

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THESE MINISTRIES CALL THE
PARISH OFFICE AT 609-654-8208 X110 OR EMAIL THE PARISH AT
EMAIL@SMLPARISH.ORG**

BEAR'S DEN

The Bear's Den is for adults with special needs who want a social night out. It is also a time to give the moms, dads, and siblings a couple of hours of no worry. We have plenty of chaperones, lots of activities, and more than enough to eat. We usually meet the second Friday of the month in the Emmaus Center. Keep an eye on the bulletin for any date changes. If you'd like more information, or if you have any ideas for future activities, call Pat O'Brien at 609-654-0157.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group gathers weekly on Tuesday evenings to experience the Charismatic style of prayer and celebrate a monthly Healing Mass every 3rd Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Church. Its style of fellowship provides wonderful support system to the members.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The children's Choir sings once a month at the 10:00 Mass in the School Auditorium. We also sing on Christmas Eve and other special events. We practice every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:40 in the Parish Meeting Room. All children of the parish grades 2 to 6 are welcome. Contact Sr. Regina phone (609) 654-8208 ext 129 or email: rmccalla@smlparish.org

CHOIR

The choir uses their musical gifts and talents in order to enhance the participation of those gathered for liturgical celebrations. They sing every Sunday at the 9:00am Mass and other special events. Contact Sr. Regina McCalla phone (609)654-8208 ext 129 or email: rmccalla@smlparish.org

DAUGHTERS OF ST. THERESE

The Daughters are women who pray for the parish, priests and serve as an intercessory prayer group. They meet on the third Monday of the month for prayer and benediction.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are parishioners who are invited by the pastor and trained to distribute the Holy Communion to their brothers and sisters who are gathered.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO NURSING HOME/HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND

These ministers of Holy Communion take the "Bread of Life" to those of the community who are unable to gather and celebrate with us.

GREETERS

The Greeters come a little early to Mass and provide a welcoming presence at the entrance to our worship space. They are in place so that new parishioners and guests have someone to turn to for information.

HEALTH MINISTRY

The mission of the Parish Health Ministry is to support and promote spiritual and physical wellness for the parish community and residents of Medford/Medford Lakes. They provide health education and screenings, counseling, information, referral, advocacy and visitation to individuals and groups. The parish health ministry can be contacted at parishhealthministry@smlparish.org or 609-654-8208 x610.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

This ministry brings the mandate "Love Our Neighbor" alive in the parish by fostering a warm welcome to our parishioners on Community Sunday and other gathering times through refreshments and fellowship.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH FOR 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

The Junior High Youth Group is a Parish ministry open to any registered PREP or SML school student in grades 6,7 & 8. This ministry holds a regular monthly meeting where the group discusses various issues of our faith and/or reinforces lessons learned during PREP and school religious instruction. The Jr. High Youth Group also provides community service. Some activities include cooking for the Interfaith Hospitality Network; Ronald McDonald House and coordinating the "I Care" program for St. John of God School. The group also provides help, outreach and support to other SML Parish ministries as needed. Contact: Linda Xerri phone (609) 654-2546 ext 311 or email: lxerri@smlparish.org

LITERARY GUILD

The Guild promotes literature reflecting Christian values; provides an atmosphere conducive to thought, discussion and appreciation of good literature, and engenders fellowship, intellectual insight and spiritual growth.

LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

The members of this ministry artistically and aesthetically enhance all liturgical celebrations of both the Church and Parish Education Center. They decorate in an appealing and tasteful fashion, launder and maintain liturgical linens and vestments and clean liturgical spaces.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

The liturgy committee includes the leaders all liturgical ministries and the pastor. We plan, coordinate and evaluate all liturgical celebrations at St. Mary of the Lakes to enable our liturgies to be prayerful examples of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy's idea of full, conscious, active participation of the assembly.

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

This ministry provides for parishioners to be present to those who have lost loved ones. One component of this ministry provides a meal to the family within three days of a death. Another component consists of a team of trained parishioners who encourage family members to assist in planning the funeral liturgy and offer them help through individual counseling and support groups.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The music ministers enhance liturgical celebrations through appropriate musical selections, with well-prepared and committed musicians and singers who share their knowledge and talent with those present. Contact Sr. Regina McCalla phone (609)654-8208 ext 129 or email : rmccalla@smlparish.org.

PRE-CANA TEAM

The Pre-Cana Team consists of a priest with experience in marriage and family therapy, a deacon candidate and his wife and married couples who instruct and share their lived experiences with couples who are planning to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. Contact Joseph and Maureen Sokolowski email: Jomo.soko@verizon.net or Joe & Christine Volpe email: decolores@prodigy.net

PREP ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Council supports and enhances the religious education of our parish children by creating an atmosphere of inclusion for all students and their families through proactive, ongoing works of evangelization. Staff Contact: Cathleen Sheridan phone (609)654-2546 x315 or email: csheridan@smlparish.org.

RCIA....

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

How does a person become a Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation or Catechumenate, is the way the Church helps an unbaptized person prepare for Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. If you, a friend, or a family member have any feelings or thoughts about becoming a Catholic, or if you are an adult Catholic who is interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact our RCIA team. Rita Mroz phone (609)654-8208 ext 113 or email :rmroz@smlparish.org

READERS AND LEADERS

The readers and leaders proclaim scripture readings to the assembly and lead the congregation in the Prayers of the Faithful at parish liturgies.

REGISTRATION TEAM

This ministry celebrates the uniqueness of each new member of our parish family. It consists of trained parishioners who welcome and register new parishioners two Sundays per month and by appointment.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ELEMENTARY LEVEL STUDENTS

PREP, our Parish Religious Education Program, in partnership with the parents, assists in the faith formation of our children within the experience of the faith community. Through the Program, the children are immersed in the teachings of the Church, its worship, and prayer life. They are also empowered to live and proclaim the GOOD NEWS and reach out in service to others. Contact: Cathleen Sheridan phone (609)654-2546 x315 or email: csheridan@smlparish.org.

RESPECT LIFE

Participants in this ministry are committed to fostering prayer for the unborn, advocating programs that assist those who choose life and embracing projects directed at ending abortion, as well as providing information about other life issues.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH - YOUTH ENERGIZED IN THE SPIRIT (YES)

The Sr. High Youth Group, also known by the acronym Y.E.S. (Youth Energized in the Spirit), is open to all high school students. Members of the Y.E.S. group participate in weekly spiritual meetings, monthly service projects, as well as numerous leadership and social activities. The program is designed to challenge and empower the youth of the parish to live their lives permeated by gospel values. Contact: Jill Snyder phone (609)654-8208 x111 or email: jsnyder@smlparish.org.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED SUPPORT MINISTRY

This ministry provides support and encouragement, strongly emphasizing God's healing love and forgiveness. It helps and supports men and women of all ages who are *newly* separated or divorced. They meet Wednesday's at 7p.m.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Anyone seeking spiritual guidance may contact any of the priests directly or call the parish office to make arrangements with a member of the pastoral staff.

SUNDAY PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Three-year-old classes, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes meet at 10:00AM until 11:00AM on Sunday mornings at the Parish Education Center (except during the summer). Through music, art and instruction, these children experience a sense of who God is in their young lives. Contact: Cathleen Sheridan phone (609)654-2546 x315 or email: csheridan@smlparish.org.

USHERS

The ushers provide assistance to those entering the church and, if necessary, to persons in need during liturgical functions. They also take up the Offertory collection.