

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## COMPASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS

The **ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY** is a group that helps meet the needs of the poor in our area. Volunteers work to bring relief to those suffering in our area that may include providing food, arranging shelter and other assistance as needed. The volunteers meet with the client and discuss their needs either at the Rectory or at the client's home. The volunteer would then provide appropriate resources as needed (i.e. food that has been donated by the parish and is stored at the rectory.) They meet at 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month.

The **GIVING TREE PROJECT** is an Advent project to help families purchase gifts for Children at Christmas. The donations from Shrine Parishioners are sent to several Parishes in the inner city to be distributed to the needy families in their parish through their Christian Service Coordinator. Volunteers are needed to obtain the information from the parishes with families in need, and then supply the information on the "Tree" at Shrine. They must collect the donated monies and gifts from Shrine Parishioners and then distribute to the inner city needy.

The **VISITORS TO THE SICK** are Eucharistic Ministers who bring the Blessed Sacrament to parish members who are homebound due to illness or age. Volunteers go to the person's home or apartment to visit and bring the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Visitors also go to four institutions (Walton Woods, two American Houses and Beverly Hills Nursing Home) within our parish boundaries and distribute Holy Communion to the Catholics who live there.

Annually, Shrine hosts the **SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER (SOS)** serving 30 homeless individuals by providing overnight shelter, meals and transportation for one week, usually in September. The SOS operates 52 weeks a year, rotating from one church to another each week. There are various positions and opportunities for volunteers from being a co-chair to kitchen help, making meals, doing laundry, arranging transportation, chaperoning, etc. The time commitment will vary depending on the level of involvement. Most jobs are a 4-hour shift during the host week.

Shrine hosts the **SOUTH OAKLAND WARMING CENTER (SOWC)** serving the area's homeless individuals by providing food and a warm place to sleep during the cold winter months, specifically for 2 weeks in late winter. There are various positions and opportunities for volunteers from being a co-chair to kitchen help, making meals, blanket distribution, bulletin articles, fliers, chaperoning, etc. The time commitment will vary depending on the level of involvement. Most jobs are a 4-hour shift during the host weeks between 8 pm -12 midnight. This is currently held at the Berkley Community Church.

The **JAIL MINISTRY** is a group of people who attend to some of the spiritual and physical needs of the incarcerated in Oakland County. They collect items for the annual Christmas drive and distribute them to the inmates.

## EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FAMILY / LIFE ISSUES

The **LIFE ISSUES GROUP** is involved with bringing awareness to the parish for the rights of the unborn and our responsibilities towards preserving all life. As a volunteer on this committee you may help with the Lifespan Crosses for Life Chain (first Sunday in October), the Parish "Baby Shower", or work with the schools.

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

## FOOD SERVICE

The **FUNERAL LUNCH MINISTRY** is a group of volunteers responsible to prepare food, serve lunch and cleanup the luncheon for the bereaving Family and their guests. Volunteers are needed to set the tables for the luncheon, help prepare the food to be served, carry food to the tables and help to clean up afterwards. There are teams that rotate this service. Volunteers are also needed to just donate food staples if unable to assist in the other areas.

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

## GARDENING

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

## HISTORY / ART APPRECIATION

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

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

## NURSING

The **NURSE MINISTRY** is an organization dedicated to educate, assess and support the health needs of our parishioners. The volunteer would help with monthly blood pressure screening, annual Flu Shot Clinic, Blood drives and Educational classes as needed. Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

## PARISH LIFE

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

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

## SEWING

The **MISSION LADIES** are a group of volunteers that make items to be sold and donate the money to support the Missions. They also donate lap robes to nursing homes and baby quilts to Beaumont Hospital. Volunteers are needed to make lap robes, quilts, baby clothes and baby quilts. They need women who can sew, cut out material and/or design quilts and lap robes. Volunteers may also take the material home and work on them. They meet at 10: 00am the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month.

## SINGING / MUSIC

### LITURGICAL MUSIC

Rob Abbott, Director of Liturgical Music

Lisa Rybak, Administrative Assistant for Liturgical Music

### PARISH CHOIR

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

### SCHOLA CANTORUM

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

### YOUTH CHOIR

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

### TREBLE CHOIR

Children in third-sixth grades have the opportunity to grow as musicians and Catholics through participation in the Shrine Treble Choir. Members of the Shrine Treble Choir choose to attend at least two of four weekly rehearsals: Monday-Thursday, 3:45-5 pm in the Undercroft Choir Room. Using the hymnal and the choral repertoire as pathways into the Church’s rich musical treasury,

Treble Choristers are trained in musicianship, vocal production and sight-singing, and are prepared to join the Youth Choir and, occasionally, the Parish Choir, in offering music to the parish's Liturgy. Participation in the Shrine Treble Choir also affords many enjoyable and beneficial social and developmental experiences such as concerts, field trips, picnics and parties.

#### **GREGORIAN CHANT SCHOLA**

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

#### **SUMMER CHOIR**

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

#### **RESURRECTION CHOIR**

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

#### **HANDBELL CHOIR**

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

#### **FOLK GROUP**

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

#### **SUNDAY NIGHT SIX O'CLOCK BAND**

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

#### **MUSICIANS OF NATIONAL SHRINE PARISH**

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

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

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

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

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

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

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

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## **TEACHING**

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

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

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

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

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

## **VOCATIONS**

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

## WEDDINGS

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

## OTHER

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

The **CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION** is a model and resource for Catholic Social teachings. The Commission empowers members of Shrine Parish to fulfill the Church's mission of love, Justice, freedom and peace by responding in an organized way to meet the needs of the community. The volunteers meet to plan and discuss what is happening in all of the organizations under this commission. Most members are usually involved in another group that report to this organization. They meet at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.