

Time & Talent Apostolate Opportunities



Saint Christopher Catholic Parish
(Saint Andrew and Saint William Churches)
Verona – Paoli
Wisconsin

Dear Parish Family Members,

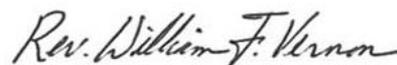
As disciples of Jesus Christ and members of our parish family, may we also reflect on the gifts and talents that God has given us and, if we're not already doing so, consider using them in our parish. Jesus has commanded us to extend His work and presence in the world (see Matthew 25 and 28:16-20; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12-14; and 1 Peter 4), so that we might realize our *need to give* rather than our giving to a need – resulting in a stronger desire to share our time and talent with our parish family, in such parish apostolates as the Knights of Columbus, Council of Catholic Women, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, religious education, and various parish committees and commissions, as well as with our community, diocese, universal Catholic Church, and various apostolates, such as Saint Hermine's Home for the Destitute in India.

Please prayerfully listen to how God might be calling you and carefully review the materials that refer to time and talent in our parish family. Please consider that giving one hour to the parish each week is less than one percent of the hours that God gives us each week, as you make or renew your commitment to share your time and talents this year. Forms will also be available in church so that every member of the family may decide upon the commitment that each is willing to make.

Thank you for your prayerful reflection on your time and talents, and for the commitment that you have made or will make with charity and love. If you have any questions about time, talent and treasure stewardship, please contact me.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee's Time and Talent Committee, comprised of Betty Azim, Sue Barker, Fern Reilly, Laura Zakrzewski, Ryan Zakrzewski and myself, *thank you for reading the enclosed information.*

With peace and prayers in Christ,



Rev. William F. Vernon

Pastor, Saint Christopher Catholic Parish

ADMINISTRATION & PARISH OFFICE SUPPORT

Collection Counter

The collection counters work in teams of two or three to count the donations received from the weekend collections. They meet on Mondays at the State Bank of Cross Plains Verona to count the collection and make the deposit. Each team meets once every five weeks.

Parish Newsletter

The *Parish Press Quarterly Newsletter* is published in March, June, September and December. Most of the articles are submitted by representatives of the various parish ministries. We welcome assistance from anyone interested in writing articles or interviewing and writing about new parishioners.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Committee Member

The Building and Grounds Commission, which is in the process of re-forming, evaluates the needs of Saint Christopher Catholic Parish physical properties and grounds and makes recommendations to the Pastor for meeting those needs. This Commission oversees building projects and also has the responsibility to see to the general maintenance of the parish property. Members for this Committee have special interests and skills in building and grounds such as carpentry, electrical, engineering, and construction. Fr. William has been seeking the advice of such parishioners on specific projects.

Professional Tradesperson

Volunteers are sought to work on specific projects. Professionals and individuals with skilled trades, who are willing to share their talent for the good of the parish, are invited to make themselves known. The Building and Grounds Committee will contact you on an as-needed basis.

Maintenance Assistant

Help is needed by volunteers who can provide basic maintenance coverage during vacations or absences of the parish custodian to clean and maintain the churches and parish center, assist with summer lawn cutting and winter snow shoveling. Volunteers will be contacted on an as-needed basis.

Landscaping/Planting

Whether you have a green thumb, or simply like to offer a pair of helping hands, consider joining other parishioners dedicated to caring for the outdoor shrubs, plants and flower beds.

Parish Clean-Up

We are all called to be good stewards of God's gifts. One way to show our thanksgiving for the parish facilities and grounds is to join others for a parish clean-up. Many hands are needed to tidy up the church, parish grounds and cemetery. Indoor cleaning supplies are provided. For outdoor projects, some tools are available, but we ask volunteers to bring rakes, shovels, gloves and hand tools if they have them.

COMMUNION AND MINISTRY VISITS

Saint Christopher Catholic Parish offers many ministries of outreach to our brothers and sisters who are sick, homebound or in need of support.

Holy Communion to the Homebound

Holy Communion is brought weekly to those who cannot be present at Church at Mass. Volunteers may choose to bring Holy Communion to the homebound and Willow Pointe on Friday mornings or to Four Winds Manor and Lodge on Sunday mornings. The time commitment is approximately two hours a month. Training for this ministry is provided and required through the diocese and the parish. Annual workshops are offered to enhance ministry skills.

Rosary Leader at Four Winds

Nursing home residents at Four Winds have the opportunity to pray the rosary together each week with a volunteer leading. A half hour commitment a month is asked of volunteers. Training is provided.

Care Team

The Care Team provides rest and relief for family caregivers, visits and phone calls, errands and outings. Training and ongoing support for team members comes through Catholic Charities. Team members may choose hours and time commitment.

Grief Ministry

Grief support is offered to parishioners throughout the year. All Souls' Day Mass, cards, grief support series during Lent, visits, Memorial Day plants are some of the areas volunteer assistance would be welcome. Flexible time commitment. Training provided.

Prayer Request Line Member

A group of parishioners have committed themselves to pray for the sick and others in need of prayers. A prayer line is maintained through email for requests for prayers. The only requirement is the ability to be reached by email with requests and the follow through to pray for the requests.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) is an active group in our parish, holding many events throughout the year. These events include the Baby Jesus Shower, Fall Holiday Bazaar, luncheons for parish funerals, scholarships for graduating high school seniors, and donations for parish needs.

Meetings are held September through May on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am in the parish center. The CCW crafters meet Tuesdays throughout the year. This group makes many of the items for sale at our bazaar along with parish members working on their own. A group of women serve funeral lunches with much of the food donated by other CCW women. This year the CCW refurbished the brass processional cross and candle stands at Saint Andrew Church and funded the new lights for the parking lot.

Any woman 18 or over is a member of Saint Christopher's CCW. As a member of the CCW you are able to contribute to the events that work best for you. Don't wait for the Fall Holiday Bazaar, held the second Saturday of November, to find out how you can help with the CCW. We would love to have you join us at any time!

FAITH FORMATION

Adult Faith Team Member

The Adult Faith Team of Saint Christopher Catholic Parish meets regularly to plan and coordinate a variety of programs and provides resources to the parish community in adult faith enrichment. Bible Study, retreats,

spirituality series, Catholic doctrine classes, book discussions, pilgrimages, and seasonal prayer resources are among the offerings sponsored by the Adult Faith Team. The team meets once a month from August to May.

Bible Study Facilitator

Bible Study Facilitators lead a small group of parishioners by following a Bible Study series curriculum. Bible Study series are typically offered on evenings and during the day in the fall and spring. Studies are coordinated by the Adult Faith Team.

Consecration Small Group Host or Facilitator

Marian Consecration is the act of consecrating oneself to Jesus through Mary. The faithful may prepare for Marian Consecration either on their own or within a small group. The book, "*33 Days to Morning Glory*" by Fr. Michael Gaitley provides a do-it-yourself retreat in preparation for Marian Consecration. As a group host or facilitator, you would lead a group through the preparation process for consecration, hosting weekly meetings in your home or parish center following Fr. Gaitley's program (book, workbook, DVDs, and discussion) from day 1 through day 33.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Sponsor

An RCIA Sponsor has a unique role within the RCIA process by helping an RCIA candidate along their faith journey and helping them become familiar with the Christian way of life. As a Sponsor, you walk with a Candidate or Catechumen through a formation process that culminates with initiation into the Catholic Church.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team Member

The RCIA is the normal process used by Catholic communities to bring adults into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, or for baptized Catholics to complete their Sacraments of Initiation: Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation. The RCIA Team supports the process by taking on leadership roles or by assisting within the team as scripture discussion leader, sponsor coordinator, hospitality, environment, speaker coordinator, or secretary.

Young Adults Group

The Young Adults Group is a community of men and women open to any parish members in their 20s and 30s, single and married, who are interested in growing in our Catholic Christian Faith, both spiritually and intellectually, while developing Christ-centered friendships. They accomplish this through small group studies, large group events and activities, service projects, and more!

FOCCUS Couples

Married couples are needed to help prepare engaged couples as they approach the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The FOCCUS premarital inventory helps couples improve their communication skills and learn more about themselves through discussion, reflection and dialogue. Training is provided through the diocese.

Baptism Preparation

The purpose of the Baptism Preparation ministry is to provide the parents and families of children who are to be baptized with a proper understanding of and reverence for the Liturgy of Baptism and significance of that sacramental event. Instructors, preferably couples, are needed to offer a training session to the parents of children to be baptized either at the parish or in their home. Preparation sessions for parents are scheduled at various times during the year depending upon the number of children to be baptized. Those interested in serving in this ministry must have a willingness to learn more about the Church's teachings relating to the Sacrament of Baptism and have an ability to convey a sense of welcome and hospitality. Training is provided.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ST. ANDREW COUNCIL 11155

Founded in 1882 by Fr. Michael J. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. The St. Andrew Council focuses on spiritual, charitable and social activities based on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. Joining the Knights is a great way to meet new people and help others while living out your Catholic faith. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the KC room in the Saint Christopher Catholic Parish Center. Email communication of events and a monthly newsletter are available for those who are not able to attend the meetings. While the council is named St. Andrew Council, members also come from Saint William and other nearby churches.

LITURGY

When we gather as a parish family for the Church's liturgy, all of those present are to offer their full, faithful, active and conscious participation. In addition, special roles are carried out within the celebration of the Mass that are assigned to trained parishioner volunteers on a quarterly schedule. Each role is unique and furthers the ability of those assembled to enter fully into the celebration of the Mass. Serving in a liturgical ministry is an excellent opportunity to answer your baptismal call of service to God and neighbor within our faith community. Please prayerfully consider joining one of these ministries.

Altar Servers

Altar Servers offer service to God and the community by assisting the priest during Mass. This ministry is open to all school-age children of the parish who have made their First Holy Communion and whose parents believe they are ready and responsible enough to be trained. Altar servers assist the priest at the Altar for all Sunday and Holy Day Masses. Training is provided.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – Mass

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priest with the distribution of the Holy Eucharist during Mass. Those interested in serving in this ministry must be 18 years of age, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church and, if married, must be recognized by the Church. Diocese and parish training is provided and required before beginning this ministry.

Greeters

Greeters are often the first parishioners people meet when they arrive at the church for any liturgical celebration. Their warm, friendly smile and welcoming spirit can help parishioners prepare for Mass. A pleasant, outgoing personality is important for greeters, who may also assist with and double as ushers at any given Sunday Mass or special liturgy.

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the Word of the Lord and the General Intercessions at all Sunday Masses. A lector must have a passion for Scripture; an ability to understand Scripture; and, sufficient public speaking skills to proclaim the Word to the assembly (e.g. good pronunciation and enunciation skills). Training in the specifics of the ministry is provided within the

parish. Lectors for weekend and Holy Day Masses consist mainly of adults; but Confirmed high school students are invited to serve as Lectors. A Lector Handbook is provided to assist in their proclamation and pronunciation. Training is provided.

Ushers

Ushers assist at each Sunday Mass, Holy Day Mass, and other special liturgical occasions as needed. The ushering staff are adult men and women who are capable of directing crowd flow and movement, take up the collection, and assist those with special needs. Ushers may double as Greeters.

Mass at Sunrise

The Mass at Sunrise is held each year in August at Tom Kretschman's Airfield, 7550 Sugar Ridge, at 7:30 am in place of the regular Sunday morning Mass at Saint William Church in Paoli. This Mass offers the parish community an outdoor celebration of the Mass followed by a breakfast social. Assistance is always appreciated before, during, and after this event.

Rosary Leader

The Rosary is one of the most powerful prayers of Marian devotion. At Saint Christopher Catholic Parish, the Rosary is prayed as a form of vocal prayer and meditation on the first Saturday (following the 1st Friday) each month starting at 4:30 pm. and concluding before the 5:00 pm Mass. Volunteers are needed to serve as leaders of the Rosary. The Rosary leader helps to maintain the cadence of this beautiful form of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary and of worshipping God.

Eucharistic Adoration

The celebration of the Mass is the origin and purpose of the worship shown to the Eucharist outside the Mass. Eucharistic adoration extends Holy Communion in a lasting way even as it prepares the faithful to participate more fully in the celebration of the Mass. It leads us to acknowledge Christ's marvelous presence in the sacrament and invites us to deeper spiritual union with Him in the reception of Holy Communion.

At Saint Christopher Catholic Parish, Eucharistic Adoration is scheduled on Fridays from 8:45 until noon, and on Saturdays 8:45 am to 10:00 am. Faithful parishioners are needed to "adopt" a specific hour of Adoration.

Not only would they benefit from the grace of Eucharistic Adoration, they provide a great service to the parish community and the Universal Church. The exposed Blessed Sacrament must never be left alone. Because of this, we must be sure that someone is always present while Jesus Christ is exposed in the monstrance: we must have at least two people present at all times.

Decorating Church for Christmas/Easter

The Church environment has always been an important part of liturgical worship and greatly enhances the celebration of the seasons throughout the liturgical calendar year. The Liturgy Commission oversees the church decorating activities and always welcomes and appreciates the assistance of volunteers with decorating for Christmas and Easter. Volunteers are needed whether to offer an artistic eye or to offer an extra pair some helping hands to move plants or clean up.

MUSIC

Saint Christopher Music Ministry is comprised of a dynamic group of parishioners who enjoy praising God through song. We encourage you to consider being a part of this rewarding ministry.

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir rehearses weekly and sings Sunday mornings at the first Mass in Verona, for feast days, and for other special events. We sing a variety of music as we strive to praise God through song.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir rehearses weekly and sings at designated times, Masses, and special events. Children of any age are welcome.

Musicians

- **Cantors** lead the congregation in singing the music. As a member of the *Cantor Corps*, you can personalize the music for a Mass. One-on-one coaching is available if you are interested.
- **Accompanists** play the music selections on the piano or organ at Mass. Accompanists work closely with Cantors to lead the congregation in singing the music. We can accommodate any schedule and welcome any level of commitment.

- **Instrumentalists** can add beauty and splendor to the hymns and to the overall mood of the service. You can play with the music selections for the Mass and prepare an instrumental piece of your choice.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

The Parish Life Commission (PLC) is responsible for social, community, and fellowship needs of the parish family. The PLC provides hospitality to parishioners and coordinates social events that build the parish community. Some of the events are: Couples Night Out, Donut Sunday, Packers/Chili Party, and Lenten Soup Suppers. The PLC meets the third Tuesday evening of the month. Couples and/or singles are welcome to join the PLC.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (K through 8)

Religious Education is the ministry in which the Catholic faith is systematically passed on to the children of the parish through classroom instruction and activities. The materials used in instructing the youth are based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and are faithful to the Magisterium of our holy Church. The goal of the Religious Education program is to teach children what we as Catholic Christians believe and to help and encourage them to develop a relationship with Jesus and to live their faith in their daily lives. The program also guides and instructs students and families as students prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Many volunteers are needed in Religious Education as most of the classroom instruction is given by volunteer catechists. Catechists receive detailed lesson plans via email for each class period and all necessary materials, including a teacher's manual that accompanies the student text. Substitute catechists are also needed and called upon when a catechist is unable to attend class. The Religious Education year runs from September to May and includes approximately 26 seventy-five minute classes. Discover, by volunteering as a catechist, how you can help hand on our Catholic faith to the next generation through our Religious Education program.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Respect Life Team

This commission promotes the respect and protection of life from conception to natural death. Due to the natural demands of family, there are no meetings. Members communicate via email to coordinate several projects over the year to help promote and support a Culture of Life in our parish and community. In the Fall, members participate in the Vigil for Life Fall campaign by helping fill the parish's two-hour weekly vigil commitment. In the Spring, members run drives and educational stands after the weekend Masses that support and promote local pregnancy centers, Pro-Life Wisconsin, and natural family planning.

Mother's Day Rose Sale

Mother's Day roses are a sign of love and life. Through a program sponsored by Wisconsin Right-to-Life, parishioners can purchase roses for their loved ones, and their donations help provide food, shelter, counseling, cribs, diapers and Pro-Life education throughout Dane County. Each year volunteers are needed to assist with selling roses after each Mass on Mother's Day weekend.

Blood Drive Volunteer

Saint Christopher Catholic Parish supports the American Red Cross and its mission to help save lives. The parish hosts blood drives and also seeks the help of parishioners to assist in the operations of the blood drive, such as registering donors, assisting donors to and from the donor areas, assist with serving snacks and beverages following donations.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (ST. CHRISTOPHER COUNCIL)

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is a Catholic lay organization that works within Saint Christopher Catholic Parish to help meet the needs of the poor in our area. Members strive to grow spiritually by offering service to individuals in need. Many members volunteer at the SVdP food pantry on Fish Hatchery Road where there are many ways to help. Members do in-home visits to provide needed items such as beds. SVdP also coordinates many parish-based activities such as the food, blanket, and toy drives. Meetings cover a range of business, but also include time for prayer and spiritual growth and reflection.

Meetings are generally on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm and the second Saturday at 9:00 am of every month in the Parish Center. Email communication of events, meeting agendas, and minutes are available for those who are unable to attend the meetings.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee promotes parishioners giving of their time, talent and treasure, through a Scriptural understanding of stewardship. One of the many goals of this Commission is to make the needs of the Saint Christopher Catholic Parish community known and to organize ways to solicit volunteers to use their talents and time for the good of the community. This commission promotes the giving of financial resources to empower the Saint Christopher Catholic Parish to live out its common mission and goals of serving the Lord and His people. The Stewardship Commission encourages the conservation of God-given natural resources.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee works in cooperation with our pastor, staff, committees and commissions, and other groups at Saint Christopher Catholic Parish to provide current, pertinent information that will aid in fostering a sense of community within our parish family. The committee maintains the parish website: www.stchristopherverona.com. Committee members have varied roles. Some members work with parish groups to coordinate information for the website, while others have technical skills for placing information on the website or adapting the website structure as needed.

YOUTH MINISTRY (HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Youth Ministry at St. Christopher is divided between the Middle and High School years. In Middle School Ministry, teens are invited to join in monthly trips to go bowling, play mini-golf, and waterparks, along with retreats, pilgrimages, and service work. Parents and adults are always needed to help chaperone and drive teens to these events.

High School Ministry has a variety of opportunities for adult involvement. Adults are needed to lead groups of teens in small discipleship groups, mentoring them in both the faith and life skills. Additionally, adults are welcome to give talks and witness on specific faith topics to teens. High School Ministry also provides several retreat, service, and other activities that require chaperones and drivers.

And of course, our teens love to EAT! For any and all events, home baked goodies and donations for other food are a great way to get involved!

OTHER

Childcare Provider for Parish Events

Childcare is provided by volunteers to watch pre-school age children while their siblings and parents participate in an all-parish sponsored event. Responsible adults and high school students are invited to help in this area. To ensure a safe environment, a VIRTUS session and/or a background check will be required of the caregivers.

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