

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Knowing, Loving and Serving the Lord

Ministries and Organizations of Service at Saint Joseph's

Adopt-A-Plot: Consider adopting a small plot of ground anywhere on Church property and maintaining it with flowers, weeding etc., from spring to fall. In doing so you are helping to reduce maintenance costs and adding to the beauty of the Lord's house as well as the neighborhood. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Altar Linen Care: Those involved in this ministry launder and iron the smaller altar linens (purificators and corporals) weekly on a rotating schedule. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Altar Rosary Society: The Altar Rosary Society helps to provide for the needs of the altar and sanctuary. Monies are used to help defray the cost of repairing and refurbishing such items as chalices, candlestick holders and other items used for the celebration of Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Donations may be placed in an envelope marked Altar Rosary Society and returned in the collection basket. (Organization)

Altar Servers: Boys and Girls from 3rd through 12th grade are invited to become altar servers. They participate in all Saturday evening and Sunday Masses and occasionally at weddings, funeral and special liturgies. (Ministry Opportunity)

Baptism Preparation Team: These volunteers help prepare parents to have their child baptized. Classes are held on the second Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November and last about 1½ hours. (Ministry Opportunity)

Bereavement Committee/Support /Companioning Group: Those who have lost a loved one know that their lives have been changed forever. People who are grieving often feel emotional and social isolation, anger, and loss of vigor for life. Bereavement cards are sent to each person in our parish who has suffered a loss. A companioning group member makes initial phone contact with the bereaved. A Remembrance is held each November in memory of those who have died during the past year. (Ministry Opportunity)

Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts: Boy Scout Troop 16 meets at St. Joseph's on Monday night at 7:00pm. Cub Scouts meet on Wednesday nights at 6:45pm. Volunteers who work in this ministry must have current child clearances as required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Organization)

Carnival Committee: St. Joe Club holds its annual carnival in late June. Proceeds support their athletic teams for boys' baseball, girls' softball, field maintenance and scholarships along with financial support for Crusader Midget Football and Resurrection Basketball. Volunteers are needed for concession/game stands, setting up and breaking down. There is a job for everyone; the young & the very knowledgeable. Come and join the fun. Watch for information in the church bulletin. For St. Joseph Catholic Club information check with their web site at www.stjosephcatholicclub.com. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Caring Kitchen: Those involved in this ministry provide a meal to parishioners in times of need (illness, hospitalization, etc.). Volunteers are contacted when a need arises and can choose to sign up to prepare a meal when it fits into their schedule. (Volunteer Opportunity)

CCD/Religious Education: Children who do not attend Catholic school attend CCD every Sunday morning from 9:15 to 10:15 A.M. for their religious instruction. Volunteers are needed to serve as teachers, aides (who can be high school students), and office personnel. CCD classes are held from September to May. Approximately 30 hours of instruction time is required. Volunteers who work in this ministry must have current child clearances as required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Ministry Opportunity)

Children's Liturgy of the Word: This program is for children ages 5 through 11. They are dismissed from the Sunday liturgy at the 10:30am. Mass, following the opening prayer, and go to the Chapel to break open the scripture readings for the particular Sunday. The children are brought back during the offertory. This is an opportunity for them to hear and understand the scriptures at their age level. It also starts them in the process of thinking about how those readings apply to their lives. Volunteers who work in this ministry must have current child clearances as required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Ministry Opportunity)

Choir (Children's and Adult) and Cantors: Practice for Children's Choir is held on Thursday from 6:00-7:00pm. The Adult Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. New members are always welcome. (Ministry Opportunity)

Church Cleaners: Those who wish to help clean the church and keep it in good order are invited to join. The upper church is cleaned weekly and the chapel is cleaned monthly. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Community Meal: Community meals are prepared four times a year on the 5th Friday of the month. Join with the Social Justice Committee to help prepare, set-up, serve, and cleanup at meals for the homeless or anyone who needs a good hot meal. The meals are held at St. Mary's. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Ecumenism: Support the pastor and deacon by representing St. Joseph's Church at the Northwest Cluster meetings. Promote avenues of interfaith Christian activities such as the Lenten Luncheons, Crop Walk and all current events. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Evangelization: Provide opportunities to deepen spirituality, reach out to the unchurched, and inactive Catholics. Be liaison between church and neighborhood working with various city and community organizations and our very active Legion of Mary. Activities include weekly Faith Sharing Group and yearly parish missions. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Focus on Faith: This is an informal discussion group that meets weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am in Tipitina's. The focus of discussion is on the Mass readings for the day and how we can implement the lessons from them into our daily lives. We invite anyone interested in a lively group discussion about God's word to attend. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Golden Hills Club: The senior citizen group meets at St. Joseph's at 12 noon on the second Thursday of each month in the Monsignor Thomas H. Smith Social Hall. Watch the weekly Sunday bulletin for further information. (Organization)

Good Shepherd Men's Association: This group provides an opportunity for the spiritual formation of the men of the parish in a fellowship-building environment. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Church with a reflection and Benediction, followed by discussion and fellowship at Tipitina's Café. No formal membership required, just come and participate. All over 18 welcome. (Spiritual Organization)

Greeters at Mass: Volunteers in this ministry welcome parishioners and visitors at weekend Masses and other special Liturgies and Parish celebrations. If no one is signed up, they also bring the gifts forward in the offertory procession. (Ministry Opportunity)

Gift Card and Scrip Program: Gift cards for *Weis Markets, Giant, John Herr's, Darrenkamp's, Stauffer's, Sheetz, Turkey Hill, Dunkin Donuts, Buffalo Wild Wings, Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse, Red Lobster, Ruby Tuesday, TGI Friday, Pizza Hut, Subway, Isaac's, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Outback and Carrabba's* are available before and after weekend Masses in the church vestibule and Monday through Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm at the rectory. Gift cards for clothing stores, restaurants, movie theaters, and many other stores can be ordered weekly for pick-up the following weekend. The percentage varies for scrip card sales but as much as 16% will stay here at St. Joseph's. Go online to **ShopWithScrip.com** and click on the Retailer List at the bottom of the page to see all of the stores available and the percentage the parish will earn. **For ways to order ScripNow eCards or to purchase with your cell phone during shopping, go to the Stewardship tab on our website, stjosephslanc.com, and click on the Gift Card Program.** You can also order by completing the order form available from the gift card sellers before and after weekend Masses. This is **FREE** income for the parish. (Parish Program)

Hospitality Committee: This committee is responsible for providing refreshments and serving as hosts/hostess at parish socials when requested. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Knights of Columbus: Council #867 meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1575 New Danville Pike, Lancaster, PA 17603. The meeting begins at 7:00pm with the recitation of the rosary followed by the business meeting at 7:30pm. (Organization)

Lector: This ministry is for those who are interested in becoming involved in the Ministry of the Word by proclaiming the scriptures at Mass and other services. (Ministry Opportunity)

Legion of Mary: Active Members: These are men and women who have a special devotion to Mary. They meet once a week and go out among the parish making calls for sympathy, convalescence, new babies, new parishioners, and inactive Catholics. They also take the parish census. **Auxiliary Members** are praying members who daily pray the rosary and the Legion prayers for active members and the parish. (Ministry Opportunity)

Lenten Appeal Worker: The Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal is an opportunity for our parish to provide the financial lifeblood for a range of ministries and outreach programs in our Diocese and parish. Men and women visit those parishioners who have not participated in the In-Pew program and others follow-up via telephone and letters. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Liturgy Committee: This group is responsible for planning and preparing the many aspects of each liturgy. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Maintenance/Restoration Committee: This group ensures that all parish facilities and equipment are safe and operational. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Mary's Sisterhood of Spirituality: Provides 4 events annually with the goal of providing the women of the parish an opportunity for spiritual retreat and formation. (Spiritual Organization)

Mass Coordinator: Persons in this ministry insure that everything is ready for the priest to celebrate Mass and that there are sufficient ministers (lector, altar servers, and extraordinary ministers) present. (Ministry Opportunity)

Mentor Couples for Marriage Preparation: These husband/wife teams help to mentor engaged couples through marriage preparation. (Ministry Opportunity)

Mercy Committee: This ministry provides luncheons after funeral Masses held at St. Joseph's. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Nursery Volunteers: These adults and teenagers provide baby-sitting for infants and children during the 10:30 A.M. Sunday Mass. Pagers are provided for parents while attending Mass. Volunteers who work in this ministry must have current child clearances as required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Oblates of St. Benedict: Benedictine Oblates are Christian men and women who yearn for a spiritual life deeply rooted in God. They know in their hearts that there can be much more fulfillment in their everyday, ordinary Christian lives. Though not sponsored by St. Joseph's, this group meets monthly. Watch the bulletin for exact dates. All are welcome. (Spiritual Organization)

Offertory Procession: These volunteers bring the bread and wine and offering to the altar during Mass. A sign-up sheet is posted by Father Wolfe's Reconciliation Room. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Parish Advocate for Disabilities: The Parish Advocate for Disabilities assists the pastor in working for and with parishioners with disabilities to become full participants in the life of the Church – spiritually, physically and socially.

Parish Archives: This ministry is devoted to preserving the history and heritage of St. Joseph Parish through the collection and organization of photos, articles and other memorabilia related to the parish and parish organizations. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Parish Newsletter: The newsletter is published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. Parish organizations are encouraged to submit information about the work of their ministries. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Consider setting aside one hour each week for Jesus in our Adoration Chapel below the church. Sign up for your holy hour to be with Him in the Blessed Sacrament and experience His peace. Choose any hour, day or night, according to your schedule. (Spiritual Opportunity)

Planning Committee: The Planning Committee works to refine parish goals, objectives, and strategies by developing a parish plan for advancing the mission of Christ. (Volunteer Opportunity)

RCIA: (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a process of prayer, instruction, sharing and discernment that prepares adults to become fully initiated into the faith community of the Catholic Church. Monthly inquiry sessions are held during spring and summer months, and weekly sessions are held Monday evenings, September through May. During these sessions we lay a foundation and explain our teachings. Volunteers are needed to teach, lead prayer, or provide refreshments or child care. Those who provide child care need the child clearances required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Ministry Opportunity)

RCIA (RCI Adapted for Children): This process is for children seven years through fourteen years of age who have not been baptized or who have been baptized and not catechized. Classes are held on Monday evenings. Volunteers who work in this ministry must have current child clearances as required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Ministry Opportunity)

Social Justice & Pro-life Committee: These volunteers serve God's people by having monthly food collections of non-perishable food items (especially those having meat or a meat base); assisting non-profit community agencies on a bi-monthly basis and preparing and serving meals for the homeless four times a year. All of their programs focus on putting the corporal works of mercy into action. The Pro-Life Committee promotes pro-life awareness within the parish. Activities include the pro-life prayer calendar in the Adoration Chapel, coordination of special ceremonies on Pro-Life Sunday, and collections for various pro-life organizations. Collections of baby items are held several times a year to benefit A Woman's Concern. The Social Justice/Pro-Life Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month. (Volunteer Opportunity)

St. Joseph Activities Committee: This group provides spiritual and social activities to increase the fellowship among parishioners. Various activities like parish picnics, adult only social events, children's events scheduled throughout the year. (Volunteer Opportunity)

St. Joseph Catholic Club: This group sponsors boys' baseball, and girls' softball. To finance these programs, the club holds a 10-week club party in May of each year. They also provide scholarships for worthy students where appropriate and donate funds to Crusader Midget Football, St. Joseph Youth Group, and the Parish Picnic. Volunteers who serve as coaches must have current child clearances as required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Organization)

St. Joseph Women's Club: A service-oriented social club for women 18 years of age and older, this group meets regularly on the fourth Thursday of the month. They sponsor many parish activities. (Organization)

St. Vincent de Paul Society: An organization of men and women who provide care for the needy, homeless and disadvantaged.

Stewardship Committee: This committee develops and implements creative ideas that allow parishioners to volunteer time, talents, and treasure for the good of the parish and the glory of God. It also conducts a continuing program of stewardship education. The committee meets approximately eight times per year. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Tree of Life Quilters: Bible study and quilting are enjoyed by the group who meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, excluding summer months, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. They create lap robes for shut-ins. (Organization)

Ushers: These volunteers greet parishioners coming to Mass, collect offerings, pass out weekly bulletins, help with parking for special events and straighten the church after services. They also carry out various other duties before and during Mass. (Ministry Opportunity)

Youth Group: **CURRENTLY NOT - ACTIVE LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED** Students in grades 5 through 12 meet every other week for spiritual, social, educational, and service activities. Adult volunteers who work in this ministry need to have current child clearances as required by the Diocese of Harrisburg. (Volunteer Opportunity)

Diocesan Requirements for those who work with Youth

All volunteers who work with youth are required to complete the requirements of the Diocesan Youth Protection Program **before beginning** their volunteer position. This includes completion of the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program Disclosure Statement, completing the Diocesan on-line training; securing the Pennsylvania State Police clearance and the Department of Public Welfare Child Abuse History Clearance. An FBI report is required if the person has lived outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania within the last 10 years, or if they live out of state.

Minors, (anyone who is 17 years old or younger) need to complete the Diocesan Disclosure Statement. And view "**Jesus Working Through You**" video on the Diocesan website www.hbgdiocese.org. No minor should at any time be placed in charge of a younger minor or be left alone with any younger minor.

To learn more about any of these ministries, contact Mary Ellen Gardner, Volunteer Coordinator at 397-6921. Email mgardner@stjosephslanc.com.