



VISITATION

a Catholic Community

2017 Ministry Guide & Directory

5141 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64112 • 816-753-7422

www.visitation.org



Dear Friends,

We are happy to provide you with the 2017 Visitation Parish Guide Book & Directory. In it you will find a comprehensive list of our many parish ministries and an updated directory of parish members, as well as some sponsoring advertisements from parishioners and friends of Visitation Parish. We hope you will find this useful.

Visitation Parish is a vibrant faith community. The Ministry Guide section of this booklet lists brief descriptions of more than 50 parish ministries and activities. Please look through these descriptions and feel free to contact them if they can be of help to you or if you would like to serve others through any of them.

The community we share at Visitation Parish is truly an extended family! In the directory section of this publication you will find an updated listing of all registered parishioners with their addresses and phone numbers. Please use this listing to strengthen connections with your fellow Visitation family members. In providing this directory, we do NOT grant permission to utilize the information for any purpose other than as a parishioner keeping in touch with other parishioners.

Thank you for being part of the Visitation family and for all you do to make this community such a nurturing faith-home for so many.

Visitation Parish Staff

Msgr. Brad Offutt, Pastor
Fr. Samuel Miloscia, Parochial Vicar
Megan Burdolski, Director of Stewardship
Peg Ekerdt, Pastoral Associate
Jeffrey Fegley, Business Manager
Jude Huntz, Pastoral Associate
Alejandro Manso, Director of Liturgy & Music
Janet Ridder, Ministry Scheduler/Bookkeeper
Paula Slyker, Parish Secretary
Tina Wendling, Minister for Children & Youth

Visitation Parish Ministry Guide

God has blessed each one of us with unique talents and abilities. He calls us, as Christians and stewards, to share our gifts in service to our parish and community. Visitation Parish invites all parishioners to participate in ministry and service to the parish and with the parish to the community beyond. We provide this ministry guide to help you be aware of all the many ways you can use your gifts at Visitation. If you would like more information or to volunteer for any of the ministries listed, please use the contact information.

Devotional Ministries

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration takes place after the 8:15 am Mass every Wednesday from 9:00 am-6:00 pm in the St. Joseph Chapel. You can choose to stay for one hour or all day to pray, contemplate or “listen.” In addition, “walk-ins” are welcome at any time.

CONTACT: Billy Hodes, 914-6200

Faith Formation Ministries

Catechumenate Sponsor

Sponsors serve as a companion/friend on the faith journey of those who are preparing for initiation into the Catholic church. Sponsors are present during the entire formation process.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Christ Renews His Parish

Christ Renews His Parish is a renewal ministry that offers retreats for men and women four times each year.

CONTACT: Peg Ekerdt, 753-5155 x309, peg@church.visitation.org

High School Confirmation Team

Team members work with high school youth as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

CONTACT: Tina Wendling, 753-5155 x306, tina@church.visitation.org

Marriage Preparation Lead Couple

Married couples, married for at least five years, work with parishioner engaged couples as they prepare for marriage. Twice a year, the lead couples meet weekly for four weeks with a group of three engaged couples.

CONTACT: Peg Ekerdt, 753-5155 x309, peg@church.visitation.org

School of Religion Teacher

Teachers prepare and teach religious education classes to parish children who are not enrolled in the parish school. Classes are Monday evenings from 5:15-6:15. Teachers make a nine-month commitment, September-May.

CONTACT: Tina Wendling, 753-5155 x309, tina@church.visitation.org

Small Faith Groups

Small faith groups meet to read and discuss the next week's Sunday scriptures. A six-week session is offered each Lent with individual groups determining if they will meet throughout the year.

CONTACT: Peg Ekerdt, 753-5155 x309, peg@church.visitation.org

Sunday Pre-School Teacher

Sunday pre-school teachers work with pre-school age children during the 9:00 Sunday Mass.

CONTACT: Tina Wendling, 753-5155 x309, tina@church.visitation.org

Youth Mentors & Volunteers

Adults (college age & older) are needed to work with middle school and high school youth during youth activities. Additionally, volunteers are needed to chaperone special events or help behind-the-scenes with snacks, fundraising and other needs.

CONTACT: Tina Wendling, 753-5155 x306, tina@church.visitation.org

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Altar Servers carry the processional cross and candles. The servers assist the presiders and other ministers at the altar. This ministry is open to 7th-9th graders with training occurring each Spring for students who are interested in becoming an altar server.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307, alejandro@church.visitation.org

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are persons of faith who represent the community by sharing the Body and Blood of Christ with fellow members of the community during the communion rite, so that all may eat and drink together.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307, alejandro@church.visitation.org



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Greeters/Ushers

Greeters/Ushers are ministers of hospitality welcoming all who enter our doors at Mass. They distribute order of service cards, take up the offertory collection, assist during the preparation of gifts, clean up after liturgy and assist members of the assembly with seating and other needs.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Lectors

Lectors are the “official ministers of the Word of God.” They proclaim God’s Word to us at all liturgies. Lectors should possess strong speaking skills, a deep love of the scriptures and a desire to share the Word with energy and enthusiasm.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Sacristans

Sacristans assist in the many tasks that are necessary to ensure that the sacred space and materials are ready for use by the community as they come to celebrate the rituals of the church. Sacristans help ensure that the liturgy run seamlessly, prayerfully and smoothly.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Music Ministries

Adult Choir

The adult choir (open to high school age and older) leads the assembly in musical prayer at weekend Masses and other special liturgies throughout the year. Weekly rehearsal on Thursday evenings and a half-hour warm-up prior to Mass are required.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Cantors

Cantors intone the Word of God through individual singing as well as leading the congregation. Cantors must have an understanding of the flow of liturgy, be familiar with the parish musical repertoire, have the ability to learn new music on their own and be comfortable rehearsing the assembly. Audition and interview requested.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Handbell Choir

The handbell choir is open to teenagers and older who have basic music reading skills. The ensemble plays at various liturgies throughout the year including Christmas, Easter and Feast Days.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Instrumental Musicians

Instrumental musicians enhance the musical leadership at many Masses and other special liturgies. Audition is requested.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Parish Organizations

Club Vis

Club Vis is a social and service group for young adults, single or married, ages 21-35. A leadership group plans a variety of social and service activities throughout the year.

CONTACT: Henry Hodes, henry.upperroom@gmail.com or
Jude Huntz at 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Golden Shamrocks

The Golden Shamrocks are Visitation's seniors group. They hold seasonal luncheons throughout the year and participate in an ongoing service project reading with children at the Upper Room (see below.) A ministry team meets regularly to plan and organize activities for the senior members of our parish. In addition, their "Keep In Touch" program reaches out to all senior parishioners twice each year.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Golden Shamrocks' Upper Room Ministry

Volunteer to read with children after school at the Upper Room on Wednesdays during the school year. During the summer months, volunteers read with children in the Upper Room's summer program on Wednesday mornings. Transportation provided.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization open to Catholic men of the parish. The Knights raise money and volunteer support to numerous causes. They sponsor a variety of activities throughout the year including fish dinners during Lent, an annual BBQ Cook-off each spring and Chili Cook-off each fall, pancake breakfasts and more. They also provide support to the parish at various activities throughout the year.

CONTACT: Joe Grego, joeg213@yahoo.com

Theatre at Vis

Theatre at Vis is the parish's drama ministry. Each year during Lent, Theatre at Vis offers performances of the musical, *Stations*. During the summer, Theatre at Vis produces a summer youth musical featuring the youth of Visitation and neighboring parishes.

CONTACT: Tim McCray, 444-7008

Women of Vis

Women of Vis is a social, spiritual and service group open to all women members of Visitation. Women of Vis organizes meals following parish funerals, Baskets of Joy for special parishioners, an annual blood drive and a giving fund. They also coordinate a variety of social and spiritual activities for the women of Visitation including Bunko, Santa Painting, Rosary Making and Bridge Club.

CONTACT: womenofvisitation@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Ministries

Pastoral Care Team

Visitation pastoral care ministers have participated in a 40-hour national training in order to serve the needs of the parish community. They listen and provide a caring presence to those in need, especially those who face the deaths of loved ones or the loss of health.

CONTACT: Peg Ekerdt, 753-5155 x309, peg@church.visitation.org

Communion to the Homebound

These ministers participate in training in order to serve and bring the Eucharist to those members of the community who are sick at home or in nursing homes and unable to attend Sunday Mass. This important ministry keeps the homebound connected to our parish community.

CONTACT: Peg Ekerdt, 753-5155 x309, peg@church.visitation.org

Helping Hands Ministry

The Helping Hands Ministry provides parishioners the opportunity to help other parishioners in time of need by cooking and delivering meals. This ministry is open to anyone but might appeal especially to empty nesters, early retirees, the newly single—and all those who are at ease preparing a meal.

CONTACT: Peg Ekerdt, 753-5155 x309, peg@church.visitation.org or Jen Burke, 365-9259, jenburkeinkc@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is co-sponsored by the Visitation Pastoral Care Team and the Women of Visitation to make and provide prayer shawls to parishioners facing difficulties or loss of any kind. Those who knit/crochet, or those who wish to learn, are invited to join this ministry which meets on most Thursday evenings.

CONTACT: Peg Ekerdt, 753-5155 x309, peg@church.visitation.org or Kim Foster, kimafoster@me.com



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School Ministries

Parishioners are welcome to become involved at Visitation School whether or not they have children in the school. Volunteer opportunities include:

Accelerated Reader

Volunteers assist with check-out and return of books and aid students taking computerized tests.

CONTACT: Heather Shinn, 531-6200, hshinn@school.visitation.org

Alumni Committee

Committee members assist in locating lost alumni, producing alumni newsletter and other alumni activities.

CONTACT: Megan Burdolski, 753-5155 x305 or
megan@church.visitation.org

Committees

The school has many committees serving a variety of functions including Academic and Student Life, Athletic, Facilities, Finance, Long Range Planning, Stewardship, and Marketing. These committees are under the direction of the School Ministry Team.

CONTACT: Vince Cascone, 531-6200, vcascone@school.visitation.org

Hot Lunch Servers

Hot lunch volunteers serve lunch and assist children with the microwaves.

CONTACT: Mark Blanck, 419-7171

Library Aide

Library aides read to the children and help the school librarian process books.

CONTACT: Heather Shinn, 531-6200, hshinn@school.visitation.org

Parent Teacher Organization

The Visitation PTO provides volunteers and support for the teachers, staff and fundraising committees. Opportunities include: Auction, Book Fair, Catholic Schools Week, Cultural Arts, Father/Daughter Dance, Grandparents Day, Hospitality, Mom's Night Out, New Parents Night, Pancake Breakfast, Picture Day, Roster, Room Parent Coordinator, St. Patrick's Day Parade, School Supplies, Teacher Appreciation, Teacher Resource, Trash Bag Sale and Uniform Exchange.

CONTACT: Vince Cascone, 531-6200, vcascone@school.visitation.org

Visitation Athletic Committee

The Visitation Athletic Committee manages and operates the school's athletic programs.

CONTACT: Vince Cascone, 531-6200, vcascone@school.visitation.org

Social Concerns Ministries

Christmas in October

Christmas in October volunteers provide home repair and exterior clean-up services for elderly homeowners in the central city. Volunteers work on weekends in October as part of a city-wide effort to help those in need.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO)

Visitation is a member church of the Kansas City CCO organization which works to address concerns about neighborhood and civic issues through faith-based organizing. Recently, Visitation's CCO team has been working on the issue of public education in our city.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org or Mary Ellen DeCoursey, 333-2031

Food Collection

Baskets are located in the Narthex to collect non-perishable food items for area food pantries. Our food collections are allocated as follows:

1st Sunday of the month – St. Francis

Xavier Parish, 2nd Sunday – St. James Place, 3rd Sunday – Guardian

Angels Parish and 4th Sunday – Redemptorist Social Services Center.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org or Logan Freeman, ldf81380@gmail.com or 573-694-9669

Habitat for Humanity – Abraham's House

Every other year, Visitation parishioners participate in a Habitat for Humanity project. The KC House of Abraham brings together faith communities from the three Abrahamic traditions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The communities work together to raise funds and volunteer time remodeling a home for a Kansas City family.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Holy Family Catholic Worker House

Holy Family Catholic Worker House serves a hot meal to those in need in their dining room on East 31st Street. Visitation volunteers are needed to help cook and serve the meal on the first Wednesday of the month from 4:00-7:30 pm.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Morning Glory Breakfast Café

This ministry, located at the Cathedral in downtown Kansas City, serves breakfast to those in need Tuesday through Friday. Visitation parishioners volunteer on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6:30-9:00 am. Volunteers prepare the meal, serve and clean up. Volunteers, who are not available to serve, are invited to prepare egg casseroles.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org or JoAnn Frechin, 361-5395

Peace Tree

Each year during the Advent season, Visitation collects gifts and other contributions to be shared with the poor in our community. Visitation's Peace Tree collection benefits fourteen social service agencies in our area with nearly 850 gifts.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Respect Life Committee

The Respect Life Committee seeks to promote the Church's teachings regarding "Respect Life" issues and meets several times throughout the year.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org or John McGannon, 868-0108, jbmcgannon@aol.com

St. James Place Community Kitchen

The Community Kitchen at St. James Place serves meals daily to those in need in the neighborhood around 39th and Troost. Visitation parishioners serve and bus the meal for guests at the soup kitchen on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 4:00-7:00 pm.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org or Bill Staggs, 304-3264

Sister Parish Community

In 1988, Visitation established a sister parish relationship with Santa Maria Madre de Los Pobres in El Salvador. Each year we contribute a portion of our tithe to the poor to the CAPI, an early childhood development program run by our sister parish. In addition, groups of Visitation parishioners visit Madre annually. Sometimes the delegations are medical, providing medical services and transporting medical supplies to the residents of El Salvador.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Sister Parish Child Sponsorship "Godparent" Program

Visitation offers our parishioners the opportunity to sponsor a child at "Madre." Members can sponsor a child with an annual contribution that helps supply school shoes, uniforms, books and other supplies to the children of our sister parish as well as participate in a pen pal relationship.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Water for Madre

The Water for Madre team promotes clean water by collecting donations and providing water filters that will give a family in El Salvador pure drinking water for ten years.

CONTACT: Jude Huntz, 753-5155 x308, jude@church.visitation.org



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Worship Space Ministries

Art & Environment Committee

The Art & Environment Committee is responsible for enhancing the sacred space with signs and symbols, color and beauty to bring out the nature of the feasts and seasons.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org or Julie McFarland, 363-1148

Candle Team

The Candle Team volunteers maintain (clean and replace) votives and other candles throughout the church, St. Joseph Chapel and Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Docents

Volunteer docents are trained to give tours of Visitation Church. Tours are given to new members at special welcome events as well as to outside organizations and parishioners by appointment.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Linen Team

The Linen Team cares for the purificators, finger towels and cloths used for the Eucharistic celebrations. They wash and iron the linens on a rotating basis.

CONTACT: Alejandro Manso, 753-5155 x307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Youth Ministries

Middle School and High School Youth Groups

Visitation has two Youth Groups: one for middle school students (6th-8th grades) and another for high school students (9th-12th grades). Each group gathers once a week. Activities vary by week, and include spiritual, social, educational, and justice opportunities. Youth Group is a great opportunity for youth to have fun, connect with friends, meet new people, and have a place to talk about their faith and grow closer to God.

CONTACT: Tina Wendling, 753-5155 x306, tina@church.visitation.org

Notre Dame Vision

ND Vision is a summer conference for high school students at the University of Notre Dame led by Notre Dame students. As a participant, teens will have the opportunity to explore how God is calling them and how to respond with their gifts in their daily life.

CONTACT: Tina Wendling, 753-5155 x306, tina@church.visitation.org

Young Neighbors in Action

Young Neighbors in Action is a summer service experience for high school youth. The youth travel to an impoverished community to serve the poor and learn about Catholic Social Teaching.

CONTACT: Tina Wendling, 753-5155 x306, tina@church.visitation.org

Other Ministries

Hospitality Servers

Volunteers are needed to set-up, serve and clean-up the refreshments for Hospitality weekends on an as needed basis.

CONTACT: Megan Burdolski, 753-5155 x305,
megan@church.visitation.org

Money Counters

Money Counters record receipts and deposit weekend Mass collections on Sunday morning once every 4 weeks. Volunteers should possess good quantitative skills and have a finance-oriented background. Positions open up periodically for new members.

CONTACT: Jeff Fegley, 753-5155 x313, jeff@church.visitation.org

Office Assistance

Volunteers are needed to help with various clerical tasks including mailing preparation and bulletin inserts.

CONTACT: Paula Slyker, 753-5155 x301, paula@church.visitation.org

Parish Fiesta

The Fiesta is Visitation's annual parish festival, taking place each year in August or September. Volunteers are needed to greet, serve food & drink, monitor games & activities, set up, decorate and clean up.

CONTACT: Megan Burdolski, 753-5155 x305,
megan@church.visitation.org

Photographers, Graphic Artists & Writers

Volunteers are needed to take photographs, write articles, provide graphic design and other communication services for the Visitation bulletin, e-letter, website & other communications.

CONTACT: Megan Burdolski, 753-5155 x305,
megan@church.visitation.org

Parish Council & Ministry Teams

The Parish Council is made up of six at-large members serving three-year terms. Nominations are accepted from parish membership each spring to fill the two at-large positions being vacated.

Additionally, the parish council includes five ministry team representatives from the Administrative, Faith Formation, School, Social Concerns and Stewardship ministry teams. Membership in Visitation's Ministry Teams is determined through various processes of application, election, invitation and discernment.

For more information about the Parish Council or Ministry Teams, please contact the appropriate staff liaison:

Administrative Ministry Team

Jeff Fegley, x313, jeff@church.visitation.org

Faith Formation Team

Peg Ekerdt, x309, peg@church.visitation.org

School Ministry Team

Vince Cascone, 531-6200, vcascone@school.visitation.org

Social Concerns Ministry Team

Jude Huntz, x308, jude@church.visitation.org

Stewardship Ministry Team

Megan Burdolski, x305, megan@church.visitation.org

Parish Council

Megan Burdolski, x305, megan@church.visitation.org



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