

Our Christian Walk

The Gazette Of Grace Covid Fall Issue Oct-Nov-Dec 2020

Serving The Community Of Our Lady Of Grace

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A Note From Our Parish Administrator, Debbie Griffith

It is hard to believe we have been in this “interim” period for a year now. Even harder to believe is over half of the interim period has been spent in the present “pandemic” situation. While distance sometimes makes it hard to work together, it also provides us an opportunity to think “outside the box” and bring about the change that is needed to move forward.

Beginning in March, staff had to adjust and change as they began working from home with limited access to the office and much more of our communication came in the form of emails and phone calls rather than face-to-face contact in the office. As neither parish had the capability at the time to live stream our masses, once again we had to think “outside the box” and the idea of piecing together a mass with recordings done in individual homes and church settings became our weekend liturgy. The weekly parish email blast became our main form of communication with our parishioners. When committees and groups could not physically come together, many of us learned to participate in “zoom” meetings and gatherings.

In late June, when we were given the go ahead for reopening church, we were again faced with changes in the way we were allowed to worship. In a short period of time, we came together to develop a plan so that those who wished to return to church, could do so safely. It is truly amazing when we are put in a particular situation how we can adapt, change and move forward.

In all these instances, it took the time and effort by staff and members to get us where we are today. We could not move forward or be where we are today without the support of many members of our parish. What exactly does it mean to be a “member”? (Cont'd. on page 3)



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OLG Mission Statement

We are a welcoming community of believers, being disciples of Christ through worship, the Sacraments, ongoing faith formation, evangelization and Christian service to others!

OLG Pandemic Safety Minister Report *by Paul Fanning*

On September 13 OLG reached the two-month mark since reopening for Mass on Saturday, July 11. During this period, we have been averaging around 30 parishioners for the Saturday Vigil and over 40 for Sunday morning Mass.

Also, on Sunday, September 13 we held First Communion for 9 candidates and their families. Using reserved seats for these families and a deliberate seating plan, we were able to safely seat 84 attendees following our standing protocols.

In my role as PSM, I am pleased to point out several important accomplishments over this period that I believe are key to our success so far. We remain open for Mass with regular attendance without any incidents of possible infection. Parishioners have grown used to our routine under pandemic restrictions and their cooperation demonstrates their love for our community, despite any inconvenience.

Our reopening team of volunteers are doing a great job. They serve as greeters, contact tracers, ushers and then after Mass, complete disinfection of high contact features and areas (hand rails, light switches, faucets in bathrooms, etc.) so our spaces are ready for the next service. Working with the OLG administrative staff, we are staying on top of getting disinfecting supplies before they are needed, so there is no interference with our efforts. The seating plan in the worship space developed back June is still working. Based on recent experience, we can seat more attendees without making floor plan changes right now. Our hope is that over time, more parishioners will be able to return for Mass and feel safe doing so.

We are reviewing and maintaining the completed Self-Assessment Affidavits and our Mass checklists as necessary, in case an infection is reported and we need to quickly inform our members. The Mass attendance information will also help guide us should we need to adjust our seating layout in the weeks ahead.

Below is a summary of Mass attendance from July 11 through September 20. The numbers do not include Fr. Jack, Deacon Frank, Patty Neumann, and either Joan Suda or Rachel Bowcutt. The numbers include reopening volunteers, who bring others safely inside for Mass, help with communion and guide everyone safely outside when Mass is over.

I am grateful to all who have helped make our reopening possible and who continue to support our parish.

Vigil

7/11 - 30
7/18 - 26
7/25 - 25
8/1 - 32
8/8 - 25
8/15 - 28
8/22 - 29
8/29 - 30
9/5 - 30
9/12 - 39
9/19 - 29

Sunday

7/12 - 33
7/19 - 37
7/26 - 48
8/2 - 42
8/9 - 39
8/16 - 43
8/23 - 43
8/30 - 42
9/6 - 40
9/13 - 84



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(Note from Editor: this community thanks Paul Fanning and his team for his tireless efforts to help us worship through the covid crisis. Although I do not have their names, there are many unsung heroes backstage who have helped make this new routine work. Thank you to all of you!)

Note from pg. 1 cont'd.

A member is part of something larger and each member certainly contributes in a unique manner. As Paul writes (and as we have heard so many times), “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body...” (1 Cor. 12:12-13a). We will get through these difficult times by living the reality that we are the body of Christ. It is each member stepping forward and doing their part for the body that brings fulfillment to our life together in Christ. As Paul continues, “God has so composed the body...that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” (1 Cor. 12:24-26) These are the times that make us very mindful of the value of each member’s contribution, as we suffer and rejoice together.

I am truly grateful for the help and support of the trustees, staff and members of the parish community who have stepped forward in the last year and have helped in so many ways to keep the parish moving forward thereby living and spreading the Gospel message. You have all made a positive difference in the community of Our Lady of Grace.

Many blessings, Debbie Griffith, Interim Administrator

With Gratitude....

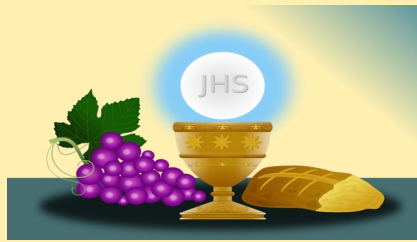
Many thanks to Dave and Ann Pierce for helping Jim Repice to maintain the OLG property by weeding and mulching! Joyce Boice and daughter, Deb, planted mums and pumpkins in the entry boxes. Super idea! We thank all of you who have contributed to the maintenance and beauty of the physical plant of OLG, including those weekly covid cleaners! Can’t say enough about the team of volunteers who welcomes us each week. You have made our Mass attendance an opportunity for gift! Heartfelt thanks to Fr. Jack and Deacon Frank, (and all others) for making all of this possible!



We send loving wishes to Lucille Feeser, OLG parish secretary for 24 years, who is retiring into new beginnings. Lucille has kept us glued together through thick and thin and we will miss her greatly!

We send our gratitude and prayerful wishes for your happiness and health and thank you for all you have done for our parish community.

Blessings of health and happiness to you and your family!



Our First
Holy
Communicants!
Blessings and
Prayers for your
spiritual journey!





Helping Hands
 End of the Year Statement
 JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020



Beginning Balance - July 1, 2019		\$6,673
Income		
OLG donations, sale of wreaths	\$3,966	
BH-BL summer lunch program (donations from Stewart's & parishioners)	1,200	\$5,166
Expenses		
Rent/Security Deposit (4 families)	\$ 380	
Car repairs/insurance/gas (5 families)	160	
Thanksgiving & Christmas food gift cards/groceries	2,344	
Wreaths	1,650	
Miscellaneous	110	
Transfer to BH-BL Summer Lunch Program Account	1200	
OLG donation to BH-BL Summer Lunch Program	500	
		<u>(6,344)</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2020		<u>\$5,495</u>

Helped 53 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Distributed a total of 193 Christmas gifts from the Giving Tree.

Summer Lunch Program with financial and volunteer support served over 2,400 lunches for up to 88 children during the six-week program.



Happy 90th to our dear Sheila Fridholm!

Thanks to her loving family, she enjoyed a Fantastic Drive-by Birthday Party. Sheila frolicked and waved to dozens of her passing admirers!!!!

Our Lady of Grace Church
Financial State of the Parish
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
Summary of Operating Income		
Collections	\$291,994	\$315,916
Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings	625	2,625
Interest, Parish House Rental	1,015	10,235
Bulletin Advertising Income	501	94
Faith Formation Fees	5,070	5,490
Mass Stipends, Evangelist Receipts	1,450	1,534
Gift Cards & Coffee Sales, Misc.	9,401	10,394
Donations (restricted & non-restricted)	3,665	4,545
Reimbursements	<u>33,085</u>	<u>29,669</u>
Total Income	\$346,806	\$380,502
Summary of Operating Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	\$249,402	\$268,052
Church Expenses	79,447	99,867
Outreach Expenses	285	2,324
Parish House & Rectory Expenses	2,553	8,786
Faith Formation Expenses	20,636	14,950
Additional Payments to Diocese		
Total Expenses	\$352,323	\$397,550
Net Operating Total for OLG	(\$5,517)	(17,048)
<p>Note: In May 2020, OLG obtained loan funds under the Federal Payroll Protection Program that could be used to partially pay for salaries and certain other expenses early in the COVID- 19 crisis. The amount spent under this program in fiscal year 2019-2020 was \$22,679. It is expected that this loan amount will be forgiven at some point in the future.</p>		
Annual Diocesan Collections		
Catholic University, Rice Bowl, Holy Father, Catholic Home Missions etc.	\$ 3,337	\$ 6,416
Re-Igniting Our Faith Program		
Number of Gifts	85	N/A
Total Amount Pledged (over five years)	\$289,200	
OLG Share of Amount Pledged	\$202,440	

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2018- 2019</u>
Bishop's Appeal Assessment	\$ 76,078	\$ 76,820
OLG Payments	\$ <u>63,762</u>	\$ <u>73,219</u>
Excess/(Deficit)	(\$12,316)	(\$3,601)
Diocesan Adjustment*	<u>12,316</u>	N/A
Amount Due	0	N/A

*Due to financial stress on parishes from COVID-19, the Diocese reduced assessment to amount paid.

Balance Sheet	<u>6/30/20</u>	<u>6/30/19</u>
Cash & Savings	\$ 77,024	\$101,343
Savings (Sale of Property)	206,579	0
Cash-Payroll Protection Program	15,391	0
Re-Igniting Our Faith	<u>41,316</u>	0
Total Assets	\$340,310	\$101,343
Payroll Protection Program Loan	38,070	0
Other Liabilities	<u>615</u>	<u>42,095</u>
Total Liabilities	\$38,685	\$42,095
Fund Balance	<u>301,625</u>	<u>59,248</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$340,310	\$101,343

Approved by the Finance Committee: L. Feeser, D. Griffith, J. Lorenc,
T. McNamara, P. Salm, P. Van Nostrand, K. Wacksman

OLG other statistics
July 2019-June 2020

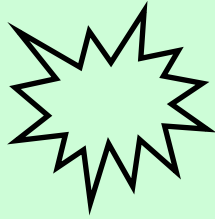
Baptisms - 7	Registered households - 546
Rite of Christian Initiation - 0	
First Eucharist- 0*	Faith Formation Program
Confirmation - 0*	Grades 1-5 - 43
Marriage- 0	Grades 6-11 - 70
Funerals - 4	
Homebound/nursing home - 10	Average 5:30 p.m. Mass - 93
	Average 10:30 a.m. Mass - 165

*First Communion and Confirmation took place in Fall 2020 due to COVID-19. *



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Note From Editor:

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. We would like to use this newsletter to share the faith and Christian action of our parishioners. Please send stories about your ministry, e-mail photos; tell us about a person, or bible passages which have had a positive influence on you or your family, your poetry, your journey. We are published quarterly, with deadlines as follows:

Issue	Deadline
Jan-Feb-Mar	Nov 25
Apr-May-Jun	Mar 1
Jul-Aug-Sept	Jun 1
Oct-Nov-Dec	Sept 1

Our Cluster Parishes:
Saint Joseph's Website:
<http://www.stjosephschurchscotia.net>
Immaculate Conception Website:
<http://www.ic-glenville.com/>

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You can access the weekly bulletin and this newsletter with all current parish activity at:

<http://www.olgchurchbl.org>