

Brief Description of our Ministries & Services

Annual Stewardship Renewal Campaign



50+ Group The 50+ Group provides a way for old friends to meet and a place to make new friends. The group is open to anyone 50 or older; they need not be a member of our parish or even Catholic. Gatherings are held in Rooms 5 and 6 at noon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September to June, to enjoy lunch together, be it brown-bag or catered. A speaker or entertainment follows.

Acolytes at Funeral and Memorial Masses Acolytes provide adult assistance to the priest by helping with set-up and serving.

Adult Faith Enrichment Committee Prays, shares their faith, and initiates parish activities that support people's relationship with Jesus Christ. Examples: present speakers on scripture and timely topics, promote the parish tape and library ministry, sponsor Advent Evening of Prayer and Lenten programs, the parish Retreat, spiritual growth and Small Christian Communities.

Altar Linen Maintenance launders and irons corporals, purificators, hand towels, and altar server robes used at liturgies. They serve on a rotating basis about five times a year.

Altar Servers Children ages 10 and up may receive training, offered twice a year.

Angel Tree Every year during the Advent season, we set up a beautiful Christmas tree in the church foyer and fill the boughs with hundreds of gift tags for needy children (and some adults) within our community. We currently support requests from Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA), Miss Maggie's Kids, Partners in Community Development for the Pines of Perinton, and many local children who would not otherwise have gifts during the Christmas season. This annual project takes on many volunteers who work behind the scenes obtaining a fresh pine tree and setting it up, creating festive gift tags, monitoring the gifts as they come into the church, and delivering them to the agencies and families in need. For the past few years our parish family has donated on average over 750 gifts per year to this much needed ministry.

Art and Environment This branch of the Liturgy Committee creates a beautiful and prayerful worship environment, reflecting the different seasons of the church year. Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month in the morning.

Assumption Welcome & Engaging (AWE) Team Focuses its efforts on communication to both our faith community members and to the outside community. It works to improve the flow of information, refine work processes for maximum efficiency, and develop cohesive messaging to members and non-members. The Team looks for opportunities to drive awareness of our parish, and to engage with people to bring them into our assembly.

Bereavement Hospitality Team We offer hospitality after funerals in our parish living room. Teams are called on a rotating basis to help us bring comfort to these families in their time of grief. Volunteer bakers provide desserts on an occasional basis.

Blessed Sacrament Soup Kitchen teams help serve meals at Blessed Sacrament for those in need.

Building and Grounds Committee Acts as a consultant and resource to the parish, in matters pertaining to the maintenance, improvement, renovation and safety of all properties owned by Assumption Parish including the church, school, office, and cemetery.

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Children's Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy of the Word Offered during Sunday Mass at 11:00am for all children in first through fourth grades. No registration is necessary. This ministry enables the children to participate in worship by using Gospels, reflections, discussions and activities designed for their level of understanding. CLW is a volunteer program - always in need of volunteers. Parents, teens and interested parishioners are invited to volunteer to help this ministry.

Kindergarten Program The Assumption Kindergarten program provides children with a foundation in learning about God and our Catholic Faith. Classes meet during the 11AM, Sunday mass. Classes include a weekly craft, prayer practice, a bible story, a song and game time. Also included is a good abundance of love and joy.

Church Garden Ministry helps maintain the landscaping. Occasional help, as well as new members, are welcome.

Church Lock Up/Open Up Team Are dedicated volunteers who open and lock up the church buildings on a daily basis.

Collection Counting Teams These dedicated, faithful, fun volunteers serve "behind the scenes" in teams on alternate weeks to process and total the Sunday/holy day offertory collections. Confidentiality and discretion are a must. Training is easy and provided, but volunteers should be "comfortable working with numbers". Morning wake-up coffee provided!

Communion Ministers / Sacristans The role of a Communion Minister at Assumption is to serve God's people by assisting in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ, both at Mass and to those sick or confined to their homes. Any Confirmed member of the parish may serve in this role. Communion Ministers are not scheduled, but are asked to serve when they are available at the Mass they are attending. The Sacristan is in charge of setting up the sacred vessels and making sure there are enough Communion Ministers available to serve Communion during Mass. Sacristans are scheduled. Training is provided for Communion Ministers and Sacristans at the convenience of the volunteer and the coordinator.

Diversity Committee The diversity committee celebrates the cultural differences that enrich our parish family by their unique components.

Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton We provide representation in this non-profit organization that oversees a number of community groups and services such as Safe Journey.

Engaging Spirituality Explores the intersection between Christian spirituality and Gospel justice. Frs. Ron Rolheiser, Albert Nolan and Ricahrd Ohrs are among the authors of 21 letters written for this process. Participants focus on the practical challenges of following Jesus in our fragmented world. Engaging Spirituality promotes a spirituality "grounded" in contemporary and ancient wisdom. Our 21 meetings are scheduled when the most participants are available. We generally begin in the fall of each year.

Fairport Good Neighbors Fund We participate in this Outreach group which offers the 13 member churches a single source to which they can refer people who are financially in need, as they might be during a personal or family emergency.

Family Faith Mornings is a gathering of children and their parents as part of sacramental preparation.

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Annual Stewardship Renewal Campaign



Fr. Kelly School of Religion We dedicate many resources to our effort to educate over 800 students in our Catholic Faith each year, recognizing that they are the future of our church. While the school year is limited, the planning, organizing, training of teachers and aides, and offering summer Vacation Bible School, encompasses the full calendar year.

Finance Council This Council considers and makes recommendations to the Pastor and Business Manager concerning all aspects of the finances of the parish, including budget development and investment management.

Food Link Mobile Pantry This outreach program delivers, based on a schedule, food directly to communities in need, such as the Pines of Perinton.

Front Office Volunteer The purpose of this ministry is to offer hospitality and a warm welcome to those who stop by or call the Parish Office. Interested volunteers will offer their service 2-3 hours a day on a rotating basis. Training is provided.

"Fun" Raisers This fun loving team organizes our Annual "Mass at the Park" and provides and serves the goodies for the attendees.

Good Samaritan First Responders are trained in CPR and the use of the AED. Provide emergency assistance when needed. Training provided at no charge.

Habitat for Humanity Take part in constructing a Habitat house every two or three years as part of Perinton Congregations Habitat for Humanity, an alliance of several Perinton churches.

Health Ministry is a faith-based program that provides healthful opportunities to promote spiritual, mental, and physical wellness.

Helping with Services at Nursing Homes Parishioners help with services shut-ins and residents of the Fairport Baptist Home,

Holiday Baskets Our parishioners bring ingredients to needy families three times a year. Local school nurses and social workers provide contact information to one of our dedicated volunteers who coordinates requests and givers. Parishioners then contact the needy families and deliver greatly appreciated ingredients for a holiday feast.

Home Repair Our mission is to provide assistance and/or advice to parishioners who cannot afford or can afford but cannot perform home repairs. We are all volunteers and can help with repairs that we would normally be able to do in our own homes. If we cannot make the repair or perform the task ourselves, we can suggest professionals that we know and trust.

JustFaith Includes fine reading, brief retreats, prayer, spiritual reflection, dialogue and visits to people who struggle in poverty. We work towards applying the reading material, video, prayer, visits, and faith sharing of guest speakers to our own lives, in our own way and time. This is a 30-week process through which individuals share faith and insight with one another in order to gain a broader understanding of reality. Participants have said they have deepened their sense of God's call as they see the Gospel applied in Church teachings on social justice.

Knights of Columbus Is a lay Catholic, family, fraternal service organization. Membership is open to all practicing Catholic men, age 18 or older, in communion with the Holy See.

Brief Description of our Ministries & Services

Annual Stewardship Renewal Campaign



Lectors & Commentators Lectors proclaim the first and second readings at weekend and holy day Masses. Commentators greet the assembly before the Mass begins and read the intentions for the Prayers of the Faithful as well as the closing announcements. Lectors and commentators are scheduled to serve eight to twelve times a year. One hour training sessions take place periodically. These sessions update lectors and commentators on the details of their ministries and give them an opportunity to reflect on the place of these ministries in Catholic worship. Parishioners may be lectors, commentators, or take part in both ministries.

Liturgy Committee works to ensure that all members of the parish community may participate conscientiously and actively in our liturgical celebrations. The committee plans special liturgies for the Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons. Members also coordinate the music ministry, children's liturgy, seasonal decorations, and the training and scheduling of Eucharistic ministers, lectors, altar servers and ushers.

Maintenance Projects Please watch the bulletin for periodic notices of how you can share your time and talent in a variety of projects to help maintain the substantial facilities with which God has blessed us.

Mass Coordinator is responsible for the smooth and prayerful celebration of the Mass by ensuring that all the ministers and elements necessary to celebrate the Mass are in place.

Mercy Fund People come to our door daily in need of assistance with rent, groceries, gas or prescriptions. We put them in touch with agencies and the Perinton Food Shelf. People working in minimum wage jobs with no health benefits find that an emergency can mean eviction. Our Mercy Fund, supported by parishioners, has met the emergency needs of many hard working people. Working in tandem with the Mercy Fund are dedicated volunteers who help families and individuals with budgeting, so financial crisis can be averted.

Music Ministry

Cantors lead the congregation in song. They are sometimes joined by an ensemble. Any singer, teen to adult, is welcome to audition. Cantors rehearse separately, with the Music Director, at a mutually convenient time.

Handbell Choirs - enjoy the excitement of making music with other people with our newest music ensembles. Open to everyone 4th grade and up. No experience or music skills required. Rehearsals are Thursday nights 7-8.

Instrumental Ensemble rehearses 6:30-7:15pm most Monday nights. They play occasionally before Mass or in small groups for special occasions. All strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion players, of any level, are welcome to join.

Life Teen Worship Band leads worship at our 6:00pm Mass every Sunday.

Resurrection Funeral Choir assists grieving families at the time of their loved one's Funeral or Memorial Mass by leading those gathered in song.

Sunday Choir sings every week and alternates between 8:30am Mass and 11:00am Mass. They occasionally sing at the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm either in the church or in room 4. It is open to all teens and adults.

Youth Choir rehearses every Tuesday from 5:45-6:45pm either in the church or in room 4. They sing approximately once a month at a Mass by themselves. This choir is open to students in Kindergarten through grade 8.

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Parish Life This committee meets to see that our parish calendar includes fun activities for all ages; e.g., Christmas caroling at area nursing homes and much more.

Parish Pastoral Council is responsible for the development of goals, programs, and policies that promote the Catholic faith within our parish community. The Council, in its leadership role, provides consultation on the administration of the parish, serves as a catalyst for parish development, and offers a focus for the expression of members' opinions on matters affecting the parish. Members are nominated, given an opportunity to receive information and accept the nomination, then selected "by lot" to serve a three year term. Announcements will be in the bulletin when it is time to select new members.

Pastoral Care Parishioners bring communion to shut-ins and residents of the Fairport Baptist Home, Aaron Manor and other area homes where both the Liturgy of the Word with Communion and Mass are offered monthly. When the pastoral team is notified, parishioners are visited in hospitals and at home. Shut-ins receive communion when they (or family members or friends) request service.

Perinton Churches Housing, Inc. (PCH) is comprised of 13 Perinton churches, along with Fairport Baptist Homes, with the mission to bring affordable housing and services to seniors in the Perinton community. PCH is the sponsor of Fairport Apartments, and Jefferson Park Apartments, and has oversight responsibility for both. Contact the parish office for information.

Perinton Ecumenical Ministries operates the Advent House which is a non-profit two-bed comfort care home for the terminally ill. We provide representation to this organization.

Perinton Food Shelf Volunteers move donated (non-perishable) food from church to the Food Shelf on weekends and help pack and deliver food to those who need it. Call the parish office to volunteer. Collection baskets are located at the church entrance.

Perinton Pastoral Association Representatives of Perinton area churches meet to share ideas.

Prayer Ministry Many of our Parishioners wish to participate actively in our Parish Ministries but are now unable to attend meetings or are physically unable to "work" in active outreach. This program has been designed for them, but anyone may join. Each member receives a card on which is the name of a specific person or group that participates in one or other of the many ministries going on in our parish and for whom they are being asked to pray. On the reverse side of the card is the wording of a special prayer that unites them with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world and indicates the specific intentions of her/his prayer ministry. Each member then becomes part of this major support group that bolsters the efforts of all our active outreach programs and ministries at Assumption.

Prayer Shawl-Baptism Blanket Ministry is a team of wonderful volunteers, who knit/crochet baptism blankets and prayer shawls which are given for a variety of reasons such as illness/death of a loved one, friendship, caring, and celebration. This ministry enriches the giver as well as the receiver.

Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation This team of married couples works to help engaged couples prepare for their wedding day and their life together. Attendance at Pre-Cana is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Rochester. The Marriage Preparation Team welcomes new members at all times.

Project URGE We are part of a collation of urban/suburban church and service organizations dedicated to breaking down barriers of poverty, race and despair by working together to address the concerns of the most needy. Through Project URGE, our parish runs a one-week day camp for "Miss Maggie's Kids" from urban Rochester, and prepares a hot breakfast for the moms and children at Women's Place. Contact Deacon Ron, at the parish office, for more information.

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RAIHN (Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network) Assumption is part of the network of area faith communities working to providing hospitality for homeless families. We need volunteers to help set up temporary facilities in the lower level of the church for one week out of every 13 weeks. Our parishioners prepare and serve dinner in our parish Living Room each night the families are our guests. We join many other faith communities in this ministry supporting a social work and day care center in Rochester and providing transportation so families can continue in their schools and jobs. Call the parish office for information on volunteer opportunities.

RCIA (Christian Initiation) Accompanies adults and young people on their faith journey toward full membership in the Catholic Church. Team members plan special celebrations for the candidates, lead discussions on the Sunday readings, recruit prayer partners, and make presentations on the teachings and traditions of the Church.

Respect Life helps to promote a Culture of Life through prayer, advocacy and social action. To cultivate a respect for the sacredness of all human life, from womb to tomb.

Retreat Opportunities Each year, parishioners are invited to participate in a parish mission/retreat conducted during Lent. Guest presenters offer spiritual opportunities to help us appreciate the holiness of the season. In addition, separate men's and women's annual retreats take place at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Information regarding dates and contacts will be published in the parish bulletin or call the parish office.

Sacramental Preparation helps prepare children to celebrate the sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. Preparation for these sacraments is usually in grade 2 (First Eucharist), grade 4 (Reconciliation) and grade 9 (Confirmation). However, **readiness**, not age or grade level, is the determining factor for admission to the sacramental programs. If you have a child that has been baptized in the Catholic Church and is at least seven years old (age of discretion) and who you feel is ready to participate in any of these sacramental preparations, please fill out a Sacramental Registration form, available through the School of Religion. School of Religion students are **not** automatically registered for sacramental preparation programs. This preparation is in addition to weekly religion class.

Sharing Committee (Parish Tithing) This committee meets quarterly to disburse our parish quarterly tithe to agencies and ministries that support basic needs and are not government funded. Parishioners are invited to submit their recommendations along with the agency's financial and service reports for the Sharing Committee's consideration.

Small Christian Communities (SCCs) help participants appreciate God's Word, deepen their prayer, renew their understanding of faith, and develop a sense of comfort in sharing faith within families. SCCs increases their sense of belonging and deepen our relationship with God.

Social Justice Outreach Committee Fosters programs so that all members in the parish may actively participate in improving the quality of life within and beyond the community. It is extremely active and a good opportunity for volunteers (individuals and families) with programs such as Perinton Food Shelf, Sunday Senior Dinners, Crop Walk, Sharing/Tithing Program, visiting the homebound, the Pro-Life Baby Shower, Christmas Angel Tree Program, Holiday Baskets, Habitat for Humanity, Blessed Sacrament Soup Kitchen, Kidz' Kamp and the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN), where we shelter homeless families here. Our committee also supports Joining Hearts and Hands, Mercy Fund, Fairport Good Neighbor Fund, poverty self-help bake sales, Catholic Relief Services' Self-Help Sale and diocesan public policy initiatives.

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Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits and creator of the Spiritual Exercises wanted to share his Exercises with those who were serious about their faith. At Assumption we offer the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises 19th Annotation, a 30 week immersion into scripture.

The Retreat is for those who are looking for greater intimacy with God and Scripture, who are longing to “go deeper” in prayer, and who want to see “God in all things.” This retreat begins in September and follows the liturgical year into May. Afternoon and evening sessions that meet weekly are available. Retreatants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Attend our meeting to learn about this wonderful opportunity. Brochures are available in the foyer.

Stephen Ministry Is an outreach in which trained lay Christians bring the love and care of Christ to the troubled and hurting in our community. A Stephen Minister brings a listening and supportive heart to a confidential, one-on-one relationship with someone who is going through a difficult life situation.

Stewardship Committee Is a steering committee that supports all parish ministries. In addition to the Ministry Spotlight Program and diocesan stewardship events, we educate the parish at large about stewardship opportunities. The committee supports all ministries through the recruitment of volunteers.

Stewardship is a grateful response to God’s love. God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visibly in His Son, Jesus Christ. The more deeply one grows in love for God, the more one grows in heart to see stewardship as a way of life. Stewards see everything good as a gift received from God and they respond in gratitude with the gift of self, sharing *Time, Talent and Treasure*.

Sunshine Couriers is a group that helps COTA keep connected to parishioners who are shut-ins at home, or in an adult care facility. They do this by sending them seasonal/holiday greeting cards, birthday cards, and notes to let them know that even though they are not able to be physically with us, they are still a valued part of our faith community.

Usher/Greeter Ministry This ministry helps the Mass run smoothly and makes visitors welcome. Any parishioner teenage or older may become an usher/greeter. On the job training is provided.

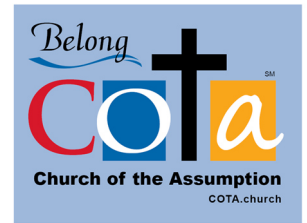
Vacation Bible School has become a summer tradition for our families. Children from pre-school through grade six meet for three mornings in August to learn about God’s kingdom and sing the Lord’s praises. Information about this faith-filled program appears in the parish bulletin in early spring.

Video Technicians These volunteers fulfill the vital role of ensuring our Masses are available on the internet for our parishioners who are not able to attend, as well as for others interested in our liturgies. Training is provided.

Women’s Shelter Breakfast Ministry is a team of COTA folks who provide, prepare and serve a hot breakfast **once a month** to the mothers and children who reside at either Women’s Place or Sanctuary House shelters in the city.

Youth Ministry / Youth Group About twenty percent of our effort is devoted to our Youth Ministry Program, which establishes an environment where young people are encouraged and supported as they grow in their relationship with the Lord and one another. Our Youth Ministry Program also provides educational, spiritual, social and service opportunities for young people in grades 6-12. Youth are a priority and an integral part in the life of Assumption parish. They are invited and encouraged to participate in every aspect of parish life including Liturgical Ministries and by having two youth representatives on Parish Pastoral Council.

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In September of 2003, we added a new dimension to our Youth Ministry program by introducing “Life Teen” to our Parish. As a Eucharist-centered program, the weekly Life Teen Mass (6:00pm Sundays) is the main component of the program. All other programming flows from the Mass and the encounter teens have with Jesus in the liturgy. In addition to weekly meetings, our teens participate in two yearly retreats, which are held at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia, a Catholic Youth Conference, which is held every summer at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and a week long Life Teen Leadership Training Program. “The Edge”, a junior high Life Teen program, is especially designed for grades 7 and 8. They participate in weekly meetings, social activities and a retreat.

Our Youth Ministry Program is blessed with many volunteers who perform as coaches, retreat staff, CYO Board Members and “Adults for Youth” committee members. They assist Marie Claus with many tasks and new members are welcomed always.

Adults for Youth Is made up of parents and interested adults of our parish who support the youth ministry program at Assumption. Members meet monthly on a Sunday evening. Call Marie, at the parish office, for information.

CYO Basketball The Catholic Youth Organization began in the Rochester diocese nearly 70 years ago to provide outreach and support to Catholic boys and girls. Over 150 young people participate in our Assumption CYO Basketball program each year. It is part of our Youth Ministry effort and our church is a member of CYO Athletics of Monroe County. Assumption CYO Basketball is a volunteer organization that only exists with the continued participation of all its volunteer members. By registering a player, parents and guardians are agreeing to participate in and perform a share of all the duties that are necessary to run the program. Registration in the fall is open to all area youth with preference given to parishioners of Assumption.

High School Christian Service Group Youth in grades 10-12 (and those 9th graders that have already been confirmed) are invited to take part in a Christian Community Service Group that will minister to various agencies throughout our community. Their hands-on service to those in need carries on the mission of Jesus.