

Outdoor and Environment

Landscaping & upkeep for Rectory & Church yards.

Pastoral Care

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

Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is at the hub of all parish activities. The Council is composed of the pastor and at least six members, each assigned with a portfolio that includes Liturgy, Christian Education, Parish and Community Life, Social Action, as well as the autonomous organizations. At the monthly meetings (September through June) members report on the work being done in each of their portfolios. The Council acts as a sounding board for the pastor; it discusses new proposals, makes decisions and provides guidelines for their ecution.

Pro-Life

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

Responsible Ministry & Code of Pastoral Conduct

To ensure the highest possible level of safety and security of all members of our church community, these records of volunteers and parish staff/clergy are maintained in accordance with Archdiocesan policy.

The RCIA Program – A Journey of Faith

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

Sacramental Preparation

The prayerful guidance and instruction of youth for receiving their sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Sacristans

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

Social Gatherings Committee

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Serving the poor in Canada since 1846

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians we:

- see Christ in anyone who suffers
- come together as family
- have personal contact with the poor
- help in all possible ways

Syrian Family Welcome Committee

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

Ushers

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

Youth Ministry

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

The Good Shepherd Parish



Ministries & Autonomous Organizations

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

Adult Faith Formation

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

Altar Servers

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

The Altar Society

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

Baptismal Preparation

The parish invites parents who wish to have their children baptized to participate in two 1-hour preparation sessions prior to the Baptism. In these sessions, the parish baptismal team helps parents and godparents prepare for the upcoming celebration of the sacrament. The 1 hour sessions are typically held Sunday mornings between the masses. Baptisms are held on the last Saturday of each month. The baptismal team also assists the Deacon at the Baptism Rite. Commitment for this team is between 1 and 4 hours a month, and is quite flexible.

Bible Study

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

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

This is a Christocentric program that introduces children to biblical and sacramental themes in a way that embraces their youth, joy and capacity for prayer. Level 1 and 2 are currently being offered.

The Catholic Women's League

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

Children's Liturgy

This is provided at the 9 am masses on three Sundays per month, September to June.

Christian Meditation

The Christian Meditation group meets every Monday afternoon at 1:30 pm. We have a core group of approximately 12 participants who come to pray in a contemplative way by using a mantra "Maranatha".

During the year the Ottawa area committee sponsors four events: in the fall; Advent; Lent; and a silent retreat which all may attend. There are over 40 groups in the Ottawa area alone and because it is a non-denominational ministry, all are made to feel welcome.

At our meetings each week, we open with prayer; listen to a talk given by Fr. Laurence, a Benedictine monk, or another Christian meditator; play a couple of minutes of music; and then 25 minutes of silence, repeating our mantra silently so that we can focus being in the presence of God; then a couple minutes of music and a reflection is then read; the Lord's prayer is repeated and then a closing prayer. A discussion may follow after our meditation with regard to the talk depending on the group's wishes. The whole meeting time is less than one hour. Even Jesus prayed in a solitary place: Mark 1:35.

If anyone wishes to join our group on Monday afternoons, please feel free to do so as all are welcome.

Communications Ministry

Under the guidance of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Communications Ministry gathers messages from all parish ministries and organizations, ensuring that clear, concise and timely information is transmitted to parishioners via the weekly bulletin and announcements at all weekend Masses. This ministry is also responsible for the parish website to ensure that it is a welcoming site for current information for parishioners, as well as an evangelization tool, inviting the wider community to visit the site, as well as our church.

Cursillo

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

The Emmaus Program (Spiritual Direction)

Spiritual direction is like having a personal trainer within the context of faith to accompany and nourish you on your human/spiritual journey. The spiritual director listens to your story, accompanies you in your quest for wholeness; offers wisdom and guidance; and, suggests readings and prayer styles to assist you in your spiritual growth and development. The Emmaus Program offers an excellent lending library.

Ministry of Evangelization

Under the guidance of the Parish Pastoral Council, this ministry seeks to fulfill the mandate put forth by Jesus Christ who commanded us to "Go and make Disciples of all nations" by a number of means including programs such as Alpha and Formed.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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

Finance Council

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

Food Cupboards

Volunteers to ensure timely delivery of donated foods to the local Food Cupboards.

Friendship Group for Widows and Widowers

The Group offers friendship and informal support to widows and widowers in the parish. However, it is not a bereavement group. The group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the social space.

Ministry of Hospitality

Welcoming all on arrival at Sunday masses.

The Knights of Columbus

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

Lectors

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

The Legion of Mary

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

Lighthouse Catholic Media

Maintain/coordinate the supply of Lighthouse religious CDs.

Liturgical Decorating

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

Marriage Enrichment Program

This team presents and facilitates the Marriage Enrichment program, "Beloved", which will take place for the first time at the parish in the Spring of 2017. Volunteers are needed to assist with food preparation and set up each evening for approximately 9 sessions.

Marriage Preparation

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

Music Ministry

Music is an integral part of all liturgical celebrations. Cantors, musicians and various choirs assist the assembly in their worship.