



# Discipleship

CATALOGUE

**LIVE  
THE  
CALL.**

A guide to  
participating in our  
yearly mission: living  
as disciples of Christ.

*discipleship  
catalogue*

# Discipleship Catalogue Index

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# DISCIPLESHIP – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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## **What is discipleship?**

Discipleship is the lifelong journey of following Jesus Christ, deepening our faith, and living out His teachings in our daily lives. At St. Ann, discipleship means committing to service, prayer and generosity as we grow in our relationship with God and build His Kingdom on earth.

## **Why is discipleship important?**

Jesus calls each of us to be His disciples, to love and serve others, and to share the Gospel. Through discipleship, we strengthen our faith, become more connected to our parish community, and actively participate in the mission of the Church.

## **How does discipleship begin?**

Discipleship begins at baptism when we are welcomed into the family of God. Through the anointing of Sacred Chrism, we are called to live as Christ in three roles:

- **Priest** – Making our lives holy through prayer and faith formation.
- **Prophet** – Living and sharing our faith through words and actions.
- **King** – Supporting the mission of the Church through generosity and service.

## **How is discipleship structured at St. Ann?**

Discipleship at St. Ann is divided into three key phases throughout the year, each focusing on an essential aspect of our faith:

1. **Faith in Action** – Committing to serve in ministries and parish life.
2. **Prayer & Presence** – Strengthening our spiritual lives through prayer, participating in faith formation, and attending parish events that foster community and spiritual growth.
3. **Generosity** – Supporting the Church and those in need through giving and stewardship.

## **What happens during each phase of discipleship?**

In each phase of discipleship, we will prepare ourselves for **Covenant Weekend**, where we will make a covenant with our Lord to help us live as His disciples throughout the year. This commitment will be followed by a special celebration as a community.

# DISCIPLESHIP – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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## **What does making a covenant mean?**

Making a covenant is a personal commitment to grow as a disciple by choosing ways to deepen your faith, serve others, and support the Church. These commitments are renewed annually and help guide our journey as followers of Christ.

## **Who can participate in discipleship at St. Ann?**

Everyone! Discipleship is for all ages—adults, teens, and children. There are age-appropriate opportunities for everyone to grow in faith and serve in ways that fit their abilities and interests.

## **What if I can't commit to one of the discipleship phases?**

If you are unable to fully commit to one of the discipleship phases at this time, you can still participate in a meaningful way by focusing on the aspects that are possible for you. You can also choose to fill out a **covenant card for the phases you can commit to** and support others in their discipleship journey.

## **Why is making a commitment important?**

Discipleship is about intentionally growing in faith and community. By making a commitment, we open ourselves to God's work in our lives and contribute to the spiritual growth of St. Ann as a whole.



## **Where can I find more information?**

Scan the QR code or visit [st-ann.org/discipleship](https://st-ann.org/discipleship) for an online version of the covenant cards, key dates for each phase, and additional discipleship resources.

## DISCIPLESHIP: SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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### OUR COMMITMENT TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Catholic Church of St. Ann and the Archdiocese of Atlanta are dedicated to fostering a safe and healthy environment for children, young people, and vulnerable adults. To uphold this commitment, all volunteers, clergy, and staff undergo specialized training to ensure the protection of those in their care. Anyone working with children (under 18 or in a formal program such as Life Teen) or vulnerable adults, as well as those handling parish finances (collectors and counters), must complete mandatory safety procedures every five years.

- **Background Checks:** All staff and volunteers must undergo a background check every five years.
- **Training:** St. Ann provides safe environment training through *VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children*, with ongoing monthly updates.
- **Mandatory Reporting:** Clergy, staff, and volunteers are legally required to report suspected child abuse to state authorities. If you suspect abuse, you must take action.
- **Campus Security:** During programming hours, only credentialed staff have access to classrooms. Staff have also received training on active shooter and firearms protocols.

To reinforce our commitment to a safe environment, we are here to listen and take action. If you need to report abuse, the Archdiocese provides a 24-hour Abuse Reporting Hotline at **1-888-437-0764**. For concerns specifically regarding bishops, you can report through [reportbishopabuse.org](https://reportbishopabuse.org) or call **(800) 276-1562**. Your voice matters, and all reports will be handled with care and confidentiality to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

*phase one*

# Faith in Action

EMBODYING CHRIST'S TEACHINGS AND SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE BY ACTIVELY SERVING OTHERS.

# FAITH IN ACTION

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**Faith in Action** reflects St. Ann’s commitment to serving others by addressing the needs of the community with compassion and justice. Through charitable outreach, advocacy, and hands-on service, parishioners have the opportunity to put their faith into action in meaningful ways. Whether supporting local shelters, engaging in social justice initiatives, or providing aid to those in crisis, Faith in Action embodies Christ’s call to love and serve our neighbors.

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# FAITH IN ACTION: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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## **What is Faith in Action?**

Faith in Action is the call to actively live out our discipleship through service. At St. Ann, this means **participating** in ministries, **volunteering** in parish life, and **using our time and talents** to serve others as Christ did.

## **Why is Faith in Action important?**

Jesus teaches us to love and serve one another. By committing to acts of service, we strengthen our faith, build a stronger parish community, and bring Christ's love to those in need.

## **What can I expect in this section of the Discipleship Handbook?**

You'll find a **list of ministries** organized by their focus and role in parish life. Ministries range from **liturgical roles, faith formation, and outreach programs** to **hospitality, music, and service opportunities**.

Please take the time to **read about our ministries** and consider where your gifts, talents, and passions might fit in. Whether you feel called to serve as a catechist, volunteer at parish events, support the poor and vulnerable, or help behind the scenes, there is a place for everyone to live out their faith through action.

## **How does the Faith in Action phase unfold at St. Ann?**

The Faith in Action phase begins with a **Ministry Fair**, where all are invited to explore different ministries and discern where God may be calling them to serve. This is followed by **Covenant Weekend** where we will make a covenant with our Lord. The phase culminates in a joyful **Parish Festival**, celebrating our shared mission and the many ways we serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

## **How do I make a commitment to Faith in Action?**

During **Covenant Weekend**, you will fill out a **Covenant Card**, choosing ways to serve in our parish. Ministry leaders will follow up with next steps to help you get started. If you prefer, you can also **submit your Covenant Card online**.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### **COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Community Ministries at St. Ann bring parishioners together through **fundraising events, community gatherings, and opportunities for fellowship**. These ministries create spaces where people can connect, grow in faith, and support one another in a welcoming environment. Whether through social events, parish-wide celebrations, or service-driven fundraisers, we strive to strengthen our parish family and build lasting relationships.

#### **Why We Exist**

As a parish family, we are called to gather in faith and fellowship, fostering a strong and connected community. Scripture reminds us, **“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”** (Matthew 18:20). Our Community Ministries support this call by providing opportunities for parishioners to engage with one another, celebrate together, and contribute to the parish’s mission through events that uplift and unite us.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our ministries serve **the entire St. Ann community**, offering spaces where individuals and families can come together in faith and friendship. Through social gatherings, celebrations, and fundraising efforts, we strengthen our bonds as a parish while supporting initiatives that benefit both our church and the wider community.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Opportunities to serve will be listed within the description of each individual ministry. Volunteers help plan and coordinate events, welcome and engage participants, and contribute to the success of our gatherings.

#### **Special Requirements**

Some roles may require a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being. Training and guidance are provided to help volunteers feel comfortable and prepared in their ministry.

Scan the QR code for ministry leadership contact information and access to each ministry’s webpage.



## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### **30s and 40s Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The 30s and 40s Ministry is a welcoming community for adults in their 30s and 40s looking to deepen their faith, build meaningful relationships, and grow in discipleship. Through faith-sharing, social gatherings, service projects, and spiritual enrichment, we create a space where individuals can navigate this stage of life with Christ at the center. Whether you're single, divorced, a single parent, newly married, or aging out of your young adult group, this ministry invites you to journey with us in faith and fellowship.

#### **Why We Exist**

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). The 30s and 40s Ministry exists to foster authentic community and spiritual growth, recognizing that this stage of life is filled with transitions and challenges. By coming together in prayer, discussion, and service, we strengthen our faith and support one another in living out the Gospel in our daily lives.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve adults in their 30s and 40s who are seeking a faith-centered community. Whether through monthly gatherings, small group studies, or outreach opportunities, we strive to create an environment where members feel valued, encouraged, and spiritually nourished. Our ministry welcomes those who are new to the parish, returning to their faith, or simply looking for deeper connections with fellow Catholics.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

This is a newly forming ministry and we'd love to have you be a part of it. We invite volunteers to assist in a variety of ways, including: **Event Planning & Hospitality, Faith Formation & Small Groups, Service & Outreach, or Communications & Promotion.**

#### **Special Requirements**

The only special requirement is to want to be a part of the group.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### 50+ Rewards Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The **50+ Rewards Ministry** is a vibrant, welcoming community dedicated to fostering fellowship, faith, and fun for parishioners aged 50 and older. Whether you're seeking to make new friends, deepen your faith, or simply enjoy wonderful company, the **50+ Rewards Ministry** is here to support you!

#### **Why We Exist**

Inspired by Christ's call to community and love, we recognize the importance of companionship and shared experiences. As **Acts 2:42** reminds us, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Our ministry provides a welcoming space for members to gather, celebrate, and support one another in faith, while cultivating strong friendships.

#### **Who We Serve**

The **50+ Rewards Ministry** is open to all **St. Ann's parishioners** aged 50 and older who seek meaningful connections and an engaging community. Our events—such as luncheons, monthly birthday acknowledgments, social outings, and seasonal celebrations—offer opportunities for fun and fellowship, while deepening our faith together. Last year, we hosted several events that brought joy to over **90 members** of our parish! We meet on the second Thursday of the month (September through May) at **11:00 AM** in **LaSalette Hall**.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome members who are interested in volunteering to support our events and activities. Opportunities include:

- **Event Planning & Setup:** Help organize luncheons, outings, and special events.
- **Hospitality & Greeting:** Create a welcoming atmosphere by greeting attendees and assisting with check-ins.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Support:** Assist with communications, coordinating reservations, and preparing materials for events.

Whether you can commit a few hours a month or wish to take a more active role, there's a place for you to serve in the **50+ Rewards Ministry**!

#### **Special Requirements**

There are no special training requirements to join or volunteer with the **50+ Rewards Ministry**. Simply bring your enthusiasm, your willingness to connect with others, and a heart for fellowship!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### Athletics and the Carroll Center

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The **Carroll Center** serves as a vibrant hub for both parish and community events. Our goal is to foster fellowship and promote fitness through recreation in a **Christian atmosphere**, where the emphasis is on enjoyment and personal growth rather than competition. The center hosts St. Ann's **Youth Basketball Program**, where children have the opportunity to develop skills and learn the game of basketball. Additionally, the facility is available for rental to local community sports programs such as **men's basketball, volleyball, and futsal**. Beyond athletics, the Carroll Center also supports various **ministries** at St. Ann's. It serves as the venue for events such as the **Pre-School and Launch Programs**, the **Women's Guild's Apple Annie Craft Fair**, and the **Parish Garage Sale**. Recently, it also hosted the inaugural event for the **Family Life Ministry**.

#### **Why We Exist**

We exist to be ambassadors for our **community**, offering a safe, welcoming, and **Christian environment** for all to participate in a variety of events. With a focus on fellowship, fun, and positive interactions, the Carroll Center seeks to foster a spirit of cooperation and unity, inspired by the **missionary spirit of the La Salette**.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our doors are open to **everyone** who wishes to take part in events at the Carroll Center. Whether you're joining a youth program, participating in community sports, or attending one of our ministry events, the center is here to serve all. The facility is also available for **rental** to other organizations.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We need volunteers to help support our **Youth Basketball Program**. Roles such as **coaches, referees, and scorekeepers** are essential for keeping the program organized and enjoyable. While prior basketball knowledge is helpful, the main requirement is a **desire to work with young children** and a passion for building positive relationships.

#### **Special Requirements**

Because we work with **vulnerable individuals**, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### Cub Scouts

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Cub Scouts is a family-centered ministry that brings parents and children together for adventure, learning, and fun! Through hands-on activities like games, projects, skits, songs, outdoor adventures, and service projects, our scouts develop confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. More than just a program, Cub Scouts is a journey of growth, achievement, and cherished family memories.

#### **Why We Exist**

Cub Scouts provides a strong foundation for character development, leadership, and faith in action. Rooted in the values of the Scout Oath and Law, we encourage young people to explore the world around them, serve their community, and grow into responsible, faith-filled individuals. By engaging families in this journey, we foster bonds that last a lifetime.

#### **Who We Serve**

We welcome boys and girls from **Kindergarten through 5th grade**, offering them a fun and enriching experience filled with adventure. In 2025, our scouts will participate in exciting events such as **Fall Family Camping, Spring Family Camping, the Pinewood Derby, the Blue & Gold Banquet, and a special camping trip at Talladega Speedway!** Whether exploring the outdoors or building their own race cars, our scouts learn valuable life lessons along the way.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Our program thrives on the support of parents, grandparents, and former scouts who give their time to help make scouting a meaningful experience. Opportunities to serve include:

- **Activity Volunteers** – Assist with hands-on projects, games, and events.
- **Event Presenters** – Share special skills or knowledge with the scouts.
- **Pack Leadership Roles** – Help guide our pack by mentoring young scouts and assisting with planning and organization.

Whether you can help at a single event or take on a leadership role, we welcome your support!

#### **Special Requirements**

All adult leaders must complete **BSA Youth Protection Training**, leader-specific training, an application with a background check, and registration with the BSA. Additionally, volunteers must complete the Archdiocesan safe environment **VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure a safe and faith-filled environment for our youth.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### Faith & Finance Ministry

#### Who We Are & What We Do

The **Faith & Finance Ministry** is a welcoming group dedicated to helping parishioners practice **responsible stewardship** of their God-given resources. Through **workshops, one-on-one support**, and **community discussions**, we teach practical money management skills—like **budgeting, credit basics, retirement planning**, and **charitable giving**—all rooted in our **Catholic faith**. Our goal is to nurture both **financial well-being** and **spiritual growth**, so everyone feels equipped and inspired to use their resources in service to God and others.

#### Why We Exist

Guided by **Luke 14:28**, *“For which of you, wishing to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost?”*, we believe that thoughtful **financial planning** is an essential part of faithful discipleship. By empowering parishioners to be good stewards, the **Faith & Finance Ministry** strengthens the parish mission of caring for one another and building up the Body of Christ. Through education and a supportive community, we help each other find **peace, purpose**, and **generosity** in our financial decisions.

#### Who We Serve

We serve parishioners of **all ages and life stages**—from young adults learning to handle their first paychecks, to families managing day-to-day expenses, to retirees looking to make the most of their savings. Whether you're struggling with debt, saving for a special goal, or simply seeking guidance on aligning your finances with your faith, our ministry offers **hope, help**, and **heartfelt connection**. Each story we encounter reminds us that **financial challenges** can be overcome when met with **empathy, practical tools**, and the **light of Christ**.

#### Volunteer Opportunities: Where We Need Help

- **Event Planning & Hospitality:** Help organize workshops, greet attendees, and create a warm, welcoming environment.
- **Hands-On Support:** Assist with activities like setting up presentations, distributing materials, and offering one-on-one guidance to those in need.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Assistance:** Contribute by managing communications, scheduling speakers, or creating educational resources. Whether you have a few hours a month or wish to serve more regularly, there's a place for you to help our parish family grow in **financial wisdom**.

#### Special Requirements

Some roles may require a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### Family Life Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The **Family Life Ministry** is dedicated to supporting, enriching, and nurturing the spiritual and social lives of families within our parish. We provide resources, opportunities for spiritual growth, and a welcoming space for families to connect and participate in parish life. Whether you are new to the parish or have been with us for years, we invite all families to join us on this journey of faith.

#### **Why We Exist**

We exist to help families build lasting connections, foster a stronger parish community, and pass on the faith to the next generation.

- **Build Lasting Connections:** We create opportunities for families with young children to connect, share, and form friendships through shared experiences.
- **Foster a Stronger Parish Community:** By strengthening individual families, we contribute to the overall unity and vibrancy of our parish.
- **Pass on the Faith:** We provide a supportive environment for parents to nurture their children in the Catholic faith amidst the challenges of modern life.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve families of all shapes and sizes, including:

- **Married Couples and Parents:** Offering faith-based resources and fellowship to help parents nurture their relationships and raise children in the faith.
- **Families:** Providing community events like game nights, service projects, picnics, and family Stations of the Cross.
- **The Parish Community:** Strengthening relationships across families and parishioners, creating a welcoming and vibrant church family.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Committee Leads:** Social, Service, and Spiritual Leads to coordinate events and initiatives.
- **Event Coordinators & Support:** Organize and assist with events like Family Game Nights, Picnics, and Retreats.
- **Spiritual Committee:** Coordinate faith-based events and activities, integrating spiritual growth into our social gatherings.

#### **Special Requirements**

Volunteers working with children must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### Girl Scout Troop 383

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

**Girl Scout Troop 383** is a multi-level troop that welcomes girls from kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as adult volunteers of all ages. The troop engages in shared projects, service initiatives, and events, while allowing each age group to complete their own badges and journeys. The diverse age range fosters teamwork, inclusion, and a family-like atmosphere where scouts learn from one another. Older scouts mentor younger ones, creating opportunities for leadership and community-building.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our mission is to help girls grow in faith and service, striving to make the world a better place by serving God, our country, and our communities. Volunteers in **Troop 383** primarily serve school-aged children while also encouraging the scouts to give back through community service.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve girls from kindergarten to 12th grade and offer volunteer opportunities for adults who want to guide and mentor our scouts. Our program supports girls in developing leadership, confidence, and a sense of service.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We need volunteers for the following roles:

- **Troop Level Leaders:** Lead specific age groups and guide badge and journey activities.
- **Community Service Coordinators:** Plan and lead service events.
- **Fundraising Assistants:** Help organize and assist with troop fundraising initiatives.
- **Outing Organizers:** Plan and coordinate fun outings and activities for the troop.

#### **Special Requirements**

Volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Additionally, all adult volunteers must join **Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta** as a member volunteer, which also requires a background check. Training is straightforward and ensures that volunteers can responsibly serve the girls in **Troop 383**.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### Hospitality Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The **Hospitality Ministry** is dedicated to making everyone feel welcomed and valued within our parish community. We embody the spirit of Christ by extending warmth, kindness, and service to all. Whether greeting at weekend Masses, assisting with parish events, or preparing meals, we ensure that every person who walks through our doors experiences the love of Christ in action. No matter your gifts or talents, there is a place for you in this ministry!

#### **Why We Exist**

One of the central pillars of our Catholic faith is welcoming others into our shared faith community. Jesus said, **“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35)**. Inspired by His words, the Hospitality Ministry fosters a sense of belonging by offering a warm presence and practical assistance at parish gatherings. Our service strengthens not only those we welcome but also deepens our own faith as we serve together in Christ’s name.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve the entire parish community, from longtime parishioners to first-time visitors. Whether it’s through a friendly greeting at Mass, offering a ride via golf carts, or preparing meals for parish events, we strive to make every person feel like they are part of our faith family. In doing so, we create a parish culture that reflects Christ’s love and hospitality.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Greeters:** Offer a warm welcome and answer questions at every weekend Mass.
- **Event Hospitality:** Help with food preparation, serving, and cleanup for gatherings.
- **Golf Cart Drivers:** Provide transportation for parishioners from the parking lot to the church entrance.
- **Hospitality Sundays:** Help set up LaSalette at 6:30am and clean up the Hall and kitchen after 12:30pm mass.
- **Donut Pick up:** At Krispy Kreme at 6am the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month
- **Behind-the-Scenes Support:** Assist with planning, scheduling, and organizing hospitality efforts.
- **Staffing for Events:** Assist with church events as necessary. (Parish Festival, International Festival, Christmas Dinner, and more.)

Whether you can commit regularly or just occasionally, your help makes a difference!

#### **Special Requirements**

All volunteers who interact with parishioners, especially in transportation or service roles, may be required to complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### Knights of Columbus Our Lady of LaSalette Council 8376

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

As Catholics, we are called every day to “Live our Faith.” The **Knights of Columbus – Our Lady of LaSalette Council 8376** is an organization that helps Catholic men live out their faith through service to others. We undertake service projects that embody the principles of **Charity** (helping those less fortunate), **Unity** (shared belief in Christ), and **Fraternity** (working together to achieve common goals). Our members gather for fellowship, community service, and making a real impact in the lives of those we serve. Our Knights meet monthly for dinner and Council discussions on the **2nd Monday** of each month and participate in several volunteer projects throughout the year.

#### **Why We Exist**

Founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus began as a response to the needs of immigrant families facing hardship (Families who’d lost the primary breadwinner). Now an international organization with over two million members, the Knights raise over \$200 million and volunteer 50 million hours annually. Rooted in Charity and Faith, our mission remains to support families and communities in need.

#### **Who We Serve**

The Knights serve the greater community through our time, talent, and treasure. Some examples of our work in 2024 include:

- Collecting **250 boxes of goods** and raising **\$10,175** for Georgia storm victims.
- Collecting **315 units of blood** across five Knights-led blood drives.
- Raising **\$9,600** for local organizations supporting the unborn and new mothers.
- Distributing winter coats to local schoolchildren and those in need.
- Hosting over **100 fathers and daughters** at the St. Ann’s Daddy-Daughter Dance.
- Providing **Honor Guards** at funeral Masses for Knights who served our country.
- Staffing **Adoration** hours at St. Ann’s.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

As a Knight, you’ll have the chance to serve in many capacities, from volunteering in our community outreach efforts to taking on leadership roles within the Council. Volunteers can participate in activities based on our annual program plan or support specific requests from the Church. There are opportunities available for every skill level and area of interest.

#### **Special Requirements**

Volunteers working with vulnerable individuals must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### **OWN (One is a Whole Number)**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

**OWN** provides social, spiritual, and service events for single adults, fostering meaningful connections in a welcoming community. In a couples-oriented world, we combat isolation through engaging gatherings like wine tastings, holiday parties, trivia nights, game nights, and more. These events create a relaxed setting for fun, friendship, and shared joy.

#### **Why We Exist**

Sometimes, change can be life-altering, especially for those experiencing significant transitions. Our mission is to combat isolation and provide support during these transitions by offering more than just a singles group. We foster an environment of care, where we genuinely support and uplift one another. Through **OWN**, singles have the opportunity to participate in social, volunteer, and spiritual events with others who understand their experiences. It's a place to form new friendships, share in activities, and engage in fun, relaxed gatherings. People return because they find connection, friendship, and fun within a supportive community.

#### **Who We Serve**

**OWN** serves adult singles in the community who are divorced, widowed, or never married. Whether you're seeking new friendships or ways to serve, **OWN** offers a welcoming space to engage with others in similar life stages.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities & Where We Need Help**

We are currently looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- **The Atlanta Sandwich Project:** Help sort and pack caps for local cancer treatment facilities.
- **Publications Coordinator:** Responsible for submitting to the bulletin and updating the ministry's Facebook page.
- **Event Coordinator:** Help plan and coordinate our social and spiritual events.
- **Communications Liaison:** Reach out to new participants via phone, email, or text and respond to ministry requests.

#### **Special Requirement**

There are no special requirements to participate or volunteer in **OWN**. We welcome anyone with a heart for community and fellowship.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### **Scouts BSA – Troop 1776**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Scouts BSA Troop 1776 is a dynamic youth ministry that builds life and leadership skills through a youth-led program rooted in adventure, service, and personal growth. With a strong history of success, 195 of our scouts have earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout since our founding. We meet weekly in the Scout Lodge on Tuesday evenings, fostering teamwork, responsibility, and a spirit of exploration. Our monthly outdoor activities—including camping, climbing, hiking, and even sailing—challenge scouts to grow in confidence and character.

#### **Why We Exist**

Guided by the values of the Scout Oath and Law, Troop 1776 helps young people develop into responsible, faith-filled leaders. Our program reflects the call to serve others and embrace God's creation through outdoor adventures and skill-building experiences. By empowering youth to lead and achieve, we cultivate future leaders who embody the virtues of integrity, service, and perseverance.

#### **Who We Serve**

We welcome middle and high school youth (ages 12–18), as well as eligible 5th-grade Cub Scouts transitioning into Scouts BSA. Our program provides opportunities for young people to challenge themselves, develop independence, and form lasting friendships. In 2025 alone, our scouts will embark on thrilling experiences such as climbing, rappelling, hiking, sailing in the Bahamas, and attending the Summit National Summer Camp in West Virginia.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We invite adult volunteers to support our scouts as:

- **Merit Badge Counselors** – Share your expertise by mentoring scouts in specific skills and career-based badges. A full list of merit badges can be found [here](#).
- **Troop Leaders & Mentors** – Assist with meetings, outdoor activities, and special events, guiding scouts in their personal and leadership growth.

Whether you have a special skill to teach or simply a passion for youth development, your involvement makes a difference!

#### **Special Requirements**

All adult volunteers must complete the **BSA Youth Protection Training**, leader-specific training, a background check, and registration with the BSA. Additionally, volunteers must complete the **Archdiocesan safe environment VIRTUS training**.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### **St. Ann’s Council of Catholic Women (SACCW)**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The **St. Ann’s Council of Catholic Women (SACCW)** is dedicated to building a strong faith-based community through **friendship, spiritual reflection, service, and outreach**. Rooted in Christ’s call to action, we support one another while working to make a meaningful impact. Whether through fundraising, charitable giving, or evangelization, we strive to be a force for good in our parish and beyond.

#### **Why We Exist**

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 10:8**, *“Freely you have received; freely give.”* Inspired by His words, the **SACCW seeks to serve, evangelize, and bring awareness** to issues affecting our community. We offer hope to those in need while also creating opportunities for faith, fellowship, and service. Through our various guilds—the **Day Guild and Spanish Guild**—we champion local causes and foster a spirit of giving.

#### **Who We Serve**

SACCW serves **both our parish and the broader community** by supporting several outreach program and hosting events that directly benefit **local charities, families in need, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospice** in downtown Atlanta. Additionally, we provide **scholarships** to deserving teens of St. Ann’s, ensuring the next generation is empowered to serve.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome women of all ages to join us in making a difference! Opportunities include:

- **Event Planning & Fundraising:** Help organize and run events such as the **Apple Annie Christmas Craft Show**, our **Annual Garage Sale**, and our **Charity Auction**. (See more about these events in the Generosity section of this handbook.)
- **Community Outreach:** Assist in service projects that support **local charities, shelters, and food pantries**.
- **Faith & Fellowship:** Participate in spiritual reflection gatherings, retreats, and faith-based discussions.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Support:** Help with administration, marketing, or coordinating service initiatives.

Whether you have just a little time or a lot to give, **every contribution makes a difference!**

#### **Special Requirements**

There are no special requirements to join—just a **passion for faith, service, and community!** Certain volunteer roles, especially those working with vulnerable populations, may require a **VIRTUS Safe Environment training** and background check.

## **FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY**

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### **St. Ann's Spanish Guild**

#### **Quiénes somos y qué hacemos**

El Spanish Guild es un grupo de hispanas guiadas por la Fe, La Oración y la Solidaridad. Construimos, más que una comunidad, una familia a través del apoyo mutuo, la reflexión espiritual y la ayuda a los demás. Somos un espacio de bienvenida e integración con la cultura hispana.

#### **Por que existimos**

Jesús nos dice: "Después de esto, el Señor eligió a otros setenta y dos discípulos y los envió de dos, en dos delante de él, a todas las ciudades y lugares adonde debía ir. Les dijo: 'La cosecha es abundante, pero los obreros son pocos. Rueguen, pues, al dueño de la cosecha que envíe obreros a su cosecha'. (Lucas 10, 1-2). El Spanish Guild busca evangelizar donde quiera que nos encontremos y conectar con todas las hispanas para apoyarnos, crecer espiritualmente juntas y ayudar a otras comunidades menos favorecidas, cumpliendo así la misión de la Iglesia St. Ann, que está comprometida en ofrecer un espacio para conectar y crecer en Fe, a través de la oración, el servicio y la evangelización.

#### **A quién servimos**

Nuestra misión es conectar con la comunidad hispana y proveer un espacio de crecimiento espiritual y oportunidades de ayuda a las familias más necesitadas. Algunas de nuestras actividades en la Iglesia son: 2 Mañanas de reflexión anual en español, reuniones mensuales, el evento de la Epifanía, la Fiesta de Navidad Hispana, el Picnic entre otras.

#### **Oportunidades de voluntariado**

Ofrecemos oportunidades de voluntariado tal y como:

Traducción para las conferencias entre Padres y Escuelas, recolección y entrega de pañales, peluches y cobijas a familias con carencias, entrega de alimentos para escuelas locales necesitadas, adopción de familias para Acción de Gracias y Navidad, y mucho más.

Necesitamos tu apoyo y queremos que formes parte del grupo para seguir creciendo en el apoyo a las hispanas, para organizar las mañanas de reflexión, planificar las comidas de las reuniones, y decorar los salones que usamos. Pero sobre todo queremos conocerte y nutrirnos de tu cultura y energía.

#### **Requisito Especial:**

El único requisito que tenemos es hablar Castellano.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### WHO (Widowed Helping Others)

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Widowed Helping Others (WHO) is a compassionate and welcoming ministry for those who have lost a spouse. We provide a supportive community where no one feels alone in their grief. Through monthly dinners, casual gatherings, and acts of service, members find friendship, healing, and a renewed sense of purpose. Whether you are newly widowed or have been on this journey for some time, WHO offers a place to connect with others who understand and care.

#### **Why We Exist**

Jesus calls us to "comfort those who mourn" (Matthew 5:4), and WHO embodies this mission by walking alongside widows and widowers as they navigate life after loss. Through fellowship and shared experiences, we help each other find new beginnings while remaining deeply connected to the love and memories of our spouses. Our ministry also extends its service to the broader St. Ann's community by supporting parish events and outreach programs.

#### **Who We Serve**

WHO serves widows and widowers of all ages, offering them companionship, encouragement, and opportunities to give back. Our members find solace and strength in shared experiences, knowing they are not alone. Beyond personal support, we actively contribute to ministries like Saint Vincent De Paul and My Brother's Keeper, and assist with parish events such as the garage sale and Apple Annie craft show.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome volunteers to serve in various ways, including:

- **Event Planning & Hospitality:** Help organize and set up for monthly dinners and special gatherings.
- **Service Projects:** Participate in outreach efforts by collecting donations and volunteering at parish events.
- **Support & Mentorship:** Offer guidance and friendship to those who are newly widowed.

Whether you have time to help occasionally or want to be more involved, there's a meaningful place for you in WHO.

#### **Special Requirements**

There are no special requirements to join WHO, just an open heart and a willingness to support one another. Volunteers helping with certain parish outreach projects may need to complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – COMMUNITY

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### **SENT (St. Ann’s Young Adults Group)**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

**SENT** is St. Ann’s Young Adults group. Our mission is to empower young adults to live out their calling as disciples of Christ through **fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and service**. We provide a welcoming space where young adults can deepen their faith, grow spiritually, and connect with others who are navigating the challenges and joys of life as young adults. Through **spiritual enrichment events, social events, volunteer opportunities, and community-building activities**, we offer a variety of ways to grow in relationship with Christ and each other.

#### **Why We Exist**

We exist to support and guide young adults in their journey of faith, helping them grow spiritually while building meaningful relationships with others. By participating in **SENT**, young adults are encouraged to live their faith boldly, becoming true disciples of Christ who actively contribute to the life of the Church and the world.

#### **Who We Serve**

**SENT** is for all **young adults aged 19–30**, whether you’re new to the faith or looking for a deeper connection with Christ and others. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service in a community of peers who share a commitment to living out the Gospel.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

**SENT** provides several opportunities for young adults to get involved, including:

- **Event Planning & Coordination:** Help plan social events, retreats, and service projects.
- **Spiritual Team:** Lead small group discussions, plan spiritual event to help others grow in their faith.
- **Service Projects:** Help plan and volunteer for outreach initiatives, helping to serve the community.
- **Mentorship:** Be a guide for others as they grow in their faith and navigate the challenges of young adulthood.

#### **Special Requirements**

**Open Heart & Willingness:** Volunteers and members should have a desire to grow in faith and share their experiences with others.

**Virtus Training:** Volunteers involved in activities that engage with vulnerable individuals (such as service projects with children) must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### **LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

#### **Who we Are & What We Do**

Those involved in liturgical ministry are responding to the Vatican II call to full active, conscious, participation in Mass (Sacrosanctum Concilium 14) and then some. Not only are they showing up and attend Mass, but they are also supporting others in their effort to participate.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our Parish Mission statement states that “*we are a La Salette parish family dedicated to reconciliation through **worship, word, works and sacrament***”. By supporting the Mass and other liturgical events we support the mission of our parish.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our parish community benefits by your involvement in liturgical ministry. Mass is the source and summit of our week. It’s a time to gather in community, to thank God, to pray together, to love each other, to receive the Eucharist, so we have the strength to go out into the world and love and support those we have yet to meet. But Mass does not just happen, we need many people to assist.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome volunteers to serve in various ways including: Sacristans, Mass Coordinators, Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministers (aka Ushers), Arts and Environment, Linen Ministry, and Baptismal Robes.

#### **Special Requirements**

For your comfort as a volunteer and to fulfill diocesan requirements, we provide training for those involved in the public ministry at Mass (ie: Sacristans, Mass Coordinators, Extraordinary Minister, Lectors, Altar Servers, and Hospitality Ministers)

Some roles may require a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being. Training and guidance are provided to help volunteers feel comfortable and prepared in their ministry.

Scan the QR code for ministry leadership contact information and access to each ministry’s webpage.



## **FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL**

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### **Altar Servers**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Are you a regular Mass-goer? Have you received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist? With a little training, you qualify to be an Altar Server!

Altar Servers play an essential role in the liturgy, assisting the priest and deacon during Mass. They help lead processions, prepare the altar, hold the Roman Missal for the presider, and handle special liturgical duties such as lighting and extinguishing candles, receiving the gifts, and assisting with incense when needed.

#### **Why We Exist**

The presider can't do it all. Altar Servers are necessary to assist the priest and deacon in ensuring a smooth and reverent liturgy. They lead the processions at Mass (opening, presentation of the gifts, and recessional), assist with the reception of the gifts, prepare the altar, and support the presider during prayers. If there is a special rite, such as a baptism or the use of incense, Altar Servers help facilitate these sacred moments.

#### **Who We Serve**

Altar Servers serve the entire faith community by helping to create a prayerful and orderly Mass. They assist the clergy, ensuring that the liturgy is carried out with reverence and dignity. Their role allows the congregation to focus on worship while also inspiring younger members to become more involved in their faith.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We need dedicated volunteers for all weekend and special liturgies, including Sunday Masses, Holy Days of Obligation, sacramental celebrations (such as First Communion, Confirmation, and weddings), Holy Week and Easter Vigil, Christmas Masses, and visits from the Bishop

#### **Special Requirements**

To serve at the altar, you should:

- Have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist.
- Be mature enough to sit apart from your parents and stay focused during Mass.
- Have a basic understanding of the parts of the Mass (training is provided).
- Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass to vest and light the candles. If you do not drive, a parent or guardian must be available to bring you on time.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### AV / Worship Media Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Worship Media Ministry at St. Ann enhances the liturgy through modern technology, making worship more engaging and accessible. Using screens, computers, and cameras, we display lyrics, prayers, videos, and live images of sacred rites. We also livestream services, allowing those unable to attend in person to stay connected. By blending technology with tradition, we create a more immersive worship experience.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our ministry exists to deepen the assembly's connection to the sacred by integrating technology into worship. We expand our outreach by offering virtual participation for the homebound and those unable to attend in person. Additionally, we strive to provide accessible tools for individuals with hearing challenges, ensuring that everyone—regardless of physical presence—can fully participate in the liturgy. Above all, we seek to preserve the sanctity of the Mass while enriching it through visual and audio support.

#### **Who We Serve**

We enhance the worship experience for both in-person and remote attendees, helping visitors and newcomers follow the liturgy with clear visuals. Additionally, we support special events like weddings and funerals by tailoring media to ensure every sacred moment is accessible and meaningful.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome volunteers who are eager to support worship through media and technology. Opportunities include:

- **ProPresenter Operator:** Display lyrics, prayers, and videos on the sanctuary screens.
- **Video Switching:** Manage live camera feeds to capture key moments of the liturgy.
- **Audio Mixing & Support:** Ensure clear sound for both in-person and livestreamed services.
- No prior technical experience is required—just a willingness to learn! Training is provided, and while it takes time to become proficient, our team will guide you every step of the way.

#### **Special Requirements**

Volunteers should have a love for God, a heart for service, and an ability to focus on the tasks at hand. Familiarity with the flow of the liturgy and music is helpful, but training will cover everything needed. Commitment and reliability are important, as our ministry plays a key role in enhancing the worship experience for the entire parish.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### **Baptismal Robe Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Baptismal Robe Ministry is a group of caring and skilled parishioners who use their sewing talents to create beautiful keepsake baptismal robes. Each year, over 100 children in our parish receive the Sacrament of Baptism, and we ensure that every family has a special garment to mark this sacred occasion. By crafting these robes, we help welcome the newest members of our faith with a meaningful gift that reflects their new life in Christ.

#### **Why We Exist**

At Baptism, we are "clothed in Christ" (Galatians 3:27), symbolizing our new beginning in faith. This ministry brings that symbol to life by providing a white garment for every child baptized in our parish. It is a simple yet powerful way to share in the joy of the families and support them as they begin their child's spiritual journey.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve families celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism by providing a lovingly made robe, offered as a keepsake alongside the baptismal candle. If a child is not already dressed in white, this robe ensures that they are visibly clothed in the traditional sign of purity and new life in Christ.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome volunteers who enjoy sewing and want to contribute to this meaningful ministry. Opportunities include:

- **Garment Assembly:** Use your sewing skills to construct baptismal robes from provided materials.
- **Pick-Up & Drop-Off:** Collect sewing kits from St. Ann's and return finished robes to the liturgy office.

Whether you can sew one robe or many, your time and effort make a difference!

#### **Special Requirements**

Volunteers should have access to a sewing machine and basic sewing skills. All materials and instructions are provided, making it easy to participate from home at your own pace.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

We are lay members of St. Ann's parish, called to assist in the sacred ministry of distributing Holy Communion. With deep reverence for the Blessed Sacrament, we are trained to serve at Masses, ensuring the distribution of the Eucharist is carried out with devotion and care.

#### **Why We Exist**

"In every celebration of the Eucharist, there should be a sufficient number of ministers of Holy Communion so that it may be distributed in a reverent and orderly manner. Bishops, priests, and deacons distribute Holy Communion in virtue of their office as ordinary ministers of the Body and Blood of the Lord. When the size of the congregation requires it, the celebrant may call upon extraordinary ministers to assist him." (General Instruction of the Roman Missal 162)  
As Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, we serve to meet the needs of the liturgy, ensuring that the distribution of the Eucharist is carried out in a timely and reverent manner.

#### **Who We Serve**

We assist in distributing Holy Communion at daily, weekend, and special liturgies, bringing Christ to our parish community in a profound way. This ministry is both a privilege and a responsibility, with ministers recommended by the pastor and commissioned for service.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Help is needed at all Masses. We do not pre-schedule Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; instead, we rely on volunteers arriving early to sign up at the Narthex board prior to each liturgy.

- **Weekend Masses:** A sign-up board is available in the narthex before each Mass.
- **Daily Masses:** Please inform the sacristan before Mass if you are available to serve.
- **Special Liturgies:** Opportunities arise during Holy Days, sacramental celebrations, and other parish events.

Ministers are asked to arrive at least **10 minutes before Mass** to ensure all communion stations are covered.

#### **Special Requirements**

To serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, you must:

- Be at least **16 years of age** and a **practicing Catholic** in full communion with the Church (having received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation).
- Have a **deep reverence for the Real Presence of Christ** in the Eucharist.
- Complete **Archdiocesan-required training**, which must be renewed **every three years for adults** and **annually for teens under 18**.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### Lectors

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Lectors play a vital role in the **Liturgy of the Word**, bringing Sacred Scripture to life through **proclamation**. As a lector, during the weekend you proclaim the **first and second readings**, may lead the **Prayers of the Faithful**, and, at weekday Masses, you proclaim the first reading and recite the **Responsorial Psalm**. Through your voice, the Word of God is shared with the assembly, inviting them into deeper reflection and prayer.

#### **Why We Exist**

Established by Pope Paul VI in 1973 after the Second Vatican Council, the ministry of lector highlights the vital role of lay participation in the liturgy. This ministry ensures that the Word of God is proclaimed with clarity, reverence, and conviction, helping the faithful to hear, understand, and embrace its message.

To support lectors in this sacred responsibility, we provide training in effective proclamation, including voice projection, microphone use, and spiritual preparation. New lectors receive a workbook for study and practice, and the Liturgy Office schedules assignments via an online system—typically two weeks in advance for weekend Masses, with daily Mass lectors also assigned.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities – Where We Need Help**

We are always in need of dedicated lectors to serve at:

- **Weekend Masses** (greatest need and most opportunities to serve)
- **Wednesday evening Masses**
- **Daily morning Masses** (Currently needing substitutes.)

#### **Special Requirements**

- **Training is required** for all new lectors, along with an **annual reflection and review** to deepen their understanding and skills.
- Lectors should arrive **at least 10 minutes before Mass** to prepare.
- A good lector is someone who **prayerfully studies and practices the readings**, allowing the **Holy Spirit to guide their voice** so that the Word is received with clarity and meaning by the assembly.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### Linen Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The **Linen Ministry** plays a vital role in the celebration of the Mass by ensuring that the sacred linens used at the altar are properly cared for. These linens, which accompany the Body and Blood of Christ and are used for the presider's handwashing during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, require special handling—including soaking, washing, folding, and ironing. Our ministry lovingly provides this behind-the-scenes but essential service to the parish.

#### **Why We Exist**

Sacred linens are an important part of the reverence and beauty of the Eucharistic celebration. As the items that **touch the Body and Blood of Christ**, they must be handled with care and devotion. This ministry exists to ensure that **our liturgies are celebrated with dignity and reverence**, reflecting the sacredness of the Mass itself.

#### **Who We Serve**

By caring for the altar linens, we serve our entire parish community, supporting the priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who use them during the liturgy. Through our quiet yet essential work, we contribute to the beauty and order of the Mass, helping to create a space where the faithful can worship with devotion.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Many hands make light work! Volunteers typically:

- **Pick up linens on Monday** and return them **Friday or Saturday** before the first weekend liturgy.
- **Wash and care** for the linens **at home**, on their own schedule.
- Serve on a rotating basis—**the more volunteers we have, the less frequently each person is assigned** (currently about every other month).

#### **Special Requirements**

No special skills are required—just a little time and care to complete the task. Linens must be soaked before laundering, and the water should be returned to the earth, not poured down the drain. An iron and spray starch are also needed to ensure the linens are clean, crisp, and ready for use at Mass.

This is a beautiful way to serve quietly behind the scenes while playing an essential role in the life of the Church. If you are looking for a flexible and meaningful way to give back, we'd love to have you join us!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### **Mass Coordinators**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The **Mass Coordinators** are an essential part of ensuring that every weekend Mass runs smoothly and efficiently. Acting as the "traffic cop" of the Mass, Mass Coordinators arrive early to ensure all participants—priests, deacons, lectors, altar servers—are present and ready. They collaborate with **Ushers** to recruit people from the assembly to bring the gifts forward during the offertory procession and ensure that the **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (EMHCs) are prepared with the correct vessels and positioned appropriately for Communion distribution. They also work closely with the **Sacristan** to ensure that everything needed for Mass, including the proper vessels, is in place. Additionally, they coordinate the taking of the **Vocations Cross** home for prayer after Mass, involving the congregation in this important ministry.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our ministry exists to ensure that every **weekend liturgy** flows seamlessly, fostering a joyful and prayerful environment for the **worshipping community**. By coordinating all the roles and responsibilities involved, the **Mass Coordinators** help create an atmosphere where everyone can participate in the Mass with ease and reverence. Their presence ensures that every detail is handled, allowing the **priest and deacon** to focus on leading the Mass and attending to the spiritual needs of the community.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve the **entire parish community**, working to enhance the **liturgical experience** for all who attend Mass. Our role is vital in supporting the ministers who assist in the celebration and ensuring that the congregation can fully engage in the sacred liturgy. Through our coordination, we help make the **worship experience** welcoming and efficient for everyone involved.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities – Where We Need Help**

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to serve as **Mass Coordinators at weekend Masses**. Volunteers will be responsible for making sure all necessary roles are filled, assisting with the coordination of gifts during the offertory, and ensuring that Communion is distributed properly. We are always in need of more Mass Coordinators to help with scheduling and overseeing the volunteers at each Mass.

#### **Special Requirements**

Mass Coordinators must be pre-scheduled (usually two weeks in advance using an online scheduling system). We prefer that Mass Coordinators are also trained Extraordinary Ministers and have completed Virtus training. Coordinators are asked to arrive 45 minutes to 1 hour prior to the Mass to welcome and check in all ministers.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### Music Ministry

#### Who We Are & What We Do

We are a family of passionate musicians dedicated to leading the assembly in prayer through music. With modern instruments such as keyboards, guitars, and drums, alongside vocal harmonies, we offer spirit-filled arrangements of both contemporary and traditional hymns. Our mission is to set a liturgical tone that invites all to connect with God through engaging worship. Ultimately, we exist to help others encounter God through music, drawing the community into deeper communion with the Lord and with each other.

#### Why We Exist

The Music Ministry is here every week to enhance the worship experience at Mass, making the celebration of the Eucharist a personal, communal, and transformative encounter with Christ. We believe in the transformative power of music to open hearts, inspire prayer, and unite the community. Through our ministry, we seek to honor God, strengthen the body of Christ, and provide an opportunity for everyone to engage in worship in a way that resonates with their spirit.

#### Who We Serve

We serve the **entire parish community**, offering a rich and varied music experience for people of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you're new to the faith, have been walking with God for years, or are simply seeking a place to belong, we are here to support your spiritual journey. Our music is for everyone—from the youngest to the oldest. We strive to create an environment where every voice is encouraged to join in, building a strong and unified community of worship.

#### Volunteer Opportunities

Saint Ann's Music Ministry is always welcoming new musicians! If you're interested in joining as a singer or instrumentalist, please contact Ed Bolduc to set up an appointment. After a simple skill assessment, we'll have a conversation to determine how you might contribute to our weekend liturgies. Singers do not need to be able to read music, while guitarists should be comfortable reading chords. Pianists must be able to read keyboard scores.

#### Special Requirements

A **love for God**, a **passion for music**, a desire to encourage others to **sing**, and a willingness to **serve** with joy are key! If you feel called to join us, we would love to have you be part of our vibrant ministry.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### **Offertory Gift Bearers**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

At each weekend Mass, members of the congregation are invited to present the gifts of bread and wine to the presider during the offertory procession, marking the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This simple yet meaningful act allows the community to actively participate in the celebration of the Mass.

#### **Why We Exist**

We exist because the presentation of the gifts symbolizes the offering of our lives, prayers, and blessings to God. As we bring forward the bread and wine, which will become the Body and Blood of Christ, we unite our sacrifices and gratitude with the ultimate gift of Christ's sacrifice on the altar.

#### **Who We Serve**

This ministry serves the entire worshiping community by encouraging active participation in the liturgy. By presenting the gifts, parishioners of all ages and backgrounds can deepen their connection to the Mass and share in this sacred tradition.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We encourage individuals, families, or groups to take part in the offertory procession. If you have a special reason to participate—such as a meaningful occasion, a requested Mass intention, or honoring a loved one—you can contact the Liturgy Office in advance to arrange your participation. Otherwise, simply arrive a few minutes early and let an usher know you're available. If no one is pre-assigned, ushers will invite members of the congregation to take part.

#### **Special Requirement**

No special requirements—just a willingness to participate! Typically, four people are needed, but you don't have to be a family. Anyone can take part in this meaningful role, extending their engagement in the Mass.

## **FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL**

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### **Sacristans Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Sacristan Ministry plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth and reverent celebration of the Mass. Sacristans prepare the church for liturgical celebrations by setting up vessels, linens, and other essential items, allowing the focus to remain on prayer and worship. Their behind-the-scenes dedication supports the clergy and enhances the sacred experience for the entire parish community.

#### **Why We Exist**

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). The Sacristan Ministry exists to support the prayerful gathering of our parish by attending to the practical needs of the liturgy. By handling the essential preparations before and after Mass, sacristans help create a sacred space where all can encounter Christ in worship.

#### **Who We Serve**

Sacristans serve the entire parish community by ensuring that every liturgical celebration is prepared with care and reverence. From coordinating with the clergy to assisting Extraordinary Ministers and altar servers, sacristans make it possible for Mass to unfold smoothly, allowing all present to fully participate in the Eucharist.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities – Where We Need Help**

We welcome dedicated individuals to serve as sacristans. Responsibilities include:

- Preparing the altar and sacred vessels before Mass
- Collaborating with the Mass Coordinator in ensuring all Communion ministers are ready.
- Guiding altar servers as needed
- Overseeing the proper cleanup and storage of liturgical items after Mass Sacristans are scheduled in advance and typically serve based on availability.

#### **Special Requirements**

Sacristans must be at least 18 years old and in full Communion with the Catholic Church. All sacristans first serve as Extraordinary Ministers before taking on this additional role. When assigned, sacristans are expected to arrive at least 45 minutes before Mass to ensure all preparations are completed.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – LITURGICAL

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### Ushers/Greeters

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

At St. Ann's, we want every person who walks through our doors to feel welcomed and valued. Our **Ushers/Greeters Ministry** plays a vital role in creating a warm and inviting environment for all who come to worship. Whether it's offering a friendly greeting, helping people find seats, or assisting with the flow of the liturgy, we ensure that everyone feels at home in our parish.

#### **Why We Exist**

Jesus teaches us to welcome the stranger and serve one another with love. As ushers and greeters, we live out this call by creating a warm and organized worship environment. Our ministry ensures that Mass runs smoothly by helping people find seats, facilitating the offertory collection, and guiding the Communion procession. We also serve as information resources, assisting parishioners with questions about the parish and its ministries. In times of emergency, we are trained to respond calmly and direct first responders as needed. By offering hospitality and support, we help everyone feel at home in our faith community.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve the entire St. Ann's faith community by ensuring that every person who attends Mass feels welcomed, informed, and supported throughout their worship experience.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We are always looking for friendly and dependable volunteers to serve as greeters and ushers at:

- **Weekend Masses**
- **Holy Days of Obligation**
- **Special liturgies** (such as Christmas, Easter, and Confirmation)

#### **Special Requirements**

The main requirement is a **willingness to serve** and arrive early enough to **welcome parishioners as they enter**. We encourage our greeters and ushers to:

- Complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.
- Take advantage of **first aid courses** when offered at the parish.
- Being a **Usher/Greeter** is more than just a role—it's an opportunity to **share Christ's love** through hospitality and service. If you enjoy welcoming others and being part of a supportive team, we invite you to join us!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Outreach Ministries at St. Ann are dedicated to serving those in need within our parish and beyond. Through acts of charity, service, and support, we strive to bring Christ's love to the most vulnerable in our community. Whether it's providing meals, assisting families in crisis, or organizing outreach events, we offer hope and help where it's needed most.

#### **Why We Exist**

Inspired by Jesus' call to serve—"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40)—we seek to be His hands and feet in the world. Our outreach ministries connect to St. Ann's mission by fostering a spirit of compassion and action. Through our work, we not only uplift those in need but also grow in faith as a parish community.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve individuals and families facing hardship, both within our parish and in the broader community. Our ministry provides food, financial assistance, and emotional support to those struggling with illness, poverty, or personal crises. Whether delivering meals to the homebound or organizing seasonal giving programs, we strive to bring comfort and dignity to all.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

You'll find a list of opportunities to volunteer in our different outreach ministries in the following pages.

#### **Special Requirements**

Some roles may require a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Training and guidance are provided to help volunteers feel comfortable and prepared in their ministry.

Scan the QR code for ministry leadership contact information and access to each ministry's webpage.



## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### Adult Mission Ministry

#### Who we are & What we do

We are a unique ministry of St. Ann adults dedicated to being Jesus' hands and feet by serving the elderly and poor in North Georgia. Through home repairs and companionship, we bring Christ's love to those in need. Our work includes two annual 4-day mission trips to Rabun County and local one-day projects throughout the year. No skills are required—just a heart for service and a willingness to show others they are valued and loved.

#### Why we exist

Inspired by the words of Terese of Avila, we are called to be the 'Hands and Feet of Christ'. Our ministry serves as a living example of faith in action. We work to ensure that everyone has a safe, dignified place to call home, knowing that through service, we not only transform their houses but also hearts. Our work is a powerful witness to the Gospel, bringing hope to those who feel abandoned and strengthening the bonds of our faith community.

#### Who we serve

We assist elderly individuals, disabled persons, low-income families, and others who need home repairs but lack the resources to complete them. Many of those we serve have spent years struggling with minor but burdensome repairs. For those whose homes seem to be collapsing around them, our ministry is an answered prayer. Each project is an opportunity to connect, uplift, and bring comfort to those you serve—one repaired home at a time.

#### Volunteer Opportunities

##### **Four-day Mission Trips:**

- Be a **missionary** repairing homes, **cook** for retreats, and **shop** for groceries.
- **Provide prayer support:** Write prayer cards for the missionaries, Join the adoration hour at St. Ann at the same time the missionaries are in adoration, pray for missionaries each day of the mission trip, Help the Spiritual Team prepare daily spiritual reflections for each day of the mission trip.

**One-day Mission Projects:** Be a missionary repairing homes, and pray for missionaries

**Fundraising:** Our ministry is mostly funded by repurposing scrap wood from our mission projects into Christmas decorations that we sell each December at the St. Ann Apple Annie Craft Show. We need help creating the crafts that we sell and selling our crafts during Apple Annie.

#### Special Requirements

There are no skill requirements, and we guarantee you will leave with more skills than you brought to the mission. All missionaries will be interacting with vulnerable adults; therefore, they must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### **AIDS Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

For more than 30 years, St. Ann’s AIDS Ministry has been a beacon of hope and compassion for those in need. Our dedicated volunteers have answered thousands of calls, offering not just a listening ear but also tangible support in the form of food, rent assistance, and utility aid. Through our ministry, we stand with the marginalized, providing care, dignity, and love to those we serve.

#### **Why We Exist**

We serve a community that is often unseen. For decades, those diagnosed with HIV faced stigma, fear, and isolation. But we are not afraid. We are called to be a light for those in darkness, ensuring that no one goes without food, housing, electricity, or hope. As followers of Christ, we embrace those in need with open arms and unwavering support.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our ministry supports individuals who are HIV-positive and living below the poverty line. Many of our clients receive medical care and services through Cobb & Douglas Public Health and local nonprofits such as Positive Impact. Through these partnerships, we help ensure that those in need receive essential resources and a community that cares.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities – Where We Need Help**

Together, we can make a difference. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with:

- **Food Pantry Appointments** – Helping clients receive the nourishment they need.
- **Helpline Support** – Answering calls and offering guidance with warmth and compassion. These roles require only a few hours a month, but the impact is life-changing.

#### **Special Requirements**

We ask our volunteers to approach this ministry with care, compassion, and a nonjudgmental heart. Our clients face immense struggles, and we are here to show them kindness, as Jesus asks of us: “Whatever you do for the least of these, you do unto me” (Matthew 25:40).

If you are called to serve, we invite you to join us in bringing hope to those who need it most.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### CareerQuest

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

CareerQuest is dedicated to supporting individuals facing unemployment, those at risk, and the underemployed. Our mission is to empower participants by helping them better understand their strengths, the job market, and the skills needed to secure meaningful employment. Through our supportive community, we provide a space where people in career transition can share information, build valuable connections, and gain insights using our proven 10-Step Process. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Why We Exist**

Unemployment and underemployment can create significant hardships for individuals, families, and communities. In 1986, a group of parishioners recognized this need and began hosting meetings to provide encouragement and support. What started as a small gathering has grown into CareerQuest—a ministry committed to helping individuals regain confidence and find new opportunities.

#### **Who We Serve**

CareerQuest welcomes individuals at every stage of their professional journey. Whether someone is entering the workforce for the first time, seeking a career change, or an experienced professional searching for new opportunities, we provide guidance, resources, and encouragement to help them navigate their path forward.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Career Coaches** – Provide one-on-one guidance and mentorship.
- **Presenters** – Share insights on job search strategies, resume building, interview techniques, and professional development.
- **Greeters** – Create a welcoming atmosphere at meetings and assist participants.
- **Church and Community Communications** – Help spread awareness about CareerQuest and its mission. Volunteers can choose to participate once or twice a month, or every other month, based on their schedules.

#### **Special Requirements**

CareerQuest volunteers should be compassionate, excellent listeners, and willing to share guidance from their professional and personal experiences. We provide training on the CQ 10-Step Process, ensuring that all volunteers have the tools and best practices needed to effectively support our participants. If you're passionate about helping others find meaningful work and purpose, we invite you to join us in making a difference!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### **Dismas Transition House Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

St. Ann’s Dismas House Ministry has supported residents transitioning from federal incarceration for over thirty years. It began when Director Gladys Scott sought Father Bob Susann’s assistance, forming a lasting partnership.

As Jesus said, "I was in prison, and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36). As a Dismas Charities partner, we lead bi-monthly classes in Job Readiness, Job Search Orientation, and Parenting, provide resume reviews and motivational speakers, and collaborate on special projects while serving on the Dismas Community Service Board.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our ministry exists to show the residents that they are not alone—there are people in the community who care about their success and want to help provide the tools they need to accomplish their goals.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve the residents of Dismas Atlanta, where approximately 90% are men and 10% are women, all completing their sentences while preparing for reentry. Residents stay for an average of 2 to 8 months, with over 600 individuals passing through each year. They are required to actively seek employment and develop release plans.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities – Where We Need Help**

Join us at Dismas House to assess your interest in facilitating a class. Curriculum and supporting handouts are provided. Opportunities include:

- **Class Facilitators** – Teach one of the following courses: Parenting (two sessions), New Arrivals Orientation, or Job Readiness (six sessions covering Job Search Basics, Applications, Skills, Networking, Resumes, and Interviewing).
- **Motivational Speakers Coordinator** – Help develop more speaking opportunities to reinforce community support for residents.
- **Resume Reviewers** – Provide feedback on resumes received via email. This role involves reviewing and offering suggestions, not full resume development.

#### **Special Requirements**

Following Bureau of Prisons guidelines, volunteers must complete an application, undergo a background check, and complete fingerprinting. However, prospective volunteers are welcome to attend with the St. Ann Dismas Ministry during a grace period as they explore opportunities to get involved.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### **FACTS: Fighting to Abolish Child Trafficking for Sex**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

FACTS (Fighting to Abolish Child Trafficking for Sex) raises awareness of child sex trafficking in Georgia. We educate the community, advocate for victims, and support Wellspring Living's Girls Residential Program, which provides trauma-informed care to survivors. We also partner with like-minded organizations to further our mission.

#### **Why We Exist**

Human trafficking is a grave injustice that exploits the most vulnerable among us. As Christians, we are called to stand against oppression and extend God's love to those in need. *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute"* (Proverbs 31:8). FACTS exists to bring hope and healing to survivors while working to prevent future exploitation through awareness and action.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve survivors of child sex trafficking who are part of Wellspring Living's Girls Residential Program. This program provides safe housing, education, counseling, and life skills training to help young survivors rebuild their lives. By partnering with Wellspring Living, we offer both practical support and compassionate care to those on the path to healing.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities – Where We Need Help**

We welcome volunteers who feel called to make a difference in the fight against child trafficking. Opportunities include:

- **Direct Support** – Assist with activities at Wellspring Living's Girls Residential Program (as permitted by their guidelines).
- **Awareness & Advocacy** – Help educate the community about child trafficking through events, presentations, and outreach efforts.
- **Donations & Fundraising** – Organize donation drives for essential items and assist with fundraising initiatives to support survivor services.

#### **Special Requirements**

Due to the sensitive nature of this ministry, volunteers working directly with Wellspring Living must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Together, we can stand against child trafficking, offer hope to survivors, and work toward a future free from exploitation.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### **Friends of Seniors**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Friends of Seniors is an active ministry of crafters who have been creating “tokens of love” for the forgotten, lonely, and elderly in our community for over 27 years. Using our artistic talents, we design heartfelt gifts that bring warmth and smiles to those who receive them across seven holidays each year. If you love crafting, collaborating, and bringing joy to others, we welcome you!

#### **Why We Exist**

*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” —Ephesians 2:10.*

We exist because too many elderly individuals in our community feel forgotten and alone, and we want them to know they are loved. So, we use our creativity and craftsmanship, to share God’s love, transforming our artistry into gifts that offer warmth, comfort, and connection to those who need it most.

#### **Who We Serve**

We minister to over 900 elderly residents in local Medicare facilities, 200+ retired religious, and those supported by St. Ann’s Pastoral Care outreach. This ministry is solely funded by individual donations and contributions.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We need talented crafters who can work with hot glue, intricate paper cutting and folding, detailed project assembly, acrylic painting, and other fine crafting skills. Hands-on meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, where we bring ideas to life and collaborate on new creations. Volunteers are also encouraged to contribute ideas for future projects.

#### **Special Requirement**

This ministry is for adults only. If you have a passion for crafting and a heart for service, come share your gifts with us and see how the Lord will transform you as you bring joy to others!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### Habitat for Humanity

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

**St. Ann's Habitat for Humanity Ministry** is dedicated to putting God's love into action by helping families build and own safe, affordable homes. Inspired by the Gospel call to serve others, we partner with **Habitat for Humanity** and five other Catholic Churches here in Cobb County to provide shelter, hope, and stability to those in need in our backyard. Our Catholics4Habitat goal is to build one Habitat house each year. That involves fundraising to cover the cost of building materials and providing volunteer labor to build the house. Through teamwork, generosity, and a little sweat – miracles are happening!

#### **Why We Exist**

Our mission exists in response to Christ's call to love and serve our neighbors, especially those in need. James 2:17 reminds us that "faith without works is dead," and our ministry embodies this truth by actively building homes, fostering community, and sharing God's love through service. We believe that every person is created in the image of God and deserves dignity, security, and a place to call home.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve families in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing. We help **low-income families, the working poor, single parents, and those affected by crisis** who have steady jobs but struggle to secure stable housing. By partnering with Habitat, we provide a path to homeownership through **sweat equity and affordable, no-interest mortgages**. Inspired by Christ's call to serve, we strive to build not just homes, but hope and community.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We need volunteers willing to raise their hand and say "yes". Do you want to help with a one-time opportunity, or are you interested in getting more involved? Let us know.

**Build Site:** No construction experience needed—just a willing heart and helping hands!

**Build Lunch:** Make or donate lunch items to support our volunteers on two Saturdays.

**2x4 Signing:** Encourage parishioners to add blessings to 2x4's we will use on the build.

**Fundraising:** We host two fundraising events to help accomplish our home-building goals...our annual Chili Cookoff and Turtle Candy (plus) sale at Apple Annie.

#### **Special Requirement**

Habitat for Humanity has **build-site** age restrictions for young people that still allow them to participate in meaningful ways. **Teens aged 16 & 17** can volunteer anytime with power tool and height restrictions, and **teens aged 14 & 15** can volunteer on Landscape Day.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### Military Support Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Military Support Ministry goes beyond a simple “Thank you for your service” by providing genuine support, community, and connection for service members, veterans, and their families. We welcome them into the St. Ann family, encourage their involvement, and offer resources to help them thrive. Through service, outreach, and fellowship, we honor and support those who have served, among other things. Additionally, we connect veterans with resources, encourage parish involvement, and partner with veteran and community groups.

#### **Why We Exist**

Faith is a powerful foundation for healing, recovery, and mental well-being. Isolation is a leading risk factor for veteran suicide, and our ministry exists to combat loneliness while honoring the service of our veterans.

One veteran shared how he had lost touch with his passion for playing in a band. We connected him with a local group at the Tim Lee Senior Center, and he is now an active member, rediscovering joy through music. Moments like these reflect the heart of our mission: creating connections that foster healing and purpose.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve active-duty service members, veterans, and their families within our parish and the broader community, ensuring they feel supported, connected, and valued. Through spiritual enrichment, access to essential resources, and a sense of belonging, we strive to offer comfort and encouragement.

By partnering with organizations like St. Ann’s Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, Career Quest, Cobb County Veteran’s Connect, Catholic Relief Veteran Services, and United Military Care, we expand our reach and provide critical services. In 2024, we made a donation to United Military Care (UMC), which has supported over 25,000 veterans and their families throughout Georgia since 2012.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

You **do not** have to be a veteran to join the **Military Support Ministry—all are welcome!** Whether you can commit **a little time or a lot**, there’s a place for you to serve.

#### **Special Requirements**

For most activities, no special requirements are needed. However, to serve **onsite at the USO**, volunteers must: **Register** with the USO, complete a **quick 10-minute online training course**, and possibly undergo a **background check**. If you’re interested in supporting our veterans and military families, we’d love to have you with us!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### **MUST Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

MUST Ministry is a dedicated team of adult volunteers committed to serving those in need through food and fellowship. Our nine teams take turns purchasing, preparing, and serving weekend lunches at the Loaves & Fishes kitchen in the Hope House Shelter in Marietta. Through warm meals and kind hearts, we help bring nourishment and comfort to our neighbors in distress.

#### **Why We Exist**

We are called to serve by providing home-cooked meals to those facing hardship in our community. As Jesus says in Matthew 25:35, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” A simple meal can restore hope, dignity, and remind those we serve that they are not forgotten.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our ministry serves the residents of the Hope House Shelter in Marietta, GA, offering them not only food but also a sense of care and compassion during difficult times.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome new adult volunteers to join our teams in preparing and serving meals. Whether you can help occasionally or on a regular basis, your time and effort will make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

#### **Special Requirement**

Because we work with **vulnerable individuals**, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being. The background check is provided at no cost by MUST Ministries.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### My Brother's Keeper

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

My Brother's Keeper is a compassionate ministry serving the homeless community in Cobb County. We provide food, clothing, bikes, candles, and other essentials to those often forgotten by society, offering not only material support but also hope and human connection. Rooted in love and service, our mission is to restore dignity and bring light into others' lives. What began with a simple candle—after a homeless man shared, “The rats come when our candles go out”—has grown to provide life-changing assistance, including helping someone who missed a job interview due to walking too far in the heat. Every act of service is a chance to make a real difference.

#### **Why We Exist**

Jesus teaches us, *“Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me”* (Matthew 25:40). We are called to serve **with unconditional love**, providing for the **basic needs** of those living outside. Many of the homeless we serve have shared how much they feel **the love and care that St. Ann's provides**. A simple **smile, a kind word, or a meal** can restore someone's hope, and that is the true joy of this ministry.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve the homeless, including veterans, seniors, and families in crisis, through various programs that restore dignity and hope. We provide 125 backpacks for homeless veterans, cover short-term motel stays, distribute Good Samaritan Bags twice a year, and run a Bike Program that has provided over 1,000 bicycles in 13 years. Additionally, we serve warm lunches to 100 homeless individuals every Wednesday and offer groceries through Pantry Days on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We greatly appreciate our volunteers and always welcome more helping hands. You can serve in various ways, including trailer support (drivers, loaders, unloaders for deliveries), meal service (preparing and serving lunches on Wednesdays from 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM), assisting with grocery distribution on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays during Pantry Days (2:30–3:30 PM), supporting the Bike Program (repairs, pickups, deliveries, donations), or creating handmade cards to encourage those we serve, especially through group efforts like with children.

#### **Special Requirements**

Because we work with **vulnerable individuals**, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### Prayer Line

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Want to make a difference but don't have the time to commit to meetings or events? St. Ann's Prayer Line is the perfect ministry for you! No meetings, no dues, no restrictions—just a simple yet powerful way to support others through prayer. Our volunteers, known as “pray-ers,” receive prayer requests by email and lift up those in need in their own way and on their own time. Whether it's for the sick, grieving, unemployed, or anyone facing struggles, every prayer makes a difference.

#### **Why We Exist**

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people....”* Intercessory prayer is a beautiful way to express love for others and support their spiritual well-being. By praying for those in need, we create a stronger, more compassionate community rooted in faith.

#### **Who We Serve**

St. Ann's Prayer Line welcomes any and all prayer requests, covering a wide range of needs—from physical healing to emotional support, job struggles, and personal intentions. Unlike the prayer intentions listed in the bulletin or shared at Mass (which are handled by Pastoral Care), our prayer requests are emailed to our group using only first names and last initials to respect privacy. This ensures many voices are quietly lifting each intention to God.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Becoming a “**pray-er**” is easy! There's no time commitment—you simply receive prayer requests via email and pray whenever and however you choose. Emails may come multiple times a day, a few times a week, or less frequently, depending on the number of requests. There's no pressure—just the opportunity to bring comfort and hope through prayer.

#### **Special Requirements**

There are **no special requirements**—all you need is an **email address and a willing heart** to pray for those in need.

If you feel called to **support others through prayer**, we'd love to have you join **St. Ann's Prayer Line**. Your prayers, no matter how simple, can **change lives**.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### Pro-Life Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Pro-Life Ministry at St. Ann's is dedicated to upholding the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. Through prayer, education, and outreach, we strive to foster a culture of life within our parish and the broader community. Whether through advocacy efforts, supporting expectant mothers, or raising awareness on life issues, we provide opportunities for parishioners to actively live out their faith in defense of life.

#### **Why We Exist**

Inspired by the words of Jeremiah 1:5—"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you"—our ministry exists to affirm the God-given dignity of every person. We work to promote a culture that values and protects life at all stages, offering compassion and support to those facing difficult decisions. Our mission aligns with the Church's call to be a voice for the voiceless and to provide tangible assistance to those in need.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our ministry serves the unborn, expectant mothers, families in need, the elderly, and the vulnerable in our community. Through partnerships with pro-life organizations, pregnancy resource centers, and parish initiatives, we provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to those who need it most.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Prayer & Advocacy:** Join in local and national pro-life prayer efforts, including 40 Days for Life and the annual March for Life, and our local Life Chain (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October).
- **Support & Outreach:** Assist pregnancy resource centers like PAC (Pregnancy Aid Clinic) and Path (Post Abortion Treatment and Healing), provide baby supplies, or offer guidance to expectant mothers.
- **Education & Awareness:** Help organize educational events, write pro-life articles, or participate in Respect Life Month initiatives.

#### **Special Requirements**

Some roles may require a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### Unbound

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Partnered with the Unbound organization, the St. Ann community is making a real, lasting impact by sharing Christ's blessings with our brothers and sisters in Santa Ana, El Salvador. Nearly 700 St. Ann parishioners sponsor children and the elderly, providing essential support for just \$40 per month. Over the past decade, our community has generously donated more than \$1 million, funding housing, stoves, beds, latrines, dental care, and much more. Rooted in the vision of Fr. Roger Plante, the Unbound St. Ann–Santa Ana Ministry is committed to uplifting the most marginalized and giving them the resources they need to break free from poverty.

#### **Why We Exist**

The Unbound ministry at St. Ann was born from the passion and devotion of the late Father Roger Plante. His heartfelt homilies and personal stories about the villagers of Santa Ana, El Salvador, inspired hundreds in our parish to take action. We are guided by Hebrews 13:16: *"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."* Through this ministry, we live out that call by serving those in need and strengthening our global family in faith.

#### **Who We Serve**

The people of Santa Ana face daily struggles with poverty, often lacking basic necessities. Monthly sponsorships provide children, youth, and elderly villagers with life-changing support—helping improve their health, nutrition, housing, and education. St. Ann sponsors are the heart of Unbound's work in Santa Ana, while one-time donations help meet urgent needs, as determined by families and Unbound social workers. Together, we bring hope and dignity to our brothers and sisters in El Salvador.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- **Sponsor a child or elder:** Build a personal connection through letter exchanges and see their progress over time.
- **Make a donation:** Support urgent needs like housing, beds, stoves, dental care, and educational supplies for Santa Ana.
- **Join the annual awareness trip to Santa Ana:** Experience a life-changing journey to connect and see the ministry's impact firsthand.
- **Life Teen Annual Housebuilding Trip:** Teens can help build homes for families in need. Contact Life Teen for details.

#### **Special Requirements**

There are no special requirements to participate—just a heart willing to serve!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – OUTREACH

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### **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Ann is a dedicated group of lay Catholics answering Christ's call to serve those in need with compassion and dignity. Through direct, person-to-person assistance, we provide hope and relief to individuals and families facing hardship. Our ministry extends beyond financial aid—we offer friendship, guidance, and tangible support to help uplift those in crisis.

#### **Why We Exist**

Inspired by the Gospel and Christ's command to love our neighbors, we seek to embody His mercy through acts of service. As Matthew 25:40 reminds us, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." By assisting those in need, we not only provide material aid but also affirm the dignity and worth of every person we encounter.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve individuals and families in our community struggling with financial hardship, hunger, and homelessness. Our outreach extends through a variety of programs, including the **Adopt-A-Family** program, casework assistance, food pantry support, and feeding the unsheltered homeless. We also partner with LaBelle Elementary School through the **Sharing Our Blessings** program and assist women in recovery at **Ladies Extension**. Additionally, we support local initiatives through **weekly food deliveries**, a **car donation program**, and volunteer staffing at our **St. Vincent de Paul thrift store**.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Casework Support:** Assist individuals and families in need by providing direct aid and guidance.
- **Food Pantry & Bread Runners:** Help stock, organize, and distribute food and fresh vegetables to those facing hunger.
- **Homeless Outreach:** Provide meals, supplies, and compassion to those without shelter.
- **Adopt-A-Family & Sharing Our Blessings:** Support families through holiday and school outreach programs.
- **Car Donation Program:** Facilitate vehicle donations to benefit those in need of reliable transportation.
- **Thrift Store Assistance:** Help sort donations and staff our local thrift store to support the ministry.

#### **Special Requirement**

Volunteers (AKA Vincentians) serving the needy directly must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure safety and well-being for all.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Pastoral Care Ministry extends Christ's love and compassion to those in our parish who are sick, homebound, grieving, or facing difficult times. Through prayer, visits, sacraments, and support, we bring comfort and connection to those in need, ensuring they remain a vital part of our faith community.

#### **Why We Exist**

As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:36, *"I was sick, and you visited me."* Inspired by His example, the Pastoral Care Ministry serves as a bridge of faith and friendship to those unable to fully participate in parish life. Whether offering a listening ear, sharing the Eucharist, or simply being present, we strive to bring the healing presence of Christ to others.

#### **Who We Serve**

We support parishioners who are sick, hospitalized, homebound, in nursing facilities, or grieving the loss of a loved one. Through our ministry, we remind them that they are loved, valued, and never alone in their journey.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

In the following pages you'll find a list of opportunities to volunteer in this type of ministry.

#### **Special Requirements**

Some roles may require a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Training and guidance are provided to help volunteers feel comfortable and prepared in their ministry.

Scan the QR code for ministry leadership contact information and access to each ministry's webpage.



### Annulments Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

An **Annulment** is a declaration by the Church that a marriage was never valid according to Church law. Unlike a divorce, which ends a valid marriage, an annulment affirms that something essential was missing from the beginning, rendering the marriage spiritually invalid. Our ministry provides guidance and support for St. Ann parishioners seeking an annulment, assisting them in navigating the process.

#### **Why We Exist**

This ministry exists to help parishioners understand the annulment process and provide the support needed to begin the process if they wish to seek an annulment. **There is no fee** for anyone requesting an annulment, as our focus is on the spiritual well-being of those seeking healing.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve **St. Ann parishioners** who wish to seek an annulment or dissolution of a marriage. Our trained tribunal advocates work directly with individuals, guiding them through the process and providing support as they present their cases to the **Metropolitan Tribunal of Atlanta**.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers in this ministry work in collaboration with the **Archdiocese of Atlanta**, supporting parishioners as they navigate the annulment process. Volunteers help by providing direct support to individuals seeking annulments, assisting with documentation, and offering guidance through the tribunal process.

#### **Special Requirements**

Because we work with **vulnerable individuals**, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Bereavement Support Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Bereavement Support Ministry is a weekly, volunteer facilitated, drop-in support group for those who are grieving after the loss of someone in their life. Discussions are based on the need of the group at the time of each meeting. Anyone may attend no matter what their loss or faith may be.

#### **Why We Exist**

Following the Gospel passage from Matthew 5:4, *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted,”* this group brings comfort and camaraderie once a funeral is over, when relatives and friends may not be calling as often. Having the support of people who understand what you are going through is important during a time of grief.

#### **Who We Serve**

Due to the nature of life, many who attend are widowed. However, anyone who has lost someone close to them, whether a family member, friend, or colleague, may find support within this group. Some people attend only a few meetings and others may attend over several years; there is no time limit to grieving. The fluid membership of the Bereavement Ministry means people can come for a one-meeting boost or lean on the group's support as needed.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Our volunteer facilitators have a working knowledge in grief-support facilitation.

#### **Special Requirement**

Because we work with vulnerable individuals, our volunteer facilitators must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Divorced and Separated Support Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Divorced and Separated Support Ministry is a volunteer facilitated, drop-in type group allowing attendance to vary based on the attendee's schedule. The group meets twice a month to discuss issues and share support with each other regarding marital separation and divorce. Books and other resources to help with this process are available through the ministry.

#### **Why We Exist**

Catholics are not immune to marital discourse. Often a married couple grows apart and one or both partners may seek separation and/or divorce. Having the support of others who are going through the same thing is important during this difficult time.

#### **Who We Serve**

This program supports those in the parish and surrounding community who are in the process of or have been through a marital separation or divorce.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Our volunteer facilitators have a working knowledge of and experience with marriage separation and divorce situations.

#### **Special Requirement**

Because we work with vulnerable individuals, our volunteer facilitators must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick and Homebound Ministry (EMSH)**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMs) receive additional training to take communion to those who can no longer attend Mass on weekends due to a health or personal situation.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our Catholic Catechism reminds us that we are to devote ourselves to fellowship, prayer, and to the breaking of bread (Communion). When someone is unable to attend Mass on a regular basis, our Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick and Homebound (EMSH) take the fellowship, prayers, and Communion to them.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our volunteers visit any Catholic in our surrounding community whether they are a registered parishioner or not. This includes those in local nursing, assisted living facilities, and at home.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Once trained as an EMSH, the Pastoral Care office will schedule each volunteer on an every four-week rotation to visit either a facility or homebound recipient. Volunteers attend Sunday Mass during which they are blessed and sent forth directly from Mass to the recipient. All needed supplies such as a pyx and burse to hold the host(s), prayer books, and name tags are available through the Pastoral Care office.

#### **Special Requirement**

Confirmed adult volunteers must first be trained as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist (EM) and then receive additional training to become an EMSH. Because we work with **vulnerable individuals**, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### Funeral Liturgy

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Our trained liturgical volunteers support funeral Masses, providing a comforting presence during a family's time of loss. Volunteers, including sacristans, Eucharistic ministers, and lectors, serve on request from the Pastoral Care staff, helping to create a meaningful celebration of the deceased's life. Having St. Ann volunteers involved adds a sense of family and support, offering more than just a service, but a genuine expression of care.

#### **Why We Exist**

Funeral Masses are an integral part of the Church's role in offering comfort and hope. As we come together to mourn and celebrate the life of the deceased, we also offer the grieving family our prayers and support. The Bible reminds us, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). In this ministry, we strive to embody that promise, bringing comfort and compassion to those in mourning while honoring the life and soul of their loved one. Just as we rely on volunteers for weekend Masses, we depend on them to help ensure funeral Masses are both reverent and uplifting.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve all families in need of a funeral Mass, offering prayerful support for their loved ones during one of the most difficult times in their lives. As part of the Works of Mercy, we are called to honor the deceased and provide strength and solace to those who mourn.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We invite trained sacristans, Eucharistic ministers, and lectors to assist at funeral Masses. This is an "as available" ministry—volunteers are contacted by the Pastoral Care department when needed and can sign up if available.

#### **Special Requirements**

- Funeral sacristans require additional training.
- Eucharistic ministers and lectors only need their basic training.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Funeral Reception Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Funeral Reception Ministry provides comfort, support, and community to grieving families by hosting receptions after the funeral of a parishioner or their family member. Our compassionate volunteers work together to create a welcoming environment, offering a space for loved ones to gather and reflect. The ministry helps by preparing and providing food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the reception, ensuring that families can focus on their grieving process while knowing that they are supported by their faith community.

#### **Why We Exist**

As a ministry, we are called to walk alongside those in mourning and offer both practical assistance and emotional comfort. Jesus teaches us, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4). This ministry exists to provide that comfort, helping those who are grieving to feel the embrace of their church family during such a difficult time. The reception serves as a small but meaningful way to show love, provide solace, and help heal during the grieving process.

#### **Who We Serve**

In close coordination with the Pastoral Care department, the Funeral Reception Ministry serves parishioners and their families after a funeral Mass. We aim to ease the burden on grieving families by offering a warm, supportive environment where they can share stories, memories, and solace with others who care for them.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Providing food** – Either by donating prepared dishes or purchasing needed items.
- **Reception setup** – Arranging tables, chairs, and food stations in the parish hall to ensure everything is in place.
- **Kitchen assistance** – Preparing and organizing food for serving, ensuring everything runs smoothly.
- **Hosting** – Serving food and welcoming guests, offering comfort and presence.
- **Cleanup** – Helping to restore the space after the reception so that it’s ready for the next event.

We also welcome food donations from those unable to attend in person but who still wish to contribute.

#### **Special Requirements**

There are no special skills required to volunteer, and volunteers are not obligated to stay for the entire reception. We are grateful for any time offered.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### Health and Wellness Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

St. Ann's Health and Wellness Ministry promotes the health and well-being of our faith community by offering education, counseling, and advocacy while integrating faith and health in all activities. Our goal is to deepen the understanding of the connection between spiritual and physical well-being.

#### **Why We Exist**

*"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

A strong connection between mind, body, and spirit is key to overall well-being. Our ministry exists to promote this holistic approach to health. We offer programs and resources that not only focus on physical health but also support emotional, mental, and spiritual wellness. By working together with the parish nurse and other professionals, we help parishioners find balance and live healthier, more fulfilling lives, both spiritually and physically.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our ministry serves St. Ann parishioners and those in the surrounding community. Whether you are looking for health information, ways to improve physical fitness, or spiritual well-being, we are here to offer guidance, education, and resources to everyone in need.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Health Fairs and Educational Events:** Help organize or staff health fairs focusing on topics like nutrition, exercise, and preventive care.
- **First Aid Stations:** Volunteers with medical training (nurses, EMTs, physicians) can assist at first aid stations during parish events.
- **Community Wellness Activities:** Assist with planning and leading wellness programs and fitness activities.

Volunteers can support these initiatives at various levels of involvement, contributing to the well-being of their fellow parishioners.

#### **Special Requirements**

While no medical background is required for most volunteer roles, those assisting with first aid stations must be medically trained. All volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## **FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE**

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### **Knitters & Crocheters Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Knitters & Crocheters Ministry is a group of dedicated people who use their skills to create warmth and comfort for those in need through the crafting of blankets, caps, and other handmade items. With a heart for service, our volunteers craft beautiful and thoughtful pieces of art, transforming simple yarn into expressions of love, compassion, and faith. These handcrafted items are then distributed by the Pastoral Care office to those who need them most (Especially during Christmas).

#### **Why We Exist**

Inspired by 1 Peter 4:10-11—"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace..."—this ministry transforms simple yarn into gifts of love and faith. By sharing our skills, we bring warmth, hope, and the presence of Christ to those who need it most.

#### **Who We Serve**

The recipients of the items we create are primarily homebound parishioners, residents in nursing homes, and individuals in assisted living facilities. In collaboration with the Pastoral Care department, the ministry offers these handmade gifts as a tangible sign that the St. Ann community cares for them, prays for them, and holds them in our hearts. These efforts are not just about providing physical warmth, but also about providing emotional and spiritual support, letting these individuals know they are remembered and loved by their church family.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Whether you are an experienced knitter or crocheter or someone eager to learn, the Knitters & Crocheters Ministry welcomes everyone who has a heart for service and a desire to help. Our group meets quarterly to drop off finished items, pick up yarn for new projects, and enjoy fellowship with one another as we share our work and admire each other's creations. It's a time for community and connection, as well as a chance to teach and learn from others. We also accept donations of yarn (please no wool), which helps keep our work going. Volunteers may work at home on their projects and drop off completed pieces at our meetings, ensuring flexibility in how individuals can participate.

#### **Special Requirements**

The only requirement for participating in this ministry is a heart for service and a willingness to knit or crochet – beginner included!

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Meals to the Sick and Homebound Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Meals to the Sick and Homebound Ministry is a vital part of St. Ann's mission to support and care for those in our parish who are facing illness, recovery from surgery, or other temporary challenges that prevent them from preparing meals. Through this ministry, we provide nourishing and comforting meals to individuals and families in need. Our dedicated volunteers prepare meals with care and those who have been cleared to drive for the church deliver them.

#### **Why We Exist**

The foundation of this ministry is inspired by the words of Jesus in **Matthew 25:35**, where He says, *"...for I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink."* As followers of Christ, we are called to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others, particularly those who are sick or recovering. By providing nutritious meals to those who cannot prepare food for themselves, we not only meet a practical need but also show love, compassion, and solidarity with our fellow parishioners. This ministry is an expression of the Gospel in action—offering food to those in need as a tangible sign of Christ's love and presence in their lives.

#### **Who We Serve**

This ministry specifically serves parishioners who are recovering from illness, surgery, or other health-related challenges that make it difficult for them to cook or care for themselves. It also serves family members who are caring for loved ones during these times. Whether it's a post-surgery recovery, a short-term illness, or another circumstance that requires assistance, this ministry ensures that individuals and families have one less thing to worry about during a challenging period. By delivering home-cooked, nutritious meals, we offer both physical nourishment and emotional support to those who need it most.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

When a need arises, the Pastoral Care department contacts ministry volunteers to schedule meal preparations. Volunteers provide a complete meal tailored to the family's size, food preferences, and dietary restrictions. Prepared meals are brought to the church on the scheduled day, where another volunteer picks them up for delivery to the parishioner.

#### **Special Requirements**

A love for cooking and a heart for service are the primary requirements for this ministry. Volunteers should be willing to prepare meals that meet the needs of the recipients, including dietary restrictions.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Prayer Blanket and Cap Outreach Ministry** **for Cancer and ICU Patients**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Parishioners create caps for patients undergoing cancer treatment and blankets for ICU patients at local hospitals. Caps may be knitted, crocheted, or sewn. Patterns for sewn fleece caps are available. Blankets may be of any material but there are some restrictions on size, style, and trim. The caps are labeled with a note that says, *"This hat was made with love, hope, and prayers in your honor by a member of the Catholic Church of St. Ann, Marietta, Georgia."* They are then individually bagged and distributed to several cancer treatment locations. Patients choose their cap and keep it throughout treatment and beyond as a remembrance of love and prayer sent their way during their treatment. Blankets are labeled with a prayer that says, *"Prayers have been offered to you as each thread was lovingly stitched together."* The blankets are delivered to chaplains at local hospitals so they may distribute them to ICU patients. If/when the patient is discharged from the hospital, he/she may take the blanket home. If the patient passes away, the family may keep the blanket as a remembrance of prayers that covered their loved one during their time in the hospital.

#### **Why We Exist**

In Matthew 25:36, Christ tells us that when we care for those who are sick, we are caring for Him. Philippians 4:6 also reminds us that we have hope through prayer, petition, and thanksgiving. Sharing our talents with those in need by creating caps and blankets for those who are ill is a true act of love. When these items are delivered to the recipients, they know they are being prayed for by the communion of saints at the Catholic Church of St. Ann.

#### **Who We Serve**

The items created are given to patients who are receiving cancer treatment and those hospitalized and critically ill. This ministry also serves the Pastoral Care department which offers the caps and blankets to St. Ann parishioners as well.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

If you like to knit, crochet or can sew, this ministry welcomes your creations!

#### **Special Requirement**

Just love and a talent to create blankets or caps for those who are ill.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Prostate Cancer Support Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

We are a group of men who get together to provide spiritual support and comfort to our members who have experienced a prostate cancer diagnosis. We meet monthly to discuss issues and pray for healing regarding any aspect or difficulty that our members may be experiencing related to their prostate cancer journey. We are strictly a faith-based support group and therefore we do not provide any medical advice for the treatment of prostate cancer.

#### **Why We Exist**

As a Support Group, we exist to provide a faith based, safe environment for men to share and ask questions about their experience and difficulties related to their prostate cancer. Our group is founded on the principles of the Catholic faith and is dedicated to protecting the confidentiality of our membership and any sharing that may occur during our meetings.

#### **Who We Serve**

We primarily serve the men of the Catholic Church of St Ann. However, men from other parishes/churches are welcome to join our support group.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Our volunteer facilitators have personal knowledge of the medical and confidential topics which are discussed and have a strong prayer and faith life.

#### **Special Requirement**

To be part of the St. Ann Prostate Cancer Support Group, you need to be a male who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Because we work with vulnerable individuals, our volunteer facilitators must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### **Spiritual Direction Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do:**

We are a compassionate team of trained spiritual directors at St. Ann's Parish, dedicated to guiding parishioners on their spiritual journeys. Our team consists of three parishioners certified in Spiritual Direction, each offering their unique approach to fostering spiritual growth. As volunteers, we provide one-on-one spiritual direction, engaging in meaningful conversations that help individuals discern God's presence in their daily lives. Through prayer, reflection, and attentive listening, we offer a sacred space for personal growth, transformation, and a deeper connection with God. Our goal is to accompany each person on their faith journey, helping them become more self-aware and responsive to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

#### **Why We Exist:**

The Spiritual Direction ministry at St. Ann's exists to facilitate a deepening connection between our parish community and the divine. Recognizing that everyone's spiritual path is unique, we strive to meet you wherever you are in your faith journey. We believe in the transformative power of personal reflection and discernment in strengthening one's relationship with God.

#### **Who We Serve:**

We serve the adult members (18 years and older) of St. Ann's Parish and any individuals seeking to enrich their spiritual life. Those going through transitions, discerning important life decisions, experiencing loss, questioning or doubting their faith, or simply wishing for a more profound sense of connection with God will find solace and guidance in our ministry.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

We are always open to welcoming new trained spiritual directors into our ministry. Volunteers who wish to serve in this role must be certified in Spiritual Direction and compliant with the background clearance requirements set by the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

#### **Special Requirements:**

While there are no special prerequisites to participate in spiritual direction, we ask that those seeking to join our ministry come with an open heart and a willingness to share their spiritual experiences. Confidentiality is a cornerstone of spiritual direction; therefore, directees must agree to respect and uphold this practice to ensure a safe and trusting environment for all participants. All Spiritual Directors must comply with the background clearance requirements set by the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – PASTORAL CARE

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### Transportation Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Transportation Ministry at St. Ann's Parish is a volunteer-driven initiative dedicated to supporting parishioners who need assistance with transportation to non-emergency medical appointments. Our volunteers provide a vital service to those who are unable to drive themselves, ensuring that they can attend their medical appointments with ease and peace of mind. The ministry focuses on appointments that do not require anesthesia or any other services that would make driving unsafe for the individual following their visit.

#### **Why We Exist**

The Gospels call us to serve those in need, to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Volunteers in this ministry live out that call—literally—by using their hands and feet to drive fellow parishioners to essential medical appointments. As Jesus teaches in Matthew 25:40, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” By offering their time and service, our volunteers reflect Christ's love and care for those in need.

#### **Who We Serve**

This ministry assists adult parishioners who are unable to drive due to medical reasons or age but are cognitively capable. In some cases, if another adult family member is present, parishioners with mild cognitive impairment may also qualify for transportation assistance.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers offer their time based on availability. When a parishioner requests transportation, the Pastoral Care department gathers details such as the date, time, and location of the appointment and then emails a request to all volunteers. If a volunteer is available, the Pastoral Care department connects them with the parishioner to finalize arrangements. Additionally, volunteers may occasionally be called upon to assist in delivering meals or gifts to our homebound parishioners.

#### **Special Requirements**

Since this ministry serves vulnerable individuals, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. All drivers must also complete the **Archdiocese of Atlanta's driving requirements**, which include:

- Submitting a copy of their **driver's license** and **vehicle registration**
- Completing a **short online driving information course**

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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### **SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT MINISTRIES**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Spiritual Enrichment Ministries at St. Ann's Parish offer a variety of programs designed to deepen our community's faith and foster spiritual growth. Our ministry includes Bible studies, retreat opportunities, prayer groups, and spiritual formation courses, all aimed at helping parishioners grow closer to God and each other. Through intentional prayer, reflection, and community-building activities, we encourage individuals to deepen their understanding of Scripture and strengthen their relationship with God.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our mission is rooted in the call to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, as Jesus teaches in Matthew 22:37, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Spiritual enrichment is essential for our faith journey, and these ministries exist to provide opportunities for growth, reflection, and connection. By engaging in prayer, study, and fellowship, we aim to equip parishioners to live out their faith in all aspects of life.

#### **Who We Serve**

This ministry serves all adult members of St. Ann's Parish who seek to deepen their faith and enrich their spiritual lives. Whether individuals are new to the faith, seeking to renew their commitment to Christ, or hoping to build a stronger connection to their parish community, our Spiritual Enrichment Ministries offer a welcoming space for all.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

You'll find opportunities to volunteer in these ministries in the following pages.

#### **Special Requirements**

Some roles may require a **safe environment VIRTUS training** and a **background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Training and guidance are provided to help volunteers feel comfortable and prepared in their ministry.

Scan the QR code for ministry leadership contact information and access to each ministry's webpage.



## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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### Eucharistic Adoration Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Eucharistic Adoration is a time to adore and honor Christ's presence in the Eucharist. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance on the altar, allowing for quiet reflection and prayer. Adoration nourishes our souls, inspires our faith, and fills us with grace.

#### **Why We Exist**

Adoration is an opportunity to step away from the distractions of daily life and be in the presence of Jesus. As He tells us in Matthew 11:28, *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."* Through Adoration, we deepen our relationship with Christ and open our hearts to His will.

#### **Who We Serve**

Adoration is open to **everyone**—children (accompanied by an adult), teens, young adults, parents, grandparents, and clergy. Whether you stay for five minutes or an hour, this sacred time allows you to pray, reflect, and simply be in Jesus' presence.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Adoration Guardians play a vital role in making Eucharistic Adoration available to our parish. Without them, this ministry would not be possible.

- **Permanent Guardians** commit to one hour per week at a designated time. Ideally, each hour has **two guardians** to ensure continuous coverage.
- **Substitute Guardians** fill in when a permanent guardian is unavailable and may also sign up as a second guardian at any time.

#### **Special Requirements**

There are **no special requirements** to attend Adoration—only a desire to **spend time with Jesus**. Volunteers who serve as **Adoration Guardians** will receive guidance on their role and how to find substitutes when needed.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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### **Faith and Light of Greater Atlanta**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Faith and Light of Greater Atlanta is a vibrant community where **individuals with developmental disabilities**, along with their families and friends, gather monthly to experience prayer, scripture, fellowship, music, crafts, and the joys and challenges of life. As part of Faith and Light International, we are connected to over 1,200 local communities worldwide and guided by Faith and Light USA East. Our mission is to create a space where everyone feels **welcome, loved, and accepted**.

#### **Why We Exist**

Faith and Light exists because **love and acceptance** for people with developmental disabilities is often missing in the world. Our ministry is grounded in the belief that **everyone deserves to be seen** and valued for who they are. As it says in Matthew 18:20, *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”* Our favorite Faith and Light song reminds us that “it takes me, you, us, love, and Christ to build Community.”

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and friends. Our ministry not only offers a supportive environment for those directly involved but also serves the wider community through special events like leading **Stations of the Cross** and hosting an **Annual Mass of Inclusion**. Our group provides an important opportunity for people to **share, be seen, and build connections**.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers are at the heart of Faith and Light, and we invite you to share your gifts with us. Volunteers help with various activities during our monthly gatherings, including music, arts and crafts, meeting set-up, and clean-up. These tasks are essential to creating an enriching experience for our members. In addition, we need support for our annual events. We encourage you to “Come and See” how you can make a difference and be part of this wonderful community!

#### **Special Requirement**

Because we work with **vulnerable individuals**, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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### Faith Sharers Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Faith Sharers Ministry is dedicated to hosting and facilitating spiritual experiences, including weekend, half-day, or full-day retreats. We are called to community by our desire to share, strengthen, and witness our faith through prayer and outreach. Our team creates all program content, offers witness talks or personal sharing, and facilitates the environment and activities that support the spiritual growth of those attending. We support the parish's mission by bringing community members to renewed faith and a more focused awareness of God in their lives.

#### **Why We Exist**

In Matthew 5:16, Jesus says, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* The diversity of our members is united by our shared belief in Christ and our willingness to share our faith journeys with others through our unique talents and skills.

#### **Who We Serve**

We offer our spiritual experiences to both the parishioners of St. Ann's and the larger faith community, including our neighboring churches and people of all faith backgrounds.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We are looking for members who can assist with various aspects of our spiritual experiences, such as:

- **Creating program content**
- **Program speakers**
- **Marketing**
- **Serving in hospitality**
- **Designing environment**
- **Creating or sharing music, photography, or video**
- **Assisting with retreat logistics**

We work collaboratively on all areas, helping and supporting each other in both preparation and event execution.

#### **Special Requirements**

While no specific training is required, volunteers must be **open to learning** and **sharing their talents** for the benefit of the community. Some roles may require experience in **public speaking, event planning, or hospitality**, but we welcome volunteers from all backgrounds.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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### La Salette Laity Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The St. Ann's La Salette Laity is a dedicated group of adults who have committed themselves to learning, praying, and living through the lens of the message that Mary shared with two children on an isolated French alp many years ago. Our group seeks to live out her message in our daily lives, drawing closer to Christ and each other through prayer, reflection, and service.

#### **Why We Exist**

Our parish has been blessed by the presence of the Missionaries of La Salette since its founding in 1978. The La Salette charism of reconciliation—which is rooted in the unique Marian apparition—is the foundation from which all of our ministry flows. We exist to deepen our understanding of Mary's message, the history of the La Salette Religious Order, and their call to reconciliation, as we partner with our priests to bring us closer to Christ in our daily lives.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our ministry serves not only our own community but also the wider **faith family** by sharing Mary's message of **love and reconciliation**. Through both **prayer** and service, we strive to foster deeper connections with Christ, one another, and ourselves. Volunteer opportunities like the **La Salette Laity Summit** we are hosting this summer are one example of how we come together to live out this mission.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities: Where We Need Help**

We invite all parishioners to join us in supporting the La Salette mission through:

- **Personal prayer**
- **Prayer at Mass** (we pray the La Salette invocation at each Mass)
- **Volunteer participation** in our tri-annual **La Salette Laity Summit**, held this year from **June 4-7**
- **Facilitators for new groups** of La Salette Laity

We welcome volunteers who want to share their gifts and grow in their faith through prayer, community, and service.

#### **Special Requirements**

The only requirement to join the La Salette Laity is a commitment to regular prayer, an open heart, and a willingness to learn more about Mary's message of reconciliation. Service to others will naturally follow from your dedication to prayer and the understanding that comes with it.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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### Prayer and Praise Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

We are a joy-filled community of believers dedicated to building a more personal and intimate relationship with Jesus. Through our monthly prayer meetings, we gather to focus on praise and worship through music and Scripture, reflective prayer time, teachings, sharing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and intercessory prayer. Our ministry is also committed to evangelizing our faith by participating in the parish Healing Masses. Whether you're seeking to deepen your relationship with Jesus or explore the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your life, we invite you to join us. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:15 pm in Room 303. All are welcome!

#### **Why We Exist**

As Psalm 150:6 says, "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" We exist to build a loving community that raises awareness of God's love and power in our lives. By growing in greater awareness of His presence, we aim to share what we've learned with the broader parish family, helping to build up and support the Body of Christ at St. Ann's.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve anyone who wants to deepen their relationship with the **Blessed Trinity** through the work of the **Holy Spirit** in their lives. Our ministry is also there for those seeking **guidance** and **direction** from God, as well as for individuals in need of prayer during our **Healing Masses**.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities: Where We Need Help**

Our ministry plays an important role in supporting the **quarterly parish Healing Masses** by staffing various positions, including:

- Greeters
- Sacristans
- Lectors
- Ushers
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Prayer Team Members

We welcome volunteers who are called to serve in these capacities to help make these events impactful for our community.

#### **Special Requirement**

The primary requirement for volunteering is **being open to the Holy Spirit** working in your life. We believe that openness to the Spirit is essential for the success of this ministry.

## FAITH IN ACTION: MINISTRIES – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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### Sponsor Couple Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

The Sponsor Couple Ministry is a group of married couples who assist in preparing engaged couples for Christian marriage. Using a couple-to-couple approach, sponsor couples offer encouragement and support, much like sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation. We invite the engaged couple into our home for a series of meetings, where we discuss and explore the many aspects of marriage, helping to lay a strong foundation for their future together.

#### **Why We Exist**

Christian marriage is a sacrament, and the Catholic Church wants couples to be **well-prepared**. Marriage preparation allows couples to **deepen their understanding** of the sacrament, evaluate their readiness to live married life, and gain valuable insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple. In **Amoris Laetitia** (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis reminds us that healthy and holy marriages and families are the **essential foundation** of the Kingdom of God and of strong, flourishing societies. We are here to support that vision by guiding engaged couples in their preparation.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve **engaged couples** within our parish community. Through our ministry, couples gain insights from the day-to-day experiences of a married couple who have walked the same journey, helping them to feel more confident and prepared for their married life ahead.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

At this time, there are no additional volunteer opportunities within the ministry.

#### **Special Requirement**

The program uses a **workbook** to facilitate the discussions, and the format centers around **sharing personal experiences**. **Training** is simple and provided to ensure all sponsor couples feel equipped and supported in their role.

## FAITH IN ACTION: FAITH FORMATION

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### **St. Ann's Preschool**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

St. Ann's Preschool is a Catholic, play-based preschool that blends academic learning with faith formation, fostering a love of learning in a Christ-centered environment. Our whole-child approach nurtures intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and physical development through engaging activities designed to support growth in every area. We believe children learn best through play, and we encourage creativity, curiosity, and social interaction while introducing fundamental academic concepts. Through daily prayers, blessings, and celebrations of Saints and liturgical seasons, our students develop an early understanding of their Catholic faith. By integrating faith into everyday learning, we help build a strong spiritual foundation that will guide children as they grow.

#### **Why We Exist**

At St. Ann's Preschool, we recognize the importance of early childhood education in shaping both a child's academic journey and their faith life. As Proverbs 22:6 teaches, "*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*" Our goal is to provide a joyful and nurturing space where young children develop a love for learning, grow in confidence, and experience God's presence in their daily lives. We are committed to preparing children not only for elementary school but for a lifelong relationship with Christ.

#### **Who We Serve**

Our program is open to children ages 14 months to 5 years old, creating a welcoming and enriching environment that supports early childhood development. We work in close partnership with families, recognizing that parents are the primary educators of their children. By providing a loving, faith-filled space for young learners, we help support parents in guiding their children through these formative years.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Parents of enrolled students are encouraged to get involved through the Preschool Parent Association, which organizes various volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Engaging in these opportunities strengthens our preschool community and allows parents to take an active role in their child's early education.

#### **Special Requirements**

Enrollment is open to children ages 14 months to 5 years old. To participate in preschool programs, children must be officially registered. Parents wishing to volunteer may need to complete a background check and the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Virtus Safe Environment Training to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.

## FAITH IN ACTION: FAITH FORMATION

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### Launch Children's Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Launch Children's Ministry is St. Ann dynamic faith formation program designed for children ages 3 through fifth grade. Our mission is to bring kids to Christ through engaging, hands-on activities, group discussions, and interactive learning. From August through March, we offer weekly 90-minute sessions that help children explore the richness of our Catholic faith and Biblical history in a way that is meaningful and exciting.

#### **Why We Exist**

Jesus commands us to *"go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matt 28:19-20) At Launch Children's Ministry, we take this mission to heart by helping children experience God's incredible love. We introduce them to the works and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the grace found in a life of faith.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve over 450 children and their families, guiding them in their faith journey and helping them grow closer to God. Our ministry also plays a key role in preparing children for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. Above all, we seek to ignite a lifelong passion for Christ in young hearts, ensuring His love continues to shine in their lives.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We rely on dedicated volunteers who are willing to serve like Christ and deepen their own faith in the process. Opportunities include:

- **Teachers & Aides:** Facilitate pre-written lessons and activities in small classes (16 children or fewer) alongside a co-teacher or aide.
- **Substitutes:** Step in occasionally to support our program when needed.

Whether you can serve weekly or only once in a while, your time and effort will make a lasting impact on the children and families of our parish.

#### **Special Requirements**

No formal Catholic faith training is required, though a general knowledge of the faith is helpful. But because we work directly with children, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: FAITH FORMATION

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### **St. Ann's Youth Ministry**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

St. Ann's Youth Ministry is dedicated to leading teens closer to Christ by fostering meaningful encounters with God in a welcoming and dynamic environment. Our mission goes beyond teaching the faith—we create experiences that help young people grow spiritually and develop a faith that will carry them through middle school, high school, and beyond. Through Mass, engaging sessions, mission trips, summer camp, Bible studies, retreats, and social events, we provide countless opportunities for the next generation of Catholics to joyfully and authentically live out their faith.

- **EDGE:** Middle school youth ministry (Grades 6-8)
- **Life Teen:** High school youth ministry (Grades 9-12)

#### **Why We Exist**

St. Pope John Paul II called young people "the hope of the Church" (Christifideles Laici 47), and at St. Ann's, we take that to heart. Youth Ministry is not just a program—it's an essential part of our parish's mission and the mission of the universal Church. By investing in the spiritual growth of our youth, we are investing in the future of the Church. Through Life Teen and EDGE, teens are encountering Christ in a real and personal way and are being empowered to share their faith with others.

#### **Who We Serve**

We serve middle and high school students, offering them a place of belonging in a world that can often feel overwhelming. Life Teen and EDGE provide a sanctuary where teens can find faith, friendship, and purpose. Every week, nearly 400 teens gather at St. Ann's to deepen their relationship with Christ and become an integral part of our parish community.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

If you're passionate about helping teens grow in their faith, we invite you to serve in one of these roles:

- **Core Team:** Commit to weekly EDGE or Life Teen nights, lead small group discussions, and mentor teens.
- **Retreat Team:** Help with behind-the-scenes setup and cleanup, assist with logistics, or serve on the prayer team.
- **Kitchen Crew:** Shop, prepare, and serve meals for our Life Teen gatherings, providing nourishment for both body and soul.

#### **Special Requirements**

Because we work closely with teens, all volunteers must complete a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## **FAITH IN ACTION: FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH MINISTRY**

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### **Parents for Life Teen Board**

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Welcome to the Parents for Life Teen Board! We're a passionate group of parents and parishioners dedicated to supporting the Director of Youth Ministry, Staff and Core Members in guiding our teens on their faith journeys. Life Teen offers a vibrant space for teens to grow spiritually, connect with others, and build a strong foundation in Christ. Through the annual "Dueling Pianos" fundraiser we are able to support and enhance events, retreats, and activities.

#### **Why We Exist**

The Parents for Life Teen Board exists to support and enhance the spiritual journey of our youth. Aligned with our La Salette parish mission of reconciliation through worship, word, works, and sacrament, the board's purpose is to help our young people grow in faith, service, and discipleship. By offering resources, raising funds, and organizing events, we strengthen the connection between families, youth, and the parish community.

#### **Who We Serve**

This ministry plays a vital role in ensuring that St. Ann's Youth Ministry has the support it needs to offer teens a place to thrive in their faith and personal growth. By supporting this ministry, you're helping to build a welcoming, faith-filled environment where our youth can develop a deep, lasting relationship with God and each other.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We are always looking for passionate volunteers to join the Parents for Life Teen Board and help us make a meaningful impact on our youth ministry. There are several ways you can get involved, whether it's by serving as a Board member in roles like Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary, or by joining one of our committees, such as Fundraising or Hospitality. We also need volunteers for event planning, setup, and support during youth ministry events—just 1-2 hours per month can make a big difference! Volunteering with your teen is a wonderful way to connect as a family while helping our young people grow in faith. Together, we can create a thriving, supportive environment where everyone feels at home and valued.

#### **Special Requirement**

Board members shall be active members of the Catholic Church of St. Ann Parish

## FAITH IN ACTION: FAITH FORMATION

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### Encounter: St. Ann's Adult Faith Ministry

#### **Who We Are & What We Do**

Encounter, St. Ann's Adult Faith Ministry, nurtures lifelong spiritual growth by deepening both knowledge and personal faith. Through small group discussions, speakers, scripture studies, book groups, La Salette Laity groups, inter-faith events, and seasonal reflections, we provide opportunities for adults to learn, connect, and grow. Our programs serve diverse needs, including young adults, parents, women, men, and those preparing for adult Confirmation. Whether seeking community, spiritual enrichment, or deeper faith, Encounter offers a place to belong.

#### **Why We Exist**

As Jesus commands, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*" (Matthew 28:19). Through learning, reflection, and community, we exist to help adults strengthen their relationship with God and one another, providing opportunities to live out their faith within the Church and beyond.

#### **Who We Serve**

We welcome adults at all life stages, offering programs tailored to their faith journeys. Through scripture studies, marriage enrichment, and seasonal reflections, Encounter provides a supportive space for growth. We also serve specific groups—moms, dads, men, women, and inter-faith communities—helping parishioners deepen their faith year-round, especially during Advent and Lent.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We offer several ways for volunteers to get involved in Encounter's work:

- **Facilitating Groups:** Lead small group discussions and/or bible studies to help guide others in deepening their faith.
- **Speaking & Presenting:** Share your knowledge and faith by leading sessions or events.
- **Event Participation:** be part of our teams to plan or support the various programs and events.
- **Hospitality Support:** Assist with event logistics, food, and welcoming attendees.
- **Adult Confirmation sponsor:** be a parishioner of St. Ann's who has made their sacraments of initiation and willing to share your faith with others.

#### **Special Requirements**

Whether facilitating a group or assisting at an event, training is simple and will be provided. To ensure a safe and supportive environment, all volunteers a **safe environment VIRTUS training and background check** to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

## FAITH IN ACTION: FAITH FORMATION

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## **Order of Christian Initiation (OCI)**

### **Who We Are and What We Do:**

The Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) is a transformative process for individuals of all ages seeking to grow in their faith and join the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. We welcome children, teens, and adults exploring Catholicism, guiding them through a journey of faith, prayer, and community. Through catechesis, prayer, and parish involvement, we help candidates deepen their understanding of Catholic teachings, strengthen their relationship with Christ, and engage with the Church community. We offer age-appropriate programs, ensuring each participant's experience is meaningful and enriching.

### **Why We Exist:**

At St. Ann, OCI fulfills Jesus' call to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We accompany individuals on their journey to full communion with the Church, offering guidance, prayer, and support as they prepare for the sacraments of initiation. This ministry connects to the parish mission of fostering faith, deepening relationships with God, and building a welcoming community. By guiding children, teens, and adults, we help them encounter Christ and strengthen their relationship with Him, growing ourselves in love and service as we walk together in faith.

### **Who We Serve:**

- **OCIC (Order of Christian Initiation for Children):** Welcomes children seeking the sacraments, guiding them through age-appropriate faith formation.
- **OCIT (Order of Christian Initiation for Teens):** Provides catechesis, spiritual growth, and community support for teens preparing for the sacraments.
- **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults):** Accompanies adults discerning their path into the Catholic faith, offering instruction, prayer, and fellowship.

### **Volunteers Needed:**

- *Catechists:* Teach and guide participants in their faith formation.
- *Team Leaders:* Facilitate sessions and support group discussions.
- *Sponsors:* Accompany candidates, offering mentorship and encouragement.
- *Sponsor Coordinator:* Match candidates with sponsors and provide ongoing support.

### **Special Requirements:**

Volunteers working with children, teens, or vulnerable individuals may be required to complete a background check and **VIRTUS Safe Environment Training** in accordance with diocesan policies.

# FAITH IN ACTION: PARISH OFFICE

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## Parish Office

### Who We Are & What We Do

The Parish Office serves as the central hub of administrative support within the parish, encompassing several key departments. These include the **Administrative Department**, which manages parish registrations and records, facilities scheduling, and Safe Environment among other things; the **Facilities Department**, responsible for maintaining and beautifying the parish grounds; the **Finance Department**, which ensures the financial health of the parish; and the **Communications Department**, which oversees parish media, including newsletters, social media, podcasts, and website content. Together, these departments work to ensure smooth daily operations, support parish ministries, and keep the community informed and connected.

### Why We Exist

Our ministry reflects Jesus' call to serve one another with love and humility. By supporting the various functions of the parish, we help create an environment where faith can flourish and the parish community can thrive.

### Who We Serve

We serve the entire parish community, ensuring that both parishioners and visitors have access to the resources and assistance they need to enrich their faith journey.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- **Administrative Department:** Volunteers assist with general office tasks, and offer special projects support.
- **Facilities Department:** Volunteers can join project teams, assist with outdoor cleanup, contribute to gardening efforts, and help with washing tablecloths for parish events.
- **Finance Department:** Volunteers are needed for collection counting, data processing, office organization, and general financial support.
- **Communications Department:** Volunteers support parish outreach and connection through roles such as photographers, videographers, writers/editors, social media content creators, podcast support, and website support.

### Special Requirements

Some volunteers may be required to complete Virtus Safe Environment training and a background check to ensure a safe and secure environment for everyone we serve. Training is simple and equips you to serve responsibly.

## **FAITH IN ACTION: PARISH COUNCILS**

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### **PARISH COUNCILS**

#### **Discipleship Council**

The Discipleship Council oversees the parish's Discipleship program, encouraging parishioners to deepen their faith through active involvement. Comprising three subcommittees—Faith in Action, Prayer & Presence, and Generosity—the Council plans and implements covenant card activities that help integrate faith into daily life. Volunteers are needed in each subcommittee to assist with covenant phases. No special requirements—just a willingness to support the parish's mission.

#### **Finance Council**

The Finance Council advises the pastor on financial matters, ensuring the parish's financial stability and sustainability. Meeting quarterly, we review budgets, analyze revenue, and discuss financial policies that support parish ministries and long-term growth. Members serve two- to six-year terms, with opportunities for new volunteers. A credit check is required, and experience in finance, accounting, or business management is beneficial.

#### **Pastoral Council**

The Pastoral Council advises the pastor on parish life and mission, serving as a bridge between parishioners and leadership. We collaborate with ministries, staff, and commissions to implement the parish pastoral plan and ensure community voices are heard. New members begin serving in July, committing to monthly meetings, parish events, and a three-year term. Interested parishioners can connect with current members or attend a summer interest meeting. An interview process is required for selection.

#### **School Board**

The School Board oversees faith formation initiatives, ensuring programs foster lifelong discipleship. Members collaborate on religious education, youth ministry, sacramental preparation, and adult faith formation, providing strategic direction to keep programs dynamic and true to Catholic teaching. Volunteers can serve as board members or support faith formation by assisting catechists and ministry leaders. A strong commitment to the Catholic faith is essential, and some roles require Virtus Safe Environment training and a background check.

## FAITH IN ACTION: PARISH COMMITTEES

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### **PARISH COMMITTEES**

#### **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee serves as a welcoming space for anyone interested in supporting and shaping parish communications. Acting as a sounding board for all communication initiatives, the committee helps lead St. Ann's communication efforts and provides valuable support in key areas. Members contribute in various ways, including writing, overseeing initiatives, and offering strategic guidance to ensure our parish effectively reaches and engages the community. In addition to providing guidance, members also take an active role in executing communication efforts, such as creating content, managing social media, producing videos, and assisting with parish publications. Whether through digital outreach, printed materials, or multimedia projects, the committee plays a vital role in sharing our mission and strengthening connections within the parish.

#### **Creation Care Team**

St Ann's Creation Care Team educates our parish on *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis's encyclical on *Care for our Common Home*. The Team, along with support from the Archdiocese and other Creation Care Team parishes, helps to initiate Zero Waste programs in our parish and informs parishioners on ways to reduce their environmental impact in their homes and communities.

#### **Facilities Committee**

The Facilities Committee is dedicated to ensuring that St. Ann's buildings and grounds are well-maintained, functional, and aligned with the needs of our parish community. Members play an active role in assessing facility needs, supporting improvement initiatives, and providing guidance on maintenance projects. From evaluating infrastructure updates to assisting with special projects, the committee helps ensure that our parish remains a welcoming and safe environment for worship, ministry, and community gatherings. Whether through hands-on support, project planning, or offering expertise, the Facilities Committee is essential in keeping our church's physical spaces in excellent condition.

## FAITH IN ACTION: PARISH COMMITTEES

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### Family Life Committee

The **Family Life Committee** serves as the managing body of the Family Life Ministry, ensuring its programs and initiatives align with the parish's mission. Comprised of representatives from each of the ministry's subcommittees, the committee works collaboratively to plan and oversee activities that support and strengthen family life within the parish. All plans and proposals developed by the committee are submitted to the church administrator and pastor for review and approval, ensuring unity and alignment with the broader vision of the church.

- **Spiritual Life Committee** – The Spiritual Life Committee oversees the spiritual development and faith formation within the Family Life Ministry. Through prayer, retreats, and faith-building opportunities, the committee ensures that all activities are rooted in Catholic values and contribute to the spiritual growth of families in the parish.
- **Social Committee** – The Social Committee is responsible for planning and executing events that foster fellowship and community within the Family Life Ministry. From large gatherings to smaller group activities, this committee ensures that all events are welcoming, engaging, and aligned with the ministry's mission.
- **Swag Committee** – The Swag Committee designs and develops branded merchandise to promote the Family Life Ministry and support its fundraising efforts. By creating apparel, accessories, and other items, the committee helps raise awareness while generating financial support for ministry initiatives.

### Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee supports the vital work of our Pastoral Care department, which serves the sick, homebound, facility-bound, and bereaved in our parish. Made up of dedicated volunteers, the committee works behind the scenes to provide guidance, ideas, and hands-on support for outreach efforts, ensuring that those in need receive care, comfort, and connection. Inspired by Christ's call to "love one another" (John 13:34), members collaborate with the Pastoral Care team to plan activities and assist with special projects that enhance care for our parish family. Volunteers are welcome to join the committee or support ministry efforts—no special requirements, just a compassionate heart and a desire to serve.

## **FAITH IN ACTION: PARISH COMMITTEES**

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### **Vocations Committee**

The Vocations Committee at St. Ann's is dedicated to fostering a culture of prayer and awareness for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and permanent diaconate, while also supporting the vocations of married and single life. Our mission, deeply connected to the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette who have served our parish since its inception, focuses on encouraging discernment of God's call in all lives. Through prayer, outreach, and education, we raise awareness and inspire those considering religious life. We serve our parish by sharing information, encouraging prayer for vocations, and supporting events that nurture a vocation-friendly environment. Volunteers are welcome to join the committee or assist with awareness events, and if an event involves children, Virtus certification is required.

## **LITURGICAL COMMITTEES**

### **Liturgical Arts and Environment Committee**

The Liturgical Arts and Environment Committee is dedicated to creating beautiful and meaningful liturgical environments that reflect each season and special liturgy. From Advent to Easter, and for celebrations like Christmas and Holy Week, we design and arrange spaces that honor the liturgical calendar, enhancing the sacred atmosphere of our church. Our mission is to enrich the liturgical celebrations by integrating the liturgical arts—decorations, artwork, and symbolism—into the physical space, helping the faithful reflect on and celebrate the mysteries of our faith. We serve the entire parish community by creating environments that elevate worship and invite deeper connection with God. We welcome creative volunteers to help with design, decoration, and tasks like setting up for major seasons. Volunteers with skills in sewing, floral arrangements, or a passion for liturgical arts are especially needed. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the parish by helping to create a sacred and inviting worship space.

## **FAITH IN ACTION: PARISH COMMITTEES**

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### **Liturgy Committee**

The Liturgy Committee at St. Ann's is a group of parishioners who help shape and enhance the worship experience by providing valuable insights—"a view from the pew." We meet periodically to reflect on the liturgical seasons and collaborate with clergy and staff to ensure our liturgies are meaningful, engaging, and spiritually enriching. Our mission is to uphold and enrich the tradition of quality liturgy, creating an atmosphere of reverence, beauty, and participation in every season. Our work benefits the entire parish, fostering prayerful, well-planned liturgies that deepen the community's encounter with Christ. While the committee currently has a full complement of members, those interested in joining in the future are encouraged to reach out to Joanne Simpson. Members must be registered parishioners of St. Ann who regularly attend Mass and special liturgies, with prior involvement in a liturgical ministry being helpful.

### **Liturgical Minister Leadership Committee**

The Liturgical Minister Leadership Committee at St. Ann's is a group of trained liturgical ministers, including ushers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, sacristans, mass coordinators, and linen ministry members. We meet periodically to address the needs of our Masses and liturgical celebrations, ensuring they are organized, reverent, and spiritually enriching for the parish community. Our mission is to support and strengthen St. Ann's liturgical life by providing leadership, guidance, and training for liturgical ministers. Through collaboration, we create a seamless and prayerful worship experience for all. Our work benefits not only the ministers but the entire parish community, enhancing the sacredness of our celebrations. Trained liturgical ministers are welcome to join the committee to help represent their ministry and assist with training and needs. Committee members must actively participate in one of the represented ministries, with a need for one or two representatives from each ministry.

*phase two*

# Prayer and Presence

BEING FULLY PRESENT TO GOD AND ONE  
ANOTHER IN FAITH AND COMMUNITY.

# PRAYER AND PRESENCE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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## **What is Prayer & Presence?**

Prayer & Presence focuses on deepening our relationship with God through personal and communal prayer, learning about our faith, and participation in parish life. It calls us to be present with God, one another, and the Church.

## **Why is Prayer & Presence important?**

A strong spiritual life is the foundation of discipleship. Through prayer, worship, and learning, we grow in faith and become more connected to Christ and our parish family. Being present at community events as a parish is also an important part of presence, as it allows us to share in fellowship, support one another, and strengthen our bonds as a community of faith. When we come together in prayer and parish life, we build relationships that help us live out our faith more fully.

## **What can I expect in this section of the Discipleship Handbook?**

This section includes a list of opportunities at St. Ann where you can strengthen your prayer life and deepen your presence in the parish community. You'll find information on prayer groups, retreats, scripture studies, and ways to engage more fully in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. Additionally, this section highlights larger parish events where you can gather with others to experience the richness of parish life, such as mission retreats, special liturgies, and faith-based community gatherings. Whether you're looking to grow in personal prayer, participate in communal worship, or join a faith-sharing group, there are many ways to nurture your spiritual life.

## **How does the Prayer & Presence phase unfold at St. Ann?**

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to grow spiritually through Mass, Adoration, retreats, Bible studies, small faith groups, and spiritual enrichment events. However, during this phase, we take a focused step by making a commitment on **Covenant Weekend** to deepen our spiritual lives. This commitment involves not only personal prayer and faith formation but also active participation in the life of our parish community.

The Prayer & Presence phase culminates in a joyful parish celebration—**the International Festival**—where we come together to share in fellowship, celebrate our diverse community, and strengthen the bonds of faith that unite us.

## **How do I make a commitment to Prayer & Presence?**

During **Covenant Weekend**, you will fill out a **Covenant Card**, a physical expression of the covenant you're making with our Lord to deepen your relationship with God through the opportunities available at our parish. If you prefer, you can also submit your Covenant Card online.

## PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRAYER COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Prayer and presence are at the heart of our relationship with God and one another, deepening our faith and strengthening our parish community. At St. Ann, we offer a variety of opportunities to grow in prayer—whether through the sacraments, personal devotion, communal worship, or faith formation. Presence also means actively participating in the life of our parish, whether through faith-based activities or simply gathering for fellowship and social events. By committing to prayer and being present in both spiritual and community life, we open our hearts to God’s grace, support one another, and nurture a vibrant, Christ-centered parish family.

### Prayer Commitment Opportunities

- **Weekend Mass** – Celebrate the Eucharist as a community at our weekend Masses, where we gather in worship, prayer, and fellowship to strengthen our faith and receive God’s grace.
- **Holy Day Masses** – Join us for Mass on Holy Days of Obligation, honoring significant events in our faith and deepening our relationship with Christ and His Church.
- **Daily Mass** – Nourish your spiritual life with daily Mass, offering a peaceful opportunity to receive the Eucharist and reflect on God’s word.
- **Healing Mass** – Offered quarterly, this special Mass focuses on God’s healing power, inviting those in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing to receive His grace.
- **All Souls Mass** – A solemn Mass dedicated to remembering and praying for our departed loved ones, entrusting them to God’s mercy.
- **Three Kings Mass** – Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, honoring the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child and recognizing Jesus as the light of the world.
- **Stations of the Cross** – A Lenten devotion that invites reflection on Christ’s Passion and sacrifice, guiding us through His journey to the cross.
- **Morning Prayer** – Begin the day with communal or personal prayer, offering gratitude and seeking guidance for the day ahead.
- **Evening Prayer** – Conclude the day with prayer, reflecting on God’s presence and seeking His peace before rest.
- **Grace Before Meals** – A simple yet profound way to acknowledge God’s blessings and express gratitude before partaking in meals.
- **Scripture Reading** – Deepen your faith by regularly engaging with the Bible, meditating on God’s word, and applying it to daily life.
- **Reconciliation** – Receive God’s mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, restoring your relationship with Him through confession and absolution.
- **Penance Service** – A communal opportunity for reflection and reconciliation, allowing multiple priests to hear confessions during Advent and Lent.

## PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRAYER COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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- **Adoration** – Spend time in the presence of Christ through Eucharistic Adoration, offering prayers of worship, gratitude, and intercession.
- **Praying for Vocations** – Support those discerning religious life by praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.
- **Vocations Cross** – Families and individuals commit to praying for vocations by taking home the Vocations Cross for a designated time.
- **Bringing up the Gifts** – Parishioners have the honor of presenting the bread and wine at Mass, symbolizing the offering of our lives to God.
- **Communion at Home** – Bringing the Eucharist to homebound parishioners, ensuring they remain connected to the sacramental life of the Church.
- **TV/Online/Radio Mass for the Homebound** – Providing access to Mass through various media, allowing those unable to attend in person to participate in worship.
- **Novenas** – Nine-day prayer devotions seeking intercession for specific intentions or deepening our relationship with God and the saints.
- **Rosary** – A meditative prayer honoring the Blessed Mother, reflecting on the mysteries of Christ’s life and seeking Mary’s intercession.
- **Parish Missions** – Opportunities for spiritual renewal through guest speakers, prayer, and reflection, held at various times throughout the year.
- **Day of Reflection** – A dedicated time for prayer and contemplation, helping individuals deepen their faith through guided reflections.
- **La Salette Daily Reflections** – Inspirational reflections based on the La Salette spirituality, fostering prayerful meditation and connection with God.
- **Spiritual Retreats** – Time away from daily routines to focus on personal faith growth through prayer, teaching, and community fellowship.
- **Spiritual Reading** – Engage with spiritual books and writings that nurture faith, provide insight, and inspire a closer relationship with God.
- **Spiritual Direction** – Guidance from trained spiritual directors to help individuals discern God’s presence and deepen their faith journey.
- **Columbarium Prayer** – A sacred space for prayer and remembrance of deceased loved ones interred in the parish columbarium.
- **Prayer Line** – A dedicated ministry offering prayers for those who request intercession for personal or communal intentions.
- **Pray for the Names in the Bulletin** – Lifting up in prayer those listed in the parish bulletin, especially the sick, deceased, and those in need of support.
- **Anniversary Blessings** – Special blessings for couples celebrating wedding anniversaries, recognizing the gift of marriage and God’s presence in their union.
- **Prayer and Praise** – A monthly gathering for the community to come together in worship, song, and intercessory prayer, fostering spiritual renewal and fellowship.

## PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRAYER – Faith Formation Opportunities

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### Prayer: Faith Formation Opportunities

#### For Adults:

- **Adult Confirmation Sponsor:** Parishioners serve as mentors and spiritual guides for confirmation candidates, supporting them throughout their sacramental preparation.
- **Bible Studies:** Weekly gatherings that explore the scriptures through discussion, study guides, and faith-sharing. Groups meet in the fall and spring and focus on different books of the Bible or thematic topics.
- **Catechist Training:** Provides training and support for those who teach religious education at St. Ann's. Sessions offer insights into catechesis, best teaching practices, and theological understanding.
- **College Group:** Meets twice a year, during Christmas and May, when students return home from college. This ministry helps college students stay connected to their faith and parish community.
- **Confirmation Parent Sessions:** Informational and spiritual preparation for parents of confirmation candidates to help support their child's faith journey.
- **Dad's Group:** A faith-based fellowship for fathers of children ages 0-18. The group meets quarterly for guest speakers, discussions, and service projects, as well as hosting four off-site social events annually.
- **Encounter:** Faith formation ministry for adults that has several different types of gatherings to work of your faith.
- **Faith Sharers Retreat:** A lay-led annual retreat designed to help participants deepen their faith and grow spiritually in a supportive community.
- **Family Life Spirituality:** Programs and resources that nurture faith within the family setting and strengthen relationships through Catholic teachings.
- **Footsteps on the Journey with Carol Busche:** Offers days and evenings of reflection and an occasional day retreat, guided by the parish's spiritual directors.
- **Interfaith Events:** Opportunities to engage in dialogue and faith-sharing with people of different religious traditions, fostering understanding and unity.
- **La Salette Laity Groups:** Groups dedicated to the spirituality and mission of Our Lady of La Salette, deepening faith through prayer and service.
- **Listening to Catholic Faith Formation Resources:** Encourages parishioners to engage with Catholic books, podcasts, and other media to grow in their faith.
- **Marriage Enrichment Sessions:** Designed for couples married 20 years or less who seek to strengthen their relationship and center their marriage on God. Guided by a book on the Beatitudes, the group meets every other week from January through May.

## PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRAYER – Faith Formation Opportunities

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- **Marriage Preparation:** Engaged couples are guided through the sacrament of marriage with support, teachings, and mentorship to build a strong faith-based union.
- **Marian Book Group:** Explores books on the Blessed Mother, including her apparitions and presence in our lives today. Past studies have included "33 Days to Morning Glory" and "Our Lady of Sorrows." Activities include journaling, creating Marian altars, and watching related videos.
- **Mom's Group:** A supportive community for mothers with children ages 0-18. This group provides a nurturing space to connect, share experiences, and grow in faith and motherhood. Meets on the first Friday of each month for 9 AM daily Mass, followed by coffee, conversation, and socializing. Babysitting is available from 8:45 AM - 11 AM in Nursery A.
- **Mornings/Evenings of Reflection:** Opportunities for prayer, contemplation, and personal growth, held throughout the year with various speakers and themes.
- **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults):** A journey of faith for adults seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church through baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation.
- **OCIA Sponsor:** Volunteers accompany and mentor OCIA candidates as they prepare to enter the Catholic faith.
- **Ponder (Sunday Readings):** A study group that reflects on and discusses the Sunday Mass readings to gain deeper insights into scripture and its application to daily life.
- **Prayer Partner Ministry:** Parishioners are invited to spiritually support individuals preparing for sacraments, including: First Communion, Confirmation, and La Belle Elementary students.
- **Promise Keepers:** A men's faith-sharing group that selects books to read and discuss throughout the year. Meetings take place on Saturday mornings.
- **Read Georgia Bulletin:** Encourages parishioners to read *The Georgia Bulletin*, the official Catholic newspaper of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, to stay informed about faith-related news and events.
- **Scripture Studies:** Weekly scripture study groups that delve into the Bible, exploring its messages and relevance in daily life. Topics range from specific books of the Bible to themes such as virtues, saints, and church history. Many groups also engage in acts of service, such as adopting families at Christmas and supporting St. Vincent de Paul.
- **Sacraments Preparation:** Designed for already baptized Catholic adults who need to complete their sacraments of First Communion and/or Confirmation. This group attends the 10:30 AM Mass together and meets weekly, typically starting in February.
- **Sacramental Preparation for Parents** equips parents with the knowledge and spiritual guidance needed to support their children as they receive the sacraments, fostering a deeper understanding of their faith and role in their child's journey.

## PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRAYER – Faith Formation Opportunities

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- **Sister Talk:** A women’s ministry that fosters faith, fellowship, and personal growth. Open to all women of the parish, Sister Talk meets quarterly for conversations, faith-sharing, and joyful community.
- **Speaker Series:** Features guest speakers who share insights on faith, theology, and Christian living throughout the year.
- **Thomas Merton Book Group:** A virtual study group that reads and discusses the works of Thomas Merton, exploring contemplative prayer and spiritual growth.
- **Vessels of Grace:** A monthly morning of reflection covering topics such as the saints, forgiveness, and humility, offering inspiration and renewal.

### Prayer: Faith Formation Opportunities For Teens (Middle School and High School)

- **8th Grade Retreats** – A spiritual retreat designed specifically for 8th graders to deepen their faith, build friendships, and prepare for the transition into high school with a stronger foundation in Christ.
- **EDGE Youth Ministry (Grades 6-8)** – A dynamic, interactive middle school ministry that blends faith, fun, and friendship through engaging activities, small group discussions, and prayer experiences.
- **Bible Studies (Grades 9-12)** – Small group gatherings where high school students explore Scripture, learn how to apply biblical teachings to their lives, and grow in their relationship with God.
- **Life Teen (Grades 9-12)** – A vibrant high school youth ministry faith formation program that focuses on catechesis, service, and relational ministry through weekly gatherings, retreats, and social events, all centered on leading teens closer to Christ.
- **OCIT (Grades 6-8)** – The **Order of Christian Initiation for Teens**, a program for middle school students who wish to become Catholic or complete their sacraments of initiation.
- **OCIT (Grades 9-12)** – The high school version of the **Order of Christian Initiation for Teens**, designed for students who are joining the Catholic Church or completing their sacraments.

## PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRAYER – Faith Formation Opportunities

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- **Pre-Confirmation (Grades 7-8)** – A foundational program for middle school students to help them prepare for Confirmation by deepening their understanding of faith, the sacraments, and Church teachings.
- **Summer Camp** – An exciting and faith-filled summer experience where teens can grow spiritually, build friendships, and participate in outdoor adventures, prayer, and worship.
- **Voyage Sacrament Preparation Catch-Up** – A program designed for teens who have missed receiving their sacraments at the typical age, providing them with the opportunity to prepare for and receive Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation.

### Prayer: Faith Formation Opportunities For Children (Elementary and Preschool)

- **First Reconciliation Preparation** – A program that helps children understand the sacrament of reconciliation, preparing them to experience God's mercy and forgiveness for the first time.
- **First Communion Preparation** – A faith formation journey that prepares children to receive the Eucharist, deepening their understanding of Jesus and the significance of the Mass.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** – A fun-filled summer program that combines faith, music, games and experiments, and other activities to help children learn about God in an engaging and interactive way.
- **Voyage Sacramental Catch-Up** – Designed for children who have missed receiving their sacraments in second grade, this program provides them with the necessary preparation to receive Baptism, First Communion, or Reconciliation.
- **OCIC Classes** – The **Order of Christian Initiation for Children**, a program for children who are preparing to enter the Catholic Church or complete their sacraments of initiation.
- **Catholic School Student Support** – Opportunities for children attending Catholic schools to remain connected with parish faith formation and sacramental preparation programs.
- **Launch** – A faith formation program designed for preschool through elementary-age children, providing them with a solid foundation in Catholic teachings before they move on to middle school youth ministry.
- **St. Ann Preschool** – A program that blends early childhood education with faith formation, helping young children grow academically, socially, and spiritually in a nurturing Catholic environment.

## PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRESENCE – Community Events

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### Presence Opportunities at our Community Events

- **Annual Gala:** Led by the music department, this elegant evening features live entertainment, dinner, drinks, and fellowship. St. Ann's music and AV ministries present award-winning performers showcasing music from Broadway, movies, pop, and opera.
- **Bingo Night:** A fun-filled evening of bingo, laughter, and fellowship for parishioners of all ages.
- **Card Games:** Opportunities for community members to gather for friendly games and socializing.
- **Christmas Sing-Along:** A festive gathering where parishioners join in singing beloved Christmas carols.
- **Dueling Pianos:** A lively and interactive musical event where talented pianists entertain with a mix of songs and audience participation.
- **Family Pick-Up Dinners:** Prepared meals available for families to enjoy together at home while strengthening their connection to the parish community.
- **Golf Tournaments:** Parish-sponsored golf outings that bring together members for friendly competition and fellowship.
- **Hospitality Weekend:** Expanding on the concept of Sunday donuts, this weekend-long event showcases St. Ann's spirit of hospitality, fostering fellowship and welcome for all parishioners.
- **International Festival:** A celebration of the diverse cultures within our parish, held after the Prayer and Presence Covenant Weekend, featuring music, food, and traditions from around the world.
- **Lenten Fish Dinners:** A beloved parish tradition during Lent, offering a meal of fish and fellowship while supporting the community.
- **Line Dancing:** A social gathering where parishioners can enjoy music, learn new dance steps, and have fun together.
- **Parish Festival:** The culmination of Discipleship's Faith in Action phase, bringing the community together on Reilley Field for a day of fun, food, and fellowship.
- **Parish Lenten Mission:** A spiritually enriching event offering reflection, prayer, and inspiration during the Lenten season.
- **Special Dinners:** Themed dinners that provide opportunities for parishioners to gather, share a meal, and build relationships within the community.
- **Spring Concert:** An annual musical event featuring a variety of artists, celebrating the joy of music and faith.
- **Spring Concert VIP Party:** An exclusive gathering before the Spring Concert, including dinner and a photo opportunity with the featured artist.

## **PRAYER AND PRESENCE: PRESENCE – Community Events**

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- **The Christmas Dinner & Cookie Exchange:** A festive evening where parishioners enjoy a Christmas dinner together, followed by a cookie exchange for those who wish to participate.
- **The Parish Festival:** A joyful event marking the end of the Covenant of Faith in Action, bringing the entire parish together for celebration and fellowship.
- **Trivia Night:** A fun-filled evening of trivia competition, laughter, and camaraderie.
- **Trunk or Treat:** Organized by the Family Life Ministry, this event invites children and families of St. Ann to dress up in costumes and trick-or-treat in the parish parking lot.
- **Presence at Other Parish and Ministry Events:** Participation in various gatherings such as Trivia Nights, Family Fun Nights, Family Game Nights, and Family Movie Nights, as well as ministry-specific meetings for groups like Widows Helping Others, Young Adults (SENT), 50+ Rewards, Knitters & Crocheters, and OWN.

*phase three*

# Generosity

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE BY SHARING OUR  
BLESSINGS THROUGH KINDNESS, AND CHARITABLE GIVING TO  
SUPPORT THE CHURCH AND ITS MEMBERS.

# GENEROSITY: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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## **What is Generosity?**

Generosity is the call to support the mission of the Church and those in need through financial giving, stewardship, and acts of charity. It reflects our gratitude for God's blessings and our trust in His provision.

## **Why is Generosity important?**

A generous heart is essential to discipleship. Just as prayer and presence deepen our relationship with God, generosity allows us to put our faith into action. By sharing our financial resources, time, and talents, we sustain the Church's mission, serve those in need, and strengthen our parish community. Through generosity, we actively participate in God's work on earth, growing in trust and gratitude.

## **How does the Generosity phase unfold at St. Ann?**

Throughout the year, there are many ways to give back, whether through offertory giving, special collections, or charitable outreach. However, during this phase, we make a focused commitment to generosity by prayerfully reflecting on how God is calling us to give. This is a time of discernment—an opportunity to consider how we can financially support the Church and be good stewards of our resources.

On **Covenant Weekend**, we will make a commitment with our Lord, dedicating ourselves to giving in the ways He calls us. This season of generosity culminates in a joyful celebration at the **Christmas Dinner and Sing-Along**, where we come together as a parish family to give thanks for God's blessings.

Generosity is not just about giving—it's about recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God, meant to be shared for His glory.

## **What can I expect in this section of the Discipleship Handbook?**

In this section you'll find guidance on different ways to give at our parish.

## **How do I make a commitment to Generosity?**

During **Covenant Weekend**, you will fill out a **Covenant Card**, a physical expression of the covenant you're making with our Lord to live generously. This is an opportunity to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. Ann and how you can give back through your stewardship. If you prefer, you can also submit your Covenant Card online.

# GENEROSITY

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**Generosity** is a core value at St. Ann, and our community actively participates in various charitable efforts. Opportunities to give include financial contributions, service, and acts of kindness that support both parish ministries and those in need beyond our church.

## Adult Generosity Opportunities

### Annual Offertory Commitment

Each parishioner is invited to make a pledge toward annual contributions that support the ongoing operating expenses of the parish, ensuring the continued growth and vitality of our faith community.

### Additional Church-Based Giving

- **Second Collections** – Special collections taken during Mass to support various causes.
- **St. Ann's Ministry Support** – Financial and volunteer assistance for parish ministries.
- **Saint Vincent de Paul** – Assisting those in need with food, financial aid, and resources.
- **Capital Campaign** – Funding for major parish projects and improvements.
- **Archbishop's Annual Appeal** – Supporting the work and mission of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

### Other Generosity Charities

- **Life Teen Activities** – Fundraising and service projects supporting youth ministry and outreach.
- **Disaster Relief** – Parish-wide efforts to aid communities impacted by natural disasters.
- **Unbound** – Sponsoring children, young adults, and elderly individuals in developing countries.
- **School Tuition Assistance** – Helping families afford Catholic education.
- **Support for Relatives/Others** – Personal giving to those in need within the community.
- **Mission Collections** – Donations supporting missionary efforts locally and globally.
- **Personal Charities** – Encouraging parishioners to contribute to organizations close to their hearts.

### Generosity Events

Opportunities to be generous by contributing to these fundraising and gift giving events.

- **Apple Annie** (Organized by the SACCW) – Annual craft show offering handmade items for purchase with proceeds benefiting a local charity.

- **Adopt-A-Family** (Organized by St. Vincent de Paul) – A Christmas outreach effort to bring joy to families facing hardship. Parishioners come together to provide gifts and dinner, spreading the spirit of giving during the holiday season.
- **Garage Sale** (Organized by the SACCW) – A major fundraising event supporting charitable initiatives.

## GENEROSITY

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### Youth Generosity Opportunities (Middle & High School)

Teens have many opportunities to give back through service, leadership, and charitable giving:

- **Serve in school clubs** – Beta Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, etc.
- **Join a mission trip** – Assist communities in need.
- **Make blessing bags** – Provide essential items for those served by St. Vincent de Paul.
- **Help with EDGE Core Team** – Support middle school faith formation.
- **Volunteer for parish events** – Support ministries by assisting with events.
- **Apple Annie Volunteers** – Help with set-up, sales, and clean-up.
- **Sophomore Service Day** – Participate in a dedicated day of giving back.
- **Food & Clothing Drives** – Donate and help organize collections.
- **Serve with St. Vincent de Paul** – Volunteer time to support those in need.
- **Join Life Teen Leadership Team** – Take a role in shaping youth ministry.
- **VBS Volunteer** – Assist in Vacation Bible School activities.
- **Write letters to the elderly or imprisoned** – Offer words of encouragement.
- **Participate in Life Chain** – Stand for the dignity of human life.
- **Donate to parish and community charities** – Contribute financially or through service.
- **EDGE Service Day** – Participate in a special day of service.
- **Adopt-A-Family** – Donate money or shop for Christmas gifts for families in need.

### Generosity Opportunities for Children (Elementary & Preschool)

Even the youngest members of our parish can practice generosity in meaningful ways:

- **Create a card or drawing** – Brighten someone's day with a handmade note.
- **Give someone a hug** – Show love and care through simple gestures.
- **Smile at someone** – Spread kindness with a friendly smile.
- **Use kind words** – Speak words that uplift others.
- **Help someone in need** – Look for ways to assist others.
- **Volunteer with family** – Help with parish or school service projects.
- **Share extra treats** – Donate leftover Halloween or holiday candy to the Children's Ministry prize box.

- **Donate unused toys or clothes** – Give to those who need them most.
- **Pray for others** – Keep others in your prayers.
- **Spend time with God** – Dedicate time to prayer and faith activities.
- **Spend time with family or friends** – Share generosity through presence and love.



# Appendix

**2026**

This appendix  
highlights new and  
updated opportunities  
to grow in faith, build  
community, and serve.

*catalogue  
appendix*

# FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

- COMMUNITY  
MINISTRIES

A place where families grow together in faith, build meaningful connections, and experience the joy of being a domestic church.

- For: For all families with children 0-18 years of age.
- Gathering: Events and opportunities throughout the year.

*a special invitation:*

We are prayerfully forming a **new leadership team** for this coming year. If you feel called to help families grow in faith and community, we would love to walk with you.

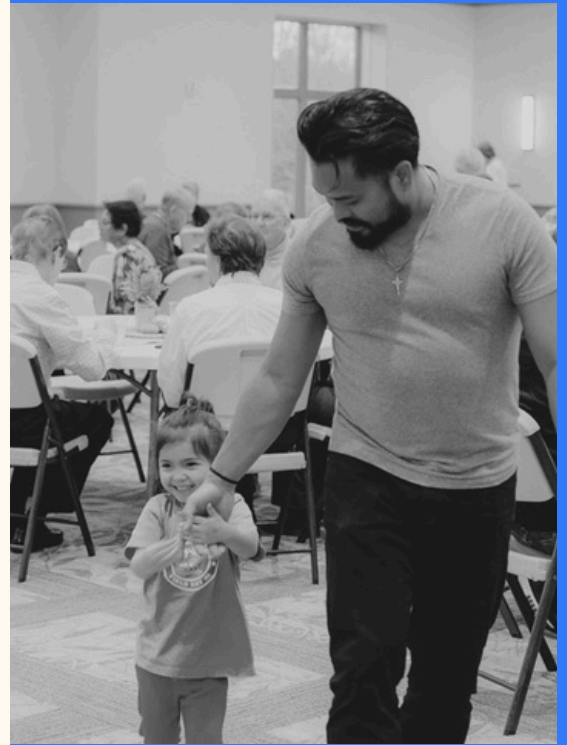
### **Urgent Needs:**

- Family Life Lead (1-2)
- Social Lead (1-2)
- Spiritual Lead - Small Groups (1-2)
- Communications (2-4)
- Volunteer Recruiter (1-2)
- Fundraising Team (3-4)

Our events create spaces where families can encounter Christ and one another—but they only happen with the help of volunteers.

### **Opportunities to serve: lead, support or help set up**

- Fairy Tale Tea
- Cookies & Cocoa with Santa
- LEGO Mania
- Family Game Night
- Family Holy Hour
- Feast of St. Ann - Grandparents Celebration
- Family Movie Night
- Trunk or Treat
- Family Picnic



YOUR "YES" CAN  
HELP ANOTHER  
FAMILY FEEL AT  
HOME, GROW IN  
FAITH, AND  
ENCOUNTER CHRIST.

# ENCOUNTER

– FAITH  
FORMATION  
MINISTRIES

A place for adults to deepen their relationship with God, grow in understanding of the faith, and walk together as missionary disciples.

- For: Adults at all stages of life
- Gathering: Small groups, scripture studies, events, and seasonal opportunities throughout the year.

## 1. Grow in Faith & Understanding

- Bible studies
- Book groups (including Thomas Merton group, Promise Keepers, and Marian groups)
- Interfaith events (Yom HaShoah, Daffodils, and conversations with Rabbi Slomovitz & Fr. Lamartine)
- Guest speakers

## 2. Grow in Community

- La Salette Laity groups
- Moms group
- Dads group
- Young Adults group
- SisterTalk (women's spiritual group)

## 3. Grow in your vocation

- Marriage enrichment groups
- Baptism preparation (monthly)
- Adult sacramental preparation (for Catholics returning to the faith)
- OCIA / OCIC / OCIT

## 4. Grow Through Prayer & reflection

- Advent and Lent Days of Reflection
- Vessels of Grace (monthly morning of reflection)
- Parish Mission (3 days during Lent)
- La Salette Feast Day

### **Be part of Encounter: Ways to get involved**

- Facilitate or support small groups and Bible studies
- Help lead or organize women's or men's groups (SisterTalk, Dads, etc.)
- Support parish mission and Lenten hospitality
- Serve as an Adult Confirmation sponsor
- Assist with events (setup, hospitality, welcoming)
- Help with communications and social media



*serve  
in  
encounter*

# ST ANN YOUNG ADULTS

– COMMUNITY  
MINISTRIES

A community for young adults to grow in faith, build authentic friendships, and live as disciples of Christ in the midst of everyday life.

- For: Young adults ages 19–35
- Gathering: Ongoing opportunities including spiritual, social, and service events throughout the year.

*join us!*

Young Adults at St. Ann's is a space to walk together through the joys and challenges of this season of life—rooted in Christ and in community.

## Opportunities include:

- Spiritual enrichment gatherings and small groups
- Social events and community-building moments
- Service opportunities and outreach
- Spaces for prayer, reflection, and deeper encounter

## Ways to get involved: Current needs

We're continuing to build and grow this community, and we're looking for young adults who feel called to help lead and shape it.

- **Young Adults Coordinator (1-2):** Help guide the vision, coordinate gatherings, and accompany the community.
- **Small Groups / Bible Study Facilitators (2-4):** Lead or support small groups that help others grow in faith.
- **Events & Hospitality Team (3-5):** Help plan and create welcoming spaces through social, spiritual, and service events.
- **Communications & Outreach (2-3):** Support communication, invitations, and helping others feel welcomed.



YOUNG ADULTS ARE NOT  
ONLY PARTICIPANTS,  
BUT LEADERS AND  
MISSIONARIES WITHIN  
THIS COMMUNITY.

# SVDP TEENS CHAPTER

– COMMUNITY  
MINISTRIES

A community for high school teens to grow in faith, build friendships, and encounter Christ through service to those in need.

- For: Teens in grades 9–12
- Gathering: Monthly meetings and ongoing service opportunities throughout the year.

*a path of service*

Through the spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul, teens are invited to discover Christ in those they serve, growing in compassion, humility, and love.

- We grow in holiness by serving others
- We grow in friendship through community
- We serve with compassion and respect

### What You'll Experience:

Service in this ministry is not only about helping others—it is an encounter that transforms the heart.

- Serving those in need with dignity and care
- Building meaningful friendships rooted in faith
- Discovering how Christ is present in every person

### Ways to Serve:

1. Be a part of Outreach Opportunities with SVDP Conference
2. Participate in and support other St Ann Ministries
3. Fundraise and bring awareness to other outreach organizations



“GO TO THE POOR: YOU  
WILL FIND GOD.”

– ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



# Discipleship

***LIVE THE CALL***