

St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Ministries & Activities



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Corner of Brooklyn and Hale Avenues
Church office located at:
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Ministry of Time and Talent

Welcome to the many ministries and activities of Saint Joseph Parish. This booklet was assembled by the parish stewardship committee to provide a listing for all parishioners interested in helping our community in some way.

In prayerful thanksgiving for the many blessings from God, we promise to support God's work with our prayers, our presence, our service and our gifts.

In all of these parish ministries and activities, our fellow parishioners give joyfully and generously of their time and talents in service to the Church and to others.

If you have the desire to become more involved in your parish life, please consider volunteering for one or more of these activities. If you have need of assistance, there are many organizations listed here that would be happy to help.

Finally, please remember to support your parish community and all of its volunteers with your prayers.

Pastoral Council

Pastoral advice is always welcome from the community in order that the Pastor can make decisions that meet the needs of the parish.

Retention Committee

An outreach to those parish members that have not been active in parish life.

Welcoming Committee

Volunteers welcome new members to our parish community through personal visits, and monthly coffees/recognitions.

ADMINISTRATION

Computer Skills Volunteer

Put your computer skills to work helping out in the parish office.

Money Counters

Parish Office Volunteer

Help with special projects like stuffing envelopes, typing, computer data entry, etc.

Photography

Volunteer who likes to take pictures of parish events, activities, etc... for the parish archives.

SCRIP Volunteer for H.A.S.A

Volunteers help with sales of SCRIP for St. Joseph's School H.A.S.A. (Home and School Association) after weekend Masses. SCRIP is gift certificates and gift cards for various local and national businesses.

Telephoning

Volunteers needed for various groups to call for helpers, information, food donations for dinners, etc...

Transportation

Help with the planning, scheduling, transporting of parishioners in need of transportation to Mass or parish functions.

FAITH FORMATION

Adult Bible Study

Adults interested in a deeper understanding of the Bible and our faith. A coordinator is needed for this group.

Book Study

Daytime and evening opportunities are available for reading and discussion of faith-based works. Typically, but not limited to, these studies have been scheduled during the Advent and Lenten season. Examples would be *Women of Grace*, *Catholic Women Growing in Grace*, or the *Wednesday Brown Bag Study*.

Christ Renews His Parish

Christ Renews His Parish, or CHRP, is an overnight retreat at the church in which men and women renew their faith through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Those who have participated in a CHRP weekend truly become renewed and can't wait to have someone else reap the same rewards.

Faith Sharing Groups

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief, and public relief works. Serve the Church and enjoy fellowship.

the Parish gathering room. New members are always welcome to serve in this ministry.

Sunshine Club

Christmas outreach to families in need.

STEWARDSHIP

Because we have been so blessed by God, we are encouraged through the principles of Christian stewardship to share our time, talents and treasure with others. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for encouraging a parish wide conversion to the principles of stewardship through such events as ministry fairs, the time-and-talent surveys and the annual financial stewardship pledge. We would appreciate volunteers in the following areas:

Annual Stewardship Appeal

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Help with mailings, promotion, and other activities during the Bishop's Annual Appeal

Capital Campaigns

Help as needed with Capital Campaign.

Ministry Fair and Catalog

Volunteers will put together a listing of the various parish ministries and their description. Help coordinate the annual Ministry Fair held to highlight the various opportunities for Stewardship in the St. Joseph parish.

Jail Ministry

Volunteers meet with those incarcerated to pray, share scripture, and support. There is also a need for donations of bibles, and other personal items.

Prayer Line

Volunteers pray for those special intentions.

Prayer Ministry

Monthly gathering to pray for those intentions recorded in the Prayer Request books located near the entrances of the church.

Right to Life

A group of parishioners who meet to discuss ways we can further the causes of protecting life at all stages by educating ourselves through use of community events, speakers, discussion of current issues (March for Life, Banquet for Life, 40 Days for Life). Stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure (Pro-life Christmas card sale, Mother's Day carnation sale, volunteering at Women's Care Center and participating in Adopt-A-Mom program).

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Your contributions provide the funds and food for our parish's link to those in need. The mission of the Parish Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is visitation of the sick, nursing homes and homebound of the parish family. In addition to short term assistance in the form of Food, Clothing, and basic emergency needs for the less fortunate of our parish and those in our parish boundaries coordinating with other Social Agencies i.e.: Catholic Social Services. Meetings are bi-monthly on Tuesday evening in

Lenten/Advent Enrichment

Parish Missions, Penance services, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration and other opportunities are offered to enhance these special liturgical seasons.

Men's and Women's Retreats

One day or overnight retreats are periodically available to enrich your spiritual life.

****Religious Formation***

This ministry provides weekly religious education classes during the school year for all children K-8 grade of the parish who do not attend Catholic school. There are opportunities for stewardship as catechists, aides or substitutes.

****RCIA – Adults and Children***

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is open to anyone seeking to know more about the Catholic faith. It is also open to baptized Catholics wanting to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and / or Confirmation. Volunteers are needed as:

Sponsors

Maintain personal contact with the candidate or catechumen throughout the RCIA process, meeting weekly. Basically they are willing to share their Catholic faith.

Catechists

Assist the RCIA director in planning, presenting topics, and overseeing the RCIA faith journey of adults and children.

Breakers of the Word

Catechists help to bring the catechumens to a deeper appreciation and understanding of the scripture readings during the Liturgy of the Eucharist at specific Sunday Masses.

Hospitality

Help with arrangements for special rite celebrations and/or meetings.

Rosary Sodality

Did you know that every woman of our parish is a member of the Rosary Sodality? The Rosary Sodality is St. Joseph's women's group that focuses on prayer, community service, organizes funeral dinners and is responsible for the annual Craft and Bake Sale.

Spiritual Development Committee

Put together a long-term plan for Spiritual growth in the parish. Assess needs and coordinate the various opportunities for Spiritual development in the parish.

* Denotes volunteers must meet Diocesan requirements of a completed background check.

FAMILY LIFE

Funeral Meals (See Rosary Sodality)

Grief Ministry

Martha Ministry

Volunteers prepare and deliver home-cooked meals for families with new babies, prolonged illness or hospitalization.

Parish Nurse Ministry

Nurses, CNAs or EMTs who can volunteer for blood pressure screenings or help with the blood drives.

Music Department Volunteer someone who is able to come in once a week to help with administrative tasks. Volunteers need not read music, play music, or sing. Volunteers help with filing, copying and managing music resources.

Proclaimer

Lectors proclaim the Scripture readings and the Prayers of the Faithful during the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. The role of this minister is to bring the Word to life.

Sacristan

Many of us do not see the "behind the scenes" tasks that take place before every Mass. Volunteer to set up and prepare the hosts and wine for Communion. Assure that everything is in place for the Eucharistic celebration.

Server

Servers assist the priest in the celebration of the Mass, and other liturgies. Boys and girls who are currently in the 5th grade are eligible for training.

Usher

These generous people give of their time during each Mass every weekend of the year. They help parishioners find seats, pass the collection baskets for the offertory and special collections, distribute materials after mass, arrange and handle many more behind-the-scenes tasks.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Citizenship Preparation Classes

Teachers and aides needed to help immigrants prepare for the U.S. Citizenship Exam.

Greeters

These people extend a warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors attending Mass every weekend.

Music Ministry

Saint Joseph Choir is a dedicated group of vocalists that provide music for the Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m. mass. This ensemble sings a wide variety of traditional hymns, choral performance pieces and contemporary Catholic hymnody. The choir practices on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Although reading music is not required to join this ensemble it definitely helps.

Saturday Night Vigil is a small and highly talented ensemble that ministers at the 5:00 p.m. vigil mass on Saturdays. This group plays music selections from a large repertoire of songs with short and efficient practices. Musicians are expected to read music very well and have a solid knowledge of classic Catholic hymnody.

Sunday Night Contemporary Ensemble is a very talented group of musicians and vocalists providing spirited music for the young at heart. This dedicated group practices every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. then ministers at the 7:30 p.m. mass. Musicians must read music well and be passionate about music.

Spanish Ensemble is a spirited group that provides music for the 11:30 a.m. Spanish mass. Equally versed in Spanish and bilingual hymns, these talented musicians provide a blend of both traditional and contemporary Catholic music. The ability to read music is strongly recommended but not required. Lead the celebration of the Mass at 11:30 am each Sunday.

Parish Picnic or Festival

Volunteers needed for coordinating, food preparation, games, silent auction, set-up, clean-up, advertising, etc.

Senior Activity

Meets monthly for social and spiritual activities.

Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo

“We Are the Body of Christ” is an organization that supports the spiritual needs of the community. It coordinates Hispanic events for the entire community enriching us culturally and spiritually. We welcome the participation of the Anglo community.

Soup or Something

Volunteers provide a simple meal following the Wednesday evening 5:30pm Mass.

Soup for Someone Special

Group prepares a large batch of soup and freezes it in smaller quantities to be taken to those in special circumstances. These might include a temporary job loss, pro-longed illness, or a shut-in.

****Vacation Bible School***

Offered each summer, this week-long program is entirely dependent on adult and teen volunteers. It is attended by both Catholic school students, Religious Formation students and neighborhood youth. Anyone interested in volunteering for this ministry is encouraged to contact the VBS director.

Vocation Committee

Parishioners meet to pray for an increase in vocations, and provide materials on vocations for the parish.

Women's Craft Circle

Group meets monthly to work on projects for the Craft Sale. This is a great opportunity for fellowship!

****Youth Ministry***

Looking for youth-oriented leaders and assistants for future opportunities

* Denotes volunteers must meet Diocesan requirements of a completed background check.

LABOR

This ministry assists the parish maintenance staff with both large and small projects. Volunteer assistance is always appreciated. Please let us know if you have special skills, equipment or labor you can provide.

Building and Grounds

Volunteers help with landscaping, mowing, trimming, mulching and raking.

Carpentry / Electrical / Plumbing Metalworking / Woodworking

As needed for special projects.

Church Cleaning

Periodic detailed cleaning of the inside of the church building.

Construction

As needed for special projects.

Gardening

Planting and caring for flowers.

Painting

As needed for special projects.

LITURGICAL

Art and Environment

Volunteers help to prepare and decorate the church for various liturgical seasons/events with special projects.

Eucharistic Adoration

It is a privilege and a blessing to have Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition available in the Chapel from 7:00PM – 8:00PM each Wednesday. All are invited to spend some time with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic Ministers

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist is one of the most visible ministries in the parish. These commissioned parishioners assist the priest in distributing the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass. They also purify the chalices and patens used in the service. Confirmation and Diocesan training are required.

Eucharistic Minister to the Sick

Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick receive the consecrated Host at the end of Mass and take it to the homebound or hospitalized members of the parish and share with them prayer and scripture. Diocesan training is required.

Gift Bearers

Bring forward the Bread and Wine at weekend Masses and represent the gifts of all present at the Mass.