

## ***The Gift of Time and Talent***

*1 Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

### ***Parish Committee/Commission Opportunities***

Pastoral Council: The Pastoral Council meets on a monthly basis to discuss the direction of the parish, to envision and plan for ways to meet the social and spiritual needs of our parish community.

Finance Commission: This commission assists the pastor in monitoring the financial health of the parish. We review the monthly financial statements; prepare the annual budget and the annual report to the parish.

Liturgy Committee: This committee reviews our liturgical celebrations; plans for the recruitment, training and functioning of liturgical ministers; and plans for special seasons and celebrations.

Social Concerns Committee: This committee is concerned with ways our parish can practically implement the Church's teaching on peace and justice.

Education Commission: This committee advises the school principal on the direction of our school and is a two year commitment.

Art & Environment Committee: This committee meets seasonally and is responsible for all of the different prayer opportunities offered by our parish, and works during the year to keep our parishioners well-informed, and our liturgical ministers up to date on their responsibilities and the sacredness of our prayer together.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: This committee assists the pastor in monitoring the condition of our parish buildings and property. It suggests ways of meeting our upkeep and repair needs and review maintenance proposals.

### ***Liturgy***

Greeter: Greeters are individuals or families who arrive at Mass early to welcome parishioners and guests as they arrive for Mass. We invite everyone to take a turn welcoming those who come and pray with us. Greeters are scheduled on a rotating basis, with priority given to your Mass preference(s).

Usher: Ushers are individuals who offer hospitality to those who come and pray with us. Ushers will help seat parishioners, asking a family to carry up the gifts, take-up collections, assisting with traffic and Communion lines and distribute weekly bulletins to Mass attendees, and saying "thank you" to all of those who have come and worshiped with us. Scheduled on a rotating basis, with priority given to your Mass preference(s).

Greeters/Ushers for Diocesan Events: There are several times during the year when the Bishop celebrates major events here at the Cathedral, including, but not limited to: Deaconate Ordinations, Priesthood Ordinations, Silver & Gold Anniversary Mass, and the Chrism Mass. For these Masses, we need experienced Greeters and Ushers who are available to welcome and assist these visitors to our Cathedral, making them feel welcome, and assisting them with any needs they may have.

Reader: The ministry of the Reader is a crucial role during our liturgies. When you answer the call to be a minister of the Word, you enter into a deeper relationship with the Word of God as revealed in Sacred Scripture. High School or older parishioners to read Scripture at weekend Masses, and also needed are Readers who would be available for weddings and funerals. Scheduled on a rotating basis, with priority given to your Mass preference(s).

Altar Server: Altar servers enhance the quality of the celebration for the whole gathered assembly by taking part in processions and by ensuring that all items required for the celebration are available at the appropriate moments. Parish youth, 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, to assist at weekend Masses, and also needed are altar servers who would be available for weddings and funerals. Scheduled on a rotating basis, with priority given to your Mass preference(s).

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass: Bishops, priests and deacons are ordinary ministers of Holy Communion during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Assistance is given by lay persons, trained as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. These ministers serve Christ present in the gathered assembly by ministering his body and Blood to their brothers and sisters. Individuals in good standing with the Church may help distribute Communion at Sunday Masses. Scheduled on a rotating basis, with priority given to your Mass preference(s).

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Homebound/Nursing Homes: Assistance given by lay persons, trained as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. They serve in the unity of the worshiping community by taking part in Holy Communion to those members who are prevented by sickness, old age, or other cause from being in the congregation. Individuals bring Holy Communion to Catholics at River Bluff Nursing Home.

At-Home Prayer Ministry: Persons who commit to pray at home as part of our at-home prayer chain for the needs of our parish and parishioners.

Sacristans: Sacristans not only make sure that our church is ready for prayer, but also assist our priests in getting everything in place before Mass begins. The gifts are placed on the table, the credence table is prepared with everything that we need to celebrate Mass, and the sacristy is prepared for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Other duties would include cleaning and changing the candles in church and other various duties throughout the liturgical year.

Launder Server Albs: Approximately 10 albs, 2 – 3 times per year. Launder, and repair if necessary.

Marriage Preparation Couples: Couples who meet with engaged couples individually during their preparation for sacramental marriage. These couples are trained to follow up with the couple on their responses to the “Fully Engaged” survey. Other components of the preparation process are handled by the priest.

Wedding Coordinators/Liaisons: Wedding liaisons are an essential element of our wedding preparation here at the Cathedral. Liaisons are responsible for working directly with the priest and the Director of Music & Liturgy, getting the church ready for the wedding rehearsals, walking the couples and families through the wedding liturgy, locking up after the rehearsal, being present the day of the wedding, helping with the needs of the couple and attendants, and helping with the wedding procession. This ministry requires an understanding of Catholic Liturgy, the ability to give direction, and a true heart for hospitality and ministry.

### ***Liturgical Musicians***

Cantor/Psalmist: The cantor’s function is to lead and encourage the congregation in singing. In preparation for the liturgical celebration, the cantor may introduce and teach new music to the people. Cantors lead the music at every celebration at the Cathedral. They are our song leaders, animators, and psalmists. Rehearsals are once a month for two hours.

Organist/Accompanist: The organ and other instruments not only support and encourage participation through song but also, in their own right, can powerfully assist contemplation and express praise and a variety of human feelings before God. Even at celebrations when no choir sings, musical participation can be ensured by an instrumentalist and one or more cantors. If you play a musical instrument, please let us know so that we may call on you to share your gift.

Cathedral Chorale: The Cathedral Chorale sings at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses on alternate Sundays. In addition, this group sings for evening Holy Day Masses, Midnight Mass, Triduum, Confirmation and other Liturgical Celebrations during the Church Year. This choir sings from September through May each year, and sings a wide variety of congregational music as well as varied repertoire of well-composed choral music. Rehearsals are every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass & Epiphany Choir: The Midnight Mass & Epiphany Choir is open to any singers in the Cathedral Community who would like to sing and commit to both Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, as well as Lessons & Carols on Epiphany Sunday afternoon. There are 7-8 rehearsals each year that singers are asked to attend to be part of this group. Rehearsals are Thursdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20 and Wednesday, Nov. 26 from 7-8 p.m. AND Thursdays Dec. 4, 11, 18 and Monday Dec. 22 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Choir: The Children's Christmas Choir is open to any students in Grade 3 through High School. Rehearsals are on Saturdays: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20 from 10:30 a.m. – Noon. Students are expected to attend all four rehearsals in order to participate in this choir. Warm-ups are Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m. and the students sing for the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.

## ***Art & Environment***

Coordinator of Christmas & Easter Memorial Flowers: Hands on help with posters, bulletin announcements, sign up tables, etc., offering parishioners the opportunity to donate flowers in memory of a loved one.

Christmas Flowers: Setup & Arranging flowers for a couple of hours before Christmas. Also, watering throughout the season.

Hanging of the Greens: Families or individuals help decorate the church with Christmas Décor following the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Also to help taken down and put back in storage after 5:00 p.m. Mass on Epiphany.

Lenten Décor: Hanging & Arranging our Lenten Décor in the church before Ash Wednesday.

Palm Weaving: Coordinating, weaving palms, arranging palms in church, and/or helping others to learn to weave palms before Palm Sunday. No experience necessary! Come and join us!

Take Down/Clean Up following the Chrism Mass: Holy Thursday afternoon, helping to wash tables and chairs, and resetting the Fellowship Hall and the Gym following the Chrism Mass and Luncheon.

Holy Thursday Adoration Altar: Planning and set up Altar and Tabernacle in Fellowship Hall for the transfer of the Holy Eucharist on Holy Thursday evening.

Altar Flowers (Ordinary Time): Scheduled on a rotating basis individuals prepare Altar flowers for weekends and care for the plants throughout the month.

## ***St. Anne's Society***

Launder Altar Linens: Stain removal, washing and ironing of lines used for parish Masses. Scheduled on rotating basis.

Sewing Baptism bibs: Make 12 simple bibs, one month per year for parish baptisms. Pattern provided.

Friday Church Cleaning: Men or women to vacuum/dust sanctuary, clean up pews and rooms around the sanctuary/sacristy area in preparation for weekend Masses. Scheduled on a rotating basis. A slightly different time for working, on an individual basis, may be arranged.

Funeral Luncheon Volunteer: Prepare tables, serve and clean up following parish funerals. Approximately three hours and volunteers are called on a rotating basis when funeral is announced.

Funeral Luncheon Desserts: You will be called on a rotating basis to provide a cake as needed.

Christmas Cookie Walk: Bake cookies to be donated for this St. Anne's fundraiser.

## ***Religious Education***

Teachers, Substitute Teachers, Aides for Religious Education: Teach religious education to students attending public schools. Materials provided. Classes meet on Sundays between the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Adults (post High School age) interested in investigating the Catholic faith and the possibility of being received into the Church at the Easter Vigil with the reception of Confirmation and Eucharist. Catholic adults who have been baptized but have not continued on in the faith are welcome to participate as well and complete their sacraments of initiation at the East Vigil. The process begins this fall and continues through the Easter season.

RCIA Sponsors: Catholics who accompany a catechumen or candidate for sacraments during the process of the adult catechumenate. They share faith and prayer as they participate in the sessions leading up to the celebration of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

## ***School Commission***

SCRIP Program: Assist in pickup of certificates from various businesses in the Rockford Area. Also help with Cash 'n Carry sales on Sundays following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Golf Play Day: The chairperson will help coordinate volunteers to work on the planning committee for this fall social/fundraising event. Many volunteers are needed in various capacities including, but not limited to: securing sponsors, create and distribute invitations, solicit donations, and to volunteer at the event.

Dinner Dance: Work on the planning committee for this spring social/fundraising event. Many volunteers are needed in various capacities including, but not limited to: securing sponsors, create and distribute invitations, solicit donations, and to volunteer at the event.

Fish Fry: Volunteers are needed to help in a variety of ways for our three fish fry events during Lent each year. We need bakers to provide desserts, people to help with set-up on Friday afternoons and clean-up immediately following the dinners. Also needed are people to bus tables and refill beverages throughout the evening. This is an excellent opportunity for families with teens to do something together!

Weeding and clean-up (School Playground): Help needed throughout the summer, but most help needed shortly before school begins.

## ***Finance/Office Support***

Collections Counters: Monday mornings in the Church office. Assist in processing offertory envelopes from weekend liturgies. Approximately two hours per week, scheduled on a rotating basis.

Parish Office Assistance: Assist Office Manager in the morning; fill in as needed for office help, answering phones, greeting visitors. Assist with Parish mailings.

## ***Social Concerns***

Pro-Life Committee members: Seek ways to implement the Church's teaching on the dignity of human life and the protection of human life at all stages.

Weekly Food Collection: Donate non-perishable food items to the basket at the entry to the church each weekend for those in need. The chairperson collects the food weekly and takes it to St. Elizabeth Center's food bank.

Lenten Alms Giving (Seasonal): Donate assorted items that will be taken to various social service agencies throughout the city to help those in need. The chairperson or committee member collects the items and delivers to appropriate agency.

Thanksgiving Baskets (Seasonal): A coordinator is needed to help with this vital program! We also need volunteers to help pack and deliver baskets to St. Elizabeth Center. Monetary donations are also accepted for the purchase of turkeys and other perishable food items.

Christmas Giving Tree (Seasonal): Help organize and deliver gifts donated by parishioners for children in need. The Giving Tree is set up the weekend after Thanksgiving through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. Help in needed preparing the Giving Tree gift tags, decorating the tree, and sorting and delivering the gifts.

## ***Parish Life Opportunities***

Coffee and Donuts: Facilitate fellowship within our community by the hosting of Coffee and Donuts on Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Volunteer hosts are asked to arrive early, before Mass to set up making sure that the donuts are available, and the coffee has been made, and that juice is available. Most importantly, the host family is asked to greet parishioners during the event and to clean up after the event. Scheduled on a rotating basis.

Third Source Bridge: Available to those who enjoy playing Bridge, or those who would like to learn how. This is a wonderful opportunity of entertainment and fellowship.

Parish Gardeners: Have a passion for gardening? Want to help in maintaining our Parish grounds? We are looking for individuals and families to assist in the beautification efforts.

Craftsman/Building Maintenance: Use your talents to help upkeep our Parish buildings. When signing up, please note area of expertise.

St. Joseph & Sons: In the past, many of our parishioners, along with the diocesan men's group, St. Joseph & Sons, refurbished classrooms in our school. St. Peter Cathedral has started our own chapter of St. Joseph & Sons to continue to come together and serve one another, help our school, and share our faith.