

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

**PARISH LIFE
EDUCATION
WORSHIP
SOCIAL CONCERNS**



The purpose of PEWS is

- To encourage Parishioner involvement in all areas of Assumption's Parish life, a call to fulfilling our sacramental promises.
- To enable Parishioners to make informed volunteer commitments, making good use of their gifts from the Holy Spirit.
- To unify Parishioner volunteer efforts.

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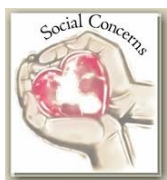
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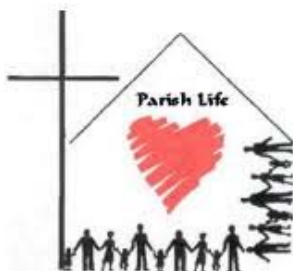
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PARISH LIFE



ADULT SPORTS:

MEN'S BASKETBALL: The 35+ men of the parish meet on Thursday in the Family Life Center from 8:00 until 10:00 PM for some fun competition and camaraderie.

MEN'S SOFTBALL: Join the 30 and over men on Sundays in the summer months to play softball at various locations around the Grand Rapids area. **(age 30 or 35??)**

ADULT WOMEN'S SOFTBALL: The parish has a women's softball team that plays on Wednesday evenings from the end of May until the middle of August. You must be over 30 years of age to play on this team. The league consists of teams from other Catholic parishes from the Grand Rapids area. The games are held at Alpine Church Rd. Park.

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL (CSA): This annual Diocesan Fund Drive is held in March and the parish traditionally exceeds its goal. Volunteers help taking pledges and contacting parishioners.

CEMETARY MOWING: Dedicated volunteers cut and trim the parish cemetery as needed, mostly on Monday nights, weather permitting. When a burial site is requested, the relatives are shown which plots are available, and the selected plot is staked. Contact the rectory for more information.

CUB SCOUTS/BOY SCOUTS: Grades 1 through 5 can join Pack 3283 and participate in opportunities that instill lifelong values which prepare them to make ethical choices and allow them to reach their full potential. Grades 6 through 12 can join Troop 283 which will focus on outdoor camping activities and incorporating the twelve points of the Scout Law into their lives. More information can be found www.pack3283.org and www.grfctroop283.org.



FATIMA CLUB: Established in 1949, the purpose of the club is to study scriptures and foster devotion to saying the rosary. There is a traveling statue of the Lady of Fatima that stays with each member for a month. Members lead the rosary at 8:30AM on Sunday and have a monthly meeting.

PARISH LIFE

FUNERAL LUNCHESES/ANNETTES: Volunteers coordinate a buffet luncheon in the Church Activity Center following funerals held in the parish. Many parishioners join in this charitable service with contributions of food.

GIRL SCOUTS/BROWNIES: The mission is to inspire girls to the highest levels of self worth and dignity through a variety of scouting experiences. Girls will learn to believe in themselves, develop an awareness of others and a sense of personal responsibility as well as good citizenship and a growing awareness of the world. The hope of the leaders is to guide the girls in their growth physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Bishop Kevin Britt Council 13156 has meetings each month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Family Life Conference Room. On the second Thursday of the month, there is the Assembly of the 4th Degree Knights Council 2226 which has 40 members from seven different parishes. They meet in the Family Life Conference Room at 7:30 pm.



The Knights of Columbus is fraternal organization of Catholic men 18 years and older who serve the church and community providing manpower and raising funds for special events and needs. The Knights also provide fellowship for their members and financial security through a small insurance policy that comes with membership and the opportunity to buy a variety of insurance and financial products through one of the highest rated companies in the country.

ST. DOROTHY'S GARDEN CLUB: The club's mission is to develop and maintain the landscaping and gardens on the Church grounds by following a master garden plan that ensures consistency and success to promote a beautiful, welcoming and peaceful atmosphere for our parishioners and guests to our church. You do not have to be an expert to join.



SENIOR SOCIAL LUNCH: This luncheon is held on the third Thursday of each month except for the winter months of January and February. It is a home-made and hearty luncheon and free of charge for ABVM seniors of any age and retirees and their friends or relatives. A free will offering is accepted and reservations are requested by signing up the week before or calling the chairperson. This is designed as a relaxing time to come, eat and enjoy good company.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: This group organizes the Parish New Year's Eve party, the parish festival, the Chili Hoedown and the International Dinner. New members are welcome.

PARISH LIFE

STEPHEN MINISTRY/SICK & GRIEVING: Grounded in Jesus' command to love one another, and through one-to-one caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them. Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are hospitalized, terminally ill, bereaved, in job crisis, a new member of the church, disabled, homebound, lonely, in a spiritual crisis, or looking for a caring Christian friend.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The mission is to encourage fuller participation in the life of the church community by encouraging each parishioner to give back to God of their Time, Talent and Treasure with a grateful heart. An annual Stewardship Fair / Hoedown Chili Dinner features parish groups and committees while wonderful chili is sampled. New committee members are welcome!

SUNDAY COFFEE AND DONUTS:

Coffee, punch and donuts are served after the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses twice a month. Volunteers set-up, serve and clean-up afterwards. Suggested volunteers are: students, families, cub scouts, girl scouts, sports teams, and parish organizations.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE: This committee welcomes new parishioners and informs them about the various ministries, committees, programs and functions of the Parish. Information packets and welcoming gifts are given on behalf of our Parish.

EDUCATION



ABVM PARISH BOARD OF EDUCATION

The mission of the Parish Board of Education:

This board is a policy making/recommending body, guiding the school and most of the formal religious education programs of Assumption Parish. It is an advisory board for the administrators of these programs in policies related to planning, administration, curriculum, finance, and facilities. Board members are elected and serve a term of three years. The Board meets monthly except for July.

Members of the Parish Board of Education serve on various Board committees. These committees include the Elections, Public Relations/Marketing, Endowment, Facility & Grounds, Finance, and Policy Committees.

The meetings are open to registered members of the parish and/or parents whose children are enrolled in formal education programs within the parish. A person who wishes to address the Board may do so by contacting the Board president at least five (5) working days prior to the scheduled meeting so that the topic and presenter may be placed on the agenda. The date, time, and place of Board meetings are placed on the monthly calendar of the parish and in the Parish Bulletin.

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL: Serving children in Grades Preschool through 8.

The mission of Assumption School:

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School is dedicated to providing a quality Catholic education to students in levels PreK-8.
- Our goal is to unlock God's genius in each and every child.
- We are committed to teaching, modeling and promoting Gospel values on a daily basis.



A Tradition of Educational Excellence

TO FOSTER OUR MISSION WE ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE:

- A God-centered environment in which there is an emphasis on spiritual formation through prayer, Sacraments, worship and Christian service.
- A continuous growth in the knowledge of the Catholic faith, its traditions, and practices.
- A global view which guides and encourages participation in the Church's commitment to Social Justice.
- A supportive climate in which students, parents, teachers, and administrators work together to enhance the educational programs and environment.

This mission is fulfilled through a multitude of volunteer positions solicited from the parents and friends of the student body. These positions are filled annually through the coordination efforts of the Principal. You are welcome to contact the Principal of the school to volunteer your time and talents at any time!

EDUCATION

EDUCATION ENDOWMENT (AEEF)

Begun in 1994, the mission of the Assumption Education Endowment Fund is “to support Assumption Parish School, Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs, parish school quality education and provide for continuing Parish education programs.” AEEF carries out its mission by direct tuition support to families in need of assistance, and by establishment of an endowment fund invested for the long term financial support of the school and religious education programs. In fourteen years since its inception, the endowment fund has grown to over \$448,000. The foundation is managed by a Board of Directors and special purpose subcommittees, including fundraising, communications, planned giving and finance. Fundraising includes an annual mail solicitation, raffle and other events. Parishioners may also make a planned gift to AEEF by will or trust, beneficiary designation, or gift of appreciated securities or property. Contact the School Principal for more information.



SCRIP PROGRAM: This program raises funds which families use to pay school or religious education tuition. Half of all funds raised are donated to the Educational Endowment Fund, the goal of which is to provide tuition assistance to financially needy families of our parish. The Scrip Center raises funds through the sale of gift certificates from over 100 companies



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Home and School Association provides service to the school through the sharing of human and financial resources. It offers educational programs for parents and staff and provides opportunities for communication between home and the school.

ABVM ATHLETIC BOOSTERS CLUB (AABC): This organization supports quality athletics through fund raising activities to help the school children grow spiritually, mentally and physically through team work, leadership, and fair play. The biggest fundraiser is the Fly Like An Eagle 5K Fun Run/Walk. Paper drives and concessions are other fundraisers. Meetings are held every 2nd Monday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Church Activity Center.



EDUCATION

FAITH FORMATION



BIBLE STUDY/FAITH DEVELOPMENT

There are several opportunities for Adult Education. A Bible Study is offered on Thursday afternoons and the another is offered on Tuesday evenings. Participation in a Bible Study will help interpret the Bible in light of the meaning that God wants to communicate to us through the writers. There are also periodic book clubs to participate in. Date and times for these events are posted in the parish bulletin and/or website.

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

The parish RCIA is a sacramental process that responds to the faith needs of adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, or who were baptized in another Christian tradition and would like to join the Catholic Church, or who were baptized Catholic as infants and would like to complete their Christian Initiation with the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.



The RCIA is first and foremost:

- An ongoing and multi-dimensional faith journey punctuated by rituals;
- A community event;
- A ministry of witness and hospitality, prayer, catechesis, and service;
- A process that restores the baptismal focus of Lent and celebrates the Easter Vigil as the honored time for Initiation in the community of the Church.

The role of the RICA sponsor is especially significant in this process and parishioners are needed and encouraged to participate. Contact RCIA Coordinator (see the parish bulletin for more information.)

Ten to fifteen people are welcomed in the Catholic Church at Assumption Parish through the RCIA process each year!

RCIC (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN)

The RCIC is a process of faith formation for children/teenagers who have not been baptized as infants, who are now, of catechetical age (over seven years of age), who would like to become members of the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This process is also open to children and teenagers who have been baptized as infants but have had no further formation in the faith and would like to complete their Christian Initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist. The process includes preparation for the sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession) and celebration of the sacrament. Sessions are held weekly from September to May. Contact RCIA Coordinator (see parish bulletin for information.)



EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The mission of the Religious Education program at Assumption Parish is:

- “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations. . .teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of time.” Matthew 28: 19-20
- The church continues the mission of Jesus. . .this one mission has three aspects: Proclaiming and teaching God’s word, celebrating the sacred mysteries, and serving the people of the world. (National Catechetical directory #30)
- Catechetical Ministry must be understood in relation to Jesus’ threefold mission . . .its purpose is to make a person’s faith become living, conscious, and active, through the light of instruction. (NCD #32)



The Religious Education programs of Assumption Parish express the faith of the community and assist the community in fulfilling the catechetical mission of the Church and it seeks to proclaim the good news of Jesus and foster mature faith in its members: children and youth.

As a faith community of Assumption Parish, we:

- Recognize that all members of the parish community share in the catechetical ministry of the church;
- Affirm and value the special role of catechists and parents as partners in religious education and formation’
- Believe that the faith we share. . .
 - Is a gift from God that needs to be nurtured in order to grown, mature and affect the life of the believer;
 - Is rooted in the Catholic Christian tradition;
 - Is expressed in a Christian life-style, worship, community, and service
 - Engages us to become agents of peace, compassion, Christian solidarity and justice in the world.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

The mission is to nurture and instill the faith within our middle school and high school aged students. The extent of Christian Service and social activities depends greatly on the participation of volunteers. Please consider getting involved!

Middle School- All Middle School youth, 6th to 8th grades, are invited to participate in various opportunities for participation in the Christian life through youth group focused on Catechesis, social and service nights, retreats, and social events.

High School- 9th to 12th graders are invited to participate in youth group with Catechesis, social and service nights, Scripture studies, social activities, retreats, and mission trips.



EDUCATION

CATECHESIS

Catechesis means to echo or resound the faith.

Personal traits of a Catechist:

- An active faith life expressed in a worshipping community
- An interest and concern about people's growth in faith
- An ability to relate well with others
- An integration of prayer into your personal life
- A sense of humor and flexibility
- A willingness to be of service to the church
- A mature, articulate faith



The Catechists of Assumption Parish express the faith of the community and assist the community in fulfilling the catechetical mission of the church as it seeks to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and foster mature faith in its members: children, youth and adults. The Catholic Church continues the mission of Jesus. It's mission, like His, is an essential one: "The Church is sent to announce, bear witness, make present, and spread the mystery of the communion of the Holy Trinity" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, §738).

- Catechesis is an esteemed term in Christian tradition. Its purpose is to make a person's "faith become living, conscious and active, through the light of instruction."
- Catechist: In layman's terms, the Catechist is the main classroom teacher who helps to pass on the faith to children at all the grade levels. The Catechist will have a helper to assist them. The Catechist is asked to continue his/her spiritual education, skills, and abilities needed to teach the Gospel message effectively. Those wanting to teach must have a solid grasp of Catholic doctrine, scripture, and ability to understand children, people and how they grow and mature. This is done by going to different seminars throughout the year to obtain Catechist Certification.
- Classroom Assistant: help the catechist during class time, takes attendance, hands out materials, assists with discipline issues, etc.
- Hall Monitors: monitor halls during class sessions, rings the bell when classes begin and end, and calls parents whose children are absent.
- Office Person: Assist Religious Education Staff in the office during class times or to assist the individual catechists with their parent letters.
- Musical abilities: to assist in sharing the Gospel with the children on an "as needed" basis.

Training is provided. A criminal background check will be completed on all volunteers. They will also attend a Virtus awareness session which is an informational session on protecting all God's children from harm.

EDUCATION



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

BAPTISM

Baptism is one of the two Sacraments of Initiation (along with Confirmation) to welcome new members into the community of the Catholic Church as well as the faith family of Assumption Parish. At Baptism, one is washed away from Original Sin and given a new life in Jesus with the two symbols of faith—the white gown and the baptismal candle. One is also called the child of God and promised the eternal life in God's Kingdom under the seal of two holy oils—the Oil of Catechumenate and the Chrism. A prospective candidate for this sacrament needs at least one Godparent (usually two Godparents, one MUST be a confirmed practicing Catholic while the other could be a practicing Christian) that should attend a Baptismal Preparation Class with the candidate's parents. Please consult with the Rectory Office to meet with the Baptismal Coordinator and find out about the class schedule. The Baptismal Celebration is scheduled once a month on the first Sunday of the month after the 11:00 AM Mass with the exception of Lent (NO Baptism during Lent). However, a Baptism within a Mass could be scheduled throughout the month with the exception of Lent and the 11:00 AM Mass of the first Sunday (Limit of 2 children per Mass). Call the Rectory Office for further inquiry.



BAPTISM PREPARATION

The baptismal program is designed to assist parents and godparents who are preparing for the baptism of an infant at Assumption Parish. Other family members are also welcome to participate. The preparation session and the catechetical resources used generally focus on three main aspects:

- Understanding the significance of Baptism (theological aspect)
- Celebrating Baptism (liturgical dimension)
- Living Baptism (reflection on the life-faith connection)

Information about the schedule and location of sessions and celebrations appears regularly in the parish bulletin. (Contact Rectory or Coordinator as appropriate.)

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

The preparation for these two important Sacraments normally begins in the First Grade where they will learn the basics of our Catholic faith. The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are offered in the Second Grade. The children, who are ready, will make their First Reconciliation in the winter and their First Holy Communion in the spring. Parental involvement in the preparation process is essential and required.



EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION

The preparation process normally begins in the Seventh Grade is a two year process. Confirmation takes place at the end of the Eighth Grade. There is also a program for those who are already in high school. The Sacrament of Confirmation impresses the candidates with a special character and are enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit, and bound more perfectly to the Church. They are strengthened in faith to witness more perfectly to the Church. They are empowered to witness more courageously to Christ and to spread and defend this faith. Those to be confirmed must be suitably instructed and properly disposed. They must be willing to be involved in the preparation program with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ and the Church.



MARRIAGE

Marriage is one of the seven Sacraments that the Church uses to channel God's Grace into the world and unite a man and woman into Christian family. In this sacrament, God seals the hearts of husband and wife and calls them to live out their sacred love for the rest of their marriage life through their declaration of consent, exchange of vows and rings. The Church also asks married couples to be good examples of a Christian father and mother by raising their children in a loving Christian home and fostering their faith life. A prospective couple **MUST NOT** be married before and **HAS TO** meet with the priest or deacon of the parish for preparation at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding date. If one of the parties was married before, one has to go through an annulment process to resolve that those/prior bond (s) before a wedding date could be set. A Christian or non-Baptized person could marry a Catholic with the help of a permission form being done by the parish priest. A marriage of a Catholic to a Christian or non-Baptized person could take place at another church with the help of a permission form being done by the parish priest. All marriages **MUST** take place on the church ground (not on a beach or in some backyard.) Call the parish priest or deacon for further inquiry.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

In preparation for the sacrament of Marriage, there are a number of requirements the engaged couple must fulfill in addition to meeting with the parish priest or deacon. The Marriage candidates must attend at least one Natural Family Planning class as well as meet with a married sponsor couple for a series of five meetings. The sponsor couples are similar to sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation. A six month preparation is required.

LOVE FOLLOWING UPON LOVE

A pre-marriage preparation class designed to be an exciting interactive of the many faceted aspects of married life. This eye-opening class allows the couple to participate in many diverse exercises to prepare them for their new journey together. Designed to challenge the couple, Love Following Upon Love will invigorate the couple to look at their relationship in its entirety, courtship to the altar, the day after the wedding and into family life as husbands and wives. Facilitated to help avoid those early pitfalls and create building blocks to strong future together, topics to be discussed range from financing and budgeting, communication and conflict resolution, to intimacy and couple spirituality. LFUL is guaranteed to be an investment in for a bright future. Classes include a Pre-marriage Inventory which will entice some spirited conversation between couples challenging them to evaluate their relationships.



EDUCATION

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven Sacraments that the Church uses to channel God's Grace into the world and bring healing and comfort to the sick and their loved ones. With the help of prayers and the Holy Oil of the Sick (and the Reconciliation and the Viaticum or Holy Communion for the last time), the priest asks for God's healing power and peace to be with the sick through the help of doctors and nurses. If God wills the person to continue his/her mission on earth, the person would be healed and restored to life. If the person's mission is complete on earth, the Church prays that God will give the person a peaceful death and bring him/her home to God's Kingdom with the help of this sacrament. Of course, a prospective candidate for this sacrament could be anyone who undergoes a serious surgery and the sacrament could be repeated in a short period of time. Call the parish priest for further inquiry.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Preschool and Kindergarten is open to all children of the parish no matter which school they attend. They meet weekly throughout the school year during the 11:00 AM Mass. Basic introductions to the themes of God and His love, as well as basic prayers are shared with the children through activities, songs and discovery. They reflect on God's goodness, in the wonder of their own unique selves, and on the love of the people around them.



The children participate in season activities such as All Saints, Thanksgiving celebration, Advent projects, Jesus' Birthday, Lenten activities, Easter celebration, Mary devotion and fun reach out projects.

The program acknowledges the important role of parents in properly forming their child in their faith development. Each week there is a family section that summarizes the lesson, offers advice for imparting values to the child, and suggests family activities that reinforce the lesson.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is usually held the third week of June, for children ages four through fifth grade. Activities include lively songs, skits, crafts, games, Bible stories and snacks – all of the things that make VBS so much fun for children!



Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Individual Age Group leaders
- Craft Coordinator and Helpers
- Music Coordinator and Helpers
- Snack Coordinator and Helpers
- Skit Coordinator and Helpers
- Snack and craft item donations

WORSHIP



ALTAR LINENS: Volunteers wash and iron the hand cloths, purificators, amice, and corporal used in church. These items require special handling. Volunteers alternate monthly commitments.

ALTAR SERVERS: Boys and girls 4th grade and older serve at weekday and weekend liturgies, special holiday and holy day services as well as funerals and weddings. Contact the parish office, the religious education office or the school office to register for the training next session.



ART & ENVIRONMENT: This committee is responsible for decorating the church for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lent & Easter, special feast days and ordinary time. Involvement – decorating, flower arranging, banner making, watering & care of plants.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW): Father will invite children in grades 1 to 5 to the front of church just before the Liturgy of the Word and they proceed to the chapel with a leader where they hear the same readings as the adults. Available at the Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 services.



They are asked questions to help them understand what they heard. If a child is apprehensive about coming, a parent may feel free to accompany him/her.

COLLECTION COUNTERS: The Collection Counters mission is to count the weekly parish collection in a timely and accurate basis and to ensure that monies collected are taken safely to a banking institution for safekeeping. Collection Counters are on a rotating schedule and are scheduled approximately once every 6 weeks. The coordinator makes a schedule quarterly and distributes it to the counters as well as being part of the rotation schedule.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Thursday from 7:30 AM until Friday at 7:00 AM in the chapel. There is always a need for those willing to commit to one hour segments through the day and night.



WORSHIP

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Ministers are privileged to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion at parish liturgies and to the sick and homebound. Training is provided.



GREETERS: This ministry of hospitality aims to provide a smile and warm welcoming atmosphere as individuals arrive for Mass.

HOUSEKEEPERS FOR THE LORD: The purpose of the Housekeepers for the Lord, is to help with the light housekeeping of our Church. Housekeepers of the Lord are volunteers crews of 4 people usually work on a Friday or Saturday morning for 1-2 hours approximately every seven weeks. Special cleaning dates are scheduled in preparation for Easter and Christmas.

LECTORS: Individuals proclaim God's Word at weekend and special liturgies. Open generally to adults of the parish who serve once every three weeks. Training is provided.

MASS ROSARY Weekend rosary leaders begin the rosary at 8:30 AM in Church prior to the 9:00 AM Mass. Please come early and share the graces promised by our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Interested persons are asked to call the parish music director as listed on the front of the bulletin for up to date information. There are 5 different musical groups.



- **Blended Worship Group:** is a mix of traditional and contemporary catholic music. Rehearsals are 8am to 9am every Sunday, September to June. Rehearsals are downstairs in the Music Director's office. This group sings every 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, September to June.
- **Children's Choir:** is open to those in Grades PreK-5th. Practice is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, September to May, noon to 12:45. They sing at the 11:00 am Mass on every 4th Sunday of the Month.
- **Contemporary Group:** rehearses on Saturdays at 4:30 pm, and sings at the 5:30 pm Saturday Mass. This group welcomes young adults and adults to sing or play an instrument.
- **Resurrection Choir:** consists of approximately 20 members and provides music for funerals and memorial Masses. This group rehearses 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. on the day of the funeral, downstairs in the church activity center.
- **Traditional Adult Choir:** is open to those in high school and older and this choir rehearses Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, September until June. This group usually sings at the 11:00 AM service.

NURSERY: The nursery provides a safe, nurturing environment for children ages 1-6 during the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass while their parents attend Mass. Parents of the children who use the nursery and youth helpers in 5th grade provide assistance with the children. Volunteers must attend Diocesan Training "Protecting God's Children".



WORSHIP

PRAYER CIRCLE: Individuals call with a request for prayer and circles of twelve people will pray for their intentions. No meetings are needed.



RETREATS:

MENS- This is an opportunity to spend 40 hours of peace and tranquility on beautiful Spring Lake at St. Lazare's Retreat House, of the Vincentian Community. There is time to become spiritually refreshed and renewed through inspiring talks, prayer, and reflection. Mass, rosaries, stations, and the Sacrament of Penance are also available to those participating. Friday evening - Sunday afternoon.

WOMENS- This is a silent retreat beginning with Mass on Friday and continuing through Sunday afternoon. Retreatants refrain from talking among themselves to better focus on the spirituality of the retreat. Women from Assumption Parish have been attending retreats at St. Lazare for over 30 years.

GETHSEMANI HOUSE- Gethsemani House is located on the grounds of the Consolata Missionary Sisters, at 6801 Belmont Avenue NE, Belmont, MI 49306. It is available as a House of Prayer and welcomes individuals and small groups that would like to spend some time in prayer, quiet and reflection, or reserve it for a retreat day. Once a month, usually the last Thursday of the month, it offers the opportunity of a guided Small Group Retreat, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM. A small free-will donation is accepted.

SACRISTANS: These indispensable and special individuals work closely with the Pastor and Worship Committee to maintain the sacred dignity of the church proper, the chapel and the sacristies.

Duties include:

- open and close the church for Mass and special liturgies
- set-up for and clean up after each rite
- care for and maintain all liturgical objects
- replace and replenish materials used in the liturgies (bread, wine, candles, charcoal)
- launder altar linens and vestments when necessary
- take an inventory of church liturgical property on a periodic basis
- Assist the Presider as he directs to make certain that each rite proceeds in a proper and reverent order.



USHER'S CLUB: All men and women 18 years and older are invited to join. The mission of the Usher's Club is to fulfill the weekly duties of the church, including seating assistance at all Masses, offertory gift presentation and distribution of the Parish bulletin after each Mass. The ushers raise funds for the parish through their annual apple pie sale. They provide a pizza party for the altar servers each year. This Club meets the last Thursday of the month in the Church Activity Center.



SOCIAL CONCERNS



BLOOD DRIVE: Assist with ABVM on-site blood drive 4 to 5 times per year. Opportunities include: sign-ups after Mass, calling to line up donors, staffing the canteen, baking, set up, clean up, and babysitting.

CHRISTMAS GIVING: At Christmas tags with names and gift requests for a needy infant or individual are distributed. The items are brought back to church distribution. The names of the individuals come from many area agencies. GIFT of TIME: 1 to 10 hours in month of November or December.

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION: A quarterly food distribution for Plainfield Township and surrounding communities takes place on the first Thursday of the month in March, June, September and December. Distributions is located at River Grove Retirement Community 5761 Jupiter Ave in Belmont. Volunteers from the community (including some from Assumption BVM Parish) run the whole program. Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM to sort and pack goods for the distribution on Thursdays between 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM.

CONSOLATA MISSIONARY SISTERS GUILD : The Guild is a joint effort with the ladies of Our Lady of Consolation Parish. Members practice the missionary dimensions of their Christian vocation by helping through prayer, sacrifice social and financial services support the mission evangelizations of the Consolata missionary sisters. There are special fundraising events held throughout the year. TIME: Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Consolata Center at 7PM.



FOOD PANTRY/BARREL: Food pantry donation boxes are located outside the chapel. Volunteers move food weekly to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry at Church of the Holy Spirit on Post Road. This is an ecumenical and county wide effort. Help with food distribution is needed on Tuesday or Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. A special food drive is conducted at Thanksgiving and extra volunteer assistance is needed.



GOD'S KITCHEN: Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve a meal and clean up at God's Kitchen located at 303 S. Division, Grand Rapids, MI GIFT of TIME: Every third Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM until 2:30 PM.
QUALIFICATIONS: Must be at least 13 years old.



H.E.L.P. PREGNANCY CRISIS AID: H.E.L.P. is a Christian agency dedicated to helping women carry their babies to full term by offering them support and alternatives to abortion. Volunteers are committed to the ideals of the sanctity of life and have a strong desire to assist young pregnant women and teens who are facing difficult times and need a friend. In a donation box located outside the ABVM Chapel, H.E.L.P. collects maternity and baby clothes, nutrition counseling, furniture, shelter and education. Volunteers are welcome.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

HOMEBOUND CARDS: Greeting cards are sent to the sick and homebound periodically.

MEALS HELP: Meals are made by volunteers and furnished on a schedule to individuals or families in times of need, such as during a serious illness.

RESPECT LIFE: This committee is dedicated to the defense of life from the moment of conception to natural death, as guided by the teachings of the Church. Activities are abortion prayer group, community education and support of local respect life organizations. Events are Sanctity of Life Sunday and May and June flower sales to honor Mothers and Fathers.



