



St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

2281 State Road 580

Clearwater, Florida 33763

Phone: (727) 797-2375 • Fax: (727) 791-8287

smaclw@verizon.net

April 20, 2020

Re: Courageously Living the Gospel Parish Update

Here at St. Michael's, we have made significant progress in successfully meeting our Courageously Living the Gospel goals for our parish and diocese. We had not encountered any obstacles in moving forward until this last month with the restrictions to gatherings because of the Coronavirus; we did have a few events scheduled that had to either be postponed or canceled altogether. We hope that once the pandemic is over and we can once again physically gather as a community, we will be able to continue moving forward towards meeting all our goals.

Several items have been accomplished in meeting our goals in the areas of Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, and Missionary Disciples. They are listed below:

1) Youth Ministry

- a) Strategy 1: Launch at least 2 new social and spiritual activities for the Altar Servers.
 - i) Sept 7 – Diocesan Family Day @ the Rays (A reunion for those who attended the Good Samaritan Project over the summer, and their families.)
 - ii) Keeping Christ in Christmas project (Organized by the St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council, Guardian Angels Youth and St. Michael's Youth Group (Which includes Altar Servers) performed at a Keep Christ in Christmas Dinner Pageant where the youth sang and played instruments during and after dinner. They also performed a Carol Service after each Mass on Sunday morning.)
 - iii) Scheduled an Altar Server and Youth Group Picnic for John Chesnut Sr State Park which has been postponed due to Coronavirus.
- b) Strategy 2: Execute changes in the Confirmation preparation program to encourage participants to be more active in youth ministry activities after receiving the Sacrament.
 - i) Changed the Confirmation class time from Sunday morning to Sunday evening just before youth ministry gathering. With the time change, we were able to provide an opportunity for the Confirmation class to immediately join the Youth Group for social gathering, Faith sharing, and community activities.
 - ii) Incorporated additional Spiritual activities, including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, to the Confirmation Class Retreat.
- c) Strategy 3: Collaborate with other intergenerational parish groups to sponsor at least outreach activities for youth.

- i) St. Patrick's Dinner Dance with KofC, Women's Group, Sister Parish Group, and Youth Group
 - ii) Multiple Pancake Breakfasts with KofC, Women's Group, and Youth Group
 - iii) Ash Wednesday and Lenten Meager Meals with KofC and Youth Group
- 2) FAMILY MINISTRY
 - a) Held a Family Day at the Dunedin Splash Park (August 2019)
 - b) At the parish picnic, we had an organized area for families with young children, identified with a large banner (November 2019). Activities included Arts and Crafts and Games for toddlers and younger children (e.g. Hula Hoops, Soccer, Touch Football, Tattoos, and Bubbles, etc.)
 - c) Initiated a new project for families with children – Christmas Ornament Decorating after 9:30 Family Mass (December 2019).
 - d) A Family Picnic was planned for Hammock Park in Dunedin for March 2020 but was canceled due to Coronavirus
- 3) Strategy 2: Launch at least 2 new opportunities for marriage enrichment and support.
 - a) Introduced and promoted diocesan and national movements to parish family. A couple from Marriage Encounter spoke at all Masses in February 2020
 - b) Scheduled a Saturday Parish Marriage Enrichment event which was overtaken by the Coronavirus (May 2020). Postponed to October.
- 4) Strategy 3: Launch at least 2 new initiatives to better integrate families in the religious education program.
 - a) Implemented Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the Fall of 2019 for 5 year olds. This was one of our major highpoints; this program has been enthusiastically accepted by both children and parents alike. An outstanding success. We plan to add additional age groups over the years.
 - b) Subscribed and promoted FORMED for families and youth. It has been incorporated into our religious education program, youth group, RCIA, parents of youths, and those who are homebound.
- 5) MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
 - a) Strategy 1: Launch 20-30 small faith-sharing groups.
 - b) Formed an ad hoc committee to identify and meet with leaders of existing groups in the parish that might be interested in becoming more intentional about faith-sharing.
 - c) Kickoff meeting was held with leaders of the small faith communities but actions were postponed due to Coronavirus.
- 6) Strategy 2: Create at least one annual faith formation and spiritual growth opportunity to enrich, strengthen and support the staff, religious education teachers, liturgical ministers, etc.
 - a) Began planning and researching possible presenters and venues for an all-day retreat in the Fall of 2020 for the "core people" of the parish – staff, RE teachers, liturgical ministers, etc. Overtaken by Coronavirus.
 - b) Research continues on how to lead and grow small faith communities.

- 7) Strategy 3: Establish and begin implementing a plan to promote the parish and its activities to the wider community, especially “away” Catholics and the unchurched.
- a) After evaluation of the feasibility of expanding the use of “Catholics Come Home” program, it was decided to maintain 5 week program during Lent, as a minimum, with the potential of having the program at other times of the year. A new team started in Lent of 2020 but was canceled due to the Coronavirus.
 - i) Promoted 2020 “Catholics Come Home” program with two weekly ads in the Clearwater Beacon, on Spirit-FM online calendar, to parish families via Guardian Angels school, on our Parish Facebook, and via a postcard for parish groups to distribute.
 - b) Printed and mailed postcards with Christmas Mass information to 6000+ households in the parish boundaries who are identified as being Catholic. A small gift was provided to anyone who came to Mass and presented the postcard to an usher.

These accomplishments have brought excitement into the parish community and we look forward in getting back on track after the pandemic is over. We have many more goals that we feel need to be accomplished.