

SACRED HEART PARISH COVID YEAR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Masses resumed in July after being cancelled from March to June. The Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended.

Our Mass schedule: Saturday at 4:00 PM, Sunday at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:00 AM.
Daily Mass at 8:00 AM Monday to Friday. Mass attendance is 40% of pre-Covid figures.
We have mandatory facemasks, social distancing, and our fogger is at work between Masses.

Our weekly YouTube Mass can be found on our website at the red "Watch Sunday Mass" button.

The church is open daily 7 AM to 7 PM for prayer or to pick up items in the lobby (2021 calendars, Living Faith books, weekly bulletins etc.). Weekly bulletins and parish news can also be found on our website. Fr. Jette is making monthly Communion visits to the homebound.

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals are regularly scheduled. In 2020, children received First Communion at small family Masses. Confirmation was held with limited attendance and was also live streamed.

Religious Education classes are being held virtually on Zoom. Students have served as readers at Mass on several weekends at church.

Our Youth Ministry Group coordinated Veteran's Day supplies for our troops serving overseas with the USO at Westover AFB. Your generous donations were heart-warming.

Our Social Action Ministry has been very active in supporting Suffield Community Aid with the generous support of our parishioners. Their full report can be found on pg. 2 of this report.

A Prayer Garden was built between the church and hall with a circular pathway, a bench and statues of the Sacred Heart & St. Joseph. Contributions will enable us to add two more statues this year.

The Red Cross used our hall for seven blood drives in 2020. More blood drives are scheduled in 2021.

St. Joseph Rectory / Convent / Church Basement items were auctioned online by Golden Gavel Auctioneers. Remaining items will be cleaned out this year before the buildings are listed with a real estate agent to see what interest there may be.

Thank You to our parishioners for your continued generous support for our parish in these challenging times through our Parish Support boxes in the church lobby, our online giving, and by mail.

Every day at Mass, I pray for the Lord to watch over and protect you and your families, to shine His light in the Covid darkness, and to bless you with His love.

May God make safe to you each step, may God make open to you each pass, may God make clear to you each road, may God hold you in the clasp of His hands.

FR. MARK JETTE

**SACRED HEART PARISH
SOCIAL ACTION/HUMAN NEEDS MINISTRY
Year End Report 2020**

The Food and Pantry Collection - In spite of reduced attendance at church, parishioners have continued support of Suffield Community Aid families in need. Many made the trip to Community Aid's building on South Street to drop off needed groceries listed in the weekly bulletin.

Suffield House - Suffield House was closed to outsiders for much of the year so this activity was discontinued.

Easter Collection, Spring and Fall Clothing Drive activities were not held due to the Coronavirus that shut down most activities in our state and in churches.

School Collection Parishioners donated \$1,396 to Suffield Community Aid for school supplies to start the 2020-21 school year.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets – Members of the Social Action/Human Needs Ministry were determined to do our best to bring holiday cheer to families in need in spite of Coronavirus. We felt that the need for cheer was in greater need this year. Apparently, our parishioners were of the same mind as parishioners donated ample amounts of food and a record number of grocery gift cards for the nine families assigned to Sacred Heart most having between five and eight members.

CDC directives were followed. We were not able to include fresh fruit and vegetables or turkeys, however, families received grocery gift cards to purchase what was needed to have a hearty Thanksgiving. We were also limited to five bags per family. Our Ministry members were required to wear the masks that we've all become accustomed to and our sorting and packing activities were also adjusted to secure a safe environment for our members. We were required to do our sorting and packing early as the packed bags had to sit untouched for 72 hours before distribution.

Christmas Food Baskets - This activity was basically a repeat of the Thanksgiving event. Five bags for each family were stuffed with enough groceries for a wonderful Christmas dinner plus food to help sustain them until our next monthly collection! **Extra** grocery gift cards were distributed to families for perishables. After the needs of Suffield families were met, excess donated items were used to re-stock Suffield Community Aid shelves and/or to supplement the grocery needs of additional families.

Christmas Gift Giving – Again, our members were challenged in getting the job done with caution and safety in mind. Our members entered the holiday giving events with caution. Taking on such a project in the midst of a pandemic required careful thought. A different registration process was put in place. Parishioners quickly adapted. The new system worked so well that we may continue it in future years. Gifts and groceries had to sit untouched for 72 hours before distribution per CDC directives.

With the reduced number of attendees at Mass each week, expectations for holiday giving were lower than other years. As it turned out, our parishioners surpassed anything we could have imagined. In addition to wish list gifts, family members who needed a warm coat or jacket were supplied with one. **As always our parishioners gave very generously to 57 individuals from their wish lists.**

In addition to groceries and gifts, gift cards and cash donations exceeded \$4,000. After generously taking care of our families, we were able to give Suffield Community Aid \$805 in grocery gift cards and still have a reserve to help them with future purchases.

OUR MEMBERS THANK PARISHIONERS FOR THEIR HELP IN ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS AND ASSURING A SAFE AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS FOR ALL!!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY AND FAMILIES IN NEED!!