

Saint Pius X Catholic Church



Stewardship of Service Ministry Descriptions 2010

We have gifts that differ according to the favor bestowed on each of us. One's gift may be prophecy...It may be ministry...a teacher...the power of exhortation. He who gives alms should do so generously...he who performs works of mercy should do so cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8

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Adult Formation Ministries

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation is the process whereby those desiring to enter the Church or complete their Initiation into the Church are prepared for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Those inquiring about completion of their initiation include: non-baptized persons, those baptized in other Christian traditions, or Catholics who never completed their Sacraments of Initiation. The group is led by the Core Team. All inquiring persons are assigned a sponsor.

The Church exists in order to spread the Good News. It is the responsibility of the Church to sow the Gospel in God's field of the world. RCIA is a process in which the Church aids those who are interested in coming to faith or deepening their faith, and builds up the Body of Christ. Team members and sponsors serve as witnesses to their faith and as support to the inquirers.

RCIA Team

RCIA Team members are parishioners in the St. Pius parish who journey with those preparing for the Easter Sacraments as well as assisting the RCIA Director in leading discussions, planning events, and providing their own witness of their faith.

How the Ministry works:

- The Rite of Initiation involves certain stages of progress (Rites) which are celebrated in the midst of the community, which are held on certain Sundays in the fall and during Lent. Initiation is a year long process, which meets on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. Team members are to help with a Sunday afternoon retreat in the fall and a day long retreat which is held prior to Lent. After the RCIA candidates are received into the Church, Team members are to continue to come on Tuesday evenings for special sessions of Mystagogia which enables the newly received to gain a deeper understanding of the Mysteries which have been celebrated.
- Team members involved with the Inquiry sessions meet with those inquiring about joining the Church in their home. This process begins before formal catechetical sessions start at the parish.
- Team members involved with the Neophyte year, starting after the Easter Vigil, meet with those newly received on a monthly basis.

Expectations:

- Team must be confirmed Catholics who are in good standing with the Church.
 - All those interested on the Team should make the commitment to be present at all Tuesday sessions. Participation in all Rites celebrated at specific Sunday Masses and at the Rite of Elections at St. Matthew's Cathedral is necessary.
 - Team members must be present during Holy Week to attend the Triduum liturgies and the Easter Vigil.
 - Team members are responsible to help with dismissal, organization, set-up, and clean-up for meetings, special events, and the retreats which are held in the fall and before Lent.
-

RCIA Sponsor

Sponsors are parishioners in the St. Pius parish community who journey with those preparing for the Easter Sacraments.

How the Ministry works:

- The Rite of Initiation involves certain stages of progress (Rites) which are celebrated in the midst of the community, and are held on designated Sundays in the fall and during Lent. Initiation is a year long process, which meets on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.
- After the RCIA candidates are received into the Church, they and their sponsors are to continue to come on Tuesday evenings for special sessions of Mystagogia which enables the newly received to gain a deeper understanding of the Mysteries which have been celebrated.

Expectations:

- Sponsors must be confirmed Catholics who are in good standing with the Church.
 - All those interested in sponsoring should make the commitment to be present at all Tuesday sessions. Participation in all Rites celebrated at specific Sunday Masses and at the Rite of Election at St. Matthew's Cathedral is necessary.
 - Sponsors must be able to attend 2 retreats: an afternoon in the fall and a Saturday during Lent.
 - Sponsors must be present during Holy Week to attend the Triduum liturgies and the Easter Vigil.
-

Young Adult Group (ages 18-39)

The St. Pius Young Adults are a Catholic community of young adults fostering relationships with each other, the Church, and Christ. We are in our 20s and 30s, single, divorced, widowed, and married, with and without children. Together, we build Christian community through exploring and sharing the faith, praying and worshipping, and serving others in order to grow in faith and transform the world.

Young adults grow in faith and live out that faith at home, work, and wherever else we are in order to witness to and further the Kingdom of God.

How the Ministry Works:

- A variety of activities take place on a periodic basis. Upcoming events are advertised by three means: 1) Facebook – the “St Pius Young Adults” group; 2) Webpage – www.stpius.net/ya ; and 3) Parish Bulletin.
- Children are invited to any family-friendly activities.
- Each event is self-contained so that you can join in whenever you are able. New ideas and activities are invited and appreciated.

Expectations:

- Any young adult, ages 20-39 is encouraged to become involved as a member of the group, with no sign-up necessary.
 - Participation in activities is varied as your time and your schedule permits.
-

Homecoming (Wells of Hope)

The Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination in the United States. The second largest Christian group, although not formally a denomination, are those Catholics who have left the Church. *Wells of Hope* is a program of welcome and hospitality for any Catholic seeking to return to his or her spiritual roots. The program is conducted in a non-threatening manner and will gradually lead participants through a process of questions, education and eventual reconciliation with the Church. The Wells of Hope team provides support to people who have fallen away from the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called to works of mercy; welcoming a brother or sister back into the church is a wonderful way to live our baptismal promises!

How the Ministry Works:

- Parishioners on team participate by being welcoming, offering support, hospitality and friendship.
- Parishioners also answer questions, provide resources and guide our fallen away brothers and sisters to reconciliation with the church.

Expectations:

- Wells of Hope team members must be compassionate, caring, understanding and non-judgmental.
 - Team members should be able to attend team meetings as needed and be available to meet with those wishing to come back to the church as needed.
-

Adult Education Series

The Adult Education Team works together to plan and implement a diverse series of programs to further the knowledge of our parishioners about the Catholic faith and Catholic traditions. Programs are under the headings of Bible Study, Speaker Series, Catholic Theology, Life Skills and Catholic Culture.

Catholics are called to works of mercy; instructing our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith is a wonderful way to live out our baptismal promises!

How the Ministry Works:

- Team members meet monthly to review programs currently in place and to consider new requests of more offerings to be considered. It is also the role of the team to be sure programs offered are in line with the teaching of the church.
- The team works with the parish staff to schedule the calendar, meeting times and space.

Expectations:

- Adult Education Team members must be able to meet monthly during the fall and winter and have a desire to provide dynamic programs to further our parishioners understanding of the Catholic faith.
-

Lending Library

Our Mass provides us the Word of God. The Parish Lending Library builds on this by offering a wide variety of the best, whole heartily recommended Catholic resources for enriching the life of faith. Topics include apologetics, saints, Church history, grief, family life, religious art, children and much more. The Parish Lending Library is located near the parish offices, across from the Holy Cross Room. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday before and after all Masses.

As Catholics, we are called to evangelize and spread the good news. Through the efforts of our Parish Lending Library, we strive to make accessible an organized treasury of materials to reinforce and deepen the spiritual growth of our Parish family.

How the Ministry Works:

There are several ways in which parishioners can participate in the Parish Lending Library.

- Weekday volunteers check books in and out using the computer system, reshelve returned books in Dewey Decimal order, input new patrons and new materials into an online database, and keep the library and waiting area across from the Holy Cross Room neat and organized.
- Weekend volunteers come in on their scheduled weekend, before or after any of the Masses. Responsibilities are the same as the weekday volunteer.
- Straighten-only volunteers straighten and maintain Dewey Decimal order of the shelved books in the library, and also keep the waiting area across from the Holy Cross Room neat and organized.

Expectations:

- Weekday Volunteers are scheduled on a rotating basis for approximately 45 minutes, 2-3 times monthly. Basic computer and data entry skills are necessary.
- Weekend Volunteers are also scheduled on a rotating basis for approximately 45 minutes, 1-2 times per month. Basic computer and data entry skills are necessary.
- Straighten-only Volunteers are also scheduled on a rotating basis. They may come in any day and time the library is open during their scheduled week for approximately 1 hour, once a month. NO computer or data entry skills are necessary.
- All Lending Library volunteers are required to attend a yearly, one hour training session.

Marriage Preparation

Members of the Marriage Preparation Team work couple-on-couple with an assigned engaged couple to help the engaged couple better understand both the blessings and the challenges of the sacrament of marriage. A prescribed set of materials is used as the framework for these couple-on-couple meetings, but the actual meetings are personal and flexible, not rigid nor highly-scripted.

Volunteers: better understanding of their own marriages and the challenges that effect all married persons. Volunteers: enhanced empathy with family and/or friends who may be experiencing marital difficulties. Community: stronger marriages. Community: some ill-advised engagements have been called-off at least in part because of things unearthed in these sessions.

How the Ministry Works:

- Once one of our priests has met with an engaged couple, and their wedding is booked, information about the engaged couple is sent to the Marriage Prep coordinator who will match them with a “simpatico” sponsor couple.
- The sponsor couple then makes contact with the engaged couple and they mutually work out a schedule of two to four meetings, typically in the sponsor couple’s home. The meetings usually take place in the evening or on weekends. These meetings range from 90 to 180 minutes each.
- When the meetings are completed the sponsor couple informs the coordinator, and then he notifies the priest.
- On average a sponsor couple will work with one or two engaged couples per year.

Expectations:

- The ideal sponsor couple has been married at least 10 years, is living a fully Catholic marriage, and is willing to talk openly about real life challenges, including – but not limited to – financial, social, and sexuality-related concerns. They also must be warm and welcoming in allowing the engaged couple into the intimacy of their home to discuss such private topics. Yet they also have to be “tough” enough to keep the meetings on track and to point out to the engaged couple things in their relationship that need further addressing between them.
- New sponsor couples will receive training from the Marriage Preparation Coordinator couple and/or other veteran sponsor couples. The training varies based on the number of new sponsor couples and the time of year. In total, the training commitment is to attend two or three meetings and to thoroughly study the printed materials used in the program.
- Sometime during a new sponsor couple’s first year in this ministry, they are also expected to attend the full-day diocesan program, “Engaged Couples Conference” so that they will be able to conduct their private meetings knowing what the engaged couple has experienced at the diocesan conference.
- Requires good interpersonal, phone, and email communications skills.

Rekindle the Fire

This ministry was started for faith sharing and strengthening and fellowship for men. Open to all men, this group meets Sunday evenings, 7:00-9:30 p.m. on a 3-week interval. Every gathering includes prayer, scripture, personal witness, adult catechesis, “man-time” and refreshments.

Christ Renews His Parish

Christ Renews His Parish is a weekend retreat for adults of intense sharing of experiences, personal and communal. Through prayer and participation in the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, parishioners deepen their personal faith and evangelize one another.

Catholics are called to works of mercy; being the hands and feet of Christ to our fellow brothers and sisters is a wonderful way to live out our baptismal promises!

How the Ministry Works:

- Retreats are held twice a year from Saturday morning to late Sunday afternoon with separate retreats for men and women. Christ Renews His Parish retreats are open to all adult parishioners.

Expectations:

Participants of the Christ Renews His Parish retreat are then invited to make a commitment to form as a team over the next 6 months with weekly meetings to prepare and host the next weekend retreat.

Children's Ministries

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Children's Liturgy of the Word is a special celebration where our young children are invited to hear the Word of God on Sunday during Mass. The young children of the Parish learn the liturgical language of the Catholic Church and we nourish and guide their spiritual growth. God wants to speak to children as well as to adults.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is intended to nourish and guide the children in their spiritual growth and help them to learn the liturgical language of the Catholic Church. As a catechist or helper, when you prepare your lessons and then share them with the children, we hope that you are nourished in your spiritual growth as well. Through this ministry, we can see that the future of our Church is being nourished in our children's spiritual growth.

How the Ministry Works:

- Children's Liturgy of the Word meets every Sunday during the 8:45 and the 10:30 Masses, September through Palm Sunday.
- Children ages 4 – 6 are invited to leave the Church to hear the Word of God and explore those words in the language of the child. The children leave after the Introductory Greeting and go to a room adapted to their needs and capabilities. The Gospel is read, a short Homily is shared, they pray the Intercessions, and then as time permits the children will sing songs or do a related activity or color sheet. Then the children are brought back to Church after the Intercessions, during the Offertory.
- At least two adults are involved at all times.
- The CLW Director provides the lessons and assists the catechist.

Expectations:

- Lead Catechist: in addition to leading the 20 minute CLW session during his or her assigned Mass, the lead catechist will need to spend approximately one hour preparing for the class and communicating any needs or concerns to the director. The catechist needs to keep the Homily "child friendly" while still keeping with the theme of the Gospel. Any handouts or other activities should keep with the theme of the Gospel and should be viewed by the director prior to giving them to the children.
- Assistant/Helper: will help during the Mass to walk the children to their room, assist during that Mass time by handing out supplies or papers, taking children to the restroom, and helping the catechist to keep the reverence of Church during prayers.
- Catechists and Assistants are typically assigned a Mass twice per semester, or more often, if desired.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC)

The RCIC Catechist facilitates Sunday dismissal for those children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Sunday dismissal takes place from the last week of October until Holy Week. All RCIC children attend the 8:45 Mass and are dismissed at the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word (after the homily). The Assembly benefits by witnessing the sending forth of those preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments.

The Great Commission of Jesus is that we as Church should preach the Gospel and baptize in His name. The RCIC Catechist directly participates in this endeavor during dismissal by being an instrument of Evangelization. The entire Community is strengthened and renewed by the witness of new members coming into the Church.

How the Ministry Works:

- When the children are dismissed, the RCIC catechist meets with them in a designated room to "break open the Word."
- The children reflect on the Sunday readings and the homily.
- The Catechist is responsible for leading them into discussion and reflection. Resource materials are provided.

Expectations:

- The RCIC Catechist should have a desire to share his or her faith with individuals who may have minimal prior faith formation. He or she should expect the most basic questions about the Catholic faith, and the children in this process may be confused about things that those who have been Catholic for awhile take completely for granted. Hence, although the Catechist need not be expert in matters of doctrine, he or she should be a patient listener, and consider all questions as deserving of respect.
 - The time commitment is approximately 40 minutes on Sunday and ½ to one hour of preparation time.
 - The Catechist must stay with the children until their parents pick them up at the conclusion of Mass.
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Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens (RCIT) Team Member

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens prepares young adults, grades 9-12, to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, which includes the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Those inquiring about initiation includes non-baptized, baptized in another faith tradition, or Catholic teens that have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation. The RCIT Team consists of members of the parish who journey with the teens preparing for the Easter Sacraments.

As RCIT prepares high school youth to receive the Sacraments of Initiation, it opens the team members' minds to the teachings of the Catholic Church and sets a foundation for spiritual growth in their Catholic faith.

How the Ministry Works:

- The RCIT process mirrors that of RCIA.
- The team members and sponsors will be expected to be available Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m., be present at the two retreats held in the fall and during Lent, and be present at the Rites celebrated with St. Pius community on select Sundays.
- As with RCIA, Team Members may be involved with inquiry session meetings and involvement in the Neophyte year, once again, as the RCIA process describes.
- The RCIT process also includes sponsors who will journey with an individual teen as described in the RCIA Sponsor description.

Expectations:

- Team members are expected to follow the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults expectations, including attendance at weekly sessions, retreats, Rites, and team meetings.
 - Sponsors are also expected to attend weekly sessions, retreats, and the designated Rites.
 - Team members and sponsors must be present during Holy Week to attend the Triduum liturgies and the Easter Vigil.
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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of the child that is rooted in Sacred Scripture, liturgy, and the educational philosophy and methods of Maria Montessori for children ages 3 through Grade 6. The program nurtures children and helps them to grow in relationship with God and experience the love Our Lord, the Good Shepherd, has for them. CGS is very hands-on and allows the children movement during their time in the Atrium (the name for the prepared environment). The children learn catechetical works based on the life of Our Lord, nomenclature or language of the church, parables telling about the Kingdom of God and the person of Jesus. Grades 1-3 continue with these works, but the focus shifts to expand their understanding of relationship to contemplate our response to that relationship with God. Grades 4-6 continue these works with the focus shifting to living our faith in relationship with others, and learning the history of our faith and life in the Church.

It's amazing how much one learns going through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd formation to work with the children! The Catechist formation helps us to learn more about our faith and the Church and working with the children helps us to fall in love with God all over again.

How the Ministry Works:

Weekly sessions are for 75 minutes for the after-school program. The time varies from 45 – 80 minutes for the in-school program.

- Catechists are required to complete CGS formation, beginning with Level I (ages 3-6).
- Aides are needed to assist weekly or bi-weekly during session times, both in school and after-school, especially in the Level I and II atria.
- Artists and craft makers are occasionally needed to paint small figures, 'sculpt' clay figures, do calligraphy work, basic sewing projects, and some small wood-working projects.

Expectations:

Catechists:

- complete enriching faith formation to train to become a catechist.
- arrive about 20 minutes before the children to make sure the Atrium is prepared.
- during the session they share weekly presentations with the multi-age children in their classes.
- remaining class time is used to assist children in using the materials, or 'works,' in the atrium. All materials are provided in the atrium.
- 'restores' the Atrium after class to make sure that the room is ready for the next session.

Assistants:

- assist children in their work, as needed.
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Children's Catechetical Development (CCD)

The CCD program teaches children in the after school faith formation program. The classes are offered weekly on Monday and Wednesday evenings for grades 1 through 8, and twice a month on Sunday mornings for grades 5 through 8. Curriculum includes catechesis on the Sacraments, the Catechism, the Mass, the Liturgical Year and the Bible. Special focus is given on Sacramental preparation during grade 2 and grade 8. The texts used are published by Sadlier and follow our diocesan guidelines for Religious Education. Catechists are given training, a teacher guide and excellent website support.

Volunteers in our CCD program are responsible for faith formation of our most treasured resource – our children. Although each parent is the primary educator of their children in matters of faith, catechists provide an indispensable service to the children and their families by sharing their faith and giving their time to explain the teachings of the Catholic Church. Catechists certainly deepen their own faith through the experience of teaching it to others.

Catechist

The CCD Catechist is the lead teacher in the after school faith formation program.

How the Ministry Works:

- Catechists have a weekly or bi-monthly commitment during class time. Classes start in September and finish the first week of May. Catechists should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to class and stay after class until their students are picked up and the classroom is put back in the order of their arrival.
- Catechists typically spend an hour a week preparing the lesson. The RE department can provide various materials such as copies, different types of paper, craft items, etc.

Expectations:

- Catechists should be passionate about their faith and desire to share their love of Christ and the Church with children. They do not need to be experts in doctrine or theology. The texts we use are superb, not only in content but also in lesson planning and suggestions for activities.
 - It is also important to be reliable, and come to class every time, and on the rare occasion that a substitute is needed to give the RE office as much notice as possible.
-

Catechist Aide

The CCD Catechist Aide assists the catechists in the after school faith formation program.

How the Ministry Works:

- Catechist Aides have a weekly or bi-monthly commitment during class time. Classes start in September and finish the first week of May. Catechist Aides should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to class and stay after class until their students are picked up and the classroom is put back in the order of their arrival.
- Some duties of the Aide include making copies, helping with classroom management and activities, and occasionally leading the class lesson if he or she feels comfortable doing so.

Expectations

- Catechist Aides should be passionate about their faith and desire to share their love of Christ and the Church with children. They do not need to be experts in doctrine or theology. The texts we use are superb, not only in content but also in lesson planning and suggestions for activities.
 - It is also important to be reliable, and come to class every time, and on the rare occasion that a substitute is needed to give the RE office as much notice as possible.
-

Babysitter

The CCD Babysitter cares for the younger children of catechists and others who offer their time during CCD.

How the Ministry Works:

- The CCD Babysitter has a weekly commitment during class time unless an arrangement is worked out to team with another volunteer.
- There is a designated room used for babysitting and snacks are provided for the children every week. There are also toys and a TV/VCR available for use.

Expectations:

- He or she should have a genuine love for young children. The children in their charge are actually getting used to the idea of coming on a regular basis to religious education, so providing a positive experience for them is important.
 - No preparation time is needed, but it is important to be reliable and to give plenty of notice on the rare occasion of an absence.
-

Children of St. Angela Merici (CSAM)

Named after the patron saint of those with disabilities, the Children of St. Angela Merici is a catechetical program designed for students with special needs or disabilities. It combines some traditional aspects as well as lessons adapted from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd approach. Children, teens, and young adults in this program experience an environment of welcome as they learn to follow Christ and grow in deeper relationship with him and his Church. Currently three levels are offered in this program. The curriculum of Level I focuses on Sacraments and Sacramental Preparation, while the curriculum of Level II focuses on “The Liturgical Year and Life in the Church”. Finally, Level III is Confirmation Preparation. Adult Faith Formation for our adults with disabilities and special needs is also offered.

How the Ministry Works:

- The two main volunteer positions in the Children of St. Angela Merici program are catechists and aides.
- The Catechist presents the lessons to the students, and spends time working one-one-one with each student during each lesson.
- The Aide helps the students to remain focused during the presentation of the lesson and also works with students in a smaller group setting during the activity time of each lesson.
- Some come to this ministry with previous experience with children and/or adults with special needs, but no prior experience is required.

Expectations:

- CSAM Catechists and Aides make a weekly commitment to help with a specific class. Prior to the start of class, they will be given a training packet and attend a training session in preparation for helping with the CSAM program.
- CSAM Catechists are expected to arrive about 15 minutes prior to the start of class in order to assemble the materials, make copies of homework and activities, and set up the classroom for the lesson. They are also expected to remain for 10-15 minutes after class to help with clean-up. Some minimal preparation time is also needed prior to arrival in order to read over the lesson for the day.
- CSAM Aides arrive a few minutes before class in order to help with set-up and to greet the students. Aides also may be asked to stay briefly after class in order to help with any clean-up.
- CSAM Catechists and Aides are to remain in communication with each other and the parents/guardians of the students in order to make an ongoing assessment of the needs of each particular student.
- Finally, Catechists and Aides work to cultivate the spiritual lives of their students. Through prayer and time spent with Jesus in the Eucharist, they help the students to encounter God’s love in a real way. Catechists and Aides are also strongly encouraged to take time for personal prayer as they undertake this work.

Reception Desk Volunteer

The CCD Reception Desk Volunteer sits at the reception desk during CCD class time.

How the Ministry Works:

- He or she offers assistance with supplies and copies, answers questions, and directs catechists, students and parents to the appropriate staff member as necessary. This Volunteer is a great help to the RE staff as an extra pair of “helping hands” during CCD.

Expectations:

- The Reception Desk Volunteer should enjoy helping others. He or she offers a friendly face and a welcoming attitude to the after school faith formation program.
- The Volunteer should be available 10 minutes before the start of CCD and be willing to stay 10 minutes after classes end.
- This Volunteer should also be willing to locate the Director or staff member if a particular issue warrants their attention.

Youth Sports

The sports ministry at St. Pius has been developed to mentor young athletes in various sports. Each coach is responsible to instill a sense of accomplishment by helping each young athlete develop skills and confidence, good sportsmanship, fair play, and their athletic potential.

As students develop rapport and fellowship among student athletes, coaches, and parents from all member schools, we build up the body of Christ. Through fair play, good sportsmanship, the sports ministry can serve as an instrument of evangelization to students, parents, and other sports teams.

How the Ministry Works:

- Each coach will develop a training program designed to help all young athletes improve their skills and develop team play.
- They will lead teams in competition, encourage good performance, sportsmanship and Christian fair play.
- They will be trained in and expect to coach with the “Play Like a Champion” philosophy.

Expectations:

- Coaches must act as teachers, and contribute to the athlete's character development.
 - Our coaches will positively motivate their teams.
 - They will effectively communicate with their parents.
 - They will help to build strong relationships between teammates.
 - Coaches must teach the fundamentals, increase knowledge of the rules and plays of each particular sport and encourage athletes to play to their potential.
 - Coaches should develop within our student-athletes the principles of good sportsmanship, Christian values, self-confidence, respect for others, discipline, and responsibility.
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Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School is a week-long summer program for children ages 3½ to 5th grade. The week is filled with incredible activities that allow kids to see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the activities that help kids connect faith to real life. Plus, we help kids discover how to see God in everyday life. Children also have the chance to take part in a child-to-child mission project with the children of our sister parish, Saint Adalbert and other organizations in need throughout the community.

How the Ministry Works:

- Planning for VBS begins in December for the following summer by selecting the VBS program and determining the leadership team.
- Station leaders are recruited and selected to begin preparations for the various components of the program.
- Crew Leaders, helpers, and teen volunteers are also recruited to provide the staff necessary to work with and supervise the VBS participants.
- During one week in June, the summer camp is held in the morning throughout the parish campus:
 - Kids start each day by forming small groups called *crews*.
 - All the crews gather for *Sing and Play* to sing and do motions to upbeat songs that introduce kids to the concepts they will be learning that day.
 - They will also spend some time learning about how to work together for the common good of mankind.
 - Then crews visit five different stations: Bible Adventures, Crafts, Games, Snacks, and Chadder's Theater.
 - Everyone comes back together at the end of the morning for a finale where they wrap up the days events as well as learn about a special person of faith each day.

Expectations:

- All volunteers should be able to attend the entire week, or if necessary, a portion of the week, of Vacation Bible School.
 - Volunteers should be well grounded in their faith and have an ability to work with children.
 - Station Leaders are adults who are dependable and faith-filled, enthusiastic about working with children, patient and kind, good communicators, comfortable speaking front of groups of 30 or more, and gifted in their station areas.
 - A Crew leader is an adult and a mature teenager is someone who: is a friend and a helper, knows and calls kids by name, offers kids choices, asks questions, encourages kids, and supports the Station Leaders.
-

Kids of the Kingdom

The Kids of the Kingdom ministry provides a positive, family environment where parents and children can engage in social and educational activities surrounded around the various Church liturgical seasons. The ministry provides a social forum for parents with younger children to meet and get to know one another. It also serves as a children's ministry in that books, crafts, and songs are all engaged in that focus on a Church Holy Day, Saint, or liturgical period of time.

How the Ministry Works:

- The program currently meets one Friday per month for 45 minutes to one hour for a class.
- All adults, including parents, grandparents, and caregivers, and their children should just have a good time singing, listening to stories, and working on art projects together with a focus on parent/caregiver interaction.

Expectations:

- Each month, a program member is asked to prepare for each class according to an appropriate Church-related theme.
 - Books and songs are selected and craft projects are determined, prepared for, and purchased if necessary.
 - Preparation time usually requires about 5-10 hours per month depending on the topic covered.
-

Middle School Youth Group Member and Adult Core Team

The main focus of Middle School Youth Ministry is to develop the faith formation of young people within our parish. This ministry is designed to provide opportunities for youths to share Christian fellowship with others, participate in service projects, deepen their faith, while making friends and having fun. Adults work together as a CORE Team to develop topics and materials relevant to youth culture and church teachings.

We affirm the gifts of our youth and we foster opportunities for young people to share their gifts with the larger community. The spiritual and social needs of the youth are to be met with the committed leadership, guidance, and support of our parish adults. The benefit is to form and inform the youth in the parish in order to prepare them to become leaders in their own communities in such a way that they become witnesses of Christ and evangelizers to their fellow youth. Thus the adults and youth of our parish are therefore provided with the opportunity to grow together in Christian faith.

How the Ministry Works:

- The CORE Team is expected to get together for 1-2 hours per month to plan for the youth meetings which are held on Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m.
- These meetings should contain pertinent discussions which allow the students to experience a deeper spirituality.
- As part of our keeping children, youth and vulnerable adults safe, two adults must be present whenever children, youth, and vulnerable adults are involved in any program.

Expectations:

- The Youth Ministry CORE Team consists of committed adults who provide the vision, direction, planning, and implementation of the youth ministry program at St. Pius X parish. Members of the team should exhibit the following qualities: Leadership, willingness to influence the direction of the program, enthusiasm, being prepared, inclusive, energetic and self-confident.
- Middle School Youths can plan to participate in: Bible Study, discussion groups, adoration, skits and overall presentations about church teachings. Adults will help lead small discussion groups.
- All volunteers who work directly with children must complete a background check, and attend the Diocesan Class on Keeping Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Safe.

High School Youth Group and Adult Core Team

The High School Youth Ministry ensures that the pastoral care of young people at St Pius X, is rooted in the parish, and is integral to the life, work, and mission of the parish community. The main focus of High School Youth Ministry is to develop the faith formation of young high school people within our parish. The ministry is comprised of students in high school, grades 9-12, and adult volunteers who form a CORE Team. The Team consists of adults who provide vision, direction, support, and advocacy for the parish's ministry to these young people.

Team members handle the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the designed program. They also foster the involvement of young people in the life of the parish, including serving on various parish committees and being involved in parish activities.

How the Ministry Works:

- The CORE Team is expected to attend all Sunday youth meetings which are held from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings, September through April.
- The meetings involve pertinent discussions and activities which allow the students to experience a deeper spirituality.
- The program is supported by the Core Team which works together to create and implement events and discussions relevant to youth culture and church teaching.
- Planning and organizing meetings can require 1-2 hours of work per week.

Expectations:

- Core Team members lead small discussion groups, skits, and other information formats about church teachings.
- They should show:
 - A commitment and love for young people.
 - A willingness to share their faith in Jesus and their ongoing journey to God
 - A willingness to further their understanding of youth ministry and youth culture.
- Teens are frequently called on to perform service activities including: supporting Vacation Bible School, sorting of gifts for *The Giving Tree*, visiting home bound parishioners as well as helping others in the Middle School Youth program.
- They can also help with the St. Pius X picnic, participating in retreats, Lenten Paschal Watch, and other social events.
- As part of our keeping children, youth and vulnerable adults safe, two adults must be present whenever children, youth, and vulnerable adults are involved in any program.
- All volunteers who work directly with children must complete a background check, and attend the Diocesan Class on Keeping Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Safe.

Home and School Association (HASA)

The objectives of the HASA are:

1. To promote the religious, educational, cultural and social growth of the students and families of St. Pius X Catholic School.
2. To promote open communication among the parents, teachers and administration.
3. To promote good will and cooperation between and among parents, faculty, administration, School Board and the parish of St. Pius X.
4. To direct and coordinate parental support and leadership through volunteer activities, service projects and social functions, and to encourage and motivate participation from all members of the Association.
5. To follow the stewardship way of life established at St. Pius X Parish.

Members of HASA should expect growth in all areas of life, especially in serving the needs of others. The possibility for spiritual growth is virtually endless depending on the service provided.

How the Ministry Works:

- With over 30 committees, parents work to improve the spiritual, academic, social and cultural needs of the students and families at St. Pius X Catholic School.
- The ministry is under the leadership of the HASA Board.

Expectations:

- Hours required varies depending on the committee(s) served and the task to be accomplished.
 - The work experience is varied from stay-at-home parents to professionals, with each bringing their individual talents.
-

School Board

The School Board is established by the Pastor, in accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, to assist him and the Principal in the governance of Saint Pius X Catholic School, an outreach of the broader educational mission of Saint Pius X Catholic Church. The School Board is advisory to the Principal and the Pastor.

How the Ministry Works:

- The responsibilities of the School Board are:
 - Strategic Planning: To establish a mission statement and participate in strategic planning for the School.
 - Policy Formulation: To assist the Pastor and the Principal in developing policies for the School in conformity with policies of the Diocese and laws of the State of Indiana.
 - Financial Planning: In close working with the Parish Finance Council, to develop plans for acquiring funds to assist in the operation of the School, and to assist the Principal in developing an annual budget.
 - Public Relations and Marketing: To develop and assist in implementing a plan for presenting a positive public image of the School and its Catholic identity, character, and mission.
 - Evaluation: To determine whether the School is meeting academic goals and fulfilling strategic plans, and whether the School Board is effectively performing its functions.
- The School Board consists of fourteen members. Eight members shall serve by appointment, and six members (the Pastor, the Principal, a Teacher Representative, the Parish Director of Religious Education, the Home and School Association representative, and the Director of Stewardship and Evangelization) serve ex officio.
- Each year, the School Board solicits from the parish community nominations of parishioners to serve on the School Board. After consultation and discernment with the Board and the Principal, the Pastor appoints new members to fill vacancies.
- Appointed members of the School Board serve staggered, three-year terms. Terms begin July 1 of the year of appointment.
- All members of the School Board are entitled to vote on matters before the School Board.

Expectations:

- The School Board meets once a month, at least ten months a year. Meetings may last up to, but not exceed, two hours. Any School Board member who misses more than two regular meetings in any six-month period without notification and reasonable cause shall become ineligible to continue serving on the School Board.
- Members of the School Board shall aspire to resolve matters before it by consensus.
- Members are expected to serve on appropriate sub-committees as determined by the Pastor, Principal, or Board Chairman. These committees include: the Catholic Character Committee, the Policy Committee, the Finance Committee, the Marketing and Development Committee, and the Selection Committee.

Family & Parish Life

Welcome Ambassadors

As a large parish, we need to establish a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere that allows new members to feel comfortable in the parish community as well as to keep established parishioners involved and active in the parish. The goal of the Welcoming Ambassadors Ministry is to make new parishioners, as well as all parishioners and visitors, feel at home at St. Pius X and assist them in connecting with groups with whom they would like to become involved.

How the Ministry Works:

- The Welcoming Ambassadors Ministry is comprised of many subgroups:
 - Phone Callers: when a new parishioner registers with the parish, the phone call team makes an initial contact to officially welcome the family and answer any questions.
 - Mentor Families: established parishioners, couples, and families serve as mentors to new parishioners with similar family dynamics. Included in this program will be a gathering, held quarterly for new parishioners, when mentors attend with new parishioners to get to know each other and to learn more about the parish. Mentors will then be available throughout the year to guide new parishioners through parish ministries, activities, and traditions.
 - Donut Sunday: every fourth Sunday of the month, donuts and coffee are served in the auxiliary gym after the 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses. Volunteers are needed for set up, serving, and/or cleanup.
 - Social Committee: to continue to promote fellowship within the parish, the social committee assists and plans gatherings throughout the year. Past events have included the Dinner Dance, Tailgate Party, and Christmas Party.

Expectations:

- Volunteers should have a warm and welcoming personality.
- Phone Callers should be available to make phone calls as designated by the Phone Call leader. Typically, callers make 5-10 phone calls per quarter.
- Mentor Families receive one new family to correspond with each quarter. In addition, they should also be able to attend a majority of the New Parishioner Gatherings held on a Sunday evening in February, May, August, and November.
- Donut Sunday volunteers are scheduled to serve for at least one Sunday or more, depending on the number in the ministry.
- Social Committee members must be able to help plan and put on at least three social events per year.

Funeral Luncheons

The purpose of this ministry is to make a very difficult day a little easier for family and friends by providing a luncheon at St. Pius following the funeral of their loved one. The family is able to eliminate the need to plan what to serve, where to serve it, and the need to clean up afterward. It also enables family and friends to reminisce and share memories at their leisure. This is truly a way to show the love of Jesus to others through our gifts of time and talent.

Those who volunteer to help at the funeral luncheons see first hand how grateful the families are and that the people who attend can feel the love and compassion extended to them by the parishioners.

How the Ministry Works:

- When the parish is contacted about planning a funeral, an invitation is extended to the family for the parish to host a luncheon.
- The “luncheon coordinator” contacts a “kitchen workers team leader” who in turn organizes a team to set the tables, organize the display of food, and clean up afterward.
- The coordinator also contacts “callers” who call volunteers who have offered to prepare food.
- The coordinator then purchases the meat, cheese, bread, etc. and delivers it to the luncheon location.

Expectations:

- The coordinator is expected to make her calls to the kitchen team leader and callers immediately and to provide them with complete information about the time, location, and number of people estimated to attend.
 - Callers are expected to begin contacting volunteers within a couple of hours as a courtesy to allow the volunteer plenty of time to do his/her grocery shopping and food preparation.
 - Kitchen team leaders are expected to organize their teams to ensure that the room is set up and food displayed attractively on the buffet table by the time the guests arrive. The team also cleans up afterward.
 - When volunteers are called and asked to prepare food they are expected to prepare a salad or dessert to feed 12 to 15 people and to deliver it to the luncheon site by a specific time.
-

Bereavement Team

The Bereavement Team provides support to parishioners who have lost loved ones. The Team is present at funerals in support of the families, and after the funeral throughout the year to follow. The Bereavement Team also acts as the host for the Mass of Remembrance and the reception held in the fall around the Feast of All Souls.

Because of our baptismal promises, each Catholic is to aid with burying the dead, and comforting and consoling those who have lost loved ones. Funeral liturgies can be a powerful way to support families during this difficult time and can help evangelize and encourage others to return to the practice of their faith.

How the Ministry Works:

- There are several ways in which parishioners can participate in the Bereavement Ministry:
 - Card Writers support and console the bereaved through sending cards and notes periodically after the death.
 - Team members visit the bereaved as necessary.
 - Team members can also be present at the Funeral liturgy to assist the family.

Expectations:

- Bereavement Team members should be able to attend several meetings throughout the year.
 - Each Card Writer member volunteers to be available one month of the year, and will receive those names of parishioners who have died. They will be responsible to send cards of support and condolences to the surviving family members.
 - Those involved in supporting family at the funeral liturgies will aid the family prior to, during, and after the liturgy.
-

Parish Council

Parish Council serves as a representation of the parish that meets monthly to discuss the state of the parish, review proposals, critique parish programs, and provide advice to the Pastor.

Members of the Parish Council gain a unique insight into the workings of the parish and the responsibilities of the Pastor. Parish Council is an excellent way to meet other parishioners and to feel more connected to parish life.

How the Ministry Works:

- Two hour meetings are held monthly, August through June, on the last Wednesday of the month, to discuss any issues or proposals recommended by the Pastor or the Council president.
- The Council is composed of 15 members, each serving on a rotating, 3 year term.
 - Appointed members come from a variety of personal (married, single, young, old) and professional backgrounds, each bringing his or her own strengths to the Council.
- Each year, the Council replaces five of its members by means of a nomination and application process. Selection of new members is by appointment by the Pastor and the recommendations of the outgoing members.

Expectations

- Members should attend all scheduled meetings.
 - Members should be actively involved in parish life and possess leadership skills.
 - Members are encouraged to actively discuss agenda items in order to provide the Pastor with the pros and cons of different issues affecting our parish.
 - All items of discussion are to be held in the strictest confidence.
-

Outdoor Church Gardening

The Outdoor Gardening Ministry contributes to the beauty and physical appearance of the church by planting and helping maintain flower gardens on the property.

This is a great way to serve God, and contribute to the beauty of our church.

How the Ministry Works:

- Twice each year, in the fall and in the spring, the ministry gathers on a Saturday morning to clean up the flower beds throughout the parish complex.
- Throughout the summer months, members are assigned a time to come weed, clean up, prune, and water various flower beds.

Expectations:

- Persons involved in this ministry should have a passion for maintaining beautiful flower gardens and plants.
 - Landscaping and gardening experience a plus but not required.
 - Should be able to do light physical work and enjoy gardening.
 - Must be dependable and willing to work during assigned time.
-

Church Cleaning

Twice a year the interior Church is cleaned prior to Christmas and again in the late spring.

How the Ministry Works:

- The pews, floors, sacristy, altar area, stations of the cross, chapel, Marian Statue, votives, confessionals, windows and walls are all cleaned. Cleaning of the assigned area as thoroughly as possible is the ideal.
- Buckets, vacuums, wet mops and cleaning supplies are provided. Additional supplies are welcome.

Expectations:

- This is generally a two hour commitment twice a year on a Saturday morning.
 - Whole families can participate.
 - The Church cleaning is generally followed by a pizza lunch.
-

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is a ministry of men and women, who have committed themselves to serve the body of the parish by praying for them, through the intentions (a.k.a. petitions) of the community and the needs of the church. The purpose of this ministry is to give the saints an opportunity to gather together in prayer for emergencies and to have a place to post those prayer requests.

This ministry allows all of us to demonstrate the power of God through the solicitation of prayer. This ministry provides those in need a forum to call upon us to help them at their hour of need, for themselves, their families and others.

How the Ministry Works:

- Intentions for this ministry are created by the members of St Pius X and the community.
- These intentions can be placed onto any document form, e-mailed, or given verbally to the ministry head.
- If written, they are placed into a designated brown box located at the back of church and are collected several times throughout the week.
- The ministry head then distributes the requests, via e-mail, to each of the participating members.

Expectations:

- As an active member you will receive an e-mail, on a weekly basis, of the gathered petitions received by the ministry head.
 - Your purpose will be to pray daily for these intentions for the period of one week; until the petitions have been mercifully granted by our Lord or until you receive a new set of petitions the following week.
 - Each member is expected to have an e-mail box and actively review it for new petitions (including ones sent as emergencies).
-

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal men's organization that supports and upholds the teachings of the Church. Our local chapter has activities which support the goals of Saint Pius X Parish by providing assistance to those in need within our parish family and local community. We support the Catholic Church through charity, fraternity, and patriotism. Local council activities include Right to Life programs, Seminarian assistance, various dinners and breakfasts along with other social and philanthropic events. Membership is open to active Catholic men committed to upholding the teachings of the Church.

How the Ministry Works:

- Volunteerism informed by Christian concern is the hallmark of the Knights of Columbus with fraternal and charitable programs developed at the grassroots level to meet the local needs.
- This group is represented by the order dedicated to Fr. Stephen T Badin, Council 4263 located here in Granger, Indiana.
- We provide mutual aid and assistance to the sick, disabled and needy members and their families.
- Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public works.

Expectations:

- All members are volunteers with Officers called upon to work as many hours as possible in order to complete the goals in providing resources for others within our community.
 - Each member must be a practicing Catholic 18 years of age and older.
 - Catholic men who join the Knights belong to a council, or local unit.
 - Members who have been in the Knights for one year and have attained Third Degree membership are eligible to join the Fourth Degree Knights.
 - Members should attend monthly meetings and participate in various activities including: monthly pancake breakfasts, 3 annual Lenten fish fry's, basketball free throw contest, blood drives and other activities.
-

Information Technology Committee

This ministry's members are dedicated to serving the Lord and are always willing to put their technical gifts and talents to work providing the church, its auxiliaries and its ministries with the guidance, training, resources and tools necessary to facilitate the use of current and advanced technology. In this way we support others that will help the parish of Saint Pius X continue to be a blessing to the members of the church, the local community and the community abroad.

Members provide the tools necessary to connect the members of the church to one another and to connect the church to the surrounding community and the world in general through the effective use of multiple technologies. They also empower and encourage the members of the church to approach and take advantage of present and future technologies within their ministries; they provide them with the technical tools, skills and the encouragement they will need to not only be functional but also responsive to the needs of the parish community in this ever-growing technology-oriented society.

How the Ministry Works:

- The ministry develops and implements strategies for the effective use of technology in achieving parish goals.
- Specifically, they assist in the acquisition, development and maintenance in the technical capabilities, processes, skill sets, infrastructure and working relationships (inside and outside the church).

Expectations:

- This ministry is open to all parishioners with IT skills, specifically including those in the areas of: networking, desktop computing, server maintenance, web design, and strategy development.
 - Each member is expected to participate at monthly meetings lasting for approximately 90 minutes.
 - Members will then work directly on applications or projects on an as needed basis or as projects arise.
-

Nursery

The Good Shepherd Nursery serves the youngest Children of Saint Pius X, as well as their families. We provide care during the 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses for children between the ages of 6 months to 4 years old. Our focus is providing a safe, loving environment for the children to play and interact while their parents and the rest of the congregation enjoy a quiet, peaceful Mass. Volunteers include Moms, Dads and teenagers.

The volunteers of the Nursery provide a silent, often over-looked, benefit to the parish--a peaceful and prayer-filled Mass.

How the Ministry Works:

- Volunteers help provide a safe, loving, enjoyable environment for the youngest members of our parish.
- Volunteers are asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass and to stay until the last child is picked up.
- Each volunteer is required to sign in upon arrival and parents my sign in up to FOUR children per signed in volunteer.
- Once the children are picked up, volunteers clean up and reorganize the room.
- The Good Shepherd Nursery requires 1.5 hour a month as a volunteer in the nursery room.

Expectations:

- Volunteers are assigned one Sunday per month for 1.5 hours each time.
 - Volunteers are asked to confirm receipt of the schedule and of monthly reminders.
 - Volunteers are expected to care for the children in a loving and calm manner and to ensure their safety at all time.
 - Volunteers are expected to leave the nursery clean and organized at the end of their assigned day.
-

Parish Picnic

Food, fun, and fellowship are the cornerstones of the annual Parish Picnic at St. Pius X. Each year, the talents of many in our parish are combined to make a fun afternoon of community for parishioners to celebrate the Feast of Saint Pius.

In recent years, big attractions have included children's games, dunk tank, face painting, balloon making, crafts, inflatables, bingo, and, of course, eating great picnic food!

How the Ministry Works:

- Committee chairs work with the Parish Picnic Coordinator to plan the various events held at the picnic. Committees include: set-up/clean-up, food preparation, beverages, games, and children's activities.
- Dozens of volunteers are needed the day of the picnic to help serve on the various committees.
- Parishioners are asked to sign up in the back of church for the area they are interested in serving.

Expectations:

- Volunteers are asked to arrive promptly and remain for their assigned shift.
- Amount of time required varies based on responsibility assigned.

Friends 'n Stitches

Fellowship, stewardship and ministry are the recipe for success for the Friends 'n Stitches ministry. Members of this group pool their creative talents to produce crafts that will be sold during the Holiday Season and use the profits for outreach in the parish and in the community.

How the Ministry Works:

- The group currently meets monthly in the home of a parishioner.
- Members use supplies and resources from their homes to create a variety of craft items.
- The group also meets to discuss projects they are working on and where they will sell their items to raise funds for local charities.

Expectations:

Anyone who enjoys craft-making and the fellowship of others is welcome.

Finance Council

Finance Council members review the financial statements of the parish and help in the preparation of the yearly budget. Members also advise the pastor on financial concerns in the parish. Members gain a unique insight into the financial workings of the parish and how everything in the parish is interconnected.

How the Ministry Works:

- The committee is composed of nine or ten members.
- Members are encouraged to analyze the various financial concerns in order to assist the pastor in making financial decisions.
- Members also help compile data and assist the business manager in the preparation of the yearly financial report for the parish.
- Members provide input on capital improvements, staffing expenses and any new or unusual expenses.
- Most members have a background in finance or business.
- Members are appointed by the pastor.

Expectations:

- Members are generally active in the parish and are expected to attend five or six meetings each year.
 - Members are expected to review the financial statements and the annual budget.
-

Annual Bishops Appeal

The Annual Bishop's Appeal is held in the fall of each year to help raise funds for diocesan needs such as education, charities, evangelization and Pastoral Assistance.

How the Ministry Works:

- Volunteers are needed at all the Masses on one weekend to help distribute and collect the pledges or Appeal Cards.
- Volunteers are also needed in the two succeeding weekends after the Appeal to distribute pledges or Appeal cards after the Masses to parishioners who were not in attendance at the initial Appeal.

Expectations:

- Volunteers are asked to make a commitment to help during one or two Masses for one or two weeks.
 - Volunteers need to know what the Appeal is trying to accomplish and be able to answer any questions about the Appeal.
 - Volunteers are expected to distribute Appeal cards during the Mass as well as after Mass for fifteen minutes.
-

Parish Office Help

Parish Office Help volunteers assist the parish office staff by helping with bulk mailings, bulletin inserts and other tasks when needed. Participation in this ministry is a great way for parishioners to get to know each other better while performing a service that helps get information out to our parish community.

How the Ministry Works:

- Volunteers are called when help is needed with an office project. The project can be small like placing an insert in the bulletin or a very large bulk mailing going out to the whole parish.
- Depending on the size of the project it will take from one hour for something small to four plus hours for a large bulk mailing.

Expectations:

- Volunteers must be available during the day. Work is typically scheduled at the parish office during the work week and usually starts at 9:00 a.m.
-

Community Garden

The Outdoor Gardening Ministry contributes to the beauty and physical appearance of the church by planting and helping maintain flower gardens on the property.

This is a great way to serve God, and contribute to the beauty of our church.

How the Ministry Works:

- Twice each year, in the fall and in the spring, the ministry gathers on a Saturday morning to clean up the flower beds throughout the parish complex.
- Throughout the summer months, members are assigned a time to come weed, clean up, prune, and water various flower beds.

Expectations:

- Persons involved in this ministry should have a passion for maintaining beautiful flower gardens and plants.
- Landscaping and gardening experience a plus but not required.
- Should be able to do light physical work and enjoy gardening.
- Must be dependable and willing to work during assigned time.

Liturgy and Music

The celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our parish community. Everything in our parish revolves around this source and summit celebrated each Sunday. All of the roles of the different liturgical ministries and music ministries are integral to our parish celebrations. Liturgy celebrated and prepared well can be a powerful way to help evangelize and encourage people to return to the practice of their faith.

Liturgical Ministers

Because of the importance and the visibility of Liturgical Ministers, persons serving in these roles are expected to:

- Continually strive to strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ through regular participation in the life of the parish, and an active personal prayer life;
 - Live in conformity with the teachings of the Catholic Church;
 - Not have anything in their lives that should cause scandal or embarrassment to anyone by serving in this role;
 - Serve when and where assigned, or take it upon themselves to arrange for a substitute;
 - Cultivate an attitude and demeanor of cooperation with all those who make assignments and all the parish staff;
 - Stay abreast of parish and diocesan communiqués and directives regarding this ministry and conform to all requirements that exist now, and/or are revised or added in the future;
 - Read and abide by the parish and diocesan guidelines for liturgical ministers.
-

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Ministers)

Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest with distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass. Open to fully-initiated parishioners who are at least 16 years of age who regularly share in the Eucharist. Eucharistic Ministers embody a mature Christian lifestyle of faith and charity, devotion and morality, service and stability, and live in ways that reflect both love for the Eucharist and love for and desire to serve Christ in others.

Volunteers in this ministry are able to meet many more parish family members through a deeper involvement in the Mass, as well as the privilege of offering Christ's Body and Blood to our very own Body of Christ here at St. Pius.

How the Ministry Works:

- Eucharistic Ministers are asked to attend an initial two-hour training session and a yearly training/day of reflection.
- Eucharistic Ministers submit Mass preference information and dates of unavailability for each 3-month schedule period per timing requested by the Liturgy and Music office.
- Eucharistic Ministers are scheduled once every 2-5 weeks at a Sunday liturgy.

Expectations:

- Eucharistic Ministers should arrive at Mass at least 15 minutes early and check-in with the Sacristan and should stay after Mass to complete preparation of vessels for the next liturgy.
-

Proclaimers of the Word (Lectors)

Lectors proclaim the Word of God as a living dialogue that allows the assembly to hear and respond to God's presence among us at Sunday Mass and other liturgies.

How the Ministry Works:

- Lectors are asked to attend an initial two-hour training session and a yearly training/day of reflection.
- Lectors submit Mass preference information and dates of unavailability for each 3-month schedule period per timing requested by the Liturgy and Music office.
- On average, Lectors are scheduled once or twice a month, depending on Mass preference and the number of others available for the same Mass(es).

Expectations:

- Lectors are fully-initiated parishioners who are at least 16 years of age.
 - Lectors should have a good familiarity with the sacred nature of the texts proclaimed.
 - Lectors should be qualified to read aloud in public and trained in the art of public proclamation. They should be able to proclaim the scriptures with conviction, clarity, and skill.
 - Lectors should thoroughly prepare for each assignment.
 - Lectors should arrive at Mass at least 15 minutes early and check-in with Sacristan.
-

Altar Server

Altar Servers assist the priest with sincere devotion and decorum in the spirit of the liturgy.

How the Ministry Works:

- New Altar Servers attend an initial training program of three 90-minute sessions on their role, the objects used in the celebration of the liturgy, and familiarity with the structure of the Mass.
- Servers submit Mass preference information and dates of unavailability for each 3-month schedule period per timing requested by the Liturgy & Music office.
- On average, Altar Servers are scheduled once or twice a month, depending on Mass preference and number of others available for the same Mass(es).

Expectations:

- This ministry is open to adults and students in grade 6 or higher.
 - Altar servers must dress appropriately.
 - Servers should arrive at Mass at least 15 minutes early and stay after Mass to complete other assigned responsibilities.
-

Hospitality Minister

Hospitality Ministers exhibit a warm welcome that reflects the love of God to all worshippers helping them to enter more easily and more fully into the Eucharistic celebration.

How the Ministry Works:

- New Hospitality Ministers must attend an initial two-hour training session.
- They then submit Mass preference information and dates of unavailability for each 3-month schedule period per timing requested by the Liturgy and Music office.
- On average, Hospitality Ministers are scheduled once or twice a month, depending on Mass preference and number of others available for the same Mass(es).
- During the Liturgy, they greet, seat, assist the physically disabled, gather the collection, assist with the Procession of the Gifts, Communion Procession, distribute bulletins and other worship aids.
- After Mass, one assigned Hospitality Minister registers new parishioners.

Expectations:

- This ministry is open to individuals, couples, high school students, and families.
 - Ministers should arrive to Mass at least 15 minutes early and stay after Mass to complete other assigned responsibilities.
-

Baptism Coordinators

Baptism coordinators are highly important for each celebration of Baptism as a close collaborator with the Celebrant to ensure a peaceful and joyous celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Participation in this ministry offers a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Baptism as well as a more personal relationship with the clergy.

How the Ministry Works:

- *New Baptism Coordinators are by appointment only.* The pastor and associate clergy must approve anyone to be invited into this ministry.
- New Baptism Coordinators are trained via “on-the-job training” with the other Baptism Coordinators.
 - The training period is approximately 1 month.
 - They will then apprentice with experienced Baptism Coordinators before coordinating a Baptism on their own.
- Baptism Coordinators are typically assigned to a specific Sunday of the month, but also serve as needed when a Baptism is scheduled for a non-standard time, and/or when someone needs a sub for her regular weekend.
- Coordinators arrive at Church 20 minutes before the scheduled Baptism and stay afterwards to complete all clean-up tasks.
- Prior to the baptism, the coordinator:
 - makes sure towel(s), oils, Baptismal candles, and processional music are set out;
 - ensures parents and Godparents are in attendance;
 - determines if the child is to be immersed or doused and instructs the family accordingly.
- During the Rite, the coordinator cues parents and Godparents as needed so they perform their duties in a timely fashion.
- After the baptism, the coordinator supervises putting away of all items to their proper places.

Expectations:

- Baptism Coordinators must be extremely reliable, very well organized, highly attentive to details, and familiar with all aspects of the Rite of Baptism.
-

Sacristans

Sacristan is a highly important coordinator position for each Mass and close collaborator with the Celebrant during the Mass. The Sacristan gains a deeper involvement in, and appreciation of, the Mass, as well as more personal relationships with the clergy and other ministers.

How the Ministry Works:

- *New Sacristans are by appointment only*; the Pastor and associate clergy must approve anyone to be invited into this ministry.
- New Sacristans are trained via “on-the-job training” with the Sacristan coordinator and the other Sacristans who serve at the same Mass; training period is approximately 1 month.
- They will then apprentice with experienced Sacristans for another month before doing a Mass on their own.
- Sacristans typically specialize in one weekend Mass (e.g. only the 8:45 Sunday Mass); typically there are three or four Sacristans for each Mass and they are scheduled to serve a month at a time.
- All Sacristans are also Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors so they can substitute for an absent minister if a sub has not already been arranged.
- The Sacristan’s responsibilities before, during, and after Mass include:
 - Make sure proper quantities of bread and wine are set out for consecration
 - Ensure the proper number of ciboria, chalices and purificators are available for the distribution of the Eucharist
 - Monitor attendance at the Mass and adjust quantities as appropriate;
 - Set lectionary for readings of the day.
 - Sacristans ensure the required number of Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers are available, and that they know their assignments and positions.
 - During Mass, they cue the Altar Servers as needed so they perform their duties in a timely fashion.
 - After Mass, they supervise washing of vessels and setting out items for the succeeding Mass.

Expectations:

- Sacristans must arrive at Mass at least 20 minutes early and stay after Mass until all post-Mass tasks are complete.
- Sacristans must be extremely reliable, very well organized, highly attentive to details, and intimately familiar with all aspects of the Mass; numerous years of reliable service as an EM is a prerequisite for consideration for this ministry; similar service as a Lector is also very helpful.

Wash Church Linens

All linens and towels used at Masses and all other Liturgical celebrations are washed and ironed each week. This ministry allows us to put our faith and prayers in action to help support the Liturgy at Saint Pius X.

How the Ministry Works:

- Laundry volunteers receive a schedule with the dates they are responsible for washing and ironing the linens.
- Volunteers are typically assigned twice per year.
- The laundry is divided in half and two volunteers are scheduled each week.
- On Monday of her scheduled week, the volunteer picks up the laundry basket of linens in the parish office.
- The linens are washed and ironed. Samples of the different folds are provided.
- Cleaned linens are returned to the parish office on Friday of that same week by 4:00 p.m.

Expectations:

- Volunteers must be able to pick up the laundry on Monday and have it cleaned and ironed by Friday.
- If unable to complete the cleaning for that week, the volunteer must switch weeks with another member of the ministry.

Wash Server Albs

This ministry provides care for the server albs used during all Masses and other Liturgical celebrations.

How the Ministry Works:

- Volunteers are scheduled on a monthly basis.
- Weekly during his or her assigned month, the volunteer checks the albs to determine if they need to be laundered or repaired.
- Those requiring care are signed out and brought home to be mended, cleaned, and pressed.
- Albs are then returned prior to weekend Masses.

Expectations:

- Volunteers must be able to care for the albs during their assigned month.
-

Eucharistic Exposition

Eucharistic Exposition is a time of adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. During Eucharistic Adoration, we "watch and pray" in His Presence and open ourselves to His graces which flow from the Eucharist.

Maybe you are aware of the abundant blessings that God has given you. Or perhaps you are tired or frustrated due to life's responsibilities and burdens from family, career, misunderstandings, or past choices. Are you trying to find hope, direction or meaning in life? All of these are reasons to spend time with Our Lord. The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you will come away feeling renewed and healed.

How the Ministry Works:

- The Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ, is removed from the tabernacle and reverently exposed in a vessel called a monstrance on the Altar of the Eucharistic Chapel each Friday from 10:00 a.m. until Benediction at 5:00 p.m., as well as on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. until Benediction at 10:00 p.m.
- Scheduled adorers are needed to attend and pray in His presence during times of Exposition, when at least two people are needed for each scheduled hour. A special Family hour on Friday, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., has been set aside to encourage families with children to participate.
- Adorers with flexible schedules are also needed to occasionally substitute during times when the scheduled adorers are unable to make their committed time.

Expectations:

- Two adults are specifically assigned to attend during each hour that the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.
- There are no special requirements regarding your time or how you pray, and there are reading resources available in the Chapel to aid you in your prayer and to help nurture your faith life. Sometimes you might read Scripture, pray the Rosary, or just sit and visit with Him, telling Him about your day, about your needs, and giving Him time to speak to your heart. Jesus waits for us in the Blessed Sacrament. He waits for our little Acts of faith, adoration, love, thanksgiving, repentance and charity that we can offer Him as we contemplate His Divine Majesty in the Blessed Sacrament.

Art & Environment (A & E)

The Art & Environment Ministry assists in celebrating the liturgical events by decorating the church according to the liturgical calendar events and colors. It helps the parishioners to be aware of the events and educates in the different colors associated with the events throughout the year.

Celebrating the Liturgical calendar through decorating the church gives a person an understanding of Catholic events throughout the year and helps other parishioners recognize that we celebrate as a family-together in our Catholic faith.

How the Ministry Works:

- The A & E ministry sets up and takes down decorations in the church for: Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost.
- Live plants and flowers are watered during the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

Expectations:

- Attendance at all events is appreciated, yet not required.
- Participation at Christmas and Easter is required.
- Members are also asked to help with watering duties during the Christmas and Easter Seasons. Based on the size of the ministry, typically participants need to come once each season for 1-2 hours to water and clean up plants.

Congregation for TV Mass

Our Diocese sponsors Sunday Masses televised at the WNDU studios for the homebound parishioners of our area.

How the Ministry Works:

- The TV Mass airs at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning.
- Volunteers are called to participate when one of our priests is scheduled to celebrate the TV Mass.
- Individuals and families are encouraged to volunteer.
- Two lectors, one cup minister, one altar server, and a congregation of 20 are needed.
- Saint Pius is generally responsible for four to six Masses during the year.

Expectations:

- When asked to participate, members for the TV Mass should arrive at the WNDU studios no later than 10:00 a.m.
- Participants must be able to sit quietly with no movement during the Mass as to provide little distraction on camera and follow instructions of the TV Mass Production Team.

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

Parishioners in the St. Pius community may be sick and homebound, and unable to come to the Church for the Sacraments. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priests with distribution of the Body of Christ to those who are homebound. Homebound are still an integral part of our parish and are in communion with us, even though they are not physically present at the Eucharist.

Because Saint Pius X takes seriously our baptismal call to care for the sick, we work to provide comprehensive ministry to the sick, the homebound, and their families. Helping the homebound feel that they continue to be part of the Body of Christ and that they remain in communion with us is an important part of this ministry.

How the Ministry Works:

- Parishioners take communion to the homebound on Sundays and as needed.
 - Each minister will call and let their homebound person know when they will be coming.
 - Most ministers, working in pairs, rotate taking the Eucharist every other week.
 - Working together, ministers maintain contact with each other to facilitate weekly distribution of the Eucharist.
- Each minister will be provided with a Communion Pyx and a burse to carry the Eucharist to the homebound.
- Ministers will also be provided with a Rite of Eucharist to the Homebound prayer book to be used to pray on the visit.
- Ministers notify the ministry coordinator of any difficulties or problems which may arise.

Expectations:

- Homebound ministers should be confirmed, in good standing in the Church, 18 years of age, have transportation, and regularly share in the Eucharist.
 - Attendance at a yearly training/day of reflections is required.
 - They should have some experience with the elderly and visiting the sick.
 - Ministers are expected to take communion to their assigned homebound person on their assigned day.
-

Music Ministries

The entire worshipping assembly exercises a ministry of music. Some members of the community, however, are recognized for the special gifts they exhibit in leading the musical praise and thanksgiving of Christian assemblies. These are the pastoral musicians, whose ministry is especially cherished by the Church (Liturgical Music Today, 63).

The music minister is first a disciple and then a minister. The musician belongs first of all to the assembly; he or she is a worshiper above all. Like any member of the assembly, the pastoral musician needs to be a believer, needs to experience conversion, needs to hear the Gospel and to proclaim the praise of God. Thus, the pastoral musician is not merely an employee or volunteer. He or she is a minister, someone who shares faith, serves the community, and expresses the love of God and neighbor through music (Liturgical Music Today, 64)

A few times a year, members are requested to play at special liturgical celebrations other than their scheduled Mass. All of these times are listed in a schedule given to all members in September of each year.

Choirs

Through sung prayer, members enjoy praising God, growing musically and spiritually, and enjoying each other's friendship. The Choir helps the members of St. Pius X (the gathered Assembly) to rightfully claim their role as full, conscious, and active participants in the liturgy through their gift of singing. The Choir enriches the congregation singing by adding harmonies and descants (Sing to the Lord, 29).

At times, the choir performs its ministry by singing alone. The choir may draw on the treasury of sacred music, singing compositions by composers of various periods and various music styles, as well as music that expresses the faith of the various cultures that enrich the Church (Sing to the Lord, 30).

The Saint Pius X Choirs are comprised of people from the community who possess the musical skills to sing in a choir by adding musical elements beyond the capabilities of the congregation alone (Sing to the Lord, 28). Choir members, like all liturgical ministers, should exercise their ministry with evident faith and should participate in the entire liturgical celebration, recognizing that they are the servants of the Liturgy and members of the gathered Assembly (Sing to the Lord, 32).

Sunday Morning Choir

The Sunday Morning Choir supports and enriches the Assembly in song primarily at the 10:30 a.m. Mass and other special liturgical celebrations.

How the Ministry Works:

- Each Thursday and Sunday, members report to the Liturgy and Music office to pick up a black folder and choir editions of the Worship and Gather Hymnals. They then report to the music area of the Church for rehearsal or warm-up.

Expectations:

- Sunday Morning Choir members are high school students and adults who are available to sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass (warm-up at 10 a.m.) from September through the date of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (changes each year).
 - Each member commits to one rehearsal a week on Thursdays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Occasionally, rehearsals may be rescheduled to another day due to holidays.
 - When a member is absent, it is the duty of each member to inform the Director of Liturgy and Music and sign-out on a calendar in the Liturgy and Music Office.
-

Sunday Evening Choir

The Sunday Evening Choir supports and enriches the Assembly in song primarily at the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass and other special liturgical celebrations

How the Ministry Works:

- Each Wednesday and Sunday, members report to the Liturgy and Music office to pick up a black folder and choir editions of the Worship and Gather Hymnals. They then report to the music area of the Church for rehearsal or warm-up.

Expectations:

- Sunday Evening Choir members are grade 7 & 8 students, high school students and adults who are available to sing at the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass (warm-up at 4:30 p.m.) from September through the date of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (changes each year).
 - Each member commits to one rehearsal a week on Wednesday from 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. Occasionally, rehearsals may be rescheduled to another day due to holidays.
 - When a member is absent, it is the duty of each member to inform the Director of Liturgy and Music and sign-out on a calendar in the Liturgy and Music Office.
-

Resurrection Choir

The Resurrection Choir ministers to those in our community in need of comfort, healing, and peace with the gift of musical support at Parish Funeral Liturgies. The Resurrection Choir also sings at the Mass of Remembrance scheduled near the date of the Commemoration of All Souls.

Baptized into the body of Christ, we hold true to our call to bury the dead and to comfort and console those who grieve (Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy). Reaching out to people, especially in times of grieving, can be powerful ways to help evangelize and encourage people to return to the practice of their faith.

How the Ministry Works:

- All members of the Resurrection Choir are placed on a phone tree. When a funeral is scheduled, the Director or Assistant Director of Liturgy and Music activates the phone tree and each person is notified of the time and date of the funeral. Generally, members are given 2-3 days notice for a scheduled funeral.
- On the day of the funeral, choir members report to the Liturgy and Music office and pick up a folder with their name on it. They then report to the Chapel for a warm-up, generally 30 minutes before the scheduled time of the funeral.

Expectations:

- Resurrection Choir members are adults who are available to sing for scheduled funerals on weekday mornings and afternoons.
 - Each member commits to one rehearsal on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 30 minutes before each funeral.
 - Each member is expected to take their part in the calling of the phone tree.
 - Choir members are to make every effort to attend parish Funerals when it fits into their schedule.
-

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir supports and enriches the Assembly in song primarily at the 8:45 a.m. Mass and other special liturgical celebrations.

How the Ministry Works:

- Each Monday and Sunday, members report to the Music Room in the Education Center where the Children's Choir Director leads members in a rehearsal (warm-up) of music for each Sunday.

Expectations:

- Children's Choir members are Grades 2-6 who are available to sing at the 8:45 a.m. Mass (warm-up at 8:15 a.m.) from September through the beginning of May.
 - Each member commits to one rehearsal a week on Monday from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Occasionally, rehearsals may be rescheduled to another day due to holidays.
 - When a member is absent, it is the duty of the parents of each member to inform the Children's Choir Director and to sign-out on a calendar in the Liturgy and Music Office.
-

Cantor (Psalmist)

In confident dialogue with the Assembly, cantors offer musical support as a gift of service to the people of St. Pius X. Through sung prayer, they help lead people to full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations.

Through sung prayer, cantors enjoy praising God, growing musically and spiritually, and enjoying each other's friendship. Cantors help the members of St. Pius X (the gathered Assembly) to rightfully claim their role as full, conscious, and active participants in the liturgy through their gift of singing. Cantors experience a deeper involvement in scripture and liturgy.

How the Ministry Works:

- The cantor:
 - proclaims the responsorial psalm in dialogue with the assembly.
 - sings the Gospel verse.
 - prays the general intercessions during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter.
 - leads dialogical music throughout liturgy: litanies, psalms, call and response pieces, and songs in responsorial form.
 - sings verses at communion, allowing people to process without books.
 - teaches new music and supports the assembly on songs in the learning stage.

Expectations:

- Among music ministers, the cantor has come to be recognized as having a crucial role in the development of congregational singing. Besides being qualified to lead singing, he or she must have the skills to introduce and teach new music, and to encourage the Assembly. This must be done with sensitivity so that the cantor does not intrude on the communal prayer or become manipulative (Liturgical Music today, 68).
 - Cantors attend rehearsal the Thursday before a scheduled Sunday either at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.
 - Cantors arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled Mass to warm-up with other musicians.
 - Psalmists are cantors that proclaim the Psalm in song each weekend. A Psalmist is assigned to 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. every Sunday.
 - Cantors submit Mass preference information and dates of unavailability for each 3-month schedule period per timing requested by the Liturgy and Music Office.
 - When a cantor is not able to minister at their scheduled time, he/she needs to find a substitute and notify the Liturgy and Music Office of the change.
 - Cantors must live in conformity with the teachings of the Catholic Church.
 - Cantors must not have anything in their lives that should cause scandal or embarrassment to anyone by serving in this ministry.
-

Instrumentalists and Handbell Choirs

Through instrumental music, musicians enjoy praising God, growing musically and spiritually, and enjoying each other's friendship. The many voices of the organ and of instrumental ensembles, with their great range of expression, add varied and colorful dimensions to the song of the assembly, especially with the addition of harmonization (Sing to the Lord, 42).

The instrumentalist helps support, lead, and sustain the members of St. Pius X (the gathered Assembly) to rightfully claim their role as full, conscious, and active participants in the liturgy through their gift of instrumental music.

There are also times when the organ or other instruments may be played alone, such as a prelude before the Mass, an instrumental piece during the Preparation of the Gifts, or a postlude following the closing song (Sing to the Lord, 44).

Youth Handbell Choir (Grades 6-12)

The Youth Handbell Choir supports and sustains the singing of the Assembly and enhances our parish liturgical celebrations through the gift of their musical talent.

Members of the choir learn how to read music, learn the art of handbell ringing, and learn to play in an instrumental ensemble. This beginning will hopefully foster future ringing in the Adult Handbell Choir of the Church and other community handbell choirs. Also, it will highlight the importance of teamwork.

How the Ministry Works:

- Each Wednesday and Sunday, members report to the music area of the Church where the Director leads members in a rehearsal (warm-up) of music for each Sunday. Music is available at each member's place.

Expectations:

- Youth Handbell Choir members are students in grades 6-12 who are available to play at various times during the year.
- Each member commits to one rehearsal a week on Wednesdays from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Occasionally, rehearsals may be rescheduled to another day due to holidays.
- Warm-up on Sundays is 30-40 minutes before a scheduled Mass.
- When a member is absent, it is the duty of the parents of each member to inform the Youth Handbell Director and to sign-out on a calendar in the Liturgy and Music Office. This helps the Director to plan for how many members will be present at a given Mass and give time to find substitutes when necessary.

Adult Handbell (High School & up)

The Adult Handbell Choir supports and sustains the singing of the Assembly and enhances our parish liturgical celebrations through the gift of their musical talent.

How the Ministry Works

- Each Wednesday and Sunday, members report to the music area of the Church where the Director of Liturgy and Music leads members in a rehearsal (warm-up) of music for each Sunday. Music is available at each member's place.

Expectations:

- Adult Handbell Choir members are high school students and adults who are available to play at various times during the liturgical year.
- Each member commits to one rehearsal a week on Wednesdays from 7:15 – 9:00 p.m. Occasionally, rehearsals may be rescheduled to another day due to holidays.
- Warm-up on Sundays is 30-40 minutes before a scheduled Mass.
- When a member is absent, it is the duty of each member to inform the Director of Liturgy and Music and sign-out on a calendar in the Liturgy and Music Office. This helps the Director to plan for how many members will be present at a given Mass and find substitutes when necessary.

Instrumentalists

Instrumentalists lead, support, and sustain the singing of the Assembly and enhance our parish liturgical celebrations through the gift of their musical talent.

How the Ministry Works:

- Each Thursday and Sunday, members report to the Liturgy and Music office to pick up a white folder with their designated music. They then report to the music area of the Church for rehearsal or warm-up.
- Instrumentalists submit Mass preference information and dates of unavailability to the Director of Liturgy and Music for each liturgical season.

Expectations:

- Instrumentalists are students in grades 6-12 and adults who are available to play throughout the liturgical year.
- Instrumentalists attend rehearsal the Thursday before a scheduled Sunday at 5:30 p.m. They attend special rehearsals as called by the Director of Liturgy and Music for special liturgical celebrations.
- Instrumentalists arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled Mass to warm-up with other musicians.
- When an instrumentalist is not able to minister at their scheduled time, he/she needs to call the Director of Liturgy and Music.
- Instrumentalists need to set aside time at home to prepare and rehearse music for the given Sunday, especially if they do not attend the rehearsal on Thursdays.

Outreach Ministries

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee seeks to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, comforting the grieving and assisting the needy by administering the parish tithes. The Social Justice Committee also makes recommendations to the Pastor and the Parish Council concerning special needs projects that deserve a more intentional outreach and funding by the Parish. Members also strive to coordinate “hands-on” service projects for those in need and educate the parish in areas of social justice. This organization oversees the functions of the following groups, Elizabeth Ministry, Respect Life Group, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Homeless Center, Hope Rescue Mission Meals and the Financial Resource Committee.

How the Ministry Works:

- Meetings are held on an “as-needed” basis when special projects arise.

Expectations:

- Members should be committed to making our church a force for positive social change in our community and in society at large.
 - We encourage all ministry members to be engaged, through their deeds and generosity, in issues of local, national and global concern, and to develop action plans in areas of particular interest to them.
 - We ask ministry members to actively participate in educational programs on important social issues.
 - Committee members should be willing to meet, as needed, to discuss and promote various social issues.
-

Financial Resources Committee

Financial Resources Committee reviews requests for the distribution of the 2% parish tithes that is allocated each year to help those in need. Assistance is given to local, national, and international organizations that directly benefit the poor.

How the Ministry Works:

- The committee is composed of six or seven members.
- Members are generally active in the parish and often involved in other area outreach programs.
- Members are expected to attend five or six meetings each year, spend time reviewing proposals and provide input based on their knowledge and research of the organizations requesting funds.
- Members are appointed by the pastor.

Expectations:

Members are encouraged to attend all meetings and to be able to analyze different needs and the financial constraints. Often, requests need to be acted upon quickly, therefore input from members in a timely fashion is critical.

Matthew 25 - House Project

The St. Pius X Matthew-25 Team, along with teams from other churches, have the opportunity to provide the funding and labor to build a Habitat for Humanity Home for a qualified and deserving resident of St. Joseph County.

By working as a team of volunteers we can provide something that most of us could never do as individuals, provide a home for a family that could not have had one without our help.

How the Ministry Works:

- Planning for the current years Habitat for Humanity, Matthew-25 home begins in the winter.
- Construction begins in June and is completed in August.
- Through our input and the needs of the project we are assigned a Saturday work day.
 - There are morning and afternoon shifts. Lunches are also provided by a participating church.
- Supervision, safety instructions, and on the job training are provided by Habitat for Humanity.
- As team members we are not responsible for our share of funding for the project. It is provided by St. Pius X through our stewardship and the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee.

Expectations:

- Membership is open to all St. Pius X parishioners. No special skills are required.
- You must be 16 years of age or older to work on the house.
- Matthew-25 team members are expected to take an active role in the planning of our participation in the current year’s project (this is normally done through e-mail).
- We are also asked to work one shift on one Saturday to build the home.

Hope Ministries (formerly Hope Rescue Mission)

We provide a warm homemade meal to the residents of Hope Mission. Our goal is to offer encouragement by way of a smile and to recognize them as God's own children, our brothers and sisters in Christ; in essence, to nurture both body and soul.

To be involved in this ministry requires a servant's heart and a willingness to reflect Christ's love to others. We are inspired by the beatitudes as well as Christ's own words, "What you do for the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me".

How the Ministry Works:

- We provide this meal once every other month.
- There are various commitments within this ministry:
 - Providing a dessert to accompany the meal.
 - Preparing the meal with a small group at a parishioner's home.
 - Transporting the meal and serving it at the Hope Rescue Mission.
- Time commitment ranges anywhere from 1-2 hours up to 6-8 hours every other month.

Expectations:

- The basic expectations for this ministry would be for a volunteer to be available to provide, at minimum, a dessert two or three times per year and/or to serve the meal at least once per year.
- Cooking of the main meal rests upon a "core group" of volunteers who feel "called" to do so and is not a "requirement" of this ministry for the general membership.
- This ministry is flexible with regard to time commitment.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Vincent de Paul provides direct assistance to the needy through person-to-person contact in the home. Volunteers actually visit those in need and get to know them, and through this process discern what kind of assistance they need. This method is one motivated by Christian love. We are able to offer food, clothing, household goods, or emergency financial assistance.

The Society performs a vital service to the needy in our parish by offering a structured process by which members can conveniently follow Christ's admonition to "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless."

How the Ministry Works:

- We fulfill the Society's mission in our parish conference by responding to the emergency needs for food, clothing, home furnishings, and other necessities of life of those families who reside within our parish boundaries. In concert with other parish conferences, we occasionally contribute to a joint effort that would be beyond the means of any single parish conference.
- We are referred to these needy families primarily by our central referral office, but at times referrals come from the pastor or other parishioners. The name and address of the needy family and the nature of their need is sent to our conference ministry leader who distributes the calls to individual members of the parish conference who then visits the needy family.
- In the case of a call for help with food, groceries are retrieved from the Saint Pius X Food Pantry located in the Caritas House (small house north of the rectory) or from the pantry of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store on Ardmore Trail.
- When we make the food call we attempt to engage the client in conversation about their circumstances, particularly the reason they felt it necessary to call us for assistance. We indicate that the food is a gift of the people of St. Pius X Parish and frequently invite the client's prayer for our congregation and the SVDP Society.
- Calls in response to requests for clothing or other needs are handled similarly except we make the call on the client before taking any action. Most frequently the action taken is to prepare a voucher that is redeemable for the required clothing or furnishings at the Society's Thrift Store.
- On the first weekend of each month, the St. Vincent de Paul truck is available in the parking lot for dropping off household items and clothing. For your convenience, a St. Vincent de Paul drop box is located in the drive just north of the rectory.
- Meetings for the Saint Pius X Conference are held on the second Wednesday of each month for brief prayers, spiritual reading, reports on calls and other conference business.

Expectations:

- Members should be available to attend the monthly conference meeting.
 - Assistance to the poor is provided on an "as needed basis" and is flexible with volunteers' schedules.
-

Elizabeth Ministry

Elizabeth Ministry is an international movement designed to support women and their families during the joys, trials and sorrows of the childbearing years and beyond. Elizabeth Ministry's mission is to cherish children, encourage families and build community within the parish. We offer peer support, mentoring, spiritual nourishment, educational and inspirational resources. Elizabeth Ministry is based on the premise that every baptized person is invited to continue the mission of Jesus by reaching out in love and compassion to those in need. Every Elizabeth Minister carries out this mission by extending love, care and service to others. Elizabeth Ministry is a strong witness to the dignity, worth and sacredness of life in its celebration and nurturing the gift of new life in families, as well as by mourning miscarriages and infant deaths, supporting infertility, and family crisis or special needs. It is through this that Elizabeth Ministry enriches the spiritual life of the entire church.

The Holy Spirit blesses every person with unique gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. Elizabeth Ministry is an invitation to discern and share these gifts by nurturing, supporting, and affirming women and their families. In doing so, Elizabeth Ministers fulfill the invitation of Jesus, namely, that we love one another as he loves us.

How the Ministry Works:

- Elizabeth Ministry is not a single ministry, but rather a cluster of ministries or teams. Women volunteer for teams in the areas they have experienced. Elizabeth Ministers are not counselors, but are present to offer peer support, mentoring and friendship only. No lengthy training is needed. Ministers are women willing to share their presence, stories, and experience in the hope that these will encourage another woman and her family.
- The areas of Elizabeth Ministry include, but are not limited to: pregnancy, birth, miscarriage, infant or child death, regretted abortions, multiples, crisis, special needs, natural family planning, breastfeeding support, adoption, infertility support, meals for those in need and a prayer chain. Additional teams that have been added as women have stepped forward to share their experiences include: military family support, shawl ministry, divorced Catholic women, and single moms.
- Elizabeth Ministry has been set up to meet the needs of today's family for flexibility and short term time commitments. Whole ministry meetings are limited to one in the fall and one in the spring. Team leaders meet on a quarterly basis. Time commitments for the individual teams vary based on the needs of the particular team.

Expectations:

- The team leaders of the Elizabeth Ministry bear a primary responsibility for the entire Elizabeth Ministry.
 - They must be dedicated to following the mission of Elizabeth Ministry.
 - They should have the ability to handle situations and others' personal problems with sensitivity and confidentiality.
 - The team leaders are responsible for coordinating the daily aspects of their teams.
 - The team leaders' efforts enable the other members of their team to function within the ministry and the church community as a whole.
 - All those interested in becoming as an Elizabeth Ministry team member should make a commitment to a particular team in the areas they have experienced. The time commitment varies based on the individual needs of the particular team.
-

Stewardship Core Team

Knowing that we are one body in Christ, the Stewardship Core Team strives to model and teach our parish about a life of stewardship: that all things belong to God and that we need to give back generously to Him. Through responsible use of our time, talent, and treasure, we hope to touch and serve the hearts of our parish family and our community. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for planning and implementing a Stewardship Program that encourages parishioners to actively participate in and financially support St. Pius X Parish. The committee reports to the Pastor and promotes the concepts of stewardship through its own involvement in Parish programs.

How the Ministry Works:

- Explore ways to educate the parish about stewardship and promote its concepts.
- Carry out the Annual Renewals to educate parishioners about the parish's needs and the importance of their support.
- Organize programs, events and written materials that help parishioners explore their gifts and find ways to share their time and talents with the parish community.
- Work with the Welcoming Ambassadors to find ways to make St. Pius X an inviting faith community that welcomes all those who come to our doors and invites them to active participation.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Stewardship Program, noting parishioner's response and attitudes about stewardship.

Expectations:

- Core Team members meet every month in the evenings to review and evaluate activities. In addition, subcommittees will meet as needed to work on specific programs.
- Core Team members should also be called to the Stewardship Way of Life.

Center for the Homeless Casserole Program

This ministry provides home cooked food 6 days per month to the approximately 180 residents of the South Bend Center for the Homeless. Providing these meals offers the opportunity for over 200 Parishioners to perform the Corporal Works of Mercy to “Feed the Hungry and Comfort the Afflicted”, as well as serve as an important social justice outreach program for the parish.

How the Ministry Works:

- The volunteers are called upon about once every 4 months to prepare a casserole to serve 30 people and deliver it to the Parish.
 - The recipe is given to the volunteer a week in advance.
 - They are expected to purchase the ingredients (cost is \$25 to \$40), prepare the casserole and deliver it to the Parish.
 - Total time involved is about 3-4 hours every 4 months.
- There are 6 team leaders who make reminder calls each month which takes about ½ hour per month.
- There are 6 drivers who pick up the casseroles at the Church and deliver them to the Center and bring pans back to the church which takes about 1 ½ hours per month.

Expectations:

- The team leaders must make their reminder calls each month.
 - The drivers must be able to pick up and deliver the casseroles each month.
 - The volunteers must be able to prepare their casseroles and deliver them on time.
 - We have backup procedures in place for all of the functions of the ministry. We also have a reimbursement process in the rare occasion the volunteers cannot afford the cost of ingredients.
-

Fountainview Nursing Home Mass

Each Saturday morning, members of this ministry attend Mass with the residents of Fountainview Nursing Home in Mishawaka, IN. Since our parishioners cannot be one with us around the table of the Lord at our Sunday Mass, we join them so that they might share in the healing power of the Bread of Life.

How the Ministry Works:

- Volunteers meet at Fountainview Nursing Home no later than 9:20 a.m. on their scheduled Saturday morning.
- Volunteers help residents get to the Mass in the facility’s dining room.
- Volunteers can participate as liturgical ministers at Mass.
- If necessary, volunteers help the residents return to their rooms after Mass.
- Mass is usually 30 minutes long and participants can expect to be done by 11:00 a.m.

Expectations

- This ministry is open to all parishioners, including families.
 - Typical participants are scheduled 4 weekends per year.
 - Volunteers should be caring and compassionate for the infirmed.
-

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a ministry open to all parishioners who are in need of special assistance in a wide variety of areas. Usually help is given to those who are elderly, unhealthy, or financially unable to provide for the service needed.

Many new friends have been made through the help provided by Helping Hands, and although the recipient is always very grateful, it is the volunteer who has often said, “It is I who has truly received.”

How the Ministry Works:

- Helping Hands assistance is provided based on the need of the parishioner and the availability of the volunteer.
- You might be asked to visit a homebound person, run errands, clean house, do yard work, provide transportation, and many other tasks.
- Volunteers are contacted via e-mail, with the initial information. Those who wish to help are asked to contact the ministry chair so that details may be worked out.
- There is no required amount of time to be a member and each request is considered and responded to, based on the schedule of the volunteer.
- For efficiency purposes, members who wish to be contacted by phone, will be called only if a request is not fulfilled by members with e-mails.

Expectations:

- As a Helping Hands member, you will be expected to prayerfully consider each and every request.

Respect Life Ministry

The Respect Life Ministry helps the parish focus on greater respect for all life (the unborn, those with disabilities, and the elderly) through prayer and direct assistance. Currently the group has a partnership with the Women's Care Center and Hannah's House and organizes Mother's Day flowers through the St. Joseph County Right to Life. Future projects include involvement with Caring Junction Elderly Care and Hospice and Palliative Care Center and reconstituting the Icon Prayer Ministry (Icon to be taken home to pray as a family for life) and the Chalice Prayer Ministry (Chalice to be taken home to pray as a family for Vocations).

As volunteers, our greatest treasure is in representing Christ's love by defending and aiding the most vulnerable in our community. We boldly go forth in love to our community with compassion, the willingness to aid and defend, with prayerful hearts.

How the Ministry Works:

- Respect Life meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, August through May.
- The meetings are a time to brainstorm as a group.
- There is a sign up sheet for the various events/projects.

Expectations:

- Members of the group are expected to attend as many meetings as they are able.
- Members are asked to sign up for one or more event/project.
- Volunteers should have a heart for our society's most vulnerable and the desire to help.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is designed to train laity in listening and care-giving skills for distinctively Christian care to those who are experiencing a crisis in their lives. Stephen Ministers meet one-on-one to listen and help people work through difficult issues or situations in their lives. As Stephen Ministers are commissioned by our priests, we are able to extend our ability to minister to parishioners and those within the community.

Stephen Ministers provide compassionate care to those they minister to. We not only minister to those within our parish, but also those in the community who may have a need that we can provide. This extends our evangelism into the community.

How the Ministry Works:

- The function of a Stephen Minister is to provide one-on-one Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives.
- When a parishioner would like to have someone to meet with, they must go through an intake interview with the director.
- From there, a Stephen Minister will be assigned to meet with the parishioner.
- Volunteer Stephen Ministers are required to go through 50 hours of training and then attend supervision meetings once a month for as long as they are active in the ministry.
- Each Stephen Minister meets approximately 1-2 hours per week with their care receiver at the convenience of both the Stephen Minister and the Care Receiver.

Expectations:

- Stephen Ministers are assigned one care receiver at a time to meet with on a weekly basis.
- They are expected to utilize the skills that they learn during training to be compassionate, encouraging and providing distinctively Christian care to those who they minister to.
- Confidentiality is critical to the integrity of this ministry and must be kept at all times.

Saint Adalberts Liaison

The Saint Adalbert Liaison is a new ministry aiming to create an ongoing relationship with our Sister Parish, Saint Adalbert, in South Bend. Steering Committee members are developing and implementing various ways in which our parishes can join together in mutually beneficial sharing of time, talent, and prayer, such as potluck meals, joint Masses, the Giving Tree Program, and tutoring/mentoring. Liaison members assist Steering Committee in the implementation of such activities.

Social Ministries

Home School Group

The Saint Pius Home School Group meets once a month to give home schooled students and their parents the opportunity to make connections with other home school families and parishioners.

This ministry provides support to all home schooled families and allows the children and families to connect to other families for spiritual growth and fellowship.

How the Ministry Works:

- Home schooled students are selected to serve as lectors and musicians at the 8:15 a.m. Mass on the first Friday of each month.
- This group also hosts a reception after the First Friday Mass in the Holy Cross Room.

Expecations:

- Any St. Pius family who is involved in home schooling is welcome to attend, and may contribute to the food and beverage for the reception.
-

Scrapbooking Group

People gather together and work on their scrapbooks in a group setting. Our goal is to bring church members that share the same interest of scrapbooking together for fellowship.

Scrapbooking provides a photo legacy for your family and friends. You are passing down family traditions, stories, and a spiritual journey of your life and the lives of your ancestors.

How the Ministry Works:

- The Scrapbooking Group meets several times throughout the year.
- Members bring photos and supplies for projects they are working on or need help with.

Expectations:

- Anyone in the Saint Pius X Community who enjoys scrapbooking or is looking to learn scrapbooking techniques is welcome.
-

Adult Volleyball

This ministry provides the opportunity for adults parishioners, 18 years or older, to play volleyball.

Participation in this social activity offers fellowship, improved health, and evangelization among the St. Pius parishioners.

How the Ministry Works:

- Adult volleyball meets every Thursday from September through April, from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
- There is a one dollar charge for each time played.

Expecations

- An active member of the ministry participate in games at least one to two times each month and assists in the set-up and clean-up of facility and the volleyball equipment.
-

Adult Basketball

This ministry provides the opportunity for St. Pius adult parishioners, 18 years or older, to play basketball.

Basketball is a great exercise and a way to meet new parishioners and become more involved in the parish community.

How the Ministry Works:

- Open gym Adult basketball meets Wednesdays from 8-10 p.m. and Sundays from 6-10 p.m. from September through May. Players may stay for the entire four hours or as long as they are able. There is a one dollar charge for each time played.
- Starting in December and ending in March, the Sunday evenings become league nights, with the selection of teams of 8 or 9 players. Games are then scheduled every Sunday night between 6 and 10 p.m. Sign-up for league play occurs during October and November. Cost of league play is approximately \$60 dollars.

Expecations:

- Open Gym basketball requires no commitment except a desire to play basketball.
 - For league play, because your team will rely on you, the commitment to attempt to make most of the games is important.
-

Senior Group

The purpose of the senior group is to maintain fellowship with members of the St. Pius Community who are 55 years and older. This group is a social group, providing varied activities for seniors. Members come together to pray and enjoy each others company and fellowship.

Senior group keeps our seniors active in the parish and enables them to have prayer and support of their own community. Support of each other helps them maintain their sense of belonging to the parish.

How the Ministry Works:

- Senior group meets on the second Tuesday of every month.
- Mass is held in the Chapel and usually a lunch follows.
- Occasionally speakers may be present.
- Outside day trips for a lunch or show may be planned.

Expectations:

- Everyone 55 or older may participate in this group, and guests are welcomed.
 - No dues are collected, but a freewill offering is taken at lunch to meet expenses.
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For more information about Stewardship of Prayer, Service, or Sacrificial Giving:
Please contact Betsy Quinn, Director of Evangelization and Stewardship
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