

2020  
HOLY SPIRIT PARISH  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
REPORT



## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2020

*As Jesus was about to choose his first disciples, he sat by Lake Gennesaret teaching. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master we have been hard at it all day and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I will lower the nets." Upon doing this they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were about to break. The disciples were amazed and Jesus said, "Do not be afraid..."*  
*Luke 5:2-10*

Dear Parishioners,

I want to present to you our 2020 Holy Spirit Parish Accountability Report. For sure this was a year like no other! During this pandemic time, many of us have felt loneliness, defeat and fear. Like those first disciples, we the Lord's disciples today, are struggling to make a catch. We are at times discouraged with the way things are. And yet, Jesus is saying to all of us, "Do not be afraid. Do not stay in shallow waters. Put out into the deep and trust." And that is what we have done at Holy Spirit Parish. As Christians, we are chosen and sent to proclaim Jesus Christ to all even in the midst of a pandemic.

Enclosed is a 'snap shot' of how we as a parish continue to live that mandate to bring Jesus to others. For practical and safety reasons, I realize that some committees were not able to neither meet nor exercise their ministry due to the pandemic. Hopefully, for those who could not you are taking this time to evaluate your current ministry. Like so many others, we have had to learn to adapt. For example, some of us were thrown into multimedia, using 'Zoom' and 'phone conferences' to meet on a regular basis. Again, I realize that not every group is privy to such technology or ability to operate it (this includes me). I am grateful for those who can and I want to thank them for sharing this gift.

Also, I want to thank all the people of Holy Spirit Parish for their ongoing faithfulness, commitment and support during these unprecedented times. I marvel at the ways that you continue to exercise your baptismal mandate, including our volunteers, fulfilling various roles and addressing the many needs in our community and beyond.

For many of us, last year was a time to 'move inside' and 'to be'. Everything that we knew as 'normal,' including the practice of our faith, was turned upside down. As a safety measure, Mass was suspended for a few months in 2020. We participated in the liturgical life of the church through Masses on television or for those who had online Masses. As well, we were given a lot of time for our own spiritual growth and self-reflection. In solidarity with you, I, too, fasted from celebrating Mass on my own, opting to reach out to other communities, each week discovering the 'flavour' of different worshipping communities. However, my heart was always with our own Holy Spirit Parish! Now that we are currently in the 'yellow zone' we are able to gather and pray together but not without restrictions. I want to thank everyone for continuing to follow the guidelines put in place, knowing that a 'new' and 'stronger' church will eventually emerge. As well, I want to thank all the committees for their ongoing hard work and dedication and for their trust to 'put out into the deep.'

As you look within this report, I ask you to continue to give thanks to God for all that has been given to us: parishioners, leaders, creative ideas and faith. As well, I want to thank our parish secretary, Bernice who goes well beyond the scope of her duties to participate in the well-being of our parish. On behalf of all of you, I thank her for her goodness to all of us.

Some of our accomplishments and ‘blessings’ include:

**Revitalization Committee** continues to meet via zoom and still offers prayerful ideas in how to continue to build up our parish. You will find that the projects completed and remarks shared with you most encouraging. We are very fortunate to have them help guide us as we move through these unsettling currents of this past year.

**Building and Maintenance** have also covered many goals and objectives this past year that include new roofs for all remaining buildings; and the completion of other projects as well.

**Our Finance Committee** continues to offer stellar leadership with the monies that are collected, ensuring every amount spent is accountable to the proper expense.

**Religious Education** has had a very challenging year but that has not stopped our coordinator Linda Spinney in her ability to provide ‘take home’ packets for each level of formation. Be sure to check our ‘faithbook’ page on Facebook and see the materials that are being offered. As well, our website continues to post weekly homilies and other up to date information. Thank you Matt Tingley!

**Women’s Group** continue to be sensitive to the needs around us and addressing them head on: Christmas for Lonewater Farm, Purses for those living on the streets, Lunch program for Harbour View High School, Soups for Avenue B and beautifully knitted Prayer Shawls for our sick.

New to us this past year is the **Pandemic Team**. People who come to Mass early and ensure our worship spaces are both safe and welcoming. Even though we are following the strictest of guidelines, I feel that this experience has brought us closer together, learning each other’s name and not just faces.

As we continue to move forward with 2020 behind us and another year before us, let us remember that we are all invited to participate in all aspects of parish life and strive to understand each other’s needs, hopes and dreams.

Grateful for all of you at Holy Spirit Parish, I remain your servant,

Fr. David Martin

## Holy Spirit Parish Statistics: 2020

<b>Number of Active Parishioners</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Number of Deaths</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Communion</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>First Reconciliation</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Confirmation</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Marriages</b>	<b>2</b>

## Revitalization Committee 2020

This committee was formed in 2018 in response to the upcoming amalgamation of St Rose of Lima, St Augustine's and St Matthews with the goal of bringing about revitalization. Our committee's mission is the support Holy Spirit Parishioners in being a welcoming community of growing disciples who share our faith, support one another and lead others to Jesus Christ.

Membership in 2020 consisted of Father David Martin, Bernice Martin, Patti Blake, Mark Palmer, Eleanor Austin, Angela Butler, Stephen Parker, Kim McCormick, Barb Tracey-Laroque and Kenneth Fury. As with many other ministries, our plans were interrupted by the pandemic. With the initial closure of the church, early in the year, it became evident that Communication was our utmost priority. Matthew Tingley and Johane Levesque started out as contributing members of the communications sub-committee but were immediately welcomed into the main group because of their talents and gifts.

You may recall participating in a parish wide survey back in the fall of 2019. With the newly formed Holy Spirit Parish, we wanted to understand how people were feeling, their needs and their loyalties. Eleanor Austin spent countless hours leading us through the design, data collection, data interpretation and then in how to best communicate the story of what we learned. A design firm was hired to package up the communication pieces and plans were laid for how to best present the story elements. Then, the government mandated a multi-week shutdown and our dilemma was now how to best share this information. We could just leave the information at the church for pick up when people return, but many have yet to return due to their own concerns for personal safety during this pandemic. We could post it on our website but many of our parishioners are without access to a computer. Ideas from a DVD video to mailings were discussed but, in the end, the messaging is just too important not to be delivered consistently. While the results reflect a moment in time and may no longer be accurate, the lessons learned and the mission has created a blueprint for moving forward to Revitalization.

Despite the church closure, our committee came together via virtual online meetings to discuss the importance of communication and the opportunities before us:

- Matthew Tingley went to work improving our [www.holyspiritrcparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritrcparish.ca) website. He is constantly adding content and making improvements. We can now all see current and past bulletins. The feedback has been overwhelming at how many people appreciate the Father's Reading Corner where they can have access to his homilies.
- Johane Levesque created the Holy Spirit Faithbook page on Facebook and we are up to 250 followers. Johane shares all sorts of stories, videos, music videos (some even featuring our very own Mary Rose) and content for parents and children such as colouring pages. It is a very active page with lots of interesting content.
- When the church first closed a phone blitz was organized and many volunteers took a list and started making calls to see how people were doing, to answer any questions and to give updates about the website and Facebook page. This was a success so Barb Laroque started a phone tree where a small group reach out to people who requested to have someone stay in touch. Should you wish to volunteer for this, please contact Barb or the office.

- When it was determined that the Bishop was going to be live streaming Easter Sunday mass from the Cathedral, we felt that the message had to be broadcasted. Eleanor did up a public service announcement and messages were left with various media channels helping to spread the word.

While most of our activity revolved around communication, other activities included:

- To ensure that anyone who wanted to attend mass felt safe, Mark Palmer created a Pandemic Committee. This involved understanding protocol and staying current with all regulations as well as putting processes in place so that everyone could worship safely. The silver lining is that those attending mass on a regular basis feel safe and welcomed and people are becoming much more familiar and supporting of one another.
- We received funding from the Federal Government through the SEED program and were able to hire 2 summer students. The roles were split with 80% being support at the cemetery and 20% support in the office. As special thank-you to Alex Johnson and Ryan Booth (who replaced Colin Black) for their hard work and dedication.
- Our Bishop would like to see the active participation in the Alpha program so in the summer both Father David and Eleanor Austin took part. There are now 3 members of the Revitalization in this program so that we can best understand how to support its introduction. Alpha is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. Each session covers a key element of the gospel in a way that is easy to follow and leaves space for people to explore their questions about life, faith and God.

Our goals for next year are largely focused on how to welcome everyone when we can once again gather as a full church. Revitalization is about having a vibrant and active faith community across all generations. We need to have a focus on youth and one way to engage the youth is through technology. With the pandemic, we have learned the power of video, podcasts and other communication channels. Matthew Tingley would like to form a Technology Ministry which will help spread our messages but could also get some youth very active in our church.

We will be sharing lessons learned from the survey, our mission and path forward. It is our hope that in the fall of 2021, we can get together at a large and celebratory picnic where we can showcase all the ministries and opportunities to get involved. By every committee showcasing what it does, we demonstrate how individuals are putting their faith into action and allowing their talents and gifts to shine. A theme of 'Faith in Action' shows how we are fulfilling the Parish mission.

In order to keep this committee healthy and vibrant each member will serve an average 3 years and then step aside to give others the opportunity to get involved. We would like to thank Eleanor Austin, Kim McCormack and Kenneth Fury for sharing their talents and skills. These three have other obligations so will not be participating in 2021 but they have each helped to lay the foundation here at Holy Spirit Parish. We are open to new members and would like our committee to consist of 12 people with at least 2 or 3 between 16 and 30 and 2 or 3 over 75 to bring representation as well as diversity of thought. We are looking for idea generators and team

players with a willingness to share their skills. We can always use people with experience in communication and technology.

On behalf of the entire Revitalization Committee, we pray for your health, safety and blessings along your faith journey.

Patti Blake – Revitalization Committee Chair

## **Finance Committee Accountability Report – 2020**

Dear Parishioners,

We are pleased to present to you our 2020 Financial Report for Holy Spirit Parish. This committee meets every other month via phone to monitor cash flow and expenses. Once again monies from our school rental and the IPLF (Inter Parish Loan Fund) have allowed us to show a net surplus for this year. Even though our net income was reduced by 30% due to Covid 19 restrictions we were still blessed to have a positive cash flow. Our mandate, in cooperation with our pastor, Rev. David Martin, is to be stewards of our churches financial assets and expenses.

Again, we have acquired the services of JK Whittaker in preparation and review of our financial statements. In 2020 our committee allocated \$600,000.00 from our IPLF St. Rose Building Fund into a balanced portfolio (60% fixed income, 40% equity) to realise long term growth potential for our parish.

Under government grants and rebates we received \$19,666.00 from the CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy). As well we were able to hire 2 summer students to help with the care and maintenance of St. Augustine's Cemetery and other small parish maintenance projects.

Five (5) bursaries of \$500.00 each were presented to Holy Spirit Parish high school graduates to help further their secondary education.

We are grateful, especially during these difficult times, for all your financial contributions made to our parish. It is a testament to the strong faith and love that we have for Holy Spirit Parish.

Yours in faith,

Bob Gaudet

Finance Committee Chair – Holy Spirit Parish

Finance Committee Members:

Bob Gaudet – Finance Committee Chair

Anita Leblanc – Finance Committee Secretary

Bernice Martin – Parish Secretary

Chris Thompson

Roxanne Fairweather

Phil Butler

Rev. David Martin - Pastor



## Holy Spirit Parish

### Profit and Loss

Year Ending December 31, 2020

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Offertory Collection	243,100	316,813
School Rent	127,737	124,110
Bequests and donations	11,379	33,554
Special collections	3,176	12,683
Building fund	23,800	27,964
Other	3,914	20,369
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>413,106</b>	<b>535,493</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Church	153,004	128,309
Salaries and benefits	140,545	165,270
Rectory	39,079	22,511
Diocesan assessment	38,328	39,373
Office	9,234	9,544
Hall	2,553	7,744
Special collections remitted	-	8,093
Other	28,001	60,523
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>410,743</b>	<b>441,367</b>
<b>Net surplus before other items</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>94,126</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
IPLF interest	29,682	48,806
SEI Investments	28,863	-
Bank Interest	127	150
Government Grants & Rebates	38,535	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>97,207</b>	<b>48,956</b>
<b>Net surplus (loss) for the year</b>	<b>99,569</b>	<b>143,082</b>

**Holy Spirit Parish**  
**Balance Sheet**  
*As of December 31, 2020*

<b>Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
Bank of Montreal	28,731	14,563
Scotia Bank Chequing	-	10,762
Holy Spirit Building Fund	18,624	21,420
St Augustine Cemetary Account	10,458	8,912
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>57,813</b>	<b>55,657</b>
Taxes Recoverable	7,139	8,504
<b>IPLF - Deposits</b>		
St. Rose School Rent Fund	1,018,032	938,189
St. Rose Building Fund	277,500	890,295
St. Rose Community Housing	27,586	27,049
St. Augustine Cemetery	97,647	96,033
In Trust - Riley Manor	43,371	42,654
SEI Investments	628,863	-
<b>Total IPLF - Deposits</b>	<b>2,092,998</b>	<b>1,994,220</b>
Land & Building	89,779	89,779
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,247,729</b>	<b>2,148,160.16</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		-
<b>Equity</b>		
IPLF - (Loan)/Deposit Activity	71,000	71,000
Opening Bal Equity	2,077,160	1,908,960
Retained Earnings	-	25,118
Profit for the year	99,569	143,081.68
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>2,247,729</b>	<b>2,148,160</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>2,247,729</b>	<b>2,148,160.16</b>
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## **Holy Spirit Parish Religious Education 2020**

In Religious Education, our focus is Faith Formation and increased involvement, awareness and understanding of our Catholic Faith in the youth of our Worship Sites and Parish. With changes brought about by pandemic regulations, we have focused on a virtual outreach, which has, in turn, made it possible to expand from our Grade 1 to 8 previous student base, to offer Bible story type lessons for children of any age as well as “extra” lessons on specific Feast Days or days of note in the Church calendar, via our Facebook Group, [Holy Spirit Religious Education Group](#), the parish Facebook page, [Holy Spirit Faithbook Page](#), and email; also the delivery methods for biweekly lessons for specific grade levels, which continue to be based on the [Be My Disciples](#) program.

We have two active and eager groups; those preparing for their First Reconciliation and Communion, and those preparing for Confirmation, who are meeting, when protocols allow, in person for preparation, in order to make these major steps in their Faith Formation possible, and when permitted, in person classes will resume, continuing the online format of Grades 1-5 and 6-8, with extra Sacrament preparation classes. At this time, real classes for younger companions don't seem likely, but when we do return to in person gathering, the online Bible Stories will continue.

Presently, we are operating without, and have no need of a budget, because the arts and crafts, and snack time parts of our program are on indefinite hold, I continue as coordinator, Angie MacDonald continues to prepare the First Reconciliation and First Communion classes, and Marijke Blok remains the catechist for the Confirmation class.

Moving into the future, we are undertaking a change in the preparation for Confirmation. With Bishop Christian's inspiration and support we will follow an Alpha based program, and I recently started my own Alpha program, online, which is how it will be presented to the Confirmation Candidates. In order to effectively present and support this program, we will need the continued support and involvement of our Parish Family, so I encourage all who have followed the program, and all who are preparing to, to give serious thought to helping Marijke and myself out with the Confirmation class.

Nothing remains unchanged in life, or in the way we celebrate our Faith, otherwise we would continue to meet secretly in locked upper rooms. Religious Education is moving into a new area just like everything else in our lives, a digital and virtual one, but our goal continues to be to instill the traditional values, customs, and understanding, to a new generation, one that is much more comfortable with this world than many of us.

Submitted by Linda Spinney, Coordinator, Religious Education, Holy Spirit Parish

Submitted by Linda Spinney,  
Coordinator, Religious Education,  
Holy Spirit Parish

## **Holy Spirit Parish Catholic Women's League (CWL)**

As we know this year has been very bad for people gathering, so we've not had a meeting since last February.

We do keep in touch with our members and send Mass cards for our deceased.

Since there has not been a reunion for over a year we have not gathered any funds to help out in our society. We hope that this pandemic will lessen and we can get back together again.

Yours truly

Cecile Deschamps  
Secretary for the CWL

## Holy Spirit Women's Society 2020

The mission of the Holy Spirit Women's Society is to undertake projects that support our parish, its outreach, and enrich our community, while developing fellowship and friendship.

The Women's Society is based in Grand Bay-Westfield, but all the women of Holy Spirit Parish from both worship sites are welcome. Under normal circumstances we would typically meet monthly, the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Holy Spirit Rectory Hall. However, due to the pandemic, The Women's Society was only able to meet twice, January & February. We had planned a pot luck dinner in March for St. Patrick's Day, which was cancelled.

In spite of all this, we were still able to be productive!

- **Avenue B Soup Ministry:** We managed to gather twice early in 2020 to make soup and biscuits, then 2 women were able to make a batch in November. Totals delivered to Avenue B were 124 containers of homemade soup and 261 biscuits, drastically reduced from our yearly average of approximately 500 containers of soup and well over 1000 biscuits.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** This ministry had been meeting in the Rectory Hall every Wednesday, 10am to 130pm, with everyone welcome, regardless of skill level. It was discovered early on in the pandemic that even Covid couldn't keep dedicated crafters from their work! Projects continued at home, each item made with love and prayers. In 2020, 8 prayer shawls were distributed to people in need, and generous bags of hand crafted mittens, hats, scarves, etc. were provided to our local schools (Westfield Elementary, Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood Elementary, Harbour View High School), Coverdale Centre for Women, Avenue B, and Lonewater Farm.
- In the early part of 2020 a food donation drive was in progress for the Sunshine Café at Harbour View High School. The Sunshine Café helps to both educate and feed students in need that would otherwise go hungry. However, schools were closed in March, again due to the pandemic, for what turned out to be the remainder of the school year. The non-perishable food items that had been received up until that time were instead given to the food bank. In September, donations of school supplies were collected for the Sunshine Room at HVHS, to help provide items for students in need. Parishioners were very generous; the staff and volunteers at HVHS were extremely grateful.
- Once again the parishioners of Holy Spirit parish provided support to Lonewater Farm at Christmas. The donations received were overwhelmingly heartwarming and very generous, helping to make Christmas less lonely for the clients as well as provide assistance throughout the year.
- Generally the Women's Society is able to help support the Knights and the Christmas baskets for the less fortunate. Covid prevented that this year; in December a monetary donation was made to the River Valley Food Bank.

- A pajama drive was held in the fall for Coverdale Centre for Women, which provides a safe place for all women, through their drop-in centre, emergency shelter, and halfway house. Many women arriving at the shelter have nothing but what they are wearing on arrival; pajamas are provided for warmth and comfort at night. Unfortunately, the donations received at our worship sites were quite low, but the Women's Society was able to purchase many sets of gently used sleepwear from thrift stores to support Coverdale.

The Women's Society relies on the kindness and generosity of our parishioners to support our outreach activities through donations of required items or financial assistance, as well as help and support behind the scenes. What we do could not be done without the support we receive from both worship sites. It is all greatly appreciated. Thank you. If you are interested in being part of our fellowship, please reach out to the parish office for contact information, or find us on Facebook: Holy Spirit Women's Society.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Jill Robillard - Chair  
Holy Spirit Women's Society

## **Avenue B out Reach 2020 Holy Spirit Parish – Saint Rose Worship Site**

### **Holy Spirit Parish Ministry to Avenue B:**

Due to Covid Pandemic restrictions individuals have worked from their homes to provide soup for Avenue B. We have provided over 1000 cups of soup. Cups were donated by Esso Gas Station (Maine St.), Irving Gas Station (Main St.), Deluxe French Fries (Main St.) and Subway Sandwiches and Salads (Fairville Blvd). Our supplies of cups & covers is running low, hence we will be seeking more donations of cups with covers.

Holy Spirit parish has also partnered with Hillcrest United Church to deliver loaves of bread to Avenue B.

Due to lack of storage and transportation to individual homes we are presently funding this ministry by monitory donation made to the parish. Once Covid restrictions are lifted, we will begin cooking at Rose Place and will have a parish drive to stock ourselves.

If you have left over meat carcasses, to be used in our soups, you can contact the Parish and arrangements will be made for pick up.

### **How can parishioner become involved in this ministry?**

- Make monetary donations to Avenue B through the weekly collection. Just mark you name and note the donation is for the Avenue B Ministry.
- Keep the Staff and Clients of Avenue B in your prayers.
- Pray in gratitude for the many acts of kindness we are sharing with the Clients at Avenue B!

May the Holy Spirit continue to grace us with these Acts of Charity!

Respectfully Submitted:  
Helen LeBlanc

## Holy Spirit Pro-Life Ministry Report 2020

**Our Primary Goal:** To be an avenue of prayer for the Pro-Life Ministry.

- Due to Covid restrictions, our Pro-Life Rosary or participate in the Holt Hour with the Knights of Columbus has not happened.
- Visit [nbrighttolife.ca/saintjohn](http://nbrighttolife.ca/saintjohn) for educational material on the Pro-Life Movement.

**Goals for the coming year:**

- Continue to invite the **Holy Spirit Parish** to be involved in our Pro-Life Prayer Ministry.
- Invite St. Matthew's Worship Site to become involved.
- Work with K of C Council 8094 to invite Gradon Nicholas to come and give a presentation on the significant of the apparition of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (patroness of the Pro-Life Movement).
- Form a committee to pray together the Liturgical Readings for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and write the Prayers of Faithful for Pro-Life Sunday with a Pro-Life Theme.
- We welcome new ideas on how we can promote a Culture of Life at Holy Spirit Parish.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen LeBlanc



## **Building & Maintenance Committee Accountability Report – 2020**

Even though Covid 19 garnered many changes and restrictions for our faith community one area that we were able to maintain were our buildings and grounds. During last year the committee met via conference calls. It was decided early on that we would address emergency repairs only. However, projects and goals approved in 2020 were followed through and brought to completion.

Below is a list of projects that were completed in 2020.

### **St. Matthews Worship Site**

- New entrance way completed at the rear of the church.
- A new roof and proper ventilation installed on church building.
- Outdoor sign rewired and repaired.

### **St. Rose Worship Site**

- New cost efficient LED lights installed on the exterior of the church to light up building and steeple.

### **Rectory**

- New roof on house and garage.
- New screens installed on rectory windows.
- Plumbing repair in bathroom at rectory.

### **Goals and Objectives for 2021**

1. Painting interior at St. Matthews Worship Site.
2. New front and back stairs for rectory.
3. Work on front parking lot and roadway repair at St. Matthews Worship Site.
4. Stain glass windows at St. Rose Worship Site to be evaluated and repaired accordingly.
5. Painting trim around exterior windows at St. Rose Worship Site.
6. Work on gutters and outside doors at St. Rose Worship Site.
7. Paint stairs at St. Rose Place.
8. Re-evaluate contract for property maintenance at St. Rose Worship Site.
9. Possibility of installing heat pumps at both worship sites.

Building & Maintenance Committee Members:

Stephen Parker - Chair  
Wayne Connoll  
Leo Maloney  
Keith Doiron  
Fr. David Martin - Pastor

## **Responsible Ministry 2020**

The purpose of the Responsible Ministry is to ensure that those entrusted to the care of the children of our Parish and the vulnerable as well as those in a position of trust, have a Police record check.

This past year because of the Covid 19 virus, there have not been regular Religious Education classes so there were no new catechists that needed to have their Police checks done.

We can hope that by next fall we will have a full slate of returning and new catechists. We look forward to that.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Parker

Responsible Ministry – Holy Spirit Parish

## **Pandemic Team Accountability Report 2020**

This year past was one of many challenges, not the least of which was to deal with the CoVid 19 world-wide Pandemic. Provincial Legislation has required that large gatherings, such as religious services, must be conducted with respect to an operational plan that complies with the current safety measures approved within the Province of New Brunswick. The Dioceses of Saint John has as well, issued guidelines and directives for the holding of services.

To be in compliance with these expectations, a plan was developed for Holy Spirit Parish, and a co-ordinator was assigned. Initial meetings were held with representatives of our worship sites and a request for volunteers was announced. When restriction were first lifted in April of last year we were prepared but anxious. The efforts of the Pandemic Team within our Parish have always been to ensure the safety of parishioners who choose to attend Mass. In a situation, where the rules kept changing (often with little notice) this was very challenging. One of our goals was to encourage an atmosphere of welcoming calm and confidence, we wanted parishioners to feel protected when attending church services.

I want to thank very much the dedicated and reliable volunteers who have come forward and done an outstanding job for Holy Spirit Parish. From an initially small group our numbers have grown to include multiple well functioning teams, that provide a fabulously welcoming and safe atmosphere for parishioners to attend Mass, funerals, weddings, baptisms and other sacraments each and every week; for all of us.

Organized into teams of 3 – 5 volunteers with acknowledged Team Leaders and with the guidance and support of Father David, the Pandemic Team within our Parish has been a resounding success. The group comes together periodically to discuss how we will continue to meet the regulatory challenges of changing rules and expectations, as well as, to prepare for special celebrations such as Christmas and Easter.

Much appreciated is the role played each week by Bernice Martin who organizes the lists of parishioners scheduled for Masses and sacraments.

The Pandemic Team are the first responders of our Parish. Without them our Parish could not function. We are always looking for additional volunteers for this important mission. If you are interested in joining please contact Bernice at the office or myself.

The following people are currently involved in this important church mission. Thank you sincerely to each of them.

George & Roseanne Melanson  
Ken Gogan  
Mary Ann Patterson  
Marilyn Upton

Marijke Blok  
Wayne Connell  
Ann Fletcher  
Faye Lambert  
Kevin Reid

Terry & Barb Levenshulme  
Terry & Janice Dickson  
Dave Chase

Helen LeBlanc  
Moira Wilson  
Tim & Dale Wilkes

Doug & Linda Hubbard  
Jill Robillard

Greg & Linda Gilbert  
Susan Nicol

Teresa Mittelholtz  
Iris Thompson  
Rose Theriault

Anne Marie Sewell  
Bernice Martin  
Cathy Thornton

Amanda Muise  
Pat Quinn  
Francis Doiron

Paul Cormier

Respectfully submitted,  
Co-ordinator Mark Palmer - 635-5742