**Spiritual Enrichment Ministries**

**Centering Prayer**

Contemplative prayer is the opening of mind and heart, one’s whole being, to God. Centering prayer opens us to an awareness of God’s presence and grateful acceptance of God’s action within. Individuals gather on Mondays at 7:00 PM via Zoom for shared reflection on a brief Scripture reading (Lectio Divina), followed by silent, centering prayer. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Mary Lou Menches (mmenches@illinois.edu, 217-344-1125) for a Zoom link.

**Prayer Chain**

St. Patrick Parish has a prayer chain of parishioners who pray for the intentions of anyone in need or who would like to request prayers. Prayers for others should be requested with the other person’s consent and can be made without using a name if preferred. All prayer requests are confidential. Both prayer requests and pray-ers (those who pray) are welcome.

All requests for prayer are to be held in confidence.   There is no specific prayer expected of members--you can pray while washing the dishes, while cooking a meal, playing the piano, driving your car, while housecleaning, while working in the yard, as part of one’s night prayer or morning prayer, at Mass, etc.   One person told me she prays the rosary every evening for the prayer request received that day; another prays for each request as it is received.  Some pray every day for all the requests received over time. There is no specific time of day or length of time for your prayer; the time, place, length, method, etc., is up to the individual.

Prayer requests can be submitted by emailing prayertree@stpaturbana.org. You can also contact the parish office at 217-367-2665.

A member can request to be taken off the Prayer Chain at any time.

 **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Homebound, Nursing Home Residents and Carle Hospital Patients:**

To someone homebound, in a nursing home, or hospitalized and unable to come to church, receiving the Eucharist and maintaining connections with the parish community bring consolation. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) are trained in compassionate pastoral care by others who are experienced in doing just that. This corporal work of mercy is a very rewarding ministry of our Church. Pastoral EMHCs may choose to make Communion visits to the Homebound, those living in Nursing Residences, Carle Hospital patients, or any combination. Pastoral EMHCs are scheduled to serve once or twice each month.

We are in constant need of more volunteers to join our pastoral care ministry. Is the Spirit calling YOU? If you are interested in serving as a Pastoral EMHC please contact: Diane Wilhelm, wilhelmd@earthlink.net, 630-292-3028. For details concerning pastoral care to Carle Hospital patients, please contact Kevin Martindale, rewirek@sbcglobal.net, 217-369-4324

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**Ministry of Consolation**

The Ministry of Consolation teams provide support for parishioners who have lost a loved one. One team attends the funeral masses at St. Patrick; Prepares the church for the celebration of the Memorial Service; Assists the presider during the service; and attends to the needs of those present at the service.  The Consolation ministry also provides follow-up grief support by providing programs throughout the year and personally as needed.  Our members facilitate the Prayer Shawl Ministry.  Our *Funeral Prayer Team* prays for the deceased and their families.  This portion of our ministry is a simple one, but it is vital to the spiritual well-being of our parish community, and it is a great comfort to the family of the deceased.

If interested, please email Pam Donze De Ley pamdonzedeley@gmail.com or Diane Wilhelm  wilhelmd@earthlink.net .​