



# RISEN CHRIST

## Catholic Parish

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every summer I like to provide you with an overview of the blessings and accomplishments we had at Risen Christ in the previous year. It is always a great opportunity to see what the Lord has done for us, and to see how we have participated in the Lord's work of building up the Kingdom of God! In many ways, it was a fruitful year and we saw growth in our parish and ministries.

There are many things to celebrate here, but I want to begin by highlighting the ways that we focused on building a parish culture of **Prayer, Community, and Discipleship**:

- We focused on **prayer** by expanding the hours of our adoration chapel, having a 4-week class on prayer in the Catechism with Fr. Eric, having guided holy hours during Lent, reinstating the Corpus Christi procession, adding more time for confession each week, and hosting the Pilgrimage Image of the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the parish with a presentation and holy hour.
- We focused on building **community** by bringing back the Parish Festival (after 2 years), Donut Sundays, Silverado events, young adult BBQs, Fish Fry dinners with the Knights, RE soup nights, and Fr. Eric's homilies to the children at 9am Mass. We also had a food truck picnic and published a new photo directory to celebrate the gift of our parish community.
- To lay a foundation for true **discipleship**, we focused on evangelization and the basic proclamation of the gospel by preaching a series of homilies on the Kerygma (Created, Captured, Rescued, Response), and Fr. Eric offered a parish-wide weekend retreat based on the Kerygma. We also ran *The Search* multiple times during the year as a small-group experience to present the Catholic faith in a compelling way. This has been a draw for many non-Catholic and non-Christian people who wish to learn and dialogue about God and the Church (and some participants entered RCIA and became Catholic this year!).
- We promoted **discipleship** by creating several small-group-based experiences such as *The Search*, *The Chosen*, Dr. Sri's book *Into His Likeness*, our men's group that meets on Zoom, and our new weekly study of the Sunday Scriptures. We hired Jenn Hinnen who has a deep desire for people to know Jesus – and she now coordinates both marriage prep and youth ministry. We also offered several learning opportunities through short courses and presentations given by our staff theologian or clergy.

While those were the core goals and accomplishments of the year, there were several other blessings in the last year that are worth noting:

- Some sacramental stats...
  - Baptisms: 55
    - Note: *Baptisms outnumbered funerals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row*
  - Couples who completed marriage prep: 15
  - Confirmations: 55
  - Adult converts through RCIA: 10
- We got to have Fr. Eric with us for a 4<sup>th</sup> year! During that time he completed his Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching, and our parish helped with some of the cost of his studies.
- We had listening sessions open to the entire parish community for the Synod and the Archdiocese of Denver's discernment around moving from maintenance to mission.

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- We cared for the poor with the Angel Tree project, various collections of goods and food, and hosting a food bank twice each month; we raised funds and sent volunteers to help Habitat for Humanity build a home for someone in need; we donated \$47,825 to various charitable organizations to continue their work of serving others (i.e. Little Sisters of the Poor, Centro San Juan Diego, & Emmaus Hospice). The parish community continues to be generous with the offertory, the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal, and with visiting mission appeals.
- We cared for the emotional/social needs of others in countless ways. Notably, we also accompanied the grieving families for 53 funerals, and our staff and volunteers served 26 funeral receptions. The Women of Risen Christ sent greeting cards and cookies to each of our parishioners living in nursing homes.
- We provided spiritual care for the homebound by continuing our weekly livestreamed Mass (when most parishes have discontinued their livestream). We have made the livestream available to families for funerals and weddings. Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion now bring Holy Communion to a new nursing home, bringing us up to 14 facilities that we serve.
- We cared for our parish facilities by installing security cameras inside and outside of our buildings. We also updated our fire system in the Emmaus Center.
- We purchased a new van for the food delivery ministry after the old van was vandalized.
- We made progress on the church remodel project by having listening sessions with the community to receive feedback and ideas. We are currently in the process of developing conceptual drawings to be presented to the community in the coming months. We will start a feasibility study soon.
- The Parish Leadership Team continues its work with a coach from Amazing Parish, and is actively working together to develop a parish culture of Prayer, Community, & Discipleship.

The last twelve months have been fruitful and it is a joy to watch the Lord building up His Kingdom in our midst. Together, let us entrust our parish community and its ministries to the Lord's hands using the prayer of the Surrender Novena: "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything."

May the joy of the Risen Christ be with all of you!

Yours,



Rev. Scott A. Bailey  
Pastor

**P.S. - If you appreciate the work that we are doing at Risen Christ and want to see it grow, then please consider doing any or all of the following things:**

- 1) Invite someone to Risen Christ, either to attend Mass or participate in a ministry like *The Search*.
- 2) Participate in the wonderful things we offer for faith formation, youth ministry, small-groups, outreach, community-building events, or serving in liturgical ministries. WE NEED YOU to help us build this parish culture of *Prayer, Community, and Discipleship*.
- 3) Contribute to our weekly offertory so that we can maintain the staff and facilities it takes to have dynamic ministries and liturgies. Thank you for your support and your prayers!