

Sharing Our Hearts and Hands with the Parish



HOLY CHILD ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

AGM scheduled for Sun., Mar. 3 at 12:15 p.m.

Holy Child Parish Annual General Meeting
Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 12:15 p.m. in the parish hall
Agenda

Mission Statement: We, the people of Holy Child Parish, are a community of Baptized Catholics living in the eastern sector of Regina. We believe we are called to build the Kingdom of God through worship, service and education, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the direction of the Archbishop, and leadership of the Priest given to our Parish.

Chairperson: Charlene Rogalski Secretary: Maureen Wild
Organizing Committee: Faye Helmerson, Marian Grady
Nominating Committee: Dave Helmerson, Gerald Hoffart, Paul Ponak

1. Opening Prayer - Father Brian
2. Adoption of Agenda for Annual General Meeting
3. Adoption of March 5, 2023, Annual General Meeting Minutes
4. Adoption of 2023 Annual Report
5. Annual Meeting – reports from parish groups:
 - a) Liturgy Carol Kaip, Marian Grady
 - b) Social Justice Agnes Parisloff, Faye Helmerson
 - c) Finance (& Bldg/Grds) Paul Ponak, Dave Helmerson
 - d) Hall/Catering Wayne Matt
 - e) Deanery Representative Sharon Bender
 - f) Members at Large Laurie Kirkness, Gerald Hoffart
 - g) Men's Club Wayne Matt
 - h) K of C Paul Ponak and Gerald Hoffart
 - i) Parish Team Marian Grady, Dc. Dennis Ziegler, Fr. Brian Meredith
6. Questions from the floor
7. Elections: The chair of the nomination committee (Dave) will chair this part of the meeting.
Positions available for election:
 Vice-Chairperson (currently vacant)
 2 Member at Large positions (one of which shall be youth)
For each position
 Announce any names on the slate
 Call for any nominations from the floor
 If more than one person is nominated, then hold election (use pieces of paper)
8. Other concerns or comments
9. Closing Remarks
10. Suggested date for next AGM: Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 12:15 p.m. in the hall.
11. Motion to Adjourn
12. Closing Prayer

Written Reports

From

Parish Groups

Liturgy
Submitted by Carol Kaip

Covid still continues to hang around. Hand sanitizing units continue to be available and continue to be used regularly. Masks in the church are still optional.

The beginning of June we once again started passing the baskets at collection time. People are still given the option of using the boxes at the entrances. We have also reinstated the offertory procession.

In September lists for all ministries were put out for new people to sign up. Most people have returned to the various ministries. We have had a few new people sign up and are very grateful. New volunteers are always welcome and needed especially for the Saturday night mass and Sunday 11 am mass.

As of now the cup is not being offered.

At the beginning of Advent a prayer service was held for the healing of Clergy Sexual Abuse.

Coffee after mass on Tuesdays has resumed. It seems to be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Deanery Pastoral Council
Submitted by Sharon Bender

The Regina East Deanery is going through some reorganizing and will be meeting in 2024.

Social Justice Committee Report 2023

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of these who are members of my family, you did it on to me. (Matthew 25:40)

Our meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. We currently have 14 members and new members are always welcome.

Once again our parish, parishioners and community supported our fundraising efforts through a private garage sale; DECA garage sale, Fair Trade Items, Sarcan, and monetary donations.

Our Giving Tree donations were once again generous with \$535.00, with numerous pairs of socks and packages of hygiene products. Recipients were Transition House, Wish Safe Shelter, Sophia House and Isabel Johnson Shelter.

Other donations over the year were made to Anti-Poverty Ministry, Food Grains Bank, Families In Need, Period Purse, Jesuits International, Chalice Sponsorship, Ukraine Aid, South Sudan Equity (to assist in building a school), Kate's Place, Phoenix Society, Indigenous Christian Fellowship, Mental Health, Queen City Wellness Pharmacy, North Central Family Centre, St. Theresa School Hampers.

Thank you for your donations of Can Tabs, that are taken to the Pasqua Hospital where volunteers from the Gift Shop use the money from the sale of these to purchase items for the hospital. Also, for the donated eyeglasses that are taken to the CNIB, to be sent overseas.

Members of our committee, in addition to our own events, have also attended and/or volunteered at events related to Development and Peace, Regina Community Well Being (which explores Food Insecurity and Homelessness), South Sudan Equity (school building), Trauma-Informed Workshop, North Central Family Centre, Celebration of Culture at Rec. Centre, Warm Up Coalition Meeting to address Homelessness.

We also had guest speaker M J Deans-Beynham from North Central Family Centre.

THANK YOU to our Holy Child Parish Family, Fr, Brian, the Parish Staff and Social Justice committee members for all the support you give us.

May God Bless All Of YOU.

Co-Chairpersons, Agnes Parisloff and Faye Helmerson

Those who shut their eyes to the cry of the poor will themselves cry and not be heard. (Proverbs 21:13)

FINANCE REPORT for 2023
Submitted by Paul Ponak
2024 AGM

Once again, this past year saw a shortfall in the operation of the Parish. A bit less than anticipated, however still a loss.

We are fortunate that the Parish is in a sound financial position, however. The reserves (\$657,000+ in the interparochial sharing) enable the Parish to withstand the deficits.

Approximately \$35,000 was withdrawn from this account during the year to ensure the operating (chequing) account was able to service the ongoing expenses. So, notwithstanding the operating deficits encountered by the Parish over the last few years, we are still in pretty good shape!

There is some positive news – a slight surplus is budgeted for the 2024 year. Also, the actual ‘per contributor’ average contribution is the highest in over 10 years. This is a testament that our Parishioners continue their strong support for the Parish.

Change is always constant....due to circumstances we have moved away from catering groups for, at least, the time being. For hall functions the banquet preparation/serving will be provided by a third-party.

With Greg’s retirement in September a search was undertaken for the maintenance/grounds person for the Parish. As the position has not been filled, Fr. Brian has entered into contracts with a cleaning & snow removal company. This is working quite well at this time. We will continue to monitor.

There have been some staffing changes in the Parish. As mentioned, Greg retired in September & Sr. Anna Aulie retired at the end of the year. We wish them both well as they begin their ‘next’ chapter.

A HUGE thank you to Fr. Brian for his guidance & leadership and to the office staff for their dedicated efforts during the year. You are key to making Holy Child Parish a Welcoming place.



ARCHBISHOP O'NEILL COUNCIL # 8896



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Archbishop O'Neill Council of the Knights of Columbus (Chartered May 08, 1985) is a Catholic family fraternal service organization - centered in Holy Child Parish. The Council has 107 members (2M+ worldwide) who support a variety of agencies/organizations through their fund raising and programs.

Archbishop O'Neill Knights of Columbus conducts a number of activities within the Parish and Community. These activities include:

- Church Programs
- Youth Programs
- Family Programs
- Community Programs
- Council Programs

As well, in 2023 we did something new...as a part of the Regina Chapter K of C, we volunteered (Parish members joined us) at Country Thunder in Craven. Our hours were tracked & an hourly payment was calculated – 117 total hours generating \$1,818 that was donated to the Parish.

Many members are involved in youth programs – scouting/coaching, as well as sit on boards of organizations/agencies. We are a Family organization!

In his annual report to the Supreme convention, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, gave this snapshot of the activities of the Order (July 2022 to June 2023) -

Charity

- Total donations: \$185M
- Total volunteer hours: 49.9M
- Persecuted Christians Fund: \$1M (\$33.1M since 2014)
- Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids: 180,912
- Food drives: \$11M
- Special Olympics: \$4.1M
- Habitat for Humanity: \$726,447
- Wheelchairs: 10,600 (127,181 since 2003)
- Blood donors: 359,415
- Scholarships: \$7.7M from councils

These are record #'s each year. you are familiar with the Coats for Kids program – initiated in 2009, the 1-millionth coat was provided this year. Although not a big Council, in 2023 our Council/members contributed some \$19,000+ & in excess of 12,000 volunteer hrs (probably low) to various organizations/agencies.

The Knights of Columbus Order was founded in 1882 by a Parish Priest, in the midst of a pandemic. **Come, join the Knights of Columbus! The one-year FREE online membership has been extended (no end-date specified). The time is right! Use this code - BlessedMcGivney – to obtain your free membership registration, visit the website www.kofc.org/joinus & voila.....**

If you (Parish) have a suggestion for a program or project for the Knights, please don't hesitate to let us know.....we're approachable.

Thank you Fr. Brian for your support & leadership for our Council. Thank you also to the Parish staff who do excellent work for all of us! And thank you to our Parish who support our activities & fundraising initiatives -

The following websites have a great amount of information - www.kofc.org or www.kofcsask.com
Also, don't hesitate to contact:

Gerald Hoffart - Grand Knight (GK) @ gphoffart@sastel.net ; 306.331.6858

Norbert Philippe – Program Director (PD) @ norphi@sasktel.net ; 306.789.0073

Paul Ponak – Financial Secretary (FS) @ prponak@sasktel.net ; 306.790.9317 (H) ; 306.550.5035 (C)

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Submitted by Marian Grady

Sacramental Programs:

- Baptism, Confirmation/First Eucharist and Reconciliation: Fr. Brian works with families preparing for Baptism, using online resources. We were able to return to family centred evening sessions for Confirmation/First Eucharist and Reconciliation with materials for families to work on together at home. Fr. Brian presided at our parish Confirmation/First Eucharist celebrations on Saturday, May 6 at the 7 p.m. Mass and Sunday, May 7 at the 11 a.m. Mass. First Reconciliation was celebrated on Sunday, November 5 at 1 p.m.
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Candidates for RCIA this year involved parents and children from 3 families, so they attended the parent/child parish sessions with their peers who were preparing for Confirmation/First Eucharist as well as some extra time with Marian. At the Easter Vigil we welcomed a mother who made her profession of faith with her two daughters being baptized. She and her oldest daughter also celebrated Confirmation and First Eucharist. Another mother and daughter celebrated full initiation that evening. Another family, with a mother and three children, who were not able to celebrate at the Easter Vigil, celebrated full initiation with the parish on Pentecost Sunday.

Spiritual Formation:

- Sunday to Sunday Bible Study - Sr Anna's group continued to gather weekly and focus on the Sunday scriptures in the Kubash Room on a regular basis.
- Seasonal Materials- Reflection materials for Advent/Christmas and Lent, Sunday missals and religious art calendars were available for interested parishioners.
- Parish Home Ministry - Due to continuing health concerns, ministry to the sick and housebound is limited, but several family members continue to bring communion to their loved ones and Fr. Brian is available when needed. Some parishioners are also involved in hospital ministry, especially on Sundays at Wascana, following health ministry protocol for volunteers.

Pastor's Report for 2023
Submitted by Fr. Brian Meredith

This past year has been a time of learning to go in a new direction with trust and gratitude. As we journey together, we are encouraged to root ourselves in Christ, recognizing His generosity and unceasing care for us in all things.

Part of our learning and new direction has involved changes with staff. After 13 years of dedicated service to the Holy Child Parish community, Sr. Anna Aulie completed her time on the parish staff at the end of December. Thank you, Sr. Anna, for your caring presence. We look forward to accompanying you on the new stage of your journey. The parish also extends a big "Thank You" to Greg Lett for all his hard work during his 37 years of dedicated and generous service to keep the building and grounds in top form and in providing the excellent maintenance support for various events. We wish Greg good health and happiness in his retirement.

After advertising twice for a caretaker, we were unsuccessful in filling the position. Therefore, various caretaking tasks such as overall cleaning, light bulb replacement, snow clearing, furnace maintenance are currently contracted with various companies. This approach will continue for the upcoming year. Set up and take down of tables and chairs, along with some other manageable maintenance tasks, is being handled through the assistance of current staff, volunteers, and user groups.

We have been blessed with excellent, dedicated, faith-filled, and supportive staff, pastoral council members, finance council members, volunteers in various ministries and groups, and parishioners of every age and nationality. My heart is filled with gratitude for you! You walk by faith and love, and you treat the parish as your home. May God bless each of you with joy, peace, and love in your journey with Christ and one another!

2023 PARISH STATISTICS

<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	
37	19	22	16	25	Baptisms (infant)
9	9	0	2	7	RCIA (Adult Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)
1	2	0	0	1	Full Communion (Profession of Faith, Confirmation, Eucharist)
30	47	21	27	14	Confirmations
30	45	20	27	15	First Eucharist
3	3	2	2	2	Marriages
18	20	23	24	21	Funerals
999	998	1006	1023	1065	Total number of households in parish
2762	2562	2507	2567	2677	Total number of parishioners
420	397	387	369	330	Number of financial contributors

Average number of people at weekend Masses is 550 (about 80% of pre-Covid times).

Period of Years	Average yearly Sunday collection	Average yearly operating expenses	Average number of financial contributors	Average yearly Sunday contribution
2012-2014	\$321,846	\$409,872	501	\$642
2015-2017	\$320,502	\$421,747	483	\$664
2018-2019	\$286,803	\$382,683	427	\$672
2020-2022 (Covid)	\$220,387	\$354,315	384	\$574
<i>2023</i>	<i>\$257,635</i>	<i>\$372,123</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>\$780</i>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!!!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Sunday Collection (Envelopes, Loose)	215,531	228,954	257,635 ¹	250,000	280,000
Catering revenue	10,373	7,760	22,895	15,000	33,500
Wage Subsidy (Federal Government)	22,315	3,805	0	0	0
<u>All other revenue</u>	<u>36,471</u>	<u>31,851</u>	<u>49,387</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	284,690	272,370	329,917	295,000	363,500
Expenses					
Remuneration (Staff Wages, Workshops, Benefits)	198,530 ²	212,696	212,727	220,000	152,000
Church (Repairs, Supplies)	14,441	12,198	21,201	10,000	45,000
Hall (Cook, Grocery, Supplies, Repairs)	6,810	8,069	17,699	8,000	23,000
Rectory (Utilities, Supplies, Taxes)	10,754	9,839	10,798	11,000	11,000
Office (Supplies, Photocopier, Telephone)	7,606	20,314 ³	7,190	9,000	8,000
Assessment/Priest Pension	43,507	38,809	39,116	40,000	42,000
Occupancy (Utilities, Insurance, Security)	35,563	47,080	53,419	40,000	53,000
<u>Grounds (Maintenance, Garbage Disposal)</u>	<u>4,377</u>	<u>12,236</u>	<u>9,973</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>27,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	321,588	361,241	372,123	345,000	361,000
OPERATION SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(36,898)	(88,871)	(42,206)	(50,000)	2,500

¹ Sunday Collections in 2023 is up 12.5% from 2022.

² In 2021, the Archdiocese of Regina covered 4 months of pastor's salary when he was recovering from Covid.

³ New photocopier was purchased in 2022 (\$9,198).

Parish's Designated Funds for 2023

Name of Fund	Carry over from 2022	+	Amount collected as of December 31, 2023	-	Amount used in 2023	=	Amount remaining in designated fund
Building Fund	50,199		3796		0		53,995

Name of Fund	Rebate total Profit & Loss Statement	+	Carry over amount from previous year	=	Amount remaining in designated fund as of December 31, 2023
Families in Need	540		1588		2128

Name of Fund	Amount remaining in Designated fund	+	Amount used in current year	-	Carry over amount from previous year	=	Amount collected in current year as of December 31, 2023
Families in Need	2128		5000		1588		5540

Name of Fund	Carry over from 2022	+	Amount collected as of December 31, 2023	-	Amount dispersed in 2023	=	Amount remaining in designated fund to be dispersed in 2023
Good Works	640		3688		4288		40

Designated Funds That Go to Archdiocese for 2023
(These are usually paid out at the end of each month)

Name of Fund	Amount collected as of December 31, 2023
TRC Healing Response	250
Annual Appeal	25,296 (Envelope \$16,576 Gift Card \$8,720)
Education of Seminarians	873
Total Archdiocese	26,419
Needs of Canadian Church	890
Catholic Missions in Canada	805
Share Lent (D & P)	1860 (Share Lent \$1660 & Ukraine Emergency \$200)
Total Church in Canada	3,555
Propagation of Faith/Mission	900
Holy Land	1803
Pope's Pastoral Works	850
Total Pope & Holy Land	3,553
Overall Total	33,527

Reports submitted at
Annual General Meeting
on Sunday, March 3, 2024

Deacon's report for 2023 AGM
Submitted by Deacon Dennis Ziegler

Continued to preach at Holy Child, on average, every second weekend.

Preached for Fr Abello in Francis, Vibank, Odessa, and Sedley a few times during the year.

Officiated at one baptism and two weddings at Holy Child Parish, and at funeral services outside of Holy Child Parish.

The Alpha Program was offered from Jan 16 to Mar 27 at Holy Child.

Assisted at St. Theresa and St Catherine school masses.

Offered prayer ministry to those wanting prayer after weekend masses periodically throughout the year.

Trained two new altar servers.

Offered an advent reflection at the Marian Center.

Karen and I help out at the Marian center once a month.

Karen and I offered a retreat for Couples for Christ, and Resurrection Parish Staff.

Karen and I led some spiritual directors through training for the Ignatius Annotation 19 exercises.

Karen and I, continue to offer communion to some elderly people in a care home.

Continue to offer spiritual direction to individuals. Helping others to deepen their relationship with God.

March 5, 2023
AGM Minutes

**Holy Child Parish Annual General Meeting
Sunday, March 5, 2023
Minutes**

In attendance: Fr. Brian Meredith, Charlene Rogalski (chairperson), Eugene Achtemichuk, Sr. Anna Aulie, Sharon Bender, Shirley Campbell, Marian Grady, Dave Helmerson, Faye Helmerson, Gerald Hoffart, Susie Hoffart, Laurie Kirkness, Gail Kraft, Kathleene Pamer, Agnes Parisloff, Dianne Poitras, Paul Ponak, Lynda Putzlocher, Eleanor Selinger, Rita Wingert, Deacon Dennis Ziegler, Maureen Wild (secretary)

1) Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 12:15 with an opening prayer from Deacon Dennis Ziegler.

2) Adoption of Agenda for Annual General Meeting

Moved by Laurie Kirkness and seconded by Shirley Campbell that the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

3) a) Adoption of March 6, 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Moved by Deacon Dennis Ziegler and seconded by Agnes Parisloff that the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented. Carried.

b) Adoption of 2022 Annual Report

Moved by Laurie Kirkness and seconded by Sr. Anna Aulie that the 2022 Annual Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

4) Annual Meeting – reports from parish groups

a) Liturgy – Marian Grady

- Marian expressed thanks for the parishioners' cooperation and for the young people who are volunteering.

b) Social Justice – Agnes Parisloff, Faye Helmerson

- Agnes reported that it was a good year thanks to the support of the parish who have been very generous in donating.

c) Finance (including Building and Grounds) – Paul Ponak, Dave Helmerson

- The Finance Report and Financial Statement are in the Annual Report. The parish has taken a hit in the last four years. The committee decided to maintain services and staff for the future of the parish. The main factor in the parish's rebound is improved attendance. This has been happening the last few months with donations up \$5,000 to \$6,000 at the end of February. However, expenses are also up with utility costs. The parish is in good financial standing notwithstanding the last couple of years.
- Dave reported that building and grounds are in good shape. Shingles on the rectory and garage were replaced. A tree needed to be removed and lines in the parking lot were repainted.

d) Hall/Catering – Wayne Matt

e) Deanery Representative – Sharon Bender

- The Deanery has met only once. It was a workshop on the new Guidelines for the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council.
- Regina is looking at restructuring combining East and West Deaneries into one, but it is not official.

f) Members at Large – Kathy & Jamie Schneider, Laurie Kirkness

- Laurie had no issues to report.

- g) Special Events Committee – Sr. Anna Aulie
 - Sr. Anna thanked everyone who helped with special events, especially Laurie and Rita. There may be a trip to Briercrest in the spring.
- h) Men's Club – Wayne Matt
- i) K of C – Wayne Matt
- j) Parish Team – Marian Grady, Sr. Anna Aulie, Deacon Dennis Ziegler, Fr. Brian Meredith
 - Marian said parishioners are incredible. She noted help at a funeral when staff were ill.
 - Deacon Dennis added to his report in the booklet. A prayer ministry has been initiated. It is offered every second month.
 - Fr. Brian thanked staff, council members, and committees.
 - Gail Kraft reported that catering and funeral lunches are slowly resuming. There have been discussions about hall rental with the Girl Guides, a curling group, and a couple to be married.

5) Questions from the floor

- There were no questions from the floor

6) Elections: The chair of the nomination committee, Dave Helmerson, chaired this part of the meeting.

Positions available for election:

Vice-Chairperson (currently vacant)

3 Adult Member at Large positions

*Kathy & Jamie Schneider's second term ends in 2023

*One position is currently vacant

*Laurie Kirkness' first term is completed in 2023; will run for second term

1 Youth Member at Large position (currently vacant)

For each position:

Announce any names on the slate

Call for any nominations from the floor

If more than one person is nominated, then hold election (use pieces of paper)

Vice-Chairperson

- Since there were no nominations from the floor, the position of vice-chairperson will remain vacant.

Member at Large

- Laurie Kirkness agreed to let her name stand for a second term.
- Paul Ponak nominated Gerald Hoffart who agreed to let his name stand.
- Since there were no other nominations from the floor, Laurie Kirkness and Gerald Hoffart were elected by acclamation.

Youth Member at Large

- There were no youth in attendance

Gerald Hoffart questioned the Constitution and By-Law requiring the vice-chairperson to have Holy Child Pastoral Council experience. Fr. Brian responded that, in the current Bylaws, if the chair and vice-chair are not present, Council members determine who will chair the meeting. The Constitution and Bylaw will be updated to be consistent with the new Guidelines for the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council.

7) Other Concerns or Comments

- Discussion about the involvement of youth. Paul Ponak said that it may be intimidating for a young person to come to a meeting of people more senior and suggested a parent accompanying the youth might help make them more comfortable. Fr. Brian said this is something to work on this coming year. It will be on the agenda for Pastoral Council's September meeting.

8) Pastor's Remarks

- Fr. Brian expressed thanks and asked for God's blessing on everyone.

9) Closing Remarks

- Charlene Rogalski thanked everyone for coming out.

10) Suggested date for next AGM: Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 12:15 p.m. in the hall

11) Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Sharon Bender and seconded by Dianne Poitras that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

12) Closing Prayer

The meeting ended at 12:38 p.m. with Deacon Dennis leading a closing prayer.