

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
January 2020

## Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: [dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

## PARTICIPATION

1. December Baptism Preparation: 00.

Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JKRWWJSY/>

2. Community Forum/Holiday Grief: 05.

3. Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation: 01

4. Online Advent Retreat: 36

See evaluation results here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-LTFV2PGS7/>

5. Homeless Memorial Day Prayer Service: 30

## COMING OPPORTUNITIES

### A. Initiation

1. RCIA/RCRA. An information meeting for people interested in joining the Catholic Church is scheduled for January 5. The winter RCRA series begins January 12 and meets on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart.

Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>

2. Baptism Preparation. The next class is January 11 at Blessed Sacrament.

Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/baptizing-infants-and-children>

### B. Evangelization

1. Alpha for Catholics. The next Alpha series will begin February 5 at Blessed Sacrament and February 6 at Sacred Heart.

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/alpha>

See cumulative Alpha evaluation results at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-PJWHZYCC7/>

2. Listening Sessions. The next listening session for inactive Catholics is January 15. A listening session for families of LGBTQ Catholics is scheduled for January 29.

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>

4. Waterloo Catholics on Facebook. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in December was 3,884 (daily average: 125; daily range: 329/84).

Read cumulative evaluations of Waterloo Catholics on Facebook here: <https://bit.ly/2TSw211>

#### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. Community Forum. A Community Forum for families of LGBTQ persons is scheduled for January 29; the presenter will be Jennifer Christiason from the Unity Point LGBTQ clinic.

Learn More: <https://waterloocatholics.org/community-forum>

2. Spiritual Growth. A discussion for adults and young adults interested in exploring opportunities for growing in their faith, their relationship to Jesus, or their relationship to the church is scheduled for January 9 at COR.

3. Winter Forum. Charlotte Wells will be the first speaker in our Winter Forum Series. She will discuss the history and significance of Notre Dame Cathedral for the French nation and Catholic Church on Thursday, January 23, at COR. Dr. David Cochran will discuss how

Catholics are polarized on political issues on Thursday, January 30. Other programs in the Winter Forum series are schedule for February 4 and 12.

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/winter-forum>

4. Book Discussion 1. A discussion group for parishioners who have read and want to discuss Bishop Barron's book "Letter To A Suffering Church" will meet in January, The date is pending.

5. Book Discussion 2. I am preparing a discussion guide for groups at St. Edward who will be meeting to discuss Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate," which is the book distributed to parishioners at Christmas.

6. Know Your Faith. The next Know Your Faith session is January 20 at COR; the topic is Sacraments—Encountering God."

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/know-your-faith>

#### D. Spiritual Growth

1. Catholic Witness Hour. The next Witness Hour is January 27 at St. Edward.

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>

2. Spiritual Growth. A discussion for adults and young adults interested in exploring opportunities for growing in their faith, their relationship to Jesus, or their relationship to the church is scheduled for January 9 at COR.

3. Winter Mini-Retreat. John Waldmeier will be the facilitator for our winter Mini-Retreat January 26 at COR. John will provide an overview of the Gospel of Matthew, from which the Sunday readings are taken during ordinary time this year.

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/winter-mini-retreats>

4. Faithful Companions. Ellen and I are working on this new opportunity for adults and young adults who want to participate in a small group spiritual discernment and growth process. Small groups of four or five individuals will meet monthly with a spiritual guide to pray and discern how God is working in their lives. We hope to form Faithful Companions groups after the first of the year.

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/faithful-companions>

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/bulletin-board>

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## **K-8 Religious Education**

**Paul Lee**

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

- Provided nearly 600 special Christmas bulletins for each parish to pass out to kids during Christmas Eve/Day Masses
- Bulletin announcements will be running during January at Blessed Sacrament and St. Edwards

### **Wednesday RE/ Saturday RE**

- We have had a wonderful fall RE Family night at Sacred Heart with over 70 in attendance
- The Saturday RE youth in grades 3-8 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation along with the First Reconciliation youth at Blessed Sacrament Church on December 7.
- Family RE night is scheduled for December 11 in O'Hagan Hall of Sacred Heart

### **Summertime RE/ Enrichment**

- We agreed to sign up for Totus Tuus for the summer of 2020. We requested 1 team, and will evaluate its continuation after this summer's program. Requested a late July week
- Summer RE is already scheduled for late June

### **Early Childhood Formation**

- Beginning to explore ways to reach out to families of kids aged birth through 5 to provide some religious education
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## **Gr. 2-12 Sacraments**

**Julie Niemeyer**

### **First Sacraments (2nd graders)**

- First Reconciliation celebrations were held Wed., Dec. 4 at St. Ed's (81 children/youth; probably a third had a parent or other family member go to Confession, too) and Sat., Dec. 7 at Blessed Sacrament (34 children/youth; almost all had a parent or other family member go to Confession, too).
- Student materials and parent support materials for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade First Communion prep have been ordered.

- First Communion info meetings for parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be held Sunday, Jan. 12 at Queen of Peace (one for Spanish, one for English); Monday, Jan. 13 at St. Ed's; Wednesday, Jan. 15 at Sacred Heart; Sunday, Jan. 19 at Sacred Heart (Burmese)
- Am preparing lesson plans for school and RE classes using the Dynamic Catholic *Blessed* program.

### **PREP (Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation for gr. 3-8) & Children's Initiation**

- First Communion PREP classes will be held on the three Wednesday nights after Spring Break.

### **Other -**

- Will attend metro Lent planning session on Jan. 6
- Will attend Arch. Grandparent Advisory Committee mtg on Jan. 13
- Plan to attend Archdiocesan Women's Conference on Jan. 25
- Will be on the QP/SH Alpha Team
- My position became half-time (20 hrs/week) in November.

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### **COR & Young Adult Ministry**

Ellen Kuchera

[dbqwcya@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcya@dbqarch.org)

### **COR AT 220 EAST:**

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
  - Helped decorate COR for Christmas on December 2nd.
  - The ad for COR appeared in the December 1st edition of the Witness. Will try and place another ad in a few months.
  - Met with Paul Lee on December 3rd to discuss the possibility of putting up a ceiling projector and permanent pull-down screen at COR. Will table the idea for now and look into getting a portable screen and continue to use the projector we have. Will be meeting with Paul after the New Year and discuss setting up a television in the front window of COR with a loop video of upcoming events and the monthly calendar.
  - Emailed a letter to Caroline Francis in the Music Dept. at UNI. She will forward that letter to all the music professors reminding them that we have COR available for faculty and music students to keep in mind for recitals, rehearsals and performances.
  - Will be checking into putting a diaper changing table in the restroom and acquiring a high-chair to make COR more family friendly for future events.
  - Also need to invest in a space heater for the upstairs office.
  - On December 20th, talked to Dawn Pegis about doing monthly events centered around "The Twelve Days of Christmas & the True Ways My Love Gifts Us." We will start having monthly tea and craft sessions on January 25th from 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Each month, a tea and craft will be held centering around one of the 12 Days of Christmas, starting with "A Partridge in a Pear Tree" and ending in December with "Twelve Drummers Drumming."
  - Continue to make contacts for future COR events.
- December's Know Your Faith discussion night was "Happy New Year - Exploring the Church Calendar" on December 16. January's discussion night will be "Sacraments: encountering God" on January 20.
- December's movie night was "Dead Poet's Society" on December 20. January's movie night will be "Lion" at 7 pm on January 17.
- We had three private events at COR in December. "Preserve Cedar Valley Trails" will hold their quarterly meeting on January 16.
- Light from Light will be held on January 5 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm at COR. This taize prayer experience has many similarities to Light the Night, held at Queen of Peace, during Irish Fest each year. Light the Night volunteers are invited to gather and pray again for Light from Light and are encouraged to, in the spirit of evangelization and ecumenism, invite friends and neighbors, particularly someone not Catholic, to join.

- Adult Faith Formation will be hosting several events at COR during January including a “Spiritual New Year’s Resolutions” night discussing with each participant what might be the next step of growth in faith for them, a Winter Mini-Retreat, the Winter Forum Series, and a community forum night on questions and concerns of LGBTQ families.

#### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Advent tea/prayer on Tuesdays in December went well. This month we will return to our regular schedule for Open Tea on the 2nd & 4th Mondays from 5:15-6:15 pm.
- Witness to Love Marriage Formation
  - Met with two couples at Queen of Peace thus far. Both couples have taken the Prepare/Enrich inventory and are working on asking mentor couples. I will begin working with Queen of Peace to develop a list of showcase couples to provide as a resource for engaged couples that might struggle to identify a mentor couple.

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha
  - The After-Alpha gathering on December 9 went very well with a lot of great feedback and ideas discussed.
  - Blessed Sacrament will be starting Alpha on Wednesday evenings beginning February 5 from 6-7:30 pm.
- Faithful Companions - Dave and I are creating introductory sessions for the groups to begin with as well as setting a structure for regular group meetings. Fr. Bob Gross has agreed to help provide some video content for the introductory sessions. We will begin with three groups with the facilitators being Dave and I and Renae Brandle.
- RCIA - the Rite of Acceptance will be on January 4 at 5:15 pm at St. Edward for one catechumen. The catechumens will continue to meet on January 6th and 20th.

HS/MS Youth Ministry  
Annie Zeets

#### Confirmation:

- Confirmation Class #2 is set for Jan. 5 & 8 at Sacred Heart: Focus of the class is prayer and the Holy Spirit
- Team members include: Deacon Ray Larsen, Deacon Chris & Carrie Evans, Maureen Beckman, Vanessa Gomez, Deacon Brad Kneeland.
- College team includes: Sarah Davis, Louren Kilburg, Lucas Kahler, Courtney Cummings and Adriane Cole
- Confirmation celebration date: Sunday, March 29th at 2:30pm at Columbus High School. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this beautiful metro sacramental celebration.

#### Testify

**Mission Statement:** Testify is an inter-parish youth coalition that invites people of all ages to engage their faith with enthusiasm and energy, praising His name through music, liturgy and ministry.

- Testify provided music at Sacred Heart on December 14th at 4:00pm mass
- The group went Christmas caroling downtown CF on Dec. 20th.
- Jan. 8: rehearsal at CHS
- Jan. 18: 4:00pm mass at Blessed Sacrament
- Jan. 22: rehearsal at Queen of Peace
- Jan 26: 9am mass at Queen of Peace

### **High School RE**

- We will be offering at high school religious education class second semester. This is to “fill the void” of what was YDisciple. We did a summer high school class that was well attended and are hoping for the same response. Mailing are going out the week of Dec. 2. Registration deadline is Jan. 3. Class will be held at Sacred Heart during K-8 RE class time/schedule. UNI student Sarah Davis will be teaching the class.

### **High School**

- Will be starting 2 book club groups that came out of some awesome speakers at NCYC. One will be reading Emily Wilson’s book “Go Bravely”. The other Sarah Swafford’s book “Emotional Virtue for a Drama Free Life”. Will get started after the holidays. Still looking to find the best day/time for this to happen
- NCYC “meet-up” scheduled for Jan. 15th. A time for trip participants to come together to check-in and spend some time in prayer.
- Students are very interested in a variety of “topic nights” that will begin on January 29th with “tough topics”

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### **Middle School**

- Dec. 22 Middle school Christmas social.
- Working on plans for a girls night with guest speaker, Amanda Goodman, that focuses on inner beauty and strength.
- Gen and I continue to meet on Fridays to make plans and check in with each other. Gen is also a catechist for middle school RE on Wednesday nights.

### **Other:**

- Facilitator for MAC group
  - Appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as youth ministry representative
  - Helping facilitate archdiocesan youth ministry workday with NCYC emcee Katie Prejean McGrady that will take place at Blessed Maria on Jan. 26.
  - TEC - Teen Encounter Christ - will be happening in Waterloo March 14-16 at Blessed Maria. I have been asked to be the director of the retreat that is for juniors and seniors from all over the archdiocese. I am working on building a team from other youth ministers in the area. The music team will be a group of college students under the direction of Daniel Novotney. I am also on the archdiocesan TEC council which meets monthly.
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Becky McElroy  
Business Manager

### **Meetings:**

Preparing agenda’s, updating information, and sending out meeting agenda’s and minutes from the FFAT meetings.

### **Staff/Office**

- Support staff with ongoing needs.
- Daily office duties.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave.
- Preparing financial reports.
- Accounts payable.