



# HOPE AND TRUST IN THE LORD

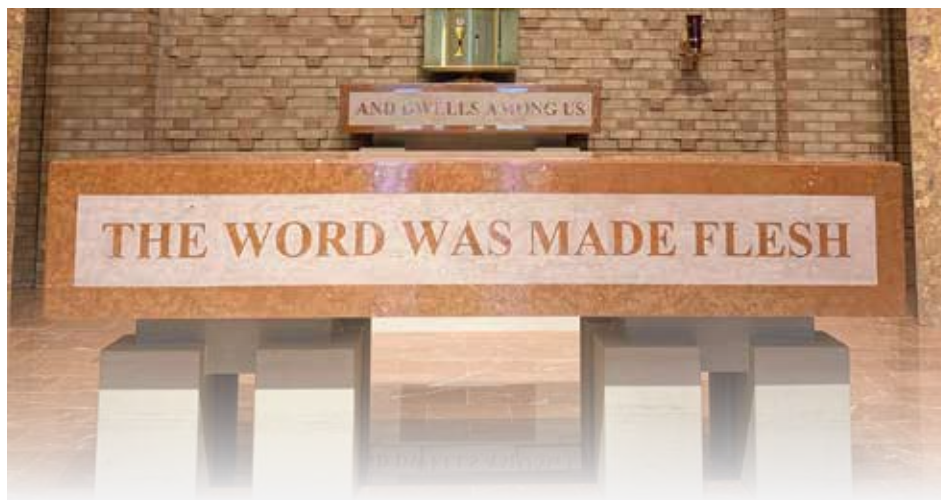
*2021 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL*



ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

# STEWARDSHIP

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## *HOPE AND TRUST IN THE LORD*

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“**H**ope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1817).

Hope summarizes the deepest longing and disposition of a disciple’s heart. It is not something we naturally possess or acquire on our own — rather, it is something that is gifted to us by the grace of God. It is through pursuit of God that we can begin to attain this virtue. Ultimately, it is through the practice of stewardship — recognizing everything as a gift from God and cultivating those gifts for His Kingdom — that we can be receptive to hope. The steward, striving for eternal life, surrenders all that he has to God, knowing that the grace of the Holy Spirit surpasses even his noblest efforts. With the virtue of hope, we will not grow weary for we recognize that God hears even our smallest requests. This is why we, as faithful stewards, are called to *Hope and Trust in the Lord!*



## GIFT OF TIME

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God has gifted us with time. How we spend our time can be an expression of love and gratitude to our Heavenly Father. Do we spend it cultivating our relationship with Him and our loved ones? Prayer is a primary way to grow in our relationship with God. It strengthens and nourishes the life of a disciple.

Christ taught us a prayer of hope — the *Our Father*. We offer this prayer at every Mass and it proclaims the hopeful message of mercy and trustful surrender. Do we pray this prayer with zeal? Do we live as we pray? It is through the very act of praying that our hearts will be willing to surrender our lives to the will of God.

Consider these ideas to deepen your prayer life:

- † Reflect on your prayer life. How can you increase the intentional time you spend with God in prayer? How can you incorporate prayer into your family life?
- † Meditate on the *Our Father*. Ask for the grace to pray it with zeal, and to live by what you pray.
- † Pray for the virtue of hope and for the grace to share the message of hope.



# GIFT OF TALENT

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Each of us has been given gifts and talents. Through the message of stewardship, we realize that we cannot take recognition for these gifts. Rather, it is through the love and generosity of our Heavenly Father that we have been blessed. We show our gratitude to God by sharing our talents for His glory. Are you using your gifts and talents to build the Kingdom of God? How is God calling you to serve Him here and now? Let us each be a vessel of God's grace to one another. We cannot quantify the effects of God at work in us!



Pray about the following possibilities:

- † Consider how God can use your talents to build up His Kingdom. Where is He calling you to offer yourself in the coming year?
- † Read through both parishes' Ministry Guidebook. Consider joining a new ministry that will help you to grow in your faith.
- † If you already serve in a ministry, reflect on how you can better serve and invite others to be part of that ministry.

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*“Let us make the very best use of the precious moments and do all in our power for His dear sake and for His greater honor and glory.” — St. Marianne Cope*

# GIFT OF TREASURE

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Just as time and talents are gifts from God, so too, are material things, or treasure. And just as the use of our time and talent can glorify God, so too, does the use of our treasure. God has a plan for every aspect of our lives, including our finances. We must learn how to take the gifts God has given us — our skills, our abilities, and our income — and surrender them to His plan for our lives. This trustful surrender fills us with hope, freedom and joy that only God can provide.

Out of love and gratitude for the gifts God has given us, reflect on the following:

- † Our parishes invite each family to give 10 percent of its gross income to God — 5 % to one’s own parish and 5% to other charities, such as Catholic Charities and other worthy causes — to give according to the scriptural tithe.
- † In order to accomplish this goal, we also must learn how to manage the remaining 90 percent. By setting goals, creating a personal budget, sticking to our budgeting plan and, most importantly, coming to a greater understanding of the role generosity plays in our financial and spiritual lives, we can all exercise good stewardship of our treasure.
- † Pray for wisdom and trust when dealing with your treasure.



# 2021 MINISTRY GUIDEBOOK

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## INTRODUCTION

This Ministry Guidebook contains the descriptions of the various ministry opportunities available at both St. Joseph and Nativity of the BVM Parishes. A brief description of each ministry is included. In addition, ALL MINISTRIES are available for members of either parish to participate in. Unless otherwise stated, all ministries are held on the St. Joseph Parish Campus. Additionally, ministries that are available at both parishes will have the leaders for each parish noted. For more information on how you can assist in or join a specific ministry, contact the Ministry Leader listed at the end of each Ministry description.

## MINISTRY LISTINGS

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

#### *Altar Servers (Adult)*

**Mission:** We are servants of the celebrant at Mass. We are there to help Father in all aspects of the celebration.

**Talent:** Be a regular member at either parish. Having been a server in the past as a youth does help, but is not necessary. Being a reliable member of your serving team for the month assigned.

**Time:** Each serving team (three members) has two months during the year that they are assigned to serve. You are not scheduled two consecutive months, but you are given a full year schedule. There may be two short meetings prior to the Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil Masses.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: (Seeking New Leader, Training Will Be Provided)*

*Call St. Joseph Office 440-988-2848 for information.*

*Ministry Leader Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com*

#### *Altar Servers (Students grades 4 through 12)*

**Mission:** To provide altar servers to assist the priest(s) during Mass on Saturdays, Sundays, weekdays, funerals, weddings and special occasions.

**Talent:** Responsibility and willingness to make a commitment.

**Time:** Moderate

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: (Seeking New Leader, Training Will Be Provided)*

*Call St. Joseph Office 440-988-2848 for information.*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com*

#### *Altar And Rosary Society (Held at Nativity of the BVM)*

**Mission:** The Altar and Rosary Society is composed of women of the parish dedicated to promoting devotion of the Rosary, and serving God and the parish through behind-the-scenes tasks, including care of the altar.

**Talent:** Women from both parishes are welcome and invited to take part in this ministry by helping with a variety of tasks, such as preparing altar cloths, general cleaning and maintaining the church, preparing meals for funerals, assisting in our “Christmas in July” event for the needy, and more.

**Time:** Variable

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marilyn Siekeres, 440-823-2061, mlsiekeres@gmail.com*



## *Church Environment*

**Mission:** To create an atmosphere that is welcoming and inviting to parishioners throughout the Liturgical Seasons. We complete this work behind the scenes and welcome new ideas.

**Talent:** Any parishioner who has creative decorating and/or craft skills.

**Time:** Variable. Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter are the biggest times to decorate the church, but with planning, God's direction and willing hearts — the work gets done.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Sue Cotton,  
440-986-1725 (Seeking Co-leader)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity:  
Marrienne Pellittieri, 440-984-2875,  
mpellittieri@yahoo.com*

## *Eucharistic Ministers at Mass*

**Mission:** To assist the celebrant priest in distributing the Body (Holy Communion) and Blood (Consecrated Wine) to parishioners present at Mass.

**Talents:** Must be a member in good standing with the Church and possess an inner spirituality and a firm belief that you are handling the Body and Blood of Christ and not just bread and wine. A firm desire to honor the commitment to be present when scheduled.

**Time:** Rotating monthly schedule(s) based on the number of ministers available per Mass. Ministers are typically scheduled to work one month at a time. There is an initial class sponsored by the diocese, and an introductory class at St. Joseph's. Thereafter, a yearly review and prayer session.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Tim Nye, Scheduler,  
440-988-3565, tnye92884@gmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Joe Siekeres,  
440-965-4001, JSiekeres @zoominternet.com*



## *Greeters*

**Mission:** To provide a team of parishioners to greet parishioners and visitors at the doors as they arrive for Mass and special events.

**Talents:** To be a welcoming and warm ambassador of our parish.

**Time:** Low, 30 minutes before the weekend Mass you usually attend and be available for some of the special Masses and events.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Phil Rawlings,  
440-897-7437, philrawoli@aol.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak,  
440-320-3508, nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com*





## Lectors

**Mission:** To proclaim the Word of God to the people of the parish during Mass.

**Talents:** The ability to read confidently and to have time to prepare prior to the Liturgy.

**Time:** Varies depending on availability. Lectors are scheduled several times of the year in two week increments and occasionally fill in as needed for Holy Days and Holidays.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Chris Annable, 440-668-0308, christineannable7@gmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Stephanie Hyster, 440-396-3454, stephanie.hyster@gmail.com*



## Sacristans

**Mission:** To work as a team to clean the church and chapel. Also, to help set up before and clean up after special Masses such as funerals and weddings.

**Talent:** A desire to keep the Lord's house clean.

**Time:** We have four teams that tidy up around the sanctuary and pews. This light work takes no more than two hours a week; each team straightens up for a two-week period and rotates every eight weeks. The time is flexible, so you can fit it into

your week of activities. We welcome new volunteers to help out.

**Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: (Seeking New Leader, Training Will Be Provided)**

*Call St. Joseph Office 440-988-2848 for information.*

*Ministry Leaders at Nativity: Cindy and Paul Miller, 440-670-1300, cindystemmill@yahoo.com*

*Kathy and John Rokasy, 440-775-1147, hungarian44074@yahoo.com*



## Ushers

**Mission:** To provide a team of parishioners to greet, usher, and distribute bulletins at weekend Masses and to usher at Holy Days and special events as needed. Would like to have at least six regular ushers at every Mass.

**Talents:** A warm smile and the ability to make parishioners and guests feel welcome.

**Time:** Low, one hour per week during Mass when scheduled.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Jeff Mount, 440-984-4223, jfmount182@gmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marrienne Pellitteri, 440-320-3875, mpellitteri@yahoo.com*



## MUSIC MINISTRIES

### *St. Joseph and Nativity BVM Music Ministry*

**Mission:** The St. Joseph & The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Music Ministry is inviting all ages, teens, adults and children to come and be part of a growing and engaging ministry at the parishes. Under the direction of Christina Dupre. The worship and liturgy coordinator, along with Ed Klimczak, will be working together to bring us all to worship and engage the congregation. This includes instrumentalists. The ministry will also include religious dramas and a media ministry. Be sure to mark the Commitment Card for the area(s) in which you are interested. Come, now is the time to worship!!!

**Talent:** Ability to sing and/or play musical instrument.

**Time:** Schedule to be developed after Stewardship Renewal.

*Ministry Leader: Christina Dupre, 440-988-2848, Christina.dupre37@gmail.com*



### *Resurrection Choir*

**Mission:** To sing for funeral liturgies at St. Joseph or Nativity parish. Provide a sense of parish support to the families of the deceased.

**Talents:** Availability during the day and the ability to sing.

**Time:** Variable — Approximately one hour per funeral. No rehearsals or meetings required.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph/Nativity: Sheila Montgomery, 440-988-5367, alsheila20@hotmail.com*

## SPIRITUAL LIFE AND EVANGELIZATION MINISTRIES

### *Adoration (Held at Nativity of the BVM)*

**Mission:** To help parishioners experience grace in their lives through spending time in meditation, prayer, and adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Talent:** A desire to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord.

**Time:** One hour per week, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 10 p.m.

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Josie Tornabene, 440-988-7773, josie19114@yahoo.com*

### *Prayer Chain*

**Mission:** That people will welcome everyone with their needs so we can offer the tender gift of prayer.

**Talents:** A willingness to pray for others.

**Time:** Daily — Pray for special intentions.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Mary Tornabene, 440-396-9358, bene131@yahoo.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Nancy Smith, 440-731-2369, j.NSLWKSHP@aol.com*



## *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)*

**Mission:** To welcome all inquirers — those not yet baptized into a Christian faith, those of other Christian faiths, and Catholics who have not yet celebrated the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation — to help them feel comfortable and eager to learn about Christianity and the Catholic Church, and to prepare those who choose to continue, to receive the Catholic Church's Sacraments of Initiation.

**Talents:** All that is required to participate in our Parishes' RCIA program, as one pursuing either entry into the Catholic faith or completion of their Sacraments of Initiation, is an open heart, some regular homework, and regular attendance at the meetings and events. To be a member of our RCIA team, one must (1) be at least 18 years of age and a baptized, practicing Catholic who has celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, (2) have a good knowledge of the Catholic religion and its beliefs and teachings as shown by Scripture and Tradition, (3) have a willingness to learn more about and to teach our religion, and a willingness to share your own personal journey of faith with the other team members and the RCIA participants, (4) have a regular prayer life, and (5) keep confidential the private information others share in the RCIA process.

**Time:** The exact manner in which we'll be pursuing RCIA 2021-2022 is uncertain due to pandemic uncertainties. The program to which we

would like to return has team members and the RCIA participants meeting for approximately one-and-a-half hours one evening a week, from September until approximately Divine Mercy Sunday. All are expected to prepare for the meetings with assigned readings and tasks to be completed prior to the meeting. In addition, from the First Sunday of Advent through Palm Sunday each RCIA participant in the past was expected to attend a weekend Mass through the homily, and then leave the congregation with some team members and the RCIA participants for a post-homily discussion and reflection until that Mass is concluded. There are additional celebrations and events involving the team and participants throughout Holy Week that we would like to celebrate in 2022. The program's meetings, preparations for our meetings, and event commitments, as related above, require a fairly high level of time commitment from participants. The additional time required of team members, in program development and participation, is medium.

*Ministry Leader: Tom Theado,*

*440-320-8652, TomTheado@aol.com*

*Co-Leader: Brian Sarvas, 440-396-8329,*

*Sarvii@hotmail.com*



## *Wonderful Women*

**Mission:** For the women of our parishes to grow closer to God and to each other through scripture, discussion, prayer, and laughter. Each month will celebrate the lives of women with a different topic to help us grow in discipleship.

**Talent:** There are opportunities to play a role, or you can just come once a month and enjoy yourself. Because there are different topics each month, we will be looking for ideas on presentation topics and presenters. Volunteers will be asked to bring a snack or baked item. For anyone interested in music, a song or two will always be included.

**Time:** Meetings are monthly on a Monday from 7-8:30 p.m. Date and location will be announced in the Sunday bulletin. Each meeting is independent of the next, with no continuing content. Come when you can! For anyone baking or presenting, it's just the amount of time you want to commit for that month.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Olivia Toney, 440-670-5933, olivia.sliman@gmail.com*

## *Men's Group*

**Mission/Purpose:** For the men of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes to grow closer to God through fellowship, scripture, prayer, and community service.

**Talents:** All men are welcome to join! If you would like to help plan our book and video series or bring ideas for discussions, we would love your input!

**Time:** Our group meets once every two weeks for about an hour. Date, time, and locations are sent out via

email. Our meetings usually follow the following format: opening prayer - sharing of moments of grace in our lives - discussion of book/video study - closing prayer. In addition to our meetings, we also serve meals at the St. Elizabeth center, visit the nursing homes, and participate in other community activities.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Nick Toney, 440-452-6021, nicktoney012@gmail.com*

## **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

### *Bakers*

**Mission:** To help offer hospitality for various parish events, and to help offer comfort to people grieving the loss of a loved one, by baking for funeral luncheons. Please sign for one or more of the following: general baking, funeral baking, and/or making phone calls.

**Talent:** Baking or purchasing baked goods and/or making phone calls when baked goods are needed.

**Time:** Variable, dependent on parish activities and funeral luncheon needs, as well as the number of parish Bakers. Generally Bakers are asked three or four times a year.

Funeral Bakers may be needed more frequently. Calls are rotated through the list so no one is overburdened. Callers are provided with a list of people to call for each event.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph and Nativity: Evelyn Caffarel, 440-984-3675, ecaff809@gmail.com*

### *Cub Scout Pack 3429*

**Mission:** Instill values in young men and prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime. To help

instill solid values, confidence and citizenship in young people through Scouting, related activities, and events.

**Talents:** Willingness to assist the Scouts in meeting requirements for advancements to higher ranks.

**Time:** Pack 3429 meets once a month during the school year. Dens of Pack 3429 meet throughout the school year also to accomplish small projects and adventures required for advancement.

Kids can also earn more badges through home projects and activities.

*Ministry Leader: Erik McKnight, 361-438-1355, erikmpower@gmail.com*

### ***Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound, Hospitalized, and Nursing Homes (St. Joseph)***

**Mission:** To facilitate the reception of Holy Communion to those who are unable to be present at Mass due to illness or disability. Eucharistic Ministers distribute Holy Communion to those living in private homes, nursing homes, and hospitals in the Amherst area.

Personal transportation is necessary.

We would like for anyone who cannot

attend Mass to have the opportunity to be visited and receive the Holy Eucharist each week. Help is especially needed on Sunday Mornings after the 8:30 a.m. Mass for distributing Communion at Amherst Manor.

**Time:** One or two hours on Sunday mornings after Mass. Four to eight Sundays during the year.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Tootie Tsacoumangos, 440-864-5438, johmandtootie@gmail.com*

*Scheduler: Rita Hiser, 440-984-7087*

### ***Communion to Shut Ins (Nativity)***

**Mission:** To facilitate the reception of Holy Communion to those who are unable to be present at Mass due to illness or disability. Eucharistic Ministers distribute Holy Communion to those living in private homes, in nursing homes and hospitals in the general Amherst area. People wishing to receive Holy Communion are to contact the Ministry Leader directly. Personal transportation is necessary.

**Time:** One or two hours after Mass.

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Joe Siekeres,*

*440-965-4001, jsiekeres@zoominternet.net*



## *Funeral Luncheon Ministry*

**Mission:** To assist grieving members of our parish communities by planning and serving a post-funeral luncheon either at St. Joseph or Nativity's social hall. Often after the Mass and burial, families choose to come together to share a meal and spend time remembering the person who died in a more informal setting. Together with the parish staff, this ministry not only provides information about area caterers, menus and venues to help in the decision making process, but also provides volunteers to help coordinate and serve the luncheon.

**Talents:** A willingness to help set-up, serve, clean up, and provide baked goods or side dishes when requested.

**Time:** Two hours on the day of the funeral, and can select any or all of set up, serve and clean up.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Helen Coughlin, 440-984-8758, markandhelenc@gmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marylin Siekeres, 440-823-2061, mlsiekeres@gmail.com*



## *Giving Tree — St. Joseph*

**Mission:** To show Christian love and care for others by providing, collecting, and distributing gifts to the less fortunate through local organizations at Christmas

time. Please sign up for providing gifts and/or to join the committee for helping with the collecting, and distributing of gifts. Parish children make and decorate the ornaments used for this ministry.

*On your commitment card, please check one (or both) of the following areas in which you are willing to participate:*

**Administration Talent** – Helping with one or more of the following:

- 1) create computer labels to be placed on ornaments showing gifts needed;
- 2) decorate Christmas trees with paper ornaments before or after a weekend Mass on the first and second Sundays of Advent; consolidate gifts on the Monday following the second Sunday of Advent;
- 4) Move gifts from under the trees to the social hall lobby after weekend Masses on the third Sunday of Advent;
- 5) deliver gifts to designated organizations on the Monday or Tuesday following the third Sunday of Advent;
- 6) act as a liaison to one of the organizations served by this ministry.

**Gift-giving Talent** – I wish to donate gift or gifts cards to those most in need.

**Time:** As little as 15-20 minutes or as much as two hours for one of the listed jobs, longer if you are involved in more than one area of service.

*Ministry Leader: Evelyn Caffarel, 440-984-3675, ecaff809@gmail.com*

## *Giving Tree — Nativity*

**Mission:** To collect toys and clothes for Catholic Charities in Lorain. We get family profiles from there which list

children's ages and boy or girl. We only buy for younger children, not teenagers. The toys and clothes are unwrapped per family and delivered to Catholic Charities the week before Christmas.

**Talents:** Placing paper ornaments on the trees and the sorting/grouping of gifts.

**Time:** Approximately 12 hours per year, during the Advent Season

*Ministry Leader: Diane Kirsch, 440-935-2301, dmk0259@centurytel.net*

### **Golden Agers**

**Mission:** To share fellowship and offer informational programs on a monthly basis to members of both parishes as well as people living in the Amherst/Lorain area. All are welcome.

**Talent:** A desire to share fellowship.

**Time:** Various activities during the year.

*Ministry Leader: Joyce Nye, 440-988-3565, tnye92884@gmail.com*

### **Health and Wellness Ministry**

**Mission:** To extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of the church community we serve. We provide education to raise health awareness to the church community through health screenings, health counseling and linking people to appropriate community resources.

**Talents:** A license in the State of Ohio as a RN or LPN, a person with a health related occupation or a person interested in wellness, the ability to understand and communicate the relationship of body, mind and spirit to health and wellness, understanding of the commitment of the Church's mission in fostering

wellness in today's society, good communication, interpersonal and caring skills, and the understanding that the Health Ministry/Nurse Program is a health education service not "hands-on" nursing.

**Time:** Commitment of time is 30 minutes to one hour, six to eight times a year when health screenings are scheduled after weekend Masses.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Kathy Norheim, 440-984-3366, 2weln@jetnet.org*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Debby Romes, 440-988-4515, debromes@yahoo.com*



### **Hospitality Ministry**

**Mission:** To offer hospitality for various parish events, making people feel welcome and comfortable and giving St. Joseph a reputation as hospitable parish. To welcome back Catholics who have been away from the Church.

**Talent:** A friendly and welcoming attitude and enjoying talking to others.

**Time:** 90 minutes once a month on Sundays after Mass, plus occasional special events, to set up, serve refreshments and clean up.

*Ministry Leader: Phil Rawlings, 440-897-7437, philrawli@aol.com*

## *Knights Of Columbus*

**Mission:** The Knights are Catholic men who are committed to supporting St. Joseph and Nativity BVM Parishes, enhancing our own faith and our family lives, and making our community a better place.

**Talent:** A strong desire to serve.

**Time:** Various service activities during the year.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Mike Hughes,  
440-654-0129, hughesm@cmha.net*



## *Meals For The Shelter*

**Mission:** To provide one hot meal the first Friday of each month throughout the year for the St. Elizabeth Center in Lorain. This ministry provides a way of continuing the mission of Jesus to evangelize the world by showing our love and care for our homeless brothers. Our members are organized into six groups, each with a captain who leads 12 to 15 individuals, who cook enough food to serve 50 people a meal.

**Talents:** The only prerequisite is the desire to serve the needy with your gifts and talents. All the meals are prepared at your own expense, but because of the number of parishioners involved, each individual is only asked to make enough food to feed approximately six people.

**Time:** Once part of team, the time

for the individuals involved is fairly low, preparing a meal roughly twice a year.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Linda Howell,  
440-989-1513, howelll@howellapparel.com*

## *Mission Team at St. Joseph*

**Mission:** Sharing our God-given gifts by building relationships with many people, supporting projects, helping people in ways that are meaningful and lasting, and sharing the Gospel. More importantly, the mission team goals are to know our brothers and sisters in Christ, to love and serve them. Jesus gives us the freedom to go into our mission trips and serve others with the goal of just plain ministering, whether it is going on a mission trip to El Salvador, helping Catholic Charities, or donating to special causes in which the Mission Team has been involved.

**Talent:** Willing hands and hearts from both parishes with the willingness to love people.

**Time:** One meeting every other month; one to two hours. Volunteering for fundraisers once a year. If desired a one-week mission to El Salvador.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: John Sabo,  
440-984-4429, stjosephmissionteam@gmail.com*

## *Picnic Committee*

**Mission:** To plan and coordinate the annual parish picnics with the hope of gathering parishioners, old and young alike, to enjoy food, fun, and games together. Even though the picnics are held individually at this time, parishioners are encouraged to attend one another's picnic and even join the committees from both parishes to help



in the planning process.

**Talent:** The ability to help in planning, decorating, and overseeing games for children and adults.

**Time:** Moderate. Due to current uncertainties, the exact picnic planning process and time commitments will be determined at a later date.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Carol Shinsky,  
440-989-1323, gabejonsmom@hotmail.com*

**(Seeking New Leader, Training Will Be Provided)**

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak,  
440-320-3508, nativysouthamherst@gmail.com*

### *Pre-Baptism Formation for New Parents*

**Mission:** The Sacrament of Baptism is the foundation of Christian Life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments. The Pre-Baptism Preparation Team seeks volunteers to assist in facilitating classes that help parents prepare for their children's reception of this holy sacrament.

Parents are required to attend classes.

**Talent:** The desire to assist parents in the formation process prior to baptism.

**Time:** Classes are held quarterly for one and a half hours.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Karen Schneider,  
440-212-4920, kschneider27@hotmail.com*

### *Vincentians*

**Mission:** To assist those who are in need of the basic necessities of life in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

**Talents:** A strong compassion for those in need and a desire to help them.

**Time:** Hourly meetings once every two weeks to review assistance given to those in need. Approximately 30 minutes to gather food from pantry when calls come in for assistance; longer if food is delivered.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Ed Molnar,  
440-320-0120, e.molnar@oh.rr.com*



## *Voices For Life*

**Mission:** To utilize available resources including but not limited to those available from The Lorain County Right to Life Organization, the Cleveland Diocese, or the USCCB to develop ways to inform and educate Parishioners on topics such as abortion, human trafficking, Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS), Euthanasia (Mercy Killing), or types of Advance Directives which each of us need in case we lose our ability to make medical choices for ourselves. As a team, we will discern how best to disseminate this information to our Parish Family and offer ways to take action.

**Talents:** A genuine interest in learning about LIFE issues and a willingness to help determine how best as Catholic Christians we can support LIFE in all its stages, and a desire to help share our findings with others through the written word, available videos/movies, or possibly arranging short programs with speakers who are more expert than we are.

A wide variety of people would be ideal so as to be a microcosm of our Parish Family. This would help develop ways of sharing that would interest more people.

**Time:** We will have an organizational meeting to determine a path that will suit our team members and proceed to develop a working schedule of meetings to cover the topics we choose to focus on this year. Most likely meetings would be no more than twice a month for an hour dependent on

what the team members wish to accomplish this year.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Evelyn Caffarel, ecaff809@gmail.com, 440-984-3675*

## **ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL MINISTRIES**

*To keep our children safe, all those who work with or volunteer their services involving children must receive VIRTUS training, fingerprinting and a background check.*

### *Athletic Association/C.Y.O.*

**Mission:** To promote Christ's teachings through athletics.

CYO Mission Statement: CYO inspires young people to know God, to love God, and to serve God through athletics.

**Talents:** A love of sports and a commitment to serving the youth of our parishes. Coaches are first and foremost youth ministry leaders in athletics who serve the Church, young people, and families as compelling witnesses of the love, mercy, and compassion of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis reminds us: "How important it is that a coach be an example of integrity, of coherence, of good judgement, of impartiality, but also of the joy of living; of patience, of capacity to esteem and of benevolence to all, especially the most disadvantaged. And how important it is that he or she be an example of faith!" Volunteers must receive VIRTUS training with fingerprinting and background check.

**Time:** Moderate – Quarterly association meetings, helping with fundraisers. Coaches times also include practice and games.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Jim Yanosko, 216-496-5303, jyanosko@roadrunner.com*

## **IMMERSION: High School Youth Ministry**

**Mission:** to nurture our teens' souls in an active, interesting, and practical way. IMMERSION is designed to uplift, motivate, encourage, strengthen and guide the youth in their relationship and understanding of our Lord. It should prepare them to face the challenges to their faith as Catholic young men and women and help them find the fulfillment God longs for them. As a volunteer, you can assist in this monthly ministry as teens socialize, discover, and freely ask questions about the Catholic faith and the challenges they may encounter in today's world. Volunteers serve as examples of disciples, helping with discussion, activities, and general needs such as set-up and clean-up when needed. Through fun activities, short lessons, media, and service, the students and volunteers are fortified with the importance of personal prayer, helping others, Scripture, the Mass and the sacraments.

Motto: "Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths." Psalm 3:6

**Talents:** Genuine interest in spiritual and physical welfare of high school teens and their daily interests and challenges. Volunteers must receive VIRTUS training with fingerprinting and a background check. Those especially in their twenties are encouraged to volunteer.

**Time:** We meet usually the 3rd Sunday of each month following 11 a.m. Mass in the former convent for 2 hours. We also have additional times based on helping others, fund raisers, and special events or retreats. Volunteers for this

ministry do not have to be available to help at every meeting or session.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph:  
John Kowalski (440) 309-5006,  
johnkowalski@stjosephamherst.com*

## **IMMERSION 7/8: Youth ministry for 7th and 8th graders**

**Mission:** To deepen our junior high students understanding and appreciation for the Mass and the Catholic faith in a fun-filled, informal environment. Through discussions, activities, and games. We explore different parts and aspects of God's great gift of the Mass in a relaxed, fast-paced hour which brings the faith to life in a unique, memorable and fun way for our youth.

**Talents:** Volunteers help by participating and helping with games, activities, and set-up and clean-up (if needed.) Volunteers must receive VIRTUS training with fingerprinting and a background check. Those especially in their twenties are encouraged to volunteer.

**Time:** We meet currently the 2nd Friday of each month 7-8 p.m. (Sept.-May) in the former convent for 1 hour. We also have additional times based on helping others, fund raisers, and special events or retreats and combined events with the IMMERSION high school group. Volunteers for this ministry do not have to be able to help at every meeting or session.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph:  
John Kowalski (440) 309-5006,  
johnkowalski@stjosephamherst.com*

### **3 AND 4-YEAR OLD PRE-SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, GRADES 1 TO 8**

**Mission:** To provide rigorous curriculum rooted in faith in an environment that fosters self-reliance. Students are immersed in social justice teachings and 21st century learning to help them achieve their maximum potential.

**Talent:** All parents who are part of St. Joseph Parish School, either in the day school or preschool, are considered members of this important ministry as they support the education of their students and SJS each day. SJS is committed to providing high quality STEM education to our students. If you believe that you can help support a project at the school or have an idea where the school can support a project in the community, please feel free to contact the school principal.

**Time:** Varies by project.

*Ministry Leader St. Joseph Parish School Principal:  
Amy Makruski, 440-988-4244, ext. 211,  
amy.makruski@sjs-amherst.org*



### **Parish School of Religion (P.S.R.)**

**Mission:** To help children from both parishes (from Kindergarten to Grade 8) develop as faith filled, committed Catholics ready to serve our Church and our world by instructing them in the ways of the Gospel. To continue to proclaim our faith as we have been commissioned to do by Jesus, “Go and teach all nations.” Volunteers are always welcome.

**Talents:** A love of children and to witness your Catholic faith in word and action. A willingness to learn more about doctrine and catechesis at an adult level. Stipends are offered to volunteers who are willing to work towards diocesan certification or hold valid teaching credentials. VIRTUS training required.

**Time:** Large time commitment  
*Ministry Leader St. Joseph PSR Principal:  
Angie Eads, 440-988-4244, ext. 247,  
angela.eads@sjs-amherst.org*

### **St. Joseph Parish School Parent Club**

**Mission:** To provide support for the educational and recreational needs of children attending St. Joseph Parish School and to promote a good working relationship between parents, teachers, pastor and principal. Our vision is to help people see SJPS as more than just a school their child/children attend, but to also encourage them to be part of this great group who share the same goals for our children, which is providing them with a faith filled education. We do a variety of activities from

service, family fun, fundraisers and enrichment.

**Talents:** All parents with a student at SJPS are automatically members.

**Time:** Time given is at the discretion of each member in regards to meeting attendance, volunteering, fundraising, etc.

*Ministry Leader St. Joseph Parish School Principal:  
Amy Makruski, 440-988-4244, ext. 211,  
amy.makruski@sjps-amherst.org*

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION MINISTRIES

### *Bulk Mailers/Bulletin Stuffers*

**Mission:** To process (fold, seal, and label) the 2,200-plus monthly joint newsletters and various once a year projects as necessary in preparation for mailing. This group also places inserts in the Sunday bulletins as needed.

**Talent:** The ability to work with others in a variety of tasks.

**Time:** This is a daytime ministry and requires approximately three hours for bulk mailings and one hour for bulletin inserts. Because of the large number of volunteers within this ministry, you may only be called once or twice a year.

*Ministry Leader: Pam Belskis, 440-985-1054,  
pambelskis@wowway.com (Seeking New  
Leader, Training Will Be Provided)  
Scheduler: Tillie Sroka, 440-988-3138,  
t717@centurytel.net*

### *Collection Counters*

**Mission:** Weekly counting of collections. In addition, individuals

are responsible for reconciling the totals to the deposit sheet.

**Talent:** Must be able to keep information confidential and be able to follow directions.

**Time:** One time a month with a 90-minute time commitment. There are four teams with three people on each team.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Allison Smith,  
440-988-8613, dsmith14@oh.rr.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: (Seeking New  
Leader, Training Will Be Provided)*



### *Gardeners*

**Mission:** Beautify the grounds of the churches, school, rectory and convent.

**Talents:** Gardening skills

**Time:** Variable

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: (Seeking New  
Leader, Training Will Be Provided)*

*Call St. Joseph Office 440-988-2848 for information.*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Carol Zellmer,  
440-984-2970, dmk0259@centurytel.net*



## *Pastoral Council*

**Mission:** To provide an ongoing response to the spiritual, social, educational and economic needs of the parish, local and global community.

**Talents:** A willingness to work with the pastor as part of a consultative body, a dedication to the mission and spiritual welfare of the parish, a commitment to work in a group process of prayer, consensus building and planning, a commitment and ability to give time to attend meetings and to prepare for them sufficiently.

**Time:** Up to eight one-hour meetings per year plus ad-hoc committee commitments.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Dan Bullock, 440-989-1323, netcando@hotmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: (New Council will be formed based on response from Stewardship Renewal Commitment Cards)*



## *Stewardship Council*

**Mission:** The Stewardship Council helps the pastor guide the development of stewardship within the parish. The first duties of Council members are to educate themselves and to live as good Christian stewards. Only in this way can members intelligently advise the pastor and become credible witnesses to other parishioners. The Council will also seek ways to promote stewardship within the parish through year-round communication and special initiatives, and most importantly, by supporting the annual Stewardship Commitment Renewal.

**Talent:** Council members should be very active in Parish activities and/or in other Ministries and have a strong commitment to making Stewardship a way of life in our Parish. Members should have organizational skills as well as planning, implementation, creativity, and communication skills.

**Time:** Council typically meets once a month for approximately one and a half hours. Planning meetings are held as needed, typically two or three a year.

*Ministry Leader: Jim Pecchio, 330-631-9948, carminep49@yahoo.com*



## A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom. We are reminded by the Psalmist that Yours is “the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it”. We know that it is from Your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Allow us to grow in a greater respect for all human life. Help us to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them and the resources of our planet generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus’ name.

AMEN



# YOUR OFFERING TO GOD

TIME	TALENT	TREASURE
<p><b>SPENDING TIME WITH GOD IN PRAYER</b></p> <p>Spending time in prayer is vitally important for our relationship with God. How will you choose to budget your time in a way that reflects the importance of that relationship?</p> <p>Please check the circles next to your commitments to prayer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days (online or in person)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend weekday Mass at least once a week</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend Adoration once a month</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spend at least 15 minutes a day in personal prayer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet Daily</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray together with my loved ones</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read the Bible for at least one hour a week</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray the Rosary at least weekly</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Go to Reconciliation every other month</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for the sick of our parish</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invite a friend or acquaintance to Mass</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for our country daily</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for an increase in vocations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for our priests</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for persecuted Christians</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for life from conception to natural death</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for those serving in the military</li> </ul>	<p><b>USING MY TALENTS IN PARISH</b></p>  <p><b>HOPE AND TRUST IN THE LORD</b></p> <p>NATIVITY OF THE BVM P 2021 COMMITMENT MY OFFERING OF TIME, TALENT &amp; TREASURE</p> <p>First &amp; Last Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Spouse: First &amp; Last Name _____</p> <p>Spouse: Phone _____</p> <p>Spouse: Email _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>Please complete this card using the envelope provided.</p>	<p><b>FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE CHURCH</b></p> <p>Everything we have is a gift from God, including our treasure. Out of gratitude, let us offer the first fruits of these gifts, not just to God, but to our community.</p>  <p><b>HOPE AND TRUST IN THE LORD</b></p> <p>ST. JOSEPH PARISH 2021 COMMITMENT CARD MY OFFERING OF TIME, TALENT &amp; TREASURE</p> <p>First &amp; Last Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Spouse: First &amp; Last Name _____</p> <p>Spouse: Phone _____</p> <p>Spouse: Email _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Please complete this card and bring it to Mass or mail using the envelope provided. Thank you and God bless you!</p>

*Please bring your completed commitment card to Mass on Oct. 9/10, or mail it to your parish in the envelope provided.*

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

### ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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