

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STEWARDSHIP

Parish Ministries, Committees, Organizations, and Activities

❖ FAITH FORMATION ❖

"How deep are the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! Romans 11:33

Adult Bible Study Participant

Bible Study offers participants the opportunity to read and discuss the Word of God as a group. For information about the various Bible Study sessions, please contact the Adult Faith Formation Office.

Contact information: Deacon Bud Simmonds (402) 938-4906
e-mail: bsimmonds@stpatselkhorn.org

Adult Formation Library Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to help keep all the books in our new Adult Library organized and user-friendly. The Adult Formation Library is located in the Family Room.

Catholics Come Home

There are a variety of reasons why some Catholic's leave the church. Some have simply stopped attending Mass; some have had uncertainties about the church and it's teachings; others may have never fully embraced and understood the faith before. CCH is an educational 5-week faith formation program focused on easing the transition "home". This group will answer questions, review the main Catholic teachings and beliefs, and work toward individual faith formation.

Living Yours Strengths

Living Your Strengths (LYS) is a 5-week program in which participants join a small faith-sharing group and discover their unique God-given gifts and how to use those gifts in service to the Church and Community.

Marriage Enrichment Groups

These groups are meant to provide marriage support and enrichment for couples in a group setting with other couples. Couples are grouped together according to their age and stage in life. They meet on a monthly basis in the couples' homes on a day determined by each group

MOMS – Ministry of Mothers Sharing

MOMS, Ministry of Mothers Sharing, is an 8 week session open to mothers of all stages to join together in a small faith-sharing group. After the initial 8 weeks, then groups meet together on a monthly basis. This is a wonderful opportunity for mothers to meet others in the parish and nourish their spiritual and emotional lives by forming friendships that support and replenish them as mothers so as to minister better to their own families!

Pro-Life Committee

The Pro-Life Committee is focused on making the parish a center of life through increasing pro-life awareness and education. Members are dedicated to service and prayer for those who are most vulnerable, especially mothers and unborn children, as well as those who are seriously ill or dying and their families.

Religious Formation (RF) Catechist & Assistant Catechist

Catechists prepare lesson plans and provide instruction to RF classes in accordance with grade level curriculum; incorporating prayer, worship, service and community into lessons plans. Foster students to grow in their faith,

recognizing faith is a gift. Assistant Catechists provide assistance to the Catechists and students with activities and discipline during class. In the absence of the catechist, the assistant may be asked to conduct the class session.

Catechist and assistants are expected to attend two in-services (fall and winter), as well as, attend and comply with the Archdiocesan requirements for Safe Environment and background checks. If you are interested in serving as a Catechist or Assistant, please contact the Religious Formation Office. **Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

RCIA is a educational, faith formation program designed for individuals who are not Catholic and who want to learn more about and potentially join the Catholic Church. RCIA is a great opportunity to learn what the Church teaches, ask those difficult questions you may have about the Church, and get acquainted with fellow parishioners. It is also for Catholics who may not have received the sacrament(s) of Eucharist, Reconciliation or Confirmation - or simply want to learn more about their faith. RCIA classes are weekly on Thursday evenings starting in September and going through to May.

RCIA Parish Companions

All Confirmed parishioners are invited to serve as a Parish Companion for the RCIA program. Companions assist in welcoming and sharing our Catholic faith with the RCIA candidates. These individuals, along with the candidates, attend the weekly RCIA sessions from September to May. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve and grow in your own faith.

RCIA Team

RCIA Team Members generously assist the RCIA Director. These individuals help with planning/scheduling, retreats, class discussions, instruction, and overseeing the spiritual formation of the RCIA candidates. New Team Members are needed. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with the RCIA program, please contact the RCIA Director, Beth Kathol

SPY (St. Pat's Youth Group) – Teen Participant

SPY – Adult Volunteer

SPY stands for St. Pat's Youth. Youth connect to peers, prayer, service, discipleship, God, community, etc. SPY is offered for adolescents in grades 6 through 12. Youth ministry is the response of the parish community to the needs of young people and the sharing of their unique gifts. St. Patrick's is dedicated to forming youth disciples by fostering their personal and spiritual growth and calling them to active participation in our faith community and beyond. Youth Groups meet on Sunday evenings during the school year. **Safe Environment Training Required.

Sunshine Group

The Sunshine Group focuses on activities for seniors in our parish. These include educational lectures, cultural visits, spiritual enrichment and group lunches. These are scheduled the 3rd Wednesday each month (except July and August) usually around lunch. Past activities have included: touring Boys Town, picnics, going to Brookestone, touring a Jewish synagogue, a day bus tour to historical churches in Iowa, and most of the time having a wonderful lunch together at St. Pat's with a guest speaker.

That Man Is You!

That Man is You! is transforming men, families and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive! Combining the teachings of the Church and wisdom of the saints with the best research from modern science in an interactive, multimedia format, That Man is You! puts this vision within the grasp of every man. The program meets on Friday mornings at 6:00am in the Parish Center. Please join us! You can register at the door or online at www.thatmanisyou.org.

Tuesday Adult Education Class

Fr. Gary and Bud Polk offer a variety of video adult educational series every year that usually runs for about 20 weeks. Past programs they have offered are: The Great Adventure Bible Timeline, Catholicism by Fr. Robert Barron, and EPIC: A Study on Church History. This class takes place on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer

Adult and teen volunteers will assist the Director of Religious Formation with the planning and implementation of

Vacation Bible School. Duties may include; Bible Story Teller, craft/game/skit or snack coordinator, daycare volunteer, or office volunteer during VBS. Vacation Bible School usually takes place the second week in June

❖ LEADERSHIP ❖

*“Put your gifts at the service of one another,
each in the measure he has received.” 1 Peter 4:9-10*

Cemetery Board

St. Patrick's operates and oversees Mount Calvary Cemetery. An independent Cemetery Board oversees the immediate care and upkeep of the grounds. A perpetual maintenance foundation was established long ago for long-term care and improvements. For more information, or if you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Fr. Gary.

Contact information: Parish Office (402) 289-4289
e-mail: gostrander@stpatselkhorn.org

Finance Committee

Mandated by canon law, each parish must have an appointed Finance Committee. Members advise/assists the Pastor and Business Manager in all financial matters. This committee is responsible for approving/monitoring budgets, overseeing church offertory receipts, school tuition, capital campaign projects and goals for the parish. Members are appointed by the Pastor.

Home and School (H&S) Committee

The mission of Home & School is to support St. Patrick's School staff, parents and parish community by nurturing our children's academic, spiritual, and behavioral development. In order to serve the school to the best of our ability we depend on the time, talent, and treasure of our parents/guardians. **Safe Environment Training Required

Hospitality & Welcome Committee

Members of the Hospitality Committee work to ensuring that parish gatherings and meetings offer an inviting, inclusive atmosphere for new and current parishioners, as well as, helping to facilitate our New Parishioner Orientation process and sessions.

Maintenance Committee

This committee assists the Maintenance Director, Pastor & Business Manager with identifying immediate and long term needs for maintenance and construction of parish facilities and grounds. Committee members also help to define the scope of projects, obtain bids and supervise the work, as needed.

Parish Pastoral Council

Mandated by our Archbishop of Omaha, each parish must have an elected Parish Pastoral Council. This council advises the Pastor on matters affecting the spiritual, educational and social life of the Parish. Elections for Parish Pastoral Council occur annually in May. Meetings are typically held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Religious Formation (RF) Committee

The RF Committee assists the Director of Religious Formation in planning, developing, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating all aspects of faith formation for the children in our parish's RF program and sacrament years. Members of the committee are elected during Parish Leadership elections in May. Parishioners who are interested in serving on the committee are encouraged to contact the RF Office.

Safety Committee

St. Patrick's Parish of Elkhorn Safety Committee's mission is to provide an environment where all parishioners, community members and guests are safe and secure.

School Board

The School Board serves as an advisory committee for the Principal. The Board's focus is to see that St. Patrick's Elementary School provides an excellent educational opportunity for our youth to grow spiritually, intellectually, culturally, physically and emotionally in order that the students may be prepared to live a life of Catholic faith and service to God, community and country. School Board members are elected during Parish Leadership Elections in May. Anyone who is interested in serving on the board is encouraged to contact the School Office.

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee will provide technical advice and assistance for initiatives associated with our parish's technology needs and plans.

Vocations Committee

St. Patrick's will be forming a Vocations Committee to help generate ideas and programs to promote vocations in our parish. We will strive to support our priests and religious as well as strongly encourage young people to think about responding to a call from God to enter the priesthood or religious life.

Youth Ministry Adult Advisory Team

The Youth Ministry Adult Advisory Team is a group of adults who vision, plan and evaluate the ministry efforts with, by and for youth in grades 6-12. They oversee our comprehensive ministry program and work to meet the needs of St. Pat's youth and families. **Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

Youth Ministry Teen Core Team

The SPY Youth Core Team consists of youth leaders in 7th-12th grade who plan and implement youth group nights and other SPY events. They are active members of SPY ministry and spread the word about the youth group.

❖ LITURGY, MUSIC, PRAYER ❖

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." Psalms 98:4

Altar Server

Assists the Celebrant during Masses and prayer services. Boys & girls who have received the sacrament of Holy Communion, are in fifth grade and older, and have participated in an altar server training session are eligible to serve.

Church Décor/ Environment

Volunteers help to maintain church décor in accordance with the liturgical seasons.

Eucharistic Adoration – First Friday

Spend time in prayer and devotion before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration is held the first Friday of each month immediately following the 8:30 AM mass until 9:30 AM. Parishioners are also welcome to spend time with the Lord through Eucharistic Adoration anytime the church is open.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC)

Upon successfully completing the Archdiocesan EMHC instruction and mandation process, individuals are invited to participate in a parish training session, then are welcome to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion. EMHC's are needed at Mass and to minister to the hospitalized, homebound, and nursing care centers.

Greeters

Provides a warm, welcoming reception to all Mass attendees. Individuals and families alike are invited to serve as greeters. Thirty minutes prior to Mass, greeters spread throughout the Narthex and assist with opening/holding doors and welcoming people into the church.

Lector/Commentator

Upon successfully completing the Archdiocesan Lector instruction and mandation process, individuals are invited to participate in a parish training session to serve as a lector/commentator and proclaim God's Word at Mass.

Liturgy of the Word for Children Leader

Adult volunteers lead the celebration of the word by proclaiming the readings and leading the discussion that follows the Gospel. One volunteer (adult) leads the music, while two other volunteers (adults) supervise the children in attendance. LWC is offered at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Liturgy and at both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Liturgies.

**Safe Environment Training Required.

Ministry of Caring

Ministry of Caring is a pastoral ministry providing care for individuals who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, or confined to their home. Ministers conduct a pastoral visit with time to listen to and pray about the concerns of the sick or shut-in person, as well as, to share Eucharist with them. To serve as a minister, individuals must attend the Archdiocese instruction class and mandation mass. Upon completion, a parish-level training is also required.

Music Ministry (Instrumental)

Instrumental Musicians are encouraged to share their talents through performing as a soloist or accompanist at Mass.

Music Ministry (Vocal)

Parishioners of all ages are welcome to share their vocal talents through the Music Ministry. Individuals are able to participate as soloists/cantors and/or as a member of a group/choir.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is comprised of individuals or families who pray regularly for requested special intentions of parishioners. Through prayer, members offer their hearts as channels through which God's healing love may be directed to those for whom they are praying. Participants receive requests via email and are asked to offer independent prayers for these intentions. Contact Lisa if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain and to be on the email list.

Sacristan

Prepares the liturgical vessels for mass and purifies them after mass. The sacristan also makes certain all the liturgical ministers for mass are present and finds substitutes if any are absent. Performs other duties to ensure everything is in order for mass and cleaned up after mass.

Shamrock Singers (Children's Choir)

Young people in our parish, grades 3-5, are encouraged to share their vocal gifts by becoming a member of the Shamrock Singers. The Shamrock Singers lead the music at the 5:00 PM mass the 2nd Saturday each month. They typically practice on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 3:30 from September to May.

Teen Choir

Young people in our parish, grades 6-12, are invited to share their talents through singing. The Teen Choir leads the music at the 5:00 PM mass the 4th Saturday each month. They typically meet for practice on the 4th Saturday each month and one Wednesday a month year round.

Ushers

Assists the congregation with seating and other hospitality needs for Mass and liturgical devotions. Ushers also ensure there is sufficient help to take up the offertory collection and present the gifts to the altar.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love another."
John 13:34*

Athletic Committee

St. Patrick's Athletic Committee works to meet the athletic needs of the youth in our parish. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month (except Jun, Jul, & Dec). All parishioners are welcome to attend and participate in the athletic program! Visit their website to see what athletic activities are being offered and to register your child at <http://www.stpatselkhorn.org/athletics/athleticsindex.cfm>.

**Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

Babysitting – Adult Volunteer

Babysitting – Teen Volunteer

Adult and teen volunteers are needed to help babysit at various parish functions and/or during adult programs. Teens may also request to have their names added to a list given to parishioners for in-home babysitting. **Safe Environment Training Required for Adults.

Baking/Cooking

Share your time and talents preparing baked goodies. There cannot be too many people in this ministry. The more we have, the less frequently we have to call upon each person. When called to bake and you are able, say, "Yes." If unable, let us know that too. You will be called the next time.

Boy Scouts – Child Participant

Boy Scouts – Adult Leader

Boy Scouts of America exists to promote, through cooperation with other agencies, the ability of youth to embrace the values of citizenship, cooperation, compassion, courage, faith, health, fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility. Adult leaders & volunteers are welcome. **Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

Collection Counter

Assist in counting Sunday offertory. If you are interested in serving as a counter, please contact the Parish Business Office for details.

COPE (Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn)

COPE is a collaborative effort among area churches to provide outreach for persons in need within our community. The program offers support to individuals and families regardless of religious, cultural, or ethnic background. COPE's goal is to assist those persons who have needs that are temporarily greater than their resource.

Discipleship Mentor

Discipleship Mentors are paired up and assist with planning and conducting three service projects with a group of Confirmation candidates. Mentors will coordinate all aspects of the projects, including Field Trip Permission Forms, communication with the service site and parents. One preparation and training session is offered in the fall and is required of all discipleship mentors. **Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

Events – Social and/or Fundraising

St. Patrick's offers a wide variety of events throughout the year to not only raise funds for the parish, but also to promote community and fellowship. Examples of the events held in the past are the Street Dance, Taste and Trivia Night. None of these would be possible without volunteers who plan, organize and even work at the event.

Families with Children

This group is comprised of all types of families raising children to engage in faith, service, and social events to build community in our parish and support each other as parents. Core group members are also needed to plan and implement activities.

Food Pantry

Assist with collecting, loading and/or transporting of non-perishable items donated by parishioners to the Western Douglas County Pantry.

Funeral Luncheon – Food Committee

Funeral Luncheon – Serving Committee

Prepare and donate food items for funeral luncheons. Set tables, prepare beverages, heat dishes, and clean-up following funeral luncheons. Volunteers are contacted and donations are requested on an as needed basis.

Girl Scouts – Child Participant

Girl Scouts – Adult Leader

Girl Scouts is committed to helping all girls to develop the confidence, determination and skills needed to compete in today's world. Adult leaders & volunteers are welcome. **Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

Golf League

St. Pat's Golf League is open to all members of the parish who enjoy a leisurely, laid back, game of golf. This past golf season our St. Pat's Golf League played at Eagle Run and expect to play there again next season. The Golf League is handicapped, so everyone competes on equal footing. The league begins in late April or early May, runs for 16 weeks and plays on Thursday evenings. Sign-ups will begin in January. For further details, please contact Charles Olson.

Golf Tournament (Fundraising)

The Men's Club and Knights of Columbus sponsor this annual event that raises funds for the capital campaign/building fund. There are many opportunities to help from the early planning, soliciting prizes to the day of the event. The help required is for the golfer, non-golfers, men and women. All are welcome to assist.

Grounds/Yard Work

Workers are needed on a seasonal basis to help maintain and improve our campus grounds. Volunteer activities to include planting, mulching, raking, and clean-up as needed. This is a great opportunity to serve as a family!

Heavenly Helpers

The Heavenly Helpers are a group of volunteers who provide handyman services in our area to senior citizens and those who are either financially or physically unable to make minor repairs in their homes. Parishioners with maintenance skills are very welcome to volunteer in this capacity.

High School Mission Trip – Teen Participant

High School Mission Trip – Adult Leader

Open to all High School age parishioners and adult volunteers. Assist with planning and participate in our parish's Young Neighbors In Action mission trip. Participants work together to conduct fundraisers and coordinate planning efforts for the trip. **Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

Home & School Association Member

Home & School members support and assist St. Patrick's School by contributing their time, talent and treasure to help meet the needs of our school community. There are many opportunities to get involved. **Safe Environment Training Required.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal service organization dedicated to serving the Catholic Church and community. Knights of Columbus meetings are generally held on the third Monday of the month.

Men's Club

Men's Club is a social organization for male parishioners who volunteer their services for the benefit of our parish. The

group works to raise funds throughout the year by sponsoring activities and events. Men's Club meets the first Monday of each month.

Parish Festival

The St. Patrick's annual carnival is a parish-wide social event for the whole family that takes place in September. Enjoy great food, fun games, inflatables, face and hair painting, cake walk, raffles and now a dance! There are also many opportunities to be involved with this event from helping to set up or run a game to serving as a committee chair.

Parish Office Volunteer – At Church

Parish Office Volunteer – At Home

Assist with a variety of administrative tasks. Volunteers are needed during the day, as well as evenings and weekends. Time commitment is very flexible. Computer skills are desired, but not required. If you are blessed with a few extra hours a month and are interested in volunteering, please contact the Parish Office.

RF Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of activities and efforts for the Religious Formation (RF) program. Opportunities include helping with clerical projects, retreat assistance, daycare support, serving at or baking for special events, and many more. **Safe Environment Training may be required. See page 24.

Sewing/Quilting

Share your time and talents with our parish family through sewing or quilting. There are occasional opportunities in which assistance is needed to help with sewing and quilting projects. Those signed-up to volunteer are then contacted and invited to assist when they can.

S.P.I.R.I.T. - Dinner/Auction (Fundraising)

The S.P.I.R.I.T. Dinner/Auction is our parish's largest annual fundraising event. The event is held each year in the spring; however, planning and set up takes almost a year. This provides many opportunities to be involved with this fun/formal evening from working on a single project, serving as a committee chair, or helping the evening of the event. All parishioners are welcome, and every bit of assistance is appreciated and needed.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

This organization ministers to those who are needy and suffering. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society work with individuals and families to provide financial assistance for groceries, gas, utilities and prescriptions.

Welcome Desk Volunteer

Welcome Desk volunteers are the welcoming and friendly face visitors see when they come to the school. They monitor every person that enters the school building to have them sign-in and ensure they find where they need to go. Volunteers can sign-up to assist during the school day and/or on Wednesday evenings during Religious Formation. **Safe Environment Training Required. See page 24.

Youth Summer Camps/Trips – Teen Participant

Youth Summer Camps/Trips – Adult Leader

SPY offers a variety of faith formation and social opportunities for adolescence through the parish and Archdiocese each summer. Teens are invited to attend camps, participate in service projects, go on amusement park trips, and more. If you are interested in learning more about St. Pat's Summer Youth Activities, or if you are an adult and would like to become a SPY volunteer, please contact the Youth Ministry Office. **Safe Environment Training Required

ST. PATRICK'S SAFE ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION

Safe environment trainings have been set for 'all personnel of the archdiocese, i.e. priests, deacons, paid staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children and young people at the time they enter service in the name of the church' (*Archdiocese of Omaha, Child Protection policy 4a, p15*).

INITIAL TRAINING

Initial training sessions run approximately 2 hours. Successful completion of training requires that an individual be present for the entire session. Safe Environment Certification is good for a period of 5 years. If you attend the training at your own parish, there is no fee. If you attend at another parish there is a \$10 fee.

To see when initial trainings are being held at St. Patrick's, please visit <http://www.stpatselfhorn.org/SafeEnvironment.html>

RECERTIFICATION ONLINE TRAINING

The Archdiocese offers a Safe Environment Online Recertification program. Training takes approx 60 minutes to complete. Below are the steps to access the online recertification and other key points to acquire recertification.

Go to the Archdiocesan website - www.archomaha.org

Select the "Safe Environment" tab.

Click on "Recertification Online Training" to get started.

Follow the instructions.

Note: You will have to create a login and password for yourself

When the training is finished, you must print out and fill out: 1) the Online Recertification Registration form, and 2) the Notification, Authorization and Screening form. Mail the two completed forms to the Safe Environment Records Office along with the fee (see step 6). The address is noted on the Recertification Registration Form.

The training fee is \$12 for volunteers and \$15 for employees. If you need reimbursement, print out and complete the SE Reimbursement Form found on the Safe Environment page of the parish website (www.stpatselfhorn.org) and turn it in to the Parish Office. A reimbursement check will be mailed to you. You will receive an LMS email report of your recertification session with LMS and an Attempt % in the subject line. Please forward this email to safeenvironment@stpatselfhorn.org so we can update your certification status. Thank You!