

STATE OF THE CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH: FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020

We are people of faith! and, this faith helped us through 2020 marked with the onset and spread of the Covid 19 pandemic. The “State of the Parish Report” reflects the programs Christ the Redeemer continues to offer to nourish your faith, and shows how your sacrificial contributions help our parish in its effort to become a vibrant faith community, radiating Christ.

The year of 2020 started with great excitement and enthusiasm with the very successful Jubilee Year of the 100th Anniversary of Roman Catholic Parish Life in Manville. It was an impressive milestone and testament to the strength of our catholic community. The 2020 Covid lockdown was not wasted; it was time well spent working on creating the Jubilee website and video which depicts a year of programs dedicated to honor those who built this vibrant catholic community in Manville. Both the website and video are a testimony to the historical vitality of Christ the Redeemer Parish that will not be forgotten. The centennial celebrations helped us to renew our faith, reconnect with our community and revive our commitment. Some highlights of the year are listed below:

- In January 2020 we visited 650 households during the annual House Blessing – Koleda. 54% of our parishioners welcomed and prayed with the visiting priest – an impressive 15% increase from 2019.
- Before the outburst of the pandemic 68 sick and homebound were visited regularly by Fr. Stan, Deacon Tom and Deacon Bill as well as by Eucharistic Ministers. With the onset of the pandemic Fr. Stan observing the necessary safety precautions continued this ministry upon family request. Additionally, when possible he served as a hospital chaplain at RWJ Somerville Hospital and local nursing homes.
- The Annual Ash Wednesday Pierogi Dinner took place on February 26.
- Because of the delay in obtaining a work visa, on February 28 Fr. Marcin Gacek began his Ministry at Christ the Redeemer Parish.
- An exhibition honoring the Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko, a priest who was brutally murdered in Poland during the communist regime, took place on March 8.
- On March 10 shortly before the pandemic restrictions we held our annual Outdoor Stations of the Cross from Christ the King church to Sacred Heart church.
- Unfortunately, Covid 19 restrictions cancelled our Parish Lenten Retreats both in English and Polish.
- During the lockdown period (March 18 to June 15) Sacred Heart church remained open; Christ the King church was closed to efficiently implement disinfectant procedures and cost-effective use of manpower. Safety protocols were quickly implemented at Sacred Heart and the weekly live stream of the Sunday Mass began.
- From the onset of the pandemic our Parish continues to pray for the victims of the corona virus, their families, and medical professionals as well as the civil authorities.
- The most difficult moments of the pandemic restrictive period were funerals because according to State and Diocesan regulations a limited number of people could attend.
- Observing the safety protocols, The Holy Triduum was celebrated by Fr. Stan, Fr. Marcin, along with Deacon Tom Giacobbe, Deacon Bill Stefany, Caz Bielen and their wives who served as lectors and commentators. Although the Holy Triduum attendance was restricted, it was very spiritually uplifting knowing that it was being viewed in the homes of parishioners through live-stream technology.
- Thankfully when the state and diocesan restrictions were removed, a “Task Force Committee” was created that developed and implemented the new Mass schedule with the established safety procedures (disinfecting the church after each Mass, providing masks and sanitizers, and weekly disinfectant fogging the church). Once again, we were able to celebrate the Eucharist in the Sacred Heart Church though with a limited number of people. The new Mass Schedule has proven to be effective.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was held each Saturday at 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. before the vigil Mass; weekly devotions following the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Novena to OLPH on Tuesdays, and Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Fridays, as well as the First Saturday of the month devotion to Our Lady of Fatima continued while observing Covid suspensions and restrictions.
- During this time of struggle councils and committees carried the mission of the parish. Thank you for your hard work.
- With the outburst of pandemic our Caritas program was suspended due to the safety concerns; however, plans are in place for safe and effective help to provide food and necessities for the needy.
- The annual Corpus Christi Procession (June 14) proceeded around the block next to Sacred Heart Church; and a few days later Our OLPH Novena Procession (June 28) followed the same path.
- Later in July, the Kulinski Memorial sponsored our new state-of-the-art live stream system with desk top computer, 3 HD zoom cameras and software. Thank you for a generous gift that continues to live stream Sunday Masses, Funerals, weddings and Sacramental celebrations.
- Once the Covid restrictions were relaxed the rescheduled sacrament of Confirmation (July 18) took place. With the extenuating Covid circumstances, Fr. Stan with Bishops Checchio’s permission confirmed 19 students of our Religious Ed program.
- Also our First Communion was delayed and 15 children received the Sacrament of Eucharist on August 5.

- Religious Education: 117 CCD students participated remotely using Google Classroom.; 1 RCIA catechumen, 19 participants in Bible Study (9 English and 10 Polish).
- The Children’s Summer Camp was cancelled due to Covid health restrictions/concerns.
- Christ the Redeemer Feast on July 19th was celebrated with limited participation.
- Our 52nd Annual Summer Festival was cancelled for Covid/safety reasons.
- In September, after months of arduous work our 2021 parish calendar was developed featuring all the upcoming parish events and activities.
- Mega Raffle drawing (October 11) was very successful due to the hard work of Celeste Onka. Tthe parish realized \$19,250.
- Celebrating All Saints Day, the devotions at the Sacred Heart Church (November 1) gave us an opportunity to unite our prayers with the saints in heaven for our loved ones.
- Continuing a new tradition begun in 2019, the prayer service for Wreaths Across America was held on December 12 at the SH Cemetery and was well attended.
- The total revenue for fiscal year 2019-2020 was \$873,000; total expenses were \$1,036,994 with a deficit of (\$163,994).
- I strongly encourage all to support CTR Parish through our online-giving program.
<http://www.ctrmanville.com/Home/Donations>).
- Social and fundraising activities (e.g., Parish Picnic, Summer Festival, and the Fall Dance) were cancelled. The CTR Parish App and Parish website were very successful sources for preparation for Sunday Mass (video reflection, Sunday Readings), information about our parish, registration for Religious Ed, instant notifications about parish events and ministries, the parish bulletin, calendar, newsletter, real-time news feed from trusted catholic sources, the most popular prayers, follow the daily readings from home, and much more.
- In the summer the CTK School façade was renovated to maintain the integrity of the building.
- Our Adult Choir was suspended and resumed when covid restrictions were relaxed.
- The Advent Retreat in English was cancelled. Fr. Kevin MacDonald is expected to preach Advent Retreats in 2021. Our parish ministries/groups continued their service to the parish in a limited and safe manner: Knights of Columbus (75 Members-most of them inactive), Holy Name Society (4 Members), Altar Rosary Society (64 Members), Eucharistic Ministers (16 Members), Lectors (49 Members), Ushers (36 Members) among many others. Due to the corona virus most of them were inactive. If you feel called to one of these ministries, don’t hesitate – join now.
- Our Polish Apostolate continued to serve in accordance with the health restrictions as follows:
 - The Polish Children’s Choir was cancelled.
 - On Saturdays, the Polish Supplementary School continued to teach Polish as a second language to children with a Polish background following all the restrictions and recommendations.
 - On January 12th the Polish apostolate had a special Mass for those who listen to and support Radio Maryja and the TV station TRWAM run by the Redemptorists. The customary dinner with breaking/sharing oplatek was canceled.
 - On July 19 Fr. Marcin and a group of 12 Polish parishioners made a bicycle pilgrimage to the American Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown. The August walking pilgrimage was cancelled.
 - The “Domestic Church” group canceled its meeting on Thursdays for a few months and resumed in September.
 - Once the restrictions were lifted/loosened, a prayer group met regularly on Wednesdays for the 7:00 p.m. Polish Mass, OLPH Novena followed by adoration.
 - The Advent Retreats in Polish were led by Fr. Waldemar Wieladek C.SsR.

In summary, 2020 was not an easy year, but we made it! Now let us join our efforts to rebuild our Christ the Redeemer Parish and use the pandemic lesson to advance our faith journey. Working together we can unleash our great potential and growth by remaining focused and seeking the will of God that guides us through this life and secures our future. The parish council and committees despite the pressure of post Covid circumstances continue to work to secure the steady growth of our parish. I trust that this State of the Parish Address has been informative and aids your understanding of what we accomplished in the past year and how we intend to grow the parish and serve the parishioners of Christ the Redeemer with your help in 2021 and beyond. So get involved! Stay involved! May God bless you and your families.

Fr. Stanislaw Slaby C.Ss.R., Pastor

Below are numbers that give a better idea of how much we've grown, how much work was done, how many people are actively involved in our parish and where we need to further concentrate our efforts.

PARISH STATISTICS

2020 COVID	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	Categories
1,134	1,213	1241	1262	1288	1591	1746	Registered number of families.
2,369	2,142	2376	2457	2,453	3,364	3,819	Total number of People in CTR Parish
(79)	(107)	(21)	4	(303)	(155)	0	(Decrease)/Increase of Families.
581	940	950	1180	1150	1119	1300	Parishioners who regularly attend Sunday Mass and participate/support the parish
13,000	52,000	64,000	76,000	77,000	69,000	80,000	Approximate number of Holy Communion
992	1,140	1050	1131	1267	1283	1315	Number of Masses said
246	700	600	695	675	650	640	Approximate hours spent hearing confessions
200	185	180	200	168	158	145	Approximate hours of available adoration
650	700	762	900	1000	1000	1100	Approximate home visits/Koleda in January
7	16	13	14	15	29	15	Number of Baptisms
117	148	149	150	169	178	187	Students enrolled in Religious Ed Program
16	20	24	24	29	33	51	Boys and girls received First Communion
19	20	12	12	26	23	48	Young adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation
5	0	2	4	6	4	6	Number of Marriages
38	48	38	39	55	95	61	Number of Funerals
16	20	28	32	45	38	45	New families registered
171	262	256	265	190	196	250	Parishioners involved with the Liturgy (Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, Adult and Children Choir Members etc.)
0	48	58	56	49	58	52	Campers at Summer Camp (SH church grounds)
\$873,000	\$1,076,458	\$1,037,289	\$967,068	\$914,332	\$898,473	\$1,018,233	CTR Parish Revenue FY July 1-June 30
\$1,036,994	\$1,170,008	\$1,156,456	\$1,141,746	\$1,273,301	\$1,392,506	\$1,300,475	CTR Parish Expenses FY July 1-June 30
(\$163,994)	(\$93,550)	(\$119,167)	(\$174,678)	(\$358,969)	(\$494,033)	(\$282,242)	CTR Parish Deficit FY July 1-June 30

Please Note. All the information for all parish supported events throughout the year is in our 2021 Parish Calendar. Please make an effort to attend these parish activities and become a more active member of the Redeemer's Family of Christ the Redeemer Parish.