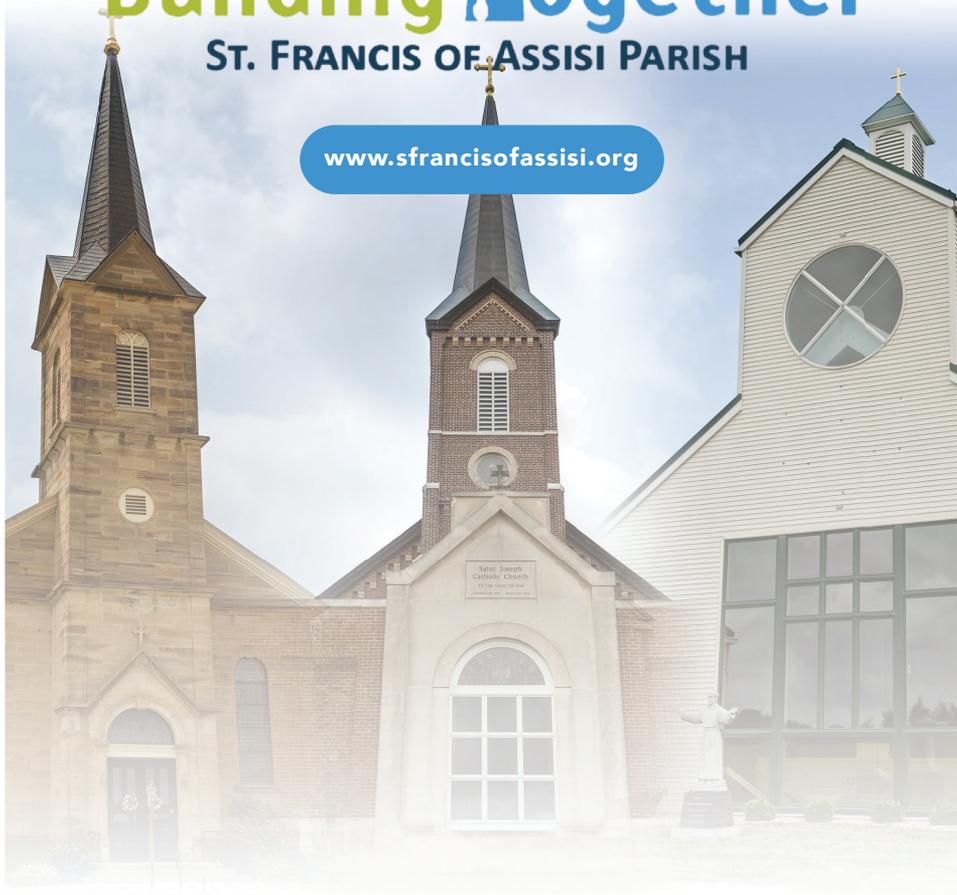




Building Together

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

www.sfrancisofassisi.org



2021 GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY

Saint Joseph | Saint Nicholas | Mary, Help of Christians

Cover Designed & Photographed by Erika Tischendorf

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

As a faith filled community guided by the Holy Spirit with Christ as Our model and Saint Francis of Assisi as our patron, we are called together to live God's Word through Worship, Evangelization, Welcoming, and Caring of all people in building together the Kingdom of God.

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Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Dale, IN

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

It is with great joy once again to introduce to our Parish family this new Directory. Our Parish has grown in many ways these past years. This reflects who we are and where we belong, "Building Together the Kingdom of God."

This Directory reflects how we are united together, inspired by the Holy Spirit to build the Kingdom of God.

Thank you very much for your generosity in time, talent, and treasure to support the mission of the Church. I encourage you to support the Church individually and as a family to move it to the next level.

I want to personally thank our leaders in different ministries and commissions. Those who have sacrificed their time to enable our Parish to flourish in many ways. May our patron Saint Francis of Assisi intercede for us.

May God bless and keep you safe.

Father Crispine Adongo

"Building Together"

Mary, Help of Christians, Mariah Hill, IN

In 1850, 40 acres were donated to the Bishop of Vincennes for the purpose of a church and town. In 1852, 58 members signed a subscription list to build a log church or frame church. The first Mass was celebrated on December 8, 1857 on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Father Ulrich named the church in honor of the feast day, Maria Hilf (Mary Help).

In petitioning for the town to have a post office, a clerk at Washington named the town Mariah Hill on June 19, 1862. By 1865 the community had outgrown the church and so on the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians (May 24) the first cornerstone was laid for the new church.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s various improvements were made including a school house, a home for the nuns, expansion of the church, addition of a slate roof, stained glass windows, and a new organ.

From the 1940s to 1970s a parish hall was built, an expansion of the rectory, construction of the Fatima shrine, renovation of the church's interior to sandstone, and the school was closed.

In 1992 a new parish center was built which included classrooms. In 2007 the parish celebrated its 150th jubilee by remodeling the church and shoring up the foundation.

St. Joseph, Dale, IN

On June 3, 1909 the cornerstone of St. Joseph Church in Dale, Indiana, was laid. On February 11, 1917 Father Chrysostom Coons, O.S.B. received the appointment of pastor of St. Joseph Church and quickly began planning for a school. Soon after, they purchased property and a school was built.

In the 1960s several improvements were made as the town and surrounding community grew. In 1970, David Turnham Educational Center was opened and the parish decided to discontinue its parochial school.

In 1996 St. Joseph dedicated a new Parish Center to better serve their growing parish needs and to reach out to serve their neighbors and community as well.

In the early 2000s the parish embarked on a large church building project which entailed the addition of transepts to each side of the sanctuary, a narthex on the front of the church, and a conversion of the rectory into office spaces for administrative purposes. The dedication for the renovation was held on June 8, 2003.

St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, IN

In the late 1960s liturgies were celebrated at Lincoln State Park. This served both campers and local people. This was followed by liturgies being held in the Chapel at Lincoln Boyhood National Monument.

In the 1970s the Catholics of St. Nicholas worshiped in the St. Paul Evangelical Church in Santa Claus. Later and until 1996 a small building that had served as a toy shop many years before was used as a gathering place to worship for St. Nicholas parishioners.

On December 6, 1991 Bishop Gettelfinger canonically established St. Nicholas as a parish with its boundaries within the Jasper Deanery.

In September of 1992, William and Patricia Koch deeded a 6.4-acre plot fronting Highway 245, North to the Diocese of Evansville. This was for the sole purpose of building St. Nicholas Catholic Church and later, a cemetery.

In May 1993, the “St. Nicholas BUILDS!” three year pledge drive was initiated with the goal of raising \$750,000 to finance the project with its total cost of \$1.132 million. In May 1995 ground was broken for the building of St. Nicholas Catholic Church. On December 8, 1996 St. Nicholas Catholic Church was blessed and dedicated by The Most Reverend Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

St. Francis of Assisi Parish was officially a merged parish on July 1, 2015. Even though the name changed, we still operate with having Mass at our three churches. The parish is the heart that drives ministry throughout the area, not the Church. We still have to live out our baptismal call to do Christ’s work in ministry and to support the Church for the future. The merger has allowed us to work together and support each other. The Eucharist is about giving and when we give a little, we gain a lot. We have learned to share and St. Francis of Assisi rebuilt the church by a change of heart. When we share and work together we become witnesses and our parish becomes vibrant; we become a beacon of light for others to see. It will be our love for Jesus not ourselves that will keep the Church thriving.

Ministries and Organizations

Sacraments

Baptism

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the three sacraments of initiation into Christ and the Church.

For the Baptism of infants, parents are asked to attend an instructional Baptism class. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Please contact the parish office to schedule the baptism and to find out when the Baptism class will be offered.

For children above the age of 7 and for adults, special preparation for Baptism is provided.

Confirmation

Confirmation recognizes that in order to follow Christ we need His promised gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. From the Catechism of the Catholic Church “the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.” For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.”

Confirmation is celebrated every year when our youth reach High School age, usually during the sophomore year. Participation in faith formation classes is required prior to receiving the sacraments.

If you are older and have never been confirmed, please contact the parish office.

Eucharist

Sunday Eucharist is the heart of our community’s life. It expresses who we are and who we are trying to become—a thankful people united with Christ in offering our lives to God as we live in the Spirit of loving service.

First Communion is celebrated in the spring of the 2nd grade year. Participation in faith formation classes is required prior to receiving the sacraments. A retreat is organized for students and parents to highlight the beauty of this sacrament in their lives.

Homebound parishioners and parishioners in the nursing home are asked to call the parish office to let the parish know they would like someone to bring them Holy Communion.

Reconciliation

The risen Christ extended His ministry of forgiving sins to the Church. In celebrating this sacrament, we know our sins are forgiven and we are challenged to live a life of forgiveness towards others.

Reconciliation is celebrated 30 minutes before Mass Wednesday through Saturday. During Advent and Lent, there are additional opportunities for communal penance services as well as individual confession. Please call the parish office for more information regarding First Reconciliation.

Marriage

Just as the Sacrament of Holy Orders calls men to service in the church, so also the Sacrament of Marriage calls a husband and wife into service in the creation of a new family.

The pastoral team of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish has the responsibility of thoroughly preparing a couple for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples are required to contact the pastor 6 months prior to the wedding date. They are also required to attend preparation classes and attend a marriage retreat, i.e., Engaged Encounter.



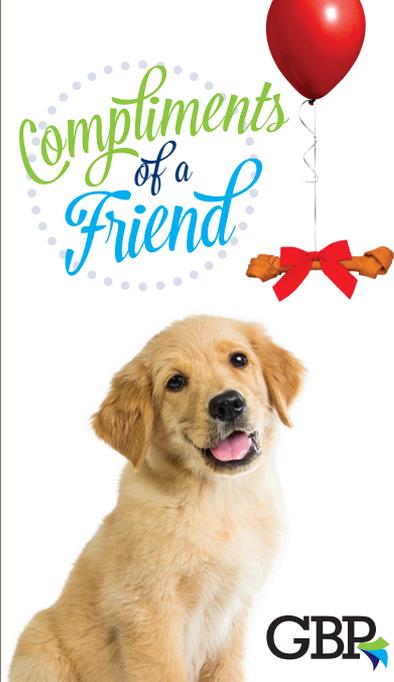
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Holy Orders

In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the priest being ordained vows to lead other Catholics by celebrating with them the sacraments, by proclaiming the Gospel, and by providing other means to holiness. Persons interested in the Permanent Diaconate, Priesthood or Religious Life are encouraged to contact the Diocesan Vocations Office at the Catholic Center at 1-800-637-1731.

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament for the Sick is celebrated communally and privately. On the first Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of even months, the Sacrament is celebrated at daily Mass. The Sacrament is administered to those who are seriously ill, preparing for major surgery, the aged, and those facing death. Please contact the parish office to ask for private anointing.

Outreach Commission

The Outreach Commission discovers the human needs of the parish and the communities, and will create and support programs to meet those needs. They educate and involve parishioners in social justice issues in order to assist those in need within and beyond our parish boundaries. Areas we support include but are not limited to:

St. Pierre Collection - Our parish sponsors a sister parish in Haiti.

Red Cross Blood Drive - Our Parish sponsors Red Cross Blood Drives each year. Watch the bulletin for dates!

Habitat for Humanity - Our parish is a supporter of the local Habitat for Humanity in Spencer County. Members assist in the building of homes for low-income families.

North Spencer Community Action Center - The North Spencer Community Action Center helps the needy families in the area. St. Nicholas Parish does not have a second collection but parishioners support NSCAC through special envelopes in their collection envelope set. Food and other items are also regularly collected for the NSCAC. Please contact the parish office for details.

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) - The purpose of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is to help its members grow in love of God and neighbor and to express this spirit by being in service to the needy. Call the parish office for more information on how to become involved or to seek assistance.

Back to School Clothing Drive - Each August parishioners are asked at a second collection to donate money to buy clothing and school supplies for area children that are less fortunate. This is done in conjunction with the North Spencer Community Action Center.

Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive - On Thanksgiving Day, parishioners are encouraged to bring canned food items to Mass, which are carried up during the presentation of gifts and are later given to the North Spencer community Action Center to be distributed to needy families.

Christmas Collection - Our parish adopts a needy family for the Christmas season. Money is collected at a second collection in early December. Items are bought and wrapped for the family and given to them prior to Christmas. This is done in conjunction with the North Spencer Community Action Center.

Angel Tree - Area churches join together to supply clothes for local children and a local nursing home. Parishioners choose tags in late November and return their tags and items purchased within two weeks.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry - Shoeboxes are filled with small toys and personal items for children in poor countries. Also included are pamphlets and programs that introduce the children to God.

Prison Ministry - Periodic Kairos retreats for prison inmates are supported by our parishes, financially, with cookie donations and with retreat team members. Mary, Help of Christians also does a special collection on Ash Wednesday to support the Kairos program.

Community Table - Churches and service groups provide a meal each Thursday evening at the Presbyterian Church in Dale. The Table is open to anyone who wants to attend for a meal or fellowship. The dinner is planned, cooked, served and cleaned up by the sponsoring group. We hope to have teams to participate in this service to the community on a quarterly basis.

Health Ministry - Nurses, physician assistants, and others in the medical field who are members of our community sponsor opportunities for our parishioners to lead healthy lives both physically and spiritually.

Hispanic Ministry - Sunday Mass is at 11:00 am at St. Joseph with opportunity for confession before Mass, preparation classes in Spanish for Baptisms, Weddings, and Quinceañeras, help in tax preparation and immigration matters, translation and transportation, Masses for Presentaciones Quinceañeras, Weddings, Baptisms, and other special occasions.

The Hispanic community hosts a special Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration each year including Las Mañanitas, Mass, and Dinner. The community celebrates Las Posadas in December, hosted by a different family each evening.

There are also opportunities for adult faith formation in Spanish. Please contact the parish office to learn more.

Hospitality Commission

The Hospitality Commission is made up of men and women who strive to make everyone welcome who comes to our churches, parishioners as well as visitors. We gather together on special occasions, to enjoy fellowship and community with fellow parishioners and guests.

Donut Sunday - held on the 1st Sunday of each month, so parishioners and visitors can enjoy visiting with one another. We also welcome new members at this time.

Second Thursday Group - is open to all adults at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish as well as their friends. The group gathers at 9:00 am on the second Thursday of each month to play cards and dominoes in the Saint Joseph Parish Center. At 11:00 am until noon they enjoy lunch and fellowship. This is a good activity for those living alone that would like to get together with fellow parishioners and friends. No reservations needed, just show up by 9:00 am.

Social Luncheons - held the 3rd Friday of each month. Soup, sandwiches and dessert are served at 12:00 noon in the lower level of St. Nicholas, followed by cards and other fellowship activities. An invitation is extended to all members of local Churches, Catholic or otherwise.

Anniversary Dinner - anyone in our Parish that will be celebrating in five-year increments of that year or has been married for more than fifty years is invited to attend the event. We feel anniversaries are very special and want to celebrate with our parishioners. It is held in February, on the Saturday closest to Valentine's Day.

Bereavement Dinner - a group of parishioners help fix a meal following the funeral for the family members of the deceased. The parish furnishes the meat and drinks, and parishioners bring salads and desserts. We do this as a way of sharing in their sorrow.

Bereavement Reception - held the weekend after All Souls Day. We gather for a reception for all the families who have lost a loved one during the year. We let them know, in this way, that we are sharing in their sorrow.

Special Occasions - during the year, if a special occasion happens, for instance, a parishioner comes back to celebrate Mass, or RCIA, or a reception, retirement of staff, etc., we gather to celebrate with a reception.

Ladies Sodality

Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older. The Ladies Sodality gives the women of the parish a way to communicate with each other, share ideas, renew and establish relationships, and help those in need.

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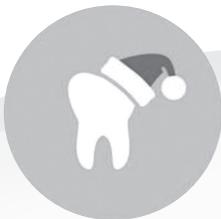
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Faith Formation Commission

The purpose of this commission is to educate each parishioner to serve the world as a responsible Christian. We believe that every person is unique and valuable because all life comes from God. Education in this sense means recognizing that each parishioner is unique spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. The Faith Formation Commission, along with all members of our parishes, provides a safe Christian environment in which all can become life-long learners.

Adult Faith Formation - A variety of programs is available so that parishioners may choose what best suits their needs.

Faith Formation for Youth/Children - The Faith Formation Commission assists the CRE in determining the best methods to present the required material to our children. They oversee the selection of new textbooks suggested by the diocese when needed. This committee also strives to be in contact with those parents whose children do not participate in our religious education programs to determine how our parish can be of assistance to them. Grades 1-12 meet on Wednesday evenings.

Liturgy of the Word for Children - is celebrated from September through the end of May. This is the official rite offered by the Church so that children may better grasp the Scriptures and apply them to their young lives. Catechists, assistants and the children are sent off to their place of worship just before the readings are proclaimed at Mass. They return when the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins.

Youth Ministry - at St. Joseph, St. Nicholas, and Mary, Help of Christians provides opportunities for young people to have fun together while growing in faith. The goals of our youth ministry program are to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus in our world today, to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. We are committed to prayer, service, and participation in the life of our three parishes.

Mission Trip - The youth from Saint Joseph, Saint Nicholas and Mary Help of Christian churches, along with adult volunteers from these parishes make an annual mission trip. The Catholic Heart Work Camp usually sponsors the mission trip but other mission organizations, like The Appalachia Service Project, have been used. The goal of each trip is to provide service work to areas of the country where individuals are physically unable to complete the work or do not have the financial resources to do so. We believe we are the hands of Jesus, the spirit of hope and the enthusiasm of living our faith through our actions. The Youth have fundraising events throughout the year to offset the cost of the trip so that each youth who is committed to attending the trip is not financially burdened by doing so. The Youth also participate in local mission work for those individuals who need a helping hand with their home maintenance. If you have any questions about the mission trip, how you can attend or how you can assist financially, please contact the parish office.

RCIA - The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the liturgical and catechetical process by means of which new members are initiated into the Catholic Church. Although designed initially for the non-baptized, the RCIA has been adapted to bring members baptized into other Christian traditions into full communion with the Catholic Church as well. The RCIA is established for both adults and children of catechetical age (7 and above) who are to be brought into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday through the reception of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - VBS teaches our children more about the Catholic faith during a week of fun and activities in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. VBS is usually held in July and runs from Sunday-Thursday in the evening.

Stewardship

Stewardship is a way of life, spiritual, giving and receiving. It involves our gifts from God including time, talent and treasure. The Stewardship Committee organizes programs which seek to bring the parish family together by sharing the three gifts. When stewardship is practiced well, we are changed into the people God intends us to be.

Finance Council - The Finance Council is comprised of members who manage the finances of the parish and report to the Parish Council. Their duties include establishing budgets, monitoring income and expenses, and providing information to the parish on the financial health of the parish. Meetings are held monthly to review the previous month's activity. Please call the parish office if you have skills or interest in being part of this council.

Collection Counters - These individuals are responsible for counting, sorting and depositing contributions received at the weekend and holy day Masses.

Building & Grounds - is a group of parish members who are responsible for the upkeep of the parish buildings & grounds. This includes the church, parish center and office. This group takes care of general maintenance, hiring of personnel to do mowing and janitorial work, and organizing spring and fall clean-up days.

Fundraising Committee - Fundraisers serve the purpose of bringing parishioners together both in working together and in enjoying time together on the various projects. To assist the regular weekly contributions, fundraisers will be organized throughout the year.

Cemetery Board - There is a separate Cemetery Board for each of the 3 church cemeteries.

Mary, Help of Christians Cemetery Board oversees the care, planning, and general maintenance of the Mary, Help of Christians Cemetery. It is responsible for managing the sale of plots and to ensure long term financial care for the cemetery. See the bulletin for meeting dates.

St. Joseph Cemetery Board manages all activities related to the cemetery. The sale of cemetery plots and arranging for burials is coordinated through Schum Monuments. The Board is responsible for maintaining the grounds at the cemetery, which includes mowing and road upkeep. The Perpetual Care Account is managed to provide investment income to pay for the annual expenses incurred. One third of the sale of each gravesite is placed into the Perpetual Care Account to provide long-term care for the grounds.

St. Nicholas Cemetery Board is responsible for the upkeep of our parish cemetery. They oversee the selling of burial plots, maintenance, and the establishing of guidelines regarding decorations of graves.

Worship Commission

The worship commission gives special attention to how the parish community worships and celebrates the liturgy. The commission will devote sufficient time educating itself regarding the Church's liturgical history and principles of liturgical renewal as outlined by Vatican II. It will implement these principles in the celebration of the sacraments in our community and members will discuss recommended changes to enhance the common prayer of the assembly. The commission will work with liturgical ministers, through their representative on the commission, in developing the skills they need to perform their ministry. In collaboration with the pastor, they will plan the seasons and feasts of the Church's Liturgical Year and other liturgical events.

Liturgical Ministry Training - Ongoing training for all liturgical ministers will help them minister with confidence and excellence. All liturgical ministers should receive training on various aspects of their ministry several times a year. The service of our liturgical ministers has the power to enhance our worship and strengthens the faith of the assembly.

Ministries

Ushers - are called to serve the community when gathered together for the liturgy. They offer special assistance as needed, take up the offertory collection and offer any other help as the need arises. The ushers are also needed to help seat parishioners during Sunday and Holy Day Masses that are highly attended.

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Eucharistic Ministers - Eucharistic ministers are commissioned after receiving instruction to administer Holy Communion at Mass. They are men and women who have been confirmed and are active members of the church.

Lectors - Lectors are commissioned after training to proclaim the Word of God to the gathered community. They are men or women of any age who have good communication skills, clarity of voice, and a desire to proclaim the Word of God to the assembly.

Servers - Altar servers are called to serve God and the community by assisting the priest in the celebration of the Eucharist. They may be adults or youth who are in the third grade or up. They should be dependable and attend proper training.

Sacristans - Sacristans are responsible for setting up the church for all weekend and holy day Masses. They also take care of the sacred vessels, dishes and linens used for the Masses.

Choir and Cantors - Musical people who provide leadership to the assembly and encourage active participation in the celebration of the Mass.

Gift Bearers - Families or individuals are asked to present gifts of bread and wine during the preparation of gifts at our parish liturgies.

Greeters - Individuals or families are asked to welcome and greet parishioners and guests as they enter church. They also help to distribute the bulletins.

Ministers to the Homebound and Nursing Homes - In addition to the Eucharistic Bread broken and shared at Mass since the beginning of the church, so too was bread taken to those who can't be with us at Mass whether they be sick, homebound for any reason, or in a nursing home. These ministers make visits to the homebound and those in the nursing home. During their visits, they pray with the individuals and offer them Holy Communion.

Art & Environment - This committee plans and executes the art and environment for major seasons and feasts of the liturgical year. It strives to produce a pleasing and prayerful environment throughout the worship space during the entire liturgical year.

Funeral Vigils and Masses - The family and the priest and/or one of the staff members plan the funeral vigils and funeral Masses. Musicians and cantors are also needed to assist in the funeral liturgy.

Christian Vocations Commission

The purpose of the Christian Vocations Commission is to support family life, to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life, to help singles better understand their own God-given vocation, to help prepare engaged couples for marriage, to provide enrichment experiences for married couples, to work with youth of all ages in their development towards Christian adulthood and to set up a Parish Nursing Program. A couple of the ministries provided under the vocations commission are described below.

Vocations Chalice & Prayer Binder - The Vocations Chalice & Prayer Binder is a program designed to help families, couples and individuals pray for all vocations. The prayer binder and chalice are available for use during our monthly 1st Thursday 24 hour adoration. The binder provides profiles of the seminarians of our diocese and individuals from the surrounding area who have answered God's call to priesthood or religious life. Prayers are also included for the vocations of single life, priesthood, religious brothers, diaconate, marriage and family, religious sisters and lay ministers. If you would like copies of any prayers to use in your home please contact the parish office.

Health Ministry - Rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus, the mission of our Health Ministry is to make a positive impact in the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of our parishioners and persons of all ages within our local communities. The work of the Health Ministry Team is guided by Parish Nurses and assisted by many parish volunteers, spiritual caregivers and health educators and counselors. Our goal is to raise everyone's awareness of the interdependency of spiritual, physical and mental health and to provide opportunities, education, resources and referrals to assist them in improving those areas of health. Sponsoring blood drives, newsletter health articles, coordinating speakers on holistic health topics and providing First Aide booths at parish/community events are examples of our stewardship.

Parish Pastoral Council

The parish pastoral council is a consultative body assisting the pastor in ministering to the parishioners of our community. In seeking to do God's will, the council will make recommendations to the pastor concerning parish priorities, directions, and policies, which are arrived at by spiritual discernment and consensus. The parish pastoral council also encourages, coordinates, and directs the parish commissions and organizations to implement the parish goals. The council meets monthly.

Knights of Columbus (K of C)

The Knights of Columbus Holy Trinity Council includes the churches of St. Nicholas, St. Joseph and Mary, Help of Christians. The Knights of Columbus' purpose for existence is to support the Church, pastor, families and community by fundraising for Catholic Education. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at St. Nicholas.

Quilt Ministry

The quilt ministry provides an opportunity for the young and old to meet and work together on quilts. They provide quilts for the fundraising committee and also sell quilts to other churches and organizations and give the proceeds to the parish. They welcome anyone to their ministry, including those from other parishes and those who want to learn. There are opportunities to join quilting groups in each of our parishes. Quilters meet every Tuesday during the winter months at Mary, Help of Christians in the Quilt Room. Quilters meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the St. Joseph Parish Center. Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the St. Nicholas Lower Level.