

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

February 2022

A First Communion meeting was held for parents and children in second grade. All children and parents have met. First Communion retreat is March 6th at 9 AM in HTC cafeteria. First Penance was held on February 20th in Houghton. Prepared the program for all and journals for the children to help them focus on their sins.

The religious education students in St. Paul and West Point made Valentine cards for recent widows, care center parishioners and seminarians. 32 people received over 90 valentines.

Wrote and mailed 18 baptism letters; 9 remembrance letters; 2 anniversary letters to parishioners who celebrated 25, 50, 60 or more years of marriage; and 3 birthday cards to religious education students.

Check obituaries from 20 different funeral homes to keep abreast of all deaths of family members of parishioners from the 4 parishes. Had 3 funerals.

The RCIA team continues mystagogy with our recent convert to the faith on Tuesday evenings. She joined the church on February 5th. Have started dialogue with 2 more possible candidates.

Gave Fr. Dennis and Fr. Dan a total of 4 birthday cards for parishioners 90 plus.

We have an ongoing Bible Study on the Acts of the Apostles. We meet every other Monday at 6:30 at the parish office. Still time to come join us. Have 6 participants at this time. The first part of the class, we go over the questions given to the participants on the chapters they were to read at home. Then we watch an hour video presentation on what we had read and it is opened up even more. We also begin and end in prayer with intentions from any of the participants in order to encourage communion with them.

St. Mary's has Adoration every Tuesday from 11:00 am to noon. Starting on Ash Wednesday we will have adoration from 11 AM to noon Monday through Friday. Come spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Prepared for 1 baptism by putting a blanket, rosary, prayer for the family in each gift basket. Prepared the 11 envelopes for the baptism letters that will be sent out as continuing form of religious education from womb to tomb.

The children are also learning their prayers. Have a chart for them to see how they are doing. When they say a prayer, they get a sticker in their prayer book and a gift from the gift basket. Had 2 new students start in West Point so ordered their books, gave their parents the Parent Student Handbook and gave their teacher her contact information.

Called all the shutins for Fr. Dennis to make his first Friday visits.

All money counters from the 4 parishes now must have credit checks. Have contacted 23. 5 still need to complete the check. Also had a new substitute religious education teacher take the training. Have had issues with the Virtus website. Have a zoom meeting with our diocesan representative and someone from Virtus on the 2nd.

Ordered prayer books and statues for our first communicants. Also have all their names cut out for them to put on their banners at the retreat.

Respectfully submitted,

Dixie Booten, DRE