



HERE I AM

Dear St. Casimir Parish Family:

Meeting all of the needs of a parish community is an incredible challenge as we all try to be disciples and to live in imitation of the life of Christ. In any faith community, a wonderfully rich, vibrant, and diverse community is only possible through the talents of individuals coming together and sharing as one.

Each of us is called, at our baptism, to love and serve the Lord, and to love and serve each other. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, present in you and in me, are to be shared lovingly and in justice with others. When the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah answered, "Here I am." As members of the body of Christ, when each of us reaches out to serve others, we are reaching out as Christ and to Christ.

During Catechetical Sunday weekend (September 15 and 16), we will celebrate the gifts we all possess and can share with each other through our new Time & Talent Invitation. Within this newsletter, you will find descriptions of sharing opportunities where your time and talent will make a positive impact within our parish family. I ask that you look over these opportunities and pray over the next few weeks as to how you can best share of yourself. Through this invitation of sharing your time and talent, I am asking that you, too, consider responding with "Here I am".

The gift of sharing of yourself to your faith community will enable you to:

- Make a difference in people's lives – including your own
- Discover the talents inside you that are just waiting to be shared
- Nourish your spiritual hunger through outreach and action
- Experience an amazing increase in God's presence that comes with walking in partnership and service with the Lord

Just as we gather together as one family to be nourished by the Eucharist, we also gather together as one to fulfill the needs of our faith community. Accepting this invitation on Catechetical Sunday weekend with your answer of "Here I am" opens the doors to a life of stewardship that millions of Catholics around the world travel through on a daily basis. So, as you thank God for his endless gifts to you, decide what you can do by sharing those gifts with your sisters and brothers here at St. Casimir.

Yours in Christ,

**Then I heard the voice of the Lord
saying, "Whom shall I send?
Who will go for me?"**

"Here I am," I said; "send me!"

~ Isaiah 6:8

Community

Community is published quarterly by St. Casimir Catholic Parish, Lansing, Michigan

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Sharing Your Talents

Pastoral Council Opportunities

Pastoral Council Member - serves to help pastor shape the vision and future of the parish. Meets 1st Tuesday each month Sept - May

Stewardship Committee Member - serves to develop and implement opportunities to increase the sharing of time, talent, and treasure within the parish community

Ad Hoc Committee Member - serve for a limited time on a specific project as those arise

Finance Council Opportunities

Finance Council Member - financial background desired; to help pastor administer financial needs of the parish. Meets 2nd Tuesday each month Sept - May

Budget Committee Member - serves on focused budget matters to assist pastor on as needed basis

Fundraising Committee Member - plans and implements various funding functions to enhance the parish community

Sunday Collection Counter - assist in accounting of weekly collection on a rotating basis

Education Commission Opportunities

Education Commission Member - help plan and develop formation programs for children, adults, and families in our parish. Meets 1.5 hours on 3rd Tuesday each month from August through May

Adult Faith Formation Leader - lead a bible study group with training provided. Time required - 1 hour prep and 1- 1.5 hours study session per week for 6 weeks

Young Adult Faith Formation Leader - begin a bible study for adults (18 - 35 yrs) with training available. Time required - 1 hour planning; 1- 1.5 hours study session per week for 6 weeks

Religious Education Events Volunteer - help with various events, service projects, or trips

Religious Education Reception Volunteer - help with receptions (setup, cleanup) for religious education events

Children's Area Volunteer - supervise play area on Friday Fish Fry from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Can do one time or many

Teen Service Project Leader - assist with service project preparation or events

Liturgy of the Hours Presider - lead Evening or Morning prayer from Liturgy of the Hours. Time required - 1/2 hour in prayer

Religious Education & Sacramental Prep Opportunities

Childrens Catechist (PreK-High School) - teach a class from Sept - April. Training and materials provided. Time required - 1 hour planning and 1 hour class time per week on Sundays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Substitute Catechist - fill in for classroom catechist as needed from Sept - April. Training and materials provided

Catechist Aide - assist catechist in classroom with students and projects

Sacramental Preparation Catechist - lead sacramental preparation classes for First Eucharist or First Reconciliation. Training and materials provided. Four 1-hour classes, prep time and time to assist at the sacramental celebration

Confirmation Team Member - assist with confirmation classes, group service projects and retreats. Training and materials provided. One hour monthly meetings June - January plus three service projects and one day-long retreat

Sunday Morning Office Volunteer - cover the rectory office desk 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Sept - April. Volunteers rotate and usually assist 4 times per year

Vacation Bible School Opportunities

Vacation Bible School Catechist - plan and lead children's activities. Training and materials provided. One week in July from 8:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Assistant - assist with activities and supervise children's area. Time can vary depending on your availability

Teen Volunteer Assistant - age 13 or older to assist with children's activities

Meal Preparation - help prepare/serve meals 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., days can vary according to your availability

RCIA/RCIC Opportunities

Team Member - attend weekly meetings (1.5 hours Wed evenings) with those preparing for the sacraments at Easter; assist with various Rites throughout the year. Training provided

Dismissal Catechist - meet with adults or children on Sunday mornings from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. December - Easter to talk about the liturgy/readings/etc

Sponsor/Godparent - sponsor or serve as a godparent to an individual or family coming into the Catholic faith

Hospitality Minister - 1.5 hrs on Wed evenings, Sept -May, to prepare/donate snacks/desserts for IHM/St. Cas RCIA group, greet/meet people at each meeting. Commitment can vary according to your availability.

IHM/St. Casimir School Opportunities

Cafeteria or Recess Supervision - lunchtime for K-8

Computer Technology Assistant - assist with the training and usage of various software applications/hardware

Computer Maintenance - to work with Technology Coord to troubleshoot, repair, install computer applications/hardware

Library Assistance - assist with the use of library and books

Marketing/Development/Grant Writing - meets monthly

Coaching a Sport - sports include basketball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, and cheerleading

Teaching an Enrichment Class (IHM Site) - share your talent or knowledge with elementary-aged students

Tutor/Substitute - for grades 1-8; must have 90 hours of college credit

School Office Help - phones, filing, general office assistance

Volunteer Where Needed at Either School

Parish Social Ministry Commission Opportunities

Parish Social Ministry Commission Member - assists and coordinates parish organizations, families, and individuals to live the social teachings of the Church. Meets 3rd Tuesday each month Sept - May

Outreach Ministry Opportunities

St. Vincent de Paul Society - must be 18 yrs or older to provide assistance in the relief of the poor and needy through material or spiritual support

Advent House Meals - supply a dish, serve the meal, etc. monthly with guests at this facility

Prison Ministry Outreach - visit/ write to inmates in prison

Holiday Food Basket - help in packing of holiday baskets

Brown Box Ministry - sort/distribute items to those in need

Parish Food Pantry - help inventory/maintain pantry shelves

Homebound Ministry - visit and/or bring communion to sick/homebound of the parish who are unable to attend liturgy

Shawl Ministry - prayer and knit/crochet shawls/blankets

Funeral Lunch Worker - assist with serving the meal

Funeral Lunch Cleanup - assist with cleanup after the meal

Coffee & Doughnuts Host/Hostess - after 8:00 or 9:30 a.m. liturgies on Sunday as an individual, group, or family

Peace & Justice Ministry Opportunities

Legislative Advocacy - write letters and make phone calls to respond to important legislative issues

Environmental Action Issues - gather and share info on environmental issues with parish community

Food for Thought Planning Committee - plan speakers, etc.

Health Care Ministry (Healthcare Workers) Opportunities

Perform Blood Pressure Checks

Grieving Ministry Visitor - visit a person who has recently experienced a death to offer support during the grieving process

Faith-based Weight Loss Program

Social Ministry Groups to Join

IMAGE Program Member - Christian perspective and support in making positive changes in everyday life

Just Faith - an intense program that integrates personal spirituality with social justice

Book Club/Reading Group - gather to discuss selected books

Pax Christi (nonviolence) - discuss and address issues in a non-violent way

Outreach Event Opportunities

Cooking for "Food for Thought" Sessions

Soups for Wednesday Lenten Scripture

Fish Fry Cook/Preparation/Cleanup - one time or each week during Lent

Corn Roast Planning Committee

Card Party Planning Committee

Miscellaneous Event Setup/Cleanup

Other Parish Receptions/Events Assistance

Worship Commission Opportunities

Worship Commission Member - assesses the liturgical needs of the parish and advises the Pastor in matters related to liturgy; provides for the liturgical development and training of liturgical ministers. Meets 3rd Tuesday each month Sept - May

Marriage Preparation Team Member - meet with engaged couples to complete and discuss FOCCUS questionnaire. Training and support is provided

Art & Environment Decorating the Church - help to prepare the church environment for the various seasons of the liturgical year, as well as other special celebrations

Liturgical Ministry Opportunities

Lector/Reader - High school age or older; reads scripture during the weekday and weekend liturgies on a rotating basis

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist - high school age or older; assists with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ at weekend liturgies on a rotating basis

Altar Server (youth or adult) - must have already received First Eucharist; assists the priest and deacon during liturgies on a rotating basis

Mass Captain - prepare the worship space prior to weekend liturgies on a rotating basis

Hospitality Minister (Usher/Greeter) - welcome and seat people, assist with collection/offering, assist those with special needs, etc.

Music Ministry Opportunities

Adult Choir/Cantor - engage the assembly in song, psalm, and other liturgical responses

Musician/Instrumentalists (youth or adult) - individuals with a musical background of an instrumental nature are invited to participate and enhance liturgies

Parish Groups to Join

Altar Guild - open to all women of the parish to promote the needs of the church; meets 1st Thursday of each month

Knights of Columbus - St. Casimir Council 9711 emphasizes faith, fellowship, philanthropy and structure programs to serve the community and those in need

Men's Club - 18 yrs or older, group promotes fellowship and sponsors parish activities/projects including Fish Fry

Mom's Group - meets 10:30-11:30 Sunday mornings during coffee/donuts to support moms, grandmas, aunts, etc., in their busy lives to deepen their spirituality and faith. Childcare available

New Married Group (5 yrs or less) - coming in the fall of 2007. For couples married 5 years or less. Details to come

Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts/Scout Leader

High School Youth Group - meets Sunday night at IHM for Mass/fellowship; call Emily Crockett at IHM (393-3030) for more information

Office/Technical Skills Opportunities

General Clerical Assistance - assist with mailings, etc.

Evening Office Help/Phone Receptionist - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Photographer/Videographer of Parish Events

Web Site Development/Maintenance

Building & Grounds Opportunities

St. Joseph Worker Guild Member - open to parishioners interested in sharing time/talent one Saturday morning per month to improve/repair grounds/facility. Indicate specialty area(s) of interest or general labor help

Carpentry Work/Repair

Electrical Work/Repair

Heating/Cooling Work/Repair

Masonry Work/Repair

Plumbing Work/Repair

Painting Work/Repair

Welding Work/Repair

Snow Removal

Gardening

Lawn Mowing

General Cleaning/Labor Help