

Mission and Vision Update as of April 10th, 2021

Encounter #1- Increased Adoration

-Wednesday and Thursday Adoration is going well. Hours are covered, subs can be found when an adorer can't come, and others are just stopping by to spend time with the Lord.

Encounter #2- Aligned Activities

-The Parish Leadership Team continues to meet on a weekly basis to help Fr. O'Brien in the task of continual parish renewal.

-Continuing education for parish staff continues each week on various topics of organizational health and mission

Encounter #3- Entry Points

-Father O'Brien will offer "A Walk Through the Catechism" on Saturdays this summer. We're encouraging those interested in RCIA to jump in with that.

-Discovering Christ being planned

Encounter #5- Spanish Mass Attendance

-For the first time in three years (and perhaps before but stats are unavailable), attendance at the Spanish Mass topped 200 people.

-Spanish language Covid vaccination clinic was a success

-In May we'll be hosting a Spanish speaking counselor from Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma to speak on "healing" to respond to the traumas many of our Spanish speakers have experienced.

-A conversation is underway with the Stillwater Police Department for Chief Jeff Watts and a Spanish speaking police officer to meet members of our church and have a Q&A session to allow for better dialogue between Spanish speaking people and the police.

Encounter #7- Confession

-Between St. Francis Xavier and St. John Catholic Student Center, there are 15 hours of Confession a week plus all three priests are available for appointments and home visits. Extra hours were in place for the 10 days before Easter.

Encounter #8- The Rosary

-Through the diligence of the Agnew Family and Mona Pratt, the daily 8pm online rosary continues.

Encounter #9- Liturgy Aids

-Even with the return of hymnals, we plan to continue to print liturgy aids for Sunday Masses. It allows our choir to use a more diverse song selection and, most importantly, it allows new people (new to Catholicism or coming back to their faith) to follow along, sing, and pray when they come to Mass.

Grow #2- Following Christ

-Following Christ finished in March with 35 participants who will now move on to "Sharing Christ"

Grow #4- Parish Staff Formation

-Several staff members have holy hours on Wednesdays or Thursdays.
-Several staff members are participating in "Invitation to Personal Prayer."

Grow #5- Adult Catechesis in Spanish

-Deacon Tom Cabeen completed his "Sacrament" course on Friday evenings and is planning the next topic to begin next month.

Grow #6- Marriage Preparation

-"Happy and Holy: Marriage Preparation at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church" has been published and is now being used for any new engaged couple who comes to us.

-New Wedding Coordinator Amy Wells has been onboarded and is now working with all couples and clergy

Grow #8- Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

-Diocese of Tulsa Vocation Director Fr. Michael Pratt continues to be active in the two Stillwater parishes.

-We hosted two seminarians over Holy Week and we expect to be assigned two seminarians for the summer.

Go #2- Welcoming the Poor

-The "Love Thy Neighbor" plan continues to bear fruit. It's allowed outreach ministries to grow and have more clarity about their specific mission.

Go #3- Stillwater Catholic Charities

-Under the leadership of parishioner Mike Fitzgerald, Stillwater Catholic Charities continues to offer high school equivalency courses and English as a Second Language courses. We wanted to emphasize education and teaching specific skills to help individuals better provide for themselves and their families.

Go #6- Use of New Media

-We are planning to continue to livestream Sunday Masses. With an increase of in person attendance, the online viewership has gone down but it's in place both to reach those still staying home due to Covid but also those who are homebound for other reasons. It also reaches people who are fallen away from the Catholic faith or who are interested in seeing what the Mass is like. It also allows us to make homilies and talks available to a wider audience.

Go #8- Welcoming New Catholics

In 2018 we had 3 new Catholics. In 2019, 6 new Catholics. In 2020, 12 new Catholics. In 2021, we have or will welcome 26 new Catholics. Most of these happened at the Easter Vigil but also happen at other times of the year as people are ready.

There are already 8 individuals who have expressed interest in becoming Catholic in the future.

Building #2- Stained Glass Windows

-Moving slowly overall. We have not found a company that we believe can do the size, scope, and quality of our project. Many are small companies with 1 or 2 artists. If this is a 10 year project, there's concern or having to switch artists half way through if they die, retire, or move to another job. Companies can't guarantee the continuity of work.

Building #4- Catholic School

-In March, representatives from St. Mary Catholic School in Ponca City came to the parish and spoke at all Masses. They reported several families interested in learning more about their school.

-Father O'Brien is still waiting on the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for a formal survey we can send to our parish community and the larger community to gauge interest in a Catholic school for Payne County. The survey is the first step.