

St. James Ministry Summary

Pastoral Council: advises the Pastor on Administrative and policy making procedures, but also assesses Parish needs and helps implement programs to better meet those needs. It serves as a channel of communication among the total Parish community. The members are elected in the spring for a three year term. Pastoral Council meets ten times a year or as necessary on the third Wednesday of the scheduled month at 7 pm in the Council Room. Contact: Chairperson, Ronald Meiners(385-5025), or Vice Chairperson Joe Rizzo (385-9108).

Finance Council: advises the Pastor regarding the financial implications of policy decisions. The Commission is composed of at least five members, appointed by the Pastor for a term of 3 to 5 years, and the Business Manger. Contact : Tom Sohngen, Finance Chair (923-1912).

Education Commission: assists the principal and pastor in evaluating educational planning and polices. Members are elected in the spring. Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. Contact: Karen Day (245-9524).

Worship

Altar Servers: Servers assist the preside and deacon at the Lord's Table for all liturgies. Young Men and women in the 7th grade and older are invited to join this ministry. Training required. Contact: Carol Maingot (245-0106).

Art & Environment: Responsible for providing a beautiful and prayerful seasonal environment in Church to enhance and enrich our celebrations of faith throughout the liturgical year. If you are creative or would just like to help, we could use your assistance in transforming our worship space into the glory of the season. Contact: Deacon Tim Crooker (741-5322).

Baptism Preparation: Prepares expectant parents and parents for the life-long responsibilities of raising a baptized child. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month for about an hour. Parishioners who are interested will receive on the job training. Share in the beauty and wonder of these parents as they prepare for the baptism of their child. Contact: Deacon Tim Crooker. (741-5322)

Bereavement Ministry: Provides prayer, comfort and timely support to grieving parishioners who have experienced the death of a loved one. Volunteers extend assistance to the families with the preparation of the vigil, funeral liturgy and final committal. The care continues after the death with special attention to each person's grief. Contact Ruth Kramer (385-9221).

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Men & women interested in facilitating Children's Liturgy of the Word by leading, by cantoring, by setting up and by lecturing the Scriptures on the children's level of understand. Materials and training are available. Contact Joy Gemperline (741-5335).

Children's Sacramental Preparation: Volunteers are needed to assist with special events during the preparation time for First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation . Contact Joy Gemperline (741-5335).

Eucharistic Exposition: Eucharistic Adoration is a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to adore Him, to love Him and to open your heart to receive His love. Adoration is held every Monday after 8:30 am mass until 6 pm. Take advantage of this opportunity to spend time spiritually renewing yourself, refreshing and fulfilling your soul in His true presence. Contact Elaine Huller (729-2269) or Marcia Schibi (385-1749).

Eucharistic Minister : Assist in disturbing the Precious Body of Jesus Christ with reverence and dignity at liturgical celebrations. Deepen your relationship with God. Some training is required. Contact Parish Office (741-5300).

Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound: Through this compassionate ministry, administer the Holy Eucharist to those who are ill or permanently and temporarily homebound. You just need to be good listeners, friendly, and willing to spend a little time. If you are interested, you may call Pat Piller (385-2922).

Lectors: Responsible for preparing and proclaiming the first two readings of Sunday and Holydays Masses. They welcome the congregation and pray the intercessions after the homily. Some Training is required. Contact Parish Office (741-5300).

Marriage Preparation: Married couples who assist engaged couples in their preparation for marriage by helping them to learn more about themselves and their relationship through discussing the results of their pre-marriage survey. Interested couples need to have a good martial relationship, possess good communication skills and have a strong commitment to marriage. Training provided. Contact Patti Deters (741-8440).

Music/Choir: Enhances the faith experience of the community through song and music. There are Adult Bell Choir, Adult Choir, Cantors, Children's Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Youth Bell Choir and Youth Choir. Contact Zoltan Marczi, Music Director (741-5300).

RCIA: A process which offers adults who are un-baptized or those who are members of other Christian communities, an opportunity to meet parishioners, ask questions about the Catholic Church, and explore the message of Jesus Christ as experienced here. We encourage active parishioners to become a part of the RCIA process as a sponsor or a support to RCIA team. Consider joining the RCIA team and help someone become a part of our faith community while deepening your own relationship with God. Contact Carol Maingot, Pastoral Associate (741-5325).

RCIA for Children: Children over the age of six are prepared for Baptism and welcomed into the Catholic Church. Contact Joy Gemperline (741-5335).

Sacristan (Mass Coordinator): The person in this position is responsible for the upkeep of the Sacramental Lines, the literature at the Church doors and other miscellaneous duties in the Church.

Ushers: Responsible for greeting and seating parishioners, passing collection basket and handing out bulletins at the end of Mass. Contact: Ed Henn (385-0837).

Worship Commission: Plans, Implements and evaluates all liturgical celebrations at St. James. Attends educational opportunities provided by the Archdiocese to advise the parish of current liturgical practices. Contact: Fr. Nolker (741-5300).

Parish Life

Adult Activities: There are several opportunities for recreational involvement in adult activities: Bridge, Softball, Baseball, Golf, Volleyball, etc. This is an excellent opportunity for fellowship through a shared activity. Contact: Parish Office (741-5300).

Circle of Care: The Parish has been divided into neighborhoods, each with an area representative. Thus giving St. James a way to support and help each other, by linking neighbors, organizations, and Parish resources. One way is by praying for the members of our parish and their families daily, but especially during times of emergencies, surgery illness, or other special needs. Contact : Claire Thompson (741-7943) or Elaine Huller (729-2269).

Festival Planning Committee: Everyone's help is needed for the Parish Festival held the last weekend of July. Volunteers are needed for planning, materials, advertising. set up. Booth chairpersons, booth sponsors. Contact Parish Office (741-5300).

Parish Picnic Volunteers: Parishioners are needed once a year to assist with set-up and registration at the Parish Picnic. Contact Parish Office (741-5300).

Seniors: Meet 1st Wednesday of each month with Christian principles in mind; assist older adults to live active interesting lives. Contact: Ed Henn (385-0837).

Education

PTO: Promotes and enhances the welfare of St. James School through fundraisers and many fellowship opportunities. They also provide support for teachers, students and parents. Throughout the school year there are many opportunities to become involved. We have need for levels of skill and involvement. Open to all school parents. Contact; Marla Kiley (mkiley2@cinci.rr.com).

PSR: Teachers/Aides – Volunteers are needed as teachers and helpers for the Pre-School Program -3,4 and 5 year olds, on Sunday mornings during 10 am Mass. Our Parish School of Religion for grades 1 -7 is Monday evenings at 6:45 pm. Volunteers are needed as teachers, aides, hall assistants, and prayer service helpers. This is a wonderful way to help our children and parish. Contact Joy Gemperline (741-5335).

Vacation Bible School: Teachers/aides and helpers needed for a week of learning, crafts, prayer, food and fun. Contact: Joy Gemperline (741-5335).

Social Outreach

Cookie Connection: Volunteers are needed to participate in a program to provide cookies and juice drinks to the needy and homeless of the inner city. If you wish to volunteer. Contact Carolyn West (385-0615), Carol Aichele (385-5388) or Ann Goldschmidt (385-1605).

Giving Tree: This is an Advent project of providing Christmas gifts and assistance to various community agencies and area families in need. Individuals who are organized and enjoy serving behind the scenes by doing practical and necessary tasks are needed. They oversee the project set-up and coordinate the duties such as writing tags, promoting the project and delivering the gifts. Contact: Connie Lanter (741-9430).

Habitat for Humanity: Assist the Cincinnati HFH Westfield Coalition. Everyone over the ages of 13 is invited to participate. Contact: Mike Orth (741-7271).

Loaves & Fishes: Parish has two food drives a year (spring and fall) to benefit the St. John's Social Service Center. Volunteers are needed with the distribution, pickup and delivery of collected items. Contact: Tom Herbert (923-4124).

Mission Outreach: In response to God's call to love our neighbor, we are a ministry that empowers our parish community to reach out to the poorest of the poor, shares knowledge about the need, provides for their physical needs and moves toward social justice through service. Contact: Deacon Tim Crooker (741-5322).

People Working Cooperatively: Twice a year, Spring and Fall, we volunteer with People Working Cooperatively by doing household chores to help low income elderly and disabled homeowners so they can remain in their homes. Contact: Steve Schaefer (385-8447).

Scarves for the Homeless: Provide assistance to organizations with crocheted and knitted items. Contact Jeanne Dirr (741-3365).

St. Vincent De Paul: Works with those in our community faced with temporary financial challenges. Contact: John Herrmann (741-7939) or Mike Pratt 9385-5941).

Youth

American Heritage Girls: Building women of integrity through service to God, family community and country. Girls in grade K through 12 are invited to join. Contact Tracy Wood (385-7233) or Amelia Riedel (923-3343).

Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts: Instills strong Catholic values and leadership in boys, throughout the parish. Scouting influences boys to develop character, good citizenship, and encourages them to grow strong in mind and body. Contact: for Boy Scouts - Gerry Berger (923-4352). or for Cub Scouts – Rick Porotsky (741-7504) .

Girl Scouts & Brownies: Helps girls grow to be spiritual, caring, competent and confident young women. The program teaches girls to serve God and their country. We always welcome new adults and girls. Contact: Karin Loftus (245-1051) or Lori Tonnis (923-1656).

High School Peer Leaders: High School Students who serve as mentors for 7th grade Confirmation candidates. They attend the tree Confirmation meetings, leading prayer, small group discussion, and activities, and witnessing to their own Confirmation journey. When possible they also attend the confirmation retreats and the Confirmation liturgy. Contact: Joy Gemperline (741-5335).

SJAA: St. James Athletic Association promotes and organizes youth athletic programs (baseball, softball, football, volleyball and basketball) for parish members. Also maintains fields and facilities to support the programs of this association. Meetings are the 4th Monday of each month. (April through August) Contact: John Klare (385-4701).

Venture Crew: A youth Development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and completed 8th grade) through 20 years of age. We provide positive experiences to help young people mature and prepare themselves to become responsible and caring adults. Contact: Tim Flynn (353-9107).

Spirituality

Father's Ministry: The Father's Ministry is a fellowship of Christian fathers who through mutual encouragement and accountability are seeking God's direction in loving their wives, leading their families, bringing their children up in the discipline and discipleship of the Lord by practical application of biblical principles. Weekly meetings are held at 6:03 am in the Church Hall every Friday morning until 7:20 am. Contact Jerry Doerger (741-7075).

Hospital Visitation Team: Bring support, love and healing care of the faith community to those in the hospital. Training is provided. Contact: Fr. Bachman (741-5300).

Men's Prayer Group: Contact Tom Sanalone (662-5225).

MOMS (Ministry of the Mothers Sharing): We are mothers searching for spiritual growth and development through Christian fellowship, religious support, spiritual introspection, spiritual discussions and prayer. By sharing ideas and values, it is our greatest hope to integrate God's plan into daily lives by raising our children and supporting each other in the many roles as mothers and friends. Contact: Aimee Thiemann (385-9233).

Natural Family Planning: A simple, easy to learn, natural way to postpone or achieve pregnancy. A couple learns how to determine when a woman is fertile or non-fertile. Contact: Mike & Karen Manhart (923-3379).

St. James LIFE: (Life Is For Everyone): St. James LIFE! (Life Is For Everyone!) Ministry exists to promote respect and protection for life at all stages from conception to natural death. Our objective is to impact our parish families and our community through prayer, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit; through education by being a source of education on Church teaching on the respect for human life; and through action by hosting or participating in events that demonstrate that St. James is a "pro-life" parish.

Contact: Monica Grace (385-4083), Marti Shoemaker (741-7120) or Chris Tonnis (741-4250).

Rosary Makers: Encourages recitation of the Rosary by making chain and cord rosaries for the missions and those in prison and better rosaries of commercial grade for sale Contact: Marcella Boehm (923-4748), Dee Conway (245-9614) or Doris Wolf (662-9377).

St. Mary's Ladies Society: All Women of the parish are invited to pray, oversee the upkeep of altar linens and vestments, and make baptismal garments for infants. Contact: Joyce Luipold (481-0669).

Shepherd of Christ: We pray during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for priests, renewal of the Church and the world. This includes praying for our parish, the pope vocations and all religious orders. We meet in Church every Monday at 11 am to pray the rosary and Shepherds of Christ prayer Manual. We make rosaries and have special programs for schools, nursing homes and shut-ins. We help in preparing Priestly Newsletters to mail to Bishops and Priests throughout the world. Contact: Dan & Melanie Noe (385-9296 or 385-3064).

Stewardship: Its mission is to teach and nourish the concept of Catholic Stewardship as a way of life for all of our parish community. They Develop, plan and co-ordinate the Annual Stewardship Campaign. Contact: Parish Office (741-5300).

Administrative

Parish Office Volunteers: Whenever large mailings are necessary in the parish, this group helps prepare the mailing by folding, stuffing, labeling, and sorting the mailing by zip code. We need individuals who are flexible, able to follow directions and good with detail. This is a fun way to become involved helping the parish while enjoying the conversation and fellowship of other parishioners. Contact; Marian Collins (385-0028).