

2026 Guide Book & Directory



St. Joseph Catholic Church

12130 W. Center St., Wauwatosa, WI 53222
414.771.4626 www.stjoetosa.com

St. Joseph Congregation

***A family devoted to experience Jesus through
Prayer, Formation and Service.***

12130 W. Center Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53222-4096

414-771-4626

Website: www.stjoetosa.com

Email: parishadmin@stjoetosa.com

From the Pastor

Here presented is our parish directory for 2026. It is essentially the basic but vital set of information: a list of our registered parishioners as well as a top-down review of our parish councils, committees, groups, and activities. It's a digest-version of the life of the parish, essentially! I certainly hope that it is helpful for anyone seeking information within its pages. This year, in particular, the notion of "community" has been front and center in various council and committee discussions. The word "community" can certainly be overused sometimes, but I believe that it remains a terribly important concept that is always worthy of our attention. What is Saint Joseph Congregation, if not a community of faith? If we boil down our parish to our mere Sacramental or educational functions, would there really be anything left? Anything substantial, at any rate? No, I don't believe so. I believe that the strength, beauty, and grace of Saint Joseph Congregation lies precisely in its spirit of community and togetherness. This rings true in my ear when I hear our parishioners express why they're grateful for this place:

- "We're a singing parish."
- "We're a parish that likes to have fun together."
- "We're a generational parish."
- "We care and support one another."

That's not an exhaustive list, by any means, but it certainly paints a picture. Truly, we are a parish community, in the fullest sense of the word. So whether you study the following pages, or skim them for the information you're interested in, remember that the true reality of our parish is not the building nor any particular administrative function within the building's walls. Rather, the true reality of the parish is the people, and the community that we have formed right here on Center Street. May Saint Joseph always be a powerhouse of grace and faith, and please let us know how we can be of service to you and your family in this coming year!

Gratefully,
Father Justin Lopina

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Index of Advertisers

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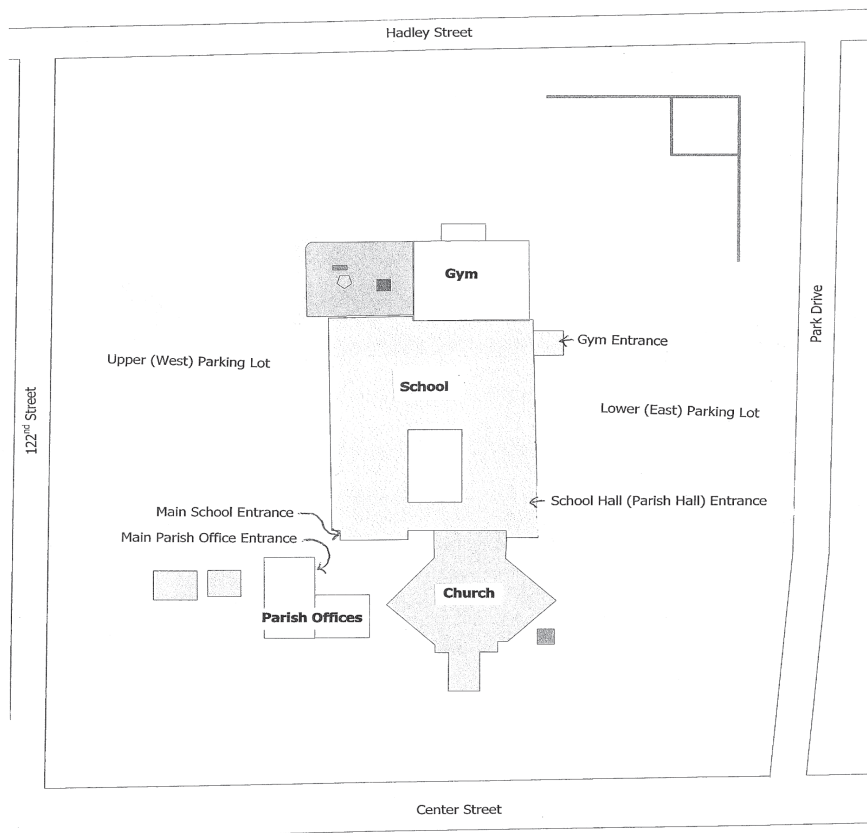
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St. Joseph Parish Site Map



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Parish member



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Parish Information

Mass Times: Saturday 4:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday & First Saturdays 8:15 a.m.

Hearing Impaired: St. Joseph's Church has an "Audio Loop" for individuals who have a hearing aid equipped with a "T switch."

Parish Office Hours: The Parish Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. during the school year. Summer hours are 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Friday, between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Parish Registration: Registration for the parish can be done at the Parish Office during normal business hours, after Mass on the second Sunday of the month in the Welcome Center at the Center Street entrance of the church, or you can find all the forms on our website. Young people out of school are requested to register as adult members.

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Individual Rite – First Saturdays 7:15 a.m.-7:50 a.m.; Saturday 3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.; Sunday 7:00 a.m.-7:50a.m.; Monday 8:50 a.m.-9:20 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: All parents requesting Baptism for their child must complete a Baptism Registration Form. Parents should attend a preparation session prior to choosing a Baptismal date and Godparents. *Parents should register for Baptism and complete this preparation session prior to the birth of their child.* To register for preparation and celebration of this sacrament, please contact the Director of Adult Ministry, Dennis Sylva.

Baptisms are celebrated at one of the weekend Masses. Because Lent is a penitential season and a preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum, it is recommended that Baptism not be celebrated during the season of Lent unless there is due cause.

Weddings: Couples must notify the parish at least six months prior to their anticipated wedding date. Adults eighteen years & older are expected to register individually and become active members of the parish. Even if you received all your sacraments here at St. Joe's and your parents are members, you are asked to complete your own membership. Church arrangements should be made before all others to assure the availability of the priest and the church.

Funerals: Please call the Parish Office in the event of the death of a loved one. Arrangements will be made for planning of the service including the musicians. Advanced planning may be done by making an appointment with Father.

Staff Members

Pastoral Team

Pastor Rev. Justin Lopina..... 414-771-4626 x105..... lopinaj@archmil.org
Deacon José Gonzales joseuugon@yahoo.com
Deacon Kurt Peot..... 262-894-0476..... kurtap@yahoo.com

Parish Office

Parish Administrative Assistant Nikki Claas 414-771-4626 x101..... parishadmin@stjoetosa.com
Director of Liturgy & Business Administrative Assistant - Suzzanne Silman
414-771-4626 x104..... silmans@stjoetosa.com

St. Joseph School

Principal - Bryanna VanVreede..... 414-771-4626 x120..vanvreedeb@stjosephschooltosa.com
School Administrative Assistant..... 414-771-4626 x114...sjsoffice@stjosephschooltosa.com

Christian Formation

Adult Minister - Dennis Sylva 414-771-4626 x106..... dennissylva@hotmail.com
Administrative Assistant - Lisa Marynik 414-771-4626 x111..... marynikl@stjoetosa.com

Maintenance

Director - Matt Adams 414-771-4626 x115..... adamsm@stjoetosa.com

Parish Trustees

Trustee Secretary - Sandy Schmitt 414-940-7964..... taschmitt@sbcglobal.net
Trustee Treasurer - Tom Zimmerman 414-402-7182..... tom.zimmerman@fiserv.com

Pastoral Council

Joe Herro, Chair 262-781-5809 joeherro@yahoo.com
Alanna Wilgus, Vice Chair
Megan Harney
Jennifer Mendoza
Jill Pitterle
Mike Smrz
Kelly Ciriacks
Joe McCool
Sarah Navis
Kevin Scott

Finance Council

Bern Enright, Chair..... bernright@gmail.com
Peter Diotte
Mont Martin
Ed Reuter
Trustee Treasurer: Tom Zimmerman
Dave Gauss
Carol Polivka
Dean Weyer

Catholic Formation

The Catholic Formation Team of St. Joseph Congregation seeks to form Disciples of Christ the way Jesus Christ did. Thus we look to Jesus for what He did and said. What we find is a dynamic process of discipleship. The goal is to form disciples; men, women, and children who have a deep and intimate relationship with Him, and who bring this relationship to others. Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus encountered Jesus, were transformed by Him, and were then commissioned to make disciples, we too encounter and are transformed by Him and are commissioned to spread the Good News!

Catholic Formation Committee

The Catholic Formation Committee of St. Joseph Congregation consists of Catholic Formation Ministers and 2-4 at-large parish members, a pastoral council liaison and the Pastor. The committee functions as an advisory body to assist Ministry staff in program development, direction and implementation.

Contact: Larry Barbian, 414-871-7231, frodolb@yahoo.com

Adult Ministry

Dennis Sylva, Adult Minister
dennissylva@hotmail.com
414-771-4626 x106

Adult and Family Ministry seeks to invite and enable ongoing conversion to Jesus and holiness of life, to promote and support active membership in the Church, and to call and prepare adults to act as disciples in mission to the world – all for the glory of God.

OCIA

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process established by the Church for individuals to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation. This initiation process also involves a parish community experiencing a renewal of faith as it prepares and welcomes new members into the Church.

Volunteer Opportunities for the OCIA Team: Volunteers are needed to be catechists, small group facilitators, hospitality, and team leaders.

Reception into Full Catholic Communion: Those who have already been baptized in another church or ecclesial community are invited to be fully received into communion with the Catholic Church. If you are baptized, attend Mass, and live a Christian life, you are welcomed to discover Catholicism. Those baptized persons who have lived as Christians need only instruction in the Catholic tradition. We will meet and plan your individual journey to catechize and deepen your faith in the Catholic Church.



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Adult Confirmation

Adult Confirmation provides the opportunity for Catholic persons of post-High School age to prepare for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. The Adult Confirmation program is a six week study during the Easter Season, culminating with confirmation.

For more information on opportunities for Adult Catholic Formation, please contact Dennis Sylva, Adult Minister, at 414-771-4626 x106 or dennisylva@hotmail.com.

Youth Ministry & Child Ministry

Lisa Marynik, Administrative Assistant
marynikl@stjoetosa.com
414-771-4626 x111

St. Joseph's Child & Youth Ministry strives to draw young people closer to Jesus Christ through play, prayer, discussion, and testimony. We recognize that everyone is at a different point in his or her faith journey and it is our responsibility to support them in their journey. Regardless of a student's school, background, or age, the discipleship process can serve their spiritual needs. The community of St. Joseph's strives to guide, support, encourage the students, and share Christ's love through our actions.

Religious Education Classes

The Ministry program offers opportunities for children, preschool through 12th grade, by attending religious education classes. Through these classes, students are introduced to the love of Christ, the teachings of the catechism, the curriculum set by the Archdiocese and welcomed in asking questions and learning more about our Catholic faith. Furthermore, as the children grow, we strive to evangelize and create disciples through the process of encountering the person of Christ, transforming lives, and being commissioned by Christ as His disciple. Through classes, Youth Masses, and a variety of other events, students are shown the love of Christ and how to share His love with others. All classes take place between Masses from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on select Sunday mornings.

Service of the Community

Through age appropriate opportunities, students are encouraged to serve others. Whether that is serving at Youth Masses, serving meals at St. Bens, being pen pals to the elderly, etc. all helps to guide students to show the love of Christ to our neighbors and grow in faithfulness to Him.

Youth Masses

Once a month students are invited to participate in Youth Mass. At the 10:30 a.m. Mass, children of all ages (2nd grade-12th grade) are welcome to participate in extraordinary ways. They can be servers, lectors, cantors, choir members, ushers or gift bearers. It is an opportunity for them to grow in their understanding of the importance of Mass, their part of our Catholic community and their love of Christ.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

At the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy, young children are called during Mass to attend the Children's Liturgy of the Word, or CLOW. Students are dismissed from the Liturgy of the Word to hear and discuss the 1st, 2nd, and Gospel readings that is shared with them at a developmentally appropriate level. Participants then conclude in prayer, and return to rejoin the congregation. This occurs on most Sundays between September and April.

Sacramental Preparation

There are three major sacraments that students are prepared. Students in 2nd are prepared to receive their first Reconciliation and first Holy Communion. Students in 11th graders are prepared to receive the blessings of confirmation.

First Communion and Reconciliation

Students meet on Sunday mornings to prepare for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. They also attend family informational meetings and sacrament preparatory retreats. These opportunities allow students and their families to deepen their own relationship with God and open themselves to His Grace.

Confirmation

Students will be required to attend confirmation preparatory classes that help them to become more confident in their Catholic faith. They will also attend a retreat and serve the community in various ways to come to a better understanding of how our faith affects their lives and the lives of others. Confirmation meets on selected Sunday evenings, 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Adult Support

If you have been confirmed you are welcome to help us in our evangelization of our children and youth. We all have been given gifts by Christ that we are called to share with others. From teaching classes, to helping with service projects, or being a chaperone on fun events or mission trips, there is truly something for everyone to help with. Many hands make light work. Even helping with one event for one day, can change the world of one student. If you are interested in working with us please contact us!

Bible Study Groups

St. Joseph Congregation offers a variety of Bible study opportunities, with groups and sessions presented by parishioners or our Faith Formation ministers. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in starting a new group.

St. Joseph Bible Study Group

- September through May, Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m., repeated on Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., online
- Parish Center, St. Joseph Room
- Contact: Dennis Sylva, Adult Formation Director, 414-771-4626 x106
- Focus: A look at how the prophets rose in tumultuous times and how God worked through them.

St. Mary's Bible Study Group for Moms

- Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (November through May)
- Szews' home, Brookfield
- Contact: Audrey Szews, 414-218-3715
- Focus: Study the readings for the upcoming Sunday, with additional material for Advent and Lent (babies and toddlers welcome)

Pilgrims on the Road to Emmaus (at capacity)

- Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Parish Center, St. John Room
- Contact: Tyrrell & Kathleen Hughes
- Focus: The letters of St. Paul

St. Peter's Stones Bible Study Group

- Wednesdays 6:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m., September through May
- Parish Center, St. Mary Room
- Contact: Randy Vosters, 262-780-9668
- Focus: Discussing the weekly Sunday readings, how they apply to us today, and how we can live those words in our daily lives.

St. Faustina Women's Bible Study Group (NOTE: Limited capacity - Contact Cathy Rakers in advance)

- Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Parish Center, St. Matthew Room
- Contact: Cathy Rakers, 262-271-4417 or lourakes@wi.rr.com
- Focus: Read, discuss and pray with the upcoming Sunday readings, learn a bit of Old Testament and New Testament history, and what Jesus reveals to us in the scriptures.

St. Paul Men's Group

- Saturdays, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
- Parish Hall
- Contact: Patrick Ciriacks, 262-893-5193 or stjoesmensgroup@gmail.com
- Focus: God's Mercy

Well Time Women's Group

- Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Parish Center, St. Joseph Room
- Contact: Mary MacGillis, 414-378-8334 or macmablum@yahoo.com
- Focus: How women find their faith in everyday life



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Day School

K3-8th Grade

Bryanna VanVreede, Principal

vanvredeb@stjosephschooltosa.com

414-771-5577 x120

www.stjosephschooltosa.com

St. Joseph Catholic School welcomes you from the moment you enter our doors. We are a K3 through 8th Grade school that offers a complete range of educational and spiritual opportunities for your child. We are accredited through the Wisconsin Religious and Independent School Association.

We offer an Extended Day program for children in Grades K3 through 8 who are enrolled in our school.

St. Joseph Catholic School's motto is **"Faith Centered, Future Focused."**

This motto reflects our core values. The heart of our school is centered on the belief that the teachings of Jesus are paramount in our daily lives. Our faith is not just a subject to be taught, but rather a way of living and treating each other. Many varied prayer and service experiences are offered to our students throughout the liturgical year, as well as during special times of need.

"Future Focused" represents our commitment to educating children for success in both today and tomorrow's world. Knowing how to gather, process and successfully apply information is part of the educational experience available at SJS. Students are first introduced to Spanish at the K3 level and continue through Grade 8. Technology is incorporated into the learning process in all core subjects. Music, art, guidance and physical education help to make our students physically healthy as well as intellectually complete.

Our staff has an average of fifteen years of experience. We are proud to have had state-wide recognized teachers through the Herbert Kohl Teacher Fellowship program as members of our staff.

We encourage you to take advantage of the **Faith Centered, Future Focused** education available at St. Joseph Catholic School. To learn more about our parish school, please visit our website at www.stjosephschooltosa.com.

School Committee

St. Joseph School Committee's role is to advise, develop, and support policies related to the school. The primary objective of this committee is to promote spiritual, social, and educational opportunities and facilities for the students. School Committee meets one evening a month.

Sub-committees also meet on a monthly/as needed basis.

Contact: Jeremy Blackwood at jblackwoodmu@gmail.com

St. Joseph's Home and School Association

We are dedicated to serving the students, teachers, and parents of our school. We organize volunteers and provide many of the “extras” that help make St. Joseph's special. The committee is responsible for supporting and coordinating volunteer efforts for activities including: Forensics, Biergarten, Catholic School's week events, Cookie House, High Interest Day, and numerous other classroom and school wide events. Meetings are held once a month at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

Contact: Rachel Blackwood, rachel.blackwood1@gmail.com

Athletic Association

We organize athletic activities for all St. Joe's Day School and religious education students as well as oversees maintenance and improvements to the Gym and Activity Center. St. Joe's Athletics encourages skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship, and individual growth in a Christian environment. Offered sports include volleyball, basketball, track and softball (girls). A wide range of volunteer opportunities are available from coaching a sport to working in the concession stand. The Athletic Association's Board meets on a monthly basis and is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Refer to the St. Joseph's Athletics website, www.stjoeathletics.com, for information from upcoming events, registration, highlights, etc.

Contact: Athletic Director, Paul Petrides, 262-744-5123 or stjoeathleticassociation@gmail.com

Standing Committees

Finance Council

The Finance Council provides advice and guidance to the Pastor in the administration of parish assets. The Council prepares the budget, reviews financial statements and monitors the financial condition of the parish. The Finance Council also provides assistance in the formulation and communication of the annual financial report.

Contact: Bern Enright, bernright@gmail.com

Buildings & Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee works with the Finance Council, Business Administrator and maintenance staff to maintain and improve the parish facilities. They assist with identifying and prioritizing needs, obtaining bids, and organizing work crews.

Contact: Carol Polivka, carol_polivka@polivka.org, 414-379-1616

Endowment Advisory Committee

The Endowment Committee exists to manage the Endowment Fund and to oversee the disbursement of monies for the educational and capital needs of the parish. Meetings are held in January, April and October. The Committee works with a Professional Portfolio Investment Manager to review quarterly the results of our investment portfolio with the Manager. Approve disbursements for tuition, financial aid and educational expenses. Ascertain that the investment objective and guidelines established by the Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee and St. Joseph Congregation are met.

Contact: Tim Taff, timtaff@me.com

Parish Ministries and Organizations

The following listing of organizations and ministries offers a wide variety of opportunities for you to share your time and talent with our St. Joseph faith community as well as the wider communities of Southeastern Wisconsin. Please contact the person(s) listed or the Parish Office for more information or to offer your service.

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is a group of people, chosen from and by the parish community, who consult with the Pastor to foster and plan parish activity. The Council has three principle purposes: To serve as a vehicle to fulfill the pastoral mission of Jesus and the Church in a specific part of the Archdiocese; To strive to build a community of disciples who recognize their baptismal call to live lives of holiness, witness, and service; and To engage in a continuous process of pastoral planning which considers and balances the needs and priorities of its parishioners, the Archdiocese, the broader community, and the world.

Contact: Joe Herro, 414-469-7261 or joeherro@yahoo.com

Prayer and Worship Committee

The Prayer and Worship Committee plans for the different liturgical seasons and special events. Please join us with your “view from the pew.” We meet once a month on Tuesday evenings.

Contact: Suzzanne Silman, 414-771-4626 x104 or silmans@stjoetosa.com

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry at St. Joseph’s offers opportunities for all with musical gifts to become involved. Contact the Parish Office (parishadmin@stjoetosa.com or 414-771-4626) for more information or to become involved in any of the following:

The Adult Choir rehearses Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., and generally sings at the 10:30 a.m. Mass beginning in September, through June and for Holy Days. All are welcome!

The Cantors lead the congregation in singing at all Masses and are scheduled on a rotating basis once or twice a month. Newer cantors may be paired with more experienced cantors until they are comfortable leading the congregation alone.

Instrumentalists are encouraged to participate in worship by sharing their gifts with the faith community. This provides an opportunity to play at Mass and accompany the choir or bell choir based on their repertoire needs.

The Handbell Choir practices Saturday afternoons from Labor Day to Mother’s Day 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., and plays at Mass once a month and on some Holy Days.

Contact: Cel Fitzgerald, Home - 414-258-2881, Mobile - 414-412-2898

Art & Environment

Art & Environment prepares the worship space in and around the Church for the different seasons of the liturgical year. All are welcome to join us with on-the-job training provided!

Contact: Suzzanne Silman, 414-771-4626 x104 or silmans@stjoetosa.com

Altar Servers

Altar Servers assist the priest during weekday and weekend liturgies. Students may train for this ministry at the end of third grade and beyond. High schoolers and adults are also encouraged to participate.

Contact: Audrey Szews, tamjma@gmail.com

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist assist in the distribution of the Eucharist at Mass. Ministers serve on a volunteer basis at the Mass of their choosing. Volunteers need to be confirmed Catholics who will attend a one half hour training session.

Contact: Suzzanne Silman, 414-771-4626 x104 or silmans@stjoetosa.com

Lectors

Lectors volunteer to assist in the Liturgy of the Word by proclaiming the first and second readings and intercessions at weekend and Holy Day Masses. New lectors are provided a brief training prior to their first assigned Mass. All lectors are provided with an individual workbook for use to enhance their proclamation. The personal time commitment is approximately one hour of preparation during the week preceding the assigned Mass. Each lector is scheduled for their preferred Mass time(s) with flexibility in scheduling when a lector is not available.

Contact: Ann Marie Wick, 414-213-4902 or amwickmail@yahoo.com

Sacristans

The sacristan prepares what is needed for each Mass and assists with clean-up afterward. Mass time of your choice, training and support is provided.

Contact: Suzzanne Silman, 414-771-4626 x104 or silmans@stjoetosa.com

Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality

Ushers, also known as ministers of hospitality, play a vital role in welcoming people to liturgies at St. Joseph. In addition to extending hospitality and assistance to parishioners and visitors, they are responsible for taking up the collection, guiding the faithful during communion, and handing out bulletins. Contact: Phil Bain, 414-333-7538 or pjbainjr@gmail.com

Church Cleaning

Church cleaners are responsible for performing light housekeeping duties in the sanctuary, sacristy, balcony, confessional and narthex areas. No washing or vacuuming required. Cleaners can work alone or with a partner; duties require about 1.5 to 2 hours twice per year, more if you are able. Training is provided.

Contact: The Parish Office

Purificator Washing

Members of this group wash and iron the purificators (linens) in their home. Typically volunteers are asked to cover one month of the year. Contact: Jane Vosters, 262-780-9668 or jvangilder@wi.rr.com

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee is involved with our Christian faith response of sharing time, talent and treasure within and outside the parish. The committee encourages us to care for the possessions that God has given us as a way of giving thanks and sharing the Good News. Members are involved in stewardship education and appeals, evangelization & communication within and outside the parish and welcoming new members.

Contact: Duane Filtz, 262-993-4858 or dmfiltz1112@att.net

Parish Life Committee

The mission of the Parish Life Committee is to foster and build community among all parish members. Parish Life coordinates social activities that span the interests of all parishioners in order to provide a sense of welcome and belonging. Help us weave the vibrant fabric that is our St. Joseph community!

Contact: Erin Murphy, epitterle@yahoo.com

Human Concerns

The role of this organization is to discern human needs in the community and to identify resources to meet those needs by enlisting the active cooperation of each parish member. The committee works with community groups and other parishes to help solve social issues. They strive to make parishioners aware of issues relative to justice and peace. We welcome anyone interested in any aspect of this mission.

Contact: Karen Bartel, 414-476-9914

Bereavement Ministry

The Bereavement Committee works to offer solace to those who have lost a loved one and those working through the grieving process. Committee members gather monthly to pray for the deceased and their families and loved ones. Sympathy cards are sent to the family of the deceased. The Committee puts Care Notes in the Welcome Center that are available to all parish members. When the Committee is aware of grief programs being held in our area the information is put in the bulletin. In the fall, the Committee plans the November Mass of Remembrance. Families who experience the loss of a loved one during the past year are invited to attend. All parish members and friends are also welcome.

Contact: Cathie Papen, 262-789-1752 or Padge Haas, 262-784-5952

Coat Collections for the Needy

From November through March, winter coats and jackets, as well as scarves, hats and gloves, are collected on a clothes rack located in the Welcome Center off the Center Street entrance of the Church. The items should be clean and in good condition. These articles are donated and delivered to those in need.

Contact: Karen Bartel, 414-476-9914

Eucharist to the Home Bound

If you are planning to take Communion to a loved one after Mass, please leave your pyx (if you have one or we have pyx for you to use) on the table in the Center Street entrance before Mass. There you will find paper for you to write your name and number of hosts needed. After Communion, Father will fill your pyx and call you forward. You will receive your pyx and a blessing to go forth.

Homebound persons wishing to receive Holy Communion can do so by calling the Parish Office for more information.

Food Pantry

Food and/or money are donated every third weekend of the month. The food and money help the needy at Hope House, The House of Peace, St. Rose and St. Hyacinth.

Contact: Russ Luther, 262-782-8328

Foreign Ministry

St. Joseph's sister parish is St. Peter Claver in Belize. Special collections of money and materials are held on an as needed basis.

Contact: Jim Schwai, 262-782-1343

Outreach

St. Joseph Congregation provides a certain percentage of its gross annual collection to assist local and state organizations. The committee meets during the year to study the needs of organizations and to distribute funds accordingly.

Contact: Mont Martin, 262-993-6566.

Repairers of the Breach

This organization is a non-sectarian daytime center for the homeless. Services offered include health care, literacy training, and counseling. Volunteers and donations are needed.

Contact: Anne Thomas, 414-258-9362

Respect Life Committee

This committee works on education, activism, and fundraising to promote an appreciation for all life, as the Catholic Church calls us to do. Topics covered include abortion, adoption, Natural Family Planning, end-of-life issues, care for the disabled, etc. Our annual events may include standing as a group for the Milwaukee Life Chain and collecting monetary and clothing donations for our Pro-Life Baby Shower for the Christ Child Society, both held in October.

Contact: Lynne Herro, 414-469-7260

St. Ben's Meal Program

Our mission is to help spread God's abundant love and grace by warming the bodies and souls of the guests of the St. Ben's Meal Program by providing delicious homemade casseroles and desserts. Every second Tuesday of the month, St. Joe's provides fifteen large casseroles and twenty desserts (each to feed 20) for the St. Ben's Meal Program located at 9th and State Street. 30-35 volunteers are solicited through bulletin notices and phone calls to prepare the food. They bring their prepared food to the local neighborhood chairpersons by 3:30 p.m. The neighborhood chair people deliver the food and stay to help serve the food.

Contact: Marilyn Martin, 262-993-6566 or martintoes@aol.com

Sandwich Making

On the second Thursday of the month following the morning Mass, volunteers gather in the school hall to make sandwiches for the Open Door Cafe at St. John's Cathedral, which serves the less fortunate who are homeless, hungry or otherwise in need. Supplies are pre-ordered and picked up early Tuesday morning and after preparation are delivered to the Cathedral on N. Van Buren Street downtown. The cost of this project comes from the Human Concerns Committee funds and also from donations made directly for this purpose to the Sandwich Ministry.

Contact: Karen Bartel, 414-476-9914

Tree of Life

Donated gifts are collected at Christmastime and donated to needy families in the Milwaukee Archdiocese in collaboration with Catholic Charities. Contact: Karen Bartel, 414-476-9914

Christian Women

The focus of the Christian Women organization is to promote the spiritual growth of women by fostering fellowship, the enrichment of Christian family life and the service and support of our parish community. They host events throughout the year such as Winter and Spring Dinners as well as Breakfast with Jesus.

Rummage

The Christian Women Society of St. Joe's sponsors an annual parish wide Rummage and Perennial Plant Sale in mid-June. The proceeds are used to support St. Joseph Parish. Volunteers help set up the building to prepare for the sale, as well as collect, sort, price and display donated items, and lastly clean up the last day of the event. They also assist customers during the sale while supervising the various "departments" (rooms). Volunteers also work as cashiers and greeters. Bakers and hospitality workers are needed throughout the setup week. Donations of clean, unstained, unbroken items are greatly appreciated. Trucks, trailers, and able men are needed before the sale to pick up larger items from donors. Workers before, during and after (clean up) the sale have ranged in age from 8 to 80! Any amount of time that can be offered will be greatly appreciated. Contact: Fran Tollefson, 262-786-8276 or dntolly@aol.com

Senior Club

The St. Joseph Senior Club offers senior (60+) parish members the opportunity to gather for service opportunities, fellowship, and fun! Regularly scheduled meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of September, October, December, February, March and May as well as other special functions. Interesting speakers and entertainment are offered for learning opportunities, and food is always served. Contact: Alanna Wilgus, 414-460-6588

St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Society provides a helping hand to our neighbors in need of support. Our activities include serving meals at the south side SVDP meal site (10th and Madison) one evening a month; assisting with the Tosa Cares Food Pantry; visiting residents at St. Anne's assisted living facility and leading a bingo game there; and doing home visits to determine how we can support those in the community requesting help. SVDP coordinates several fundraisers that benefit our conference's activities, the Tosa Cares Food Pantry, and St. Catherine's SVDP (51st & Center) our twin conference. Our conference formally meets 6 times per year. Meetings are held on the second Monday of odd numbered months at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. Contact: Joe Schueller, 414-234-9955

Raise Right (SCRIP)

SCRIP is simply a gift card which may be purchased from over 750 retailers nationwide at a discount. SCRIP gift cards can be used to purchase items at participating retail outlets such as Pick 'n Save, Kohl's, Home Depot, Culver's, Target, and many others. Retailers extend extra discounts ranging from 2% - 20% to non-profit organizations, such as St. Joe's Parish, to encourage families to patronize their businesses. The discount (profits) will be used by St. Joe's to fund educational programs and lower tuition costs. Families enrolled in Religious Education or the Day School have one half of the discount earned offset their tuition costs and one half credited to the Parish. Other parishioners and friends ordering SCRIP will have 100% of their purchase credited to the Parish. Contact: Linda Swiderski, soundfiddler@aol.com or the Parish Office, parishadmin@stjoetosa.com, 414-771-4626