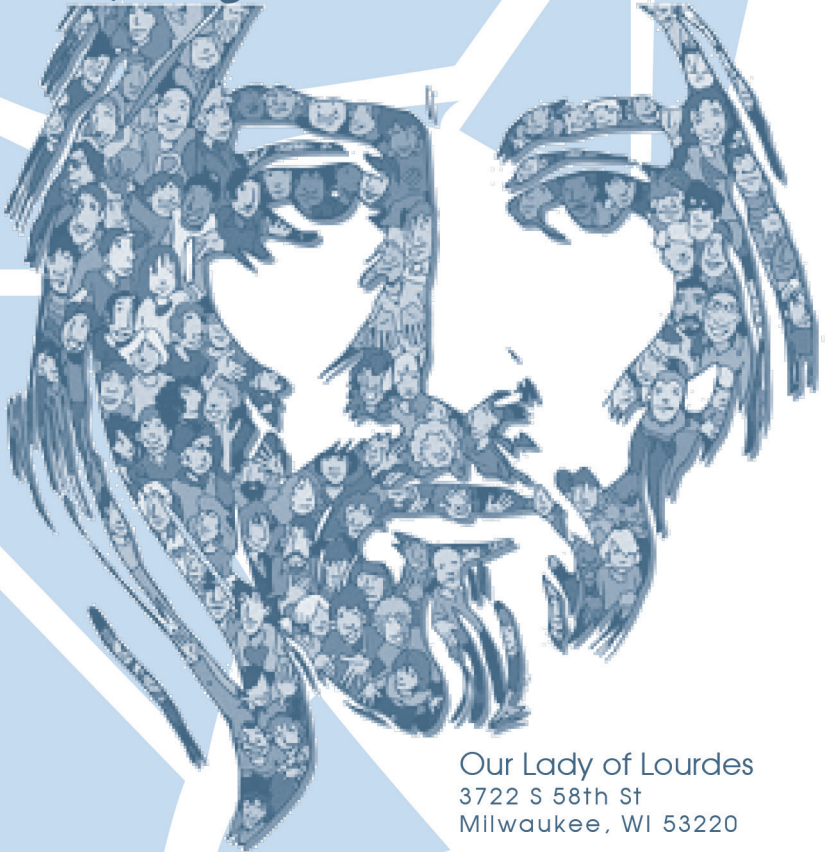


2015

guide book & directory

*Our Lady of Lourdes is a pilgrim church
coming to know the Kingdom of God
by being Christ to the world*



Our Lady of Lourdes
3722 S 58th St
Milwaukee, WI 53220

phone: (414) 545-4316
fax: (414) 541-2251
website: www.ololmke.org
e-mail: olol@archmil.org

Our Lady of Lourdes Congregation

3722 South 58th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53220-2053
Phone: (414) 545-4316
Fax: (414) 541-2251
E-mail: olol@archmil.org
Website: www.ololmke.org

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of Lourdes,

Welcome to our parish! You have in your hands the 2015 Our Lady of Lourdes Guide Book & Directory that contains useful information to help you know who we are and what is happening here. Hopefully you will find many answers to your questions and help introduce people with whom you may become friends.

Six years ago, I joined this parish and found a spiritual home with wonderful companions on the journey of faith. Our parish Vision Statement says we are a “way station” or rest stop on this journey of following Christ. This is certainly true for me! When the community gathers to celebrate our liturgies with inspiring songs, challenging words, soul-awakening prayers, and communal Eucharist; I am nourished and strengthened to reenter my daily life refreshed.

As you read about our parish ministries, you will see people are “freely sharing their gifts” in service to others. This part of the parish Vision Statement becomes a reality because parishioners are mature enough to know that each of us must serve others -- if we love God. This is ‘regifting’ pure and simple – giving to others what we have been given.

We commit ourselves to “service of justice and compassion” as the Vision says through many social justice opportunities. For the past 49 years, Our Lady of Lourdes has monthly fed the hungry at St. Ben’s meal program and for over 50 years has brought Eucharist to the nursing home patients and home bound in the area.

Our Vision Statement says “we build community,” which is another way of saying we gather to have fun and celebrate our lives. We gather in so many ways: in age appropriate groups, for festivals and Oktoberfest, socials celebrating special occasions, and regular monthly community weekends to mention a few.

Our Lady of Lourdes is committed to “Keeping Our Vision Growing,” and we hope you will continue with us on this vision quest. God bless and guide you. I am your brother.

In Christ,



Fr. William C. Burkert

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Lourdes is a pilgrim church coming to know the Kingdom of God by being Christ to the world.

Vision Statement

Our Lady of Lourdes is a way station where all are welcome.

By freely sharing our gifts, we build community.

Energizing prayer and worship nourish us
on our journey of transformation.

We are called also to evangelize and witness to the world,
committing our creativity to the service of justice and compassion.

Worship Schedule

Weekend Mass	Saturday	5:00 pm
	Sunday	8:00 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Weekday Mass	Monday & Thursday	8:00 am
	Wednesday	9:30 am
Communion Service	Tuesday & Friday	8:00 am
Reconciliation	Available by appointment. Contact Fr. Bill Burkert through the parish office.	

Sacramental Celebration

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated at various times throughout the liturgical year within the context of a weekend liturgy. For more information, please contact the parish office.

First Reconciliation

All children in second grade and above are eligible to prepare for their First Reconciliation. For more information, please contact the parish office.

First Eucharist

First Eucharist is prepared for and received during the second grade and is done in conjunction with preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parents and children will work together throughout the year to prepare for these sacraments. Children and parents are also required to be enrolled in GIFT at least one year prior to second grade. Since faith development is an ongoing journey, continued involvement in faith formation (GIFT) beyond reception of First Eucharist is highly encouraged.

Confirmation

Juniors in high school or any youth at least 16 years of age who has participated in Christian formation or Catholic high school may begin preparation for this sacrament. As with all sacramental preparation programs, youth must be in formation for at least the entire year prior to the year the sacrament is celebrated. The process consists of formation sessions, service, an interview, choosing a sponsor, a three-day retreat, and a commitment to prayer and faith sharing. Confirmation is celebrated in the spring.

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick is celebrated on the first Saturday of the month following the 5:00 pm liturgy. In other times of need, request anointing from the presider prior to any weekend liturgy.

Hospital Visitation

Because of current federal laws, hospitals no longer inform us when parishioners are admitted. Parishioners or their families need to contact the parish office by phone or e-mail so we may make a hospital visit and/or celebrate the Anointing of the Sick.

Christian Marriage

It is necessary to contact Deacon John Monday at (414) 550-6053 a minimum of six months prior to the date of your wedding to make the necessary arrangements.

Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is the process by which a person 18 or older becomes an active member of the Catholic Church. It is for unbaptized adults, those baptized in another tradition or those baptized Catholics who have not been raised in the Catholic tradition.

Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC)

This is a process for children of catechetical age (6-14) who are seeking Baptism and Eucharist in the Catholic Church.

Parish Staff

Reverend William Burkert, Parish Priest

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 20

burkertb@archmil.org

Fr. Bill is the spiritual leader of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. He was appointed by the Archbishop and has been given the responsibility for the spiritual life of our parish, the administration of the parish and its physical plant. Fr. Bill is our primary sacramental minister, our proclaimer of the Word, teacher, evangelizer and a healing presence to people in need.

John Monday, Deacon
(414) 550-6053
mondayj@archmil.org

John works closely with Fr. Bill on pastoral issues and administrative duties. He preaches on a regular basis. John ministers to grieving families and officiates at funerals. He prepares couples for marriage and officiates at weddings. He also participates in the program of baptismal catechesis and officiates at baptisms. John is available for spiritual guidance and pastoral counseling.

Joe Kallenberger, Director of Administrative Services
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 25
kallenbergerj@archmil.org

Joe directs and coordinates parish operations in the areas of finance, personnel, administration, facility management and technology. He also serves as the staff liaison to various committees.

Toni Gradisnik, Stewardship Associate
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 22
gradisnikt@archmil.org

Toni assists with various functions needed for the administration of the parish related to stewardship. Her responsibilities include managing the contribution records for all parishioners, coordinating the counting and deposits of weekly stewardship gifts, bookkeeping, maintaining parish census, assisting with parish payables and maintaining payable records.

Marc Puechner, Director of Communications and Technology Integration
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 12
puechnerm@archmil.org

Marc organizes all of the traditional forms of parish communication such as the bulletin and inserts, monthly stewardship mailings, and bulletin boards as well as the digital forms of communication – bulk emails, website, and social media. He also organizes our Audio/Visual Ministry and is the point person for all the A/V tools for our worship and gathering spaces.

Mary Osep, Faith Formation Team Member-Youth and Young Adult Ministries
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Through her direction of the Youth Ministry program, Mary serves the needs of youth in grades 5-12. She has developed and is actively involved in a large variety of ministry, leadership, service and retreat opportunities for youths in this age group. Mary coordinates preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation for 11th graders.

Through her direction of the Young Adult Program, she also serves the spiritual and ministry needs of young adults in their 20's and 30's. Mary works with the ministers at St. Matthias and St. Greg's to enhance this ministry. As a formation team member, Mary co-coordinates and implements our whole community faith formation program – GIFT (Generations in Faith Together). As a virtues facilitator, Mary works to infuse these character qualities in all aspects of ministry at OLOL.

Nancie Chmielewski, Pastoral Associate/Faith Formation Team Member - Adult Ministries
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 13
chmielewskin@archmil.org

Nancie serves the needs of our adult population. She directs the RCIA program and all aspects of Adult Formation.

Steve Szymanski, Faith Formation Team Member - Child Ministry
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 27
szymanskis@archmil.org

Steve serves the children of the parish from birth through grade four. He coordinates the preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist. He also oversees the Children's Liturgy of the Word program.

As a formation team member, he co-coordinates and implements our whole community faith formation program – GIFT (Generations in Faith Together).

Jenni Sladky, Ministry Associate
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 11
sladkyj@archmil.org

Jenni assists the Faith Formation Team members in implementing all aspects of the GIFT program. She assists with the sacramental preparation programs (Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, and Marriage) and many other aspects of child, youth and adult ministries for our parish. She also has many clerical responsibilities in the parish office.

Chris Deily, Director of Liturgical Ministries
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 16
deilyc@archmil.org

Chris serves in tandem with the Pastor, Liturgy Committee, Staff and guest Presiders in the planning and preparation of all liturgical celebrations. She also collaborates with the various parish committees and groups assisting with their liturgical needs.

Chris collaborates with the Director of Music Ministries in the music planning for all liturgies and prayer services, as well as with the Director of Adult Ministries in the preparation of sacramental celebrations. She oversees the training and scheduling of lectors, servers, usher-greeters, sacristans. Chris also works closely with engaged couples in the preparation of their wedding liturgy & music.

Peg Kasun, Director of Music Ministries
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 17
kasunp@archmil.org

Music is integral to our liturgies. The song choice is born out of the scriptures of the day, and then harmonizes with the homily to create an integrated prayer experience. Lourdes parishioners are active participants in the liturgy, lifting our voices in song, and sometimes clapping or using liturgical gesture to involve our whole beings in prayer. The music is varied and engaging, empowering the sung prayer of the congregation. On a given weekend, you may hear multiple styles of music, including gospel, contemporary, praise music, hymnody, and world music. Parishioners give generously of their time and talents to play instruments and sing as cantors and choir members. We are indeed blessed, and we welcome new music ministers to join in!

Wanda Nye, Parish Nurse
(414) 545-4281
wanda.nye@aurora.org

Wanda works jointly with Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Matthias to have a combined Health and Wellness Ministry. The ministry works to integrate healing of Body, Mind and Spirit. This also includes providing health counseling and health resources to the parish. Watch for health information and upcoming classes in the bulletin or on the parish website. Call Wanda for more information. In partnership with Aurora Health Care.

Ken Marshman, Maintenance Engineer
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 18
marshmank@archmil.org

Ken is responsible for the management, maintenance and repair of the entire parish complex and grounds. He works with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to review and assist with major projects.

Paul Kuenzi, Custodian
(414) 545-4316

Paul is our full-time Custodian. His position is primarily responsible for providing janitorial services for the parish. Paul sets up, takes down and provides cleaning services for parish activities within facility. Paul works primarily 2nd shift with frequent evening and occasional weekend hours.

Parish Cluster

In 1988, the archbishop of Milwaukee asked parishes to join with neighboring parishes and work together on a variety of issues. Parishes in close proximity to each other are encouraged to collaborate.

Together we aim to support one another in our ministries and offer our parishioners a wider variety of activities and ministries in a number of areas of parish life.

Our Lady of Lourdes works in collaboration with:

St. Gregory the Great Parish & School

3160 South 63rd Street

Milwaukee, WI 53219

Parish Office: (414) 543-8292

School Office: (414) 321-1350

St. Gregory the Great Parish offers a discounted tuition rate for Our Lady of Lourdes parish children who attend St. Greg's School.

Website: <http://www.StGregsMil.org>

St. Matthias Catholic Parish

9306 West Beloit Road

Milwaukee, WI 53227

Parish Office: (414) 321-0893

Website: <http://www.stmatthias-milw.org>

Stewardship

Time-Talent-Treasure

As you review the information contained in this guide book, it is easy to see that Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is a warm and welcoming place, vibrant in faith. Our parish community knows the joys of receiving and sharing the blessings we have been given. We embrace our responsibility as God's stewards giving of our time, talent and treasure, knowing that our sacrifices are being used to deepen our own spiritual life and, in turn, the spiritual life of our parish. In working together, we remain strong and continue to thrive.

Time and Talent

The stewardship of time and talent calls us to search out our talents, nurture them, help them grow and then generously share both our time and talents in service to all of God's people. We all have something to share, that we are good at or that we especially like to do. Our parish family is not only in need of your talents, but we recognize the responsibility we have to help you nurture them and give you opportunities to use them.

If you haven't already found your opportunity, please take some time to reflect on the ministry offerings within this guidebook and let us know if you would like to join a group or volunteer for a project. We invite every parishioner to participate in at least one parish ministry each year. Putting our faith into action is at the very heart of the beliefs we profess and celebrate. By bringing diverse talents to various projects, committees and ministries, every member of our parish community has the opportunity to serve and live out their Baptismal call.

Treasure

The work of our parish requires your support – active, prayerful, and financial. Each one of us is important to the life and ministries that thrive at our parish.

In our parish, we ask new parish families to make a financial stewardship pledge. Our parish also asks all families to renew their stewardship commitments annually. This is done so that we can make meaningful decisions concerning our ministries and plan the programs that will be carried out in the following year. The amount each parish family gives will be different because the resources of each family are different. Give in proportion to what you have been blessed with, but give sacrificially.

Living as faithful stewards of God's gifts is the best gift we can offer. God will do the rest! We are all partners in this journey of faith! May we continue to be blessed by our most wonderful Lord!

GIFT

(Generations in Faith Together)

GIFT is our parish's innovative approach to faith formation for everyone. As its name implies, the program provides an opportunity for singles, seniors, couples and families/households to grow in faith together. The GIFT coordinators have received extremely positive feedback from participants of all ages in this program.

GIFT takes place 10 times a year from September through April. There are two sessions from which to choose. For households with school aged children, we expect that you will be in attendance the entire 10 months. For everyone else, we would love to have you present at each session as well, but you have the option of signing up for individual sessions.

The monthly gatherings include a prepared meal for relaxing and socializing; an opening experience that is an introduction to the theme of the session; learning sessions that include breakout sessions to allow for different ages to receive religious education in a developmentally appropriate manner; whole group sharing in which different age groups come back for a shared project or sharing of what they have learned.



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GIFT Calendar 2015-2016 Our theme for the year is “Life is like a Box of Choices.”

September 20, 21 - Making Good Choices: Conscience Formation
October 4, 5 - Choices that Harm: Addiction
October 18, 19 - Choosing the Christian Life
November 8, 9 - The Choice to Reconcile
December 6, 7 - Our Material Choices: The Question of Consuming
January 10, 11 - The Choice to be Positive
January 31, Feb, 1 - The Choice for Non-Violence
February 21, 22 - Prayer Choices
March 6, 7 - The Choice for Dignity
April 10, 11 - Choosing to Serve

Contact: Steve Szymanski (414) 545-4316, Ext. 27 or, Mary Osep, (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15, for more information about any aspect of GIFT.

GIFT Core Team

The GIFT Core Team assists, plans, and evaluates each monthly GIFT session. Some experience in planning processes and our Catholic teachings is helpful. A sincere desire to explore and plan for the whole community is necessary. This team meets every other month.

GIFT Catechists

Adults (21 and older) are needed to teach our faith for K4-K5 yr. olds, Gr. 1-2, Gr. 3-4, Gr. 5-6, Gr. 7-8, Gr. 9-10, and Confirmation. Guide plans and materials for each session are provided.

Catechists are asked to work together to implement and evaluate each session. In-service training, safe environment training, and continuing education are needed. The catechist should be a person of faith actively involved in the liturgy and life of the parish.

If you enjoy working with children and youth and desire to share your faith, you are invited to call our faith formation directors for more details.

Contact: Steve Szymanski about grades K4-4
Mary Osep about grades 5-12

GIFT Aides

Teens and adult helpers are needed to assist the catechists with the activities and needs of the children and youth.

Discipleship Institute

Our parish's **Discipleship Institute** has been developed to invite members of the community to get more involved in being credible witnesses to the gospel. It will provide information, inspiration, plenty of discussion, and prayer to stimulate the members' creativity and the sharing of their gifts. It is an institute for disciples! The Discipleship Institute offers a variety of programs to help each individual grow in following Jesus as one of his disciples in the modern world and to support the parish's worship, formation, and service ministries. Discipleship involves living according to Jesus' teaching and following the pattern of his life which includes sharing in his ministry. The Discipleship Institute pursues these goals by offering programs through four tracks:

Scripture/Theology

Spirituality/Prayer

Leadership/Ministry

Reachout Ministries

This year the Scripture/Theology Track will offer two courses:

Christian Ministry and the Ministry of Jesus	The Psalms as Prayers for Christian Living
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
September 17	February 11
September 24	February 18
October 1	February 25
October 15	March 3
October 22	March 10
October 29	March 17

The Spirituality/Prayer Track will offer prayer experiences including "...and the Elders pray.." which meets the second Tuesday of the month, beginning on September 8, 2015. These prayer experiences will explore prayer as a celebration of Christian community.

The Leadership/Ministry Track will offer "Becoming a Group" which will cover decision-making, problem-solving, and communication.

The Reachout Ministries Track will launch the Friend-to-Friend Ministry which will link individuals with specific challenges in their lives to people who have met and faced the challenges in their lives.

For information on any of the programs of the Discipleship Institute,

Contact:

Anita Hallman Kowalski, (414) 550-9890
Harry Fleddermann, (414) 383-8023
Jim Wielgosz, (414) 208-5647

RCIA

(The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

The RCIA is a process that can be characterized in this way:

“[The RCIA] is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God’s help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully.”

[The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: A Pastoral Commentary, J. Michael McMahon, 19.]

There are four periods that belong to this process:

1. Precatechumenate—Inquiry and pondering
2. Catechumenate—scripture, faith sharing, catechesis
3. Purification/Enlightenment—intense spiritual preparation
4. Mystagoga—celebration of the sacraments/Easter season

The RCIA program also has opportunities for people to share their faith with the candidates:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Inquiry Team

The Inquiry Team works with persons who are learning about possible membership in the Catholic Church. A team member shares the basics of the Catholic faith as well as invites inquirers into the faith to share their questions and understandings. The inquiry group meets weekly for about four or five sessions. Team members can be called upon whenever new inquirers come forward.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Catechumenate Team

The Catechumenate Team works with persons on Sunday mornings, sharing around the Sunday Scriptures. Team members usually facilitate sessions about once a month for the greater portion of the year. They plan the session together and invite candidates’ participation. The Catechumenate Team also meets as a group about every four to six weeks to reflect on the process and continue their own formation. It is helpful if persons serve as RCIA sponsors before becoming team members.

Parish RCIA Sponsors

Any confirmed Catholic who is willing to walk with a person seeking to become a Catholic can become an RCIA sponsor. The sponsor needs to be willing to share one’s faith with another and to put the candidate’s needs before his/her own. Sponsors are not expected to be experts in the faith; rather, they are asked to be honest and open with their candidate as they continue to grow themselves. Sponsors are asked to come to most of the sessions, which usually coincide with the 10:30 am liturgy. This involves a commitment of up to one year.

For more information please contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316, Ext. 13 or chmielewskin@archmil.org.

ARISE

(Association for Religious Instruction, Special Education)

ARISE is a collaboration of eight parishes to provide quality special religious education for their parish children, teens and adults who are challenged with disabilities.

ARISE serves students who have varying degrees of learning disabilities, cognitive disabilities, and emotional disabilities, including but not limited to Down Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorders and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Depending on the specific needs of the student, he/she is placed in a specialized classroom, an inclusive classroom or a combination of these.

To date, the parishes that have joined this collaboration are St. Alphonsus, St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great, Holy Assumption, St. James, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Rita.

All classes and meetings are currently held at the ARISE collaboration site, St. Gregory the Great, South 60th Street and Oklahoma Avenue. For more information or to inquire about volunteer opportunities, please Contact:

Tom & Sue Klawien
ARISE Coordinators
St. Gregory the Great Parish & School
3160 S. 63rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219
(414) 810-3702
(414) 614-7071 (cell)
ARISEPROGRAM@gmail.com

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council shall be a vehicle for the parish to fulfill the pastoral mission of Jesus and the Church in a specific part of the Archdiocese. It does this by developing Catholic identity, promoting evangelization, and fostering stewardship. The Council shall strive to build a community of disciples who recognize their baptismal calls to lives of holiness, witness and service. The Council shall engage in a continuous process of pastoral planning, which takes into account the needs and priorities of its parishioners, the Archdiocese, the broader community, and the world.

The Council shall be the consultative and planning body in regards to pastoral activity except to the extent limited by faith and morals, church or civil law or archdiocesan policy. The Council possesses a consultative vote only.

The Council shall be comprised of ex officio members and at least twice their number of at-large members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, registered members of the parish, participants in the parish worship life, especially Mass and the sacraments, and at least 18 years of age.

The council meets 10 times each year on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings last one hour and a half.

Contact: Fr. Bill Burkert (414) 545-4316, Ext. 20

Finance Council

The Finance Council shall provide advice and guidance to the Pastor in the administration of parish assets. The Council prepares the parish budget, any budgets for extraordinary expenditures, and reviews financial statements. The Council monitors the financial condition of the parish, including regular financial reviews/audits as well as the internal financial controls by following the recommendations in the audit/review. The Council provides assistance in the formulation and communication of an annual financial report to the parish community as required by canon 1287.2.

The Council shall be the consultative body in all parish financial matters, except to the extent limited by church or civil law or archdiocesan policy/norms.

The Council shall be comprised of not less than 5 nor more than 7 members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, registered members of the parish, participants in the parish worship life, especially Mass and the sacraments, and at least 25 years of age. Members are selected because of their familiarity with financial matters and financial expertise.

The council meets 10 times each year on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings last one hour.

Contact: Fr. Bill Burkert
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 20

Administration

Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for the physical condition of the parish property. They are charged with the care, upkeep and improvements of the landscape and structures of our parish grounds. This committee identifies and articulates the needs of the parish in this area and makes recommendations to the Finance Council.

Contact: Jim Wroblewski (414) 327-4689
jimwrobl@gmail.com

Digital Communications Committee

The Digital Communications Committee is an advisory team that assists in the creation and updating of the parish website, social networking, and other forms of electronic communication. The team evaluates analytics and reviews and recommends changes to design and development in all of these areas. This committee meets once every three months. Non-techies are encouraged to join the team to lend the perspective of the everyday user as well as people with expertise in these fields.

Contact: Marc Puechner..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 12
puechnerm@archmil.org

Festival Committee

The Festival Committee is responsible for planning, organizing and overseeing the parish festival, held annually the third weekend of August. Monthly committee meetings are held throughout the year.

Contact: Greg Dukat (414) 788-8788

Human Resources Committee

The Human Resources Committee monitors the administration of parish policies regarding employment, staffing, compensation, benefits, performance management, employee relations, and compliance with state and federal employment laws. Meetings are held quarterly.

Contact: Jen Marifke..... (414) 525-2709

Community Life

An Evening for Couples

Saturday, February 13, 2016, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

Join other couples of all ages and stages of life. You are welcome if you are dating, engaged, newly married and not-so-newly married! The evening allows each couple to enjoy a relaxed dinner served by teens of the parish and then an interactive discussion on a topic to help all couples grow in understanding of their relationship.

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 541-9470, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Boy Scouts

Troop 612 gathers at Our Lady of Lourdes on most Tuesday nights year round. We camp 9 months of the year, one of those being a week long summer camp in July. In that one week, the boys learn cooking, fishing, safe shooting sports, and make lifelong friendships with other boys and have the time of their life. The troop holds four fish fries at Our Lady of Lourdes per year, the profits from which are used for their various summer camping activities. Members of the troop also park cars and host the fish fry at the parish festival. Our troop has the ability to take boys and turn them into fine young adults. The troop is always looking for new boys to come join us.

Contact: Paul Podlaski..... (414) 659-5912

Funeral Hospitality

The Funeral Hospitality Committee assists any family that requests a reception either for a wake or after a funeral at Our Lady of Lourdes. Committee members assist with table setup, serving and cleanup for funeral receptions or catered luncheons held in the church hall.

Contact: George Sladky..... (414) 418-0542
georgesladky@yahoo.com

New Year's Eve Party

New Year's Eve is a great opportunity for families to come and enjoy a delicious meal, dancing and **fun!** We begin at 6:00 pm but turn the clocks ahead to 9:00 pm and at 9:00 pm we pretend it's midnight. Everyone's home early to put the kids to bed and enjoy a quiet "real" midnight!

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair is a unique parish event, a "fun"-raiser, held annually in October. Oktoberfest has 4 goals; to build community at OLOL, to introduce OLOL to the larger community, to support the social justice issue of buying local, and to raise funds for the parish. Artisans sell quality handmade items on one side of the campus and while on the other there is food, music, and activities for all ages. The polka liturgies occur on Oktoberfest weekend. Volunteers are needed to plan, move furniture, serve food, greet guests, and run the basket raffle. Planning begins in February and event sign-up occurs in September.

Contact: Barb Webber (414) 377-9177
bwebber@wi.rr.com

Wednesday Morning Faith Group

The Our Lady of Lourdes Morning Faith Group is a parish ministry that strives to give members of the community a place to pray, socialize, and enjoy a bit to eat. We meet every Wednesday after the 9:30 am Mass in the Parish Hall. Special events are scheduled throughout the year for the enrichment of everyone.

Contact: JoAnn Godkin..... (414) 828-7172
joanngodkin@gmail.com

Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee exists to help make Our Lady of Lourdes a welcoming place sponsoring Community Weekend socials once a month to give all parishioners a chance to get to know each other. Commitment is occasional or monthly, at your availability. We would like to send greetings to the newly baptized and newly married, but we need more volunteers. Any other ideas are welcome! Please volunteer!

Contact: Mary Mueller (414) 327-0307
mcjakemuel@aol.com

Formation Ministries

The parish has many ways of reaching out to share our faith and love of God. Below are the main ministries. We are always open to new ways to teach and dialogue on the truths of our faith.

Adult Formation

Contact: Nancie Chmielewski..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 13
chmielewskin@archmil.org

If you are interested in hearing more about any of the following adult faith ministries:

Adult Retreats

A key component in our journey of discipleship is that of retreat. What is a retreat? It is the opportunity to pull back, to rest, to set aside distractions and open ourselves to the work of God's Spirit. It may be a time of deep discernment or a time in which to simply breathe.

Our Lady of Lourdes offers an annual Women's Retreat the first full weekend of February at Benet Lake. New this year, we are offering a Men's Retreat at the Siena Center in Racine, October 3-4.

The Art Guild

The Art Guild is open to all visual artists in the parish and beyond. The group meets on the last Wednesday of the month from August through May (no meeting in December) from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. A variety of studio nights, presenters, film/book discussions. Parish wide projects and field trips are a part of our work.

Gay and Straight In Christ

Gay and Straight in Christ welcomes, supports, and affirms LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) persons, their families and friends and those who wish to stand in solidarity with them in Christ. This ministry offers a safe environment to share ideas without fear or judgment, to learn about and from each other, to heal doctrinal prejudice, break down stigmas, respect each other and function as community. We gather on the second Wednesday of the month from August through November and January through June. Contact Nancie or the Parish Office for more information.

Restore To Wholeness

Our mission is to raise awareness of the impact of intimate violence (victims, survivors, family, and friends), which we understand to be sexual, physical, emotional, verbal, and/or spiritual. We envision a safe place in which to enter the journey of wholeness. This journey is grounded in shared hope and healing through the vehicles of comfort, fellowship and prayer.

Scripture/Book Studies

At various times throughout the year, a variety of Bible and book studies are convened. Watch the website and bulletin for topics and times.

Special Pastoral Needs

There are many needs not touched upon in this booklet. Please call Nancie if you are seeking help or support in a particular area not mentioned above.

Spiritual Guidance/Mentoring

Spiritual guides are available upon request. Call Nancie for options and more information.

Additional Youth Ministries

Teen Action Group - TAG

Youth who are in grades 6-12 are invited to join other youth leaders to help plan, implement, and evaluate a total youth ministry program. Youth who make this commitment are expected to attend one meeting each month and a two-night overnight retreat in August. Participation in the Christian Formation (GIFT) program, service and relational opportunities is helpful. Participation in weekend liturgies and prayer opportunities is expected. In return, you will come to know a wonderful group of youth and adults!

Contact: Dotty Posto (414) 305-8976
Terry Shiltz-Nowak (414) 482-1295

Relational Ministry Events

Adults (21 and older) are needed to help chaperone many fun activities, such as lock-ins, dances, field trips, movie nights, etc. Volunteers should have the ability to work with youth and enforce simple guidelines and can participate in the events that best suit their talents and schedule. We cannot hold these events without you!

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Retreat Small Group Leader

A retreat is held yearly for every grade level. For Grades 6-8, these day-long events are held at a site in the community. Help is needed to transport youth and help with the experience of the day (e.g., meal program, nursing home experience). Retreats for Grades 9-10 are one-night overnights, and Confirmation and Youth Council are two-night overnights. Your help with leading a small group of teens requires openness to their ideas and feelings and a willingness to share your faith. The basic requirement for this role is a love and respect for teens.

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Summer Mission Experience

Each summer, high school youth participate in the Reach Out Reach In program. Registrations are available in early February, and youth are accepted on a first come first-to-serve basis. In addition, adults are needed to help lead small groups to the worksite in Milwaukee and help with the evening process of all experiences. This is a wonderful experience for youth and adults of living in community, learning about complex social justice issues, and praying together. Volunteers are subject to a background check and safe environment training.

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Youth Service

Many opportunities to serve in the parish and larger community exist for youth. Teens are presented with these opportunities to serve. Confirmation candidates have more in-depth opportunities because it is an integral part of their preparation for the sacrament. Parents are asked to join us for many of these opportunities.

Sign Ups at GIFT sessions.

Young Adult Ministries

Young Adult Core Team

The Young Adult Core Team is a consultative group that helps plan, implement, and evaluate ministry for single, married, and married with children 19-40+ year old parish members. The core team meets four times per year and participates in various activities as determined by the group. New members are encouraged to join the fun!

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

MOMS' Spirituality

Join moms in discussing Scripture, faith issues, parenting, and family life. Childcare is provided. All are welcome!! We will have a MOMS Retreat, March 19-20, 2016. An evening Moms group will begin on September 16, 2015.

Contact: Judy Monday (414) 545-4316
judymonday@wi.rr.com

Theology on Tap

These learning/social events are held all around the archdiocese in early summer. OLOL, St. Matthias, and St. Greg's host sessions together. This is a great chance to meet and interact with others in their 20's and 30's.

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Young Adult Events: Faith, Social and Service

Events to get young adults together several times a year are planned by the core team. Young Adults are invited to participate in all parish ministries! If you love OLOL, **give back, get involved!**

Contact: Mary Osep (414) 545-4316, Ext. 15
osepm@archmil.org

Outreach Ministries

Our outreach work includes the ministries of pastoral care, social services, social justice and evangelization. Its scope includes outreach to both the parish membership and the larger community, either in the neighborhood or beyond.

Pastoral Ministry

A Circle of Support – You Are Not Alone

This is a support ministry for anyone battling cancer now or a survivor; or friends or family members of anyone who has or had cancer. This is a safe place to come and share; to get support, to be heard, and to be encouraged.

This group meets the 4th Thursday of each month from 1:00-2:30 pm.

Contact: Wanda Nye, Parish Nurse..... (414) 545-4281
wanda.nye@aurora.org

Creative Connections-Home-based Team

This team comprises persons interested in developing creative connections between the community of church and our home-based parishioners. The team meets twice a year, for planning and formation.

Contact: Nancie Chmielewski..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 13
chmielewskin@archmil.org

Health and Wellness Ministry

This is a combined parish ministry that includes members from OLOL and members from St. Matthias and the parish nurse. The focus of this ministry is to plan for and promote the Health and Wellness of Mind, Body and Spirit. Our Wellness program offers blood pressure checks the first weekend of each month and on the first three Wednesdays of the month before the 9:30 am daily Liturgy. The committee meets every other month on the 3rd Thursday of the month. We have many programs and educational opportunities. There are many ways to help in this ministry with just a little time commitment. We would love to have you join us.

Contact: Wanda Nye, Parish Nurse..... (414) 545-4281
wanda.nye@aurora.org

Lazarus Ministry for Bereavement

Volunteers minister to families grieving the loss of a loved one. Ministers pray for family members as well as contact them with a series of “Care Note” cards mailed throughout the year following the loved one’s death. This group also prepares an annual prayer service on All Souls’ Day to remember all the parishioners who have died in the past year and all of our deceased loved ones.

Contact: Rose Riedy (414) 525-4532
Sheila Dillman (262) 717-3156
sdillman@wi.rr.com

Ministry to the Homebound

This rewarding ministry comprises persons who go into the residences of our home-based parishioners to visit socially, to take communion, and to pray. Training for visitation is provided. An evening of reflection is offered once per year to gather our visitors and provide them an opportunity to prayerfully reflect upon their experiences.

Contact: Nola Guman..... (414) 541-8012
Nancie Chmielewski (414) 545-4316, Ext. 13
chmielewskin@archmil.org

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry consists of volunteers who have chosen to serve Jesus and our community by praying for the needs of others. Everyone is invited to join in intercessory prayer for those experiencing difficulties. Members pray in their own homes in their own way.

Contact: Rose Riedy (414) 525-4532
Rita Klein..... (414) 543-2726

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This is an inspiring movement for interested persons to knit or crochet and pray for others in need. The finished prayer shawls are blessed at a weekend liturgy and taken to the shawl recipient by a home visitor. The shawl becomes a tangible expression of your prayer, and it fosters a greater connection between the community and those in need.

Contact: Tammy Schwichtenberg..... (414) 839-3643
Barbara Ploszay..... (414) 321-4493

Seasons of Life: a Call to Wholeness

This is a 4 week grief group that we hold several times a year. Every week, we have some teaching and opportunities to share. We include practical ideas on helping you deal with your grief. We also have a grief support potluck that happens several times a year.

Contact: Nancie Chmielewski..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 13
chmielewskin@archmil.org
Wanda Nye, Parish Nurse (414) 545-4281
wanda.nye@aurora.org

St. Luke’s Eucharistic Ministry

Members meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at St. Luke’s Medical Center to distribute communion to hospital patients. Training is provided.

Contact: Joan Hansen (414) 282-9398

Social Services

Outreach to Haiti

The parish has established a twinning relationship with Outreach to Haiti in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The twinning committee works to educate the parish community about the plight of the Haitian people and the work of Outreach to Haiti. Additionally, it holds a craft sale of Haitian-made gifts to raise funds for our twinning efforts and gathers a small number of parishioners to travel to Port-au-Prince each year to visit the Outreach to Haiti.

Contact: Ralph Stewart..... (414) 525-9412
rael1956@sbcglobal.net

St. Ben’s Meal Program

Volunteers representing OLOL serve a complete meal at St. Benedict the Moor Parish on the second Wednesday of each month. Volunteers participate by cooking and serving the meal or by donating food or baked goods.

Contact: Mel and Joan Hynek (414) 427-1450
mhynek@wi.rr.com or jhynek@wi.rr.com
Tom and Ann Runnells (414) 482-0934

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society serves the parish and its neighbors through a variety of service projects, including filling requests for food, furniture and other necessities; and addressing various needs of our parishioners.

Contact: Parish Office..... (414) 545-4316

Social Justice

Human Concerns Committee

Connects the various outreach activities sponsored by the parish and is involved in legislative advocacy. Its members help raise social consciousness and continue to grow in their own awareness as they work for justice and peace.

Contact: Parish Office..... (414) 545-4316

Social Justice Committee

Formed in 2007, The Social Justice Committee (SJC) offers a venue for individuals who want to become more involved in improving the lives of the less fortunate in our society. The committee addresses issues that affect many Americans today. During the past several years, committee members have been working to educate parishioners on fair trade, affordable healthcare, immigration reform, and environmental concerns. The SJC seeks to explore and share the social teachings of the church clearly and comprehensively so that its principles can help shape our choices and action. Together we learn and explore links between faith and life and between theology and ethics.

Contact: Parish Office..... (414) 545-4316

Worship Ministries

Music Ministry

Our Lady of Lourdes is proud of its dynamic and spirit-filled music ministries. We currently maintain an Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Resurrection Choir, Polka Mass Ensemble, Cantor Ministry, and a wealth of instrumentalists. Read below to find out how you can become involved in these exciting ministries!

Contact: Peg Kasun, Director of Music Ministries (414) 545-4316, Ext. 17
kasunp@archmil.org

to become involved in the following ministries:

Adult Choir

Adult Choir maintains a strong community through music and prayer. They meet during the school year on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00 pm, and usually sing for the 10:30 am Sunday liturgy. Membership is open to singers who are high school age or older, and no audition is required. The best time to join is in the fall, but new members are welcomed throughout the year.

Resurrection Choir

This ensemble provides music ministry for funeral liturgies. They meet to rehearse on the third Wednesday of the month from 10:45 am until noon. Resurrection Choir members are “on call” for whenever their schedule permits them to serve. No audition required.

Cantors

Cantors are experienced singers who enjoy singing solo or with small groups for liturgies throughout the year. Cantors work with the Director of Music Ministry to prepare for upcoming liturgies. Cantors are scheduled based on individual availability.

Youth Choir

Students in grades 5-12 are welcome to participate in the Youth Choir. We meet to rehearse once a month during the school year, and sing once a month at a weekend liturgy. It's a great way to meet other parish youth and to share your love of music in service to the church community. Instrumentalists as well as singers are welcome. We currently have guitar, violin, cello, viola, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, keyboards, and percussion!

Polka Mass Group

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair is an annual tradition here at Lourdes, including a Polka Mass at the Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:30 am liturgies. The Polka Mass Group includes singers and instrumentalists who begin rehearsing in September and provide music ministry for those two liturgies. Instrumentalists include accordion, guitar, bass, tuba, trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, and drums.

Instrumentalists

We welcome a wide variety of instruments, including piano, organ, guitar, bass, percussion, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and strings.

Music Ministry Assistants

Music volunteers work “behind the scenes” to help Music Ministry run smoothly. Projects include sorting and filing music, organizing materials for musicians and choirs, typesetting music using Finale software, monitoring the soundboard for concerts and liturgies, and other supportive functions. Hours and days are flexible based on availability.



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Liturgical Ministries

Liturgy is often cited as one of the “treasures” that beacons people to worship at Our Lady of Lourdes: The music, preaching, rituals, and creative approach to liturgy all contribute to provide communal prayer that speaks to the heart, mind, body, and soul. As the Vatican II Document on the Sacred Liturgy states: “*Liturgy* is the work of the people!” The spirit of worship we experience and treasure here would simply not be possible without the “work” of many, many hands.

We invite and encourage each of you to check out the many ministry opportunities listed below and become a part of what makes Our Lady of Lourdes a dynamic and faith-filled community!

Contact for the following ministries, unless otherwise stated is:

Chris Deily..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 16
deilyc@archmil.org

Liturgy Planning Team

Members of the Liturgy Planning Team are involved in the preparation and implementation of the seasonal, sacramental and feast day liturgical celebrations. This work begins with a reading and reflection of the scriptures for the season or celebration. The group then develops ideas for the various aspects of the liturgy such as the Gathering ritual, music settings, sacred movement, drama and environment. All of these elements serve to shape a kind of “seamless garment” that supports and enhances the core message of the scriptures.

Training: We welcome a diversity of members and request only that you have a love of liturgy and a willingness to share your creative spirit.

Scheduling: A yearly calendar is prepared and the team generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm.

Liturgical Art and Environment

With the various seasons comes the need to prepare our worship space to reflect the seasonal changes and celebrations. If you have a flair for art and design or would like to hone your skills in this area, you are welcome to participate.

Training: We share our ideas and skills with one another, and no formal training is necessary.

Scheduling: A yearly calendar of dates and times is prepared and available to anyone interested in participating in this ministry. These dates are also posted in the bulletin and on our website.

Lectors (Minister of the Word)

Lectors are entrusted with the proclamation of God’s Word at liturgy. More than merely reading the assigned scriptures, this ministry involves the reading and reflection of the assigned scriptures beforehand so that the message and meaning of the scriptures can be conveyed to the assembly through your proclamation.

Training is required and provided on an individual basis.

Above all else, lectors should have a love for the scriptures and be at ease speaking in public. Training is provided for all new lectors. Preparation includes the use of the Lector Workbook, which contains the readings for the yearly cycle and provides invaluable information such as the context and reflections of each readings and a pronunciation guide.

Scheduling: Schedules are prepared approximately 3-4 times a year and based upon your availability and preference of liturgy. Sign up forms are available on our web page or upon request.

Contact: Ralph Stewart (scheduling) (414) 525-9412
Marni Geissler (training) (414) 543-4726

Eucharist Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers assist the Presider in the distribution of the blessed bread and wine during the Communion rite. In a special way, Eucharistic Ministers embody Christ's presence for others and encounter Christ's presence in those they serve.

Training is encouraged and available upon request.

Scheduling: The tradition at our parish is to make this ministry available to everyone. For this reason, no formal schedule is prepared. Once trained, this ministry is filled on a "first come, first served" basis at each liturgy.

Altar Servers

Altar Servers assist the Presider in a variety of ways at liturgy, and serve the community by helping to keep the liturgy flowing smoothly. This ministry welcomes both male and female of "all ages," including those who have received their First Eucharist, teens, young adults and beyond.

Training is required and provided. New servers are always paired with an experience server until they are ready to serve on their own.

Scheduling: Schedules are generally prepared 3-4 times a year and based upon individual availability and liturgy preferences.

Sacristan/Servers for Funeral Liturgies

Responsibilities can include preparing for liturgy beforehand, assisting the Presider during liturgy, putting things away following the liturgy. All women and men, 16 years of age or older, are welcome to join this ministry.

Training is required and provided for on an individual basis. You would serve in tandem with an experienced minister until you are ready to serve on your own.

Scheduling: Funeral liturgies are scheduled at various times, including mornings and early evenings. You would be contacted to serve based upon your availability.

Weekend Sacristan

A sacristan is someone who prepares the worship space for liturgy. This can include opening doors, turning on lights, lighting candles, setting out bread and wine, etc. At the end of liturgy, the sacristan puts things away in readiness for the next liturgy. The Sacristan generally arrives one hour before liturgy begins and remains ½ hour after liturgy.

Training is required and provided. New sacristans work an experienced sacristan until they feel ready to serve on their own.

Scheduling: Schedules are based upon individual availability and liturgy preference.

General Sacristan

This ministry is open to anyone who likes to work “behind the scenes,” is organized, and is a self-starter. Duties can include keeping the sacristy well stocked and in good working order.

Training will be provided on an individual basis.

Scheduling: The time commitment is approximately one hour per week and can be done based upon your personal availability.

Ministers of Hospitality (Usher/Greeters)

This ministry offers the opportunity to greet parishioners and guests who come to worship at Our Lady of Lourdes. Hospitality Ministers are the “ambassadors” of our community since they are the “first impression” people receive when they arrive. Many new members have joined due to the welcoming presence of our Greeter-Ushers, so the ability to interact with people in a friendly and helpful way is a key quality for this ministry.

Training involves simply working with the experienced Greeter-Ushers at any given liturgy.

Scheduling is worked out between the Hospitality Ministers for a particular liturgy.

Ministry of Head Usher

This ministry provides the same opportunity to be a welcoming presence and to know our parish community. Responsibilities can include coordinating the collection, gift bearers, seating guests, handing out worship aids and bulletins, etc.

Training involves working with the Head Usher as an Usher-Greeter until ready to serve as a Head Usher.

Scheduling is worked out with other ushers.

Ministry of Sacred Movement

This ministry literally “embodies” prayer through movement and has a long-standing history at Our Lady of Lourdes. People of all ages and ability, male and female, are welcome to participate. Based upon your ability and desire, this ministry can include incense, banners, gestures, group movement, individual dance and choreography.

Training: Training and rehearsals are provided by the coordinator, Rosalita Villa.

Scheduling is done according to your availability.

Contact: Rosalita Villa (414) 305-1639
divinemovement@sbcglobal.net

Liturgical Drama

There are occasions when the scriptures are presented in a dramatic form. In addition to the spoken word, music, movement and gestures, a dramatic presentation can provide a new perspective and understanding of familiar stories. This ministry invites and includes a wide variety of abilities. Some roles require memorization while others require no speaking at all. No matter your ability, people of all ages are invited to participate in this ministry. You need only bring a love of God’s word and a desire to bring that love to life through drama.

Training: Rehearsals are always a part of this ministry where you would be working with the Drama Coordinator.

Scheduling: Since drama presentations are not regularly scheduled, a “Call for Drama Ministers” would be made by the Drama Coordinator.

Liturgical Drama Coordinator

If you are a person with a drama background and are looking to use your experience and talent with our community, this ministry is for you. You would work in tandem with the Director of Liturgy and the Liturgy Planning Team.

Wedding Assistant

This is a great ministry for married couples as well as individuals. Responsibilities can include assisting the Presider at the wedding rehearsal and wedding ceremony as needed.

Training involves working with the Director of Liturgy or another Wedding Assistant until you are confident on your own.

Scheduling: A yearly calendar of weddings is prepared, and Assistants are assigned according to availability.

Liturgical Assistants

Liturgical Assistants work “behind the scenes” to help with a variety of needs which can include collating Orders of Worship, preparing the worship aide using Publisher software, filing, music reporting, watering flowers and other supportive activities.

Scheduling is very flexible and based upon your availability.

Worship Space Audio/Visual Ministry

Full, active, and conscious participation in the liturgy is a call to all of us from the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. We are urged to engage in the liturgy through various means that speak to all people. The A/V ministry employs technology to encounter Mass in new ways. We are looking for people who like to dabble in various forms of visual media, such as video, sound, and PowerPoint. This is a great way to be involved with the Mass and indulge your inner computer “geek” at the same time. Training on our equipment will be provided.

Contact: Marc Puechner..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 12
puechnerm@archmil.org