **Rectory professionally cleaned by North Country Janitorial**
- Rectory is currently being painted
- **Masonry work – rectory front door left hand side**
- **Rotting Wood replaced by rectory front door**
- Trim shrubs walkway leading to rectory entrance, and shrubs around rectory entrance

MAIN CHURCH

- discard plastic trees in church
- Church basement cleaned – especially around Hot Water heater

- Eagle Scout project – **new shelving built**
- Check **emergency lights in church and replaced fixtures in Church**
- Sacristy cleaned / Accident Report forms placed in back
- **Baptismal Font fixed** – pipe repaired
- **Railing added** to sanctuary (Right side of altar)
- **Replaced broken light outside**

OFFICE

- New phone system in Office
- New computer for Office
- Mail box outside

MISCELLANEOUS

- Outside back of Rectory – bench broken fixed
- Sign on Garage doors for No Parking

Concerns for future

Major capital improvements needed

- ❖ The **boilers for both the Chapel and Rectory are old – circa 1960s**. This will be a major expense for the parish
- ❖ Sound system in the Church needs work – presently **Chris Bailey from Sound Solutions in Saratoga** is evaluating and will give a proposal.
 - We may need additional speakers
 - The actual amp / mixer is not accessible to change settings during Mass
 - Wireless microphone for Celebrant and for Altar area needed

To Do List – current

- ❖ Finish installing lighting by cemetery side of Chapel

BISHOP'S OFFICE
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September 10, 2018

Very Rev. Joseph G. Busch E.V., Pastor Sacred Heart Church
50 Mohican St.
Lake George, NY 12845

Dear Father Busch,

Over my tenure as diocesan bishop, I have regularly heard from parish leaders of the burdens that some have carried for years which concern long-standing financial indebtedness to the diocese. Because I can appreciate such a burden, I have been intent on trying to assist such persons and entities throughout our region.

Several months ago, I instructed our Diocesan Vicar General, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller to review those entities with debt to the diocese beyond three years in arrears. After consultation with the Diocesan Finance Council and our independent auditors, they have proposed the forgiveness of such debts to the diocese for all entities that do not have the resources to pay their debt. I have taken their advice under prayerful consideration.

Now, having consulted with the College of Consultors, I have agreed that, in order to ensure the health, growth and sustainability of our parishes, schools and cemeteries, it is appropriate at this time to forgive any debt owed to the diocese by any entity that does not have the resources to pay debt that is more than three years old as of June 30, 2018. Although such debts are being forgiven, this in no way means that the diocese has the financial resources to continue to operate in such a fashion. At present, and going forward, we cannot afford to allow our entities to operate in constant arrears.

After due consideration I wish to inform you that Sacred Heart Church will be forgiven of such indebtedness in the amount of \$97,300.87 effective June 30, 2018 (enclosed are credit memos for each amount forgiven which together total the full amount forgiven). Please be sure to clearly communicate this forgiveness to your entire parish at your earliest convenience.

Finally, as you endeavor to grow the gift of faith in your community, may this debt forgiveness only enhance your enthusiasm, and inspire you to offer great praise to Almighty God for all that the Lord has done—and indeed will continue to do—in our midst.

With every prayer and blessing, I am sincerely yours in Christ,



Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D. Bishop of Albany

Enclosures