

Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is at the hub of all parish activities. The Council is composed of the Pastor and at least six members; elections are held annually. Each member is assigned a portfolio that includes Liturgy, Christian Education, Parish and Community Life, Social Action, as well as the autonomous organizations. At the monthly meetings (September through June) members report on the work being done in each of their portfolios. The Council acts as a sounding board for the Pastor, discussing new proposals, making decisions and providing guidelines as required.

Pro-Life

Pro-life includes providing relevant Catholic teaching and information on matters related to the sanctity of human life; and participation in community events and fund raising for local pro-life organizations.

Property Maintenance

Property maintenance is administered by the Finance Council. It includes building maintenance and grounds maintenance; various tradespersons are invited to share their professional abilities.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Program – A Journey of Faith

Non-Catholics wishing to learn about the Catholic faith or Catholics wishing to refresh their knowledge of their faith or to complete the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and/or Eucharist) may join the RCIA group. The RCIA is a process of self-study and discussion that is held in the context of prayer, shared experiences and listening to God's Word. The RCIA team accompanies participants on their faith journey. There is no obligation on the part of non-Catholic participants to become a Catholic. It is a matter of enquiry and free choice. The RCIA group meets weekly at the Church between 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sacramental Preparation

The prayerful guidance and instruction of youth for receiving their Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Preparation begins late September and concludes with reception of the Sacraments in late April, early May.

Sacristans

Sacristans provide general co-ordination for each liturgical celebration by making sure everything is in readiness and that all ministers are in place. They also assist at funerals and weddings, care for vestments and sacred vessels.

Safe Environment

To promote a culture of safety within our parish, ensuring the highest possible level of safety and security of all members of our church community. In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, coordinate the roll-out of the Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) in coordination with the Archdiocese's Safe Environment Implementation Team.

Social Gatherings Committee

The Social Gatherings Committee is responsible for promotion, organization, and carrying out of various social gatherings throughout the liturgical year. These could include Coffee Sundays, the annual BBQ, the welcome celebration post Easter Vigil, potlucks, movie nights, and any other events designed to promote fellowship and community building within the Good Shepherd Parish.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Serving the poor in Canada since 1846, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is: *To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.* The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians we see Christ in anyone who suffers; come together as family; have personal contact with the poor; and help in all possible ways. Meetings are held in the evening, every 2nd Monday of the month.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is like having a personal trainer within the context of faith to accompany and nourish you on your human/spiritual journey. The spiritual director listens to your story, accompanies you in your quest for wholeness; offers wisdom and guidance; and, suggests readings and prayer styles to assist you in your spiritual growth and development. This is not presently offered at our parish, however, please contact the parish office for information on where it is being offered within the Archdiocese.

Syrian Family Welcome Committee

Under Parish Pastoral Council guidance, this group meets and works together to ensure the successful integration and well being of refugee families our parish sponsors, on its own or in collaboration with others.

Ushers

Ushers perform various duties during liturgical celebrations, such as providing good order, helping those who require assistance, seating people and collecting the offerings. They also provide other services on special feast days.

Youth Ministry

The parish offers a variety of programs for youth (age 12-18). Programs foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person through faith development, leadership training, and an experience of Christian fellowship. Youth are encouraged to get involved in the parish community and work together on initiatives like corporal works of mercy, fundraisers, and fun days.

(Brochure information as of September 2019)

The Good Shepherd Parish



Ministries & Autonomous Organizations

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. (1 Corinthians 12.4-6)

Adult Faith Formation

In addition to our Bible Study groups, various programs are being considered for offering within the parish. Options and ideas are welcomed.

Altar Servers

Altar servers assist the celebrant during the Mass. This ministry is fulfilled primarily by the children of the parish who have made their First Communion

Altar Society

The Altar Society assists the celebration of parish liturgies by providing clean church linens.

Baptismal Preparation

The parish invites parents who wish to have their children baptized to participate in the preparation session prior to the Baptism. In the session, the parish baptismal team helps parents and godparents prepare for the upcoming celebration of the sacrament. The session is held on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:45 am. Baptisms are held on the last Saturday of each month. The baptismal team also assists the Deacon at the Baptism Rite. Commitment for this team is between 1 and 4 hours a month, and is quite flexible..

Bible Study

Little Rock scripture study lights the way to understanding the message of the Bible, developing a more personal relationship with God and a deeper relationship with others in your faith community. There is a session in the Fall and another in the Spring, offered Monday evenings, Wednesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

This is a Christ-centred program that introduces children to biblical and sacramental themes in a way that embraces their youth, joy and capacity for prayer. Levels 1, 2 and 3 are being offered.

The Catholic Women's League

The Good Shepherd Parish Catholic Women's League (CWL) is part of a national organization whose purpose is to serve God and Canada at home and abroad by adhering to and promoting Gospel values. The organization provides fellowship and a spiritual environment for its members in its work at the local, provincial, national and international levels. The group supports parish activities and provides assistance where needed. While fostering faith development and personal fulfillment of its members, the League encourages its members to interact socially with one another. The CWL meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. (September to June) in the social space.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered at the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. The children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Readings and the Gospel, which are proclaimed from a Children's Lectionary. The children are led through prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding. They rejoin the congregation during the Presentation of the Gifts. Parents may go with their child the first few times to make sure that they are able to participate or to help them overcome any anxiety they may have.

Christian Meditation

The Christian Meditation group meets every Monday afternoon, in the boardroom, at 1:30 pm. We begin with prayer; listen to a recorded talk by Fr. Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk, or another Christian meditator; play a couple of minutes of music; and then 25 minutes of silence so that we can focus on being in the presence of God; then a couple minutes of music and a reflection is then read; the Lord's prayer is recited and then a closing prayer. A discussion may follow with regard to the talk depending on the group's wishes. All interested are welcome to join our group on Monday afternoons.

Communications Ministry

Working closely with the Parish Office, the Communications Ministry coordinates the communication of news and events from all parish ministries and organizations, ensuring that clear, concise and timely information is transmitted to parishioners by means of the weekly bulletin, the announcements at all weekend Masses, and the parish website. Under the Pastor's guidance, this ministry is also responsible for developing and maintaining the parish website in collaboration with parish ministries, ensuring that it provides a welcoming site of current information for parishioners, as well as an evangelization tool to invite the wider community to join and participate in our parish community.

Cursillo

Cursillo is a movement that seeks to foster, develop and sustain Christian leaders and encourage apostleship. The movement tries to provide participants with tools to live the Christian life more fully, with a resulting impact on the world. The movement began in the Roman Catholic Church in Spain during the late 1940s and has taken root worldwide.

Evangelization Ministry

Under the guidance of the Parish Pastoral Council, this ministry seeks to fulfill the mandate put forth by Jesus Christ who commanded us to "Go and make Disciples of all nations" by a number of means including programs such as Alpha and Formed. Programs will be offered from time to time with leader volunteers from within the parish.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priest to serve the Body and Blood of Christ at Parish Masses.

Finance Council

The Finance Council, with the parish priest, is responsible for the temporal affairs of the parish, including revenue, expenses, loans, investments, accounting, repairs, construction, contracts, sales, purchases, employee relations, salaries, etc., in accordance with diocesan regulations and policies. It is a mandatory parish organization in the Archdiocese since 1986. The Council is accountable to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Ottawa. It meets monthly (September through June).

Food Cupboards

Volunteers ensure timely delivery of donations to the local Food Cupboards.

Hospitality Ministry

Welcoming all on arrival at Sunday Masses (Saturday 5:00 pm, Sundays 9:00 and 11:15 am).

The Knights of Columbus (9005)

The Knights of Columbus is an international fraternal organization for practising Catholic men. It promotes fellowship among its members and their families through educational, charitable, religious and social welfare activities. The Knights take part in, or lead, many annual parish and community events. They meet regularly every third Wednesday of the month (September through June) for a dinner/business meeting in the social space. The Executive Council meets every first Wednesday of the month in the boardroom.

Lector Ministry

A lector proclaims the Scriptures within the liturgical assembly at the Sunday and weekday Masses. Lectors are trained to effectively communicate the Word of God.

The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic organization with a twofold purpose: the spiritual development of its members and the advancement of the reign of Jesus through Our Lady. Legion members reach out in various ways to the community. Members meet on Thursday mornings following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Lighthouse Catholic Media

Maintain/coordinate the supply of Lighthouse religious CDs.

Liturgical Decorating

This team creates a physical environment that enhances liturgical celebrations in the worship and gathering spaces. Decorations reflect the liturgical seasons. Christmas and Holy Week are the busiest times.

Marriage Enrichment Program

A marriage enrichment program is occasionally offered at the parish. The program takes place over a number of sessions, each featuring a video and both group and couple discussions.

Marriage Preparation

Consists of a number of classes (~7) that take place at our church or at another parish usually beginning early in the calendar year.

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry is a team of dedicated volunteers who use their skill and training as singers and musicians to lead the assembly at Good Shepherd Parish in song at mass, at other liturgies, and at other functions in the parish. "Whoever sings well prays twice over."

Outdoor and Environment

Landscaping & upkeep for Rectory & Church yards.

Parish Administration

From time to time there is a need to have volunteers assist in the parish office. If you have office skills that you can share on an occasional basis, please consider this as an area where you can help.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Ministry reaches out in the name of Christ to those in need within the Good Shepherd Parish Community. Trained members of the pastoral team visit the sick/homebound (usually during the day) and bring them prayer, communion and hospitality at home or in a nursing home or hospital. They also assist during acute, chronic or terminal illness, bereavement, loneliness or other time of need. Parishioners who are interested in this ministry of compassion will be invited to attend an interview and are to take a 10-week Pastoral Care Training Program. Members of this ministry are committed to work as a team so that the outreach is consistent and in harmony with the program.