

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMPASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS

The **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** is a group of volunteers who meet and respond to those in need of food, clothing, housing, and other essentials. The members meet at 7:00 p.m. every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. They are committed to spiritual growth in loving and serving the poor. Volunteers meet with those who come for assistance and provide appropriate resources in consultation with other "Vincentians." A Clothing Drive is conducted in the Fall each year. Members also manage the Parish Food Pantry.

The **GIVING TREE** is an annual Advent-Christmas project to collect money and gifts for needy families and projects in inner-city parishes that provide food and essentials for those living in poverty at Christmastime. Volunteers help prepare the Giving Trees, make labels, keep the trees loaded with tags and collect gifts that are donated. Currently, the Christian Service Commission representatives handle the requests and arrange the distributions.

SPIRITUAL CARE OF THE SICK, is provided through Eucharistic Ministers who visit homebound parishioners, pray with them and bring Holy Communion about once each week or as possible. Parishioners also serve as Eucharistic Ministers at WaltonWood Assisted Living, the American House, the Cherry Oak Inn, Greenfield Nursing and Rehab Center and in Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital.

The Pastoral Associate in Christian Service prepares Eucharistic Ministers for the Homebound and coordinates this parish ministry. She visits the sick in their homes, the hospital, and re-hab facilities when the parish is notified by the family. Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing the Sick is also arranged on a regular basis at the Living Centers in the parish boundaries.

MINISTRIES IN RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

Shrine hosts the **SOUTH OAKLAND WARMING CENTER (SOWC)** for two weeks in the late winter along with the Berkley Community Church. This service welcomes the area homeless men and women by providing safe overnight shelter, a hot meal, breakfast and a bag lunch. There are various positions and needs for volunteers from co-chairing kitchen activities, meal coordination, blanket distribution, nightwatch, clean-up, communications, and chaperoning, etc.

THE WELCOME INN is a daytime Warming Center operated from December through March to provide shelter, food, hygiene opportunities, and social services for our area homeless men and women. This ecumenical service is funded and assisted through local churches and fundraising done through the SOCH, South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless. Volunteers provide food, winter wear, hospitality, AA leadership, computer skills, etc.

One week each year, Shrine and Berkley Community Church host the **SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER (SOS)** serving 30 homeless individuals, including those with children, by providing overnight shelter, warm meals, and grooming and hygiene opportunities. Volunteers serve as meal Coordinators, Blanket distributors, transportation/drivers, and social activity planners.

The **JAIL MINISTRY** is a group of people who provide Sunday evening worship services for incarcerated men and women in Oakland County Jail in Pontiac. Security procedures are necessary for all volunteers.

During Advent, the parish participates in the Christmas Packages Program by providing white tube socks and large bars of soap for inmate gifts.

Other volunteer opportunities include outreach for families of the incarcerated and computer data entry through the Jail Ministry Outreach Office in Pontiac, coordinated by Sister Peggy Deveney, 248-858-5475; email: pegdev@comcast.net

CAREGIVER COMPANIONS sometime volunteer their services for parishioners needing Respite Care when fulltime caregivers need to be away from their loved one for a few hours. They provide caring companionship, but not nursing care.

The **CAREGIVER SHORT LIST** contains the names of parishioners who are experienced and available to provide non-nursing care for a homebound person. These services are usually done with some financial remuneration. The Christian Service Coordinator receives requests and makes necessary information available, as requested.

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

The male **ADULT SERVERS** assist at the Funeral Masses. The Volunteer helps assist the priest, set up for the mass, serve during the Mass and assist in the clean-up after the funeral mass. Most of these men are retired and serve on a rotating basis.

The **CHILDREN ALTAR SERVERS** may be boys or girls who help the celebrant during the Mass. The volunteer would typically serve at one weekend mass per month and three weekday masses per month.

The **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY** are the formal welcoming representatives of the church to the worshippers. They greet and assist the people as they gather to celebrate mass. The volunteer would typically commit to serve as an "Usher" at one of the weekend masses, attend a monthly meeting and may be asked to volunteer for special masses through out the year.

The **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** are a large group of volunteers that help the priests distribute the Eucharist at all the masses. The volunteer would typically commit to serve as a Eucharistic minister at a certain mass each Saturday or Sunday. They also are looking for subs and people who want to help at holiday and holyday masses. There are also 2 organizational meeting a year.

The **LECTORS** are responsible to effectively proclaim the Word of the LORD at Mass. The volunteer would typically serve at one weekend mass per month and rotate Holydays. They read the announcements, Prayers of the Faithful, and the 1st and 2nd Readings at the Mass. Organizational meeting as needed.

The **WORSHIP COMMISSION** is the service group that addresses the worship and liturgy needs of the parish. The volunteer would typically be involved in another area under the guidance of this commission and report to the group the goings on of their particular organization. They identify and respond to the worship needs of the Parish. They meet at 7:30 pm the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

The **LITURGICAL PREPARATION** Committee is responsible for putting together the Prayers of the Faithful and the announcements at weekend Masses.

FAMILY / LIFE ISSUES

The **LIFE ISSUES** members help the parish respond to the rights of the unborn and the legislative efforts to preserve life from womb to tomb. They conduct the 40 Days for Life campaign, help at the Pregnancy Crisis Centers, participate in the annual Lifespan Crosses for Life Chain, the first Sunday of October, and other activities as approved or requested by the Michigan Catholic Conference and the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The **FAMILY LIFE GROUP** is an organization that helps to successfully build families by promoting the teachings of the Church. This group has coordinated family events such as the Easter Egg Hunt. With the help of more volunteers they are looking to expand their activities.

FOOD SERVICE

The **SHRINE LADIES GUILD** is a service organization that organizes parish receptions for special events and other services and programs as requested by cooperating parish groups. The annual membership drive invites women of all ages to commit to sharing their time, talent and treasure to participate in various projects of the Guild. The Ladies Guild is a corporate member of the **COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN** and has representation in the CCW.

The **MISSION LADIES** are a small group of the Ladies Guild who quilt and sew to make items to be sold to support particular missionary programs. They also make healing quilts that are given, in prayer, to parishioners who are seriously ill. They meet at 10:00 a.m. the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

The **FUNERAL LUNCH TEAMS** are Ladies Guild Members who rotate as teams to set the tables, serve the catered food, and clean up for funeral luncheons. Teams are assigned by the Funeral Luncheon Coordinator, who is notified by the Christian Service Coordinator when a luncheon in the Shrine Conference Center is requested. Other volunteers bake cakes and provide beverages for funeral luncheon hospitality.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

FUNERAL ASSISTANTS are volunteers who have been prepared and are comfortable being with those who have just experienced the death of loved one. Some, who are prayerful and comfortable in leading public prayer, are prepared to lead the Vigil for the Deceased.

FUNERAL SUPPORT volunteers are available to meet with the family and help them prepare for the Mass of Christian Burial. These parishioners are available, also, to help with logistics at the funeral itself. The Pastoral Associate/Christian Service Coordinator works closely with these volunteers.

The **FISH BAKE** volunteers provide fellowship and a delicious fish dinner every Friday during the Lenten Season for the parish. Volunteers have a choice of various positions during the week (making reminder phone calls, receiving inventory, some food prep) as well as helping on Fridays (Set up Tables, Host/Hostess, Kitchen Staff, Cashier, Order writer, Cook, Wait staff, Dishwasher, Clean Up). You may volunteer for as many areas as your time permits.

GARDENING

The **NATIONAL SHRINE GARDENERS** are a group of volunteers who are dedicated to the care and nurturing of the diverse variety of landscape plantings on the parish grounds. Involvement can run the gamut from design to planting, pruning to weeding, trimming to harvesting but all done with a gardener,s commitment to good stewardship of the land. Our volunteers are of all ages and levels of expertise and tend to be energetic givers of their time and gardening knowledge. The only requirement is to have a willing spirit and an appreciation of nature,s beautiful bounty. Meetings are as needed for planning and evaluating. Spring planting and fall clean-up days are when the most volunteers are needed. During the growing season any form and any level of involvement is encouraged. Many gather on a weekly basis and work as a group and others prefer a solitary experience.

HISTORY / ART APPRECIATION

The **DOCENTS and TOUR GUIDES** are responsible to assist visitors of the National Shrine and to provide tours when requested. The docent is available in the church and is there to answer question if possible, while helping maintain a prayful atmosphere in our Church. They are a person who appreciates the beauty of Shrine Church and helps our guests and visitors to do the same. A Tour Guide is needed to assist in prearranged tours. Training will be provided for both of these volunteer opportunities. They usually volunteer 3 hours once or twice a month and attend an organizational meeting once a year.

The **BRASS POLISHERS** are a group of people who polish and care for the numerous brass items and gates at Shrine. They also polish the tables and extra items used at special times during the Church season. The volunteer would typically meet their group in the Chapel and decide what area they would work on that day. You may stay as long as you like and come in as often as you like. A great way to get “up close and personal “ with the many beautiful art works in the parish. They meet after the 8:30 am Mass on Mondays in the St. Therese Chapel.

NURSING

The **PARISH NURSE MINISTRY** is a small group of R.N.s who make themselves available to educate, assess and support the health needs of the parish. They conduct monthly Blood Pressure Screening, nutrition counsel, help with the annual Flu Shot clinic and are available to help at the Blood Drives. They meet, as needed.

PARISH LIFE

The **KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS** are a group of men dedicated to caring for and strengthening of Christian Families. They also minister to the needs of the Church. The volunteer would typically be involved in numerous youth and Church activities. They would also work towards promoting and strengthening the Christian family life. Meeting is at 7:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

The **LADIES GUILD** is a service organization that attends to some of needs of the parish by organizing parish receptions, special masses and programs, also fund raising which helps purchase items for use by the parish community. Board members are responsible for taking care of their particular area of the organization. (Ex.— treasurer). The main body of volunteers are called to assist with receptions, special projects or baking as needed The Guild consists of a Board that meets at 7:00 pm the first Monday of the Month and numerous volunteers to help out as needed.

SINGING / MUSIC

LITURGICAL MUSIC

Rob Abbott, Director of Liturgical Music

Lisa Rybak, Administrative Assistant for Liturgical Music

PARISH CHOIR

Our adult choir (11 th grade and older) offers music at the 10:45 am Mass and at the other principal liturgies of the year. Professional section leaders make it easy for anyone with a joyful heart and a tuneful ear to make music. Rehearsals are held in the Undercroft Choir Room at 7:30 pm on Thursday and 10-10:45 am on Sunday.

SCHOLA CANTORUM

This small group of singers whose name means, literally, “group of singers,” is comprised of the professional section leaders of the Parish Choir and a select group of dedicated volunteers who have the willingness to give extra time to rehearsal and musical development. Participation in the Schola Cantorum follows an appointment with the Director of Liturgical Music and the invitation to join.

YOUTH CHOIR

Young people in seventh-tenth grades are invited to consider becoming members of the Youth Choir, who choose to attend at least one of three weekly rehearsals: 5:30-7 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The Youth Choir joins the Treble Choir and, occasionally, the Parish Choir, to offer music to the parish’s Liturgy.

TREBLE CHOIR

Children in third-sixth grades have the opportunity to grow as musicians and Catholics through participation in the Shrine Treble Choir. Members of the Shrine Treble Choir choose to attend at least two of four weekly rehearsals: Monday-Thursday, 3:45-5 pm in the Undercroft Choir Room. Using the hymnal and the choral repertoire as pathways into the Church’s rich musical treasury, Treble Choristers are trained in musicianship, vocal production and sight-singing, and are prepared to join the Youth Choir and, occasionally, the Parish Choir, in offering music to the parish’s Liturgy. Participation in the Shrine Treble Choir also affords many enjoyable and beneficial social and developmental experiences such as concerts, field trips, picnics and parties.

GREGORIAN CHANT SCHOLA

All parishioners are invited to discover the beautiful treasures to be found in the Church’s own, special music: Gregorian chant. Parishioners of all ages and levels of experience meet Tuesday at 7:30 pm to sing, pray, share and learn through training in the use of the Roman Gradual.

SUMMER CHOIR

From the Sunday after Corpus Christi to Labor Day weekend, singers of all ages and levels of experience are invited to meet at 10 am in the Undercroft Choir Room to rehearse the hymns, songs and chants of the day to be offered at the 10:45 am Mass. Participation in the Summer Choir is an excellent way to “try out” the experience of choral singing at the National Shrine, and often leads to an interest in participation in one of our other choirs.

RESURRECTION CHOIR

The Resurrection Choir ministers through prayer and music at parish funerals. Members are notified by telephone when they are needed to offer prayers and song at a parish funeral.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Music-readers of all ages who have good rhythm are sought for our handbell choir, which presents musical offerings and liturgical leadership at various times during the year. The Shrine Handbell Choir rehearses on Saturday, 9:30-11 am in the Undercroft Choir Room.

FOLK GROUP

The 9:00 am Mass for Children and Families is set to music, both classic and contemporary, in the folk idiom. Musicians and singers with liturgical, folk and jazz experience form the core of this group

SUNDAY NIGHT SIX O'CLOCK BAND

Our lively and moving Sunday evening Mass with its upbeat and devotional music is a favorite of parishioners of all ages. Musicians in touch with popular sensibilities plan, arrange, and lead a unique musical expression of contemporary Catholic religion.

MUSICIANS OF NATIONAL SHRINE PARISH

All National Shrine parishioners with the willingness to make a musical offering to our Liturgy are sought by the Music Office.

Opportunities are available to all people with musical talent who wish to help lead our church's song.

You are encouraged to contact Rob Abbott, Director of Liturgical Music at 248.541.4122 ext 442 if you have the willingness to avail yourself of any of these musical opportunities.

Remember, meanwhile, that all the people who are already active in these ministries are working to inspire the prayer of the thousands of faithful who attend our weekly liturgies; so whenever our church sings, remember to add your voice to the song!

SOCIAL EVENTS

The **DREAM CRUISE** is held in August each year and Shrine holds its annual fund raiser/"Parish Party" on the Friday of the Dream Cruise Weekend. Volunteers are needed to plan, set-up tables under the "Big Top", organize and run games, and to sell raffle tickets, merchandise and food to the "Woodward cruising" parishioners and guests. Committees are formed in the winter months and gathers speed until the big day! ". This is a joint effort of all the schools Mom's and Dad's Clubs and Parishioners. Volunteers get a front row seat for this "yearly trip down memory lane. IT IS A HAPPENING PLACE and you will definitely want to be there!!

The **FISH BAKE** volunteers provide fellowship and a delicious fish dinner every Friday during the Lenten Season for the parish. Volunteers have a choice of various positions during the week (making reminder phone calls, receiving inventory, some food prep) as well as helping on Fridays (Set up Tables, Host/Hostess, Kitchen Staff, Cashier, Order writer, Cook, Wait staff, Dishwasher, Clean Up). You may volunteer for as many areas as your time permits.

TEACHING

The **PRESCHOOL RELIGIOUS FORMATION** group introduces children to the Liturgy in an age appropriate format using songs, stories, skits and hands-on activities. Volunteers work with a team to develop lesson plans based on the Sunday scripture for 3 and 4 year old children. They meet at 9:00 am Mass Sundays (mid September thru first week in May) in the Youth Room.

The **ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS FORMATION** group develops and strengthens children's faith by reinforcing what is taught in the home. The volunteer/Catechists develop lessons and minister to the faith development of children in Kindergarten thru sixth grade. They meet on Mondays from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm or 6-7 pm, mid September thru mid May.

The **YOUNG ADOLESCENT YOUTH MINISTRY** helps seventh and eighth grade students explore their Catholic faith and develop ministries skills. The volunteer youth minister develops religious lessons, witness their faith and enables adolescents to deepen their faith as they journey towards confirmation. Volunteers meet with students on Mondays from 6:30-8:15 pm, mid September thru mid May.

The **YOUTH MINISTRY** (ninth-twelfth grades) is dedicated to ministering to, with, by and for ALL high school students of the parish. The teens are welcome to attend any or all events and be involved with parish events. Some adults are needed as adult formation members, youth ministry committee members and chaperones for events. Meetings are held in the Youth Ministry Room from 7-9 pm on the first Sunday of the month.

The **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** group ministers to and shares the faith with children in a lively and interactive format during the summer. Be part of a team to plan and carry out the Shrine Vacation Bible School program.

VOCATIONS

The **VOCATIONS COMMITTEES** purpose is to create and maintain a high level of awareness and consideration for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

WEDDINGS

The **WEDDING REHEARSAL COORDINATORS** provide engaged couples and their wedding parties with the opportunity to rehearse each part of their wedding ceremony prior to their wedding day. The volunteer "walks" couples and their wedding parties through each part of the ceremony allowing them some practice and to ask questions. Typically, 1 hour is allowed for each rehearsal. Coordinators typically help 2 or 3 times per month in May—Oct. Less often in the remaining months and usually Thursday / Friday evening.

OTHER

The **CANDLE CLEANERS** are responsible for maintaining the votive candles and brass candle stands in the St. Thérèse Chapel. Volunteers remove used votive candles, clean glass holders and replace with new candles. They also polish the brass candle stands to maintain their beauty. This is a job that is usually completed in a few hours. They meet every Monday morning after the 8:30 am Mass in the St. Thérèse Chapel.

The **CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION** is a model and resource for Catholic Social teachings. The Commission empowers members of National Shrine Parish to fulfill the Church's mission of love, Justice, freedom and peace by responding in an organized way to meet the needs of the community. The volunteers meet to plan and discuss what is happening in all of the organizations under this commission. Most members are usually involved in another group that report to this organization. They meet at as schedule, at least twice a year.