



ST. PATRICK  
Catholic Community  
HUDSON, WISCONSIN

Vol. I No.7

June 2009

### COMING EVENTS

#### SUPERIOR DIOCESAN CATHOLIC WOMEN CONVENTION

June 15—16

#### FATHER JOHN LEAVES FOR KENYA

June 21

#### YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

July 24—August 4

#### PARISH MISSION

October 17—21

## VOLUNTEERS

*God our Creator,*

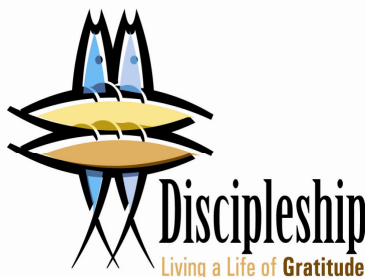
You made us all that we are and gave us all that we have. Help us to live a life of gratitude by using your gifts to serve others in your name.

Our parish has a paid staff—but they can not possibly fill all the areas of service required by a parish the size of St. Patrick. We also have many, many volunteers who daily, weekly, year in and year out give of their time and talents to serve the Lord in His people of St. Patrick Parish and beyond. If you take a look at the yearly Stewardship mailing (prepared by VOLUNTEERS) it can give just a glimpse of the staggering number of people needed to enable our parish to function.

This volunteer form is divided into sections: Worship, Youth Ministry, School, Faith Formation, Family Life, Social Concerns, Other, and Special Needs.

**WORSHIP** alone is further divided into eighteen different special areas of service. *“The LITURGY COMMITTEE plans meaningful liturgies to assist St. Patrick’s Parish Family in the celebration of the Divine Worship of the Catholic Church, particularly in the special seasons of the year — Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.”*

**ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT** is a subcommittee of the Liturgy Committee, its function is to *“decorate our church space to enhance liturgy. Decorating to foster a mood (stimulating the senses) sometimes of festivity (Christmas and Easter); other times of penitence (Lent), of anticipation (Advent) but always of dignity and hospitality.”* (from our website: <http://stpatrick.webaloo.com/liturgy>) Decorating often involves climbing on ladders! The members of the committee decorate not only to make our worship space beautiful, but to inspire us to worship more prayerfully, and enter more fully into the mysteries of our Faith.



by  
**Sharing** of our  
**Time** and  
**Talents**

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**, by their prayerfully prepared proclamation of the Word of God at Liturgy, help us to hear the message that will aid our growth in faith and understanding of the plan of God for us, His people. **MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** assist the Presider to distribute Holy Communion under the form of Bread and Wine to all those attending the Liturgy. If the **MINISTERS OF THE WORD, MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**, and the **ALTAR SERVERS** do their job well, they are unobtrusive and we may very well not notice the contribution they have volunteered to do at the Liturgy that day. For funerals we have a group of adult men who volunteer their time to act as altar servers at this special time in the life of grieving families. We are blessed to have the services of a trained Liturgist to guide, train, and schedule these many volunteers in planning and assisting at our Liturgy each week.

Many talented parishioners share their **MUSICAL GIFTS** with the Parish to enhance our participation of the liturgy. Cantors, instrumentalists, members of our many choirs—all help us to a richer experience of Liturgy. Music is important to worship and we have a variety of styles of music to appeal to everyone's taste.

**USHERS** and **GREETERS** are volunteers who extend the hand of hospitality to parishioners and visitors alike at our weekend liturgies.

We have volunteers who spend time in **ADORATION** 24 hours a day from after Mass on Monday morning till Friday afternoon. Another group of volunteers **PRAYS** for the special needs of parishioners and others in the community who are in need.

Between **SCHOOL, YOUTH MINISTRY, and FAITH FORMATION** there are more than 25 different areas where volunteers serve to help with the

education of our parishioners from the youngest to the elderly among us. There are volunteer **CATECHISTS, COACHES, CHAPERONES**, and a whole host of committees established to enrich the adult educational experience at St. Patrick Parish. The **ADULT ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE** oversees and coordinates the many rich offerings for the adults of the parish. Their mission is to: *“provide opportunities for the adult members of St. Patrick’s Church to enrich their understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Tradition through the Sacraments, education, spiritual formation, liturgy and activities promoting peace and justice in their daily lives.”* ([http://stpatrick.webaloo.com/adult\\_formation.](http://stpatrick.webaloo.com/adult_formation)) Dr. Larry Huiras is responsible for guiding the growth of the many educational opportunities.

*Jesus my Redeemer,*

*You call us to share your life by loving service to others. Grant us the courage to live as your disciples.*

We have a very active and involved **SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE** overseeing a number of Social Justice and Social Concerns activities. Among them are ministries at **SHARING AND CARING HANDS**, the **JAIL**, our **SISTER PARISH** in Yalpamech, **GRACE PLACE, HOME**—the monthly meal for the Hudson community. They are also the people who arrange for the sale of **FAIR TRADE COFFEE** after Mass. For some time now members of the Social Concerns committee and some friends have been meeting to pray each Saturday morning about their dream of establishing **“BERNADETTE’S HOUSE”** - a Catholic Worker House here in Hudson. Each of these ministries involves members of the Social Concerns Committee as well

as many volunteers from our parish.

Both the **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** and the **PARISH COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN** are volunteer organizations that give literally hundreds of hours of volunteer time to ministries within and beyond the parish. There isn't a social event, funeral, or fundraising activity at St. Patrick that does not have workers and support from the **KNIGHTS** and the **PCCW**.

When it comes to **CHURCH CLEANING** there are so many different areas that need volunteers. Plants and flowers need to be watered. This is a once a week job except during the Christmas and Easter seasons when the many flowers need daily (or every other day) watering. There are **DUSTBUSTERS** who keep our worship space free from dust and messes. "**DIVINE CLEANERS**" have a number of jobs. The gold glass candle holders by the Blessed Sacrament need to be washed regularly as do the red votive holders in front of the Sacred Heart and Blessed Mother. The tapers that the candle bearers carry in procession require scrubbing on a bi-weekly basis.

Just as there are different kinds of laundry loads in a household (bed linens, whites, darks) so too **CHURCH LAUNDRY** is varied. Some people are assigned on a rotating basis to wash and iron the purificators used at each Mass. Servers' robes are cleaned and ironed by another and altar cloths of varying sizes are cared for by still another volunteer. Priest's albs and vestments also need to be kept clean, pressed, and mended.

**SACRISTANS** 'set up' for each daily and weekend liturgy. They make sure the vessels are in place, that there are enough hosts to be consecrated and sufficient wine put out for the number of people attending the Mass, that the candles are lit, readers are present and in

the case of weekend liturgies, that there are servers in attendance. (Just because they have been assigned does not mean they always show up!)

*Holy Spirit of God,*

fire our hearts with your love and make us good and generous stewards of your life within us.

While there are many areas inside the Church that need to be cared for, the outside grounds also need to be maintained. No one person could be responsible for everything and so there are many individuals and families take care of planting, weeding, and watering different plots around the church property.

Dan Schwab keeps an up-to-date list of people in the parish who have volunteered their expertise in **BUILDING TRADES** and construction, carpentry, electrical work, masonry, painting, and staining. These people may be called upon for their services or for help in obtaining supplies for a project at reduced cost.

Every time you receive a mailing from the church there were many volunteers involved in collating, folding, stuffing the envelopes, as well as making sure the trays of sealed envelopes get delivered to the Post Office.

St. Patrick Parish has a number of annual community building and fundraising events that would never happen without the generous people who organize, schedule, and plan for such things as the **BLOOD DRIVES**, **CRAFT SALES**, and **KRIS KRINGLE** shop for the children of the parish at Christmas time. The **FALL FEST** needs a couple to oversee and coordinate the entire project. Further, each event

of the **FALL FEST** requires coordinators to see that it is organized and staffed with workers to ensure that a good time may be enjoyed by all parishioners.

Each Monday morning another group of volunteers gathers in the conference room at church to count the Sunday collection. There be two groups who serve on alternate weeks.

The **PASTORAL COUNCIL** is made up of elected parishioners who volunteer their time to serve as a consultative body to the Pastor and engage in visioning and long range planning and prioritizing of the ways in which the parish is being called to live out its mission. This is a multi year commitment of time and energy.

Everything we have is a gift. We say thank you by giving back some of our time and talent to be used in His service. Digging weeds in the gardens or counting out hosts for a Sunday liturgy— it matters not. The hands that have been given us are the only hands He has now to serve His people. It is obvious from the large number of volunteers at St. Patrick that many are choosing to live the life of a steward.

In the words of a member of the Social Concerns Committee from a Parish Bulletin in March:

*“We have many people in our parish community that emulate St. Joseph - volunteers that go about their daily lives serving our church and the Hudson community in countless ways. Food shelf staffers, ground-keepers, Fair Trade coffee sellers, music ministers, funeral dinner cooks and workers, servers, ushers, those who help out Caring and Sharing Hands, HOME meals, jail ministry, Grace Place volunteers, our sister parish, the Knights of Columbus, prayer group members, church decorating committee, Eucharist adorers - the list goes on and on. Two hundred and fifty eight (258) parishioners signed up to volunteer in some capacity on our fall Stewardship survey. We are blessed that so many in our faith community have chosen to answer the call to share their time and talents with others. Thank you. I'm sure St. Joseph is pleased.”*

*We Pray Lord,*

that you open the minds and hearts of all the people of Saint Patrick Parish, that we may joyfully accept your call to live as stewards of your abundant gifts for our salvation and your greater glory.

