

# SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Published October 25, 2020

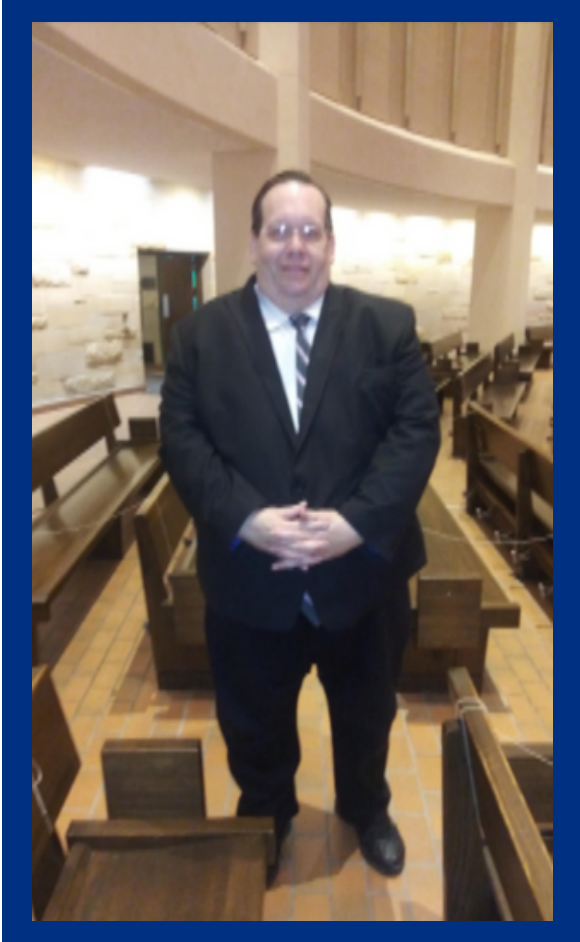
Giving Back

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With all of Saint Rose's older funeral ushers sidelined since February, Ed Erickson stepped forward to help families suffering the loss of a loved one. He's volunteered at every funeral this year, which averages about one a week.

"I really feel blessed to serve at funerals," says Ed. "It makes me realize that even if I am having a bad day or a bad week, these families are going through a way more difficult time. I am seeing them at the worst time of their lives. It makes me kind of sad, but I'm honored to be part of their saying goodbye to a loved one."

As soon as the family arrives at church Ed introduces himself and offers to help in any way. He tells them: "I am here for you." Ed never forgets "that it's all about the family and what they are going through."



Ed, who has been an usher at Saint Rose for 34 years, including 12 years as a funeral volunteer, figures he has worked at about 500 funerals. He makes sure all the little things are done right, such as setting up tables, easels and flowers, and counting the number of attendees so the funeral luncheon volunteers know what to expect.

"I am always willing to take on more responsibilities," he says. Ed not only receives compliments from the families, but from funeral directors who come to Saint Rose.

While he does his best to keep his emotions in check, the death of a young person really affects him. "When I go home, that's when it gets to me," he says.

"Ed has been invaluable to the families we serve at Saint Rose," says Brian Hindt, Pastoral Associate. "Personally, I can't thank him enough for the service, love and care he shares with each family. We are so blessed to have Ed in our parish."