

Membership on PPC consists of Father Shimit, Russell Hemingson (Chair), Charmaine Arandez (Vice Chair), Roy Fairclough (Recording Secretary), Franziska Hefti, Ken Kustiak (School Council Rep) , Nicole Rousseau (Teacher Liaison), Mark Quiambao and Deacon Rollie Comeau (ex officio).

Our last report was November 4, 2018. The following is a summary of what Parish Council has accomplished with your help.

SPIRITUAL & FAITH FORMATION

- **2018 October 24** parishioners met to determine “our” Strategic Plan (big picture of where are we going and how do we get there). Facilitated by Michael Marien, in the first session we developed our **values** (guiding principles): **Love, Faith and Community**. “We are a loving, faith filled community”.
- **First Communion and Confirmation** families met to prepare for the Sacraments. First Communion families were encouraged to carry the gifts on the first Sunday of the month. Confirmation families carried the gifts on the third Sunday of the month. After mass on the third Sunday, First Communion families met with Deacon Rollie. Parishioners were encouraged to be Prayer Partners for the students and candidates. The students provided photos for our bulletin board.
- Celebrated **All Saints Day and All Souls Day**, November 1 and 2. (With candles in 2019.)
- Distributed Parish Pictorial Directory to parishioners in November 2018.
- To encourage prayer and prepare for mass, **bulletins are circulated after mass** in the new liturgical year.
- **Nametag Sunday** implemented to encourage interaction with our “pew” neighbours and reflect our values of Love, Faith and Community.
- **2018 December 5 & 6 Advent Retreat** theme Conversion with focus on Promises of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Reconciliation. 40 to 50 people attended.
- Advent Penitential Services offered with Fr. Shimit and priests from the Red Deer Deanery.
- St. Augustine Catholic Youth (SACY) hosted the third annual **Youth Ministries & Altar Servers Pizza and Potluck Appreciation**.
- **Dec. 15 – 23, masses at 6 a.m. Simbang Gabi, (a nine day Novena during Advent)** was initiated by Filipino parishioners. Approximately 60 people regularly attended and enjoyed food and fellowship after the early mass.
- January 2019, we made **FORMED.org** available to all students, families and parishioners for the second year. This on-line resource offers access to amazing movies, books, courses, bible studies, lectures, prayer and spiritual formation!
<https://ststephenlacombe.caedm.ca/ministries/faith-formation/>
- **Welcoming Committee** created to welcome new parishioners and new babies. Dedicated members of the Prayer Shawl ministry knit baby blankets. When Father Shimit is notified of the new baby, Father blesses the new baby. A group of 10

volunteers also prepare meals needed to assist the busy new parents adjust to the new family member.

- Fr. Shimit invites information about new parishioners to our parish; birthdays, anniversaries and other celebratory events. He acknowledges them and bless them at regular masses.
- Promoted the use of **Flocknote**, a communication tool to send and receive messages using text or email; to keep parishioners informed and active in the parish. To sign up go to: [flocknote.com/https://app.flocknote.com/StAugustinePonoka](https://app.flocknote.com/StAugustinePonoka)
- **2019 January 23 Strategic Planning session** facilitated by Mike Marien. We added to our **values:** Love, Faith and Community. We developed our **Mission** (purpose): **Led by the Holy Spirit, we are disciples of Jesus Christ who Unite people to God and to the Church.** And **Vision** (where we want to be). **“As Disciples of Jesus Christ we will know and love God through our Word, Worship and Service.”**
- Greeters and Ushers actively registering new parishioners to include them in parish life.
- Ushers continue with Mass Attendance Tracking to collect numbers for planning purposes.
- **February:** Lector training for Proclaimers of the Word.
- We continue to use our Building Fund motto “God Provides the Wind, We Must Raise the Sails (St. Augustine) and emphasize “We will know and love God through Word, Worship, and Service,”
- **Way of the Cross** every Friday in Lent. The community Walk of the Cross on Good Friday will now be co-ordinated by St. Augustine Church. The format will still be multi-faith Christian churches.
- **April 11 and 12 Lenten Retreat** with Father Jacobson on the topic of Mercy.
- One catechumen was baptized at Easter after journeying over several months in RCIA program.
- **May 5:** celebrated First Communion with 10 students.
- **May 14:** parishioners attended the **STAR (St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School Division) Catholic Community Engagement Evening** with discussion on how to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.
- **May 25:** celebrated Confirmation with Archbishop Richard Smith and 19 candidates.
- Celebrated the **Feast Day of St. Augustine of Canterbury** with cake and ice cream and games for the children and young at heart.
- **June: Petition for One Million** started to encourage parishioners to protect the full legal rights of the unborn child. Supported by Parish Council, Catholic Women’s League and Knights of Columbus Council 4503.
- June 6: **Youth & Altar Servers Bowling Party Appreciation** 35 youth and adult support volunteers enjoyed bowling, pizza and pop.
- Collaborated with Edmonton Archdiocese on a **new website:** <https://staugustine.caedm.ca/> (Elena Payan is our new volunteer web “servant”)
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Children after mass, second Sunday of each month. All ages are welcome.

- Parish Council members went on a pilgrimage to Fulda, Saskatchewan to pick up “Way of the Cross” paintings and altar furniture, possibly to use in new church.
- Liturgical ministries are scheduled to update Parish Council during monthly meetings.
- We celebrated our ministries volunteers at the **October 22 Ministries Appreciation & Pie Social @ 7 p.m.** in the church hall. Parishioners are invited to answer your baptismal call to serve. We require additional Greeters, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (**RCIA**), a process for adults to convert to Catholicism, lead b Deacon Rollie. This year we have opened RCIA to baptised adults who would like to refresh their faith and journey with RCIA catechumens.

Next Step – Spiritual and Faith Formation

On 2020 January 15, we are planning another **Strategic Planning** (big picture) working meeting with parishioners to develop three goals that will prioritize our direction, we as a parish, want to accomplish. Please join us to share your ideas!

BUILDING A NEW CHURCH

- **January 2019:** We provided an update on Building Fund progress (\$960,000)
- Finance Committee circulated a document on Charity Gifting and income Tax with a Building Fund report
- Parishioners who have not already done so are invited to make a pledge of a regular amount of money for our Building Fund. Pledged funds help the Parish Council better plan for the new church.
- **Pre-authorized Debit** Agreement introduced to allow parishioners to direct deposit to the church on a monthly basis for either or both Operation of church or Building Fund. Tokens developed so parishioners may deposit token in collection basket as donation is already pre-authorized.
- Developed a **display board** for church entrance as a visual stimulus and ideas for parishioners to “Imagine what your new church could be”
- After the **March 6** (Ash Wednesday) Soup & Share, 28 parishioners generated numerous fund-raising ideas. Some of the ideas were implemented (see summary on next page)
- **In May, we had over one million dollars in the Building Fund.**
- **July 10** - Volunteer appreciation for Stampede Food Booth volunteers and Knights of Columbus People Movers.
- A new Fund-Raising Thermometer was donated by one of our parishioners and provides a visual cue to demonstrate the generous commitment parishioners are making to the Building Fund.

- October 12 and 13** Kelly McCheyne updated parish on amazing progress towards fund raising goal. Since June 2018 our parish has raised over \$425,000 towards our Building Fund and now have in excess of **\$1.25 million dollars**. If we continue to raise funds at the same rate, in excess of \$200,000 per year, we will have collected at least 50% of the down payment within three years (based on a similar structure to St. Stephen’s church in Lacombe.)

Building Fundraising Events & Service Group Summary

Fall 2018 to November 2019

2018 Bake Sale & 2019 August Garden Tour and Tea Party	Catholic Women’s League	\$650 + \$620
2018 Dec. 10 & 2019 May 27	Willan Chorale concerts	\$5,650 + \$5,280
2019 Feb 10 breakfast & Palm Sunday Filipino brunch	Couples for Christ	\$500 + \$700
Hanging Basket Fundraiser	Conny’s Greenhouse	84 hanging baskets & \$1,260
2018 November donation; 2019 May pledge & October	Knights of Columbus pledge \$8,750 per quarter	\$60,000 plus \$8,750 + \$8,750
May 31 Kettle Corn Fund-raiser	St. Augustine Catholic Youth & St. Augustine School	537 bags of kettle corn & \$1,558
Monthly	We CAN Build Bottle Drive	Average \$ 45
June 24 to July 1	Stampede Booth	\$62,000 plus
July 26 & 27	Yard Sale	\$2,700
September 7	3on3 Basketball Tournament & concession	\$3,400
Sept. 12, 19, 26, & Oct 3	Line Dancing Lesson Community Builder	\$685
October 19	Great Prairie Bottle Harvest	\$1,200
2019 November 24	Parish Turkey Supper	300+ friends & \$4,000 est.

Next Step - Building a New Church

Parish Council and Finance Committee believe it is time to do some very preliminary planning.

A four to five person committee to review items such as: how much of a down payment we want prior to start of project; parking requirements; and where to build the new church given the existing land, etc.

We are blessed with a committed and faithful parish community.
Thank you all for your generosity of time and money, sacrifice and prayers.

2019 November 28