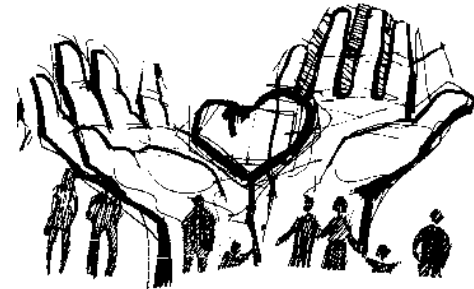


An Invitation to Serve



**Ministry Life and
Activities at
St. Ferdinand Church**

**2535 Rochester Road
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Phone: (724) 776-2888
Fax: (724) 776-2378**

the preservation and defense of the family. It was on these bed-rock principles that the Order was founded over a century ago and remains true to them today.

Scouts

Saint Ferdinand Church sponsors several scouting troops. There are also other troops and packs in the Cranberry area.

Other ministries and areas of worship may be found on the web at: www.stferd.org



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Grocery / Restaurant Certificate Program

The parish realizes a return on the sale of gift cards for Giant Eagle, the North Park Lounge Deckhouse, Dunkin' Donuts and Krispy Kreme Donuts. Please support the church when frequenting these establishments. The gift cards are available at the Rectory Office.

Market Day

Market Day is a monthly food purchasing opportunity offered to our parishioners and the community. A delicious selection of restaurant-quality food is offered every month. We encourage you to support Market Day as our parish receives at least 10% profit on your order. The money is applied to the youth ministry.

Parish Affiliated Organizations

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other in order that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; they are self-supporting through their own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Their primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism, and defense of the priesthood. The Order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is unequivocal in its loyalty to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on Earth. The Order is firmly committed to the protection of human life, from conception to natural death, and to

Women's Club

All women of the parish, as well as guests, friends and relatives are invited to join this group. The purpose of Women's Club is to provide social fellowship and spiritual enrichment at monthly gatherings. Monthly meetings from September through May include a wide variety of programs and speakers. Annual activities which the Women's Club enjoy are the craft auction — the proceeds of which purchase Bibles for the sixth grade class — Lunch with Santa, the Valentine's Day Sweetheart Dance, Ethnic Food Fair, Lenten fish fries (in cooperation with the Men's Club) and the Spring Fashion Show. Women's Club's goal is to encourage all women to be vital, active members of our Christian community.

Parish Events / Fundraisers

Summer Family Festival

The Summer Family Festival is a total parish event. It is the only social fundraiser the parish conducts all year. The Festival workers are all volunteers, men and women, all ages and backgrounds, dedicated to having fun while providing a means of interaction among parish members and raising funds to offset costs of major projects within the parish. The festival is scheduled yearly for the second weekend of August and includes dinners, games, raffles, a White Elephant sale, and a \$10,000 Raffle prize is picked and awarded the last night of Festival.

Entertainment Books

The parish sells the Entertainment Book as an annual fundraiser. The book contains coupons with savings on dining, attractions, sport events, shopping and services in the Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

Ethnic Food Fair

The Ethnic Food Fair is a parish sponsored event, comprised of participating parish organizations, ministries and affiliated organizations. The Food Fair features great international food and entertainment and is held prior to the beginning of Lent.

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***Please visit our web site at:
www.stferd.org***



Worship

Centering Prayer

You are welcome to join our weekly Centering Prayer sessions each Tuesday at 9:15AM in the Upper Room. We start the year on the last Tuesday in August, and continue through the Tuesday before Memorial Day (taking most of the Summer off.) If Centering is not listed in the weekly bulletin, this indicates that there is no meeting the coming Tuesday.

The 20-minute prayer time and the discussion that follows take about 90 minutes. Please share this marvelous practice with us either on a regular basis, or occasionally as your schedule allows.

The gift of Centering Prayer develops slowly with every session. We will do it together on Tuesdays, and then privately on our own during the week. The goal is to sit quietly in the comfort and presence of God, focusing solely on God. God is ALWAYS focusing on us; He always has. Centering Prayer is our chance to return the favor, while feeling the rewards of deep peace and union with the Divine. The result of this practice is a growing and richer awareness of the abiding presence and love of God. Eventually, this gift will sharpen your awareness of God's constant presence in your everyday life. Once you have consented to recognizing God in all walks of life, you will eagerly seek the insights and profound tranquility this gift provides.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The St. Ferdinand Charismatic Prayer Group comes together weekly to pray and praise the Father through His Son, Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. We share Jesus Christ in our lives, encourage one another to grow closer to the Lord, while keeping our focus on praise and thanksgiving. We strive to keep Him as Lord of our lives, and we live in His joy.

Eucharistic Adoration

Parishioners of St. Ferdinand's attend Eucharistic Adoration every Friday in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from morning Mass until 3:30 pm. On

liturgy. Sacristans are also responsible for the cleaning of the sacred vessels following liturgical functions.

Parish Organizations

"Man does not live on bread alone." Matt. 4:4

Garden Club

All are welcome to join the St. Ferdinand Garden Club to help beautify the church grounds. Please call the rectory for specific dates and times.

Men's Club

Spiritual growth, social interaction and support of the parish family are critical issues addressed and sought through the Men's Club - open to all males 18 years of age and older. The Men's Club currently sponsors the Inter-Church Softball League team representing St. Ferdinand Parish. The goal of the club is to be an integral, active, responsible aspect in parish life.

Mothers Groups (ABCs and MnMs Groups)

The heart of each of these groups is caring. Moms of all faiths with children from infant and beyond are invited for fun, fellowship and learning. MnMs meet Thursday mornings and ABCs meet Friday mornings. Baby-sitting is provided during the meetings and a structured program of activities is conducted for the 3-5 year olds.

Royal Court

The Royal Court is our friendly organization for Senior Citizens (50+.) We meet for lunch twice a month. There is a small fee for the buffet lunch which is prepared by the members on a rotating basis. The atmosphere is jovial and welcoming. An activity, such as bingo or line dancing, is offered after lunch. Occasionally there is Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in church. Local trips and excursions are popular activities, as well as an occasional dinner-dance. You are welcome!

various ways during other special liturgies or events. Greeters also assist in counting and recording the collection following the Mass and other special liturgies and events.

Lectors

Proclaiming the Word of God to His people is the task entrusted to those who join the ministry of lectors at St. Ferdinand. They are scheduled on a rotating basis for the weekend Masses, Holy Days of Obligation and special celebrations. The lector, along with reading the Word, also leads the congregation during the Prayers of the Faithful and helps direct them with announcements.

Individual training is provided to prepare those wishing to become lectors. Group refresher courses are also held periodically to reaffirm existing lectors.

Confirmed Catholics over the age of 16 are eligible to join this ministry. Please call the Rectory Office at (724)776-2888 if you are interested in becoming a lector.

Liturgy of the Word with Children

This is worship usually held during the 4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. and 12 noon Sunday liturgies for children aged 6 to 10 years old. These children are dismissed from the main assembly in the church after the Opening Prayer to celebrate God's message in readings with language appropriate to their age and a homily that is dialogue in nature. They are taken to a separate worship area in the Sacristy and return to the main assembly during the Preparation of the Altar. The leaders of this prayer experience include teenagers, young adults and parents. Training for this ministry is provided for all those interested who are active, practicing Catholics from grade nine through adult.

Sacristans

The specific role of the sacristan includes all preparations for the celebration--such as placement of linens, chalices, hosts, water and wine. This ministry provides for the good order of the

First Friday, Adoration is attended all day long concluding with Benediction and Adoration after the evening Mass. All are invited to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Let Us Pray

All are invited to gather in prayer Monday evenings at 7pm. We gather in our Church to pray and discover a rich part of our tradition.. As Catholics, we have so many opportunities to grow in our faith and to gather for prayer. "A Parish that Prays together stays together", so "Let Us Pray".

Rosary / Novena

This prayer group is open to everyone on Thursday evening at 6:15 and is directed to promoting devotion to Mary, and through her intercessions, bringing petitions and prayers of thanksgiving to her Son, Jesus Christ. The Living Rosary is frequently offered the First Monday of the month at 7 pm in the Church.

Taizé Service

Taize (pronounced "Tah zay") prayer is a blend of meditative music and silence. Through repetition of simple song and silence, a soulful atmosphere is created so we can hear and feel the movement of the Holy Spirit within us. If you want to "turn off" the noise of the rest of the world, Taizé prayer can help you do that. Taizé, France, is home to an ecumenical community of Brothers from various Christian denominations who devote their lives to prayer and work. Their ministry also extends the poorest sections of the largest cities of the world.

The Taizé Service is held at 7pm on the 4th Monday of each month from September through April.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed every Friday at 3pm during Eucharistic Adoration the Small Chapel.

Adult Religious Formation and Enrichment

Adult Formation and Enrichment

The Adult Religious Education Program presents opportunities for all persons beyond high school age for spiritual and personal growth. It also provides updating in the education and understanding of topics such as sacraments, church history and scripture. Courses include prayer, parenting, morality, Advent and Lenten Programs.

Adult Confirmation

If you have not had the opportunity to prepare for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, please call (724) 776-1357. Preparation will be tailored to your schedule.

Baptism Preparation

Baptism Preparation classes are held monthly for parents who wish to have their child baptized. At Baptism, the parents say “yes for the child to God’s invitation to share the life of the parish community. Please stop in or call the rectory office, (724) 776-2888, to register. The class leader will explain the meaning, purpose, and the Rite of Baptism as well as answer any questions that parents may have. Anyone interested in this ministry is asked to contact the Religious Education Office at (724) 776-9177.

Bible Study

Study of the scriptures is on-going at St. Ferdinand. On Wednesday at 10am in the Upper Room (rooms 4&5) our priests lead a Bible Study based on the upcoming Sunday Scripture Readings. All are invited. Periodically we also offer a Bible Study on particular Books of the Bible or topics in Scripture. Please refer to the bulletin, check our website or call the Adult Religious Education Office for information and times, (724) 776-1357.

number of people who have joined this committee including seamstresses, flower arrangers, painters, sign makers, etc. A willingness to work hard and the love of enhancing the worship environment are the only requirements.

We are always looking for new people with new ideas who would like to offer their time and talent. Making His WORD come alive through the visual arts can be a very rewarding ministry.

Eucharistic Ministers

Parishioners with a devotion to the Mass, the sacraments, and the Church are invited to become Eucharistic Ministers. The purpose of this ministry is to assist the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist. This is especially required in light of the fact that Saint Ferdinand celebrates the Eucharist under both forms--the Body and the Blood of Christ being distributed and shared in communion at all Masses. Meetings and prayer services are established periodically for these ministers.

Some Eucharistic Ministers also take Eucharist to the shut-ins of the parish.

Funeral Home Service

Volunteers go to the funeral home to pray with the family of a deceased member of our parish. This Service is a “sign” of the community’s concern and support for those who mourn.

Greeters

Creating a warm atmosphere for all worshippers is the first priority of the Greeters. Entire families are also encouraged to participate in this ministry, which often sets the tone for how people will feel while participating in the worship service.

Greeters assist the worshippers in being seated, in taking the offertory collection, in regulating the flow of worshippers for reception of the Eucharist and other processions, in the distribution of the Pittsburgh Catholic and parish bulletin, and in

through the Youth Ministry each week. The band has a full compliment of members; singers, keyboards, lead and bass guitars and a percussionist.

Interested adults who wish to offer their own and facilitate others in praise to God in this style are encouraged to contact the Director of Music and Liturgy to find out more information.

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir is intended to lead the congregation in sung prayer. All boys and girls in grades 3 to 8 are invited to share in this music ministry. The Youth Choir will sing every other week (excluding summer) on a rotating Mass schedule.

Liturgical Ministries

*"If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet,
you should wash each other's feet." Jn. 13:15*

Altar Servers

Young girls and boys in fourth grade through high school, as well as adults, are eligible to assist the priest at the altar as servers during liturgical celebrations. Besides assisting at the Mass, servers are called upon to minister during special liturgies and functions in the church as well as funerals and weddings.

Beyond the initial training period, special practices are conducted for the major feasts and celebrations of the church including Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.

Socials and summer trips are occasionally held for the members of this ministry.

The Art and Environment Committee

The Art and Environment Committee is a group of men and

women of the parish who volunteer their time and talent to the liturgical decorating of the worship environment. There are a

Catechists

A catechist is one who volunteers his/her time to impart knowledge and share faith with those attending Religious Education classes for children, youth and adults. This ministry is essential to the spiritual growth of our parish. Anyone interested in this ministry, please call the Religious Education Office at (724) 776-9177.

Church Library

The library has a comprehensive selection of religious and non-religious books, tapes and magazines. There are care notes, books on the saints, Christ's life, the Bible, spiritual direction and prayer. There are also books on theology and religions of the world, along with books on parenting and personal problems. Books are located in the narthex and in the Upper Room (Rm. 4&5) of the education building.

Marriage Encounter

Do you want to make your good marriage even better? For information on Marriage Encounter weekends, please call the reservation couple, who's phone number is available through the rectory, (724) 776-2888.

Marriage Preparation

Couples anticipating marriage are reminded of the diocesan guidelines that require:

1. A couple to call the parish at least six (6) months in advance. We encourage you to call as soon as you are engaged or are thinking about becoming engaged to ensure your wedding date and registration date for marriage preparation.
2. Pre-marital instructions. Please contact the rectory, (724) 776-2888, for pre-marital instructions offered by St. Ferdinand Parish. Instructions are also held at the Diocesan Office in Pittsburgh periodically and through a weekend stay at an Engaged Encounter. Information on these pre-marital instructions can be obtained by calling the Diocese, (412) 456-3160

Men's Spirituality

On the first Tuesday of each month from September through May at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Room we offer a laity led discussion of a book or topic to foster male spirituality. Men of all ages are Invited..

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

R.C.I.A. is intended for any non-Catholic who is interested in learning about our faith or has a desire to become a member of the Catholic Church. It is also for Catholics who have been baptized and have not received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion or Confirmation. Our weekly gatherings begin in early September and continue after the Easter Season. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults stems from the early church and is designated as the proper way to prepare for entrance into the Catholic Church.

Small Faith Communities

A Small Faith Community is a group of ordinary people listening to their own story and the stories of others in light of the Scriptures in an attempt to make sense of their life, of life itself, in a small, safe, intimate environment. To join a Small Faith Community, give the Coordinator of Small Faith Communities a call at 724-776-9177, ext. 304.

Women Gathered

Women Gathered is a Bible study, reflection and prayer community for women. All women of our parish and beyond are invited to be a part of this wonderful, prayerful community of women.

Children's Religious Education

Christian Initiation of Children (CIC)

These classes are designed to help children and teenagers who, for different reasons, have not received the sacraments in the traditional manner. Anyone who is interested in having us tailor a program to help your son or daughter to receive the sacraments of

Cantors

The old saying, "Singing is praying twice," must be doubled for those who lead the congregation in praise to the Lord through song. Vocalists are always being sought to assist in this very important ministry, which is so pronounced and proclaimed in the Bible where we are instructed to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Cantors meet individually with the Director of Music and Liturgy to prepare new music to be sung by the congregation. They study the suitability of music selections and attend musical workshops.

Men and women with the gift of a beautiful voice are encouraged to join this ministry. The Spirit of God provides for the leadership aspect.

Choirs - See individual choirs: Adult, Folk Choir, Handbell, Lifeteen Band, or Youth.

Folk Choir

The Folk Choir is open to all teens and adults interested in leading the congregation in song every second and fourth Sunday of the month at the Sunday Liturgies. The Folk Choir offers another style of music during liturgical celebrations with their gift of voice and other instruments. Those interested in singing, playing the guitar, flute or keyboard are welcome to join in this service to the Lord.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir serves as an enhancement to the liturgy through the playing of bells. Those who would like to become involved in a choir, but would rather not sing, are encouraged to consider this portion of the Music Ministry to enhance the worship experience of the parish. Youths up through senior citizens are welcomed to join. Please contact the Director of Music and Liturgy to find out more information.

Lifeteen Band

The Lifeteen Band was formed to lead the Sunday evening liturgy through prayer and song in a new and innovative way. This liturgy serves as the beginning of the Lifeteen program

Stephen Ministry "*Christ Caring for People through People*"

The Stephen Ministry is open to all men and women of the parish. The Stephen Series is a system of training and organizing lay persons for caring ministry in and around their parish congregation. This ministry equips lay people to provide effective caring ministry to the lonely or depressed, those in spiritual crisis, the elderly, the terminally ill, and many, many more. Confidentiality is highly stressed.

All training is provided and screening and training sessions for ne you know is in need of a caring, supportive lay person to help deal with a problem you can't or don't want to handle alone, call (724) 776-HELP.

Welcoming Committee

Every member of the Parish is encouraged to assist the WELCOMING COMMITTEE by greeting new parishioners. The Committee will host a welcome gathering for new members to be held the third Sunday of each month, in the Children's Chapel after the 10 a.m. Mass. All Parishioners are invited to attend this gathering to welcome new members.

Music Ministry

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir is intended to add beauty and solemnity to the liturgies and to encourage the congregation to sing. At times the choir will sing alone for meditation purposes. The choir sings at the Sunday liturgies every week and at various special liturgies such as Christmas, Confirmation, and celebrations of our faith during Holy Week.

Adults and youth, 9th grade and up, who have a desire to enhance the liturgy through singing or playing musical instruments are encouraged to join the choir.

Brass Ensemble

The Brass Ensemble is open to students in at least the 8th grade up through adult. Interested parishioners should contact the Director of Music and Ministry.

our faith and grow in understanding and love of the Lord, please call the Religious Education Office, (724) 776-1357. Sessions meet at various times according to the needs of the student.

Pre-School / Kindergarten

There is a program for pre-school (ages 3 & 4) and kindergarten children held during the 10 a.m. Sunday liturgy. Children are not required to attend religion classes at this level.

Elementary / Jr. High

Religious Education helps individuals and communities acquire and deepen Christian faith and identity through initiation rites, instruction, and formation of conscience. To meet the needs of our growing parish, Religious Education classes are offered at various times. Children must be registered each year for grades one through eight. Please see Senior Youth Ministry for information on high school students. Registration forms for Religious Education classes are available on the website, at the Rectory or in the Religious Education Office. A yearly registration fee is charged to help cover the cost of books and materials.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are received in the second grade. Students are required to attend first grade to provide two years preparation for these sacraments.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is received in the eighth grade. Confirmation preparation is two-fold. First, the students must have attended all eight grades of CCD and then they are required to participate in a six-week immediate sacramental preparation program. Parents of children preparing for a sacrament are required to attend preparation classes for each sacrament.

Children with special needs either become part of the Christian Initiation of Children (CIC) process or are mainstreamed in regular Religious Education classes in conjunction with one-on-one tutoring.

Family-Centered

The Family-Centered model is a family program held monthly at

the Religious Education building. Under the guidance of the director of the program, the parents teach their children at home the rest of the month.

Home-Site CCD Program

The Home-Site Program is the classroom model of religious education, held in neighborhood homes, for grades one through eight. This format allows for a relaxed atmosphere and flexibility of classes to include field trips and other activities.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is held during the last full week in June. Children who have completed pre-school through grade five are invited to attend. Older students and parents are encouraged to participate as teachers or helpers in the Vacation Bible School Program.

Volunteers

The Religious Education program is always in need of people to help with our program as catechists (teachers), classroom aides, or office aides. Volunteers are needed at all levels and in all the various programs. If you are interested, please call the CCD office at (724) 776-9177.

Youth Ministry

Junior Youth Ministry includes prayer and worship, leadership, community building, and service. We have a JRL (Jr. Life) ministry on Sunday evenings from 7:00pm—8:30 pm This is strictly a social night for 6th - 8th grade students. It is a great way for our young people to make friends in a safe and faith-filled environment. We have monthly service or social events. Contact Debbie at 724-776-9177 ext. 314 or go to the website at www.stferdym.org for our current schedule or additional information.

Senior Youth Ministry is for students in 9th through 12th grades. Our Life Teen ministry gives our young people weekly

- *The Lifeline number answers 24 hours a day. For free, confidential support and advice, call (724) 776-2550. Training classes are provided for volunteers to staff this service.*

Respite Care Volunteer Program

This volunteer in-home care program has been developed by Catholic Charities. They recruit and train volunteers to care for older or disabled people in their homes while family members take a break to shop, run personal errands or just take some needed time alone. Each family is allowed up to four hours of in-home respite care per week. If you are a caring and compassionate person, you can be a Catholic Charities Respite Care Volunteer. Please call (724) 776-9177.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

All who wish to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbors are welcome to become members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Society was set up to establish a spiritual and personal contact between its members and those who suffer, and to bring to the latter the most effective and brotherly aid possible.

Bins are located near the annex building for the deposit of clothing which is picked up and distributed to the needy by the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Butler. For pick-up of furniture or other large items, call (724) 287-3994. Any member of the parish is welcome to become an active member in this ministry.

Parish Health Ministry

We are composed of health care professionals who offer blood pressure screening once a month and seminars on nutrition and many other areas of health.

Single Parent Family Ministry

This ministry holds discussions centering on topics important to the single parent family including spirituality, parenting skills and many others.

We are composed of health care professionals who offer blood pressure screening once a month and seminars on nutrition and many other areas of health.

Support Ministry for Separated and Divorced

If you are feeling abandoned because of a broken commitment, consider talking to others who will understand your heartache. This peer support ministry offers an opportunity to receive and give encouragement and comfort in a confidential setting.

Prison Ministry

“For I was imprisoned and you came to visit me.”

The prison Ministry involves a literacy program and/or leading a Bible Study and distributing Holy Communion. If you are interested in helping this ministry to evolve, contact the Religious Education Office, (724) 776-9177.

Respect Life

All members of the parish are welcome to join this pro-life organization to help promote the responsibility that we all need to respect and safeguard the precious gift of human life in all stages. Activities include the Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C., and in Pittsburgh; fundraising projects; letter writing campaigns; various projects in the church and community to foster an awareness favoring "life."

Our group also offers support and aid to pregnant women in distress and the pre-born child through a "Lifeline*" office — an emergency pregnancy counseling service. Meetings are scheduled periodically as necessary and are announced in the church bulletin.

opportunities to worship together and be educated in their faith. It also gives them a chance to make new friends, do service for others, and develop good leadership skills. Our Living Stations team provides prayer services at various churches throughout Lent. The Sr. Youth also participates in church events such as Parish Festival, Market Day and the Ethnic Food Fair.

Our team members are dedicated to your children. We work to provide a place where there is great love and respect and our main goal is to “lead our teens closer to Christ.” Friends are always welcome and do not need to be from our parish... or even share our Catholic faith. Current information, sign up sheets, and permission forms can be obtained from the bulletin boards in the church or outside of the Youth Office. You can also get information or download forms from our website at: www.stferdym.org. For more details please call Andrea at 724-776-1920.

Social Service Ministries

"Let everything you do be done in love."

1 Cor. 16:14

Bereavement Support Group

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one or a friend, we invite you to come to a place of comfort and understanding. Our Bereavement Support Group meets monthly in the Education Center. Call the Religious Education Office, (724) 776-9177.

Comfort Blanket Ministry

The Comfort Blanket Ministry brings a message of love and comfort to all who are experiencing sickness or the death of a loved one through the gift of a hand sewn blanket. The blanket consists of squares individually decorated by members of the parish.

Counseling

Marital, pre-marital, pregnancy, parenting program, family counseling and behavioral and temperament profiles are available to enhance and encourage members of St. Ferdinand in their endeavor to build up the faith of the parish. Check the church

bulletin or call the Rectory Office, (724) 776-2888, for contacts.

Elizabeth Ministry

The inability to conceive a child, the death of an infant, or a miscarriage creates a great void in the lives of many women and men. They feel alone, empty and misunderstood. The Elizabeth Ministry is an outreach to families who are struggling with these losses.

Funeral Luncheon Committee

If space permits, a funeral luncheon is offered to the family of a parishioner who has died. The members of this committee coordinate the preparation and donation of food for a luncheon, set up, serve and clean up. This ministry is offered to the family of a deceased parishioner through the funeral director.

Please aid the members of this committee by volunteering to donate food for a luncheon if you are called. All members of the parish are welcome to become a part of this group who minister to the members of our parish at their time of loss.

“Helping Hands”

The “Helping Hands” volunteers provide meals to the sick and shut-ins, transportation to doctor appointments, shopping and helping with small home repairs, and other services.

Job Search Bulletin Board

If you have a job opportunity you would like to share with other parishioners, please call the rectory at (724) 776-2888. Every job to be posted must be given to our rectory receptionist. We are pleased to offer this service; however, we are not recommending jobs, employers, or employees. We are simply providing a service by listing available employment.

Jubilee Soup Kitchen

The Jubilee Kitchen Group was formed about 1984 to familiarize parish volunteers with the plight of the inner city poor and homeless by helping out at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen in the Lower Hill District of Pittsburgh. This soup kitchen is Pittsburgh's largest and provides one free meal daily for many poor or homeless people in the city. It has been a real eye opening and rewarding experience for all volunteers to meet Jesus in these poorest of people.

Mindful Touch Therapy

This therapy is based on the philosophy that the power of touch can have a profound impact on an individual's health and well being. It can be applied easily and safely to improve the quality of life for all individuals. It supports medical procedures and treatment programs for people living with cancer, pain and extreme stress.

Missions Outreach

The Missions Outreach group identifies ways to share the love of Christ and the blessings of their time, talent and treasure with the needy. They also travel to San Luis, Mexico to construct small homes for poor families, work at an orphanage and distribute food and Bibles at a “Soup Kitchen.” All trips are coordinated with Caring Hearts Ministries, which is an interdenominational group, based in Pittsburgh.

Nursery

The Nursery is available for parental use at all Masses for children up to three years old for all families attending Saint Ferdinand Church. Children ages 4 and 5 may be enrolled in Religious Education Pre-School classes and children ages 6 to 10 may participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word (see listing.) These services are provided so that parents of these children may fully participate and celebrate in the worship service.

The nursery is located to the left of the entrance of the church. It provides a warm, fun environment for the members of our parish family who are just too little or rambunctious to attend Mass. Parents are responsible for their children in the nursery. A monitor is available so Mass may be heard from the nursery.