

Prince of Peace: Called to discipleship

As it says in I Corinthians 12:4-7, each one of us has gifts that benefit the community:

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”

I invite you to browse through this book and find those opportunities that allow you to use those gifts to enrich the mission of Prince of Peace.

You might provide a home-cooked meal for a homebound parishioner, or take the Eucharist to a shut-in after Mass. You might help serve brunch to welcome new parishioners. You might plant flowers to beautify our outdoor space. You might help in the library, or oversee our food pantry that serves the less fortunate.

You might share your faith by assisting with RCIA classes or leading Ministry of the Word sessions with children. You might share your musical gifts. You might plan spiritual events or assist the parish in reaching its fiscal goals.

There is a place for you! As earthly Disciples of Christ, we are called to serve by using the unique gifts the Lord has given each of us. Please read this Called to Discipleship stewardship booklet and pray about where the Lord is leading you. Through prayer, discernment, education and formation, we all can better share our talents with others.

No matter how you serve, you will be warmly welcomed. For more information on any opportunity, or to volunteer to participate, call the church at 308-236-9171.

Prince of Peace Mission Statement

United in the Sacraments as the Body of Christ, we the members of Prince of Peace Catholic Parish extend the welcoming arms of Jesus, opening the world to God's presence through works of love, hospitality, mercy and prayer.

You are needed!

All parishioners are invited to participate in any of the ministries.

For information on how to become involved please call the parish office at 308-236-9171.

PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

New Liturgical Ministers are welcome and needed for our parish Masses. Contact the church office at 308-236-9171 if interested. Liturgical ministers are generally scheduled one weekend per month and encouraged to volunteer as needs arise.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EME) (training is required)

Who: lay women and men who have been confirmed

*assist the priest with distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during the Mass

*clean and replace sacred vessels in the sacristy

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to the Homebound (training is required)

Who: lay women and men who have been confirmed

*take God's Word, the Eucharist, prayer and conversation to parishioners who are unable to attend Mass

*generally visit the homebound between 9am-10:30 a.m. on Sunday

Greeters/Hospitality Ministers (training is required)

Who: families and individuals

*greet visitors and parishioners as they enter the church

*distribute worship sheets

*take up the collection

*hand out the weekly bulletin

*properly secure the financial contributions

Lectors (training is required)

Who: lay women and men in high school or older

*proclaim the Scripture during Masses

Servers (training is required)

Who: parishioners fourth grade and older

*assist the priest during Mass and other liturgical celebrations

Music Ministers

Who: adults, youth, children, vocalists and instrumentalists

*provide meaningful music during church services

Gift Bearers

Who: interested parishioners of all ages

*process to the altar during Mass to offer the community's gifts of bread, wine and monetary contributions

Sacristans (trained by shadowing experienced sacristans)

Who: adult lay women and men

*prepare sacred vessels with bread and wine for Masses

*set-up additional items needed for various weekend Masses.

Weekend Coordinators (trained by shadowing experienced coordinators)

Who: adult lay women and men

*confirm presence/attendance of scheduled liturgical ministers before Mass and secure substitutes if necessary

Sound System Volunteers (training is required)

Who: adult women and men

*operate the sound system during Masses and liturgical events

Sanctuary Assistants: Guidelines are provided for these ministries

Plant Ministers

*care for the plants and flowers in the worship space

Heavenly Dusters

*remove unwanted debris, straighten the books, and dust the pews

Laundry Ministers

*launder, iron and fold altar linens

*launder servers' albs

Candle Ministers

*replace votive candles

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Who: adult women and men volunteer as team presenters or sponsors to assist adult women and men (18 years or older) who desire to become full members of the Catholic Church

*RCIA catechetical team members and sponsors engage in prayer, instruction, and guidance with candidates during weekly sessions

*accompany each candidate on her/his faith journey during Rites/rituals at Masses that culminate during the Easter Vigil with the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Small Christian Communities (training is available for group leaders)

Who: adult lay women and men

*small communities regularly gather in prayer, scripture study, and faith-sharing to explore the Catholic faith

Catholics Come Home

Who: Catholic adults who volunteer to meet with inactive Catholics who are considering a return to the Church

*leadership team compassionately assists persons through a transitional process of information, prayers, listening and sharing sessions

Baptism Preparation Program

Who: trained parishioner meets with expectant couples and parents of newborns

*session focuses on the sacrament of baptism and responsibilities of the parents and godparents

Marriage Preparation

Who: trained couples, priest or deacon meet with engaged couples seeking to understand more fully the sacramental nature of God's gift of marriage

*couples learn more about themselves, their partner and their relationship as they plan for married life

*natural family planning session is required

Engaged Encounter

Who: parish leaders for engaged couples

*offer a guided weekend experience in Omaha or Lincoln during which engaged couples examine themselves, their values, and their relationship with God and each other

Marriage Encounter

Who: parish leaders assist married couples

*offer a weekend opportunity in Omaha or Lincoln for spouses to revitalize their marriage and learn ways to share a more joyful and purposeful life together

Retrouvaille (a French word meaning rediscovery):

Who: Trained leaders assist couples with marital distress, whether separated or divorced

*offer weekend event in Omaha or Lincoln followed by sessions that provide practical tools and communication techniques

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Safe environment training is required for anyone ministering among children

Catechists

Who: adult lay women and men

*plan and teach designated curriculum to a class of children

*assist parents in the religious, moral and spiritual formation of their children and Christian outreach to those in need

*prepare children for celebration of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation

Catechist Aid

Who: adult lay women and men

*assists the catechist of the faith formation classes

*helps students with projects and assignments

*may help prepare work for the next class or substitute if the teacher is absent

Youth Ministry

Who: adult lay women and men

*sessions are prepared to draw young people into responsible participation in the life and missions of the Church

*opportunities include Edge, Life Teen, Higher Ground, Teens Encounter Christ, Totus Tuus, Going Bananas for Jesus and the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

Children's Liturgy of the Word (training and guidelines are available)

Who: adult lay women and men and youth 16 years and older

*guides children (ages 4-6) in listening, understanding and celebrating God's presence in the Word and in their lives

*leads children out of 10:30 a.m. Mass, presents a Scripture reading and lesson, and dismisses them to rejoin their families at Mass

Little P.O.P.ers Ministers

Who: adult lay women and men

*provide childcare during Mass for children aged six months through four years of age

*currently offered at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass

PARISH COMMITTEES

Who: adult women and men; usually serve a three-year term

(ASET) Adult Spiritual Enrichment Team Committee

- *provides and encourages adult faith formation through spiritual and educational opportunities.
- *offers small group studies and retreats, especially regarding liturgy, scripture and prayer
- *sponsors one-day Advent and Lenten retreats
- *sponsors two- or three-day parish mission every other year

Building and Grounds Committee

- *oversees the church building and parish property for ongoing maintenance, upkeep, renovation, and improvements
- *recommends policies regarding safety, security, energy, and accessibility

Campaign Committee

- *plans and implements campaign efforts to secure financial support for the parish

Catholic Charities Committee

- *provides food, personal care items, utility and housing assistance to those in need
- *all food and financial funds are donated by parishioners

Faith Formation Committee

- *advisory group of parents and catechists who offer support and guidance to the Director of Religious Education and the pastor
- *creates and maintains a strong, healthy, faith-filled program that develops life-long Christian disciples

Liturgy Committee

- *advises the pastor in planning, preparing and coordinating liturgical celebrations and events
- *supports continuing education and formation of liturgical ministers

~~Worship Environment Committee (subcommittee of Liturgy Committee)

- *decorates the church for liturgical events and seasons, especially Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter

~~Sacred Art Committee (subcommittee of Liturgy Committee)

*recommends and obtains sacred artwork and furnishings for the church

Finance Committee (appointed by the pastor)

*guides the pastor and Parish Pastoral Council in formulating and managing the parish budget, financial issues, and parish resources

*oversees fundraising efforts and monitors parish revenues, expenditures and capital campaigns

*observes Church and civil law in managing the temporal goods of the parish

*is accountable to the parish and diocese

Funeral Committee

*provides refreshments following wake/vigil services

*serves hot meals for families and friends following the funeral liturgy

Keenagers Hospitality Committee (senior parishioners 50 years and older)

*meet monthly for Mass, a potluck meal, and socialization

*leadership team from among the group coordinates meal

Parish Pastoral Council

*articulates and communicates the parish vision

- *focuses on spiritual formation, participative planning, coordination, communication, and policy development
- *sets annual parish goals

Social Committee

- *hosts parish social gatherings that promote fellowship and celebrate special events
- *coordinates breakfasts, brunches, and evening meals
- *co-hosts annual parish picnic with Knights of Columbus

SpringFest Committee

- *plans, organizes, promotes and facilitates a parish-wide gathering to raise funds for parish activities
- *event includes a meal, youth games, a silent auction, crafts, a bake sale, a raffle, etc.
- *co-chairpersons and many workers are needed

Stewardship Committee

- *assists the pastor with promoting Christian stewardship, both financial and spiritual, in living out our call to serve the church

*ongoing projects include: planning and executing Stewardship Sign-Up Sunday, advising PeaceTimes publication, publishing the 'Called to Discipleship' booklet, offering estate planning seminars, etc.

~Welcome Committee (Subcommittee of Stewardship)

- *invites new parishioners to attend designated parish events
- *provides new parishioners with gifts and information about the parish

CARING MINISTRIES

Baptism Stole Ministry

- *creates white garments for infants at baptism
- *creates white stoles for RCIA adults who are initiated into the faith community during the Easter Vigil
- *creates sacramental symbols on the finished garments

Grief Support Ministry

- *reaches out in prayer and support to those who are mourning the loss of a loved one
- *sessions held occasionally

Lend-a-Hand Office Helpers

*provide office assistance as needed: prepare mailings, insert notices into Sunday bulletins, collate information from parish surveys, substitute for the office receptionist, etc.

Nature-loving Gardeners

*tend plants and flowers and remove weeds from around the church building

Parish Library Minister

*keeps library resources neatly arranged on shelves

Parish Photographer

*captures events on film for use in parish publications

*stores photos in the parish archives

Parish Prayer Line Ministers

*commits to pray for requests from parishioners

*prayer line members are given only the first name of the prayer recipient for the sake of confidentiality, and the type of request sought (healing, guidance, etc.)

Spic-and-Span Cleaners

*coordinate quarterly cleaning of kitchen

Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) (Part of the national organization)

Who: Catholic women age 18 and older.

*Court St. James #2007 includes parishes in Shelton, Kearney, Amherst, and Elm Creek

*contributes financially and spiritually to national, state, and local projects, including Habitat For Humanity, Jubilee Center, etc.

*annually provides scholarships to two university-bound youth

Catholics Encounter Christ (CEC)

Who: adult men and women

*an adult weekend retreat that provides deep spiritual growth

*participants gather monthly for support of their spiritual growth (“Ultreya”)

The Knights of Columbus

Who: Catholic men 18 years or older

- *helps with the needs of the parish
- *prepares food for parish events, Catholic Charities, etc.
- *sponsors the Tootsie Roll drive for handicapped and helps with Special Olympics.
- *volunteers for Habitat for Humanity; participates in One Rose, One Life pro-life campaign; financially supports a seminarian
- *organizes the youth free-throw contest and soccer challenge