

EDUCATION AND FORMATION MINISTRY COMMISSION

The Education and Formation Commission invites the people of St. Michael to strive for a deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Church. "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but, will have the *Light of Life*." John 8:12 . It is the call of this ministry commission to encourage all in this faith community to embark on a life-long journey of learning, growing and sharing our Catholic faith, so that we will all be *Children of Light*.

Two members from the EFC become representatives to the Parish Pastoral Council. This is a two year commitment.

For more information about the ministries listed below, please contact the parish office. 708-349-0903.

Catholics Returning Home - All those who have been away from the Church and wish to investigate how they may reenter our faith community are welcome. Gathering right after Easter each year, this faith development ministry meets for six weeks.

ESL Ministry - This ministry seeks to assist those of our area who wish to learn English as a second language. Meetings are every Sunday, September through May, 10:30 to 11:45 AM.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) - This formation experience is designed to bring households and individuals of all ages together for experiences of prayer, learning, and sharing. It is based on the church teaching that the first church is the family and that faith formation is an ongoing life process.

Men's Scripture Group - The Men's scripture group gathers each Saturday morning to prayerfully reflect on the reading for the upcoming Sunday.

Men's and Women's Retreats - Each year the parish offers two retreats, one for men and one for women. These occur off premises for a weekend. The retreats are open to any adult over the age of twenty-one.

Mothers of Young Children - This ministry offers mothers of young children, usually under 5, the opportunity to gather for support, conversation and relaxation with their peers.

Parish Mission - The Parish Mission is held bi-annually during the Lenten season.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Catechists, sponsors and directors accompany the faith journey of adults who wish to enter or complete their initiation to the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Scripture Study - Those interested in studying the Old and New Testaments are welcome to join this scripture study group. Using "[The Great Bible Adventure](#)" by Jeff Cavins - this group currently meets weekly and is ongoing.

SWIFT (Southwest Interfaith Team) -

Vacation Bible School - All 4 year olds to incoming 4th graders join for a themed week of music, skits and activities based on stories from the Bible. Lasting memories are created and children as well as adults are drawn closer to Jesus.

HUMAN CONCERNS AND SERVICE MINISTRY COMMISSION

Human Concerns and Service Ministry Commission witnesses to the reality of Jesus' desire for us to love our neighbor. Through Baptism we have been called personally by God to minister as Jesus did. We depend, not on ourselves alone, but on the Spirit for the power to do this. Jesus said, "I came to serve, not to be served." Human Concerns and Service Ministry Commission is the organized effort within St. Michael Parish through which God's people can directly carry out the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Two members from Human Concerns and Service Ministry Commission become representatives to the Parish Pastoral Council. This is a two year commitment.

To arrange for services provided by the ministries listed below, please call Sr. Marietta Umlor or Cee Cee Van Hecke at the Human Concerns and Service Ministry Office 708-873-4634.

Anointing of the Sick - There is a communal celebration of the Anointing of the Sick twice a year; in the spring and in the fall. If a person is unable to come to Church for this Sacrament, a priest will come to a home to anoint the homebound person.

Communion Visitors - Women and men participate in a six-week training program which certifies them to take Communion to the homebound who are unable to attend Mass. **If you or someone you know are unable to come to Mass, the Ministry Team will send a Communion Visitor to visit once a week.**

Compassionate Care - Support group meetings for those grieving the death of a loved one are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

Twice a year, the four week program "How to Go On After a Loved One Has Died" is offered for those who are experiencing the grief of a loved one's death. This program is conducted in the spring and in the fall.

On November 2, the Feast of All Souls, a special Mass is celebrated at 7:00 PM. At this liturgy the names of all those who have been buried from St. Michael Church during the past year are read and our beloved dead are remembered in a special way.

Hospital Visitors - Women and men, trained and certified, who visit the sick in our surrounding hospitals.

Nursing Home Visitors - Women and men, trained and certified, who visit and take communion to our people who are confined to nursing homes.

The Lexington Nursing Facility on Humphrey Drive is within our parish boundaries so we provide rosary services every week for the residents, Mass every month and the Anointing of the Sick twice a year.

Divorced or Separated (Crossroads) - This support program provides speakers, programs, activities and opportunities for discussion for those who are divorced or separated.

Hispanic Outreach - An organized effort within our parish to reach out to the Hispanic people of this area. An Hispanic choir practices weekly. There is a 1:30 PM Spanish Mass celebrated every Sunday.

Hooks and Needles - This is a shawl ministry. These shawls are created in prayer and then prayed over by a talented group of ministers who crochet/knit shawls to be distributed to homebound parishioners or others facing serious illness.

Joseph Ministry - People equipped and available to provide help with simple repairs or errands for the homebound or disabled.

Martha Ministry - Involves meal preparation for those who are experiencing temporary difficulties or illness in their lives which prevent them from preparing their own meals for their families.

Social Concerns Ministry - Studies, plans and implements programs to increase parish awareness of social justice issues. This ministry is responsible for our Christmas and Lenten sharing trees and food pantry collections.

Shepherd's Table - A soup kitchen in Joliet where a number of our people go to prepare meals on a monthly basis.

Marillac House - A shelter for homeless. Our people tutor young children on a monthly basis.

St. Vincent de Paul Society - An international Catholic organization of lay persons who seek, in a spirit of justice and charity and by person-to-person involvement, to help those who are in need.

First Responders Program - More than 100 parishioners and staff are educated as first responders with CPR/AED education.

Health Fairs - A Morning of Health is offered each year. This is offered in the fall.

Caregiver Resource Group - This program provides speakers, programs, activities and opportunities for discussion for those who are caregivers.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY COMMISSION

Parish Life is a multifaceted ministry that builds and supports our parish community through social events, the enrichment of spiritual life, and the commitment to serve the developing needs of the people of St. Michael.

Two members from the Parish Life Commission become representatives to the Parish Pastoral Council. This is a two year commitment.

Please contact Deacon Jim Janicek at the parish office, 708-349-0903, for more information about the ministries listed below.

Bridge Club for Women - Meet in members homes from September to May.

Couple's Evening of Reflection - Annual event for marriage enrichment.

Fish Fry - Annual Lenten meal open to all parishioners.

Home Blessing - If you wish your home blessed, you are welcome to call the parish office to arrange for a blessing. 708-349-0903

Knights of Columbus - Organization of men who serve the parish in numerous ways.

Leisure Plotters - St. Michael Senior Citizen Club which meets bi-monthly.

Men's Club Racquetball and Golf League - Golf begins in May and ends in August. Racquetball is played year round.

Men's Retreat - Annual retreat for men in the fall.

Men's Scripture/Reflection Group - Weekly meetings on Saturday mornings in the Ministry Room from 7:15 to 8:15 AM discussing scripture. You are always welcome, no registration or sign up is required.

Pancake Breakfast - Annual hospitality breakfast for our parish family.

Summerfest - St. Michael annual summer event for the entire family.

Thanksgiving Coffee - Annual event following Thanksgiving Day Mass which is a gathering of families in an atmosphere of community, fellowship and thanksgiving. Refreshments provided.

Women's Golf League - Golf begins in May and ends in August.

Women's Retreat - Annual retreat for women in the fall.

Wisdom Ministry - For adults wishing to continue personal development of their spirituality.

Young Adult - For young adults interested in fellowship.

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION

The Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry Commission of Saint Michael, drawing our strength from the Eucharist, guides, encourages and empowers the assembled Church to full, conscious and active participation in the Mass and other liturgical celebrations. With the spirit alive in us, our ministries enable our parish community to experience God while living the Gospel message in daily life.

Two lay members from the Worship and Spiritual Life Commission serve on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). This is a two year commitment.

The ministries of the Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry Commission are listed below. Please contact the Director of Worship: 708-873-4652 for more information.

Altar Servers - 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls who minister, participate and set an example during liturgy by serving at the table of the Lord and by assisting the presider.

Baptismal Gown Sewers - Dedicated individuals who fashion a baptismal bib for each child who is baptized.

Baptismal Preparation Facilitators - Ministers engage parents and godparents in understanding the importance of their child's Baptism for their family and the Church.

Environment and Art - Creative individuals who use their talent and imagination to enhance our worship space during the various seasons of the liturgical year.

Eucharistic Ministers - Active and prayerful individuals responding to their baptismal call to minister to the Assembly by distributing the Eucharist. Extra-Ordinary Ministers (EOM) must be confirmed Catholics in good standing with the Church who have been trained and mandated.

Lectors - Ministers of the Word who proclaim scripture, offer the Prayer of the Faithful, and make the announcements.

Child Lectors - Young people (grades 3-8) who proclaim scripture at the Young People's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays.

Liturgy Planners - Groups from the assembly who gather to prepare the liturgy through selection of prayer texts, writing of intercessory prayers and seasonal planning.

Marriage Preparation Facilitators - Married couples lead engaged couples through a discussion-based program focused on the spiritual and practical aspects of marriage in the Lord.

Music Ministries - All parishioners are invited to share their gifts of voice and other musical talent. Please contact the Director of Music Ministry, Gary Patin, 708-873-4627 for more information

Adult Choir - Voices of the assembly who minister at Sunday Eucharist and other liturgies in a more classical style of music.

Cantor/Psalmist - Singers who lead the assembly in its song and in the proclamation of the Psalm for the Liturgy of the Word.

Cherub Choir - Training program to develop interest in young children (grades 2 – 3) to share the gift of singing.

Children's Choir - Children's voices (grades 4 – 6) who sing occasionally for Sunday worship and at other occasions.

Contemporary Ensemble - Voices of the assembly who minister at Sunday Eucharist and other liturgies in a more contemporary style of music.

Handbell Choirs - Beginners, Intermediate and Adult Bell Choirs which enhance our liturgical celebrations with their ringing.

Instrumentalists/Musicians - Various talented individuals who share their gift of making music among the different choirs.

Resurrection Choir - Voices of comfort who accompany the bereaved as we celebrate the liturgy of funerals.

Youth Ensemble - Teen voices of the assembly (grades 7 – 12) who periodically lead song at Sunday worship and other liturgies.

Sacristans/Linen Launderers -Dedicated individuals who tend to and care for the physical needs of liturgy, including preparations for the celebration of the Eucharist and laundering linens.

Ushers/Greeters - Ministers of hospitality who welcome the Assembly to God's presence among us at the Mass. They build up our community of faith through the extending of their hands and hearts to the parish community.

Wedding Hostesses - Ministers who walk through rehearsals with wedding parties and set them at ease at their wedding liturgies.

Young People's Liturgy of the Word - Leaders of the Word for school age children who break open the Sunday Scriptures in an age appropriate manner during Mass (during the school year only).

YOUTH MINISTRY COMMISSION

"Let the young come to me." The youth of our parish are given the opportunities of friendship, service and education. We affirm their talents and gifts to our ministry from Junior High to College students. We celebrate their growth in the Spirit which brings vitality and uniqueness to our faith experience.

Two members from the Youth Ministry Team become representatives to the Parish Pastoral Council. The PPC meets the third Monday of each month. This is a two year commitment.

For more information about the ministries and activities listed below, please call Rose Koch in the Youth Ministry Office 708-873-6450. The Youth Ministry office is located in the McLaughlin Commons building next to the gymnasium.

Scouts - St. Michael hosts a cub scout pack (grades 1-5) and boy and girl scout troops.

Junior High - 7th and 8th grade students are offered activities, events, retreats, service opportunities and trips. Open to all Religious Education students and St. Michael School students.

Summer Camp - 4th graders through 7th graders from Religious Education and St. Michael School are invited to spend a week at camp. Activities include arts & crafts, fishing, horseback riding, sports, etc.

Soup Kitchen - 8th graders and High School students serve lunch the first Saturday of every month at the Shepherd's Table in Joliet. Transportation is provided.

Appalachia - High School students spend a week of service in Appalachia. The trip is to Habitat for Humanity in Charleston, West Virginia for a week in June.

Quest - Formation program for high school students. Small groups of about 15 students meet with adult leader couples in their homes to discuss their life issues. Meetings are twice a month from October to April.

Quest Council - Teen leadership group for the Quest program which is responsible for arranging and carrying out a variety of teen activities such as Masses, tournaments and service projects.

Teen Retreat - The retreat team, comprised of both teens and adults, present an intensive weekend retreat experience to teen "invitees." Open to all sophomores, juniors and seniors of the parish. The retreat takes place once a year in the fall.

Softball - Open to all high school students including incoming freshmen as well as outgoing seniors. It is a co-ed team. We play neighboring parishes throughout the summer. The season ends with a tournament.

Basketball - Co-ed basketball is open to freshmen through seniors. It is a co-ed team and we play neighboring parishes in the fall. The season ends with a tournament.

Volleyball - Co-ed volleyball is open to freshmen through seniors. It is a co-ed team and we play neighboring parishes in the fall. The season ends with a tournament.

High School Events/Activities - High school students are invited to go to Deep River Water Park, Great America, Fright Fest and ski trips.

High School Senior Retreat - A service retreat is offered during Lent to help raise awareness and funds for starving children throughout the world. This retreat is hosted by several of the surrounding parishes.

Senior Retreat - A retreat especially designed for seniors who will be facing new challenges after graduation.

NCYC - Every other year the teens are invited to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference. There they join thousands of teens from all over the United States for a three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment.

Youth on Stage - Group designed to create fellowship and understanding through theatrical experiences among high school students. The teens perform the *Passion of Our Lord* at the Masses on Palm Sunday.

World Youth Day - A day to call together and recognize the youth of the world, begun by Pope John Paul II. World Youth Day is celebrated every year, locally, and every three years, internationally.

College Students - College students on the mailing list receive notes and packages for holidays throughout the year. A service trip is planned for the summer. There is also co-ed softball for college students.

Market Day/Chicago Tribune - Fund raisers for Youth Ministry. Helps offset the costs of the Mission trips, pilgrimages, conventions and many other projects.

Vicariate Awards - Each year teens are given awards to recognize their significant contributions to the parish by demonstrating leadership qualities and extraordinary commitments. They are given the awards based on their contributions to one of the eight components of Youth Ministry. The awards are presented to the teens by the Bishop at a banquet.