

Saint Maria Goretti Parish Ministries

The following are short descriptions of some of the many ministries offered at St. Maria Goretti. We hope that these will be helpful to you if you need assistance or would like to get involved. Please feel free to call the ministers listed in the weekly bulletin if you have questions or need more information.

Adopt-A-Mom/Homebound- This fulfilling ministry allows volunteers to touch the lives of others in a very positive way. You will occasionally make a meal for someone who has just had a baby or is home and cannot cook for themselves. This is the perfect ministry for someone who would like to help but can't do anything on a regular basis.

Adult Bible Study-The adult Bible study program is designed to help men and women grow in their faith as they explore the Sacred Scriptures in the community of the faithful. Sessions are held during the school year on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings (childcare is available during the morning session). Current topics are advertised in the bulletin at the beginning of each study session, most of which last six to 10 weeks. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Adult Faith Formation-In addition to the adult Bible study program, we offer periodic sessions on topics of interest to the faithful. These include book discussions, guest speakers, and seasonal programs. Watch for information about these special events in the bulletin.

Altar Rosary Society- The Altar Rosary Society is a group for women 18 years and older. We also host a Candlelight Dinner and a Day of Reflection. Our monthly meetings begin with the Rosary followed by a speaker, dessert, drinks and social time. We have a Madonna Shop selling religious items and all proceeds go toward purchasing a statue of St. Maria Goretti for our new church. We encourage all ladies to join us for a spirit and fun filled evening.

Basic Christian Community (BCC)-BCC or Basic Christian Community, is a small group of people, usually 8 - 20, who share Christian values and act as a smaller part of the St. Maria Goretti Parish Family. The group meets on a regular basis to faith-share, support one another, provide services to the parish and needy, socialize, etc. If you are interested in starting or joining a BCC group, please contact the BCC ministers.

Blessed Theresa of Calcutta- This ministry is to serve those organizations in our community who approach Saint Maria Goretti with a new. The ministry would then communicate to the broader parish family through email, bulletin announcements and phone calls this need. An example would be rallying some parishioners to rake leaves for the Conner House, which is a home for pregnant women who need support. As of November 2006, this ministry is without leadership!

Christ Renews His Parish- Christ Renews His is an exciting weekend of faith building, fellowship, reflection, song, and prayer hosted by persons who have participated in prior weekends. The weekend is held two times annually (in the Fall and in the Spring) for both men and women parishioners, and it is held on the Parish grounds. During the retreat there will be ten uplifting and motivating talks given by team members. And of course, all meals are provided during the retreat.

Continental Breakfast-This is a social ministry designed to give parishioners a chance to gather after mass and get to know each other. It is not a fund-raiser, but a donation is asked to cover the cost of donuts, coffee, and juice. The ministry is served by three families on a rotating basis.

Couples Ministry- This exciting ministry is in place to provide opportunities for the married couples of St. Maria Goretti to devote time to God and to each other through spiritual, fun filled events and retreats. It also serves as a clearinghouse for resources and information on marital issues. Watch the bulletin for upcoming events.

Cursillo- The Cursillo movement is a method to find, form, sustain and link lay leadership for Christ and His Church. The Cursillo retreat consists of an extended weekend designed to bring you into an encounter with Christ. After attending a Cursillo weekend, smaller groups of friends who have also attended meet on a regular basis to encourage one another in spiritual improvement and the Christian apostolate.

Elijah Cup- The purpose of the Elijah Cup, a consecrated chalice, is to provide a focal point for prayer. We ask one person or family to take the chalice home after every mass to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and/or religious life. Anyone or family in the parish can sign up. Contact the Elijah Cup minister in the bulletin to put your name on the list.

Eucharistic Adoration- Eucharistic Adoration is being in the REAL PRESENCE of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament to be surrounded by His divine peace and love. Jesus longs to bestow His graces upon you and promises to provide you and your family with so many blessings just for setting aside time to be with Him. Make a personal commitment to spend time with Jesus during the week and even amidst the busy schedules, Jesus will provide for all of your needs.

Families In Service Hours (FISH)- The FISH policy is a ministry service hour program for all SMG school families. School family parents must provide a minimum number of service hours each year. FISH provides an opportunity for families to truly live their Catholic faith.

Funeral Dinners- The Parish offers a luncheon to be served after the funeral of a parishioner. The Funeral Dinner Ministry needs volunteers to prepare either a potato casserole, green bean casserole, dessert, or salad and deliver to the church the day of the funeral. We also need volunteers to help set-up and serve. This is a wonderful ministry to serve others in our parish family during their time of sorrow.

HELP- The goal of the HELP Committee is to reach out to those in need and experiencing personal crisis in Hamilton County. This vital link to sharing God's abundant blessings includes the Shepherd's Gate Food and Baby Supply Pantry, Thanksgiving & Christmas Adopt-a-family programs, Backpack for Kids program, any financial assistance related crisis.

Holy Name Society- The Holy Name Society is a group for men 18 years and older. Our group is dedicated to helping the parish in any way possible and assisting other ministries when needed. We have 2-3 fundraisers per year and the money is divided among various parish committees and the Spring Fling. We meet on the first Sunday of the month.

Landscape Committee- The landscape committee maintains the beds and grounds of the church (particularly the islands). Please see the bulletin to volunteer on an as-needed basis.

Librarian/Historian- Our parish library has a selection of Catholic materials and other Christian items. Donations are accepted by parishioners. The items are cataloged using the Dewey Decimal system and compiled on a database. Any volunteer time is helpful because each item requires handling time. Anyone who likes books and learning about their faith would find this a rewarding experience.

Liturgy Committee- This committee is made up of ministry heads that oversee the arts, environment, and liturgical events. The Liturgical Committee consists of the following sub-committees:

Decorating- This committee IS responsible for liturgical decorating of altar and church environment following the liturgical seasons of the year.

Eucharistic Ministers- The members of this committee assist Father in distributing the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass. They also bring Communion to the sick. Training is provided once a year. Eucharistic Ministers are commissioned on the feast of Corpus Christi.

Lectors- Lectors are individuals who do readings at Mass. Training is provided by the ministry head. You must be willing to be on the schedule and find a substitute if you are unable to fulfill your obligations.

Ministers of Welcome- Minister of Welcome greet parishioners and visitors at Mass. They hand out music books, bulletins, and assist with finding seating at Mass.

Servers for Mass- Servers are boys and girls in 5th through 8th grade are trained to assist Father at Mass and special liturgical functions. Training is provided 1 to 2 times per year.

Marriage Preparation- (PRE-CANA, sponsors) This is the required Catholic pre-marriage encounter weekend, which occurs In the spring. It consists of two consecutive Sunday afternoons training engaged couples from the diocese.

Music Ministry- Sacred song forms an integral part of Mass. The music ministers lead and sustain the assembly in sung prayer. Our wide variety of groups allows for a wide range in skill levels. If you have been blessed with musical talent, please consider joining the music ministry.

Natural Family Planning- This ministry provides personalized, professional instruction in the Creighton Model FertilityCare system. This system is a scientifically sound, effective, and morally acceptable method of monitoring a couple's fertility. It can be used in reproductive decision making, both to avoid and to achieve pregnancy.

Nursery CO-Of) during Mass- The nursery is available during the 8AM and 10AM Masses (most Sundays) for children ages 6 months to 4 years. It is located in the nursery room accessed through the Church Narthex. Parents who use the nursery co-op volunteer one mass per quarter in the nursery. If you are interested in joining the nursery co-op or have questions please feel free to call the nursery co-op ministers.

Parish Council- The Parish Council is a diverse group of parishioners who meet monthly to discuss various parish issues as they arise.

Our job is to make recommendations to the pastor, as well as to assist in organizing and overseeing the many ministries the church offers. Council members are appointed to these positions, which generally run 3 years.

Parish Religious Education (PRE)- PRE is available for children age three through eighth grade. This ministry runs in parallel with the school year and uses the same curriculum as the religion classes taught at St. Maria Goretti School. PRE catechists are responsible for lessons taught (teacher's manual contains format). There are typically two catechists per classroom.

Pro - Life Committee- The Pro-Life Committee seeks through prayer, education and information to increase community awareness of the sanctity of all human life from the first moment of conception to a natural death. Some of our past activities include a Rose and Cross Procession remembering Roe v. Wade decision, Pro-Life Rosary after 5:30 weekday Masses during Lent, Life Chain, and a speaker for our Truth Youth Group. Meetings are held quarterly and as needed according to activities planned.

Registration- If you would like to register or change any registration information, please stop by the Welcome Table at the back of the church or call the Parish Office. If you have questions regarding your registration date, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)- RCIA is the process by which adults become members of the Catholic Church. These programs are for people who have either not been baptized or who have been baptized outside of the Catholic Church and have not received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. RCIA sponsors mentor adult candidates.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC)- RCIC is the process by which children become members of the Catholic Church. RCIC catechists teach lessons to children in RCIC (manuals and lessons are provided).

St. Philip Neri Oratorio (SPNO)- SPNO is an adult ministry dedicated to embracing and living the Catholic faith in a way that will have you laughing and having a whole lot of fun. Each month's gathering will focus on a different Christian topic that will be presented in a way that truly reveals the fun side of our Catholic faith. Childcare is provided so you can enjoy yourself without worry.

Scouts

Boy Scouts- SMG is the Charter Organization for Troop 152 of the Boy Scouts of America. Our Troop includes boys from the ages of 11 through 18. Ministry opportunities include: (you do not have to have a son in scouting to help out) Sharing any special talents or education you may have by being a Merit Badge Counselor to our Scouts and attending camping trips. Our group includes female leaders too!

Cub Scouts- Cub Scouting, is a family and home centered program for boys in the first through fifth grade. Our goal is to offer these boys responsible fun and adventure while instilling lifetime values and the development of an ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. Your role in this ministry could be as small as helping at our annual food drive that supports the Shepherd's Gate Pantry to being a full fledged den leader to being Cubmaster. Please note that not all roles deal directly with the leadership of the scouts. We need administrative positions filled such as Treasurer and Committee Members.

Girl Scouts- The Girl Scout Ministry's primary function is to represent St. Maria Goretti in the Jo-She-We Scouting district, which is Westfield and Sheridan. Currently SMG has Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Grade troops. All Troops, other than the Kindergarten Troop, work to earn different types of badges and they also work on community projects etc. Please contact the Girl Scout minister if you would like to help.

Stewardship- The Stewardship ministry is currently functioning with the finance council. All stewardship activities have been centered around the capital campaigns and the spiritual aspects of tithing. This ministry will become more independent in the fall as part of the Fruitful Harvest 2002 activities.

Technology Support Group- This group has several aspects. One actively supports the Parish's Information Services Manager in maintaining current equipment as well as procuring and installing new hardware and software. A second is a list of parishioners who have technology experience and help out on the big projects, such as wiring the new wing of the school. These big projects usually come up during the summer months. Another function of this group is to find people who have connections and can help in finding or purchasing technology equipment like the new phone system. Anyone with experience in telephone systems, computers (especially networking), and television equipment is welcome to volunteer.

Vocations Committee- The mission of the **St. Pio** Vocations Team is to help our youth to follow God's calling in their lives through prayer and devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to challenge their parents and all adults to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We will focus on helping our youth recognize God's call for them, whether it is to marriage, single life, priesthood or religious life, and stress the importance of the parent's role in the development of religious vocations.

Welcome Committee/Newcomers- This ministry introduces new members to our parish family, programs, and services and helps them feel at home in their new church. Some of the things we do are call new parishioners, send out letters of welcome, sponsor newcomer receptions, answer questions, and take registrations.

Youth Ministry- The following are self-named groups of lively young people from our parish. The mission of these ministries is to develop and deepen the relationship between our youth and God. This is accomplished through faith, fellowship, and lots of fun.

Hands Open Praising Eternal God (HOPE)- HOPE is a seventh and eighth grade youth group. HOPE Youth Ministers mentor teens, lead activities, and work as a team to create theme nights, social activities, and service projects.

Teens Reaching Up to Heaven (TRUTH)- TRUTH is a high school youth group. TRUTH Youth Ministers mentor teens, lead activities, and work as a team to create theme nights, social activities, and service projects.

Youth Service Hour Coordinator- The YSHC is the liaison between the church/school ministries looking for students to help with activities and the 5th through 8th grade students looking for service hour opportunities. The coordinator talks to PTO, Sports association and other organizations needing help, then sends "sign-up" forms to the middle school teachers. All students receive follow up phone calls from the coordinator and if available make a commitment to complete the service hour opportunity.