

Martha and Mary Ministry

Basilica of St John the Baptist and St. Peter Parish

Dear Sisters in Christ,

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord.” (1 Corinthians 12:4–5)

As women of faith, we are each called by God to use the gifts He has entrusted to us for the building up of His Church. Through our prayers, our service, our compassion, and our witness, we help bring the love of Christ to our parish and to one another.

With gratitude for the many ways women who have faithfully served our parish throughout the years, we invite you to prayerfully consider becoming part of a new ministry, “The Martha and Mary Ministry”. This new ministry to our Parish, is intended to foster spiritual growth, deepen our devotion to Our Lord, strengthen our friendships in Christ, and support the mission of our parish.

Several different ministries are available through Martha and Mary include: **Prayer Shawl Ministry, Small Faith Communities, Rosary Makers, Comfort and Joy Meal, and J.O.Y. (Jesus, Others and Yourself).** Please see the attachments that describes each group.

This September, The Martha and Mary Ministry cordially invite you to participate in a self-guided Marian retreat, **“33 Days to Morning Glory,”** from September 4 and ending on October 7. This retreat, by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, encourages those participating, to meet in small groups weekly to share and explore the gifts of Our Blessed Mother.

Our Altar & Rosary Society has generously provided funds for the booklets **33 Days to Morning Glory**. Like Martha and Mary, the women of the Altar Rosary Society, have faithfully served our Lord and parish community by providing holy candles, linens, wine, Altar bread, and other sacramentals to our parish while promoting devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

In the Gospel, the sisters Martha and Mary offer us a beautiful example of Christian discipleship. Martha served the Lord with generosity and dedication, while Mary sat at His feet, listening to His words and drawing close to His heart. Together, they remind us that the Christian life calls us both to faithful service and to prayerful devotion. As Catholic women, we are invited to embrace both the heart of Mary, attentive to the voice of Christ, and the hands of Martha, serving Him in others.

Whether you feel called to prayer, Scripture study, hospitality, outreach, works of mercy, or service within our parish, there is a place for you. Together, we can encourage one another in our faith, share our joys and burdens, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

May the intercession of our Blessed Mother, and the example of Martha and Mary, guide us as we seek to grow in holiness, friendship, and service. May the Holy Spirit inspire us as we begin this new journey together in faith. We hope and pray you will join us.

We look forward to walking this path with you, In Christ.