

HOLY CROSS

Catholic Church

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PARISH MINISTRIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

God offers so many ways to participate in His abundance, both by enjoying the benefits of his gifts and blessings and by giving back. Be a faithful steward of the time, talents & treasure with which He daily blesses us all! Browse the opportunities below for information on our ministries and other volunteer opportunities for parishioners and friends of Holy Cross Catholic Church.

To volunteer or get involved fill out the form in the back of this booklet and return it to the parish office.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Volunteer to spend one hour with our Lord during Eucharistic Adoration each Monday between 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

Typical duties of the server are to carry the processional cross (cross-bearer), to assist with sacramentary and other liturgical books used in the liturgy, to carry the episcopal articles when the bishop presides, and to assist in preparing the altar.

Servers are needed for weekend Masses, as well as some special liturgies.

Who Can Serve

Any male or female parishioner who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and has completed the necessary parish training.

ALTAR LINENS

This ministry washes and irons all the linens used for Liturgical Services. Each member is asked to take one month each year and wash the linens once a week.

COMMUNION MINISTRY (EMHC) - AT PARISH OR OFF-SITE

EMHC, as “extraordinary” ministers of Holy Communion, assist priests and deacons with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, and to the sick and homebound in their residence or at Sanford hospital.

COMMUNITY SERVERS

This group of men and women are volunteers who share their time helping in the kitchen. They organize and prepare meals for many events including receptions, dinners, and funerals.

Coordinator – Ask parishioners to bake bars, make salads or serve in the kitchen as needed for parish events. The coordinators are also responsible for ordering the food that will be served for the event.

Event Worker – Do tasks such as making coffee, plating bars, preparing sandwiches or hot dishes, and serving the meal at various parish functions. Set up and clean up for the meal are also part of the duties. Day and/or evening time commitments are required, however you can indicate what is most convenient for you.

FALL FESTIVAL

Held each year in October, the Fall Festival is a major community building and fund raising event. A great many people, teens as well as adults, are needed to make this event happen. Choose from a wide variety of areas to become involved: kids games, silent auction, food cooking/serving, raffle, set up/cleanup, country store, ticket sales, and more! There are numerous ways to help.

SUPPORT US

Holy Cross Catholic Church depends entirely on the financial support of our parishioners, friends and visitors. The upkeep of our facilities, enriching liturgies, extensive community and charitable activities, service and education programs, and other activities found at Holy Cross Parish are made possible only through the treasure of our parish community and our friends, near and far. **We sincerely thank you for your continuing generosity** and invite you to consider the ways in which you can contribute.

PARISH GIVING PROGRAM

The Gospels call us to be a good steward of our time, talent and treasures. As good stewards of our treasures, parishioners are encouraged to contribute to the general operations of the parish and the many services it provides to the parish and the larger community. There are two forms in which these contributions can be made: the **regular and special offerings** at all the weekend Masses or, more easily through our automated **electronic giving**.

Electronic Giving

A convenient option for your offerings is our electronic giving program.

EFT - Electronic Fund Transfer pulls the funds directly out of your checking or savings account. Please fill out the form on our parish website: www.holycrosswestfargo.com and return to the parish office.

My E-Offering - a web based program, where you set it up. Contributions can be made through checking or savings account or through your credit or debit card. Please fill out the form on our parish website: www.holycrosswestfargo.com

Envelope Giving

If you wish to use an envelope to make your regular contribution during the offertory collection at Mass, they will be mailed to you.

Special Bequests

Parishioners and Friends of the parish can make a special bequest in their will to Holy Cross Catholic Church in many different forms, such as cash or in other forms such as stocks and bonds. For information on contributing in this way, contact the parish office.

Poor Fund Donations

Poor Fund donations are used to fund our Social Action programs. These special cash or check donations provide important financial support to the many outreach services to both our parishioners and community and the special needs of the local area; responding to the call of Jesus to serve those most in need.

God's Gift Appeal

Every individual and family is asked to consider making a pledge to the Diocese of Fargo God's Gift Appeal. The Diocese relies on the faithful people of Eastern ND to provide more than 50% of the annual funding for more than 40 different ministries that provide services throughout the diocese.

FAITH FORMATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechists– Each week adults and confirmed teens proclaim the Sunday scripture readings from the Children's Lectionary to 3 & 4 year olds, lead an activity based on those readings and close the session with prayer and music. Training and preparation materials are provided.

Catechist– Adults and teens teach class once a week on Wednesday evenings. Catechists are given easy to follow lesson plans for their classes and will attend a training session each fall. Classes run mid September through late April.

Substitute Catechist– Fill in for Catechist (see above) as needed and available.

Session Coordinator– Assists Catechists and Director of Religious Education. They are responsible for monitoring hallways, assisting catechists in the classroom when needed, and providing childcare for the Catechist's children while they are teaching.

Vacation Bible School - Each summer, children who have completed K - 5th grade spend a week exploring their faith through bible stories, games, music, and crafts. Adults & teens participate as helpers & leaders.

GREETERS

The Greeters of Holy Cross provide a warm & welcoming environment for those joining us for weekend Masses. They take up the gifts as well as hand out Missalettes. All ages can find this ministry fulfilling. We ask that any children (12 years and younger) be accompanied by an adult.

GOD'S GARDEN

This ministry is about caring for the upkeep of the parish grounds, including our Mary Garden. This is a seasonal labor of love that requires physical efforts including mowing, planting, trimming, fertilizing, mulching, weeding and clean up.

HOLIDAY VENDOR FAIR

A holiday shopping extravaganza with over 80 local vendors. Held each year in Nov/Dec, this is a great way to get some unique gifts for Christmas.

MUSIC

Adult Choir –The adult choir rehearses Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and sings at the 9am and/or 11am Mass two weekends a month from September through early May, as well as at special liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Members are welcome to join at any time. There is also an opportunity for members to join for Easter and Christmas if the full year commitment does not fit your schedule.

Cantor (Song Leader) - The Cantor has the responsibility for any songs or hymns that require solo passages, leading the assembly, and inviting the assembly in hymns and acclamations used throughout Mass. This ministry is open to high school/adult singers.

Instrumentalists - (Guitars, woodwinds, strings, brass, and percussion) are always welcomed and will be incorporated to enhance the worship experience. The ability to read music is required.

Pianist/Accompanist – The pianist is responsible to provide accompaniment for the hymns and acclamations during the Mass. Accompaniment skills are required and knowledge of the Catholic Mass is preferred. Rehearsals with cantors are either one hour during the week or one hour before their scheduled Mass time. If accompanying a choir, attendance to all scheduled rehearsals and weekend ministries is required.

Thursday @ Sunset Band– The Thursday at Sunset Band is a small group of musicians that praise God through Contemporary Christian, praise and worship music. This band consists of 3-4 vocalists, a bass guitar, acoustic guitars, electric guitar, keyboard, and trap set.

Heart-to-Hand Bell Choir– Men and women ages 15 and up with keyboard, band and/or orchestral experience frequently make excellent handbell ringers. Music reading ability is necessary. This choir plays at Mass once per month and on major feasts such as Christmas and Easter. Rehearsals are one evening a week during the months of September through early May. Training in bell-ringing technique is provided.

PROCLAIMER

Proclaiming the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Both adults and teens are welcome to participate in this ministry.

RECEPTIONIST

Help in the Parish office answering phones, greeting and assisting visitors and performing routine office/ clerical tasks. Help needed Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

PRAYER BLANKETS

This group puts together hand-made lap blankets that are given to someone who is seriously ill, grieving the loss of a loved one or just needs a little tender love and care.

PRAYER CHAIN (PRAY FOR SPECIAL INTENTIONS)

We pray for special intentions of parishioners. Specific prayer intentions are forwarded to a representative of the prayer chain, who in turn notifies the others who join in the prayers.

SACRISTANS

Sacristans prepare the Altar and items needed for the Liturgical Services. The time commitment depends on what service you provide. Typically, it requires being at Mass 30 minutes prior to set everything up.

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee program provides gifts & material assistance to families in our community for Easter, Back-to-School, Thanksgiving Baskets, and Christmas Giving Tree. Volunteers are needed to help support each event in various ways. No long-term commitment is needed. You may participate in any or all of the above events.

USHERS

Help parishioners find seats before Mass, take up the offertory collection, and direct the Communion procession.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

One of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women in the Americas. They strive to embrace the principles of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all mankind. Meeting time: 4thThursday of every month at 7:00 pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men based on the principles of “Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism”. The Knights support charities throughout the parish and community. They work with the parish priest on needs of the Church and support religious vocations through scholarships. The Knights provide a basketball free throw contest, a soccer challenge, and other events for the youth in the community. All of this is done with funds raised from breakfasts, bingos, and other fundraising activities throughout the year. Meeting Time: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4TH DEGREE ASSEMBLY

If you are a Knights of Columbus Third Degree member in good standing it’s time to consider joining the ranks of the 4th Degree. Meeting Time: 3rd Thursday in January, March, May, September & November at 7:00 pm.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Holy Cross offers opportunities for adults of the parish to learn more about their faith and continue to develop their spiritual life, thus building up the Body of Christ and following Christ’s command to “go and make disciples of all nations”.

BIBLE STUDY

Men of Faith – Using the series, “That Man is You!”, it combines the best research from science and the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of authentic men capable of transforming society. Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:00 a.m. No pre-registration is required.

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) Bible Study – An opportunity for all women of the parish to become closer to God and to deepen their faith while sharing fellowship with other women through the study of scripture. W.O.W. study groups on Mondays at 9:00 am and 6:00 p.m. Watch the bulletins for registration.

R.C.I.A.

RCIA is for adults interested in learning about and/or becoming members of the Catholic Church. This process is used to prepare anyone who has never been baptized, to prepare and welcome baptized members of other Christian denominations or for people who have been away from the Catholic faith and wish to return.

The group meets weekly starting in the fall with celebration of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Other arrangements can be made if time is difficult for you to make.