

Fr. Paul

Sam Osborne

O.L.A. Parish Council

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report – November 13, 2023

### **Annual Thanksgiving Service For Those Receiving Thanksgiving Dinner Food on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Thanksgiving is fast approaching and this coming Saturday is the date of the service, followed by the distribution of the food to those who have requested. This year, I'm pleased to announce that Father Marlon will join me in giving the service, designed for the people of various faiths and denominations that will be attending. And the wonderful team will distribute the food immediately following the 9am service.

### **A Brief Note on Religious Education Faith Food & Fun On Saturday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> (The Real Presence)**

It was a great afternoon with the approximately 10 students attending, as well as some parents, and catechists. And great working with Chris Herschel and Father Marlon. I'll leave it to Chris to give the report, but the students and parents attending gave us what I believe are some actionable items that could foster greater attendance and engagement at Mass from the students.

### **Ecumenical/Interfaith Outreach**

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station for the homeless will be opening its doors to the homeless beginning on Sunday evening November 19<sup>th</sup>. As has been our tradition since it was founded, we will have a prayer service at 7:30 pm this Sunday, prior to opening. Volunteers are needed for the season – especially overnight volunteers. Training is provided. If any on the council would like to volunteer a night or 2 during the season,,or know of someone who would, please contact me or Marilyn Pierce at 845 346-6110

### **On A Personal Note**

I am so very grateful for the wonderful turnout for the official launch and book signing of my book, "Finding Hope Within The Crisis: Lessons Learned In Life Including My 9-Month COVID Journey" . Many Thanks to Father Paul for the Invocation, Beth for much of the organization and song, Ann Marie Troy for organizing the food and refreshments, Lisa Dyer and Connie Pollos also helping with the food and refreshments, and to the 95 people who attended. The book is so very much a tribute to our parishioners and priests, not only during COVID but over the many years as we journey together in the Lord.

God bless you all,

Gary