

PASTORAL CARE

We seek to extend compassionate care in a faith-based context of spirituality and prayer for all in our parish community who may be sick, grieving, or desiring a tangible sign of God's presence in their lives.

Pastoral Care Leadership Team: This Team brings together parishioners with passion and vision for serving the pastoral needs of the faith community with special emphasis on the bereaved, seniors, people with health concerns, and those in need of a compassionate presence while also attending to the spiritual and formation needs of our pastoral care ministers.

Pastoral Care Ministering Communities:

- **Bereavement:** Guided by the *Order of Christian Funerals*, we strive to provide a continuum of consolation at the time of death—through funeral planning in collaboration with Worship; Martha Ministry receptions when requested; ongoing group support through Morninglory; caring communications and ministry of presence through outreach phone calls and visits; and special gatherings especially around the Feast of All Souls.
- **Communion Ministry to the Sick:** Through sharing of the Eucharist, this ministry is the presence of the St. Joseph's community to those who cannot be at Mass including the sick, hospitalized, homebound, seniors in nursing homes, and those being called home to God.
- **Formation:** Establishing a process of catechesis for all areas of pastoral care which will include pastoral theology, prayer and faith sharing, and practical skills.
- **Seniors:** Developing a vision for ministering to seniors with more proactive outreach and opportunities to address the needs, spiritual hungers, and concerns of older parishioners.
- **Divorce/Annulment Support:** Creating ways to provide spiritual support for people who are experiencing marriage difficulties or the effects of divorce, and those seeking a decree of marriage nullity.
- **Stephen Ministry/Outreach Team:** Providing a listening presence in one-to-one spiritual, caring support for those in our community facing various difficulties; providing ongoing support and education to our Stephen Ministers as they provide care to those in need; additionally, providing hospital and nursing home follow-up calls plus outreach calls to those experiencing loss through death with a one year remembrance note to the family.
- **Transportation:** In accord with Jesus' message to be a "good neighbor", provide members of St. Joseph's community with transportation to medical appointments, etc. when family is not available.
- **Shepherd Home:** Parishioners walk with those preparing to go home to the Lord at this comfort care home, assisting in a variety of ways and in a spirit of ecumenism with others from neighboring churches.
- **Knitting:** The care and love of knitting is combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and healing. The group's prayers and blessings are knitted/crocheted into shawls given to those who are hospitalized, homebound or grieving.
- **Parish Nurse:** A faith-based health and wellness program using the skills of parish health professionals to promote health, for the whole person: body, mind and spirit.
- **Caring Cards:** With a deep concern for those experiencing grief/personal struggles/life crisis, the caring card group offers prayers and creates handmade cards to send to those in need conveying the love and spiritual support of the parish.