

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Viability. The life of a parish is often measured by statistics and facts. Blessed Sacrament Parish was established in 1924. There are 1,559 households with 4,626 people that make up the parish. Two priests and two deacons are assigned by the Bishop to care for the spiritual and temporal needs of the parish. They are assisted by a parish staff, a parish council, finance council, and various groups that carry out the work of the parish. Last year, the average attendance for weekend Masses was 1,052, representing just under 23% of the parishioners. There were 72 children baptized and 4 adults (baptized in other denominations) received into the church. There were 69 First Communions and 78 Confirmations. There were also 21 marriages and 45 funerals. Blessed Sacrament has a school serving pre-K through 8th grade. There are two sections of each class with 525 total students. A School Advisory Board meets regularly to assist in its operations. Another 56 students attend PSR classes on Wednesday evenings. The parish also has a 24 hour Adoration Chapel for people to come and pray.

Such facts and statistics try to give an overview of what one will find at Blessed Sacrament and how alive and active the parish is. However, what it won't tell you are the people who returned to the practice of the faith this past year. It won't tell you their story. It won't tell you the hardships and heartaches people have suffered and the parishioners who took it on themselves to help out. It won't tell you the people who have donated their time and talent to help with the scouts, or sing in the choir, or volunteer to pick up trash on the grounds. There are people who bring food when neighbors are laid up or give money so another child has the opportunity to attend a parochial school. There are mothers who babysit another mother's child in emergencies. In other words, these statistics won't tell you how our faith in Christ is lived each day. Yet, that is where the rubber hits the road. Can you imagine—if each parishioner in our parish did just one act of kindness each day, it would total up to be 4,626 acts every day or 32,382 every week or 1,688,490 acts of kindness every year. What an amazing statistic that would be! What an amazing effect such viability could have on our community and our world.

Father Jeff