

Welcome to the ninth issue of OLOS CIA Today, a biannual update from the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils sharing on the last six months (January 1 – June 30, 2022). Your current council members are Kristen Mattoni (Pastoral Council Chairperson), Matt Green (Finance Council Chairperson), Lee Berumen, Jennifer Esteban (new), Matt Prichard, Ace Walter, and Bill Whitaker.

We would like to thank Sandy Clapham and Rick King for serving in the parish's councils. We will certainly miss working with both of you and pray God will lead and guide you both on your new adventures!

Liturgy

As we have learned to adapt to the ongoing pandemic, the Catholic Church continues to face ongoing challenges across the board - decline in attendance, priest shortages, parish closures, Mass reductions, and political controversy. Yet our parish family has persevered and continues to weather the storm! We welcomed 4 new members to the Faith in Baptism since January and continue to see new and returning faces in the pews. Music ministers, ushers, and altar servers are scarce, but we've maintained a steady and reliable volunteer base to support liturgies and are 80+ volunteers strong in various ministries. Special recognition and appreciation go to our youth ministry volunteers for altar serving. Since the pandemic, only half of the former 21 remain – a majority of whom are high school and college-age. This is an age group that in many cases is not as active in liturgical ministry, yet ours, however small, have been steadfast and exemplary in faith, attendance, and leadership. God bless our youth for continuing to help support the Masses!

We celebrated Fr. Jan Larson once more with a touching memorial dedication displayed in the narthex and said farewell to Deacon Buddy Clapham and his wife Sandy after a decade of generous and dedicated service at Mass and outreach for the poor and homebound. We also celebrated the funerals of longtime parish family members, Tom Antone, Rita Harper, and Richard Monsoor, whose presence will be missed but shall remain at the heart of this parish; may they rest in everlasting joy and peace.

We joyfully welcomed an influx of returning parishioners and visitors at Holy Week and Easter with a near 50% increase in attendance from last year, most notably for Palm Sunday (300 in 2022 vs. 140 in 2021) and Holy Thursday (128 in 2022 vs. 68 in 2021), and a near 60% increase at Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday combined (419 in 2022 vs. 146 in 2021)! We continue to serve the sick and the homebound via livestream Masses on Facebook, and viewership remains consistent. And finally, in thanksgiving to our OLOS community and to all visitors, Coffee Hour was reinstated on April 23rd! We thank our welcoming hospitality volunteers for hosting and providing physical and social nourishment, and to all those who attend and support our parish, we are so grateful for your prayerful presence.

Stewardship

Our goal this year for the Annual Catholic Appeal is \$54,135.00. Even with the generous giving of 113 families, we still need \$3,500 to reach our goal. Your participation will make a big difference. Please know it is NEVER too late to participate. All funds given to the Appeal that exceed our parish goal are returned to our parish in the form of a rebate and will be used to repair the office windows and seal and re-strip the parking lot. Visit the parish website or use the QR code to give today if you have forgotten to give to this year's appeal!



We are so grateful for your continued financial support. The *Call to serve as Christ Campaign* is truly a blast. We pledged \$465,743.00 over the campaign goal of \$461,272.00. Remember, fifteen cents of every dollar collected will be returned to the parish. We are pleased to inform you that as of today the parish received total payment of \$42,777 of the total potential rebate of \$69,421.00 (actual parish share after pledges are collected).



Please continue to use the monthly "Maintenance Fund" envelope. Since January 1 - June 30, 2022, \$1,157 has been added to our fund through your envelope donations. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to all those families who give, for your generosity and continued support. Our parish has 327 registered families, with approximately 189 of those families giving regularly. Approximately 36% of parishioners that give, do so through online donations; it is a fast, convenient and effective way to give. Please consider signing up for online donations by visiting the parish website www.olos.org and click on "Donate Online" **or** use the QR Code or fill out the form attached on page 4 and return to us through mail or place it in Sunday's collection basket. Contact the parish bookkeeper, Linda Lamos, if you have any questions.

Parish income was \$201,479 with expenses of \$189,948. This leaves a surplus of \$11,531. Your giving is critical to help run the day-to-day operations of the church, pay bills, fund critical maintenance needs in our aging facility, important stewardship and liturgical activities within the Parish, as well as local outreach. If you have not yet shared your blessings with your Parish community, please consider giving.

Sustainability and Growth

WELCOME! To our 9 newly registered families. It gives us great pleasure that you have chosen to celebrate the grace of the Lord with us. Your presence is truly a blessing, and we look forward to praying, celebrating, and coming together as God's family in this beautiful Snoqualmie valley.

NEW LIBRARY: During the renovation process, a new parish library was established. It was years in the making, but it is finally here! This was made possible by volunteers who devoted their time and talent setting it up and perusing through loads of donations to fill the shelves with careful selections, and those who donated their treasure to provide the great literature, art pieces, and furniture: MaryRuth Graham, Peggy Buckingham, Deacon Buddy & Sandy Clapham, Barbara Anne Stoll, Carol Valdemor, the Mattoni Family, and anonymous donors. All are welcome to stop by and visit - we also have a children's section! The new library was designed to enhance religious, spiritual, and liturgical formation and nourishment for parishioners of all ages. Please feel free to take some books home via our simple checkout system which only requires your name, contact info, and book title borrowed. Thanks to Fr. Duc for reserving this lovely space and providing us this opportunity for learning.

SYNODAL FINAL REPORT: Thank you to Tim Jones, Chris Brookes, and John Spellman for facilitating 8 listening discussions. Here are the common results: a) Lack of Evangelization; b) Mass participation low, especially among our children; c) Lack of volunteer involvement in ministries. The parish councils had a chance to review and discuss more in depth of how to address the issues. The first step is to host a festival a ministry (see below).

FESTIVAL OF MINISTRY: it has been years since OLOS organized a festival of ministry. We invite you to reflect on the meaning of stewardship: that all we have and all we are is a gift from God—our time, our talent, and our money. We show our gratitude for these gifts by returning a portion of them back to God. Our prayerful gifts of time, talent and treasure are concrete expressions of our faith—the way we give glory to God. Please save the date: **September 24 & 25, 2022**, after all Masses and visit our Ministry Festival in the hall to see how you can share your time and talent as a member of your parish community. Your active participation in our parish community is vital to the life of the Church. Information about the Ministry Fair will be mailed soon.

Outreach

The members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul continue to reach out to the poor and less fortunate in our Snoqualmie Valley communities. Besides your generous contribution to the parish and to St. Vincent de Paul, our parishioners also donate to the diocese and the Universal Church through the special collections such as Northwest Catholic, Prepares Collection, Catholic Home Missions, CRS Rise Bowl, Catholic Relief Services, Holy Land Good Friday, Peter's Pence and SLE Convent.

Knights of Columbus

Knights continue to lead the weekly Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Rosary on Tuesday evenings. All parishioners are welcome. Knights continue to financially assist seminarian Sylvester Chanda as he moves toward priestly ordination, hopefully in June 2023. We attended his diaconate ordination in early June of this year.

The OLOS Knights made a financial contribution to REST (Real Escape from Sex Trafficking), a local organization that provides emergency housing, counseling, and other support to victims of the sex trade; donated \$500 again to SLE Convent in Vietnam and \$1,500 to Rancho Laguna HEART. Also assembled and distributed personal care packages for homeless and needy; hosted the annual Lenten fish fry and stations of the cross.

Faith Formation

Enjoy a free subscription to FORMED.org – an incredible online resource which provides amazing content 24/7 for you and your family to grow in their faith. It has inspiring movies and videos, audio talks and e-books from the Church's most compelling speakers and authors. It's FREE and Easy to register. As of today, 87 parishioners are registered to FORMED. Visit the parish website to register today!

The Faith Formation Coordinator, Tina Laguna started the faith formation classes in person on January 9th for 33 children and five catechists. On February 16th, 20 children started preparing weekly for 1st Holy Communion, and then received the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion on May 7th. June 27th- 30th 24 children and 5 assistants attended VBS.

The new faith formation school year will begin September 11th. If you have not registered your children, registration forms are available at the church or on the parish website. This year, Sunday Faith formation will begin at 10:00-10:50 AM so the children will have the opportunity to attend the 11:00 AM Holy Mass with family. Confirmation Classes start on November 9th at 6:30pm. Youth wishing to celebrate Confirmation must be 12 years old when they receive the sacrament. Do you know someone interested in the Catholic Faith or interested in becoming Catholic? Have you been baptized a Catholic but have not received your First Communion and/or the Sacrament of confirmation yet? If this describes you or someone you know, please join the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes that will start November 3rd at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study

The Monday evening and Friday morning Bible Study Groups met last spring studying the Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus in the four Gospels. This fall starting in October we will study The Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's Gospel. Our Little Rock Scripture study books include the scripture passages, a commentary, questions for discussion and a video lecture that can also be viewed online. We welcome new members to join us!

Communication

We continue to try new ways to keep our community informed of parish happenings. Join the 468 parishioners who follow the Our Lady of Sorrows Facebook page at <https://tinyurl.com/OLOSSnoqualmie>. Please check the parish website (www.olos.org) for updates and more information.

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to our wonderful parish priest, deacons and staff for making our progress possible!

Please remember Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in your will.