

## Ministry...Our Stewardship of Time and Talent



### Why join a ministry?

Fellow parishioners  
share their thoughts...

"I wanted to belong and also wanted what I could see in everyone else. ... I needed to become involved. After joining a ministry, I started becoming more aware of my talents and my desires. I looked for ministries where my God-given gifts would benefit not only to the ministry, but to the entire church community. I have received many blessings from being from being a part of a ministry." - Nancy

"I became involved in OLM ministries to help spread the true message of God. In return, I have developed lasting friendships and have grown spiritually through the contacts I have made. I receive great satisfaction when our ministry helps to change the world just a little bit and makes our parish and community a representative of God's light." - Deb

"When I joined the Stewardship Committee, I felt like it was a nudge from the Holy Spirit. When I wasn't responding, the Spirit would not let me get away with it! Being part of the Stewardship Committee has given me more than I ever could imagine. I have grown spiritually through the rich conversations I have had with members of the committee and I have made the best of friends. I have witnessed how the Spirit uses each member of the committee through their special talents. I also joined a Small Christian Community and the Prayer Shawl Ministry out of curiosity, not sure what these ministries had to offer. I met wonderful people and new friendships grew. Faith and friendships are what I have gained by following my curiosity." - Peggy

"To me, being a part of a ministry is important because I want to do more than just show up for Church once a week and hand in my weekly envelope. I believe it is the people, together with Fr. Ritchie, that make up the Church. Together, we take the responsibility to work as a team and make decisions that make a difference in our Christian Community. As a community, we pray together, open up to one another and learn from each other. I joined a ministry so I can be a part of Our Lady of Mercy Church." - Laura

### Ministries in need:

All ministries could always use new members!  
Here are a few especially in need of your time and talent:

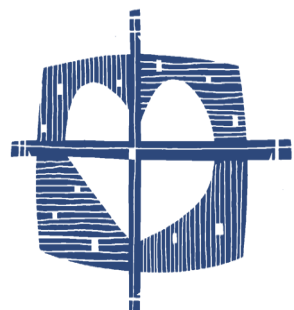
Altar Servers  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
Lenten Soup Supper Coordinator  
Sister Parish Committee  
Substitute Catechists

### New Ministries:

Children's Choir  
Divorced and Separated Ministry  
Social Justice Committee

### What's next?:

1. Prayerfully **discern** how God is calling you to serve.
2. **Complete** the included **Ministry Commitment Form**.  
(One per person. See web site for extra sheets or pick up at church.)
3. Bring your Ministry Commitment Form to Church on **Ministry Commitment Weekend: January 14/15**.
4. Contact Donna Clark with any questions about the ministries in this booklet at (814-899-5342) or at [dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## ADMINISTRATIVE

**Building & Grounds Committee:** Assists in the maintenance of church buildings and property by offering service or expertise. Work teams are assembled as needed. Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

**Finance Council:** Provides guidance and discussion to maintain good financial stewardship. Knowledge and experience in finances necessary. Council meets monthly and is currently full. Please submit name for reserve list.

**Tech Committee (Digital Communication):** Maintains and updates the parish website and social networking sites while continuing to advance the parish in various forms of electronic communication to better proclaim the Gospel to members of the parish and to the wider community. Meets monthly according to member availability.

**Landscaping:** Helps with upkeep of the church grounds and flower beds.

**Library:** Helps to catalog, organize and maintain the collection of books, videos, audio tapes, CD's and DVD's in our Parish Library.

**Newsletter Mailings:** Help to fold and stuff our quarterly newsletter. Usually meets at 9:00 a.m. on a Tuesday.

**Office Help/Clerical Support:** Fills in to answer phones, light office work and/or data entry as needed. Helps to assemble cards for small mailings or make phone calls for specific projects.

**Pastoral Council:** Acts as the primary consultative voice of the people of Our Lady of Mercy. Shares responsibility with the pastor and staff for the spiritual life of the parish. Sets goals in the areas of prayer, leadership and service through pastoral planning. Meets first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Scrip Shopper (Gift) Card Program:** Helps sell shopper cards after Mass. May also help with placing orders, taking inventory and preparing deposits.



## FAITH FORMATION

### **Adults Growing in Faith Together (AGIFT):**

Plans and promotes adult faith formation/education opportunities. Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

**Baptismal Preparation:** Prepares parents and godparents to assume their responsibilities as they present their child for Baptism. Leads a one and a half hour session twice a year on Sunday afternoon.

**Lifelong Faith Formation Committee:** Strategizes and implements a rich and viable approach to faith formation that ensures a holistic approach to catechesis for every stage of life. Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Pre Cana Program:** Prepares engaged couples prior to their marriage. Working with a Leadership couple, Team couples give a 30 to 45 minute talk on some aspect of marriage as part of a 6 hour program. Pre Cana is hosted at Our Lady of Mercy each September.

**R.C.I.A. Adult Initiation Team:** Prepares adults for Baptism or full communion in the Catholic faith. Meets Sundays after Mass.

**Religious Education Catechist:** Provides formal religious education classes, sacramental preparation, retreats and other opportunities for children and teens to grow in their faith. Class times vary.

**Religious Education Substitute:** Assumes responsibility for a Religious Education class when the regularly scheduled volunteer is unable to be present.

**Youth Ministry Support Team:** Young adults and adults help plan events, retreats and activities for the youth and take an active roll in the activities planned. Meet as needed for events. The "24 Hour Food Fast" in February or March each year needs many adult helpers. The Youth Ministry is open to suggestions for activities.

## LITURGICAL

**Altar Linen Care:** Ensures adequate supply of linens for Mass by collecting, washing, and pressing the altar linens. Clean albs or other linens as required. Work from home on a rotating schedule.

**Altar Server:** Assists the priest during Mass. Young people 4th grade and older are encouraged to participate. Rotating schedules.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Leads children in an age appropriate proclamation of and reflection on the Sunday readings during the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

**Church Environment (Decorating):** Assists in preparation of the visual aesthetics of the Worship and Gathering Spaces. Creative hands and minds welcome, as well as those able to climb ladders and carry heavy items.

**Eucharistic Minister:** Serve the faith community by assisting the priest with administering the Eucharist at Mass.

**Greeter:** Welcomes people as they enter Church for weekend Mass. Assists with special functions happening immediately before or after Mass. Rotating schedule, approximately one Mass every six weeks.

**Lector:** Serves as a proclaimer of God's Word when the faith community gathers for worship and prayer. Rotating schedule that varies with each Mass.

**Music Ministry:** Encourages the assembly in song and enhances the prayer life of the community through the beauty and joy of music. Includes singers, cantors and instrumentalists. The ensembles for the 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses rehearse 30-45 minutes prior. The 8:30 a.m. choir rehearses Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. Rehearsals take place September through May. No experience or music reading ability necessary.

**Children's Choir:** Open to grades 2—8. Rehearses Tuesdays after Religious Education from 5:30—6:00 p.m. Sings approximately once a month, on Christmas Eve and other special parish celebrations.

**Festival Music Ministry:** Provides music for Holy Week, Christmas, Parish Feast Day and other special occasions. Ideal for those who cannot commit to music ministry on a long-term basis. Approximately 3 rehearsals per event.

**Offertory Counter:** Counts the weekly collection.

**Presentation of the Gifts:** represents the community in bringing forth the gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

**Usher:** Takes up the collection at Mass, seats people and distributes the bulletin. Makes sure church is in order for the next Mass.

## PASTORAL CARE

**Bereavement Ministry:** Assists families in the bereavement process through contact before, during and after a funeral. Visits the funeral home, assists at funeral Mass as greeter, lector, altar server, Eucharistic minister, or child care aide. Rotating schedule, commitment times vary.

**Divorced and Separated Ministry:** Provides support and resources to those going through a separation or divorce through one-on-one ministry and periodic gatherings.

**Funeral Meal Ministry:** Helps prepare and serve funeral meals or provides desserts, casseroles, condiments, rolls or beverages. Times vary depending on the number of funerals.

**Grief Ministry:** Accompanies parishioners on their grief journey by making visits, phone calls or sending cards and reading material. Sponsors a monthly support group on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Eucharistic Ministry to Sick and Homebound:** Brings the Eucharist to the sick or homebound.

**Homebound Ministry:** Provides contact with homebound parishioners through visits, cards, sending weekly bulletin or phone contact. Up to one hour per month.

**Hospital Visitor:** Visits sick parishioners in hospitals or rehab facility. Visiting times personally scheduled. Approximately 2 to 3 hours every 8 weeks.

**Nursery and/or Babysitting:** Supervises children during the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass or during other parish functions. The Nursery during Mass is parent-run and supported by other parishioners willing to help. Babysitting for parish events is scheduled as needed. This list is separate from the Nursery Schedule.

**Nursing Home Ministry:** Helps with Sunday Morning Mass at Ball Pavilion and distributes communion to individuals in their rooms as needed. Monthly on rotating schedule. Help with other services or visits residents as one is available. Visit area nursing homes and distribute communion.

**Peer Ministry:** Shares life experiences with other parishioners going through similar experiences, providing a presence of support and love on a one to one confidential basis. First name and phone number listed in a public parish directory. People willing to offer support on sensitive issues can give their names for an unpublished resource list that would be confidentially coordinated by members of the pastoral staff.

**Welcome Ministry:** Welcomes new parishioners to the parish and helps connect them to the community. Could involve meeting a family at Mass, sending a card and helping with new member meetings or making a home visit to a new family.





## SERVICE

**Bakers Ministry:** Provides baked goods for various parish events and needs. Rotating on call schedule.

**Knights of Columbus:** Local council of an international Catholic men's beneficent society. A family oriented service organization that is dedicated to the Church and supports the local community and the youth of Our Lady of Mercy. Meets at 7:00 p.m. every first Thursday.

**Lenten Soup Supper:** Assists in preparing homemade soup and serving a simple soup supper on Wednesdays during Lent. *Coordinator Needed*

**Quilters—Patchwork of Friends:** Works on quilting and sewing projects that benefit the parish and the larger community, e.g. Festival Quilt, Project Linus, which distributes quilts to children and babies in need, bedding for refugee ministry, and occasional altar linen needs. Meets weekly and as needed.

**Transportation:** Provides rides to weekend Masses and church events for elderly parishioners. May also be asked to drive for appointments on an emergency basis.

## OUTREACH

**Casserole Club:** Provides a cooked and frozen casserole on the first Sunday of the Month to help the Maria House Project, a halfway house for men in need, in recovery or coming out of prison.

**Dresses for Missions:** Creates simple dresses for girls, from infancy through teen years, who live in developing areas. (e.g. Haiti, Africa, South America, etc.) One does not need to sew to be a part of this ministry. For more information contact Carole at 899-4470 or Patty at 725-5687. Meeting times to be determined by group.

**Ella Cochran Food Pantry:** Unload delivery truck on Tuesday mornings (9:00—11:00 a.m.) and distributes food on the third Wednesday of the month (8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.) Donations of food, paper products and money are always needed. Volunteers can work split shifts.

**Sister Parish Committee:** Cultivates a relationship of mutual friendship between Our Lady of Mercy and Our Lady of the Assumption in Peto, Mexico. Coordinates communication, promotes cultural awareness, fosters prayer and support and organizes celebrations. Meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**Social Justice Committee:** Promotes the social teachings of the Church by educating the parish community, advocating for just public policies and assisting parishioners to work for the common good and serve those in need. Meets monthly.

## SPIRITUAL/PRAYER

**Healing Ministry:** Offers God's healing to all people through prayer and "hands on" healing. As instruments of God's healing and love, we recognize the incredible peace of mind, body and spirit, through Christ's healing ministry. Share this gift of healing to renew, enrich, and restore balance. Healings are offered after 8:30 a.m. Mass twice a month, and classes will be offered as needed for the training of healers.

**Legion of Mary:** Fosters devotion to the Blessed Mother and undertakes apostolic works in service of the church. Visits nursing homes and helps with Mass at Ball Pavilion. Active members meet every Friday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Auxiliary members support the Legion by their prayers. We are especially in need of new active members.

**Prayer Line:** Prays for those in need as requested. Calls received daily or as prayer requests are received by the coordinators. Sign-up to receive calls either during the day (11:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.) or in the evening (4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Knits or crochets shawls in an atmosphere of prayer and fellowship. Shawls are prayed over and given to people who are sick or suffering and in need of loving, prayerful support. Meets weekly Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. or Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

**Stewardship Committee:** Works to create an environment of welcome and gratitude in which parishioners discover their God-given strengths and through gratefulness give back to God by sharing their strengths. Oversees annual parish ministry sign up. Helps to educate the parish members about stewardship: a way of life rooted in gratitude and a sense of Christ-centered living while carrying out our mission as disciples. Meets as needed.

**Small Christian Communities:** (*sign up for new members only.*) Small groups of people who gather in homes to pray, share their faith, and look for ways to support the larger Church and one another. Meeting times vary. Since participating in a small Christian Community often involves ongoing membership, continuing members need not sign up again.

## OTHER

**Cursillo:** This 3 day retreat provides an authentic experience of Christian community and a spiritual blueprint for living the Christian life. Fosters personal adult faith enrichment focusing on the need for piety, study and action - individually and in communion with others. Please indicate if you would like to make a Cursillo weekend.