

# SACRED HEART PARISH MINISTRIES

*Sacred Heart Church / St. Philip Neri Church*

## TIME & TALENT

*"Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit give your lives completely in the service of all, as did Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve."*  
*Rite of Confirmation, #22*



***Before you prayerfully reflect on how the Lord is calling you to bear fruit for his kingdom through your gift of time and talent, have a look at the experiences of a few of your fellow parishioners....***

“When I was first asked to participate in the choir, I was hesitant, not knowing if my ability would be ‘good enough’. However, once I started I truly enjoyed participating. I am now full committed and regularly attend Wednesday evening practice.” MD

*“Being a part of the music ministry has given me the opportunity to meet new people and form new friendships. I look forward to every Sunday. As the choir is part of the Mass, I have a sense of “belonging” and serving the Lord.” MN*

“I agree with what Fr. Michael said in a homily once: ‘If you are not doing something for someone else, you are wasting time....’ I think the time spent as a reader or working within another ministry is valuable and hopefully really does help people to open to God’s many touches and sacred moments and insights. So it does my soul and sense of well-being good, and I hope other’s as well.” EM

*“Having suffered the sudden and unexpected deaths of my infant son and husband, I realized that I had a lot of questions and feelings about this incredible void in my life. At the time I didn’t feel comfortable expressing these concerns to a “lay councilor”. I felt that there was no one who truly understood what I was going through. I knew I needed some support, and thought that I would seek counseling, but I wanted a connection to the church. So when Fr. Michael offered to start a Bereavement Group here at Sacred Heart, I was eager to become part of it. I know I have begun the long, arduous process towards healing.” AC*

“Bringing Christ to others as a Eucharistic Minister at Robinson Terrace is a rewarding and humbling experience. It is a powerful feeling to represent your church, visit the sick, pray together and receive the Lord. It has deepened my faith and the people I visit are always so appreciative. It lets them know that their church cares, wherever they are. I especially enjoy the times when family members are visiting the residents and we all pray together and they receive communion too.” MR

*“Prayer has always been important in my life. I’d like to share that with others.”*

“It is always a positive experience when seeing the happiness in the eyes of someone receiving communion.” AM

*“As a greeter, the message I try to convey to anyone entering through the doors of Sacred Heart is this: ‘You are always welcome! And no matter what you are here for...you’ve come to the right place’.”*

“Serving as a Sacristan has opened my eyes to more fully appreciate a number of things that involve my life & my life in the church. I now know how much work is involved in preparing for our many liturgies and how much work is involved in maintaining the various items that we use in those liturgies. With that appreciation comes a more meaningful liturgical experience, with a deeper meaning of what is going on and why.

Many times while I'm working at my ministry I have an opportunity to share insights with others thereby helping to explain, teach, & correct facets of what they asked me about. Our teaching tells us that we must be faithful in the small things along with the big things. Doing what needs to be done, small or large, out front or behind the scenes, is what I would share with others.” Lou

## ***OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ... TO GLORIFY GOD BY YOUR LIFE***

### **MINISTRY OF READER**

**Cathie Weredyk (SPN) 652-7170 x 102 Joann Corrao (SHC) 214-4022**

Readers use the gift of their voice to proclaim the Word of God at Mass. Reading the scriptures is both an honor and a responsibility as one's voice makes divine revelation come alive for God's people. God's Word must be proclaimed from the heart with clarity and feeling to facilitate both the worship and understanding of the assembly. It is therefore crucial that readers sufficiently prepare their delivery by practicing readings out loud well in advance of the masses for which they're scheduled. God's words are not like those of anyone else. They bring us life, hope, strength, truth and most of all...love. As a reader, you can truly show your reverence and love for God fulfilling this vital liturgical role, and help foster the same in your fellow parishioners.

### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Joann Corrao(SHCO) 214-4022 Cathie Weredyk (SPN) 652-7170 x 102**

This liturgical ministry offers the wonderful opportunity to assist the priest in the most mystical and important part of the Mass. What greater joy and privilege could there be during Mass than to offer the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our crucified and risen Lord to the assembly for their spiritual nourishment and healing? In addition to helping to distribute Holy Communion during mass, extraordinary ministers clean the vessels after mass and either put them away, or prepare them for the following liturgy.

### **MINISTRY OF USHER**

**Dan Palm (SHC) 538-1305 Dave Pickett (SPN) 518-827-7373**

Ushers perform the important function of logistical coordinator for the liturgy. They help people find a comfortable place to sit, escorting them to their pew if necessary, and offering to assist them in any other way they might need. They oversee the offertory collection, securing volunteers to assist in that effort before Mass begins. They consolidate those monies into the security bag, put the bag in a large basket, and carry it to the altar in behind those they've chosen to present the bread and wine. Ushers are also responsible for getting a head count of mass attendees and recording that number on a form that's submitted to the pastor each month.

### **MINISTRY OF GREETER**

**Cathie Weredyk (SPN) 652-7170 x 102**

One of the most frequent complaints people have about Catholic churches is that they aren't very welcoming or friendly. Greeters play a most important role in dispelling this stereotype. They are, in a very real sense, the face of the parish. Warmly greeting those who come to worship with a handshake, hello, and a smile, makes them feel valued as desired members of the community, and that affirmation sets the perfect tone for the celebration that's about to begin. Greeters should try to get to know the names of our parishioners, and extend an extra welcome to those they recognize as visitors, offering to answer any questions those folks might have about our parish.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

**Marlena Nickerson (SHC) 652-6304 Edie Mesick (SPN) 326-7164**

The music ministry plans, leads and inspires the congregation's song during parish liturgies, including weekend Masses, Holy Days, weddings, funerals, penance services, prayer rituals, and others. Hymns, prayers, psalms, and other responses are routinely offered in song, and singing is a beautiful way to praise the Lord. Music is an invaluable element in our communal worship. It helps us glorify God as he deserves, and it also greatly enhances the worship experience for God's people. If the Lord has graced you with the gift of music, please come forward with your voice and / or your instrument to share that blessing. Angels sing God's praise...you can too.

## **ALTAR SERVER**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

Starting with this ministry fair, serving at the altar will not be limited to our youth, but will be opened to adults too. Altar servers play a vital role at Mass. They lead the procession at the beginning of mass and the recession at the end; they manage the missal for the priest's prayers; they set and clear the altar; they receive the gifts of bread and wine from the community; they wash the priest's hands after he has prepared the gifts; with the priest they help lead the community in prayer and song throughout the liturgy, and they share the sign of peace with them as well. We could use a lot more dedicated people, kids and adults alike, who are committed to reliably serving at the altar.

## **SACRISTAN**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

The sacristan is responsible for setting up the church for Mass, and cleaning up afterwards. Setting up includes everything from turning on the lights, to putting out the linens, vessels, bread, wine, and water, to lighting the candles at the proper time. Once familiar with his or her duties, a sacristan should arrive at least a half hour before mass begins to ensure everything is prepared in time. Currently, we have two dedicated sacristans each for Sacred Heart and St. Philip Neri churches. They would be happy to train a few others to help them in this important ministry.

## **ALTAR LINEN CUSTODIAN**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

The linens used on the altar for the sacred liturgy include corporals, purificators, and finger towels. These need to be regularly and reverently washed, ironed, and folded for use during Mass. It is a tedious and time consuming ministry that is performed behind the scenes, but with the proper disposition and generosity of heart, truly becomes a labor of love for the Lord. Only a few women currently serve in this ministry; a few more hands and hearts would be warmly welcomed.

## **FAITH FORMATION CATECHISTS / YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Cathie Weredyk 652-7170 x 102**

As a community of faith, we have an obligation to God and to the Church to pass on that faith to our children. Parents need to show their children, by both word and example, what our faith means and how it should be lived. The parish helps parents fulfill their responsibility through the faith formation program. In order for our program to be successful we need dedicated, committed catechists to teach our kids the beauty of the Catholic faith that comes to us through Scripture and Tradition. As of this writing we only have three catechists for next year's program.

Teaching children is a wonderful experience. Teaching children *about our faith* and about all that *God has done for us and expects from us* is an extraordinarily important job. Yes, it requires substantial personal sacrifice of time and energy, but it also rewards with deep personal fulfillment. You will be helping form the future members and leaders of our Church, and you will grow in your faith as well.

## **RCIA TEAM**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process by which non-Catholics are prepared for and received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Team members meet with catechumens (non-Christians) / candidates (non-Catholic Christians) regularly to lead both instructional and faith sharing sessions. They also prepare for and participate in the liturgies celebrated for catechumens / candidates along the way to their reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Depending on where a person is in his or her life of faith, that journey can take one to two years.

There's no better way to evangelize than to help people come to the fullness of the truth in the Catholic Church. Seeing the joyous response of catechumens / candidates as they discover Christ in their lives can spark renewed faith in one's own life, as well as in the lives of fellow parishioners.

## **MINISTRY TO THE SICK, ELDERLY, AND HOMEBOUND**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

Caring for and visiting those who are confined to hospitals, nursing homes, senior living facilities, or even their own homes, is a profound responsibility and a profoundly rewarding way to reach out to the least of God's people. In addition to providing the human companionship they need to know brighter days, people who volunteer for this pastoral care ministry will be trained to offer communion to those they visit. What great joy, comfort and reassurance they'll bring to people who might have no family, friends, nor anyone else to visit them! Spending time with the sick, elderly, and homebound, and offering them the great gift and grace of the Eucharist will help them experience God's ongoing love for them and surround them with his peace.

## **FOOD PANTRY**

**Mike & Carol Hogan 326-4073**

There are four women who run this ministry for our parish, and they could use your help. Responsibilities include picking up food delivered by the Regional Food Band to Oneonta; stocking our storage rooms with supplies; distributing food to clients who come every other Thursday morning and receiving them with the Spirit of Christ, i.e. with warmth, kindness, patience, and compassion; setting up and cleaning up the hall before and after distribution days; preparing and distributing gift baskets for Thanksgiving and Easter. Feeding the hungry is one of the corporal works of mercy, and the Lord tells us whenever we do these things for the least of his people, we do it for him.

## **BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

Currently, this committee is made up of the pastor and one other parishioner, who host and lead regular support group meetings for people who are mourning the loss of loved ones from their lives. With increased membership of this committee, the goal is to expand its scope to include the following: provide greeters, readers, and extraordinary ministers of the eucharist for funerals masses; facilitate choir presence for funerals; train interested members to lead wake and committal services; offer meals, babysitting, emotional support, and other assistance to affected families; work with the Women's Guild to provide a reception after the funeral / burial in the parish hall. Other ideas brought to this committee by new members will be warmly welcomed.

## **CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

This committee does not formally exist yet, but it will after the ministry fair. Members will be responsible for finding out about, coordinating, and capitalizing on opportunities to serve people in need who live among the communities surrounding our parish. The scope of needs addressed by this committee will include things like the Prattsville recovery effort; property / home repair, upkeep, and maintenance for victims of natural / manmade disasters, for the elderly, for those who are ill or disabled, for the poor, etc; running errands for those who can't drive, taking them to appointments, etc. These are just examples of ways to serve. The committee will be free to meet whatever needs they deem appropriate.

## **LITURGY COMMITTEE**

**Fr. Michael 652-7170 x 101**

The liturgy committee has been inactive for the last year and a half because the pastor let it slide, and the time has come to revitalize it. As its name implies, the committee is responsible for planning, leading, and enhancing the liturgical life of the parish. The committee is attentive to and makes decisions related to music, ritual, prayer, song, and worship space décor for the celebration of weekend masses, especially as we change from one season to the next. They also plan, prepare for, and participate in solemn feasts like Christmas, Palm Sunday, the Triduum, Easter, Pentecost, etc.

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**Dan Palm 538-1305**

The Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for both the day-to-day maintenance and repair of all buildings, facilities, grounds, and related equipment for the church, and for identifying, coordinating, and executing longer-term improvement projects. Anyone with interest, expertise and skills related to the upkeep and enhancement of buildings and grounds, and who also has a strong sense of stewardship for parish properties as gifts from God, is a good candidate for this committee. Offering your talents in construction and its related trades and specialties, real estate, architecture, and /or engineering is a great way to help keep the Lord's House in the condition it so richly deserves.

## **RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

**Paul Wenner 652-4055**

The Respect Life Committee promotes awareness and coordinates activities to foster and strengthen a deeply felt and lived respect for the sanctity of all human life, from the moment of conception to natural death. All of us are responsible for witnessing to the Gospel of Life in this world. The respect life committee works hard to advocate for human life and to keep the manifold moral issues related to human life and its sacredness front and center in our Catholic Christian consciousness. It also helps protect and support those whose lives are vulnerable to violence or neglect both materially and spiritually. Coming to the aid of others whose lives are not as blessed and secure as our own is a natural response to the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

**Cathie Weredyk (SHC) 652-7170 x102 Theresa Gier (SPN) 588-9470**

The social committee is another group in need of revitalization. Parishioners on this committee will be responsible for planning, organizing, and hosting social events for the parish to provide fun and fellowship for our people, thereby fostering a stronger sense of identity and belonging among the community. Committee members won't be expected to do all the work for these events themselves, but will be free to tap the time and talent of people in the parish to help out as needed.

Some of the events for which this committee will take responsibility are the parish picnic, family game nights, receptions for special feast days, and occasionally serving light refreshments after Masses. It's anticipated that the committee will also come up with new ideas of their own to start new traditions for the parish. If you enjoy entertaining and have a spirit of hospitality to welcome others and make them feel part of our parish family, becoming a member of this committee could be what our Lord has in mind for you.

### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

**Cathie Weredyk 652-7170 x 102**

Another corporal work of mercy is to bury the dead. Providing a place of burial to honor the people who have gone on to their eternal reward is an important service offered by the parish. Members of the cemetery committee oversee the condition of Sacred Heart Cemetery and ensure that it's kept a clean, safe and beautiful place for the faithful departed, and those who come to visit them there. The committee coordinates and participates in regular maintenance and repair of the cemetery grounds, and suggests and evaluates ideas for their enhancement.

### **WOMEN'S GUILD**

**Cathy Weale 652-2301**

The Sacred Heart Parish Women's Guild is a group for all women of the parish. Its purpose is to offer acts of charity and good works for our local communities after the model and with the heart of the Blessed Mother. Service activities include: supporting the ministry of Mary Knoll Missioner and fellow parishioner Peg Vamosy, sending faith-filled and hopeful literature to prisoners; the Christmas Giving Tree; sending donations to our troops abroad; offering donations to support the food pantry, the Parish Scholarship Fund, and other charities; assisting at funeral and other parish receptions; and helping with activities at Robinson Terrace.

The Women's Guild offers good Christian fellowship with other women, presentations by members to learn new things about our faith, the opportunity to create strong spiritual bonds as we journey together in faith, and a deep sense of joy that comes from sharing God's love with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please join us!

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Joe Macaluso 538-1315 George Bergleitner 652-3311**

As in the days of old, members of The Knights of Columbus are charged with the responsibility of protecting the sanctity of our Priests and *all of the teachings* of The Roman Catholic Church. There is an ancient, fraternal organization working together throughout the world with over a million members who have made the commitment to perform works of charity and to assist those in need in our community. Members of the Knights of Columbus also attend and participate in important Liturgical Celebrations as a way of showing their support of the Church and their devotion and love of Christ and his people.